

2023 1st Quarterly Issues Report

WBST, WBSB, WBSH and WBSW- Indiana Public Radio

For the period of January 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023.

Indiana Public Radio, consisting of FM radio stations WBST, WBSB, WBSW, and WBSH, has determined that the following issues were of importance to its audience community during the past three months and has aired the following news stories to address these issues:

Health

1/4/23 Theater to reduce SUD stigma FEATURE Darian Benson

The negative perception of addiction is present even in the medical community, which can negatively impact the quality of care some patients who use substances receive. Today, as Side Effects Public Media's Darian Benson reports, one researcher is hoping theatrical portrayals of life with addiction can help reduce stigma among medical professionals.

CUT 30187 TRT: 3:51 SOC

01/05/23

1630, 1730, 1830

4:15

1/13/23 Preview-Abortion Ban Sup Crt Hearing Brandon Smith

Attorneys for abortion care providers and the state will argue the constitutionality of Indiana's near-total abortion ban before the state's highest court this week.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Brandon Smith looks ahead to Thursday's Indiana Supreme Court hearing.

CUT 25171 :45 SOC

01/17/23

0604, 0704, 0804, 0904

:59

1/26/23 Mental Health Criminal Justice Bill Brandon Smith

Indiana lawmakers are trying to divert more people away from local jails and into mental health treatment. Advocates call a proposed bill "compassionate," "humane," and "fiscally responsible."

The legislation creates a system for law enforcement to refer people to mental health centers. Those people must be assessed by a mental health professional within 48 hours. Next is a hearing no more than 24 hours later in front of a judge ... to determine whether they should be detained longer.

Doctor Christine Negendank (NAY-ghen-DANK) is a psychiatry professor at the I-U School of Medicine. She's worked in jails and prisons to help treat people with mental health challenges ... and says those facilities are not the best place for them.

CUT 29001 TRT: :10 OUT: "state of crisis"

Health care advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders, and local government representatives all support the bill.

Doctor Brian Hart, representing the Indiana Psychiatric Society, backs the effort. But he says it will run into a problem - there are not enough mental health care providers or space in facilities.

Cut 29002 TRT: :08 OUT: "commitment hearing"

A priority bill in the Senate aims to boost funding for mental health treatment centers.

01/26/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:20

2/3/23 Mental Health Clinics Bill Brandon Smith

A bill to bolster mental health care access and services across Indiana unanimously cleared a Senate committee today (Thursday) ... but without any funding included.

The legislation originally included 30 million dollars for community mental health clinics. In a rare move, Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch testified on the importance of providing such funding. She says it goes beyond policy - access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment is personal for so many Hoosier families, including hers.

CUT 29001 TRT: :14 OUT: "and bipolar"

The bill is also intended to help fund the 9-8-8 mental health crisis hotline. Jodie Moser (MOW-zher) says her brother could've used something like that. He was killed by police in Florida during a mental health crisis.

Cut 29002 TRT: :12 OUT: "for my brother"

A Senate committee stripped out the 30 million dollars. Instead, funding will be part of the state budget debate.

02/02/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:15

02/14/2023 Birth Control Access House Bill RICKERT (SLW Local Adds Edit)

A House committee has approved a bill that would increase access to birth control. It's an issue that's been unsuccessful in previous legislative sessions.

Yorktown Republican Representative Elizabeth Rowray's proposal would allow pharmacists to prescribe birth control to people 18 and older, without an appointment.

Doctor Teresa Lovins testified on behalf of the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians. She says the bill could make access more equitable - by cutting out things like the cost for an office visit.

CUT 29001 :11 ... unplanned pregnancies.

But Maureen Morgan, a licensed pharmacist, says the measure would overburden pharmacists and put them at risk for liability.

CUT 29002 :12 ... short-sighted.

Jeffersonville Democratic Representative Rita Fleming co-authored the bill, after pushing unsuccessfully for the proposal in previous years.

The House Committee on Public Health added an amendment today (TUES) that would prevent pharmacists from prescribing medication to cause an abortion.

The bill now goes for full House consideration.

02/14/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:15

2/15/23

Home Health Aides

Farah Yousry

Many families in Indiana are unable to find in-home support to care for loved ones with severe disabilities. A bill just approved unanimously by a Senate committee aims to address the state's shortage of home health aides.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Farah Yousry reports.

CUT 25165

:47

SOQ

02/16/23

0531, 0631, 0731, 0831, 0931

1:03

03/08/23

Childhood Cancer Bill

Bente Bouthier

A bill that would allocate \$2 million to researching childhood cancer didn't get a hearing this session.

But a related bill which sets up a rare disease council is moving forward with amended language.

Representative Ryan Lauer of Columbus wrote the amendment to House Bill 1201, to require the council to evaluate pediatric cancer research in the state.

CUT 25142

:13 _

“out there”

“the research into pediatric cancers or childhood cancers is far behind in treatment and medicines available, far behind some of the standard cancers and other diseases out there.”

Under the amendment, the council would examine how research in Indiana fits in with national efforts.

Lauer says more money is needed for prevention and treatment. Other states, such as Pennsylvania and Virginia, do have funds directed to the research.

CUT 25143

:14 _

“with it”

“labs and research facilities and universities, medical schools, this infrastructure, we have to do this kind of research, many times follow The grants and the funding that come along with it.

Lauer suggested the amendment after the bill he authored for funding didn't pass. HB 1201 passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services.

03/14/23

0604, 0704, 0804, 0904

1:06

03/14/23

Nitrogen Oxide Cloud Causes Havoc in Floyd Co.

AP

A southern Indiana chemical plant released an orangish cloud of nitrogen oxide Tuesday, prompting officials to close nearby roads and issue shelter-in-place orders until the cloud dissipated.

Floyd County Emergency Management Agency spokesman Kent Barrow says authorities responded about 10:15 a.m. to reports about an “orange plume” in the air near the Blue Grass Chemical Specialties plant in New Albany.

Mayor Jeff Gahan said at 12:30 p.m. that the plume had dissipated, affected roads had reopened and the shelter-in-place orders were lifted in the Ohio River city just north of Louisville.

Blue Grass Chemical Specialties CEO Paul McCauley says the release occurred after a reactor acted at a faster than normal rate.

03/15/23

0604, 0704, 0804, 0904

:32

National documentary on criminal justice reform and addiction brings people together to discuss local help

Osmun 03/20/23

At a community discussion this weekend on addiction and criminal justice reform, officials say the fight against addiction locally begins with recognizing mental health issues and spending more money on care. As IPR's Sawyer Osmun reports, they also want to start with the area's youngest citizens.

CUT 31288 0:59 ... SOQ.

OPTIONAL ANCHOR TAG: State lawmakers are discussing how much to add to the next two-year budget to fund community mental health clinics and public health services overall in Indiana.

03/20/23

1630, 1730, 1830

1:25

Economy

01/06/2023 Experts On 2022 Employment Data Adam Yahya Rayes

The key economic tension to watch out for in 2023 will likely be the balance between employment levels and the cost of living. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Adam Yahya Rayes reports, Indiana's latest unemployment rate is still historically low, despite some increases in the last few months.

CUT 29001 :51 OUT:SOC

01/06/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:10

01/17/23 Remote Work Dominates IN Wiechmann

If Indiana's remote workers were classified as a job industry of their own, it would be the largest industry in the state's history. And as IPR's Stephanie Wiechmann reports, a Ball State University economist says it could be an area of growth for Indiana, if the state can compete nationally.

CUT 31518 TRT 0:44 ... SOQ.

01/17/23

2/20/23

2023 Budget Bill - Ways and Means

Brandon Smith

Indiana House Democrats proposed their own ideas for the new state budget today (Monday) ... as lawmakers advanced the 43-billion-dollar spending bill to the full House.

Many of the House Democrats' proposals were not fundamentally different from the House Republican budget - they simply went further.

That includes spending on public health. The House GOP funds an increase in public health spending far short of what the governor and his public health commission want. Democratic Representative Cherrish Pryor says the state needs to fully fund public health.

CUT 29001

TRT: :09

OUT: "as a state"

Where Democrats diverge most from Republicans in the budget is on education. The House GOP plan dramatically expands private school vouchers. Democratic Representative Ed DeLaney points out that includes allowing families of four earning up to about 220 thousand dollars a year to access vouchers.

Cut 29002

TRT: :07

OUT: "gone, is it not"

The budget advanced to the full House on a party line vote.

02/20/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:10

03/14/2023

Sysco Strike Auth

Adam Yahya Rayes

About 160 truck drivers and warehouse workers for food distribution giant Sysco in Indianapolis are poised to strike if contract negotiations fail.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Adam Yahya Rayes reports.

CUT 25155

:51

SOC

03/15/23

0531, 0631, 0731, 0831, 0931

1:04

03/16/23

Rural college prep

Baumgarth (SLW Short ATC Edit)

When schools face tightening budgets and teacher shortages, rural school districts can be hit harder - already doing with less tax revenue. But these schools are working hard to prepare students for what's

But as IPR's Stephanie Wiechmann reports, the Muncie City Council says it's not really the same and should be a special case.

CUT 31521

1:03

SOQ

02/07/23

0631, 0731, 0831, 0931

1:15

Vision Corner in Union City gets first regional READI grant money

SLW 02/15/23

An adult career education center in downtown Union City is receiving the first official distribution from the region's 15-million-dollar READI state grant award. As IPR's Stephanie Wiechmann reports, the project represents "revitalization" in different ways for Randolph County.

CUT 31522

1:03

... SOQ.

02/15/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:15

02/17/23 Judge Linda Ralu Wolf Announces Retirement Star Press

The Star Press reports Delaware Circuit Court 3 Judge Linda Ralu Wolf announced yesterday that she will retire as of August 31st.

Wolf has a long track record of service to the courts of Muncie and Delaware County. She was judge of the Muncie City Court for 21 years before winning election to the bench of Circuit Court 3 in 2008. She won re-election twice in 2014 and 2020.

Judge Wolf also served for four years as presiding judge of the Delaware Circuit Court system, and served as the president of Delaware County Community Corrections, two times.

Gov. Eric Holcomb will choose her successor.

02/17/23

0731, 0831, 0931

:36

Delaware County still working on new solar project ordinance

SLW 02/21/23

Delaware County officials say they're still working on crafting a county ordinance that would govern future solar energy projects. IPR's Stephanie Wiechmann reports.

CUT 31524 :55 ... SOQ.

02/21/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:05

Muncie State of the City 2023

SLW 03/02/23

In an election year, Muncie's mayor used the annual State of the City speech as a tour of his years in office. And as IPR's Stephanie Wiechmann reports, there are also a few hints at what this year will bring for the city.

CUT 31526 1:10 ... SOQ.

03/02/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:20

"Grow-A-Row" campaign asks gardeners to donate to neighbors

Osmun 03/03/23

A local group is asking gardeners to plant more than usual this spring and donate extra produce to local community members in need. IPR's Sawyer Osmun reports on the efforts of "Grow-a-Row."

CUT 31288 0:48 ... SOQ.

03/03/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:05

03/13/23 Ball State Provost to Aurora University Wiechmann

Ball State University's provost will be the next president of Aurora University.

Susana Rivera-Mills has been the chief academic officer for the Muncie school since July 2018, joining after two years of interim provosts.

Aurora University in Illinois is a private four-year school with more than six thousand students. The school says it's recognized by the US as a "Minority-Serving Institution" and 40 percent of undergraduate students transfer in from first taking classes elsewhere. Rivera-Mills succeeds the first female president at Aurora, one that's been in the job for 22 years.

The El Salvador native came to the US when she was 12, and spoke no English. She then became a first-generation college student, earning a bachelor's degree, master's, and doctorate.

In a statement, Rivera-Mills says "higher education is a place of increasing challenges and accelerated change" and she wants Aurora to be a model for serving "a diverse community of learners."

Rivera-Mills will leave Ball State at the end of the month and join Aurora in June. University president Geoffrey Mearns wished her well and said he'll appoint an interim provost in the next two weeks.

03/13/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:00

03/29/23

LGBTQ Youth Suicide IN LOCAL VERSION

Wiechmann

State numbers show nearly a quarter of L-G-B-T-Q youth have attempted suicide. IPR's Stephanie Wiechmann reports, the numbers come in a year when lawmakers filed more than two dozen bills with anti-L-G-B-T-Q themes.

Cut 31533

1:10

... SOQ.

03/29/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:20

Local and State Government

1/3/23

Science Standards

Rebecca Thiele

Indiana is on track to improve the way it teaches climate change. New state science standards that require more climate education will go into full effect by next school year. But as Indiana Public Broadcasting's Rebecca Thiele reports, an expert says Indiana teachers may need to do more to prepare for these changes.

CUT 29001

TRT: 51

OUT: SOC

Anchor Out: A Yale climate opinion survey estimates that more than 70 percent of adult Hoosiers believe kids should be taught about the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to global warming.

01/04/23

0630, 0730, 0830, 0930

1:20

1/05/2023

Forced Ag Labor Sentencing

Adam Yahya Rayes

A Florida man is set to serve almost 10 years in prison for leading a forced labor and human trafficking operation that brought farm workers to Indiana and a few other states.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Adam Yahya Rayes reports the case highlights a pervasive issue.

CUT 25061

:51

SOC

01/06/23

0604, 0704, 0804, 0904

1:04

01/06/23

FSSA FED GRANT

Sydney Dauphinais

Many Indiana families lack access to early childhood care that is both affordable and high-quality. Low wages and poor working conditions push many providers out of the field.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Sydney Dauphinais reports on how leaders plan to use federal grant money to improve the state's broken childcare system.

CUT 25063

:51

SOC

01/06/23

0531, 0631, 0731, 0831, 0931

1:09

2/1/23

Climate Rally

Rebecca Thiele

Youth climate activists are trying again to create a state climate task force.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Rebecca Thiele reports they gathered with lawmakers, environmental groups, solar advocates and others Wednesday to rally for climate action in Indiana.

CUT 25023

:40

SOC

Anchor Out: Indiana is already experiencing more extreme heat and heavy rain events today than it did in 1970.

02/02/23

0604, 0704, 0804, 0904

:52

2/2/23

Property Tax Relief Legislation

Brandon Smith

Indiana lawmakers are exploring ways to help Hoosiers dealing with big increases in property taxes. But the legislation discussed in a House committee today (Thursday) won't affect this year's tax bills at all.

Home values are skyrocketing. Over the last decade, the statewide average increase was less than five percent a year. This year, it looks to be about 16 percent.

Property taxes are currently capped for homeowners at one percent of their assessed value. Representative Jeff Thompson's bill would lower that to point-nine percent in 2024, before going back up to one percent by 2027. It also creates an additional homestead tax credit - 100 dollars in 2024, going down by 25 dollars a year after that.

But Thompson acknowledges none of that would help people with the tax bills they'll pay this year.

CUT 30000

TRT: :03

OUT: "under the bridge"

While homeowners would be helped, local governments and schools would take a big hit - a loss of more than 350 million dollars in 2024 alone. Here's Muncie Mayor Dan Ridenour (RIDE-en-our).

Cut 30187

TRT: :12

OUT: "to overcome"

Thompson says he'll continue working on potential solutions this legislative session.

02/02/23

1630, 1730, 1830

1:20

02/08/23

Permit Fees Bill

Rebecca Thiele

Indiana could lose the authority to control its air pollution if the state doesn't increase fees for companies that pollute.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Rebecca Thiele reports, a state Senate bill aims to keep that authority in the hands of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

CUT 25094

:50

SOC

02/09/23

0531, 0631, 0731, 0831, 0931

1:05

03/10/2023 Water district board pay bill Adam Yahya Rayes

State law prohibits water and waste management districts from paying their board members more than 50 dollars per day of work. And as Indiana Public Broadcasting's Adam Yahya Rayes reports, lawmakers are poised to raise that cap to help districts compete for talent.

CUT 30000 :43 OUT: SOC

03/10/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:00

03/15/2023 Public Defender Retirement Bill Adam Yahya Rayes

Public defenders exist to ensure a criminal defendant's constitutional right to counsel is protected. But officials say Indiana is facing a shortage of lawyers to do that work. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Adam Yahya Rayes reports, a bill aims to help attract and retain talent by bolstering retirement funds for some public defenders.

CUT 29001 :50 OUT: SOC

03/15/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:15

03/17/2023 Child Care Bill Deaths Rayes/Dauphinais

Many families across Indiana lack access to childcare. Several bills were introduced this legislative session that aim to make childcare more affordable and widespread. But as Indiana Public Broadcasting's Adam Yahya Rayes reports, all seven bills failed to advance in the Statehouse ... despite broad support from employer and welfare groups ... as well as lawmakers of both parties.

CUT 30000 :51 OUT: SOC

03/17/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:15

Education

01/04/23

VCP

ELIZABETH GABRIEL

The Indianapolis Public Schools district will close at least six facilities this spring.

Indiana law requires public school districts to sell unused buildings to charter schools for one dollar.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Elizabeth Gabriel reports, a charter school group has filed a complaint that IPS violated the \$1 law.

CUT 25055

:43

SOQ

01/05/23

0531, 0631, 0731, 0831

1:02

01/05/22

LIBRARY CEO

JILL SHERIDAN

Members of the Indianapolis City-County Council have expressed concerns about the library's search for a new leader.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Jill Sheridan reports on the letter to the Indianapolis Public Library board.

CUT 25093

:49

SOC

01/09/23

0531, 0631, 0731, 0831, 0931

1:00

01/18/23

School Board Follow-Up Feature

Lee Gaines

In last November's election, conservative candidates across the country hoped to take over school boards, campaigning on a parental rights platform. But the results were mixed - including in Indiana. Today, Indiana Public Broadcasting's Lee Gaines unpacks the aftermath of a hotly contested board race in Carmel ... and what it means for some students there.

CUT 30187

TRT 3:48

... SOQ.

01/18/23

1630, 1730, 1830

4:15

1-18-2023

Senate committee ESA program bill

Violet Comber-Wilen

Indiana lawmakers are considering a bill that would greatly expand the school choice voucher program. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Violet Comber-Wilen reports, it would let families receive most of the state funding local public schools usually get to educate their child.

CUT 29003 TRT: 0:42 OUT: SOC

01/19/23

1630, 1730, 1830

1:00

02-01-23 House bills- teaching funds & incentives Violet Comber-Wilen

Indiana lawmakers and education leaders are pushing for more funding to train teachers for the classroom. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Violet Comber-WHYlen reports, one bill that passed unanimously out of committee focuses on increasing the number of minority teachers in the state.

CUT 30000 TRT: 0:38 OUT: SOC

02/01/23

1604, 1704, 1804

0:55

230202 Undocumented Student Tuition Eric Weddle (SLW Short Edit)

A bipartisan state Senate bill would allow Indiana high school graduates without US citizenship to qualify for in-state tuition benefits ... reversing a 2011 law.

Currently, non-citizen students must pay up to three times as much college tuition than their classmates.

Republican Senator Blake Doriot (DOOR-ee-oh) co-authored the bill. He says college is out of reach for many students in undocumented families.

CUT 31288 TRT: 0:16 OUT:

The bill would require a student to attend four years of an Indiana high school and graduate ... or earn a high school equivalence in the state. Ball State University, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, and the ACLU of Indiana are some of the organizations supporting the proposal.

A Senate committee is expected to vote on the bill next week.

02/02/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:00

2-07-23 Disclosure about gender identity bill Violet Comber-Wilen

Proposed legislation in the Indiana Senate would make public schools tell parents if their child changes or expresses the desire to change their name or pronouns in a way that is inconsistent with their gender assigned at birth.

As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Violet Comber-Wilen reports, the bill also requires teachers to notify parents about anything a student may reveal about their gender identity.

CUT 25083 :44 SOC

02/08/23

0531, 0631, 0731, 0831, 0931

1:05

2-08-23 Handgun for teachers bill- House Violet Comber-Wilen

A bill that would fund handgun safety training for classroom teachers passed out of the House education committee today (Wed). As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Violet Comber-Wilen reports, supporters of the bill say it will help provide an extra level of security in schools.

CUT 30000 TRT: 0:50 OUT: SOC

02/08/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:10

Ball State Construction Update

SLW 03/03/23

Ball State University has spent close to one billion dollars on campus construction in the last decade. And as IPR's Stephanie Wiechmann reports, the school is hoping Indiana lawmakers will fund its request for more updates.

CUT 31527 1:01 ... SOQ.

OPTIONAL HOST TAG: The House version of the budget, passed last week, includes funding Ball State's request. The Senate now takes up the issue.

03/03/23

1604, 1704, 1804

1:20

03/08/23

Early Years Initiative

Sydney Dauphinais

Early Learning Indiana announced a new initiative Wednesday to expand early childhood education across the state.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Sydney Dauphinais has more on the Early Years Initiative, a grant program for organizations that serve children from ages zero to three.

CUT 25094

:43

SOC

03/09/23

0531, 0631, 0731, 0831, 0931

:56

03/16/23

Researchers Working On Trust Gap With AI

THORP

Purdue University researchers say they are working to reduce the "trust gap" between humans and artificial intelligence - or A-I.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Ben Thorp reports.

CUT 25203

:49

SOQ

03/20/23

0531, 0631, 0731, 0831, 0931

1:02