

### Issues/Programs List

Date Filed: April 3, 2018

Quarter Date: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2018

Title of Program: Community News Break

Time of Airing: See Below

Duration Program: 5 minutes

Stations & Airtimes: WZZL-5:30a, WREZ-5:30a, WGKY-5:30a

### Program Information

Date	Guest/Topic	Issue
01/07	Al Cross-Newspapers	Digital World
01/21	Cynthia Schepers-Children's Advocates	Child Safety
01/28	Natalie Harris-Homeless	Poverty
02/04	Amy Barkley-Tobacco Free Kids	Children's Health
02/11	John Tilley-Kids with Parents in Prison	Parenting
02/18	Ternina Edington-Nutrition	Children's Health
02/25	Todd Dunn-Working People's Day of Action	Economy
03/04	Charles Main-Reading	Education
03/11	Diane Pratt-Heavner-School Meals	Nutrition
03/18	Larry Miller-Mine Development	Economy
03/25	Forest Clevenger-Protest Gun Violence	Gun Violence

Filed by: 

Date: 4/3/18

\*See attached for more information

1/7

**Kentucky News Connection**

A statewide news service for Kentucky

Producer: Mary Kuhlman, 1303 US 127 South Ste. B #359, Frankfort, KY, 40601 Ph: 800-931-1861 Fax: 208-247-1830 E-mail: knc@newsservice.org

**MEDIA PRODUCTS ONLINE: [www.newsservice.org](http://www.newsservice.org) Your Web Account ID is: KNC-250  
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January 2, 2018

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

**Local Papers Hold Their Own in Digital World**

Frankfort, KY – Despite a gradual decline in circulation, metropolitan newspapers survived the advent of radio and TV, but still struggle to find their niche in the age of the World Wide Web. Not so for rural newspapers, many of which are holding their own in Kentucky and across the country. Comments from Al Cross, director, Institute for Rural Journalism.

**Intro:** About 63 million, or 16-percent, of U-S residents live in rural America and, while they increasingly embrace digital technology, they still rely on local newspapers to provide them with news the Internet can't. Al Cross, who heads the Institute for Rural Journalism, says rural residents are 10-percent less likely to have broadband and smartphones than city-dwellers. And while many don't believe all the information they read on the Internet, Cross says trust in the local newspaper remains high.

**Cut 40250 :13** *"I think there's always going to be a demand for news of your locality. I think that journalism is essential for democracy, and rural communities, they deserve journalism – good journalism – too, and that people are always going to want the news of their locality."*

**Tag:** Cross says rural residents no longer expect to get national and international news from their local paper, but want school, police and civic information that other news sources don't provide.

**Second Cut:** Between 2007 and 2015, more than 100 daily newspapers closed. Many blamed smart phones and young people who now get their news online. But Cross contends the economic downturn is more to blame than a loss of readers.

**Cut 41250 :13** *"Most of the newspaper closures have come in, I think, the small towns of the Great Plains that have been hollowed out by population loss and are no longer large enough or viable enough to support a local newspaper."*

**Third Cut:** He adds that rural papers are doing better in the digital age than their metropolitan counterparts, perhaps because they don't try to be everything to all people. □ □

**Cut 42250 :12** *"Metropolitan papers have always tried to give people local, state, national and international news, entertainment features and so on. Now, people get most of that stuff elsewhere, and they get it in a more timely fashion."*

**Tag:** There are seven-thousand weekly newspapers and 12-hundred daily newspapers across the country.

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

LEDE: About 63 million U-S residents live in rural America and, while they increasingly embrace digital technology, they still rely on their local newspapers to provide them with news the Internet can't. Mary Schuermann has more.

**Cut 43250 :40** *Outcue...Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Contact Cross at 859-257-3744.

1/21/18

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January 19, 2018

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**Kentuckians Unite for Kids at State Capitol**

Frankfort, KY – Hundreds of Kentuckians, including more than 100 children and teens, convened in Frankfort on Thursday (1/18) for the 14th annual Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol. They urged state leaders to support a unified agenda for children's advocates across the state. Comments from Cynthia Schepers (SHEP-ers), a young attendee from Louisville; and Dr. Terry Brooks, executive director, Kentucky Youth Advocates.

**Intro:** Dozens of Kentucky kids put their future in their own hands on Thursday, as they joined state leaders and others for the 14th annual Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol. Executive Director of Kentucky Youth Advocates Dr. Terry Brooks says it was a day to unite and rally on behalf of children's safety, health, education, and economic well-being.

**Cut 61250 :10** *"Champions for children learn the art of advocacy by meeting with representatives and Senators and sharing what kind of policies and what kinds of issues are in their head and on their heart."*

Cynthia Schepers of Louisville, formerly in foster care, says it was encouraging to see so many kids involved.

**Cut 62250 :10** *"It's so important for youth to be advocates, because they all come from different stories and different walks of life. And so, no matter what situation you're going through, you'll have someone you can connect to."*

**Tag:** Kids and their advocates spoke with state leaders about policy priorities in the Blueprint for Kentucky's Children 2018 Agenda. It includes keeping kids safe from abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice reforms that can help better support families and build safer communities.

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**Third Cut:** Schepers kicked off Thursday's rally by sharing her story, and thanking those who dedicate their time to helping Kentucky's kids.

**Cut 63250 :12** *"Youth need just something stable in their lives. It doesn't matter whether or not it's their education, or a mentor or a social worker that they can connect to, but they need something stable that they can hold on to and trust."*

**Fourth Cut:** Brooks adds that a major part of the 2018 session is the state budget. He's pleased that the governor wants to bolster supports for child welfare, but notes now is when the hard work begins.

**Cut 64250 :12** *"In the weeks ahead, that budget is realistically going to get sliced and diced, so we're going to have to make sure that kids continue to be a priority in whatever budget emerges from the General Assembly for the governor's signature."*

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

LEDE: Dozens of Kentucky kids put their future in their own hands on Thursday as they joined state leaders and others for the 14th annual Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol. The story from Mary Schuermann.

**Cut 65250 :51** *Outcue... Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Schepers and Brooks thru Mara Powell, 502-895-8167. Blueprint: <http://kyyouth.org/blueprint/>.

1/28/18

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January 25, 2018

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**Volunteers Brave Cold to Count Kentucky's Homeless**

**Frankfort, KY – Thousands of Kentuckians will take to the streets over the next week to help count the number of people who are without a home. Louisville is conducting its annual "point-in-time" homeless count today (1/25), while most other counties will hold theirs next week. Comments from Natalie Harris, executive director, Louisville Coalition for the Homeless.**

**Intro:** Over the next week, folks across the state will get a better sense of how some of Kentucky's less fortunate are living. One January day each year, volunteers fan out for a "point-in-time" count of Kentuckians who are living on the streets, in emergency shelters and other temporary-housing programs. Louisville's count is today (1/25), and Coalition for the Homeless executive director Natalie Harris says they expect more than 300 people to brave the frigid weather and assist with the survey. □□□□

**Cut 70250 :12** *"I hear a lot of people that say they got a lot out of it just being able to go out in the streets and see the conditions that some people live in, and it kind of inspires them to want to do more as volunteers in the community. So we hope that's the case."*

**Tag:** The counts are required by the federal government to help determine funding. Harris says it is a key part of making sure they are reaching the right people in their efforts. Lexington's count was Wednesday, and the remainder of the state will be surveyed on January 31st.

**Second Cut:** The total homeless counted in all of Kentucky in 2017 was just over four-thousand people, about one-thousand of whom were in the Louisville area. Harris says there has been a steady decrease over the past five years.

**Cut 71250 :15** *"A lot of that is due to the economy. As more people are able to get better-paying jobs, you see less people who are homeless, but there still are a group of people who struggle with employment or struggle with addiction so that they can't get employed at that time."*

**Third Cut:** Harris says Louisville receives about nine million dollars in federal funds each year to address homelessness. She says they use the funding primarily to assist the chronically homeless - meaning those without a home for longer than a year, or multiple times over three years.

**Cut 72250 :14** *"That funding is predominantly used to provide permanent housing that also has services tied to it so that people will move into housing, stabilize, and be able to be part of the community because they are now in their own place."*

**Tag:** The U-S Department of Housing and Urban Development recently awarded more than 19 million dollars to support 105 homeless-housing and service programs in Kentucky.

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

**LEDE:** Over the next week, folks across the state will get a better sense of how some of Kentucky's less fortunate are living. Mary Schuermann has the story.

**Cut 73250 :47** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors: Reach Harris at 502-418-6819.**

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February 1, 2018

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### E-Cigarette Use on Rise Among KY Young Adults

Frankfort, KY – Nearly half of young adults in Kentucky have tried an electronic cigarette, up from 37 percent one year ago, new data shows. Advocacy groups say the figures from the latest Kentucky Health Issues Poll underscore the need for the federal Food and Drug Administration to fully regulate the use of e-cigarettes. Comments from Amy Barkley, regional advocacy representative, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

**Intro:** More young adults in Kentucky are "vaping" than ever before, which is concerning health groups who say electronic cigarettes are not a safe alternative to smoking. Data from the latest Kentucky Health Issues Poll shows that nearly half of Kentuckians between the ages of 18 and 29 have tried an e-cig, an increase from 37 percent reported last year. Amy Barkley with the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids says the findings are troubling because data shows e-cigarettes are a gateway to tobacco cigarettes for youths.

**Cut 77250 :14** *"While we have made a lot of progress in reducing youth smoking, with the rise of e-cigarettes we're encouraging kids who wouldn't have smoked to get addicted to nicotine and then from their e-cigarette use go on to the use of regular, combustible cigarettes."*

**Tag:** Many manufacturers contend e-cigs are less harmful than tobacco cigarettes and can be a tool for smokers trying to quit. But Barkley says there are still too many unknown safety concerns, and adds that the F-D-A needs to take immediate action to restrict the sale and marketing of electronic cigarettes to youths.

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**Second Cut:** The survey also found vaping more prevalent among young adults compared with older generations, □□ with just three in 10 adults reporting ever using e-cigarettes. Barkley says it's not surprising.

**Cut 78250 :13** *"These e-cigarettes are candy flavored; we've seen gummy bear, cotton candy. I mean, it's pretty obvious that these products are not just targeted to adults looking for a healthier alternative. They're targeting kids to get them addicted to nicotine."*

**Tag:** The survey also asked about safety, and found that more than 50 percent of Kentucky adults believe the aerosol in electronic vapor products to be somewhat harmful to children, while more than one-fourth believe the aerosol can cause a lot of harm.

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

LEDE: More young adults in Kentucky are "vaping" than ever before, which is concerning health groups who say electronic cigarettes are not a safe alternative to smoking. Mary Schuermann reports.

**Cut 79250 :59** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Barkley at 502-777-8148. The poll: <http://bit.ly/2BGuEFH>

2/11

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February 8, 2018

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

**A Shared Sentence: KY Kids Suffer When Parents are in Prison**

Frankfort, KY – Nearly 33,000 Kentucky children have a parent behind bars, and a new report suggests policy changes that can help reduce the negative impacts of parental incarceration on kids and keep families together. Comments from John Tilley, justice and public safety cabinet secretary; and state Sen. Julie Raque Adams, R-Louisville.

**Intro:** Growing up with a mom or dad behind bars is a reality for almost 33-thousand kids in Kentucky, and a report released today (2/8) examines ways to reduce the impacts of parental incarceration on these children. An issue brief from Kentucky Youth Advocates and the Blueprint for Kentucky's Children shows three out of every five people in state custody have children, including 71 percent of women. Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary John Tilley says incarceration tears families apart and traumatizes children.

**Cut 83250 :14** *"It is clearly a shared sentence. Just the interruption in care, the inability to meet basic needs, the lack of contact between the parent and child has an incredible impact on the kids and system. There's the human cost and then there's an incredible fiscal cost."*

**Tag:** According to the brief, many parents who are behind bars are serving time for lower-level crimes. Tilley contends criminal reforms are needed to help keep families whole, such as releasing those charged with low-level offenses before trial so parents can work and care for their children.

**Second Cut:** More than 60 percent of Kentucky women currently locked up are there for lower-level drug or property crimes. Tilley says those cases can be handled other ways. □□□□

**Cut 84250 :14** *"We can seek alternatives to preserve the bonds between mother and child. We can do better to maximize contact if someone does have to be incarcerated. And certainly there are any number of ways that we can treat the problem with a public-health approach rather than a criminal-justice hammer."*

**Third Cut:** An estimated 15 percent of children in Kentucky have experienced parental incarceration, which is the second highest rate nationally. Louisville Republican Julie Raque Adams, who chairs the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, says the Commonwealth has an obligation to make changes to criminal-justice policies.

**Cut 85250 :16** *"Particularly when there's children involved, we have to be very sensitive to what we do, and we have to do better than how we're doing it now. So that's why this education piece of this report is vital to public-policy makers moving forward on real reform."*

**Tag:** Suggestions offered in the brief include focusing incarceration on those who pose a serious threat to public safety while expanding substance-abuse treatment in the community. And also, minimizing financial barriers that make it difficult for parents to support their children upon their release from prison.

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

LEDE: Growing up with a mom or dad behind bars is a reality for almost 33-thousand kids in Kentucky, and a report released today (2/8) examines ways to reduce the impacts of parental incarceration on these children. The story from Mary Schuermann.

**Cut 86250 :51** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Tilley and Adams through Mara Powell: 502-895-8167. The report: [kyyouth.org](http://kyyouth.org).

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February 13, 2018

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### **More Kentucky Kids Starting School with a Healthy Breakfast**

Frankfort, KY – Kentucky schools are continuing progress to ensure low-income children have the food they need to start their day. The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) has a new School Breakfast Scorecard which ranks the Commonwealth fifth among states for School Breakfast participation, up from sixth in last year's report. Comments from Terina (ter-ENN-ah) Edington, assistant director, Nutrition Services, Jefferson County Public Schools. □ □

**Intro:** A new report finds more low-income children in Kentucky are starting their school days with the food they need to fuel their brain. The Food Research and Action Center's annual School Breakfast Scorecard was released today, and it shows that during the 2016-2017 school year over 17 thousand more Kentucky children participated in the School Breakfast Program on an average day compared to the year prior. That's a two-point-eight-percent increase. The assistant director of Nutrition Services at Jefferson County Public Schools, Terina Edington, says students are better learners with a healthy breakfast. □ □ □ □

**Cut 91250 :11** *"If your stomach is growling or your head is hurting you're not able to concentrate and some of our kids that don't have breakfast will watch the clock instead of watching what their teacher's doing."*

**Tag:** Kentucky ranks among the top five states for both school breakfast participation and the use of the U-S-D-A's community eligibility option. That enables high-poverty schools to offer breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students. 85 percent of eligible schools in Kentucky have adopted the program.

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**Second Cut:** Edington says community eligibility and the offering of breakfast in the classroom has helped increase the number of students participating in the School Breakfast Program. She says the district is also piloting a Second Chance Breakfast option.

**Cut 92250 :11** *"Some kids are not interested in eating that early in the morning but they do get hungry about nine o'clock. And that's an excellent time to offer that second-chance breakfast because they may not have lunch until 12."*

**Tag:** According to the report, 65 low-income Kentucky kids eat school breakfast for every 100 that eat free or reduced-priced lunch, higher than the national average of about 57. The Kentucky Kids Eat Coalition hopes to raise that number to 70 low-income children.

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

**LEDE:** A new report finds more low-income children in Kentucky are starting their school day with the food they need to fuel their brain. Mary Schuermann has the story.

**Cut 93250 :59** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Edington at 502-485-7909. The report: [frac.org](http://frac.org).

L/S

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February 23, 2018

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

**Kentucky Workers Rally Ahead of SCOTUS Labor Case**

Frankfort, KY – People from around the state are expected in Louisville tomorrow (Saturday), as they join a national event to highlight workers' rights. "Working People's Day of Action" rallies are planned in more than two dozen cities, just two days before the U.S. Supreme Court hears arguments in what could be a historic labor case. Comments from Todd Dunn, president of both the UAW Local 862 and Greater Louisville Central Labor Council of the AFL-CIO.

**Intro:** Hundreds of Kentucky workers will join others from around the country tomorrow (Saturday) for rallies they say are to defend the American dream. On the "Working People's Day of Action," they're calling for equitable pay, affordable health care, quality schools and vibrant communities. The national event is just a couple of days before the U-S Supreme Court hears arguments in the Janus versus AFSCME (AFFS-me) case, which challenges the right of unions to collect fees from nonmembers. As president of the Greater Louisville Central Labor Council of the AFL-CIO, Todd Dunn contends there are corporate interests with their own agenda behind the case. □□□□□□

**Cut 20250 :15** *"That agenda does not include the basic rights of human beings to be able to work, have a fair playing field, be represented and take care of themselves and their families, without having things taken away from them with a stroke of a pen."*

**Tag:** If the Supreme Court rules in favor of the plaintiff, opponents argue that employees would benefit from the work of unions without paying for that representation, which Dunn says would weaken the power of organized labor. The Louisville rally begins at 11 A-M Saturday at the U-A-W Hall.

**Second Cut:** Dunn says the day of action will include public leaders, activists, women's organizations, civil-rights advocates, clergy and others who support the work unions do for all workers.

**Cut 21250 :14** *"This rally may not win the 'war on labor,' but might allow us to live another day to win one more small battle. And as long as we can come together and realize that, it's a pretty powerful thing, if you ask me."*

**Third Cut:** Dunn says Kentucky workers will stand in solidarity with those in more than two dozen cities. That includes Memphis, Tennessee, which marks the 50th anniversary of the historic sanitation workers' strike. It was Martin Luther King Junior's last campaign stop before his assassination.

**Cut 22250 :17** *"We'll be defending the freedoms that Dr. King fought and died for; talking about the basic rights of labor unionists and the citizens of the Commonwealth, even if they're non-union; and our responsibility to continue the voice for working men and women that otherwise wouldn't have that voice."*

**Tag:** King spoke before thousands of workers striking to protest poor working conditions and pay on April 3rd, 1968. He was killed the next day.

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

LEDE: Hundreds of Kentucky workers will join others from around the country tomorrow (Saturday) for rallies they say are to defend the American dream. More from Mary Schuermann.

**Cut 23250 1:02** *Outcue...Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors: Reach Dunn at 270-791-6628.**



3/14

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March 2, 2018

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

## You're Never "Too Old, Too Wacky, Too Wild" to Read

### Kentucky Kids Celebrate Read Across America Day

Frankfort, KY – It has been more than 20 years since the first 'Read Across America Day,' and the observance has expanded to focus not just on the young fans of Dr. Seuss, but also older readers. It is always held on March 2, the famous author's birthday, and encourages students to celebrate reading. Comments from Charles Main, communications director, Kentucky Education Association; and Lily Eskelsen (ESS-cull-sun) Garcia, president, National Education Association.

**Intro:** Read Across America Day is held annually on March 2nd to coincide with the birthday of the author known around the world as Dr. Seuss. And in the past 20 years, the observance has grown beyond 'Green Eggs and Ham.' Schools and libraries across Kentucky hold special events today (3/2) to celebrate the joy of reading. Charles Main with the Kentucky Education Association says encouraging kids to pick up a book can help create a lifelong love of reading. □□□□□□

**Cut 35250 :15** *"Older kids, you know lots of things compete with their attention for time with reading. And so, the idea is to remind kids at all ages that you're never 'too old, too wacky, too wild,' to pick up a book and read with a child."*

**Tag:** Research shows students who read more at home are better readers and have higher math scores, but it also shows that most kids read less for fun as they get older. The initial focus of Read Across America Day was on books for beginning readers, but events have expanded to include older students.

**Second Cut:** President of the National Education Association Lily Eskelsen Garcia says her organization is also turning its attention to creating a nation of diverse readers.

**Cut 36250 :15** *"We want to give our students a broad, broad brush of the cultures out there, the richness of our communities. We want to make sure every student can see himself or herself reflected in some of the books that they read."*

**Third Cut:** An estimated 45-million people nationwide will participate in Read Across America Day. In Kentucky, Main says there are family literacy nights, book clubs, reading parties and community outreach events.

**Cut 37250 :13** *"A great many Kentucky Education Association locals spend all year collecting books to donate to school libraries and to schools with students who come from areas of poverty, so that they can have new books every year."*

**Tag:** March is National Reading Month, and Main suggests that reading be celebrated every day of the year.

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

LEDE: Read Across America Day is held annually on March 2nd to coincide with the birthday of the author known around the world as Dr. Seuss. And in the past 20 years, the observance has grown beyond 'Green Eggs and Ham.' Mary Schuermann explains.

**Cut 38250 :47** *Outcue...Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Main at 502-445-1765; Garcia at 202-262-0589. More info: <http://www.nea.org/grants/886.htm>.

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March 6, 2018

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**KY Schools Celebrate the Most Important Meal of the Day**

Frankfort, KY - This is National School Breakfast Week (March 5-9), and districts in Kentucky are educating students and families about the breakfast options available before the school bell rings. Comments from Valerie Crouch, School Branch Program Manager, division of School and Community Nutrition, Kentucky Department of Education; Diane Pratt-Heavner (HEV-ner), director of media relations, School Nutrition Association. □ □

**Intro:** The most important meal of the day is being celebrated at schools across Kentucky during this National School Breakfast Week. Each day more than 300-thousand students in the state get a healthy, nutritious meal before they start their day, through the federal School Breakfast Program. Valerie Crouch works in the division of School and Community Nutrition at the Kentucky Department of Education. She says for some kids, school breakfast and lunch are their only opportunities to have a complete, healthy meal. And the benefits, she adds, cannot be underestimated. □ □

**Cut 43250 :12** *"It enhances school attendance: less trips to the nurses office; good nutrition also contributes to a child being ready to start their school day, being more alert and attentive in the classroom."*

**Tag:** The theme of this year's National School Breakfast Week is "I Heart School Breakfast" – and students, parents and educators are encouraged to show their love for the program on social media. Crouch and staff from her office will be visiting schools around the state including districts in Fayette, Franklin and Scott counties. □ □

**Second Cut:** Diane Pratt-Heavner with the School Nutrition Association says as they look to expand school breakfast participation, many districts are finding ways to make the meals more accessible. □ □

**Cut 44250 :14** *"It can sometimes be hard for kids coming off the bus to get to the cafeteria in time for school breakfast. So, many schools are offering unique serving options. They're setting up grab-and-go kiosks or they're offering breakfast in the classroom."*

**Third Cut:** Pratt-Heavner adds the meals served at school meet federal nutrition standards that limit fat, calories and sodium. And she says many school cafeterias are serving fun options that include a wide assortment of fruits, vegetables and whole grains.

**Cut 45250 :13** *"We're seeing yogurt parfaits and smoothies in the mornings. Schools are also trying to incorporate more protein choices on school breakfast menus, because protein can help keep a child satiated throughout the school day."*

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

**LEDE:** The most important meal of the day is being celebrated at schools across Kentucky during this National School Breakfast Week. Mary Schuermann reports.

**Cut 46250 :54** *Outcue...Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Crouch at 502-564-5625; Pratt-Heavner at 301-686-3100.

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March 14, 2018

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

**KY Groups Ask McConnell for Swift Action on Mine Development**

**Frankfort, KY – Dozens of Kentuckians will be at the office of U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell today (3/14), asking the lawmaker to move forward on legislation designed to spur economic development through projects that reclaim abandoned mines. Comments from Larry Miller, retired coal miner from western Kentucky.**

**Intro:** Kentucky's coal country could get new life under legislation on Capitol Hill. A group of concerned citizens and organizations will gather today (3/14) at the Lexington office of U-S Senator Mitch McConnell to encourage his action to pass the RECLAIM Act (HR 4456). The bill would release one billion dollars from the federal abandoned mine land fund to spur economic development projects. As a former coal miner for nearly two decades, Larry Miller of western Kentucky says it would help communities struggling with the decline of the coal industry.

**Cut 50250 :17** *"It takes some development and it's not an immediate fix. It's not the entire piece of the puzzle for rural Kentucky, but it's a step forward. And having been in mines for a long time, I know what it's like to get laid off, and the more opportunities we can have in our coal communities, the better we'll be. Kentucky's a poor state and we need all the help we can get."*

**Tag:** Since 2009, more than 11-thousand jobs in coal mining have been lost in Kentucky. Supporters say the best window to pass the RECLAIM Act is now, as part of the appropriations bill that Congress must approve before March 24th. The state would get an estimated 100-million should the legislation pass.

**Second Cut:** The RECLAIM Act calls for funds to be released to sites that are connected to long-term economic projects. Miller says that includes agriculture, solar energy, industrial parks, and recreational tourism such as the Peabody Wildlife Management Area.

**Cut 51250 :12** *"Peabody did the work itself and reclaimed it, but it's a good example of what can be done. There's a lot of wildlife and hunting, and it looks a lot better than it did before it was reclaimed."*

**Third Cut:** He adds the environmental benefits of reclaiming old mines should also be considered.

**Cut 52250 :17** *"If you've been around mine land, the water that comes off of it, it's sulfur. It has a copperous color, and nothing lives in it. The pure copper that's coming out of the mine is just toxic. And all the strip pits before they're mounted up. You don't see as much as you used to, some of it's been reclaimed, but there's still a lot of it that needs to be done."*

**Tag:** At today's event, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth and the Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition will present a giant scroll documenting support for the RECLAIM Act from elected leaders, communities, businesses and Kentucky residents.

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

LEDE: Kentucky's dilapidated coal country could get new life under legislation on Capitol Hill. More from Mary Schuermann.

**Cut 53250 :59** *Outcue... Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Miller at 270-231-6463.

3/25

**Kentucky News Connection**

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March 23, 2018

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**Gun Violence: Kentucky Students say "We've Had Enough"**

Frankfort, KY – Hundreds of Kentucky students are joining their peers nationwide to protest gun violence this Saturday. While the biggest march is planned for Washington, D.C., at least 10 "March for Our Lives" protests are scheduled in the Commonwealth. Comments from Forest Clevenger, 11th-grade student, duPont Manual High School.

**Intro:** Students in towns big and small in Kentucky and across the country are "marching for their lives" on Saturday. They'll be joining the survivors of the Parkland, Florida, high school shooting, who will take to the streets of Washington D-C to urge Congress to pass gun-control measures. Forest Clevenger of duPont Manual High School says in the wake of all the mass shootings, including one in Marshall County that left two people dead and more than a dozen injured, students and teachers are fearing for their lives and asking questions that should never have to be asked.

**Cut 61250 :15** *"I've gotten texts from my friends asking if I know which way the doors open at school, because if they open out we can't barricade them from the inside. We have teachers going out and preparing themselves for shooters. People have bought chains for the doors, ladders for their windows. It's not right, and we've had enough."*

**Tag:** The Louisville march begins at 1:30 P-M. At least ten similar marches are scheduled across Kentucky including in Bowling Green, Lexington, Marshall County and Pikeville. Opponents of gun-control measures say they aren't effective tools for preventing gun violence and infringe on Americans' Second Amendment rights.

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**Second Cut:** While common-sense gun reform is the main message, Clevenger notes conversations also are needed about bullying and mental health. He notes just this week, legislation to create trauma-informed schools, H-B 604, overwhelmingly passed the Kentucky House.

**Cut 62250 :15** *"You had bipartisanship that was just frankly inspiring around this reform that students were crying out for. It would put a trauma-care professional in schools for every 1,500 kids, and require that students go through psychological screenings at the same times they get their immunizations."*

**Tag:** According to the March for Our Lives website, more than 800 sibling protests are scheduled worldwide. But Clevenger explains the march is only a kick-off to the reforms students will be fighting for. On Tuesday, about 150 students rallied against gun violence outside the state Capitol in Frankfort, and later many attended a Teach-In to learn about activism.

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

**LEDE:** Students in towns big and small in Kentucky and across the country will be "marching for their lives" on Saturday. Mary Schuermann explains.

**Cut 63250 :59** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Clevenger at 502-777-5314 Local march info at: <https://marchforourlives.com/>. □ □ HB 604: [http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/18rs/bills\\_H.htm](http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/18rs/bills_H.htm).