

**QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAM**

**LIST FOR**

**WWLP – SPRINGFIELD, MA**

Issues Program List Herein  
Covers the Period  
JANUARY 1, 2012 through MARCH 31, 2012

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Crime during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2012. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News                                      01/01/12                                      6pm                                      : 30**

The New Year was only a few hours old in Springfield when tempers flared at a new year's party and a 24 year old man was stabbed. But a friend taking the stabbing victim to the hospital didn't get very far. Police Captain Cheryl Claprod told 22news the victim was stabbed at Carew and Fernwald streets in East Springfield. He got in a friend's car and they only got a quarter mile away before colliding with two other cars at Carew Street and St. James Avenue about 3:30 this morning. The man who was stabbed and two others hurt in the accident were all taken to Baystate Medical center. The stabbing victim had reportedly been trying to defend his sister when somebody turned on him with a knife. He's in no danger of dying, and neither are the two men injured in the crash.

**News                                      01/01/12                                      11pm                                      : 30**

Residents in Longmeadow are outraged after nearly one dozen cars were vandalized last Wednesday. Three days later there are still no leads and those affected will have to pay hundreds of dollars to repair the damage. It's a vandalism spree that's left a lot of people on edge. Whoever is doing it obviously doesn't have any value of people's belongings because this puts people in a bind to get their car windows fixed. In less than eight hours, nearly one dozen cars were vandalized. Longmeadow Police Sergeant Robert Stock told 22News the incidents happened between 8 pm and 4 am last Wednesday. The suspects used rocks, logs and even for sale signs to break doors, windows and the paneling of 10 cars parked in several streets around the town. Only one of the victims witnessed her car being vandalized but police say the description is too vague. Some of the victims have reported it will cost them up to \$1,000 dollars to fix the damage. If you have any information you are urged to contact Longmeadow Police.

**News                                      01/03/12                                      5:30pm                                      : 30**

A big break in an 18-year-old cold case; Hampden County District Attorney Mark Mastroianni announced a new lead in the 1993 unsolved murder of 10-year-old Holly Piirainen. At a news conference in Springfield this morning, Mastroianni said that recent forensic findings lead police to David Pouliot of Springfield who died in 2003. Pouliot is not being named a suspect but Mastroianni said this is a significant new lead. Piirainen was last seen alive on August 5th, 1993 in Sturbridge near her grandparents' summer cottage. Her remains were found 2 months later, on October 23rd, 1993 in Brimfield.

**News                                      01/03/12                                      12pm                                      : 30**

State police are investigating the discovery of a body on the side of the road in Wales. State police trooper Todd Nolan told 22news that the body was found at 5:00 this morning alongside Route 19. Several roads in the area including over the state line in Stafford, Connecticut have been closed, while state troopers and homicide detectives investigate.

**News**                                **01/04/12**                                **5pm**                                **: 30**

The owner and the business partner of Cafeno's Internet Café in Chicopee Falls pleaded not guilty this morning to charges of operating an illegal slot parlor. In a news release, Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley said Towner, Steven Sheldon and his business partner Steven Megliola ran a cyber café that was quote, "Nothing more than an illegal, unregulated slot parlor with no protections for consumers." If convicted, the pair could face a penalty of up to \$250,000 fine per electronic machine that operated unauthorized sweepstakes and/or up to 15 years in state prison.

**News**                                **01/06/12**                                **5pm**                                **: 30**

A gun allegedly stolen during a housebreak in Franklin County was found in a lunch pail at a closed school according to Springfield police. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News officers arrested 18 year-old Alvin Wilson yesterday morning. Wilson was working to renovate the Forest Park Middle School. Delaney says one of Wilson's supervisors found the gun in his lunch pail while moving things in a locker. Police determined the gun was stolen during a break-in at a home in Colrain.

**News**                                **01/08/12**                                **6pm**                                **: 30**

After dozens of teenagers caused a fight inside the Macy's store in Springfield last night, the Eastfield Mall says the disturbance is an isolated incident. It all started last night, just minutes before 8pm when according to Springfield Police more than 20 people started a fight. There was an incident that took place with a group of kids inside of Macys. Luckily there was very minimal damage and no injuries. When police arrived the crowd was nowhere to be found. Macy's told Springfield Police that during the fight an estimated 300 dollars worth of jewelry and store fixtures were damaged. The incident comes one year after the Eastfield Mall revised its youth escort policy which called for adult supervision after 5pm for all teenagers under the age of 16. Now, the mall's code of behavior policy asks all patrons to avoid walking in large groups as it could disrupt the flow of foot traffic. But Gould told 22News its security could not have avoided the incident as Macys is its own entity and the mall's security officers don't service the store. They own their own building and they control all of the operations inside of that building it's not Eastfield Mall property. On an average day we do trusts the teens that are here and value what they are spending here at the mall, it's an isolated incident which doesn't normally happen with the youth that shop here at the mall. So far, Macy's has not yet returned our call for comment.

**News**                                **01/09/12**                                **6pm**                                **: 30**

What a shock for a woman who had just given birth at Baystate Medical Center to find someone had vandalized her car in the parking lot. Someone had scraped an ugly and demeaning insult across the hood. She sent this photo to the 22News website through our report it feature. We covered over that crude message in the interests of decency. We immediately contacted Baystate Medical center, where Chief of Security Thomas Lynch told 22News, cars being vandalized is a rare occurrence in their parking areas. But he said thieves breaking into cars, smash and grab, has been an issue.

**News**                      **01/10/12**                      **5pm**                      **: 30**

Two suspects are in custody after a gas station robbery in Agawam. Agawam Police Lt. Edward McGovern told 22news two men armed with a knife demanded cash from the clerk at the Sunoco Gas Station in the center of Feeding Hills around 10:40 last night. Lt. McGovern says men got away with some cash but police caught up with them shortly after. They'll both be arraigned in Westfield District Court on several charges. They're names have not been released yet.

**News**                      **01/11/12**                      **5pm**                      **: 30**

A Chicopee judge has refused to grant bail to a man arrested for his 7th drunk driving offense. 54 year-old John Maher of Springfield was arraigned in Chicopee District Court this morning. Judge Mary Hurley ordered him held without the right to bail. Trooper Robert Church told 22News Maher was arrested shortly before 1 this morning. According to Trooper Church Maher was driving south on 391 when he sped past Church nearly sideswiping his cruiser. Trooper Todd Nolan told 22News Maher has 6 OUI convictions and his license had been suspended for 8 years.

**News**                      **01/13/12**                      **5am**                      **: 30**

Police in Springfield are searching for suspects wanted in connection with an armed home invasion. The crime took place early this morning just before 2AM in the Forest Park neighborhood. Four men broke into an apartment at 65 Lansing Place. Lt. James Rosso said one of the residents was hit over the head with a gun and the suspects took-off with 2 televisions, tools, and money. Right now there is no description of the suspects. If you have any information you're asked to call the Springfield police at the number seen on your screen.

**News**                      **01/15/12**                      **9am**                      **: 30**

33 year-old Lisa Robak-Libby of Ludlow has been arrested for driving under the influence after crashing a car in Springfield. Sgt. Dennis Prior told 22news the accident happened a little before 1 this morning. The car Robak-Libby was driving veered off the road and flipped over at 795 Worcester Street. No injuries were reported, but as you can see from this video it's remarkable no one was hurt. The passenger was also arrested on a different charge. Both the driver and passenger will be arraigned on Tuesday.

**News**                      **01/16/12**                      **6am**                      **: 30**

Police in Springfield are investigating a stabbing this morning in the Hungry Hill section of the city. Sgt. Richard Labelle told 22news the crime happened just after midnight at a home on Liberty Street. A man who lived at the address was stabbed in the chest and taken to Baystate Medical Center, but is expected to be okay. Police arrested a woman in connection with the stabbing. She also lived at the home and is expected to be arraigned tomorrow.

**News**                                      **01/19/12**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

Springfield Police arrested four alleged "cocaine traffickers" Wednesday night during a drug raid at 100 Wait Street in the "Hungry Hill" section of the city. Sgt. Delaney told 22news officers arrested 26 year old Jimmy Pantoja and his brother 18 year old Kelvin Lopez who were reportedly carrying 28 grams of packaged Crack Cocaine. Detectives think the brothers were dealing Crack Cocaine from their home with the help of their Mom, 49 year old Maria Pantoja and her boyfriend, 52 year old Juan Ortiz. The family was arraigned together today in Springfield District Court.

**News**                                      **01/19/12**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

A second-grade teacher in Massachusetts pleaded not guilty to charges he filmed himself sexually assaulting a young girl, yesterday in court. A day earlier in another court, David Ettlinger also pleaded not guilty to related charges of possession of child pornography. Ettlinger also faces a charge in federal court in Louisiana. Ettlinger was arrested Tuesday and is held on \$100,000 dollars bail. Ettlinger's been placed on paid administrative leave, but the superintendent says he's moving to fire him.

**News**                                      **01/20/12**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

A man armed with a hatchet allegedly robbed the Cumberland Farms on East Street in Ludlow shortly after 2:00 this morning. According to Police Sgt. Joe Metcalf, the store clerk wasn't hurt, and the robber took the money and ran out of the store. The man is described wearing a brown coat, hood, mask, and gloves. The robbery comes less than a month after robbery at another Cumberland Farms store located on West Street. During that robbery, a man pointed a gun at the store's clerk before getting away with cash from the register. There is no word on whether these robberies are connected. If you have any information, call the Ludlow Police at (413) 583-8305.

**News**                                      **01/20/12**                                      **12pm**                                      **: 30**

Owners of a bed and breakfast in Lee are charged with running a prostitution business out of their inn. 39-year old Tara Viola and 47-year old Thomas Fusco own The Inn at Laurel Lake. Lee police said they are charged with soliciting sexual favors for a fee. Police say Viola advertised massage services on the Internet. In a statement to The Berkshire Eagle, Fusco denied the charges.

**News**                                      **01/21/12**                                      **9am**                                      **: 30**

Chicopee police are looking for suspects after a stabbing and shooting this morning. Captain Jeffrey Gawron told 22News one man was shot and another man stabbed on Cabot and School Street in Chicopee at 1:50 this morning. Both victims are being treated at area hospitals and are expected to be okay.

**News**                      **01/21/12**                      **11pm**                      **: 30**

Springfield police say they've taken a massive quantity of drugs of the street during the arrest of three "high level" drug dealers. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News police seized Heroin, Cocaine, Ecstasy and Marijuana with a street value of \$50,000 dollars during a raid on an apartment on Oak Grove Avenue. They also recovered more than 6-thousand dollars in cash and a handgun. Sgt. Delaney says 26-year old Carlos Colondres, his girlfriend 26-year old Mychael Barnett and his uncle 55-year Johnny Colondres have all been charged with drug trafficking.

**News**                      **01/24/12**                      **5pm**                      **: 30**

There are new developments in connection with a triple murder case in the Berkshires. The Berkshire County DA's office has turned over evidence to the lawyers representing three men accused of killing three other men last August. The evidence is on more than 140 computer discs. Adam Lee Hall, David Chalue and Caius Veiovis are accused of killing David Glasser, Edward Frampton and Robert Chadwell. Prosecutors say Glasser was killed so he could not testify in a court case against Hall who is a member of the Hells Angels. The other victims were killed to eliminate witnesses. The suspects have pled not guilty.

**News**                      **01/27/12**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

A man wanted in connection with a murder in Buffalo, New York has been apprehended in Massachusetts. 25 year old Esteban Ramos-Cruz was outside a Springfield home this morning. He was arrested on a federal warrant charging him with murder, firearms and drug offenses. Police say Ramos-Cruz has gang ties and has been wanted since May. He was recently featured on "America's Most Wanted" in an effort to locate him. He is scheduled to appear in federal court on Monday.

**News**                      **01/27/12**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

Police now believe that the fire in Westfield that forced five families onto the street last night was a case of arson. His name is Chris Perrier. But it seems yesterday's hero is now today's arson suspect. Westfield police Captain Hippolito Nunez told 22News 23 year old Christopher Perrier was charged with a single count of arson. Captain Nunez told 22News that police aren't revealing why they believe Perrier started the fire. Westfield Fire Chief Mary Regan told 22News the fire started in the basement. The Red Cross has stepped in to help the 10 adults and three children who now don't have a place to live.

**News**                      **01/28/12**                      **9am**                      **: 30**

A Springfield man is in stable condition at Baystate Medical Center this morning after being shot in the back. Springfield Police Captain Cheryl Clapgood told 22News, the victim was shot at the intersection of Dwight and Taylor streets. His girlfriend allegedly told police the victim came out of the Odyssey Nightclub located on Worthington Street at closing time, although Captain Clapgood said, It's not clear which club he had been in. The victim and girlfriend are reportedly refusing to give officers any information. Clapgood said there were other fights on Worthington street at that time but no one else was seriously hurt.

**News**                                      **01/30/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A bomb scare at a Northampton courthouse prompted an evacuation today. The Hampshire County Courthouse was evacuated shortly before 1 o'clock this afternoon. The evacuation came after officials received a bomb threat in the mail. Northampton Police Sgt. Robert Powers told 22News the letter in question arrived by mail and when court officials came across the letter they evacuated the building. Dozens were out on Gothic Street for more than an hour while police and firefighters searched the building.

**News**                                      **01/30/12**                                      **5am**                                      **: 30**

Two people were shot in Springfield overnight and now police are searching for suspects. Captain Cheryl Clapgood told 22News that two people were shot just before 3am at 71 Avon Place. One of the victims was shot in the arm; the other was shot in the leg. Captain Clapgood says they're expected to be okay. However, the victims are not cooperating with police, and that right now they are looking for two Hispanic males in their 20's, one with a white shirt. If you have any information call Springfield Police at 787-6302.

**News**                                      **01/31/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Springfield police have arrested 28 year old Kimani Anderson of Springfield for murder. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News that Anderson was arrested for the murder of Tyrel Wheeler last July 7th. Wheeler crashed his car at Washington Street and Draper Street after being shot in the face and chest. Kimani was arrested today by Springfield police and Massachusetts State police while hiding out at a home at 147 Shawmut Street in Springfield.

**News**                                      **02/02/12**                                      **4:30am**                                      **: 30**

A home health aid is under arrest accused of stealing \$90,000 from an elderly woman. Chicopee Police Detective Eric Watson told 22News Rose Amaker scammed her 93-year old client into opening a debit card attached to her savings account. They say it took her just three months to drain all the funds. Amaker was arraigned in Chicopee District Court on larceny charges and improper use of a credit card. She's being held without bail.

**News**                                      **02/03/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Springfield Police say the body of a woman found behind a church Wednesday has been ruled a murder. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News the body of 38-year old Judy Ramirez was found behind the Progressive Community Chapel on State Street Wednesday afternoon. Her body was found at the bottom of stairs that led to the basement of the church. Police determined Ramirez was murdered after an autopsy was performed. If anyone has any information at all in regards to this Homicide please call the Detective Bureau at 413-787-6355 or "Text-a-Tip".

**News**                                      **02/04/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A picture may be worth a thousand words, but for Northampton police the picture of a bank robbery suspect has been worth the arrest of the alleged bandit. 33 year old Thadius Romanowski of 579 Northampton street in Holyoke was reportedly arrested early this morning at his apartment. The police had earlier given 22News the picture of this man in the event someone might recognize him. Police charged Romanowski with unarmed robbery in the holdup of Florence savings bank in Northampton Friday afternoon. Police Lt. Michael Patenaude told 22News the robber gave the teller a note demanding money, and left with an undisclosed amount.

**News**                                      **02/04/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A visit to Springfield's Entertainment district may not have been a good idea for 26 year old Tyrell Young of East Hartford. According to Springfield Police Captain Cheryl Claprod, officers arrested Young for allegedly carrying a gun at 2 O'clock this morning. Captain Claprod told 22News, Young had reportedly gotten into an argument with someone at the Kush nightclub on Worthington Street. He reportedly went to his car where he allegedly got his gun and was on his way back to the club when officers stopped him and found the loaded revolver. He'll go before a judge Monday morning on a charge of possession of a gun and ammunition without a license.

**News**                                      **02/07/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Thirteen UMass students were arraigned this morning after allegedly taking part in a major disturbance on the UMass campus Sunday. All of the students were released on personal recognizance shortly after their arrest last Sunday. And this morning, they all entered not guilty pleas in Eastern Hampshire District Court. 12 men and one woman, among the youngest, three 18-year-olds, all UMass students and all arrested during this celebration following the Super Bowl Sunday night. 12 of the 13 students are from Massachusetts, the charges they face ranged from inciting a riot to disorderly conduct and university officials say the prosecuting evidence will be used in their review. That information that was used in their prosecution will be shared with our dean of student's office and the dean of student's office will take up each of those cases for possible disciplinary action. Dean of Students Enku Gelaye says she will move quickly to discipline those students involved in the disturbance. Under the school's Code of Conduct disciplinary action could range up to either suspension to expulsion; a punishment some area residents say may be too harsh. In all, 14 people were arraigned today, 13 of them UMass students. All of their pre-trial hearings were



scheduled for March 1st and March 2nd. All of the defendants indicated they will be hiring their own attorneys.

**News**                      **02/09/12**                      **5pm**                      **: 30**

Springfield police are investigating, following the discovery of a body near the Putts Bridge in Indian Orchard. The body was discovered Thursday afternoon in a ravine near the bridge over the Chicopee River, which is popularly known as the "Ludlow Bridge." Springfield Police are not releasing any information at this time regarding the body or whether any foul play is suspected.

**News**                      **02/10/12**                      **6am**                      **: 30**

It's a story you saw first here on 22News, dozens of dogs being removed from a home in Springfield. Police are calling it an extreme case of animal hoarding. Police did not come in search of animals; they came in response to a call of a hostage situation. They arrived to find a man hanging out the window claiming that he was being held hostage, only one problem; he wasn't, police found no intruder, no hostage but what they did find instead was shocking. At least 40 dogs, some hiding under furniture and beds, some found in wooden crates in the basement. Police say most of them were Miniature Pinschers although there were also a couple larger dogs as well and some cats. Now as you can imagine, conditions inside the home can only be described as filthy, 22News even witnessed some police officers exiting the house just to vomit from the terrible smell. Neighbors told 22News they'd often see a woman who also lives in the home walking some dogs but that they didn't have any clue what was happening inside the home.

**News**                      **02/12/12**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

A mysterious gunman tried to kill a 42 year old Springfield man at a public housing project in the cities Pine Point neighborhood early this morning. Springfield police Lt. John Lynch told 22News, that when the gunman approached his would be victim about two o'clock this morning, the frightened man ran into his apartment at 63 Robert Dyer Circle and slammed the door shut. But that didn't deter the shooter who allegedly fired twice through the door. One bullet hit the victim in the stomach. Lt. Lynch said the man told them he didn't recognize the person who was trying to kill him. Doctors at Baystate Medical Center reportedly operated on the wounded man. 22News isn't certain just what condition he's in right now.

**News**                      **02/16/12**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

A police captain in West Springfield has found himself on the other side of the law. Captain Daniel O'Brien is under investigation for alleged misconduct involving a woman last September. Hampden County District Attorney Mark Mastroianni told 22News his office completed its investigation and it's now in the hands of the US attorney's office. He said the case started when a letter was sent to his office.

**News**                      **02/20/12**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

The Northwestern District Attorney's office and Easthampton police are investigating the death of a woman in Easthampton. Assistant Northwestern District Attorney Jeremy Bucci told 22News that just after midnight today, Easthampton police received a 9-1-1 call and were directed to 27 Ward Avenue. Police found a woman dead at the home. The death is believed to be suspicious and foul play is suspected. Investigators believe this was not a random act and there is no threat to public safety at this time. The name of the woman isn't being released until her family is notified.

**News**                                      **02/20/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Charges of animal cruelty in Franklin County, two people are being charged in the dragging death of a dog. Two people will be summonsed to court after allegedly driving four miles from Greenfield to Turners Falls with a dog trapped in the driver side door by its leash. The Montague police department responded to near Third Street in Turners Falls at around 5 Sunday morning. They found a man and a woman in a wooded area where they allegedly left the dogs body. Greenfield resident Shylo Valego is facing animal cruelty charges and Casey Aiken, a Turners Falls resident, who was in the passenger seat, is facing charges of obstruction of justice and being an accessory in the crime. Montague police sergeant Richard Suchanek told 22News that the driver might have not known that the dog was trapped in the door but they found alcohol in the car and that they are considering this a very serious crime.

**News**                                      **02/22/12**                                      **12pm**                                      **: 30**

One thousand dollars worth of little league gear has been stolen from a storage area for Pittsfield West Little League. The Berkshire Eagle is reporting that the stolen items include hats, belts, and socks. The theft could have been worse, but the uniform shirts that are usually stored in the press box had been sent back to the printer because of defective lettering.

**News**                                      **02/23/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A Massachusetts state trooper has been arrested for allegedly hitting his wife. State police said 42 year old Donald Pillsbury of Brimfield was arrested at about 1:30 a.m. this morning after his wife called 911 and said she was being physically assaulted by her husband. Today in Palmer District Court Pillsbury pleaded not guilty to the charges of domestic assault and battery. State police said Pillsbury was temporarily relieved of duty and had his service firearm and 25 personal guns stored in his home taken from him. An internal hearing on Friday will determine his duty status. Pillsbury joined the state police in 1994 and is assigned to the K-9 section.

**News**                                      **02/23/12**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **:30**

Springfield police want residents in one neighborhood to be vigilant after several home break-ins. Sgt. John Delaney told 22News there have been 13 break-ins in the area around Canon

Circle and the Spring Meadow Apartments in the last five months. Delaney said all of them happened overnight and each time TV's or electronics were taken. The suspect entered through a window in the back of the apartment in all cases as well. The last break-in was on the 20th. Police were able to find the stolen items in a storage shed at the apartment complex.

**News**                      **02/24/12**                      **6pm**                      **:30**

Alfred Lopez has become Springfield's second murder victim of 2012. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News that Lopez was found at 17 Whittier Street with a gunshot wound to the head, last night. He was taken to Baystate Medical Center, where he died. Sergeant Delaney told 22News that the murder may have happened after a drug deal went wrong.

**News**                      **02/24/12**                      **5pm**                      **:30**

Springfield police are investigating a deadly shooting in the city's Forest Park section. Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that 29 year old Alfred Lopez died around 3 this morning at Baystate Medical Center. A Springfield police officer on patrol near Whittier Street Thursday night heard shots and found Lopez shot in the head. Delaney told 22News the officer also found a back pack near Lopez containing Marijuana, packaging material and a loaded .45 caliber handgun. Delaney said a search of Lopez's apartment also turned up more drugs, a handgun and over \$24,000.00 in cash. This is Springfield's second homicide of the year.

**News**                      **02/25/12**                      **11pm**                      **:30**

It was not the popular sandwich topping, but rather 273 grams of pure cocaine that were found inside peanut butter jars seized from a postal package in Springfield. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News a drug sniffing dog found the cocaine package, which was addressed to the home at 47 Worcester Avenue in Springfield. Sgt. Delaney says three suspects, Jorge and Johnny Rivera of Springfield, and Marilyn Nunez of Holyoke, traveled to the Liberty St. post office to sign for the package. That's where they were arrested. Sgt. Delaney says the suspects face 17 years mandatory jail time if convicted on drug charges connected to the case.

**News**                      **02/26/12**                      **9am**                      **:30**

Springfield Police are investigating the city's second murder of 2012. Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that 29-year-old Alfred Lopez was found at 17 Whittier Street with a gunshot wound to the head Thursday night. He was taken to Baystate Medical Center, but he died at the hospital. Investigators say when they searched the home; they found 2.5 lbs. of marijuana, a handgun, and \$25,000 dollars in cash. Right now, there's no word on any arrests. If you have any information please call the Springfield Detective Bureau at the number seen here on your screen. Or you can always text an anonymous tip.

**News**                      **03/03/12**                      **9am**                      **:30**

A Springfield woman is in serious condition this morning after she was stabbed less than 6 hours ago at 130 Washburn Street in the cities Brightwood neighborhood. Springfield Police Captain Cheryl Claprood told 22News Springfield Police and the State Police dogs are searching for 30-year-old Jose Santiago of Springfield in connection with the stabbing. There's no word on the name of the victim who was taken to Baystate Medical Center.

**News**                              **03/04/12**                              **9am**                              **:30**

Springfield Police are looking for a suspect this morning after a violent armed robbery. Springfield Police Lieutenant John Bobianski told 22News an armed robber entered the Racing Mart at 32 Boston Road and allegedly pistol whipped the clerk with a handgun shortly before 9pm Saturday night. He got away with almost \$2,000 dollars and reportedly ran in the direction of Berkshire Ave. The clerk was taken by ambulance to Baystate Medical Center. Bobianski said a customer may have been injured too in the attack. The suspect's described as a 25 to 30 year old black or Hispanic man wearing a gray jacket, black pants and a mask. If you have any information please contact the Springfield Detective Bureau.

**News**                              **03/05/12**                              **6pm**                              **:30**

Jessica Rojas of Springfield was fatally stabbed over the weekend, allegedly by her boyfriend Jose Santiago. Today, Springfield police arrested Santiago and was arraigned on a murder charge in Springfield District Court, but not before a courtroom outburst. Santiago pleaded not guilty and is being held without bail. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22NEWS that Jose Santiago was arrested as he tried to enter Baystate Medical Center this morning. Today, family members of Jessica Rojas spoke about the mother of four, who worked at Springfield City Hall as a legal assistant.

**News**                              **03/05/12**                              **5pm**                              **:30**

Agents from Homeland Security Investigations conducted a raid at the Sports Zone at the Holyoke Mall. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Ross Feinstein told 22news agents are searching for alleged counterfeit sports merchandise. Feinstein said agents were also executing search warrants at Sports Zone locations at the Hampshire Mall in Hadley, the Eastfield Mall in Springfield, the Berkshire Mall in Lanesborough, and a mall in Worcester. They were also searching Collectibles and Cards locations.

**News**                              **03/05/12**                              **5pm**                              **:30**

A police officer was injured after a truck crashed into his cruiser in Southwick. The accident took place just before 1am this morning right near the town's Police and Fire Station. Lt. Dave Ricardi told 22news that Michael Geschwind of Granville hit Officer Michael Wescott's cruiser. Geschwind was arrested on several charges including operating under the influence and speeding. Officer Westcott was taken to Baystate Medical center where he was treated and released.

**News**                                      **03/09/12**                                      **5am**                                      **:30**

47-year old William Gray of Springfield has been charged with kidnapping and extortion for allegedly attempting to bilk hundreds of dollars from an elderly Connecticut man. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News the 76-year old man told police he met Gray through a website for older men seeking sexual relationships. When the two men met, Sgt. Delaney says Gray forced the victim to buy more than \$700.00 dollars in jewelry from Wal-Mart, and then demanded a pre-paid credit card with a \$700.00 dollar balance. Detectives believe that there are more victims but they are afraid to come forward. The F.B.I. is assisting in this investigation.

**News**                                      **03/12/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **:30**

34-year-old Timothy Forbes of Springfield is facing charges tonight for reportedly attacking a youth basketball coach and biting off part of his ear. Forbes went to court today with his lawyer where he denied the attack. The fight was Friday night after a Catholic Youth Organization boy's championship basketball game. The game was at the Holy Name School between the Springfield Heat and the Mig's, the Mig's won. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News Forbes attacked the Mig's coach, and bit off part of his ear. The coach had to taken to Baystate Medical Center. Sergeant Delaney says Forbes is an assistant coach for the losing team however the organization President, John Maloney, told 22News Forbes is not a coach and isn't on their roster. Maloney did say, however, this was a shock for everyone.

**News**                                      **03/12/12**                                      **6am**                                      **:30**

A 37 year old man was stabbed early this morning in Springfield. It happened around 3:45 this morning at 339 Boston Road. Springfield Police Captain Cheryl Claprod told 22News that the man was stabbed three times in the body. He was taken to BayState Medical Center and is expected to recover. He is not cooperating with police right now.

**News**                                      **03/14/12**                                      **12pm**                                      **:30**

A 19-year-old Springfield man has been sentenced to up to 30 years in prison for sexually molesting a 10-year-old girl. The Springfield Republican reports that Jonel Gonzalez was found guilty of assault with intent to rape a child, and indecent assault and battery on a child under 14 years old following a four-day trial. Both crimes happened in Springfield in 2010. Prosecutors say the effects of the assault "will last a lifetime." The girl said in a victim impact statement that she still cries every night and "is tired of crying."

**News**                                      **03/15/12**                                      **5pm**                                      **:30**

An 18 year old Holyoke resident was seriously injured after being stuck by a pickup truck while crossing Northampton Street in Holyoke. The victim was taken to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. Holyoke Police Sergent Isaias Cruz told 22News the driver of the

pickup 46-year-old Teresa Justice of Holyoke was charged with driving under the influence and driving in the wrong lane.

**News**                                **03/16/12**                                **5pm**                                **:30**

An attorney for 36-year-old Ryan Welch was back in court today, but this time, it's for an incident that happened before he was charged with murdering his girlfriend. Welch was scheduled for a pretrial conference on an OUI charge. He's also accused of murdering 27-year-old Jessica Pripstein of Easthampton during a domestic dispute. She was killed last month inside her apartment on Ward Avenue. Police believe this was a tragic case of domestic violence. Welch has been held without bail since his arrest.

**News**                                **03/17/12**                                **6am**                                **:30**

Springfield police arrested two people Thursday night and charged them with dealing oxy-contin in parking lots near Allen and Cooley Streets. 24-year-old Jessica Merrill of Monson and 22-year-old Nicholas Gasperini of East Longmeadow are accused of selling the drugs while Springfield police watched from a distance. Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that police seized 125 oxy-contin pills and \$635 in cash from Merrill's Jeep. They have also charged 21-year-old Brian Chicoine with buying drugs from Merrill and Gasperini. Delaney told 22News Chicoine was the second customer of the night and he was pulled over as narcotics officers moved in to arrest the suspected dealers.

**News**                                **03/18/12**                                **6pm**                                **:30**

20 year old Blake Miller of Ludlow had allegedly been drinking when she drove her car into a house on Chapin Street just after midnight. Ludlow Police Sgt. Mark Mendes told 22News, after Blake Miller reportedly did the damage, she ran away. But with the help of a police dog, officers found her hiding nearby in a neighbor's backyard shed. She had been hurt in the accident and she needed to be treated at Baystate Medical Center. Miller will go before a judge in Palmer district court tomorrow. She's been charged with reckless driving and Operating under the Influence.

**News**                                **03/18/12**                                **9am**                                **:30**

An elderly couple was injured in a hit and run incident in Agawam late Saturday afternoon. Agawam Police Sergeant Anthony Grasso told 22News a 37 year old man driving a white Dodge Durango failed to yield when he pulled onto Maple Street from Moore Street and hit an elderly couple's Toyota Camry head-on. Instead of stopping, the man drove away, abandoned his truck in someone's driveway and ran into the woods at Robinson State Park with his passenger. Police found them and the driver was arrested for operating under the influence. He also faces negligence and other charges. The victims were taken to Baystate Medical Center but Sergeant Grasso said they were alert with no obvious major injuries.

**News**                                **03/19/12**                                **6pm**                                **:30**

Police in Holyoke are searching for a man who stabbed another man in the chest this morning. Holyoke Police Lieutenant David Fournier told 22News the victim was walking with his girlfriend near Whiting Farms Road and Tokeneke Road when a car came by, and a passenger in the car got out and stabbed him. He was taken to Baystate Medical Center and is expected to recover. Police were able to locate and stop the car but the suspect ran away. The driver was arrested.

**News**                      **03/19/12**                      **6pm**                      **:30**

A mother from Salem has been ordered held without bail after allegedly slashing her children's throats and setting the family's apartment on fire. Tancia Goodwin did not enter a plea at her arraignment in Salem District Court this morning. Firefighters responding to the fire found Goodwin's 3-year-old daughter and 8-year-old son with severe neck wounds and they were covered in lighter fluid. They were flown last night to Children's Hospital Boston and are in critical condition.

**News**                      **03/19/12**                      **4:30am**                      **:30**

A man was shot outside 339 Hampden Street in Holyoke yesterday just hours after the parade ended. Holyoke Police Sergeant Manuel Reyes told 22news he was shot in the right shoulder. He was taken to Baystate Medical Center and is expected to survive. Police do not know who the gunman was. But Sergeant Reyes said there were plenty of witnesses, since many parade-goers were in and out of a nearby bar.

**News**                      **03/20/12**                      **6pm**                      **:30**

Springfield police are searching for a man who they say robbed a convenience store. Sergeant John Delaney told 22News, that the man robbed the "Racing Mart" at 475 St. James Avenue on Friday, March 16th just after 3:30am. The man shows the store clerk a gun in waistband and demanded money from the register. He got away with cash.

**News**                      **03/22/12**                      **5pm**                      **:30**

28 year old Terrance Brown of Springfield has pleaded guilty of to manslaughter in connection with a deadly stabbing in Pittsfield. Brown and two other men were charged in the killing of 25 year-old Jahda Martin. Martin, a former star basketball player at Lee High School, was found stabbed to death in the parking lot of a Burger King in March of 2010. Brown was sentenced to serve 10 to 12 years in prison after he completes his current state prison sentence on unrelated charges.

**News**                      **03/23/12**                      **5:30pm**                      **:30**

An alleged heist caught on camera. The Thompson family set up a camera in their Chicopee driveway after they suspected people were stealing things from them, sure enough the camera caught what appears to be three men in a truck take off with their family's trailer with two ATV's.

**News**                                      **03/23/12**                                      **12pm**                                      **:30**

Springfield Police are investigating an apparent gunfight on Bissell Avenue. Springfield Police Capt. Cheryl Clapprood told 22News there were at least 3 people firing guns with bullets hitting 3 houses and 2 cars right around 3:30 this morning. According to Capt. Clapprood, one man was shot in the leg and was taken to Baystate Medical Center. He is expected to recover.

**News**                                      **03/23/12**                                      **12pm**                                      **:30**

A man in Springfield was stabbed last night near the Kensington School. Springfield Police Captain Cheryl Clapprood told 22News a man was stabbed in the back around 12:15 this morning but the injury is not considered serious. He was taken to Baystate Medical Center and is expected to recover. But the suspect did steal the man's scooter and his cell phone.

**News**                                      **03/23/12**                                      **7am**                                      **:30**

An elderly couple was injured in a hit and run incident in Agawam late Saturday afternoon. Agawam Police Sergeant Anthony Grasso told 22News a 37 year old man driving a white Dodge Durango failed to yield when he pulled onto Maple Street from Moore Street and hit an elderly couple's Toyota Camry head-on. Instead of stopping, the man drove away, abandoned his truck in someone's driveway and ran into the woods at Robinson State Park with his passenger. Police found them and the driver was arrested for operating under the influence. He also faces negligence and other charges. The victims were taken to Baystate Medical Center but Sergeant Grasso said they were alert with no obvious major injuries.

**News**                                      **03/23/12**                                      **7am**                                      **:30**

Springfield Police are searching for whoever stabbed a man in the back. It happened just after midnight near the Kensington School. Police Captain Cheryl Clapprood told 22News whoever stabbed him also stole his scooter and his cell phone. The man was taken to Baystate Medical Center but is expected to survive.

**News**                                      **03/24/12**                                      **7am**                                      **:30**

A woman held up the Longmeadow branch of Berkshire bank on Longmeadow Street just before noon today. Longmeadow Police Sgt. Robert Stocks told 22News, police got a call from a bank employee that their bank had just been held up. The bandit, a woman had handed the teller a note demanding money. And here's a photo from bank surveillance video police gave 22News in hopes someone will recognize the woman with the long black pony tail who was described by a bank employees as being about 5 feet 2 inches tall. She was wearing a red sox cap and a baggy sweat suit. Sgt. Stocks told 22News, she got away in a grey sedan with a man behind the wheel. It just so happens that West Springfield police reported that a grey Oldsmobile Intrigue had been stolen in their town on Friday. Sgt. Stocks said if you recognize the bank robber please contact Longmeadow detectives at 567-3311.



**News**                                      **03/24/12**                                      **9am**                                      **:30**

A teenager has been arrested after allegedly shooting a 65 year old woman in Springfield's Forest Park Neighborhood early this morning. Springfield Police Captain Cheryl Claprood told 22News the woman was standing on that porch around 2am at 18 Fairmount Street when she was shot in the arm. Captain Claprood told 22News the victim wasn't the target, she was outside and was hit accidentally. Police say 17 year old Jonathan Torres of Springfield was arrested at his home where they allegedly found 2 pellet pistols and a gun. He's been charged with assault & battery by means of a dangerous weapon and will go before a judge on Monday morning. The woman was taken to Baystate medical Center and she's expected to be ok.

**News**                                      **03/24/12**                                      **11pm**                                      **:30**

Holyoke Police are investigating the discovery of body found in a car this afternoon. Holyoke Police Sgt. John Hart told 22News the body was found around 4 o'clock in a car near the corner of Sargeant and Pine Streets. Sgt. Hart says foul play is not suspected but police are still investigating the circumstances of the death.

**News**                                      **03/26/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **:30**

A West Springfield woman believes that the people who stole her car this weekend, later used it as the getaway car in the hold up of the Longmeadow branch of Berkshire bank. The woman told 22News she believes her stolen grey Oldsmobile Intrigue sedan was the car involved in the holdup. She said her car had been stolen from outside of her apartment while she left it running to change her shoes. She noticed a mysterious woman sitting on the steps of her apartment complex. And it may be the same woman who is seen here in this surveillance images that Longmeadow police Sgt. Robert Stocks provided to 22News.

**News**                                      **03/26/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **:30**

17 year old Jonathan Torres of Springfield was scheduled to appear in court today after allegedly shooting a 65 year old woman in Springfield's Forest Park Neighborhood this weekend. Springfield Police Captain Cheryl Claprood told 22News the woman was standing on a porch at 18 Fairmount Street when she was shot in the arm. The victim wasn't the target and was hit accidentally. She's expected to be ok. Torres was arrested at his home where police allegedly found 2 pellet pistols and a gun.

**News**                                      **03/26/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **:30**

It's a crime that's shocked an entire community. Seven people were arraigned this afternoon in connection with a violent attack on a homeless man in Franklin County. All seven people accused of kidnapping and beating 19 year old Branden Stebbins was released based on conditions. They have to keep 100 yards away from the victim and make absolutely no contact with Stebbins, which includes both personal and social media contact. Stebbins told

the Montague police, he was taken against his will on March 21st by four men from Energy Park in Greenfield. In his testimony this afternoon, he said he was brought to a home on Seventh Street in Turners Falls where the men accused him of hitting a 14-year-old girl. When the girl returned home from school, she told the others who were there that Stebbins had hurt her. Stebbins said, and then the girl's mother, sister and another female friend kicked and verbally assaulted him. He said, after the beating, his hands were duct taped and he was driven to an area known as the Montague Plains. In the police report, Stebbins said, he managed to cut the tape with a knife in his back pocket and ran away, but one of the accused kidnapers, Johnny Lopez, threatened to shoot him if he didn't stop. And the Montague police said, the details of that alleged assault on the girl are unclear because no one reported it to police. In the courtroom today, Stebbins told the judge he is afraid of Lopez and one of the women, Gina Artruc. And another hearing is scheduled for May 16.

**News**                              **03/27/12**                              **6pm**                              **:30**

Springfield Police are investigating the 4th murder this year in the city. Captain Peter Dillon told 22News 54-year-old Charles Gamache was found on Pioneer Way, which is in Springfield's Pine Point section, just after 10 last night. Gamache had been stabbed several times. Captain Dillon said Gamache lived in the Boston Road Mobile Home Park. No arrests have been made.

**News**                              **03/27/12**                              **5pm**                              **:30**

Seventeen year-old Jonathan Torres who is charged with shooting a 65 year-old woman in the arm while she stood on her porch was ordered held without the right to bail. Torres was arraigned Monday in Springfield District Court. Springfield Police Captain Cheryl Claproot told 22News that the woman was standing on her porch at 18 Fairmount Street Saturday when she was shot. Torres is charged with assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. Police do not believe the woman was the intended target.

**News**                              **03/29/12**                              **6pm**                              **:30**

Longmeadow police need your help to find the man they believe robbed a bank on Route 5 late this afternoon. Police Capt. John Stankiewicz told 22News that around 3:30 P.M. the suspect walked into the Hampden Bank branch on Longmeadow Street and handed the teller a note demanding money. The suspect implied that he had a weapon, but he did not show one. He did get away with some cash. If you have any information, you are urged to call the Longmeadow Police at (413) 567-3311.

**News**                              **03/29/12**                              **6pm**                              **:30**

The owner of an internet cafe in Chicopee has been indicted on charges of running an illegal slots parlor. Steven Sheldon of Westfield and the corporation Cafeno's Incorporated are charged with aiding, procuring, or advising a false return and advertising lottery tickets. This

is video from state police raid on the cafe last year. Cafeno's on Main Street in Chicopee shut down in March of 2011. The cafe had earlier been raided by police.

**News**                      **03/30/12**                      **6pm**                      **:30**

Governor Deval Patrick has suspended the head of the Massachusetts National Guard after learning that he was being investigated for the alleged rape of a subordinate nearly 30 years ago. Secretary of Public Safety Mary Beth Heffernan said that Adjutant General Joseph Carter told Governor Patrick yesterday that he was the subject of a probe by the U.S. Army's Criminal Investigations Division. Heffernan said Patrick moved to place Carter on paid leave. She said the administration was not aware of any investigation before Thursday. The alleged rape occurred in Florida in 1984 when Carter was a lieutenant and the alleged victim was a private. Carter has denied the charge.

**News**                      **03/30/12**                      **5am**                      **:30**

Two people are in police custody this morning and one is charged with hitting a Massachusetts state trooper with his car in Boston. 41-year-old Trooper Scott Flaherty is in the hospital after being struck by a stolen rental car that he and fellow troopers on a construction detail were attempting to stop. Police said the driver struck 41-year-old Flaherty, and then fled. One or more troopers fired at the car. Flaherty has serious but non-life-threatening injuries. 25-year-old Brandon Smith of Boston was arrested and charged with receiving a stolen car after the 2012 Toyota Yaris was found on a Boston Street. A second person was questioned but not charged.

**News**                      **03/31/12**                      **9am**                      **:30**

Springfield Police arrested 49 year old Robert Koncal of Springfield for allegedly stabbing his roommate at their Belmont Avenue apartment. Springfield Police Captain William Collins told 22News the suspect called police and told them that he had stabbed his roommate several times in the stomach Friday night. When police arrived to 321 Belmont Ave apartment, Captain Collins said the victim was conscious. He was taken to Baystate Medical Center, he's in stable condition. They are not releasing the name of the victim.

**News**                      **03/31/12**                      **6am**                      **:30**

Massachusetts State Police made 18 arrests at the sobriety checkpoint on West Columbus Avenue in Springfield overnight. State Police Lt. John Healy told 22News 16 out of the 18 arrests were made for operating under the influence. Another arrest was drug related. A man was also arrested for two felony warrants. Lt. Healy says they will continue the checkpoints as long as the program's effective.

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Education during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2012. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News    01/10/12    6pm    : 30**

High school students from across Western Mass had an opportunity to learn how to plan their college experience and lifelong career during an event in Springfield today. 400 sophomores, juniors, and seniors attended Mass Mutual's Building Your Future conference. The students were split up into workshops that gave them hands-on experience in a variety of career fields.

**News    01/10/12    5pm    : 30**

A national honor for a local university; US News & World Report has ranked Westfield State University one of four Honor Roll schools among the Top Online Education Programs nationwide. The college was also ranked number 1 in faculty credentials and training, number 16 in student services and technology and number 42 in teaching practices and student engagement. Under current President Dr. Evan Dobbelle, the university began offering online degrees back in 2008. Online student enrollment is projected to increase by a total of 300% this year.

**News    01/11/12    5am    : 30**

The town of Southwick voted 446-183 to pass the proposal to overhaul the schools in town. The \$72,000,000 dollar proposal would upgrade the middle school and high schools. According to the Southwick Finance Committee not doing the entire project would jeopardize the high school's accreditation. The Woodland and Powder Mill Schools will also be renovated as part of the proposal. The Massachusetts School Building Authority is kicking in \$43,000,000 dollars. Another meeting will be held tonight in Tolland, if it's approved, the proposal will make it on January's ballot.

**News    01/12/12    6pm    : 30**

Governor Deval Patrick visited a struggling school district today to see the progress they've made. The Gill-Montague School District is a level four district meaning it's in need of quick improvement. Not only was today's visit a chance for Gill Elementary School to show off the good they've done so far, it was also a learning experience for state officials.

**News    01/12/12    11pm    : 30**

A proposal to upgrade the Southwick-Tolland and Granville School District is one step closer to reality. The \$72,000,000 dollar project overwhelmingly passed in the town of Tolland at a

special town meeting tonight. Only one person voted against the project. Both Granville and Southwick voters approved the project earlier this week. Taxpayers in the communities will be responsible for about 30 million dollars of the project so each town will vote one more time in town elections on January 31st to approve the funding and a proposition two and half override. The project targets the high school, powder mill middle school and woodland elementary school. All of the schools are in Southwick.

**News**                                  **01/13/12**                                  **11pm**                                  **: 30**

South Hadley has a new school superintendent! Dr. Nicholas Young has accepted the position and told 22news he is quote "very excited about the opportunity to work with and be apart of the South Hadley school system and has a deep respect for the community." Young has been the superintendent in Hadley for the past 11 years. Gus Sayer announced he was retiring as South Hadley superintendent last year. Young told 22News he expects to take over this summer.

**News**                                  **01/20/12**                                  **11pm**                                  **: 30**

New lines were drawn to divide the State senate seats and a Springfield city Councilor is hoping to benefit from a new Springfield-based district. City Councilor Melvin Edwards announced that he will run for the State Senate tonight. Edwards will run in a revamped district, which includes West Springfield and parts of Springfield and Chicopee. Edwards told 22News it's not just about getting Springfield voters to back him, it's getting people to vote.

**News**                                  **01/27/12**                                  **5am**                                  **: 30**

President Obama's call to raise the minimum student dropout age to 18 could revive the issue on Beacon Hill. Massachusetts' minimum dropout age is currently 16. According to the State House News Service, Governor Patrick has indicated he'd support such a change but also said it would need to be coupled with initiatives to engage at-risk students, not simply force them to stay in school till age 18.

**News**                                  **01/28/12**                                  **6pm**                                  **: 30**

Students who do well in science have found a second home at the Hampden Charter school of Science in Chicopee. The Hampden Charter School of science says its mission is to prepare students for college through a curriculum designed based on a scientific approach and focus on Math and Science. HCSS currently serves 295 students in grades 6th- 9th in Chicopee, Ludlow, Springfield and West Springfield. But the school is anything but traditional. Student to teacher ratio is 9-1, a typical school day starts at 8am and ends at 4pm and there are even classes on Saturday. But HCSS director Harun Celik says smaller class sizes, longer hours and a ranger of courses allows students to challenge themselves. Students who attend school here say they feel more comfortable with smaller classrooms and sharing the same interests with fellow students.

**News**                                  **01/29/12**                                  **6pm**                                  **: 30**

Some of the most important decisions in a parent's life are being made this year if they have a child ready to go to college. For years Congressman Richard Neal of Springfield has worked with American International College to help families get the information they need about college loans and scholarship programs. The number of parents who came to find out about financial help for their sons and daughters seemed to be down from previous years. But these parents were there to learn all that they can about financial aid for their children's education. These concerned parents know it's an uphill struggle especially in this economy where every dollar counts.

**News**                                  **01/31/12**                                  **5pm**                                  **: 30**

A class of 8th graders at the Alfred Zanetti Montessori Magnet school in Springfield learned today how digital technology works in television news. Its part of an ongoing program through Garvey Communications, a Springfield based marketing and PR Company. Using their iPADS, each student was able to follow along with a presentation and get hands on look at the changing world of media.

**News**                                  **02/07/12**                                  **12pm**                                  **: 30**

UMass officials have announced that the school is boosting financial aid for students by \$25 million this academic year to a record high \$158 million dollars. Students at the system's five campuses are receiving \$736 million in all forms of financial aid during the current year, the \$158 million representing grants from the university itself. President Robert Caret said that the goal is to make the university affordable during a time of declining state support. UMass students receive an average of \$7,100 in financial aid per year. The university also announced that average student debt upon graduation rose to nearly \$26,000 last year up from about \$15,000 five years ago.

**News**                                  **02/09/12**                                  **5pm**                                  **: 30**

State education officials are praising President Barack Obama's decision to free Massachusetts from some requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind law. Massachusetts is among 10 states to be granted waivers from the 2002 law, which set a goal of having all children proficient in reading and math by 2014. The State education commissioner said No Child Left Behind set unrealistic goals for perfection. Under the federal "measuring stick" known as "Adequate Yearly Progress," 80% of Massachusetts schools and 90% school districts are failing. He said those figures defy common sense.

**News**                                  **02/12/12**                                  **6pm**                                  **: 30**

Massachusetts High School Graduation numbers may be going up, but that's not the case in Springfield. 1 in 2 students do not graduate in four years in Springfield Public Schools. Out of the dozens of school districts in Massachusetts, Springfield has the second lowest rate. This makes residents wonder what's going wrong. Holyoke had the lowest with 49.5% which was an improvement from the year before. But in 2011, Springfield's graduation rate went down

by almost 1%. Central High School had the highest graduation rate of about 76% but here at the High School of Commerce only about 36% of students graduated in 4 years. Some think more needs to be done at home where others think the school system is to blame. The graduation rate across Massachusetts was 83.4% which was up from the year before.

**News**                                      **02/14/12**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

The first step for moving the MCAS tests back a month for Springfield schools is complete. City Councilor Kateri Walsh told 22News, the Springfield City Council unanimously approved a petition that could lead to the MCAS tests being moved from March to April. The reasoning behind this is that the weather events and subsequent school cancellations in 2011 prevented Springfield students from ample learning time. State lawmakers will have the final say on if the MCAS can be moved to April for Springfield students.

**News**                                      **02/16/12**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

Dozens of local high school students are getting some important advice on how to stand out in a tough job market. About 160 students from Chicopee High and Chicopee Comprehensive High School attended the third annual work readiness program. The program designed by Junior Achievement featured mock interviews, seminars on finding a job, and dressing for success.

**News**                                      **02/28/12**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

18 year old Jose Parrilla of Springfield is on his way to becoming the youngest Carpenter in New England. Jose, seen here today attending the New England Carpenter's training center in the Worcester county town of Millbury, is also a senior at Springfield's Putnam Vocational and Technical High School. Jose could be a journeyman carpenter by the age of 22, which is almost unheard of. He told 22News he stands out being the youngest apprentice at the training center.

**News**                                      **03/02/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

More than 50 Massachusetts schools are seeing a rise in participation among minority students in advance placement courses. The Massachusetts Math + Science Initiative is asking the state to increase their funding, pointing to the academic success of 53 schools they're working with across the state. The non-profit education group briefed lawmakers on an independent review of their program. It found that schools they worked with took 2.5 times more math, science and English AP courses than similar schools they did not work. Among African American and Hispanic students, participation was up by over 15%, essentially allowing more students to succeed college preparatory courses than other schools. Governor Deval Patrick has proposed allocating \$2.4 million for a statewide AP program in the fiscal year 2013 state budget. But educators and lawmakers are advocating for an increase in funding to \$3.25 million, which will allow the Math + Science initiative to expand into 12 additional high schools across the state.

**News**

**03/08/12**

**6pm**

**: 30**

Last week's shooting in an Ohio school may have you wondering if students in western Massachusetts would know how to respond in a similar situation. This drill was in an elementary school where young kids proved they'd know what to do if an intruder or gunman got into their school. Thursday started like any other at Bowles Elementary School in Springfield. Students were passing to class and teachers were teaching. That is, until the announcement. The school principal asked them to respond as they would if an intruder got into the school. Within seconds halls cleared, teachers were checking for kids in the hall and everyone reported to an undisclosed safety spot. Then drill coordinators knocked on doors; knocks that teachers have been trained not to respond to. Springfield schools have been conducting these specific drills since 2008 and drill coordinators say, there's been a drastic improvement in their response. Drills like this are to prepare students and teachers for the unthinkable; last week in an Ohio school a lone gunman killed three students, and seriously injured two others. A 17-year old is facing charges. This drill today was not in direct response to the Ohio shooting. They've been practicing these for years, and the coordinator said today's drill was scheduled before the tragedy in Ohio.

**News**

**03/08/12**

**5:30pm**

**: 30**

Students and professors from across the state are asking lawmakers to increase funding for higher education. Advocates across the public higher education spectrum are asking for relatively modest increases in funding to make up for cuts that students are now paying for. Hundreds of students from community colleges, state and public universities are lobbying lawmakers on Beacon Hill, asking for a 5 percent increase across the board for operating budgets in higher education. According the Department of Higher Education, tuition and fees for in-state residents has increased by about \$1,000 at all University of Massachusetts campuses. Professors say this is because higher-ed has been cut by \$164 million over the last three years, shifting the cost burden on students. And though Governor Deval Patrick's state budget proposes to increase community college funding by 5%, students say that doesn't make up for the steeper cuts sustained over the past few years that have hampered the quality of their education. Governor Patrick's budget proposes level funding for the University of Massachusetts and state universities. The House will release their budget in April and the Senate will release their budget in May.

**News**

**03/19/12**

**12pm**

**: 30**

There's a new report out today showing Massachusetts is among the states that saw the strongest gains in high school graduation rates. The graduation rate for the Class of 2009 in Massachusetts was 83.3%. Nationally, the graduation rate was 75.5%. There's also a bill up for debate in Massachusetts that would prohibit students from dropping out of school before age 18. Massachusetts is one of just 12 states that saw an increase in graduation rates over the past 7 years.

**News**

**03/22/12**

**6pm**

**: 30**



The Holy Name School in Chicopee announced it will close its doors at the end of this school year. Founded in 1867, the 145 year old school is the oldest in the Diocese here in western Massachusetts. Parents and children were informed of the closure during a meeting last night. During a news conference today, Father David Darcy said declining enrollment and a deteriorating building led to money troubles for the school. Despite a push to increase enrollment and fundraising efforts by parents and staff, the school could not afford to stay open any longer.

**News**

**03/26/12**

**6pm**

**: 30**

They say, once a teacher, always a teacher. Congressman Richard Neal of Springfield said he gladly accepted the Chicopee high school invitation to teach a class today about politics and government. Neal told 22News, he started teaching back in 1978 while serving on the city council.

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Environment during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2012. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News**                                **01/06/12**                                **6pm**                                **: 30**

Some students at Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School are spending their lunch helping the environment. Amy Donovan is the program director for the Franklin County solid waste management district. MassRecycle named her the state's recycler of the year. During her lunch hour, she goes to the Turners Falls high and Great Falls middle school cafeteria. There she and the students compost the trash. All food waste, meat, bones, dairy, fruits, vegetables, milk cartons and paper napkins can be used for compost. It is taken to Martin's Farm in Greenfield, where after 3 or 4 months it's transformed into high quality soil and sold to farmers and gardeners. Donovan told 22News this is not only good for the environment, but it builds environmental awareness in its students and also saves money on trash pickup.

**News**                                **01/13/12**                                **11pm**                                **: 30**

A plan to bring a natural gas power plant to Westfield is being met with increasing protest. Tonight, residents had the chance to voice their concerns. The Environmental Protection Agency was all ears Thursday night as dozens filled an auditorium in Westfield, concerned about their air quality. And that's exactly what many Westfield residents are worried about. The pioneer valley energy center is inching closer to building a new natural gas power plant in the city's north side on Ampad Road. Too close to home for some. However, the PVEC project manager says what they have planned is the cleanest and the most efficient power plant of its kind. Palmer also said, this project will create hundreds of jobs. But while the promise of jobs is appealing, many weren't convinced it's worth it. The EPA permit is one of the last permits needed to move forward with the project. Even if you missed tonight's meeting, you can make you opinion known by mail. Details are on [wwlp.com](http://wwlp.com)

**News**                                **01/26/12**                                **6am**                                **: 30**

Residents in Springfield who've been opposed to a wood burning biomass plant just scored a big victory. Palmer Renewable Energy's permit to build on Page Boulevard was revoked. The language of the city's zoning ordinance states that a special permit is required for anyone who wants to build an "incinerator." Palmer Renewable Energy argues that a biomass plant is not an incinerator, but at last night's meeting the zoning board disagreed citing that because the plant burned wood it was an "incinerator." So, the building permit that was given to them by the city's building commissioner was taken away.

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Government during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2012. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News                      01/02/12                      6pm                      : 30**

A historic day in Springfield as Mayor Domenic Sarno is sworn in for the first ever four year mayoral term. With that, Mayor Domenic Sarno is the first ever Mayor in Springfield to embark on a four-year term. With two, two-year terms already under his belt, Sarno is setting the bar high for this one. The mayor outlined some of his top priorities including job creation, revitalizing the city improving the cities schools, and at the top of his list, public safety. In November, Mayor Sarno was re-elected over then City Council President Jose Tosado. With his family by his side, Mayor Sarno took the oath of office for the third time fully aware of the responsibilities that lie ahead. City counselor James Ferrera was sworn into city council President, replacing Jose Tosado, who gave up his position to run for mayor.

**News                      01/02/12                      5:30pm                      : 30**

Michael Bissonnette was sworn in today as he began his fourth two year term as Mayor of Chicopee. Mayor Bissonnette told his audience at the Elms College that he wants to build on the progress of the decade, especially in the schools where the drop out rate is at an all time low. The Mayor told 22News that his cities in a good position to withstand the financial pressures expected during the next few years. The mayor used the occasion to introduce Chicopee's 12 newest firefighters; a further display of the start of his fourth term on a highly positive note. During his inaugural speech Bissonnette again refereed to his theme of Chicopee being the envy of other communities in Western Massachusetts.

**News                      01/03/12                      6pm                      : 30**

He was the youngest mayor ever to be elected in Holyoke in November and now Alex Morse is taking over the top spot at city hall. And, with that, 22-year old Alex Morse became the youngest mayor ever in the city of Holyoke. It's definitely a new day in the city of Holyoke. High ranking local and state officials came from all across the Baystate to see Morse sworn in at Holyoke High School, the school he graduated from just four years ago. Most in attendance were hopeful that this new leadership will be a new beginning for a city in need of economic development. Morse says he plans to get started right away on putting Holyoke on the map as a great place to live and do business. I outlined an economy based on art, an economy based on innovation, and an economy based on technology. I plan to take advantage of the high computing center. And that's what we need to be known for; we don't need to be known for casino gambling. Mayor Morse begins his first full day of work Wednesday morning.

**News                      01/03/12                      6pm                      : 30**

From acting mayor to the Mayor, today in Northampton, David Narkewicz took the oath of office. This morning at the Northampton High School auditorium, Narkewicz began his first, two year term as Mayor. In September 2011, Mayor Higgins stepped down and Narkewicz, who was city council president, became the acting Mayor. During the November election, residents voted him into office.

**News**                      **01/03/12**                      **5:30pm**                      **: 30**

Richard Cohen began his 6th term today as the Mayor of Agawam. After the swearing in ceremony at Agawam town Hall, Cohen told 22News he tries to stay positive about all issues facing his community.

**News**                      **01/03/12**                      **5pm**                      **: 30**

Mayors all over Western Massachusetts are being sworn in today. Westfield Mayor Dan Knapik took the oath of office for his second term this morning. Knapik ran unopposed during the November election. The inauguration ceremony was held at Westfield Vocational Technical High School.

**News**                      **01/03/12**                      **5am**                      **: 30**

As he heads into a tough re-election year, State Sen. Scott Brown says he promised to be an independent voice in the Senate and will continue to be guided by that promise. Brown says that he's the most bi-partisan member of the Massachusetts congressional delegation and "one of the most bi-partisan people in the entire Senate." Brown's emphasis on bi-partisanship is a political necessity as he faces a challenge from Harvard professor and consumers advocate Elizabeth Warren.

**News**                      **01/04/12**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

The state's top election chief has given the go-ahead for four proposed ballot questions in Massachusetts. Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin announced that four initiative petitions have collected more than the roughly 68,900 certified signatures required to go forward. One initiative proposes to allow terminally ill patients to self-administer life-ending drugs. Another would legalize the use of marijuana for medical purposes. The final two would create a new teacher evaluation system and require automakers to share diagnostic information with independent repair shops. The Legislature has until May 2nd to vote of the petitions. Any initiatives not approved by lawmakers must gather an additional 11,000 votes to be put on the ballot.

**News**                      **01/12/12**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

Governor Deval Patrick visited a struggling school district today to see the progress they've made. The Gill-Montague School District is a level four district meaning it's in need of quick

improvement. Not only was today's visit a chance for Gill Elementary School to show off the good they've done so far, it was also a learning experience for state officials.

**News**                      **01/19/12**                      **5am**                      **: 30**

Should Northampton's mayor be in office for four years instead of the current two? Northampton has tried to extend the mayor's term twice before. This time, a special committee in charge of revising the city's 1883 charter discussed the proposed change at a meeting last night. The committee is trying to modernize the charter and make changes. They will give their recommendations to the city council tomorrow night at 7pm. The public however, is encouraged to voice their opinions over the next two months to their city councilors.

**News**                      **01/25/12**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

Governor Deval Patrick released his state budget proposal plan. The proposed budget for the fiscal year which begins on July 1<sup>st</sup> doesn't assume any new revenue from casinos or slot parlors. The budget also comes with some tough cuts. Governor Deval Patrick unveils his \$32.3 billion state budget proposal that includes over a billion dollars in cost reductions from the current budget. How does it achieve that; in part, by revamping the way we deliver and pay for health care, by merging the parole and probation departments and making cuts. The budget proposes to lay off 300 state employees, reduce services at the RMV, eliminate subsidized lunches for seniors and reduce funding at the Department of Public Health. But the governor is proposing over \$5.2 billion in local aid for cities and towns, and an increase to K-12 education aid funding, raising it to a record high of over \$4 billion. The governor's budget also includes limited additional revenues, in part, by eliminating a tax subsidy on soda and sweets, and introducing a 50-cent tax hike on cigarettes.

**News**                      **02/03/12**                      **5am**                      **: 30**

In 2010, Republican Sen. Scott Brown was an outspoken opponent of President Obama's sweeping health care overhaul. Two years later, Sen. Brown has found a lot more to love about the Democratic president. He has backed some key democratic initiatives, and even praised the President's decision to bypass the Senate and appoint Richard Cordray to lead the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. While many Republican lawmakers are using The President as a campaign foil, Sen. Brown is touting his bi-partisanship as he hopes to fend off a challenge from chief Democratic rival Elizabeth Warren.

**News**                      **02/06/12**                      **5am**                      **: 30**

Attorney General Martha Coakley is heading to Washington to make a legal case for the national health care law that was modeled after Massachusetts' own landmark 2006 health care law. On Thursday Coakley will defend the constitutionality of the national law at a National Press Club event called "The Affordable Health Care Act, Constitutional or Not?" Coakley will explain why the results in Massachusetts show Congress had a constitutional basis to enact health care reform including the so-called individual mandate.

**News**                      **03/04/12**                      **11pm**                      **: 30**

Amid massive Department of Defense budget cuts, Senator Scott Brown is criticizing proposed cuts to military healthcare. The Department of Defense is under White House orders to slash \$500,000,000 dollars from its budget. One of the ways they may do that is by raising fees for Tricare, the military's healthcare system. A proposal in the 2013 budget would increase health care fees for active duty military families and eligible veterans. Senator Scott Brown says he's "disappointed" the department would even consider this measure. Brown told 22News the cuts would damage a sacred trust between service members and their government and that it shouldn't be the men and women in uniform who shoulder the burden. He said before any cuts are made to military health benefits the federal government should lead by example by cutting the health care benefits for members of Congress and their staff. Something Brown says he'd personally support. Lt. Gov. Murray leads a roundtable discussion focused on promoting and protecting Hanscom Air Force Base and all Massachusetts military bases.

**News**                      **03/06/12**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

Voters in ten states headed to the polls today. It's a big day for the Republican Presidential Candidates and voters came out in droves to vote on Super Tuesday, in the battleground state of Ohio at least; a very different situation here in Western Massachusetts. Margaret Scanlon is the warden of what is usually Springfield's busiest polling place at the Frederick Harris School. By noon, each polling place at the school had about 60 voters. For democrats the choice is very clear and republicans say their race may already be decided but it's the independent voters who say they're vote does really matter. And slow turnout has some concerned that anything could happen.

**News**                      **03/22/12**                      **5:30pm**                      **: 30**

Governor Deval Patrick signed into law a couple of bills on housing and retirement funds. Governor Deval Patrick went on a bit of a public signing spree, enacting three bills that help the homeless, offer retirement options to employees of non-profit organizations and expand infrastructure. The first bill signed was Senate bill 1967, legislation that directs state agencies to coordinate supportive services and housing for seniors, people with disabilities and the homeless to save money and deliver services more efficiently. It also establishes a grant program to support low income housing and other services. Patrick signed a second bill that allows non-profit companies to have their employees buy into the state retirement program if they are currently not enrolled in a program and if it is more affordable. Treasurer Grossman added that admitting non-profits into the state retirement program must still await approval from the Internal Revenue Service. Governor Patrick signed a third bill naming a bridge after two victims who died on September 11th, Lynn Goodchild and Shawn Nassaney, in the former's hometown of Attleboro.

**News**                      **03/22/12**                      **5pm**                      **: 30**

Hampden County Clerk of Courts Brian Lees is announcing an end to his 24-year political career. In a statement sent to 22News, Lees, announced he was looking at opportunities in the private sector, such as consulting work on public policy matters and non-profit work. Lees was elected Clerk of Courts in 2006, following his decision to retire from the State Senate after 18 years of service. Lees, a Republican from East Longmeadow rose to the rank of Minority Leader.

**News**                        **03/23/12**                        **5:30pm**                        **: 30**

After five years of trying, a Chicopee teacher finally had her wish, to get a visit from the governor come true. Governor Deval Patrick toured the Fairview Veteran's Memorial Middle School to discuss his Gateway Cities Education Agenda. Patrick told 22News that although Massachusetts is ahead of the rest of the nation in education, there's still more to be done.

**News**                        **03/26/12**                        **6pm**                        **: 30**

They say, once a teacher, always a teacher. Congressman Richard Neal of Springfield said he gladly accepted the Chicopee high school invitation to teach a class today about politics and government. Neal told 22News, he started teaching back in 1978 while serving on the city council.

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Health-Smoking during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2012. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News                                      01/10/12                                      5:30pm                                      : 30**

Lawmakers are considering a number of cost-cutting health care bills on Beacon Hill. A number of people from different interest groups want to level health service fees and reduce administrative costs that make health care costs unpredictable. A group of optometrists testified before the Joint Committee on Financial Services in favor of a bill that would set costs for standard procedures they provide. They said doctors with higher certifications were charging patients over a hundred dollars for identical procedures they charge only a fraction of that price for. Another health representative testified on a bill that would cut down on administrative costs by requiring all health providers to move from paper-based claims systems to electronic-based systems. Lawmakers remarked that it would be costly for small providers to switch to electronic systems. But supporters of the bill insist that the cost will be minimized by the long term benefits.

**News                                      01/17/12                                      5:30pm                                      : 30**

The state reports that over 98% of Massachusetts residents have health insurance. Health advocates say complicated paperwork is the root cause of cancelled health plans for children in the state's Mass Health program. Lawmakers are therefore proposing a bill that makes renewing health plans easier. They're testifying before the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities on a bill that allows parents to sign for insurance renewals rather than fill out lengthy paperwork. The legislation would allow families covered by Mass Health to renew their plans at their doctor's office within 6 months of the renewal date. Health advocates say this bill can close the gap on the roughly 1% of Massachusetts residents without health insurance.

**News                                      01/17/12                                      5:30pm                                      : 30**

Massachusetts cigarette smokers may soon have to cough up another 50 cents a pack in state tax money. Governor Deval Patrick has said the increased cigarette tax is part of his plan to generate \$260,000,000 dollars in new revenue. David Glantz, the owner of Buckeye Brothers smoke shop in Springfield, told 22News he believes Massachusetts has one of the highest taxes on cigarettes in the country. Rather than pay another fifty cents for a pack of cigarettes purchased here in Western Massachusetts, Glanz said "smokers will go to where the prices are lower".

**News                                      01/24/12                                      5pm                                      : 30**

Holyoke Community College is going smoke free. HCC President William Messner



announced today that smoking will not be allowed anywhere on the 135 acre campus as of August 13th of this year. Smoking is currently only allowed outside, and smokers must be at least 20 feet from any building entryways. HCC will also be holding events throughout the spring semester to raise awareness about the new smoking policy and the health benefits of quitting.

**News**                                  **01/31/12**                                  **5:30pm**                                  **: 30**

Providing free contraception will be a requirement for employers and insurers come August 1<sup>st</sup>. The debate is between the Roman Catholic Church and the Obama Administration. The dispute comes after the President's highly-criticized health care mandate; which would require health plans and providers to offer free preventative services. It's a move that will go into effect August 1<sup>st</sup> but Catholic leaders are trying to include stipulations that would grant a broad exemption to employees of Catholic hospitals, colleges and charities.

**News**                                  **02/06/12**                                  **5am**                                  **: 30**

Attorney General Martha Coakley is heading to Washington to make a legal case for the national health care law that was modeled after Massachusetts' own landmark 2006 health care law. On Thursday Coakley will defend the constitutionality of the national law at a National Press Club event called "The Affordable Health Care Act, Constitutional or Not?" Coakley will explain why the results in Massachusetts show Congress had a constitutional basis to enact health care reform including the so-called individual mandate.

**News**                                  **02/10/12**                                  **6pm**                                  **: 30**

The town of Greenfield is changing its health insurance plan. The town is switching to Health New England. Greenfield has about 600 people eligible for this insurance. Mayor William Martin made the announcement this afternoon in the town hall. Health insurance is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest item in their budget every year, behind the school department. Lane Kelly is Greenfield's Finance Director. She told 22News they spend between \$6,000,000 and \$6,500,000 million dollars on insurance every year, so this change will benefit everyone in Greenfield.

**News**

**02/15/12**

**11pm**

**: 30**

It's called BMI screening. Every public school in the state is supposed to be doing it or collecting data from individual physicians. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health required every public school in the state to begin recording Body Mass Index levels by last June. Tonight, one local superintendent who began his job after that deadline told 22News, he didn't believe a program was implemented at his school. 22News found out that some of the schools that were doing it weren't getting the message across. The Body Mass Index or BMI conversation got kicked started after a 2007 national survey of children's health showed that 13.3% of 10-17 years olds were obese and 31% were overweight. The state department of public health then required BMI test, which measures body fat based on height and weight. All 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade public school students in Massachusetts have to get a body mass index taken. The hope is that families will takes steps to fight obesity and avoid the health problems linked to it, if they learn about it early enough. It is required in schools, but no where in this document did it describe any punishment for schools that did not follow the screening procedures.

**News**

**03/06/12**

**5:30pm**

**: 30**

Massachusetts hospitals are reporting fewer accidents and on-site infections. Department of Public Health officials said the number of serious reportable events, which are adverse medical accidents reported at hospitals, have been declining since 2009. They found that 50% of the accidents reported were falls and that the quality of the reporting has improved. Officials also presented lawmakers with a report on health care associated infections, which are infections caught at a hospital, for example, after a surgical procedure. The report indicated that the rate of surgical site infections were significantly fewer than the rest of the country, with the exception of vaginal hysterectomies, where there was an elevated rate of infection at nearly 2 percent statewide. If patients are infected after surgical procedures, officials said it could require repeat surgery and significant rehabilitative services. In 2007, infections caught in hospitals cost Massachusetts \$200 to \$400 million.

**News**

**03/07/12**

**5:30pm**

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One Hampshire County legislator is asking Beacon Hill lawmakers to consider a bill that would legalize and tax marijuana. Amherst Representative Ellen Story testified before the Committee on the Judiciary saying regulating and taxing the commercial production, distribution and sale of cannabis will create an industry that will add jobs and new revenue. Local lawmakers are pushing for a repeal of the marijuana prohibition, a proposal some residents say should go up in smoke. In 2008 more than 60% of Massachusetts voters decriminalized the possession of less than an ounce of marijuana and it is because of this overwhelming support proponents of the measure say the legalization and taxation of the drug will spark some interest. Dick Evans is a Northampton lawyer who authored An Act to Regulate and Tax the Cannabis Industry. The bill would allow commercially produced cannabis to be purchased by adults from licensed retailers; they'd be sold in one ounce packages and taxed. Similar efforts are happening in states like Washington and Colorado. Evans told 22News the success of these measures will play a role in the

legalization of cannabis in Massachusetts.

**News**                      **03/09/12**                      **7am**                      **: 30**

Connecticut lawmakers are revisiting legislation that would fully legalize the medical use of marijuana. Under the bill, a person could qualify to use marijuana for medical purposes if they've been diagnosed by a physician as having a debilitating medical condition. Qualified users and their primary caregiver would then have to register with the state Department of Consumer Protection. A similar bill failed there last year. Medical marijuana may end up as a ballot question this November here in Massachusetts since a statewide petition gathered the required amount of signatures.

**News**                      **03/14/12**                      **5:30pm**                      **: 30**

Tobacco advocates are urging lawmakers to strengthen efforts against smoking. According to the American Cancer Society, 70% of adult cigarette smokers want to quit and 60% have tried to quit within the past year. Anti-tobacco advocates are lobbying lawmakers for more resources to help people kick the habit. They're asking to expand access to cessation products and programs that provide free counseling and nicotine patches, as well as a \$1.7 million increase in funding to a Massachusetts tobacco control program. They also want to go beyond the governor's proposal of a \$.50 cent tax-hike to a \$1.25 tax-hike on cigarettes. Advocates say these measures will save the state millions in health care costs and generate over \$140 million in revenue. Advocates say greater access to products that help people quit smoking has resulted in a 25% reduction in smoking rates and provides the state a net savings of over \$2 for each \$1 invested. The American Cancer Society says this year, 9,000 adults will die of a smoking-related illness in Massachusetts and 7,200 kids will become addicted to tobacco products.

**News**                      **03/19/12**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

Imagine turning on the TV and catching a very graphic picture of a gaping hole in someone's neck. Starting today, the chances of that happening are very likely. Every year, nearly half a million Americans die from smoking. And in an effort to make a bold statement, the CDC launched a \$54,000,000 dollar ad campaign aimed at saving lives. For the next 12 weeks you will be seeing these ads on television, radio, plastered on billboards and even before watching a movie at the theater. In them you'll see hard hitting images of smokers who have had tracheotomies or have lost their limbs as a result of smoking.

**News**                      **03/22/12**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

One drug will no longer be on Springfield pharmacy shelves. That's nicotine, at least in tobacco form. It's a move to separate the good from the bad. The Springfield public health council voted to ban tobacco sales in drug stores and grocery stores with pharmacies in them. Stores with pharmacies have 60 days to take cigarettes off their shelves or face up to a \$300 fine. Several communities including Boston and Worcester have already banned cigarettes in pharmacies.

**News**

**03/23/12**

**12pm**

**: 30**

Offering extra counseling and free nicotine patches to smokers who call quitting hotlines makes no difference in their success rates. Researchers divided smokers into several groups some were given standard smoking hotline advice and some were offered more aggressive counseling. Others were offered free nicotine patches along with counseling. Six months later, there was no difference in quit rates among any of the groups. Even after only one month, there was no benefit to offering extra services.

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Jobs during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2012. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News**                                      **01/05/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Today, President Obama announced a plan that is expected to provide teens with new job opportunities. Teens have been facing huge obstacles when it comes to getting jobs. Just this year, it cost taxpayers \$93,000,000 dollars to shoulder the burden of unemployed kids. The Obama Administration has proposed a plan that would open up 180,000 positions for low income teens. 100,000 of those would be paid jobs or internships. Springfield Boys & Girls Club Executive Director, Gary McCarthy says this is a plan that makes sense. And, many teens agree that having a job helps them learn the ropes of adulthood.

**News**                                      **01/12/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Several hundreds of jobs will be coming to Springfield. And that's welcome news during this tough economic time. A company called Thing5 had its humble beginnings here in Springfield 7 years ago. After a successful merger, they've grown, and want to keep their headquarters here in the city. Thing5 provides telecommunications for the hospitality industry, things like hotel reservation lines and customer service. They're looking to fill 500 new jobs based right here in Springfield in their new call center, inside of One Financial Plaza. To sweeten the deal, Morgan Square apartments a few blocks away will offer discounted rates on apartments for employees, something developers say will create more foot traffic, which in turn will be a boost for retailers and restaurants.

**News**                                      **01/18/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

A manufacturing company in West Springfield laid off 76 employees today. ITT Exelis was forced to lay off the workers because of cuts in defense spending. ITT Exelis manufactures night vision goggles and other products used by the U.S. Department of Defense. As of December, the company had 370 people working at its West Springfield location.

**News**                                      **01/18/12**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

For those people who are unemployed, you know how tough the job search can be. But today, many people were provided some hope with possible job opportunities. The City of Holyoke and CareerPoint co-sponsored a job Fair with more than 30 vendors. CareerPoint estimated 500 people came to the fair in the first few hours of opening to seek potential employment. People looking for work told 22News that with jobs being so hard to find, this is just what they needed.

**News**                                      **01/19/12**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

Here in Massachusetts, the state estimated a loss of more than 6,000 jobs last month. In December, the unemployment rate dropped to 6.8%, down from 7% and is said to be the lowest in three years and remained well under the national rate of 8.5%. For the full year of 2011, the report showed that Massachusetts added about 40,700 jobs.

**News**    **01/24/12**    **5:30pm**    **: 30**

The jobless rate has dipped to 8.5% nationally and millions of people are still out of work. Many collecting unemployment insurance benefits can be taxed when filing incomes taxes this year. The only way to bypass this is by getting federal and state taxes withheld.

**News**    **02/06/12**    **5pm**    **: 30**

A local company is hiring hundreds of workers. Smith and Wesson President and CEO James Debney signed on for a tax incentive program. His company got the tax break and he created 225 new jobs and spent millions of dollars improving the handgun manufacturing plant. The 225 new jobs push the Smith and Wesson payroll in Springfield to more than 1300 workers. Debney told 22News, the more than 200 new full time jobs at the Springfield plant pay an average of about \$47,000 dollars a year. And 35% of those new workers live in the city.

**News**    **02/09/12**    **5:30pm**    **: 30**

The number of people seeking jobless benefits has reached a near four year low. According to the labor department, weekly applications for unemployment benefits fell 15,000 to a seasonally adjusted 358,000. It's the second lowest level since April 2008. Employers also added a net gain of 243,000 jobs in January. Most analysts say that when applications fall below 375, 000 it usually means hiring is picking up.

**News**    **02/17/12**    **6pm**    **: 30**

If you're looking for work, Six Flags New England in Agawam is hiring. They are looking to fill three thousand jobs for the 2012 season. Six Flags opens April 14th and just like every year, they'll be doing a big hiring wave to get ready for the season. Six Flags is looking to fill all positions including admissions, foods, games, lifeguards, loss prevention, park services, EMT, security, entertainment, retail and rides. Once again, the Six Flags New England job fair has more than 3,000 available positions. You must be 16 or older and you could get hired on the spot so dress to impress.

**News**    **03/06/12**    **5pm**    **: 30**

As living costs continue to rise one coalition is asking Northampton employers to increase their minimum wage. In 2009 the Northampton City Council set the living wage at \$11.90 per hour. This year council raised the rate after finding that the cost of living just keeps going up. They are trying to make minimum wage livable. Gasoline went up by 9.9% if people have fuel oil that went up by 18% food went up 4.7% energy went up 6%. The Northampton

living wage coalition aims to ensure that living wages keep pace with the cost of living. In the last year, the rate went up \$0.43 cents to \$12.52; which would cover the basic needs for one single person without children. Fly By Night here in Northampton is certified by the city's living wage coalition as an employer who provides basic needs benefits and the owner believes other businesses should follow suit. Employers currently paying below \$12.52 can certify with the coalition as an aspiring employer.

**News**                      **03/06/12**                      **5pm**                      **: 30**

Toy manufacturer Hasbro is passing out pink slips. Hasbro is cutting 170 jobs in its operations in the US and Canada. Hasbro's Vice President of Communications Gary Serby told 22News that three employees at the company's East Longmeadow plant will be losing their jobs. Serby said most of the laid-off employees worked for the company's sales and marketing department. He told 22News that all of the laid-off employees will receive competitive severance packages and outplacement services.

**News**                      **03/07/12**                      **5am**                      **: 30**

Governor Deval Patrick has filed a bill that would prevent retired public employees from receiving both a pension check and unemployment benefits. Current state law allows public pensioners to return to work in the public sector for up to 960 hours a year. In some cases, workers have collected jobless benefits even after this additional employment ends. House Speaker Robert DeLeo said that he expected lawmakers to address the issue before the end of the session.

**News**                      **03/10/12**                      **9am**                      **: 30**

The February jobs report is out and the latest numbers are better than expected. The Labor Department says the unemployment rate stayed at 8.3% in February, which economists had predicted. But the number of jobs added last month was much higher than the estimates. 227,000 jobs were added. President Obama's former chief economic adviser says this is a positive trend.

**News**                      **03/16/12**                      **5am**                      **: 30**

In Connecticut, the state's Labor and Public Employees legislative committee have voted to increase minimum wage there by \$1 an hour over the next two years, and eventually tie future increases to inflation. The proposed bill would raise the current \$8.25 wage rate to \$8.75 effective January 2013. It would climb to \$9.25 an hour a year later. The bill now goes to the House floor for further action.

**News**                      **03/19/12**                      **6pm**                      **: 30**

Hundreds lined up today for a chance at a job today in Chicopee. Resumes in hand, hundreds of jobs seekers went from table to table at the Chicopee Castle of Knights hoping to catch a potential employer's eye. Senator Scott Brown hosted the job fair; it was just one of

several stops he made in Western Massachusetts Monday. He told 22News he hopes some of the employers take advantage of the hire a hero bill; it gives anyone who hires a veteran up to a \$9,600 dollar tax credit. And many veterans say they could use the boost.

**News**                                      **03/21/12**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

Graduating seniors from American International College are making plans for their future. AIC's Career Services Office sponsored a meet and greet panel discussion with prospective employers. With graduation weeks away and a tough job market, students are looking for ways to make themselves stand out when applying for a job. Panelists offered suggestions on ways to get job experience, build resumes, and make a good impression at a job interview. They say reaching out either in person or on social networking web sites is a good way to start.

**News**                                      **03/22/12**                                      **12pm**                                      **: 30**

Applications for jobless benefits hit a four year low last week. According to the labor department weekly applications dropped five thousand to 348,000. It's the lowest level since February 2008. Employers have added an average of 245,000 jobs per month from December through February. Most analysts say when applications fall below 375,000 it usually means hiring is picking up.

**News**                                      **03/22/12**                                      **12pm**                                      **: 30**

Here in the Bay State the unemployment rate held steady in February at 6.9%. Massachusetts added more than 9,000 new jobs. This is the third consecutive month the unemployment rate stayed the same. The U.S. unemployment rate stood at 8.3 percent in February.

**News**                                      **03/23/12**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Some job seekers say there's a hiring bias against those who have been unemployed for an extended period of time. There are several reasons why a potential employer may not respond to an application. Some say it's a lack of degree. But for those who have been searching for months, even years, many believe it's that time without a job that's hurting them the most. Several states, not including Massachusetts, want to pass laws to prevent that. Employers typically would face fines if found violating the law. The Oregon House, for example, voted last month to fine employers \$1,000 if they post a job ad telling unemployed workers to not apply.