

QUARTERLY LIST OF COMMUNITY PROBLEMS WITH ILLUSTRATIVE RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING

January 10, 2022

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 **October 1, 2021** through **December 31, 2021**.

**HEALTH
CRIME ISSUES
EDUCATION
OTHER ISSUES**

EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

DATE/TIME

Thursday 10/07/2021
CW34 News @ 12:00pm
30 Minutes

Other Counties Cancel Mask Mandate

Here in Palm Beach County, school leaders are planning on when they'll eventually lift the mask mandate that has them at risk of backlash from the state-but there are milestones that have to happen before all of the masks can come off.

First vaccines must be available for all kids ages 5 to 11.an FDA advisory committee is meeting October 26th to discuss vaccines for kids 5 to 11 years old, which means the shots could be rolling out by Halloween or early November. All covid measurements, like positivity and transmission rates, must be at moderate levels.

Every day the district mandates masks, it risks a punishment from the state for going against their rules, which requires parents be allowed to opt their kids out. Today the State Board of Education will vote on possibly imposing more penalties on Broward and Alachua school districts including new penalties for Palm Beach County.

Superintendents and School Board Members could face sanctions on their salaries.

But the fight isn't over.

Palm Beach County Superintendent Mike Burke will testify in that hearing today and he already has an idea of what he'll bring to the table to let the State Board of Education know their decision was in the best interest of kids.

Friday 10/08/2021
CW34 News @ 12:00pm
30 Minutes

Palm Beach County Board Meeting

The money has been calculated out to equal each school board member's monthly salary. That means Palm Beach County will be fined 26 thousand dollars. But that is not stopping school board members to take a step back. School board chair Frank Barbieri says the mask mandate in local schools will stay because it's their constitutional rights to protect the health and safety of kids...

"It's kind of unfair for the governor to take away our salaries because we are doing the job we were elected to do."

Legally-the state can't control the district's budget-so for now that fine won't be coming from salaries. One Palm Beach County School Official told CBS 12 news plans are being considered to pull the money from federal dollars or the district's savings.

Other districts that are being penalized are Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Duvall, Leon, Miami Dade, and Orange counties.

Three school districts: Indian River, Hillsborough, and Sarasota counties, avoided being punished, by recently changing their school masking policies ahead of Thursday's meeting.

The Biden Administration has said it will pay districts who lose state money for not complying with the mask mandate, but the state says they will withhold that money too.

Still a lot a back and forth-- something we will continue to follow while the district has its mask mandate.

Monday 10/11/2021
CW34 News @ 12:00pm
30 Minutes

Palm beach County Teacher Shortage

Boynton beach high school is just one of the schools in our area dealing with staffing issues. There are hundreds of open positions within the district. A quick search online and so many job listings come up. The Palm Beach Post reports as of last month there were 348 vacancies. That's four times as many openings as last year. A lot of teachers are resigning and retiring. A problem the superintendent told us at the beginning of the school year he knew was coming.

"I see the biggest challenge maybe with staffing. Covid is impacting our ability to keep people in our schools."

The district is working to close the gaps. Next Monday there is a virtual chat for teacher recruitment, along with several other events this month to try to attract teachers to the job.

The Florida Education association the largest teacher's union in the state is also working on several actions to get teachers in the classrooms. They want several things done during next year's legislative session. They are advocating for a raise in pay, a reduction in standardized testing and multiyear contracts for qualified teachers.

Vaccine Sites for Kids

Over the next few weeks, mobile vaccine clinics like this one here will making stops to more than a dozen elementary schools across Palm Beach County. It gives parents the option to come and get their child vaccinated. This morning, it was here at Dr. Mary Mcleod Bethune Elementary School in riviera beach.

Shots were administered between 730 and 11 this morning. Next stop Lake Park Elementary School. The Health Care District at Palm Beach County started to help with the rollout process over the weekend. They said on their first day of vaccinating kids 5-to-11, they gave out more than 100 covid vaccines.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office also stopped by with service dogs for the kids to meet while they got their shots.

Just a reminder: these kids are all receiving the pediatric Pfizer vaccine, which is one-third the strength of the vaccine formulated for people ages 12 and older. If a parent wants to get their child vaccinated today, they will need to sign off on a consent form and be present.

The school locations of where to go each day varies. We've posted a link on our website of the different daily locations to help make it easier for you.

Keep in mind: The Palm Beach County School District is not requiring any student or staff member to get the covid-19 vaccine. They say they're rolling it out this way though-- to make it easier and more accessible to anyone who does want the shot

Other Counties Cancel Mask Mandate

You'll remember we told you Monday schools here in Palm Beach County no longer have a mandatory mask policy.

Now other districts in the area are following suit, which could end a three-month battle between the Governor and our school districts.

With Covid numbers on the decline, the Broward school district just voted to no longer make masks mandatory, just strongly encouraged.

Miami-Dade decided to keep their mask mandate but to allow parents to submit an opt out form.

In the rest of the counties in our area masks are already optional or parents can opt out. In Indian River County, they do have a tier system in place if covid cases were to spike again. So, the last district on the table is Alachua County. You'll remember that was one of the districts along with Broward that was fined for enforcing their mask policies.

They plan to end their mask mandate December 7th, just a couple weeks before kids go for winter break.

Monday 11/22/2021
CW34 News @ 12:00pm
30 Minutes

Palm Beach County School District Equity

"It's not a statement to divide. It's about bringing us together. We want to see everyone successful"

Keith Oswald is the Palm Beach County School District Chief of Equity and Wellness and he acknowledges the rollout of the equity statement in April was a little rocky, thanks to a sentence which referred to "white advantage". After parents objected, that language was removed.

"There's a lot of noise going on around the country right now, and we want to get away from that, when we are talking about equity, we are talking about student achievement."

Oswald says overall student achievement is primarily measured in three ways: Graduation rate, third grade reading levels and enrollment in accelerated programs, like a-p, ace and the international baccalaureate program.

Oswald tells CBS 12 news the county's minority students tend to lag behind white students in those categories.

"We will see there are larger gaps for our black and Hispanic students. So how do we make sure look to see at the schools that are servicing those populations of students and see that if they're behind, that they're succeeding."

Here at John I Leonard High School In Greenacres, you'll find one of the highest Hispanic populations of any school in the county at 2/3rds of the student body.

"It shines a light that there are some inequities."

Principal Jesus Armas has already seen the districts equity program pay dividends. His school has hired six new staff, some whose role is to help kids graduate, others focus on getting students who have fallen behind, get caught up.

Junior Rudy Pancham has seen how it's helped some of his classmates.

"I think it's great, Palm Beach County is very diverse, it's not one race. It's important that everyone is on a level playing field, and that they can make a future for themselves."

The money for these efforts came from covid relief payments. Which were substantial, but temporary funding. I asked if these issues can be addressed before that money runs out.

"I did not say this is a quick fix, let's be clear. We want to shine a light on focus on the resources we do have. To make sure they're used in the most appropriate way."

Matt 12:45 does any of this mean diverting resources away from the most successful students?

Oswald: "absolutely not. I think it's a big misconception - the national conversation is dividing communities. That's not what we are talking about. We are talking about taking existing resources to make all students be successful."

Palm Beach County School District to Receive Money

This is big news here in Palm Beach County as well as for several other districts across the state. The Palm Beach County School District will be repaid about 27 thousand dollars from the state department of education.

Alachua county getting 194,000 dollars back.

Broward reportedly reimbursed more than 500,000 dollars.

This all comes after a heated mask debate at the beginning of the school year when cases were up and some schools had to close their doors for days. The Governor said mask mandates wouldn't be allowed but eight districts defied his order. A move The Palm Beach County School Board Chair says he stands by.

"We needed to do something to protect the children and the staff in our schools. I would hope and think that the state just wants public education to get on with educating our children and let's stop the political nonsense".

The Governor said it was never political to fine the districts, they just didn't have any other options. The State Board of Education says they always planned on giving the money back once districts loosened their mask rules, which they all did once covid cases declined.

But there was also some federal pressure. The Federal Government saying state officials didn't have the power to hold back the money.

Governor DeSantis "Woke Act" Follow Up

"No taxpayer dollars should be used to teach our kids to hate our country or to hate each other".

Echoing the same sentiments that led to a republican victory in Virginia's governor's race, DeSantis announced plans to further crack down on critical race theory in Florida grade schools. The State Department of Education has already banned teaching critical race theory, or the idea that racism is baked into American law and society, but the governor wants that rule made state law.

Enforcement would be driven by complaints, giving parents a voice and the ability to sue districts who violate those rules. Democrat state senator Shevrin Jones, who sits on the legislature's education committee, worries the threat of lawsuits could create a chilling effect in the classroom.

"Does that mean we can't teach children about what it meant during the civil rights movement to talk about racist policies? I just believe it's a very slippery slope."

The 'Stop Woke Act' could also penalize schools for conducting diversity training. For instance, withholding funding if schools have paid a diversity consultant. The governor has even suggested

cracking down on equity programs like the one put forward by the Palm Beach County school district earlier this year, the goal of which is to repair the damage caused by racial inequality.

In Florida's republican-controlled legislature, the 'Stop Woke Act' already has several supporters, before it's fully written including representative Randy Fine.

"I think there is going to be a lot of unhappy bureaucrats, a lot of unhappy left-wing school board members."

Monday 12/27/2021
CW34 News @ 09:00am
30 Minutes

Hometown Hero

"When Ms. E told us we were gonna get these instruments, I was really excited and the day I saw the flute I was like oh my god I want that and it turned out to be mine and I was really excited"

Jeilyn Sevilla is a sophomore at Lake Worth Community High School and like many other students here in the band room playing on a new instrument is an opportunity she wouldn't otherwise have without the palm beach symphony's instrument donation program.

"My parents I asked them if they would buy me a professional flute and they were like we don't have the money right now"

Twelfth grader Serena Delva also proudly plays on a donated clarinet.

"I've always wanted a new clarinet because the old one I had was years old and had some repairs that need to be done and it's kind of expensive to get repairs now a days so I got this one donated and I was just excited you know to play a new one"

The symphony collects both funds and used instruments to donate to local music programs as well as individual students in need.

Olga Vazquez is The Director of Education and Orchestra Operations for the symphony. She says since that first donation seven years ago, the organization has refurbished *hundreds of instruments to give to deserving students.

For Lake Worth High's Band Director, Dr. Tiffany Cox, the best part is being able to watch her students play on instruments that work year after year.

"When instruments are donated to school band programs they're not just used by one student one time they're used by on student for that year and then cleaned professionally and then given to another student the next year and these instruments are maintained over time and generations of students get to use them so the impact of these instruments that are donated will be felt for years to come"

HEALTH

DESCRIPTION

DATE/TIME

Wednesday 10/13/2021
CW34 News @ 12:00pm
30 Minutes

Aspirin Guidance

After years of recommending Low-Dose Aspirin to prevent a heart attack and stroke, the US Preventative Services Task Force has changed course, Dr. John Wong of the Task Force says, "Based on the latest evidence, we now recommend that people 60 years and older should not start to take aspirin because the harms cancel out the benefits." Dr. Wong and his colleagues say those harms could include internal bleeding that can be fatal, Also, they recommend not to start taking the drug if you are 60 or above and have no history of those conditions, However, that recommendation does not apply to those who have had a heart attack or stroke and are taking daily aspirin. For adults in their 40s or 50s, who are at a higher risk for cardiovascular disease but with no history of the disease, the panel recommends taking aspirin only by doctor advice.

Low dose aspirin is commonly used as a pain reliever, but it is also a blood thinner which could prevent heart attacks as it reduces blood clots. The about face could affect the daily lives of millions. Doctors with the National Institute of Health estimate 29 million people who do not have heart disease are taking aspirin every day for prevention and of those, almost 7 million do so without a medical recommendation.

Dr. John Wong, U.S. Preventative Task Force says, "We're asking patients who are concerned about having a stroke or heart attack to have a conversation with their trusted clinician."

Booster Shots

It's a big day for boosters. The CDC's Advisory Committee on immunization practices, today, will begin a two-day meeting to discuss whether or not to recommend the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson covid booster shots.

As soon as today, the FDA is expected to authorize mixing and matching of different boosters which research suggests could provide better immunity in many cases. All this, as a new study is out showing the vaccine is even more effective against hospitalization for kids than it is for adults. For kids, the shots are 93% effective against hospitalization. For adults who are not immunocompromised it's 88% effective.

Doctors are thrilled but there's still resistance in pockets of the country from people hesitant to get their shots.

Individuals, like this firefighter in Washington State are among a wave of first responders in cities around the country choosing to lose their jobs, rather than get the jabs and groups, including these parent protesters in California, are pushing back against standing or upcoming vaccine mandates in their states.

A little more than 65-percent of eligible Americans are fully vaccinated.

Halloween Safety

Six-year-old Talia Cheng can't wait for Halloween.

"I'm most looking for lots of skittles and chocolate."

But she knows, her peacock costume will have a very important accessory.

"Our daughter will still wear a mask when she's trick or treating and we will as well."

Health Officials say it's safe for children to enjoy Halloween this year, if simple covid precautions are in place. Dr. Mercedes Carnethon with Northwestern Medicine says everyone should mask up, especially if you welcome trick or treaters at the door.

"There's no way to predict the density of children who are going to come together, and there's no way to know which households they're approaching, whether or not those adults are vaccinated or unvaccinated."

We know the virus is more likely to spread inside, so experts say it's best to say boo to indoor Halloween parties and celebrate *outdoors*, especially with younger kids that can't be fully vaccinated by the holiday.

"It is not safe to hold an indoor party with a large number of children unmasked. I think not offering food and drink indoors is critically important to keep any type of an indoor gathering safe."

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends limiting trick or treating to small groups, waiting your turn to avoid large clusters while trick or treating and practicing good hand hygiene.

Friday 11/05/2021
CW34 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Covid Latest

Kids at this Massachusetts vaccine clinic were greeted with giant stuffed animals and toys. It's all meant to help kids like 5-year-old Lana feel safe. She made it through without crying, but many parents are shedding tears of relief as their children finally get some protection against covid.

"I'm sorry if I'm a little emotional, I just wanted him to be safe."

While some parents are choosing to wait, demand for Pfizer's pediatric vaccine is high. At this Marin County, California middle school, they're expecting more than 1,000 kids on the first day alone. This comes as some western states are still seeing high numbers of covid case including Colorado.

"We do have less than 100 ICU beds open."

NFL star quarterback Aaron Rodgers who recently tested positive for covid lost a sponsorship with a healthcare company after comments he made about the vaccine. Originally Rodgers said he was immunized but it was later revealed he received "alternative" treatments and refuses to get the shot due to an allergy - and over an unfounded fear it could cause infertility.

Some potentially encouraging news about covid treatments, Pfizer says its new antiviral pill cut death and hospitalization rates by 90%. The company says it will ask the FDA to authorize the medication.

Friday 11/19/2021
CW34 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Vaccinated Thanksgiving

Danica brown was looking forward to getting together with her entire extended family for Thanksgiving, but then she found out to get an invite she had to get the covid-19 vaccine.

A recent poll of more than two-thousand people, including more than 1400 who are vaccinated, shows half are hesitant to spend the holidays with unvaccinated family and friends.

Dr. William Hanage with Harvard T.H. Chan school of Public Health puts vaccination at the top of that list.

"If you're not vaccinated or if you're around people who aren't for whatever reason. You can reduce risk by things like using rapid tests. People can take a rapid test before coming to the thanksgiving meal."

Gather outdoors if possible. If you're indoors, open the windows if weather allows and consider getting a HEPA air purifier. Dr. Hanage says it's important to remember the risk is not the same for everyone.

"If you're going to a thanksgiving party with older, vulnerable relatives, I do encourage you to make sure they get vaccinated to try and avoid becoming infected in the run up and to take a rapid test before you get in there, because that will help ensure that you do not transmit the virus to people who can suffer severe disease, even those who are vaccinated."

Danica decided to get the shot. She's thankful to be spending the day with family this year

Monday 11/29/2021
CW34 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Biden's Covid Response Team

President Biden spent the morning huddled with his covid response team discussing the newly discovered omicron variant.

"The things that we don't know right now is whether the people who do get infected have a severer form of the disease or whether it's a light disease or somewhat the same as delta."

Today is the first day of travel restrictions in the united states keeping non u-s citizens from entering the country from South Africa and seven other nations but the variant has spread well beyond Southern Africa reaching at least 14 countries including our neighbor to the north - Canada.

The administration's top health officials spent thanksgiving weekend coordinating with South African scientists to learn just how dangerous the new variant may be.

Omicron contains more than 30 mutations to its spike protein, prompting concerns from some it could be vaccine resistant. Vaccine manufacturers say it will take about two weeks to learn whether their drugs work against omicron. Despite that health officials say now is the time to get vaccinated or boosted.

Thursday 12/02/2021
CW34 News @ 12:00pm
30 Minutes

Biden's Response to Omicron Variant

With the Omicron variant now here President Biden is pulling out all the stops to contain it.

"We will fight this variant with science and speed, not chaos and confusion."

Beginning next week, the Biden Administration will require all international air travelers to get tested within one day of departure to the U.S., instead of three. The administration will also extend mask mandates on public transportation through mid-March, launch family vaccination clinics and require health insurers to cover 100-percent of the cost of at-home covid tests.

150-million Americans have private insurance. Companies now must cover the cost of that home testing. Part of the new white house strategy also involves a winter push to convince about 100-million eligible Americans to get booster shots, through walk-in appointments at pharmacies nationwide.

The person with the first confirmed case of the omicron variant in the U.S., a traveler who recently returned to the country from South Africa, was vaccinated but was not yet eligible to get a booster shot.

After first being identified in South Africa last week the strain has now been detected in more than 25 countries.

Wednesday 12/29/2021

CW34 News @ 9:00am

30 Minutes

Covid-19 Latest

Like so many Americans, Kathy from Utah found she was drinking more during the pandemic, so earlier this year, the wife and mother of two decided to make a change.

"I would notice it and not feel good the next day. And I take care of so many other parts of my life and my body and I'm like, why am i not doing this too?"

In January, she started using an app from the startup Sunnyside logging and reflecting on how she uses alcohol.

"I still want to be able to enjoy my limit of wine, and I'm kind of learning what that is."

Women have seen the highest spikes in pandemic drinking, reporting a 41-percent increase in heavy drinking episodes and Sunnyside CEO Nick Allen says women make up 70% of their users.

"Mothers, especially around, you know, the challenges of dealing with kids and work and household."

It's one of several alcohol-reduction apps aimed at women's wellness. In an Instagram ad, this app promises better skin by drinking less. The goal is not necessarily sobriety but mindful drinking, something doctors say can be beneficial.

Dr. Collin Reiff says cutting back can have real health benefits improving sleep and heart health and apps can be a good first step.

CRIME

DESCRIPTION

DATE

Thursday 10/18/2021
CW34 News at 12:00pm
30 Minutes

Police Involved Shooting

We're also learning new details about a shooting involving west palm beach police from over the weekend. It happened around 2 yesterday morning on sunset road. Just down the street from belvedere elementary school.

Police say they were called to the area for a suspicious man doing drugs. When they arrived the suspect, "Allan Robb" was allegedly armed with a knife.

Officers say they tried to take him down with less lethal weapons, but when that didn't work, and they shot him. All the officers involved are now on administrative leave, which is standard protocol.

Thursday 10/27/2021
CW34 News at 9:00am
30 Minutes

Baldwin Brief

The Santa Fe District Attorney says criminal charges are still on the table as they continue to collect information.

"We're also learning more about what reportedly happened before the deadly shooting."

According to "the wrap," some crew members took guns used on set out into the desert and used them with live rounds to shoot at targets. That report also says one of those guns was the one that killed Hutchins. The target practice allegedly happened earlier in the day before the shooting. according to police documents, the gun Baldwin fired was one of three set aside by Armorer Hannah Gutierrez and picked up by Assistant Director David Halls.

Halls allegedly shouted "cold gun" meaning it had no rounds inside then handed it to Baldwin on set.

"We know which gun he fired, but we still don't know if it was a ballistic round or a blank inside, and we don't know why it was declared "cold."

We do know from a police affidavit that plenty of ammunition was found on set some kept loose and in a fanny pack but what type remains unclear.

"We'll be asking questions at a press conference being held here at the sheriff's department where we expect to learn more about this active and ongoing investigation."

Thursday 10/28/2021
CW34 News at 9:00am
30 Minutes

Facebook and Sex Trafficking

Attorney General Ashley Moody has been an outspoken advocate against human trafficking.

Now she's joining two-dozen other state attorney generals in a lawsuit that alleges Facebook has helped to promote and even profit from the exploitation of these victims.

Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody wants to hold Facebook accountable. She's filed a legal brief along with other state attorneys general that sides with victims who say Facebook should be held liable for providing an avenue to predators who solicit and even groom minors who fall victim to sex trafficking.

Moody and other states filed their challenges with the U.S. Supreme court arguing the Texas court ruling improperly preempts state law and denies compensation to trafficking victims. The case recently hit a roadblock when the Texas supreme court ruled the big tech company had immunity under the federal communications decency act.

Director Nicole Bishop of Palm Beach County Victim Services leads the county's human trafficking task force with the sheriff's office.

Especially when it comes to teens it's a huge problem. She says there's about 250-thousand youths nationwide are trafficked each year. She calls social media the prime hunting ground for traffickers who often target teens, and the victims don't even realize it.

This week – CNN reported for years Facebook has struggled to crack down on human traffickers using its platform – even to this day, according to leaked documents. This issue got so bad, that in 2019, apple threatened to pull Facebook and Instagram from the app store.

This is a fight that's far from over and it's not just sex trafficking. The county's task force focus right now is on labor trafficking in the glades.

Bishop says there are dozens of migrant workers and undocumented individuals who are prime people to be trafficked. They plan to launch a public awareness campaign in the near future.

Car Plows into Christmas Parade

A holiday celebration in Waukesha, Wisconsin took a tragic turn Sunday when an SUV plowed through a parade.

"It was just absolute chaos, people screaming, and I immediately ran downstairs outside of my apartment and I could see kids, just lying on the street, people putting blankets over them."

More than 40 people were hurt, including some children. Several cameras recorded the vehicle as it sped west down the parade route on main street.

Witness Angela O'Boyle said the vehicle didn't stop, even after hitting marchers or spectators in different locations.

"It kept going all the way down the block to People's Park, the stop light, and continued straight through it."

Police recovered the SUV a short time later and took its suspected driver into custody. The man is being described as a "person of interest" in the incident.

A law enforcement official familiar with the early findings of the investigation told CBS News the driver may have been fleeing from the scene of another crime.

Nik Cruz Hearing

These pre-trial hearings are crucial for a number of reasons. It gives attorneys from both sides a chance to iron out details *before* the upcoming sentencing trial and a big part of that means sorting through the evidence figuring out what the jury will or will not- be able to see and hear during the penalty phase.

Defense attorneys for Cruz have already filed a long list of motions, pushing to exclude certain pieces of evidence- like personal items found during at least three search warrants. One is related to Cruz's cell phone. The other two warrants were executed at homes where he once lived: one in Lantana, the other in Pompano Beach.

At a hearing earlier this month: attorneys went back and forth on what to call one of the classrooms turned crime scene. The defense didn't want it referred to as "the holocaust room" which is what students previously called it because that's where the holocaust course was taught. Defense Attorneys argued calling it by that name was inflammatory and could sway jurors to associate Cruz with Hitler and his actions. But the state argued the term was simply what students called that particular classroom it was a factual reference. The judge agreed with the state.

But it will be a while before jury selection in the trial's penalty phase that will begin in January. because of its notoriety, we can expect thousands of prospective jurors to be screened.

Wednesday 12/01/2021

CW34 News at 9:00am

30 Minutes

Local Drink Spike Solution

As the holiday nears and social gatherings, parties, and celebrations revive, former Oxbridge Academy students Shirah and Michael Benarde of West Palm Beach believe they have a solution that's portable for all students to help keep them safe during a night out.

"This is a global issue and we're doing our best to make it accessible for everyone."

This week they're launching this keychain, where hidden inside, is a drink cover that fits over most cups to prevent dangerous substances from being dropped or slipped into a user's drink. It's a new gadget after the success of their original product "night cap". The same idea: a cap that fits over a drink, like a little sock, it has room for a straw, yet this one can be worn like a scrunchie.

"Not everyone wants to wear a scrunchie, so this provides them an alternative some people may just end up liking it better. We're thrilled to launch this."

While there are no hard numbers on how often spiking happens, the crime can take place anywhere, a nightclub, college campus, or a neighborhood party.

Drugs like ketamine and rohypnol, or roofies, are slipped into someone's drink leaving them vulnerable to an assault. Shirah was just 16 years old when she heard about the threat and wanted to find a solution. Fast forward and the young entrepreneurs have sold more than 200,000 of these nightcap products across America and in more than 20 countries.

While they urge everyone to buy their own beverages and never keep their drinks unattended, they hope their new keychain now for both men and women, it will not only make the drinks more difficult to spike but send a powerful message of awareness.

Monday 12/29/2021

CW34 News at 12:00pm

30 Minutes

Smash and Grab

It has happened again here at only 'Authentics', a high-end bag store on Palm Beach along Worth Avenue. This most recent smash and grab happening on Christmas Eve. In both smash and grabs, about a million and a half dollars in bags taken, 20 in all, all part of a national growing problem.

In just a matter of minutes, someone can smash their way in and take the exclusive Hermes bags. The bags taken, each worth tens of thousands of dollars, are so unique that they're only sold to long time Hermes customers. The owner didn't want to show his face because he's worried for his safety.

"It's almost like we're on the wild, wild west again here."

There is exclusive video of each break in. After the first one, they put tint on the windows, and added a film to make it harder to break through. It made no difference on the second go round Christmas Eve, but you can see the face of whoever did this.

"We as citizens living on Palm Beach Island especially, we almost live in a bubble. We do. It's very sad and now it's come to the home front and your own home what's going on elsewhere."

From San Francisco, to Chicago, to Los Angeles, it's been one smash and grab after another. These are folks who make up the bulk of our jail population, they're not good at crime. George Kirkham, a former cop himself, is a criminologist at Florida State University. High end stores, from Beverly Hills to here on Palm Beach, make for ideal targets: burglars can get the most value in the littlest amount of time, as reckless as they are.

Ineptitude is the word of the day. They look for soft targets, easy opportunities, quick in and quick out, there's not much in the way of casing or you're going to do this, there's not much planning. Major national retailers wrote this letter recently to Congress, asking to help slow break-ins like these. They want more transparency from people selling bags online, so criminals can't hide details like where they got the bag in the first place. Kirkham says to deter thefts like this, businesses need to hire an off-duty police officer. A crime of opportunity wouldn't seem so opportunistic.

Back on Palm Beach, the owner is hoping he isn't hit again.

"I think there should be stiffer penalties for these types of crimes, I don't think people should be allowed to be out on bail as quickly as they are because I am certainly not a millionaire, that's for sure and I really can't take another hit like this, but it will put me completely out of business."

The owner here says business has suffered since the smash and grabs and he's hired an armed security guard, a former police officer to be on site in case it happens again.

OTHER ISSUES

Friday 10/04/2021
CW34 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Shark Attack

This morning the beach is expected to be back open, less than 24 hours after a man standing in knee deep water was attacked by a shark. According to first responders-- Jensen Beach was closed earlier in the day after a shark was spotted in the water.

People eventually could go back in and hours later around lunch time the attack happened.

The beach closed for the rest of the day. Lifeguards say people need to be extra careful because they've seen an uptick in shark attacks recently.

The TC Palm reports this is the sixth shark attack on the treasure coast so far this year.

We know the victim was taken to the hospital-- but his condition is unknown at this time. Again, the beach here-- expected to open back up today to swimming.

Friday 10/08/2021
CW34 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Airline Vaccination Mandate

Turbulence could soon hit airline flights, as some pilot unions resist vaccine mandates and risk losing their jobs. The union representing American Airlines warned staffing shortages could start as the holiday travel season begins. The largest Pilots Association and most major carriers confirm they will follow President Biden's executive order requiring airline workers get the shots.

United says hundreds of vaccine holdouts changed course in just the last week. One airline, however, is flying a different route. Delta boss Ed Bastian says he is undecided on the mandate, and points to a \$200-per month surcharge for unvaccinated staff, putting their compliance rate at 85 percent.

There is also a new push for all airline passengers to be vaccinated after a bill was introduced in congress, but the carriers have consistently resisted going that far.

Meanwhile it's already happening north of the border, Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announcing by the end of this month you must have at least one vaccine dose to fly in Canada.

Friday 10/21/2021
CW34 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Project Thanksgiving

It's as simple as donating online, through text, or sending a check to the united way or even buying food off a virtual shopping list and dropping it off here at the food bank. and all of this is to make sure everyone can enjoy thanksgiving after almost 2 years of uncertainty due to the pandemic.

It was no secret last year that thousands of families were struggling from furloughs and unemployment because of the coronavirus.

and while the vaccine is now out, and jobs are available-food insecurity remains a problem in palm beach county many families in the county are struggling to pay for food and other necessities.

That's why CBS 12 news, the United Way, and the good bank team up this time of year: to make sure celebrating thanksgiving is something these families don't have to worry about.

For 31 years-project thanksgiving has been giving families a box of food-along with a gift card.

Thursday 11/02/2021
CW34 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

End of Nesting Season

An estimated one-million hatchlings made their way to the ocean in Juno beach and Jupiter this year. Experts predicted they'd see about 18-thousand sea turtle nests in this densely nested area but instead the season ended with a little more than 15-thousand nests.

"It was a good year; we never know what to expect. We never know when the turtles are going to come back and when our record years are going to happen again.>

Although this year there were fewer turtle nests... Experts say they are not concerned unless they see a declining trend year in a row.

To keep sea turtles safe, experts recommend reducing the use of single-use plastics such as forks, spoons, straws, and plastic grocery bags

Thursday 11/09/2021
CW34 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Tik Tok Safety Lessons

This Tiktok video may very well have saved the life of a 16-year-old girl. The clip, popularized on Tiktok, demonstrates a hand gesture you can use to silently signal domestic abuse. The hand signal was created as part of a social media campaign by the Canadian Women's Foundation last year. The organization tells CBS12 News that nonverbal cues can be a powerful cry for help if people are trained to recognize them. In this case, the distress signal saved the day when another motorist saw the girl repeating the gesture through the car window and recognized it from Tiktok.

That motorist called 911 and troopers were able to stop the vehicle, arrest her 61-year-old captor and get the girl back to her family, but experts warn, not every story like this has a happy ending and the best way to protect victims in distress is to know the signs of violence and abuse.

Tuesday 12/20/2021
CW34 News @ 9:00am
30 Minutes

Weather in Review

Weather in 2021 showed up in superlatives across the country: from the hottest to the coldest to the wettest and the driest and one of the busiest hurricane seasons on record. Twenty-one named storms, including seven hurricanes. Back-to-back storms, Henri and Ida slammed the Northeast and shattered all time rainfall records.

That same week, a staggering amount of rain in Tennessee, unrelated to the hurricane, triggered flash flooding that killed at least 21 people. A one-two- punch just days later another hurricane came to do even more damage. Ida slammed into the Louisiana coast as a strong category 4 with 150 mile-per-hour winds.

Ida was just getting started.... moving inland dumping too much rain too fast, more than half a foot of rain fell in just hours... and causing massive flooding.

In New York, subway stations turned into waterfalls, streets into rivers and highways turned into swamped parking lots. The flooding killed at least 60 people across a handful of states, many drowned in basement apartments.

Losses from Ida topped 70-billion dollars.

While the East had too much water, the West had too little. A summer of record-breaking, triple-digit heat and severe drought fueled more than a hundred large wildfires with smoke so intense that winds pushed it as far away as New York. In California alone, wildfires scorched more than two-point-five million acres from January through November, straining firefighters. Workers at Lake Tahoe's Heavenly Ski Resort resorted to using snow blowers to wet the area hoping to fend off flames.

Temperatures also went to extremes: Much of the U.S. shivered through the coldest February in more than 3 decades. The polar vortex brought historically cold weather to states unaccustomed to low temperatures. In Texas, dozens of people died because of the extreme cold, snow, and ice.

Months later, the hottest summer on record tied with the dust bowl in 1936 and just days before the year ended a rare and devastating December storm.

An outbreak of more than 50 tornadoes tore a path of destruction across eight states killing dozens of people and leaving entire towns in ruins and the town the Mayfield, Kentucky.... gone. A candle factory there was completely levelled killing 8 workers.

In Edwardsville, Illinois, an Amazon warehouse collapse killing at least six workers.

One twister stayed on the ground for more than 120 miles was mile wide and packed wind speeds up to 190 miles per hour. The drastic U.S. weather patterns mirrored around the globe prompting this from the United Nations' Secretary General. A harsh warning ---about increasingly harsh weather.

Tuesday 12/29/2021
CW34 News @ 9:30am
30 Minutes

Reduce Pandemic Drinking

Like so many Americans, Kathy from Utah found she was drinking more during the pandemic. so earlier this year, the wife and mother of two decided to make a change.

'I would notice it and not feel good the next day. And I take care of so many other parts of my life and my body and I'm like, why am I not doing this too?

in January, she started using an app from the startup Sunnyside logging and reflecting on how she uses alcohol.

"I still want to be able to enjoy my limit of wine, and I'm kind of learning what that is."

women have seen the highest spikes in pandemic drinking, reporting a 41-percent increase in heavy drinking episodes and Sunnyside CEO Nick Allen says women make up 70% of their users.

it's one of several alcohol-reduction apps... Aimed at women's wellness. In an Instagram ad, this app promises better skin... By drinking less. The goal is not necessarily sobriety... but mindful drinking, something doctors say *can* be beneficial.

Dr. Collin Reiff says cutting back can have real health benefits -- improving sleep and heart health. And apps can be a good first step.