



QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT

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April, 2024
January, February, March 2024

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

Lake Effect: January 25, 2024

Wisconsin recently topped [a list of states](#) where investors are interested in buying properties, which could be bad news for traditional home buyers. The market is already saturated with people looking for homes, while the number of homes has failed to increase with demand. Add in mounting inflation and this increase in companies buying up single-family homes for investors, and you have a market that Rob Stafslie describes as the worst he's ever seen. Stafslie is the director of single-family lending at WHEDA, the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority. He spoke with Joy Powers. (Lake Effect 12:00pm Approximately 15 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 25, 2024

Like many neighborhoods in Milwaukee, the cost of housing is rising in Lindsay Heights. To help keep the neighborhood affordable, the Milwaukee Community Land Trust is trying a new approach. The [Milwaukee Community Land Trust](#), in partnership with [VIA CDC](#), recently put four homes up for sale in Lindsay Heights at price points significantly below market value. The goal is to create more owner-occupants in the neighborhood, rather than seeing the homes go to investors. Sam Woods spoke with Lamont Davis, executive director of the Milwaukee Community Land Trust. (Lake Effect 12:00pm Approximately 10 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 7, 2024

February's *Milwaukee Magazine* features the five winners of the [2024 Unity Awards](#). The awards highlight people and organizations that are making Milwaukee a more inclusive and equitable place to live, work and play. One of those winners is Cheryl Blue, the executive director of the [30th Street Industrial Corridor](#). Blue was recognized for her work to revitalize an area of Milwaukee's northwest side that was a hub for heavy manufacturing, but is now in a transitional period as many large manufacturers have left the area. She spoke with Sam Woods. (Lake Effect 12:00pm and 8:00pm Approximately 16 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 12, 2024

In February, the community-oriented Kuumba cafe opened in Harambee. [Kuumba Juice and Coffee](#), named for the sixth principle of Kwanzaa, is part of a growing hub of activity along the border between the Harambee and Riverwest neighborhoods. It's housed in the Connector Building, on the [Beerline Trail](#), where development aims to revitalize a rail corridor historically used by many Milwaukee's breweries. The founders are friends Alexander Hagler, Joe Ferch, and Ellie Jackson. They shared their plans with WUWM. They spoke with Lina Tran. (Lake Effect 12:00pm and 8:00pm Approximately 5 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 13, 2024

For first-time buyers, purchasing an affordable home in Wisconsin has become challenging. It's even harder for low-income residents. Over the past couple of years, interest rates have soared, and the number of houses for sale hasn't kept up with the number of new homebuyers. The Metcalfe Park Homeownership

Initiative is looking to break that barrier. The initiative is a lease-to-purchase program that will allow 30 tenants living in the Metcalfe Park neighborhood the opportunity to become homeowners. Xcaret Nunez spoke with Eve Hall, President of the Milwaukee Urban League and Dee Kemp, Vice- President of Programs at Act Housing. (Lake Effect 12:00pm and 8:00pm Approximately 16 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 26, 2024

The Victory Garden Initiative's "blitz" is back to tackle food insecurity — one garden bed at a time. The Victory Garden Initiative's annual blitz organizes volunteers to install garden beds across the city, while also providing soil, seeds and optional mentorship to help new gardeners get started. Since beginning the blitz in 2009, over 7,000 raised garden beds have been installed throughout the city. The price of the beds is income-based, meaning they are cheaper for those making less than \$40,000 per year. Sinceree Dixon, volunteer programs and blitz coordinator at Victory Garden Initiative, says that the organization's mission is to combat food insecurity, and that income-based pricing helps people with lower incomes afford to grow their own food. She spoke with Sam Woods. (Lake Effect 12:00pm and 8:00pm Approximately 11 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 7, 2024

This Spring Election, Milwaukeeans will have a chance to vote for the next city comptroller. The comptroller is the city's chief financial officer and serves a four-year term. The current [city comptroller, Aycha Sawa](#), has worked in the comptroller's office for nearly 15 years and [announced last year](#) that she is not seeking reelection. "The comptroller is the city's fiscal watchdog and they are looking out for your taxpayer dollars," Sawa says. She spoke with Xcaret Nunez. (Lake Effect 12:00pm Approximately 16 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 20, 2024

Voters will decide on a [referendum](#) that would provide an additional \$252 million for Milwaukee Public Schools. The referendum is expected to raise taxes by \$432 on a \$200,000 home. MPS officials say the referendum is needed due to stagnant state funding, increased inflationary costs and the loss of the federal pandemic aid. Budget officials are projecting a \$200 million deficit next year, if the referendum fails — which they say would lead to cuts to staff and services. (Lake Effect 12:00pm and 8:00pm Approximately 15minutes)

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Lake Effect: January 18, 2024

Road crews have applied lots of road salt to keep our roadways clear, but a lot of that salt runs off into lakes and streams. What are the environmental impacts of road salt? What happens to the chloride when it meets the Milwaukee and other rivers? Cheryl Nenn with Milwaukee Riverkeeper says "A lot of that stays in the river system and quite a lot of it will settle out into the bottom of the river," Nenn says. Chloride is a pollutant that's not good for the health of fish and other aquatic life. She spoke with Susan Bence. (Lake Effect 12:00pm Approximately 3 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 18, 2024

Sarah Martinez, author of the article and a former Water Policy Specialist at [UWM's Center for Water Policy](#), looks into the historical exclusion and environmental justice challenges that people of color, but especially, Black communities, have faced when it comes to accessing recreational waters. Her research also looks at the lasting impact that history has left on BIPOC communities today. "Environmental justice is not just what it sounds like, it's not just, 'let's create more parks and beaches, and let's get people outside and moving and exercise.' It's not just that. It's housing justice. It's social justice. It's racial justice," Martinez says. She spoke with Xcaret Nunez. (Lake Effect 12:00pm Approximately 13 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 7, 2024

Solar energy generation — either at big solar farms in rural areas, or on urban rooftops— continues to grow in Wisconsin. Advocates say using more renewable energy is key to reducing pollution and climate change. For a recap of last year, and the solar forecast for this year, Chuck Quirnbach spoke with Sam Dunaiski. He's the executive director of RENEW Wisconsin, a non-profit that promotes renewables. (Lake Effect 12:00pm and 8:00pm Approximately 5 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 8, 2024

Two local universities, some businesses, and a labor training agency are part of a so-called "Blue Economy" collaboration newly recognized by the National Science Foundation (NSF) as a Regional Innovation Engine. At least \$30 million in federal funding will go with that designation over the next two years. Maybe \$160 million over the next decade, under the CHIPS and Science Act signed into law by President Joe Biden in 2022. The NSF announced ten regional economic partnerships, including the Great Lakes Water Innovation Engine, involving partners in Wisconsin, Ohio and Illinois. The Chicago-based water innovation hub, Current, will lead the regional effort called Great Lakes ReNEW. Chuck Quirnbach spoke with Alaina Harkness, Current Innovations's Executive Director (Lake Effect 12:00pm Approximately 3 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 15, 2024

The federal government is cracking down on air pollution in cities like Milwaukee. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [tightened restrictions](#) on soot.

“Soot pollution is one of the most dangerous forms of air pollution and is linked to a range of serious and potentially deadly illnesses, including asthma and heart attacks.” The particle pollution comes from sources like coal-fired power plants, agriculture, highway traffic and wildfires. Lina Tran spoke with Milwaukee nurse educator Lillian Jensen, a member of the advocacy group [Healthy Climate Wisconsin](#), which lobbied for an even lower limit (Lake Effect 12:00pm Approximately 3 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 19, 2024

The environmental and conservation movements stretch across generations. Historically, diversity was absent — especially in celebrating people who have played roles in those movements. A local group is working to set the story straight. Feb. 19 marked the [5th annual celebration](#) of African American environmental pioneers and rising stars in Milwaukee. Victory Garden Initiative Executive Director, Dr. Sandra Jones spoke with Susan Bence. (Lake Effect 12:00pm Approximately 5 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 21, 2024

The February issue of *Milwaukee Magazine* features the five winners of its 2024 Unity Awards. The awards highlight people and organizations that are making Milwaukee a more inclusive and equitable place to live, work and play. One of the recipients is Felice Green. She’s the director of programming for the Milwaukee Water Commons. Green was recognized for her work in addressing social and environmental justice issues in underserved neighborhoods by reforesting them. Caret Nuñez spoke with Green about her efforts to educate locals about environmental issues in their communities — including her own neighborhood, Sherman Park. (Lake Effect 12:00pm and 8:00pm Approximately 10 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 28, 2024

Warming winters have shifted the timing and length of maple sugaring season in Wisconsin, the fourth-biggest maple syrup-making state in the nation. This year’s mild winter — on track to be Wisconsin’s warmest winter ever — is no exception. Maple runs require a specific range of temperatures (days around 40 degrees Fahrenheit and nights below freezing), so they’re vulnerable to shifts in winter weather. The one-two punch of the Pacific climate pattern [El Niño](#) and climate change had Northwoods maple syrup producers scrambling to start tapping in January, long ahead of the traditional season start. Climate change poses a slew of obstacles to the enduring practice of maple sugaring, from fickle winters and invasive pests to drought, extreme rainfall and declining sugar content in sap. Lina Tran spoke with Karl Martin is the co-owner of [Martin & Sons Maple Syrup](#). (Lake Effect 12:00pm and 8:00pm Approximately 11 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 7, 2024

Wisconsin’s winters are getting warmer, and it’s affecting our agriculture, economy, health and very way of life. On the heels of what’s on track to be Wisconsin's warmest winter ever, WUWM is digging into the story in a new project, called *Thin Ice: Wisconsin’s Warming Winters*. (Lake Effect 12:00pm Approximately 13 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 12, 2024

It's a gorgeous late February day at the [Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Disease](#), based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Research specialist Tela Zembsch woke up and thought it was a great day for a walk. But she added this to the forecast: "The rule of thumb that we always tell people is that when it's nice enough that you want to go out, so do the ticks." Bitter cold winter temperatures keep disease-carrying vectors like ticks and mosquitoes in check. In Wisconsin, the black-legged tick — also known as the deer tick — can spread Lyme disease, which can lead to symptoms including chills, fever, fatigue and a bullseye-like skin rash, and for some, chronic illness. Mosquitoes can spread West Nile virus or Jamestown Canyon virus, which is transmitted by "snowmelt mosquitoes" that emerge with the first signs of spring. Winter is Wisconsin's fastest-warming season and the state has regularly had unusually warm winters since the late 90s, giving bugs more time for activity and breeding. (Lake Effect 12:00pm and 8:00pm Approximately 5 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 12, 2024

Strains of highly pathogenic avian influenza have been killing migratory and resident birds, as well as poultry. In Jefferson County alone, waves have struck twice. The problem is getting worse — in part because of mild winters and climate change as a whole. Only one human case has been reported in the United States. But some people are calling for measures to protect avian and human health. Anita Martin shares those concerns. (Lake Effect 12:00pm and 8:00pm Approximately 5 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 13, 2024

On the first day of March in Havenwoods State Forest, the ground was bare, and the snow from a recent fall had melted. Mia Noel, a natural resources educator at the park, hunted for animal tracks in the mud. Noel is a winter evangelist. She sleds on weekdays after work and hosts outdoor winter games for friends (they compete for hot drinks). Her seasonal catchphrase is "BWE" — Best Winter Ever, that is, owing to her belief that each winter can be the best yet, with the right attitude. But this year was weirdly warm — it was Wisconsin's warmest winter on record — and the snowfall wasn't satisfying. According to the [Midwest Regional Climate Center](#), most of southeastern Wisconsin saw anywhere from half to 75% of its usual snowfall. Northwestern Wisconsin got less than half its normal amount. The so-called "lost winter" is the latest in a long-term trend driven by climate change, and amped up by the natural climate pattern El Niño. (Lake Effect 12:00pm and 8:00pm Approximately 5 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 18, 2024

The [American Birkebeiner](#) is a cross country skier's dream. The annual event where Sawyer and Bayfield counties converge also means a lot to the local economy. This year organizers pulled off the 50th Birkie despite all odds due to lack of snow. (Lake Effect 12:00pm and 8:00pm Approximately 6 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 25, 2024

Last year, Milwaukee adopted a [climate and equity plan](#). Its seed was planted by then county supervisor Supreme Moore Omokunde and then Milwaukee Common Council president Ashanti Hamilton. The plan lays out sweeping initiatives intended to move Milwaukee to net zero emissions by 2050. The person charged with leading that work is Erick Shambarger, head of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office. He spoke with Susan Bence. (Lake Effect 12:00pm and 8:00pm Approximately 4 minutes)

EDUCATION ISSUES

In the News: January 12, 2024

Voters will decide in April whether to increase property taxes to support Milwaukee Public Schools. The MPS Board [voted in favor](#) of placing a \$252 million referendum on the spring ballot, which would allow the district to exceed state-imposed revenue limits. Referendums are a tool increasingly used by Wisconsin school districts to make up for what advocates say inadequate state funding. (Morning Edition 6:45 and 8:45am Approximately 4 minutes)

In the News: January 24, 2024

Transferring from one college to another often comes with a lot of red tape and paperwork. UW-Milwaukee is trying to change that. The school announced Tuesday that it [will guarantee admission](#) to students who've graduated from Milwaukee Area Technical College, Waukesha County Technical College, Gateway Technical College, or Moraine Park Technical College. At a press conference, UWM Chancellor Mark Mone said the transfer agreement is about getting rid of "artificial barriers." (Morning Edition – 6:04 and 8:04am Approximately 4 minutes)

In the News: January 25, 2024

MPS students no longer need to fill out a traditional college application to attend UW-Milwaukee or MATC. Instead, MPS juniors will be automatically admitted to the schools after they fill out a short interest form. The [Direct Admit program](#) is meant to increase college access, especially for first generation students. (Morning Edition, 6:04 and 8:04am, Approximately 3 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 7, 2024

A college degree [generally raises](#) a person's earnings over their lifetime. But the path to graduation isn't easy. Students face financial, academic, and administrative hurdles. Students of color and low-income students are more likely to get tripped up by these challenges, and it shows in graduation and retention rates. At UW-Milwaukee, the graduation rate is 51% overall, but only 43% for [underrepresented minority students](#). In 2020, UWM, UW-Parkside, Carthage College, and MATC [committed to closing](#) racial and economic graduation gaps, as part of an initiative called "[Moon Shot for Equity](#)." Emily Files spoke with UWM Associate Vice Chancellor Phyllis King, who has been leading the Moon Shot work. (Lake Effect 12:00pm and 8:00pm Approximately 11 minutes)

In the News: February 13, 2024

A for-profit nursing school is facing resistance to its plan for a Milwaukee campus – including from the City Plan Commission. The [Arizona College of Nursing](#) is a for-profit school with campuses in 17 cities across the country. It offers an accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. It wants to open campuses in Milwaukee and Madison, saying it can help with the Wisconsin's [pressing need for more nurses](#). But Milwaukeeans who've dealt with for-profit schools, like [Everest](#) and [ITT Tech](#), are rallying against Arizona College. They say for-profit colleges are predatory, leaving low-income students with debt and useless credits and degrees. A group of educators, nurses and students [created a petition](#) calling for Milwaukee leaders to

block Arizona College from opening in Milwaukee. (Morning Edition, 5:45am and 7:45am Approximately 3 minutes.)

In the News: February 29, 2024

On April 2, voters will decide whether to approve a [\\$252 million referendum](#) for Milwaukee Public Schools. For the average Milwaukee home valued at \$190,000, it would result in an about \$400 property tax increase. It's the second time in four years that MPS has gone to voters for more money. But this time, instead of [adding new programs](#), it's about avoiding cuts. For a combination of reasons, MPS is facing [a \\$200 million deficit](#) next school year. (Morning Edition, 6:45 and 8:45am, approximately 4 minutes)

Lake Effect: March, March 14, 2024

Joy Powers walked alongside the 3rd grade students at Tamarack Waldorf School in Milwaukee as they wove through the east side neighborhood, a familiar path to a familiar place: Caesar's Park on the tail end of the Milwaukee River Greenway. The kids were bundled up, despite the relatively mild weather. They explored the icy landscape as their environmental educator Paul Jarvis, looked on and guided them forward. For their homeroom teacher, Brandon Oaks, the winter walks are an important part of their education. (Lake Effect 12:00pm Approximately 9 minutes)

In the News: March 28, 2024

Over the past three years, the Republican Party of Waukesha County and its WisRed campaign have helped elect conservative majorities to almost every school board in the county. One of the only Waukesha County districts WisRed hasn't flipped is Elmbrook, an affluent district in Elm Grove and Brookfield. But that could change after the April 2 election. (Morning Edition, 6:45 and 8:45am, Approximately 4 minutes)

LOCAL AND REGIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES

Lake Effect: January 10, 2024

Act 12 did a lot of things in Wisconsin. In most municipalities, it sent more money to the community. But in Milwaukee, it also took a lot of things away. Specifically, it took power from the local government to make decisions on how to run the city and spend funds. Now, the Milwaukee Common Council is contemplating next steps, as it seeks to retake some of that power. It might all come down to the concept of “home rule,” a principle enshrined by the state constitution. [Larry Sandler](#) is a local writer, whose piece on home rule was featured in this month’s [Milwaukee Magazine](#). He spoke with Joy Powers (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 11 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 17, 2024

Police accountability is necessary in any community. Over the last decade, body cameras have become one of the primary ways for the public to hold police accountable. But a new bill in the Wisconsin legislature could allow law enforcement agencies to charge for people to access these public records. At the same time, some agencies have begun refusing to name police officers accused of killing or injuring people on the job, some citing Marsy’s Law. [Jacob Resneck](#) has been reporting on these issues around police privacy for *Wisconsin Watch* and offers some insight into the proposed bill. He spoke with Joy Powers. Powers (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 23 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 22, 2024

A Washington law firm that tries to help Democrats win elections around the country has asked the liberal-controlled Wisconsin Supreme Court to throw out the battleground state's congressional maps, arguing that the court's [decision last month](#) ordering new state legislative maps opens the door to the latest challenge. The [redistricting lawsuit](#) filed Tuesday by the Elias Law Group on behalf of Democratic voters comes less than a month after the court threw out the state legislative maps. Consultants hired by the court are [reviewing](#) seven proposed new maps. [Litigation is ongoing](#) in more than dozen states over U.S. House and state legislative districts that were enacted after the 2020 census. Chuck Quirnbach spoke with Barry Burden on new redistricting lawsuit. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 5 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 23, 2024

Most of the [newly ordered maps](#) redrawing Wisconsin's political boundaries for the state Legislature would keep Republicans in majority control, but their dominance would be reduced, according to an independent analysis of the plans. Seven sets of new state Senate and Assembly maps were submitted on Friday, the deadline given by the Wisconsin Supreme Court to propose new maps after it ruled three weeks ago that the current ones drawn by Republicans were unconstitutional. The ruling stands to shake up [battleground Wisconsin's](#) political landscape in a presidential election year. Marquette University Law School research fellow John D. Johnson did an [analysis of the maps](#) using a statistical model to predict the results of the 2022 state legislative election had they taken place in the newly proposed districts (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 5 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 29, 2024

Late last year, the Wisconsin Supreme Court overturned the state's current legislative maps and ordered that new district maps must be drawn. Seven district maps were submitted, but only six will be considered by the court. The seventh map was drawn by [Matt Petering](#), an associate professor of industrial and manufacturing engineering at UW-Milwaukee and owner of [District Solutions](#) — a company based around his map-making algorithm, which he believes is the best way to get fair maps in Wisconsin. He spoke with Joy Powers. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 12 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 7, 2024

Bryna Godar, staff attorney with the [State Democracy Research Initiative](#) at the University Of Wisconsin Law School explained how candidates in Milwaukee can run for more than one office in a local election. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 12 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 8, 2024

This April, some residents will have a new representative on the Milwaukee Common Council for the first time in decades. Milwaukee [Ald. Michael Murphy](#), who serves the 10th aldermanic district on the city's west side, announced late last year that he will not be seeking reelection after 35 years in office. He'll be the third-longest serving council member in the city's history after he leaves office in April. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm approximately 17 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 20, 2024

What's it like to be a lifelong Wisconsin Republican and journalist—who supports policies like school choice, smaller government, lower taxes, and increased police funding, to have volunteered with the college Republicans in the same era as Republican former Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and GOP Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, and then to, over time, feel so alienated from your party that you describe yourself as “like a sportswriter who covers football and the team moves out on you so that there's no one to root for?” That describes James Wigderson in a nutshell. He's a former editor of [rightwisconsin.com](#), a conservative-leaning news site, and a former columnist for the Waukesha Freeman. He's now a “never Trumper,” sounding the alarm on what could happen in a second Trump presidency. He's also the author of a twice-weekly newsletter, [Life, Under Construction](#). It's a place to find musings and storytelling on life's nuances because, as Wigderson writes, “readers deserve more than a talking head with a partisan political agenda.” He spoke with Maayan Silver. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 25 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 22, 2024

Redistricting has become the central focus of politics in Wisconsin. In Dec. 2023, the [Wisconsin Supreme Court threw out](#) the legislative electoral maps that cemented Republican majorities in the state's Assembly and Senate. Then in Feb., Gov. Tony Evers signed maps that he proposed, and that the Legislature passed to avoid having the state Supreme Court draw the lines, into law. John Johnson, research fellow at Marquette University Law School's Lubar Center for

Public Policy Research and Civic Education spoke with Joy Powers. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm approximately 15 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 7, 2024

This Spring Election, Milwaukeeans will have a chance to vote for the next city comptroller. The comptroller is the city's chief financial officer and serves a four-year term. The current [city comptroller, Aycha Sawa](#), has worked in the comptroller's office for nearly 15 years and [announced last year](#) that she is not seeking reelection. She says that a city's comptroller is often an appointed position and that the City of Milwaukee is one of about a dozen cities that elect their comptroller. "The comptroller is the city's fiscal watchdog and they are looking out for your taxpayer dollars," Sawa says. "They are not beholden to the mayor, they are not beholden to the 15 council members, and they are just looking out for the best interest of the city's financial health." She spoke with Xcaret Nunez. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm approximately 15 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 11, 2024

Whether it's by mail, online or in-person, there are many ways for first-time voters and new residents to register to vote for the upcoming spring election. Some [deadlines are coming up](#) fast — people have until this Wednesday, March 13, to register to vote by mail or online. But if you're not able to, people can register to vote at any [early voting location](#) from March 19-29 and at the voting booth on spring election day, April 2. "Registering [to vote] ahead of time just saves you some time on election day," says Claire Woodall, the executive director of the City of Milwaukee Election Commission. "So you'll get in the line for registered voters, and just have a faster check-in process — there won't be any paperwork to fill out on Election Day." She spoke with Xcaret Nunez. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 5 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 11, 2024

This week's Capitol Notes breaks down the results of a settlement in a lawsuit by progressive law firm Law Forward against lawyers for former President Donald Trump over their attempt to submit a false slate of electoral votes despite Trump's loss in the 2020 election. JR Ross, editor of WisPolitics.com also gives a preview of some potential 2024 legislative swing districts to watch as well as what to expect in this week's state senate floor session. He spoke with Maayan Silver. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 15 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 18, 2024

Milwaukee city attorney is one of the competitive races on the ballot this spring — the election is Tuesday, April 2, 2024. The [city attorney](#) acts as the chief legal advocate for the City of Milwaukee, representing the city of Milwaukee in litigation and providing legal advice to elected officials. Sam Woods spoke with candidate Evan Goyke, Sam Woods conducted a "non-interview with Tearman Spencer (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 21 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 19, 2024

In the April 2 election, Wisconsinites will vote on two constitutional amendments related to how elections are run. The first measure would make it unconstitutional to use private funds to

administer elections, while the second would allow only election officials designated by law to administer elections. The questions were added to the ballot by Republican lawmakers, stemming from post-2020 concerns about election administration. These are statewide binding referendums. If voters approve them, these amendments will be added to the state constitution; they are not subject to the governor's approval. Anthony Chergosky, assistant professor of political science at UW-La Crosse spoke with Lina Tran about the amendments. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 5 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 25, 2024

Why does Wisconsin's presidential primary even matter now that there are two presumptive nominees, Republican former President Donald Trump and Democratic President Joe Biden? How does the primary even work in Wisconsin? What else is on the ballot in the spring non-partisan election also happening on April 2? JR Ross, editor of WisPolitics.com, answers these questions and more, including the latest on another lawsuit asking to allow absentee ballot drop boxes in the state (beyond municipal clerks' offices) and the recall efforts by some Trump supporters against GOP Assembly Speaker Robin Vos. He spoke with Maayan Silver. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 15 minutes)

HEALTHCARE ISSUES

Lake Effect: January 4, 2024

Over 100 years ago, amidst an international pandemic and rising rates of tuberculosis and smallpox, Hattie Fountain was looking for ways to provide healthcare to Milwaukee's Black residents, who were not receiving the same level of care as white residents. A follower of Marcus Garvey and a member of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, or UNIA, Fountain was returning from Chicago in 1921 where she had learned of the Black Cross Nurses — an international network of Black nurses who met the needs of Black residents in their area that were largely ignored by public health institutions. That year, Fountain founded a Milwaukee chapter of the Black Cross Nurses, and kept a diary of the Nurses' day-to-day activity. That diary now serves as the foundation for a new exhibit at the [Wisconsin Black Historical Society](#): "Do For Self: The story of Milwaukee's Black Cross Nurses." The exhibit that chronicles the foundation of the Black Cross Nurses in Milwaukee. Sam Woods spoke with Jamila Benson, program director at the Wisconsin Black Historical Society. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 12 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 4, 2023

There's a small museum in Woodruff, Wisconsin that houses the story of a doctor known as the "Angel on Snowshoes." In the 1930s and 40s Dr. Kate Pelham Newcomb tended to patients in many communities in the Northwoods before there was a hospital in the area. She would travel to her patients by any means necessary, including by canoe, skis and snowshoes. She also advocated for a hospital to be built in the area, which led to a collection campaign of pennies to try and fund the hospital. Lori Berryman is the president of the board at the Dr. Kate Museum and Marsha Doud is the curator. They spoke with Sam Woods. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 14 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 10, 2024

Music is a powerful force and a universal language. Whether it's classical Mozart or hip-hop, when people hear music we often have an instinctual urge to move our bodies. "The connection between [the] brain and music has been known for a long time. And even a baby, if you play some music, they will respond with movement. So we know there is a music movement connection," explains Dr. Kajana Satkunendrarajah, associate professor of neurosurgery and a member of the [Medical College of Wisconsin's](#) Neuroscience Research Center. "But what we haven't known for a long time is how is this music transformed to movement? That's really the focus of the research in our lab." She spoke with Audrey Nowakowski. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 13 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 11, 2024

Wisconsin is home to the third-largest Hmong population in the U.S., following Minnesota and California. Within the state, they represent the largest Asian American ethnic group. As the community ages, hearing loss is becoming a widespread problem. But few clinics are equipped to treat Hmong-speaking patients — amounting to a health disparity in their care, experts say. After Maichou Lor and Burke Richmond met, they undertook a years-long, interdisciplinary

collaboration that resulted in the first Hmong hearing test of its kind. They spoke with Lina Tran. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm approximately 5 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 18, 2024

People can be critically injured in a split second—whether it’s a car accident, a gunshot wound, or any other significant trauma. The job of [Flight for Life](#) is to get you somewhere that can save you. And fast. It’s a medical transport unit that takes patients by helicopter to hospital emergency rooms, including Froedtert, Milwaukee’s level one trauma care center. Flight for Life is on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, so there’s a lot of preparation and coordination involved. Scott Rinzel, its market development manager, offers an inside look at how Flight for Life keeps the community safe. He spoke with Maayan Silver. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm approximately 10 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 14, 2024

Last month, the state Office of Children’s Mental Health (OCMH) presented its annual briefing. They highlighted alarming statistics over the past five years which include 10% of teens attempting suicide and nearly half of LGBTQ+ youth considering suicide. During the briefing, two high school students shared their perspectives on mental health through personal experience, culture and education. High school student Nathan Zirk talked about ways he's dealt with his mental health struggles with Eddie Morales. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 5 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 26, 2024

Feb. 29th is [Rare Disease Day](#) worldwide, the rarest day of this year. However, despite the name, rare disease is not as rare as you may think — it affects one in 10 Americans, and more than half impacted are children. Rare disease directly impacts local brewery owner Jonathan Kowalske and his family. His son Mac was diagnosed with Malan Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder, shortly after Kowalske opened Component Brewing with his cousins five years ago. "[Mac] is one of 200 in the world that have this rare disease, and with Malan Syndrome he has multiple physical and cognitive disabilities," Kowalske explained to Audrey Nowakowski. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 15 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 5, 2024

Heart disease is the [number one cause of death for women](#) in the United States and can affect women at any age. Despite the prevalence of heart disease in women, most don’t know how to recognize the symptoms — especially since they often present differently from men's. This was the case for Linda Kiewit who suffered a heart attack. Linda and her Dr. , Dr. Stacy Gardiner, spoke with Audrey Nowakowski. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 12 minutes)

ARTS ISSUES

Lake Effect: January 2, 2024

Actress Jane Kaczmarek is a self-described big mouth, Polish girl from Milwaukee who rose to fame as the character “Lois” on *Malcolm in the Middle*. Now, she’s back in her hometown performing in [Theatre Gigante’s](#) latest production of [Spalding Gray: Stories Left to Tell](#). She spoke with Joy Powers. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 12 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 11, 2024

Actor Willem Dafoe has received four Academy Awards nominations, has been in over 100 films and has over 30 years of experience in experimental theater. He now also has an honorary Doctor of Arts degree from his alma mater UW-Milwaukee and gave the commencement addresses for the class of 2022 this past weekend. From Appleton, Wis., Dafoe attended UWM in 1973 and 1974 before leaving to become a part of Theatre X, which started as a UWM faculty-student workshop and then became an independent experimental theater company. He would then move to New York to pursue a career in performance full-time. Some of Dafoe’s first acting gigs were on UWM stages, and he talked with Audrey Nowakowski on the Mainstage Theater — the same that he performed on over 40 years ago as a student. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm approximately 15 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 17, 2024

[Growing Resistance - Untold Stories of Milwaukee’s Community Guardians](#) highlights people who are often overlooked but work tirelessly to improve Milwaukee neighborhoods and the lives of residents. The exhibition was at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design's Brook Stevens Gallery. Photographs, artifacts and art help weave together the rich stories of Milwaukee, beginning with what’s called *The Roots of Resistance*. Susan Bence spoke with Michael Carriere, a professor of history at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 12 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 23, 2024

“Live at Lake Effect” is a new music series featuring local and nationally touring artists performing in the [Lake Effect Surf Shop](#) in Shorewood, Wis. We brought the Lake Effects together, along with [Visionary Studios](#), to showcase musicians once a month through an interview with the band exclusively on *Lake Effect*, plus filmed performances. Today we have Milwaukee's own guitarist and singer-songwriter [Willy Porter](#). (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 12 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 24, 2024

A new art exhibition at the Milwaukee Winters Farmers Market looks at the emotional decisions behind food, food access and daily nourishment in our city. Throughout last summer, fellows at UW-Milwaukee’s Studies set out to interview 200 Milwaukeeans about their relationship with food and the food system. Their questions focused on food access, how people get their food and how people associate food and trust. Instead of going the traditional academic route and putting their findings in a research paper, UWM commissioned Milwaukee-

based artists to turn their findings into an interactive exhibition, called "Milwaukee Food Journeys," that opened at the Milwaukee Winter Farmers Market in November. Sam Woods spoke with Jessica Thompson was one of the fellows who conducted interviews (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 12 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 29, 2024

The [Latino Arts Strings program along with Latino Arts Inc.](#) is celebrating their annual Guitar Festival. This is the 11th year they're hosting the event and it all started as a way for young guitarists to compete and meet professionals in the field. [Dinorah Márquez Abadiano](#) is the director of the Latino Arts Strings program. [Andrea Gonzalez Caballero](#) is a classical guitarist, and she'll be the headliner at the event. Márquez Abadiano says the festival has evolved to include more workshops and opportunities to get feedback from international performers. She spoke with Xcaret Nunez. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 10 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 6, 2024

The Milwaukee School of Engineering's Grohmann Museum specializes in merging art and industry, and its latest exhibit fully embodies this principle. [Patterns of Meaning: The Art of Industry](#) features salvaged enormous wooden casting patterns from old steel mills used in the late-1800s and early-1900s. The patterns were replicas of various steel objects to be cast — the wooden objects are pressed into sand to form the mould cavity that molten metal was then poured into. The casting patterns used in the exhibit were acquired by Pittsburg artist and preservationist Cory Bonnet. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 12 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 15, 2024

[Ko-Thi Dance Company](#) is celebrating 55 years in Milwaukee. The company, founded by Ferne Caulker in 1969, performs and teaches dance and music created by Africans and the African diaspora. "Having been born [in Ghana] and then moving here to the United States, that's when the revelation came for me to start a dance group to see if I could become a connector between the African arts and aesthetics in the continent and African Americans over here," Caulker explains. She spoke with Joy Powers. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm approximately 11 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 20, 2024

"Live at Lake Effect" is a new music series featuring local and nationally touring artists performing in the [Lake Effect Surf Shop](#) in Shorewood, Wis. We brought the Lake Effects together, along with [Visionary Studios](#), to showcase musicians once a month through an interview with the band exclusively on *Lake Effect*, plus filmed performances. Today we have [Lola Kirke](#) hailing from Nashville, Tenn. to bring some original country tunes to the Lake Effect Surf Shop. Performing along with Kirke was Josh Kaler on the pedal steel and electric guitar. She's played many roles in film and television including "Mozart in the Jungle," "Gone Girl," and "Winning Time." However, music has always been a part of her life and her family is full of artists. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 13 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 14, 2024

Milwaukee was once known as the “Machine Shop of the World,” and for writer and artist Barbara Miner, that was very much true for her growing up here at the height of the Civil Rights movement when we were a manufacturing powerhouse. Miner left Milwaukee for 20 years before returning in the 80s to raise her family, but she noticed a significant change not only in the physical landscape but in the spirit of the city after deindustrialization. Factories closed and turned into strip malls, office buildings or apartments, and union jobs that supported many families were gone — setting off major changes to Milwaukee and its economy. Miner examines the impact of this shift in her new multimedia project, *Shadows of Industrialization*. Through photographs and audio interviews, the project looks at contemporary Milwaukee through its former factories and the people who worked there. She spoke with Joy Powers. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm approximately 16 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 18, 2024

The Wisconsin Conservatory of Music is leading an effort in Milwaukee to support Black and brown classical musicians and increase diversity in music education. Through their new fellowship program, the Conservatory recruits diverse talent to teach underserved students who lack access to music instruction. Just last year, pianist and composer [Mikhail Johnson](#) was writing music for the Seattle Opera. But, when one of his friends told him about a fellowship in Milwaukee, he jumped at the chance to apply. Around that same time, clarinetist Mauricio Franco was in Houston, Texas auditioning for orchestras and symphony bands. He was looking for opportunities to grow as a performer. An online search helped him find and secure a fellowship in Milwaukee. They spoke with Nadya Kelly. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm approximately 16 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 26, 2024

Earlier this month, Wisconsin native and UW-Milwaukee alum took home his second Oscar. Josh Rosenberg is from Green Bay, studied broadcast journalism, and even interned here at WUWM before he went on to build his career in filmmaking. Today, Rosenberg is the EVP of production at [Breakwater Studios](#) and was one of the producers of the documentary short film [The Last Repair Shop](#). It’s a heartwarming story about a few devoted craftspeople that maintain over 80,000 musical instruments for students across Los Angeles public schools. It’s the largest remaining workshop of its kind in America, and *The Last Repair Shop* takes you on a journey of learning about the people who dedicate themselves to repairing instruments for people they’ll never meet — and the children who are forever shaped by it. The short documentary is available on Disney+, Hulu and the LA Times [Youtube](#). He spoke with Audrey Nowakowski. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 19 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 27, 2024

Sarah Davitt is Milwaukee’s first Public Artist in Residence, a position created by the city in 2023 to address civic challenges in Milwaukee with creative, artistic ideas. Davitt is in the midst of designing an “Art Car,” a truck rescued from a municipal tow lot that will feature carvings of Milwaukee landmarks, traffic cones and messages about traffic safety. The “Art Car” is scheduled to debut this summer, popping up at locations around the Milwaukee area to spark

discussions about reckless driving. She spoke with Sam Woods. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 12 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 28, 2024

For years, family photos from mid-1900s Milwaukee lay sitting in storage, collecting dust. Often destined for the garbage, local historian Adam Levin has compiled about 150 of these images into a newly-released book "Kodachrome Milwaukee." Images in the book depict a time capsule of life in mid-century Milwaukee, with images from large events including German Fest and Bucks games, as well as basement parties and pictures of everyday people. Levin collected these images from donations, estate sales, antique shops and more since 2016. The images came to him on slides, which he then digitized and compiled into the book. He spoke with Sam Woods. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm, approximately 12 minutes)

EQUITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Lake Effect: January 3, 2024

One major part of Milwaukee's Hispanic and Latino community is the history of organizing and fighting for migrant workers' rights. Jesus Salas is a noted labor leader who has had a hand in nearly every major labor and education call to action in the Milwaukee area since the 1960s. Salas cofounded Obreros Unidos (Workers United) and was the first Latin CEO of United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS). He's also taught bilingual courses at Milwaukee Area Technical College for two decades and was a lecturer at UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee. Salas is retired from teaching and still lives in here in Milwaukee, where he continues to be active in Latino community organizations. Salas notes that with retired life finally came the opportunity for him to write about his vast history and experiences with the labor movement in his book, [Obreros Unidos: The Roots and Legacy of the Farmworkers Movement](#). He spoke with Audrey Nowakowski. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 15 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 4, 2023

[Janice Toyh](#) has long been a part of Milwaukee's LGBTQ+ history. She's one of Milwaukee's most legendary entertainers and a founding members of [SHEBA](#) (Sisters Helping Each Other Battle Adversity), a support group for Black women of trans experience. Toy is on a mission to make sure Milwaukee's Black LGBTQ+ history is preserved and shared through the House of History. The House of History is a project dedicated to collecting and sharing local Black LGBTQ+ history through interviews, as well as uncovering and sharing photographs and other artifacts that tell the stories of Black LGBTQ+ people in Milwaukee. For Toy, the journey from being a part of history to preserving it was instrumental for herself and the community. She spoke with Audrey Nowakowski. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 15 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 9, 2024

The restaurant [Miijim](#) opened in La Pointe, Wisconsin, on Madeline Island in Lake Superior. Miijim, meaning "food" in Ojibwe, is an Indigenous restaurant serving seasonal Ojibwe fare — with a French twist — using meats like venison, bison, and rabbit alongside ingredients like wild rice, island mushrooms, and ramps. The restaurant has long been a dream for chef Bryce Stevenson, who grew up on the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa reservation and is part of a growing movement to redefine and center Indigenous cuisine. He says he wants Miijim to represent the Red Cliff, Bad River, and other Ojibwe tribes that were forcibly removed from the island. "I want to reclaim a little spot on the island with our traditional foods," Stevenson said. "To take those foods and just make them accessible to everybody, to indigenous people and tourists and locals alike." He spoke with Lina Tran. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 18 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 16, 2024

The history of the *Green Book* dates back to the Jim Crow era and was originally known as *The Negro Travelers' Green Book* by Victor Hugo Green. It served as a guide for Black motorists to find places throughout the country where they could safely dine, sleep or seek other services. Judge Derek Mosley starts by explaining where the name Jim Crow originates. The name dates

back to the 1800s to a vaudeville actor named Thomas Dartmouth Rice, known for his character, Jim Crow, a newly freed enslaved Black man. Rice was a white man who performed in blackface and portrayed stereotypes of Black people. Mosley mentions that legislators in the South at that time wanted to continue to separate the races. And used Jim Crow as an example to justify making the laws. "Jim Crow became a euphemism for Black people," Mosley says. These laws made it extremely difficult and dangerous for Black Americans to find food, lodging or other accommodations while traveling. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 7 minutes)

Lake Effect: January 25, 2024

In 2016, [a Precious Lives story featured Garland Hampton](#), a man serving a life sentence for a crime he committed as a teenager. Hampton was released on April 14, 2020 and now lives and works in Milwaukee. He shares his story of redemption, advocacy and economic empowerment to inspire others to change their lives. During his incarceration, Hampton reached a defining point. "I was faced with a decision to make — either you grow old or you make the necessary changes that you need to make to be a better person," he says. He spoke with Audrey Nowakowski. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm approximately 13 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 1, 2024

In 1967, Wharlest Jackson Sr. was killed by a bomb planted in his truck. Jackson was an NAACP leader in Natchez, Mississippi — a town known for Ku Klux Klan activity. His murder remains unsolved to this day. A new documentary, [American Reckoning](#), explores how the events surrounding his death unfolded. Co-directors and co-producers Brad Lichtenstein and Yoruba Richen use rare archival footage from the 1960s to highlight the civil rights movement and Black resistance happening in Natchez.

They both share more about the process of making the film and how they discovered the lost history with Audrey Nowakowski. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm approximately 12 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 1, 2024

A new app, created in Milwaukee, asks: Which renowned jazz saxophonist had the nickname "Bird?" Or, there's this one: Which 2013 Supreme Court decision struck down a portion of the Voting Rights Act, addressing discrimination in voting? You can be quizzed on these topics and more on with the [Blackistory app](#). It has questions about anything from the African diaspora to writing, acting and art. The app is the brainchild of Milwaukeean Deborah Blanks. She championed it after inspiring her son Geraud, Milwaukee Film's chief innovation officer, to start learning Black history as a kid decades ago. She spoke with Audrey Nowakowski. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm approximately 5 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 13, 2024

When you travel, chances are you're using maps to find your way around. Charlie Sprinkman grew up in the Milwaukee-area and currently calls Portland, Oregon home. He's visited 41 of the 50 United States and he'd often search for queer businesses and other safe places wherever he was traveling. That sparked the idea to create an interactive map to help people find queer-owned businesses that everyone can use. In January of 2022 he

launched [Everywhere Is Queer](#), which now has over 91000 registered queer-owned businesses around the world. For Sprinkman, his main motivation to create the map was to help others find community though these spaces — no matter where "local" was for them.

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Lake Effect: February 13, 2024

It's Black History Month, and one way that Derek Mosley celebrates is by posting a new fact or story every day to not only educate others but also bring more Black achievements throughout history to light. Today, we're starting off with a classic component of firehouses — the fireman's pole. As Mosely explains, in the 1800s, fire engines were pulled by horses. "The way that [fire] houses were laid out back then was, the bottom floor was the wagon and horses because it was horse drawn. The second floor was sleeping arrangements, and on the third floor was the hay for the horses. So, they used to have regular stairs, and the horses were smart. And so the horses would walk up the stairs and eat the hay. So, they decided to remove the walk upstairs and make a spiral staircase because horses were smart, but not that smart," says Mosely. He spoke with Audrey Nowakowski. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 11minutes)

Lake Effect: February 19, 2024

A group of bipartisan bills aims to help DACA recipients pursue higher education and enter the workforce. Through the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, designed for some immigrants who came to the country as children, recipients are protected from deportation and can work legally. But there are barriers to their schooling and employment in Wisconsin, home to some 5,800 "DACAmended" individuals, from having to pay out-of-state tuition to not being eligible for certain professional licenses. Rep. John Macco, R-Ledgeview, co-sponsored the package with Rep. Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, D-Milwaukee. He said easing those barriers will relieve the state's workforce shortage, in fields such as [teaching](#) and [nursing](#). (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 9 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 20, 2024

Fifty plus years ago — March 6, 1972 to be exact— a Milwaukee man became the first Black general manager of a pro sports franchise. The Milwaukee Bucks basketball team chose Wayne Embry as their GM, replacing Ray Patterson, who was leaving to join the Houston Rockets. Embry had been a distinguished player in college at Miami and Ohio, and in the National Basketball Association. He went on to numerous honors as an NBA executive, and is in the Basketball Hall of Fame. Embry's still in the NBA, serving as Senior Advisor to the Toronto Raptors. Embry told WUWM's Chuck Quirnbach that a lot of his success goes back to his extended family, and school experience near Springfield, Ohio. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 13 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 22, 2024

Milwaukee lays claim to the first known Black-American woman singer of Jewish cantoral music. Gladys Mae Sellers grew up in Milwaukee in the late 1800s and early 1900s and got on the map for her singing throughout the Midwest region. But when she moved to New York in 1922, she became Madame Goldye Steiner, a trailblazing figure in the golden age of Jewish liturgical music. Steiner sang Jewish prayer music as a part of the Yiddish theater scene, on Broadway and on the radio, and may have led prayers in Black Jewish communities, according to Milwaukee-born educator, artist and advocate Shahanna McKinney Baldon. “She sang from a very young age. And she was a gifted vocalist,” says McKinney Baldon. “As a young person, she went to school in Milwaukee Public Schools, where she undoubtedly became fluent in German. Because all kids were getting at least some instruction in German in Milwaukee Public Schools at that time.” Baldon spoke with Maayan Silver. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm approximately 15 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 26, 2024

The Victory Garden Initiative's "blitz" is back to tackle food insecurity — one garden bed at a time. The Victory Garden Initiative's annual blitz organizes volunteers to install garden beds across the city, while also providing soil, seeds and optional mentorship to help new gardeners get started. Since beginning the blitz in 2009, over 7,000 raised garden beds have been installed throughout the city. The price of the beds is income-based, meaning they are cheaper for those making less than \$40,000 per year. Sinceree Dixon, volunteer programs and blitz coordinator at Victory Garden Initiative, says that the organization's mission is to combat food insecurity, and that income-based pricing helps people with lower incomes afford to grow their own food. Dixon spoke with Sam Woods. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 11 minutes)

Lake Effect: February 28, 2024

February is Black History Month, a time when we reflect on the many ways African Americans have shaped our nation and culture. Food and food cultivation is an integral part of that history — it's a story of survival and resourcefulness that continues to this day. Venice Williams, the executive director of Alice's Garden and the Fondy Food Center, talks about that history and how you can plant your own African American heritage garden. She spoke with Joy Powers. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 12 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 7, 2024

Founded in 1970, the [United Community Center](#) (UCC) is Milwaukee's largest nonprofit community center organization and serves more than 18,000 people a year. One of the people it served is its current CEO, Laura Gutiérrez, who went to the UCC as a kid when it was simply known as “The Spot.” She and her siblings, relatives, and neighbors benefitted from its many programs for people of all ages. Gutiérrez returned to the UCC to serve in a few different roles before officially becoming the leader of the organization in 2020. Gutiérrez is featured in this month's [Milwaukee Magazine](#). "As a kid, I came here, my mother would come here to learn English and at the same time, she needed a safe place for us to be. So my favorite programming, I have three sisters, at that point it was two [sisters,] we all did folkloric dancing,

which was so cool," Gutiérrez recalls. She spoke with Audrey Nowakowski. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm, approximately 12minutes)

Lake Effect: March 12, 2024

The conditions at Waupun Correctional Institution have been the subject of an ongoing investigation by the Milwaukee *Journal Sentinel*. The maximum security prison located in Waupun, Wisconsin, has been on some form of lockdown for more than a year, and prisoners have reported dire conditions at the prison. Last week, the Department of Corrections reported another inmate death at the facility, the fourth death reported since this situation began. It also released the cause of death for two of the other inmates who died at the facility — including one who died of an overdose, possibly related to the drug smuggling ring at the prison, which is currently under federal investigation. Vanessa Swales is a local government reporter at the *Journal Sentinel* and has followed the situation closely. "There have been many reports from prisoners, advocates, family members, who have expressed their concerns about dire conditions, poor access to psych and medical care," explains Swales. She spoke with Joy Powers. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 11 minutes)

Lake Effect: March 26, 2024

Tribal communities have long [faced barriers](#) to clean drinking water and testing. The [Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center](#), based in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin, aims to help tribal schools, childcare centers and after-school programs across the Great Lakes region ensure their water is safe. Through its free drinking water testing program, the center, known as GLITEC, offers testing for lead, PFAS and heavy metals such as arsenic and strontium. The program also helps schools interpret the results and navigate remediation if contaminants are found. GLITEC Public Health Specialist, Jacob Riemer spoke with Lina Tran. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 12minutes)

Lake Effect: March 27, 2024

Milwaukee is known for its celebration of cultures — with its wide array of cultural festivals and the many cultural centers that call the city home. But Wisconsin's record of welcoming newcomers has been spotty and that history hasn't always been well-documented. Wisconsin-native and Latino historian Sergio Gonzalez was dismayed to find that much of his culture's history hadn't been researched. So he went about fixing that. His first book, *Mexicans in Wisconsin*, explores the history of Mexican immigrants in the state. His most recent book, [Strangers No Longer](#), looks the intersection of Latino belonging and faith in Wisconsin, and how it informs our communities today. He spoke with Joy Powers. (Lake Effect: 12:00pm and 8:00pm, approximately 12minutes)