

QUARTERLY LIST OF COMMUNITY PROBLEMS WITH ILLUSTRATIVE RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING

April 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 January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021.

**HEALTH
CRIME ISSUES
EDUCATION
OTHER ISSUES**

EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

DATE/TIME

Friday 01/01/2021
CBS News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Kindergarten Gap Year

The Hubachers were excited their three daughters would finally be in the same school with their youngest, Riley, making the cutoff for kindergarten, but they chose to hold her back in part because of the pandemic.

Rebecca, Riley's mom, said, "Kindergarten is going to be sitting in a plexi-glass cube with a mask on. It just hit me, oh my gosh, this is not in the best interest of Riley."

It's a trend in many school districts around the county. A recent survey of nearly 500 district leaders and principals found more than half are seeing a decline in kindergarten enrollment. Gloria Corral is the President and CEO of the Parent Institution for Quality Education. She says many young learners are already feeling behind because schools had to close last spring and they miss out on far more than academics when not in the classroom.

Kindergarten isn't required in parts of the country, so some parents are opting for kids to skip it all together. Gloria says, "We worry about the impact that not having children participate in these educational opportunities will have both in the short-term, but importantly, over the long term."

Rebecca chose to send Riley to preschool again to avoid virtual learning. She thinks her daughter will be more than ready for kindergarten next year and hopes things are more normal by then.

Wednesday 01/13/21
CBS 12 News 10 pm
30 Minutes

Teachers Prioritized for Vaccine

Barbara McQuinn, a Palm Beach School Board Member is taking a stand, refusing the Covid-19 vaccine until local teachers are also offered the shot. Most teachers went back to brick and mortar when Governor DeSantis ordered Florida schools to reopen in the fall. Many aren't comfortable being there and being exposed but recognize that teacher is their job and their responsibility. Hundreds of teachers asked for remote work assignments following the Governor's orders and are still teacher from home today.

Many teachers tell CBS 12 News they won't feel comfortable going back to campus without that vaccine.

Wednesday 01/27/2021
CBS 12 News @ 9:30 am
30 Minutes

Mental Health and Students

I've covered sports for a lot of years, and I can tell you mental health is not something more athletes at any level are comfortable talking about. But then they are in school, the pressure on young men and women to excel in competition and in the classroom. While dealing with the normal pressures of growing up, can be overwhelming.

One day before an important playoff game for the Palm Beach Lakes Rams, the team's star running back, Antonio Outler went missing. An assistant coach got a text from Antonio indicating he might hurt himself, so the West Palm Beach Police began searching for him. Hours later, the young man was found safe.

Antonio who just graduated tells CBS 12 News at the time he didn't understand why he felt the way his did. Today, the 18-year-old is outspoken about the importance of mental health awareness. Rams head coach Al Shipman says people don't realize how much pressure these players are under.

Psychologist Jefft Gardere says all of that can sometimes feel like it is just too much for these kids to handle. Today, Antonio is back on track and is headed for the University of South Dakota. He says he can't wait to begin the next chapter of his career.

School Funding Loss

State Representative Randy Fine, chair of the PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee, says the number of kids who are missing from the classroom this year is staggering. He calls them “phantom students” and says we need to make every effort to find out where they went.

“Some of these kids might be getting homeschooled and their parents just didn’t turn in a form. That’s not a big deal. Some might just be going to private school and the district doesn’t know about it. Also, not a big deal. What I’m concerned about are students who literally aren’t going to school at all.”

In Palm Beach County, a team of dedicated case workers are currently working to locate over 3,000 of these phantom students. Over the past three months, they’ve found more than half of them. Most have transferred or moved out of the state, but some, they say, have slipped through the cracks during this pandemic and seem to be giving up on school.

June Eassa, PBC Assistant Superintendent of Student Wellness weighed in on the situation, “Any child that’s not engaged in learning is a concern of ours. We need to make sure that there’s a trusting adult in every child’s life and we can’t guarantee that if they’re not connected to us, so it’s very worrisome.”

But the phenomenon of phantom students could soon be problematic for local school districts in more ways than one. School finances are typically contingent on enrollment. Under any other circumstances, schools would be docked for so many missing kids, but because of Covid-19, the state decided not to slash school’s budgets.

Representative Fine feels it’s only fair that if districts do not locate these missing students, they should face budget cuts. He said, “by sending the money anyway, we eliminated the incentive for school districts to go and find those kids. In fact, they have an incentive not to find them because they get the funding without incurring the cost of teaching those students.”

The emergency order that protects schools from budget cuts expires at the end of the summer. That means next year every missing student could cost out local school districts.

Monday 02/15/2021
CBS 12 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Cheating in Virtual School

"The cheating is really bad. It's kind of rampant".

This is Miss Taylor. That is not her real name. She asked that we hide her identity for fear of embarrassing her students or having angry parents call for her to be fired for talking to us. We can tell you that she is a high school teacher here in Palm Beach County.

"I've been doing this for a long time and when you read something that looks like a PHD student wrote it, then you know it's not their work"

I asked her how often she must confront a student she is suspecting of cheating, she said more times this year than any time in my entire career. We have come a long way from a scribble on the palm or a hidden note under the desk. When they are virtual learning, students can have multiple browser windows open, text with classmates or just have their text books and notes right in front of them.

Miss Taylor says, "when I see that 98% of them have gotten 100%, I hope that I am that good of a teacher, but that's kind of a red flag".

I asked, "Do you feel helpless?"

She answered, "I do, they are going to take these high stakes tests which I know they are not going to pass that teacher pay is connected to, then it's frustrating for us. We are blamed for it. "

There are a lot of factors behind why a kid might cheat, maybe they are watching younger siblings who are also remote learning while their parents are at work, maybe they have had to get a job themselves to help make ends meet, maybe it's just the pressure of getting into college. Whatever the reason, Miss Taylor has a message, "Every teacher is out there to help you anyway you can. If you need help, ask your teacher. You're not alone. if you need help ask. "

Tuesday 2/16/2021
CBS 12 News @ 12:00pm
30 Minutes

New CDC Guidelines for Schools

Governor Ron DeSantis says if people actually followed these new CDC Guidelines, it would require 90 percent of schools across the county to close and he vows Florida school won't be among those doing so, saying there's no turning back.

Here's a breakdown of what the CDC is recommending in order to safely re-open schools. A color-coded system based on community spread and transmission of the virus. So, depending on what color zone the school falls within would determine who can go back in person learning and which schools will need to stick with distance learning.

Governor DeSantis says those guidelines aren't based on evidence and go against what we have seen locally. "We've had kids doing camps and athletics and all that over the summer and we have been in person more than anybody else in the country and yet we 34th out of 50 states and DC on a per capita basis for children. Thirty-three states have more cases per capital for children and many of those don't have in person instruction".

The new CDC guideline, as you would expect, also includes a big focus on mask wearing and social distancing. The agency also noted the vaccination of teachers is important but not a prerequisite to safely reopen schools.

Tuesday 2/22/2021
CBS 12 News @ 10:00pm
30 Minutes

Low School Attendance

This is an issue that has plagued school districts since the start of the pandemic, students missing from both brick and mortar and online classes.

In Palm beach, thousands of registered students seemed to slip through the cracks this year, their names are on class rosters, but their teachers haven't seen them online or in person for months. Tamara Armaly has spent the new year working through a very long list. More than 3,000 Palm Beach County students were off the grid at the start of the year. Their whereabouts-unknown.

"We have found a lot of our students have been missing in action".

Armaly is part of a team of five caseworkers whose goal is to locate and speak with every one of the "phantom students".

We spoke to June Essa, the Assistant Superintendent for student wellness/ She said, "Any child that we don't know their whereabouts is someone we're going to be

worried about. We want to make sure we know where all of our students went or where they are to make sure that they're safe". She oversees the outreach efforts. She and her boss, School Superintendent Dr Donald Fennoy tell CBS 12 News locating covid's "lost class" is tricky.

They say most of these students have transferred to private schools, moved out of state, or are being homeschooled. But some, likely dealing with struggles separate from academics, seems to have given up on school all together.

Armaly said, "We've had a lot of juniors and seniors in high school who have stopped going to school so they can support their families. Because of COVID, a lot of parents have lost their jobs".

Case workers like Armaly are working hard to get those students re-engaged. Since January, scores have re-enrolled, others are still adrift, hundreds of them. Up against homelessness, teen pregnancy and sometimes simple technological limitations.

These no shows could also impact the bottom line of districts already facing massive expense related to covid. That's because a lot of state and federal funding is based on enrollment. So, if these students don't return to school, the districts could be looking at even bigger budget shortfalls next year. That's a secondary consideration for the members of this team. Their goal is to get the missing students back to class and online instruction. But if that's not possible, they are least wanting to make sure the students are safe and sound.

Friday 03/12/2021
CBS 12 News @ 10:00pm
30 Minutes

Standardized Testing

"I don't feel that these kids will be as prepared this year as they would be in other years."

Katerina Garavito has one child in 3rd grade this year. For her son, the Florida Statewide Assessments are critical. Third graders risk being held back based on their performance and in an already difficult year, Katerina is hoping the state decides not to count them.

"I would be devastated if my child's education was impacted to the point where he was being held back just because of an exam - yeah no I wouldn't be happy."

She's not alone. There are petitions online with thousands of signatures asking lawmakers to suspend the consequences of state standardized testing this year.

Andrew Spar, the President of Florida Education Association said, "It doesn't actually stop testing but it takes the high stakes nature away from it."

Today, the education officials advocated for the bill saying that now is not the time to punish students for their performance and kids are not the only ones with a lot to lose. The state tests are also used to evaluate teachers and can determine teacher salaries.

Monday 03/15/2021
CBS 12 News @ 12:00pm
30 Minutes

Substitute Teacher Shortage

Teachers have been asked to stop up more that ever before this school year. They are teaching students through Zoon, while also teaching a classroom and that is not all.

"When a substitute doesn't pick up a job, kids still must be watched, an adult still has to be in the room. So those of us who are working on campus must give up our planning period to cover for those teachers that are out,"

Taking away valuable time teachers need to plan and grade and this problem isn't limited to one district. We reached out to representatives of all the school districts in our area and most of them have a substitute shortage.

Carlos Perez, Chief Human Resource Operator for Martin County Schools, said "When we reach out to subs, a lot of them just won't come in. There's a fear there. The big reason is, a lot of our subs are older. 65 and over. Retired teachers who want to do it, but, again, are in that age range where it's a high risk for them to do that,"

Schools have resorted to teachers stepping in during planning period and even administration taking over classes.

"Our principals have actually gone in and they've taught. Our AP's have gone in and they've taught."

Tuesday 03/23/2021
CBS 12 News @ 10:00pm
30 Minutes

Bright Future Latest

Shaheer Ali and Heesu Seo aren't old enough to vote yet but they have already helped take down a bill in Florida's legislature.

Their organization -Save Bright Futures- helped organize the student after student opposition at a hearing last week. Speaking out against a controversial bill that would only give scholarship money to student's pursuing degrees that were proven to help them get a job. The true grassroots effort worked. Senator Dennis Baxely, the Ocala Republican who wrote the controversial bill backed down and took out the part that tied scholarship money to a potential career. The remainder of the bill is still alive though and Baxley maintains Bright Futures should be more job focused.

"We're not eliminating bright futures. We're transforming it into new pathways"

"Democracy has worked. The students were amazing."

State Senator Tina Polsky, a Democrat, believes the bill still has issues. It still puts the legislature in charge of the Bright Future's budget. Which mean politicians could cut back on how much a student would get for school.

Polsky, "Just imagine as a parent or a student trying to plan for how you're going to pay for your education."

For their part, the "Save our Bright Futures" students say they are not going anywhere and they are committed to opposition this bill, this same, vocal way, at every turn.

HEALTH

DESCRIPTION

DATE/TIME

Friday 01/01/2021
CBS News @ 9:30AM
30 Minutes

Getting Healthy with your Pets

Whether you prefer cats, dogs or other furry friends, pets aren't just animals. They can be family and good for our health. Temma Martin, with Utah's best friend's animal society says if your resolution is to be healthier let your pet be your partner. In exercise and stress relief.

"They get us out moving. We can go out walk with our pet. Run, if we're runners. Take them running. Even cats enjoy going out in a harness or even in a stroller. Just get comfortable, relaxed, breathe deeply, be present in the moment and pet your dog or cat and feel that release of the pressure of our lives these days."

Believe it or not, pets can also help you eat better. Try eating something you can share in moderation. Blueberries, carrots, apple slice, when you have those healthy snacks around you can eat them and your pet can enjoy them as well. Need to get out of the house? Let your pet motivate you to venture out. If the pandemic had made you feel isolated, let your pet help you to be social.

"They're natural icebreakers and a great way to meet like-minded people. You can play frisbee, play catch. Just get out there and stay safe socially distanced and enjoy some outdoor time and talk to some other people as well."

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

Covid-19 Vaccine in Martin County

This is the moment so many seniors have eagerly awaited, an opportunity to get the Covid-19 vaccine and with the demand high and supply low, seniors we spoke to say they feel privileged to be among the first.

"We are making history today. This is the first time that we are rolling out this vaccine", Renay Rouse, Florida Department of Health in Martin County said.

On Monday. The Florida Department of Health in Martin County launched day one of their drive through coronavirus vaccine clinic offering the Moderna Vaccine, by appointment only, to health care providers and seniors 65 and older.

"It's so nice because now we can start to get our lives back to some kind of normalcy. We feel privileged. Yeah"

Health officials say at the time, they only have enough supply to vaccinate about 800 people this week, that's only a fraction of the number of callers who reached out in hopes of securing a dose.

"We've had an overwhelming response. Last week for example at our health department just here Martin County in the course of four days we received about 34,000 phone calls which is incredibly high."

In the meantime, health officials are encouraging the public to be patient. They tell us they will update their website as soon as they know when additional shipments of the vaccine will arrive and at that time, they can begin booking appointments once again. We have their website information as well as a link to their vaccine hotline on CBS 12.com.

Monday 01/18/2021
CBS News @10:00pm
30 Minutes

Patients behind on Vaccine Booster

It is a problem health officials expected with the two dose vaccine. The Florida Department of Health reports 45,000 people are overdue for their second Covid-19 vaccine shot. Health experts say it may be because seniors fear serious side effects like headaches and fever.

Palm Beach County infectious disease specialist Dr Kitonga Kiminyo says Pfizer and Moderna vaccine clinical trials reported volunteers who received their second dose experienced worse side effects than the first shot.

“Some people did report a little more muscle aches and pains within the first 24 to 48 hours after the shot. But nothing sustained nothing consistent that led to changes of their lifestyle”.

The FDA approved Pfizer vaccine requires the booster after 21 days, and 28 days for the Moderna vaccine for it to be 95% effective. Of the 1 million Floridians who have received their first shot, more than 93,000 have come back for their second shot. Dr. Kintonga is urging seniors to not miss out on getting the most protection against the virus.

“The feedback that we’re getting is that most people did very well round of shots. We ask everyone who is getting the vaccine and second doses, to make sure that if they do suffer any serious reactions to report those”.

Wednesday 01/27/2021
CBS 12 News @ 10:00pm
30 Minutes

Problems with Vaccine Sites

Between calling overwhelmed health centers and navigating the online maze to get an appointment, many South Florida seniors are completely fed up. They can’t seem to understand how scheduling appointments to get the vaccine has been far from smooth, like Lake Wirth resident, Stan White, who had no luck today on the Publix website.

“Clicked Florida and Palm Beach County and that’s as far as I can get. I tap onto Palm Beach County and it wouldn’t go any further.”

The frustration grows day by day on social media. Local nurse Katherine Quirk and her fiancé Russ Schwartz launched this Facebook page to ease fears for the most vulnerable hit with technical roadblocks and education them on vaccine supply. Some of the nearly 17,000 members are young people trying to help their grandparents living along. Most are frustrated with the lack of supply.

The same thoughts echoed in a town hall led by the nation’s top infectious disease specialist Dr Anthony Fauci, as he answered similar questions sent by South Floridians. A big topic included vaccinating seniors living in underserved communities.

Fauci said, "We have seen the last couple of days a million per day, but things can get more difficult as we try to vaccinate out into the community because logistically when you're in a hospital or going into a nursing home to vaccinate."

Another major topic and question asked was when are we going to get back to normal? Experts say it will happen in phases, first beginning with getting vaccinated, it just depends on how quickly we can get it and second, the science, how soon will scientists detect the impact of vaccinations?

Friday 2/05/2021
CBS 12 News @ 12:00pm
30 Minutes

Where can you get a Vaccine?

Supermarket chain Winn-Dixie will be offering the Moderna Vaccine for seniors and health care workers statewide starting next Thursday, February 11. A list of stores, or even cities has not been released just yet, but we do know Winn Dixie has received 8100 Moderna Vaccines under President Biden's Federal Retail Pharmacy Program in partnership with the CDC.

Andy Slavitt, Senior Advisor to the White House Covid-19 Response Team said, "We've done is we've been distributing vaccines as quickly as possible and we've increased two periods in a row the amount of vaccines that states are getting." Retail giant Walmart and it's Sam's Club stores will also be rolling out vaccines and those who are eligible will eventually schedule an appointment online once locations become available.

Governor Ron DeSantis' senior first vaccination approach continues with Public Pharmacies and now calls the President's new plans a great thing. However not all Florida stores are taking part in the first distribution of the Biden administration rollout. Both CVS and Walgreens are also on the federal contract, but these pharmacies will not be offering vaccines in the sunshine state for now.

Friday 02/19/2021
CBS 12 News @ 10:00pm
30 Minutes

Fake Grannies

Even though they're not eligible, their plan almost worked. It appears these women also drove a long way to do this, because they most likely live in Boca Raton. A corona virus vaccine is the hottest commodity that is out there right now. It led to two women to play dress up in order to pass as seniors to get the shot. It worked. At least the first time after the women showed up wearing gloves and bonnets.

This new body camera footage shows deputies reprimanding them after they were caught trying to get their second doses at a distribution site in Orlando this week. The Sheriff's Office identifying the woman as 44year old Olga Monroy Ramirez and 34 Marthan Vivian Monroy and issuing a trespassing warning. The county's health department says they were denied due to issues with their I-D card.

Property records show they live in Boca Raton, and in the body cam video, you see they are wearing what appears to be a mask the health department of Palm Beach County mailed to residents. Their neighbor, Noah Rosenthal, understands there is a desperation, but this is too much.

"I do think they deserve some kind of penalty for doing what they did. I mean, how coward could you be to dress up as an old person, or an old grandma, to try to get a vaccine."

The convention center has since increased their security looking out for fraud as this is not the first time someone who is not on the priority list tried to sneak a shot.

Thursday 02/25/2021
CBS 12 News @ 10:00pm
30 Minutes

Covid Vaccine

In Fort Pierce today, Governor DeSantis added to speculation that he may soon open up the vaccine to people 55 and older.

"As soon as we see the demand peter down from the seniors then we obviously want to open it up to be able to get more folks."

But that won't mean much to Erin Ross.

“There are still a large percentage of people 18 to 55 who have multiple comorbidities who still can’t receive the vaccine anywhere.”

She’s in her 30’s with three health conditions. Under an executive order from the Governor, Floridians, like Ross, who are seriously at risk from covid complication can technically get vaccinated, but only in a hospital which are overrun with demands.

“It’s just been really difficult because there’s no one place with information about where to get it.”

On a Facebook page, Katherine Quirk and fiancé Russ Schwartz field vaccination questions, many from people with health problems. They have found most hospitals require a referral from a primary care doctor, but some only vaccinate those with specific conditions. Meanwhile, at mass vaccination sites, the state’s policy is senior’s first. Something infectious disease specialist Dr Leslie Diaz agrees was the right approach, but she is joining doctors now encouraging the state to open up more options for people with health conditions before adding in any other age group.

Monday 3/01/2021
CBS 12 News @ 10:00pm
30 Minutes

Vaccine Expansion

We saw this coming last week, but now, for many, being added to the vaccination plan brings peace of mind. The school district of Palm Beach County has since sent out this letter telling all school employees who are 50 and over this new plan takes effect as early as Wednesday, but this order still leaves room for questions.

Governor Ron DeSantis is rolling back more restrictions. Police, firefighters and teachers age 50 and over are the next group to get the covid-19 vaccine starting on Wednesday. An additional expansion that not only focuses on health care workers, those 65 and older or extremely vulnerable.

Jennifer Gardner is a teacher at BAK Middle School in West Palm Beach. Although it's a blessing to see her students face to face every day, she constantly worries about her family's safety.

"I felt really devalued, but here, I have to go back. More important enough that I have to go back, but not important enough that my safety is assured. That was really upsetting"

Some states are vaccinating all teachers calling them essential workers. The Palm Beach County School District sent this letter out, breaking down the Governor's new order to include all employees like custodians and schools bus drivers, as long as they are over 50 years old.

"There's still plenty of people that I work with that still have to wait."

The new group can visit pharmacies like Publix and other federally supported COVID-19 vaccination sites to schedule an appointment. A reminder that those who aren't in the group but are considered extremely high risk can get a doctor's note.

Another new site is coming in Martin County. The Florida Department of Health will open a vaccination site at the Treasure Coast Square Mall on Federal Highway in Jensen Beach. Another option for Law Enforcement, first responders and educators 50 and older.

Tuesday 03/02/2021
CBS 12 News @ 10:00pm
30 Minutes

CVS/Walgreens keeping your Information

If you get your vaccine at CVS or Walgreens, don't think you're all clear after you get that second dose. A local tech expert says these pharmacies that administer vaccines come with a valuable perk, thanks to the information you share during the vaccine registration process. Millions of people have since created a patient profile to book an appointment online. Sensitive information beyond just an email and a cellphone number are required during the registration process. Tech expert Craig Agranoff says these chains are taking advantage of using vaccinations to boost sales.

"Your foot traffic is invaluable to them. They know if you're going to come and get the vaccine there, more than likely you're going to pick up milk, or something else you need on the way out and therefore they have you there."

But where does your sensitive information go? CVS Health tells CBS 12 News they never share medical records for promotional purposes, but according to the Wall Street Journal, the retailer will keep a patient's email or phone number in an effort to stay in touch with vaccine recipients even after their second shot and use their data for marketing.

“A lot of them are having you sign up to a loyalty program without you even knowing. And then, they can start tracking you in the purchases that you’re making, because every item that you buy in that store is being tracked in that rewards card.”

According to the report, Walgreens automatically collects the information after a visitor signs up, including their real time location and computer IP address and if you are using a company’s app, Agranoff urges consumers to make sure your location setting are off.

“They’re even tracking your purchases and where you are in the aisle with these beacons that communicate via Bluetooth with phone to see where you are, so they can track people’s movements through the stores 3:28 to see where they go and what they’re looking for”

Agranoff advises what he calls a throwaway email to sign up, one that you don’t really use and before sharing your cellphone number, be sure to look at whether it’s optional. It’s not always mandatory.

Wednesday 03/03/2021
CBS 12 News @ 10:00pm
30 Minutes

Vulnerable Patients Impact on Doctors

Dr Monica Walker, a primary care Physician, already has the new department of health forms on hand. She has signed 5 today.

“A signature that says, I know this patient.”

The form requires the doctor and the patient to have a medical relationship, whether that’s for an hour or 30 years. That’s easier said than done for those who may have a serious condition but no primary care doctor and with a new form, comes new confusion. There’s no definition of what a serious condition is.

Governor DeSantis said, “We’re really putting that in the hands of the medical doctors rather than us arbitrarily picking and choosing. Because the fact of the matter is, if we picked certain things, we may leave some out.”

Dr Walker, who is on the board of the T Leroy Jefferson Medical Society and speaks to other local physicians, believes this form is easier on doctors. Meanwhile, Floridians like Erin Ross, with three serious health conditions will still have to seek out where to get a shot. Governor DeSantis said Erin can get a shot from a hospital, advance practice nurses and pharmacies. But with more people eligible, demand is higher than ever.

CRIME

DESCRIPTION

DATE/TIME

Tuesday 01/12/2021
CBS 12 News @ 10:00pm
30 Minutes

Deputy involved Shooting

We are at the Ocean Breeze Plaza, a very busy shopping center. This is where Law Enforcement will stay for a few hours as they check for surveillance video, making sure they don't miss any witness in this deputy involved shooting investigation. Detectives with the Martin County Sheriff's Office were seen collecting evidence and talking to witnesses for hours at a Jensen Beach Plaza. After one of their deputies shot a woman who was armed with a knife late Tuesday afternoon. It was right after 4pm., when Sheriff William Snyder says a 911 call came in from a woman. Later identified as Carrie Ann Demone from Michigan saying she needed help but hung up. About 10 minutes later, an off-duty deputy heading home from work drove over to where the 911 call was made and discovered this black SUV parked inside the Ocean Breeze Plaza along Jensen Beach.

"That vehicle was the subject of a bolo, for a call that had gone out earlier in the afternoon about 2pm. The woman's family called in and said that she was missing, they hadn't seen her for a day and that was possibly endangered."

As more units arrived, things took a turn when the off-duty deputy approached her and he noticed she was trying to take her own life.

"The fact is she was trying to kill herself. Severe lacerations to the wrist. She charges an armed deputy with a knife."

This is the knife Sheriff Snyder says Demone was holding before he says she charged the deputy, forcing him to open fire.

"She's right on top of him. The witness describes that the deputy who did fire leans back like this at the last second and fires at least two rounds."

Deputies are at the hospital where Demone is in surgery. Police say she has an extensive background of mental illness and was recently treated for bipolar disorder. The Sheriff did not identify the deputy, but we are told he is not injured and is on

administrative leave, which is standard protocol to any deputy involved shooting investigating.

Wednesday 01/13/2021
CBS 12 News @ 12:00 PM
30 Minutes

Historic Impeachment

One week after a mob of president trump's supporters made an assault on the u-s capitol, the house of representatives will vote on an impeachment charge against him - incitement of an insurrection.

Representative Jim McGovern from Massachusetts said, "We are debating the prosecution at a crime scene and we wouldn't be here without the President of the United States."

In and around the capitol armed national guard members and law enforcement remain on high alert.

some republicans say this impeachment could cause more division.

"Emotions are clearly running high and political divisions have never been more apparent in my lifetime. We desperately need to seek a path forward - healing for the American people," said Representative Tom Cole from Oklahoma.

But unlike the first time – this afternoon's vote will be bipartisan with a growing group of republicans supporting impeachment.

"Looking at the articles of impeachment and knowing that the president incited an insurrection and now steps out and claims he bears no responsibility, I think in my mind, at least, in my conscious, in what I believe my job is, there's no way I could vote no on this." Said Adam Kinzinger from Illinois.

House Republicans leaders say they will not pressure their members to vote one way or the other. On the senate side, some Republicans have signaled they're open to considering impeachment. The New York Times is reporting Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell is supportive of impeachment proceedings...which could open the door for other GOP senators to follow suit.

Speaker Pelosi has already named the nine impeachment managers who will act as prosecutors during a senate trial. House Democratic leaders say they will send the article of impeachment to the senate immediately.

Monday 01/25/2021
CBS 12 News @ 10:00 PM
30 Minutes

Woman's Body Found

The Medical Examiner found several surgical implants in this woman's body. Detectives have tried to trace them to figure out who she is, but they haven't had any luck, yet. The female's body was found on the side of the road, in this remote area, west of Fort Pierce, in November. The body was approximately 15 feet off the roadway. Authorities say she is between the ages of 40 and 60 years old with partially gray and brown hair, between 5'5" and 5'7" with a small frame, weighing 80 to 100 pounds.

Detectives say she was barefoot and had been decomposing for about a week before she was found by the Saint Lucie Sheriff's Department.

Detectives also say they have some leads, DNA evidence and genealogy information, but they need more. Deputies say they also looked through state and national missing databases. The woman had a small flower on her right forearm, a flower on the top of her right shoulder and a Chinese symbol on her left upper arm.

Tuesday 2/09/2021
CBS 12 News @ 9:00AM
30 Minutes

Florida Water Supply Hack

Investigators are trying to hunt down the person or persons who tried to poison the water supply of a Florida town. It happened just two days before the Super Bowl in a Tampa City about 30 miles away from the Raymond James Stadium. Investigators in Pinellas County say the hacker raised the level of sodium hydroxide in the town's supply to dangerous level. That's the main ingredient in liquid drain cleaner.

Investigators say someone hacked the system Friday morning. At first, the plant operator didn't think anything of it, because his supervisors frequently access the stem remotely. But when it happened again later in the day, the operator noticed the hacker raised the levels of the sodium hydroxide levels to a toxic level. Fortunately, the operator was immediately able to stop it.

Oldsmar officials have since disabled the remote-access system and say other safeguards were in place to prevent the increased chemical from getting into the water. They also warned other city leaders in the region to beware, especially with the Superbowl being hosted in Tampa.

In the meantime, Federal Investigators are not on the case trying to determine who is behind the hack, whether it was someone here in the US or possibly overseas.

Friday 2/19/2021
CBS 12 News at 10:00
30 Minutes

Deadly Road Rage Incident

All lanes, shut down, in the midway sun, on the busiest highway in town and a crime scene that started off as a traffic accident and ended in gunfire.

Two sources tell us the shooter claims he acted in self-defense. After being interviewed by police, he was sent home with no warrant and no charges at this time.

Ian Goldstein, a West Palm Beach Defense Attorney has no connection to this case, however, he says a person can claim self defense if they felt fear of death or severe injury. Under Florida's stand your ground law, if Police brought charges here, they would also have to prove this shooting was deliberate and unnecessary. That's easier said than done.

Tuesday 2/23/2021
CBS 12 News at 9:00am
30 Minutes

Texas Teen Arrested

"Hey man. Are you trying to get home?"

Police bodycam shows the night, one week ago, a 18 year old Rodney Reese was arrested while walking home in Plano, Texas. The crime? Walking in the street after a snowstorm.

"Just 'cause I'm black, that's it. It's 'cause I'm black, I fit a description."

Police say someone called 911 concerned about a black male in a short sleeve shirt stumbling in the brisk wintry conditions. Plano Officers try approaching Reese, just minutes away from his home after working a shift at the nearby Walmart.

"Sir look we just want to talk to you."

"I'm on the way home."

"All right, but you're walking in the middle of the road. all right, I understand that. My bad, I do this literally every night, I'm straight. "

"Ok, you ain't cold or nothing, you got a T-shirt on."

Reese insists he didn't stop because he didn't need their help. Less than two and a half minutes after first making contact, the teenager is placed in handcuffs.

"We're doing an investigation."

"I don't care I'm going home."

"You are officially detained."

"No!"

"Just relax..."

"...please get off me... sorry I didn't mean to."

"Yeah you didn't stop, put your hands behind your back now".

Reese was charged with being a pedestrian in the roadway, a misdemeanor landing him the night in jail. That charge has been dropped. Plano Police Chief Ed Drain supports his officers for checking on Reese but says this should not have ended with an arrest.

"They should've taken him home is where he should've gone."

Chief Drain says officers didn't know Reese's age, where he worked or where he lived at the time of the incident.

Monday 3/08/2021
CBS 12 News at 10:00pm
30 Minutes

Newlywed Dead

A still very active crime scene here tonight after finding a body in a backyard. The arrest report details some bizarre behavior and statements the suspects told investigators from the lying, to even taunting them to find his wife's body here at his home. Crime scene investigators and forensic anthropologists continue to dig for clues in and around this Boynton Beach home for a third day.

Over the weekend, detectives arrested the homeowner 66-year-old Robert Colon for killing his 45-year-old wife Mary Gomez-Mullet and then burying her body in his own backyard. In the report, it says the two recently married as part of a deal that she would gain US citizenship in exchange for taking care of his elderly mother. The relationship soon fell apart.

Police opened a missing person's case on February 20th, when investigators say a friend says she heard Colon attacking his wife before their phone call was

disconnected. Her bloody purse was found a mile away. Colon denied knowing where she was.

Neighbors like Greg Cecere had no idea that Colon was married and described him as a quiet man with a lot of dogs.

"The first few years we lived here, we saw him with about six dogs almost every day walking them. And in the past few years, he had one or two. And we had heard he had buried them in the backyard as well."

Friday, investigators returned to the home to dig and found Mary's body.

"Who is so stupid as to think they can kind a body that easily? Like the police isn't going to figure this out or find it? I don't know what people are thinking when they think they can do something, that is going to be so easy to figure out."

Colon is being held without bond on the murder charge. His next court appearance is scheduled for April 5th. Police have not said how Gomez-Mullet died.

Tuesday 3/23/2021
CBS 12 News at 12:00pm
30 Minutes

Boulder Shooting

The suspect has been identified as Amhad Al Aliwi of Arvada. He has been charged with 10 counts of first-degree murder. At the scene... swat vehicles, hundred of police and at least three medical helicopters responded to the scene, but the first was Boulder Police Officer Eric Talley, one of the ten dead in the attack. Inside the store, Ryan Borowski told our Denver Station KCNC-TV no one knew what was going on.

"I heard one loud bang. I thought somebody just dropped something, an employee or something, and then another. And by the third one. Everybody was running."

He and others escaped through the cargo bay.

"So just at that point, it was just run, get out of there and tell everybody to leave. And that's what we had to do."

Newlyweds Naven and Quinlan Sloan were also inside when they heard the gunshots.

"I pushed open the emergency door. I think we were the first to get out."

He said he helped people exit from the back of the store.

"I was like dang this guy could come out and start shooting these guys. I want to make sure they're as far away as they can be. "

Steven McHugh's son in law and grandchildren were at the store's pharmacy to get a covid vaccine and hid for more than an hour.

"The shooter came in and shot the woman in front of them. They hid, ran, upstairs and were hiding in a coat closet."

Several people who had been sheltering inside the King Soopers were escorted out by officers. With such a large crime scene, it could take days before they are able to fully process the scene.

Monday 3/29/2021
CBS 12 News at 12:00pm
30 Minutes

Yeah Body Found of Missing Woman

Fired Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin surveyed the courtroom as the Judge gave instructions to members of the jury. The 19-year veteran has pleaded not guilty to murder and manslaughter charges in the death of George Floyd. Prosecutors began their opening statements.

“Mr. Derek Chauvin betrayed his badge when he used excessive and unreasonable force upon the body of Mr. George Floyd.” Jerry Blackwell, Special Assistant Attorney General.

Prosecutors wasted no time playing a video of Chauvin arresting Floyd, kneeling on his neck for almost 9 minutes. The video fueled one of the largest protest movements in US history with demonstrators demanding an end to police brutality and systemic racism. The defense is expected to argue the fentanyl found in Floyd’s system along with his underlying health conditions contributed to his death.

As crowds begin to build up outside of the courtroom, there’s also a significant security presence outside of the courthouse itself with fencing and concrete barriers as officials are concerned about unrest either after or during the trial. Before proceedings began, members of Floyd’s family, their attorney and supporters took a knee for the length of time Chauvin’s knee was on Floyd’s neck.

Ben Crump, the Floyd Family Attorney said, “George Floyd was living, breathing and talking just fine, until police put a knee on the back of his neck, so this murder case is not hard when you watch that torture video of George Floyd.”

The trial will be live-streamed with jurors positioned off camera to protect their identities. The panel of 14 includes 8 people who are white, 4 who are black and 2 who identify as multiracial. That could be critical in a case with so much racial significance.

OTHER ISSUES

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

New Year's Eve Celebrations Different This Year

It was a New Year's Eve like no other. Across the globe, muted celebrations marked the end of a devastating year. In New York's Time Square, there were no massive crowds. Instead, the crossroads of the world was closed to the public because of the coronavirus. But as it has since 1907, the legendary Crystal Ball still dropped at the stroke of midnight, ushering in what many people hope will be a far better year.

A special program honored the heroes of 2020.

Nancy Chen, from CBS New York said, "This is the first year since 1904 that crowds have not been allowed to gather in Times Square. Even during World War Two when the ball drop was cancelled for two years, people still came here to hold a moment of silence."

On Bourbon Street, in New Orleans, revelers gathered during the day, but the pandemic was on the minds of many. In Europe, there were fireworks in an empty red square in Moscow and in the hard-hit U.K, London's Big Ben chimed to signify the nation's official split from the European Union.

In Japan, bells rang in 2021 at this Temple in Tokyo, celebrations were quiet. After the city reported more than a thousand new coronavirus cases in one day for the first time. New Zealand was one of the few places where thousands could ring in the New Year together, since the country successfully contained the pandemic and large crowds gathered in Wuhan, China where the virus began its first destructive sweep nearly a year ago.

Monday 01/11/2021
CBS 12 News @ 10:00pm
30 Minutes

Vaccinating the Police Force

When we spoke with the Head of the State's Police Benevolent Association last month, he wasn't happy,

"We're the first ones at the calls, don't we matter? And I'm going to tell you right now we better matter"

John Kazanjian was reacting to an announcement minutes earlier, that Police in Palm Beach County would have to wait a little longer to get the covid vaccine. Now a month later, also a reserve deputy with the Sheriff's Office is sporting a vaccination himself, along with what he estimated are a couple hundred other colleagues. But that isn't happening everywhere. Some Florida counties still haven't opened vaccinations for police officers. Like the rest of the state's rollout. It all depends on where you live.

"They've left it up to the health departments here in the different counties. And they're just doing, ones doing it one-way ones doing the other way, nobodies on the same page." Across the state, counties like Palm Beach are making their own rules, blaming delays on a lack of supply. The more doses roll in, the more they will be able to further vaccination efforts. Meanwhile, Kazanjian warns police across the state are still at risk of daily covid exposure, not just while making arrests, but on medical calls too. He wants Governor DeSantis to make vaccinating law enforcement a priority.

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

Queens Empowerment Classes

Every time Kailey Breyer logs on, she has hopes of changing young live.

"Let's give a big welcome to all the new queens. 3, 2, 1 welcome...."

The 22-year-old created "Kailey's Queens" a community for 9 to 15-year-old girls to meet and connect through events like baking, fitness and crafts.

"When I was that age, boys were calling me names, I wasn't included in groups at school, and I felt I wasn't enough, and now I know I am."

With a degree in engineering, the 22-year-old realized supporting girls is her true calling. She first launched in person events to help kids deal with the pressure of perfection from social media. When the pandemic hit, she went online. A move that opened the events to girls in other countries and more tripled business.

"Talk about body image, self-confidence, self-love, how to speak to yourself, how to treat yourself."

Nine-year-old Brielle Lopez looks forward to the session every week. She's blossomed and has formed friendships at a time when hanging out with friends is nearly impossible.

"We can share what's happening, what's going on all the drama. We can share the world together with our friends."

Building confidence is an important aspect of Kailey's business model, but she's also passionate about inspiring future female entrepreneurs offering a shark tank class where girls can build their business and help others.

"I really hope they can spread the confidence and the positivity they gain here because it's really needed in the world right now".

Lessons in life to inspire, empower and connect the next generation.

Wednesday 2/03/2021
CBS 12 News @ 9:30am
30 Minutes

Cleaning Car of Snow of Hospital Workers

While many people were indoors during the height of the storm, 10-year-old Christian Stone and his mom's friend, Abbey, braved the bitter cold.

"We're brushing cleaning off the snow from the cars or the nurses and stuff."

Monday afternoon, the pair took on the parking lot at hospital.

"So, we probably did 20 there 30 here another 20 before we called it quits."

Removing unwanted snow from the cars of essential employees, so that while they took care of people inside when they were done with their shift, they were also taken care of.

"We want them to be able go home see their family after a long day of work you know?"

Christian came up with this idea after the last snow storm.

"I was just thinking like, they help us a lot. They've been helping us through this whole pandemic, and I figured why don't we help them?"

Abbey agreed to help.

"It sucked I hate the snow. But being out here with him because this is what he's passionate about I did it because he wanted to do it."

While the winds were whipping in westerly, and snow continued to fall, the gesture ever appreciated by dozens of people.

"Some of them say thank you so much and I'm just really happy to see them happy."

Some offered to pay them.

"We said just said we're doing this for you guys cause you're here for us."

"I feel like I actually helped someone out and that's a really good feeling when you know you someone has been helped out."

Wednesday 02/10/2021
CBS 12 News @ 10:00pm
30 Minutes

Stranded on an Island for 33 days

While on a routine patrol Monday, the U.S. Coast Guard rescued two men and one-woman castaway on Anguilla Cay, a deserted island near the Bahamas. The island is small, filled with palm trees, shrubs and rocky grounds. You can't see much, but Pilot Lt Mike Allert says it's what the group made that grabbed their attention.

"That's when we saw the large flags that they have made from driftwood and fabric and a large wooden cross that they have made from driftwood, that was the most visible. We flew right to them after we saw that. As the Coast Guard dropped food, water and a radio to be able to communicate, they also noticed the group build themselves a makeshift shelter.

Lt Allert and his crew eventually hoisted them into the helicopter. It took about 20 minutes.

"They were able to walk, but just barely. They were suffering from a lot of fatigue and dehydration due to being out there for so long. We didn't have blankets for them in the aircraft, but we did have Tyvek suits which helped them keep warmer ...

"What did they say, did you talk to them?"

"They identified themselves as Cuban nationals. They didn't live much further south than where these islands are."

"They were definitely very happy to see us. They were in good spirits."

He says the group lived off of conch and rats for 33 days after their boat capsized in rough waters.

"The conch shells were definitely all over the place."

The lack of freshwater wouldn't killed them. Lt Allert flew them to a medical center in the keys with no serious injuries.

"We are very blessed, I would say, to be able to have the opportunity to do this and help somebody else in this way."

Boarder patrol agents eventually took them into custody, they were transferred here to this facility in Pompano Beach. Lt Allert says it's unclear if they were just fishing and their boat capsized or trying to migrate to another country. What is certain, he says, they are lucky they were found alive.

Monday 2/15/2021
CBS 12 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Parkland, 3 years after Massacre 3

It's a nightmare only those who lived through it can truly understand. For some teachers I talked to this past week, the tragedy has led to some dramatic life changes to escape the daily reminder of the awful events that unfolded here.

"Room 1214 was my happy place. I loved going there every single day."

Ivy Schamis was a teacher at Stoneman Douglas High School for over 20 years.

"My whole life actually turned upside down since February 14th"

On that day, she was teaching the history of the Holocaust. There was about 20 minutes left until the end of the day. Then gunshots erupted in the hallway. The gunmen taking aim directly into her classroom.

"The kids were all over the perimeter of the classroom trying to find places to hide. It was a tiny classroom with a lot of furniture but no place to hide."

She lost two of her students. Four others were injured.

"It wasn't just that my school was hit.... was ambushed by a former student with an AR-15 but my classroom was...my classroom was.... so that was very very traumatic."

Schamis stayed for two years, until the survivors from her class graduated, then she left Stoneman Douglas.

"Although I will always feel like an educator, I don't think that I could be back in the classroom again because of what happened that day."

Even though Ivy is no longer teaching or living in Parkland, she stays in contact with her students. On the evening of the shooting three years ago, they are started a group chat and still have it going today. They say, it's like therapy to them.

Tuesday 3/02/2021
CBS 12 News @ 9:30pm
30 Minutes

Elderly Couple Finds Love during Pandemic

Joy Morrow-Nulton and John Shults are proof that love has no limits.

"I'm looking forward to getting married to my wonderful woman."

The couple is 94 years young and their birthdays are only 12 days apart. In the midst of a tough winter, their love blossomed and the two recently became engaged.

"She's wonderful, cute, smart."

Even more happy news for the couple on Friday when Joy and John said "I do" to receiving their covid-19 vaccine before their happily ever after. This is their second does, and they feel they that they can finally get started on planning.

"It's going to be at the end of March or beginning of April."

Their families breathing a sigh of relief, while still wearing a mask.

"We were just saying like reminiscing on that. It was emotional because we've been so careful around them and just how important it is to get the vaccine and you know what it means to everyone surrounding them as well."

They say they are happy to bring their life together worry free and perhaps a little less socially distant.

"Being able to not be so fearful everywhere we go although we will be careful!"

Mon 3/08/2021

CBS 12 News @ 9:00am

30 Minutes

Credit Score

"Nobody could have ever figured this would happen to all of us..."

Kelly Storms is a single mom of 2. She's been working since she was 19 as a hair dresser and she used to think of herself as successful and happy.

"To go from that to stuck in the house, not able to work, the engine blows on my car, the money is going out. Nothing is coming in, It was terrifying. Absolutely terrifying."

The pandemic is tearing her finances apart and she is not alone.

"It's getting to the point of detriment. When you're really considering gosh do, I have to file for food stamps...Is it possible to dig yourself out of an extremely low credit score?"

Lauren Greutman is a debt free life coach who knows what it's like, she was \$40-grand in debt with a credit score in the dumps.

"From one single mom to another, I got you."

Lauren says to boost that score, get a secured credit card from a bank.

"This is kind of like a secret ninja trick that I teach people..."

Anyone can do this, you pay off the card up front usually a \$200 minimum. Then take just one bill, maybe a Netflix or the water company, set it up for auto pay with the secured card. That way you are building a track record for paying bill on time. A positive credit history which boosts your credit score. Now this idea is more strategic. Take something you own right out, a car or a boat and take out a loan on it. Then use the money to pay off that loan. Yes, you will be paying interest, but rates are pretty low right now and that critical credit score will go up because of the recurring on time payments.

Friday 3/12/2021
CBS 12 News @ 9:30am
30 Minutes

Grammy Preview

It's music's biggest night, but in a way we've not quite seen before. This year's Grammy's will look different because of the coronavirus pandemic, including no live audience and a lot of precautions, still, first time host Trevor Noah promises a show full of surprises and live performances.

"There's going to be stages that are intricately designed to be socially distanced but at the same time engaging with the people. So, it'll feel like you're there at some sort of music festival meets awards show meets special concert just for you at home."

The show will also pay tribute to live music venues that the pandemic has greatly impacted. Employees from shuttered spots like the Troubadour in Los Angeles and the Apollo Theater in New York will present awards for various categories throughout the night. The list of this year's performers is a who's who of music's hottest acts, from Cardi B and BTS to Billie Eilish and Megan thee Stallion. As for who stands to take home the most trophies, it's Beyonce at the head of the pack with 9 nominations, including 2 nominations for record of the year.

Roddy Rich, Taylor Swift and Dua Lipa go into the ceremony with 6 nominations each. This year's nominations aren't without controversy, mostly notably they lack nods for The Weekend, who was shut out entirely.