



Number of flu cases is rising

By Pat McHughes/Paris Express Editor

Posted Dec 27, 2017 at 7:42 AM

The number of flu cases has spiked in the Paris area in recent days.

Dr. Jason Richey, a physician at Mercy Clinic, said the increase in cases could last a little while longer before dropping back to normal levels because children are on Christmas vacation.

Richey said he saw a big spike on Monday, Jan. 18

“Just that morning, we had 12 positive flu cases in the clinic,” Richey said. “That’s the largest number of cases in the shorted period of time since I’ve been here and I’ve been here 19 years. Clinics in surrounding counties have reported running out of testing material.”

Along with the spike in flu cases, there’s been an increase in absenteeism in Paris schools.

“We’re slightly above normal right now,” Paris School Superintendent Wayne Fawcett said last week. “When it started, I had custodians wipe down everything. We had kids sanitizing their hands several times a day.”

Fawcett said absenteeism in Paris is between 7 and 8 percent of students. According to the Arkansas Department of Health, school absenteeism in Logan County was 6.25 percent as of the week ending Dec. 9. ADH also reports that there have been 4,600 cases of flu diagnosed in the state since Oct. 1. Flu in Arkansas is reported as widespread. Arkansas is one of seven states reporting widespread flu.

Richey said flu is striking those who did and did not get a flu vaccination shot. He said at least one person in Logan County has been hospitalized because of the flu this season.

But it’s not just the flu that’s showing up.

PARIS EXPRESS

Work begins on county budget for 2018

By Pat McHughes/Paris Express Editor

Posted Nov 2, 2017 at 7:28 AM

County officials have started work on putting together a budget for 2018.

Tuesday was the deadline for county office holders and department heads to turn in budget requests to County Clerk Peggy Fitzjurls. The budget for this year calls for \$11.8 million in spending.

"I still lack a few," she said last week. "I have most of them."

Fitzjurls said, based on requests submitted, some of the departments are asking for budget increases.

"It's not a lot," she said. "Of course, everyone is asking for a raise, including raises for elected officials. As for other stuff, most departments aren't asking for increases and those that are, are asking for small increases."

The county is also awaiting a projection of sales tax revenue from County Treasurer Mickey Oates.

Sales tax revenue can fluctuate based on economic activity. This year, the county has collected about \$14,000 more than the \$1.1 million projected and there are two months left in the year. The county charges a 1 percent sales tax. The county gets 56 percent of those receipts with the rest being split between the county's nine incorporated cities, based on population. By law, the county can only appropriate 90 percent of sales tax receipts. Last year, Oates projected receipts of \$1.1 million.

"I'm projecting about the same for 2018," Oates said Monday. "Yes, we've been up this year but I'm going to stay on the safe side and say about the same. Yes, I'm pleased with the way sales taxes are coming in this year, but it's best to be safe."

Estimated 4,000 attend Frontier Day

By Pat McHughes/Paris Express Editor

Posted Oct 11, 2017 at 7:57 AM

A crowd estimated at 4,000 people came to Courthouse Square in Paris Saturday for the 38th Annual Frontier Day celebration.

Although the weather was threatening — overcast skies with the promise of rain — only a few drops of rain fell. The overcast skies dropped temperatures into the 70s and 80s most of the day.

The event returned to Courthouse Square this year after having been staged at the Logan County Fairgrounds for the last six years. Organizers were pleased with the results.

“I think it was wonderful,” said Tonya Baumgartner, executive director of the Paris Area Chamber of Commerce, which sponsored the event. “It was very crowded with everyone on the square but the people loved it. I’ve heard nothing but positive feedback.”

The day started with the annual parade. The Grand Marshal for this year’s event was Larry Connelley. During the festival, Connelley also passed out old photographs and post cards about Paris at the chamber of commerce booth.

Downtown events included entertainment at Eiffel Tower Park, arts and craft vendors, food vendors and the annual car show.

Baumgartner said that about 70 vendors were on hand and happy with their sales.

“I gave vendors applications for the Springtime in Paris event next April and I’ve all ready gotten applications back and money, so that’s a good sign,” Baumgartner said. “I talked to some food vendors who sold out, had to go buy more at the stores, sold out again and had to go back to the stores.”



Weekly Public Affairs Program

Call Letters: KERX

QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT, OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 2017

Show # 2017-40

Date aired: Oct 1 Time Aired: 0600

Roby Greenwald, PhD, Assistant Professor from the School of Public Health, Georgia State University

Traffic pollution research has traditionally been conducted with outdoor roadside sensors. Dr. Greenwald led a study with sensors mounted inside the passenger compartments of cars, and found that interior pollution levels were twice as high as previously thought. He talked about the various forms of pollution he found and their potential health effects.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:54

**Pollution
Personal Health**

Rebekah H. Nagler, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Hubbard School of Journalism & Mass Communication, University of Minnesota

Dr. Nagler led a study that found that most American women aren't aware of the risks of over diagnosis and overtreatment in regards to breast cancer screening. She discussed the challenges of educating women about these risks so they can make informed decisions about mammograms and breast cancer screening.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:18

**Cancer
Women's Issues**

Meghan Busse, PhD, Associate Professor of Management and Strategy at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University

Dr. Busse was the co-author of a study that found women frequently are quoted higher prices for car repairs than men. The research also found that consumers (of any gender) who do their homework about the cost of repairs usually pay less. She offered advice on how to avoid being ripped off

Issues covered:

Length: 4:50

**Consumer Matters
Gender Discrimination
Women's Issues**

Daniel Leffler, MD, Director of Clinical Research at the Celiac Center at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston

Gluten-free diets are popular today, but how many people should be concerned? Dr. Leffler discussed gluten sensitivity and its close cousin, Celiac disease. He said there is no benefit if a healthy person avoids gluten and, in fact, gluten free-diets may cause nutritional deficiencies. He outlined the symptoms of gluten sensitivity and explained how it can be diagnosed and treated.

Issues covered:
Personal Health

Length: 9:20

Eric Finkelstein, PhD, health economist, co-author of "*The Fattening of America*"

Over two-thirds of Americans are overweight or obese. Dr. Finkelstein believes that America's growing waistline is a by-product of our long-term economic and technological success. He said that business and policy makers need to devise strategies to make it cheaper and easier to be thin.

Issues covered:
Personal Health
Government Policies

Length: 5:00

Show # 2017-43

Date aired: Oct 22 Time Aired: 0600

Elliott Haut, MD, FACS, Associate Professor of Surgery and Anesthesiology & Critical Care Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Dr. Haut led a study that found that victims of gunshots or stabbings taken to a trauma center by private vehicle were 62% less likely to die compared to victims transported by an ambulance or EMS vehicle. He talked about the possible reasons behind this finding. He also explained why it is so important for the average person to be taught how to use direct pressure to stop bleeding.

Issues covered:
Emergency Preparedness
First Aid
Personal Health

Length: 9:00

Vicki Bogan, PhD, Associate Professor at the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University, founder and director of the Institute for Behavioral and Household Finance

Mental health problems can have a large negative effect on retirement savings, according to Dr. Bogan's research. She discussed her study, which found that people with anxiety and depression are nearly 25 percent less likely to have a retirement savings account, and their savings are dramatically smaller than those without psychological distress.

Issues covered:
Mental Health
Retirement Planning

Length: 8:08

Show # 2017-45

Date aired: Nov 5 Time Aired: 0600

Tim Larkin, self defense expert, author of *"When Violence Is the Answer: Learning How to Do What It Takes When Your Life Is at Stake"*

Mr. Larkin discussed the use of violence in self-defensive situations. He discussed ways to prevent, prepare for, and survive violent encounters with criminals. He said that violence is a tool equally effective in the hands of the "bad guy" or the "good guy" and that that the person who acts first, fastest and with the full force of their body is the one who typically survives a violent incident.

Issues covered:
Personal Defense
Crime

Length: 9:21

Gail Heyman, PhD, Professor of Psychology, University of California, San Diego

Dr. Heyman led a study that sought to find ways to reduce racial bias in children. She noted that racial bias can be measured in children as young as age 3. She said the key to her research was in repetitively teaching kids to identify people of another race as individuals. She hopes to develop a consumer-friendly version of her findings for eventual use in schools and at home.

Issues covered:
Racial Bias
Diversity

Length: 7:50

Doug Abrams, author of *"The Book of Joy Journal"*

Mr. Abrams discussed a conversation he moderated between Archbishop Desmond Tutu and His Holiness the Dalai Lama, on the topic of joy. He explained how these two men have intentionally found joy in their lives, despite the hardships they have faced and the many atrocities they have witnessed.

Issues covered:
Mental Health

Length: 4:54

Show # 2017-46

Date aired: Nov 12 Time Aired: 0600

Scott Galloway, PhD, Professor of Marketing in the Stern School of Business, New York University, author of *"The Four: The Hidden DNA of Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google"*

Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google are the four-most influential companies on the planet. Dr. Galloway discussed the concerns in allowing individual companies to have such dominance over American consumers and whether these companies are playing by the rules applied to other businesses.

Issues covered:
Government Regulations
Consumer Matters
Economy

Length: 8:56

Daniel McGuinn, editor at Harvard Business Review, author of "*Psyched Up: How the Science of Mental Preparation Can Help You Succeed*"

Of the 2,000 hours we work every year, our success or failure is often determined in the couple of dozen crucial hours when we need to bring our absolute best in a meeting or presentation. Mr. McGuinn discussed the importance of mental preparation in the last few minutes before a major challenge, and offered tips on how to channel nervous jitters into useful emotions.

Issues covered:

Career
Mental Health

Length: 4:59

Show # 2017-48

Date aired: Nov 26 **Time Aired:** 0600

Jamin Brahmhatt, MD, Urologist, co-director of the Personalized Urology & Robotics Clinic at South Lake Hospital, in affiliation with Orlando Health

Dr. Brahmhatt's organization commissioned a survey that found that far more men can remember their first car than those who can remember when they had their most recent health checkup. He discussed the reasons why an annual checkup is so important and the reasons that men avoid trips to the doctor. He also offered advice to wives who want to encourage their husbands to make health a greater priority.

Issues covered:

Personal Health
Men's Issues

Length: 7:26

Lori LaCivita, PhD, industrial and organizational psychologist

Thanks in part to older workers working past the traditional retirement age, four generations of workers are in the workforce at once for the first time. Dr. LaCivita said each generation prefers different leadership and communication styles, which can trigger challenges in the workplace. She outlined strategies for managers to build strong and effective teams with a diverse pool of employees.

Issues covered:

Workplace Matters
Senior Citizens

Length: 9:47

Ted Labuza, PhD, Ph.D., expert in food safety, Professor in the Department of Food Science and Nutrition at the University of Minnesota

Professor Labuza discussed how to interpret the expiration dates on food labels. Many of the dates don't mean what consumers think they do. He explained how to determine whether a package of food with a past expiration date is safe to eat.

Issues covered:

Food Safety
Consumer Matters

Length: 5:09

Marion McGovern, founder and CEO of M Squared Consulting, one of the first gig-economy talent intermediaries, author of *"Thriving in the Gig Economy"*

The world of work has changed dramatically in the past few years, as evidenced by tech companies such as Uber and Airbnb. Ms. McGovern noted that while most media attention is on the low end of the skill and income spectrum, little attention is being paid to the best-in-class professionals who have chosen an independent path. She discussed the biggest misconceptions regarding the gig economy and explained the reasons behind its rapid growth.

Issues covered:

Length: 9:38

**Career
Economy**

Nadia Lopez, founding principal of Mott Hall Bridges Academy in Brooklyn, NY, author of *"The Bridge to Brilliance: How One Woman and One Community Are Inspiring the World"*

As part of a pilot program in New York City, Ms. Lopez started a middle-grade public school in one of America's poorest communities. She talked about the risks and challenges faced by students in a high crime, low income neighborhood, and how she devised programs to address them.

Issues covered:

Length: 4:54

**Education
Poverty
Government Policies**

Show # 2017-51

Date aired: Dec 17 **Time Aired:** 0600

Laura Adams, Senior Insurance Analyst at insuranceQuotes

Life isn't fair, and neither are auto insurance rates. Ms. Adams said that while some factors that influence insurance prices are within consumers' control, such as the vehicle they drive and their annual mileage, many others are not. She outlined the little-known factors that can have a big impact on the price of insurance.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:17

Consumer Matters

Miriam Boeri, PhD, Associate Professor of Sociology, Bentley University, author of *"Hurt: Chronicles of the Drug War Generation"*

Dr. Boeri interviewed dozens of Baby Boomers who are hooked on illicit drugs. She explained why she believes the War on Drugs has not only failed, but has exacerbated the problem. She said that in the past, once someone reached the age of 35 or so, they would typically quit using hard drugs, but the Baby Boom generation has done the opposite: drug abuse among older Americans is skyrocketing.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:52

**Substance Abuse
Government Policies
Senior Citizens
Criminal Justice**

Show # 2017-53

Date aired: Dec 31 Time Aired: 600

Sheila Markin Nielsen, career counselor with more than 25 years of experience, author of "*Job Quest: How to Become the Insider Who Gets Hired*"

The search for a job can seem intimidating and frustrating for most people. Ms. Markin Nielsen said the most critical component in any successful job search is to establish personal relationships. She outlined strategies to create personal connections and trust with key people. She discussed the usefulness of online tools such as LinkedIn, along with the value of resumes in today's employment environment.

Issues covered:

Length: 10:25

Employment
Career

Jennifer Suor, researcher, PhD candidate in clinical psychology at the University of Rochester

Ms. Suor's research found that children from low-income families are at risk of stunted cognitive functioning before they even start kindergarten. Her team found that young children with emotionally distant caregivers and who lived in an unstable home also had high levels of the stress hormone cortisol, which appears to significantly affect their cognitive abilities.

Issues covered:

Length: 6:44

Education
Parenting

Andy Cohen, CEO, Caring.com

In the past year, approximately 14 million drivers have been in a road incident caused by an elderly driver, according to a survey by Mr. Cohen's organization. He discussed how other motorists view the safety and competence of senior drivers. He also explained how to determine whether an older loved one is no longer fit to drive, and how to approach the topic with them.

Issues covered:

Length: 5:10

Senior Citizens
Traffic Safety