

QUARTERLY LIST OF COMMUNITY PROBLEMS WITH ILLUSTRATIVE RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING

July 10, 2021

The attached report summarizes CW 34's on-air response to the area's most important concerns, as determined by the station's active Ascertainment Report. The Ascertainment was derived from interviews with approximately 100 area community leaders. These interviews determined what most needs to be addressed by our station's efforts toward resolution of such problems in our broadcast field.

The information has been compiled by our Public Affairs Department, and program input has been garnered from our entire range of programming possibilities.

The report has been assembled by our Programming Department to be placed in the Public File on the above date and covers the broadcast period beginning April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

**HEALTH
CRIME ISSUES
EDUCATION
OTHER ISSUES**

EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

DATE/TIME

Monday
04/05/2021
CBS
News @ 9:30am
30 Minutes

College Sports Fees

On top of room, board, tuition and other expenses, some colleges charge students a fee to help fund their athletic programs. The problem is during the pandemic, a lot of schools cancelled their athletic season, but not the athletic fee.

A Townson University, just outside of Baltimore, Maryland, the entire fall athletic season, including football and soccer was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. But the fee students pay to support Townson Athletics wasn't cancelled. It showed up on students' bills just like any other semester to the tune of \$499.

Students called it unfair and are taking issue with paying an athletic fee while the University Athletics are on pause. Soon the frustration culminated in a petition with over 5500 signatures asking Towson to refund the fee for the fall semester.

"If we are going to be charged that fee, we should be getting something for it, essentially, like we usually do, but in this case, we are not." But Towson never issued a refund, instead, it defended the fee, saying the school is committed to supporting student athletes, coaches and teams. As a result, the school said athletic fees will remain in place during the fall semester to help honor that commitment.

For students, that statement just wasn't enough. They felt that that money shouldn't fall on the students to pay.

Just like students, colleges are pinching pennies to offset financial troubles caused by the pandemic. Many schools including Towson chose not to raise tuition over the past year. A report in the Chronicle of Higher Education found colleges and Universities saw a combined 14% decline in revenue in 2020-2021.

Wednesday 04/14/21
CBS 12 News @ 12:00PM
30 Minutes

College and Vaccines

"Do you think the new normal will be requiring students to get vaccinated?"

"I sure hope so."

Jonathan Holloway's tenure as President of Rutgers University started just as the pandemic began. They have been on remote learning since he arrived and come fall, Holloway wants his students back on campus.

19-year-old Miriam Jackson is a freshman at Rutgers, but her college experience has been anything but typical.

"I didn't get to do the whole prom thing. I didn't really get to do the whole full graduation thing."

After missing out on senior year of high school's most memorable moments. Jackson now attends college classes from her childhood bedroom. She plans to get the vaccine.

"Do you have any reservations about getting the vaccine as a 19-year-old when there have been no long-term studies conducted yet?"

"Not really. I don't really have any reservations and I never really had any reservations."

But some students do have reservation about the vaccine, and so do some of their parents.

"What happens to a student who doesn't want to get the vaccine? What kind of options do they have?"

"There are always going to be exemptions, for religious reasons and for health reasons. For those who simply don't want to, the fact is, there are lots of other options for them, for their education. I hate to say it that harshly, but that's the fact we will have the safest possible campus."

Most colleges and Universities already mandate several vaccines, like measles, mumps and rubella, also known as MMR, but the Covid vaccines are more complicated, they were greenlit by the FDA under an emergency use authorization, which allows for use of a drug before it's approved.

"So how can Rutgers mandate a vaccine that is still only for Emergency Use Authorization?"

Holloway answered, "Well, we feel very comfortable, according to New Jersey state law, that we have the ability to make that decision for the safety of the community."

"You feel like you can stand on legal ground and do this?"

"Oh, I feel very comfortable where we stand on legal ground based on the New Jersey state law that gives us the ability to make this decision.

Rikki Kleiman, CBS's News Legal Analyst, says it's absolutely legal for colleges and universities to require covid-19 vaccination.

"Do you think universities and colleges will end up in court over this?"

"I have no doubt that there will be legal challenges. These are not vaccines like others for colleges and universities that have stood the test of time. So, it is an avenue for a legal challenge. It doesn't necessarily mean that it will be successful."

Rutgers will start administering the vaccine here on campus in the coming weeks. Many Universities have been using the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. It's unclear how the pause will affect them, but Rutgers said it will not affect their ability to vaccinate all their students.

Thursday 04/22/2021
CBS 12 News @ 11:00 pm
30 Minutes

In Person Graduation

The 2020-2021 school year was defined by CDC guidelines that impacted everything from day to day classes, to last year's graduation. This year, seniors like Palm Beach Central High School student Kacie Dannolfo have something to celebrate, as graduation ceremonies are back. The 17-year-old cheerleader and flag football player can now proudly flip her cap tassel from the right to the left while wearing her cap and gown in person. However, there will be major changes from graduations past.

"This whole graduation situation is actually hard because I do have six siblings. It's hard that they're actually not going to be there in person to see me walk across the stage."

Nearly 14,000 students will graduate at the South Florida Fairground from June 3rd through June 19. Twenty-eight ceremonies will be at a place that is typically packed, but this year, will be spread out and students will be given only two tickets. This is a video from the school district of Palm Beach, showing how mask wearing seniors will be seating in one building and their guests will be seated in another where they can view the traditional speeches on a big screen. The guests will be 6 feet away from the others.

Live streaming is an option for families who can't get a ticket or for seniors who do not wish to attend in person. As far as what to bring with you, each guest is only allowed to bring a clear bag and one unopened water bottle.

Wednesday 5/19/2021
CBS 12 News @ 11:00pm
30 Minutes

School Board Meeting on Masks

"I think it's very unacceptable to make kids carry that burden when adults don't have to carry the burden of wearing a mask 8 hours a day."

Among this crowd of anti-mask parents is Angelique Contreras. She feels so strongly about unmasking children, she's pulled her fifth grader out of in-person schools until the face covering rules are changed.

"Our kids need to be there without masks"

She plans to speak at the school district meeting Wednesday night and present this petition with 8,000 signatures, which asks schools to end the mask mandate now and not wait until next fall. These parents' demands come the same time health officials report pediatric covid cases are on the rise in Palm Beach County. Children 5-14 years old now account for 15% of all new covid cases.

Dr. Margaret Stager, a specialist in Adolescent Medicine, says schools should be careful before lifting mask mandates, especially if their students aren't yet eligible for the vaccine right now, only the Pfizer vaccine is available for children 12 and up.

"It's unknown at this time when the vaccine will be available for the 2 to 12 year-olds".

Pfizer is still studying its vaccine in children 6 months to 11 years old and could get authorization as early as the fall.

Wednesday 5/26/2021
CBS 12 News @ 11:00pm
30 Minutes

School Equity

A 4 to 3 majority of school board members voted to give a large number of vocal parents just what they wanted. Striking the phrase "dismantling structures rooted in white advantage" from a list of things the district says it was committed to. This so-called equity statement website is posted on the district website and was sent to parents.

Many of whom spoke up in full force.

"You're creating division not equality, which makes you a racist if you support this. Shame on all of you".

"Parents deserve to know to what structures will be dismantled and why you specifically choose the word white."

A slim majority of Board Members saying removing that line, doesn't hurt the overall statement, which is still geared towards bridging the achievement gap facing minority students, who make up 70% of the school district.

"Let's not focus on keeping the words at the expense of losing the community support."

Others on the board, saying losing the statement prevents the districts from confronting its issues.

"We're choosing between adults instead of focusing on the needs of children."

Monday 05/26/2021
CBS 12 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

School Bus Safety

Frank Frangella is the director of safety and security for the Martin County School District. He says when it comes to school bus stop safety... the message is simply.

"I have been in law enforcement my whole life. If you see something, say something. It doesn't matter how little it is or how big it is; say something."

If a parent feels their bus stop isn't safe, they should reach out to their school district's transportation department, school board, superintendent's office or even a teacher. No complaint goes unchecked.

"Once you move a bus stop, now you're moving everyone that is going to that bus stop somewhere else. So, it takes a lot, but I mean if it is a true hazard then obviously, we will do something to correct it."

The district has its own way of protecting kids once they are on the bus. Martin County is the only district in our area that uses this software. With one swipe of a student ID Card on this tablet, they know exactly what time the child gets picked up and dropped off.

"The community itself, school districts, the police departments and the parents if we are all together looking out for our kids, they're our most precious gifts, we need to protect them."

Wednesday 06/09/2021
CBS 12 News @ 9:00 am
30 Minutes

Critical Race Theory

Passion and anger at today's Collier County School Board meeting. Dozens turned out to oppose some of the instructional reading material approved by the school board in April, saying it teaches tenets of critical race theory and indoctrinates students with leftist ideology.

"I'll be damned if I will allow a Marxist revolution to take place in this country, and we need to reject our children even being taught it."

"Politics cannot be in the schools unless it's a political class, and then it needs to be true politics and not someone's opinion of how something is being treated, we have to be super careful."

"CRT focuses on mainly on teaching cultural differences, instead of commonalities. It's cultural differences, racial differences, ethnic differences, and the key word is differences."

But one school district pushed back.

"There is no evidence of critical race theory in this resource or any of the HMH Florida inter reading student materials teacher materials or any ancillary materials."

Board members agreed. Stephanie Lucarelli, School Board Member, said, "After going through all these texts and having four kids in our schools as well anything in these texts was not...you know...a problem for me."

But they are still uncomfortable with posts on publishers HMH's website, talking about Black Live's Matter and other political issues. Saying no matter what, they want to keep politics out of the classroom.

Thursday 06/10/2021
CBS 12 News @ 11:00pm
30 Minutes

Critical Race Theory Debate

After hours of public comment, the Florida Board of Education voted unanimously to issue strict guidance on how history is taught in public schools. The move was championed by Governor Ron DeSantis who made it clear that what he believes to be racist, divisive theories have no place in Florida classrooms.

"Some of this stuff is really toxic, and I think it will cause a lot of divisions. I think it will cause people to think of them more as a member of a particular race or based on skin color not based on the content of their character."

The Governor is drawing a line before the State Education Board Thursday, condemning minimization of the Holocaust and critical race theory, which teachers that racism is embedded in American institutions to perpetuate the dominance of the white race.

"We need to be educating people not trying to indoctrinate them with ideology".

The issue has been a hot topic for months and today's meeting drew parents and educators from all over the sunshine state who wanted to be heard before the vote.

"If we take critical race theory out of our students' classrooms what we're doing is we're saying this conversation is bad, and that's not the case. The history might be pretty awful, but the conversation is not bad".

"We're talking about protecting the future of our country, the future of our republic. We have to put in the proper oversight and disciplinary methods to make sure that critical race theory is shut down and people are penalized."

The Palm Beach County School District tells us Critical Race Theory was never part of its curriculum, but local teachers we spoke to say it's impossible to teach US history without acknowledging the issue to race at certain critical periods, then and now.

"How could I not include race in a conversation with my students? I don't even understand that."

"This is part of our history. No one is trying to separate anybody. We want unity more than anything, that's how we move forward in our country, but we have to understand our past... the stuff that went on in the past still impacts minorities today."

The concern about this amendment passed by the board, is that it will shut the door on important conversations about the role of race in our history and today. But the text of the rule is clear, only precluding specific theories or curricula and requiring that history be taught without distorting or suppressing objective truths.

Governor DeSantis said, "In Florida, we require teaching actual history at every part of American history. The history of slavery, the civil war.... that is not only should be taught, it is required to be taught in Florida."

That similar legislation banning critical race theory has already passed in other states including Idaho and Oklahoma, and the issue is currently being debated in more than a dozen others.

Friday 06/18/2021
CBS 12 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Bright Future Latest

While some students couldn't wait to get back into the classroom at a brick and mortar school like the one behind us here. Other families were a bit more hesitant- especially during the height of the pandemic.

The uncertainty led to the startup of a new trend that swept the nation, so called learning pods. It looks like those pods could not only be here to stay but even expand!

Ana Solanki is a former teacher who came out of retirement during the pandemic to lead one of these learning pods. She let us sit in on one of her lessons last year, when masks were still mandatory. She teaches 10 kids in a make-shift classroom- kindergarten through second grade.

She says demand and interest from other parents has grown so much since last year- she's renting a larger space for her students come august. As a mom-- who used to homeschool her own kids-- Ana says she understands why parents find the intimate teaching approach so appealing.

"I think even the private schools now days even have bigger class sizes and since I'm still keeping mine small, i think parents are really inclined to that."

What is a typical day like in a learning pod? Well for Ana, each day her group focuses on a different subject or theme, catered to each grade level. No virtual assignments, only hands-on learning activities. Plus, daily recess to make sure the kids are staying physically active.

One thing we've learned since the start of this pandemic is families really forced to make some tough decisions when it comes to their child's education and what's the best, safest option for them.

While this alternative approach may not be for everyone, certainly an option on the table.

One that's really taken off.

Thursday 06/24/2021
CBS 12 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

School Board Meeting

"No masks, no vaccinations, no CRT, no sex ed!"

This Palm Beach County grandparent was among the dozens of speakers who stood up at tonight's school board meeting, addressing controversial topics including critical race theory. The State Board Of Education recently banned critical race theory in Florida schools and a district spokesperson says it's never been taught in Palm Beach County, but that didn't stop some local parents from making their voices heard.

Another major concern is covid protocols. Superintendent Dr. Donald Fennoy laid out a plan for resuming in person learning in August. He says next year, both mask and vaccines will be optional but the post pandemic plan to be controversial nevertheless.

Though many parents supported a mask optional school year, others said the mobile vaccine units on district property should be shut down and that the mask policy

should be tossed out. In a workshop earlier this afternoon, tensions boiled over after one unmasked parent who refused to stop talking after his time expired was escorted out by district police.

HEALTH

DESCRIPTION

DATE/TIME

Friday 04/02/2021
CBS News @ 9:00AM
30 Minutes

Variant Spreading

Around the country Covid-19 cases caused by variants are on the rise, just as health experts have been predicting.

Dr Jonathan Reiner, Professor of Medicine at the George Washington University Medical Center says, "I think it's probably a combination of pandemic fatigue, loosening of people's guard, insufficient vaccinations."

Andy Slavitt the White House Covid-19 Response Senior Advisor also said, "We are lulled into this false sense that this thing can't get to us."

The CDC says the variants of concern right now include the one first identified in the UK. The one spotted in South Africa and the one found in Brazil.

Every state has reported at least one case of one of these variants but the one from the UK is the most dominant right now, with more than 12,000 cases in the US so far.

Florida has the most, followed by Michigan. The spread of these variants is part of the reason an updated model from the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metric and Evaluation now estimates more than 609,000 total US Deaths from Covid-19 by July 1st if behaviors are the same. Health experts say booster shots may be needed to target emerging variants but the vaccines we already have do offer some protection.

Dr Fauci, "It has the potential, to a greater or lesser degree, to also protect us against a range of variants."

Monday 04/07/2021
CBS News @ 12:00pm
30 Minutes

Covid-19 Mental Health

Ivan Agerton has his dream job, traveling the world as an adventure photographer, but when he returned from his latest assignment, he was diagnosed with Covid-19

“Because my symptoms were so mild - I wasn't overly concerned”.

The father of three, though he recovered, but within day, his world turned upside down.

“It instantly like a light switch, I felt this intense paranoia hit me. I couldn't escape it - every single person I saw would trigger this intense fear.”

“How bad did it get?”

“I was hearing voices outside my window like someone was in the bushes.”

Doctor's eventually linked his condition to covid and he's not alone. Researchers at Oxford University found one in three covid patients in the US developed brain or psychiatric disorders within 6 months of being infected.

“We compared those percentages with people who've been ill with a range of other conditions during the pandemic era.”

Dr Harrison's team found covid patients were treated more often for a range of disorders from common ones like anxiety and depression to rare conditioners like dementia and psychosis. They shop future studies will reveal why.

Months later, Agerton says he's vaccinated and feeling better. He hopes sharing his story will give others courage to ask for help/

Monday 04/10/2021
CBS News @11:00pm
30 Minutes

Johnson and Johnson Vaccine and the Adverse Reactions

Friends Aubree and Jenny are excited, but nervous, to get their Johnson and Johnson vaccine next week. They have read about reactions to the shot and clinics closed to investigate them, but still, they say it won't stop them from getting vaccinated. Aubree is anxious to see a return to normal. Jenny wants to go on a postponed honeymoon with her husband.

Jenny says, "To kind of be one and done is a big deal to me. And so many people have had bad reactions to the two shots that I'd rather only have one bad reaction than two"

This week, Johnson and Johnson Clinics in Colorado, Iowa, Georgia, and North Carolina temporarily shut down, when multiple people fainted, and a few were taken to the hospital. The CDC and FDA are investigating and so far, found no connection to the batches administered at these sites. Some of these clinics have already been cleared to open.

In a statement, Johnson and Johnson tells CBS 12 News,
"There is no greater priority than the safety and well-being of the people we serve. This is part of the established process to inform health authorities' comprehensive surveillance programs."

Dr Michael Teng is professor of medicine at the University of South Florida. When asked about peoples' concerns about the vaccine and what he would say to them, he responded, "These concerns are real. They are reasonable. What we have to understand is every vaccine has side effects and some people respond differently."

He also stated that the number of reported reactions to the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is still very low compared to the millions already inoculated. We checked the CDC's database to find out how many reactions to J&J vaccine have been reported in Florida. So far, 285 people have responded. The most common side effects included chills, headaches, and nausea, like the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine.

Tuesday 05/04/2021

CBS 12 News @

9:30am

30 Minutes

Covid Variants

Researchers say it's critical to understand these variants, because they tell us a lot. Not just what is circulating in a community, but perhaps how contagious the circulating strains may be and more importantly, perhaps how to treat it to save lives.

To the dominant strain now in the US making people sick, mainly known as the UK variant. Researchers at the Cleveland Clinic that supplied a video, just published a new study in Jama network open which shows just how these variants have evolved.

"The pieces are there. The puzzle is starting to be solved and this is one of those things that helps us understand how we got where we are right now and why things look the way they do".

Doctor Frank Esper is an infectious disease specialist who was one of the lead researchers in this study. It looks at the variants from the from six weeks of the pandemic, when we had no treatment for it.

Researchers concluded that the original variants were quick to mutate or change. But as they progressed early in this pandemic, they became less severe. But more contagious. They are now continuing to learn more about how the variants circulating now interact with the current vaccines.

The real benefits of this research however that understanding these variants helps us know how quickly they progress. What treatments appear to work against each strain, and how quickly to start those therapies. Infectious disease teams remind all of us that we only stop these variants by shutting down the virus, and that means quickly getting more of us to vaccinate.

Friday 5/14/2021

CBS 12 News @ 12:00pm

30 Minutes

Covid Latest

For many, the CDC's new guidance on mask wearing for vaccinated people is a breath of fresh air. Under new recommendations, fully vaccinated Americans no longer need to wear masks or socially distance indoors or outdoors except on airlines, public transportation and in hospitals, doctor's offices, nursing homes, prisons and homeless shelters.

The head of the CDC tells CBS News the declining number of new cases and effective vaccine factored into the decision. At the Rose Garden Event, President Biden stressed unvaccinated individuals, who can still spread the virus must still wear masks.

It's still largely up to states, cities and individual businesses to change their mask requirements. Many states have said they will review the new CDC guidance before lifting any restrictions.

The updated recommendations came the same day the New York Yankees announced its shortstop has become the first player and wither member of the team staff to test positive for the virus after being fully vaccinated. The CDC says cases like those have a low risk of disease transmission.

Six of the staff members and coaches who tested positive are asymptomatic and are in quarantine.

Friday 05/25/2021
CBS 12 News @ 11:00pm
30 Minutes

Moderna to the Emergency Authorization

Following the same order last December got emergency use authorization in adults, Moderna is poised to join the Pfizer vaccine as acceptable tools in preventing the spread of the covid -19 in kids ages 12-17.

Just like infectious disease specialist Dr Kleper de Almeida, nurse Scott Sabourin has been on the front lines of this pandemic, treating covid patients since last February at JFK Center.

"Over the last year and a half, I've experienced some of the most brutally devastating parts of humanity due to this very horrible disease."

So, it was an easy decision to get his 16-year-old son, Logan, vaccinated last month.

"I explained to him that dad got it and dad did fine. Many of his friends are looking up to him to be able to see how he reacted to it. There was no reaction, no

nothing. He is doing excellent. I feel very safe sending him back to school this upcoming year.

Overall, covid cases and the vaccination rates has been falling locally and nationally, indicating those who want the shot and are eligible have gotten it. Just two weeks ago in Palm beach County, more than 10,000 people were vaccinated in one day. This past Saturday, less than 5,000 got the shot. Despite that, in the last week, the infection rate has dropped here 25%.

Monday 06/07/2021
CBS 12 News @ 11:00pm
30 Minutes

Covid Dashboard Status

Ten point three million Floridians or about half the state is fully vaccinated. Cases are on the decline in Florida, in fact, the positivity rate has remained below 5% for 3 consecutive weeks. Social distancing measure have been lifted and masks are optional at most places.

The Department of Health feels things are under control and daily reporting is no longer necessary. But some people would still like to know the numbers of positive cases in the State and specifically their own town.

Leni Valens of Palm Beach Gardens stated the more information we get the better we are. She feels indifferent about the daily vaccine numbers.

Judie Budnick, who was shopping in Palm Beach Gardens is on board with the State dropping daily reports and experts believe the decline in cases and hospitalizations and rise in vaccines give the state confidence there is light at the end of the tunnel, but believes tracking data is still crucial, because a sudden could be missed.

"I think any state has to be quite transparent regarding the data that is provided. I think that we haven't reached the threshold that we want for the vaccine so if we don't have any idea who is vaccinated, how do we know we have reached that threshold? So, knowing the numbers is still important especially now with summer upon us, a big time for traveling and variants are still running rampant in other countries.

This is from Dr Olyami Osiyemi, an infectious disease expert.

Covid Vaccine and Prostate Exam

Dr Diego Rubinowicz is asking all his patients to keep track of when they received the COVID 19 vaccine after linking the shot to elevated PSA levels

"I have seen patient's PSA to be falsely elevated for at least six weeks after getting the vaccine

PSA levels are looked at with a basic blood test, and elevated levels are typically found in men with prostate cancer. But PSA can be falsely elevated due to several conditions.

"Other things that can cause an elevation is a urinary tract infection or a vigorous exercise and any other kind of illness."

But new anecdotal findings show that men who get the vaccine and then have their PSA levels also show a spike.

I was seeing patients that were coming in with a history of a stable PSA and all the sudden the PS had risen."

The urologist looked back to see if any other patients had similar issues and soon connected the dots

"Sure enough, I've had a few patients that had the vaccine shortly before the PSA."

Dr Rubinowicz says his patients were initially alarmed but after retesting weeks later, his patient's PSA Levels normalized

"These are the results of a patient who will remain anonymous as you can see the persons PSA level is stable at 0.4 but after taking the vaccine the level raised 9 times to 3.4 after a retest, they fell back down to 1.5."

The findings are similar to physicians who were concerned after finding swollen lymph nodes when women went for a mammogram soon after vaccination

Certainly, this is not a reason to not get the vaccine what we are saying is to take into account the effect the vaccine can have"

The month of June is Men's health month an important reminder to stay on top of appointments as Prostate cancer, for example, is the most common cancer diagnosed with an expected 243,000 estimated cases for 2021.

Wednesday 06/09/2021
CBS 12 News @ 11:00pm
30 Minutes

Toxic Water in West Palm Beach

This time last week, Franky Pierre Paul was busy hauling case after case of bottled water to people vulnerable to those toxins, ties to blue green algae discovered in West Palm Beach tap water. Many he met though, weren't aware of the dangers.

"We met women that are pregnant, we met elderly people that have liver problems and liver issues and they were like, we never knew that!"

More questions persist about the city's messaging. Officials first saw test results showing toxins on May 19 but waited for follow up and confirmation tests to be done before alerting health officials.

The State Department of Health is slamming the city, saying they should have been told sooner. Citing this state law that requires the Department of Health be notified within a day about anything in the water that poses "an acute risk to human health." Meanwhile, the city says it followed guidelines to a "t". Pointing to a part of the same section of state rules which asks for multiple tests to confirm a toxin and only requires the state be informed within seven days.

West Palm Beach mayor Keith James is defending the city's response. Mayor James adds he is considering an internal review of the city's water response. While Franky Pierre Paul is still in touch with people, wishing that had known sooner.

Friday 6/11/2021
CBS 12 News @ 11:00pm
30 Minutes

Ketamine Treatment

The drug is called ketamine. On the street it's known as "special k", a party drug that's also used in veterinary medicine. But in controlled settings, like a psychiatrist's office, ketamine is showing promise in treating depression. Doctors say it could even be a cure.

"I've been fighting sadness and depression my entire life."

Inside this room, Jacque O'Rourke says she's found something she's been searching for, relief. Now in her 30s, Jacque has tried everything to beat depression: pills, therapy, meditation - nothing worked. So, she tried something radical. "Funny enough, I've never done drugs in my life. So, this was really out there to think about."

After six sessions of ketamine infusions, Jacque says she's happy again. Even glowing. She allowed us to document her seventh session at Tristar wellness. After getting her vitals checked -- she goes into a quiet room and gets comfortable under a blanket. Under the supervision of a doctor, she gets an I.V. of ketamine, a blindfold, and headphones.

Meditative music and colorful, muted lights set the mood for Jacque's therapy, which lasts about an hour. A practitioner stays in the room the entire time. But Jacque is completely unaware anyone else is around -- including our cameras. Under the influence of this drug, she says she left her body.

She spoke with us minutes after she woke up.

"Today was very interesting. I went on a big journey."

She says she saw green tones and white lights. Saw people she knew. Traveled through different rooms. And the anxiety she'd been feeling when she arrived for her appointment, gone.

"When you get pulled out, you feel like everything is ok. Everything is taken care of. All your stresses in this life are so minimal."

Doctor Jeffrey Kamlet has overseen hundreds of ketamine therapy sessions and calls it transformative. Its track record of safety and short duration of effect make it unique. And while dr. Kamlet says more research needs to be done, he tells CBS 12 news it creates new pathways in the brain that can affect mood and thought patterns.

"It's a breakthrough in medicine. It's cutting edge. We don't have a cure for any mental illness. We don't have a cure. This is maybe curing, or healing the brain, getting sustainable results."

Nineteen-year-old Lyndsay Nunley's first rounds of ketamine therapy was so successful; she and her mother flew back to Miami from California for more.

Sarah Nunley, her mother, stated, "I can't deny that something profound is happening."

Before ketamine, Sarah says her daughter was severely depressed. And repeatedly tried to take her own life. Conventional therapy didn't work. They even had her institutionalized for a time, with no significant change. A fellow military veteran told Sarah ketamine helped him cope with PTSD. So, they decided to visit Miami and Dr. Kamlet.

"After ketamine it's like your eyes are opened and you see what you couldn't see before. That life is beautiful. And you only get one shot at it. You understand that you are blessed to have a consciousness in this world. And it really makes you think."

"They took a suicidal daughter into that room. And out of that room came a different person. A person who saw life in a new way and wanted to live." Lyndsay went back to school, got her G.E.D and is making plans. She says thoughts of suicide have never returned.

Right now, there's no research to indicate how long the effects of ketamine therapy may last.

Dr. Kamlet is planning a study of his own, to better understand its long-term impacts. But he also has a warning, this drug is addictive, can be abused and should never be used unsupervised. Doctor Kamlet says doing so can lead to a negative experience which could do significant and lasting harm.

Covid Latest

The busy summer tourist season is heating up in Branson, Missouri...but so is the spread of the coronavirus in the region.

Dr. Terrance Coulter, director of Critical Care, "The low immunizations, and now the arrival of the delta variant which is highly prevalent in the area. We're a hotspot and this is just going to explode outward."

The delta variant is being blamed for the 196 percent increase in hospitalizations in southwest Missouri. 50-year-old Louie Michael and his wife are both hospitalized. He says he regrets not getting the vaccine.

"I got a little cocky about it. And now that we've got this new variant, this new strain, it seems to be dive-bombing everybody that didn't have any problems before."

Government health officials say the delta variant spreads very efficiently among the unvaccinated population and it could quickly become the dominant strain in the u.s.

Dr Fauci said, "Right now it's about 20.6% in the united states and it doubles about every two weeks. The easiest way to stop this is to get vaccinated because fortunately for us, the vaccine works quite well against it."

But health officials also caution while the vaccine works well now...they can't guarantee it will be as effective against new strains.

The Biden administration says it will not meet the president's goal of 70 percent of the adult population having at least one dose by the 4th of July.

CRIME

DESCRIPTION

DATE/TIME

Prosecutors in the Derek Chauvin's murder trial continue to present their case against the former Minneapolis police officer. Thursday, they called to the stand the now retired police sergeant who was on duty the night George Floyd died.

"Do you have an opinion as to when the restraint of Mr. Floyd should've ended in this encounter?"

"Yes, when Mr. Floyd was offering up any resistance to the officers, they could've ended their restraint."

Jurors were shown graphic video of paramedic Derek Smith checking Floyd's vitals while Chauvin still had his knee on Floyd's neck.

"What did his condition appear to you overall?"

"In layman terms I thought he was dead."

Floyd's girlfriend of three years also talked about their struggles with opioid addiction.

"We both suffered from chronic pain. Mine was in my neck his was in his back. We got addicted and tried really hard to break that addiction many times."

All week jurors have heard emotional testimony from some who witnessed George Floyd's final moments, in a trial that's moving faster than expected.

"It brings the entire incident back to anguish."

It's possible the defense could file for a mistrial because the police sergeant made a comment about use of force, despite not being qualified as an expert.

"You have to understand that the defense moves for many mistrials during the course of a trial in part to preserve an issue for appeal if a defendant were to be convicted."

A big part of the defense's strategy centers on Floyd's addiction, claiming it was largely responsible for his death.

Arson and Homicide

The victim and the owner of this shop was found shot inside after the suspect set the place on fire.

Lisa Diggs was the murder victim's girlfriend described the pain she felt when she lost Richard Benson.

"Well the person I loved is gone suddenly and it just feels really empty." Just two months ago, Lisa Diggs describes the pain she felt losing her boyfriend, 57-year-old Richard Benson. Investigators arrested 61-year-old Otto Lenke of Sabastian for his murder. According to the arrest report, Lenke, a former Melbourne police officer and former Indian River County fire-medical owned many guns and knew how to use them.

Lenke allegedly stopped at Home Depot, bought a gallon of Klean Strip Denatured Alcohol like this one and went to Fast Frank's Custom Cycle Concepts--Benson's motorcycle repair shop---in Ft. Pierce.

The arrest report says surveillance video shows a man with a bag in his left hand and "a black handgun in his right hand. He proceeded to enter the business and confront Richard Benson from behind." The surveillance video shows the attacker shooting Benson once in the back, then taking a canister from his bag, attempting to pour liquid on Benson's body, and then shooting him again, pouring more liquid on his body and then setting him on fire.

Investigators narrowed in on Lenke because he has a knee replacement and was seen walking with a limp in the surveillance video. A witness telling detectives she recognized him saying.

"If you watch him walk, it's like he's holding a barrel in his legs, he had a knee replacement, he's got another knee that's weird."

She also told detectives Lenke wanted to marry her, but she was not interested.

"He wanted more romance, and I tried to break up with him several times and he wouldn't leave me alone," she told detectives.

Surveillance video the day of the fire at Fast Frank's shows what appears to be a Pontiac Bonneville pulling up and parking. This is the same type of Pontiac that detectives say Lenke gave his daughter as a high-school graduation gift. She said he borrowed the Pontiac from her for several days and returned it to her the day after the murder.

Diggs told us in February how heartbreaking it was to lose Benson.

The arrest report says she bought "a gold-colored necklace with a Mahi fish pendant" as a Christmas gift and Benson wore the necklace daily.

Friday 04/23/2021
CBS 12 News @ 11:00 PM
30 Minutes

Murder-Suicide in Boynton Beach

"It's just a tragedy. She was a beautiful girl, full of life."

Kacey tragically killed in Boynton Beach this week is being remembered as a devoted mother who always put her children first. Police tried to arrest Narcisse Antoine for the killing outside The Hampton Inn along Gateway Blvd, but he killed himself before he could capture him. The couple's toddler was found uninjured next to his dead mother inside her car.

"God had his arms wrapped around that baby, and his ears covered because that baby did not wake up through it all".

Kacey's Aunt, who does not want to be identified, says all this could have been avoided.

Court records show in 2015, a jury acquitted Antoine of murder and attempted murder. Charges were from a case in a 2009 shooting that left one man dead and another man injured outside a West Palm Beach nightclub.

That was a retrial for Antoine after his 2011 conviction of attempted murder and a 40-year prison sentence was overturned. Public records show, Antoine did in fact, marry his public defender in November of 2015.

Investigators are still piecing together a motive behind the domestic related shooting at the hotel. Kacey and her child left home and checked into a room here after members of her family tested positive for covid-19. Kacey's family want to thank the community for their support on the go fund me page, it's the help they need to finalize Kacey's funeral.

Cold Case Cracked

Eighty-two-year-old Curtis Rogers is a grandfather and started GED Match as a hobby. It's a tool for young people to submit their DNA test results and to find long lost relatives. He works out of this small green house in West Palm Beach. He had no idea his site would later become a source for investigators to crack cold case murders and rapes.

Right now, a trial is underway for 61-year-old Thomas Garner. He is facing a gruesome murder charge in the death of a U.S Navy Recruit. He is accused of strangling and dumping the body of Pamela Cahanes in 1984 in Seminole County and now the dental hygienist is possibly linked to the 1982 murder case of Kathy Hicks out of Honolulu. Investigators tracked him down using a DNA service and genealogy website, "GEDMATCH".

"I did not know about that case until you told me. But I'm very happy to know about it."

Genealogy founder, Curtis Rogers, lives in Palm Beach County. He has helped loved ones unite with their families since 2010 running an operation inside this West Palm Beach home, but everything changed in 2018, after his genealogy database site led investigators to the arrest of the infamous, golden state killer Joseph James DeAngelo.

"We have probably now solved over 200 cold cases in the last three years since we first got the golden state killer."

It has now become a go to source for police. Investigators submit evidence found at crime scenes right on the site.

"For the first year or so I knew all the cases that were being solved and we talked about it, but now it's just gotten out of hand and now they're solving it weekly, if not more often."

After participants upload their personal DNA to learn about their history, they can manually opt in if they want law enforcement to have access to their information.

New owners have since taken over his company, but Rogers is still very much involved. He says the most rewarding part is receiving thank you letters from the families of the victims.

Friday 5/14/2021
CBS 12 News at 11:00pm
30 Minutes

West Palm Beach Homicide

"It's the society we live in today. I mean people don't care about peoples' life anymore."

The victim's body was found in this bullet riddled red Chevy Impala, there are at least 5 bullet holes in the rear passenger side window. West Palm Beach Police say the man was murdered a few minutes before 4 early this morning in the parking lot of Sam's Club on 45th Street near Military Trail. The Sam's Club was not open at the time of the shooting.

A passerby called 911 to report the murder. West Palm Beach Police say when they got to the scene, the man was found dead in the car. Detectives say this was a targeted attack, not a random shooting. But they are not saying why the man was targeted.

Sam's Club says West Palm Beach Police are looking at surveillance video from the store's surveillance cameras in the parking lot. There is a Walmart next door-- but it was closed at the time of the fatal shooting. it also has surveillance cameras.

Saturday 5/22/2021
CBS 12 News at 11:00pm
30 Minutes

Rape Suspect

Marvin Mendoza served time in jail for exposing himself at Shepard's park in Stuart. That was during the time, he was in the process of being granted temporary asylum. Should he have been deported?

In 2018, as a minor he was charged with grand theft and battery, both felonies.

In 2019, as an adult he was charged with lewd exposure...

Investigators tell CBS12 News his charges were reduced to exposure of sexual organs, a misdemeanor in the state of Florida. Court documents obtained by CBS12 News show he was found guilty and served 300 days behind bars.

Despite notifying federal officials, Martin County Sheriff William Snyder tells CBS12 News, Mendoza wasn't deported.

Sheriff Snyder commented and said, "I don't know why he wasn't deported when he began committing crimes here in the us. If the question is who dropped the ball? The answer is unequivocally immigration. They knew after his first arrest."

Jeff DeVore – a board certified immigration attorney in palm beach gardens, says deportation is complex.

"Someone who is here, who is not a united states citizen, if they are ever convicted of a crime, certain crimes subject them to deportation."

It really comes down to an immigrant's status at the time of conviction, and the crime. In this case, Mendoza was convicted of exposure while in the process of getting temporary asylum.

But, DeVore says the conviction would, or *should have* impacted Mendoza's asylum status.

DeVore tells me Mendoza's juvenile convictions are considered delinquencies so they wouldn't count towards his deportation.

We've been reaching out to ice for two days-- to ask how Mendoza apparently slipped through the cracks. They have not responded to our requests for comment.

Tuesday 6/01/2021
CBS 12 News at 11:00pm
30 Minutes

Deadly Weekend

It was a violent Memorial Day weekend in cities across the country. Tonight, new surveillance video shows mayhem as a hail of bullets is fired at a crowd outside a Miami nightclub early Sunday, two were killed and more than 20 others wounded.

Minutes before the shooting, the white Nissan Pathfinder believed to be the shooters vehicle drives slowly behind the crowd as if looking for their target. You can see the driver parks before pulling into an alley.

Another camera angle shows three gunmen wearing ski masks and hoodies jumping out with assault-style rifles and handguns and opening fire on the crowd. A manhunt is underway for the shooters...

The long Memorial Day weekend is notorious for higher rates of crime and shootings, this year is particularly difficult.

"I think the pandemic does play a significant role. We've seen the high unemployment, the financial stress that it causes. Obviously, this leads to the decrease in our mental health, and i think that's a nationwide problem."

So far this year there have been 573 shooting incidents citywide in New York City. That's a 77% increase from this time last year.

Police in Houston are grappling with at least ten murders since Thursday.

A steady wave of violence has been on the rise since last year. More than 8,100 people in the U.S. have died from gun violence so far this year.

"I think it's going to get much worse over the summer because, again, we've already seen a much higher than normal numbers for the beginning of 2021. And that's comparing it to an already bad 2020."

Monday 6/14/2021
CBS 12 News at 11:00pm
30 Minutes

Shooting in Boynton Beach

The victims drove themselves here to the hospital – after that shooting, that easily could've injured more people or caught innocent drivers in the crossfire. One person died, the three others hospitalized here aren't cooperating with Investigators. We're still working to find more on the suspect's car, their identities, and why this even happened in the first place.

In broad daylight a driver opened fire in the southbound lanes of i-95 between Gateway Blvd. and Hypoluxo road in Boynton beach. One man is dead, and three others injured.

Florida highway patrol first rushed to the scene around 12:30. Now the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office is asking drivers who may have seen anything to come forward.

PBSO says someone shot at the victims' burgundy Lexus multiple times on the busy interstate.

The injured driver managing to get everyone in the car to Bethesda hospital east for help. That's where one man was later pronounced dead from his injuries.

This burgundy Lexus car is riddled with at least ten bullets and was towed away for evidence. The three injured victims who are expected to survive, are not cooperating with investigators.

The sheriff's office told CBS12 news they were planning on shutting down portions of I-95 to piece together where and how the crime happened, but that all changed, due to rain and a late start on the investigation.

PBSO is asking anyone who saw or heard the shooting, around 12:30 on I-95 in Boynton Beach, or if they have any information – to call the sheriff's office or Crime Stoppers immediately.

Tuesday 6/21/2021
CBS 12 News at 11:00pm
30 Minutes

Home Invasion in Port St Lucie

Red crime scene tape is still left behind after that terrifying armed home invasion, Along south-east Asbury lane. The victim was helpless and handcuffed. He managed to escape, running next door – the suspect even chased after him at one point. His neighbor says it might have ended differently if she wasn't home that day.

"He was trying to make someone call 911. But he couldn't knock on the doors because he was handcuffed."

Marina Franco of Port St. Lucie was taking an afternoon nap last Friday when this mother of two was woken up by loud screams. It was her frantic neighbor, yelling outside her door for help while he was being robbed by armed crook pretending to be a police officer.

It was 4:30 Friday afternoon when detectives responded to southeast Asbury lane. The victim told investigators a man wearing a long-sleeve shirt with "police" written on the front and back, a gold badge around his neck, and a black mask - approached him in a garage telling him he had a warrant out for his arrest.

"The guy knew the information, maybe not personal information, but he knew what he was looking for. He got there and called him by his name."

The fake cop closed the garage door – shut the power off to the home – and handcuffed the victim. In the report: the imposter told the victim: "I am not a cop. I'm here to rob you." – while pointing a gun at his head.

As the intruder went through the home, Franco says that's when her frightened neighbor ran to her door begging for help.

"Call 911, and I was like, but you're running away from the police? He was like, no a fake cop did this to me."

The suspect who is described as 6 feet tall, weighing about 275 pounds got away in a black SUV with another firearm, a small safe, and a bb gun. It's unclear if the victim and the imposter cop who called the victim by name knew each other. Right now – police are looking for crucial clues, asking neighbors to check their outdoor security cameras.

Thursday 6/28/2021
CBS 12 News at 9:00am
30 Minutes

Gun Violence

“Gun Violence is a public health crisis in the US”

Gun violence researcher at Boston University Jonathan Jay says an increase in gun violence is one of the most important trends we’ve seen since the start of the pandemic.

“In big cities, in 2020, we found that there was a 43% increase in gun homicide to the previous 5-year average.”

Though that’s not the case in our area. We asked every Sheriff in our 5 local counties and they say there is little to no increase in shootings right now. Even though it might feel that way because of some awful high-profile shootings like the one-year old boy and his grandmother gunned down in the produce section of their Publix. Still, Jay’s work can help explain what has been going on.

“The biggest thing to understand is that these really unusual cases that may capture public interest, media interest are not the most common instances of gun violence”. He says it’s all about the instigators that have come with this virus, like loss of a job or constant isolation and he points out it’s cyclical, and that someone who has been exposed to gun violence is more likely to feel unsafe.

OTHER ISSUES

Thursday 04/01/2021
CBS 12 News @ 12:00pm
30 Minutes

PPE Litter

On the beach in the parking lot. pretty much everywhere you go nowadays-you'll see masks and gloves littered. Katie O'Hara, the conservation manager for Loggerhead Marine Life Center.

"I'm sure everyone has been noticing, just walking around in their neighborhood or even just going to the grocery store, there's a really big increase, not only in single use plastic items that are important for our health, but they're all over the ground right now,"

Boca Raton City Councilman Andy Thomson has been running the streets of the city, picking up trash. In the 100 miles he's run this year, he's found over 300 pieces of littered ppe. That's why he helped pass a new city law that fines people \$250 for littering ppe.

"One of the problems too with masks and gloves is, unlike a water bottle or a discarded newspaper or something, your average person is not dying to go pick it up when they see it on the side of the road. So, it ends up staying there weeks or potentially months,"

This is a problem that goes beyond the city limits of Boca Raton. Up the coast-beach cleanup crews at Loggerhead Marine life center are also picking up on the problem.

"We did get a ton of debris and we were seeing a slight increase in the number of plastic gloves and masks that we were picking up,"

And the ppe doesn't stay put.

"Even if you litter out into the street, like a mask, what ends up happening is the mask sometimes get washed into the storm drains, the storm drain goes into canals, canals go in the intracoastal, the intracoastal goes into the ocean,"

The group 4 ocean can confirm this-they've been hauling in ppe from waterways all over the world.

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, our teams have absolutely seen an increase in the amount of ppe they're finding. They're finding masks, they're finding gloves,"

Hurting the environment and sea life.

Monday 04/05/2021
CBS 12 News @ 12:00pm
30 Minutes

Puppy Nanny

"We're waiting for you at the bottom of the escalator."

Kristen Fallon and her kids are at New York's LaGuardia airport to meet the newest member of their family Rex-a mini-Berna doodle puppy.

"Hi- here's your new baby. Kristen-- he's so tiny."

But getting tiny Rex to New York was a big pandemic problem.

"Our breeder is in Colorado so we couldn't exactly fly from the east coast to Colorado, so we needed someone to transport him."

The Fallon's aren't alone. Pet nanny Sue Murphy says her business has doubled in the last year. for about 500 bucks plus airfare murphy will see to it a puppy gets VIP treatment to its new home anywhere in the country.

"I pick up the puppies at their breeder's house. And from that moment on the minute I get the puppy, I'm in contact with my clients the entire time with pictures and videos."

On this day that meant picking up Rex in Montrose Colorado, flying to Denver and on to New York.

"It was awesome to see he was cute and small.

Sue will make about 13 trips like that a month. She says she feels safe flying and business is booming-it's so busy she's hired her husband to help keep up with demand.

"It's to me not like a real job because I just love it so much and it makes everybody so happy. It brings tears to their eyes. And of course, then I see them crying and then I start crying, it's just a joy, tears of happiness.

For Murphy working like a dog is actually a labor of love.

Friday 04/09/2021
CBS 12 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Prince Phillip Dead at 99 years old

Prince Philip will be remembered most simply as Queen Elizabeth's husband, her consort and constant companion. But he had royal titles to spare long before they met, born a prince of Greece and Denmark.

During his career with the British Royal Navy, he met the 13-year-old Princess Elizabeth...and was assigned to entertain her with a game of croquet. The pair immediately hit it off.

He wrote to the Princess throughout World War Two, and when the war ended the dashing prince returned to England, renounced his right to the Greek throne and became a British commoner. It wasn't long before the two were engaged.

"I am so happy, that on this my third visit, my future husband is by my side."

Their royal wedding in 1947 at Westminster Abbey brought a much-needed celebration to a country still reeling from war. Prince Charles was born a year later.

In 1952, Princess Elizabeth's father, King George the sixth, died of cancer and Elizabeth became Queen. Prince Philip took a commanding role in his children's upbringing and education. He was also a sportsman who excelled in polo and sailing. He toured the world, both alone and alongside his queen, developing a passion for protecting endangered animals.

"If somebody doesn't look after them, I mean they really will disappear."

Prince Phillip was famous for his salty tongue. and his GAFFES often made headlines-like when he told an African delegation dressed in traditional clothing - they looked like they were ready for bed.

Prince Philip played a unique role in the royal family - one that his wife appreciated.

At age 97 Prince Philip gave up his driver's license following a crash near his country estate. Over seven decades he completed more than 22 thousand solo appearances and thousands more at the side of this wife, the Queen.

Friday 5/07/2021
CBS 12 News @ 11:00pm
30 Minutes

Walker Cup

Beautiful Seminole Golf Course was beaming with pride today the once ultra-private golf club ready to show itself to the World this weekend as the historic Walker Cup hits Juno Beach.

The great Ben Hogan was a member here stars like Rory McIlroy and Tom Brady are current members. Consistently ranked as one of the top 100 golf courses in the World, Seminole Golf Club could not be happier to host the Walker Cup this weekend which is very much like a Ryder Cup type event for the best amateurs in the World. But a health snag before this thing could even start.

The practice rounds were quieter than expected today as several players on the two teams *Team USA and Team Great Britain and Ireland* came down with Gastrointestinal issues. All of them tested negative for COVID-19 according to statement from the USGA and *as of now* competition is expected to begin tomorrow as planned. The players we spoke to who *were* feeling OK to practice today could not be more excited to play at Walker Cup on a course as Prestigious as seminal

Team USA won the last Walker Cup back in 2019 when it was played *across the pond*. No question winning again here at Seminole Golf Club would be huge for everyone on Team USA. Reporting from Juno Beach.

Friday 5/11/2021
CBS 12 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Keeping Sea Turtle Nest Safe

In south Florida-many efforts are put into sea turtle protection. Signs like this warn to keep light off the beach so you don't scare or disorient turtles, straws aren't used in many restaurants. And people commit time physically watch over the turtles.

South in Broward County and up on the treasure coast-volunteer groups will go out at night and count nests, educate people who are on the beach about nesting season, and keep folks from harassing turtles.

But the FWC wants to limit and eventually eliminate this kind of volunteering.

A statement sent to CBS 12 from the FWC reads that they appreciate what the volunteers are doing but ultimately think it's best for fewer people to be on the beach during nesting season.

FWC officials say some volunteer groups will have as many as one hundred volunteers on the beach at night.

The leader of the sea turtle oversight project feels that turtle populations will suffer without his organizations help.

"It's the love of each other that brings us out there. It's the love of family, it's the love of the earth, and, you know, the turtles,

The FWC says they are happy to continue having volunteers help during nesting season-but at a different capacity. They'd rather volunteers come out in direct response to an injured or disoriented turtle. Here in Palm Beach County, biologists with Loggerhead Marine Life Center watch out for turtles on our shores.

Wednesday 5/16/2021
CBS 12 News @ 11:00pm
30 Minutes

Day of Hope

Around 100 members from the community gathered together to take part in a day of hope event. The event triggered by the increase in violence across the neighborhood. About a year ago there was a tragic shooting that happened in front of the church at a funeral two people lost their life it made it seem like there was no hope here.

The November shooting happened after an apparent family dispute. Terrence Jackson a 15-year-old sophomore was killed along with 47-year-old Royce Freeman and just last month another fatal shooting.

Religious leaders at victory city church say it's time to come together and heal

"We are here as a church to be a help and a pillar to let everyone know there are positive things going on."

At today's day of hope event local businesses provided services such as free haircuts, mentorship programs and health screening to anyone who stopped by

"I'm just happy the community is taking a response to the violence that is taking place in Riviera Beach.

Cayla hunter Lyons, aunt of 7-year-old Dexter Fergusson Jr who was shot and killed while he was asleep last month was directly impacted by this violence

"We have all been impacted by it so to see individuals like pastor Tye and the vendors here to come together as a unit and be able to do whatever it takes to bring the community together."

The pastor says he plans on holding these community-based events four times a year. To help bring the community back together.

Thursday 5/27/2021
CBS 12 News @ 11:00pm
30 Minutes

Office Saves Choking Kid

A family and two Jupiter Police Officers are forever connected after this one-year-old was discovered unconscious and not breathing outside his home this week.

A heart-pounding experience for mom Rosi Chuc. Speaking in Spanish, she says she rushed to get help after her son passed out and immediately turned blue. Luckily, officer Andreas Pantaloukas was right around the corner when that 911 call came in.

"I had him across my arm, stomach down, and I was just hitting his back, trying to release whatever was in there. He was unconscious, not breathing, nothing was coming out, blue in the face.

Officer Greg Dampier arrived seconds after and began life-saving measures by placing the child face down as well, and calmly slapping his back.

"I think from the training, you kind of go into like autopilot, you immediately know what to do and how to handle the situation. Less than a minute later, the child began to breathe again right when paramedics arrived to rush him to a hospital.

Turns out Mariano contracted a high fever which then caused him to stop breathing. His mother has since taken him to see specialists and now the toddler seems to be doing just fine.

The officers are back at the scene – this time with gifts for Marino. Despite the language barrier its obvious emotions are high, and everyone's just ecstatic to see little Mariano happy and playing.

In any situation when someone needs resuscitation, officer Pantaloukas says to always remember that gravity is key.

"If you see there is something blocking their airway, you have them face down and have them on an angel where you think something is in there, it can possibly come out on its own."

Thursday 6/03/2021
CBS 12 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Cat Café Opens in Jupiter

It's being called the Disneyworld for cats. Furry friends, an animal rescue in Jupiter, finally finished their "catopia" for their kitties.

"We want to get our animals adopted, but we want people to see how happy they are. And we've tried to develop a whole shelter here that is not so much of a shelter. The animals can run free,"

The cats aren't the only ones enjoying the fun.

"Our animals don't even realize they're homeless,"

Furry Friends is opening pups and cups cat-fe. It's a place to get caffeine and cuddles-while watching the shelter animals enjoy their new playground.

"We want our people to come in and enjoy. Have a cup of coffee. Take a kitten or a puppy or a dog or a cat visit our pups and cups catfe, look into their eyes and maybe you'll even take one home,"

Young artist Viollette Plouvier hopes she can take a pet from Furry Friends home.

"I really want a dog,"

Viollette is one of several students whose work will be hung up at the catfe.

The catfe isn't the only way Furry Friends wants to bring the community into the shelter. They plan on starting kitten and puppy yoga. They also are opening their doors for people to work remotely while enjoying cuddles.

"We want people to want to come into our shelter. We don't want them worried about coming in to see animals in cages, depressed,"

Friday 6/7/2021
CBS 12 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Cruise Ship Controversy

The cruise industry is getting ready to set sail once again but a political storm brewing on land one between Florida governor Ron DeSantis and the centers for

disease control suggests it will be anything but smooth sailing. Right now, most cruise lines are advertising new summer sailings with vaccination requirements, but Royal Caribbean abruptly changed course on Friday.

Only its ships departing from Seattle and the Bahamas on or before August first will require passengers 16 and older to be vaccinated but no vaccination requirements for its sailings from Texas or Florida.

Florida is where businesses can be fined for requiring customers to show proof of vaccination.

"I was surprised by the blink because I think they're on the better side of it and I think they're better off staying on team CDC rather than team DeSantis."

Michael Winkleman, a cruise industry expert and maritime lawyer in Miami, says the situation on cruise ships is unique and the c-d-c is trying to keep people safe. Last year, several cruise ships remained unable to dock when coronavirus spread through tight quarters. After the c-d-c issued a no-sail order, ships sat idle for 15 months.

Now, the CDC has laid out a framework to get them back in motion: either have trial sailings with volunteers before opening to paid passengers...or abide by certain restrictions, with the most latitude on ships where at least 95% of passengers and crew are vaccinated.

DeSantis has sued the CDC over this - with no end of the legal battle in sight.

Gov. Ron DeSantis: "make no mistake about this. Had we not done what we did, and i think a lot of those cruise lines would admit this, had we not done what we did by suing you would not be talking about sailing right now. There's not been a single elected official in this country who has done more to liberate the cruise lines from a bureaucracy that is totally out of touch."

Michael Winkleman: "In my opinion, this has nothing to with helping business, it has nothing to do with keeping people safe. It has to do with playing to a very small but vocal base of his supporters to win in 2024." Winkelman says DeSantis won't likely win this lawsuit a sentiment echoed by a Miami-Herald op-ed, saying: "the cruise industry wants to go back to work. The CDC isn't the issue here. The badly conceived vaccine passport law is."

The politicking and rule changes have left passengers confused but this travel agent who specializes in cruises says most people hoping to get on a cruise soon are already vaccinated or planning to be before they board.

Elaine Edwards: "I think people are just so excited that they didn't get to cruise last summer, they didn't get to cruise this winter, that they're willing to whatever the cruise line needs me to do, I will do it, because I want to get on that ship."

Friday 6/21/2021
CBS 12 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Claudette Wreaks Havoc on Southeast of Country

Nine children and a young father were killed in this Saturday pile-up in Alabama of about 18 vehicles. Officials say the road, about 35 miles south of Montgomery, is known for hydroplaning during poor conditions. It had been soaked by tropical storm Claudette. Eight of the children were inside one van from a youth home for abused or neglected children. Its driver, the only survivor, was pulled from the fiery van by a bystander.

An hour south of the collision, in Brewton, drone footage shows the devastating aftermath of a tornado brought by Claudette. Homes were ripped apart and trees snapped.

This heavy rain and gusty wind had millions along the northern gulf coast hunkering down Father's Day weekend. More than ten inches fell in Slidell, Louisiana, trapping some residents.

"It was completely flooded. We couldn't get out. There was no way we could have gotten out. We saw somebody walking down the road and it was up to their waist at least."

Hurricane season' in the northern Atlantic technically begins June 1st. The worst of the storms are not usually seen until September.

Wednesday 6/30/2021
CBS 12 News @ 11:00pm
30 Minutes

Surfside Search and Rescue

Our closest look yet at the massive task facing rescue crews. Fifty-five flattened units of the Champlain Towers South. Condos crumbled to only a few feet high leaving a mound of dangerous rubble that crews hope is holding onto survivors. The search effort is moving faster now, with big machinery moving in, but officials saying today that as teams dig deeper, concrete continues to crumble, making things more hazardous.

Two shifts of teams are working in daylight and darkness. We spotted this massive line of cars earlier, the night shift, replenishing the ranks of exhausted rescuers

who have spent close to 7 days trying to bring loved one's home. Emergency crews haven't pulled someone from the rubble alive since the day the building collapsed, and supervisors now say that's taking a toll.

It's the conditions here that have made things especially difficult for the rescue crews, not only did they have to battle frequent fires earlier in the week, but now it rains torrentially here every single day, making what is already a slow and methodical search process that much more delayed.