

WOUB Radio FM Network
Issues/Programs List
April to June 2020

This quarter, news and events were dominated by COVID-19 and its effects on daily life, protests and counter-protests around racial justice, and the Presidential primaries and election. WOUB Public Media provided daily coverage of press conferences held by Ohio Governor DeWine, and NPR coverage of the Trump administration's briefings as needed. In addition to our daily news reports and special features, the WOUB FM network broadcast news stories focused on actions of the Ohio state legislature, state news of Kentucky and West Virginia, and energy security. Regional news is also accessed through the Ohio Valley Resource, a network of stations throughout the Ohio River/Appalachian region funded by the stations and CPB.

We continue to provide an international perspective with programming from the BBC from 9-10am on our FM network. Public affairs and news programming from NPR continue to be the prime focus of our weekday FM programming. The daytime format consists of Morning Edition, 1A, Fresh Air, Here and Now, and All Things Considered from NPR; the Takeaway from PRI, and the BBC Newshour. NPR News is used hourly (except midnight to 5am).

This quarter, we continued our series "Spectrum" where Tom Hodson interviewed guests on a wide variety of topics from politics to culture to education. These interviews were featured in half hour programs on our AM service, with five minute features used during Morning Edition and All Things Considered.

We base our programming and production decision on a number of factors, including news stories and events in the region, letters and phone calls from listeners and efforts to find local angles to important national or international stories.

Rusty Smith
July 10, 2020

Second Quarter 2020 Ascertainment Report

Story: Wanted: Contaminated Wells and the Legacy of Fossil Fuel Extraction

Description: Timothy's grandfather Chet Blankenship died in 2016, at age 69. Blankenship lived on land he and his family have long owned at the end of a road atop Bradshaw Mountain in McDowell County, West Virginia. His hand-painted tombstone sits in the grassy patch above the family homes.

Blankenship's daughter Melissa Easterling now lives in the house next door with her husband, Chauncy Easterling, who grew up on a nearby ridge. They live together with their son Timothy, and usually one or two foster children.

Chet Blankenship died from kidney failure soon after his family started noticing odd colors and smells in their well water. After he died, they got their water tested, and learned that arsenic was among the contaminants that had seeped into their well. The National Institutes of Health links high arsenic exposure to a range of kidney diseases.

Date: March 2, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Not Far From Me: Stories of Opioids and Ohio

Description: Dr. Daniel Skinner is a political scientist and health policy professor at Ohio University's Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Skinner also is the co-editor of the book Not Far From Me: Stories of Opioids and Ohio and the host of a podcast called Prognosis Ohio addressing health care and health care policies.

He talks with WOUB's Spectrum Podcast about the critical role of health care in the 2020 Presidential Election.

Date: March 4, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Glidepath To Recovery: Flying Squirrels and Spruce Forests Share Common Fate

Description: Challenges facing the West Virginia northern flying squirrel.

Date: March 9, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Coronavirus School Closures Send Teachers, Parents Scrambling To Adjust

Description: School systems across the Ohio Valley are responding to the coronavirus pandemic by canceling face-to-face classes and extending spring breaks. That's left teachers, administrators and parents scrambling to meet the unexpected challenges to care for, feed, and educate children while they are away from school.

Ashley Blankenship has two school-age children in Athens, Ohio. One attends the Beacon School for Children with Developmental Disabilities in Athens, a school that closed Friday and has said it will not reopen until at least April 3. Blankenship's son Peyton receives multiple types of therapy at Beacon and isn't able to access those resources while the school is closed.

Date: March 16, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Qualities of leadership we look for in times of crisis

Description: Beverly Jones is an author, career consultant and executive coach based in Washington D.C.

Today she talks with WOUB's Spectrum Podcast about the qualities of leadership we look for in times of crisis... such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Bev has been an attorney, lobbyist, corporate executive, trainer and career specialist as well as the author of the book... Think Like an Entrepreneur and Act Like a CEO.

She also is the host of WOUB's Jazzed About Work Podcast.

Date: March 18, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Anxiety In Appalachian Coal Country: First the Mines Closed, Then Came Coronavirus

Description: As the economic fallout from the coronavirus continues to reshape our lives, small-town business owners are worried about the future. Whitesburg, Kentucky — a town already struggling from the decline in the coal industry — is grappling with a new and serious challenge as the effort to contain the disease brings deep economic pain.

Date: March 23, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: The role of primary care physicians in fighting the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Description: Doctor Kenneth Johnson is the executive dean of the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and chief medical affairs officer at Ohio University.

Dr. Johnson also serves as chair of the Ohio Council of Medical School Deans.

Date: March 25, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: ‘There’s Going to Be Something Better for Him’: Former Blackjewel Miners Reflect on Changes in Coal Country

Description: On a blistering August afternoon in Cumberland, Kentucky, David Pratt, Jr. stood in the middle of a two-lane highway, holding a sign that read “COAL MINERS AND TRUCKERS AGAINST CORPORATE AMERICA.” A few yards away, his father, David Pratt Sr., who is graying but still muscular, leaned back in a lawn chair perched precariously on the crossties of a railroad. His eyes focused on the spot where the tracks disappeared around the bend and more than \$1 million worth of coal idled in train cars.

Date: March 30, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Coronavirus Straining Financial Resources of Ohio Valley Hospitals

Description: As coronavirus cases continue to increase throughout the Ohio Valley, rural hospitals are preparing for a potential surge of COVID-19 patients. But as they do so, these hospitals face tough financial decisions, and some could close down altogether.

Date: April 6, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Communicating with the Public in times of peril.

Description: John Born has had over 30 years of experience in Crisis Communication. Born is the former the director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety for Ohio Gov. John Kasich. He served during the Ebola crisis.

He also previously served as colonel and superintendent of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, capping a 26-year law-enforcement career.

He talks with WOUB’s Spectrum Podcast about Communicating with the Public in times of peril.

Date: April 8, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: “We Belong to Each Other”: Appalachian Youth Build Support Amid Pandemic Uncertainty

Description:

Date: April 13, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: The role of Public Health Officials during our fight against the Coronavirus pandemic.

Description: Doctor Kenneth Johnson is the executive dean of the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and chief medical affairs officer at Ohio University. He also serves as the chair of the Ohio Council of Medical School Deans.

Doctor Johnson re-visits WOUB's Spectrum Podcast to talk about the role of Public Health Officials during our fight against the Coronavirus pandemic.

Date: April 15, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Demand Soars at Food Banks While Farmers Have Too Much Food

Description: Food banks and pantries across the Ohio Valley are seeing spiked demand as an unprecedented surge of people continue to file for unemployment benefits, with food banks facing weeks long delays to get certain products. Meanwhile, some farmers are facing a financial crisis, sitting on excess food they can't sell — food that could be directed to food banks and pantries.

Date: April 20, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Ohio Valley Still Processing Significant Unemployment Claims

Description: Unemployment insurance claims are still reaching unprecedented levels across the Ohio Valley region.

Date: April 27, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: A possible reopening our society safely with the threat of the coronavirus.

Description: Dr. Todd Fredrick is an associate professor of family medicine at the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine at Ohio University.

Dr. Fredrick is a physician who is deeply knowledgeable about outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and is committed to veteran's health issues.

He is one of the founders of Media in Medicine, which assists student and professionals with science and health-related communications and is the producer of the Rotations Podcast.

He talks with WOUB's Spectrum Podcast about a possible reopening our society safely with the threat of the coronavirus.

Date: April 29, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Ohio Valley Addressing Backlog of Unemployment Claims but Some Are Still Waiting For Benefits

Description: New unemployment insurance claims in the Ohio Valley began to taper off this week as states make their way through the backlog of applications amid business closures forced by the coronavirus pandemic. But local economies still face a staggering number of unemployed, and many of those who are out of work are still awaiting help.

About 211,000 people in Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia joined those seeking help during the economic downturn caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Date: May 4, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: some of the criteria that colleges and universities are using to determine whether to have students back on campus in the fall of 2020.

Description: Doctor Kenneth Johnson is the executive Dean of the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and chief medical officer at Ohio University. Dr. Johnson also serves as chair of the Ohio Council of Medical School Deans.

He has been a frequent guest on WOUB's Spectrum Podcast during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, Doctor Johnson helps us understand some of the criteria that colleges and universities are using to determine whether to have students back on campus in the fall of 2020.

Date: May 6, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Ohio Valley Hitting Plateau Of Unemployment Claims

Description: New unemployment insurance claims are starting to reach a plateau but are still hitting unprecedented levels across the Ohio Valley region.

At least 154,102 people in Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia joined those seeking help during the economic downturn caused by the coronavirus pandemic. That surge in claims is in addition to the more than one million unemployment assistance applications people in the Ohio Valley made since mid-March.

Date: May 11, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: What's happening in Washington in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Description: Philipp Elliott is a Washington Correspondent for TIME and a frequent guest on WOUB's Spectrum Podcast.

Today, Phil talks with host Tom Hodson about what's happening in Washington in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He gives us a behind-the-scenes political update from a journalist's perspective.

Date: May 13, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Rural Ohio Valley Counties Lack Sufficient Coronavirus Tests, Report Says

Description: Just 15 percent of Kentucky counties meet minimum recommended coronavirus testing levels, according to a new report from health care company Castlight. Sixty-seven percent of West Virginia counties and 31 percent of Ohio counties met the threshold.

Date: May 21, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on higher education, which was already in financial distress

Description: Richard Vedder is an Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Economics at Ohio University and he is a Founding Director of the Center for College Affordability and Productivity in Washington, D.C.

He also serves as a fellow at the Independent Institute.

He talks with WOUB's Spectrum Podcast about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on higher education, which was already in financial distress.

Date: May 21, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Pandemic Could Make Food Insecurity Worse Among Older Adults In Ohio Valley

Description: new study shows the Ohio Valley has some of the nation's highest rates of food insecurity among older adults, and anti-hunger advocates say that situation could be made worse by the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.

The annual study was published May 21 in partnership with researchers from the University of Kentucky, researchers from University of Illinois, and the nonprofit food bank organization Feeding America. The researchers used Census Bureau survey data from 2018, which asked households with adults aged 50-59 a series of questions to determine whether they were food insecure.

Date: May 25, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: COVID Resurgence

Description: As we reopen the country, the Coronavirus remains a threat. Should we be concerned about a possible resurgence of the virus, and if so, what do we do about it?

Doctor Kenneth Johnson, executive dean of the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and chief medical affairs officer at Ohio University, helps this week's Spectrum Podcast audience to understand this new normal in which we find ourselves

Date: May 28, 2020

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845 & 1630

Length: 5:00