Quarterly Issues and Programming Report

April 2010 thru June 2010

WTNH/News8

1. Community Issues
2. Health
3. Education
4. Crime
5. Consumer Issues
6. Government, economy, and law

Community Issues:

April:

04/04/10: Good Morning CT Weekend - :30

"Easter Meals"

Charity is a big part of the Christian faith and this morning on the holiest day of the Christian calendar a group of Hartford volunteers is giving back to the community. Like many high holy Christian holidays people think about giving back and this morning more than two dozen folks will man their stations in this kitchen and on the floor at the South Congregational Church to serve meals to the hungry and homeless.
HANDS ON HOMELESS EASTER MEALS
South Congregational Church
277 Main Street
Hartford
9:30am - 2:00pm

04/06/10: News 8 at 12 noon - :35

"Girl Scout Breakfast"

Some big honors handed out in North Haven this morning to some of the most 'talented' women in our community. News Channel 8's Jocelyn Maminta was among those to be honored at the '2010' Girl Scouts of Connecticut's 'Women of Achievement' breakfast. I was honored to be the Master of Ceremonies for the star studded celebration. Some of the other honorees included State Senator Toni Harp, Dr. Dorsey Kendrick, the president of Gateway Community College, Julia McNamara, the president of Albertus Magnus College and Marna Borgstrom, the president and CEO of Yale New Haven Hospital.

04/10/10: News 8 at 6pm weekend - :40

"Quinnipiac University Big Event"

Quinnipiac University students took a break from the books to pitch in to help the community. More than 7-hundreds students broke up into 10 groups... to help 53 local community centers. They're did everything from cleaning up parks.. to writing cards for children who are hospitalized. News Channel 8 met up with a group of students who were lending a hand to Animal Haven in North Haven. They say they enjoy volunteering and more people should do it. The pitching in was all part of Quinnipiac's first "Big Event" program... the school says it's a day for students to give back.

04/30/10: News 8 at 5pm - :20

"New Haven Arbor Day"

New Haven is going green. Today, Mayor John Destefano led the Arbor Day Tree planting event on Townsend Avenue. The city is launching an effort to plant 10-thousand trees throughout the community over the next 5 years. The goal is to restore the city's tree canopy. Local teens are hired and trained to plant the trees through various city initiatives.

May:

05/10/10: News 8 at 12pm :30

"QU Green Gowns"

This weekend, graduates at Quinnipiac University will be wearing 'green' gowns. No.. they haven't changed the school colors.. but they are trying to change peoples' attitudes about the recylcing. The caps and gowns the graduates will wear.. are made from recycled plastic bottles. Maria Bimonte/Dir. of Shared Services: "When you think about it, just our commencement alone, for the graduate, law school and undergraduate, we are helping to remove about 46,000 from landfills in just one year -- in ten years, our university alone, about a half million bottles."
And the students aren't sacrificing comfort -- these 'green gowns' are softer and cooler than traditional ones. The gowns are part of a campus-wide effort to be more environmentally-friendly.

05/19/10: News 8 at 12pm - :45

"Spring Salvage"

One man's trash is another man's treasure. 'Yalies' clearing out for the summer are passing on the wealth by donating their household items to area non-profits and other students. It's called Spring Salvage. All of the donated items are *free* to non-profit organizations, New Haven area charitable groups and the Yale community. Yale students, faculty and staff members can use the donated items for either personal or departmental purposes. Yale says... last year nearly $200,000 worth of goods were made available to the New Haven community through this effort. But...to get in on the action... you have to show documentation. Participants from non-profit groups should bring business cards, a letterhead or their IRS 501 C-3 letter. Yalies are being told to bring their school ID. Today's event will go until 4 this afternoon. The next opportunity will be Tuesday June 1st at 10:30 AM at Ingalls Rink on Sachem Street in New Haven.

05/29/10: Good Morning CT Wknd – :60

"Little Folks Fair"

A great event next weekend... for kids and parents alike to "let loose and have fun"... It's the annual Little Folks Fair... and there will be lots of activities for young ones. And the proceeds go to benefit the Community Nursery School in Guilford.
Little Folks Fair
The Community Nursery School
June 5th
11 AM - 4 PM
Guilford Green
For more .. Log onto our website at wtnh dot com.. and click on the good morning connecticut weekend section.

05/31/10: Good Morning CT at 6am – 2:00

"Share the Road"

It's about mutual respect. Bikes and cars living together peacefully on the road. Well, a group in one shoreline community is working hard to make it safer for both....as we roll into the summer biking season. Lenny Deaso likes to share. Especially when he is biking alongside cars, but about a month ago, he and a friend were run off the road by a car in Weston after what could be called a car versus bike road rage incident. There was no sharing that day. They were both hurt. So Deaso is very interested in an effort now underway in Fairfield to help those who prefer to travel on two wheels. A committee made up of police officers, engineers, the planning department and local businesses is meeting right now to figure out the hot-spots in town...areas where accidents may happen. Biking is becoming more and more popular.

June:

06/01/10: Good Morning CT at 5am - :36

"Voluntown Marine"

The Voluntown community is remembering a hometown Marine killed in Afghanistan earlier this year. Lance Corporal Tyler Owen Griffin was killed April First during combat operations in Afghanistan. His family was honored during the town's Memorial Day parade. During the ceremony - black bunting was removed from the town memorial revealing a fifth name - Griffin's. Lance Corporal Griffin is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

06/11/10: News8 at 11pm – 1:25

"Lexi's Lambs"

She tackled the project like a lion...to provide...lambs. Ten year old Shelton Girl Scout Alexis Klemazooski is set to deliver 159 gifts bags filled with stuffed lambs and books to Bridgeport Hospital's neo-natal unit as part of a special scout project. Alexis' drive to get donations for both money and lambs is personal. **I wanted to do something for the neo-natal intensive care unit at Bridgeport Hospital because that's where I was when I was a baby.** This is an act of generosity coming from someone who has a heart as big as a lion but as gentle as a lamb.

06/17/10: News8 at 5pm - :25

"Volunteerism Up"

Apparently the struggling economy has inspired others to help those in need. The Corporation for National and Community Service is reporting the largest increase in volunteers since 2003. 63 million Americans... 16 and older... gave time to some cause in 2009. That's an increase of over one and a half million over 2008. Connecticut ranked 17-th of the 50 states in the number of volunteers. But Hartford ranked sixth among the country's 51 largest cities.

Health:

April:

04/01/10: News 8 at 5pm - :30

"No More Ronald McDonald"

Ronald McDonald is a beloved brand ambassador for McDonald's yet some parents and watchdog groups are calling him to retire! ACTIVISTS in San Francisco are gathering signatures for a petition... pressuring the Golden Arches to send Ronald to pasture. They cite obesity studies of young people and say-- the iconic clown is marketing 'unhealthy' food -- to vulnerable children. In a statement released today.. McDonalds defended Ronald... saying he helps deliver messages to families on important subjects such as safety, literacy, and the importance of physical activity as well as making 'balanced' food choices. The company also points out four million sick children and their families have been helped through the Ronald McDonald house charities. A lot of families have found refuge at the only Ronald McDonald House in Connecticut- located in New Haven.

04/04/10: News 8 at 6pm weekend - :25

"Wood Furnaces"

The state debate over wood burning furnaces continues this week. Opponents of the furnaces are unveiling a 3-month study on Wednesday detailing how smoke from the device has affected the health of some residents. The move comes after state lawmakers rejected a plan to ban using them... and adding the furnaces to the list of public health nuisances.

04/23/10: Good Morning CT at 6am - :25

"Flying with Sick Passengers"

Lots of sick people may be around you at the airport. A new review by the USA Today shows hundreds of people at major U-S airports each year are severely ill with symptoms of potentially contagious diseases. Yet... a lot of times sickness is not reported to health officials but... it is intended that sickness should be reported under U-S regulations and international guidelines. The 'u-s-a today' learned about unreported illnesses through a review of ambulance records and federal data.

04/29/10: News 8 at 5pm - :25

"New Cancer Drug"

There's a new drug for patients with late stage prostate cancer -- and it uses their own immune system to fight the disease. The Food and Drug Administration has just approved the drug - 'Provenge'. It's aimed at treating prostate cancer that has spread -- and 'not' responding to hormone therapy. The drug is made by taking immune cells from a patient's blood and exposing them to a specific protein - that encourages the cells to attack the cancer. This could have a wider application for similar types of treatments in the war on cancer.

May:

05/01/10: Good Morning CT at 5am – 2:35

"Mental Health Research"

In health news today, it's a worldwide public health crisis; mental illness. The latest in treatment and research is the focus of a public forum at Yale - set for today. News 8's Health Reporter Jocelyn Maminta has more - A soothing sound as Luisa Francoeur talks about her 29 year old son - struggling with schizophrenia - a brain disorder - marked with delusions and hallucinations that she says began with seemingly non-descript behavior. Luisa: "I remember sitting at the table and he took the gravy or meat juice and put it through his hair- he thought that was funny. We went to a family wedding in California and he got up on the roof of the hotel and he thought that was great." Now that he lives in a transitional center - this mom of three rarely sees her oldest son. Luisa: "every once in awhile, you get a laugh, a response to a joke or a story. You know that person is still there but they're really taken over by the disease." Mental illness is described as a worldwide public health crisis. Here at the Yale School of Medicine -- researchers are hard at work in unlocking the darkness of the debilitating disease. Dr. Matthew State, Yale School of Medicine: "probably the 2 major changes have been a much deepr understanding of the brain, how it functions and how it develops and a much deeper understanding of how genes play a role in mental illness." Child Psychiatrist Dr. Matthew State is a lead investigator in childhood mental illness. He will be moderating a public forum "Healthy Minds Across America" - where Connecticut families get the opportunity to learn about the latest advancements in mental health. Dr State: "New advances and new ways of thinking about potentially new medications that might do a better job of treating people than we are doing right now, but also to talk about non-medical treatments that can help individuals and their families." Families -- who know too well of the anguish mental illness can bring. Luisa: "I had two boys, and they were very close growing up and my younger son basically has no brother now." That public forum is today -- from one to five p.m. at the Anlyan Center Auditorium at Yale School of Medicine. It is free -- and those attending will hear the latest in mental health -- including promising research in a new class of anti-depressants, and new treatments in autism- now in clinical trials. It's called "Healthy Minds Across America."

05/05/10: News 8 at 5pm - :35

"Yale App Lyme Disease"

Alright i-phone and i-pad owners, there's a new 'app' that helps you track diseased ticks.. courtesy of Yale University. The New 'app' can make it easier to avoid Lyme Disease.

The Yale School of Public Health created it. It uses a G-P-S feature to identify areas 'infested' with diseased ticks. The Lyme Disease Tick 'APP' is available for 2 dollars at the i-Tunes 'App' Store. Proceeds go to support the American Lyme Disease Foundation in Lyme.

05/14/10: Good Morning CT at 5am - :45

"Morbid Obesity Fight"

To health news now, the tragic story.. of the death of a nearly 1-thousand pound Bridgeport man.. hits close to home for a Nothern Connecticut man. Benji Conte has spent his life battling weight. When News 8 first talked to him seven years ago, he weighed more than 900 pounds.. but he's lost 500 pounds since having gastric bypass surgery. Conte called News 8's Jocelyn Maminta yesterday.. worried about how the recent publicity would affect others who are just like him. He says they can either decide to do something...or not. "Listen, don't give up, do not stop fighting, there is help out there, I know its scary, I know you are afraid, I was too.But I'm telling, there are people out there in this world that will help you. There are doctors at St. Raphael's, there are doctors at Yale, they are there to help you save yourself. Now if you can do that, if you can have the courage to do that, you can do what I did." Conte says his weight fluctuates but he's 'determined' to get to his goal of 250 pounds. Benji calls this his 'do over' time -- his second chance at life.

05/28/10: News 8 at 5pm - :45

"Girls and Diabetes"

There's new hope for overweight girls at risk for type 2 diabetes. According to a new study... if they can shed the extra weight before they hit adulthood.. they can dramatically cut that risk. The study followed 109- thousand female nurses over a 16-year period. Those who were overweight through childhood but lost weight as young adults... were no more likely to become diabetic as those who maintained a normal weight as children.

June:

06/01/10: News8 at 5pm - :30

"Pregnancy Weight"

Women who are expecting traditionally worry about weight gain. And with good reason. A new study shows packing on the pounds affects not only a mother's health, but the health of her child. Pregnant women who gain more weight than recommended have children who are heavier and more likely to develop heart disease risk factors by age nine. The risk factors were greatest in women who gained more than 1-point 1 pounds a week after their first trimester. Doctors say women should only gain somewhere between twenty and twenty-five pounds over the entire pregnancy.

06/04/10: Good Morning CT at 6am - :25

"Kids Need Exercise"

You know it's a growing problem....Childhood obesity is impacting 17-percent of our youth across the country. A new study looks at how the blood vessels of overweight young people may be aging more than we thought. A study released by the American college of sports medicine looked at almost 650 children and young adults ages 10 to 24. They found that those who were less physically active had stiffer arteries. This has been linked to the development of heart disease. Researchers say stiffer vessels put young people at higher risk for blood pressure problems and other heart health issues. So what can we do about it? Researchers say kids need an hour of exercise each day.

06/17/10: News8 at 5pm - :20

"Men's Health"

It's men's health week... a time for doctors and patients to focus on the importance of early detection and treatment for illnesses and diseases common in men. A reminder from doctors it's not just the elderly who need to be concerned about their health. Young men are at higher risk for sexually transmitted diseases and should pay close attention for the warning signs of testicular and skin cancer. And around age 50 all men should be screened for colon and prostate cancer.

Education:

April:

04/01/10: News 8 at 6pm - :20

"Gov/Student Loan Plans"

Republicans are not happy about the government's student loan overhaul. Earlier this week President Obama signed the rest of the health care overhaul bill. The legislation contains an education provision.... allowing the federal government to lend money directly for tuition this fall. This move takes private banks out of the equation. The GOP is calling it another massive takeover by the federal government. The White House says it will save billion of dollars... and will make it easier for students to "re-pay" loans.

04/08/10: News 8 at 11pm – 1:15

"Naugatuck School Meeting"

You don't have to be a great orator for your message to be heard loud and clear. In fact...second grader David Green is choosing the written over the spoken word - until we ask him a question about Naugatuck's Salem Elementary School. But David's historic school is slated to become a memory after the Board of Education voted last week to close Salem to save more than 400-thousand dollars. The borough will take over the building, possible using it for office space. They might not have had a voice before that controversial vote - but plenty of people are speaking up now at a BOE meeting Thursday night. A legal threat was even made - a well-known town attorney asking Richard Blumenthal to get involved - stating the building was deeded to the town by a philanthropist in the 19th century...it's sole purpose...to this day - must be for education. Board members are adamant the decision to close Salem did not come easily. It's hard for second graders to grasp issues surrounding dollars and cents...to David, it just doesn't make sense.

04/22/10: Good Morning CT at 6am - :20

"Governor Candidates and College"

Connecticut's gubernatorial candidates are debating ways to make higher education more affordable. They've come up with ideas ranging from a tuition freeze to reducing the size of state university administration. Eleven candidates faced off yesterday... in back-to-back debates sponsored by the University of Connecticut and the Connecticut Daily Newspapers Association.

04/28/10: News 8 at 5pm - :35

"Summer Reading"

Although it feels more like winter out there tonight, twenty-one schools from across the state were honored today for their summer efforts. More specifically... their excellence in last year's annual 'Summer Reading Challenge." Governor Jodi Rell handed out the award at the State Library... and helped kick off this year's challenge. For the state's 375th anniversary summer... young people are being urged to read books by Mark Twain or Harriet Beecher Stowe.... two of the state's and the nation's most famous authors.

May:

05/08/10: Good Morning CT Wknd - :40

"History Day"

Young history buffs are getting a chance to test their knowledge today. Today is History Day and students from across the state are gathering in Hartford for a little friendly competition. History Day in Connecticut is a statewide competition for kids in grades 6-12th. They take a historical topic and interpret it though exhibits, performances, documentaries, you name it. In honor of history day...i'd like to quiz you. What's the number one historical fact folks don't know about Connecticut that surprises them? Why the nutmeg state? Who first explored the state? (a: the Dutch) When was the ct historical society founded? (a. 1825) Ct had the first municipal library...where was it opened (a. New haven) What delicious candy treat was invented here in Connecticut? (a. The lollipop) What city was the first hamburger created? (a. New haven)
The event will be held at the Connecticut Historical Society, One Elizabeth Street, Hartford, Conn. 06105.

05/11/10: News 8 at 6pm - :25

"Norwich Schools"

We're expected to get word this evening as to what schools may be closed, as the Norwich Board of Ed votes on a reorganization plan. The likely closures are just the latest problem for students... who will likely be shuffled around to other schools next fall. News 8's Bob Wilson is live at the Kelly Middle School in Norwich... where the board of ed is meeting right now.
In Norwich they are getting ready to drop the ax... Tonight is the vote... Will they close two schools and lay off 70 workers in the school system? The meeting is going on right now the vote is expected in the next hour or so. While some parents are angry at the cuts other parents say they want to be part of the solution, it's time to step up ant take responsibility. Barb Zegarzewski/Parent: "I see people pointing fingers at city hall i see people pointing fingures at the board and at teachers and i think we have to point fingers at ourselves and we have to say what can i do how can i make a difference." Some parents are talking about organizing a city wide pto to help raise more money where the budget fell short. They say there is power in numbers...

05/25/10: Good Morning CT at 5am - :20

"WH Molloy School"

The West Haven board of education voted last week to close the Molloy and Thompson schools. Parents...teachers and students took time tonight to make a plea to keep the Molloy school open. Along with the closing of the two schools...more than 50 teacher jobs are expected to be lost.

June:

06/01/10: Good Morning CT at 6am – 1:45

"Summer School Package"

All children are at risk of experiencing what educators refer to as the "Summer slide." This occurs when students fail to keep up their studies over the summer months. Come September those students have fallen behind their peers in the classroom. This pattern repeats every year and those students find their academic standing moving farther and farther to the back of the pack. Ron Fairchild: "Young people who aren't engaged in learning activities during the summer months experience a huge challenge when they get back to school in the fall. Teachers often have to spend time re-teaching the same materials they spent teaching the previous year. Sometimes as much as up to four to six weeks." Yet while all students are vulnerable, research shows that disadvantaged children face the greatest risk. What we find is that children from growing up in disadvantaged families keep up with children from better off families tolerably well during the school year. Where they fall behind is over the summer months and we've seen this over the entirety of the elementary school years. The good news is there are ways to help your child avoid

getting left behind in the classroom without breaking your budget. First, get your child excited about reading. Issue a challenge to your family and see how many books they can read over summer break. Bring them into the kitchen with you to help reinforce the math skills used following recipes. And set aside quiet time everyday for a little school work practice. Studies show that high quality summer learning programs make a powerful impact on a child's development. Which is why experts say that while the summer may be a great time for children to let loose and have fun parents must also empower them to enjoy the break without sacrificing those hard fought gains made during the school year.

06/09/10: News8 at 5pm - :20

"Enfield Grad Appeal"

Enfield's board of education has reversed itself. It has now voted to appeal a federal judge's ruling blocking them from having high school graduations in a Bloomfield church. Last week the board decided to go along with the ruling. Two students and several parents sued saying the move would violate the separation of church and state. Graduation is in two weeks.

06/15/10: Good Morning CT at 5am - :25

"Bridgeport Schools"

Another "Save Our Schools" cry is being heard in Bridgeport. The Connecticut Post reports the Board of Ed there has proposed closing Dunbar and Roosevelt Schools to help balance next year's budget. The NAACP Chapter of Greater Bridgeport wants the board to do an "impact" study first. The board is not expected to do anything until next Monday.

Crime:

April:

04/01/10: Good Morning CT at 6am – 1:50

"Wrongly Convicted"

Two Connecticut men may be just hours from tasting freedom. They are set to be released today after a judge threw out their convictions. They spent 16 years in prison, for a crime a judge has ruled they did not commit. Today, they could walk out of this courthouse as free men. Ronald Taylor and George Gould were convicted of the 1993 murder of a New Haven store owner. The case was built on the testimony of one witness, a drug-addicted prostitute. That woman now says police coerced her into lying. At a lengthy hearing last year, Judge Stanley Fuger determined without that witness, there was no case. He ordered the men set free. Prosecutors appealed. Now it comes down to a hearing this morning. Defense attorneys say they expect their clients to walk out of court and go home to their families. George Gould told the Associated Press he feels a little bitter about his time in prison, because he couldn't watch his 4 kids grow up. Ron Taylor may have more reason to be bitter. He now has cancer and may not have much longer to live.

04/07/10: News 8 at 11pm - :25

"New New Haven Police Chief"

New Haven's new Police Chief is trying a new strategy to stop shootings in the city. Chief Frank Limon calls it "Operation Corridor". The idea is to really beef up patrols in areas with the most gun violence. Last weekend there were three shootings - two of them deadly. Limon says he will also crack down on drug dealers and those who come into the city looking to buy drugs.

04/16/10: Good Morning CT at 5am - :25

"Skakel Parole"

A Kennedy Cousin...accused of murder...could be eligible for parole in three years. Michael Skakel lost an appeal of his conviction for the brutal 19-75 killing of Martha Moxley. But Skakel could be released because more lenient laws are now in place....than at the time of the crime.

The Correction Department says it's all based on credits for good behavior... and other things like taking part in programs. Moxley's family says it will oppose Skakel's release.

04/23/10: News 8 at 5pm - :45

"New Forensic Lab"

The state forensics lab gets a make-over... and made its big debut today. Governor Rell cut the ribbon on a new $8 million expansion of the state crime lab in Meriden. The new wing brings all of the lab's resources together...while expanding and updating its abilities. Officials say... this should save money and time by consolidating all state police lab work in one location. But world renowned forensic scientist Dr. Henry Lee says it's the people that make this delicate science work. Not only do it's scientists analyze evidence - they are also frequently called on to give expert testimony at trial.

May:

05/01/10: Good Morning CT at 5am – "35

"Hartford Sentencing"

It was a Hartford hit and run that made news all over the country. And now... a Hartford man will be sentenced for the crime. 33-year old *Luis Negron* will be sentenced on Monday. He cut a plea deal to manslaughter charges. Two years ago... surveillance cameras caught Negron hitting 78-year old Angel Torres on Park Street in Hartford... paralyzing him from the neck down. He died a year later. The deal calls for ten years in prison.

05/06/10: News 8 at 5pm - :50

"New Haven Crime"

Today, New Haven's new police chief, Frank Limon, outlined his plan to reduce violent crime in the city's neighborhoods. This special unit is trading in blue uniforms for plain clothes...but New Haven's new chief says this is a big first step to attacking street crime. It's called the "Street Interdiction Unit," a tactical unit that will work under the Tactical Narcotics Unit. The group, made up of patrol, will work mostly at night, targeting hot-spots and gathering intelligence on anything from purse snatchings to narcotics. But a key focus will be working with community, keeping track of career criminals. Lt. Lisa Daddio, New Haven Police Department: "It's a significant piece that's been missing for awhile. When the Tactical Narcotics unit got up and running, there wasn't information that we did receive from them, but we were missing that basic street level intelligence that was coming in. With the creation of this new unit, we are going to get that piece back, which will assist us investigating those crimes, and helping us solve those crimes by targeting specific individuals." N-H-P-D stresses they are not losing people on patrol. In fact, 35 new recruits are about to hit the streets in June. The new unit will begin work in four to six weeks.

05/13/10: News 8 at 5pm – 1:20

"New Have Wire Fraud"

The FBI was on scene for several hours this morning inside 2 offices in the building behind me. Few details are being released in the case but we know a New Haven business man is facing charges tonight. Members of the F-B-I carried out boxes of paperwork from inside the professional building at 419 Whalley Avenue in New Haven. They searched the offices of Joseph Levitin who runs a property management business -- Levitan Management -- from his suite on the second floor of the busy complex that houses everything from real estate, law and dentist offices. Joesph Levitin was arrested this morning on charges of wire fraud. He was arraigned in federal court and released on 7-hundred 50 thousand dollars bond. Outside the building today property owners who do business with Levitin waited to find out more information about the investigation. A spokesperson for the FBI says investigators also searched another office in building but says that search was completely unrelated to the search of Levitin's office. Investigators wouldn't comment on what they were looking for only to say in each case they were investigating white collar crime and that the searches inside this building have nothing to do with the other searches

in the northeast connected to the time square bombing plot. Joesph Levitn was ordered to surrender his passport and needs approval to travel outside Connecticut. He has a hearing set for June 1st.

05/27/10: News 8 at 6pm :35

"Car Wash Stabbing West Haven"

Police say one of three people stabbed at a West Haven car wash, *was the attacker who started it all. News 8 first reported the crime yesterday on Route one near Ella Grasso Boulevard. One of the victims walked over to a nearby Dunkin Donuts to get help. Police say only one person had serious injuries.

June:

06/07/10: Good Morning CT at 5am :35

"Mercado Sentencing"

The man convicted of killing a man he met online will be sentenced today. 23-year old Marcos Mercado will get a hefty sentence for the death of 41-year old Thomas Szadkowski back in 2007. The two met for a sexual encounter. Mercado later recanted his confession to the crime and testified that he had never met the victim. He faces up to 80 years in prison.

06/11/10: News8 at 11pm - :30

"Ansonia Stolen Motorcycle"

Police in Ansonia are trying to track down a stolen motorcycle and the thief who took off with it. It happened at the Great Hill Shell Station. Surveillance caught the guy police are now looking for. They say the man seen here got out of a gray Dodge pick up truck and wheeled the motorcycle away from the station. Police say the motorcycle is custom built black with 'blue flames'. It's worth about 60-thousand dollars. The license plate says "OCTANE." Anyone with information about the crime is being asked to contact Ansonia police.

06/15/10: News8 at 5pm - :25

"Preston Bodies"

Two people found dead in Preston, were brother and sister. Police have identified them as 53 year old Richard Lafleur and his sister 47 year old Celia Lafleur both from Windsor Locks. Their bodies were found Saturday in a car in a wooded area off of Route 2-A. The Medical examiner says the official cause of death is still pending... but the deaths were not the result of a crime. Police also say there appears to be no criminal aspect to their deaths.

06/17/10: News8 at 6pm - :45

"Hamden Girl Struck"

Remnants of police crime scene tape remain wrapped around an iron banister in front of a Hamden home. Tape also lies on a yard across the street, but the clearest indication that something bad happened here is an area of over-growth that looks like it was matted down by a car…neighbors tell News 8 that's exactly happened. A neighbor says around six o'clock last night, a 14 year old girl was hit by a minivan outside her Stevens Street home. The girl and the car were both discovered in this area. After the collision, the girl was still. The New Haven Register reports the girl's mother called 9-1-1. We went to the house but no one answered the door. Some neighbors living on this street describe Stevens as a quiet place, with minimal traffic aside from those that live in the area. A Hamden police spokesperson, did not return a call to News 8 earlier Thursday. Police Chief Thomas Wydra tells the Register the unidentified teenager is in critical condition at a local hospital.

Consumer Issues:

April:

04/03/10: Good Morning CT weekend - :20

"Chinese Drywall Recall"

The government is recommending that thousands of U-S homes -- built with Chinese drywallbe gutted. The new guidelines say the drywall poses health concerns, and causes corrosion of electrical wiring ... alarm systems... and gas pipes. Many homeowners have had *multiple* appliances fail --- due to corroded wires.

04/06/10: News 8 at 12pm - :20

"Whole Foods Fish Recall"

If you bought fish at Whole Foods lately... you might want to check your freezer. Frozen Yellow Fin Tuna Steaks are being recalled because they may have high levels of histamine. Those levels could cause an allergic reaction. The fish has a best-by date of December 5, 20-10. This tuna was sold in several states including Connecticut. For more information, log on to our website, wtnh.com.

04/29/10: News 8 at 5pm - :20

"Crib Recall"

There's a crib recall... you need to need to know about... to keep your children safe. Various models of Simplicity & Graco cribs pose a Suffocation & Strangulation Hazard Thousands of Simplicity and Graco cribs have some hardware that can break and create a 'dangerous gap' between the mattress and crib. Because of that problem... a baby can suffocate or strangle. There has already been at least one death linked to the cribs. For a complete list of all the model numbers included... log on to wtnh-dot-com.

May:

05/03/10: News 8 at 5pm - :30

"Consumer Spending"

Consumer spending rose in March by the largest amount in five months. Bu the gains were paid for with savings. They fell to the lowest level in 18-months. Consumer spending accounts for about 70-percent of the U-S economy. The Consumer Department also says a small rise in incomes is adding to concerns the recovery could weaken unless income growth increases more rapidly.

05/07/10: Good Morning CT at 5am - :25

"Lettuce Recall"

There is a nationwide lettuce recall this morning. Because of e-coli about 20 people in Ohio, New York and Michigan are sick.. 3 were hospitalized with life threatening symptoms. Freshway Foods says it is recalling romaine lettuce sold in 23 states and the District of Columbia.

05/10/10: News 8 at 5pm - :25

"Sweatshirt Recall"

Parents heads up. Some kids' hooded sweatshirts are being recalled tonight because the drawstring could be a choking hazard. The sweatshirts were sold under the "Sweet Tart" brand name. There are a couple of styles. They were sold at Saks Off Fifth Avenue stores... over the last year. We've got more info on our website at WTNH.com.

05/16/10: Good Morning CT at 5am - :25

"Ground Beef Recall"

And a ground beef recall to tell you about this morning. Montclair Meat Company Incorporated from Montclair, California, is recalling about 53-thousand pounds of ground beef because of possible E. coli contamination. The products in question are packages of ground beef and beef patties. Each package has the number 6-1-1-6 inside the U-S-D-A mark of inspection. They were produced between May 3-rd through the 13-th. Authorities have received no reports of illness from the beef.

June:

06/01/10: News8 at 12pm - :25

"Ford Floor Mats"

Ford is now under the microscope after there were some reports that gas pedals got stuck under some floor mats. The problems were found in the 2010 Ford Fusion and Mercury Milan models. So far, there have been only three complaints and no reports of anyone being hurt. The problem is similar to the one Toyota had last year that lead to all those recalls.

06/11/10: News8 at 5pm - :20

"Toy Dart Recall"

We have a recall to tell you about. Family Dollar Stores are recalling nearly two million toy dart gun sets. The problem - the darts are a choking hazard. At least two children have died-- after accidentally swallowing the darts. The dart sets were sold at Family Dollar stores between September 2005 and January 2009. Parents throw them out or bring them in for a full refund.

06/16/10: News8 at 5pm :25

"Roman Shade Recall"

A California company is joining the growing list of retailers voluntarily recalling 'ALL' Roman shades and roll-up blinds. The Blinds made by Chicology sold online through various sites like overstock.com from April 2006 through March 2010. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommended the recall in December 2009 because the cords can present a strangling risk to children. f you have blinds made by this company take them down and contact Chicology for a repair kit.

Government, Economy, & Law

April:

04/08/10: News 8 at 5pm - :20

"New Haven Small Business Taxes"

Some New Haven small business owners turned out today to back a bill that would give them a state tax break paid for by taxes on some big corporate bonuses. State Senate majority leader Martin Looney met with them today. Senate Bill One would give mom and pop businesses a 250 dollar tax break for two years. It would be paid for by taxing corporate bonuses of more than a million dollars given to executives of firms that took federal bail out money. Looney says more than 1000 businesses in New Haven alone would benefit from the bill.

04/15/10: News 8 at 6pm – 1:35

"Hartford Tea Party"

This year's state capitol 'Tea Party' rally seemed more subdued than last year's....State Capitol Police estimated the crowd at less than a third the size of last year's....But organizers say the movement is far from losing steam...as people continue to sign up for the estimated twenty weekly 'Tea Party' gatherings around the state. "We want smaller government. We want to take back our country. We really feel that our country is sold down the tubes." Even though federal taxes have actually gone down since Barack Obama was elected...a recent survey concluded that over sixty percent of Americans believe they will go up. "I am presuming that they're going to have to go up. You can't pay for all the things they've come up with without raising taxes eventually." In the last Quinnipiac poll...23 percent of registered voters said they support the 'Tea Party' movement...50 percent of registered Republicans. "We need to make it our job to save Connecticut from the 'Progressive Democrat' legislators who are determined to tax and spend our state into joblessness and bankruptcy." That's why Republican candidates willing to carry the 'Tea Party' banner were welcome. Like Republican Peter Schiff who pledged to be the voice of the 'Tea Party' in the U.S. Senate. "We have a President of the United States who thinks the only reason that socialism hasn't worked in the past is because the right leaders weren't in charge." "I think we're mostly upset about the expansion of government in our lives, taking over many aspects of our economy, losing our personal freedoms."

04/20/10: News 8 at 5pm - :20

"Mortgage Assistance"

A government watchdog is warning....recent chages to the Obama Administration's mortgage assistance program may make it more vulnerable to fraud. The changes are intended to make it easier for struggling homeowners to avoid foreclosure. But... a special inspector general says the administration needs to do more to warn the public about potential fraud... and to put in more safeguards to prevent abuse.

May:

05/04/10: News8 at 5pm - :60

"NYC Bomb Plot Arrest"

Tonight Attorney General Eric Holder says Faisal Shahzad admitted to trying to set off that car bomb in Times Square. We're learning the suspect did attend a terror training camp in Pakistan. Tonight he's facing terrorism and weapons of mass destruction charges. Investigators are looking at properties in Bridgeport and Shelton where the suspect lived.

05/10/10: Good Morning CT at 6am - :30

"UT Universal Healthcare"

United Technologies Corporation says it will extend health care benefits before it is mandated by federal health care laws. Employees at U-T who have unmarried dependent children up to age 26 will be eligible for health care. UT, the parent company of jet engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney and Otis Elevator has about 26-thousand employees in Connecticut. The move comes four months before federal law requires it.

05/13/10: News8 at 12pm - :25

"Clark's Dairy Closing"

It's been a staple in New Haven since the 1930's, but soon Clark's Dairy will be just a memory. The Whitney Avenue eatery will close its doors at the end of the month. Call it another 'sad' sign of the times... the owner says rising costs and the weak economy are to blame. Clark's Pizza Restaurant which is right next door will remain open though.

05/19/10: Good Morning CT at 6am - :25

"Governor Rell/Prison Guard info"

Governor Rell has signed a bill that will keep information about corrections officers out of the hands of inmates. The new law ensures inmates can't get their hands on guard's personal information through "freedom of information act" requests. The bill is aimed at protecting officers and their families.

June:

06/03/10: News8 at 5pm - :20

"Meriden Dealership"

Better news for Alderman Motors in Meriden. That 86 year old GM dealership, will stay open... meaning 20-workers there will keep their jobs. Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, Congressman Chris Murphy, and Senator Joe Lieberman... were among those fighting to convice General Motors not to give up on that family-owned dealership... especially since G-M was bailed-out by the government.

06/18/10: Good Morning CT at 5am - :36

"Weicker Conference"

Former Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker says the state needs to cut back. Weicker says Connecticut's next Governor will need to make huge spending cuts end borrowing and re-negotiate state union contracts. He says these are all things that must be done.. to deal with the state's more than three-billion dollar deficit. He also says state government and the people who live here are going to be in for a very, very difficult time over the next few years. Weicker also has strong words for governor Rell -- dismissing her popularity and calling her 'disengaged'. Weicker is backing democrat Ned Lamont in the race for governor.

06/21/10: News8 at 11pm - :20

"CT/Google Maps"

Connecticut is asking several states to join it into looking at a popular feature on Google Maps. Google admits that while it was collecting scans for its Street View service... the company accidentally tapped into unprotected Wireless internet networks and vacuumed up private information. Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal has already launched an investigation to find out how many Connecticut people are affected. Now he's taking that investigation national asking 30 states to sign on. Richard Blumenthal, D-CT Attorney General: "There is no excuse for vacuuming up private, confidential information in violation of those legitimate expectations of privacy that households and businesses have that the information will be kept private and confidential." Blumenthal calls this a deeply disturbing violation of privacy and says Google may have broken the law. The company says it will cooperate fully.