WBGO (88.3 FM) ASCERTAINMENT: ISSUE-RESPONSE PROGRAMMING

For the Period: January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023

TOPICS ADDRESSED

Arts and Culture
Business and Economy
Health Care
Crime
Education
Environment
Government and State Agencies
Politics
Technology
Race and Ethnicity
ARTS and CULTURE

The "Philip Roth Unbound" Festival is set for March 17-19 at NJPAC

Philip Roth Unbound: Illuminating a Literacy Legacy, NJPAC’s three-day celebration of the iconic Newark-born writer will take place on March 17-19 in Newark.

John Schreiber, the President and CEO of NJPAC and acclaimed writer Francine Prose join WBGO Journal host Doug Doyle to talk about the significance of the festival on what would have been Roth's 90 birthday weekend.

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-03-06/the-philip-roth-unbound-festival-is-set-for-march-17-19-at-njpac

"Living & Breathing" Director Rebecca Martínez talks about the darkly funny and thought-provoking play making its world premiere at Two River Theater

The world premiere of new darkly funny, complex and through-provoking play Living & Breathing runs through February 26 at the Two River Theater in Red Bank. The director of the play is Rebecca Martínez who is excited about working with the playwright Mando Alvarado.

Martínez, an award-winning director, writer, producer and choreographer from New York City, joined WBGO Journal host Doug Doyle to talk about Living & Breathing.

Top klezmer clarinetist Michael Winograd and his band perform the legendary "Tanz" album live this Thursday

In 1955 a veteran New York jazz man named Sam Musiker produced a klezmer album that was a commercial flop at the time of its release but became hugely influential in the klezmer resurgence that began more than 20 years later.

Now a Brooklyn clarinetist, Michael Winograd, and his band is set to perform the entire recording before a live audience in Manhattan next week.

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-02-12/top-klezmer-clarinetist-michael-winograd-and-his-band-perform-the-legendary-tanz-album-live-this-thursday

BUSINESS AND THE ECONOMY

Prudential Emerging Visionaries winner Mark Leschinsky of Mahwah, NJ is changing the youth film festival landscape

17-year old Mark Leschinsky, of Mahwah, New Jersey has been named a 2023 Prudential Emerging Visionaries winner for his inspiring commitment to improving the lives of others.

Leschinsky, the founder of "Student World Impact Film Festival," joined host Doug Doyle to talk about his work and the award. His virtual film competition elevates the voices of young storytellers from underserved communities. He's thrilled Prudential Financial agrees with his vision."
Ground Broken On New Terminal Six At JFK Airport

Ground is being broken today on a new Terminal Six at JFK Airport in Queens.

Terminal Six is about a four billion dollar privately funded project that will have restaurants, art work, recreation areas and 10 gates. Queens Borough President Donavan Richards says the development of Terminal Six brings the airport into a 21st century facility.

President Biden Visits NY To Highlight Gateway Project

President Biden is highlighting a federal grant to the massive Hudson River Rail Tunnel Project. He visited New York Tuesday.

Biden stood with the governors of New York and New Jersey to detail a nearly 300 million dollar federal grant that will be used for a small part of the long delated Gateway Project that adds a rail tunnel under the Hudson River.
HEALTH CARE

Songwriter and former public radio veteran Dan Modlin's "Sara Gets a Second Chance" addresses the importance of organ donation

Singer-songwriter, musician and former public radio news director Dan Modlin has become a favorite performer at the famed Bluebird Cafe in Nashville, Tennessee. His unique music career began in the 1970's when he and fellow songwriter Dave Scott formed the country rock and Americana duo Modlin and Scott. Their album "The Train Don't Stop Here Anymore", released in 1976 on the late Moe Whittemore's 700 West Label, has experienced a major resurgence around the world.

Modlin has always been a storyteller. The Indiana native and Bowling Green, Kentucky resident was the news director for WKU for 23 years. He retired from public radio in 2013 to pursue his songwriting career full-time.

Modlin has gained such a repetition as a songwriter that a couple recently approached him and asked if he could write a song that would help create more awareness about organ donation. As a former public radio veteran, Modlin had written many stories about such emotional topics, but coming up with lyrics and would be extremely challenging.

New Jersey is among the states best prepared for public health emergency, study finds

How well is New Jersey prepared for a public health emergency? A new study by a public health nonprofit ranks the Garden State as one of the best prepared in the US, where less than half the states are highly prepared, according to the study.

Dr. Nadine Gracia is CEO of Trust for America’s Health. She said one area of strength for the state is in testing for diseases.


Tackling 'period poverty' in N.J.’s most vulnerable communities

Advocates and state lawmakers in New Jersey say prioritizing menstrual health equity can help reduce stigma around periods and even address the state’s staggering maternal mortality rate for people of color.

The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia defines period poverty as “inadequate access to menstrual hygiene tools and education” — including sanitary products (like tampons and pads), washing facilities, and waste management.

CRIME

A new memoir highlights a Bronx family's ties to the 1935 death of gangster Dutch Schultz

In October 1935, the gangster known as Dutch Schultz was shot to death at the Palace Chophouse on East Park Street in Newark. The killing took place around the corner from where WBGO is now located. Two members of Murder, Inc., the notorious mob hit squad were the triggermen. A just-published memoir chronicles one Bronx family's ties to one of the hitmen and the world of Jewish mobsters.

WBGO's Jon Kalish has the story...


N.J. Attorney General announces state takeover of Paterson Police

New Jersey Attorney General Matt Platkin announced Monday that his office had taken control of the Paterson Police Department.

“Earlier this morning. I exercised my authority as Attorney General and superseded the Paterson Police Department," Platkin said at a press conference. “Effective immediately, my office has assumed control of all law enforcement functions of the Paterson Police Department.”

Platkin tapped Isa Abbassi, current Chief of Strategic Initiatives for the New York Police Department, to become Paterson Police’s Officer-In-Charge starting in May.

WATCH HERE for the next edition of Newark Today on Thursday, March 16 at 8pm

On the next edition of Newark Today, we’ll be discussing the state of public safety in New Jersey’s largest city, with Mayor Ras Baraka and Public Safety Director Fritz Frage in studio. We will also be discussing the legacy of former State Senator and Newark City Councilman Ron Rice. The iconic Newark lawmaker died this week at the age of 77. If you have questions, comments, or concerns, we'll be taking your phone calls at 973-297-0941, and through WBGO’s live social media stream. News Director Doug Doyle fills in for host Michael Hill. Newark Today streams live at wbgo.org at 8pm on Thursday, March 16.


EDUCATION

Gov. Murphy proposes $1 billion for universal pre-K, doubling child tax credit

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy kicked off the budget season by announcing his spending priorities for the fiscal year 2024, which begins July 1.

His major priorities include enhancing affordability by continuing tax relief initiatives enacted last year and increasing the state’s budget surplus to $10 billion in preparation for a possible recession.
The Murphy administration wants to heavily invest in the rollout of universal Pre-K, double the state’s child tax credit benefits up to $1,000 per child, and provide an additional $830 million to fund K-12 education.


Newark Students Want College But Lack Knowledge of Aid Programs and Process, Study Finds

Families in Newark want to send their children to college, but may not know how to access state financial aid programs that could make it affordable.

A Rutgers-Newark study revealed that information about the programs isn’t reaching enough students and families, who may have trouble doing the financial aid forms, which are critical for paying for college, said Robyn Ince of Rutgers-Newark.


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Dr. Jack Tchen, the Director of the Clement A. Price Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience and the Center's Associate Director Dr. Lacey Hunter joined WBGO News Director Doug Doyle to talk about the event.


ENVIRONMENT

N.J. environmentalists to plant more trees in overburdened neighborhoods in Camden, Newark, Trenton

Jay Watson says you can tell the quality of a neighborhood just by counting the trees.

"Clean green streets really have a major impact on how people feel about their community and their lives," Watson said.

The Ewing native is co-executive director of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, a nonprofit organization that recently received more than $1.3 million in state grant funding to plant trees and cultivate green spaces in environmentally overburdened communities (EOCs) in Trenton.

The money is provided by the Natural Climate Solutions grant program funded by “Treasure Our Trees” license plate sales and New Jersey Forest Service No Net Loss Compensatory Reforestation Program. Watson said his organization will collaborate with the city to plant hundreds of oak, red maple, ginkgo, and sycamore trees at a corridor along East State Street and nearby parks.
Sled dog operations are still thriving in New England during the era of climate change

You may think of mushing as a sport found in Alaska and the far north of Canada but there are several sled dog operations in New England. These businesses have had to adapt to less snow in recent years because of global warming.

WBGO’s Jon Kalish found a woman in Western Massachusetts who has managed to thrive during the era of climate change.

NYC Gets Big Federal Grant For Electric Vehicles

New York City is taking another step in moving towards cleaner energy.

The city's Department of Administrative Services Commissioner Dawn Pinnock says a new 10 million dollar federal grant will allow the city to swap out more than 900 fossil fuel-powered vehicles with electric ones. Pinnock says this helps with the administration's commitment to electrify the entire fleet.

"Because we understand that our climate, our city and our people do not have a second to waste in our fight against emissions and its harmful effect on climate change."

The grant money will also pay for the installation of 315 new EV chargers across the city.
GOVERNMENT AND STATE AGENCIES

WATCH HERE for the next edition of "Ask Governor Murphy" on February 2 at 7pm

The February 2 edition of Ask Governor Murphy is here at 7pm. Join host Nancy Solomon and New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy as they take your phone calls and social media questions. Topics in this month's show include what is New Jersey doing about trying to prevent police shootings like the one in Memphis, Tennessee.

You can reach AGM at 973-297-0941 and post your social media questions with #askgovmurphy.

Ask Governor Murphy is a WBGO news production in collaboration with WNYC and WHYY.

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Lack of judges will delay civil matters in 6 N.J. counties

In less than two weeks, civil and matrimonial trials in six New Jersey counties will be suspended. Supreme Court Chief Justice Stuart Rabner said Tuesday that there are not enough judges in those areas to go around.

“At this time, there are 69 vacancies throughout the trial courts — more than one out of every six positions statewide,” he said in a statement. “That imposes heightened responsibilities on sitting judges who handle thousands of proceedings and motions each month.”

Civil and matrimonial trials are cases involving wages, accident claims, divorce, and child custody arrangements, as well as child support.
Jeralyn Lawrence, president of the New Jersey State Bar Association, said “everyone’s life is on hold” because their cases won’t have a ruling because the courts have been effectively shut down.

https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-02-09/lack-of-judges-will-delay-civil-matters-in-6-n-j-counties

POLITICS

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WATCH HERE for the January 11th edition of "Ask Governor Murphy" at 7pm

On the January 11 edition of Ask Governor Murphy, host Nancy Solomon and New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy will be taking your phone calls and social media questions regarding several topics including Tuesday’s State of the State address in Trenton.

The number to call the AGM is 973-297-0941 and you can contact us via social media with #askgovmurphy.

Ask Governor Murphy is a WBGO news production in collaboration with WNYC and WHYY.

TECHNOLOGY

Longer PATH train cars being added to Newark WTC line

Capacity is increasing on PATH trains on the Newark World Trade Center line starting tomorrow.

The first of numerous nine car PATH trains is debuting. Over the next year more will be added, eventually increasing capacity on the Newark to World Trade Center line by 40 percent. Director of the PATH Clarelle DeGraffe says this begins a new chapter in the PATH's history.


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March will be a busy month of Yiddish song in New York City

March is going to be a busy month for fans of Yiddish song in New York.

Brooklytnites Ricky Gordon and Jeremiah Lockwood perform as the blues duo Gordon Lockwood (pictured above). Gordon is the drummer of the Wynton Marsalis Ensemble and has scored Spike Lee projects. Lockwood is the guitarist and singer of the brass heavy band Sway Machinery. On March 1st they’re releasing a 5-song EP of Yiddish folk songs done in the blues vernacular. They’ve been playing together for more than 20 years. They met when they both were performing in the NYC subways with an old blues guy known as Carolina Slim.

WBGO’s Jon Kalish reports there are several concerts and other events happening around the city this month.


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Martínez, an award-winning director, writer, producer and choreographer from New York City, joined WBGO Journal host Doug
Doyle to talk about *Living & Breathing*. Here's how Two River Theater describes the play that was read as part of the 2019 Two River Theater Crossing Borders Festival.

*The impulsive purchase of some provocative art – a living Latino man who is paid to behave as a statue – shatters a multi-ethnic friend group by sparking questions of commodification, stereotypes, and complacency. While the validity of the artist’s vision might be up for debate, one thing is undeniable: the friendship between these three men is much more fragile than they had realized.*
