





**Weekly Public Affairs Program**

Call Letters: \_\_\_\_\_

**QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT, JULY-SEPTEMBER, 2019**

Show # 2019-27

Date aired: 7/7/19 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

**Martin Gibala, PhD**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Kinesiology, McMaster University in Ontario

Dr. Gibala led a study that found that a single minute of very intense exercise produces health benefits similar to longer, traditional endurance training. He recommends the plan for occasionally busy days, not as a permanent substitute for longer and more moderate workouts. He said the findings put to rest the common excuse for not getting in shape: there is not enough time.

**Issues covered:**  
Personal Health

**Length: 8:52**

**Chris Melde, PhD**, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University

Dr. Melde was the co-author of a study of street gang membership. He found that depression and suicidal thoughts or attempts are common among youth who join gangs. He outlined the reasons that many troubled teens join gangs and why gang life causes already significant problems in their lives to become even worse.

**Issues covered:**  
Youth at Risk  
Mental Health  
Crime

**Length: 8:24**

**Matthias Hollwich**, internationally-recognized architect, author of "*New Aging: Live Smarter Now to Live Better Forever*"

Mr. Hollwich discussed ways that homes and communities can be redesigned to make aging a graceful and fulfilling aspect of life. He discussed changes to specific rooms, to help seniors stay safely in their homes for as long as possible.

**Issues covered:**  
Home Safety  
Retirement Planning  
Senior Citizens

**Length: 4:55**

Show # 2019-28

Date aired: 7/14/19 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

**Claire Nee, PhD**, Director of the International Centre for Research in Forensic Psychology, University of Portsmouth, UK

Prof. Nee led an international study of the behavior of burglars. She discussed the surprising degree of knowledge and skill of experienced thieves in choosing which home to target, how to navigate inside and what to take. She offered crime prevention suggestions to make a home less vulnerable to burglary.

**Issues covered:**  
Crime Prevention

**Length: 9:15**

**Raafi-Karim Alidina**, expert in building equality, diversity and inclusive cultures in organizations, co-author of "*Building an Inclusive Organization: Leveraging the Power of a Diverse Workforce*"

Mr. Alidina said in the world of business, diversity is often given lip service, if it receives any attention at all. He explained why diversity and inclusion is crucial to the survival of companies. He outlined steps that business leaders can take to make themselves and their companies more inclusive.

**Issues covered:**  
Discrimination  
Workplace Matters

**Length: 8:04**

**Chick Moorman**, educator, co-author of "*The 10 Commitments: Parenting with Purpose*"

Mr. Moorman talked about the verbal skills that parents should have to raise responsible and confident children. He offered tips on how parents can discipline their children in positive ways to create a culture of accountability.

**Issues covered:**  
Parenting Issues  
Education  
Family

**Length: 4:49**

Show # 2019-29

Date aired: 7/20/19 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bart de Langhe, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Marketing, Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado, Boulder

Many consumers pour through online product reviews before making a purchase. But Dr. de Langhe led a study that found that there is little correlation between better online user ratings and the quality of a product. He explained why consumer opinions often fail to agree with objective product research by consumer organizations.

**Issues covered:**  
Consumer Matters

**Length: 8:06**

**W. David Brown, PhD, DABSM, CBSM**, Sleep Psychologist at Children's Medical Center, Dallas, co-author of "*Sleeping Your Way to the Top: How to Get the Sleep You Need to Succeed*"

Many Americans believe that less sleep equals more productivity. But Dr. Brown said that sufficient sleep and success go hand in hand. He discussed the latest clinically proven techniques for getting quality rest, achieving maximum productivity, and overcoming common sleep impediments to enhance workplace performance.

**Issues covered:**  
Personal Health  
Career

**Length: 9:01**

**Judith Prochaska, PhD, MPH**, Associate Professor of Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine

Dr. Prochaska was the lead author of a study comparing employment in smokers and nonsmokers. She found that after 12 months, smokers were less likely to have found a job than nonsmokers, and those who did earned less than nonsmokers. She explained the reasons that employers may be wary of hiring smokers and how they sometimes screen them out in the hiring process.

**Issues covered:**  
Unemployment  
Personal Health

**Length: 5:03**

Show # 2019-30

Date aired: 7/28/19 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tyler J. VanderWeele, PhD**, Professor of Epidemiology, T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University

Those who attend church services on a regular basis may receive more than just spiritual benefits—they may live longer. Dr. VanderWeele led a study that found that women who went to church more than once a week had a 33% lower risk of dying, compared to those who never went. He talked about the potential reasons behind the finding. He said it is conceivable in the future that doctors routinely ask about church attendance during medical checkups.

**Issues covered:**  
Personal Health  
Religion

**Length: 8:48**

**Kostadin Kushlev, PhD**, psychology research scientist, University of Virginia

Smartphones have become part of everyday life. Dr. Kushlev led a study that found that the increasingly pervasive use of digital technology may be causing ADHD-like symptoms even among the general population. He explained why being separated from a smartphone may cause people to experience distraction, difficulty focusing and getting bored easily when trying to focus.

**Issues covered:**  
Mental Health  
Consumer Matters

**Length: 8:27**

**Carl Cotman, PhD**, Professor of Neurology and Neurobiology, Director of the Institute for Brain Aging and Dementia, University of California, Irvine

Dr. Cotman explained the results of new research into brain health for seniors. The study found that eating almonds, engaging in exercise and participating in brain-stimulating activities can keep aging brain cells in shape. This may delay or prevent Alzheimer's Disease.

**Issues covered:**  
Alzheimer's' Disease  
Health Issues  
Senior Issues

**Length: 4:56**

Show # 2019-31

Date aired: 8/4/19 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

**Alisa Divine**, domestic abuse survivor, author of "*#She Wins: Harrowing Stories from Women Who Survived Domestic Abuse*"

Ms. Divine said that domestic and sexual abuse is a huge problem but often the victims get little help. She explained why it is so important to shed light on the issue and educate the public about the warning signs. She also explained why leaving an abusive situation is the most dangerous time for the victim, and how victims can find help.

**Issues covered:**  
Domestic Abuse  
Women's Issues

**Length: 9:05**

**Matt Fellowes**, founder and CEO of United Income, a retirement-focused online investment management and financial planning company based in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Fellowes co-authored a report that found that only 4% of retirees sign up for Social Security at the most profitable time. He said this single mistake costs the typical American household an average of \$111,000 in lost retirement income. He said that most people should claim Social Security later than they typically do, but he recommends seeking professional advice.

**Issues covered:**  
Retirement Planning  
Personal Finance  
Government Programs

**Length: 8:12**

**Jason Forman, PhD**, Principal Scientist at the Center for Applied Biomechanics at the University of Virginia

Dr. Forman led a study that concluded that women are 73 percent more likely to be injured in a car accident than men. Older people were also at greater risk of injury. He talked about the likely reasons behind this trend. He also said that all car occupants are now more than half as likely to sustain serious injuries in cars less than ten years old than in older cars.

**Issues covered:**  
Traffic Safety  
Women's Issues  
Senior Citizens

**Length: 5:03**

Show # 2019-32

Date aired: 8/12/19 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

**Charee Thompson, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at Ohio University

Dr. Thompson was the co-author of a study of college students, drinking and social media. She discovered that having an "alcohol identity" puts college students at greater risk of having drinking problems. Her study also found that posting about alcohol use on social media sites is actually a stronger predictor of alcohol problems than having a drink. She discussed possible strategies to reduce alcohol abuse on college campuses.

Issues covered:

Length: 6:52

**Substance Abuse  
Education  
Social Media**

**Iris Bohnet, PhD**, Professor of Public Policy, Behavioral Economist at Harvard University, Director of the Women and Public Policy Program, Co-Chair of the Behavioral Insights Group at the Kennedy School of Government, author of "*What Works: Gender Equality by Design*"

Dr. Bohnet discussed gender equality in the workplace and why it's good business. She explained why diversity training programs have had limited success. She outlined the latest research into quick and often inexpensive ways that companies can address gender bias and improve performance.

Issues covered:

Length: 10:17

**Gender Equality  
Women's Issues  
Workplace Matters**

**Matthew J. Quade, PhD**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Management at the Hankamer School of Business, Baylor University

Unethical behaviors by employees can tarnish an organization's reputation, lead to considerable monetary losses, and even result in legal prosecutions. Dr. Quade led a study that found that, in many cases, employees will tolerate misdeeds from a coworker who has the reputation of being a high performer. He believes companies need to examine how they prioritize performance over ethics.

Issues covered:

Length: 4:56

**Ethics  
Workplace Matters**

Show # 2019-33

Date aired: 8/12/19 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

**Susan Frankel**, Executive Director at National Runaway Safeline

Ms. Frankel discussed the increasing problem of runaway and homeless teenagers. She said 1 out of 30 youth ages 13-17 experience homelessness at some point each year, 4.2 million in all. She explained the reasons that young people leave and how they survive on the streets. She outlined the services that her organization offers to help.

Issues covered:

Length: 9:40

**Youth at Risk  
Homelessness  
Parenting**

**William Chopik, PhD**, Associate Professor of Psychology at Michigan State University

Prof. Chopik led a study that examined biases toward people with disabilities. He said bias toward people with disabilities is quite common, but few will acknowledge it. He talked about the demographic groups who are most likely to be prejudiced towards the disabled, and how the problem can be addressed.

**Issues covered:**  
Disabilities  
Discrimination

**Length: 7:37**

**Julius McGee, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Sociology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Portland State University

Efforts to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy sources can help lower carbon emissions. However, Prof. McGee led a recent study that found that renewable energy increases "energy inequality" for lower-income Americans because it costs more than energy produced by oil, coal and natural gas.

**Issues covered:**  
Renewable Energy  
Poverty  
Government Policies

**Length: 4:53**

Show # 2019-34

Date aired: 8/ashq Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

**Will McCallum**, Head of Oceans at Greenpeace UK, author of "*How to Give Up Plastic: A Guide to Changing the World, One Plastic Bottle at a Time*"

Humans produce over 300 million tons of plastic each year, with 12.7 million tons ending up in our oceans. Mr. McCallum discussed the major impact that plastic and microplastic waste has on marine life and the environment. He said it is not possible to recycle all of the plastics used in our everyday lives. He outlined small changes that anyone can make to reduce the amount of plastic waste in their home or community.

**Issues covered:**  
Pollution  
Recycling  
Consumer Matters

**Length: 9:40**

**Joanne Lara, M.A.**, autism expert, former special education teacher, Executive Director of the organization "Autism Works Now"

Up to 85 percent of autistic adults are either unemployed or underemployed. Ms. Lara's organization teaches pre-employment and workplace readiness skills to young adults with autism. She outlined the challenges faced by autistic students, and she explained the role that parents, schools and employers play in helping them to secure meaningful employment.

**Issues covered:**  
Autism  
Employment  
Discrimination

**Length: 7:37**

**Joseph Palamar, PhD**, Associate Professor in the Department of Population Health at the NYU School of Medicine

Prof. Palamar led a study that found that teenagers are more likely to experiment with recreational drugs such as LSD, marijuana, cocaine or ecstasy for the first time during the summer months. He said that the amount of free time on their hands once the school year ends and activities like music festivals are major factors in this risky behavior. He said parents should educate and warn their kids about using recreational drugs, their risks and side effects.

**Issues covered:**  
Drug Abuse  
Youth at Risk

**Length: 4:53**

Show # 2019-35

Date aired: 9/1/19 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

**Leslie Stahl**, longtime reporter for 60 Minutes, author of "*Becoming Grandma: The Joys and Science of the New Grandparenting*"

Ms. Stahl discussed the profound changes and emotions experienced when someone becomes a grandparent. She talked about the physiological changes that occur in women when they have grandchildren, and the therapeutic effects of grandchildren on both grandmothers and grandfathers. She also explained how heartbreakingly common it is for grandparents to be denied access to their grandchildren.

**Issues covered:**  
Family Matters  
Senior Citizens

**Length: 9:15**

**Kevin Kelly**, co-founder and former executive editor of Wired magazine, author of "*The Inevitable: Understanding the 12 Technological Forces That Will Shape Our Future*"

Mr. Kelly discussed twelve technological imperatives that he believes will shape the next thirty years and transform our lives. He is optimistic about innovations, from virtual reality in the home to an on-demand economy to artificial intelligence embedded in everything we manufacture. He offered advice to young people who are plotting educational and career paths in a rapidly-changing tech environment.

**Issues covered:**  
Technology  
Education  
Privacy  
Career

**Length: 7:55**

**Edward G. Brown**, author of "*The Time Bandit Solution: Recovering Stolen Time You Never Knew You Had*"

According to Mr. Brown, 40 to 60% of time at work is squandered by time bandits—co-workers who demand precious time without thinking. He offered suggestions on how to negotiate with time bandits to prevent unwanted, unnecessary and unproductive interruptions.

**Issues covered:**  
Workplace Matters  
Productivity

**Length: 5:04**

Show # 2019-36

Date aired: 9/8/19 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emily Oster, PhD**, Professor of Economics at Brown University, author of "*Cribsheet: A Data-Driven Guide to Better, More Relaxed Parenting, from Birth to Preschool*"

An abundance of often-conflicting advice is usually hurled at new parents from doctors, family, friends, and strangers on the internet. Dr. Oster examined some of this standard advice, compared it to scientific research and found that the conventional wisdom is often wrong. She offered advice to help new moms and dads to be better and more relaxed parents.

**Issues covered:**  
Parenting

**Length: 7:31**

**Roy Ramthun, M.A.**, Founder and President of HSA Consulting Services and the web site AskMrHSA.com

Mr. Ramthun discussed the merits of Health Savings Accounts and how they compare to traditional insurance. He said more Americans should be willing to ask what a medical procedure or medication costs, then shop around to be sure they are not overpaying. He explained how to search for an HSA insurance policy and its companion savings account.

**Issues covered:**  
Healthcare  
Consumer Matters

**Length: 9:46**

**Joel E. Segel, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Administration at Penn State University

The devastating consequences of the opioid crisis are far-reaching in the United States. Prof. Segel was a co-author of a study that examined the costs to society in general and to state and local budgets in particular. He said the most significant impact to taxpayers was treatment costs borne by the Medicare programs run by states, and lost tax revenue from people who exited the workforce because of addictions.

**Issues covered:**  
Government Spending  
Drug Abuse  
Medicare

**Length: 5:02**

Show # 2019-37

Date aired: 9/15/19 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

**Frank Abagnale**, former professional imposter, fraud prevention expert, consultant and lecturer for the FBI academy and field offices, author of "*Scam Me If You Can: Simple Strategies to Outsmart Today's Rip-off Artists*"

Mr. Abagnale discussed the most common scams targeting American consumers. He said scams themselves have changed very little through the years, but the technology used to target victims has improved dramatically. He said millennials are scammed more often than seniors, but seniors typically lose more money. He offered advice for consumers to protect themselves from scammers.

**Issues covered:**  
Crime  
Identity Theft  
Consumer Matters

**Length: 9:07**

**Amy Serin, PhD**, neuropsychologist, author of *"The Stress Switch: The Truth About Stress and How to Short-Circuit It"*

Dr. Serin discussed the increasing levels of stress in today's everyday life, and the most common causes of it. She said excessive use of social media can trigger insecurities and depression. She said most of the time, people aren't even aware that they are stressed. She outlined steps to take for stress relief.

**Issues covered:**  
Mental Health

**Length: 8:04**

**Hank Green**, YouTube star and STEM education proponent

Jobs related to STEM – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – are expected to continue growing, but the United States doesn't have enough workers with the skills to fill those roles. Mr. Green explained why STEM skills are so important for the future workforce, and how parents can encourage their youngsters to pursue STEM careers.

**Issues covered:**  
Education  
Employment  
Parenting

**Length: 5:02**

Show # 2019-38

Date aired: 9/22/19 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

**Maria Russo**, Children's Books Editor of the New York Times Book Review, co-author of *"How to Raise A Reader"*

Ms. Russo explained the importance of child literacy, and the steps parents can take to raise a reader in an age when screens are competing for a child's attention. She said any form of book is fine, including audio books, graphic novels and comic books. She explained why it is important to begin reading to children at the youngest age possible, and offered ideas on how to engage a reluctant reader.

**Issues covered:**  
Literacy  
Parenting  
Education

**Length: 9:22**

**Barbara Hemphill**, founder of The Productive Environment Institute, former President of the National Association of Productivity & Organizing Professionals, author of the *"Taming the Paper Tiger"* book series by Kiplinger's, and the more recent book is *"Less Clutter, More Life."*

A recent study found that business owners, executives and entrepreneurs waste 21.8 hours a week on everything from internet surfing to useless meetings. Ms. Hemphill said the biggest productivity black hole for anyone is e-mail. She outlined the reasons that people lose focus at work and steps they can take to be less distracted.

**Issues covered:**  
Workplace Matters  
Productivity

**Length: 8:01**

**Rebecca Bigler, PhD**, Professor Emerita at the University of Texas at Austin

Prof. Bigler was part of a team of researchers that sought to learn more about the political development of the nation's children. The study found that children demonstrated a surprisingly high level of interest in and knowledge about the most recent presidential election and candidates, but many had gaps in their knowledge. She offered advice for parents to help their children learn more about civics and the election process, particularly heading into the next presidential election.

**Issues covered:**

Civics and Citizenship  
Parenting

**Length: 5:11**

Show # 2019-39

Date aired: 9/29/19 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

**Caitlin M. Zaloom, PhD**, Associate Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University

The average annual price tag for attending a private, four-year American college is now nearly \$50,000. Prof. Zaloom led a study that found that paying for college is taking a toll on middle-class families in ways that are more profound and less appreciated than even the financial cost conveys. She said that shouldering the weight of paying for college is often seen by parents as a moral obligation to their children.

**Issues covered:**

Education  
Personal Finance  
Parenting

**Length: 9:34**

**Bridget Freisthler, PhD**, Professor of Social Work at Ohio State University

54 percent of adults who use marijuana in the United States are parents. Prof. Freisthler led a study that found that parents who use marijuana utilize more discipline techniques on their children on average than non-users, ranging from timeouts to, in some cases, physical abuse. She found that the same was true of alcohol users. She said that with the growing acceptance of marijuana in American society, users need to be aware that the drug affects numerous forms of behavior, including parenting.

**Issues covered:**

Substance Abuse  
Child Abuse  
Parenting

**Length: 7:30**

**Tracy McCubbin**, author of "*Making Space, Clutter Free: The Last Book on Decluttering You'll Ever Need*"

Ms. McCubbin talked about the value of teaching organization skills to children during back to school time. She offered numerous tips for parents to clear the clutter as kids start the new school year, including how to decide what to donate or discard, and the importance of an organized desk.

**Issues covered:**

Parenting  
Education

**Length: 5:07**

### Issues/Programs List

Date Filed: October 10, 2019

Quarter Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. 2019

Title of Program: Community News

Time of Airing: See Below

Duration Program: 5 minutes

Stations & Airtimes: WGKY-5:45a; WZZL-5:45a; WREZ-5:45a; WRJJ-5:45a

### Program Information

Date	Guest/Topic	Issue
7/7/19	Nadia Ramlagan – Veteran Wheelchair Games	Veterans
7/14/19	Clare White – Medicaid Coverage	Health
7/21/19	Aaron Bentley – Death Penalty	Crime
7/28/19	Jeff Howard – Hepatitis-A Outbreak	Health
8/4/19	Kimberlie Rigsby – Financial Education Classes	Education
8/11/19	Karen Ditsch – Health Centers	Health
8/18/19	Patty Amburgey – Black Lung Benefits	Health
8/25/19	Kristi Putnam – Medicaid Changes	Health
9/1/19	Sherry Murphy – Aging Parks	Tourism
9/8/19	Angie Summers – Affordable Insulin	Economy/Health
9/15/19	Ashley Spaulding – Education Funding	Education
9/22/19	Katy Spangler – Medical Billing	Economy
9/29/19	Patricia Tennen – Growing Up in Poverty	Economy

Filed by:



Date:

10/10/19

July 3, 2019

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

## Veterans Head to Louisville from Across U.S. for Wheelchair Games

Nadia Ramlagan

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - Hundreds of veterans will be in Louisville next week to compete in the 39th annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Men and women with spinal-cord injuries, amputations and other impairments will compete in a variety of sports.

U.S. Army veteran Ted Rake is coming from Indiana to be part of the games. Rake was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in his 40s, and lost function on one side of his body. He said watching other veterans compete in the Wheelchair Games a few years ago made a strong impression on him and how he views his own abilities. Rake said it changed his life.

"I was watching the 'Super G' event, which is essentially like an advanced wheelchair course, and there was a guy there, there was a Marine, was missing part of his leg," Rake said. "And he would fail, and he would fail and he would fail - and then finally, he'd overcome the obstacle. And then he'd get to the next obstacle, and he'd fail, he'd fail, he'd fail - and then he'd overcome it. And he finally finished it."

This year, Rake is competing in Boccia, bowling, archery, discus and shotput. He said many veterans train for years to be able to compete in the games.

AARP Kentucky and Paralyzed Veterans of America are recruiting local volunteers to staff the events and cheer the athletes on. About 3,000 volunteers are needed; more information is online at [wheelchairgames.org](http://wheelchairgames.org).

Jennifer Purser, who directs the games, said more than 600 veterans participate in nearly 20 different sports. She said the games first began in the 1980s.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs started this because there was such a need for adaptive sports to help with rehabilitation for injured veterans," said Purser, senior associate director of sports and recreation for Paralyzed Veterans of America. "The one main thing that I always hear is that, 'The games is a place I can go and I see people in the same situation that I am, and I get to build my support system, and my family gets to build their support system.'"

In 2016, more than 300,000 veterans were living in Kentucky, according to the state's Department of Veterans Affairs. Organizers have pointed out that, like the Olympics, the Wheelchair Games are held in a different city each year, with the hope of introducing the program to new participants.

More information about the event is online at [wheelchairgames.org/mission](http://wheelchairgames.org/mission).



# Kentucky News Connection

*A statewide news service for Kentucky*

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**Direct login:** [www.newsservice.org/story](http://www.newsservice.org/story)

July 8, 2019

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

## Kentuckians Keep Losing Medicaid Coverage for Unexplained Reasons

Frankfort, KY - Some Kentuckians are losing Medicaid coverage and don't understand why. A report by Families USA finds this trend is happening across the country. Comments from Clare White, of Scott County; and Indalecio (IN-dal-lace-ee-O) Garza of Laurel County.

**Intro:** Some Kentuckians are suddenly losing Medicaid coverage, and remain in the dark as to why. According to a Families U-S-A report, the percentage of Medicaid enrollees in Kentucky dropped by four percent between 2017 and 2018, mirroring a national trend. The report's authors say that annual, or even monthly, eligibility redetermination processes, which can be confusing and involve piles of paperwork, are driving the decline in enrollment. Clare White lives in Scott County and has worked as a nanny. During a job switch, she discovered she had lost her coverage.

:15 *"I went to the pharmacy to pick up my prescriptions and they said, 'That's not covered,' and I called my insurance provider, and I was no longer a member of WellCare. And I started getting bills for the care I'd had."*

**Tag:** White says that after losing coverage, she pinched for pennies to cover prescriptions, primary-care and therapist visits. Experts say federal regulations put into place under the Affordable Care Act were designed to simplify the process for verifying income and state residence, yet some states aren't complying with the new rules.

**Second Cut:** White says the sudden loss of coverage has had lasting effects on her quality of life.

:08 *"It just turned my life upside down, when I lost that coverage, and I'm still dealing with the repercussions of that."*

**Third Cut:** Many low-income Kentuckians struggle to navigate the renewal process. Indalecio Garza lives in Laurel County. When he had a stroke, he was unaware he had lost his Medicaid benefits the month before.

:20 *"After that, it was chaos, bills coming in from everywhere, \$29,000 from one place, \$59,000 from the other. It was so much money that I was about to have another stroke. The attorney that assisted me said they should have never closed it like that."*

## **KY Judge Rules Death Penalty Protocol Unconstitutional**

Nadia Ramlagan

FRANKFORT, Ky. - A Franklin County judge has ruled the state's protocol for carrying out the death penalty is unconstitutional. The ruling by Judge Phillip Shepherd came in response to a case filed by a group of death-row inmates, who argued corrections department regulations don't protect people with intellectual disabilities.

Nearly 20 years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court banned the execution of people with intellectual disabilities. Aaron Bentley, chair of the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, said the judge's decision highlights one of the many flaws in the state's system.

"What Kentucky is asking us is to trust that a person not only deserves - in their estimation - to be executed, but is fit to be executed," Bentley said. "And what the decision from the Franklin circuit court shows is that we can't trust that."

Bentley pointed out the state once relied on IQ testing to determine whether or not a person could be considered intellectually disabled. In 2018, Kentucky's Supreme Court ruled IQ alone is not sufficient to determine mental competency. Bentley said corrections departments should be performing comprehensive psychological testing to ensure defendants have the ability to understand why they are being sentenced to die.

Litigation over Kentucky's execution protocol has been ongoing for more than a decade. Republican State Rep. Chad McCoy of Bardstown said Kentuckians should be aware that legal fees and other costs involved in death-row cases are draining state funds.

"Right now with the death penalty in Kentucky, since 1978, I think we've had 33 people sentenced to death, but we've only actually executed three. And of those three, one of them voluntarily said 'I'm not going to do any appeals; go ahead and do it.' And the other two actually went through the system," McCoy said. "We waste just a ton of money on the appeals, that last literally for years, and years and years, and years."

The state spends an estimated \$10 million per year on death-penalty court proceedings, according to the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy.

7/28

July 24, 2019

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

## **KY Takes Team Approach to Curb Hepatitis-A Outbreak**

Nadia Ramlagan

FRANKFORT, Ky. - The Kentucky Department of Public Health's "Strike Team" of nurses is offering hepatitis-A vaccines at county jails and other locations across the state. The effort comes as Kentucky's hepatitis-A outbreak has become the deadliest in the country, with a death toll of 58.

In some rural communities, said Dr. Jeff Howard, Department of Public Health commissioner, more than 80% of patients with hepatitis-A also report substance abuse. He said reaching at-risk populations has been particularly challenging.

"And what we realized is that getting nursing staff from the health department to go to the jails was an obstacle because, over time, our health departments have become so lean, especially in the clinical realm, they often didn't have expendable staff," he said. "We developed this nurse vaccination team - 'Strike Team,' as it's been called - to be able to go out and fill that need throughout the community."

Since April, Howard said, the strike team has provided more than 2,000 hepatitis-A vaccinations across the Commonwealth. The outbreak began in Jefferson County in 2017. Since then, more than 4,000 cases in nearly all of Kentucky's counties have been reported.

Howard said people who are homeless also are more likely to contract hepatitis-A, so the Department of Public Health is working with local homeless shelters to offer the vaccine onsite.

"What we realized early on, as it pertains to the hepatitis-A outbreak, is that there were really two populations primarily at risk in Kentucky," he said. "One is those with substance abuse disorder, and two, those that are homeless. The primary driver appears to be substance-use disorder."

Hepatitis-A is a highly contagious liver infection that can be transmitted through person-to-person contact. More than \$4 million in state and federal funding has been allocated to combat the outbreak.



## Allstate Agents Offer Financial-Education Classes to KY Domestic-Violence Survivors

Nadia Ramlagan

FRANKFORT, Ky. - Allstate insurance agents are helping domestic violence survivors with financial literacy by teaching financial education classes at shelters across the Commonwealth.

Kimberlie Rigsby is an Allstate agent in Rowan County who also is a domestic violence survivor. She teaches women the basics of budgeting, bank accounts and credit scores.

Rigsby says many people don't realize that financial abuse is a form of domestic abuse.

"Financial abuse is not letting you have access to your own money," she points out. "Telling others like family members and friends things that are not true.

"They start planting a seed from the very beginning. In my case, I couldn't even have change in my purse."

More than 2,000 survivors of domestic violence in Kentucky - most of whom are single mothers with annual incomes of less than \$15,000 - will receive free economic empowerment services this year.

Andrea Richard, a senior communications consultant with the Allstate Foundation, says the \$50,000 grant her organization awarded the Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence to help to jump start the program is part of a long-standing commitment.

"With domestic violence, specifically, we help to financially empower survivors," she states.

Allstate also is working with several domestic violence shelters across the state to help collect donations of household goods and school supplies for survivors in need.

Andrea Miller, client services project director of the Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence, says survivors who are leaving an abusive home have to start life over completely.

"I think one of the important parts about this is, of course, survivors of course are coming into shelter with essentially nothing," she points out. "Whatever they can pack up in a suitcase or trash bag, or the clothes on their back. For their kids as well, if they have children, this is what they come in with."

Miller points out that it's still rare for large items, such as beds or couches, to be donated. She says local shelters rely on their communities to meet the needs of survivors and their children moving into safe housing.

Donation drives are ongoing until Monday.

## More Kentuckians Relying on Community Health Centers for Medical Care

Nadia Ramlagan

BEATTYVILLE, Ky. - One community health center in eastern Kentucky is reflecting on its 14 years serving rural residents, regardless of their ability to pay or insurance status.

Karen Ditsch runs Juniper Health, a community health center in Lee County, one of 24 federally funded health centers in the state.

She says before her clinic in Beattyville opened, residents had to travel long distances to visit a doctor, dentist or mental health specialist.

"I can remember very vividly, and I can see it in my mind, people literally coming through the door and crying, because they realized, number one, we're here to serve everybody that walks through our doors, regardless of their ability to pay, and that we have a sliding fee scale that was affordable to them," Ditsch relates. "Some of these folks in their 40s and 50s were receiving health care for the first time in their lives."

The number of Kentuckians visiting clinics such as Juniper Health has swelled, mirroring a nationwide trend.

Next year, an estimated one in 12 Americans will seek care at a community health center.

Federal funding for health centers will expire at the end of September unless it's renewed by Congress.

Last month, a group of health center advocates from Kentucky flew to Washington to press Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and other congressional leaders to extend funding before the deadline.

There is bipartisan support among congressional leaders for pending legislation that would funnel \$4 billion to community health centers across the country.

Ditsch says consistent funding helps to ensure her clinic can retain and hire health care professionals, and points out that Juniper Health has been a source of jobs and economic stability in Lee County.

"We employ 100 people, and we started years ago - 14 years ago - with 17 people, so we've really added to the economy in these small communities," she states.

According to the latest data, more than 400,00 patients in the Commonwealth receive health care at community health centers, including children, the homeless and veterans.

## **Collapsing Coal Industry Leaves Miners Fighting for Benefits, Back Pay**

Nadia Ramlagan

WHITESBURG, Ky. - A wave of coal company bankruptcies has left miners fighting for back pay and medical benefits.

Three large coal producers have gone under this year. At the same time, an epidemic of black lung disease is sweeping many coal mining communities.

Letcher County resident Patty Amburgey says her husband, a coal miner, died from decades of exposure to coal dust. They were married for 45 years.

"It destroyed his body," she says. "It's like a storm went through and there wasn't nothing left."

Last month miners traveled to Washington to press lawmakers on legislation that would ensure retired miners suffering from black lung disease and their families are paid disability benefits when a miner's employer has gone bankrupt.

Known as the Black Lung Benefits Disability Trust Fund Solvency Act, the bill was introduced by U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., and is funded through an excise tax.

Bankruptcy is a real fear as the coal industry continues to atrophy.

Amburgey says it's not just miners with black lung who are suffering.

"Every day, I changed his bed and bathed him," she relates. "It takes a toll not only on the person that has black lung, it takes a toll on the whole family.

"It leaves a mark that can't be erased nowhere. It leaves it on your heart and soul."

Meanwhile, miners in Harlan County continue to protest for the third straight week, after their employer, Blackjewel, went bankrupt without paying them for their work.

A group of miners continues to camp out, blocking coal trains near Cumberland and demanding missing paychecks.

## Medicaid Changes Allow KY Schools to Expand Behavioral Health Services

Nadia Ramlagan

FRANKFORT, Ky. - Local school districts will soon be able to hire more licensed psychologists, counselors and other behavioral-health professionals, thanks to upcoming Medicaid changes that will allow schools to use federal dollars.

Kristi Putnam, deputy secretary of the state's Cabinet for Health and Family Services, says schools will be able to offer more supports to help students struggling with depression, anxiety and other mental-health issues.

"If a school wants to do a behavioral-health assessment for all their students, currently that is at the expense of the school district," says Putnam. "With these changes, that school district will be able to bill for any youth or children in their school who receive Medicaid. So they would get some reimbursement, whereas before, as of right now today, they don't receive reimbursement for those services."

Putnam says schools can now comply with Senate Bill 1, also known as Kentucky's School Safety and Resiliency Act, which went into effect on July 1. The law mandates that each school be staffed with health professionals.

The state is still waiting on final approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services before schools can begin working with providers.

Putnam says the Medicaid changes, known as "Free Care," went into effect about five years ago, but only recently are beginning to catch on.

"States were allowed to make this change to allow school districts to bill for services, but only about 14 states are currently either pursuing it or doing it," says Putnam. "So it's not a change that has been widely implemented yet."

Dr. Jim Flynn, executive director of the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents, says school districts now will be better equipped to address students' immediate behavioral-health needs.

"We have seen over the past 15, 16 years an increase in the referrals for students that are dealing with behavioral-health issues," says Flynn. "These funds that are being released will only help us."

Last year, between 14% and 16% of 8th, 10th and 12th graders said they had seriously considered attempting suicide, according to data by the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center. That same survey found that among 15- to 19-year-olds, 28% of suicide deaths were linked to a depressed mood, 24% had a mental-health diagnosis and 20% cited problems with an intimate partner.

## 'Complete Overhaul' of KY's Aging National Park Infrastructure Urged

Nadia Ramlagan

FRANKFORT, Ky. - Eight in 10 registered voters support cleaning up and repairing the nation's aging national parks, according to a poll by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

House lawmakers are considering legislation that would channel up to \$6.5 billion in funding to the National Park Service to begin upgrades to crumbling roads, outdated water and sewer systems, and eroding trails and campgrounds.

Sherry Murphy, executive director of the Bowling Green Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, says Kentucky's national parks need what she calls a "complete overhaul."

"Those infrastructure-type projects aren't glamorous, but they're necessities for those parks to be able to continue to operate," she states. "And then, of course, the roads and bridges themselves. It's one thing to feel a pothole; it's another when the road needs to be resurfaced."

Kentucky is home to Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park and Mammoth Cave National Park.

Collectively, these parks have racked up more than \$111 million of deferred maintenance.

Murphy also points out that for many communities, national parks are the backbone of economic activity.

"Here in Kentucky, our national park system is responsible for over 1,500 jobs," she says. "Our national park system also means \$142 million into the economy from visitors. So it is a huge impact on those communities."

To address the maintenance backlog, the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act would use money from oil and gas company fees paid to the federal government.

Kentucky isn't the only state with maintenance needs. Marcia Argust, project director for the Restore America's Parks Campaign, part of The Pew Charitable Trusts, says it's been 50 years since the nation's national parks have seen significant investment.

"Over two-thirds of the House and one-third of the Senate support legislation to fix our parks," she states. "It's time for congressional leadership to take the next step, and that next step is allowing a vote on this legislation."

According to the Pew poll, voters from all sides of the political spectrum say keeping the country's parks and monuments pristine and up to date is important.

*Support for this reporting was provided by The Pew Charitable Trusts.*

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**Kentucky News Connection**

*A statewide news service for Kentucky*

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September 3, 2019

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## **As Prices Rise, More KY Diabetics Unable to Afford Insulin**

Frankfort, KY – Health-care advocates are calling on Kentucky lawmakers to do what they can to make insulin more affordable. Comments from Angie Summers, a Louisville resident who recently testified before the Interim Joint Committee on Banking and Insurance about how the high cost of insulin affects treatment of her Type 2 diabetes.

**Intro:** The cost of insulin is skyrocketing, and health-care advocates want Kentucky lawmakers to take action to stop it. According to the American Diabetes Association, the list price of insulin has jumped by 64-percent since 2014. Last month, Louisville resident Angie Summers told the state’s Interim Joint Committee on Banking and Insurance that she’s had to self-ration the insulin needed for her Type 2 diabetes, or go without.

:10 *"A lot of times for me, that made it easier for me to put it on the back burner – you know, that made it easier for me to say, 'Well, I have to make rent, so insulin's going to have to wait.'"*

**Tag:** More than a half-million Kentuckians live with diabetes – just over 15 percent of the state’s adult population. Earlier this year, state Attorney General Andy Beshear filed lawsuits against the world’s three largest insulin manufacturers over rising drug prices.

**Second Cut:** House Bill 502, introduced in the last legislative session by Republican Representative Danny Bentley of Russell, would require drug manufacturers to be more transparent about insulin pricing. Summers thinks that’s a good start.

:10 *"I think the first step is, we have to demand transparency. I think the second step is that we have to agree that there has to be a cap on those co-pays."*

**Tag:** In May, Colorado became the first state in the country to set a 100-dollar cap on insurance co-pay amounts for insulin.

**Third Cut:** Summers says if she were to take the insulin she needs, even with insurance, it would cost her about 800-dollars a month.

:11 *"I didn't want to say anything to anybody, because I was ashamed that I had Type 2 diabetes to begin with. And then, there was the shame of not being able to afford medication."*

**Tag:** Summers isn’t alone. An American Diabetes Association survey found many people who face high out-of-pocket costs for insulin are forced to either ration or forgo their medication in order to reduce costs.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

LEDE: The cost of insulin is skyrocketing, and diabetes advocates want Kentucky lawmakers to take action. More from Nadia Ramlagan (ROM-la-gone).

9/15

# Kentucky News Connection

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September 12, 2019

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

## KY Sees Decline in Per-Student State Funding

Frankfort, KY — Kentucky students head back to school amid shrinking state education funding, according to an analysis by the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy. Comments from Ashley Spaulding, senior policy analyst at the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy.

**Intro:** State funding per-student is on the decline, with consequences for local school districts and communities, according to an analysis by the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy. Ashley Spaulding is the center's senior policy analyst. She says the state education budget includes both state and federal dollars, and that the state's portion of that funding has decreased by more than one hundred twenty dollars per student since 2008.

:15 *"It pushes more and more of the funding responsibilities onto local school districts, and you can really see that with transportation funding in the budget. It's supposed to be funded at 100% by the state, and currently in 2019 it's funded at just 66%."*

**Tag:** Spaulding says underfunded school districts must make up the difference with local dollars or cut critical programs and services. She adds that many Kentucky schools have been forced to reduce course offerings, school services and staff levels.

**Second Cut:** Research has shown that shrinking school state funding worsens education inequalities between low-income and wealthier communities. Spaulding notes that communities with more capital can often make up the difference.

:09 *"Wealthier school districts are able to raise more local revenue and to make up for those cuts than the poorer school districts."*

**Third Cut:** Spaulding says what comes out of the legislative session, which begins at the start of next year, will determine whether or not the state begins to reverse a decade of education cuts or continues the trend.

:13 *"It may be very daunting for lawmakers to face where we really are with education funding. We need to raise additional revenue in order to invest in our schools, in our kids and in our classrooms."*

**Tag:** According to the Kentucky Department of Education, the state's more than 14-hundred public schools received more than five million combined state and federal dollars last year.

### OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEDE: State funding per-student is on the decline, with consequences for local school districts and communities, according to an analysis by the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy. More from Nadia Ramlagan (ROM-la-gone).

## Federal Lawmakers Considering Bill to Stop Surprise Medical Billing

Nadia Ramlagan

FRANKFORT, Ky. - Congress is considering legislation to stop surprise medical bills. According to the **Kaiser Family Foundation**, in 2017, 7% of Kentuckians received at least one out-of-network medical charge.

Katy Spangler with the **Coalition Against Surprise Medical Billing** said the Lower Health Care Costs Act would help protect consumers. Several years ago, when she was having her first child, she discovered how just one medical event could result in a charge running into the tens of thousands of dollars.

"I was able to pick my physician, make sure that my physician was in-network. I was able to pick my hospital, make sure that they were in-network. But, I didn't need the anesthesiologist until I was in a gown, ready to go and have my baby," Spangler said. "There was no way for me to pick and make sure that my anesthesiologist was in-network."

Spangler said a scenario like this typically generates a surprise medical bill. The **Lower Health Care Costs Act**, introduced this summer by Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and others, would establish a benchmark for medical billing based on region.

Spangler said federal legislation needs to be passed so people don't get saddled with monstrous bills simply because they had an emergency and were unable to select an in-network provider.

"But where it gets a lot trickier, there are these providers that you don't pick," she explained. "And the problem has really been exacerbated because of this market failure. Those providers can charge really high rates - many, many many multiples of the Medicare program."

Some physicians groups opposing the legislation say the bill could have unintended consequences.

Spangler said some private equity-backed or hedge fund-owned physician staffing companies are purposefully going out of network in order to raise rates.

"So one of the companies that does this, called EmCare, before they went into an area, the amount that was paid for an ER visit was \$467. After EmCare came in, they increased that price to \$1,649," Spangler said.

Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee are now investigating the role of private equity firms in driving up costs that result in surprise medical bills.

Date Aired: 9/22/2019

9/29

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September 25, 2019

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## 16% of Kentucky Children Growing Up in Concentrated Poverty

Frankfort, KY - A new report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation finds 16% of Kentucky's children live in concentrated poverty. Comments from Patricia Tennen, chief operating officer, Kentucky Youth Advocates; and Scot Spencer, associate state director of advocacy, Annie E. Casey Foundation.

**Intro:** The economy may have bounced back from the Great Recession, but that hasn't helped the 163-thousand Kentucky children living in concentrated poverty, according to a new report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Patricia Tennen of Kentucky Youth Advocates says stagnant wages, rising housing costs and lack of job opportunities for parents, especially in rural counties, keep many families impoverished.

:17 *"You know, we have historical trends of childhood poverty in Kentucky, especially in the coalfields, where you have much higher unemployment rates. We know that it took a much longer time for Kentucky to recover from the Great Recession than other states."*

**Tag:** The number of children living in poverty in Kentucky has remained relatively unchanged since 2008, according to the report.

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**Second Cut:** The Casey Foundation's Scot Spencer says across the country, poverty has worsened in many states, despite the so-called economic expansion.

:12 *"No children should be living in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty. The fact that we still have 8.5 million children after multiple years of economic expansion and growth should not be a satisfactory solution for anyone in the United States."*

**Third Cut:** Tennen points out that low-income households could benefit from legislation that makes it easier for parents to work.

:18 *"We would like Congress to take final steps to increase funding for child-care assistance, to allow more parents to access high-quality affordable care while they work. We think state leaders can curb predatory lending practices to prevent families from living from paycheck to paycheck and falling into a debt trap."*

**Tag:** According to a report by Tennen's organization, low-income Kentucky families are 21-percent more likely to have taken out a payday loan or other short-term, high-cost loan, compared with just 3-percent of wealthier families.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

LEDE: The economy may have bounced back from the Great Recession, but that hasn't helped the