

Quarterly Issues/Programs List
“Morning Edition and All Things Considered”
(October, November, December 2013)

General

10/8 BUS DRIVERS UNION Live 2 way: Sacha talks with a representative of the union for Boston school bus drivers about union efforts to get members, who refused to work today, back behind the wheel. The union says the job action should not have happened.

10/8 DRIVERS STRIKE LATEST/Lepiarz: Jack updates Sacha on the impact of the school bus drivers' job action and uncertainty about whether buses will be back on the roads tomorrow.

10/9 BPS BUSES/Lepiarz live debrief: [7:40 AM LIVE FIELD DEBRIEF] [check headline holds for morn] School buses remain idle in Boston this morning, as a labor dispute remains unresolved. We'll have the latest developments.

10/9 SCHOOL BUS DRIVER/Khalid-- LIVE DEBRIEF on lingering questions about whether School Buses in Boston will be back on the Road

10/10 SCHOOL BUS LATEST/Lepiarz: [IN FIELD BY 5 AM. PREPARED TO REPORT FOR NEWSCAST & SHOW DEBRIEF, DEPENDING ON DEVPTS.]

10/10 SCHOOL BUS UPDATE/Lepiarz: The latest on labor tensions among bus drivers.

10/10 SJC PHONE WARRANTS

10/14 BEN FRANKLIN'S SISTER/Ashlock: On Columbus Day, we explore the uncelebrated life of Jane Franklin...sister of Founding Father, Benjamin Franklin:

10/15 MEMORIAL TATTOOS/Rosendorff: Six months after the Boston Marathon bombings...we bring you the story of how some people are getting tattoos...literally marking the events of April 15th:

10/18 JFK LAST TRIP HOME/Brown: Remembering JFK's last visit home to Massachusetts. ELE-CAPEKEN: [he loved coming to the cape. he loved Hayannisport. this was the place he was constantly drawn to. :06]

10/21 CARS-AUTISM/Karen Brown: We visit the state's first automotive school for kids with autism. It's the brainchild of a mechanic who knows first-hand what it's like to struggle in mainstream schools:

10/21 COGNOSCENTI-AUTISM/Senator: ...And, in our Cognoscenti segment today...one mother shares what she's learned from her autistic son.

10/22 ONE FUND AWARD 2-way/Pfeiffer: ATC-T22A

Sacha speaks with Mike Sheehan, chairman of the advertising agency Hill Holliday, about the behind-the-scenes effort to launch the One Fund in less than one day. He'll receive an award on behalf of the group tonight.

10/25 DANVERS COMMUNITY REACTION/Khalid: After the murder of a Danvers teacher, the community comes together...as people try to grapple with the tragedy:

11/1 NOVEMBER, 1963: KENNEDY'S MASSACHUSETTS/Gellerman: Today, we launch our series on John F Kennedy, called November, 1963. This morning: how he always identified himself as a "son of Massachusetts:"

11/5 MATTAPAN THREE-WAY/Oakes: We meet two former criminals who are now working as so-called "Violence Interrupters" in Mattapan...helping young people make wiser choices:

11/6 NOVEMBER, 1963: INAUGURAL ADDRESS/Horan: In our series marking the assassination of President Kennedy 50 years ago this month...today, we listen back to his inaugural speech. JFK delivered a Cold War message to a nation under nuclear threat:

11/12 BULGER E-BOOK AND SENTENCING/Boeri 2-way: Sentencing for James "Whitey" Bulger this week. We'll preview the hearing with WBUR's David Boeri, who is releasing an e-book today about the convicted murderer's trial.

11/13 BULGER HEARING/Boeri debrief: Whitey Bulger refuses to make a statement in court or take any other action to win any leniency before sentencing tomorrow. Victims families delivered emotional impact statements with a wide range of messages.

11/14 BULGER YESTERDAY/Boeri: Sentencing for James 'Whitey' Bulger today...after relatives of his murder victims yesterday confronted him in court:

11/14 JFK CAMELOT CULTURE/2-way: In our series remembering J-F-K, today we explore the "Camelot" mystique:

11/14 BULGER SENTENCING ***LIVE*** DEBRIEF/Khalid
Deb speaks ***LIVE*** with Asma Khalid about today's sentencing of James "Whitey" Bulger to two life terms.

11/15 BULGER SENTENCING/Boeri: Two life sentences, plus five years, for Boston's most notorious racketeer and murderer:

11/15 TSARNAEV CASE/Stern 2-way: [7:15 AM PHONE 2-WAY] We speak about the sentencing process for Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev...with Don Stern, a former U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts.

11/15 NOVEMBER, 1963: KENNEDY AND WOMEN/Becker: In our series remembering J-F-K, today we meet the women behind the scenes of his White House administration:

11/15 KENNEDY & WOMEN/Becker: Deb Becker feature documenting the role of women in John F. Kennedy's White House, as part of our special series "November 1963" marking JFK's death.

11/18 NOVEMBER, 1963: PEACE SPEECH/Horan: As part of our series remembering J-F-K., today we listen back to his "Peace Speech" at the height of the Cold War:

11/18 COGNOSCENTI: KENNEDY & BEATLES/Howes: In this week's Cognoscenti commentary, Molly Howes reflects on her childhood memories of President Kennedy's assassination...and, several months later, the Beatles' arrival in America.

11/19 NOVEMBER, 1963: PEACE SPEECH/Horan: As part of our series remembering J-F-K., today we listen back to his "Peace Speech" at the height of the Cold War:

11/20 NOVEMBER, 1963/JFK6-Civil Rights: As part of our series looking back at the Kennedy administration, which ended fifty years ago this month with the assassination of JFK, we listen back to the speech he gave on his last trip to Massachusetts about the importance of the arts in the life of a great nation.

11/21 NOVEMBER 1963: DICTAPHONE/Horan: TODAY, IN OUR "NOVEMBER, 1963" SERIES, LOOKING BACK ON SOME OF THE MAJOR EVENTS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY'S PRESIDENCY, WE LISTEN IN ON THE PRESIDENT IN A PRIVATE MOMENT OF REGRET OVER A COUP IN VIETNAM.

11/22 NOVEMBER 1963: KENNEDY MATTERS/Boeri: [The impact of JFK 50-years later on this the anniversary of his death]

11/22 DRUG LAB 1/Becker: [It's sentencing day for the woman blamed for the release of hundreds of state prisoners because of falsified drug tests]

11/22 JFK ASSASSINATION ANNIVERSARY/Gellerman: ATC-F22A
Bruce Gellerman feature on today's remembrances at the JFK library paying tribute to President John F. Kennedy on the 50th anniversary of his assassination.

11/22 DOOKHAN PLEA/SENTENCING ***LIVE*** debrief/Brown-Becker
Steve speaks ***LIVE*** with Deb Becker about today's guilty plea and sentencing of Annie Dookhan, the former chemist at the center of the state drug lab scandal.

11/25 COG: YOUNG WOMEN DRINKING/Gutman: [Our commentator takes sides with a controversial call for young women to avoid drinking to protect themselves from rape, but for a different reason]

12/6 BOSTON MANDELAI/Handy: [Memories of Nelson Mandela's visit to Boston after his release from prison 2 decades ago.]

12/6 MANDELA 2 WAY/Becker: []

12/6 SULLIVAN 2 WAY/Becker: [headline]

12/11 KIND WOLRD KARIM/Sound piece: [Why customers went out of their way to have their gas tanks filled by one attendant in Cambridge.]

12/18 [KIND WORLD] LETTERS FOR SCOTT/Tobin-May: We conclude our series of stories about kindness with details about how a social web-site reached out to a family in Massachusetts at a time of tragedy.

12/23 TOY DRIVE/3-way: We talk with the people behind an annual toy drive...and find out what it means to them:

12/23 COG: CHRISTMAS BOOKS/Livesy [LIV'-zee]: For those of us still organizing Christmas gifts, today our Cognoscenti commentator offers some last-minute guidance: you can't go wrong with a book.

12/23 MARINE FUNERAL/Gellerman

Bruce Gellerman feature on the funeral for a 19-year-old marine from Fairhaven, Matthew Rodriguez, who was killed in Afghanistan.

12/24 MARINE FUNERAL/Gellerman: We remember Matthew Rodriguez, a 19-year-old marine from Fairhaven, who died in Afghanistan:

12/25 KINDWORLD: AN ORDINARY LIFE/Tobin-May: [SLATED FOR AIR, DEC. 25. LISA T. TO EMAIL MORN CREW WITH WORD ON WHETHER THIS WILL AIR...AND INFO, IF IT IS PREPPED FOR AIR.]

12/27 MARATHON REVIEW/Alex Ashlock: The marathon bombings...from the perspective of our WBUR marathon correspondent, Alex Ashlock.

12/27 CALLAHAN CLOSURE 2WAY: 7:10am phone interview with State Highway Administrator Frank DePaola

12/30 COG: WINTER BLUES/Brody: In this week's Cognoscenti commentary, winter leaves WBUR's Sharon Brody decidedly frosty.

Economic and Business

10/1 SHUTDOWN IMPACT IN MASS/Bever: [kill this piece if deal is made in DC] Thousands of federal workers in Massachusetts go on furlough today...until Congress resolves the government shutdown:

10/1 EAST BOSTON/REVERE CASINO/Gellerman: Five weeks ahead of a vote on a casino proposal for Suffolk Downs, we sample opinions in the community.

10/1 GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN LOCAL IMPACTS/Bever: ATC-T01A
Fred Bever super spot on local affects of the federal government shutdown.

10/2 FED SHUTDOWN IN BOSTON/Bever: [kill this piece if deal is made in DC] We report on how day one of the partial federal shutdown played out in Boston:

10/3 LOCAL TOURISM-SHUTDOWN/Lepiarz: As the federal shutdown moves into a third day, we survey the impact on local tourism:

10/17 WALSH-CONNOLLY BUSINESS PLANS/Thys: ATC-R17A

Fred Thys feature looking at the plans of mayoral candidates John Connolly and Marty Walsh to help the business community.

10/17 SHUTDOWN OVER, FEDERAL WORKERS RETURN TO WORK/Handy: ATC-R17B

Delores Handy feature on federal workers returning to work in Boston now that the federal shutdown has ended.

10/29 GAMING COMMISSION SUFFOLK DOWNS/Lepiarz

The state gaming commission grills Suffolk Downs about its casino plans after the track was forced to dump its partner, Caesar's Entertainment, because the company failed the state background check.

Suffolk Downs plans to find a new casino partner, and the East Boston/Revere vote on the casino plan is going ahead on November 5.

11/4 EASTIE-REVERE CASINO/Bever: [NWS-M04B Time: 2:12] On the eve of the Suffolk Downs casino referendum, we round up opinions among voters in Revere and East Boston.

11/6 CASINO VOTE/Gellerman: East Boston rejects a casino proposal for Suffolk Downs, but Revere backs it...and is prepared to pick up the project:

11/6 CASINO MESS 2-WAY/Pfeiffer: ATC-W06B

Sacha talks with Clyde Barrow, UMass Dartmouth

11/8 ELECTRICITY PRICE SPIKE/Bever: A cold blast is in next week's forecast...and so are electricity price spikes between 30-to-40 percent this winter.

11/11 MALT HOUSE/Cohen: A Hadley couple in Western Mass. finds a niche...setting up one of very few "malt houses" in the Northeast...preparing grain for breweries:

11/12 TRASHFISH NOT COD/Gotbaum: Amid a local shortage of cod, fishermen and restaurateurs look for alternatives to the New England staple. Now, some are trying to reel in diners...with dogfish and other "trash-fish:"

11/14 SOMERVILLE GREEN LINE/Lepiarz: To clear a path for the Green Line extension to Somerville, the city's plan involves taking some private properties by 'eminent domain.'

11/14 AQUINNAH CASINO/2-way: [6:15 AM PHONE 2-WAY] We speak with the attorney for the town of Aquinnah...about a plan by the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head to build a casino on Martha's Vineyard.

11/15 MARTHA'S VINEYARD REACTION/Thys: We go to Martha's Vineyard, ahead of a tribal election on Sunday...to gauge reaction to a possible tribal casino on the island:

11/18 MILFORD CASINO/Gotbaum:

TOMORROW ... VOTERS IN MILFORD WILL DECIDE WHETHER THEY WANT A PROPOSED ONE-BILLION-DOLLAR RESORT CASINO. THIS TOWN OF 27-THOUSAND PEOPLE ON ROUTE 495 -- JUST SOUTH OF THE MASS TURNPIKE -- PRIDES ITSELF AS A CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY.

11/19 CASINO STATUS/2-WAY 6:15am. w/ Father Richard Mc-Gowan. 6:15 A.M. 2-WAY WITH FATHER RICHARD MCGOWAN ON THE BIG PICTURE STATUS OF CASINOS IN THE STATE. HE'S AN ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT BOSTON COLLEGE -- AN EXPERT ON CASINOS/GAMING.

11/20 MILFORD CASINO/Scharfenberg: Milford voters yesterday rejected a billion-dollar, million-square-foot Foxwoods Casino for the Central Mass town.

11/21 7:15 CASINO BILL 2-WAY/One of the primary authors of the Massachusetts casino gambling law reacts to a series of local defeats for proposed casinos.

11/21 GAMING COMMISSION LATEST ****LIVE**** DEBRIEF/SCHARFENBERG

Steve speaks live with David Scharfenberg about the latest hearing of the state gaming commission in the wake of the defeat of the Milford casino referendum and questions about whether Suffolk Downs can move its entire resort into Revere.

11/25 MASS GAMBLING STUMBLES/Scharfenberg: [New questions about the future of casino gambling in Massachusetts.]

11/26 GENDER WAGE GAP/Khalid: [Trying to make Boston the first city to completely eliminate discrepancies in pay between men and women.]

12/4 TESSLA TUSSLE/Khalid: [Tensions between car dealers in Massachusetts and an up-start car-maker that wants to sell cars without dealerships.]

12/5 FAST FOOD WORKERS PROTEST/Lepiarz: ATC-R05A

Jack feature about the latest protest involving fast food workers pushing for a major wage hike.

12/11 REVERE CASINO/Gellerman: [Voters in Revere may go back to the polls to again decide the fate of a casino at Suffolk Downs.]

12/13 GAMING COMMISSION SUED/Gellerman: [Mounting pressure on the chairman of the State Gaming Commission, who's now the target of a law-suit by a casino company.]

12/23 GAMBLING UPDATE 2-way/Crosby: At the end of a big year for casino applications and voter decisions, we talk with Gaming Commission Chairman Steve Crosby about the odds:

Education

11/6 TO COVER END OF 'DROPOUTS SURPRISED BY DEGREES' AND 'NORA EPHRON COLLECTION.' PLEASE RECORD 'DROPOUTS' TO AIR IN C2 OVER 'SF CONDO VOTE'

11/8 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE LEARNERS/Khalid: We put the state's new English Immersion program to the test. Is it working...for the students learning English...and for the teachers taking required training to help them?

12/26 WHAT COLLEGES WANT/Thys: Forget well-rounded students...the most selective Massachusetts colleges are looking for what they call "angular" applicants.

Medical and Healthcare

10/3 OBAMACARE IN MASS./Polanowicz 2-way: [7:15 AM PHONE 2-WAY] ...What "Obama Care" means for us here in Massachusetts.

10/7 MEASLES VACCINE/Brown: Recent measles cases in Massachusetts stoke concerns over a rising number of parents delaying or rejecting immunizations for their children:

10/8 SHOPPING FOR CARE/Bebinger: Shopping for health care: WBUR's Martha Bebinger tries out a new law that requires insurers to estimate the cost of your treatment.

10/10 PARTNERS GROWS/Bebinger: Questions surrounding a plan for Partners HealthCare to acquire four North Shore Hospitals.

10/14 COGNOSCENTI-MEDICAL ERRORS/Jha: Hospital or Hilton? Our Cognoscenti commentator says patient safety is a casualty...as hospitals compete in the "swanky" stakes.

10/17 CONGRESS & THE MARKETS/Spooner 2-way: [6:15 AM PHONE 2-WAY] How the markets are reacting to the debt ceiling negotiations...and, amidst the uncertainty, advice for investors

10/17 END OF LIFE/Bebinger: The state drafts new rules...for doctors and nurses to provide information to help people talk about, and plan for, the end of life.

10/22 STRESS HORMONE/Goldberg: MIT researchers say a hunger hormone could help us understand and perhaps treat P-T-S-D:

10/28 NOBEL LAUREAT AUTISM/Jolicoeur: [A Natick family meets the Nobel prize winner who figured out the cause of autism in the two children for the first time.]

10/30 OBAMA ON HEALTHCARE IN BOSTON **LIVE DEBRIEF**/Pfeiffer-Bebinger Sacha speaks ***LIVE*** with Martha Bebinger from Faneuil Hall about Obama's speech there today on the Affordable Healthcare Act and its comparisons to Romneycare.

10/31 OBAMA BOSTON HEALTH/Bebinger: [President Obama tries to build support for the national health care law by visiting Massachusetts to praise the success of health reform here]

11/7 PRESCRIPTION OUTDOORS/Bebinger: "Outdoors R-X:" A program where pediatricians prescribe exercise for kids out of the house:

11/12 POT PRESCRIPTIONS & FED LAW/Bebinger: Massachusetts has legalized marijuana for medical use, but a federal ban continues. So, doctors and hospitals are caught between serving patients and keeping federal funds:

11/14 MASSACHUSETTS AFFORDABLE CARE ACT/Bebinger: ATC-R14B
Martha Bebinger feature about Massachusetts residents having to re-enroll in Commonwealth Care under the Affordable Care Act. They're running into technical glitches because of the federal healthcare exchange website problems.

11/26 MGH PHILIPPINES/Oakes: [The work of a disaster team from Massachusetts General Hospital is doing in the Philippines.]

12/3 VISIONARIES-BOHDAN POMAHAC/Jolicoeur In the latest installment of our ongoing series, "Visionaries", a profile of Dr. Bohdan Pomahac, who led a campaign to bring face transplant surgery to Brigham and Women's Hospital.

12/5 ROOSEVELT 2 WAY/Becker: [The advice health insurance executives are giving the White House about the Obamacare roll out]

12/19 FITCHBURG BOY FOLO/Lepiarz: [chk for devpts in morn] As the search continues for a missing Fitchburg boy, state social workers' caseloads are again under scrutiny.

Politics and Government

10/2 MAVERICK, SQUARE BY SQUARE/Thys: We continue our series, "The Boston Mayoral Race: Square by Square" today...with a visit to Maverick Square:

10/2 EAST BOSTON FIELD 2 WAY RE: MAYOR'S RACE ISSUES/Pfeiffer: ATC-W02A
Sacha speaks with Neenah Estrella-Luna, an East Boston community activist and professor of law and policy at Northeastern University, about issues important to East Boston in electing the next mayor.

10/4 SHUT DOWN POLLING/Oakes-Koczela: What the polls say about who Americans blame for the government shut-down.

10/7 COGNOSCENTI-CITY HALL/Waxman: City Hall -- the actual building -- gets a mention in Boston's mayoral race. Our Cognoscenti commentator says it's time Bostonians took pride in the oft-derided brutalist structure.

10/8 MA 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DIST/Thys: WBUR's Fred Thys reports on Democrats in the race for the 5th Congressional District, which was formerly represented by now Senator Ed Markey.

10/8 BUS-MAYORAL CANDIDATES/Sharfenberg: David tells Sacha the candidates for mayor both agree in their criticism of school bus drivers.

10/9 MA 5TH DEBATE/Thys: Ahead of next week's primary in Massachusetts' 5th Congressional District, five of the Democratic candidates face off in a televised debate.

10/9 OAK, SQUARE BY SQUARE/Handy: Our series, "The Boston Mayoral Race, Square by Square" continues. Today, we check in on Allston-Brighton:

10/10 MA 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT/Thys: Six days before they face off in a primary, the three Republican contenders for the 5th congressional district meet in a televised debate. We'll have a roundup.

10/10 CLASS IN BOSTON MAYOR'S RACE/Scharfenberg: The emergence of a class divide in Boston's mayoral race:

10/16 5TH CONG. DISTRICT PRIMARIES/Thys: Voters in the 5th Congressional District primaries pick Democrat Katherine Clark and Republican Frank Addivino [ADD'-ah-vin-OH'-la]. The nominees face off in a final election in December.

10/16 MAYORAL DEBATE/Scharfenberg: John Connolly and Marty Walsh meet in their first one-on-one debate in the race for Boston mayor.

10/16 DOWNTOWN, SQUARE BY SQUARE/Gellerman: In our series, "The Boston Mayoral Race: Square by Square"...today, we stop by Chinatown and Downtown Crossing:

10/17 ENVIRONMENT-MAYOR'S RACE/Scharfenberg: The Environmental League of Massachusetts lobbies for some influence in the mayoral race.

10/23 MAYORAL DEBATE/Thys: John Connolly and Marty Walsh get a little feisty in their second televised debate of the Boston mayor's contest.

10/23 WBUR POLL/Handy: We hear from voters and the pollster...about findings in a new WBUR poll out today:

10/23 SQUARE BY SQUARE IN HYDE PARK/Becker: In our series, "The Boston Mayoral Race: Square by Square"...today, we visit Cleary Square in Mayor Menino's neighborhood, Hyde Park:

10/23 POLLSTER TWO-WAY/Koczela 2-way: A WBUR poll out today shows the mayor's race moving toward a toss-up. We'll get details from the pollster and analyze the findings.

10/23 HYDE PARK SQUARE-BY-SQUARE 2-WAY/Pfeiffer: ATC-W23A
Sacha speaks with Thien Simpson, program coordinator for Hyde Park Main Streets, about how she'd like the next mayor to help Hyde Park. Simpson wants to see more business development, including at least one large chain store to anchor the neighborhood, as well as a lifting of the cap on liquor licenses and cultural liaisons to work with immigrant communities.

10/28 WALSH PROFILE/Thys: Boston's mayoral election is just days away, and we're profiling the candidates who want to take over City Hall. Tomorrow...we'll look at John Connolly. Today, it's Marty Walsh:

10/29 CONNOLLY PROFILE/Scharfenberg: A week from today, Boston voters will elect a new mayor. We profiled State Rep. Marty Walsh yesterday. Today, it's City Councilor John Connolly:

10/30 CONSORTIUM MAYORAL DEBATE/Thys: We report on the final broadcast debate -- between John Connolly and Marty Walsh -- in the race for Mayor of Boston.

10/30 SQUARE BY SQUARE: MATTAPAN/Oakes: Our series, "The Boston Mayoral Race: Square by Square"...concludes today, with a visit to Mattapan Square...where residents talk about the issues that matter:

10/30 MATTAPAN SQUARE-BY-SQUARE 2-WAY/Pfeiffer

In the final segment of our series "Boston Mayoral Race: Square By Square," Sacha speaks with Rashad Cope, director of the Mattahunt Wheelock Community Center in Mattapan. He talks about his hopes that the next mayor will help the center survive and thrive in order to keep kids in the community on the right track.

10/30 WALSH TWO-WAY/Oakes two-way: [6:30 AM STUDIO 2-WAY] In our conversations with the candidates today...we speak with State Rep. Marty Walsh in this hour....

10/30 CONNOLLY TWO-WAY/Oakes two-way: [7:15 AM STUDIO 2-WAY] ...and later, we'll be joined by City Councilor John Connolly.

10/31 POWER OF UNIONS/Thys: [The edge union support could give one candidate in the Boston mayoral race]

10/31 EASTIE POLL/Sharfenberg: [A WBUR poll shows the East Boston election contest on whether to permit a casino at Suffolk Downs is a close one.]

11/1 CITY COUNCIL RACE/Handy: On election day next Tuesday, Boston voters will choose...not only a new mayor, but also a slew of City Councilors:

11/1 ADDICTION CAMPAIGN ISSUE/Becker: Some candidates seeking public office in Boston are openly talking about their struggles with addiction. Is such openness a liability or a sign of public acceptance?

11/4 MAYOR'S RACE FINAL WEEKEND/Thys: [THYS TO FILE OVER WEEKEND. FEATURE & SPOT] WBUR's Fred Thys reports on the final weekend in Boston's mayoral race.

11/4 ELECTION EVE ANALYSIS/Larry DiCara 2-way: [6:15 AM IN STUDIO.]...and we look ahead to the final hours before election day tomorrow. What can the candidates do at this point?

11/4 ED REFORM/Scharfenberg: In Boston's mayoral contest, John Connolly has made education reform central to his campaign. What are his plans? And, what is Marty Walsh's response?

11/5 WEIGHT AND HEIGHT DISCRIMINATION/Goldberg: A bill to ban discrimination against overweight workers gains ground in the state legislature:

11/5 CANDIDATES FINAL PUSH/Thys: We report on the candidates' final push...ahead of the final vote in Boston's mayoral race.

11/6 DICARA ON THE NEW REGIME/DiCara 2-way: Why did Marty Walsh win the mayor's race? And, how will his administration differ from Menino's? We'll analyze the election results.

11/6 CITY COUNCIL/Handy: ...and we'll report on turnover on the Boston City Council...as voters pick four new members.

11/6 NEW MAYOR/Thys: Boston voters choose Marty Walsh to lead City Hall:

11/6 CONNOLLY TODAY/Khalid: ATC-W06C
Asma super spot about the loser of the mayor's race, John Connolly.

11/6 LAWRENCE MAYOR RECOUNT/Lepiarz: ATC-W06L
Jack super spot about the close win for city councilor Daniel Rivera for mayor in Lawrence

11/6 MAYOR-ELECT WALSH TODAY ***LIVE*** DEBRIEF/Pfeiffer
Sacha talks ***live*** with Fred Thys about the comments today from Boston Mayor-elect Marty Walsh and his meeting with Mayor Menino about the transition.

11/7 WALSH-CONNOLLY NEXT DAY/Khalid: Marty Walsh's first day as mayor-elect of Boston:

11/7 MARTY WALSH 2-way: [**8:35 AM LIVE PHONE 2-WAY**] We talk with Boston's mayor-elect, Marty Walsh, about plans for his administration...and his vision for the city.

11/8 NOVEMBER, 1963: KENNEDY & CIVIL RIGHTS/Handy: In our special series, November, 1963, today President John F. Kennedy and the Civil Rights Movement:

11/8 NRC CHAIR 2-way: [**6:45 AM PRE-TAPED PHONE 2-WAY**] We talk with Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Allison Macfarlane, about her visits this week to nuclear power plants in Seabrook, New Hampshire and Plymouth -- What are the latest developments in Seabrook's license renewal and safety concerns in Plymouth?

11/8 WALSH TODAY/Thys: The mayor-elect reaches out to city biz leaders, before taking a vacation
11/13 WALSH AND UNIONS/Scharfenberg: A look at what it means to have a strong union presence at Boston City Hall. Anticipation among the union rank-and-file as Martin Walsh prepares to move into the corner office at Boston City Hall:

11/13 EVAN FALCHUK/Oakes 2-way with Falchuk: With the election for bay state governor still nearly a year away, several have already thrown their hats in the ring. Among them, 3rd party candidate Evan Falchuck [FAL-chuck], who paid us a visit.

11/13 MENINO BU/Scharfenberg: The outgoing Boston mayor's plan to lead an institute at BU.

11/18 GAY MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY/2-way: [6:15 AM 3-WAY] On the 10th anniversary of the lawsuit that made same sex marriage legal in Massachusetts, we speak with the lead plaintiffs in the case that bears their name, Goodridge.

11/20 Minimum wage/2-way 6:15 w/Mike Deehan: 6:15am 2-way with Mike Deehan of the State House News Service on the Senate's passage Tuesday night of the measure to increase the minimum wage to \$11 by 2016 tie it to inflation. It's now up to the House to pass the bill today or nothing will happen until they come back in January.

11/21 LAWRENCE AND LANTIGUA/Thys: [The people of Lawrence waiting for a weekend re-count to determine whether they will soon have a new mayor.]

12/2 MENINOS 3 WAY/Oakes: [The outgoing mayor Boston reflects on his accomplishments, disappointments, and even his nickname:

12/3 MENINOS 3-WAY/Oakes Boston's longest-serving mayor leaves office in just one month. We sit down with Tom Menino and his wife Angela.

12/3 McCORMICK FOR GOV/Oakes-way. Jeffrey McCormick, 52, is founding partner of the Boston venture capital firm Saturn Partners and lives in the Back Bay. His campaign says he will officially declare as an independent running for governor. He is one of two independents so far. He's coming into studio with Dan Payne, campaign coordinator

12/3 GOP Ticket/Jolicoeur: A state representative, viewed as a conservative, joins the Republican ticket as the candidate for Lt.Gov.

12/6 5th CONGRESSIONAL RACE/Scharfenberg: [Meet the two major party candidates to fill the state's empty 5th Congressional seat.]

12/6 MAYOR BOOT CAMP/Pfeiffer-Jolicoeur: ATC-F06A
Sacha feature about boot camp for new mayors at Harvard's Kennedy School. Mayor-elect Marty Walsh of Boston and Mayor-elect Dan Rivera of Lawrence were among those in attendance.

12/6 TO COVER 'ANTI-TEXTING LAWS DON'T DETER.'

12/11 5th CONGRESS ELEX/Scharfenberg: [A 3rd woman is about to join the Massachusetts congressional delegation.]

12/13 GUNS MENTAL HEALTH/Bever: [Whether it makes sense to focus on the mentally ill in gun regulations proposed since the Newtown shootings.]

12/16 MOTEL HOMELESS/Gellerman: As the number of homeless families hits a record high, the state is housing more homeless families in motels around Massachusetts:

12/17 HOMELESS CENSUS/Gellerman: ATC-T17A

Bruce Gellerman feature on advocates and volunteers going out on the streets of Boston to conduct the latest homeless census

12/17 BRIDGE DISREPAIR/Lepiarz: We check in on the state's program to fix 550 structurally flawed bridges...with millions in federal aid:

12/18 MA GOP U-S HOUSE/Khalid:What makes it difficult for Republicans to win congressional contests in Massachusetts.

12/18 MA GOP U-S HOUSE/Khalid:What makes it difficult for Republicans to win congressional contests in Massachusetts.

12/20 BLACK & LATINO LEADERS/Scharfenberg: Boston's minority leaders take stock of how candidates of color fared in the city's mayoral race:

12/24 MARTY WALSH'S B.R.A./Khalid: The past and the future of one of the most powerful entities in the city, the Boston Redevelopment Authority:

12/24 SJC JUVENILE MURDER SENTENCES RULING 2-WAY/Pfeiffer: ATC-T24B
Sacha talks with Josh Dohan of the Youth Advocacy Division of the Committee for Public Counsel Services about today's ruling by the Massachusetts SJC striking down any life sentence without the possibility of parole for juveniles convicted of murder.

12/26 CITY POLITICS REVIEW/Scharfenberg Debrief: WBUR's David Scharfenberg looks back at the legacy of Mayor Tom Menino and ahead to a Marty Walsh administration.

12/31 MASS. ELECTIONS REVIEW/Thys debrief: Changes at the top: We'll have a roundup of elections that took us to the polls this year...and a look at the votes ahead in 2014.

12/31 MASS. ELECTIONS REVIEW/Thys debrief: Changes at the top: We'll have a roundup of elections that took us to the polls this year...and a look at the votes ahead in 2014.

Crime

10/18 BOSTON BOMBINGS QUESTIONS/Gellerman: Six months later some of the lingering questions about what happened in the man-hunt for the Boston Marathon bombing suspects.

10/22 HERNANDEZ JUDGE/Boeri: ...Why a prosecutor in the Aaron Hernandez murder trial called for the judge to recuse herself...and why the judge rejected that motion.

10/23 DANVERS TEACHER MURDER/Khalid debrief
Sacha talks with Asma Khalid about the murder of a Danvers High School teacher and the arrest of a 14-year-old student for the killing.

10/24 DANVERS MURDER/Khalid: [Shock and confusion in Danvers as the community tries to make sense of the murder of a high school teacher there allegedly by one of her students.]

10/29 DOOKHAN PLEA DEAL/Becker: A change of plea is expected...for the former chemist at the center of the state drug lab crisis.

11/5 14-YEAR-OLD CRIMINAL ADULTS/Khalid: As the 14-year-old suspect in the murder of a Danvers teacher faces trial as an adult, we examine how and why Massachusetts introduced the law that requires adult treatment for juveniles charged with homicide:

11/6 TO COVER 'FARMWORKER SEXUAL HARASSMENT 2.'

11/19 ARL DEAD/Lepiarz: 4 suspicious deaths in Arlington stun an otherwise quiet town.

12/5 14 YEAR OLD ARRAIGN/Khalid: [The first big legal question in the prosecution of the Danvers teenager charged with murdering a teacher.]

12/10 DMH INVESTIGATION / Becker: A Department of Mental Health investigation of the murder of group-home social worker Stephanie Moulton, by a mentally ill client in the home, is complete. And it raises some troubling questions.
ELE-solomon

12/18 LIVE INTERVIEW WITH DCF COMMISSIONER/Becker
Deb speaks ****live**** with DCF commissioner about handling of case in which 5-year-old Fitchburg boy is missing and feared dead and two DCF employees have been terminated.

12/18 CHILDRENS LEAGUE 2-WAY RE: DCF FITCHBURG BOY MISSING/Becker: ATC-W18A
Deb speaks with Maria Mossaides, chairman of the board of Children's League of Massachusetts, about the case of a 5-year-old Fitchburg boy who is missing and feared dead and who has not been seen by relatives since September. DCF now acknowledges its social worker has not seen the boy since a home visit in May, despite having an open investigation of the family. The boy's mother and her boyfriend have been arrested on abuse and neglect charges.

12/19 HARVARD UNDERGRAD BUSTED/Thys: [6:15 AM STUDIO DEBRIEF W/SOUND] The story behind the student charged with a bomb threat at Harvard University.

12/19 REMY REPORT/Bever: A report faults Middlesex County prosecutors for their actions in the Jared Remy case...and the D-A agrees:

12/26 DRUG LAB REVIEW/Becker Debrief: The drug lab scandal that rocked Massachusetts this year. [NWS-XLAB.]

12/27 WHITEY BULGER DEBRIEF/Boeri Debrief: The trial of James 'Whitey' Bulger. [NWS-BULGER]

12/30 PEOPLE VS. TSARNAEV DEBRIEF/Debrief with Gellerman and Becker: A look at the case against Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

Science and Technology

11/4 COGNOSCENTI-APPS/Wittis Schlack: Measure for Measure: Our Cognoscenti commentator asks...do we really need apps to keep track of our lives?

Religion

11/26 BAY PSALM BOOK/Oakes: [The history of a rare book of psalms being auctioned off today for a Boston church]

12/4 KIND WORLD REVERSE/Sound piece: [What happens when a local church asks its members to give away small amounts of money]

Weather and Environmental

10/14 LEAF PEEPING/2-way: [6:15 AM PHONE 2-WAY] As New England rakes in tourist dollars during "leaf peeping" season, we talk with a scientist about the impact of weather and climate change on fall foliage.

12/11 HARVARD FOREST 2 WAY/Oakes: [A growing conflict between conservation efforts and development patterns in Massachusetts.]

12/13 WEATHER CHAT(S)/Epstein: [Get ready for the heaviest snow-fall so far this season.]

12/17 SNOW AGAIN/Epstein 2-way: [6:15 AM VIA SKYPE] ... Snow is in the air, for later today. We'll get an up-to-the minute forecast from meteorologist David Epstein

12/17 DAVE EPSTEIN WEATHER DEBRIEF
Deb speaks live with Dave Epstein regarding the latest on the snowstorm.

12/17 LEPIARZ TRAFFIC & TRAVEL DEBRIEF

Arts, Culture, Media

10/4 CHILDREN'S MUSEUM 100TH BIRTHDAY/Shea: ATC-F04A
Andrea Shea feature looking at where Boston Children's Museum has come in its first 100 years.

10/10 MIDEAST WOMEN PHOTOGRAPHERS/Khalid: Behind the veil: The MFA Boston shows the work of women photographers from Iran and the Arab world...who challenge preconceived notions of their lives;

10/11 MA FURNITURE-MAKING AS ART/Shea: A new multi-museum project celebrates Massachusetts furniture-making legacy:

10/17 BSO CONDUCTOR/Shea: The start of a harmonious relationship...as the B-S-O's new conductor picks up the baton in Boston:

10/22 DeCORDOVA BIENNIAL/Shea: The DeCordova museum highlights artists close to home for its big Biennial show:

10/25 LAST SEEN AT THE GARDNER EXHIBIT/Shea: The art heist at the Garner Museum inspires a new exhibition at the scene of the crime:

11/8 BOSTON BAROQUE/Shea: An anniversary of "note:" 40 years...for early music orchestra, Boston Baroque:

11/11 COGNOSCENTI-ONLINE COMMENTS/Sobieraj: In our Cognoscenti commentary this week - the debate over online comments, after some sites try to rein in so-called "trolls" who post offensive remarks.

11/21 HOMELESS PLAY/Pfeiffer: ATC-R21A
Sacha feature on a play written and produced by a group of homeless men through a program called Stories Without Roofs, run by a nurse from Boston Healthcare for the Homeless who is also a comedienne.

11/25 PERKINS RADIO/Shea: [Student DJ's at Perkins School for the Blind.]

12/2 PROF JULIAN EDELMAN/ A star player for the Patriots addresses college students about using social media:

12/4 EMERSON SELLS ITS SOUL TO WILL FERRELL'S RON BURGUNDY/Shea: ATC-W04A
Emerson College in Boston, in a publicity stunt tied to the promotion of the Anchorman Part Deux movie, renames its journalism school for a day after Will Ferrell's character, Ron Burgundy

12/5 EMERSON ANCHORMAN/Shea: [Some are laughing, but others are disappointed by a publicity stunt staged at Emerson College]

12/5 CHURCH MOVING/Shea
Andrea Shea feature about the move of a church museum owned by Lesley University.

12/6 CHURCH MOVES/Shea: [How and why a historic church in Cambridge is being slowly moved about 80-feet.]

12/6 BOCELLI AT MIT/Goldberg: ATC-F06B
Carey Goldberg feature about tenor superstar Andrea Bocelli visiting MIT today to talk about technologies for the blind.

12/16 COG: XMAS HISTORY/Barlow: In today's Cognoscenti commentary -- the history of Christmas commercialism.

12/19 BOSTON'S UNSCRIPTED MUSICAL PROJECT/Pfeiffer: ATC-R19A
Sacha feature about an improv troupe performing an ongoing series of improv musicals in an old Fort Point button factory.

12/20 CHRISTMAS FLASH MOB/Shea: Berklee college students stage a pop-up performance at the M-F-A...and their "flash mob" Christmas carol lights up YouTube.

12/24 SHELTER MUSIC BOSTON/Pfeiffer
ATC-T24A

Sacha feature on a group that performs classical music in Boston homeless shelters. We visit the Pine Street Inn women's shelter as a trio performs a holiday concert.

Sports

10/3 BRUINS PREVIEW/Littlefield 2-way: WBUR's Bill Littlefield previews the Boston Bruins' prospects...as the team opens its regular season at home tonight. Can they make it to the Stanley Cup finals again this year?

10/4 SOX ALDS/Oakes-Stout: The Boston Red Sox are back in the major league play offs. How far can they go?

10/8 RED SOX GAME 3/Tribou debrief: [6:15 AM VIA SKYPE] On to Game 4 ... after the Rays stop a Sox sweep in the American League Division Series.

10/9 RED SOX GAME 4/Tribou debrief: [6:15 AM VIA SKYPE] The Sox beat the Rays...and head off to the next round of baseball's playoffs:

10/10 RISING TICKET COSTS/Littlefield: WBUR's Bill Littlefield on...ticket shock in sports.

10/11 2way with Glenn Stout on Sox-Tigers series

10/14 RED SOX GAME TWO/Given: [**FILING AFTER SUNDAY'S GAME. FEATURE & SPOT]

10/15 GREAT WINS & SOX-TIGERS/Ryan 2-way: [6:15 AM PHONE 2-way] Veteran sports writer Bob Ryan joins us to preview tonight's Game 3 between the Red Sox and the Tigers...as New England fans still bask in the glow of come-from-behind victories by the Sox and the Pats.

10/15 SOX PHOTOGRAPH 2-WAY/Becker: Deb talks to Globe photographer Stan Grossfeld about the shot he captured of the game tying home-run for the Sox on Sunday.

10/16 SOX-TIGERS GAME 3/Tribou Debrief: [6:15 AM DEBRIEF W/BITES] The Red Sox win with a solo homer in Game 3 against the Tigers...in Detroit.

10/16 MIAA 2 WAY: Deb talks with leader of the Mass Interscholastic Athletic Association about its rules and how they apply to a North Andover girl suspended from the volley ball team for trying to pickup a friend, who had too much to drink.

10/17 SOX TIGERS GAME IV/Tribou Debrief: [6:51 AM, LIVE VIA SKYPE]

10/17 BAD OLD DAYS/Littlefield: Excited about the Red Sox this season? It's kind of a generational thing...says our Bill Littlefield.

10/18 RED SOX TIGERS GAME V/Tribou: [in am]

10/18 BOBBY ORR 2-WAY/Oakes-Orr: The best remembered Boston Bruin opens up about his career, his background, and setting an example:

10/21 SOX-CARDINALS SERIES/GLENN STOUT 2WAY:

10/22 RED SOX HISTORY/Shaugnessy 2-way: Ahead of Game One in the World Series between the Sox and the Cardinals tomorrow night, we go back in time... revisiting their previous Fall Classic matchups: 2004, 1967, and 1946.

10/23 WORLD SERIES PREVIEW/Lepiarz: Boston police gear up for crowd control...during the World Series:

10/23 LONBORG/Oakes 2-way: [7:15 AM PHONE 2-WAY] Ahead of Game One in the Sox-Cardinals World Series tonight, we talk with "Gentleman Jim" Lonborg...who pitched for Boston against St. Louis in the '67 Fall Classic.

10/24 WORLD SERIES GAME 1/Given: [An easy win for the Red Sox in Game 1 of the World Series.]

10/24 FANS/Littlefield: [Lots of different ways to root for the Red Sox]

10/25 WORLD SERIES GAME TWO/Given: [FILING LATE. SEE NOTE BELOW] The Cardinals beat the Sox -- 4 to 2 in Game 2 -- to even up the World Series.

10/28 WORLD SERIES GAME FOUR/Tribou Debrief:

10/28 COGNOSCENTI-SOX FANS/Tracy Mayor: In our Cognoscenti commentary this week -- where you find the most patient Red Sox fans.

10/29 WORLD SERIES GAME FIVE/Tribou Debrief:

10/30 SOX PREVIEW/Stout 2-way: [6:24 AM LIVE PHONER] The bearded boys of Boston baseball try to clinch the World Series tonight at Fenway...as the Red Sox and the Cardinals play Game 6. We'll explore the history of the Sox successes in the Fall Classic, and look ahead to their prospects tonight.

10/30 RED SOX FAN SECURITY **LIVE** DEBRIEF/Pfeiffer-Lepiarz
Sacha talks ***LIVE*** with Jack Lepiarz from the Fenway Park area about security restrictions in place during and after the game.

10/30 RED SOX PREPS & EMOTIONS 2-way/Pfeiffer

ATC-W30B

self-contained/intro on tape

Sacha talks with Dr. Charles Steinberg, senior advisor to Red Sox President Larry Luchino, about emotions of the team and security restrictions in place for Game Six of the World Series.

10/31 SEASON END/Littlefield: [For some red sox fans, the joy of victory combines with disappointment that another baseball season is over.]

10/31 RED SOX HISTORIAN 2-WAY/Pfeiffer - Sacha speaks about the Red Sox World Series title with Herb Crehan of Natick, a Red Sox historian who publishes the website bostonbaseballhistory.com, wrote two books about the Sox, and writes features on retired players for the official Red Sox programs.

10/31 DOMINICANS ON BIG PAPI MVP/Thys - Fred Thys feature about the local Dominican community celebrating David "Big Papi" Ortiz winning MVP of the World Series

11/1 BILL RUSSELL, BRONZED/Littlefield commentary: Boston unveils a statue of legendary Celtic center Bill Russell today. WBUR's Bill Littlefield says the honor is long overdue:

11/1 BILL RUSSELL STATUE: ATC-F01B

Bruce Gellerman feature on today's unveiling of the statue of Celtics great Bill Russell at City Hall Plaza.

11/1 NYC MARATHON: ATC-F01C

Alex Ashlock feature on this weekend's New York City marathon and tributes to the Boston Marathon bombing victims.

11/6 TO COVER 'BRAZIL-SOCCEREX CANCELLED'

11/6 TO COVER 'VATICAN CRICKET CLUB' AND 'PANDA CUB NAMES'.

11/7 RUNNING POETRY/Littlefield: WBUR's Bill Littlefield...on poetry inspired by running...in a new anthology whose proceeds will go to The One Fund for victims of the Marathon bombings.

11/22 WAKING THE BABE/Littlefield: [Our sports commentator discovers runs into someone who went to the wake of Babe Ruth]

12/3 BEN BRADLEE/Oakes 2-way with Ben Bradlee Jr. who spent a decade researching and writing a 800 pg book on Ted Williams.

12/5 ELLSBURY DEAL COMMENT/Littlefield: [Jacoby Ellsbury is just the latest of many players to turn in Red Sox for Yankee pin stripes.]

12/13 CELEBRATE SELF COMMENT/Littlefield: [When does the glorification of professional athletes go too far?]

12/19 NEW YEAR WISHES/Littlefield: WBUR's Bill Littlefield gets a jump on the New Year.

12/25 SOX YEAR/Given Debrief: Worst to first --the year the Boston Red Sox won the World Series at Fenway Park...for the first time since 1918.

12/25 SEASON'S GREETINGS/Littlefield: Season's greetings...for athletes and fans...from WBUR's Bill Littlefield.

National/International

10/31 WORLD SERIES/Given: [The Red Sox win their third World Series title in less than a decade.]

10/31 SOX FANS/Lepiarz: [Joy in Red Sox nation, as the local team that disappointed everyone a year ago, wins its 3rd World Series this century.]

10/31 EDGAR ALLAN POE STATUE/Shea

Andrea Shea feature. The Boston-born 19th century writer, Edgar Allan Poe, will be memorialized in the city of his birth by a statue. The master of the macabre is often associated with Halloween.

11/1 JFK MASSACHUSETTS/Gellerman: ATC-F01A

Bruce Gellerman feature looking at JFK's Massachusetts roots, for our special series commemorating the 50th anniversary of Kennedy's assassination.

11/4 NOVEMBER, 1963: CITY UPON A HILL/Horan: [HICKS TO FINISH MIXING OVER WEEKEND] Today, in our series, "November, 1963"... 50 years after the assassination of J-F-K -- we listen back to his "City Upon a Hill" speech, delivered back home in Massachusetts, just before his inauguration as President.

11/11 NOVEMBER, 1963: MOON SPEECH/Horan: Today, in our series, "November, 1963"... 50 years after the assassination of J-F-K... we listen back to his "Moon" speech, in which the president outlined his goals for the nation's space effort:

11/13 NOVEMBER, 1963/Horan Our on-going series probes key moments of the JFK presidency: The Cuban Missile crisis, which brought the world to the brink of nuclear war.

12/6 CITY YEAR-MANDELA 2-WAY/Pfeiffer: ATC-F06M

Sacha speaks with Daylene Van Buuren, executive director of City Year South Africa, about Nelson Mandela's role in the creation of the organization in that country. Van Buuren is here in Boston this week for her City Year work, a visit which just happened to coincide with Mandela's death.

12/31 YEAR-IN-REVIEW/Evans nat-sound feature: [NWS-X2013] A year in our lives: We'll listen back to the sounds of the major local stories of 2013.

Quarterly Issues/Programs List

“On Point”
(October, November, December 2013)

October, 2013

Tuesday, October 01, 2013

Miss America And Diversity Now

We talk with the new Miss America — Nina Davuluri — on diversity now in this country, and how it’s working.

Impasse In Washington: Shutdown And Beyond

We look at the great age of dysfunction in Washington, D.C. Shutdown and beyond. What’s making the House divided?

Wednesday, October 02, 2013

David Kilcullen On The Age Of The Urban Guerrilla

In the wake of Nairobi’s terror, top counter-insurgency expert David Kilcullen looks at the age of the urban guerrilla.

Shutdown, Debt Ceiling And The U.S. Economy

With a government shutdown and the debt ceiling up next, we look at how the U.S. economy may react to a season of political upheaval.

Thursday, October 03, 2013

Major League Baseball’s Wobbly Future

Has America’s past-time gone past its time? Major League Baseball playoffs are upon us, but the future of baseball is looking kinda wobbly.

Thomas Friedman And American Democracy At Risk

New York Times columnist Tom Friedman on gerrymandering, the shutdown, and our democracy, he says, on the line — right now.

Friday, October 04, 2013

Inequality And American Democracy

A special forum on American democracy. American inequality, and this country’s path ahead.

Week In The News: Shutdown Showdown, U.N. Speeches And Obamacare

Locked horns and a shutdown. Health care rollout. Netanyahu at the U.N. Our weekly news roundtable goes behind the headlines.

Monday, October 07, 2013

Adult Children Of Divorce Still Feel The Sting

A new comedy about adult children of divorce and what they carry with them. It’s funny –and it’s not.

Finding Common Ground In The Midst Of A Shutdown

Can a Tea Party activist, a mainstream Republican congressman and a former Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean find common ground on how to fix Washington? We'll find out.

Tuesday, October 08, 2013

One Woman's Global Quest For The Origins Of The Noodle

Noodle-mania. We track the birth story of a staple from China to Italy. Its savory history.

A Global Summit In Asia (Without The United States)

The president of the United States is missing from a big summit of Asia-Pacific nations this week.

China is happy to step in. We look at how the U.S. is doing in its pivot to Asia.

Wednesday, October 09, 2013

Brandy Clark Sings Her Own 'Stories'

Brandy Clark is the songwriter behind some of country's biggest recent hits. She's got her own album now. It's dark, funny, heartfelt, and she shares it with us.

The Supreme Court And Campaign Finance Limits, Again

The High Court and blowing the lid off campaign contributions.

Thursday, October 10, 2013

The 'Book Of Job' In The Modern Age

The Book of Job, and the trials of Job. Hard and endless. We'll ask what the hard old bible story has to say now.

Digging Deep Into Federal Default Scenarios

Barreling towards default. We'll go deep on scenarios for the economy. They're scary—and the politics. Scary too.

Friday, October 11, 2013

Arctic Oil Meets Greenpeace Activists

Greenpeace activists confront Russia's Arctic oil drilling. Now they're deep in prison and charged with piracy. We go to the Arctic, and the prison.

Week In The News: Default, Defiance And The Nobel Prize

Shutdown pain. Default fever. Terror raids and Nobel Prizes. Our weekly news roundtable goes behind the headlines.

Monday, October 14, 2013

James Franco On 'Actors Anonymous' And Fame

Hollywood A-lister now novelist James Franco joins us to talk about his new book "Actor's Anonymous."

Debt Limit, Continuing Resolutions And DC Dealmaking

The push for a deal on debt, debt-ceiling, default, shutdown. We'll parse the state of play with top reporters.

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Looking At The Lives Of Powerful Working Women

We look at the lives of powerful working women, and how their rise has created a less equal world.

Sounding The Alarm For Basic Science Research Funding

This year's Nobel laureates and more have sounded the alarm bell on funding basic science research. We talk to them.

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's Life, On And Off the Court

NBA legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is with us on turning his own childhood struggles into stories of inspiration.

The Latest On The Debt Limit And Government Shutdown

Negotiations down to the wire on the debt ceiling and the government shutdown.

Special Report: Deal Reached In Senate Would Reopen Government

The Senate reaches a deal to reopen to the government and raise the debt ceiling.

Thursday, October 17, 2013

'The Red And The White' And The Stories That Follow

"The Red and the White". A new history of interracial marriage and massacre in the old American West

Government Is Back, But What Comes Next?

The deal in Washington, and where it leaves us.

Friday, October 18, 2013

Felony Charges In A Cyber-Bullying Death

Felony charges against two girls in the cyber-bullying death of 12-year old Rebecca Ann Sedwick. We'll look at young tormenters and the law.

Week In The News: Shutdown, Senate Deal And ACA Struggles

Shutdown ends. Nuclear talks with Iran. An American Medal of Honor. Our weekly news roundtable goes behind the headlines.

Monday, October 21, 2013

Pushback On The United States' Internet Role

In the wake of NSA spying revelations, a global push to move the United States out of its leading role in overseeing the Internet.

Global Population Debate

The new global population debate. How many humans should, can, will live on this planet?

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

The Genius Of Duke Ellington

The genius of Duke Ellington. Terry Teachout joins us on the great "Aristocrat of Jazz."

Obamacare's Rocky Rollout: What Happens Now?

A terrible rollout of the sign-up system for the Affordable Care Act. We'll ask why, and what it's going to take to fix it.

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Jezebel Founder Anna Holmes And Modern Women's Media

The founding editor of the hugely popular online women's news and culture magazine, Jezebel, shares her scrappy, brawling, feminist view of the world.

Getting Out Of Afghanistan

Afghanistan and Pakistan are still brewing up big challenges for the United States. Taliban talks, drone wars, how to stay in, how to get out.

Thursday, October 24, 2013

Slavery In American Film

From "Gone With the Wind" to "Django Unchained" to "Twelve Years a Slave," we'll look at the evolving depiction of slavery in American film.

Big Money And The GOP 'Civil War'

The big money squaring off in the GOP's hot in-house struggle. From the Koch Brothers to Karl Rove to the Tea Party, we'll look at whose cash is fueling what.

Friday, October 25, 2013

Steely Dan's Donald Fagen And 'Eminent Hipsters'

Steely Dan frontman Donald Fagen talks "eminent hipsters" and the cultural outliers that shaped his sound. He joins us.

Week In The News: Obamacare Glitches, Drone Strikes And NSA Revelations

Obamacare rollout under scrutiny. NSA snooping angers U.S. allies. Students killing teachers. Our weekly news roundtable goes behind the headlines.

Monday, October 28, 2013

'Parks and Recreation's' Nick Offerman: Manly-Man

Actor Nick Offerman, aka Ron Swanson from the TV hit "Parks and Recreation," on becoming an actor, and being a manly-man.

Saudi Arabia, Iran And A Region In Flux

Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the new geo-political calculus of the Middle East, with America awkwardly in the middle.

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Craig Venter On Living With Synthetic Life

Famed genome sequencer Craig Venter joins us to look at the brave new world of synthetic life.

Debating The NSA's Reach

More claims all over on NSA snooping. We look at the scope of American surveillance and what we need, or don't.

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Anne Lamott On Coming Back After Tragedy

Best-selling soul-keeper Anne Lamott on finding meaning and healing in a frazzled age.

F.D.A. Moves To Rein In Pain Killers

The F.D.A. moves to rein in America's huge usage of powerful painkillers. We'll look at where they're drawing the line.

Thursday, October 31, 2013

Wes Craven And Fright-Meisters On Why We Love Horror

For Halloween, we look at the horror genre today –in the movies and in print– with some of the best fright-meisters in the business.

One Year After Sandy, Tackling Climate Change With New Force

A year after Hurricane Sandy, we look at what's in the works — and what's not — to address climate change, from levees to energy policy.

November, 2013

Friday, November 01, 2013

Imperial Priest: California's Father Junípero Serra

Father Serra and the tough history of the priest and colonialist who brought the Spanish Empire and the church to California, three centuries ago.

Week In The News: Obamacare Blowup, NSA Fury And A Year After Sandy

Obamacare hullabaloo. NSA snooping fury still rising. Superstorm Sandy, one year on. Our weekly news roundtable goes behind the headlines.

Monday, November 04, 2013

Novelist Ann Patchett's Real Life Out In The Real World

PEN/Faulkner prize-winning author Ann Patchett on the art of telling the truth about love, friendship, work and art.

The Food Stamp Cut And American Priorities

Food stamp benefits cut and Congress considers even deeper cuts. We'll hear the debate over national priorities, hunger and character.

Tuesday, November 05, 2013

Flipped Schools: Homework At School, Lectures At Home

Some teachers, even whole schools, are now “flipping” their days — doing homework in class, watching lectures at home. Is this the future of school?

Taking Stock Of Twitter's IPO

Twitter's big IPO – the buzz, the billions and assessing the value of an empire of tweets.

Wednesday, November 06, 2013

Mark Halperin And John Heilemann ‘Double Down’ On 2012 Elections

Swap Hillary for Biden? Mark Halperin and John Heilemann are back with “Double Down.” We’ll look at the 2012 campaign, 2013, 2016.

Earth 2.0? Billions Of Reasons Why It’s Possible

Astronomers using NASA data calculate that in our galaxy alone there are at least 8.8 billion Earth-sized planets that are not too hot or not too cold circle stars that are just like our sun, according to a study published Monday, Nov. 4, 2013 in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Science. Forty billion planets like ours are out there. Like Earth. We’ll look at the latest news from space.

Thursday, November 07, 2013

The NFL And Adult Bullies

A bullying case rocks the NFL. We look at adult bullying in sports and more.

Arguments For And Against Obamacare, Right Now

Rollout woes and beyond. A defender and a critic of Obamacare debate the Affordable Care Act’s coming impact on America.

Friday, November 08, 2013

Nazi Treasure Trove Discovered

The story behind the amazing, newly-revealed trove — Matisse, Chagall, Picasso, Renoir — of Nazi-plundered art.

Week In The News: Election 2013, Twitter IPO And Toronto’s Messy Mayor

Chris Christie and election night winners. Sebelius back in the hot seat. Twitter goes public. Toronto’s crack-smoking mayor. Our weekly news roundtable goes behind the headlines.

Monday, November 11, 2013

Holiday Shopping 2013: Black Friday Comes Early

Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and crazy holiday deals all coming early this year. We’ll look at the evolution of American retailing in the 2013 holiday season.

The Future Of America’s Military

On Veterans Day, after more than a decade of deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan, we take the pulse of America’s military – as it faces big cuts and big changes.

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Flannery O’Connor’s Portrait In ‘Prayer’

The great Flannery O’Connor. A newly discovered journal of prayers gives a rare glimpse of the deeply Catholic writer and artist as a young woman.

Bill De Blasio’s New New York City

New York’s mayor-elect Bill de Blasio won on a strong progressive platform. We’ll look at New York and the inequality he’s vowed to take on.

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Kanye West, Controversy By Appropriation

In this Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2013 file photo, recording artist Kanye West speaks onstage during the 17th Annual Hollywood Film Awards Gala at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. West is postponing the rest of his “Yeezus” tour after a 60-foot LED screen used during his shows was damaged. The use of the Confederate flag on his tour merchandise has stirred controversy. (AP) Kanye West’s at it again, selling the Confederate flag at his concerts, looking to undercut a divisive old symbol – and sell t-shirts. We’ll look at Kanye West and the Confederate Flag.

121 Comments

Wednesday, November 13, 2013 | 10:00 am

Typhoon Haiyan And Rising Global Tides

This Monday, Nov. 11, 2013 file aerial photo taken from a Philippine Air Force helicopter shows the devastation of the first landfall by typhoon Haiyan in Guiuan, Eastern Samar province, central Philippines. Haiyan slammed the island nation with a storm surge two stories high and some of the highest winds ever measured in a tropical cyclone. (AP)

We go to the Philippines, to look at Typhoon relief efforts there, and the growing vulnerability of island nations.

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Bob Fosse: Troubled, Turbulent Icon

Bob Fosse, center, leads the cast through an energetic dance number during a rehearsal of his musical "Big Deal" at the Minskoff Rehearsal Studios on Broadway in New York, March 31, 1986. (AP)

A big new biography of Broadway dance king Bob Fosse – of “Chicago,” the film “Cabaret,” “All That Jazz” – opens up a turbulent life.

8 Comments

Thursday, November 14, 2013 | 10:00 am

Iranian Peace Talks Stay Stuck

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry walks out of a press conference at the end of the Iranian nuclear talks in Geneva, Sunday, Nov. 10, 2013. Nuclear talks with Iran have failed to reach agreement, but Kerry said differences between Tehran and six world powers made "significant progress." (AP)

The US and Israel are split over negotiations with nuclear Iran. We’ll look at the arguments, and the stakes.

Friday, November 15, 2013

Amy Tan Turns To Family In ‘Amazement’

Author Amy Tan. Her newest novel, out this month, is "The Valley Of Amazement." (Rick Smolan)

Author Amy Tan on her latest – family history and the courtesan life of Old Shanghai.

Week In The News: Typhoon Recovery, Obamacare Reversal, Iranian Stalemate

Typhoon tragedy. Obamacare numbers. New guidelines for statins. Our weekly news roundtable goes behind the headlines.

Monday, November 18, 2013

America's Deadly Early Days

Steering toward Thanksgiving, the real story of those who sailed from Europe to America, and how tough the settlement was.

'World's Biggest Airline' Cleared For Merger Takeoff

The US Airways-American mega-merger to become the world's biggest airline is cleared for takeoff. We'll look at what this means for prices, travel and our life in the skies.

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

The Great Greening Of The Global North

The fall crop is in, harvested. But the map of what we grow, where, is changing, with climate change. We'll look at the new map of North American food production.

What To Do With The NSA?

The Supreme Court turns away a challenge to NSA spying. We'll look at the reason why and why not to rein the agency in.

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

The Flair And Flash Of Charlie Parker's 'Lightning'

Big jazz thinker Stanley Crouch on the wild, young mind and music of early "Bird," Charlie Parker.

Digital Currency, Bitcoin And The Dark Web

Bitcoin and virtual currencies in the spotlight on Capitol Hill. We'll look at the new world of digital money and the issues that come with it.

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Rebecca Sugar's Subtle Cartoon Chaos

Rebecca Sugar is a 26-year-old cartooning pioneer. First with "Adventure Time." Now with "Steven Universe." Rebecca Sugar is with us.

Colorado's Polka-Dotted Middle Way

Colorado is pushing a lot of boundaries and buttons lately. On fracking, gun law, marijuana, secession. We catch up with Colorado

Friday, November 22, 2013

Remembering The Kennedy Assassination, Fifty Years On

On the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, we remember the day, the man and the nation before and after.

Week In The News: Afghan Deals, Senate Goes Nuclear, Midwest Storms

Midwest destruction, Afghan troop talks, a big fine for J.P. Morgan and gay marriage and the Cheney sisters. Our weekly news roundtable goes behind the headlines.

Monday, November 25, 2013

Neil Gaiman's Newest 'Overture'

Norman Mailer called it "a comic strip for intellectuals." Best-selling author Neil Gaiman joins us with his dark, new series on the origins of "The Sandman."

'Historic' Deal Reached In Iranian Nuclear Talks

Historic nuclear deal reached with Iran. There are vast implications. We'll have world-wide reaction.

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

Holiday Movies 2013: Big Films With Vintage Flair

We talk with top film critics about this holiday season's gusher of new movies, from Disney's "Frozen," to "The Wolf of Wall Street" to "American Hustle."

China Chooses Change In Ten-Year Outlook

China's ten-year plan. Economic changes. Social changes. And the planned new face of modern China.

Wednesday, November 27, 2013

The Culinary Diversity Of Thanksgiving

For Thanksgiving, turkey plus or minus all kinds of things. Multicultural America giving Thanksgiving menus a multicultural kick.

Doris Kearns Goodwin On Teddy Roosevelt and the Progressive Era

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Doris Kearns Goodwin on protest, reform, Teddy Roosevelt and America then and now.

Thursday, November 28, 2013

Brandy Clark Sings Her Own 'Stories'

Brandy Clark is the songwriter behind some of country's biggest recent hits. She's got her own album now. It's dark, funny, heartfelt, and she shares it with us.

Turning Into Your Parents

The real parent trap. "I'm turning into my parents."

Friday, November 29, 2013

George Takei

Once Star Trek's Mr. Sulu, now he's a web favorite and a big voice for gay rights. We're talking with the singular George Takei.

Women, The Workplace And 'Second Generation' Gender Bias

We'll look at American women and the workplace now.

December, 2013

Monday, December 02, 2013

A Jewish Family's Twentieth Century Story

With Hanukkah upon us, the story of a Jewish family made and broken in the 20th century in David Laskin's "The Family."

Taking Stock Of HealthCare.gov

Healthcare.gov. It's December. We'll look at what's working, what's not, and the path now for health care reform.

Tuesday, December 03, 2013

The High-Tech Hiring Market Of Today

They see you when you're sleeping. They know when you're awake. Employers move to digital assessment in hiring, firing and promotion. We'll check in.

Poverty Wages In America

Solving America's low wage conundrum. Looking for a way up and out of the poverty wage trap. Plus, Pope Francis on contemporary capitalism.

Wednesday, December 04, 2013

The History, Science And Myth Of Poison

A new exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History in New York explores the power of poison to harm and to help.

Ukraine Splits Over East-West Economic Rivalry

The battle over Ukraine. The reach of the West. Russia's sphere of influence. Ukrainians in the streets.

Thursday, December 05, 2013

Richard Rodriguez On Modern Spiritual Identity

Mexican-American essayist and big thinker Richard Rodriguez joins us on identity, immigration and the human spirit.

Gary Gensler, Obama's Toughest Fighter For Wall Street Reform

Gary Gensler is a hero to those who call for crackdown on Wall Street. "Arch-enemy" to those who don't. He's leaving his top watchdog job, and with us for an exit interview.

Friday, December 06, 2013

Remembering Nelson Mandela, 1918-2013

We take the measure of a moral hero, South Africa's anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela.

Week In The News: Biden In Beijing, Pension Reforms And Nelson Mandela

Biden in Beijing. Public pensions under the gun. A train goes off the rails – our Weekly news roundtable goes behind the headlines.

Monday, December 09, 2013

'Jefferson's Qu'ran' And Islam In America

How a founding father, Thomas Jefferson, came to understand Islam.

Pension Plans Put Under The Knife

Public pensions, on the chopping block in Detroit and Illinois We'll look at the future of public finance and public pensions across the country.

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

How And Why We Give To Charity

In the giving season, we talk to philosopher and ethicist Peter Singer about rethinking how and why we give to charity.

Big Budget Deal Could Break D.C. Impasse

With a deadline nearing for a budget deal, we'll look at what it's going to take to get the deal done. Plus, we listen to President Barack Obama's tribute to Nelson Mandela.

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Girls, Boys, Toys — And Gender

Just in time for the holidays, we'll look at boys, girls, gender identity – and the way we make and market toys.

Africa: Post-Mandela

After Mandela, a look at the challenges and opportunities of sub-Saharan Africa.

Thursday, December 12, 2013

David Carr On 2013 In Media

press freedom, Edward Snowden, and the Pope as Person of the Year. We'll look back at a year in media with New York Times columnist David Carr.

Remembering The Newtown Tragedy, One Year Later

A year after the Sandy Hook school shooting we look at its impact on Newtown, Connecticut and the nation.

Friday, December 13, 2013

The Best Books Of 2013

Plus the best books of 2013, "The Flamethrowers," "White Girls," "The Unwinding" and a whole lot more.

Week In The News: Budget Deal, Mourning Mandela And An Execution In North Korea

A budget deal, a handshake, a struggle in Ukraine and the world mourns Mandela. Our weekly news roundtable goes behind the headlines.

Monday, December 16, 2013

The Rent Really Is Too High

America's rental crunch. Big buyers scoop up properties and our rents have gone sky-high.

In Syria, Rebel Movement Continues To Fracture

Has the moderate, Western-backed rebel force collapsed in Syria? And what if it's an Islamist rebellion now?

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

A Religious And Historical Take On Jesus' Life And Meaning

Novelist and biographer Jay Parini takes on the still-unfolding story of Jesus.

A Republican Party At Odds With Itself

The fight for the soul of the GOP. After Speaker Boehner's tongue-lashing of the Tea Party, a key Main Streeter and a Tea Party stalwart joins us to hash out the confrontation on the Right

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

The New Frontier Of Implantable Technology

New visions and new progress on the merger of man and machine. We'll look at the frontier of implantable technology.

Reining In The N.S.A.

A Federal judge throws down the gauntlet on the National Security Agency. How will the N.S.A. respond? We'll go deep with The New Yorker's Ryan Lizza.

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Million-Dollar-Plus College Presidents

New numbers out on what college presidents make and plenty are making a bundle. We look at the whys of those big paychecks.

A More Assertive China

China is getting more aggressive— at sea, in the air, in space, with journalists. We'll look at China's assertive moment.

Friday, December 20, 2013

Violinist Hilary Hahn Takes '27 Encores'

Twenty-seven composers write brand new music for superstar violinist Hilary Hahn. And Hilary Hahn plays it for us.

Week In The News: Fed Tapers, NSA Pushback, Billie Jean King To Sochi

A Fed step back, NSA pushback, Billie Jean King will go to the Olympics. Our weekly news roundtable goes behind the headlines.

Monday, December 23, 2013

Druids And Celts From A Real 'Middle Earth'

Hobbitmania returns, and we look at the real legacy of druids and celts in the "Middle Earth" of Iron Age Western Europe.

A Comeback For Polygamy In Utah?

Polygamy, sister wives, plural families get a boost from a court ruling in Utah. We'll ask, "What Now?"

Tuesday, December 24, 2013

Christmas Stories From Hearth to War Zone

We asked, and you delivered: your most memorable Christmas stories. Weird, wild, and wonderful. We'll all listen.

Language Evolution, 2013

The year in language. Cronut. Vape. Twerk. Sharknado. We'll look at the language that went large in 2013.

Wednesday, December 25, 2013

The Circus: Past And Future

Acrobat Duncan Wall ran away to join the circus, and found the circus has changed. He's with us.

Songwriter Richard Sherman Has The Hits We Remember

We talk with songwriter and composer Richard Sherman about his work on the Disney classics "Mary Poppins," "The Jungle Book," and more.

Thursday, December 26, 2013

Song Of The Vikings

Mythic storytelling out of Iceland, and the song of the Vikings.

John James Audubon And 'The Birds Of America'

Into the woods. How John James Audubon hunted, pinned, and painted his masterpiece, "The Birds of America."

Friday, December 27, 2013

Whiskey: The History And Today's Industry

From pure pot still, to Kentucky's finest, the spirit is having a comeback. We'll ask what and why.

Week In The News: 2013 In Review

Our weekly news roundtable –live and lively–in the studio looks back over a whole year, 2013.

Monday, December 30, 2013

The History Of Ninjas

Japan's old politics by other means — the real, thousand-year history of the ninja.

The Choice To Be Childfree

Childless by choice. We look at the trend of couples saying "no thanks" to having kids.

Tuesday, December 31, 2013

Inside Musical Subculture

Musical cults, from Phish Phans to Deadheads to Juggalos to Wagner. We'll look at who gets the caravan of followers.

Mentors For A New Career

Want to start a new career? A new business? We have the ready mentors for you. With real world advice.

Quarterly Issues/Programs List

“Here And Now”
(October, November, December 2013)

October, 2013

Tuesday, October 01, 2013

Health Care Signup Begins Amid Government Shutdown

The partial government shutdown will have no immediate effect on the insurance marketplaces, which operate with money that’s not subjected to the annual federal budget.

Glitches Reported As Health Care Exchanges Open

We take a look at how the first day is going, as the insurance exchanges at the heart of the Affordable Care Act open for business.

High Excitement In Overlooked Part Of Health Care Rollout

One group of insurers opening for business today under the Affordable Care Act is out to change all of health care: health care cooperatives.

Tom Daschle Looks Back At 1990s Shutdowns

Tom Daschle was Senate minority leader during the government shutdowns in 1995 and 1996. He joins Here & Now to reflect on those years and compare them to today.

‘Eat, Pray, Love’ Author Dives Into 19th Century Science

"Eat, Pray, Love" author Elizabeth Gilbert's latest book is "The Signature of All Things: A Novel." Elizabeth Gilbert, who is known for her memoirs “Eat, Pray, Love” and “Committed,” is out with a new novel that delves into the world of late 18th and 19th century science.

Sisterhood Of The Traveling (Cancer) Coat

This is the story of six women and one thrift shop coat that the women pass around as they are treated for cancer. Since we recorded our conversation, they lost a member of the sisterhood.

Kate DiCamillo’s Tale Of A Girl And A Squirrel

Kate DiCamillo, the Newbery Medal winner for “The Tale of Desperaux,” joins Here & Now to talk about her latest children’s book, “Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures.”

Reporter’s Notebook: Steve Inskeep On Obama

NPR Morning Edition host Steve Inskeep sat down with President Obama yesterday, ahead of the government shutdown. Inskeep joins Here & Now to open up his reporter’s notebook.

Ferry Operator Sidelined By Government Shutdown

One of the private businesses affected by the partial government shutdown is Fort Sumter Tours in South Carolina, which shuttles 300,000 tourists every year to see Fort Sumter.

A Short History Of Government Shutdowns

History professor Julian Zelizer says the strategy of shutting down the government over a political battle has roots in the 1960s.

Merck Plans More Layoffs

The pharmaceutical giant Merck says it will cut 8,500 more jobs in its global workforce. The company has been losing money as other drug companies have become strong competitors.

ADM To Move Its Headquarters Out Of Decatur

Archer Daniels Midland, the food processing giant, is moving its headquarters from Decatur, Illinois. While employees will remain, the move is a blow to the city. We speak with the mayor.

Colorado Rockslide Kills Five Hikers, Injures One Other

Rescuers are beginning to search through a wreckage of boulders for the body of five hikers who were killed in a rockslide in Colorado, which crashed down on a popular hiking trail.

Farm Equipment Makers Worry Over Commodity Prices

After a five year boom during the recession, farm equipment manufacturers are worrying business will stall due to dropping commodity prices and the uncertain future of a major tax break.

Wednesday, October 02, 2013

President Obama To Meet With Congressional Leaders

A White House official says President Barack Obama has invited congressional leaders to the White House Wednesday for a meeting on the government shutdown. Obama will urge the House to pass a spending bill to allow the government to reopen.

Shutdown Costs Taxpayers \$12.5 Million An Hour

The government shutdown will cost the economy in lost government services, fewer federal loans to small businesses and home buyers, and slowing down Medicaid payments to states.

Can The Croissant Be The New Frappuccino?

Starbucks bought the San Francisco-based bakery La Boulange, and is serving their pastries in Starbucks stores around the country. Will this change consumers' demand for quality food?

Debuting With Health Care Rollout: A New Way Of Calculating Benefits

The Affordable Care Act is creating an entirely new way to calculate eligibility for benefits for low income people, using an hour-long, real time, automated procedure.

Mo Rocca's 'My Grandmother's Ravioli' Returns For Second Season

Mo Rocca is a well-known personality. What might be less known is Rocca's love for learning about family recipes passed down from grandparents. It's the subject of his cooking program.

Wendy Davis Expected To Announce Bid For Governor

Wendy Davis, the Texas state senator who grabbed the national spotlight with her 12-hour filibuster of an abortion law, is expected to announce her candidacy for Texas governor tomorrow.

Search For Hiker In Idaho Disrupted By Shutdown

Hiker Dr. Jo Elliott-Blakeslee has been missing in Craters of the Moon National Monument for about a week and a half. The search was disrupted when park staffers were furloughed.

Impacts Of Shutdown On Head Start Program, Art Competition

The effects of the government shutdown are being felt in different ways, including closing the Head Start programs in Bridgeport, Conn., putting a damper on a Michigan art competition.

How The Shutdown Is Affecting Food And Health Programs

On day two of the government shutdown, one struggle for states is how to keep doors open at clinics that administer food assistance to some 9 million low-income women and children.

Marine Veteran Struggles To Start His Own Business

Matt Victoriano is about to open a combination coffee shop-bar in Durham, North Carolina. But the journey to being a small business owner was not without its bumps.

Writer Tom Clancy Dies At 66

Best-selling author Tom Clancy died today; he was 66. His top-selling novels helped forge a new genre of military fiction that gave readers detailed knowledge of the Pentagon and the Soviet war machine.

Man In Custody For Jacksonville Airport Bomb Scare

Zeljko Causevic, a 39-year old from Jacksonville, Fla., is under arrest for allegedly making a false report about planting a bomb at the Jacksonville airport yesterday.

Marc Jacobs Leaves Louis Vuitton

After months of speculation, American fashion designer Marc Jacobs has announced that he is leaving Louis Vuitton. He has been the creative director for Louis Vuitton for 16 years.

Twitter Could File IPO This Week

Twitter is expected to file its initial public offering this week, which would reveal the number of users on the site and indicate how successful the company has been at generating revenue.

Alimony Laws Under Review

Colorado has new alimony laws on the books that will take effect in January 2014. It has a new formula to calculate spousal maintenance that some are considering groundbreaking.

Thursday, October 03, 2013

Shots Outside Capitol, Police Say 1 Injury

A law enforcement official says a shooting at the United States Capitol is related to a vehicle that tried to ram a security barricade at the White House.

Moderate Republicans Say New Compromise Could End Shutdown

Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick is among several moderate House Republicans who now say they'd be willing to vote for a bill that would fund the government — without defunding the Affordable Care Act.

Millions Of Poor To Remain Uninsured

Many uninsured poor blacks, single mothers and low-wage workers will remain without health insurance, despite the Affordable Care Act, according to The New York Times.

Clinical Shutdown: Critically-Ill Patients Caught In Bureaucratic Nightmare

For some critically-ill patients, the government shutdown feels like a matter of life or death. And it has nothing to do with funding or defunding the Affordable Care Act.

Businesswoman: Obamacare Hurting Plans To Expand

Kelly Gilreath, owner of Kelly's Professional Cleaning Service, says she has to cut her workers' hours as a result of the Affordable Care Act. She wants the law repealed.

Sandy Victims Face Eviction From New York Hotels

Starting tomorrow, the city of New York plans to evict about 300 people who were displaced by Superstorm Sandy, from the hotels where they've been staying.

Reporter Sheds Light On 'Gaddafi's Harem'

Before he was killed in 2011, Libyan dictator Moammar Gaddafi imprisoned a harem of women and men. Le Monde's special correspondent tells the story of one of the young women.

Negotiation Expert Weighs In On Washington Stalemate

With the negotiations between Democrats and Republicans stalled in Washington, D.C., Here & Now turns to a negotiation expert.

Andre Dubus III's Tales Of 'Dirty Love'

In his new collection of novellas, "Dirty Love," Andre Dubus III tells stories of love tainted and gone wrong. He joins Here & Now to talk about the collection, and he shares an excerpt.

DJ Sessions: The Story Behind Chicago House

The music genre known as "house" has deep roots in Chicago, where it is said to have evolved from the declining popularity of disco. House DJ Charles Matlock shares his playlist.

Military Academies Affected By Shutdown

At the U.S. Naval Academy, more than 600 staff members have been furloughed. Here & Now speaks with the one public affairs officer who gets to stay on the job.

September Jobs Report Expected To Be Delayed

Due to the partial government shutdown, the Bureau of Labor Statistics is not expected to meet its Friday deadline to put out the September jobs report.

Religious Community Leads Fight Against Kentucky Pipeline

A proposal for a natural gas pipeline that would run through Ohio and Kentucky to connect northeast drilling fields with processing plants on the Gulf of Mexico is causing divisions.

Indian City Says No To Bicycles

At a time when many American cities are encouraging people to peddle to work, bikes and other non-motorized vehicles are being banned from the streets of Kolkata.

Friday, October 04, 2013

Democrats Call For GOP To Unite, End Shutdown

As Democrats and Republicans call on one another to end the shutdown, a video has surfaced showing Kentucky Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul discussing strategy.

Experts Say Shutdown Weakens U.S. Foreign Policy

President Obama says he will not go to key meetings in Asia because of the government shutdown, adding to worries that the dysfunction in Washington is weakening the U.S. abroad.

Tea Party Organizer: Open Government, Shut Down Obamacare

We hear from a Tea Party organizer who wants the shutdown to end, but asks: If furloughed government workers are considered non-essential, why do we need them at all?

Why Is The Medical Device Tax Taking Center Stage?

Moderate Republicans say they would support a measure that funds the government while also repealing the medical device tax, which helps pay for health care reform.

FBI Seeks Answers Following DC Car Rampage

The mother of a Connecticut woman who authorities say put Washington in lockdown yesterday says she suffered from postpartum depression. The woman was shot and killed by police.

Checking In On The New Health Insurance Marketplaces

Screenshot from the home page of the Washington Health Plan Finder.

This week, the online insurance marketplaces created by the new health care law launched across the country. We check in on how things are going in Washington state.

Should You Tell Your Partner About Past Loves?

A Vermont couple says telling your partner about your past loves will make your relationship even stronger. The couple has conducted hundreds of interviews on the topic.

Mexican Directors Make Hollywood Home

Alfonso Cuarón's critically acclaimed new film "Gravity" is opening today. Cuarón is a highly esteemed director, who along with his fellow Mexican filmmakers, is making waves in Hollywood.

Gulf Coast Braces For Another Storm

States of emergency have been declared in Louisiana, Mississippi and part of Florida, as Tropical Storm Karen moves north. It's expected to bring winds and heavy rains.

The Latest From Syria

A team of chemical weapons experts has been working in the country to dismantle Syria's chemical arsenal. Meanwhile, the ground fighting continues as fissures within the opposition widen.

The 'Silk Road' Bust And The Future Of Bitcoin

We're learning more about the man authorities say operated "Silk Road," an e-commerce website described as the Internet's largest and most sophisticated criminal marketplace.

How The Government Shutdown Is Hurting Farmers

Lawmakers failed to pass a farm bill this year, and the current one expired on Monday. With this season's harvest underway, farmers are worried about getting crop insurance for the next cycle of planting.

Government Shutdown Threatens Mortgages, Housing Recovery

Borrowers hoping to get mortgages backed by a government agency will probably see delays, as much of the staff is furloughed due to the government shutdown.

'Hump Day' Disrupts Class

A Connecticut TV station reported the outbreak of "Hump Day" popularity at a local middle school. Here & Now finds out what the fuss was about.

Park Visitors Find Ways Around Shutdown

Tourists who traveled long distances to visit the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Big Bend and other national parks are finding alternatives — and local towns and businesses are benefiting.

Chinese Learn The Art Of American Auctioneering

A group of Chinese entrepreneurs has come to the U.S. to learn some tips from American auctioneers. Auctions are starting to take off in China, as the country adopts economic reforms.

Monday, October 07, 2013

Historian Reveals Ben Franklin's Not-So-Famous Sister

Ben Franklin is arguably the most famous American ever. His youngest sister Jane is mostly lost to history. But Harvard historian Jill Lepore tells her story in a new book.

New Nobel Winner Laments Government 'Paralysis'

Randy Schekman is one of three scientists sharing the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. He talks about the win, and the need for government investment in science.

Do Kids Have Too Much Homework?

Karl Taro Greenfeld gave himself the challenge of doing his daughter's homework alongside her for one week. He found it impossible, and questions the value of the work.

No End In Sight To Government Shutdown

It appears Democrats and Republicans are hardening their positions on ending the government shutdown that resulted from a disagreement over funding the Affordable Care Act.

Kenyan Man Target Of SEAL Raid In Somalia

It does not appear that the raid by Navy SEALs in Somalia on Saturday resulted in the killing or capture of a Kenyan man named Abdulkadir Mohamed Abdulkadir.

Libya Demands Explanation As Kerry Defends US Raid

The Libyan government says it wants to prosecute Libyan citizens at home, and has asked the U.S. for "clarifications" in the abduction of an alleged al-Qaida leader by U.S. commandos.

Viral Video Star On Life After 'I Quit'

Marina Shifrin quit her job with a YouTube video, by dancing to Kanye West and airing her grievances in subtitles. Here & Now catches up with her to see how things worked out.

What Happens If The Debt Ceiling Isn't Raised?

If lawmakers fail to raise the nation's debt ceiling by October 17th, the government will run out of money to pay its bills. We take a look at what happens then.

Rodriguez Sues MLB, Yankees' Doctor

New York Yankee's third baseman Alex Rodriguez filed two lawsuits last week. On Thursday he sued the MLB and on Friday he sued doctors who he says mishandled his medical care.

Song Of The Week: 'Renaissance' By San Fermin

This week, NPR Music writer and editor Stephen Thompson introduces us to the song "Renaissance" by the Brooklyn band San Fermin, the brain child of a classically-trained pianist.

Why Does 'Gravity' Have Such Pull?

Alfonso Cuaron's stunning space adventure, "Gravity," crushed October box office records with a \$55.6 million North American weekend debut. What did Warner Bros. do right?

Repurposing Trash Along California-Mexico Border

Conservationists along the border are turning trash into park benches and other construction materials. It's part of a program to clean up garbage before the rainy season.

Rising Number Of Vaccine Skeptics Worry Doctors

After two measles cases were diagnosed last month in Boston, public health officials warned the disease can spread fast among the unvaccinated.

Tuesday, October 08, 2013

A Conversation With The Real Captain Phillips

This week, "Captain Phillips" opens in theaters. The film tells the story of Captain Richard Phillips, who was held hostage by Somali pirates during the hijacking of his cargo ship.

Obama: Extortion Can't Be Routine In US Democracy

President Obama says he's willing to negotiate fiscal issues and changes to the health care law, but first he wants Republicans to pass a bill to stop a partial government shutdown.

Moderate Republican Blames Both Parties For Shutdown

Former Ohio congressman Steven LaTourette, a moderate Republican, criticizes both parties for their intransigence. He says Democrats have to give some ground.

What Exactly Is The Higgs Boson?

Peter Higgs and Francois Englert will share the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics for their Higgs boson theory. Theoretical physicist Brian Greene joins us to explain what it is and why it's so important.

Can President Obama Raise The Debt Ceiling On His Own?

Some legal scholars say there is wiggle room, and that the president does have options if Congress fails to increase the nation's borrowing limit. But other scholars disagree.

Government Shutdown Affects Virginia Governor's Race

The Democrat in Virginia's gubernatorial race is leading, amid broad public disapproval of the government shutdown. About 175,000 Virginians are furloughed federal employees.

Kerry Emphasizes US Commitment To Asia Despite President's Absence At Summit

NPR's Frank Langfitt says President Obama has been missed at a major economic summit in Asia, where America's friends are looking to the U.S. for help standing up to China.

Doomsday Shelter Takes Shape Underground In Kansas

A company has bought the majority of an old underground military installation in Kansas, and plans to turn it into a giant survival shelter called the Vivos Survival Shelter & Resort.

Shutdown Delays Benefits To Veterans, Families Of Fallen Troops

The families of five service members who were killed over the weekend in Afghanistan are going to have to wait for their \$100,000 benefit, due to the partial government shutdown.

DJ Sessions: Dark And Soulful In Los Angeles

KCRW's Travis Holcombe gives us a sonic tour of L.A., including new songs by Beck, funk duo The Internet, singer-songwriter Banks and electronic producer Kauf.

Legal Questions Over Special Ops Raids

Accused al-Qaida leader Anas al-Libi is being questioned in U.S. military custody on a Navy ship, even as questions arise about the laws under which he was captured and is being held.

New \$100 Bills Aimed At Stopping Counterfeiters

Despite the government shutdown, the Federal Reserve starts distributing its brand new \$100 bills to banks today. The new \$100 bill is the first redesign since 1996.

Some Furloughed Workers Opt For Community Service

Leoneda Inge of WUNC reports on what some people who work for the Environmental Protection Agency in North Carolina are doing with their time during the government shutdown.

Violent Protests Spark Debate Over Democracy In Turkey

The violent response of the police to a peaceful demonstration in Istanbul shocked many people, but also led to a new determination to make democracy more inclusive.

Wednesday, October 09, 2013

President Obama Nominates Janet Yellen As Fed Chair

Yellen, who is the current vice chair at the Fed, would be the first woman to head the bank, and some are arguing, perhaps the most powerful woman in U.S. history.

Ending America's Longest War

This week, the war in Afghanistan turned 12 years old. Defense One reporter Stephanie Gaskell says if there ever was a time to pay attention to the conflict, it's now.

Photos Show Middle East Through Women's Eyes

An exhibit called “She Who Tells A Story” is the first of its kind in the U.S., and includes work from 12 female photographers from across the Arab world and Iran.

Ann Leary On Alcoholism And Keeping A Marriage Together

Author and New York Times columnist Ann Leary talks about her new book “The Good House,” her marriage to Denis Leary and the challenge of writing about alcoholism.

A Painful Decision To Give Up Two Adopted Children

When writer Joyce Maynard adopted two girls from Ethiopia in 2010, she wrote about it in More Magazine. But two years later, she decided to give up the girls to another family.

DA’s Office Asks For DNA In Exchange For Dropped Charges

Prosecutors in Orange County, California, have taken the rare if not unique step of creating their own DNA database by asking for voluntary swabs from people arrested.

Furloughed Workers Recalled To Deal With Salmonella Outbreak

A major salmonella outbreak that has sickened 278 people in 18 states is a nightmare scenario during a government shutdown, prompting the CDC to put 30 workers back on the job.

Furloughed AmeriCorps Worker Protests Shutdown

Since the government shutdown, furloughed AmeriCorps employee Jeffrey Wismer has been on the National Mall, protesting the shutdown. He says he wants to go back to work.

Mercury Treaty Puts Spotlight On Japan’s Minamata Chemical Disaster

Nearly 80 years after a chemical plant in Japan began releasing methyl mercury into the ocean, representatives from 140 countries gather there to sign an agreement.

NASA Spacecraft Zips By Earth En Route To Jupiter

A NASA spacecraft bound for Jupiter will swing by Earth today, using it as a gravitational slingshot to get the boost it needs to arrive at the giant gas planet in 2016.

New Nobel Prize Winner In Chemistry Reflects On Win

Three U.S.-based scientists won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry today, including 72-year-old Arieh Warshel. He joins Here & Now to talk about his work and the win.

Afghan Neighbors Worried About End Of War

As the U.S. withdraws from Afghanistan, there is growing concern in the region. The BBC’s James Coomarasamy gauges the mood in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Kanye West To Appear On Jimmy Kimmel Live

Hip hop star Kanye West is set to appear on Jimmy Kimmel Live tonight, amid their very public feud.

Thursday, October 10, 2013

What Would A Debt Default Mean For US Bond Holders?

NPR Planet Money’s David Kestenbaum breaks down what a default would mean for each of the country’s lenders, as well as recipients of pensions and social security.

Boehner Presses For Short-Term Debt Limit Increase

GOP aides say House Speaker John Boehner will ask House Republicans to approve a short-term extension of the government's ability to borrow to meet its bills.

Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz On His Friend And Former Student Janet Yellen

Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel Prize-winning economist, praises Yellen for "her intellect, her honesty, her transparency." She has been nominated to lead the Federal Reserve Bank.

Senate Chaplain: Death Benefits Delay Is 'Incomprehensible'

Senate Chaplain Barry Black calls the delay of death benefits to the families of recently killed service members, as a result of the government shutdown, "incomprehensible."

Bill Bryson On The Eventful Summer Of 1927

Charles Lindbergh's crossing of the Atlantic, the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti, and the invention of the television are a few of the events Bryson writes about in "One Summer: America 1927."

Phoenix Mayor Assesses First Year In Office

Democrat Greg Stanton discusses the challenges of running the nation's sixth largest city — an epicenter of the immigration debate and the 2008 housing crisis.

Arizona Activist Won't Give Up On Immigration Reform

Otoniel "Tony" Navarette is an immigration rights advocate in Phoenix, Ariz. He discusses Arizona's controversial immigration law and national immigration reform.

Arizona Journalists Weigh In With 'State Of State'

Here & Now's Jeremy Hobson is in Phoenix today. He sits down with the news director and senior field correspondent at KJZZ to talk about the biggest issues in Arizona.

Arizona Realtor Describes 'Vibrant' Home Sales

Realtor Randy Courtney takes Here & Now's Jeremy Hobson on a tour of Tempe, a Phoenix suburb that's seen it all. The housing market is rebounding after the housing market collapse.

Kidnapping Reveals Chaos In Libya

Gunmen captured Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zidan early this morning. He was later released, but the kidnapping is another blow to Libya's new and fragile government.

Judge: Unpaid Intern Not Protected Under NYC Sexual Harassment Law

A New York judge has ruled that an unpaid intern is not an employee and, therefore, is not able to bring suit under provisions of the New York City Human Rights Law.

Alice Munro Wins Nobel Prize In Literature

Canadian author Alice Munro has won the 2013 Nobel Prize in Literature. The Swedish Academy that gives out the award called Munro "master of the contemporary short story."

Friday, October 11, 2013

Shutdown Negotiations Proceed On Two Tracks

Officials say House Republicans are offering to pass legislation to avert a default and end the partial government shutdown as part of a package that includes cuts in benefit programs.

Human Rights Watch: Islamist Rebels Killed, Kidnapped Civilians In Syria

A new report by Human Rights Watch has evidence that opposition groups in Syria “systematically” targeted civilians in an August 4 attack on villages on the Syrian coast, killing at least 190 civilians.

Mentors Remember Fallen Soldiers

The deaths of five young men and a woman in Afghanistan last weekend were in the news because their families initially faced a delay in death benefits due to the government shutdown.

Gov. McDonnell On Shutdown: Bad Choices And Failure Of Leadership To Blame

Republican Governor of Virginia, Bob McDonnell says bad choices by Republican leaders and a failure of leadership on the President’s part are to blame for the shutdown.

Signs of Progress as Debt Talks Continue

This morning, Senate Democrats are meeting with President Obama to discuss a possible stopgap debt deal. This came after a long evening meeting between President Obama and about 20 House Republicans.

Sec. of State Kerry Makes Surprise Visit To Afghanistan

Tensions have been on the rise between Kabul and Washington, with President Karzai issuing some harsh criticisms of the U.S. mission in Afghanistan. U.S. officials are hoping Kerry’s visit will calm the waters.

Chicago Marathon To Feature Strong Field, High Security

Here & Now’s Alex Ashlock writes about Sunday’s marathon in Chicago — the first major big city marathon since the Boston bombings — and how the government shutdown is affecting other marathons.

Baseball Championship Series Get Underway

The National League Championships and American League Championships get underway this weekend. The winners will move on to the World Series.

Some Young Civil Servants Begin To Look For A Way Out

One civil servant says after three years of government service that’s seen the shutdown, sequester, furloughs and pay freezes, she is ready for a new line of work.

Turkey Partially Lifts Decades-Old Ban On Head Scarves

This week, Turkey partially lifted a ban on head scarves for women in some government offices. The ban dates back to 1981, and has socially and professionally isolated Turkish women who wear the scarf.

Financial Leaders Gather for IMF and World Bank Meetings in Washington

This week, finance ministers, central bankers, scholars and industry leaders are arriving for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth Graver's Novel Longlisted for National Book Award

Elizabeth Graver's novel, "The End of the Point," has been long listed as a contender for the National Book Award for fiction. The award will be announced on October 16.

Farmers Convert Prairie Into Cornfields

In recent years, farmers in the Midwest have transformed millions of acres of prairie grass into rows of corn. Some believe crop insurance is encouraging farmers to roll the dice on less productive land.

'Glee' Tribute To Cory Monteith Is Silent On Specifics Of Character's Death

After much speculation about how the hit show 'Glee' would explain the real life death of its star, Cory Monteith, from a drug overdose, the show's opening episode was silent on how his character died.

China's Growing Influence In Former Soviet Republics

Although they have historically come under Moscow's influence, the ex-Soviet republics are increasingly seen as strategically important for Beijing with China's rapid rise as a global economic power.

Monday, October 14, 2013

How Would A U.S. Default Affect The Global Economy?

With only three days left to avoid a potential default, world leaders are urging American lawmakers to reach a deal to extend the debt ceiling.

CPJ Report: Obama Administration Has Had 'Chilling Effect' On Journalism

A report from the Committee to Protect Journalist finds that the Obama administration's prosecution of leakers of classified materials has had a chilling effect on journalists.

Three Americans Win Nobel Prize In Economics

Lars Peter Hansen was one of the three Americans to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics for their work in predicting how markets work, specifically the prices of assets.

Shutdown Continues, Lawmakers Divided Over 'Sequester' Cuts

No official talks between lawmakers are scheduled today, only days before a Thursday deadline to end the federal government shutdown, now in its third week.

Delving Deep And Climbing High In Search Of 'Hidden Cities'

Moses Gates has climbed Notre Dame after hours and rung the bell, prowled through the Paris catacombs and climbed the Egyptian pyramids. He writes about it in a memoir.

Iran Nuclear Talks Begin Tomorrow In Geneva

Iran nuclear talks are set to begin in Geneva tomorrow. The big question will be whether or not Iran is willing to scale back parts of its nuclear program.

Supreme Court To Hear Michigan Affirmative Action Case

The Supreme Court will hear arguments in an affirmative action case tomorrow about the constitutionality of a Michigan voter initiative which outlawed considerations of race in college admissions.

Is The STEM Crisis A Myth?

The lack of qualified employees for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields has become a common refrain. But one critic says the claim isn't true.

Worries About Flooding Cancel Austin City Limits Festival

Heavy rains and worries about flash flooding in central Texas caused the cancellation of the last day of the Austin City Limits Music Festival.

Smooth Sounds From The Twin Cities

Each week, NPR's Stephen Thompson brings us a new song to liven up our playlists. This week he brings us "Smug" from Polica, a synth-pop band from the Twin Cities.

Electronic Music Pioneer Turns 80

Morton Subotnick had a role in fathering electronic dance music and his innovations involving new technologies and musical accessibility continue today.

Big Comebacks For Boston Sports

Last night, two of Boston's sports teams — the New England Patriots and the Red Sox — came from behind to clinch wins in the final moments of their games.

Mixed Bag As Communities Continue Sandy Recovery

It's been nearly a year since superstorm Sandy slammed into the northeast coast. When it comes to rebuilding and recovery efforts along the New Jersey shore, it's been a mixed bag.

Unemployment Rate Does Not Include The 'Missing Workers'

The United States unemployment rate understates the scarce availability of jobs because it does not include "missing workers" — those who have given up their search or those who are not employed.

Portuguese Becomes Language Of Business In Miami

Second languages in the U.S. are common, and the dominant one in Miami is Spanish, but a new language is becoming influential in Miami's business community.

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Sen. Whitehouse: Get Nation Back To 'Regular Order'

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, a Democrat from Rhode Island, says he hopes a more lasting solution would emerge from the Senate's negotiations on the budget and reopening the government.

Rocky Road For Brothers Who Lost Limbs In Marathon Bombing

Today marks six months since the Boston Marathon bombing. We check in with the family of JP and Paul Norden. They each lost a leg.

Senate Inches Closer To A Budget Deal

As the October 17th deadline nears, Senate leaders said late last night that they were closing in on a deal to raise the debt ceiling and end the government shutdown.

Alleged Embassy Bombing Mastermind Pleads Not Guilty

One of the alleged masterminds of the 1998 U.S. embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania — a man thought to be a top al-Qaida operative — has pleaded not guilty to terrorism charges in a federal courtroom in New York.

Despite Extremes, New Poll Finds Political Center Is The Majority

Esquire magazine and NBC News have identified what they're calling "The New American Center." Their results suggest the political right and left are smaller than perceived, and the political center is much larger.

Some Thoughts Six Months After The Marathon Bombing

In the days after the Boston marathon bombings in April — we turned to Here & Now's Alex Ashlock for reporting and more. Six months later, he shares his thoughts

Economy Hurting From Shutdown, Sequestration Cuts

In addition to furloughed government workers, Wall Street and the financial markets are feeling the effects of the government shutdown, now in its third week.

Malcolm Gladwell's Take On 'David And Goliath'

In his new book, "David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants," Gladwell argues that our assumptions about power and advantage need to change.

Life After Hockey For Bobby Orr

Bad knees forced Bobby Orr out of the NHL in 1978 after only 12 years. He led the Boston Bruins to two Stanley Cups. Since then he has been working with kids. He writes about his life in his new memoir.

Vermont Microbreweries Feel Impact Of Government Shutdown

Among the businesses waiting for the government to re-open are small, craft breweries that need federal approval for new products.

Afghan War Vet Receives Medal Of Honor

Former Army Capt. William Swenson will be presented with the nation's highest military honor at the White House today. When President Obama hangs the medal around his neck, it will be the end of a rocky road.

Colorado School Board Election Garners National Attention

One of the most watched school board elections in the country — especially in conservative education circles — is in Colorado.

Dry Ice Bombs At LA Airport Not Connected To Terrorism

Los Angeles police say there appears to be no connection between terrorist groups and two dry ice bombs that exploded at Los Angeles International Airport.

Close Race Predicted In N.J. Special U.S. Senate Election

New Jersey's special election takes place today to fill the open seat of Democratic Senator Frank Lautenberg who died in June. Cory Booker is the front-runner in the race.

Amazon Partners With Procter & Gamble

China's largest e-commerce company recently announced it is going public in 2014, which means it will be the internet's third largest company, and Amazon's newest competitor.

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Rep. Charlie Dent: "Confident And Optimistic" Senate Deal Will Pass In House

Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA) says even though it won't be a unanimous vote, he is confident the House will approve the Senate's plan to reopen the government and avoid a default.

Sen. Harry Reid: Senate Has Reached A Bipartisan Deal

The Associated Press is reporting that Harry Reid says Senate leaders have reached a bipartisan deal to avoid default and end the government shutdown, now in its 16th day.

Bond King Bill Gross Calls U.S. Default 'Unimaginable'

Even though financial institutions are reacting to concerns that Congress will fail to raise the debt ceiling by midnight tonight, one expert says it is unlikely that lawmakers will be unable to reach a deal.

Heritage Action: Fight Against Obamacare Will Go On

The conservative group, Heritage Action for America, played an important role in sinking a House proposal to raise the debt ceiling and reopen the government. The organization is opposed to any deal that does not include significant action against the Affordable Care Act.

Henry Ford's Assembly Line Turns 100

Ford Motor Company marks the 100th anniversary of the assembly line. The Model T went into production in 1909, and by October 1913, the assembly line of today was born.

A Rocky Road To Motherhood

Jennifer Wolff Perrine's road to motherhood was a long and difficult one. She found a match with a birth mother who would let Wolff Perrine adopt her unborn son. But then, things got complicated.

Twitter Co-Founder Evan Williams On New 'Medium'

Evan Williams, a co-founder and former CEO of Twitter, has launched a new venture called Medium, a publishing platform for long-form fiction and non-fiction.

Esther's Follies Take On Washington

What's happening in Washington can seem like a joke these days, and Esther's Follies, the campy political sketch comedy troop from Austin, Texas, is raking in the material.

New Data Company Offers Real-Time Measure of World Prices

With the snap of an Android smartphone, people around the world are collecting photos and of everyday commodities and merging their data with prices collected from online shopping sites.

Miami Restaurant At Odds With Florida Crabbers

Crabbers in Everglades City, Fla., are refusing to pull their cages in for the legendary Joe's Stone Crab, unless it raises the initial price per pound on their catch by a dollar.

Local Governor Assassinated In Afghanistan

A bomb planted inside a mosque microphone killed the governor of Afghanistan's Logar province Tuesday. No one claimed responsibility, but the Taliban have been targeting Afghan, U.S. and NATO forces.

Picking The Gridiron Contenders

Next season, there will be a new playoff system for big time college football. A committee will select the four teams that will play in the semifinals ahead of the championship game.

Gummi Bears Marketer Hans Riegel Dies

The marketer who made Gummi bears and Haribo a worldwide brand died yesterday in Germany. He was 90.

Thursday, October 17, 2013

Republicans Take Stock, Gird For Budget Battles

GOP leaders and rank and file are taking stock today after what is almost universally seen as a defeat for the GOP and a victory for President Obama and Democrats.

Young Ex-Con Dashes Hopes, May Lose Freedom Again

We spoke with Donzell Mintz earlier this year when he was working at Curt's Cafe, an organization that provides job skill to ex-felons. But Mintz is in trouble with the law again.

The Economic Impact Of The Federal Shutdown

A report from the Macroeconomic Advisers says that all the budget turmoil since 2010 has cost the US economy close to 3 percent of GDP, or almost \$700 billion.

Fla. Sheriff Speaks Out About Bullying Suicide Investigation

The Sheriff of Polk County Fla. recently arrested two 12- and 14-year-old girls after comments online revealed they had bullied another girl, 12-year-old Rebecca Ann Sedwick.

GOP Left Wondering What's Next?

As 16 days of a government shutdown finally came to an end late last night, Republicans like Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina were left wondering what's next for the GOP.

Congressional Deal Includes Earmark For Kentucky Dam Funding

The last minute deal that ended the government shutdown and averted debt default contained a few special provisions, or earmarks, for states and congressional districts.

Most Fast Food Workers Rely On Public Assistance

A report from U.C. Berkeley finds that despite working and taking home a pay-check, more than half of fast-food workers rely on public assistance programs, such as food stamps and Medicaid.

'South Park' Creators Miss Their Deadline

When South Park Studios lost power on Tuesday night, their six-day creative process was interrupted and the show's latest episode, "Goth Kids 3: Dawn Of The Posers" screeched to a halt.

African Refugees Flood Tiny Island

Earlier this month, hundreds died when their boat capsized off Lampedusa, an island off the coast of Italy. But hundreds more, fleeing conflict in Syria, Somalia and Eritrea, have landed on the island.

Novel Solution For Serious Bacterial Infection

Clostridium difficile, a gut bacteria, sickens up to 500,000 Americans each year. A new solution involves replacing the sickened person's gut flora with those from a healthy donor.

DJ Sessions: Louisville, KY– A Sonic Mashup

We touchdown in Louisville, Ky., where one music director says the city's music scene, like Louisville, is having an identity crisis.

Pedestrian Bridge From Tijuana To San Diego Finally Underway

It's been in the works for more than twenty years, but construction has finally begun on a pedestrian bridge that will connect Mexico's Tijuana Airport with a customs office across the border in San Diego.

What Is The Draw Of The Lone Hero?

Recent films have all featured a protagonist who finds him or herself alone in a desperate situation. That got film critic Ty Burr thinking about what the lone hero might say about our current cultural moment.

Friday, October 18, 2013

A Conversation With Pakistani Education Advocate Malala Yousafzai

Almost a year ago to the day, 16-year old Pakistani education advocate Malala Yousafzai was shot in the face by a Taliban gunman for her work promoting education for girls.

Tea Party Challenges — And Challenged — After Government Shutdown

We check in with reporters in Texas, South Carolina and Michigan, about how the political fallout from the government shutdown has affected their states.

Former Republican Congressman: Dysfunction In Washington Is 'Systemic'

Mickey Edwards calls for handing over redistricting to independent boards, changing the function of primaries, and limiting political donations to individuals in order to alleviate the gridlock in Washington.

Four Years Later, Army Hero Honored

Army Capt. William Swenson received the Medal of Honor for his role rescuing fellow troops during a seven hour fire fight in 2009.

BART Workers Strike, Thousands of Commuters Affected

Workers at the largest transit system in San Francisco are on strike Friday. Transit workers and management were unable to reach an agreement.

Government Shutdown Disrupts Scientists' Work in Antarctica

The government shutdown delayed many scientists from beginning their Antarctic research. The window for conducting research begins in October.

Skywatchers Prepare For Lunar Eclipse Tonight

Skywatchers are in for a show tonight: the full moon will dip into the Earth's shadow producing a lunar eclipse that will be visible to observers around the world.

Two Weeks Out, Healthcare.gov's Glitches

Two weeks later, Healthcare.gov is still experiencing problems. We're joined by NPR's Julie Rovner for an update on the roll out of the Affordable Care Act.

BP, Government Witnesses Testify On Gulf Oil Spill Estimates In Civil Trial

A judge will soon decide exactly how much oil spilled into the Gulf Of Mexico following the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil well explosion.

Missouri Governor Halts Execution

Questions surround the Missouri Department of Corrections' acquisition of the anesthetic propofol. It is used as a component of the lethal injection in carrying out the death penalty.

On The Road To The World Series

The St. Louis Cardinals will try to clinch the National League Pennant against the L.A. Dodgers in the American League, and the Boston Red Sox lead the Detroit Tigers in the best of seven series.

The World Of Dungeons & Dragons Explored in 'Zero Charisma'

With the crisp fall air comes Oscar film season — but fear not, there are still simply fun movies for your viewing pleasure at the cinaplex.

Puerto Rico Struggles With Debt Crisis

The island nation has about 3.7 million people carries \$87 billion in debt — but it can't declare bankruptcy.

Monday, October 21, 2013

NJ Gov. Christie Drops Gay Marriage Appeal

Gov. Chris Christie has dropped his appeal to legalized same-sex marriages in New Jersey. One of the first same-sex couples to get married in that state today joins us.

Police: Student Killed Staff Member At Middle School

A student at a Nevada middle school opened fire on campus, killing a staff member who was trying to protect other children, according to police.

Borneo's Indigenous Tribes Fight Plans For Dams

The government says the dams are necessary for hydropower to power new industry, but some indigenous people charge they've already been relocated to land that is not farmable.

Obama Addresses Health Exchange Website Problems

The HealthCare.gov website has been up for more than two weeks now and has been riddled with issues. President Obama addressed those problems today in a speech at the White House.

State Contractor: Federal Delays Hampered Rollout Of Health Exchanges

Joe Marabito is president of a company that has been helping private insurers connect with health care exchanges across the country. He explains the challenges.

Political Focus Returns To Affordable Care Act Rollout

NPR's Charlie Mahtesian joins Here & Now with the latest on the politics surrounding the Affordable Care Act rollout.

Thousands Respond To Appeal About Young Girl

A Greek appeal for help in identifying an unknown girl who had been living with a Roma couple has triggered a global outpouring of sympathy and tips.

Would Washington Irving Lose His Head Over Fox's 'Sleepy Hollow'?

The new TV hit "Sleepy Hollow" reimagines Ichabod Crane waking up in modern day Sleepy Hollow. We look at how the show differs from the original, and what Irving might think of the changes.

France Summons U.S. Ambassador Over Spying

A French newspaper reports the NSA recorded over 70 million pieces of telephone data in France in under a month, and used key words to gather information from text messages.

Pew: 1 In 10 American Adults Have Tried Online Dating

A new report from the Pew Research Center finds that one in 10 American adults have used an online dating site or a mobile dating app. A Pew researcher joins us to discuss the findings.

Song Of The Week: 'This Lonely Morning' By Best Coast

NPR's Stephen Thompson introduces us to the song "This Lonely Morning" by Los Angeles rock duo Best Coast, off their latest album "Fade Away."

JP Morgan, Department Of Justice, Near Record Settlement

JP Morgan Chase, the country's largest bank, has reached a tentative \$13 billion settlement with the Department of Justice, according to several media outlets.

Brush Fires Rage Across Australia

Firefighters in New South Wales are battling wild fires sparked by the hottest September on record in Australia. A state of emergency is in effect amid fears the three biggest fires could merge.

'Memory Cafes' For Dementia Patients Gain Ground

A growing number of communities are creating places for people with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia — and their caregivers — to socialize and share a meal.

A Teenager's Letter To The NSA

Is the NSA spying on me? That's what Youth Radio commentator Madeline Veira has been wondering since the NSA admitted to gathering phone, email and social media data.

Carol Burnett Honored With Country's Top Comedy Award

We tip our hat to legendary comedienne Carol Burnett, 80, who was awarded the Mark Twain Award for Comedy at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. last night.

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Could More Representatives Help Congressional Gridlock?

After our conversation with a former Republican congressman, one of our listeners wrote in with her suggestions on how to fix Congress. We run them by a Stanford professor.

Chef Daniel Boulud On 20 Years Of French Cooking In NYC

Daniel Boulud is the famed French chef behind 14 restaurants, including Daniel in New York City. He joins us to talk about the pleasures of French cuisine, and he shares a recipe.

'Allegiant' Could Shock Fans Of Best-Selling 'Divergent' Books

Today, "Allegiant," the third book in Veronica Roth's best-selling "Divergent" trilogy, hits e-readers and book stands. Roth joins Here & Now to discuss the book, but we promise — no spoilers!

Rights Group: Drone Strikes Violate 'Fundamental Human Right'

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have issued reports of drone strikes in Pakistan and Yemen, respectively. Both reports called U.S. drone strikes "unlawful."

Kentucky Health Exchange Shines As Federal Site Stumbles

Kentucky outsourced the design of its exchange to the same contractor, CGI Group of Canada, that is facing blame for the technical problems with the rollout of the federal exchanges.

Delayed September Jobs Report Finally Out

The September jobs numbers are out and employers added 148,000 jobs. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate ticked down to 7.2 percent from 7.3 percent in August.

Should Fraternities Defer Recruitment For Freshmen?

California Polytechnic State University has lifted its ban on fraternities recruiting freshmen. It created the ban in 2010 in response to the death of a freshman during an initiation ritual.

Flesh-Eating Drug 'Krokodil' Hits The U.S.

The narcotic, usually created by mixing codeine with household ingredients like gasoline and iodine, emerged in Russia more than 10 years ago during a heroin shortage.

Small Colorado Town To Vote On Shooting Drones

The small town of Deer Trail, Colo., is considering a measure that would allow residents to shoot down drones if they get a \$25 license from the town.

Netflix Reaches New Heights With 40 Million Subscribers

Netflix is riding on the success of streaming original television programs such as "Orange is the New Black." Its stock has tripled this year and it's reporting third-quarter revenue of \$1.11 billion.

Baseball's Fall Classic Opens Tomorrow In Boston

The St. Louis Cardinals flew into Boston yesterday to get ready to face the Red Sox in Game 1 of the World Series. Glenn Stout joins us for a preview of the Fall Classic.

Money Pours Into GMO Labeling Ballot Initiative

Initiative 522 is one of the hottest topics in Washington state's upcoming election. If passed, it would require labels for food that use genetically modified ingredients.

Pot Tax Goes To Colorado Voters

Marijuana is on the November ballot in Colorado – again. Last year, voters legalized the use of recreation pot. This time it's about taxes.

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Detroit Bankruptcy Trial Begins

The trial to determine whether Detroit is eligible for bankruptcy begins today. Many of the city's creditors oppose the bankruptcy, while others argue that there's no other option.

Former Kenyan PM: Please Lift Travel Advisories

Tourism, a key industry for Kenya, has declined sharply since the September attack on a high-end mall in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. Former Kenyan prime minister Raila Odinga joins us.

Playgrounds For Newtown Victims Built In Sandy-Struck Towns

New Jersey firefighter Capt. Bill Lavin is building 26 playgrounds for each of the 26 victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, in communities hit hard by superstorm Sandy.

Have Pumpkin Products Jumped The Shark?

Gone are the days when changing leaves, Halloween and actual pumpkins announced the arrival of fall. Now pumpkin spice seems to be leading the charge. But is there any pumpkin in these treats?

Pakistani Prime Minister, Obama To Meet

No breakthroughs are expected today as Pakistan's new prime minister and President Obama sit down for the first time. U.S. drone policy one of the issues complicating the relationship.

Maryland Health Exchange Has A Slow Start

Compared to other states, relatively few people have signed up for health insurance through Maryland's health exchange. Many say Maryland's identity verification system is to blame.

The New Myspace Hopes To Be Home For Creative Community

The new owners of Myspace think their strategy will turn the ailing site around. Once a pioneer of social networking, Myspace has had a rough few years since its heyday in the early 2000s.

Answering Some Affordable Care Act Questions

More questions keep coming in about the Affordable Care Act. Julie Appleby of Kaiser Health News joins us to sort through some of the questions we've received.

Meet The New Voice Of NPR Underwriting

Big news for NPR junkies: The new voice of NPR funding credits was announced today. Starting next month, you'll be hearing New York City native Sabrina Farhi on the air.

College Board: Public College Tuition Increases Slowing Down

A new report by the College Board shows that the growth rate of tuition and fees is slowing down. Average in-state tuition and fees rose 2.9 percent this year — the smallest rise in 38 years.

Spain's Economy Grows, Exits Recession

Spain's economy grew 0.1 percent in the third quarter, after nine consecutive quarters of shrinking. However, the unemployment rate remains near 26 percent.

As Some Families Leave Detroit, Others Move In

It's no secret that Detroit is much smaller than it used to be. People are still leaving the city overall, but that rate is slowing as some people discover new reasons to move in.

Italian, Austrian Police Increase Checks On Migrants

Many migrants are trying to make their way to a new life in the U.K. or Germany or Scandinavia. A pinch point has formed at the Brenner Pass, the Alpine border between Austria and Italy.

Early Cold And Snow Not Predictors For Winter

Chicago saw a dusting of snow yesterday and that weather system is moving east. Meteorologist Brian Hurley says early cold is not a strong prediction of things to come.

In Game 1 Of The World Series, 'The Heat Is On'

Cardinals fans have adopted the 1985 Glenn Frey hit "The Heat is On" as their own. We take a quick listen to the remix made especially to honor the Cardinals back in the 1980s.

Thursday, October 24, 2013

Who Are The Roma?

With multiple stories in the news about the Roma, we take a look at the history of the Romani people — historically known as Gypsies — and the discrimination they've faced.

Business Owners Divided Over Paid Sick Leave

The U.S. is the only country in the top 20 economic countries that does not guarantee paid sick leave. As Newark plans to take up a sick leave measure, we speak with two business owners.

Designers Of HealthCare.Gov Defend Their Work

The contractors who designed and implemented the glitch-prone federal health insurance exchanges are telling members of Congress that HealthCare.gov is now working well.

What Hits A Home Run In Sports Writing?

What defines good sports writing? Two men at the top of their craft join us to answer that question: NPR's "Only a Game" host Bill Littlefield and Pulitzer Prize-winning author J.R. Moehringer.

Anger In Germany Over U.S. Spying

German Chancellor Angela Merkel reportedly placed an angry call to President Obama after revelations that the U.S. may have been monitoring her cell phone.

Effects Of Blood Sugar On Short-Term Memory

A new study finds that even small elevations in blood sugar can influence short-term memory, decreasing our ability to do things like recall words.

DJ Sessions: Albums Worth The Whole Listen

For the latest installment of Here & Now DJ Sessions, KCRW DJ Anne Litt introduces us to five new albums worth listening to in their entirety — the way people used to listen.

President Obama Revives Push for Immigration Reform

President Obama is renewing his call for immigration reform, asking Congress to pass the sweeping legislation that has gone on the back burner amid debates over healthcare and debt.

Gas Prices At Three Year Low

Gasoline prices are the lowest in three years — under \$3 a gallon in some places. Analysts credit greater supplies, lower demand, the easing of Middle East tensions and even a slow hurricane season.

Umpires Reverse Bad Call In Game 1 Of World Series

At the bottom of the first inning of Game 1 of the World Series, the second base umpire called the Red Sox's Dustin Pedroia out. The other umpires overturned the call.

One Syrian Family's Refugee Story

More than two million Syrians have fled their homes since the civil war broke out there two and a half years ago. The BBC's Matthew Price has the story of one family.

Friday, October 25, 2013

Sociologist: For Better Disaster Readiness, Build More Libraries

When disaster strikes, people are told to go to school buildings, police stations and hospitals. But sociologist Eric Klinenberg says we should build more libraries and community centers.

Blanket Of Smog In Chinese City Renews Coal Debate

Cool winds are bringing relief to the residents of Harbin, China, where thick smog caused schools, airports and businesses to shutter, and residents were ordered to stay inside.

Penn. Joins States With Doctor 'I'm Sorry' Law

The measure allows doctors to apologize for medical mistakes without fear that the apology will be part of a malpractice lawsuit. But any admission of negligence could be used evidence.

Linda Thompson Sings Through Her Dysphonia

British singer Linda Thompson, one of the most recognized names on the folk scene in the 1970s and 1980s, has managed to produce several albums despite suffering from dysphonia.

Appalachian Mountain Club Huts Turn 125

A New England institution is turning another chapter in its mission to serve hikers of New Hampshire's White Mountains. Our managing editor Chris Ballman brings us this story.

Former NSA Chief's Phone Calls Live Tweeted On Train

During a three-hour train ride from Washington to New York, former NSA chief Michael Hayden was heard talking on the phone to journalists by fellow passenger Tom Matzzie.

Advertising Takes Off On Twitter

Twitter, the short messaging service, is planning to migrate to Wall Street.

In an attempt to increase revenue, Twitter is expanding its ads. One key audience for those ads may be the people who live tweet while they're watching TV.

Former Quarterback Brett Favre Admits Memory Loss

During a radio interview, former Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre said he can't remember his daughter playing youth soccer one summer and the loss of that memory scared him.

Heat Turned Off At Chicago Shelter Facing \$21,000 Bill

A Chicago shelter for women and children is without heat after months of bills have gone unpaid. Clara's place, located on Chicago's southwest side, houses 19 women and 23 children.

The Week In Healthcare News

It's been a long week for those who have been defending the troubled roll-out of HealthCare.gov. Rick Klein of ABC and Julie Appleby of Kaiser Health News join us.

Angry Over Spying, EU Leaders Call For Talks With US

Senior German officials will travel to the U.S. "shortly" to talk with the White House and NSA about spying allegations, including the alleged monitoring of Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone.

SEC Approves Crowdfunding For Startups

The rule would allow entrepreneurs to raise up to \$1 million a year from investors. Critics say this sort of crowdfunding does not protect investors or companies.

For A City Reinventing Itself, The Cardinals Are A Point Of Pride

The World Series is now tied after the Cardinals came from behind to beat the Red Sox 4-2 last night in Boston. Maria Altman of St. Louis Public Radio reports from from the Cards' hometown.

Oregon Health Exchange Reaches Out To Immigrants, Refugees

Oregon has its own state health exchange to get people insured, but there are lots of challenges, such as reaching out to refugee and immigrant communities.

Monday, October 28, 2013

Visiting Staten Island A Year After Sandy

A year after Hurricane Sandy, families living in Staten Island are still struggling to rebuild. Here & Now host Robin Young visited recently and brings us this story.

Univision And ABC News Launch New TV Channel 'Fusion'

The Spanish-language programming powerhouse Univision is getting into the English-language market. In a partnership with ABC News, "Fusion" launches tonight.

Are We Headed Back To Iraq?

That's the question as Iraq's prime minister comes to Washington to ask for more U.S. help in fighting the al-Qaida affiliate blamed for the recent spate of violence in the country.

Halloween Costume Hits: Sharknado, Duck Dynasty

Halloween is almost here. Scott Morris of Morris Costumes in North Carolina joins Here & Now to discuss this year's most popular and creative costumes.

Song Of The Week: ‘Tourniquet’ By Jeremy Messersmith

This week, NPR Music writer and editor Stephen Thompson introduces us to a newly-released single by Minnesota indie pop musician Jeremy Messersmith.

HealthCare.gov Problems To Dominate Washington Week

Medicare chief Marilyn Tavenner and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius are both slated to testify before Congress this week about the online health exchanges.

Spanish Newspapers Report NSA Data Collection

Two Spanish newspapers reported today that the National Security Agency collected data on millions of telephone calls in Spain, according to documents leaked by Edward Snowden.

What Should the Fed Do To Stimulate Growth?

It’s unclear what action the Federal Reserve will take at its meeting this week, given the sluggish economy, high unemployment and the effects of the recent government shutdown.

A Wacky, Unpredictable World Series

The Boston Red Sox and the St. Louis Cardinals are tied at two games apiece in the World Series. There have been some pretty wacky plays that have led to unpredictable wins.

Wealthy Foreigners Seek ‘Millionaire Visas’

With immigration reform stalled in Congress, some wealthy foreigners are increasingly relying on another way to get into the U.S.: the “millionaire’s visa.”

Federal Judge Expected To Rule On Texas Abortion Law

A federal judge is expected to rule on the constitutionality of a hotly debated Texas law imposing strict limits on abortion before the measure takes effect tomorrow.

McDonalds Drops Heinz Ketchup Over CEO Pick

Fast food giant McDonald’s has announced that it will drop Heinz ketchup from its menu because former Burger King CEO Bernardo Hees is now running Heinz.

Colorado Town Experiments With ‘Edible Forest’

There’s a new twist on the community garden model: edible food forests. Imagine turning a public park into a free-for-all of community plants – and snacks.

UK Newspaper Phone Hacking Trial Begins

Jury selection begins today in the trial of ex-News of The World journalists for alleged phone hacking at the Rupert Murdoch-owned newspaper.

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

NY Support Group Offers Lifeline For Sandy Victims

One year after Hurricane Sandy, many storm victims continue to cope with loss. In Long Beach, a free weekly support group has become an important source of comfort and strength.

A Year After Sandy, Jersey Shore Town Counts Its Blessings

On this first anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, Here & Now checks in with the mayor of Union Beach, N.J., about how his community is recovering and remembering.

Looking Back At NYC Outages During Sandy

One year ago today, Superstorm Sandy left part of Manhattan completely in the dark and without cell coverage. We talk with a coffee shop owner and an expert on the city's electrical infrastructure.

The Perfect College Essay? Check Your Exaggeration, Drama And Self-Aggrandizing At The Door
About 750,000 students will be writing college essays this season. Educational consultant Dave Marcus joins Here & Now to discuss what makes a good one — and a bad one.

Former Intelligence Officer: 'Don't Surrender To Leakers'

Paul Pillar, a 28-year veteran of the CIA says Americans "would be the losers" if the U.S. lets flaps over spying stop it from conducting secret intelligence gathering.

Perhaps Contraption: 'Twisted Brass, Avant Pop Marching Band'

The members of the London-based band Perhaps Contraption are a mix of conservatory-trained musicians and musicians from the art rock scene. Here & Now is joined by the whole band.

Increasing Reliance On Contractors As US Leaves Afghanistan

The lack of government oversight of private contractors could mean that millions of dollars will be squandered in the costliest reconstruction of another country in U.S. history.

Swaddling Can Lead To Hip Problems If Done Incorrectly

New parents all over the world use the practice of swaddling — wrapping a baby up tightly in a blanket. But a new study warns that if done wrong, it can cause hip dysplasia.

Lawmakers Summon Medicare Chief To Explain HealthCare.gov Failures

Marilyn Tavenner, one of the Obama administration officials who most closely supervised HealthCare.gov, testified before the House Ways and Means Committee today.

Pakistani Drone Victims Speak On Capitol Hill

Today, the House of Representatives will hear from Pakistanis who have been affected by drone strikes in their country. Rep. Alan Grayson of Fla. has convened the briefing.

Infosys Expected To Pay \$35M Fine For Alleged Work Visa Fraud

Indian software giant and outsourcing firm Infosys is expected to pay a \$35 million fine to settle work visa fraud charges — the largest fine of its kind in United States history.

A Different Kind Of Autumn Harvest: Yellow Jackets

A Connecticut man collects yellow jackets to help out homeowners and people with allergies. He then sells the stinging insects to medical labs, for use in immunotherapy treatments.

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Gap Grows Between Rich And Poor In U.S. Cities

Urban anthropologist Elizabeth Greenspan is watching what she agrees is a growing gap between the very rich and the very poor in U.S. cities. She joins us to discuss the issue.

Comparing Rollouts: Mass. Vs. Federal Health Reform

Economist Jonathan Gruber, who was a key adviser for both the Massachusetts and federal laws, says “We need to be patient and measure the outcomes in months and years, not days and weeks.”

Former Medicare Chief Reflects On Health Law

Critics of Dr. Don Berwick — who is now running for governor in Massachusetts — say the contracts that laid the groundwork for the troubled health exchange rollout were issued on his watch.

Resident Chef Kathy Gunst Takes Stock Of Soup

As the weather turns cooler, Here & Now Resident Chef Kathy Gunst’s thoughts turn to nice warming soups. She brings recipes for two soups and her homemade chicken stock.

Company Aims To Go Beyond Credit Cards

Ben Milne is founder of the company Dwolla, which offers a digital payment system that could allow stores to bypass the need for credit card networks and pay lower fees.

Game Six Of World Series Could Be The Clincher

The Boston Red would capture the 2013 World Series title if they win against the St. Louis Cardinals at Boston’s Fenway Park tonight. We speak with NPR’s Mike Pesca.

Is Atchison, Kansas, The Most Haunted City In America?

Chris Taylor, director of the Atchison County Historical Society, joins Here & Now to talk about why Atchison is the most haunted city in Kansas — and possibly America.

Derrick Rose Returns to the Court

Derrick Rose had been off the court since April 2012 — benched by a torn ACL. But last night, he returned to the court in the Bull’s game against the Miami Heat and scored 12 points.

Obama-Era Stock Market Gains Surpass Reagan Era

President Obama has passed Ronald Reagan and is gaining on Bill Clinton, when it comes to how far the stock market has climbed during his time in office.

House Lawmakers Grill Sebelius On Health Law Rollout

As Republicans call for her resignation, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius faces questions about the troubled roll out of the Affordable Care Act.

NYC Restaurant Challenge: Recycle All Food Waste

Mayor Michael Bloomberg wants to require New York City’s largest restaurants to separate their food waste, but the head of the state restaurant association worries the infrastructure is not available.

Fed: No Changes To Interest-Rate Policies

The Federal Reserve says the U.S. economy still needs support from the Fed’s low interest-rate policies because it is growing only moderately.

Ex-News Of The World Journalists On Trial

Former News of the World journalists are on trial this week. With jury selection wrapped up, the prosecution is poised to make its opening statement today.

British Fighters Join Battle In Syria

British intelligence officials say there may be as many as 200 men from the U.K. fighting in Syria, and they are worried about what might happen when they come home.

Clashes On Cairo Campus After Muslim Brotherhood Arrest

Student protests turned into clashes with riot police, after a high-ranking member of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood was arrested as part of crackdown on the Islamist group's leadership.

Thursday, October 31, 2013

Could A Madoff-Like Ponzi Scheme Happen Again?

As we near the fifth anniversary of Bernie Madoff's arrest for the largest financial fraud in U.S. history, we ask: Can something like his Ponzi scheme happen again?

Wally Lamb Mines Childhood Memories For New Novel

Best-selling author Wally Lamb tells Here & Now that one of the springboards for "We Are Water" was a devastating flood he witnessed as a 12-year-old in his hometown of Norwich, Conn.

'Tis the Season For Horror Comedy

Horror and comedy are two separate film genres, but have you heard of horror comedy? Director and screenwriter Chris LaMartina makes it his forte.

Climate Change, More Storms Like Sandy Threaten Virginia's Tangier Island

Climate scientists estimate that in 50 to 100 years, Tangier Island — which is on the lower eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay — could be underwater. We speak with a longtime resident.

One Deadline Down, More Daunting One Looms For Syrian Government

International monitors say Syria's equipment for making chemical weapons has been destroyed, but experts say the next task — destroying nearly 1,300 tons of chemical weapons — is much harder.

US Relaxes Rules For Electronic Devices On Planes

The change will let passengers use most electronic devices from gate-to-gate, as long as the aircraft is protected against electronic interference. Cellphone calls will still be prohibited.

Senate Democrats Pledge Support For Employment Non-Discrimination Act

The Senate could vote as early as next week on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in the workplace.

Tunnel Connects Two Continents For The First Time

A railway tunnel beneath the Bosphorus Strait has created a new link between the Asian and European shores of Istanbul. The BBC's James Reynolds traveled inside and joins us.

Iraqi Prime Minister Visits US

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki will visit the White House tomorrow, and is expected to ask for more U.S. aid to curb the recent spike in violence in Iraq.

NYC To Raise Tobacco Purchasing Age To 21

The city council voted unanimously to raise the buying age for tobacco products from 18 to 21 — the strictest limits of any major American city.

How The Red Sox Went From Worst To First

For the first time in 95 years — since 1918 — Boston fans got to celebrate a World Series victory at Fenway Park. The party went on into the wee hours of the morning.

One Student Asks, What's The Fuss With The Common App?

When technical problems with the Common Application forced some colleges to extend early application deadlines, 17-year-old Bianca Brooks says, “I was ecstatic.”

First Ticket Issued For Driving While Wearing Google Glass

It's a first: a police officer in San Diego ticketed a woman for driving while wearing her Google Glass. Google geeks are rallying to her cause, offering to help her fight the case in court.

Trick-Or-Treating And Your Health

With new pressures on candy makers to avoid artificial dyes, and growing awareness that kids are consuming too much sugar, what's a parent to do on Halloween?

'Spinning Plates' Documentary Explores Restaurants

The new foodie documentary “Spinning Plates” takes us inside three extraordinary restaurants and introduces us to the teams that keep them running.

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Syrian Civil War Rages On; Parts Of Damascus A 'Wasteland'

The BBC's chief international correspondent Lyse Doucet joins us from Damascus. She tweeted several photos this week and described the capital as a “wasteland.”

Suspected Gunman In Custody After LAX Shooting

A gunman armed with a semi-automatic rifle opened fire at the Los Angeles International Airport, killing a TSA employee and wounding two other people.

Now A US Citizen, Former Iraqi Interpreter Weighs In On Continued Violence

Omar Fekeiki worked as an interpreter and special correspondent for the Washington Post in Baghdad from 2003 to 2006. Today he is a journalist and U.S. citizen living in Maryland.

'Ender's Game' Director Says Focus On The Message, Not The Author

The sci-fi movie “Ender's Game” hits the big screen today. Director and screenwriter Gavin Hood joins us to talk about the film and the controversial author of the book it's based on.

Trio Ellas: Mariachi Meets The Andrews Sisters

Los Angeles-based musical group Trio Ellas is mariachi music with a twist. The band consists of three women playing the violin, guitar and traditional guitarron.

The Life Of A Cult Investigator

San Francisco private investigator David Sullivan died suddenly last month, just a day after a profile about him was published in Harper's. We speak with the author of the profile.

Microbiologist Says To Avoid The Flu, Go Outside

Want to avoid catching the flu or your co-worker's cold this year? Add a healthy dose of fresh air and wash your hands, and you may just be fine. Getting a dog could help, too.

Food Stamp Stimulus Expires Today

The approximately 47 million Americans who receive food stamps will have to make do with a little less. That's because a temporary benefit that was part of the federal stimulus program has expired.

President Obama Makes Pitch To Foreign Business Owners

President Obama told business leaders, "When you bet on America, that bet pays off." But will they be deterred by the political dysfunction in Washington?

Ruling Halts Abortions At A Third Of Texas Clinics

One-third of the abortion clinics in Texas can no longer perform the procedure starting today, after a federal appeals court allowed most of the state's new restrictions to take effect.

Torrential Rains Cause Flooding, Evacuations In Texas

Cleanup has begun after storms and flooding in Central Texas killed two men, prompted dozens of emergency rescues and interrupted public transit. We check in with the Buda, Texas, fire department.

A Look At What Stimulus-Funded Job Training Achieved In Washington State

Washington state received \$16 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for green jobs training. Ashley Ahearn of KUOW reports on how that money was used and what it achieved.

Monday, November 04, 2013

Strange Case Heads To The Supreme Court

After trying to poison her best friend, Carol Anne Bond was indicted under a federal statute passed to meet the obligations of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Women's Clinic Founder: Texas Law Does Nothing To Prevent Need For Abortion

There's more fallout today in Texas over the state's highly restrictive new laws on abortion. We speak with the founder of Whole Woman's Health, which includes six clinics in Texas.

Fried Chicken, Done Right

Long-time food writer James Villas wants to correct negative attitudes toward Southern fried foods. He says fried food is often prepared incorrectly, which is why people think it's unhealthy.

Egypt's Morsi Defiant As Trial Begins, Adjourns

The trial of ousted president Mohammed Morsi started and quickly adjourned until Jan. 8. Morsi refused to wear a prison uniform and rejected the court's authority to try him.

Gearing Up For Election Day

Many people across the country will be voting tomorrow in state and local elections. But there are also some lesser-known House races that could be an indicator of things to come.

New York Mayor's Race Enters Final Day

For the first time in 20 years, New York City is poised to put a Democrat in the mayor's office. We ask: How will the Big Apple will change post-Michael Bloomberg?

Miami Dolphins Suspend Player Over Bullying Allegations

The Miami Dolphins have suspended guard Richie Incognito over allegations that he bullied teammates. The team has asked the NFL to conduct an investigation.

Adding Up The Cost Of Low Literacy Among Adults

In the final part of NPR's series on adult education, we examine the economic and social impacts — not just on individuals, but on society as a whole.

Song Of The Week: Luscious Jackson's 'Are You Ready'

This week, NPR Music writer and editor Stephen Thompson introduces us to the song "Are You Ready" by Luscious Jackson, a band that is just coming back from a 14-year hiatus.

CommentsBlackberry Sale Off, CEO Steps Down

Blackberry is abandoning an effort to sell itself, and its CEO Thorsten Heins is stepping down. Instead, it will receive a \$1 billion investment to help it move forward.

Organization Seeks To Preserve Slave Dwellings

A group called the Slave Dwelling Project sets out to identify these mostly small, dilapidated structures and bring attention to their preservation by inviting people to sleep in them.

10 Colorado Counties To Vote On Secession

Ten counties in Colorado's eastern plains want voters to weigh in on whether they should have the right to secede and become the country's 51st state.

Hallmark Apologizes For Omitting 'Gay' From Holiday Ornament

Hallmark is getting flak for changing the lyrics of "Deck the Halls" on a holiday ornament. The company changed the lyrics to read "Don we now our FUN apparel," omitting the word "gay."

YouTube Launches Its First-Ever Music Awards

What if someone held an awards show with no red carpet, no fanfare, short speeches and it finished in under the projected running time? Well, that would be the first YouTube Music Awards.

Tuesday, November 05, 2013

Election Day Spotlights Tex. Voter ID Law, Va. Voter Purge

Texas's new voter ID law has already caused a few hiccups, tripping up some high-profile voters. And in Virginia, 38,000 voters were recently purged from the election rolls.

Digital Wallets Not Yet Up To Snuff

Many Americans are interested in replacing their bulging wallets with digital versions on smartphones. The executive editor of CNET tells us why so few people are actually doing it.

Health Care Law's Birth Control Mandate Ruled Unconstitutional

U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. (cadc.uscourts.gov)

The Affordable Care Act has lost a key battle in court. The federal appeals court in Washington ruled that a Catholic-owned company has the right to pursue a lawsuit against it.

Do Israelis Have Something To Teach Americans About Security?

After the deadly shooting at LAX last week and a scare at a mall in New Jersey last night, Israeli security expert Rafi Ron joins us to discuss the challenge of securing large public places.

Speaking The Unspeakable: 'Shadow Weddings' Before The Big Day

Jessica Wolk Benson and Jim Benson want people to adopt another wedding ritual, on top of the typical toasts and traditions. A "shadow wedding" is the dark side to the wedding's light.

Scientists Estimate Billions Of Earth-Like Planets In Galaxy

Pete Worden, the director of NASA's Ames Research Center, joins us to discuss the new estimate from scientists, that 4.4 billion Earth-like planets exist in the Milky Way.

Delta Passengers Take Time To Honor Fallen Soldier

Just before the flight landed, the pilot announced that the uniformed men on board were escorting a fallen soldier home. Passenger Johnny DiScala describes how the group of strangers responded.

Toronto Mayor Responds To Crack Smoking Allegations

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford is insisting that he's not an alcoholic or a drug addict, after police revealed they have a copy of a video that appears to show him smoking crack cocaine.

Study Finds 17 Million Eligible For Health Insurance Subsidy

A new report estimates that "17 million people who are now uninsured or who buy insurance on their own" will qualify for tax credits under the Affordable Care Act.

Is The Congressional Budget Committee Making Progress?

A budget committee that was formed after last month's partial government shutdown is now trying to tackle a long-term budget solution, including whether to end the sequester.

Sequester Takes A Toll On Cancer Research In Ohio

Sarah Jane Tribble of WCPN reports from Cleveland on how cuts to government funding have already affected cancer research at universities that rely on public funding.

Wednesday, November 06, 2013

Fukushima Cleanup Is Really Just Beginning

The cleanup process will take decades and could cost \$100 billion. We speak with the BBC's Rupert Wingfield-Hayes, who will be going into Reactor No. 4 at the power plant tomorrow.

Are We Headed For 'The End Of The Suburbs'?

The next generation of home buyers is abandoning the suburbs and living in the city. Leigh Gallagher, author of the new book “The End of the Suburbs,” explains her research.

Children’s Author And Illustrator Combs Chickens For Inspiration

For her latest book, “Cinders: A Chicken Cinderella,” longtime children’s book author and illustrator Jan Brett draws from her other love — ornamental chickens.

Make-A-Wish Foundation To Transform San Francisco Into Gotham City For A Day

San Franciscans are pitching in to make one little boy’s wish come true: to be Batkid for a day. They are going to turn San Francisco into Gotham City on Nov. 15.

HPV Vaccines Not As Effective For African-American Women

We speak with the author of a new study that found that the two subtypes of HPV used in current vaccines are half as likely to be found in African-American women than in white women.

Election Results Are In. What Do They Bode For 2014?

Democrats swept mayoral elections, and the Tea Party candidates narrowly lost. What does this off-year election cycle bode for the 2014 elections?

Michigan Election Roundup: Detroit’s Mayor, Dearborn’s Majority Arab-American City Council

Michigan Radio’s Sarah Cwiek joins us for a roundup of yesterday’s elections. We take a look at Detroit’s new mayor and the majority Arab-American city council in Dearborn.

Illinois Legislature Approves Same-Sex Marriage

Illinois is set to become the next state to recognize same-sex marriages. As Brian Mackey reports, people on both sides of the issue claimed they were fighting for individual freedom.

Chris Christie’s Big Win In New Jersey

New Jersey Republican Governor Chris Christie coasted to a major victory in a state with a strong Democratic majority. It puts him in the lead for the Republican presidential race.

Questions Remain About Nazi-Looted Art Trove

The recovery of works by Picasso, Matisse, Renoir and other artists is being called the most important discovery of Nazi-looted art since the end of World War II.

Voters Approve Minimum Wage Increases, But Congress Won’t Take it Up

Last night, voters in New Jersey and SeaTac, Wash., voted to increase the minimum wage. If the increases are popular with voters, why won’t Congress take up the issue?

Harvard Launches Initiative To Connect With High-Achieving, Low-Income Students

Harvard University has created a new program to recruit low-income, high-achieving students who might not be planning to apply to Harvard — or other top colleges.

Houston Program Connects Low-Income Students With Top Colleges

Research shows that as many as 35,000 high-achieving, low-income students don’t apply to top colleges, even though they are qualified. A program in Houston is trying to change that.

Thursday, November 07, 2013

Author: 'I Wanted To Explain To Kennedy Why He Died'

Priscilla Johnson McMillan knew both John F. Kennedy and the man who assassinated him, Lee Harvey Oswald. She set out to find the answer to why Oswald killed Kennedy.

Doctor Describes Humanitarian 'Nightmare' In Syria

A new report from the UN estimates 40 percent of Syria's population now needs humanitarian aid. We speak with a Virginia-based doctor who just returned from Syria.

'Here & Now' Interview Inspires Song Of The Year

At the Country Music Association Awards last night, "I Drive Your Truck" won Song of the Year. The song tells the story of a Massachusetts father whose son was killed in Afghanistan.

Men's Cosmetics Become A Lucrative Industry

Makeup for men is on its way to becoming a \$3.2 billion industry by 2016, according to the research firm Mintel. Here & Now's Jeremy Hobson goes to Macy's to investigate.

New York Times: CIA Pays AT&T For Phone Call Information

The New York Times reports the CIA has a contract to pay AT&T \$10 million a year to search its database and provide records of phone calls connected to overseas terrorism suspects.

Twitter's Stock Opens 73 Percent Above IPO Price

Twitter's stock opened at \$45.10, or 73 percent above its IPO price, valuing Twitter at more than \$31 billion. Expect some volatility throughout the day, though.

Dolphins Players Defend Richie Incognito

Teammates of Miami Dolphins player Richie Incognito are coming out in his defense, after the guard was suspended for allegedly bullying fellow player Jonathan Martin.

Latin America Looks To Miami As Tech Hub

Miami wants to be the next Silicon Valley, and some entrepreneurs believe it's well on its way. Startups in the city are increasingly filling the high-tech void in Latin America.

Republicans Pressured From Both Sides On Immigration

Rep. Jeff Denham has become the first Republican to co-sponsor the Democrats' immigration plan, while Rep. Darrell Issa is proposing a new "halfway" approach to citizenship.

Arafat's Death Could Have Been An Assassination

A Swiss lab that examined Yasser Arafat's remains found that he may have been poisoned by radioactive polonium. Many Palestinians have long claimed he was assassinated.

US Economic Growth Accelerates In Q3

Things are looking up in the U.S. economy — at least for the third quarter of this year. The GDP rose at a 2.8 percent annual rate — much stronger than expected.

Murder Of Teen Sheds Light On World Of Street Youth

An upcoming murder trial involving street youth in Olympia, Wash., has revealed street culture where adults and teenagers live by their own rules – sometimes with tragic consequences.

Friday, November 08, 2013

The Deep Web: Where Google Won't Take You

Some officials believe it has become an “electronic haven for thieves, child pornographers, human traffickers, forgers, assassins and peddlers of state secrets and loose nukes.”

Will More College Football Teams Rebel?

Grambling State football players staged a boycott last month, citing poor facilities and exhausting bus trips. Sportswriter John Bacon says “this could be the Rosa Parks of college football.”

CBS Apologizes For '60 Minutes' Benghazi Story

CBS correspondent Lara Logan apologized this morning for her “60 Minutes” report on Benghazi, after the credibility of the former security officer she interviewed was undermined.

Iranian American Group: ‘Do We Want A Deal Or A War?’

Trita Parsi, founder and president of the National Iranian American Council, says if the U.S. fails to reach a deal over Iran’s nuclear program, we’ll have another war in the Middle East.

Kerry In Geneva As Hopes Of Iran Deal Rise

Secretary of State John Kerry is warning of significant differences between Iran and six world powers trying to fashion an agreement offering sanctions reductions for nuclear concessions.

Patients In ‘High-Risk Pools’ Must Scramble To Get Insurance

There are 300,000 people who suffer from severe chronic diseases who are covered by so-called “high-risk pools.” Those pools are phased out under the Affordable Care Act.

Fukushima Cleanup: Preparing For A Dangerous Operation

In Japan, engineers at the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant are preparing to start a difficult and dangerous operation to remove nuclear fuel from one of the damaged reactor buildings.

Typhoon Blasts Philippines, At Least Four Dead

One of the strongest storms on record slammed into the central Philippines today, killing at least four people and forcing hundreds of thousands from their homes.

FDA Moves To Declare Trans Fats ‘Unsafe’

The Food and Drug Administration wants to get rid of trans fats in processed foods. The agency classifies trans fats as “generally recognized as safe,” but the new rules would withdraw that status.

White House To Require Insurers To Cover Mental Health

The White House announced new rules this morning that will require insurers to cover care for mental health and addiction the same way they do physical illnesses.

Comparing New Jobs Numbers To Economic Reality

U.S. employers added 204,000 jobs last month and the unemployment rate ticked up slightly. So how reliable are the jobs numbers as an indicator for how the economy is really doing?

Dearborn City Council President-Elect Weighs In On Arab American Majority

Dearborn, Mich., which has one of the highest populations of Arab Americans in the U.S., has voted in a majority Arab American city council. President-elect Susan Dabaja joins us.

Subprime Loans For Car Buyers Buoy U.S. Sales

The market for subprime loans is “frothy” once again, Bloomberg News reports. But instead of home loans, subprime borrowing is booming in the car business, and buoying U.S. car sales.

A Doctor’s Prescription To Play Outside

A partnership between Massachusetts General Hospital and the Appalachian Mountain Club has doctors prescribing exercise and outdoor activity to their patients.

‘Les Mis’ Pops Up In Community Theaters Across Country

Driven by the popularity of the 2012 film version of Les Miserables, the licensing company released the rights, and regional productions have been popping up across the country.

Monday, November 11, 2013

In Typhoon-Ravaged Philippines, Aid Trickles In

There’s little in the way of utilities, food, water or fuel, and thousands are feared dead in the central Philippines. Survivors still appear to be in shock.

Reuniting Purple Hearts With Veterans And Their Families

In 2009, Zachariah Fike’s mother gave him a Purple Heart that she found at an antique store. It set of a chain of events that led him to create a nonprofit that returns medals to their owners.

Remembering Vietnam Through Photographs

Many of the iconic images from the Vietnam War were pictures taken by Associated Press photographers. We take a look at 11 images from a new book of these photos.

Film Follows Doctors Who Provide Third-Trimester Abortions

The documentary film “After Tiller” surveys the lives and risks taken by the four remaining doctors in the United States who openly perform third-trimester abortions.

Families Seek Congressional Medal For All-Hispanic Unit

There’s a growing movement to honor the all-Hispanic unit known as the Borinqueneers that served in World Wars I and II, and rose to prominence during the Korean War.

WWII Story: A Missouri Family That Lost 3 Sons

The caskets bearing Frank Wright, Harold Wright and Elton Wright came home one by one and their father, Henry, met them at the local train station.

California On Track For Driest Year On Record

According to data from the National Weather Service, which has been keeping records for 164 years, California is on track to see its driest year. What are the implications?

US Postal Service To Deliver Amazon Packages On Sunday

The deal to provide Sunday deliveries to Amazon customers is seen as a chance for both the online retail giant and the ailing U.S. Postal Service to monopolize the Sunday delivery market.

Manufacturing Making A Comeback In The US

The high cost of shipping, higher wages abroad, and an abundance of domestic natural gas are all contributing to a manufacturing upswing in the U.S.

Violence Transformed JFK's Civil Rights Push

It was during a particularly turbulent time in the 1960s that John F. Kennedy went on television to address the nation and propose passage of civil rights legislation. He didn't live to see it happen.

Journalist Depicts Battle In 24-Foot-Long Cartoon

Joe Sacco is best known as a journalist whose dispatches come in the form of cartoons. In his latest book, "The Great War," Sacco depicts one of World War One's bloodiest battles.

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Typhoon Survivors Desperate For Food In The Philippines

It has been five days since Typhoon Haiyan hit the islands of the Philippines. We speak with a missionary who is working to deliver food, and hear from a BBC reporter in Tacloban.

Why The Philippines Wasn't Prepared For Typhoon Haiyan

Typhoons hit the Philippines every year, so why was the country not better prepared for what was predicted to be the monster storm? Political scientist Zachary Abuza joins us to explain.

Study Finds Violence, Guns On The Rise In PG-13 Films

What do the movies "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" and "Thor: The Dark World" have in common? They're both rated PG-13. A new study finds PG-13 films are getting more violent.

Researcher: Climate Change To Cause Human Migration

Scientists say rising sea levels, more frequent and intense droughts and an increase in the severity and number of storms, are all consequences of a warming planet.

DJ Sessions: Female Artists Making Waves

KCRW DJ Anthony Valadez joins Here & Now to look at some female artists who have caught his ear, from Malaysian singer-songwriter Yuna to LA R&B duo Skin Town.

American-US Airways Merger Clears Last Major Hurdle

The Justice Department has reached a preliminary agreement with U.S. Airways and American Airlines, allowing the two to merge, creating the world's largest airline.

Far Fewer Than Expected Enroll With HealthCare.gov

Roughly 40,000 people signed up last month for health insurance via the Affordable Care Act marketplace — far short of the 500,000 that the administration expected.

Senate To Consider Homeland Security Chief Nomination

Jeh Johnson, President Obama's nominee to head the Department of Homeland Security, will go before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee tomorrow.

A Look At China's Reform Promises

Communist Party leaders are promising to promote market forces, but did not announce any dramatic reforms after a four-day meeting, shrouded in secrecy.

Nobel Winner's Research Gives Hope To A Family Dealing With Autism

For most parents of children with autism, the disorder is a mystery. However, one couple that knows what caused their two sons' autism is working with researchers on a treatment.

Chef Eddie Huang's 'Fresh Off The Boat'

Eddie Huang has made a name for himself with his New York eatery Baohaus and his show on Vice. But growing up as the only Taiwanese-American in his community, he felt like an outsider.

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Aid Starts To Trickle Into The Philippines

We get the latest updates from the BBC and speak to a pastor with the United Pentecostal Church International who describes the "total devastation" in typhoon-ravaged Tacloban.

Parrot Advocates Say Adopt, Don't Buy!

Parrots have long lifespans and often demand a great deal more attention that potential bird owners realize. As a result, every year, hundreds of parrots are given up to shelters.

More Americans To Be Prescribed Statins For Cholesterol

New guidelines out this week by the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology recommend the use of statins for about 35 million new patients.

The Denuding Of Cleveland, One Scrap At A Time

The high rate of foreclosures in Cuyahoga County has turned into a gold mine — or rather, a copper mine. An increase in the price of metals has prompted a scrapping boom.

Companies Look To 'Bundled Payments' To Lower Health Care Costs

Insurance companies and individuals are searching for less expensive health care, and they're taking some creative approaches, including something called bundled payments.

Song Of The Week: Courtney Barnett's 'Avant Gardener'

NPR's Stephen Thompson introduces us to the song "Avant Gardener" by Australian musician and singer Courtney Barnett. In it, she tells a life-and-death gardening story.

Congress Focuses On HealthCare.gov Management, Technical Failures

To the dismay of Democrats on the committee, Darrell Issa, chair of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, has subpoenaed the U.S. Chief Technology Officer to testify.

A String Of Attacks On Militants In Pakistan

A senior leader in the Haqqani network was killed on Sunday in Pakistan. It's the latest in a string of attacks on militants in the region. New York Times reporter Declan Walsh joins us.

Will Democrats Sweep Top Seats In Virginia?

Votes are still being counted in Virginia's extremely close attorney general's race. If the Democrat wins, the party will have swept statewide seats in Virginia.

What Will An Airline Merger Mean For Holiday Travel?

American Airlines and U.S. Airways are now free to combine and create the world's largest airline, but they must make room for low-cost competitors at seven airports.

For Ranchers Who Lost Cattle In Blizzard, Help Is Not On The Way

Thousands of cattle suffocated or froze to death in a surprise blizzard last month, crippling ranches across the plains. But because the farm bill expired, help isn't on the way.

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Help Arrives In Tacloban As Mass Burial Begins

In the badly damaged city of Tacloban, workers buried some of the dead today. People are getting some relief, but the needs are overwhelming and they say it's not enough.

Obama To Let Old Health Policies Remain In Effect

President Obama says health insurance companies can continue to sell policies canceled under his health care law for at least one more year to existing customers.

What Happens When Obamacare Works? One Maine Woman Calls The ACA A Lifesaver

Amid all the problems, some Americans say they're happy with the policies they're purchasing under the Affordable Care Act. We speak with one woman and the person who helped sign her up.

Filipino-Americans Wait For News About Loved Ones

As relief efforts continue in the Philippines after the deadly typhoon that hit last week, many Filipinos in the U.S. are desperately trying to get through to loved ones.

Yellen Will Walk 'A Tight Rope' At Fed, Says Former Colleague

Janet Yellen, the first female nominee for Chair of the Federal Reserve, has her confirmation hearing today. We get the latest and speak with Yellen's friend and former colleague.

Pie Can Be Easy As Pie, Says Chef Kathy Gunst

As Thanksgiving approaches, many would-be pastry chefs may be experiencing pie panic. Here & Now's resident chef shares her recipes for pie crust and three of her favorite pies.

Study Finds Coffee May Protect Against Diabetes

Two new studies are out this week that look at diets that can either increase or decrease ones risk of developing diabetes. The first says coffee could help prevent type 2 diabetes.

U.S.-Philippines Relations On A Reset

Just before Typhoon Haiyan hit, the U.S. and Philippines were in the midst of two serious discussions: access to Subic Bay for the U.S. Navy, and the inclusion of the Philippines in a major trade agreement.

Snapchat Turns Down \$3 Billion Cash Offer From Facebook

Facebook wants to increase the number of teenage users, so it offered \$3 billion in cash to the founders of Snapchat to buy the popular photo-sharing mobile app.

Pre-Double Mastectomy Dance Party Inspires

Dr. Deborah Cohan recently had a double mastectomy. But moments before, she and the entire surgical team danced to Beyonce's "Get Me Bodied." The video went viral and inspired others.

Texas County Implements New Policy For LGBT Inmates

Transgendered inmates in Houston's Harris County will now be housed based on the gender with which they identify, instead of their biological sex. We speak with the sheriff.

Learning Websites Vie To Become 'School Of Everything'

All kinds of online marketplaces offer ways to sell your stuff: eBay, Craigslist, Etsy. But what about a place to sell your skills and expertise?

Friday, November 15, 2013

Crowdsourcing Mapping Helps Recovery Efforts In Philippines

We hear from a geospatial engineer with the Red Cross about how relief workers are using a crowdsourced online map. We also get updates from the hardest-hit areas.

A Look At The Health Law 'Fixes' And Who's Affected

Who has these insurance policies that are considered "substandard" by the Affordable Care Act, and what will the impact of the "fixes" be on insurance companies?

Should A Death-Row Inmate Be Allowed To Donate Organs?

Ohio's governor has delayed a child rapist and murderer's execution to consider his request to donate organs to his sick mother and sister. We speak with a bioethicist who says it's "impractical and immoral."

Syria Speaks In Code During Times Of Unrest

To communicate safely under an authoritarian regime requires a sort of linguistic creativity. We speak with a Middle East expert about her research on coded language in Syria.

Does The Law Go Too Easy On Drivers Who Kill Cyclists?

Daniel Duane recently posed a provocative question in the New York Times: Is it okay to kill cyclists? His answer: An even more provocative "yes." He joins us on the show.

Controversial Wolf Hunt Opens In Michigan

The state is allowing hunters to kill 43 wolves in the first organized hunt in Michigan since wolves were removed from the endangered species list in 2012. Wisconsin and Minnesota hold wolf hunts too.

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Weighs In On Health Law Deadline Extension

State insurance commissioners are split in their reaction to the president's plan to let people temporarily keep health plans that don't comply with the new health law.

Art Sales Set Auction Records

The art world reached new heights this week as bidders spent record amounts of money for art work. Who's buying this art and will this art bubble burst?

Michigan Homeowner Charged In Deadly Porch Shooting

Authorities say the homeowner shot 19-year-old Renisha McBride after she knocked on his door, apparently to get help after a car accident. Civil rights groups believe race was a factor.

It's BatKid To The Rescue!

Today, 5-year-old Miles Scott is having his wish to be "Batkid" granted by Make-A-Wish Greater Bay Area and the city of San Francisco.

Missouri Hides Identity Of Execution Drug Supplier

After delaying the execution of an inmate due to issues with the drug propofol, the state of Missouri has a new plan to move ahead with its executions.

The Man Behind The Pastels Of Miami's South Beach

From the Here & Now Contributors Network, Julia Duba of WLRN has the story of Leonard Horowitz, the man who forever changed the color of South Beach.

Monday, November 18, 2013

Neighborhoods Leveled By Midwest Tornadoes

An unusually powerful late-season storm system brought damaging winds and tornadoes to 12 states yesterday, from Missouri to western New York. Illinois was hit hardest.

Vietnam War: What If JFK Hadn't Been Assassinated?

Among the biggest 'what ifs' of the Kennedy assassination is what would have happened regarding the Vietnam War. The war escalated under Kennedy's successor.

Does Bullying Serve A Purpose?

Bullying is considered a destructive and aggressive behavior. But does it serve a purpose? We speak with an expert who says bullying is a way to gain social capital.

Keith Terry Makes Music With His Own Two Hands (And Feet, And Cheeks, And Chest...)

Percussionist and composer Keith Terry started as a drummer in a jazz band, but one day he realized, "I could displace everything I was playing on the drums onto my body."

Climate Change Delegates Continue To Fast, With Progress Slow To Materialize

As the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Warsaw enters its second week, we check in with a youth delegate who is among those fasting in solidarity with a Filipino negotiator.

Doctors Identify Problems With New 'Cholesterol Calculator'

Two Boston-based cardiologists have spotted flaws in the new online calculator for assessing who needs to be treated with cholesterol-reducing statin drugs.

Cheney Sisters Feud Over Same-Sex Marriage

The public feud between Dick Cheney's daughters is both personal and political. Mary Cheney and her wife say Liz Cheney, a U.S. Senate candidate, is on the wrong side of history.

Rebel Leader Killed In Syria

The leader of one of Syria's most prominent rebel units died early today from wounds sustained during a strike by government troops last week.

Song Of The Week: 'Dink's Song' From New Coen Brothers Film

As he does every week, Stephen Thompson has a new song for us. This time, it's an old song that features new voices, featured in the Coen brothers' new film, "Inside Llewyn Davis."

Military Faces Massive Budget Cuts Due To Sequester

The U.S. military budget is about to take a huge hit, unless Congress takes action to lift the ongoing sequester. The automatic cuts are set to take effect in January.

Will Sugar Be The FDA's Next Target?

The FDA is taking steps to further reduce trans fats in processed foods. We take a look at why it took so long to admit the risks of trans fats, and what it may deem unsafe next.

Inseparable Abandoned Dogs Need A Home

They say a dog is man's best friend, but don't tell that to Jermaine. Jermaine's best friend is his blind brother Jeffrey. The puppies have drawn attention because of a picture that's gone viral.

Typhoon Survivors Flock To Churches

The devastation in the Philippines means that many churches that were not damaged have been filled with survivors praying for those who were lost.

Japanese Animator's Film Causes Controversy

Acclaimed Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki's new film "The Wind Rises" has proved controversial in Japan, and opens briefly in the U.S. this month to qualify for an Oscar nomination.

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Doctors Struggle To Provide Care After Typhoon

Many hospitals were destroyed or severely damaged in last week's devastating typhoon. We check in with NPR's Jason Beaubien and with Doctors Without Borders.

Pat Conroy No Longer Hides Behind Fiction To Tell His Family's Stories

Pat Conroy's troubled family history has been the wellspring of many of his novels, including "The Great Santini" and "The Prince of Tides." In his new memoir, he reveals the truth disguised as fiction.

Gettysburg Address Still Resonates, 150 Years Later

On this day in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered a two-minute-long speech that became one of the most famous in American history. We take a look at why it still resonates.

Mideast Expert: Iran Talks 'Quite Close To An Interim Deal'

It's back to the bargaining table in Geneva tomorrow, as negotiators try to hammer out an agreement over Tehran's nuclear program. We speak with Middle Eastern affairs expert Kenneth Pollack.

Bombs Strike Iranian Embassy In Beirut

An al-Qaida-linked group is claiming responsibility for a pair of suicide bombs that killed more than 20 people outside the Iranian embassy in Lebanon today.

Facebook Helps Reunite Tornado Victims With Lost Mementos

After finding storm-blown items in her driveway after the Midwest tornadoes, a woman in Seneca, Illinois, started a Facebook page to reconnect people with their lost photos.

Catholic School Tells Girls ‘Don’t Wait For Your Prince’

As it tries to attract new students, a Catholic school in Kentucky is drawing attention for its advertising campaign, which tells girls: “You’re not a princess” and “Don’t wait for your prince.”

French Teachers Protest Longer School Week

There have been teacher strikes and street demonstrations across France to protest new education reforms that require elementary school students to go to school five days a week.

Report Card Grades Government Agencies’ Writing

Federal agencies are required by law to use clear, simple language. We take a look at this year’s report card, including A’s for the Social Security Administration and F’s and D’s for the Treasury.

JPMorgan Chase To Pay Historic Settlement

JPMorgan Chase has reached a record \$13 billion settlement with federal and state authorities, resolving claims over the bank’s sales of mortgage-backed securities.

A Visit To Kennedy’s Childhood Home

Here & Now’s Jeremy Hobson pays a visit to John F. Kennedy’s birthplace and childhood home in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Walmart Food Drive Sparks Controversy

A food drive at an Ohio Walmart is creating an uproar because it’s being organized to benefit Walmart employees. Some employees say Walmart should just pay employees more.

Cleanup Continues Across Midwest After Devastating Tornadoes

Hundreds of homes were damaged or destroyed when tornadoes struck the Midwest on Sunday. Families are sifting through the debris as aid groups move in to provide shelters.

Bitcoin Rallies After Federal Hearing

The virtual currency known as Bitcoin is under scrutiny today on Capitol Hill. After the hearing, the value of Bitcoin — which exists as software and is currently unregulated — surged.

Colorado Prison Turned Into Experimental Drug Treatment Facility

Colorado’s closed Fort Lyon State Prison has been transformed into an experimental treatment facility for Denver’s homeless drug addicts.

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Architect Looks To Cities To Solve America’s Problems

Author, urbanist and architect Vishaan Chakrabarti argues that well-designed cities can help solve all kinds of problems in the U.S., from rising health care costs to hyper-partisanship.

CrossFit Gym Owner: CrossFit Doesn’t Lead To Injuries

Fans love the timed workouts that mix weightlifting, gymnastics and aerobic exercise. But the intense workouts have also sent people to the hospital with extreme overuse injuries.

US-Afghan Security Pact Reaches Final Stage

Secretary of State John Kerry intervened again yesterday and brokered a last-minute compromise that will allow the deal to go before a grand assembly of elders tomorrow.

Not Enough (Cod)Fish In The Sea?

There's long been a debate over exactly how many cod are left in the sea. Rowan Jacobsen, who recently volunteered on a research expedition to count cod, tells us what he saw.

Immigrants Risk Being Detained In 'The Freezers'

U.S. detention centers at the U.S.-Mexico border are being called unsafe, with some alleging that temperatures in the cells are kept low on purpose, as a form of punishment.

Virginia Senator Stabbing Highlights Mental Health System Deficiencies

A Virginia state senator is recovering today from stab wounds apparently inflicted by his son Gus. The tragedy is compounded by reports Gus was unable to get a psychiatric bed the day before.

The Economic Legacy Of JFK

At the time of John F. Kennedy's death in November 1963, an employment boom was beginning. How much of that can be credited to JFK, and does he have an economic legacy?

Iran's Supreme Leader Supports Nuclear Talks

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who will have the final word in Iran on any deal over the country's nuclear program, spoke out in support of the talks, while insisting there are limits to concessions Iran will make.

Zimmerman Out On Bail, Facing Felony Charge

It's the second time in three months that George Zimmerman has been accused of domestic violence, after being acquitted of second-degree murder in the death of Trayvon Martin.

Drama Builds For Flyby Of Comet 'ISON'

You could be in for a treat this week — if you wake up early and the skies are clear. A comet named Ison should be visible through binoculars over the southeastern horizon.

Healthcare Services Remain Difficult In Wake Of Typhoon

After Typhoon Haiyan, it continues to be a struggle to get aid to devastated areas of the Philippines. The BBC's Rajesh Mirchandani reports from the province of Leyte.

The Women In Kennedy's White House

The stories of the women who worked for President Kennedy reveal a president who relied on them and a politician who recognized the growing importance of women in the workplace.

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Anthropologist Works To Return Migrants' Remains

Last year, U.S. border officials recorded 463 migrant deaths — the second-highest number in 15 years. Most are unidentified, but one forensic anthropologist is trying to change that.

Olympic Runner Makes Statements On And Off The Track

World-class runner Nick Symmonds is calling for a ban on assault weapons and handguns for all but police and military personnel. He has also been outspoken on gay rights.

Democrats Vote To Curb Filibusters On Appointees

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who launched the move, accused Republicans of obstructing President Obama's nominees and said the Senate has to change "before this institution becomes obsolete."

Will Forte Gets Serious In 'Nebraska'

Will Forte is known for his offbeat, sometimes outrageous characters, like "MacGruber." He takes a serious turn in Alexander Payne's new film about a son trying to cope with an aging father.

DJ Sessions: Reggae Beyond Bob Marley

Jamaican-born Howard Duperly, host of "Reggae Ride" on WDNA public radio in Miami, introduces us to tracks by Romain Virgo, Richie Stevens, Gentleman and Tarrus Riley.

Same-Sex Marriage Roils Methodist Church

A jury of Methodist pastors convicted a fellow pastor, Reverend Frank Schaefer, of violating church law when he officiated his son's same-sex wedding six years ago.

Central Texas Farmers Could Lose Water Access Due to Drought

Half of Texas is experiencing drought conditions, and for the third year in a row, rice farmers in Central Texas may be cut off from water supplies because of severe drought.

Oregon Struggles To Work Out Health Exchange Glitches

Oregon's health insurance exchange website will likely not be working properly before the Affordable Care Act's first enrollment period ends on Mar. 31. We take a look at why.

Wash. State Health Exchange Sees Over 100,000 Enrolled

Washington state's Healthplanfinder has experienced significantly more success than some of its neighbors. And it will not allow the revival of canceled insurance plans.

Green Tech And Luxury On Display At LA Auto Show

The Los Angeles Auto Show begins this weekend. It's a showcase for the newest in luxury, as well as green technology. NPR's Sonari Glinton joins us to discuss the new cars debuting there.

Study Finds Americans Taking Fewer Vacation Days

Many Americans think they work too hard, which might make you think they love using their vacation days. But a new survey finds Americans get an average of 14 vacation days and take only 10.

Cargo Jet Lands At The Wrong Wichita Airport

Two pilots safely landed a Boeing 747 Dreamlifter cargo plane at a Wichita, Kansas, airport last night. Unfortunately, it was the wrong Wichita airport. The small airport is closed until the huge jet leaves.

Violence Surges In Libya's Capitol

Libya's capital city Tripoli is seeing some of the worst violence since the country's longtime leader Muammar Gaddafi was toppled and killed two years ago.

Paramount To Fight 'It's A Wonderful Life' Sequel

An independent studio has announced it will make a sequel of the classic holiday film. However, Paramount, which owns the rights, says it has not licensed the project.

Friday, November 22, 2013

Kennedy Assassination: 50th Anniversary

Today, Here & Now is marking the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, on Nov. 22, 1963, with four hours of special coverage.

Where Were You? 50 Memories To Mark 50 Years

Many listeners have sent us their memories from the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. To mark the 50th anniversary, we share 50 of those memories.

Sen. Hoeven: Senate Rule Change Is 'Power Grab'

After the Senate voted yesterday to overturn decades of precedent by eliminating a rule that allows a minority to block final votes, we speak with Republican Sen. John Hoeven of North Dakota.

A Look At The Stock Market 50 Years Ago Today

With the Dow Jones industrial average hitting record highs, we take a look at the stock market 50 years ago today, as news broke that President Kennedy had been shot.

What Does The Future Hold For Russia's Longest-Serving Political Prisoner?

Former oil billionaire Mikhail Khodorkovsky is one of Russia's best known political prisoners. His sentence is supposed to expire in 2014. But it's possible additional charges will be brought.

FCC Considers Changing In-Flight Cell Phone Rules

The announcement has been met with a strong negative response. The FCC chair got hundreds of emails overnight saying the move would lead to unbearable noise in-flight.

Monday, November 25, 2013

Could Sensor Technology End Traffic Jams?

If a new sensor makes it off the drawing board and into cars, traffic jams that are not caused by car accidents could become a thing of the past.

Details Of The Interim Nuclear Deal With Iran

Under the agreement, Iran can keep the central elements of its uranium program, but must limit enrichment to a level lower than what is needed for nuclear arms.

Secret US-Iran Talks Set Stage For Nuclear Deal

The U.S. and Iran secretly engaged in high-level, face-to-face talks in a high stakes diplomatic gamble by the administration that paved the way for the historic deal aimed at slowing Iran's nuclear program.

With their destination and mission among America's closest guarded secrets, a small group of officials hand-picked by President Obama engaged in high-level talks with Iran.

Thanksgiving Recipes For All: Thanksgivukkah, Gluten-Free, Vegan

Here & Now resident chef Kathy Gunst shares five recipes for Thanksgiving side dishes, including a gluten-free option, two vegan ones and a Hanukkah-Thanksgiving hybrid.

Film Explores Danger Of Chemical Flame Retardants

We speak with the director of a new documentary about chemical flame retardants, which have been linked to cancer, developmental problems, reduced IQ and impaired fertility.

Superintendent Charged In Steubenville Rape Case

An Ohio school superintendent, two coaches and a principal are accused of knowing about the rape allegation, but failing to report it as required by state law.

California Says 'No Thanks' To Obama's Offer To Extend Insurance Policies

The executive director of California's health insurance exchange says delaying the policy cancellations would just delay the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Lower Gas Prices Greet Holiday Travelers

For people who watch every penny, this Thanksgiving will be good to their wallets: gasoline is cheaper than last year and turkey prices are down, too.

Forbes And Snapchat: Are The Valuations Right?

Forbes has announced it's for sale at a price of \$400 million, which many analysts think overvalues the 96-year-old company. Meantime, Snapchat turned down a \$3 billion offer.

Investigators Release Sandy Hook Shooting Report

Some crime scene evidence is expected to be part of prosecutors' 50-page summary of the investigation, but state police are still withholding much of the evidence.

American Lawmakers React To Iran Deal

Congress is not in session this week, but lawmakers are already reacting to an interim deal reached with Iran over the weekend, and making plans for how to react if talks falls through.

An Effort To Preserve Heritage Turkey Breeds

Most turkeys bought during Thanksgiving are a breed called Broad Breasted White. So what has happened to the other breeds farmers used to raise?

Brady, Manning Face Off In 'Wackiest' Game Of The Season

Last night's game, in which the Patriots beat the Broncos 34-31 in overtime, was the 14th time quarterbacks Tom Brady and Peyton Manning met on the field.

As Mass. Moves To Build Casinos, Voters Get Cold Feet

Casino gambling is now in 39 states. Massachusetts was poised to become 40th two years ago, when lawmakers approved a law to allow several casinos in the state.

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

Supreme Court Will Take Up New Health Law Dispute

The Supreme Court has agreed to take up the question of whether businesses can use religious objections to escape a birth control coverage requirement in the Affordable Care Act.

Newtown Father Looks Beyond Investigator's Report

Robbie Parker's 6-year-old daughter Emilie was killed at the Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut last year. And talks about what he has done in his daughters memory.

When The Vietnam War Came To 'Animal House'

Writer Denis O'Neill, who belonged to one of the fraternities at Dartmouth College that became a model for the film "Animal House," recalls reactions to the draft lottery in 1969.

Senators Push For More Verification In Iran Deal

A bipartisan group of senators is working on legislation to reinstate the full sanctions against Iran and impose new ones if the country doesn't honor the interim nuclear deal.

Severe Weather Threatens Holiday Travel

Airports including New York, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and Boston are already warning of potential delays ahead of what's expected to be the busiest travel season in years.

DJ Sessions: What's Coming In 2014

KCRW DJ Travis Holcombe is already looking forward to new music that's coming out in 2014. Among some of his soon-to-be-favorites are artists like U2 and Broken Bells.

Some Gay National Guard Couples Faced With Roadblocks To Benefits

The Defense Department has started providing benefits to same-sex married military couples, but four states are not letting gay spouses obtain benefits on state-run National Guard bases.

'Family Guy' Fans Campaign To #BringBrianBack

After the show Family Guy killed off the talking dog Brian after 15 years on the show, thousands of people have signed a petition to bring him back and are using the Twitter hashtag #BringBrianBack.

Skywatchers Cross Fingers As ISON Journeys Behind Sun

Astronomers are monitoring the one-of-a-kind Comet ISON as it journeys behind the sun, where it will either burn up, lose its tail or emerge triumphant for all to see in early December.

Dictionary Adds 'Selfie' But Not 'Twerk'

For the latest update to the American Heritage Dictionary, the editors added hundreds of new words and usage changes. "Selfie" is in, but other words like "twerk" are not.

Wal-Mart's New CEO Is An Insider

Longtime Wal-Mart executive Doug McMillon will become the company's new CEO. He'll face challenges including sluggish growth and accusations that Wal-Mart underpays its workers.

Shearwater Brings A New Sound To A '90s Hit

Each week, NPR's Stephen Thompson brings us a new song. This week it's the Brooklyn-based band Shearwater's cover of "Natural One" by The Folk Implosion.

Students Return To School In Tornado-Ravaged Town

Students at Gifford Grade School have returned to class, one week after a tornado ripped through the Illinois community. School officials are trying to recapture some sense of normalcy.

Durham Marks 50th Anniversary Of 'North Carolina Fund'

The program, which was established in 1963 by North Carolina governor Terry Sanford, has addressed the state's vast disparities in housing, education and jobs.

Wednesday, November 27, 2013

Thai Protesters Vow To Topple Government

It has now been four days since protesters in Bangkok took to the streets, vowing to topple the prime minister. Protesters say their intent is to disrupt the flow of government.

Swiss Voters Consider Guaranteed Income For All

Swiss residents will soon vote on a referendum that would provide an unconditional monthly income to every adult, totaling \$33,600 per person annually.

Former Hostage Suspicious Of Iran Deal

After militants attacked the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in November 1979, Marine Sergeant Rodney "Rocky" Sickmann spent 444 days in captivity in Iran, as did scores of other Americans.

Bangladesh Garment Factories See Slow Recovery

In April, more than 1,100 people died when an eight-story building that housed garment factories in Bangladesh collapsed. The government and retailers promised to improve safety.

Study: US Spewing 50% More Methane Than EPA Says

A new comprehensive scientific study finds that methane may be a bigger global warming issue than thought. Much of it is coming from Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas.

StoryCorps Marks 10 Years Chronicling American Lives

This year, StoryCorps has declared a "national day of listening" for the day after Thanksgiving, designed for friends and families to record each other's stories.

Chef Hobson Spices Up Thanksgiving With Jalapeno Mac 'N' Cheese

Spicy macaroni and cheese is the tradition at Here & Now host Jeremy Hobson's family table — particularly when his sister, Boston chef Nicki Hobson, is cooking.

HealthCare.gov Ready For Visitors – But Not Too Many

The White House is exercising caution regarding the still-fragile federal website as Saturday approaches — the White House's self-imposed deadline to fix it.

Relishing An NPR Thanksgiving Tradition

As longtime NPR listeners know, Susan Stamberg's mother-in-law's cranberry relish has become an institution ever since she first talked about it on "All Things Considered" in 1972.

New Films This Holiday Season

Thanksgiving is the traditional start of the holiday movie season and Boston Globe film critic Ty Burr says there are some good films to finish out what's been a strong year at the movies.

America's Most Famous Unsolved Skyjacking Case

On the day before Thanksgiving in 1971, a man hijacked a Boeing 727 on a flight from Portland, Ore. to Seattle. He extorted 200,000 dollars in ransom and parachuted from the plane.

Friendship Formed And Tested In Less Than 30 Seconds

What is it that makes someone stop and make a decision to help a stranger in need? That's a question we're exploring on this Thanksgiving Eve with a story from WBUR's "Kind World" series.

Thursday, November 28, 2013

Black Friday Frenzy Spills Into Thanksgiving

For the first time in its 155 year history, Macy's is opening its doors on Thanksgiving. An estimated 33 million people will go shopping after Thanksgiving dinner.

Don't Shop Today: One Woman's Campaign To Keep Thanksgiving About Family

A number of people are dismayed by the commercialization of Thanksgiving, including Annie Zirkel, who has started a Facebook page and a campaign to "save Thanksgiving."

Thanksgiving For US Troops Stationed In Afghanistan

There are still about 47,000 American forces in Afghanistan. NPR's Sean Carberry is in Kabul and shares the voices of some soldiers spending Thanksgiving away from home.

A Son Uncovers His Father's World War II History

An author tries to solve the mystery of his father's World War II experience. His only clue was a photo his father kept nearby, of him and a fellow Marine.

Glühwein: A Holiday Tradition

A major part of Christkindlmarket, Chicago's annual holiday market, is Glühwein — a traditional mulled wine consumed in Germany and Austria.

Thanksgiving In The Wake Of Midwestern Tornadoes

In East Peoria, Illinois, volunteers are organizing a Thanksgiving dinner for the families who lost their homes and those working on the cleanup and recovery.

Thanksgiving In Liberia

In the early 1880s, the Liberian government passed an act declaring the first Thursday of November as National Thanksgiving Day. The country's National Orator explains the tradition.

Leonard Bernstein's Letters

A new collection of correspondence by iconic American composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein includes hundreds of previously unpublished letters.

It's A Menorah! It's A Turkey! It's A Menurkey!

This year, Thanksgiving and the first night of Hanukkah will coincide, and what better way to celebrate than with a Menurkey — a turkey-shaped menorah designed by a 10-year-old.

What Makes Upworthy Wildly Successful

Upworthy, the news aggregating site, is partnering with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to produce original content focussing on global health and poverty.

Libraries' Leading Roles In Fiction

An NPR series is taking a look at public libraries in American life. Arts critic Bob Mondello asked if he could broaden that mandate a little, to look at the library's place in America's fictional worlds.

Holiday Manners: Making The Most Of Being Polite

After your big holiday meal, you may ask, "Is it appropriate to ask my guests to help with the dishes?" Etiquette experts from the Emily Post Institute answer questions such as "Is it appropriate to ask your dinner guests to help with the dishes?" to make your holidays run as smoothly as possible.

Thanksgiving Tradition: Snow Geese Migration In Vermont

We revisit host Robin Young's trip with her now-late uncle, Lachlan Maclachlan Field, to see the migrating snow geese at the Dead Creek Refuge in Addison, Vermont.

Friday, November 29, 2013

Administration Makes Push To Fix HealthCare.gov

Facing tomorrow's deadline to fix HealthCare.gov, close to 40 members of the so-called "tech surge" have been working through the holiday to fix the problematic website.

Rethinking The 4 Percent Rule For Retirement

Bill Bengen came up with the rule, and he is now retired himself. He joins us to discuss retirement planning, and whether it's time to rethink his rule for retirement.

Kathy Gunst Gives Thanksgiving Leftovers A Foreign Flair

Do you want something other than a plain turkey sandwich the day after Thanksgiving? Here are five recipes, from Vietnamese-style turkey bánh mì to Spanish-style mashed potato-turkey croquettes.

It's Rivalry Weekend In College Football

The biggest rivalry game of the year is Alabama against Auburn. The Tide and the Tigers have traded punches for decades, but the stakes have never been higher than they will be tomorrow.

Did Comet ISON Fly Too Close To The Sun?

The comet at first seemed to have fallen apart as it approached the sun's sizzling surface, but new images today show a streak of light that some say could indicate it's not game over just yet.

The Year In Tech

It's been a big year for gadgets: the new iPhones, tablets galore and new gaming systems. But did they live up to the hype? Tech reporter Hiawatha Bray joins us.

Border Dispute Between China And Japan Heats Up

According to Chinese state media, China sent two fighter planes to investigate flights by a dozen U.S. and Japanese planes in its newly established air defense zone.

Best Deals For Black Friday And Cyber Monday

Lindsay Sakraida, features director of the shopping and retail news site DealNews, joins us to share the best deals she's found for Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

The True Origin Of The Term 'Black Friday'

Many people assume it comes from the massive shopping day that puts retailers back in the black. But it actually stems from frustrated factory managers and traffic police.

Study: Listen To Your Gut When Getting Married

Researchers found that newlyweds' "gut" feelings about each other — feelings they couldn't or wouldn't verbalize — were good predictors of how happy their marriage would be four years later.

'Tis The Season For New Cookbooks

Cookbooks abound this time of year, just in time for holiday feasting. There are books for slow cooking, gluten-free baking and practical ones for fresh and simple food.

Top Amazon Reviewers Get Big Perks

The benefits of online reviews are obvious for retailers, but what's in it for the most prolific reviewers? For Amazon's top reviewers, like Michael Erb, the benefits are tangible.

Independent Retailers Look To 'Small Business Saturday'

Small, locally-owned retailers are also trying to cash in the holiday shopping rush with Small Business Saturday tomorrow. LaToya Dennis of WUWM in Milwaukee reports.

December, 2013

Monday, December 02, 2013

Investigators Recover 2nd 'Black Box' From Derailed Train

The National Transportation Safety Board says investigators plan to interview the engineer and conductor of the train involved in a fatal derailment in New York City.

Raising Children In Two Faiths

Nearly half of the marriages in the U.S. over the last decade have been between people of different faiths, and many are raising children fully in both parents' religious traditions.

Chef Scott Conant Brings Restaurant Fare To New Cookbook

In "The Scarpetta Cookbook," chef Scott Conant shares recipes from his five Scarpetta restaurants. Food Network fans might know chef Scott Conant best as a tough judge on the cooking competition show "Chopped." He shares two key recipes from his Scarpetta restaurants.

'Double Down' Authors Riff On Obamacare, 2016

Political analysts Mark Halperin and John Heilemann share their insights on the disastrous rollout of President Obama's signature healthcare reform law, and look ahead to 2016.

HealthCare.gov Front End Up And Running, But What About The Back End?

The HealthCare.gov website is photographed in Washington, Nov. 29, 2013. (Jon Elswick/AP)
The White House says HealthCare.gov is now running smoothly for consumers hoping to enroll in a health plan, but the part that delivers the consumer information to insurers may not be fixed.

Amazon Wants To Use Drones To Deliver Faster

The drones would carry packages weighing less than five pounds within a ten mile radius of distribution centers. But it's years away from being ready for commercial use.

Auburn-Alabama: The Greatest Play In College Football History?

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Ft. Lauderdale Street Name Stirs Emotional Debate

For years now, a boulevard running through the heart of Fort Lauderdale's historically black business district has been at the center of a contentious disagreement.

Tuesday, December 03, 2013

Photographer Hopes To Put Face On Syrian Statistics

Elena Dorfman recently returned from a six-month trip taking portraits of Syrian refugees. She was particularly struck by the young adults she met.

Detroit Judge Says 'Yes' To Largest Public Bankruptcy In US History

A judge has ruled that the city of Detroit is legally cleared to declare bankruptcy, allowing the city to shed \$18 billion in debt and creating the largest public bankruptcy in U.S. history.

MGMT Reflects On Evolution Of New Music

Members of MGMT were just college kids when they wrote some of the songs that shot them to fame. Their next album had a very different sound, and they continue that evolution with their latest record.

Did Silicon Valley Help The NSA Spy?

Georgetown University professor Abraham Newman argues that business practices at the big technology companies have helped the N.S.A. gather consumers' personal data.

Plan To Fix Illinois Pension Crisis Faces Vote

Illinois lawmakers are convening in the state capitol for what could be a historic vote to finally close the gap on the state's \$100 billion public pension shortfall.

Montana Appeals Teacher's Rape Sentence

The Montana attorney general's office is asking the state Supreme Court to throw out a 30-day sentence given to a teacher who raped a 14-year-old girl, saying the punishment was illegally lenient.

Many Young Americans Still Unfamiliar With Health Law

A new Gallup poll reveals that 37 percent of American adults under 30 years old are unfamiliar with the Affordable Care Act.

Thai Protests Ease As Police Lift Key Barricades

Anti-government protesters swarmed into the Thai prime minister's office compound today, as police stood by and watched, allowing them to claim a symbolic victory.

'Giving Tuesday' Follows Record-Breaking Cyber Monday

Today is "Giving Tuesday." The movement to create a national day of giving started last year, raising \$10 million dollars for more than 2,500 charities nationwide.

Maryland Health Exchange Still Riddled With Glitches

Two months after Maryland rolled out its own health insurance exchange, the website still has some problems. At this time, only about 3,000 people have signed up through the site.

Signs Point To Thawing Arizona-Mexico Tensions

Local leaders are making an effort to boost trade and tourism between Arizona and Mexico, after Arizona's immigration enforcement law provoked deep tensions a few years ago.

Politics In One Of Oregon's Smallest Towns

There are some towns in America that are so small, nearly everybody is a politician. Chris Lehman of the Northwest News Network has the story of one such town: Prescott, Oregon. Population 55.

Wednesday, December 04, 2013

Voluntourism: Doing It Right Is Not As Simple As It Sounds

The benefits of combining travel with volunteer opportunities are obvious. But critics say in the wrong hands, the trips can exploit and endanger the very people they're designed to help.

Newtown 911 Calls Show Calm Response To Shooting

The calls to Newtown police were posted on a town website today. A court ordered the release of the tapes last week, despite the objections of prosecutors.

Bitcoin Or Bust: One Couple's Quest To Live On Virtual Currency

Utah newlyweds Austin Craig and Becca Bingham-Craig have decided to travel the globe and spend only Bitcoin — the virtual currency — for the first 90 days.

Harvard Professor Gives Two Sets Of Marks To Combat Grade Inflation

Professor Harvey Mansfield, a longtime critic of grade inflation, discovered yesterday that the most frequent mark given at Harvard University is a perfect A. He joins us.

Tolerasty Vs. Sovok: Ukraine's Battle Over Values

Oleh Kotsyuba of the Ukrainian journal Krytyka says this time around, the battle on the streets of Kiev is not really about politics, it's about the rise of a new set of values.

Vietnam Vet, 71, Working As Contractor In Afghanistan

Jeff Traylor, a 71-year-old Vietnam veteran, is working with the Air Force as a contractor in Afghanistan. He says he's doing the work because he needed a job.

Crews Try To Rescue Stranded Pod Of Whales

Federal officials say six pilot whales have died after stranding in shallow water in a remote area of Everglades National Park. There are still 46 whales stranded.

Listeners Share Their Health Exchange Experiences

Americans trying to sign up for health insurance on HealthCare.gov or their state health exchange are having varied experiences. We hear from two people.

Strain Over Security Zone Evident In Biden Talks

In a sharp rebuff, China is accusing Washington of taking Japan's side in a tense clash over disputed islands in the East China Sea, underscoring rising regional friction.

Study: 'Uptalk' Spreads From Valley Girls To Young Men

A new study finds that the vocal inflection known as uptalk — often referred to as talking like a "valley girl" — has spread to young men in Southern California.

NPR's Planet Money Follows The Life Of A T-Shirt

Months ago, NPR's Planet Money had the idea to design a T-shirt and follow it around the world as it was manufactured. The project took the Planet Money team around the globe.

New Bombs Pose New Threat

With top U.S. lawmakers warning of new terrorism threats, intelligence officials in the U.K. say there remains an enduring threat from bombs made by terrorists in Yemen.

Miami Gears Up For Art Basel

Every year, tens of thousands of people attend the international art show in Miami Beach called Art Basel. It's also transforming Miami's up-and-coming neighborhood, Wynwood.

Thursday, December 05, 2013

Industry Expert: After Newtown, Guns Easier To Own In Some States

Almost a year after 20 children and six educators were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School, some states have toughened gun rules, while others have loosened them.

Reporter's Notebook: On The Road With Secretaries Of State

As the BBC's State Department correspondent, Kim Ghattas has traveled hundreds of thousands of miles with U.S. secretaries of state, including Condoleezza Rice, Hillary Clinton and John Kerry.

Martin Bashir Resigns From MSNBC After Palin Comment

British journalist and political commentator Martin Bashir resigned after coming under fire for controversial comments he made about politician Sarah Palin.

A Cappella Fans Cheer Return Of 'The Sing-Off'

NBC's a cappella competition "The Sing-Off" returns for a fourth season on Monday, Dec. 9. The executive producer and judge Ben Folds discuss what's to come.

DJ Sessions: Eclectic Jazz From New Hampshire

Julie Lavender, a jazz musician and host of the public radio show "Dream Farm Radio," shares some of her favorite new jazz, including music by Daniel Bennett, Ian Ethan Case and Eugene Friesen.

Two Universities Struggle To Contain Meningitis Outbreaks

Princeton and the University of California, Santa Barbara, are trying to keep their students safe from the potentially fatal sickness. Students at Princeton will soon get access to a vaccine.

Ford Debuts New Mustang For 50th Anniversary

Ford has released the next generation of its timeless pony. Paul Eisenstein of The Detroit Bureau joins us with details and photos from the unveiling, as well as nine Mustang concepts Ford never made.

Illinois Pension Debate Expected To Move To Courts

Now that lawmakers have passed an overhaul of Illinois's government worker pension systems, the fight is expected to move to the courts. Unions argue the overhaul is unconstitutional.

'Tough' Volcker Rule Coming Next Week

U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew says a "tough" new Volcker Rule is coming next week that would restrict what Lew called "risky bets" by banks.

China Mobile And Apple Sign iPhone Deal

The world's largest mobile carrier, China Mobile, will soon offer iPhones on its network. The deal gives Apple access to more than 700 million subscribers — seven times the size of Verizon Wireless.

Jell-O And Lasers: A New Way To Study Bacteria

Researchers at the University of Texas in Austin have come up with a new way of studying how bacteria interact with the world, and each other. And it kind of looks like dessert.

Friday, December 06, 2013

The Legacy Of Nelson Mandela

As the world mourns the anti-apartheid leader and former South African president, we touch down in Johannesburg and hear from two people who knew Nelson Mandela.

Former President Of Ireland Remembers Nelson Mandela

Mary Robinson, the former president of Ireland, was a friend of former South African President Nelson Mandela. She joins us and says, “He was the best of us.”

US Unemployment Rate Falls To 5-Year Low

A fourth straight month of solid hiring cut the U.S. unemployment rate to a five-year low of 7 percent in November, an encouraging sign for the economy.

The Minimum Wage In A Low-Wage Economy

The new jobs report shows 203,000 jobs were created last month — mainly in lower-wage sectors. What would change if wages for those jobs went up?

Ice Storm Sweeps Southern Plains And Ohio Valley

As Texas residents prepared for what one hardware store manager called “Ice Friday,” schools started canceling classes and thousands of shoppers jammed store aisles to buy food and supplies.

Pope Forms Commission To Advise On Sex Abuse

Cardinal Sean O’Malley, archbishop of Boston, has announced the creation of a panel of experts to advise the Holy See on protecting children from pedophiles and helping abuse victims heal.

Fukushima Inspectors Say Beginning Of Clean-Up Going Well So Far

Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency are praising Japan for making progress to stabilize the nuclear power plant, three years after it was crippled by an earthquake and tsunami.

In Prison With Nelson Mandela

Anti-apartheid activist Ahmed Kathrada spent almost 27 years in prison with Nelson Mandela on Robben Island. We revisit our conversation with him earlier this year.

Budget Deal May Be On The Horizon

Republic Congressman Paul Ryan and Democratic Senator Patty Murray are reportedly discussing how to increase revenue without raising taxes.

Soccer Championship May Be Coldest In MLS History

Major League Soccer’s championship game, the MLS Cup, will be played tomorrow between sporting Kansas City and Real Salt Lake. It’s expected to be the coldest championship in league history.

Monday, December 09, 2013

Newtown Decides Against Shooting Anniversary Event

Residents have decided not to hold a public commemoration to mark the first anniversary this coming Saturday of the shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

Conservatives Respond To Supporters Angry Over Pro-Mandela Statements

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich has received some of the toughest criticism from conservatives, since calling Mandela “one of the greatest leaders of our lifetime.”

Tax-Exempt Political Groups Scrutinize New Rules

Political groups that qualify as 501(c)4 tax-exempt organizations are reassessing what to do in the next election, now that the Treasury Department and IRS have proposed new rules.

Bullies Beware: Schools Hire Social Media Monitors

School bullying used to take place in hallways and classrooms. Now much of it happens online. Some school districts are hiring private companies to monitor social media for potential problems.

Riot Police Storm Opposition Offices In Ukraine

A top Ukrainian opposition party says heavily armed riot police have stormed its office in downtown Kiev. The move comes as the Ukrainian capital has been crippled by massive anti-government protests.

What To Expect From The American-US Airways Merger

The merger between AMR Corporation and US Airways group was finalized today, creating the world's largest airline. We take a look at what it means for consumers and the aviation industry.

South Africa Readies For Week of Mourning, Intense Security

Tomorrow's memorial service for Nelson Mandela will draw hundreds of public officials, creating unprecedented security concerns and preparations by South Africa's police and military.

States Compete To Woo Boeing

Aircraft giant Boeing is inviting states to put in bids to be home to the manufacturer's latest generation jetliner, after a contract in Washington state was rejected by the machinists union.

Congressional Countdown: 5 Days To Reach Budget

This is the final week of the year that both the House and Senate are scheduled to be in session. Lawmakers are scrambling to pass a budget deal to avoid another government shutdown.

'White Reindeer' Is A Different Kind Of Holiday Movie

NPR arts editor Trey Graham brings us a review of "White Reindeer." In the film, Christmastime is approaching and a contented real estate agent suddenly loses her husband.

Tech Companies Launch Campaign To Curb NSA Spying

Facebook, Google, Microsoft and five other technology giants have begun a campaign to limit government surveillance of their users.

The Close Harmony Of Lily And Madeleine

NPR's Stephen Thompson introduces us to the music of Lily & Madeleine, teenage sisters from Indiana whose careers were launched when one of their homemade videos went viral.

Tesla Fights Auto Dealers On Direct Sales

Auto dealers associations in a number of states say it's illegal for California-based electric car manufacturer Tesla to sell directly to consumers. The battle is heading to the courts and legislatures.

Soprano Dawn Upshaw And Composer Maria Schneider Make Grammy-Nominated Music Together
Soprano Dawn Upshaw and composer Maria Schneider joined forces to create an album titled "Winter Morning Walks," which has been nominated for three Grammy awards this year.

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

Investigators Recover 2nd 'Black Box' From Derailed Train

The National Transportation Safety Board says investigators plan to interview the engineer and conductor of the train involved in a fatal derailment in New York City.

Raising Children In Two Faiths

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Wednesday, December 11, 2013

The State Of Gay Rights Around The World

Arienne Mollmann, director of programs at the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, joins us to discuss gay rights from India to Uganda.

Push Is On To Pass Budget Deal

Congressman Chris Van Hollen joins us to discuss the new budget deal. The Maryland Democrat says he's concerned about the federal pension changes, "but it's better than no agreement at all."

Ukrainian Opposition Leader: 'We Are Disgusted By Leaders'

Opposition leader Olga Bielkova says the attempt by the police to disperse protesters overnight in Ukraine was yet another instance of the country's president breaking a promise.

Reframing Obamacare: Can The President Convince Americans To Enroll?

Professor Lawrence Jacobs says President Obama needs to stop being partisan and talk dollars and cents, targeting the people who need to sign up — especially the young and healthy.

DJ Sessions: Nashville Country

Nashville is home to the Country Music Hall of Fame and numerous country record labels. Marcia Campbell, host of "The WSM All Nighter" show, joins us with a sampling of new country.

Lululemon Chairman Resigns, Abercrombie CEO Stays

Lululemon founder Chip Wilson blamed women's bodies for problems with the company's yoga pants, while Abercrombie CEO Mike Jeffries said he doesn't want fat or ugly customers.

Audio Postcard: Smoggy Streets Of Shanghai

Last week, the smog in Shanghai, China, reached hazardous levels. The Air Quality Index soared over 600, which is officially "beyond index," or off-the-charts awful.

Big Parts For Actresses In This Season's Movies

Ty Burr, film critic for the Boston Globe, shares a rundown of the latest releases, several of which feature meaty and varied parts for actresses, and great performances.

HealthCare.gov Enrollment Climbs, But Still Short Of Goal

The November enrollment numbers for Healthcare.gov are up four-fold from October. But the administration is still not on track to meet its goal.

India's Top Court Recriminalizes Gay Sex

India's Supreme Court today reversed a lower court decision and reinstated a more than 100-year-old law that criminalizes homosexuality in the deeply conservative country.

Loss Of Jobless Benefits Looms As Holidays Approach

For about 1.3 million American workers, the countdown has begun. On Dec. 28, federal extended unemployment benefits will expire for people who have been jobless for six months or more.

Tribal Fishery Opposes Washington Coal Terminal

There are plans to build what would be the largest coal terminal in North America in the far northwestern corner of Washington state. But it faces opposition from Native American fishermen.

'Vape' Lounge Trend Spreads With E-Cigarette Popularity

Electronic cigarettes are growing more popular, and shops are popping up to serve so-called "vapers." Elizabeth Fiedler of WHYI takes us to a newly-opened "vape" lounge in Philadelphia.

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Gillibrand Renews Push For Military Sexual Assault Reforms

The compromise bill will not include sexual assault reforms proposed by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, which would have taken sexual assault cases out of the chain of command.

Iraq's Exiled Jews Fight To Keep Memorabilia

Thousands of documents, pictures, books and ancient Jewish paraphernalia were lent to the U.S. by the Iraqi government. Now, Jews who fled Iraq are fighting to keep them from returning to Iraq.

Holiday Entertaining With Chef Kathy Gunst

Holiday entertaining can be stressful. Here & Now resident chef Kathy Gunst brings suggestions as well as five recipes, including poached pears, chicken stew and shrimp chowder.

Newtown Priest: 'Respect Each Other' On Anniversary Of Shooting

Monsignor Robert Weiss says people should honor the 20 first graders and six educators killed that day by doing acts of kindness and making a difference in their communities.

Will Ukraine's Pro-EU Demonstrators Get Their Way?

As protesters continue to paralyze downtown Kiev, the European Union's foreign policy chief says the Ukrainian president now "intends to sign" a trade agreement with the E.U.

'Holding Noses' And Taking 'A Little, Tiny Baby Step' In DC

Pragmatism is on display, as Congress is set to approve a modest budget bill today, after three years of partisan deadlock. There is little enthusiasm for the compromise deal.

Is A 'User Fee' Different From A Tax?

The House Budget Committee says higher pension contributions and travel fees in the new budget shouldn't be considered taxes. We speak with a tax policy analyst who disagrees.

Chicago Mayor Fasting For Immigration Reform

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel joins us to explain why he and several city aldermen are fasting for 24 hours in support of immigration reform efforts.

Spotify To Offer Mobile App For Free

Spotify, the music streaming service, announced it will allow anyone on an Android or iOS device to use its app free of charge, starting immediately.

Interpreter At Mandela Event: I Was Hallucinating

The man accused of faking sign interpretation while standing alongside world leaders at Nelson Mandela's memorial service says he hallucinated that angels were entering the stadium.

Life After An Other-Than-Honorable Discharge

NPR's Quil Lawrence joins us to discuss his reporting project on veterans who served their country, but for one reason or another, received an other-than-honorable discharge.

Portland Police Collect Thousands Of License Plate Numbers

In Portland, Oregon, a new crime-fighting technology is coming under scrutiny. Cameras on police cars are collecting and storing up to 128,000 license plate numbers per day.

Friday, December 13, 2013

NASA Astronaut: Spacewalk Likely Needed To Fix Pump

A cooling pump on the International Space Station is still not working. The astronauts aren't in any immediate danger, but an unscheduled spacewalk may be necessary to fix it.

The View From An American Vet Teaching In Iraq

Connecticut native Andrew Slater served three tours of duty as a U.S. Army infantry and special forces officer. He came home. But he returned to teach where he once fought.

Making Music For 'The Hobbit'

Composer Howard Shore, who wrote the scores for the "Lord of the Rings" and "Hobbit" films, says he sees it as "a way to give clarity to objects, places, cultures, to moments in the story."

Survey Examines School Safety Changes Since Newtown

In the year since the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, are students any safer? We speak with the co-director of a new poll that takes a closer look at school safety nationwide.

Pig Farmer Reacts To New FDA Guidelines On Antibiotics

The guidelines are the first major action by the agency to tamp down on the widespread use of antibiotics on livestock farms, by asking drug makers to revise their labels.

What's Next In North Korea After Execution?

The execution of the uncle of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un brought a swift and violent end to a man long considered to be the country's second-most-powerful.

A Friend Remembers Nelson Mandela

Pdraig O'Malley, a professor of peace and reconciliation, spent more than 10 years tracking South Africa's transition to democracy, working with whites and blacks.

Documenting The Grief Over Newtown

Archivists have been collecting as many items as they can to tell the story of Newtown and the response to it. We hear that story from WNPR and hear a poem about Newtown by Dick Allen.

Lost Civil War-Era Steamer Found In Lake Huron

The mystery of the disappearance of the USS Keystone State, a Civil War-era steamer that went missing more than 150 years ago on the Great Lakes, has been solved.

Budget Deal Passes House, Moves On To Senate

Despite the proposal's bipartisan success in the House, Speaker Boehner has already received an onslaught of criticism from conservative groups questioning his leadership.

Sea Mammals Descend On Monterey Bay For Anchovy Feast

For the past five or so years, there has been a low population of anchovies. But this year a "perfect storm" has brought tons of these silvery blue fish close to the shoreline.

'Survivor' Renewed Through 30th Season

"Survivor," the reality TV show that sets up groups of strangers to compete in remote locations, is being renewed for its 29th and 30th seasons.

Monday, December 16, 2013

What We Can Learn From The '60 Minutes' NSA Story

An NSA historian says the interview shows the intelligence agency is trying — too late — to go public. And NPR's David Folkenflik weighs in on the criticism against "60 Minutes."

Colorado School Closes For The Year After Shooting

Megan Verlee of Colorado Public Radio joins us to discuss the shooting on Friday at Arapahoe High School in Centennial, Colo., and how the school is moving forward.

Could Narendra Modi Be India's Next Prime Minister?

A controversial candidate has emerged as a potential prime minister in the 2014 general elections in the world's largest democracy. Narendra Modi is the chief minister for the state of Gujarat.

Does Senate Have Enough Votes To Pass Budget Deal?

Now that the House has passed a two-year budget deal, the Senate will see if they have enough votes to pass it as well. NPR's Charlie Mahtesian joins us with the latest.

New York Voices Make First Christmas Album

The Grammy-winning vocal group New York Voices has been making music together for 25 years, but this is their first holiday album. The group's musical director joins us.

Renee Graham's Guide To South Korean Cinema

Here & Now pop culture critic Renee Graham says there is a lot of exciting original work coming out of South Korea. She shares her 10 favorite films by Korean directors.

A Look To 19th Century France For Insight On Egypt

To make sense of the turmoil in Egypt, Sheri Berman, a professor at Barnard College in New York City, argues that we should look to the 1848 revolution in France.

NY Financial Firm Settling 9/11 Suit With Airline

Financial services firm Cantor Fitzgerald, which saw 658 of its 1,000 employees killed in the Sept. 11 attacks, has nearly completed a settlement with American Airlines and insurance carriers.

Picking The Perfect Christmas Tree

With nine days to go until Christmas, a Wisconsin Christmas tree farmer joins us with pointers on which trees are best for holding ornaments, and which hold their needles the longest.

Fed May Decide To Trim Stimulus Program At Meeting

Economists and investors are watching closely to see if the Fed will decide to taper its stimulus program at its last policy meeting of the year this week.

Military Policies Conflict On Undocumented Family Members

Military family members who are in the country illegally now have a new path to stay and apply for permanent legal status. But a separate rule bans applicants with undocumented dependents.

Texas Challenges New Rules On Greenhouse Gases

The state of Texas argues that new EPA rules limiting greenhouse gases would deal a serious blow to the refining and petrochemical industries. StateImpact Texas looks at the cost of reducing pollution.

Song Of The Week: ‘Crush Story’ By Too Much Joy

NPR’s Stephen Thompson introduces us to the band Too Much Joy, which has just re-released its 1991 album “Cereal Killers.” One of his favorite tracks is “Crush Story.”

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

Doctors: Stop Wasting Money On Vitamins

It might not be worth taking vitamins if you want to prevent chronic disease. That’s the message in an editorial today in the Annals of Internal Medicine.

Catholic Worries Pope Is Being Misunderstood

Many have lauded Pope Francis, calling him more open and moderate. But the founder of the Faith & Reason Institute says they’re misunderstanding him.

China Bans Shellfish Imports From US West Coast

China claims two U.S. shipments of geoduck clams — considered a delicacy in China — were contaminated. The ban puts geoduck farmers in limbo.

Former ‘Crystals’ Lead Singer Releases Solo Album

Delores “La La” Brooks was just 13 when she joined the girl group “The Crystals.” Now, 50 years after the Crystals, she’s released the solo album “All or Nothing.”

‘Generation Cryo’: How A New Generation Is Redefining Family

A new MTV show may make some uncomfortable, but for others, “Generation Cryo” will symbolize how a new generation is redefining family.

UN Launches Huge Aid Appeal For Syria

The United Nations is seeking more than \$6 billion for humanitarian aid to Syria, as a new study warns starvation is now threatening the Syrian population.

What The US Can Learn From Canada Ending Door-To-Door Mail Delivery

The financially-strapped Canada Post is phasing out home mail delivery over the next five years, replacing the door-to-door service with community mail boxes in central locations.

Obama Discusses Surveillance With Tech Execs

The executives are asking the president to restrict government surveillance programs, now that it's known how much information the NSA collects through their systems.

Tech Giants Invest In Internet Infrastructure

Google, Facebook and other major technology companies are boosting their efforts to control Internet transmission networks by building private fiber-optic cables across the world.

Budget Bill Moves Toward Final Passage In Senate

A bipartisan budget bill has passed a pivotal test in the Senate. Top Senate Republicans opposed the bill, which won sweeping GOP support in the House.

Greek Bailout Gets A Boost

Eurozone finance ministers today approved another bundle of cash for debt-ridden Greece. Greece has been kept afloat by the financial lifeline, but one in four Greeks is unemployed.

An Unusual Way To Teach Math: Miming

Davidson College mathematician Tim Chartier has found a way to fuse his two great loves: math and mime. Ari Shapiro brings us this story.

New Inductees For Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame

Nirvana, Peter Gabriel, Hall and Oates and Linda Ronstadt are among those just inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for 2014.

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

Military Retirement Benefits At Risk In Budget Bill

A retired Army colonel, now with the Military Officers Association of America, joins us to make an argument against cutting military retirement benefits.

Let's Talk About Death

Ellen Goodman, founder of The Conversation Project, is encouraging people to pick a date during the week of Jan. 1 to 7 to host a dinner with family and friends and talk about their end-of-life care wishes.

The Man Who Inspired 'Inside Llewyn Davis'

The Coen brothers took inspiration from the real-life folk singer Dave Van Ronk, who released the album "Inside Dave Van Ronk" in 1963 and died in 2002. We speak with Ronk's student who co-wrote his memoir.

Husband And Wife Doctors Claim Her Fibroid Removal Procedure Spread Cancer

Dr. Amy Reed and Dr. Hooman Noorchashm are campaigning against a standard procedure to remove fibroids in the uterus, in which the mass is ground up and removed in minimally invasive surgery.

Sunday Assembly: A Look At Organized Non-Religion

Stand-up comedians Pippa Evans and Sanderson Jones have founded a godless congregation that they say has many of the elements of church, but without religion. It has expanded to 35 locations.

Copenhagen Wheel Gives Bicycles A Boost

Developed at MIT in a project sponsored by the mayor of Copenhagen, the wheel is outfitted with a battery that helps cyclists traveling uphill and charges when going downhill.

Fed Will Reduce Bond Purchases By \$10B In January

Investors are waiting to see whether one of Ben Bernanke's final acts as chairman of the Federal Reserve will be to announce a pullback in the Fed's bond purchases.

DJ Sessions: Today's Music With A Throwback Feel

Raul Campos of KCRW in Santa Monica shares new music with an old soul — that is, songs that sound like they were written in an earlier era. His picks include songs by Myron and E, Lord Echo and Prince.

Study: Teens Obtaining Medical Marijuana

The survey found 34 percent of marijuana-using 12th-graders living in states with medical marijuana laws have gotten the drug through someone else's prescription.

Russia Throws Ukraine A Financial Lifeline

The deal includes a \$15 billion loan and a large cut in natural gas prices, and it comes as thousands of people continue to protest the Ukrainian president's decision to suspend talks with the European Union.

Protests In Rome Over Austerity Measures

The economic crisis in Italy has led to protests throughout the country this week. Today they brought their protest to the capital, Rome.

USDA Pullout From Mexico Has Economic Consequences

The federal government has banned USDA inspectors from entering Mexico at five Texas border crossings to inspect cattle headed to the U.S., and it's having a major impact on some Texas border towns.

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Putin Says He Will Pardon Jailed Oil Tycoon

After a four-hour-long press conference, Russian president Vladimir Putin announced he'll pardon former Russian billionaire Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

The 'Affluenza' Defense

The case of a wealthy Texas teen who received a lenient sentence for a deadly drunk driving crash has ignited public outrage over a criminal defense: "affluenza."

From Hollywood Stardom To The Cloistered Life

Dolores Hart was a rising star in Hollywood who shared an on-screen kiss with Elvis Presley. In 1963, she stunned the film world when she decided to become a nun.

Advisory Panel Recommends More Oversight For NSA

If President Barack Obama follows even half of the recommendations urged by his advisory panel, the National Security Agency would significantly change the way it does business.

Merry White's Lessons On Cooking For Crowds

With the 40th anniversary edition of "Cooking For Crowds" now hitting bookstores, author Merry White joins us with a lesson on cooking for 50.

NASA Orders Urgent Spacewalks

NASA has ordered a number of spacewalks to fix a broken cooling system on the International Space Station. The spacewalks are expected to start this weekend and could stretch into Christmas.

Help Thy Neighbor Shovel

Joseph Porcelli created Neighbors for Neighbors to connect volunteer "snow crews" with the elderly and people with disabilities who need help shoveling.

Target: Problem Is Fixed, But Customers Should Check Charge Accounts

Target says it's fixed the problem that allowed credit and debit card information on as many as 40 million accounts to be stolen. It says credit card holders can continue to shop at its stores.

Health Law Deadline Prompts Fresh Crop of Ads

Several groups are ratcheting up their television and social media campaigns — either to get people to sign up for coverage, or to denounce the health care law.

What The Fed's 'Taper' Means For Investors

Economic analyst Robert Johnson joins us to discuss what this means for investors and interest rates, as well as homeowners and the housing market.

20-Year-Old Decides On Double Mastectomy After Gene Test

Thanks to genetic testing, young women can find out whether they have a high risk of breast cancer. That could be why more young women are getting mastectomies, often against doctors' advice.

Anti-Terror Forces Face Accusations After Mall Attack

The attack on a shopping mall in Kenya three months ago exposed the violent conflict between Kenyan police and the Somali militant group al-Shabab.

Friday, December 20, 2013

Defrocking Opens Deep Divide Among Methodists

Rev. Frank Schaefer, a United Methodist pastor who was defrocked for officiating at his son's same-sex wedding, is appealing the decision. He joins us.

Obama: 2014 Can Be Breakthrough Year For America

At his annual year-end news conference, President Obama said 2014 "can be a breakthrough year for America" after a long season of recession and slow recovery.

A Resurgence Of Electronic Classical Music

Electronic sounds have become pretty familiar in pop songs. But electronically-produced sounds are also making their way into classical music, leading to new and interesting works.

National Geographic's 'Digital Nomad' Roams the World

For a little over three years, Andrew Evans has roamed the world as National Geographic's "Digital Nomad." We get some travel recommendations from him.

Obama Commutes Sentences For 8 Nonviolent Drug Offenders

President Obama has reduced the sentences of eight federal inmates convicted of crack cocaine offenses, most of whom were in prison for life.

Mr. Cohen's Choir Music For Christmas

Robin Young's former high school choir director, Ron Cohen, brings us his picks for choral Christmas music.

Target Fallout Continues After Security Breach

A class-action lawsuit was filed last night by a California shopper — the first of what lawyers expect to be a torrent of similar suits.

Critics Take Aim As More Health Law Rules Relaxed

Insurers are criticizing a surprise move last night by the Obama administration to relax rules for people whose health insurance policies were canceled.

Chicago Officials Cite Improving Crime Rate

In 2012, the city of Chicago saw more homicides than any other in the country. But according to one new study, crime in Chicago has dipped to a 40-year low.

US Economy Expands At 4.1 Percent Rate

The U.S. economy grew at a solid 4.1 percent annual rate from July through September, the fastest pace since late 2011 and significantly higher than previously believed.

Long Road Ahead For Colorado Flood Victims

Many people in Colorado will remember 2013 as the year when mother nature struck with a vengeance. Lesley McClurg of Colorado Public Radio checks in with flood victims trying to get back on their feet.

Bourbon Makers Outside Kentucky Could Spark Innovation

Not all bourbon is made in the Bluegrass State. Devin Katayama of WFPL reports that the expansion of bourbon outside Kentucky could help develop the next American taste.

What's In A Name?

Michigan Radio reporter Jennifer Guerra — who's due to have child soon — sets out to answer the question: What role do names play in a child's future?

'Duck Dynasty' Suspension Riles Conservatives

Cable network A&E has suspended Phil Robertson, the patriarch of the family at the center of the reality show "Duck Dynasty," after he made anti-gay comments in an interview with GQ.

Monday, December 23, 2013

Deadline To Signup For Healthcare Effectively Extended

Today, Dec. 23, was the deadline to sign up for healthcare in order to be covered by Jan. 1. The White House has announced a one day grace period is being offered.

Freed Russian Prisoner Mikhail Khodorkovsky Reunites With Family

Pavel Khodorkovsky reunited with his father, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who was released in a surprise pardon after serving a ten year prison term in Russia.

A Conversation with Memphis Mayor A.C. Wharton

A.C. Wharton, the mayor of Memphis, Tennessee, discusses how national issues from the Affordable Care Act to the economy have affected his city this year.

Desperation Mounts In South Sudan

Fears of a civil war escalate as violence continues in South Sudan. The United Nations says thousands of civilians are trying to get out of the country.

Utah Same-Sex Marriage Ban Back In Court

A federal judge has denied a request from lawyers representing the state of Utah to block same-sex weddings. The same judge overruled the state's same-sex marriage ban on Friday.

PR Executive Feels Power Of Twitter

In light of an offensive tweet about AIDS and Africa that cost a PR executive her job, an etiquette expert joins Here & Now to discuss social media manners.

What's Coming Up For Travel in 2014

Next year will see a few big changes in air travel: a new TSA program could speed up security lines, while other changes could push fare prices up.

A Good Time Spending "Christmas At The Airport"

This week, NPR's music writer and editor Stephen Thompson has a seasonal recommendation for your playlists: "Christmas at the Airport" by Nick Lowe.

HIV Positive Extra In 'Philadelphia' Reflects On Film's 20th Anniversary

"Philadelphia" — a film about AIDS which won critical acclaim and helped national dialogue — also took the novel step of casting HIV positive Philadelphians as extras.

Not Your Average Snow Day

School days in snowy parts of the country mean something completely different than snow days in tropical Miami. WLRN's Elaine Chen reports.

A Neighborhood Stalwart Remains Unchanged

As the mad rush of last-minute shoppers descends, we take a leisurely stroll to a neighborhood institution. In an age of big box chain stores, Irving's Toy & Card Shop stands out.

Tom Perrotta Returns to the Short Story

Author Tom Perrotta returns to the short story form after a nineteen year hiatus with his collection, "Nine Inches."

Tuesday, December 24, 2013

Violence Continues In South Sudan

A power struggle between South Sudan's president and his ex-vice president has escalated into violence along ethnic lines.

An Artist Imagines Santa And His Robot Reindeer

Kenny Irwin is an artist whose most popular work is his Christmas installation, "RoboLights," which includes Santas, reindeer, aliens, and robots.

Rewriting Images Of People With Disabilities

After a car accident left her wheelchair-bound, Susan Nussbaum became an author and a disability activist. Her book, "Good Kings Bad Kings" is about people with disabilities.

A Late Wife's Christmas Wish For Her Husband

David Schmitz was more than surprised when he was invited on a local Des Moines, Iowa, radio show and received a surprise gift from his late wife, Brenda.

Reporter's Notebook From Guantánamo Bay

Carol Rosenberg is one of a handful of reporters who has spent time at Guantánamo Bay, the U.S. detention center in Cuba. She shares stories from her reporter's notebook.

Two Worlds Come Together In Mexican Mole Sauces

Mole poblano is a famous variation of the Mexican sauce that uses chocolate. (Garrett Ziegler/Flickr)
A Mexican holiday feast wouldn't be complete without mole, the complex sweet and savory sauce that graces poultry dishes.

DJ Sessions: Christmas Edition

This week, we bring you a special installment of the DJ Sessions: Christmas oldies, with recommendations from Mike Haile, also known as "Mike in the Morning."

Target Facing Low Sales, Legal Problems After Security Breach

Target's general counsel spoke with a number of states' attorneys general to update them on the investigation into a massive data breach.

Airlines Upgrade Lounges To Attract Top Customers

Airlines are spending millions of dollars to upgrade their airport lounges with luxury spas, fancy restaurants, and other first class amenities. But what will it cost you?

Egypt's Coptic Christians Live In Fear

After the Islamist President Mohammed Morsi was ousted in July many Coptic Christian churches were destroyed and have not yet been rebuilt. This holiday season is a troubled one for Coptics there.

Wednesday, December 25, 2013

Louis Armstrong's Queens Home Celebrates 10 Years As A Living Memorial

The Louis Armstrong House Museum in Queens, New York, is all decked out for the holidays and celebrates its 10 year anniversary this year.

Tens Of Thousands In Canada Still Without Power

From Ontario to Nova Scotia, tens of thousands of people are still without power in Canada after a weekend ice storm took down trees and power lines.

The Storyteller Behind ‘A Christmas Story’

This Christmas, we take a look back at the life of a storyteller whose most famous movie is likely playing non-stop this holiday: “A Christmas Story.”

Fund Set Up For Victims Of Bangladesh Factory Collapse

Retail and labor groups, and the Bangladeshi government are organizing a fund to compensate victims of the Rana Plaza garment factory collapse.

Hollywood Tries A New Script In 2013

Hollywood executives are catering to international markets where high-grossing action films are big. And as consumers change their viewing habits, Hollywood execs work to respond.

Toys Abound, Batteries Needed

Americans buy – and throw out – billions of batteries each year, but not all batteries are alike. Philip E. Ross explains the difference between AA and AAA batteries, and advises when to use rechargeables.

Singing Nuns From Missouri Top Billboard Chart

A group of nuns released a best-selling record, and they couldn’t care less. The cloistered order is devoted to their life of prayer.

Gloria Estefan’s Grammy Nominated Spin On ‘The Standards’

With over three decades in the music business, Gloria Estefan decided to take on “The Standards,” in her latest album.

Taking On The Menacing Stink Bug

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug has been causing trouble for homeowners and farmers from New Hampshire to California for three years. But there might be a solution.

Ski Resorts Looking To Profit From China’s Growing Middle Class

Colorado’s ski resorts are trying some new tactics to attract China’s growing middle class (and their disposable income) to its slopes.

Thursday, December 26, 2013

Edward Snowden, The Pope Top List Of Biggest Stories

To wrap up on the big stories of the year, Here & Now’s Jeremy Hobson is joined by On Point’s Tom Ashbrook and Univision and Fusion’s Jorge Ramos.

Officials Call For Delay In Thailand Election Following Violence

Thailand’s election commission is calling for upcoming elections to be delayed after street violence left nearly 100 people injured and one dead.

Thousands In Maine Still Without Power

Ice storms have left thousands in Maine without power since Monday evening. Some residents are being told that power will not be restored until Friday.

Kathy Gunst's 2014 Food Trends

What will be the hot food trends in 2014? Intrepid Here & Now resident chef Kathy Gunst did her research, and brings us her top five trends to look out for.

High-End Fashion Made In The USA

Prominent American fashion designer, Nanette Lepore, discusses her commitment to making clothes in the USA.

Retailers Cut Prices After Slow Shopping Season

Retailers are slashing prices after a lackluster holiday shopping season. Things were different online, where holiday sales jumped 13.5% from last year.

Incandescents Phase Out Has Designer Hoarding Bulbs

On January 1, it will be illegal to manufacture or import the traditional 60 and 40-watt incandescent bulbs. So some people are stocking up now.

Walt Disney's Growing Empire

The Walt Disney Company continues to add to its treasure chest with rights to the future "Indiana Jones" franchise. Disney's holdings already include production studios and television channels.

Did 'Queer Eye' Help Change Society's Perceptions of Gay Men?

Ten years ago, "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" debuted on the Bravo cable channel. Two of the show's stars, Ted Allen and Carson Kressley, reflect on the show's impact on LGBT rights.

Pop Up ERs — Consumers Love the Convenience But Not the Price Tag

Some medical entrepreneurs have re-engineered the E.R. experience by planting it in the strip mall. Although they look like urgent care clinics, these new ERs charge much more.

Friday, December 27, 2013

Unemployment Benefits For 1.3 Million Americans Run Out Saturday

On Saturday, unemployment benefits for 1.3 million Americans will expire. Congress has been unable to reach an agreement on how to extend the program.

Sudanese Lost Boy: "South Sudan Deserves Better Leaders"

Two South Sudanese-Americans say there can be no reconciliation in South Sudan unless the country's president and former vice-president step down.

Colorado Towns Split Over Sale Of Recreational Marijuana

Recreational use of marijuana will be legal in Colorado starting Jan. 1, but some cities have voted to ban the retail sale of marijuana.

The High Price Of Telling Lies

Neuroscientist and best-selling writer Sam Harris says lies of any color are damaging. It's the subject of his latest book, "Lying."

2013: A Look Back At The Year In Tech

This year started with high expectations for Google Glass and other wearable technology, but even at the end of the year such devices haven't gained mainstream popularity.

Two Years After War's End, US Sends Arms To Iraq

To help the Iraqi government fight the current insurgency, the Obama administration is sending missiles and surveillance drones to the country.

Former Government Official Assassinated In Beirut

A powerful car bomb in Beirut, Lebanon, killed a prominent pro-Western politician and at least five other people today. The assassination is certain to escalate sectarian tensions.

Will Holiday Shipping Disaster Change Shopping Habits?

Failures by UPS and FedEx this holiday season to deliver packages by Dec. 25 may reveal more than just problems with shipping. American shopping habits might also be to blame.

Dear Scotty: Letters From Around The World

When Scott Widak became terminally ill, his nephew asked the social media users on Reddit to send his uncle mail. Hundreds of letters came in from around the world.

Meeting 'The Man In Black'

NPR correspondent Don Gonyea began his radio career as a country music DJ. The highlight of that time was interviewing Johnny Cash.

Monday, December 30, 2013

Parsing The New York Times Story On Benghazi

An extensive investigation by the New York Times into the Sept. 11, 2012 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, found no evidence of al-Qaida's involvement.

Fears Over Olympics After Russia Bomb Attacks

A suicide bomb today in the Russian city of Volgograd is the second in two days. The attacks have stoked fears over security at the Winter Olympics in Sochi.

In Study, Researchers Disrupt Recall Of Selected Memories

In a new study published in the journal Nature Neuroscience, researchers were able to selectively disrupt a patient's ability to recall a specific memory.

Court Order Keeping California Teenager On Ventilator Expires Today

A court order that is keeping a California teenager on a ventilator expires today. Doctors determined she was brain dead, but the family wants to keep her on a ventilator.

How Real Is The Terror Threat Today?

Terrorism expert Peter Bergen says that while terror threats are up in aggregate, terror threats against the United States are down, and more often carried out by "lone wolves."

Renee Graham's Pop Culture Highlights Of 2013

Here & Now pop culture critic Renee Graham has her year-end standouts in film, television and music of the past year.

Stephen Thompson's Favorite Songs of the Year

NPR music writer and editor Stephen Thompson shares his favorite songs of the year, which include music by Josh Ritter and Neko Case.

Turkish Prime Minister Rejects Calls For Resignation

A corruption scandal has forced Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to reshuffle his cabinet, but he is rejecting calls for his resignation.

2013: The Year of Risk?

It's hard to imagine the market collapse of 2008 when looking at today's numbers. The S&P 500, Dow and NASDAQ are all trading at some of their highest levels in years.

An Oregon Gay Couple's Race to Marry

A gay couple who'd been together for more than 60 years were in a race against the clock to get legally married. One of the partners was given weeks to live.

Do Franchise Schools Offer Alternatives For Developing Countries?

A for-profit school is trying to change how the world's poorest children get an education using franchise-style schools.

Tuesday, December 31, 2013

Train Cars Still Smoldering At North Dakota Derailment

Thick smoke continues to pour over Casselton, ND, which was largely evacuated yesterday after a mile-long train carrying crude oil derailed and set off explosions.

Helicopter Rescue Planned For Stranded Antarctic Ship

A helicopter rescue is planned as soon as Wednesday to rescue passengers on a research ship trapped in the Antarctic ice, Russian officials say.

FAA Approves Six States To Test Drones

The Federal Aviation Administration says six states will be allowed to develop test sites for drones, as it seeks to safely introduce commercial drones into U.S. airspace.

'Born To Run': What Makes A Great Song?

An early draft of Bruce Springsteen's lyrics for his first big hit song "Born to Run" sold for \$197,000 at auction earlier this month. What made it so great?

The Best Books Of 2013

NPR arts correspondent Lynn Neary shares her favorite books of 2013. They include "The Son" by Philipp Meyer and "Claire of the Sea Light" by Edwidge Danticat.

Obama's Tough Year

From the fight over health care reform to criticism over the NSA's data collection program, 2013 has been a very difficult year for President Barack Obama.

Boy Scouts Begin To Admit Openly Gay Scouts

Tomorrow, the Boy Scouts of America will start admitting openly gay scouts. The Scouting National Council passed a measure in May to allow gay youth to participate.

Fasting The Way To Financial Freedom

New Year's resolutions often involve managing money better and saving. Financial columnist Michelle Singletary keeps a 21 day financial fast — spending only on necessary items.

Fast-Rising Category Of Charitable Funds Raises Controversy

There is a rising debate over “donor-advised funds,” the fastest growing category in charity. Critics say charitable trusts give donors a way to just park their money and take the tax break.

The Engineer Who Helped Put The Hubble Into Focus

Tufts Professor Robert Gonsalves likes to repair things. But he never expected his skills in optics would catch NASA's attention.

A Doctor's Campaign For Performing Face Transplants

Dr. Bohdan Pomahac led a campaign to perform face transplants at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital. WBUR's Lynn Jolicoeur has the doctor's story.

Scotland Bids For Independence In 2014

The new year brings a big decision for the people of Scotland. They will vote on whether Scotland should be an independent country.

Quarterly Issues/Programs List

“Radio Boston”
(October, November, December 2013)

October, 2013

Tuesday, October 01, 2013

What Does The Government Shut Down Accomplish?

For the first time in 17 years, the United States Congress failed to agree on a new budget and refused to extend the current one. The result? A shut down. Many Americans today are asking, what are lawmakers thinking, and where did they learn to behave like this?

The Interracial Adoption Option

We'll chat with a white couple that adopted two African American boys.

Meg Hutchinson

Folk singer-songwriter Meg Hutchinson hails from South Egremont in Western Massachusetts. She spent much of her childhood reading poetry and listening to the record collection of her hippie parents, who were both English professors. Her family's love of language and the natural world shines through in her evocative lyrics.

Wednesday, October 02, 2013

Paul Harding On Love And Loss In 'Enon'

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Paul Harding joins us to talk about his new novel, "Enon."

Rep. Michael Capuano Talks Government Shutdown

Day two of the government shut-down and no sign of a resolution to the impasse. Well actually, there was a small potential sign. A meeting was announced. That's right. A meeting.

Littlefield on Sports: Possible Battle Between Red Sox Managers

The federal government shutdown might affect college football, the Red Sox ready for the playoffs, and the Patriots undefeated record may not be good enough.

Thursday, October 03, 2013

Chris Matthews On 'When Politics Worked'

The current political deadlock in Washington marks a stark contrast to the Reagan era, when President Reagan and then House speaker, the late Tip O'Neill, managed to find compromise despite disagreements on policy and the role of government.

Technology And The Mind

Technology is so interwoven into the fabric of modern life that unwinding yourself from it simply isn't possible.

Friday, October 04, 2013

Week In Review: Shutdown, Obamacare Debuts, Mayor's Race

The federal government shuts down, Obamacare rolls out, mayor's race continues in Boston.

So Young Park, Queen Of The Night

So Young Park is an up-and-coming opera star. She began singing at the tender age of thirteen and quickly racked up a number of international awards. She's now making her Boston Lyric Opera debut as the Queen of the Night in Mozart's 1791 fairy tale, "The Magic Flute."

100 Years Of Fun At The Boston Children's Museum

The Boston Children's Museum is getting ready to celebrate its 100th birthday this weekend. When it was founded in 1913, there were only two U.S. museums dedicated to kids. Today there more than 300.

Monday, October 07, 2013

Candidate Connolly

In just four weeks, Boston voters will elect a new mayor for the first time in 20 years. The latest Suffolk University-Boston Herald poll shows City Councilor John Connolly running ahead of State Rep Marty Walsh by seven points — 41 to 34 percent.

Grossman Lays Out Vision For Massachusetts

In the first of a series of conversations with the gubernatorial candidates, we talk with the state treasurer about his bid for governor.

Comedian Bo Burnham Tackles The Zany, Serious In Poetry Book

Bo Burnham has gone from You-Tube sensation to professional comedian and now, poet.

Tuesday, October 08, 2013

Bus Strike Hits Boston

For the first time in more than twenty years, Boston school bus drivers went on strike today — angering city officials, and complicating the lives of school administrators, parents, and more than 30-thousand students across the city. Some of them took public transportation to school. Others were picked up and delivered by Boston police.

How The New World Shaped The English Civil War

In his new book, "The Rainborowes", writer and historian Adrian Tinniswood makes the arresting claim: In the 17th century, the people who had first crossed the Atlantic to build a biblical "city upon a hill" in New England, sailed back to fulfill their vision in OLD England.

Baker Renews Bid For Governor With Fresh Eyes

The only Republican in the gubernatorial race reflects on his 2010 loss and lays out his vision for Massachusetts.

Wednesday, October 09, 2013

Coakley Makes Her Case For Governor

In the latest in our series of conversations with the gubernatorial candidates, Attorney General Martha Coakley talks about her failed Senate bid and key issues for Massachusetts.

Class In The Boston Mayor's Race

We discuss the issue of class in the Boston Mayor's race with WBUR political reporter, David Scharfenberg.

The Mighty Red Sox And The League Of Denial

In our weekly sports segment we'll discuss last night's crucial sports-watching: the Red Sox win over the Tampa Bay Rays and the Frontline documentary, "League Of Denial: The NFL's Concussion Crisis."

The 'Ministry Of Talent' In JFK's White House

Historian Robert Dallek has written extensively about the JFK presidency. He joins us to talk about his new book.

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Independent Candidate Falchuk Lays Out Vision For Three Parties

The health care businessman advocates for a new day of collaboration beyond red and blue in the governor's race.

Love Redeems, Complicates, Hurts In Latest Dubus Novellas

"Dirty Love" is a collection of four novellas about the dark side, the complicated side, the painful side of love.

ARTery: Exploring Activism In HONK!

The signs of October in Massachusetts are all around us — the changing leaves, the pumpkin-flavored everything, the marching bands...yes, the marching bands. HONK!, an annual festival of activist street bands returns to the streets of Cambridge and Somerville this weekend for its 8th year

Friday, October 11, 2013

John Singer Sargent's Watercolors

Radio Boston host Anthony Brooks takes a tour of the MFA's new John Singer Sargent Watercolors exhibition with senior curator Erica Hirshler.

Week In Review: Bus Strike, Mayor's Race, Shutdown

In the news this week: the wheels on the bus did not go round and round. Not on Tuesday, anyway. A wildcat strike by drivers left 30,000 students without their usual way to get to school.

Iconic Hilltop Steakhouse To Close

Managers cite changing demographics, increased competition and higher costs as reasons for closing the Saugus restaurant.

Monday, October 14, 2013

Preventing The Misdiagnosis Of Ectopic Pregnancy

A new paper in the New England Journal of Medicine addresses a major medical error: when doctors diagnose a pregnancy as ectopic, meaning it is outside the womb, when in reality the pregnancy is developing normally, inside the womb. The paper also reveals that this mistake is not nearly as rare as previously believed.

Responding To Sexual Assaults On Campus

Two cases of alleged sexual assault on Emerson College students are drawing new attention to sexual assaults on campus.

Matt Savage's 'Bigger Celebration'

We sit down with jazz piano savant Matt Savage as he rehearses for the Boston release of his tenth album, "A Bigger Celebration."

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Celebrating The City In 'Our Boston'

Six months ago today, two bombs exploded at the finish line of the Boston Marathon, leaving three people dead and more than 260 were injured. To mark that day and honor the city, a new collection of stories is out today. It's called Our Boston: Writers Celebrate the City They Love.

Juliette Kayyem: Candidate For Governor

As a Democratic candidate for governor of Massachusetts, Kayyem hopes to bring her experience to bear on the problems facing the Bay State. She's a former columnist for the Boston Globe, and as a former cable news terrorism expert, she's comfortable in front of the camera. Now, she's here in front of a microphone to talk about her vision for the state.

Sen. King On Shutdown Talks: "Like Five-Year-Olds Playing Soccer"

We talk with Independent Sen. Angus King on the latest from Washington.

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Let's Make A Deal

Full of sound. And fury. And, in the end, we have a deal to resolve the government shutdown and the debt ceiling crisis. At least, it looks that way.

5th Congressional District Race

Yesterday voters cast their primary ballots and picked Republican Frank Addivino and Democrat Katherine Clark.

Berwick Wants To Shift From Health Policy To Governor

The former head of Medicare and Medicaid wants to plunge back into politics, drawing on his health care expertise to tackle broader issues.

Littlefield on Sports: Red Sox vs. Tigers

The box scores for the American League Championship series are flooded with zeros. Three pitching duels, thus far. The game last night, a gem. John Lackey pitched most of it. Koji Uehara closed the door.

Dudley Square Bike Club Attracts Flocks Of Bicycle-Loving Kids

We visit a free bicycle club for young people that recently opened in Dudley Square — and discovered that it's packed with kids eager to learn bike mechanics and sign up for group rides.

Thursday, October 17, 2013

Avellone Focuses On Education, Jobs In Bid For Governor

The health care executive and former surgeon is pushing for changes to the way health care systems operate and changes to higher education as a way to fill jobs in fast-growing fields in Massachusetts.

Valerie Plame: Spy Turned Novelist

Valerie Plame used to be a spy. Until 2003, when members of the Bush administration blew her cover as an undercover operative. Now, she's writing fiction. About spies. The CIA. The intelligence business.

Holly Hatton: (Almost) An Olympic Rower

Holly Hatton is a rowing coach. She'll also be competing in this weekend's Head of the Charles regatta. But even more than that, Holly Hatton was once almost an Olympian. She was on the 1980 US rowing team... the same team that never made it to the 1980 games in Moscow, because of a US boycott following the Soviet's invasion of Afghanistan.

ARTery: Pedrito Martinez Brings The Heat

A crisp New England day calls for some hot Cuban jazz, and The Pedrito Martinez Group has us covered. They're led by percussionist Pedrito Martinez, and they'll be performing at Johnny D's in Somerville on Saturday.

Friday, October 18, 2013

Week In Review: Mayor's Race, Shutdown Aftermath, Annie Dookhan

We'll talk about the race for mayor, the aftermath of the government shutdown, and the latest in the Annie Dookhan case with our panel.

New BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons Takes The Stage

The 34-year-old Latvian conductor brings a new energy and excitement to the fabled orchestra.

Salman Rushdie's 'Joseph Anton'

We sit down with internationally-acclaimed author Salman Rushdie to discuss his memoir "Joseph Anton," which traces the nine years he spent in hiding after receiving a death decree from Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989.

Monday, October 21, 2013

The Divisive Medical Device Tax

Obamacare has sparked a sweeping debate over the role of the federal government. But it has also prompted a more focused fuss over a relatively obscure tax on medical devices — which many people in both political parties would like to repeal.

The Life And Opinions Of Benjamin Franklin's 'Other Half'

If Ben Franklin was the legendary revolutionary "Every Man," historian Jill Lepore writes that his youngest sister Jane was "everyone else." She tells Jane's little known life story in *Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin*.

Truth-Squadding Claims That Sitting Is The New Smoking

An increasingly popular slogan that says, "Sitting is the new smoking." We sort out whether sitting at your desk is as bad for your health as smoking cigarettes.

Off The Record: Iron And Wine

Sam Beam, the musician behind “Iron and Wine,” played at our request, at the Boston Public Library as part of WBUR’s new series, “Off The Record.”

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Boston Steps Up Safety Measures Ahead of World Series

Boston police are adding more officers during the World Series games, urging fans to take public transit and asking anyone heading to the ballpark to leave bags at home.

Boston Mayor’s Race Has Few Ads, Divided Interests

Three ads have been released so far in the Boston Mayoral race and they are not that impressive.

Author Alice Hoffman On Lessons From Surviving Cancer

When writer Alice Hoffman found a lump in her breast fifteen years ago, she was convinced that she had imagined it. Her latest book is a brief collection of lessons about surviving breast cancer and moving on with her life.

‘Boston JazzScape: A Musical History’

Boston composer Mark Harvey takes us on a tour of his “Boston JazzScape,” a musical portraiture capturing a variety of significant events in the city’s history — from the school desegregation efforts of the 1970s to former Mayor Kevin White’s “Summerthing” initiative.

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Danvers High School Student Accused Of Killing Math Teacher

Prosecutors have decided to charge the 14-year-old as an adult. He has been held without bail.

Boston Mayoral Candidates Connolly, Walsh Try To Differentiate In Next Debate

Both state Rep. Marty Walsh and City Councilor John Connolly are desperately trying to stand out in a race with few policy differences.

Why Older Children May Do Better in School

A new paper suggests that parents are tougher on their older children, and as a result, they perform better in school.

Littelfield On Sports: Sizing Up The Red Sox In The World Series

It’s the fourth time the Red Sox have played the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series.

Madeleine Peyroux Takes Us To ‘The Blue Room’

Jazz vocalist Madeleine Peyroux joins us to talk about her new album, “The Blue Room,” which has been called a re-examination of classic Ray Charles album, “Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music.”

Thursday, October 24, 2013

Alan Dershowitz On His Life In The Law

Celebrated and controversial lawyer Alan Dershowitz chronicles his legal life in a new autobiography.

Taxi Report Show Poor Performance, Bad Oversight

Earlier this year, the Boston Globe published a multi-part expose of the city's \$1-billion dollar cab industry. Today, the continuing fall-out from those reports.

ARTery: A Taste Of Broadway

In our regular ARTery segment, we talk with artists and critics about places and events that are exciting them. This week, Meghna headed across state lines to visit with a theatre director, who tells us of the dramatic, real-life resurrection of an old New England neighborhood – Providence, Rhode Island.

Friday, October 25, 2013

Week In Review: A Danvers Murder, Taxi Report, Mayor's Race

We discuss this week's top stories, from the murder of a high school math teacher in Danvers, to a new report finding widespread abuses among Boston taxi companies, to the latest in the Boston mayoral race.

A Mass. Perspective On Obamacare Woes

An architect of Massachusetts' health care reform helps us understand what Obamacare means for Massachusetts.

On Paper

Paper has been used for everything from recording history, keeping households clean, and conducting business. According to author Nicholas Basbanes, it has shaped human culture more than any other substance on the planet.

Monday, October 28, 2013

Red Sox Even It Up

We'll check in on the series and the Sox and look at tonight's game five.

The True Cost Of Being Thin In Middle Age

A new report from the University of North Carolina has found that a mere 12 per cent of women aged 50 and over are "satisfied" with their body size. The study also found that this small group of "satisfied" women would no longer be happy with their bodies if they gained five pounds — making it clear that "body satisfaction" is incredibly fleeting and fragile.

'Home Ec' For All

We discuss the disappearance of home economics classes in schools and the effect it has had on young people today — from healthy eating to personal finances.

A Glimpse Of Personal Life, Passion Of Leonard Bernstein

A new collection includes hundreds of letters from the vast trove of unexplored correspondence the conductor and composer left behind after his death in 1990.

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Who Needs Sleep? The World Series And Red Sox Nation

Having you been losing sleep over the Red Sox in the World Series? Really losing sleep. Just from watching the games.

Mayor's Race Update

Tonight, City Councillor John Connolly and State Representative Martin Walsh will meet for their third and final televised debate — just one week before Boston residents go to the polls and decide which one of the two will be the city's next mayor.

The Making Of Masterpiece

Downton Abbey airs on the venerable PBS show "Masterpiece", which is produced right here in Boston. It is PBS's highest rated drama of all time. But Masterpiece executive producer, Rebecca Eaton, tells us, when the Downton script first came her way, she initially decided against putting the show on PBS .

More Doctors Feeling Strain Of The Job

One former physician tells her story of getting out of medicine, in order to preserve her sanity.

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mass. Health Reform Versus Obamacare

President Obama is making his latest pitch to try to counter criticism of the national health care reform by pointing to success in Massachusetts, but those two reforms were born under very different political circumstances.

The Red Sox Come Home

The big day is here for the Red Sox and their fans: Game six of the World Series, with Boston holding a 3 to 2 advantage over the St. Louis Cardinals — and a chance to win it all at Fenway park for the first time since 1918.

Author Of The Pulitzer Prize-Winning Play "Water By The Spoonful"

36-year-old playwright Quiara Alegria Hudes won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her play "Water By The Spoonful"

President Obama Visits Boston to Defend Health Law

The president is expected to underscore the success of the Massachusetts healthcare program that served as the template for the Affordable Care Act, in a move to temper criticism about the national law's rocky roll-out.

Thursday, October 31, 2013

Mayoral Candidate John Connolly

With less than a week to go before Boston elects a new mayor, candidate John Connolly joins us in the studio to talk about his vision for Boston, and to answer your questions.

That's All, Folks: Red Sox Win

The sons of John Farrell and Big Papi did it decisively and with minimum anxiety last night — beating the St. Louis Cardinals 6 to 1, clinching a World Series title for the third time in ten years...and the 8th time in franchise history.

Thao And The Get Down Stay Down

We hear the story and songs of Thao and the Get Down Stay Down's new album, "We the Common."

November, 2013

Friday, November 01, 2013

Mayoral Candidate Marty Walsh

A new poll out today, shows Marty Walsh leading John Connolly for the first time, if only by a very small margin.

John Hodgman's Non-Post-Apocalyptic Existence

We sit down with comedian John Hodgman. When we last spoke to him in 2011, he told us in great detail about the impending 2012 apocalypse. But since the end of the world didn't come, he tells us how he's been spending his non-post-apocalyptic days.

Bill Russell: The Man Who Also Played Basketball

The focus has been on the Red Sox recently, but another Boston sports champion is being honored today: A statue of Celtics great Bill Russell was unveiled this afternoon at City Hall plaza.

Monday, November 04, 2013

A Bold Vision for Boston

For the first time in 20 years, Bostonians have the opportunity to choose a new mayor for the 21st century. But has the tone of the race matched the grand ambitions the city once had?

The Triumph Of Human Empire

MIT professor Rosalind Williams offers a new examination of the industrial revolution through the eyes and writings of Jules Verne, William Morris and Robert Louis Stevenson in her new book, "The Triumph of Human Empire".

Tuesday, November 05, 2013

Boston Police To Give Some Officers Semiautomatic Rifles

The Boston Police Department is planning to put semi-automatic rifles in the patrol cars of 2 officers in each of the city's 11 districts, and train nearly 100 officers to use the high-powered weapons.

"Fat Shaming" And Discrimination

Complaints of bias against overweight and obese workers are increasing. For years, the Massachusetts state legislature has considered a bill that would include weight in the state's anti-discrimination laws. But for the past 15 years, that bill has gone no where.

Wednesday, November 06, 2013

Marty Walsh Elected To City Hall

Boston Mayor-elect Marty Walsh savored victory today. Last night, voters elected him to become the city's 48th Mayor. Walsh rallied a broad coalition of liberals, minorities and union members, edging out city councilor John Connolly by less than 5,000 votes, 52 to 48 percent.

Kennedy's Inaugural Call To Action

Under a blazing January sky, the president stood in another glare. The skeptical gaze of the nearly 50 percent of the electorate who had not voted for him. He began with a clarion call intended to appeal to all Americans.

Cutting Tuition Sticker Shock

Next fall, Lesley University joins about half a dozen colleges in cutting tuition and student financial aid, provoking a new conversation about what college actually costs.

Red Baraat's Bhangra Brass Funk

Sunny Jain, bandleader of the Bhangra brass funk group Red Baraat, joins us to talk about their latest album, Shruggy Ji.

Thursday, November 07, 2013

Martin Walsh And Unions

Mayor-elect Marty Walsh is expected to announce a transition team before leaving on a short vacation. Walsh's victory on Tuesday over John Connolly while narrow, united a broad coalition of community activists, politicians and labor leaders. Walsh has spent much of his career working in the union movement.

You Are Not Forgotten

There's nothing quite as primal for a soldier than the need to return home. American troops have fought in far-flung battlefields across the globe. And sometimes, they don't make it back. In fact, there are thousands of soldiers who simply disappeared into the haze of battle, their bodies never found.

Playwright Nicky Silver Takes On Vonnegut

We speak to playwright Nicky Silver about his latest project, "Kurt Vonnegut's Make Up Your Mind."

Friday, November 08, 2013

Week In Review: Walsh Looks Forward, Casinos In Doubt

Marty Walsh beat John Connolly in the race for mayor. Now, a few weeks of transition before he takes office. We'll see what we know so far. And a big defeat for legalized gambling in the state, as two towns reject proposed casinos.

Us Vs. Them In 'Moral Tribes'

Joshua Greene, director of Harvard's Moral Cognition Lab, joins us to discuss the "us vs. them" phenomenon and other moral questions included in his new book, "Moral Tribes."

From Kermit The Frog To Fallout Shelters: 101 Objects That Define America

Relics, or artifacts, anchor moments in our nation's history and allow us to consider alternate viewpoints of the past. The Smithsonian is the largest collection of museum objects anywhere in the world; it has 137 million items plus 19 million photographs. So it's challenging to compile a list of its top 101 objects that collectively tell the history of the United States. But that's just what Richard Kurin has done.

Monday, November 11, 2013

New PTSD Study Offering Hope To Veterans

A new study looking into personalized treatment for sufferers of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is offering fresh hope for returning service members.

Pilot To Try To Treat Sickest, Most Expensive Patients

Tucked inside the Affordable Care Act are dozens of pilot programs that are testing new ideas in medicine, including one to treat the neediest, most medically complicated and most expensive patients in Massachusetts.

Good Vibes: Virtuoso Gary Burton

GRAMMY-winning jazz vibraphonist Gary Burton joins us to discuss his remarkable career, his memoir “Learning to Listen”, and his latest musical project, The New Gary Burton Quartet.

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Special Restrictions On Dzhokhar Tsarnaev

Attorneys for the accused marathon bomber, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, were in federal court today. The argued that the restrictions placed on their client by the government have hurt their ability to mount a defense.

Too Much Sports In High School?

Writer Amanda Ripley argues that compared to many other industrialized countries, American schools spend far too much money and time on sports; resources that could be spent on actual classroom learning. It’s a controversial argument, but do you think she might be right?

Paul Burch’s Modern Brand Of Honky-Tonk

Nashville singer-songwriter Paul Burch is joins us live in-studio to share his story and his modern brand of honky-tonk music.

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Relatives Of Bulger’s Victims Finally Have Their Say In Court

In Boston federal court today, 84-year-old former South Boston crime boss James “Whitey” Bulger came face-to-face with the relatives of those he was convicted of killing.

Fixing Boston’s Housing Market

Here’s how tough it is for families: Half of them who rent in this city pay almost a third of their paychecks to their landlords. A quarter of them pay more than half. As a former candidate for mayor of New York said, “The rent is too damn high.” It’s true in the Big Apple, and it’s true here in Boston.

Littlefield On Sports: Francona Named ‘Manager Of The Year’

Bill Littlefield, host of NPR’s “Only A Game,” joins us to discuss the latest sports news.

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Bulger To Spend Rest Of Life Behind Bars

After running a deadly criminal enterprise in Boston for the better part of two decades, eluding arrest for another 16 years, a three-month trial and a guilty verdict, finally today, a prison sentence for the former Boston crime boss, James Whitey Bulger.

Elizabeth Warren For President? The Future Of The Democratic Party

If you believe conventional political wisdom, Hillary Clinton will be the Democratic nominee for president in 2016. But another name floated for a possible presidential bid is getting traction: Elizabeth Warren.

Dr. Dog Builds The ‘B-Room’

The Philadelphia-based psychedelic rock band Dr. Dog joins us live in-studio to share the story and songs behind their new soul album, B-Room.

Friday, November 15, 2013

Week In Review: Bulger Gets Life, Casino On The Vineyard, New Surgeon General

Our panel tackles a week’s worth of news. Today, we’ll talk about the Bulger verdict, the possibility of the 2024 Olympics coming to Boston, the appointment of a new Surgeon General and plans for slots on Martha’s Vineyard.

Roosevelt, Taft And Muckrakers In The Progressive Era

Author Doris Kearns Goodwin looks at the unlikely and tumultuous friendship between former Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, and how Roosevelt deftly used the presidency and the press to promote change.

Monday, November 18, 2013

JFK’s Massachusetts Roots

In spite of that, he became a Massachusetts Congressman, Senator, and then of course, President. And just days before his inauguration, he returned to Boston, and before a packed State House, declared himself “a man from Massachusetts.”

Della Mae

The music of Della Mae is self-described as “man-grass,” but it’s all woman — 5 of them to be exact. They join us in-studio to perform songs from their new album, “This World Oft Can Be”.

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Watching The Cops: BPD Weighs GPS Units

Boston Police Cruisers could soon be outfitted with GPS tracking devices, which is raising some concerns among police officers.

Teens And The Dangers Of Internet Porn

Pornography has always been controversial. But in the digital age, it’s also easier to access than ever. The question is, what effect is that having on young people — and is it necessarily a bad effect? What, if anything, should parents do about it?

What’s So Funny About The Constitution?

Comedian and Saturday Night Live alum Colin Quinn joins us to discuss his new one-man show inspired by the U.S. Constitution, “Colin Quinn Unconstitutional”.

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Trying To Help Millions Of Long-Term Unemployed

A new project at MIT will try to help some of the long-term unemployed and study the effects of long-term unemployment.

The Eloquence of Edward Everett

President Lincoln's effort to reunite a nation torn in half by the long, bloody Civil War is considered one of the greatest speeches in American history. But Lincoln wasn't even the keynote speaker that day at Gettysburg. That honor belonged to Edward Everett of Boston. He was a former Congressman, Senator, Governor of Massachusetts and President of Harvard University. He's also the namesake of Everett Square in Dorchester.

Littlefield On Sports: Pats, World Cup, 'Mean' Joe Greene

The New England Patriots have another "blame it on the refs" moment. The World Cup line-up takes shape. And few moments with Mean Joe Greene.

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Gaming Commission Grapples With Changing Casino Landscape

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission is taking up key issues in several casino proposals including whether a businessman with a criminal record could financially benefit from a casino in Everett and whether Suffolk Downs can shift its proposal from East Boston into Revere.

The Man Who FOIA'd Too Much

Shapiro has filed hundreds of Freedom of Information Act requests — or FOIA requests. He's also sued the FBI, multiple times. In fact, he has five pending lawsuits against the agency for failing to comply with his FOIA requests. According to a recent profile in Mother Jones, Shapiro is the FBI's "most prolific" Freedom of Information Act requester.

ARTery: Our Very Own 'Voigt Lesson'

The internationally-renowned soprano Deborah Voigt joins us to perform songs from her new show, "Voigt Lessons", and to discuss the professional successes and struggles that shaped it.

Friday, November 22, 2013

Remembering John F. Kennedy

We'll talk about the legacy of John F. Kennedy.

Revisiting 'Letters To Jackie'

We speak to historian Ellen Fitzpatrick about her book, "Letters to Jackie" — a collection of condolence letters that ordinary Americans sent to Jacqueline Kennedy in the weeks and months following the President's death.

Paul Winter: Jazz At The Kennedy White House

In November of 1962, The New York Herald Tribune ran this headline: "Man, It's Jazz at the White House." And it was. First lady, Jacqueline Kennedy, had invited the The Paul Winter Sextet to perform the first ever jazz concert at the White House.

Monday, November 25, 2013

Bugs In New Mass. Health Insurance Exchange

Since the launch of the Affordable Care Act, we've heard a lot about the glitches afflicting the federal government's new website, Healthcare.gov. Well, here in Massachusetts, the state's on-line Health Connector had been working just fine for years — until recently.

CommonHealth: Do-It-Yourself Deaths, At-Home Funerals

There's been a lot of attention given in recent years to the home birth movement, the trend toward mothers giving birth in a home setting — no surgeons, no fluorescent hospital lights, no drugs. Today, we're talking about the other end of that timeline: "home deaths."

Boston Mayor-Elect Marty Walsh

The mayor-elect talks about key issues he'll be tackling when he takes the oath of office in January.

Celebrating Thanksgiving (Recipes Included!)

This year, for the first time ever, Thanksgiving coincides with the first day of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. This unique convergence has inspired the term "Thanksgivukkah" and created a perfect opportunity to celebrate the food of both traditions.

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

Adam Lanza And Violent Video Games

We're going to begin today with a chilling look into the world of Adam Lanza — the 20 year-old man who allegedly shot and killed 20 first graders and six adults at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut last December.

How American Meals Came Down To 'Three Squares'

It was a French gastronome who coined the now famous phrase, "we are what we eat." In her new book, Abigail Carroll adds to that notion by glancing through history to show that we are also how, when and where we eat.

Club d'Elf Mixes Musicians, Styles

The musicians are mostly a rotating cast performing with bassist Mike Rivard playing a mix of jazz, electronica trance music with Moroccan influences.

Wednesday, November 27, 2013

One Boston Attorney At The Forefront Of Gay Marriage Push

Mary Bonauto has been called the Thurgood Marshall of the gay rights movement for her role in legalizing gay marriage across the United States.

One Very Rare Book

Call it a bibliophile's Holy Grail. It's called the Bay Psalms Book, the first book printed in Boston, long before it became part of the United States.

In Boston's Chinatown, Longtime Residents Face An Uncertain Future

Over the decades, cheap rents made the neighborhood an attractive place for waves of immigrants, but new luxury apartment buildings are driving up property values, and driving out longtime residents.

Tony Maws Serves Up Thanksgiving Cheer

Thanksgiving, of course, is a time for families to come together and share a late autumn feast. But what about the millions of Americans who have to work on the holiday — like fire fighters? A few years back, celebrated chef, Tony Maws, began a tradition of cooking a full Thanksgiving meal for the firehouse right across the street from his Cambridge restaurant, Craigie on Main.

Thursday, November 28, 2013

‘Drinking Boston: A History Of The City And Its Spirits’

Stephanie Schorow’s new book details the city’s rich history of distilling, brewing and — of course — drinking.

ChopChop: How To Cook With Kids

Getting your kids to eat their vegetables—not an easy task. But getting your kids to cook their own vegetables? Forget it. The Watertown-based magazine ChopChop says don’t sweat it; founder Sally Sampson has been motivating kids and families to spend time in their own kitchens since 2010.

West African Musical Sensation ‘Bombino’ Tours Boston

Omara Moctar, who goes by the name “Bombino,” is a guitarist and singer from the Agadez region of Niger with a cult following all across West Africa.

Friday, November 29, 2013

Challenging The American Notion Of Beauty: Japanese Fashion At The Peabody Essex Museum

A new exhibition at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem features fashion from groundbreaking Japanese designers including Yohji Yamamoto, Issey Miyake and Rei Kawakubo.

Week In Review: Special Election, Casinos, The Future Of Lawrence

We’ll talk about the casino votes, the special election in the 5th Congressional District, and the future of Lawrence now that a new mayor is on the way.

Geckskin: A Gecko-Inspired Super-Adhesive Developed At UMass

We’ll find out how Geckskin could transform everything from hanging up your flat screen TV to how firefighters scale burning buildings.

Katherine Clark, Democrat For Mass. 5th District

We speak with Katherine Clark, the Democratic candidate for the Fifth Congressional District in Massachusetts.

December, 2013

Monday, December 02, 2013

Love That Dirty Water: Remembering Dick Dodd

We’ll talk with Larry Tamblyn from the Standells about the passing of drummer Dick Dodd and the creation of a Boston anthem.

Next Step For Mass. Casinos

Last month, voters in East Boston soundly defeated a plan to construct a billion dollar casino at Suffolk Downs race track. But residents of Revere approved the project by a margin of nearly two to one.

More Colleges Considering Applicants' Online Lives

More college admissions officers are looking at more than resumes and Googling applicants, which poses a challenge for both colleges and high schools.

Erin McKeown's 'Anti-Holiday Spectacular'

For most people, the six-week period between Thanksgiving and New Year's is a magical time of year, filled with food, family, and tradition. Singer-songwriter Erin McKeown begs to differ — so much so that she's performing an "Anti-Holiday Spectacular" at Club Passim this Friday night.

Tuesday, December 03, 2013

Medical Experts Rethink 'Morning After' Options

The news that the emergency contraceptive pill, Plan B, is ineffective in women who weigh more than 176 pounds made headlines around the world last week. But a quick glance beneath the headlines and it's evident that even before this latest news, Plan B was not the silver bullet many hoped it would be.

Sizing Up International Student Test Scores

Massachusetts students have consistently ranked fairly high on national and international tests.

The Legacy Of Boston's 'Strong Boy'

We explore the legacy of America's first sports hero, Boston heavy-weight boxing champion John L. Sullivan.

Wednesday, December 04, 2013

911 Calls Released In Newtown School Shooting

The seven recordings could shed light on the emergency response to last year's shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Ron Burgundy Comes To Boston

The Emerson College School of Communications was been renamed "The Ron Burgundy School of Communication" just for today.

The Pot Legalization Minefield

The legalization process is a minefield of unknowns: How big will the pot market be? How old should you have to be to buy it? What about the spill-over to states where it is illegal? Should illegal dealers still be targeted? How many more people will smoke pot because it's legal?

Jacoby Ellsbury Trades Fenway For The Bronx

It's a list that begins with Babe Ruth and includes Wade Boggs, Roger Clemons, Johnny Damon and now, Jacoby Ellsbury. And you know what we're talking about. The former fleet-footed Red Sox center-fielder is now a Yankee.

Blues And Roots, Heard Like Never Before

Grammy Award-winning music historian Peter Guralnick joins us to discuss the enhanced e-book editions of his books "Feel Like Going Home" and "Lost Highway".

Thursday, December 05, 2013

Fast Food Workers Demand Doubling Of Minimum Wage

Today in Boston — and in about 100 other cities across the country — fast food workers are staging a one day strike. They're demanding that the minimum wage be doubled — from the current 7-dollars-and-25-cents an hour to 15 dollars an hour.

Ben Bradlee Jr On Ted “The Kid” Williams

It's not hard to make the case that Ted Williams, who played his entire career with the Boston Red Sox, was baseball's greatest hitter ever. He defined grace and accomplishment on the baseball diamond, but off the field he was a roiling mix of contradictions: proud but angry. Generous, but combative. Adored by fans, but at war with members of the press. Revered by his son, but often unkind to those closest to him.

ARTery: Poetry Slam At The Cantab

Berklee's Caroline Harvey introduces us to slam poetry at The Cantab Lounge, and performer Suzi Q. Smith.

Back Bay Ringers Bring ‘Comfort And Joy’

The Back Bay Ringers, a community-based handbell organization, share the history and gorgeous sounds of the handbell in Boston.

Friday, December 06, 2013

Remembering Nelson Mandela

We pay tribute to the late South African leader, who visited Boston in 1990 — just months after his release from prison.

Week In Review: Minimum Wage, Newtown Tapes, PISA

We discuss the week's top stories — from demonstrations over the state's minimum wage, to the release of 9-1-1 calls made during the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting last year, to Massachusetts' performance in the Program for International Student Assessment.

Berklee Student Grace Gibson On Faith, Breakout Role In ‘Black Nativity’

Grace Gibson is a student at Berklee College of Music, and “Black Nativity” is her first ever feature film. A daunting prospect for any fledgling actress, let alone one who's been tasked with bringing to life the role of Mary.

Monday, December 09, 2013

After Newtown, Tackling Mental Health And Gun Violence

To try to prevent mass shootings or other types of gun violence, some lawmakers are considering a proposal that would require firearms license applicants to disclose their mental health records. But mental health advocates worry the proposals are too broad and wrongly stigmatize mental illness.

CommonHealth: New FEMA Guidelines For Mass-Casualty Events

For this week's CommonHealth segment, we discuss the new FEMA guidelines for first-responders to mass-casualty events.

The Ice Cream Man Vs. The Fighter Jet

The U.S. Air Force plans to base its new state-of-the-art F-35 fighter jets at Burlington International Airport in Vermont. Development of the F-35 has been plagued with problems — including delays, crashes and multi-billion dollar cost over-runs.

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

Police Tracking Cell Phones

deep electronic surveillance isn't limited to the nation's top digital spy agency. This week, Massachusetts Senator Ed Markey released a report detailing how local law enforcement agencies are tracking tens of thousands of cell phone calls and data, all without a warrant.

Bad Rabbits Spreads Some 'American Love'

When you first the music of the Boston based band, Bad Rabbits, it's reminiscent of classic R&B, with shades of disco. But it's not so easy to classify. It's kick-back party music — a blend of R&B, rock, funk, and maybe something else, as well.

The Strategy Behind A Police Interrogation

The Reid technique has been the standard for law enforcement officials for many years. But critics say it's coercive, and often leads to false confessions.

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Opponents Gearing Up For Second Fight Against Suffolk Downs Casino

The state Gaming Commission gave Suffolk Downs a second chance to pitch a Revere-only casino — so opponents are gearing up for another battle.

Delivery Drones Coming Soon?

"There's the drone picking up the package and flying out of the warehouse, navigating through the parts of America with no trees, phone lines or buildings, then landing on your doorstep while your family cowers inside until after the semi-autonomous, blade-wielding octo-copter leaves."

Littlefield On Sports: Bruins, Pats Take Hits

This week, we were reminded of that famous Rodney Dangerfield line: "I went to the fight and a hockey game broke out." It's hardly news when NHL players throw some punches, but last Saturday was the most recent reminder of just how violent this game can get.

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Bulger Prosecutor Reflects On 23-Year Career, And His New Venture

After 23 years in the U.S. attorney's office, Brian Kelly has left his position as chief of the public corruption and special investigations unit. He's going to the other side of the courtroom: defending people and businesses accused of white collar crimes.

John Medeski Flies Solo

Earlier today, we got to hear the wonderfully talented John Medeski play the piano. Many people know him as part of the groove-based jazz trio Medeski Martin and Wood. But, as you'll hear, John Medeski is more than comfortable on his own.

Inaugural Poet Richard Blanco's New "Memoirette"

When Richard Blanco read his poem “One Today” at President Obama’s second inauguration, that made him the youngest inaugural poet in history.

Friday, December 13, 2013

Week In Review: Menino’s Last Speech, Casino Drama, Newtown Anniversary

Our week in review panel tackles casinos, mayor Tom Menino’s last big speech, and the anniversary of the Newtown tragedy.

Violence And Video Games

There’s been lots of discussion about what caused the Sandy Hook tragedy, including whether video games that depict graphic violence may have played a role.

Monday, December 16, 2013

Reframing The War On Drugs

How has that “war on drugs” worked out? After more than 40 years, the U.S. has spent tens of billions of dollars on it, and now has the highest incarceration rate in the world, largely because of drug sentencing policies. But now the White House is calling for drug policy reform to be “rooted in neuroscience, not political science.”

Boston Globe Report Reveals More About The Tsarnaevs

Three Boston Globe reporters spent five months in four countries investigating the Tsarnaevs family’s story.

Poor Old Shine Meets Robin Hood At The A.R.T.

The Connecticut-based roots band Poor Old Shine joins us in-studio to play some of the original music included in the A.R.T.’s latest production, “The Heart of Robin Hood.”

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

In Massachusetts, More Families And Individuals Without Housing

The number of homeless people in Massachusetts is increasing, particularly among families. We’ll discuss who these families are, what’s causing homelessness, and what can be done to help.

Songs And Writings By The Homeless, Turned Into Theater

An unusual theatre event recently debuted in the Boston area: “Stories Without Roofs,” a collection of writings by homeless people performed by professional actors, singers and dancers.

The Best Of New England’s Artisanal Foods

With the holiday season upon us, locally made artisanal products can make perfect gifts. Joining us to sample some of the best the New England region has to offer are two food-loving guests.

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

Snowy Commute Raises Questions, Complaints Across Boston Area

Was yesterday’s rough ride home in the snow a failure of our transportation system? Or was it the evitable result of an ill-timed storm? We hash it out.

How Much Will Your Medical Procedure Cost?

Have you ever tried to figure out in advance how much a medical procedure will cost? Here in Massachusetts, there's a law designed to let you do just that. We discuss the law's effectiveness with a panel of experts.

Henry VIII, Revisited And Reinvigorated

Henry VIII is one of Shakespeare's least-performed plays, but the Actors' Shakespeare Project has taken it on in a production with highly acclaimed director Tina Packer at the helm.

Littlefield On Sports: What Are You Complaining About?

Bill gives us his State of Boston Sports end-of-the-year assessment.

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Will Today's Ugly Buildings Be Tomorrow's Historic Architecture?

Boston City Hall has been called the "ugliest building in the world." But what if homely structures like this one are tomorrow's historic architecture — and we just don't appreciate them yet?

What Went Wrong At The Department Of Children And Families?

A five-year-old Fitchburg boy who's missing and considered dead raises the question: what went wrong at the Department of Children and Families?

Goodbye To Upstairs On The Square

We say farewell to a beloved, iconic Harvard Square restaurant.

Friday, December 20, 2013

MBTA Pension Fund Loses \$25 Million Investment

Big questions about oversight and accountability in light of the disclosure that the MBTA pension fund may have lost a staggering \$25 million.

What You Don't Know About Gift Giving May Surprise You

It can be a struggle to find the right gifts for people, but we may be going about it all wrong.

Monday, December 23, 2013

Building A Better Condom

They're known to be highly effective at preventing unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. Condoms have been around for more than 400 years, and over the last half-century their design has remained pretty much the same — until now.

Does Music Make Us Smarter?

Harvard doctoral student Samuel Mehr joins us to discuss a new pair of studies he's released showing that there's no link between music lessons and cognitive ability.

Berklee Student Self-Taught by Internet Named Senior TED Fellow

When Usman Riaz was a young music student, he wanted to expand his repertoire beyond what he could learn from his teachers. So he turned to the web.

Marine Matthew Rodriguez Laid To Rest

The 19-year-old Fairhaven resident was killed in Afghanistan.

Tuesday, December 24, 2013

SJC Strikes Down Life Without Parole For Minors

In a ruling today, the Supreme Judicial Court said judges may no longer rule that a minor who comes before them is “irretrievably depraved.” That’s the legal term that once permitted them to sentence young people convicted of particularly heinous crimes to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Celebrating Ten Years Of StoryCorps

We celebrate 10 years of StoryCorps with the project’s founder, Dave Isay.

Peter Wolf Has Still Got It

To those of us who followed the rock scene in Boston in the 1980s, the name Peter Wolf has an almost familial ring to it. He’s most well-known as the front man of the J. Geils Band, but he joins us now in-studio with a new band composed of some of the best jazz, bluegrass and R&B musicians in the region.

Comments

Wednesday, December 25, 2013

A Radio Boston Christmas!

We reprise some of our favorite conversations with writers from the past year.

Thursday, December 26, 2013

The Year In Innovation

Two weeks ago, search giant Google bought Boston Dynamics, a local company that makes robots, including one that gallops on four legs, moving faster than a human can run. It was a big step for the company and raised eyebrows about what the tech behemoth has coming next.

Blindspot: Hidden Biases Of Good People

Do you prefer white people over black people? Do you believe men and women are “better” than each other in certain fields? Are you even aware of your hidden prejudices?

Della Mae

The music of Della Mae is self-described as “man-grass,” but it’s all woman — 5 of them to be exact. What began as a gimmick has become a foot-stomping force to be reckoned with in the bluegrass world and beyond.

Friday, December 27, 2013

Paul Harding On Love And Loss In ‘Enon’

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Paul Harding joins us to talk about his latest novel, “Enon.”

Grace Potter: Big Voice, Bigger Personality

Grace Potter has a voice as big as the room, or stadium, that dares to hold it. But Potter’s defining musical trait is probably her freedom and range, as we heard when we spoke with her back in September.

Happy Birthday, Mayor Menino!

Hundreds of school children helped Boston Mayor Tom Menino celebrate his 71st birthday today at City Hall — his last birthday in office.

Reflecting On The Boston Marathon Bombings

WBUR's Alex Ashlock has been reporting on the Boston Marathon for more than a decade. He has this look back at the Marathon bombing and its aftermath.

Meghna Reflects On 2013

Meghna reflects on what this year taught her about our fine city.

Monday, December 30, 2013

The Mayoralty Of Tom Menino

There are a series of contradictions at the heart of Menino's legacy that we'll explore in this hour.

Tuesday, December 31, 2013

Can We Preserve New England's Resurging Forests?

Farming, logging and hunting decimated New England's forests and wildlife. But today, the forests are back — and cover 80 percent of the region. New England is now the most heavily forested region in the country, and yet it faces new threats, including housing construction and urban sprawl.

Alastair Moock Shares 'Songs For The World's Bravest Kids'

Alastair Moock has 6-year-old twin daughters, Clio and Elsa. One year ago, Clio was diagnosed with leukemia. So, to help Clio, Moock picked up his guitar and started singing to her — and with her. This effort became his latest album.

Medical Segregation: Most Minority Patients See Minority Doctors

When we look at healthcare for disadvantaged and low-income patients, we see what could be called "medical segregation."