

WOUB Radio FM Network  
Issues/Programs List  
July to September 2019

While the national scene was dominated by the presidential administration, immigration and border security, trade tariffs, and the presidential impeachment inquiry, locally the economy, the opioid epidemic and economic innovation, were the major topics of interest during the third quarter of 2019.

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. Other features included the Jazzed About Work and the Kindness Podcast.

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  
October 10, 2019

### Third Quarter 2019 Ascertainment Report

Story: Major Appalachian Coal Company Files for Bankruptcy Protection

Description: In the latest sign of problems for the U.S. coal industry, one of the country's largest coal producers has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

West Virginia-based Revelation Energy LLC and its recently-formed affiliate, Blackjewel LLC, began the bankruptcy reorganization process in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of West Virginia on Monday.

The companies, owned and controlled by Milton, West Virginia, resident Jeff Hoops, a longtime coal executive, employ about 1,700 employees across its Central Appalachian coal mining holdings and two large Wyoming coal mines, which were acquired in 2017.

Date: July 8, 2019

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

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Watershed Moment: "Ephemeral" Streams Debate Could Reshape Ohio Valley Waterways

Description: West Liberty University Professor Zachary Loughman has dedicated his professional life to crustaceans – specifically freshwater crayfish. He dips his hand into one of the water tanks at his laboratory near Wheeling, West Virginia, to pick up a teal crayfish the size of a dollar bill. "See the little guy dropping down? We caught mom and she had 300 babies. So we just let them grow," Loughman said. "We've had our feet – my lab – in over 3,000 rivers in the past ten years." His team has been all over Appalachia and the Ohio Valley searching streams, wetlands, and marshes to document thousands of crayfish, some of them undiscovered species. His students even named one after him.

Date: July 9, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Lilyfest

Description: WOUB's Emily Votaw spoke with artisans and Vikings alike at this year's Lilyfest in the Hocking Hills.

Date: July 12, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 4:40

Story: New Prescription: Ohio Valley Native Dr. Patrice Harris Is First Black Woman to Lead AMA

Description: Dr. Patrice Harris took the oath in June to become the first African-American woman to serve as president of the powerful American Medical Association, the largest professional association for physicians in the United States.

Harris also brings another unique perspective to the job as someone who grew up in rural Appalachia.

“I was born and raised in Bluefield, West Virginia, in the heart of coal country,” Harris said.

“My father worked on the railroad. My mother taught school. So I have a unique and personal connection and understanding of the region.”

She earned her undergraduate degree in psychology, a master’s degree in counseling psychology and medical degree from West Virginia University. Though she has long practiced psychiatry in Atlanta, Georgia, she keeps her connection to the region with regular home visits and by serving on the WVU Foundation board.

Date: July 15, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Jazzed About Work

Description: Tom Hodson talks with Beverly Jones.

Sometimes we like to turn the tables on Bev and get the benefit of her expertise. Besides hosting the podcast, Bev is an executive coach and the author of the career success book Think Like an Entrepreneur, Act Like a CEO. This time Tom and Bev talk about what to do if you have a career stumble. They talk about strategies for moving on after a professional catastrophe.

Date: July 18, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Living Wage: Ohio Valley Workers, Employers React As House Votes For \$15 Minimum Wage

Description: The U.S. House of Representatives voted Thursday to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour, more than double the current \$7.25 rate, which has not changed in a decade. The bill is unlikely to clear the Republican-controlled Senate, where Majority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky has said he will not take it up.

But the vote adds energy to election-season debate about a living wage, an issue that resonates with tens of thousands in the Ohio Valley, where low-wage jobs have been taking the place of higher-earning ones lost to declines in the mining and manufacturing sectors.

Date: July 22, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: How A Proposed SNAP Eligibility Revision Could Affect Ohio Valley Recipients

Description: The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced this week a proposal to tighten the rules on who qualifies for food stamps through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). USDA estimates more than three million people across the country would lose SNAP benefits in an effort to prevent fraud. Anti-hunger advocates in the Ohio Valley say the more than two million people in the region who use the benefits would be impacted.

Date: July 29, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Blackjewel Miners Block Railroad To Demand Pay From Bankrupt Coal Company

Description: Some coal miners left without pay by the bankruptcy of coal company Blackjewel LLC are protesting by blocking a coal train in eastern Kentucky.

The stand-off began early Monday when five miners blocked the train from leaving the Cumberland, Kentucky, plant. Despite police asking them to leave, miners spent the night blocking the railroad to protest Blackjewel moving coal while miners have yet to be paid. Blackjewel miner Bobby Sexton traveled from Corbin, Kentucky, to support his fellow miners who, like himself, have not received their last paycheck from the company, which filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy on July 1. "We want answers, we want our money, we want paid," Sexton said. "We're gonna make a stand."

Date: August 1, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Blackjewel Miners Continue Protest As Bankruptcy Hearing Looms

Description: Miners left unpaid by the bankrupt Blackjewel coal company say they are prepared to keep up their protest on railroad tracks in Harlan County, Kentucky, where they are blocking delivery of a load of coal. As their protest grows and gains attention, a bankruptcy court hearing on Monday could determine whether and when the miners get their paychecks.

The blockade began simply enough Monday when five out-of-work miners organized via social media to block a coal train leaving one of the Blackjewel facilities.

"If they can move that train, they can get us our money," miner Shane Smith said.

Date: August 5, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Jon Anderson Interview

Description: Jon Anderson of legendary progressive rock band YES is headed to the People's Bank Theater on Friday, August 16. WOUB's Emily Votaw spoke to the rocker a few weeks before the performance.

Date: August 8, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 3:30

Story: Trump Visits Shell Plastics Facility, Touts Petrochemical Future For Ohio Valley

Description: President Donald Trump Tuesday toured Shell Chemical's soon-to-be completed ethane cracker complex in Monaca, Pennsylvania, to tout his administration's commitment to expanding energy production. The facility is part of what industry boosters hope will be a new plastics and chemical manufacturing base in the upper Ohio Valley, but many residents here worry about the heat-trapping gases and plastic waste such an industry would produce.

Speaking to a crowd of a few thousand construction workers, Trump said investment in plastics and other petrochemical plants in the Ohio Valley could greatly benefit the region. He touted the vast reserves of natural gas and natural gas liquids contained in the Marcellus Shale, which extends throughout much of the Appalachian basin.

Date: August 14, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: HIV Infection "Clusters" Put Focus On Harm Reduction Programs

Description: Health officials in Huntington, West Virginia, say a cluster of HIV infections has grown to 71 confirmed cases. That's in a city that usually sees about eight HIV infections in a year. As with an earlier such cluster in northern Kentucky, officials say the primary cause of infection is needle drug use. Health officials say a harm reduction program is an effective tool against HIV infection. The programs usually offer a syringe exchange, access to addiction counseling, and health screening services such as HIV testing. The programs have expanded rapidly in the Ohio Valley, a region hit hard by the opioid crisis and at highest risk in the nation of infectious disease outbreaks due to needle drug use.

Date: August 19, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Athens Area Fiber Faire

Description: The Athens Area Fiber Faire has found a home at the Dairy Barn Arts Center, and the two are collaborating to present Quilt Fest: a Celebration of All Things Fiber at the Dairy Barn Arts Center Friday, August 30 through Sunday, September 1.

WOUB's spoke with Stephanie Hayes, one of the organizers of the event, about what people can look forward to.

Date: August 22, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 3:45

Story: Farmer Fatigue: Farmers Grow Weary Of Trade War, But Most Stick With Trump

Description: Tom Folz drives around on a sunny, August afternoon and surveys the thousands of acres of dark green, leafy soybean plants and tall stalks of corn he grows on his sprawling farm in Christian County, Kentucky. At 54, Folz has wispy, white hair matching his white mustache. It's taken him several long work weeks to get his crop to where it is today. "You got to be a little bit 'off' to be a farmer," Folz said. "You don't get to enjoy anything during harvest and planting season because we're working."

Date: August 26, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Meet The Little Green Clover That Beat The Odds

Description: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is moving to take a rare species of plant found in the Ohio Valley off of the endangered species list. Amid controversial proposals to change the law protecting rare species, the Running Buffalo Clover is an example of a successful recovery. It would join about 2.5 percent of threatened and endangered species (42 species) that have been taken off the list, or delisted, due to recovery. There are still 1,663 U.S. plants and animals on the endangered species list.

Date: September 2, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Spectrum Mario Grijalva

Description: Dr. Mario Grijalva is the Director of the Infectious and Tropical Disease Institute at Ohio University. He explains about his fight against the deadly "Chagas" disease in Ecuador and the United States and the concepts of community engaged research and service learning at Ohio University. He also describes to WOUB's Spectrum Podcast the multidisciplinary "Healthy Homes for Healthy Living Initiative."

Date: September 4, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Kevin Morby Interview

Description: This Sunday, September 8, Kevin Morby will perform at Stuart's Opera House with William Tyler. WOUB's Emily Votaw spoke to the Nelsonville Music Festival alumni.

Date: September 5, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 3:18

Story: Bruce Springsteen cover show

Description: On Thursday, September 12, six local musicians will perform the songs of Bruce Springsteen for free at Casa Nueva starting at 6 p.m. WOUB's Emily Votaw spoke to Steve Zarate, who organized the event, about his personal relationship with the man known as The Boss.

Date: September 11, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 2:00

Story: Congress Hears Testimony From Chemical Company Executives On PFAS Contamination

Description: Executives from three major chemical companies — DuPont de Nemours, Inc., The Chemours Company and The 3M Company — testified for the first time to Congress about widespread contamination from the group of nonstick, fluorinated chemicals broadly called PFAS. The so-called “forever chemicals” persist in the environment, are linked to ill health effects, and have been found in numerous water systems in the Ohio Valley.

The hearing — the third on PFAS contamination by the House Committee on Oversight and Reform's Subcommittee on Environment — explored the extent to which companies that make PFAS chemicals knew about its impacts on human health and the environment and how they should be held accountable.

Date: September 13, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 5:00

Story: Born Exposed: Schools Seek Ways To Help Children Exposed To Drugs In The Womb

Description: Students line up single file behind teachers at West Elementary in Athens, Ohio, for the walk downhill from the brick building to board buses or meet up with the person taking them home. Some talk about their day, others run off to the playground and some discuss the latest Pokémon movie. A chant for the yellow, electric mouse Pikachu breaks out.

It's a scene familiar to Tom Gibbs, the superintendent of the Athens City School District, who's making sure these and the nearly 3,000 other students he watches over make it home safely. This is one thing that hasn't changed much during Gibbs' 30 years as an educator. But other things have. In recent years he's noticed more young students with cognitive and emotional issues.

Date: September 23, 2019

Length: 5:00

Story: Chris Thile Interview

Description: The host of NPR's Live From Here, Chris Thile, will perform on Ohio University's Athens campus Tuesday, October 1. WOUB's Emily Votaw had the opportunity to speak with Thile prior to his Athens visit.

Date: September 26, 2019

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 & 0845; 1630

Length: 3:30