

WDNC-AM, Raleigh, NC (620)
SIMULCAST ON WCLY-AM (1550)
QUARTERLY LISTING OF COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ISSUES
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS
SECOND QUARTER 2023

The following is a list of issues and concerns for Second Quarter 2023 (April-June) and addressed in Public Affairs Programming, Public Service Announcements, and special programming on WDNC-AM.

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This report was placed in the Public Inspection file on July 10, 2023

PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS

WDNC-AM/WCLY-AM aired 12 hours of Public Affairs Programming:

ON THE RECORD: ON THE RECORD: Produced by WRAL-TV, ON THE RECORD is a 30-minute local interview program discussing issues of concern in the Triangle and State. It airs Sundays 6-6:30 AM.

NEWS & VIEWS: NEWS & VIEWS is a 30-minute program focusing on government policy issues. It airs Sundays 6:30-7:00 AM.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS rotate throughout the broadcast day (24-hours) at random times. Dates/times are noted by air staff when broadcast.

CHURCH PROGRAMMING

Duke Chapel is 60 minutes in length and airs at 11:00 am on Sundays (13 hours)

SECOND QUARTER ISSUES

Issues are extrapolated from statements by local community leaders, including government, civic, church, and other organizations. Additionally, we monitor local news (TV, Radio, Newspaper, and the Internet) for comments/opinions of community leaders, in the effort to ascertain and prioritize community concerns.

CRIME/GUN VIOLENCE

Continuing a trend from 2022, the United States surpassed 100 mass shootings for the year. The nation has the most school shootings in the world. Raleigh-Durham area schools are constantly experiencing lockdowns. Despite the national gun violence problem, The North Carolina House voted 71-46 to enact a bill to eliminate the longstanding permit system requiring sheriffs to perform character evaluations and criminal history checks for pistol applicants.

CHILDCARE/ELDERCARE/FAMILY

The lack of access to affordable, quality childcare and elder care is affecting families, the workforce, and the economy as a whole. The childcare industry is in crisis. NC lawmakers are pushing for government subsidies. The pandemic precipitated closures of many facilities. Many quality caregivers opted to leave the profession.

More than 12,000 children are in North Carolina's foster care system and Children's Home Society of North Carolina receives about 300 requests from the state Department of Social Services each month to help children in immediate need. A shortage of licensed foster families makes the situation dire.

COMMUNITY/FAITH

Non-profit and faith organizations play critical roles in the economy and public health by reaching the underserved and building healthy communities.

ECONOMY/ECONOMIC SUPPORT

Since 2021, the demand for workers has outpaced the supply. The increased costs to retain workers and cover lower production rates are passed to consumers. The Federal Reserve continues to raise interest rates to restore price stability and balance the labor market.

EDUCATION/SCHOOLS

On-going Issues: Retaining and recruiting high-quality teachers, addressing social and emotional learning needs of students, and adequately funding schools. The regulation of school curriculums divides state board of education members, educators, and parents.

ENVIRONMENT/NATURAL DISASTERS

In 2022, Governor Roy Cooper rolled out a slate of new climate pledges, including a commitment to get 1.25 million plug-in electric vehicles on the road by 2030 and to eliminate most fossil fuel vehicles by 2050.

Climate change is an ongoing discussion as it affects NC farmers, healthcare, and the frequency of natural disasters.

Hurricane season began on June 1. Earth Day was April 20

EQUALITY / HUMAN RIGHTS/IMMIGRATION

According to a 2022 study by the American Psychological Association, 70% of adults have pessimistic views on government and their civil liberties. Approximately 64% said they feel their rights are under attack. Over 45% said they do not feel protected by the laws in the United States.

A lack of immigration reform has led to economic, security, and humanitarian challenges for border states and the American workforce.

HEALTHCARE/MENTAL HEALTH/WOMEN'S HEALTH

North Carolina politicians have attempted to pass comprehensive legislation for Medicaid expansion for 13 years. A bill was finally signed in March. However, implementation is tied to a budget bill that has yet to pass.

The debate continues on women's reproductive health with the 2022 Supreme Court decision to overturn *Rowe vs. Wade* and leave legislation to states. North Carolina's bill banning abortion after 12 weeks passed in June with concessions added.

In response to multiple suicides on UNC campuses, system leaders revealed \$7.7 million in funding for mental health initiatives.

POLITICS/VOTING RIGHTS

Political gerrymandering is in the national news with several state legislatures enacting maps designed to rig election outcomes and disenfranchise voters of color.

POVERTY/FOOD INSECURITY/HOMELESSNESS

Fewer people in North Carolina live below the poverty line now than a decade ago. However, as food prices rose due to inflation, almost 900,000 households across North Carolina lost additional Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits on March 1. Additional SNAP benefits were part of the reason for the drop in poverty.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE/ REGULATION

As with most states, North Carolina is in an opioid crisis. In 2023, the state attorney general proposed a new unit to combat the opioid crisis and the FDA approved an over-the-counter version of the opioid overdose antidote Narcan.

North Carolina was one of a dwindling group of states yet to legalize medical marijuana, although polling showed broad public support for the idea. In March, North Carolina passed a bill to legalize medical marijuana.

TERRORISM/HOMELAND SECURITY/MILITARY

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has had wide-ranging consequences. They include a financial impact, a humanitarian crisis, threats of nuclear strikes, and cyberattacks on financial institutions and power grids.

The U.S. Army is working to recruit more young people to join the military as the pool of eligible Americans dwindles. The U.S. Department of Defense reports that only 2% of Americans ages 17 to 21 are eligible to serve in the military.

SECOND QUARTER PROGRAMS

CRIME/GUN VIOLENCE

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 6-18-2023

Guest: William Lassiter, the head of North Carolina's Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency - North Carolina enacted a big and transformative change to the state's juvenile justice system a few years back when it became the last state in the union to raise the age from 16 to 18 at which a young person accused of a crime is automatically treated as an adult. The change was a good one and long overdue, but it's also caused more teens to enter a system that was already stretched extremely thin. Now add the pressures caused by the pandemic and the booming economy that's followed – both of which have made it hugely difficult to recruit and retain good staff – and it's not an exaggeration to describe the current situation in the system – where staff vacancy rates approach 50% -- as a serious crisis. Fortunately, the widely respected leader of the agency, William Lassiter, has submitted a modestly priced plan to state lawmakers that would greatly ease the crisis. Unfortunately, as Lassiter told us in a recent conversation, despite having a multi-billion-dollar reserve, state budget writers appear to be unmoved. Lassiter discusses his agency's budgetary needs and a new two-year initiative intended to promote safe storage of firearms.

RECORDED PSA: Service Never Stops - Gun Safety (April-June)

I was in the United States Navy and I served overseas in the Middle East and Africa. Early on in my career, I had a commander that taught her suicide prevention training, and the very next day, he took his own life. 90% of suicide attempts involving a gun are fatal. My way of continuing my service is to help protect my community by being a responsible gun owner and by storing firearms safely. Store all your guns securely. Help stop suicide brought to you by End Family Fire and the Ad Council.

RECORDED PSA: Gun Safety – Joyce (April-June)

She was 27 years old. She took the gun that my grandfather had given her for self-defense. She never got to see her son grow up to be anything because she had easy access to a gun. I've been robbed of that relationship. 63 Americans a day die by gun suicide. With safe gun storage, we can give our loved ones a second chance at life. Learn more at the end. Family fire dot org.

RECORDED PSA: Gun Safety – Dad (April-June)

It was a normal day. He was in some minor accident, a fender bender. And I had this impulse to call him that. I didn't because I thought I could call him. Later that week, he abandoned the car. He came home and he shot himself without ever talking to anyone. When I came home that night and I found her, they told me that she had shot herself and I couldn't believe it. I asked if he was OK. Shooting is unfortunately effective. There are not a lot of second chances. Once you pull that trigger, that's it. There is no coming back. 63 Americans a day die by gun suicide. By storing our guns safely locked, loaded, and away from ammo, we can give our loved ones a second chance at life. Learn more at NoFamilyFire.org.

CHILDCARE/ ELDER CARE/FAMILY

RECORDED PSA: Adoption from Foster Care – Patience (April-June)

I learned patience from my adoptive dad. All he had to say was, "Hey, you got this. Just breathe" And, "Hey, we're pretty good. Yeah, we have to start a band." I got it.

Learn about adopting a teen from foster care. You can't imagine. The reward is visit, adopt U.S. kids dot org to find out more. This message is brought to you by Adopt U.S. Kids and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

RECORDED PSA : Dave Thomas Foundation – Lexie (April-June)

Lexie spent more than six years in foster care. Before I was adopted, I felt alone. With help from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Lexie now has a forever family and the foundation for a bright future. Adoption changed me for the better. I feel like I can be whoever I want to be. You can help find permanent homes for children still lingering in foster care. Learn more at Dave Thomas Foundation dot org.

RECORDED PSA: US Dept Caregiver Assistance/AARP -Roxanna's Story (April-June)

Afghanistan in 2003, four in the morning, my phone rang. They said, I regret to inform you that your husband was wounded in action, later sustained a moderate traumatic brain injury. I was doing school full time and I was also then caring for Victor. One of the most important elements of caregiving is taking care of yourself. I just didn't want to forget that I also had goals and that I also had a life. What I did is I challenged Victor to meet me halfway. There are almost 6 million military veteran caregivers across the nation. We have our own journey and we can fulfill that journey at the same time that we are helping our loved ones. Visit [AARP dot org slash caregiving](http://AARP.org/caregiving) for a free military veterans guide to navigate your caregiving journey and better care for your loved one and yourself. Brought to you by AARP.

RECORDED PSA: Bring Back the Black Father Gala (June)

Fathers are a critical part of any family unit. The father leads his family, provides financial and emotional support, serves as the role model for sons to emulate and daughters to learn how men ought to treat women. The black community is experiencing challenges at this moment in time. Joined basketball legend and Raleigh native Nate McMillan for the Bringing Back the Black Father Gala on Saturday, June 17th at Briar Creek Country Club in Raleigh. For tickets, visit eventbrite.com and search online bring back the black father.

RECORDED PSA: Alzheimer's Association - Patient Support (April-June)

Today, more than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and more than 11 million family members and friends serve as their caregivers. While researchers are working tirelessly to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia, the number of people living with Alzheimer's is expected to more than double by 2050. The toll of the disease is monumental, and its devastation affects family, friends and especially caregivers. No one should face Alzheimer's and dementia by themselves. If you or someone you know is struggling to provide care to a loved one, please share this message. You are not alone. Free help and resources are available 24/7 to talk with an expert and obtain disease related information on care and support services. Call 800-272-3900 or visit the Alzheimer's Association website at [ALZ dot org](http://ALZ.org). You are not alone.

ECONOMY/ECONOMIC SUPPORT

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 6-4-2023

Guest: State Employees Association of North Carolina executive director Ardis Watkins - Among the many vexing challenges facing state government agencies in North Carolina these days is this: finding and keeping qualified workers. Across the state, job vacancies and turnover are extremely high. Even when agencies find good people, keeping them from departing for better paying jobs in the private sector is often impossible. Fortunately, the causes of (and solutions to) this problem are no particular mystery. As we learned in a conversation earlier this week with the executive director of the State Employees Association of North Carolina, Ardis Watkins, the need for better state employee pay is painfully obvious and the state has cash available to make a big dent in the problem. Unfortunately, as Watkins also noted, under the proposed budgets advanced thus far by the Republicans running the state House and Senate, no such relief is on the horizon.

RECORDED PSA: NC Department of Revenue - Free File (April)

Filing your taxes online is secure and you can do it safely from home. Without a trip to the post office, most of you can file online for free through NC Free File available only at the NCDOR.gov website. You'll also get confirmation when your return is submitted. Just go to NCDOR.GOV.

EDUCATION/SCHOOLS

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR 5-07-2023

Guest: North Carolina education policy expert Kris Nordstrom - As we heard in the previous segment, one of the top priorities for the conservative majorities at the General Assembly this year is a bill that would dramatically expand the state's controversial private school voucher program. Under the legislation, all North Carolina households with kids – even wealthy families who already send their children to exclusive and expensive private schools – would be eligible for large taxpayer-funded subsidies. What's more, as we learned in a conversation with one of the state's most knowledgeable education policy experts – the North Carolina Justice Center's Kris Nordstrom – it's a plan that has the potential to fundamentally remake k-12 education in our state in some deeply troubling ways.

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 5-28-2023

Guest: Rev. Suzanne Parker Miller of the group Pastors for North Carolina Children

As those following the goings on at the state legislature are aware, some big and controversial changes are afoot in public education. Under legislation advanced by Republican lawmakers, North Carolina will soon enact a massive expansion of its hotly debated school voucher program that will, for the first time, subsidize the tuition paid by wealthy families to private and parochial schools. What's more, this change comes at the same moment that lawmakers are refusing to abide by a judicial order to adequately fund the state's public schools. And recently, we got a chance to learn more about this unprecedented situation from an expert and critic who brings the unique, three-way perspective as an advocate, an ordained minister, and a mom – the executive director of the group Pastors for North Carolina Children, the Rev. Suzanne Parker Miller.

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 6-11-2023

Guest: Veteran public school teacher and education policy analyst Justin Parmenter - Under legislation making its way through the General Assembly this session, North Carolina will soon dramatically expand its controversial private school vouchers program so that households of all incomes will be eligible to receive a state subsidy to send their kids to private school. The multi-million-dollar expansion comes at the same moment that the state's traditional public schools are struggling mightily with inadequate resources and a host of problems, including acute teacher shortages. Earlier this week, we caught up with a veteran educator and widely-published education policy analyst who has both analyzed these trends and lives them every day – Charlotte-Mecklenburg middle school teacher, Justin Parmenter.

ON THE RECORD 6-26-23

Community colleges have started several new programs and collaborations across North Carolina this year and they have a new leader -- For the eight-time in eight years. WRAL's Lena Tillett goes 'On The Record' with the new system president -- Jeff Cox -- whom both state Democrats and Republicans support.

ON THE RECORD 5-7-23

NC lawmakers consider proposal to expand private school vouchers: The landscape of K-12 education in North Carolina could soon change considerably. House and senate Republican leaders in North Carolina are on track to expand the school voucher program -- or opportunity scholarships.

RECORDED PSA: Sound It Out - sound it out together.org (April-June)

Hey, son. How are you feeling? I'm fine, Pops. What's on your mind? I just. I can't explain it now. My dad's retired a cop. His eyes really started to wander. And obviously, loss of who you talk to. When your kid can't find the language, you help them find the lyrics, listen to the sound it out album, and get tips and tools to start a conversation. It sounded out together.

RECORDED PSA: Talking is Teaching (April-June)

Did you know that when you make time to talk, read or sing with your child, you're helping to shape and strengthen their brains for the years to come? As a father, helping my child thrive is the most important thing to me. Each of us has the power to create a strong start for our children and to help them enter school, ready to learn and succeed in life starting from the day they are born. Visit Talking is Teaching dot org for free tips, resources, and ideas on how to transform everyday moments into magical moments for learning.

PSA RECORDED - Dollar General Literacy Foundation- High School Equivalency

Those messages were for Shanna, my mom, who just finished her high school diploma. I want to say I'm so proud of you for finishing school. Your time is never too late to achieve your dreams. I hope to make you as proud as you've made me. When you graduate, they graduate. Finish your high school diploma for you and for them. Finish your high school diploma for you and your family visit, finish your diploma dot com to find free adult education centers near you. Brought to you by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

RECORDED PSA –U.S. Air Force - Education Kelly Clackson (April-June)

Hey, what's up, y'all? I'm Kelly Clarkson. And as the daughter of a schoolteacher, I know just how important education is. No matter how old you are or your situation, continuing to learn will enrich your life and help remove barriers you didn't

even know were there. So much opportunity, y'all. Whether it's a foreign language, history or a different way to look at things, take some time each day to learn something new. This message is courtesy of the United States Air Force

ENVIRONMENT/NATURAL DISASTERS

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 5-28-2023

Guest: Professor Rob Young, head of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines at Western Carolina University - Sea-level rise driven by climate change: What once was a controversial topic in some circles is now an indisputable and deeply problematic reality for coastal communities across the globe – including dozens on the North Carolina Outer Banks, where beaches are disappearing at a frightening clip. The hard reality of this situation is quickly presenting policymakers with some extremely tough decisions, but as is made clear in a new report on the situation in the Outer Banks town of Rodanthe, there's little doubt about what makes the most sense from both a scientific and financial perspective, and recently we got a chance to learn more about both in a conversation I had with one of the nation's top experts, the head of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines at Western Carolina University, Professor Rob Young.

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 6-4-2023

Guest: NC Newsline environmental - No matter how you slice it, there's something just plain outrageous and wrong about the way North Carolina has allowed Robeson County on its southeastern border to be treated as a dumping ground for all manner dangerous industrial pollutants. As NC Newsline investigative reporter Lisa Sorg has been detailing in a new series of special reports, the county of 100,000-plus residents – most of whom are poor and/or people of color – is literally inundated with mindboggling quantities of toxic chemicals and animal waste. What's more, as we learned in a conversation with Lisa earlier this week, even when local residents fight back in an effort to stop the siting of new pollution sources, state environmental regulators have been doing precious little to help

RECORDED PSA: NC Clean Energy Technology Center – Budget Brenda

Bravo, Brenda. You've always been a saver. Price matching your price matches the self-proclaimed queen of extreme couponing. But this time you truly outdone yourself by saving for this electric vehicle. You're locking in up to 1,000 dollars a year in fuel and maintenance savings, which will leave you saying, “cha ching” every time you unplug. Good for your wallet

RECORDED PSA: NC Clean Energy Technology – Countdown Carl

Kudos, Carl. You've always had a need for speed. Racing anything with wheels yelling out “3-2-1” at every traffic light. But this time you've taken your power obsession to the next level. By purchasing this electric vehicle, you've given yourself an instant torch that blows your old launch times away, which will keep you saying “Oh weee,” every time you punch the pedal. Good for your adrenaline. Great for the planet. That's the power of EV sponsored by the RNC Clean Energy Technology Center.

RECORDED PSA: NC Clean Energy Technology – Upcyclers

Congrats Cristina and Carmen. You've always been the green family composting to cut waste. You've even washed and reused the same straw for the past ten years. But this time you've taken it up another notch by purchasing this electric vehicle. You're putting gas, oil, and harmful emissions in the rearview for good, which will leave you thinking peacefully every time you plug in. Good for your conscience. Great for the planet. That's the power of EV.

RECORDED PSA: FEMA - Disaster at Doorstep

If a natural disaster comes knocking, how prepared is your family? You can't just close the door on earthquakes, floods, or hurricanes and hope they go away. That's why it's important to make a plan. Now, ready.gov slash plan has the tools and tips you need to prepare your family for an emergency. So, if disaster shows up at your doorstep, you'll be ready. Visit ready dot gov slash plan and make a plan.

EQUALITY / HUMAN RIGHTS/IMMIGRATION

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 4-16-2023

Guests: Attorney Susan Pollitt with Disability Rights North Carolina and NC Newsline investigative reporter Kelan Lyons : It's a hard truth that North Carolina's criminal justice system regularly metes out wrongful and inequitable sentences, and recently, NC Newsline investigative reporter Kelan Lyons detailed one such deeply disturbing case. Bobby Norfleet was convicted of a crime in 1979 as a young man – trying unsuccessfully to set a fire to a house – and because of the way the law read then (and because Norfleet was poor, Black and represented by a new and inexperienced attorney) he got sentenced to life. Forty-three years later, a social worker discovered him as a feeble and much-abused inmate and thanks to attorney Susan Pollitt of the group Disability Rights North Carolina, Norfleet was released. Earlier this week, we caught up with Lyons and Pollitt to discuss the disturbing details of Norfleet's story and how it's far from the only one of its kind in our state prisons. Issues discussed: systemic injustices, crime and sentencing, mental health, disability rights.

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 6-25-2023

Guest: State Senator Jay Chaudhuri - It's a tough time right now for Democratic lawmakers who serve in the North Carolina General Assembly. With Republican supermajorities running the show, Democrats have to work incredibly hard to have any impact at all on state policy decisions, and often even that's not enough. From voting rights to public education to LGBTQ equality, GOP leaders continue to evidence little interest in discussion, compromise or finding common ground. And yet, despite these difficult circumstances, some tough and smart Democratic lawmakers are still working tirelessly to bear witness, to make a record and, despite the odds, in many instances to make a real impact. And earlier this week, we caught up with one such lawmaker – Wake County State Senator Jay Chaudhuri.

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 6-25-2023

Guest: Equality NC executive director Kendra Johnson - It's Pride Month – the time of year in which people across the globe celebrate the LGBTQ+ community and its history, culture, and rights. And while much encouraging progress continues to be made in this realm, this year's celebration comes at a difficult and troubling time for those who support human rights. As we were reminded in a recent conversation with Kendra Johnson, the executive director of Equality North Carolina, a concerted national right-wing campaign has given rise to hundreds of legislative proposals across the country – including several here in our state – that seek to deny the humanity of LGBTQ+ people, promote hatred and exclusion, and limit everyone's freedom.

ON THE RECORD 4-23-23

Issues of gender dominate the legislature - New abortion restrictions - bans on transgender athletes - limits on how race and gender is talked about in public schools were all part of new legislation moving forward this week.

ON THE RECORD 4-9-23

Business, political and community leaders are coming together to address systemic racism in Wake County: WRAL goes On the Record to define terms, challenges, and solutions with A Better Wake, and what they are asking of their neighbors.

PSA RECORDED: Easter Seals (April-June)

One in four Americans today are living with a disability. I'm one of them. I care deeply about creating a world we can all fully participate in, free from stigma, misperceptions, and barriers. And we've got a trusted ally on our side, an organization we can rely on Easter Seals. Rooted in communities nationwide, Easter Seals helps empower millions of people, regardless of age or disability, through its life changing services and powerful advocacy. Today and every day, Easter Seals is leading the way to full equity, inclusion, and access to health care, employment, and education for people with disabilities. That's my Eastern Seals. Make it yours. Learn more and get involved at Easter Seals dot com.

RECORDED PSA: National Fair Housing Alliance (April-June)

What's the asking price on this house? You'd probably be more comfortable living somewhere else. How long a lease is the landlord looking for? I'm sure you can afford to live here, but what are the schools like in this district? Yeah, we have twins in the fifth grade. This neighborhood isn't really for your kids... Know what I mean? If you're black, Latino, Asian American or Middle Eastern and a real estate agent or rental agencies, anything like this, you know what it means? You're being discriminated against. Housing discrimination because of race, color, or national origin is against

the law. If you believe you've experienced housing discrimination, contact HUD, go to HUD.gov/Fair Housing. That's HUD.gov/Fair Housing. The law is on your side.

RECORDED PSA: Obesity Action Coalition (April-June)

“We don't want you on our team. You're too slow and fat.” Those with the serious disease called obesity face weight bias every day. And blame themselves. Weight bias hurts. Let's stop. Weight bias. Be part of the solution. Go to stop weight bias dot com.

HEALTHCARE/MENTAL HEALTH/WOMEN'S HEALTH

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 4-2-2023

Guest: State representative Deb Butler: Gov. Roy Cooper's signature brought North Carolina one step closer to expanding Medicaid this week. And assuming Republican lawmakers pass a budget free of objectionable poison pills that could force a Cooper veto – the budget needs to pass for the expansion to take effect – a half-million low-income North Carolinians will soon have access to health insurance and affordable health care. As we learned in a conversation with one of the General Assembly's best-informed lawmakers – New Hanover County representative Deb Butler – there's at least some reason for hope that we could see such a result over the coming months. As Butler also noted, however, the General Assembly continues to advance some deeply troubling proposals – including a bill that would bring 24/7 digital gambling to our state that's likely to produce a lot of destruction in its wake.

Guest: NC Child executive director Erica Palmer Smith

As we discussed in our previous segment, North Carolina became the 40th state this past week to embrace Medicaid expansion and could, within just a few months, be extending health insurance coverage to a half-million or more currently uninsured adults. One of the advocates who's devoted much of her professional career to this achievement and who was at the signing ceremony at the Governor's mansion this past Monday is Erica Palmer Smith, the executive director of the children's advocacy nonprofit, NC Child. Palmer Smith, who prior to taking the helm at NC Child last year, served as director of the Care 4 Carolina coalition, is deeply gratified about the enactment of the expansion legislation, and detailed for us once more some of the many benefits expansion will provide to hundreds of thousands of North Carolina adults and kids.

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 4-16-2023

Guest: Kaylan Szafranski, health policy director for the advocacy group NC Child: One of the most important and worrisome impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath has been the hugely negative impact on the mental health of our nation's youth. Recently, the children's advocacy group NC Child partnered with the North Carolina Institute of Medicine to prepare and release a 2023 Child Health Report Card for our state and mental health was identified as a top concern. Indeed, the report card gave North Carolina an “F” grade in this category. What's more, as we learned in a conversation earlier this week with NC Child health policy director Kaylan Szafransky, this wasn't the only area in which North Carolina received a failing grade. Happily, however, as Szafransky also told us, there are some obvious and affordable steps that state leaders can take to address these problems and, in some instances, there's been at least some initial signs of progress.

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 4-30-2023

Guest: North Carolina Congresswoman Kathy Manning: A recent misguided ruling by a Texas federal judge sought to end the access American women have enjoyed for more than two decades to the safe and effective abortion medication known as Mifepristone. Fortunately, the Supreme Court has – at least for the time being – stayed the ruling, but as we were reminded in a conversation with North Carolina Sixth District Congresswoman Kathy Manning, the stakes in this case go well beyond reproductive rights. Manning is working hard in this and several other arenas to champion access to healthcare for all, and to resist efforts to use the federal debt ceiling debate as an excuse to slash core services like public education.

News & Views for 5-14-2023

Guest: State Rep. Ashton Wheeler Clemmons - When most people think about legislators writing, debating, and enacting new state laws, most envision solemn and deliberate proceedings chockful of parliamentary procedure and

lengthy committee hearings featuring an array of witnesses, experts and amendments. Unfortunately, that's not how it usually works in Raleigh. And that was especially the case recently when lawmakers rushed through a restrictive new abortion ban. As State Rep. Ashton Wheeler Clemmons of Guilford County told us last week, the lengthy and complex new legislation went from being unveiled to the Governor's desk in just hours – and that's a fact that has left her deeply frustrated (and deeply worried about the wellbeing of young women and girls who are likely to be the ones most impacted).

ON THE RECORD 5-28-23

WRAL's On the Record discusses the connection between social media use and mental health: Smart Phones have only been in most of Americans' hands since 2012. Now 95% of kids are on social media. What is this rapid technology doing to our teenagers and how can parents adapt to this change? During that same decade, the number of teens with clinical depression more than doubled. WRAL's On the Record discusses the connection between social media use and mental health.

ON THE RECORD 5-21-23

Abortion bill moves at record pace through NC legislature: Emotional debate and personal stories filled the General Assembly as a long-anticipated abortion bill moved at record pace through the chambers. We're hearing those personal stories from the senate floor as we wait to see what happens after the governor's expected veto.

ON THE RECORD 4-2-23

Top lawmakers in the state agreed on Medicaid expansion after more than a decade of: WRAL's state government reporter Travis Fain spoke with a panel of experts, including the health secretary of North Carolina and two Republican lawmakers, about how it happened and what comes next. For most of the past decade North Carolina Senate leader Phil Berger was maybe the state's biggest opponent of Medicaid expansion. Now, however, he's arguably the main reason expansion appears just a few months from becoming reality.

RECORDED PSA - Women's Heart HealthAlliance – We Can Have It All (April-June)

Women can have it all. Including heart attacks. But symptoms like jaw pain, nausea, unusual fatigue, dizziness and backache are often different and more subtle than for a man. The fact is, heart disease is the number one killer of women. Know the signs. Learn more at Get Heart Checked. Bought from Women's Heart Alliance in partnership with Women Heart.

RECORDED PSA – Stand Up to Cancer – Colorectal Screenings (April-June)

What's up? This is Will I Am. I'm joining Stand up to Cancer and Providence Health System to let you know if you're 45 and older, go get a colon cancer screening right now. Ask your doctor or go to Providence Northgate colon cancer to determine which screening option is right for you.

RECORDED PSA: American Cancer Society- Get Screened (April-June)

Cancer can feel like something we can't do anything about but you can. There are screening tests that can catch cancer early when it may be easier to treat. Begins cervical screening at age 25. At 45, start colorectal, and breast screening at 50. Discuss lung screening with the doctor. Find resources for free and low-cost screening at cancer dawgs get screened.

PSA RECORDED Department of Labor – Mental Health (April-June)

One in five working age Americans has a mental health condition. People in all types of jobs and at all levels. And the key to helping us succeed is a supportive and inclusive workplace. All of us have a role to play in making that happen. What can I do to help? As a CEO, I can set the tone for supportive culture. As a manager, I can offer assistance and accommodations. As a co-worker, I can listen and be a source of support to my colleagues and someone with a mental health condition. I can ask for what I need to perform my best. I can offer all employees the support they need to deliver on the job for the team and for the business. What can I do? What can I do? What can I do? I can remind others that we all benefit from workplaces that promote good mental health. Mental health friendly workplaces are more important than ever. All of us have a role to play in promoting them. Learn more. What can you do campaign dot org.

RECORDED PSA – National Pest Management Association – Sick Day (April-June)

Amanda had another asthma attack. She's really sad to miss school again. Asthma can be triggered by allergens from common pests. Just can't shake this fever. Mosquito bites can cause West Nile and Zika virus infections. Sorry, boss. I'm gonna be out of work for a while. The CDC estimates that more than 300,000 Lyme disease cases spread by ticks occur in the U.S. each year. Don't let pests force you to take a sick day. Learn how to protect your family. A pest world dot org. A public service message from the National Pest Management Association and the CDC.

RECORDED PSA: People You Know - Type 2 Diabetes (April-June)

One in three adults has prediabetes. One in three. That means it could be you, your football buddy, your futbol buddy, or you your best man, your worst man, you, your dog walker, your cat jogger... While one in three adults has prediabetes with early diagnosis, prediabetes can be reversed. Take the risk test at Do I Have Prediabetes Dot Org. Brought to you by the Ad Council and its prediabetes awareness partners.

RECORDED PSA: American Heart Association- High Blood Pressure (April-June)

Nearly one and two U.S. adults have high blood pressure. That's why it's important to self-monitor your blood pressure in four easy to remember steps. It starts with a monitor. the next to talk to your doctor about your blood pressure numbers. Get down with your blood pressure. Self-monitoring is power Visit manager BP dot org Brought to you by the Ad Council of the American Heart Association and the American Medical Association in partnership with the Office of Minority Health and Health Resources and Services Administration.

POLITICS/VOTING RIGHTS

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 4-30-2023

Guest: Western Carolina University political scientist Chris Cooper- Well, hard is it is to believe, the 2024 election cycle is already underway, with national and state primaries for an array of key offices – including president and governor – already beginning to take shape. Thankfully, North Carolina is blessed with a healthy supply of skilled political scientists who keep close tabs on this situation, and earlier this week we caught up with one of them -- Western Carolina University poli sci professor Chris Cooper. And as Cooper told us, the 2024 election may still be more than a year and a half off, but absent some surprising developments, we already have a pretty good idea about how things are likely to shake out and at least one of the issue debates that figures to have a big impact.

News and Views for 5-07-2023

Guest: State Rep. Julie von Haefen - This past week was crossover week at the North Carolina General Assembly – the legislature's self-imposed deadline for passing bills to keep them eligible during the 2023 session. It's an event that helped turn the steady stream of backward-looking bills that have been winning approval from the Republican supermajorities into a virtual torrent. Fortunately, despite the toxic impacts of gerrymandering – a phenomenon that has rigged so many electoral districts -- there remains a cadre of caring and thinking lawmakers who continue to speak up against this regressive turn and earlier this week we caught up with one of the best and brightest in this group – Wake County state representative Julie von Haefen. **Issues discussed:** vouchers, public school funding, pending abortion bans, and future gerrymandering of legislative districts by the Republican-controlled General Assembly.

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 5-21-2023

Guest: State Board of Elections executive director Karen Brinson Bell - As NC Newline reported at length a couple weeks back, a trio of rulings handed down by the Republican majority of the North Carolina Supreme Court will soon bring some big and important changes to the state's elections. Not only will a photo ID now be required for all who cast ballots – even by mail – but thousands of formerly incarcerated people who regained the right to vote last year will now be removed from the voter rolls once again. Add to this that the legislature was given a greenlight to gerrymander legislative and congressional districts in another round of redistricting and it's clear that elections will look very different and soon. At such a time, you'd think legislators would be assuring that election officials have all the resources they need to handle and manage these changes, but as we learned earlier this week in a special extended conversation with the executive director of the State Board of Elections, Karen Brinson Bell, that's something about which there's great uncertainty. In Part One of my special extended conversation with State Board of Elections executive director Karen Brinson Bell, we learned that there are some big changes in store for elections in our state and that they come at

a time in which officials are already struggling to hold on to the experienced professional staff and volunteers necessary to keep our elections running in a smooth and secure fashion.

In Part Two of our conversation, we delved deeper into the details of the many challenges election officials confront and the almost desperate need that our state and county boards have for much better funding from the General Assembly. And as Brinson Bell told us, while she's still hopeful on this front, the most recent budget proposal from the state Senate comes up woefully and frustratingly short.

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 6-11-2023

Guest: NC Newline investigative reporter Lynn Bonner - North Carolina is about to implement some big and dramatic changes to the way it regulates voting and conducts elections. Going forward, all voters – even those who vote by mail – must produce a photo ID. Meanwhile, another bill recently introduced by Republican lawmakers would impose additional restrictions on voting by mail and same-day registration.

And while it's perhaps no surprise that Democratic lawmakers and pro-democracy advocates have blasted the substance of these changes, as we learned in a recent conversation with NC Newline investigative reporter Lynn Bonner, state election officials also have deep concerns about whether they'll be able to effectively implement these changes in time for upcoming elections.

ON THE RECORD 6-18-23

Travis Fain goes on the record with the chairman of the state Republican party to examine how the GOP plans to win local and national elections in 2024. - The calendar says 2023, but politically, it might as well be 2024. The presidential race is loping toward its first turn. Three Republican candidates are in town this weekend for the state Republican Party's convention. President Joe Biden was here Friday. North Carolina won't just be big in next year's presidential elections, it may be huge for control of Congress, because Republicans here will redraw the congressional map this year, tilting those races, potentially adding enough Republican-leaning districts to keep or expand their party's control of the U.S. House. WRAL State Government reporter

POVERTY/FOOD INSECURITY/HOMELESSNESS

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 4-23-2023

Guest: North Carolina League of Municipalities Director of Government Affairs Erin Wynia: Like much of the rest of the nation, North Carolina is in the midst of an affordable housing crisis. With a fast-growing population – particularly in urban areas – this problem has been present for years, but it's grown appreciably more dire since the onset of the pandemic, with the median price of a home shooting up 25 percent just since 2021. Recently in response to the crisis, North Carolina's League of Municipalities and Association of County Commissioners teamed up to produce a new report on the subject that details many of the causes of the shortage – some of which might surprise you – as well as some concrete steps that state leaders can take to tackle it. And recently, we were lucky enough to catch up with the League's Director Government Affairs, Erin Wynia, to learn more.

NEWS & VIEWS FOR 6-4-2023

Guest: Tim Curry of the National Fines & Fees Justice Center - Last month, a national research and advocacy group known as the Fines and Fees Justice Center worked with the Wilson Center for Science and Justice at Duke University Law School to produce a new and damning report entitled "Debt Sentence: How Fines and Fees Hurt Working Families." As the title implies, the report explains how the runaway costs of court fines and fees often serve little practical purpose – other than to make it almost impossible for families trying to turn their lives around to escape poverty. And earlier this week, we caught up with the Fines & Fees Justice Center's Policy and Research Director, Tim Curry to discuss the report and how states could better address the issue of excessive fines and fees.

PSA RECORDED: Communities in Schools (April-June)

For the safety of students, families, and teachers, schools across our country are closing. School closures can have significant and lasting consequences, particularly for vulnerable students, students who may face hunger, homelessness and even trauma. That's where our organization, Communities in Schools can help. For years, we've had caring adults inside schools helping these students stay in school. Now we are taking our work beyond the school walls. Our caring adults are delivering meals, providing household supplies, connecting kids with online classrooms, and using technology to maintain the one-on-one relationships we know can transform the lives of students and their families, communities and schools going wherever we

are needed, doing whatever it takes to empower students to succeed in school and in life. To see how you can help kids succeed, visit [CommunitiesInSchools Dot Org](http://CommunitiesInSchools.org).

PSA RECORDED: No Kid Hungry (April-June)

Kids across America are going to school hungry. Millions of kids every day. Hungry kids get sick more often and can struggle in school. It can be harder for them to focus and learn. But one simple thing can help change all of this for a hungry child in America. Good, healthy food and the energy it brings. With help from caring people across America. No kid hungry is providing healthy meals and hope to hungry kids so they can build better futures. We want to ensure that all of our kids have healthy meals every day. Thank you. Thank you for helping feed our kids. To learn more about ending child hunger in America. Go to [help dot no kid hungry dot org](http://helpdotnokidhungrydotorg).

SUBSTANCE ABUSE/ REGULATION

ON THE RECORD 4-16-23

Fentanyl Crisis - Fentanyl is killing people all over NC; more individuals have died from overdoses than from car crashes and shootings.

RECORDED PSA: American Lung Association – Youth Vaping (April-June)

I think it's just vapor. Vaping is safer than smoking, isn't it? There's really not even that much nicotine in them, right? One big pot has as much nicotine as one pack of cigarettes. I kid my kid knows it's dangerous. Five point four million American kids vape and most think it's harmless. Get your head out of the cloud. Talk to your kid about vaping. Visit, [talk about vaping dot org](http://talkaboutvapingdotorg). That's talk about vaping dot org. Brought to you by the American Lung Association

RECORDED PSA: National Association Boards of Pharmacy (April-June)

Unused prescription opioid pain medicines can spell trouble. They can spell risk if taken by someone they weren't prescribed for, harm if accidentally taken by a child or pet, or overdose if they're not used as directed. Safely dispose of opioids before they can hurt your family. Find a drug takeback option such as medicine drop boxes. You may find these in your community at local pharmacies or police stations. Visit [www.fda.gov\drug disposal](http://www.fda.gov/drugdisposal) for more information.

RECORDED PSA: CDC – Drug Overdose Campaign -Naloxone (April-June)

Hey, you got any gum? Yeah. Check my backpack. What's this? Oh, that's Naloxone. It can reverse an opioid overdose. I decided to always keep it on me after my friend almost died. It saved his life. Oh, wow. I'm so sorry. That makes me want to have it with me too. You totally should. Check the pharmacy. It was actually really easy to get and it's easy to use. I definitely will. Thanks. Naloxone saves lives. Learn more at [CDC.gov/Stop overdose](http://CDC.gov/Stopoverdose).

RECORDED PSA: CDC Drug Overdose - Fentanyl (April-June)

Only a fraction of a raindrop, three grains of salt, and up to 100 times more potent than morphine. The tiniest amount of illegal fentanyl is all it takes to cause an overdose. Fentanyl can be mixed into heroin, cocaine, press pills, meth, and other drugs. It could be in your drugs and you wouldn't be able to see it, taste it or smell it. Learn more at [CDC.gov/Stop overdose](http://CDC.gov/Stopoverdose).

TERRORISM/HOMELAND SECURITY/MILITARY

RECORDED PSA – Homes for Our Troops (April-June)

Serving my country required sacrifice. Sacrifice that changed my life forever. I remember the day I came home because of my injuries. This house wasn't right for me anymore. I remember the narrow doorways, the small bathrooms, the shelves out of reach when in my wheelchair...Every day was full of obstacles. I felt trapped. I remember a better day - The day my family received a specially adapted custom home from Homes for Our Troops. That day changed everything. Now we have a safe and accessible home to enjoy the freedom I fought for. This place. Our home is exactly what we needed to rebuild our lives. Homes for Our Troops builds and donates specially adapted custom homes nationwide for severely injured post-9-11 veterans and enables them to rebuild their lives. Join our mission [HFT USA dot org](http://HFTUSA.org).

RECORDED PSA: Department of Homeland Security – See Something, Say Something (April-June)

Why? Why do we ignore the things that give us pause that seem out of place, that don't feel right? The answer to why defines who we are. So, if you see something, why do you say something? I see. Save for my friends, for my community, for my family, for each other. Because all of this matters. We all have something worth protecting. So why is the U.S. saying report suspicious activity to local authorities? If you see something, say something.