



January 2, 2018

The following is a report on Public Affairs Programming for the Fourth Quarter of 2017 during which time the top issues of community interest and concern in Sarasota, Florida and the surrounding area were found to be:

Health
Economy
Public Safety
Community Relations
Education

In order to meet these issues, WHPT-FM airs two public affairs programs on Sunday mornings.


“West Coast Forum” airs Sunday mornings at 6:00 a.m. “Spectrum” airs Sunday mornings at 6:30 a.m.

WHPT-FM also helps meet community issues through daily programming. As traffic and transportation are often major issues for residents of Tampa Bay, WHPT-FM airs traffic reports four times hourly on weekdays from 6:00 to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

WHPT-FM also runs a heavy schedule of :60 second Public Service Announcements produced by the Florida Association of Broadcasters throughout all hours of the day.

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Respectfully submitted,


Rick Thomas
Operations Manager
Cox Media Group Tampa

RT/mlm

Health

Sunday, October 8, 2017 – West Coast Forum 6:00 a.m.

30:00

Host: Jeff Slater. Guest: Dr. Audrey Kusiak, Scientific Program Manager, Regenerative Medicine, Spinal Cord Injury and Neuropathic Pain Program, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Research and Development.

This week, Florida's Governor, Rick Scott, called on the Federal Government for help in fighting the opioid epidemic in Florida. Recent studies show that many of the addicts in Florida are veterans. The Veterans Administration is currently doing research to improve pain management strategies for veterans that includes alternative treatment. Dr. Kusiak joined us to talk about the problems doctors face when treating chronic pain and our vets and the different types of chronic pain our vets suffer from. The VA is looking at different treatment strategies that don't involve opioids. Medical marijuana is currently not an option for the VA since they are a government agency. They consider all forms of medical cannabis illegal and can't prescribe it. The VA hospitals in Hillsborough and Pinellas are participating in the current research project. Currently, there isn't a VA hospital in Sarasota County. However, the VA needs veterans in Sarasota to participate in the research project. Mr. Slater and Dr. Kusiak discussed how vets in Sarasota suffering from chronic pain can sign up for the program at either hospital in the Tampa Bay area.

Sunday, October 8, 2017 – Spectrum 6:30 a.m.

30:00

Host: Dayle Greene. Guest: Chase McCain, Counselor and Court Liaison for the Drug Abuse Comprehensive Coordinating Office (DACCO), Tampa.

Mr. Greene and Mr. McCain discussed the opioid drug epidemic, treatment options, and the services available for people in the Tampa Bay area who are addicted to opiates.

Sunday, October 29, 2017 – West Coast Forum 6:00 a.m.

30:00

Host: Jeff Slater. Guests: Lily Conrad, Communications Director, the American Heart Association; Dr. Angela Turner, Cardiologist; and Shelly Scarmardo, an American Heart Association Volunteer and Wellness Manager.

This Saturday is the Annual Heart Walk for the American Heart Association. Dr. Turner talked about the different types of heart disease and their causes, how some heart issues are treated, and how some go undetected. Our lifestyle can contribute to heart disease. She also explained the difference between a coronary and a heart attack, how a heart condition can be hereditary, and why a proper diet and exercise are important to heart health. Ms. Conrad announced that the Sarasota/Manatee Heart Walk has been postponed and, so far, hasn't been rescheduled. She invited all Sarasota/Manatee residents who would like to participate in a Heart Walk to please join the Tampa Walk.

Note: Cox Media Group is sponsoring the Tampa Heart Walk.

Sunday, December 3, 2017 – West Coast Forum 6:00 a.m.

30:00

Host: Jeff Slater. Guest: Nancy Weil, Director of Grief Support and Community Outreach, Veterans Funeral Care, Clearwater.

The holidays are a stressful time for many people. This year, holiday stress may be combined with dealing with the loss of a loved one during the year. Mr. Slater and Ms. Weil discussed how to help those dealing with a loss, how children handle loss differently than adults, how to talk with children about it, how to handle the conversation at the holiday dinner table, and how we can celebrate life and remember people we've lost. For example, have everyone share a story, cook a memory meal, create a memory book, hang a special ornament, and decorate their loved one's grave.

Sunday, December 3, 2017 – Spectrum 6:30 a.m.

30:00

Host: Dayle Greene. Guest: Dr. Marketa Wills, Corporate Medical Director of Behavioral Health for WellCare Health Plans.

Mr. Greene and Dr. Wills discussed the holiday blues and how friends and family can identify the signs that their loved ones may need professional help.

Sunday, December 17, 2017 – West Coast Forum 6:00 a.m.

30:00

Host: Jeff Slater. Guest: Dr. Matthew Pittman, Nutritionist and Weight Management Specialist.

Christmas is two weeks away and now is the time most people start planning their holiday meals. Mr. Slater and Dr. Pittman discussed how to plan a tasty, yet healthy, holiday meal. Dr. Pittman discussed the obesity issue in the country, how excess weight affects our health, why low-fat foods are not always the best choice, why it's cheaper to eat crap than healthy foods, how to read a label at the store, and healthier snacks to serve at holiday parties and before the big meal. He also mentioned how drinking too much affects our weight, various weight loss programs, and if our New Year's resolution is to change our lifestyle and hit the gym, how should we start our personal program.

Economy

Sunday, October 1, 2017 – Spectrum 6:30 a.m.

30:00

Host: Dayle Greene. Guest: Reverend Greg Gay, Senior Pastor at Mount Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church, Tampa.

Mr. Greene and Reverend Gay discussed the Church's social action ministries such as feeding the homeless and after-school tutorial help for low-income children.

Sunday, October 15, 2017 – Spectrum 6:30 a.m.

30:00

Host: Dayle Greene. Guest: Katie McGill, Executive Director of Dress for Success Tampa Bay.

Mr. Greene and Ms. McGill talked about how the agency has worked to empower women by becoming self-sufficient in various aspects of their lives, starting with professional interview attire and personal improvement classes.

Sunday, October 22, 2017 – West Coast Forum 6:00 a.m.

30:00

Host: Jeff Slater. Guest: Mercedes Kerr, Executive Vice President, Business Development, Welltower, Inc.

As everyone knows, Florida is a leading retirement destination. Many seniors have already retired here or are planning for retirement in Florida. However, a new study by Welltower shows that more and more retirees are already Florida residents who have worked and lived here for a long time. Ms. Kerr, who headed the research survey, gave us the Sarasota County breakdown about why more locals are staying put. She explained that people are less likely to move because of the many improvements that have taken place in recent years – upgraded transportation, better healthcare, more outdoor activities for seniors, culture, recreation, and many more shopping and dining choices. One category that received a failing grade was health care for veterans. Sarasota doesn't have a VA Hospital. Mr. Slater and Ms. Kerr also discussed what local government agencies can do to attract and keep more “local” retirees from leaving our area.

Sunday, November 12, 2017 – Spectrum 6:30 a.m.

30:00

Host: Dayle Greene. Guest: Tim Marks, President and Chief Executive Officer of Metropolitan Ministries.

Mr. Greene and Mr. Marks discussed the many programs and services that Metropolitan Ministries has developed to help homeless and at-risk people become self-sufficient.

Sunday, November 19, 2017 – Spectrum 6:30 a.m.

30:00

Host: Dayle Greene. Guest: Reverend Moses Brown, Coordinator of the “Feed Our Children” program in Plant City.

Mr. Greene and Reverend Brown talked about providing Thanksgiving meals for 300 families living in poverty. He also discussed the challenge of providing gifts for all the needy families during the holiday season.

Sunday, December 17, 2017 – Spectrum 6:30 a.m.

30:00

Host: Dayle Greene. Guest: Keith Hargrove, Personal Financial Consultant, Lakeland.

Mr. Greene and Mr. Hargrove outlined the steps people should take to ensure that they will have enough resources in case of a financial emergency.

Public Safety

Sunday, October 1, 2017 – West Coast Forum 6:00 a.m.

30:00

Host: Jeff Slater. Guest: Chief Carson Sanders with the Sarasota County Fire Department. Mr. Slater talked with Chief Sanders about Fire Prevention Week, October 8-14. Chief Saunders explained various ways to prevent fires inside and outside of the home, why we should conduct fire drills with our family and frequently review our “safe plan”, and teaching children how to escape in the event of a fire. Sarasota County Fire Rescue will host a fire prevention Open House this Saturday that will include a lot of educational activities. Chief Sanders also gave a Hurricane Irma recap regarding fire rescues before, during, and after the storm.

2nd Segment

Host: Jeff Slater. Guest: Michael Kaiser, Executive Director, the National Cyber Security Alliance.

Mr. Kaiser talked about the latest news regarding the Equifax security breach. Last week, Equifax admitted that more customers’ information had been hacked than they originally thought. Mr. Kaiser explained how people can check to see if their information was compromised and what to do if it was. He also discussed how we can protect our home and business computers from outside threats.

Sunday, October 22, 2017 – Spectrum 6:30 a.m.

30:00

Host: Dayle Greene. Guest: Reverend Kenny Irby, Intervention Director for the City of St. Petersburg.

Mr. Greene and Reverend Irby discussed the crisis of youth violence in the City of St. Petersburg and the mentoring program Reverend Irby is in charge of which has been developed in an effort to curb youth violence.

Sunday, November 12, 2017 – West Coast Forum 6:00 a.m.

30:00

Host: Jeff Slater. Guest: Teresa Scharn, Spokesperson for Nationwide Insurance.

Once again, the National Transportation Safety Administration is urging the Florida Legislature to enact a law to crack down on distracted driving. Currently, there are two bills in the Florida House and Senate. Mr. Slater and Ms. Scharn discussed the latest data when it comes to distracted driving crashes and deaths in the West Coast of Florida. The current law in Florida is not a primary offense. They also discussed dangerous driving habits, when you are most likely to be in an accident, why there are more crashes on Tuesday than Monday, why Friday is the most dangerous day to be on the roads, where Florida rates nationwide when it comes to aggressive drivers, and which areas have the most congested traffic.

Sunday, November 19, 2017 – West Coast Forum 6:00 a.m.

30:00

Host: Amy Cardy. Guest: Larry Cooper, Chief of Prevention and Intervention Services, Children's Home Network.

Ms. Cardy and Mr. Cooper discussed the children most at risk and which programs work best for each individual child throughout the Tampa Bay area. From the most severe cases, being housed at the Network's facilities to their AIM program which helps at risk youth. Also discussed was the child sex trafficking trade and how the Network steps in and houses these children and supplies them with therapy – both physical and mental. Kids Village is a first step program for babies and new mothers, educating parents on how to take care of their children. The Network provides counseling, food, teaching everyday chores such as laundry, school tutoring, developmental programs, etc. Family group counseling is also offered to families throughout Tampa Bay and our listening area. Success stories were briefly mentioned, giving hope to at risk youth as well as at risk families. The telephone number was constantly mentioned throughout the segment to help all interested parents and kids: 813.855.4435. The subject of foster families was discussed, the training given to them, support from the Children's Home Network, and the proper education of how to quickly place the children into loving, stable environments. Not only foster families are eligible for the training and education, but extended family members who now must take care of these children are also invited to utilize all of the services the Network provides. Directing the families to counseling, receiving funds and/or grants to help with the raising of these children, and keeping them safe were all discussed. The Children's Home Network helps teens and youth who are dealing with substance abuse issues and will support them with rehabilitation programs and ongoing drug resistance education. Over 25,000 families and children are helped annually through the various programs and resources offered by the Children's Home Network. Contact information such as their main telephone number, which will get them in touch with any program offered by the Children's Home Network as well as their website address, is available at ChildrensHomeNetwork.org.

Sunday, December 10, 2017 – West Coast Forum 6:00 a.m.

30:00

Host: Jeff Slater. Guest: Michael Kaiser, Executive Director, the National Cyber Security Alliance.

More and more of our listeners are shopping online and using WiFi hot spots at stores. This can expose your private information to hackers. Mr. Slater and Mr. Kaiser discussed ways to protect ourselves. Mr. Kaiser updated the listeners on the latest threats from hackers. One in twenty-five apps for big box stores is fake, the latest threats through social media (two local women were in the news last week after getting ripped off by clicking on a Facebook ad), how to tell if you are on a store's actual website or a fake (make sure you know what your clicking on!), how to make sure you're on a secure network connection when making a purchase, why you should use caution when using WiFi hotspots, and why the WiFi on a plane is safer than the one at most airports. Mr. Kaiser also explained why some people may want to freeze their credit, and he reminded our listeners that even reputable companies can get hit by hackers – Target in 2013, eBay and Home Depot 2014, and Equifax earlier this year. He also offered advice for parents who

are planning to get their child a smart phone for Christmas, such as how to check the apps kids may download and how to teach kids to be safe when they're online. Mr. Kaiser reminded the listeners that parents can be held financially responsible for the purchases their children make on their smart phones.

Sunday, December 24, 2017 – West Coast Forum 6:00 a.m.

30:00

Host: Jeff Slater. Guest: Sara Terry, Vice President, Resident and Family Engagement, Brookdale Senior Living which has locations all over the State of Florida.

It's the time of year when our senior relatives are visiting or staying with us. Mr. Slater and Ms. Terry discussed what we should do in order to make our home a safe environment for our senior friends and relatives. The importance of lightning, clearing the clutter, making sure our walkways are clear, how to handle pets with visiting seniors, candle and fireplace safety, monitoring how much our seniors may be drinking, what medications they're on, how to make the kitchen and bathrooms safe, how to handle seniors with dementia, what kind of games and entertainment are best for seniors, and what the best gifts are for senior friends or relatives.

Community Relations

Sunday, October 15, 2017 – West Coast Forum 6:00 a.m.

30:00

Host: Jeff Slater. Guests: Ed McCrane, Director of Emergency Management for Sarasota County; and Scott Montgomery, Emergency Management Recovery Chief for Sarasota County.

It's been one month since Hurricane Irma, and Sarasota County continues to clean up after the storm. Mr. Slater and Mr. McCrane discussed the storm's impact on Sarasota County, how the county prepared for the storm, and the work that needed to be done after the storm passed. All of the agencies in Sarasota County worked together to prepare for the storm and the aftermath. Mr. McCrane explained which areas of Sarasota County are still dealing with effects of Irma. Mr. Slater and Mr. Montgomery discussed the enormous amount of storm debris. Like many counties in Florida, many Sarasota County residents still have debris sitting next to the curb and are wondering when it will be picked up. Mr. Montgomery elaborated on how many trucks the county has that are currently working to pick up the debris, how the recovery teams were delayed getting debris picked up due to the fact they were still in Houston helping that city recover from Hurricane Harvey, and why solid storm debris (metals, furniture, and household items) need to be separated from vegetation storm debris. He explained why some residents are seeing tags from the county placed on their debris pile. The debris that has been tagged notifies the resident that the county has inspected the debris and that the pile will not be picked up until the debris is properly separated. Mr. McCrane said that the county landfills are not currently charging residents a dumping fee if they are able to bring the debris to a landfill themselves. He also reminded everyone that the hurricane created over 270,000 cubic yards of debris in Sarasota County, and that residents' patience is requested as they work to collect all of it. He also mentioned that county crews cannot pick up any debris on

private roads unless the homeowners give their permission. The county is currently contacting HOA's and residents who live on private streets asking for permission to pick up their debris.

Sunday, November 5, 2017 – West Coast Forum 6:00 a.m.

30:00

Host: Jeff Slater. Guest: Cindy Dietz-Marsh, a Gold Star Mother.

Veteran's Day is this Saturday. Ms. Dietz spoke with Mr. Slater about losing her son while he was serving in Afghanistan. Danny Dietz was part of an elite team of four SEALs on a reconnaissance mission "tasked with finding a key Taliban leader in mountainous terrain near Asadabad, Afghanistan" according to a Navy news release. On June 28, 2005, SEAL Team 10 was assigned to kill or capture a high-ranking Taliban leader in the Hindu Kush mountains. The SEAL team was made up of Danny Dietz, Michael P. Murphy, Marcus Luttrell, and Matthew Axelson. They were spotted by anti-Coalition sympathizers, who immediately reported their position to Taliban fighters. A fierce gun-battle ensued between the four SEALs and a much larger enemy force with superior tactical position. The SEALs radioed for help, and a responding Chinook helicopter was shot down by a rocket-propelled grenade, killing eight more SEALs and eight Army Night Stalkers. It was the second worst single combat loss for the SEALs in SEAL history. Danny Dietz's body was returned to the United States where he was interred with full military honors at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Colorado. He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross, Silver Star, and Purple Heart for his service. Lone Survivor is the title of both the book and film covering their story. Cindy Dietz will speak at several Veteran's Day events in the Tampa Bay area.

Sunday, November 26, 2017 – West Coast Forum 6:00 a.m.

30:00

Host: Amy Cardy. Guests: Joy Winheim, Executive Director, Empath Partners in Care, Empath Health; and Rachel Lewis, Special Events Coordinator, Empath Partners in Care, Empath Health.

Ms. Cardy spoke with Ms. Winheim and Ms. Lewis regarding the Empath Partners in Care (EPIC) program. The EPIC program assists people with free HIV testing, medical case management, counseling, housing assistance, and on-going HIV education, all of which were discussed and addressed. Also discussed was the upcoming "Tampa Bay AIDS Walk" which will take place on Saturday, December 9th, to support the EPIC program. Information given included volunteer opportunities, Empath Health thrift stores and their locations, future community events, inpatient care centers, and HIV/AIDS services. The listening audience was invited and encouraged to register for the AIDS Walk online which will support the various EPIC services throughout the Tampa Bay area. Contact information including telephone numbers, website address, locations for their services, and thrift store locations were included in the segment.

Sunday, December 10, 2017 – Spectrum 6:30 a.m.

30:00

Host: Dayle Greene. Guest: Jenny Yearling, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Pasco County.

Mr. Greene and Ms. Yearling discussed how the organization has provided mentoring services to 17,000 youngsters this year. Ms. Yearling highlighted the various ways their mentoring has positively affected the youth of Pasco County.

Sunday, December 31, 2017 – Spectrum 6:30 a.m.

30:00

Host: Dayle Greene. Guest: Tiffany Berry, Broadcaster with ESPN.

Mr. Greene and Ms. Berry discussed her career journey, current mentorship activities, and giving back to others.

Education

Sunday, November 5, 2017 – Spectrum 6:30 a.m.

30:00

Host: Dayle Greene. Guest: Casey Curry, Creative Writing Teacher at Blake High School in Tampa.

Mr. Greene and Ms. Curry discussed what parents can do to help their children improve their writing skills.

Sunday, November 26, 2017 – West Coast Forum 6:00 a.m.

30:00

Host: Jeff Slater. Guest: Jodi Grant, Executive Director of the Afterschool Alliance; and Sage Learn, Senior Director of Government Relations, the Boys and Girls Club of America. Lawmakers in Washington head back to work tomorrow, and one of the items they're expected to bring up is more cuts to after-school programs. Mr. Slater and Ms. Grant discussed the importance of after-school programs. She said that one in five students in the United States are unsupervised after school and if more money is cut from programs that number will grow. Some of the programs that face cuts are sports, continued education, and nutrition/food assistance. Ms. Sage spoke about the various after-school programs that the Boys and Girls Clubs offer and how giving children a place to go after school is important for the kids' safety as well as the neighborhoods where they live.

Sunday, December 24, 2017 – Spectrum 6:30 a.m.

30:00

Host: Dayle Greene. Guest: Aaron Berry, Reading Teacher at Alonso High School in Tampa.

Mr. Greene and Mr. Berry discussed the need for more parental and community support in order to achieve success for the students.