



**Issues/Program List for Withers Broadcasting
Paducah, Kentucky, Studios**

**WREZ-FM (Metropolis, Illinois)
WZZL-FM (Reidland, Kentucky)
WGKY-FM (Wickcliffe, Kentucky)
WRJJ-FM (LaCenter, Kentucky)**

The following programs are weekly broadcasts provided as timely and pertinent information or the community needs of Paducah, Kentucky, and the surrounding region in western Kentucky and southern Illinois.

Sundays at 5:00 am, the stations air InfoTrak.

Sundays at 5:30 am, the stations are Kentucky News Connection

Weekly program information can be found on the proceeding pages.

Kentucky News Connection

2020 – 3rd Quarter Topics List

Sunday, July 5: Rural Clinics Face Challenges Providing Primary Care Amid Pandemic

Sunday, July 12: House Passes Bills Aimed at Cleaning Up Abandoned Mine Lands

Sunday, July 19: VA Says "Predatory" Colleges Can Accept GI Bill Students

Sunday, July 26: Bill Pre-Filed to Reopen Dozens of Unemployment Offices

Sunday, August 2: Senate's HEALS Act Would Leave More Kentuckians Struggling

Sunday, August 9: KY Brain Cancer Survivor Speaks Out on Mask-Wearing

Sunday, August 16: As Pandemic Continues, Alarming Rise in Hunger Among KY Older Adults

Sunday, August 23: Survey: Most Kentuckians Worry about Affording Health Care

Sunday, August 30: KY Childhood Immunization Rates Plummet Amid Pandemic

Sunday, September 6: Statewide Push to Transform Spaces for Social Distancing

Sunday, September 13: KY Group Helps People with Past Felonies Register to Vote

Sunday, September 20: Demands for Police Accountability Continues as Louisville Pays Taylor's Family

Sunday, September 27: Medicare Enrollment Could Affect Access to Telehealth

Kentucky News Connection

September 24, 2020

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Medicare Enrollment Could Affect Access to Telehealth

Nadia Ramlagan

FRANKFORT, Ky. -- The use of telehealth or video visits with doctors has surged among older Americans since the onset of the coronavirus, but many services are available only to Medicare-eligible individuals.

One survey has found telemedicine use jumped by 340% among Medicare-eligible seniors this year.

Rick Dunlop, health plan CEO for Medicare and Retirement at **UnitedHealthcare**, said prior to the pandemic, less than 0.1% of United's Medicare enrollees participated in telehealth.

"We've seen it has skyrocketed," Dunlop said. "It's been, you know, in the high 30s or low 40% of consumers who've engaged in telehealth. And they've, by and large, reported fantastic experiences with it."

In 2019, Medicare began paying for patients' virtual check-ins, so doctors could briefly assess a person by phone or video chat to determine if they required an in-person visit.

Last month, President Donald Trump issued an **executive order** to permanently expand telehealth services in Medicare beyond the pandemic.

Dunlop pointed out residents who have turned 65 this year typically have a seven-month window to enroll in Medicare.

He advised them to find plan that matches their current health and financial situation, and adds that despite the many unknowns of the COVID-19 crisis, now is the time to make health-coverage decisions for next year.

"But the pandemic itself really hasn't and isn't changing the timelines," Dunlop said. "What's very important is we're heading up to open enrollment, which is going to start October 15th and extend through December 7th."

He also said Kentuckians who have seen financial setbacks from the pandemic may now be eligible for coverage through Medicare or Medicaid.

"For those that have had significant changes in income, they may have and may qualify for some type of income assistance through a state Medicaid program," Dunlop explained. "And again, that's one that you'd want to check with the state, just to see how those qualifications are changing."

According to federal data, more than 938,000 Kentuckians are currently enrolled in Medicare.

Kentucky News Connection

September 17, 2020

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Demands for Police Accountability Continues as Louisville Pays Taylor's Family

Nadia Ramlagan

LOUISVILLE, Ky. -- Six months after Louisville police officers shot and killed 26-year-old Breonna Taylor in her home, city officials announced this week they will **pay her family** \$12 million, one of the highest settlement amounts ever paid for the wrongful death of a Black woman.

The three police officers involved in the shooting have not been criminally charged.

Tara Blakeley, a Louisville resident who has been attending the ongoing protests, says that's a problem.

"If we stand for nothing, then we'll fall for anything," Blakeley said. "And they have to be held accountable for their actions."

Mayor Greg Fischer also announced the city will begin implementing reforms related to search warrants, community policing and police accountability.

Earlier this summer, Louisville's city council voted unanimously to ban no-knock search warrants. Known as Breonna's Law, the order requires all officers who serve warrants to wear body cameras and have them turned on before and after the warrant is served.

The demand of protesters to arrest and charge the police officers involved in the shooting have only grown louder.

Blakeley says the injustice in the case has drawn hundreds of residents out into the streets this summer, many of whom have never protested before.

"This is actually the first time I've been to a protest," Blakeley said. "But I do fully support this, because, like I said, it has to be corrected."

Attorney Benjamin Crump, who is representing Breonna Taylor's family, has pressed Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron to bring second-degree manslaughter charges against the police officers.

However, experts say Kentucky statutes allow police to use their weapons in self-defense, and may provide legal protection for the officers' actions. Cameron says the investigation remains ongoing.

Kentucky News Connection

September 11, 2020

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

KY Group Helps People with Past Felonies Register to Vote

Nadia Ramlagan

LEXINGTON, Ky. -- More than 170,000 Kentuckians with past felonies have had their voting rights restored, but many may not be aware of the change.

Jessica Clark is a volunteer for the [Kentucky Democracy Project](#), a new grassroots effort to get the word out before the Nov. 3 election. Her daughter owns a soul-food restaurant on the north side of Lexington, where Clark said you often can find her, sitting at table outside with voter-registration information. Clark said she and other volunteers will set up at different locations around town, every weekend between now and Oct. 5, the last day to register to vote.

"We will be social distancing, have our masks, hand sanitizer," she said. "First, we will verify that you're not already registered, then we'll answer any questions that you have. We'll guide you through the process. If you're eligible to vote online, we will help you with that."

The locations will be posted on the Kentucky Democracy Project's Facebook and Instagram pages. People with past felony convictions who want to verify if they are eligible to vote can visit [civilrightsrestoration.ky.gov](#).

Lincoln County resident Roger Fox had his voting rights restored through [Gov. Andy Beshear's executive order](#). This November, he'll vote in his first presidential election. While he's excited to cast his ballot, Fox said he's more focused on the local power of the vote.

"I get to pick who serves on my child's board of education, you know? I get to pick the people that represent me in my small town in Kentucky," he said. "I get to vote for the people that go to Frankfort, represent me at the Capitol, right? These local things are the most important to me, because they affect my daily life."

For some residents with past felonies, the path toward voting is complicated. Bill Rone lives in Lexington but originally is from Missouri. He served his time, completed parole and won back his right to vote in Missouri in 2014. Rone recently moved to Kentucky for a job, and was surprised to find he isn't eligible to vote here.

"I don't want to say it's an individual case, because I'm sure there's other people that move from state to state," he said. "I mean, think about that. I've been voting since 2014, and then I move here in 2019 and suddenly, that's taken away from me. That's really -- it really struck me at the time."

Rone said there's no language in Beshear's executive order or any of Kentucky's voting laws to account for residents whose felony convictions occurred in another state. He said he's concerned that he won't be able to vote in November.

Information about the Kentucky Democracy Project is online at [kentuckydemocracy.org](#) and the executive order is at [civilrightsrestoration.ky.gov](#).

Support for this reporting was provided by The Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Kentucky News Connection

September 1, 2020

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Statewide Push to Transform Spaces for Social Distancing

Nadia Ramlagan

LOUISVILLE, Ky. -- One neighborhood in Louisville's south end is working to reimagine a public corridor in the wake of the pandemic to balance public health and safety while allowing local businesses the opportunity to thrive.

The Beechmont Neighborhood Association has received a \$31,000 **Community Challenge grant from AARP** to create a more pedestrian-friendly main street, public-space seating and street lighting.

Mellone F. Long, executive director at the Center for Neighborhoods, has been working with Beechmont residents on community and economic-development efforts. She said the area is one of the only intact mid-century modern blocks in Louisville, littered with independent coffee shops, bookstores and other small businesses.

"We're trying to make sure the restaurants and businesses can be more active during this time of COVID. We're trying to make space outside so the restaurants can have customers outside. And we're trying to make it more pedestrian friendly," Long said.

In Lexington, residents and urban planners also are working to tailor the city's open spaces for a pandemic future, and are holding a **public webinar** this Wednesday to discuss plans for local parks, trails and other public areas.

President of the Beechmont Neighborhood Association Terry O'Mahoney pointed out while walkable streets always have been good for local economies, small businesses will rely even more on well-designed public spaces to stay afloat during and after the pandemic. He said many of Beechmont's shops and restaurants are immigrant-owned.

"We have apartment complexes where refugees from other countries - Somalia, Cuba, Vietnam - have been relocated," O'Mahoney said. "So we have a large immigrant population."

Long noted as state and local funding sources dry up, communities will have to creatively come up with ways to keep neighborhoods vibrant while ensuring residents have a say in the process.

"We don't in go with a pre-designed idea of what should go there," Long said. "So we spend a lot of time talking to the people in the neighborhood and finding out what they want and how they want things done."

According to recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, outdoor spaces that allow people to remain six feet apart combined with mask wearing is the most effective way to curb spread of the coronavirus.

Kentucky News Connection

August 25, 2020

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

KY Childhood Immunization Rates Plummet Amid Pandemic

Nadia Ramlagan

LOUISVILLE, Ky. -- There's been a sharp decline in vaccination rates among Kentucky children since the onset of the coronavirus. And health experts say they are concerned about the confluence of COVID-19, flu season and the potential for other infectious-disease outbreaks.

The state's Department of Medicaid Services reports among Medicaid recipients, from March through June of this year, immunization rates fell by 28% among children younger than 2 years old and dropped by 46% among children 4-6 years old.

CEO of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky Ben Chandler said his organization has launched a campaign called Raise Your Guard, KY, aimed at improving the state's vaccination rates.

"Some of the diseases, like mumps and measles and other things that we have virtually gotten rid of, they'll come back if we don't get enough people vaccinated," Chandler said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 17 measles outbreaks in 2018, with the majority of cases occurring in New York and New Jersey, among unvaccinated people in Orthodox Jewish communities.

The Raise Your Guard, KY campaign urges Kentuckians to contact their physicians to get themselves and their families back on track with scheduled immunizations. Residents can find more information at [RaiseYourGuardKY.org](https://www.raiseyourguardky.org).

Religion and concern about health risks are the primary reasons parents chose not to immunize their children. Dr. Dale Toney, president of the Kentucky Medical Association, said now many parents are worried about potential exposure to COVID-19. But he said visiting your doctor is one of the safest trips you can take.

"Seeing your health care provider is a safe thing to do," Toney said. "We wear masks, we wear gloves, the rooms are sanitized, and we even have special rooms where to do testing for COVID people and the non-COVID type patients."

Chandler said even before the COVID-19 crisis, less than half of infants and toddlers in some counties were immunized against chicken pox, polio, rubella and meningitis.

"It's hard to really say why there's been a decline, but I think there's been a lot of misinformation," Chandler said. "The evidence is that, number one, they are safe, and number two, they work."

Public health officials also are urging residents to get the flu vaccine to stay healthy and prevent COVID-strained hospitals from experiencing a deluge of sick patients this flu season. Frequent hand washing, staying home when sick, and staying socially distant are all methods to reduce the spread of the flu.

Kentucky News Connection

August 19, 2020

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Survey: Most Kentuckians Worry about Affording Health Care

Nadia Ramlagan

LOUISVILLE, Ky. -- Three in four Kentuckians are worried about affording health care, according to **a new statewide poll** that also found dissatisfaction with the current health-care system on both sides of the political aisle. More than 90% of surveyed Kentuckians said they support expanding health-insurance options so that everyone can afford quality coverage.

Terri Bates, a single mother of two in Frankfort, said she had to file for bankruptcy because of medical debt after needing emergency surgery and not being covered.

"It was very stressful," she said. "I had credit agencies calling me all the time, hospitals saying they needed a payment or they were going to take me to court and sue me, and it was nonstop."

Bates said she's working on building her credit again and is no longer in debt, but the experience has made her wary of going to the doctor. Some 30% of survey respondents said they are delaying a doctor's visit. Six in 10 described themselves as "anxious or very worried" about affording treatment for severe COVID-19 illness.

For years, said Richard Seckel, director of the **Kentucky Equal Justice Center**, legal-aid offices across the Commonwealth have seen families crushed by debt to the point of bankruptcy. He said he believes the pandemic is highlighting long-standing weaknesses in the health-care system.

"We've made great progress on expanding coverage for folks in Kentucky and getting people signed up, but it's startling the degree to which people still feel insecure about health care," he said. "It's clear that we can't really have a thriving economy until we make health care something you can count on."

Lexington resident Allison Crawford had abdominal pain for more than a year before she could schedule the diagnostic surgery she needed. Working three jobs, she said, she made too much money to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to afford a high-quality insurance plan. Crawford delayed her procedure until she found a full-time job with benefits.

"I think people who don't want health insurance to be provided to everyone, whether or not you have a job -- health insurance not tied to a job -- I think those people just have never had an experience where it was life or death or facing a lower quality of life," she said.

So far, more than 233,000 Kentuckians have lost employer-sponsored health insurance after losing their job. More than a half-million state unemployment claims have been filed since the pandemic began.

The survey is available online at healthcarevaluehub.org.

Kentucky News Connection

August 13, 2020

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

As Pandemic Continues, Alarming Rise in Hunger Among KY Older Adults

Nadia Ramlagan

OWENSBORO, Ky. -- The state's food banks say they're seeing an alarming number of adults approaching retirement age who need help putting food on the table because of lost wages or employment due to COVID-19.

Even before the pandemic, Kentucky had the highest rate of food-insecure older adults in the nation, but advocates said more newcomers, many who have never had to rely on food assistance, are now seeking help.

Dana Pevler, executive director for the Senior Community Center of Owensboro-Daviess County, said her organization provides Meals on Wheels, and serves drive-through lunches at five different locations in the region.

She said the spike in demand hasn't slowed down since the onset of the pandemic.

"While we should be seeing a waning off of some of these clients, we're not; we're seeing continued growth, steady growth, seven clients a week, maybe more, that are joining us on meals," Pevler said. "And so what that does for us, as providers, it worries us."

She added despite the challenges, food banks and senior centers are committed to ensuring older Kentuckians have enough to eat during the public health crisis.

From March through June of this year, more than 120,000 Commodity Supplemental Food Program boxes were distributed to older adults and seniors in the state through regional food-assistance groups.

Pevler said distribution networks such as Meals on Wheels and other home-delivery programs do more to support communities than many people realize.

"The criticality of the home-delivered meal program is astronomical," Pevler said. "We're not just dropping off a meal. It's way more than a meal. It's having an extra set of eyes and ears stopping in that home every day, making sure they're healthy, they're safe, and they're cared for."

The Novak Family Foundation works with regional organizations that provide food assistance.

Ashley Novak Butler, executive director for the foundation, said she has noticed an overwhelming uptick in funding requests.

"It's one that we're finding in those grant requests that come from a lot of the local Kentucky organizations; you know, the local and statewide organizations," Butler said. "A lot of those grant requests are for addressing the senior population."

Experts say boosting SNAP benefits by at least 15% as part of additional coronavirus relief legislation would help more households and older adults purchase food, while reducing the number of individuals leaning on food banks and pantries.

Research shows for every one meal provided by a food bank, SNAP provides nine.

Kentucky News Connection

August 3, 2020

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KY Brain Cancer Survivor Speaks Out on Mask-Wearing

Nadia Ramlagan

FRANKFORT, Ky. - Back in June, 39-year-old Louisville resident Ben Smith suffered a seizure and subsequently learned he had brain cancer. He says the experience has deeply affected how he views mask-wearing and its role in curbing the spread of coronavirus.

Smith, who is currently undergoing radiation and chemotherapy treatments, said he now faces a higher risk from COVID-19 since he is immuno-compromised. But, he said, you'd never know by looking at him.

"I appear as an otherwise very able-bodied, younger to middle-age male," Smith said. "So a lot of times, you're just not aware, you don't know who you could be around that could be affected by COVID. And it's just why it's all the more important for us to look past ourselves and realize that we're all in this together."

Research has indicated masks also reduce the wearer's chances of contracting the virus by as much as 65%. To date, more than 31,000 Kentuckians have tested positive for COVID-19, and more than 740 have died.

President of the Kentucky Medical Association Dr. Brent Wright said there's growing evidence that people without symptoms are unknowingly passing the virus to others.

"Before people show symptoms, the virus load of COVID-19 is the highest," Wright said. "Which means they don't appear sick, and if they don't wear a mask, they're talking to others and they're spreading that virus to them."

One **study of a COVID-19 outbreak** in an Italian town found around 40% of people that tested positive were asymptomatic.

Ben Chandler, CEO of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, said the "**Wear It for Me**" campaign, launched this month, urges all Kentuckians to wear a mask in indoor spaces and when they can't maintain a six-foot distance from others. His organization, the Kentucky Medical Association and Kentucky Foundation for Medical Care collaborated on the campaign.

"It's extremely important for people to understand that this thing is very far from over and that it has great danger to a whole lot of people," Chandler said. "We can get back to normal quicker only if we wear our masks and only if we pay attention to social distancing."

Data from the Kaiser Family Foundation show more than 40% of adults in Kentucky under age 65 are at higher risk of serious coronavirus complications due to underlying health conditions, such as diabetes, obesity, kidney and lung disease and a weakened immune system.

Kentucky News Connection

July 31, 2020

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Senate's HEALS Act Would Leave More Kentuckians Struggling

Nadia Ramlagan

LEXINGTON, Ky. - The U.S. Senate has proposed a fourth round of legislation to stave off further economic damage from the novel coronavirus pandemic. But critics say **the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection, and Schools (HEALS) Act** fails to provide the most basic of relief for Kentucky families experiencing heightened hunger, uncertainty and distress - at a time when COVID-19 cases are spiking.

Dan Wu owns the restaurant Atomic Ramen in Lexington. He said he's dismayed by lawmakers' holdout on continuing the additional \$600 in federal unemployment insurance benefits that expired for Kentuckians on July 25, under the premise that the additional money disincentivizes people from working.

"Here's the reality of what we're facing right now, not just in the restaurant industry but in small businesses all over the country and in Kentucky," said Wu. "There isn't work to be had. Every restaurant owner I know is reopened in a skeleton-staff kind of way; they've hired a fraction of their staff back. There simply isn't the work to go back to."

The legislation would slash the boost in unemployment benefits for most Kentuckians to around \$200 per week. If the additional federal benefits aren't extended, experts said \$70 million per week would vanish from the state's economy.

With the economic downturn projected to worsen, Adrienne Bush, executive director of the **Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky**, said advocates are calling for a twelve month moratorium on rental and mortgage evictions, and additional federal funding to protect property owners from loan default and shelter families who have lost their housing during the pandemic.

"The HEALS Act contains none of these specific provisions, all of which have been vetted and passed by the House of Representatives since May," said Bush. "The HEALS Act purports to support schools, health care and jobs, but students, health-care workers and people in all areas of our hard-hit economy need to have a place to call home."

She said more than 200,000 Kentuckians currently are at risk of eviction, including 40% of renters in the state. Bush noted that among that group, 58% of Black renters in the Commonwealth say they are not confident they will be able to pay August rent.

Kentucky News Connection

July 23, 2020

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Bill Pre-Filed to Reopen Dozens of Unemployment Offices

Nadia Ramlagan

FRANKFORT, Ky. - Since 2017, more than thirty unemployment offices across the Commonwealth have shut their doors. Now, State Rep. Terri Branham Clark wants to bring them back.

The Ashland Democrat has **pre-filed legislation** that, if enacted, would reopen dozens of unemployment offices across the state, many of which provided job training and in-person assistance to help resolve unemployment insurance claims.

Clark says the move - which would increase the number of offices to 54 statewide - will cut down on long driving distances for folks who need to resolve claims in person.

"As a representative from an eastern Kentucky county, a lot of my residents don't have internet and computers and reliable cell service," says Clark. "So when we start to move to a technology-only system, then that automatically leaves a lot of my constituents out right at the gate. That would be another reason that I'm fighting for a satellite office in Ashland."

The legislation also would provide funds to upgrade the state's 1970s-era unemployment software. **Bill Request 152** will be considered when state lawmakers convene during the 2021 regular session early next year.

Clark adds that the COVID-19 crisis has underscored the importance of in-person unemployment insurance assistance in every community.

"In the last few weeks with the opening of the Frankfort in-person office," says Clark, "and with the pop-up offices that are going throughout the state, we have been able to start effectively resolving some of the issues that have been backed up in the pipeline."

Since March, more than one million Kentuckians have applied for unemployment insurance. Gov. Andy Beshear's office says that around 90% of those claims have been processed.

Kentucky News Connection

July 13, 2020

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

VA Says "Predatory" Colleges Can Accept GI Bill Students

Nadia Ramlagan

FRANKFORT, Ky. -- A handful of colleges with a history of misleading advertising can continue recruiting GI Bill students in an apparent reversal of course by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The move comes just a few months after the agency warned the schools they would be cut off from access to GI Bill benefits if they continued to use false data and predatory tactics aimed at luring people to enroll.

The agency now says the schools have reformed their practices.

Tanya Ang, vice president of the advocacy group Veterans Education Success, says there's little evidence the schools -- including the University of Phoenix -- have changed their ways.

"We have just heard recently from whistleblowers that some of the schools have not curbed their actions, but have instead ramped up their marketing and advertising during the current national crisis with COVID," she states.

Other schools that received warnings include American Intercontinental University, Bellevue University, Colorado Technical University and Temple University. Bellevue and Temple are nonprofit schools.

Federal law prohibits the VA from paying out GI Bill funds to schools that engage in deceptive advertising and enrollment practices.

The VA's warnings were triggered by a slew of legal actions, including a \$200 million settlement by the University of Phoenix with the Federal Trade Commission.

Ang says these schools often aggressively pursue students, overstate their job prospects, and in some cases, aren't even certified for the programs they purport to teach.

"When you're a first generation student, and then all of a sudden the school is massively targeting -- calling you 10 to 15 times a day, sending you emails -- these students are like, 'Oh my gosh, this school really wants me to attend here,'" she states.

Last year, then-state Attorney General Andy Beshear reached a multi-million dollar settlement for more than 2,000 Kentucky students over deceptive practices by the for-profit education companies Career Education Corporation and Sullivan University.

Ang says lawmakers have been active in their support of more oversight of for-profit colleges.

"We have worked really hard with both sides of the aisle to find a bipartisan bill that would protect military-connected students from being targeted and preyed upon by these colleges," she stresses.

According to 2018 data from the VA, more than 10,000 veteran students in Kentucky and their family members are using GI Bill benefits to further their education.

Kentucky News Connection

July 7, 2020

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

House Passes Bills Aimed at Cleaning Up Abandoned Mine Lands

Nadia Ramlagan

WHITESBURG, Ky. -- House lawmakers have passed legislation that would disburse \$1 billion to states over the next five years - including \$116 million to Kentucky - to clean up abandoned mines and jumpstart economic and community-development projects.

The **RECLAIM Act** was passed as part of a package of legislation aimed at creating jobs and addressing the nation's infrastructure needs amid the economic and public-health crisis caused by the coronavirus.

Rebecca Shelton, policy and organizing coordinator with the **Appalachian Citizens' Law Center**, said even before the pandemic, the bill had strong bipartisan support.

"The RECLAIM Act is a newer piece of legislation, but it's coming after five years of a program called The Abandoned Mine Land Pilot program, that has really been a test run for what RECLAIM would offer," Shelton said.

A **study by the Sierra Club** estimates that, if passed, the legislation would create thousands of jobs in Appalachian communities related to abandoned mine land and water-restoration work. The bill now awaits Senate consideration.

More than 20 local governments in eastern Kentucky have signed resolutions in support of the RECLAIM Act. And Shelton said for years, residents and local elected officials have pushed for job-creation measures in communities experiencing economic decline because of a shrinking coal industry, now exacerbated by COVID-19.

"There have been coalitions and organizations that have been thinking for a long time about how do we build a new economy in these regions now that the coal industry has continued to decline, and that's more important than ever before," she said. "And these bills would be a small piece but a very important piece of that work."

In addition to the RECLAIM Act, the Moving Forward Act also includes **House Resolution 4248**, which would reauthorize the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Fund used to support ongoing clean-up efforts in coal communities. That fund is set to expire at the end of 2021.

Kentucky News Connection

July 1, 2020

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Rural Clinics Face Challenges Providing Primary Care Amid Pandemic

Nadia Ramlagan

FRANKFORT, Ky. -- Many rural health clinics primarily serving Medicaid recipients as well as the uninsured are navigating ways to help their patients manage chronic conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure during the pandemic. One million Kentuckians see a health professional at more than ninety rural health clinics across the state.

David Bolt, chief executive of the [Kentucky Primary Care Association](#), said rural clinics increasingly rely on telehealth phone and video appointments amid COVID-19, "and the concern there is that, in a lot of rural areas of the state, we still don't have appropriate connectivity in that last mile for people to take advantage of it."

Kentucky currently ranks 44th among states for broadband access, and statewide health organizations are calling for federal funding to expand reliable internet access in rural areas as part of continued coronavirus relief efforts.

With many patients continuing to avoid non-urgent care, clinic revenues are expected to decline as COVID-19 continues. But despite the challenging road ahead, Bolt said clinics are determined to continue providing primary care in communities hardest-hit by unemployment because of the pandemic.

"Some of these clinics have jumped in to continue to build primary-care operations in communities that have need," he said.

In April, Congress approved a \$225 million grant program specifically aimed at helping federally certified rural health clinics cover coronavirus-related expenses, including testing.



Call Letters: WREZ-FM, WZZL-FM,
WGKY-FM, WRJJ-FM

Time Aired: Sundays at 5:00 am

Weekly Public Affairs Program

QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT, JULY-SEPTEMBER, 2020

Show # 2020-27

Date aired: Sunday, July 5, 2020

Robert Cialdini, PhD, social psychologist, Regents' Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Marketing at Arizona State University, former visiting Professor of Marketing, Business and Psychology at Stanford University and the University of California at Santa Cruz, author of "*Pre-Suasion: A Revolutionary Way to Influence and Persuade*"

Dr. Cialdini talked about the science behind persuasion. He said it's not so much about the message, but what happens in the moment before the message is delivered. He explained how consumers can recognize when they are the target of this sales technique. He also discussed how it can be used in job interviews and other common daily activities.

Issues covered:
Consumer Matters
Career

Length: 9:54

Ateev Mehrotra, MD, Senior Investigator and Associate Professor of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School

Increasingly powerful computers are playing a greater role in our lives every year. Could a computer match, or even outperform, human physicians in diagnosing illnesses? Dr. Mehrotra led a study that found that humans still have the upper hand--for now. He outlined several possible ways that computers may play a greater role in future healthcare scenarios.

Issues covered:
Personal Health
Technology

Length: 7:11

Show # 2020-28

Date aired: Sunday, July 12, 2020

Sean O'Leary, MD, Associate Professor, Pediatrics-Infectious Diseases at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Director of the Colorado Pediatric Practice-Based Research Network, member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Infectious Diseases

As the school season approaches and the pandemic continues, administrators are struggling with plans to educate the nation's children. Dr. O'Leary was an author of new guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics that encourages having students physically present in school. He explained why remote learning has largely failed, and emphasized that there are major health, social and educational risks to keeping children at home.

Issues covered:
Education
Coronavirus

Length: 9:06

Morgan Seybert, Managing Director of US analytics at Nielsen

In the aftermath of consumer panic connected to COVID-19, Americans are now finding fewer choices on store shelves. Mr. Seybert said some companies plan to stick with fewer choices when the pandemic fades. He noted that baby care products, tobacco and frozen goods have seen the biggest reductions in varieties offered. He said restaurants are also thinning menus as the virus changes how they can seat and serve customers.

Issues covered:
Consumer Matters
Economy
Coronavirus

Length: 8:08

Show # 2020-29

Date aired: Sunday, July 19, 2020

Adam Levin, founder of security management and resolution company IDT911, author of "*Swiped: How to Protect Yourself in a World Full of Scammers, Phishers, and Identity Thieves*"

With online breaches of massive databases becoming increasingly common, identity theft is a fact of life. Mr. Levin explained the most common schemes used by scammers, to steal consumers' private information. He said beyond simple identity theft, other forms such as medical-related, tax fraud-related and child identity theft are all increasing rapidly. He offered suggestions for consumers on how to avoid becoming a victim.

Issues covered:
Identity Theft
Consumer Matters

Length: 9:29

Deborah Carr, PhD, Professor of Sociology, Interim Director of the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research at Rutgers University

A recent federal report noted that, no matter how advanced their age, older men are far more likely to be married than older women. Dr. Carr said life expectancy explains only part of this gray gender gap. She discussed the economic, social and health effects of this issue. She also explained why many older women are content to be single anyway.

Issues covered:
Women's Issues
Senior Citizens
Retirement

Length: 7:40

Show # 2020-30

Date aired: Sunday, July 26, 2020

Federico E. Vaca, PhD, Professor of Emergency Medicine and Director of the Yale Developmental Neurocognitive Driving Simulation Research Center (DrivSim Lab)

Teens are getting drivers licenses later than previous generations and missing critical safety training as a result, according to Dr. Vaca's research. He discussed the importance of Graduated Driver Licensing requirements, which are typically not required after a person turns 18. He outlined potential policy changes that could expand and improve driver safety training, regardless of age.

Issues covered:
Traffic Safety
Teen Concerns

Length: 8:26

John-Tyler Binfet, PhD, Psychologist, Associate Professor of Education at the University of British Columbia Okanagan

Dr. Binfet discussed his research into kids and kindness, which challenges media stereotypes that teens are common perpetrators of bullying, cyber harassment and schoolyard fights. He said most parents would be surprised at how kind their children are to others outside of the home. He also suggested ways for parents to encourage their kids to be kind.

Issues covered:
Children's Issues
Parenting
Mental Health

Length: 8:48

Show # 2020-31

Date aired: Sunday, August 2, 2020

Jonathon Wai, PhD, Psychologist, Research Scientist at the Duke University Talent Identification Program

Dr. Wai is one of the researchers involved in a 45-year study of intellectually gifted children. He noted that kids who test in the top 1% tend to become the nation's eminent scientists and academics, Fortune 500 CEOs and federal judges, senators and billionaires. He said, because of the focus on lower performing students, youngsters who show an early aptitude for subjects like science and math tend not to receive the help they need. He offered several simple steps schools can take to help gifted students reach their full potential.

Issues covered:
Education
Parenting

Length: 9:00

Joann S. Lublin, Management News Editor for the Wall Street Journal, author of "*Earning It: Hard-Won Lessons from Trailblazing Women at the Top of the Business World*"

Ms. Lublin said that, although career prospects have improved, progress is still frustratingly slow for women hoping to break the glass ceiling in large companies. She explained what it takes for women to climb to corporate heights in America, such as finding a career mentor.

Issues covered:
Women's Issues
Workplace Matters

Length: 8:13

Show # 2020-32

Date aired: Sunday, August 9, 2020

Sofia Cienfuegos, Dietitian, Intermittent Fasting Researcher, Human Nutrition PhD Candidate at the University of Illinois at Chicago

Ms. Cienfuegos led a study that examined the effectiveness of intermittent fasting for weight loss. She found that obese adults lost an average of 3% of their body weight in two months without counting calories, simply by confining their eating to a 6-hour window each day. She said the weight loss led to other significant health improvements, as well.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:00

**Personal Health
Obesity
Nutrition**

Simone Bruce, Psy.D., visiting therapist at the Behavioral Wellness Clinic in Connecticut, expert in mental health issues related to racism and discrimination

Dr. Bruce said that the impact of race-based stress and trauma on the mental health of black people has been ignored far too long. She said that mental health professionals' lack of education in this area often results in misdiagnosis and mistreatment. She explained how the death of George Floyd sparked a serious increase in stress, anxiety and fear in the black community.

Issues covered:

Length: 9:23

**Racism
Mental Health**

Show # 2020-33

Date aired: Sunday, August 16, 2020

Sophie Egan, former Director of Health and Sustainability Leadership for the Strategic Initiatives Group at The Culinary Institute of America, author of *"How to Be A Conscious Eater: Making Food Choices That Are Good for You, Others, and the Planet"*

Ms. Egan offered easy-to-remember suggestions for making practical decisions about food. She explained why the organic label is important for certain specific foods. She outlined the concerns relating to some canned foods, particularly for children and pregnant women. She also explained how to choose foods that have the least impact on the environment.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:55

**Nutrition
Food Safety
Environment
Consumer Matters**

Bindu Kalesan, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Assistant Professor of Community Health Services at the Boston University School of Public Health

Dr. Kalesan led a study that examined gun suicides in rural America. She said that rather than firearm confiscation, efforts to reduce these suicides should be focused on addressing other diseases of despair which are connected to suicide, such as heart and liver diseases, diabetes and accidental opioid overdose. She said it is critical that those at risk of suicide and opioid addiction are treated by mental health professionals, rather than just untrained support from families or friends.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:29

Suicide
Mental Health
Gun Control
Drug Abuse

Show # 2020-34

Date aired: Sunday, August 23, 2020

Melanie Cullen, management and technology consultant, author of *“Get It Together: Organize Your Records So Your Family Won’t Have To”*

Ms. Cullen said disorganization can be a nightmare for those who need to step in to help an elderly person as a caregiver or estate executor. She offered simple ways to organize important records like passwords, financial records, insurance policies, funeral arrangements, and other personal information.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:36

Senior Citizens
Retirement Planning

Peter Mazareas, PhD, worked with the U.S. Congress on legislation to create 529 savings plans, co-author of *“Plan and Finance Your Family’s College Dreams: A Parent’s Step-By-Step Guide from Pre-K to Senior Year”*

Planning and paying for a college education is a daunting task for most parents. Dr. Mazareas discussed the merits and complexities of 529 savings plans, which allow parents to save tax-free for higher education expenses. He said that there are numerous free and easy-to-access tools for parents to plan for the costs of college.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:38

Education
Consumer Matters
Parenting

Show # 2020-35

Date aired: Sunday, August 30, 2020

Laura Makaroff, DO, Senior Vice President of Prevention and Early Detection at the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society has updated its guidelines for diet and physical activity for cancer prevention. Dr. Makaroff said the new recommendations increase the suggested levels of physical activity and place an increased emphasis on reducing the consumption of processed and red meat, sugar-sweetened beverages, processed foods, and alcohol.

Issues covered:
Cancer Prevention
Personal Health
Physical Fitness

Length: 8:05

Christine Carter, PhD, sociologist, Senior Fellow at the Greater Good Science Center at the University of California Berkeley, author of "*The New Adolescence: Raising Happy and Successful Teens in an Age of Anxiety and Distraction*"

Prof. Carter discussed recent parenting research, along with her own real-world experiences as the mother of four teenagers. She also said that teens are struggling more than ever with suicidal thoughts, depression and anxiety, and that many of the challenges facing today's teens didn't exist when their parents were young. She outlined what she believes are the three most critical skills that parents need to teach their kids.

Issues covered:
Parenting
Teenage Concerns
Mental Health

Length: 9:12

Show # 2020-36

Date aired: Sunday, September 6, 2020

Stephanie Ruest, MD, FAAP, Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellow at Rhode Island Hospital, fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Dr. Ruest's research on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics found that the more time children spend using digital devices, the less likely they are to finish their homework. Children who spent two to four hours a day using computers, videogames, tablets and smartphones had 23 percent lower odds of always or usually finishing their homework, compared to children who spent less than two hours. Dr. Ruest offered advice to parents on how to monitor and control digital usage.

Issues covered:
Education
Parenting

Length: 7:39

Laura Adams, Senior Insurance Analyst for insuranceQuotes.com

Ms. Adams outlined a new study by insuranceQuotes that found that 86% of Americans are unaware that insurers use the claims history of previous homeowners to set premiums for new policies. She explained why consumers are unaware of this database, what it contains, and how they can obtain a free report for their property.

Issues covered:
Consumer Matters
Home Ownership

Length: 9:26

Show # 2020-37

Date aired: Sunday, September 13, 2020

Sam Emaminejad, PhD, Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering

Prof. Emaminejad has developed an add-on for existing smartwatches that allows the device to monitor drug levels inside a person's body in real time. He said the wearable technology could be incorporated into a more personalized approach to medicine -- where an ideal drug and dosages can be tailored to an individual. He believes the cost will be low and it could be available to consumers within two or three years.

Issues covered:
Personal Health
Technology

Length: 8:52

Lisa Boucher, RN, author of "*Raising the Bottom: Making Mindful Choices in a Drinking Culture*"

Ms. Boucher said many Americans quarantined are feeling more and more disconnected, which can easily lead to substance abuse. She added that people who may already have drinking problems are drinking more because they are alone, and alcohol can be easily ordered online and delivered to their homes. She outlined warning signs and what help is available for those struggling with alcohol abuse.

Issues covered:
Substance Abuse
Coronavirus

Length: 8:18

Show # 2020-38

Date aired: Sunday, September 20, 2020

Danielle Holly, CEO of Common Impact, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Boston, which encourages skills-based volunteerism

Ms. Holly's organization recently issued a report that examined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on nonprofit organizations. She said the effect has been staggering, and the skills and expertise of corporate employees are a critical part of restoring and sustaining non-profit organizations. She outlined the core challenges different non-profit groups are facing, and ways that Americans can help, through philanthropic and skilled volunteer support.

Issues covered:
Volunteerism
Charitable Contributions
Coronavirus

Length: 8:44

Ray Dorsey, MD, David M. Levy Professor of Neurology and Director of the Center for Health + Technology at the University of Rochester Medical Center, co-author of *“Ending Parkinson’s Disease: A Prescription for Action”*

Dr. Dorsey said brain diseases are now the world's leading cause of disability. The fastest growing of these is Parkinson's: the number of impacted patients has doubled to more than six million over the last twenty-five years and is projected to double again by 2040. He believes more resources must be placed into research, because while cases are on the rise, the most effective treatment is now a half century old.

Issues covered:
Parkinson's Disease
Personal Health

Length: 8:34

Show # 2020-39

Date aired: Sunday, September 27, 2020

Karen L. Margolis, MD, MPH, Executive Director of Research at HealthPartners Institute in Minneapolis

Dr. Margolis led a study that found that people enrolled in a pharmacist-led telemonitoring program to control high blood pressure were about half as likely to have a heart attack or stroke compared to those who received routine primary care. She explained how the approach differs from typical treatment programs. She also found that, with fewer medical complications, telemonitoring and phone visits translated into a \$1,900 savings on average, per patient.

Issues covered:
High Blood Pressure
Personal Health

Length: 9:59

Honora Englander, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine in the Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine

Opioid abuse and overdoses are rising rapidly, in the wake of COVID-19 lockdowns. Dr. Englander studied 486 patients who entered an in-hospital addiction medicine intervention at OHSU, and found that three-quarters came into the hospital using more than one substance. She said medical personnel must be ready to offer additional support to patients using multiple drugs. She said participants in general abused fewer substances in the months after working with the hospital-based addictions team than before.

Issues covered:
Drug Addiction

Length: 7:12