

**WMBQ-CD**  
**ISSUES/PROGRAMS REPORT**  
**4th QUARTER 2023**

## **ECONOMY**

### **NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vanzozi**

**Airdate/Time:** 10/18//23, 11:30pm

**Length:** 30-minutes

**Description:** Coverage of the following: New Jersey's total tax collections sagged below last year's totals through the first quarter of the current fiscal year, with several important revenue sources among those seeing declines. A drop in revenues was not unexpected after the 2024 fiscal year began this summer amid a period of general economic uncertainty. Department of Treasury officials noted they've forecast major taxes will be in decline through the midway point of the state's July-to-June fiscal year before experiencing a second-half rally.

### **MetroFocus**

**Airdate/Time:** 11/14/23, 11pm

**Length:** 30-minutes

**Description:** Coverage of the following: Fare evasion crisis approaches \$1 billion in losses. New York is facing a fare and toll evasion crisis with revenue losses nearly topping \$700 million in 2022. That's according to a new blue-ribbon panel appointed to study the evasion threat, which found the problem has spiked sharply since the pandemic, threatening the financial stability of the transit system and tearing at the social fabric of New York. The 16-member group also came up with recommendations to address evasion without aggressive policing, which critics say unfairly targets the city's most vulnerable. Joining MetroFocus to discuss their work and possible solutions to the crisis are the co-chairs of the Panel on MTA Fare and Toll Evasion: Rose Pierre-Louis, who also serves as executive director of the NYU McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research, and Roger Maldonado, an attorney and former president of the New York City Bar Association.

### **NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vanzozi**

**Airdate/Time:** 12/14 /23, 11:30pm

**Length:** 30-minutes

**Description:** Coverage of the following: The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey approved a \$9.3 billion budget on Thursday, increasing the bistate agency's spending by \$1 billion for next year. That money is set to fund a raft of new investments, including work to replace the AirTrain at Newark Liberty International Airport and the Port Authority Bus Terminal in Midtown Manhattan as well as the purchase of 72 new PATH train cars. The budget also includes toll hikes for the Port Authority's six bridges and tunnels, pushing E-ZPass tolls above \$15 dollars per car for trips during peak traffic times.

## EDUCATION

### **NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vanzozi**

**Airdate/Time:** 10/11/23, 11:30pm

**Length:** 30-minutes

**Description:** Coverage of the following: Newest rules prevent school districts from keeping a substitute teacher beyond 20 days. The struggle to fill vacant teaching positions around the state may have just gotten harder. Substitute teachers have been a critical piece in the patchwork of coverage during what has been a nationwide staff shortage in schools, but now potential changes to New Jersey's limits on how many consecutive days substitutes can stay in the same classroom are causing confusion among districts to what exactly is permissible.

### **MetroFocus**

**Airdate/Time:** 11/2/23, 11pm

**Length:** 30-minutes

**Description:** Coverage of the following: Colleges are struggling with their response to the Israel-Hamas War. In just the latest incident of antisemitism on a college campus, a 21-year-old Cornell student was arrested this week for allegedly threatening to kill Jewish classmates. Governor Kathy Hochul has directed State Police to increase security at colleges and universities across New York, but many Jewish students still feel their schools are not doing enough to protect them. Since the Israel-Hamas war began there have been many reports on college campuses here in New York, and across the country, of violent threats, intimidation tactics, public doxing, and even assaults. Student supporters of both Israel and Palestine have expressed fear for their safety in recent weeks. Melissa Korn, reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*, joins with the latest on the story. This conversation is part of our Exploring Hate Initiative.

### **NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vanzozi**

**Airdate/Time:** 11/29/23, 11:30pm

**Length:** 30-minutes

**Description:** Coverage of the following: Acting Education Commissioner Angelica Allen-McMillan announced she will retire on Feb. 1, opening the seat in Gov. Phil Murphy's cabinet. Allen-McMillan served for over three years, leading the state's public schools through much of the COVID-19 pandemic and recent recovery efforts. The next leader will be tasked with continuing these efforts, as well as responding to a shortage of teachers and staff; efforts to desegregate schools as well as several culture-war issues including sex education and the department's equity code. Doing that will require a strong leader who is a good listener and open to collaborating with partners and stakeholders, advocates said.

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

### **NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vanzozi**

**Airdate/Time:** 11/8/23, 11:30pm

**Length:** 30-minutes

**Description:** Coverage of the following: The Environmental Protection Agency announced an “accelerator” program aimed at helping 10 New Jersey towns meet their goals to replace lead service lines. The towns included are Blackwood, Camden, Clementon, East Newark, Harrison, Keansburg, Keyport, New Brunswick, Trenton, and Ventnor. Water utilities across New Jersey face a state deadline to find and replace lead service lines within the next eight years. New Jersey has an estimated 143,000 lead service lines that need to be replaced and a million more of unknown composition.

### **NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vanzozi**

**Airdate/Time:** 11/30 /23, 11:30pm

**Length:** 30-minutes

**Description:** Coverage of the following: America’s corporate oil giants are doing everything they can to avoid a pair of New Jersey trials — both of which could end with hefty financial penalties if prosecutors prevail. The two cases, one filed by the city of Hoboken in 2020 the other filed by the state of New Jersey in 2022, allege that major oil companies and the industry trade group that lobbies on their behalf violated state consumer fraud protections by obscuring from the public the relationship between burning fossil fuels and climate change, while pushing policies that boosted oil consumption over the adoption of alternative energy sources.

### **NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vanzozi**

**Airdate/Time:** 12/15 /23, 11:30pm

**Length:** 30-minutes

**Description:** Coverage of the following: Efforts are advancing to help protect and beautify a growing number of New Jersey’s urban areas. Lack of tree coverage in inner city neighborhoods exacerbates the heat island effect, which can turn deadly in summer months. New Jersey’s annual “State of the Climate Report,” released earlier this year, warns the increased temperatures from global warming could cause more heat-related hospitalizations and deaths, especially in urban areas like Trenton, Camden and Newark. EPA research shows boosting urban forests can lower average temperatures by 2.9° F.

## **HEALTH**

### **MetroFocus**

**Airdate/Time:** 11/1/23, 11pm

**Length:** 30-minutes

**Description:** Marilu Henner, best known for starring on the hit sitcom 'Taxi,' joins with her husband Michael Brown to share their deeply personal and uplifting story of how they beat his bladder and lung cancer- without chemotherapy or radiation. Also, Maria Shriver shares her fight against the illness that afflicted her father more than a decade ago.

### **NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vanzozi**

**Airdate/Time:** 11/22 /23, 11:30pm

**Length:** 30-minutes

**Description:** Coverage of the following: Assembly panel OKs measure authorizing NJ joining multistate licensing agreement for counseling. People struggling with anxiety and depression in New Jersey could have access to more mental health professionals, including via telehealth, under a bill that cleared the Assembly Health Committee.

### **NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vanzozi**

**Airdate/Time:** 12/20/23, 11:30pm

**Length:** 30-minutes

**Description:** Coverage of the following: Volunteers from Newark and surrounding towns are taking part in Rutgers studies on the Alzheimer's-sleep connection. Researchers have long known of the link between lousy sleep and Alzheimer's. And in recent years, they've also pinpointed a risky variant of a gene, called the ABCA7, the most common risk factor for Alzheimer's among people of African descent. Gluck and his colleagues devised a way to see if good sleep could lower the risk posed by that variant. They crunched the numbers, and voila! It turns out that people who have the risky gene variant but report getting enough quality sleep seem to be protected from developing the earliest signs of Alzheimer's.

## **SOCIAL/CIVIL ISSUES**

### **MetroFocus**

**Airdate/Time:** 11/14/23, 11pm

**Length:** 30-minutes

**Description:** Coverage of the following: In *The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain*, executive producer and actor Morgan Freeman exposes the excessive and brutal force too often executed by the police in their response to emergency calls and non-threatening situations. The film follows the 2011 fatal shooting of a 68-year-old African American military veteran, Kenneth Chamberlain by police in White Plains, NY. Living with a bi-polar disorder and a heart condition, Chamberlain's medical alert device mistakenly activated when officers were dispatched to his home. But this accidental call to help quickly became a call for help when despite informing them that there'd been a mistake and no emergency, the situation quickly escalated towards a point of no return. The cops were recorded taunting him, ridiculing his military service and howling racial epithets at him. Eventually, they broke down his door and shot him dead. Morgan Freeman, along with activist, son and namesake of Kenneth Chamberlain Sr., join with this tragic timely tale.

### **NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vanzozi**

**Airdate/Time:** 11/16 /23, 11:30pm

**Length:** 30-minutes

**Description:** Coverage of the following: At Newark Penn Station, a new approach to helping people who are homeless. Newark Mayor Ras Baraka's Homeless Outreach Team, or HOT for short, monitors people at the station who have no home. Team members make wellness checks and talk to people few will talk to. They can provide transportation to a drop-in center where people can take a shower, wash their clothes, get a bite to eat and use a computer to check emails and stay in touch with family or check for messages from service providers. If the HOT team encounters an unaccompanied minor, they refer them to Covenant House where they have a connection with the outreach liaison, Mark Wilcox.

### **NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vanzozi**

**Airdate/Time:** 12/5/23, 11:30pm

**Length:** 30-minutes

**Description:** Coverage of the following: NJ Reparations Council holds second meeting, will publish findings in 2025. The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice kicked off the second public meeting of the New Jersey Reparations Council on Monday night, continuing its two-year project to study the history of slavery in New Jersey and its effects on the state's current racial landscape. "The question that we often confront is why convene the New Jersey Reparations Council," said Ryan Haygood, president and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. "And the answer is although slavery shaped every aspect of New Jersey, too many people in our state believe that it never