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ISSUES/PROGRAMS

WJMM-FM

October 1, 2013





ISSUE ONE

Jessamine County homeowners will see a two percent increase in their property tax rate under a proposal put forward to raise funds for the county school system.

RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING

WJMM "Focus"-- 14 min.

8/17/13 12:15 pm and 4:30 pm & 8/18/13 7:15 am and 10:45 am

We interviewed interim Jessamine County Schools Superintendent Matt Moore and the school district's finance director/treasurer Tim LeMaster. Moore said his predecessor, Superintendent Lu Young, had discussed the necessity for a tax increase in May and the discussion continued in July. An official vote on the proposal will come before the board on August 22nd. Moore said the federal sequestration has served to further reduce federal grant funds, which are down 8% ...over \$300,000...from last year's levels. State funding levels have also remained flat. Additionally, Moore said the district's recent opening of a new elementary school has added \$400,000 in additional expenses per year. He encouraged the public to express their opinions regarding the rate increase request.





ISSUE TWO

Many groups in Kentucky who are concerned with child welfare want additional transparency for a panel reviewing the deaths of children due to abuse.

RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING

WJMM "Focus"—14 min.

7/13/13 12:15 pm and 4:30 pm & 7/14/13 7:15 am & 10:45am

We spoke with Terry Brooks, executive director of Kentucky Youth Advocates, who applauded Governor Steve Beshear's decision to create the Child Fatality Review Panel in 2012 and the general assembly's actions to improve the panel. However, Brooks said more needs to be done. He said a meeting of child welfare leaders from across the state in January of 2012 had recommended this external review panel, joining about three dozen other states with such groups. Brooks, though, said only about five or six of the panels appears to be making a difference and that Kentucky needs to learn from those groups. First, Brooks suggests the review panel should be outside the executive branch of government so as to avoid any possible conflicts of interest. Secondly, Brooks wants the panel to be transparent in regard to the makeup of the board to further insure no conflicts of interest amongst the panel members. He suggested placing the panel under the state attorney general or state auditor as a way to maintain its' independence.





ISSUE THREE

The Florida trial of George Zimmerman for the shooting death of teenager Trayvon Martin has focused attention on the “stand your ground” doctrine of self-defense, which is also part of Kentucky’s legal heritage.

RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING

WJMM“Focus”—14 min.

7/20/13 12:15 pm and 4:30 pm & 7/21/13 7:15 am & 10:45 am

We interviewed state representative Bob Damron, who was instrumental in the general assembly’s passage of Kentucky’s concealed carry legislation in 1996. Damron disagreed with the assertions of Attorney General Eric Holder that “stand your ground” is inherently unjust. Damron traced the doctrine to Kentucky’s constitution and to legal decisions previous to the most recent version of the constitution. Damron said there’s ample judicial history in Kentucky which supports an individual’s rights to protect themselves or others without first retreating. He said this has helped protect people from unnecessary prosecution or civil litigation. Damron said the state’s concealed carry laws resulted from increased crime rates in the nation in the 1990’s and the desire, especially for women, to be able to protect themselves. He said the legislation has been extremely successful and has empowered the public with some 100,000 permit holders in the commonwealth.





ISSUE FOUR

Many veterans of wars since the attacks on America in 2001 face significant medical challenges after leaving active service.

RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING

WJMM "Focus"—14 min.

8/10/13 12:15 am and 4:30 pm & 8/11/13 7:15am & 10:45 am

We interviewed Tom Baker, with the nonprofit group Bluegrass Military Affairs Coalition, about a couple of benefit golf events coming to Lexington and Somerset the week of 9/11. Baker said the events will help provide medical assistance to veterans in the area. He said it's a way for the community to show how much they appreciate their veterans and their sacrifices. Many have endured multiple deployments, especially the career soldiers. In addition to the physical injuries many have suffered, Baker said post traumatic stress disorder often comes many years after the trauma. Traumatic brain injuries are also common, according to Baker. He said the government offers many programs and services for veterans, but the civilian sector also needs to pitch in. Baker described the benefit events and how people could get involved.





ISSUE FIVE

Many in the community face issues and obstacles requiring someone to advocate on their behalf.

RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING

WJMM "Focus"—14 min.

9/28/13 12:15 pm and 4:30 pm & 9/29/13 7:15 am and 10:45 am

We spoke with Reverend Adam Jones, with Open Door Church in Lexington, about the group he co-chairs. Jones said B.U.I.L.D., an acronym for Building A United Interfaith Lexington through Direct Action, was organized in 2003 and contains 22 congregations with different economic and ethnic backgrounds from across Fayette County. Jones stressed that B.U.I.L.D, isn't a direct service agency, rather it's a direct action agency. Issues the agency has dealt with, and brought to the attention of local officials, include helping provide affordable housing so people can stay close to their jobs and not have to commute from out of town. In 2012, Jones said the group helped streamline the process of obtaining photo i.d.'s for ex-offenders trying to enter the workforce. Jones said local officials didn't realize the extent of the problem prior to their advocating for the changes. The group also helped get overnight local bus service in the Nicholasville Road corridor, which helped both businesses and those working in those businesses. Jones said another major issue for the group has been payday loan operations, which can charge up to 400% interest and are effectively unregulated in the commonwealth.

