

WGTD Community Issues File

WGTD news stories air a minimum of two times in our newscasts that air between 6am and 8:10am, Monday through Friday. Each news story then airs again in our 25-minute WGTD Midday newscast @ Noon. (Key: N=WGTD News) (Key: WPR = Wisconsin Public Radio) (Key: NPR = National Public Radio) (Key: MMR= Marketplace Morning Report)

WGTD's "Morning Show" airs Monday through Friday from 8:10-9am. (Key: MS)

Education Matters and Community Matters are locally produced shows, 45 minutes in length, that air every Saturday morning. (Key: EM or CM)

WGTD Community Issues: 3rd Quarter, July-August-September 2023

Civil Rights/Policing in America: The George Floyd Murder/Jacob Blake Shooting/Other Police Shootings/Policing Procedures:

07/10: NPR's Michel Martin speaks with Kate Bahn of the Urban Institute about what's been driving the recent increase in unemployment among Black workers in the U.S. (4:00) (N/NPR)

07/11: NPR's A Martinez talks to Adrienne Lu of the Chronicle of Higher Education, about state lawmakers' efforts to dismantle Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs at colleges. (3:45) (N/NPR)

07/14: Black Lives Matter was founded 10 years ago this week. NPR's A Martinez speaks with the group's co-founder Ayo Tometi about the movement's history and future. (4:00) (N/NPR)

07/17: Alabama begins a special session to consider a new congressional voting map after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the state's current map likely diluted the power of Black voters in Alabama. (3:30) (N/NPR)

07/17: Kenosha County's Racial & Ethnic Equity Commission has gotten bogged down again in petty bickering. (:90) (N)

07/24: The legal fight continues over Alabama's congressional map. A federal court is set to check if a new map approved by the state's Republican-controlled Legislature weakens the power of Black voters. (3:45) (N/NPR)

07/27: How do keepers of Black history in Florida see changes to how Black history will be taught there? NPR talks with the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community. (3:03) (N/NPR)

07/27: NPR's Steve Inskeep talks to William Allen, who helped write Florida's new K-12 social studies curriculum, which is getting a lot of criticism for its portrayal of African American history. (4:15) (N/NPR)

08/09: Police say three men face charges for the assault of a Black man in the weekend brawl on a riverfront dock in Montgomery, Alabama. They have turned themselves in as the city is trying to move on from the national attention it created. (3:45) (N/NPR)

08/09: A brawl that broke out over the weekend in Montgomery, where a Black man was attacked by a group of white men, has gone viral with numerous memes and TikTok videos. (5:00) (N/NPR)

08/09: A Kenosha Police Department internal investigation is continuing into an alleged case of police brutality against a Black man that occurred last month at a Kenosha restaurant. In advance of a planned demonstration at the Kenosha County Courthouse later today. (2:00)(N)

08/10: Representatives of several community groups gathered in front of Kenosha's Public Safety Building last night to formally register their disgust with the treatment given to a Black restaurant patron at the hands of police last month. Officers had gone to Applebee's on 75 th St. on a tip that some hit and run suspects were inside. Police apparently tried to question a Black man with a baby, who then got up and tried to go to the restroom to change the baby's diaper. That's when things went south, according to Tanya McLean of the group Leaders of Kenosha. McLean says the level of force displayed in the cellphone video shot by another restaurant patron wasn't necessary. (2 separate stories) (4:00) (N)

08/14: A federal court hearing about Alabama's congressional districts starts this week. Judges are expected to strike down a new map passed by the state's legislature for minimizing Black voters' power. (3:48) (N/NPR)

08/15: Six former Mississippi Sheriff officers, some of whom called themselves "The Goon Squad," plead guilty to state charges in the torture of two Black men. (3:36) (N/NPR)

08/21: Corporate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion positions soared after the murder of George Floyd in 2020. Now due to both economic pressure and political pressure from the right, the positions are at risk. (3:51) (N/NPR)

08/28: Authorities and residents gathered to honor three Black people shot and killed at a Dollar General store in Jacksonville, Fla. (3:45) (N/NPR)

08/28: Saturday's shooting rampage by a white supremacist took the lives of three Jacksonville, FL residents, all of them Black people, at a Dollar General store. State Representative Angie Nixon, a Democrat representing Jacksonville, speaks about what it will take to restore a sense of safety. (3:45) (N/NPR)

08/28: On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington. Part of his speech was impromptu and those words became a pillar of the civil rights movement. (7:03) (N/NPR)

08/29: Scholars and teachers are fighting Florida standards that limit the teaching of Black history. They're holding a conference in Jacksonville next month. (2:58) (N/NPR)

08/29: Fewer Wisconsin students of color take Advance Placement classes and tests following the pandemic. (:45) (N/WPR)

09/08: Three years after the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the civil unrest that followed, Black entrepreneurs are revitalizing a historic retail building that was nearly lost to arson. (3:47) (N/NPR)

09/12: Activists and the family of Black motorist Tyre Nichols, who was beaten to death by Memphis police, say officers have long targeted Black people -- using aggressive enforcement tactics. (7:46) (N/NPR)

09/13: The opioid crisis is taking a huge toll on the Black community in Birmingham, Alabama. The city is seeing high rates of addiction and overdose deaths among Black men. Officials blame fentanyl and a lack of addiction treatment. (4:08) (N/NPR)

09/13: Five former Memphis police officers have been charged with federal civil right violations in the beating death of Tyre Nichols, a Black man. (3:45) (N/NPR)

09/15: People in Birmingham, Ala., are gathering to remember the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church 60 years ago. The bombing, which killed four girls, helped to spur passage of the Civil Rights Act. (4:00) (N/NPR)

09/20: The Kenosha Police Department's investigation into the alleged excessive force incident--involving a Black couple---that occurred at Applebee's last summer is being reviewed by an outside agency. That's what Chief Patrick Patton told the Police and Fire Commission yesterday. (2 separate stories) (5:00) (N)

09/21: The first trial in the death of Elijah McClain---a Black man---started this week, with three police officers and two paramedics facing charges. His death drew renewed scrutiny after the murder of George Floyd. (3:45) (N/NPR)

09/25: Kenosha County's two-year-old Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission met again last week amid charges that it has little to show for itself. During citizen comments, Anthony Davis, a leader of the Kenosha chapter of the N-double-A-C-P, suggested that the commission consider calling it quits (2:30) (N)

09/27: A U.S. Supreme Court order has signaled that more congressional voting districts where Black voters have a chance of electing their preferred candidate are coming to the South, including Alabama. (3:30) (N/NPR)

Gun Violence/Mass Shootings:

07/05: Recent mass shootings in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Fort Worth are among the 346 that have occurred since the start of 2023 -- leaving communities reeling with long term mental health impacts. (3:41) (N/NPR)

07/05: NPR's Rob Schmitz talks to Philadelphia City Councilmember Kenyatta Johnson about gun violence in the city following this week's mass shooting that killed five people, including a teenager. (4:00) (N/NPR)

07/12: An anti-gun violence tour led by parents who lost their son in a 2018 mass shooting in Florida, visit Uvalde, Texas, -- site of last year's attack on Robb Elementary School which left 21 people dead. (2:27) (N/NPR)

08/21: Tennessee's legislature starts a special session on gun violence and public safety. The GOP supermajority plans toughening juvenile sentencing laws instead of focusing on gun control reform. (4:05) (N/NPR)

08/28: Authorities and residents gathered to honor three Black people shot and killed at a Dollar General store in Jacksonville, Fla. (3:45) (N/NPR)

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Nixon, a Democrat representing Jacksonville, speaks about what it will take to restore a sense of safety. (3:45) (N/NPR)

08/31: In the wake of mass shooting on college campuses, students speak to their concerns about guns and how to create a space in which they are safe. (3:05) (N/NPR)

Public Health: Coronavirus Updates/Vaccine News

07/20: Some people catch COVID-19 but don't get sick. A new study finds that a genetic mutation may explain why: NPR's Leila Fadel talks with Dr. Jill Hollenbach, a professor of neurology and epidemiology at UC San Francisco who organized a study of genes linked to asymptomatic COVID-19. (4:00) (N/NPR)

07/20: It's yet another economic consequence of the pandemic: Office buildings are a lot more empty. And while this has consequences for companies and their workers, it also has implications for our financial system, given that banks and other lenders take on a whole lot of commercial real estate debt. (3:00) (MMR)

08/14: Hospitalizations are up, as are signs of COVID in wastewater. New fall boosters may help, but it's unclear how effective they'll be against the latest variant. (6:44)

08/15: People are cruising again on big ships following a COVID-19 decline, but it's a tough comeback for the industry. (7:10) (N/NPR)

08/15: A look into downtowns and how they're recovering after the pandemic continues. (2:00) (MMR)

08/23: There's a fear right now that China's economy is in a lot worse shape than we originally thought. Recently, key data on Chinese manufacturing, retail sales, and investment have all come in weaker than expected. The country is not bouncing back from strict zero-COVID policies as strongly as predicted. And all of this is wrapped up in a pile of debt that local Chinese governments are facing. (2:30) (MMR)

08/29: Post-COVID economic recovery in China is floundering. Though the country has faced similar challenges before, concern is growing. China's economic recovery has been dramatically slower than expected. Its biggest property firms are courting bankruptcy, and youth unemployment is at a record high. How did China get there? (3:32) (N/NPR)

08/29: The U.S. is experiencing a late summer wave of COVID cases. And while most people aren't getting really sick, hospitalizations are up more than 21% across the country. Elderly people are most at risk. (3:41) (N/NPR)

08/31: NPR'S A Martinez talks to Dr. Stephen Thomas of Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York, about the spike in COVID cases that brought back masking at some businesses, hospitals and schools. (3:45) (N/NPR)

09/01: Following the pandemic---U.S. employers including Zoom are introducing stricter in-office policies for employees this fall, saying structured time together benefits both employees and the business. (3:47) (N/NPR)

09/01: Cracking the mystery of long COVID. Progress may seem slow, but scientists say they are zeroing in on some possible causes of long-term health impacts. (3:32) (N/NPR)

09/06: The latest lab data suggests that a new COVID-19 booster will protect against a worrisome variant. (3:01) (N/NPR)

09/11: The FDA is poised to green light a new set of COVID boosters. (3:30) (N/NPR)

09/12: CDC vaccine advisors meet today to make recommendations on who should get the new COVID booster. (2:42) (N/NPR)

09/15: Florida's public health officials are giving their own COVID booster recommendation -- saying only those over 65 should get the shot. Some health systems in the state are following CDC guidance. (3:30) (N/NPR)

09/22: During the pandemic, federal subsidies kept many childcare facilities afloat. But that aid will start to disappear at the end of this month. (2:00) (MMR)

09/25: NPR's Steve Inskeep speaks with Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Dawn O'Connell about giving away free COVID tests again, and issuing grants for U.S. test manufacturers. (3:46) (N/NPR)

09/27: How is the rollout of COVID vaccines going? For the first time, the federal government isn't picking up the tab. Insurers are supposed to make the vaccines free of charge, but there are glitches. (3:30) (N/NPR)

Public Health: SCOTUS Overturns Roe v Wade: Abortion Implications

07/11: Abortion in Iowa is legal up to 20 weeks of pregnancy. Lawmakers will meet today in a special session -- as Republicans try to pass a bill banning nearly all abortions after six weeks of pregnancy. (3:45) (N/NPR)

07/13: A small but growing faction of the anti-abortion movement is calling for patients to be criminally punished. It's gaining traction in states such as Kansas. (7:26) (N/NPR)

07/14: NPR's Michel Martin talks to Angela Maske of Advocates for Youth about the FDA's approval of Opill, the first over-the-counter birth control pill. (4:06) (N/NPR)

07/17: NPR's Steve Inskeep speaks with GOP Sen. Mike Rounds of South Dakota about a military spending plan after the House passed a bill with restrictions on abortion coverage and diversity initiatives. (7:06) (N/NPR)

07/20: Texas abortion restrictions are in court after 13 women sued the state AG and medical board. Women with complicated pregnancies are telling the court how the state's abortion bans affected them. (3:44) (N/NPR)

08/17: A Federal appeals court ruling deals a blow to abortion pill access. (3:30) (N/NPR)

08/21: Dr. Austin Dennard {den-NARD} explains the Texas abortion laws -- and how they have affected her life as a mother and as a doctor. (3:57) (N/NPR)

08/23: Hospitals in Illinois are seeing a surge of out-of-state patients who need abortion care at hospitals due to medical complications. But hospital-based abortions are more costly and harder to arrange. (3:50) (N/NPR)

09/07: The Guttmacher Institute has some new state-by-state abortion data since Roe v. Wade fell. It shows how people are traveling to get the procedure. (2:27) (N/NPR)

09/13: The Center for Reproductive Rights is filing lawsuits in three different states over delayed and denied abortions. (3:07) (N/NPR)

09/18: Protestors gathered Monday as Planned Parenthood resumed abortions at two Wisconsin clinics. (:45) (N/WPR)

09/20: A slate of five proposals aimed at curbing abortions---in Wisconsin---received a public hearing at the state Senate on Tuesday. (:50) (N/WPR)

ECONOMY: Rising Oil Prices/Inflation