

WGSN Quarterly Issues 2020

2nd Quarter

Beth Williams

Connie Cody

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Section 1: Issues

- A. Education: Issues relating to education in the region.
- B. Community: Various opportunities to become involved in or enjoy the community.
- C. Health: Issues dealing with health concerns or news locally.
- D. Crime: Discussing local incidence.
- E. Economy: Issues related to local economic conditions.
- F. Weather: Alert of possible severe weather coming into the region.

Section II: Responsive Programs

- A. **WGSN News: "Home Schooling Plan For Knox County Students"** As reported by WBIR-TV News, Knox County Schools released an at-home plan for students across the district on Wednesday. Parent and teacher Christy Bruchy said, "The first thing I think of is that kids need to know they are safe and they are loved and cared for, because if they don't they are not

going to be able to learn anything. My son is kind of anxious about the whole thing." For kindergarten through 8th-grade, families can get packets and use online resources like YouTube, KCS TV and East Tennessee PBS to help kids learn. For high school students, all material is provided online. If families don't have a device with internet access, they can request one within certain parameters. Nationwide, districts are taking an approach involving learning packets and digital resources. The KCS at-home plan is not mandatory and students won't receive a grade on anything in it. According to WBIR, the district said it is designed to keep students engaged and to keep them learning. In the meantime, before school starts up again, parents maintain figuring out how to work and learn from home is a work in progress. Parents were told the district hoped to get further guidance from the Tennessee State Board of Education on April 9 during its special-called meeting and will update parents afterward.

Broadcast: 4/2/20 **Code:** 9341 **Duration:** 1:04 **Airing:** 17:04:10 and 7:04:11 4/3/20.

WGSN News: "Laptops For At Home Schooling" According to the Knoxville News-Sentinel, Knox County Schools are proposing a laptop or device for every student next school year. The Board of Education will discuss the new proposal on Wednesday. The plan is the result of the district closing in March due to the coronavirus and transitioning to a distance learning plan that relied on packets that were not mandatory or graded. While high school students were issued laptops on a first-come, first-served basis, elementary and middle school students were not given that option because the district did not have enough laptops to give to each student. Because of this, the options for distance learning were very limited. The News-Sentinel reported that according to a statement from Superintendent Bob Thomas said the primary concern during the long-term closure has been "our ability to provide equitable and accessible instruction to all students." The new plan would bring 60,000 additional devices to Knox County Schools at a cost of \$7 million. For the 2020-21 school year, that money would come from \$12.9 million provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. In future years funding would need to be built into the budget. Thomas said, "We know that technology will never replace the role of a teacher to a student; however, it is a tool to help teachers enhance instruction and improve student engagement." **Broadcast:** 5/4/20 **Code:** 9312 **Duration:** 1:07 **Airing:** 17:06:42 and 7:06:43 5/5/20.

WGSN News: "Help For Roan State Students" As recently reported in the Upper Cumberland Business Journal, according to comments from Roane State Foundation Executive Director Scott Niermann, students are facing a variety of challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Foundation can be of help in many instances. Stay-at-home decrees, social distancing and the loss of full- or part-time jobs are adding to students' stress levels, already high from adjusting to online classes after the college closed its campuses in response to the outbreak. "We anticipate needs will significantly increase as we approach the end of the semester and head into next school year." The Foundation recently created a special "Gap Aid" scholarship fund for those in that age bracket, and Niermann said the fund may be a much bigger need in the fall. Some returning students aged 21 to 24 may have lost their jobs and are in the age gap between being eligible for the tuition-covering Tennessee Promise for recent high school graduates, and Tennessee Reconnect for adults over 24. Niermann said among the Foundation's resources is its Pay-It-Forward Emergency Aid program which is available for students who have "unforeseen financial stresses." According to the UCBJ, through the program, a student can receive up to \$500 to offset unexpected expenses. Those in need

should email need@roanestate.edu. While Roane State may not be able to assist directly with every request, staff will work to connect students, staff, faculty and their families with local resources whenever possible. **Broadcast:** 6/4/20 **Code:** 9342 **Duration:** 1:17 **Airing:** 17:04 and 7:04-6/7/19.

- B. **WGSN News: "Census Day"** Today, April 1, is Census Day, the date the U.S. Census asks people to use to determine where they live when they fill out their form. Every household should have received a form, and by taking the time to fill it out (you can do it online at 2020census.gov/), you're ensuring that your County (and Tennessee) gets the federal dollars it's entitled to - for everything ranging from school lunches to the health departments that are coordinating the pandemic response. You should count yourself at the place where you are living and sleeping most of the time as of Census Day. Simply put, places that do the best job getting residents to participate get the most money. And according to 2020census.gov/en/who-to-count.html, everyone counts. **Broadcast:** 4/1/20 **Code:** 9330 **Duration:** 0:39 **Airing:** 17:05:47 and 7:05:48 6/5/20.

WGSN News: "Food Distributions Increased" WATE-TV News is reporting that as an emergency response to the need caused by COVID-19, a new global day of giving is planned for Tuesday, to support the record amount of food distributed by Second Harvest Food Bank. Tuesday, May 5, is #GivingTuesdayNow, a new day of giving to support the record number of food being distributed by Second Harvest in the last month due to the coronavirus pandemic. Second Harvest operates the Food for Kids program in 280 schools in 18 East TN counties. The week of April 13-19, Second Harvest distributed a record amount of food – 467,000 pounds, serving thousands more East Tennesseans per month than usual. That number is expected to increase in the upcoming months as more families face unemployment, decreased working hours, and children at home more often. Elaine Streno, Executive Director Second Harvest Food Bank, told WATE, "Due to COVID-19, we have had to cancel our annual MAYDAY event. MAYDAY is a fundraiser specifically for our Food for Kids program. Our great hope is that East Tennessee will step up and support us on May 5 so that we can still raise funds for the Food for Kids program. I am overwhelmed at the support we have received during the COVID pandemic, and we are so grateful, but we still have a long way to go." Donations can be made at secondharvestetn.org or by calling 865-243-8227. **Broadcast:** 5/4/20 **Code:** 9310 **Duration:** 1:12 **Airing:** 17:04:11 and 7:04:11 5/5/20.

WGSN News: "Fourth of July Festivities Planned" While many Tennessee cities and towns are cancelling Fourth of July festivities and fireworks due to COVID 19, a Scott County town says they're ready and excited for the big day. Huntsville mayor Dennis Jeffers told WBIR-TV News, "We decided now more than ever we needed to celebrate our Independence Day." The annual Fireman's Fourth Festival usually sees 3-5,000 people, but this year Jeffers said it's coming with changes.

"We are advising people for social distancing. With all the restrictions we've had to add as we go." The event will be scaled back along with no live music. Additionally, the parade will be moved to 8 p.m. without anyone tossing beads or candy. The fireworks will follow at 10 p.m.

Jeffers told WBIR, "We'll have a few food vendors on the mall as well as arts and crafts. We tried to put the two major activities at the same end of the day so people would come out and spend the evening on the mall." He added their low COVID-19 case count has not challenged them as much as bigger cities. "We've had 14 confirmed cases. None are active and none have resulted in hospitalizations." Because of this he said the show can go on, with caution.

Broadcast: 6/18/20 **Code:** 9341 **Duration:** 1:03 **Airing:** 17:05:20 and 7:05:19 6/19/20.

- C. **WGSN News: "Tele Health"** According to the Newport Plain Talk, HealthStar Physicians, P.C., with over 14 locations in East Tennessee, has implemented a new service allowing patients to be seen by providers without traveling to a clinic. The remote healthcare service is called TeleHealth, and it is a way for patients to have a scheduled appointment with their provider electronically. Dr. Eric Delay said, "Telehealth is an excellent solution for patients who need to see their healthcare providers, but who want to practice social distancing." It is also the perfect solution for patients who find it difficult to travel, because they have small children at home, are experiencing a physical disability, or any other reason, and is available to any HealthStar patient that has access to a computer, tablet or smartphone with a camera and microphone. The Plain Talk reported that patients can set up a TeleHealth appointment by calling their provider's office and requesting to schedule an appointment via TeleHealth. Once that's done, they will receive an email with a secure link directing them to their appointment information. TeleHealth patients with technical questions can either click on the link in the TeleHealth welcome email, or call HealthStar directly at 423-318-6630 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Broadcast:** 4/2/20 **Code:** 9342 **Duration:** 1:03 **Airing:** 17:05:05 and 7:05:15 4/3/20.

WGSN News: "Drive Through Events To Be Held By Health Department" The Tennessee Department of Health will offer 16 drive-through events across the state this weekend to make COVID-19 testing available to Tennesseans who are concerned about their health or the health of their family members. Anyone with concerns about their health or the health of a family member is invited to come to one of these events to receive testing which will be provided at no cost to participants, and those who come for testing can remain in their vehicles throughout the process of collecting their samples. Health department nurses and/or National Guard medics at each site will collect nasal swabs from those who want to be tested. Test results may be available within 72 hours after the samples arrive at the lab, depending on lab volume. Those who wish to be tested for COVID-19 at these events should be prepared to share their contact information so health department staff members can provide their test results. Everyone who is tested will be contacted about their results, whether they are negative or positive, and given further instructions to protect their health and the health of those around them. Anyone tested at these events should be prepared to isolate themselves at home while awaiting their test results. A list of sites is available at tn.gov/health by clicking on the link for drive-through testing locations under News and Events. **Broadcast:** 5/1/20 **Code:** 9350 **Duration:** 1:00 **Airing:** 17:04:11.

WGSN News: "Face Mask Distribution Stopped" According to the Knoxville News-Sentinel, Knox County has stopped distributing the black face masks it received from the state of

Tennessee due to concerns about an antimicrobial used to treat the masks. A story from WTVF-TV News in Nashville raised concerns about a chemical used on the masks to help stop odors. Charity Menefee, Knox County Health Department director of emergency preparedness, said the Knox County Health Department is putting a pause on distribution — and have asked their partners to do the same — until they more know more. To date, the Department has already distributed 143,254 cloth face coverings. Menefee reminded Knox County residents about the importance of wearing masks and that cloth face coverings can be made at home from bandannas and even T-shirt fabric. The News-Sentinel reported that she was advised that it was up to individuals to decide whether they wish to continue to wear the masks that were distributed from the state of Tennessee. On Friday night the Metro Nashville Health Department announced that it was postponing its plan to distribute masks "out of abundance of caution." The masks were treated with a silver-based antimicrobial produced by DuPont and marketed under the trademark Silvadur. The Environmental Protection Agency regulates Silvadur as a pesticide. While there are recommendations for safe treatment levels in fabric, it is unclear if those regulations are include its use in face masks. **Broadcast:** 6/2/20 **Code:** 9320 **Duration:** 1:10 **Airing:** 17:04:11 and 7:04:13 6/3/20.

- D. WGSN News: "Investigation Report In"** According to the Oneida Independent Herald, on Monday the office of Tennessee Comptroller Justin P. Wilson released its findings into an investigation at the Scott County Recycling Center, citing two delinquencies related to missing receipts that occurred from 2015 to 2018. Auditors examined receipts from June 2015 through September 2018, and found 25 of the 338 receipts to be missing. The report noted that investigators could not determine whether the missing receipts were simply unused, voided, or used to conceal misappropriations or improper activity. Scott County Mayor Jeff Tibbals told the Herald that he initiated the Comptroller's investigation within two weeks of taking office in September 2018, after discovering the missing receipts. "I discovered missing receipts and times when no deposits were made for over six weeks in once instance. Deposits are typically made every two days. Therefore, I contacted the Comptroller's office to get to the bottom of the problem." The Herald reported that investigators said that its inability to determine exactly what became of the missing receipts was due to inadequate accounting records maintained by the recycling center. The report noted that receipt numbers and dates indicated that receipts were often issued out of pre-numbered order, making it difficult to determine when or if a receipt was issued. Receipts that were being discarded were not properly voided, and for a period of several months in 2016, receipts were issued from two separate receipt books. **Broadcast:** 4/2/20 **Code:** 9322 **Duration:** 1:11 **Airing:** 17:06:17 and 7:06:15 4/15/20.

WGSN News: "Criminal Charges To Be Brought" The shutdown due to the Coronavirus has slowed, but not stopped police investigations. The Knoxville News-Sentinel reported that today [Friday] a prosecutor announced plans to seek a grand jury indictment against Megan Boswell in the death of her daughter as soon as May 20. Sullivan County Criminal Court Judge James Goodwin was scheduled to arraign Boswell today [Friday] on whatever charges a grand jury might have returned. To date she has only been charged with filing a false report about the location of her daughter, Evelyn Boswell. According to the News-Sentinel, the 15-month-old girl from Blountville, was found dead weeks into a difficult search that began when her grandfather reported her missing, which even then was months after she was last seen. The investigation

resulted in an Amber Alert that drew national attention and involved the FBI due to her relatives giving conflicting and changing stories to police. Sullivan County Assistant District Attorney General Teresa Nelson told Judge Goodwin she expects to present a case against Megan Boswell as early as May 20 "or the next grand jury in June." **Broadcast:** 5/8/20 **Code:** 9351 **Duration:** 0:54 **Airing:** 17:05:20 and 7:05:20 5/11/20.

WGSN News: "TDOC Investigation Into Prison Contraband" A group of East Tennessee residents and inmates have been charged in an extensive TDOC investigation into the introduction of contraband into state prisons. Diligent work by the TDOC Office of Investigations & Compliance, in conjunction with the interdiction team and prison staff, resulted in charges ranging from drug possession, simple assault, and introduction of contraband into a penal facility. The indictments were issued by the Morgan County Grand Jury and warrants were served on Thursday by TDOC agents with the assistance of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Morristown Police Department, and the Knox County Sheriff's Office. Julia Short of Anderson County, Billy Nichols of Morgan County, and Abigail Ware of Knox County were all charged in the operation. Short is a former correctional officer who was also charged with official misconduct. Additional warrants were served on two inmates at the Morgan County Correctional Complex. Inmate Derrick Campbell was charged with two counts of Schedule II drugs and two counts of introduction of contraband into a penal facility. Inmate Jerrell Sizemore was charged with aggravated assault. **Broadcast:** 6/1/20 **Code:** 9311 **Duration:** 0:53 **Airing:** 17:05:41 and 7:05:39 6/2/20.

- E. **WGSN News: "Economic Stimulus On It's Way"** The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service have announced that distribution of economic impact payments will begin in the next three weeks and will be distributed automatically, with no action required for most people. However, some seniors and others who typically do not file returns will need to submit a simple tax return to receive the stimulus payment. Tax filers with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 for individuals and up to \$150,000 for married couples filing joint returns will receive the full payment. Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive an economic impact payment of up to \$1,200 for individuals or \$2,400 for married couples. Parents also receive \$500 for each qualifying child. The vast majority of people do not need to take any action. For those who have already filed their 2019 tax returns, the IRS will use this information to calculate the payment amount. For those who have not yet filed their return for 2019, the IRS will use information from their 2018 tax filing to calculate the payment. The economic impact payment will be deposited directly into the same banking account reflected on the return filed. In the coming weeks, Treasury plans to develop a web-based portal for individuals to provide their banking information to the IRS online. People who typically do not file a tax return will need to file a simple tax return to receive an economic impact payment. [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus) will soon provide information instructing people in these groups on how to file a 2019 tax return. The IRS urges anyone with a tax filing obligation who has not yet filed a tax return for 2018 or 2019 to file as soon as they can to receive an economic impact payment. Taxpayers should include direct deposit banking information on the return. The economic impact payments will be available throughout the rest of 2020. The IRS will post all key information on [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus) as soon as it becomes available. **Broadcast:** 4/1/20 **Code:** 9332 **Duration:** 1:34 **Airing:** 17:05:43 and 7:05:04 4/2/20.

WGSN News: "Reopening" Beginning today, with the safer at home order coming to an end, Knoxville and Knox County businesses are beginning to reopen. The city and county released a separate list of guidelines that are different from Governor Bill Lee's statewide plan. Dr. Martha Buchanan of the Knox County Health Department to WVLT-TV News, "This is like a rock slide on I-40. Some of the debris have been moved out of the way, and it's as if we have one lane open in each direction. It's going to be slow, so we need you to be patient." She said there will be three phases to the reopening, with each lasting at least 28 days. Phase one begins today [began on May 1], but social distancing guidelines should continue to be followed.

"This is not a return to pre-pandemic normal." According to WVLT, Dr. Buchanan said the following guidelines should be implemented in public spaces: - Practice Physical Distancing; - Wear Cloth Face Coverings; Practice Proper Handwashing; Clean/Sanitize Surfaces and Stay Home if you are Sick. These businesses will be allowed to open: Daycares; Restaurants; Salons; Spas; Retail Stores; Gyms and Places of Worship. **Broadcast:** 5/1/20 **Code:** 9352 **Duration:** 0:55 **Airing:** 17:06:19 and 7:05:19 5/4/20.

WGSN News: "Dollywood Is Reopening!" Dollywood has announced its properties will begin re-opening June 15th. According to WJHL-TV News, a message on Dollywood's website, "Dollywood and Dollywood's Splash Country reopen June 17, with Season Passholder Exclusive Days on June 15 & 16. Dollywood's DreamMore Resort & Spa opens June 10." The website also indicated a list of items people should know before going to Dollywood: Daily capacity will be limited – Season Passholder Reservations are required and date-based tickets will be available for general admission. Face masks or face coverings are required for all visitors ages 3 and up, with some exceptions. Some of the exceptions where masks are not required are while eating, on water park attractions or select coasters at Dollywood. For a full list of exceptions please visit our FAQ Page. Temperature screenings will be taken prior to entry. Attraction and dining capacities will be limited to allow guests to have more space to move around during their visit. Physical distancing measures have been put in place including physically distanced queues, marked barriers and social distancing reminders. Additional sanitation measures have been implemented. This includes high touch point areas being cleaned more frequently and providing additional hand sanitizing locations. **Broadcast:** 6/5/20 **Code:** 9351 **Duration:** 1:04 **Airing:** 17:05:29 and 7:05:48 6/8/20.

- F. WGSN News: "Severe Weather On The Way"** Another round of potentially severe weather is expected to impact East Tennessee the late tonight through early Thursday morning. According to a special weather statement from the National Weather Service office in Morristown, a cold front will race across the region overnight tonight promoting a line of strong to severe thunderstorms. The primary threats with any severe thunderstorms will be damaging winds and large hail, although an isolated tornado is also possible. Here is WATE-TV chief meteorologist Matt Hinkin with some severe weather preparation tips. **Broadcast:** 4/8/20 **Code:** 9330 **Duration:** 1:03 **Airing:** 17:04:57.

WGSN News: According to a special weather statement from the National Weather Service office in Morristown, there is a threat for strong to severe thunderstorms this afternoon. The main concerns are hail in excess of golf ball size, an isolated tornado or two, damaging winds, and localized flash flooding. The greatest coverage of storms are expected between 3 and 7 PM

EDT. Here is WATE Chief meteorologist Matt Hinkin with some weather safety tips:
PLAY: SVST: Stay tuned to New Life 90.7 as we will be broadcasting any updates as soon as they are received. **Broadcast:** 5/5/20 **Code:** 9321 **Duration:** 1:24 **Airing:** 17:05:28.