WBGO (88.3 FM) ASCERTAINMENT:

ISSUE-RESPONSE PROGRAMMING FROM WBGO For the Period: January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2021

TOPICS ADDRESSED

Arts and Culture

Business

Economy

Health Care

Crime

Education

Environment

Government and State Agencies Politics

Technology

Race and Ethnicity

Arts and Culture

Rock & Roll Hall of Famer and Godfather of Funk George Clinton returns to his Newark roots with an upcoming 80th Birthday Bash NJPAC Concert on March 18 (3/5/22)

George Clinton, considered by many as the "Godfather of Funk" behind Parliament and Funkadelic, is a member of Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, musician, singer, songwriter, bandleader, record producer and now a visual artist.

Clinton joined WBGO Journal host and News Director Doug Doyle to talk about his upcoming 80th Birthday Bash Celebration Concert at NJPAC in Newark on March 18.

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-03-05/rock-roll-hall-of-famer-and-godfather-of-funk-george-clinton-returns-his-newark-roots-with-an-upcoming-80th-birthday-bash-njpac-concert-on-march-18

A Father's Pride movie debuts in Newark (3/15/22)

The movie "A Father's Pride" debuts at Newark CityPlex Theatre on March 20. WBGO resident reporter James Frazier spoke recently with the film's producer Alonzo Herran.

Herran and chat Frazier chat about fatherhood and why he's passionate about writing and making films. Herran also stars in "A Father's Pride.

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-03-15/a-fathers-pride-movie-debuts-in-newark

The award-winning documentary Hollywood Priest: The Story of Father 'Bud' Kieser featured at the Garden State Film Festival (3/25/22)

The award-winning Paulist Productions documentary "Hollywood Priest: The Story of Father 'Bud' Kieser" makes its New Jersey premiere Saturday, March 26 at the Garden State Film Festival in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

"Hollywood Priest" presents an in-depth profile of Father "Bud" Kieser, a longtime resident of Los Angeles, CA, who passed away in 2000 at the age of 71. Father Kieser was a 44-year long priest, whose legacy continues to this day, with the annual awarding of the prestigious Humanitas Prize, an honor which he founded in 1974. Awarded annually, the Humanitas Prize honors film and television writers whose work inspires more compassion, peace, love and dignity within the human family.

The co-producers of the film, Father Tom Gibbons, Vice President of the LA-based Paulist Productions, and Maria-Elena Pineda join WBGO Journal host Doug Doyle to talk about the documentary.

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-03-25/the-award-winning-documentary-hollywood-priest-the-story-of-father-bud-kieser-featured-at-the-garden-state-film-festival

Business and Economy

Plantivia Wellness in Newark is Educating and Changing how the Marijuana Business affects Communities of Color (1/15/22)

Many across the garden state are looking to cash in on what's becoming known as the green rush.

Here in Newark, one such black owned business is the first of its kind to do so, Plantivia Wellness recently opened up on Halsey St in the city's Downtown District.

Plantivia Wellness offers curated Hemp-Derived CBD products.

Yes, CBD is perfectly legal in New Jersey. Both hemp and marijuana plants produce CBD, the non-psychoactive cannabinoid. The state legalized medical marijuana in 2010, and in 2019, CBD sourced from hemp was also legalized following the passing of the 2018 Farm Bill. Rashad Davis is the company's CEO. Davis, originally from North Carolina, is now a Newark resident and business owner.

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-01-15/plantivia-wellness-in-newark-is-educating-and-changing-how-the-marijuana-business-affect-communities-of-color

Jazz Sundays at the Falcon will feature world-class artists every week through June (3/7/22)

The Falcon, a community-minded arts mecca in the Hudson Valley hamlet of Marlboro, NY, endured every kind of challenge an independent venue could face over the last two years, managing better than most. Then came the death of Tony Falco, its visionary founder, last fall. For the club and its far-flung yet close-knit musical community, it was a devastating loss that also raised uneasy questions about the future.

But the fate of The Falcon is in sure and steady hands — with Tony's son Lee Falco, an accomplished drummer and producer who grew up with a revolving door of world-class artists in his backyard. "It really is a roller coaster, and it's continuing," Lee says of his experience as a venue proprietor during our unsettled moment in time. "This is just the first weekend that we've reopened, really, since my dad's passing." He adds: "I'm just kind of searching and trying things, trying to be open to all kinds of possibilities with the place, and really just trying to do whatever it takes to keep it all going."

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-03-07/jazz-sundays-at-the-falcon-will-feature-world-class-artists-every-week-through-june

Corinne's Place, a 'haven' in Camden honored as one of 'America's Classics' (2/28/22)

Corinne's Place, a Camden institution known for feeding souls with soul food and more, is being honored as one of 'America's Classics.'

The restaurant is receiving the prestigious award from the James Beard Foundation, among six in the entire country. Corinne's and the other honorees will join more

than 100 who have won the America's Classics Award since the award was introduced in 1998.

Corinne Bradley-Powers, the establishment's founder and namesake, said she had never even heard of the award, let alone knew that she was nominated.

https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-02-28/corinnes-place-a-haven-in-camden-honored-as-one-of-americas-classics

Health Care

N.J. Gov. Murphy will lift public health emergency Monday (3/3/22)

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy's final briefing Friday on the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic did have one major announcement. The public health emergency would be lifted Monday, the same day a statewide mask mandate for schools and day care centers ends.

The mandate was "the big thrust" of the health emergency, according to the governor.

"We sat around and said, 'You know what, there's no reason even to go to the 11th of March,' which is when it would have expired," the governor said.

The order lifting the emergency ahead of schedule will allow the state to continue testing and vaccination programs and administer federal aid.

https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-03-04/n-j-gov-murphy-will-lift-public-health-emergency-monday

New Jersey set to receive \$641 million opioid settlement from J&J and others (3/12/22)

New Jersey officials announced Friday that the state will receive \$641 million in settlements from opioid makers and distributors, with the money split between the state and municipalities.

The settlements come from New Brunswick-based Johnson & Johnson, which manufactured the opioids, and the country's three largest pharmaceutical distributors — McKesson, Cardinal Health, and Conshohocken-based AmerisourceBergen.

Gov. Phil Murphy and Acting Attorney General Matt Platkin made the announcement on Friday from Behavioral Crossroads Recovery in Egg Harbor Township, prior to a roundtable discussion on how the money would help in the fight against the opioid epidemic.

https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-03-12/new-jersey-set-to-receive-641-million-opioid-settlement-from-j-j-and-others

N.J. Gov. Murphy outlines plan to lower prescription drug prices (2/15/22)

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy is promoting a legislative package aimed at lower prescription drug costs for residents.

"With these efforts, we will join the growing number of states that are saying enough is enough when it comes to rising drug costs by taking a long look under the hood of the entire process, and then fixing what needs to be fixed," Murphy said Monday at the Willingboro Senior Center, the same day three of four bills were introduced in the Legislature.

The first bill would <u>place a cap on out-of-pocket costs on certain emergency drugs</u> like insulin, asthma inhalers, and EpiPens. A second would <u>require the collecting</u>, <u>analyzing</u>, <u>and reporting of data on drug pricing</u> from manufacturing to distribution. The third bill would <u>require oversight of pharmacy benefits managers</u>, the third party companies that run prescription drug plans.

https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-02-15/n-j-gov-murphy-outlines-plan-to-lower-prescription-drug-prices

Crime

An In-depth Conversation about the Award-winning Film "The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain" (1/16/22)

The award-winning David Midell film *The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain*, currently on HBO Max, is based on a real-life situation that took place on November 19, 2011.

68-year old Kenneth Chamberlain, a black former decorated Marine and former corrections officer, was shot and killed by White Plains Police who came to his house for a "wellness check" early in the morning after his life alert system activated accidentally. Chamberlain had a heart problem and suffered with Bipolar Disorder.

Kenneth Chamberlain is portrayed in the film by acclaimed New Jersey-based actor Frankie Faison. Faison and Kenneth Chamberlain Jr. joined WBGO News Director Doug Doyle to discuss the film and the case.

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-01-16/an-in-depth-conversation-about-the-award-winning-film-the-killing-of-kenneth-chamberlain

NYPD Cracking Down On Quality of Life Crimes (3/25/22)

The NYPD is cracking down on quality of life crimes as part of a new enforcement initiative to address an increase in violence in New York City.

Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell says open-air selling of narcotics, public drinking and urination and dice games lead to disputes and shootings. She's directing officers to crackdown on these offenses. However, Molly Griffard with the Legal Aid Society says this is nothing but failed broken window policies of the past.

"Study after study shows focusing in on low level quality of life offenses does not actually produce any sort of public safety benefit. In fact, it can do the opposite."

NYPD Stats show the number of quality of life complaints are on the rise along with violent street crimes.

https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-03-25/nypd-cracking-down-on-quality-of-life-crimes

Person In Custody For Shooting Homeless In NYC and DC (3/15/22)

Authorities say they have the man responsible for shooting homeless men in New York City and Washington D.C., killing two of them.

Thanks to numerous tips, Gerald Brevard was picked up by authorities on the streets of Washington D.C. Tuesday morning. NYPD Chief James Essig says ballistics evidence ties him to the targeted shootings of five homeless men on the streets of New York City and DC earlier this month.

"Just going up and discriminately shooting somebody sleeping defenselessly on a sidewalk bothering nobody, they got some serious issues."

He says Brevard has no known ties to New York. Brevard's father tells the New York Times that his son has a mental illness that has gone unaddressed.

https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-03-15/person-in-custody-for-shooting-homeless-in-nyc-and-dc

Education

A group of West Orange High School students protest the administration's crackdown on rules banning durags and bonnets (3/15/22)

A group of concerned West Orange High School students recently held an organized protest during lunch period in response to what they say is a recent crack-down on rules banning durags and bonnets. The students claim that rule unfairly targets Black students.

Senior, teenage activist and author Marly Dias and junior Micah Pryor spoke with WBGO News Director Doug Doyle about their situation and next steps.

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-03-15/a-group-of-west-orange-high-school-student-protests-the-administrations-crackdown-on-rules-banning-du-rags-and-bonnets

Prudential Financial announces a New Innovative Approach to working with Historically Black College and Universities to close the Financial Divide (2/9/22)

Federal funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) was nearly cut in half between 2003 and 2015, and endowments are one-third the size of endowments at peer institutions. Nearly 3 in 5 HBCU students are from low-income families.

Prudential has a long history of supporting HBCUs and its students through recruiting, financial contributions and more. The company's latest efforts focus on strengthening HBCUs' capacity and assisting students with funding through a recent round of more than \$3 million in grants. But its innovative strategy goes far beyond writing a check. Employees are lending their expertise and experience to these institutions, too.

Sarah Keh, VP of Inclusive Solutions at Prudential Financial, joined host Doug Doyle on the *WBGO Journal* to talk about the new approach with HBCUs to close the financial divide.

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-02-09/prudential-financial-announces-a-new-innovative-approach-to-working-with-historically-black-college-and-universities-to-close-the-financial-divide

The New Jersey Children's Foundation launches the My Schools Newark website and online research tool for parents (3/22/22)

The **New Jersey Children's Foundation** (NJCF) has launched <u>My Schools Newark</u>, a new online research tool and mobile-friendly service-oriented website created to

provide parents with a centralized resource for needed information on every school in New Jersey.

Kyle Rosenkrans, Executive Director of the New Jersey Children's Foundation, spoke with WBGO Journal host and News Director Doug Doyle about the digital research tool and one-stop shop.

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-03-22/the-new-jersey-childrens-foundation-launches-the-my-schools-newark-website-and-online-research-tool-for-parents

Environment

A Unique Approach to Bringing an Environmental Message to New Jersey School Kids (1/9/22)

A story now about a couple of clowns, known as the Grand Falloons. Stephen Ringold and Kim Winslow have performed abroad, appeared in pediatric hospital wards and spent the last 17 years doing shows about the environment for New Jersey school children. WBGO's Jon Kalish attended a recent performance.

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-01-09/a-unique-approach-to-bringing-an-environmental-message-to-new-jersey-school-kids

Berry Street Alliance opposes a proposal to make outdoor dining structures permanent in NYC (2/21/22)

Outdoor dining has been providing a huge lift to struggling restaurants during the coronavirus pandemic and now New York City Council is mulling over whether to make it permanent.

No one argues that the restaurants and their workers suffered considerably with lost wages and revenues during the COVID shutdown when indoor dining was not allowed. The temporary emergency program to save restaurants started during the

summer of 2020 with outdoor seating on sidewalks and roadway sheds, allowing for a safer environment for New Yorkers to dine out during the pandemic.

Shannon Phipps, a member of the CUEUP (Coalition United for Equitable Urban Policy)

Coalition who heads the Berry Street Alliance, says those restaurants sheds are now a curse and she is strongly against that proposal that's expected to get a final vote from the City Council later this week.

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-02-21/berry-street-alliance-opposes-a-proposal-to-make-outdoor-dining-structures-permanent-in-nyc

Plastic remains the most collected litter at New Jersey beaches (3/31/22)

Plastic items continue to make up a vast majority of trash collected across 70 New Jersey beach sites, according to a new report.

The <u>annual Beach Sweeps Report</u> from Clean Ocean Action documented that 82.3% of items collected by volunteers were made of foam or plastic. Among the items making the "dirty dozen" for 2021 were plastic caps and lids, straws, beverage bottles, bags, as well as "plastic pieces;" a classification to describe unidentifiable smaller plastic items.

"It's no longer recognizable as a bottle cap or a cigar tip or a food and candy wrapper," said Alison Jones, watershed program manager for Clean Ocean Action. "It's sort of just shards of plastic that are left behind."

<u>Plastic pollution is a major problem</u>. The amount of it being produced has <u>skyrocketed since the 1950s</u>. Eight million tons of plastic makes its way into oceans, most of it flowing from land.

https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-03-31/plastic-remains-the-most-collected-litter-at-new-jersey-beaches

Government and State Agencies

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy talks about having tested positive for COVID on the latest edition of "Ask Governor Murphy" (3/31/22)

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, who tested positive for COVID-19 this week, joined the latest edition of *Ask Governor Murphy* via Zoom.

The Governor addressed his health, his thoughts on schools segregation in New Jersey as a lawsuit has been filed to better integrate schools and a protest rally was held this week in Trenton to highlight the concerns.

Governor Murphy also spoke on many other topics including a proposed gas tax rebate, whether state workers should have a remote work option and what the state is doing about bringing down property taxes.

Ask Governor Murphy, hosted by Nancy Solomon, is a WBGO News production in collaboration with WNYC and WHYY. AGM's social media reporter is WBGO and WHYY statehouse reporter Tennyson Donyea. The hour-long show is produced by WBGO News Director Doug Doyle.

https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-04-01/new-jersey-governor-phil-murphy-talks-about-having-tested-positive-for-covid-on-the-latest-edition-of-ask-governor-murphy

The February edition of Ask Governor Murphy addresses COVID Restrictions, Russia's Invasion of Ukraine and Reparations

The February 2022 edition of Ask Governor Murphy focused on a number of topics including Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the latest on COVID mask mandates in New Jersey and Reparations Task Force legislation in the Garden State.

Ask Governor Murphy, hosted by Nancy Solomon. is a WBGO News production is collaboration with WNYC and WHYY.

https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-02-24/the-latest-edition-of-ask-governor-murphy-addresses-covid-restrictions-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-and-reparations

Murphy supports ban on state business dealings with Russia, announces property tax relief program during annual budget address (3/8/22)

In his annual budget address on Tuesday, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy said he supported bipartisan legislation that would ban the state government from doing business with Russia and Belarus.

It comes more than a week after Russian President Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine, and as many around the world condemned Putin as a war criminal.

The measure is headed to Murphy's desk after the Assembly passed it earlier in the day.

"Our administration is assessing what financial or business exposure we may have to the Russian government or Russian-owned business interests or securities, including in our pension funds," Murphy said.

"Let me make it perfectly clear, we will take whatever actions are needed to ensure New Jersey taxpayer dollars are not supporting Putin's unlawful invasion of Ukraine," he added.

https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-03-08/murphy-supports-ban-on-state-business-dealings-with-russia-announces-property-tax-relief-program-during-annual-budget-address

Politics

Mayor Ras Baraka talks Reparations legislation and the recent visit from VP Kamala Harris to praise the City's Lead Replacement program (2/21/22)

On the February 17th edition of *Newark Today* on WBGO, host Michael Hill spoke with Mayor Ras Baraka about legislation in New Jersey to establish a Reparations Task Force and other initiatives. This historic legislation would require New Jersey to study and take responsibility for its role in American slavery and to make policy recommendations to repair its enduring effects. The Mayor also says he very concerned about efforts in schools across the nation.

Mayor Baraka also stressed he was pleased that Vice President Kamala Harris made a trip to Newark this month to praise the City's lead replacement program.

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-02-21/mayor-ras-baraka-talks-reparations-legislation-and-the-recent-visit-from-vp-kamal-harris-to-praise-the-citys-lead-replacement-program

The next edition of Newark Today is Thursday, February 17 at 8pm (2/18/22)

On the next Newark Today (Thursday, February 17), host Michael Hill will be joined by Mayor Ras Baraka to talk about all the latest around New Jersey's largest city. We'll discuss the recent visit by Vice President Kamala Harris to praise the city's efforts to replace lead service lines. Another hot topic will be Covid mask mandates. Michael will also be joined by Director of Health and Community Wellness Dr. Mark Wade. We'll be taking calls live at 973-297-0941 starting at 8pm.

 $\frac{\text{https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-02-16/the-next-edition-of-newark-today-is-thursday-february-17-at-8pm}{}$

NY Republicans Sue Over Newly Drawn Congressional Maps Favoring Democrats (2/6/22)

Republicans are suing over newly approved Congressional redistricting maps in New York State that give Democrats the edge. Representative Nicole Malliotakis and two other Republicans will have a tougher time retaining their congressional seats this

year under redrawn district maps approved by Democratic lawmakers. Professor Jeff Wice at New York Law school says the tactic by Democrats is common practice.

"Politics has been inherent in redistricting in this country for over 200 years. The only way to remove politics from the process is for New Yorkers to create a commission that is completely independent of the legislature."

Wice does not think Republicans will be able to stop the redrawn lines in court based on passed court rulings.

https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-02-06/ny-republicans-sue-over-newly-drawn-congressional-maps-favoring-democrats

Technology

New Outdoor Classroom Structures are catching on during the Pandemic (2/8/22)

As schools grapple with the safety of kids learning in classrooms, some small towns in Vermont have been using outdoor classrooms designed specifically as a response to the pandemic. WBGO's Jon Kalish reports that these structures are the brainchild of a family in the mountain town of Rochester, Vermont and that word is spreading to neighboring states.

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-02-08/new-outdoor-classroom-structures-are-catching-on-during-the-pandemic

Brooklyn Marine Terminal To Make Wind Farm Parts (3/3/22)

The South Brooklyn Marine Terminal is going to be transformed into an offshore wind hub. Over the next few years, the terminal will be converted into an operation that constructs large off shore wind farms. Deputy Mayor For Economic and

Workforce Development Maria Torres Springer says this will produce 13-thousand jobs.

"It is really incredible think that this location will birth a whole new industry in New York City and will be a key driver of our long term equitable recovery."

There will also be an offshore wind learning center established to connect students with future wind jobs. This is all part of the goal of officials to make New York City a major hub for the offshore wind industry.

https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-03-03/brooklyn-marine-terminal-to-make-wind-farm-parts

Construction Starts On New York's First Offshore Wind Project (2/11/22)

Construction is starting today on New York State's first offshore wind farm. The South Fork Wind Project will consist of wind turbines about 35 miles east of Montauk Point in Suffolk County. US Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland says this is part of New York's goal of having 70 percent of renewable energy by year 2030 and it will kickstart New York's offshore wind industry.

"We are thinking about the communities who disproportionately bare the burdens of climate change and pollution as well as the communities who rely on the ocean for their livelihoods."

The offshore wind farm is expected to be able to power more than 70 thousand Long Island homes. It will be operational late next year. The turbines will not be seen from East Hampton beaches.

https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-02-11/construction-starts-on-new-yorks-first-offshore-wind-project

Race and Ethnicity

"Little Girl Blue", inspired by the life of Nina Simone and written by and starring Laiona Michelle, is now playing at New World Stages in New York (3/21/22)

"Little Girl Blue", the musical inspired by jazz singer Nina Simone's life began its much anticipated New York run earlier this month.

Written by and starring **Laiona Michelle**, the production is running at Shubert Organization's New World Stages.

Michelle, who has had roles in "Amazing Grace", "Book of Mormon" and "American Hero", joined *WBGO Journal* host Doug Doyle to talk about the musical and she is so passionate about telling the story of Nina Simone.

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-03-21/little-girl-blue-inspired-by-the-life-of-nina-simone-and-written-by-and-starring-laiona-michelle-is-now-playing-at-new-world-stages-in-new-york

Former New York City school teacher Elizabeth Meaders is selling off her extensive African American historical collection through Guernsey's Auction House (3/12/22)

90-year old **Elizabeth Meaders** of Staten Island has one of the most interesting and extensive historic collections of African American items. The more than 20-thousand item Meaders Collection is up for auction as ONE LOT through <u>Guernsey's auction</u> house on March 15.

Meaders, a former New York City high school teacher, joined *WBGO Journal* host Doug Doyle to talk about the auction and what how she designed the history collection as a patriotic healing and teaching instrument.

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-03-12/former-new-york-city-school-teacher-elizabeth-meaders-is-selling-off-her-extensive-african-american-historical-collection-through-guernseys-auction-house

42nd annual MTW virtual conference set for Saturday, February 19 (2/16/22)

The 42nd Annual Marion Thompson Wright (MTW) Lecture series is set for February 19 in Newark. This year's virtual event will once again be hosted by the Clement Price Institute on Ethnicity, Culture & the Modern Experience.

Jack Tchen is the inaugural Clement A. Price Prrofessor of Public History & Humanities at Rutgers University-Newark and Director of the Price Institute. He's been in that position since 2018. Tchen says this year's conference is being held in partnership with **Black Portaitures VII**, an academic conference committed to the study of African diasporic art and culture.

The theme of this year's MTW is "Play and Performance." Salamishah Tillet, Associate Director of the Clement Price Institute, Founding Director of the New Arts Justice Initiative and Henry Rutgers Professor of African American Studies & Creative Writing, is excited about the focus of this year's virtual event.

Tillet, Jack Tchen and acclaimed historian and author **Graham Russell Gao Hodges** joined WBGO Journal host and News Director Doug Doyle to talk about this year's MTW three-day event (conference is on Saturday).

https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-02-16/42nd-annual-mtw-virtual-conference-set-for-saturday-february-19