

Issues/Programs List

Date Filed: July 10, 2019

Quarter Date: 2nd Quarter 2019

Title of Program: Info Track

Time of Airing: See Below

Duration Program: 25 Minutes

Stations & Airtimes: WREZ – 5:00a; WZZL – 5:00a; WGKY – 5:00a; WRJJ – 5:00a

Program Information

Date	Guest/Topic	Issue
4/7	Van Tran – Workplace Nancy Rhodes – Teens Drinking	Discrimination Underage Drinking
4/14	Robert Sholly – Counter terrorism Shaka Senghor - Writing Wrongs	Terrorism Crime
4/21	Kate O’Neill – Environment Deanna Barch – Brain Science	Recycling Childhood Depression
4/28	Kartik Hosanagar – Tech Jennifer Eberhardt – Bias	Consumer Matters Racism
5/5	Michael Mina – Measles Deborah Schwengel - Injuries	Measles Outbreaks Personal Injury
5/12	William Gale – S. S. Issue Megan Mars - Sexual Experience	Government Sexual Assault
5/19	Tina Seelig – Young People Struggle Tony Corbo – Disease Control	Education Food Poisoning
5/26	Steven Roberts – Debt Free Laura Adams – Traffic Tickets	Education Traffic Safety
6/2	David Swenson – Economics Lauren Rikleem – Workplace Misconduct	Rural Concerns Workplace Matters
6/9	Stefanos Kales – Health Karen Winterich – Recycle	Personal Health Recycling
6/16	Joshua Gotbaum – Saving David Andrews – Health Dangers	Retirement Planning Food Safety
6/23	Jamie Cooper – Weight Gain Laurie Nadel – Anxiety	Obesity PTSD
6/30	Rick Smith – Weather Laura Condon – Rivers	Tornado Preparedness Environment

*Please see attached

Filed by: 

Date: 7/9/19



Weekly Public Affairs Program

Call Letters: _____

QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT, APRIL-JUNE, 2019

Show # 2019-14

Date aired: 4/7 Time Aired: _____

Van C. Tran, PhD, Associate Professor of Sociology at Columbia University

Prof. Tran was the co-author of a study that found that although Asian Americans graduate from universities at far higher rates than white Americans, they still are no more likely to hold professional or managerial jobs. He discussed the additional barriers and discrimination that Asian Americans face when trying to climb the career ladder, a phenomenon known as the "bamboo ceiling."

Issues covered:

Length: 9:04

**Discrimination
Minority Concerns
Career**

Nancy Rhodes, PhD, Associate Professor in the Department of Advertising and Public Relations at Michigan State University

Dr. Rhoades examined underage and binge drinking at colleges and found that peer approval is the primary reason that students do it. She said students don't want to admit they're influenced by friends, but the reality is they are seeking social acceptance. She offered advice to concerned parents.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:09

**Underage Drinking
Youth at Risk**

Show # 2019-15

Date aired: 4/14 Time Aired: _____

Robert Sholly, domestic counterterrorism expert, retired army colonel with experience in counterterrorism and performing international security assessments, a member of the United Nations international peace keeping forces that won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988

Col. Sholly said while we cannot live in fear, it is wise to live with caution and prudence. He discussed which public places are the most dangerous. He explained why it is important to have a security plan before entering a mall, what to do if shots are fired in a crowded movie theater and the physical signs to watch for that could identify a potential shooter or bomber.

Issues covered:

Length: 9:07

**Terrorism
Personal Protection
Emergency Preparedness**

Shaka Senghor, author of "*Writing My Wrongs: Life, Death, and Redemption in an American Prison*"

In 1991, Shaka Senghor was sent to prison for second-degree murder. Today, he lectures at many universities and is a leading voice on criminal justice reform. He shared his inspirational story: growing up with an abusive parent, which started a downward spiral that saw him run away from home, turn to drug dealing to survive, and end up in prison for murder at the age of 19, fuming with anger and despair. He explained what caused him to turn his life around, now mentoring youth at risk.

Issues covered:

**Youth at Risk
Crime
Prison Reforms
Minority Concerns**

Length: 7:59

Show # 2019-16

Date aired: 4/21 **Time Aired:** _____

Kate O'Neill, PhD, Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at University of California Berkeley

For nearly three decades, recyclable materials from the US were shipped cheaply to China for processing. However, in the past year, China has stopped accepting virtually all of it. Dr. O'Neill said as a result, local governments and the recycling industry are now facing an unprecedented recycling crisis, especially in plastics. She estimated that, at least for now, nearly 100% of recyclable materials are going into landfills. She discussed the steps that the waste industry is taking to try to fix the problem.

Issues covered:

**Recycling
Environment
Consumer Matters**

Length: 9:37

Deanna Barch, PhD, Professor of Psychology; Professor of Radiology, chair of the Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences in Arts & Sciences and the Gregory B. Couch Professor of Psychiatry at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

Dr. Barch was the senior author of a study that linked participation in team sports to larger hippocampal volumes in children and less depression in boys ages 9 to 11. The hippocampus is a brain region that plays an important role in memory and how we respond to stress. She said the evidence was particularly strong for children participating in sports that involved structure, such as a school team, a non-school league or regular lessons, as compared to more informal engagement in sports.

Issues covered:

**Childhood Depression
Mental Health
Youth Sports**

Length: 7:29

Show # 2019-17

Date aired: 4/29 Time Aired: _____

Kartik Hosanagar, PhD, John C. Hower Professor of Technology and Digital Business and a Professor of Marketing at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, author of "*A Human's Guide to Machine Intelligence: How Algorithms Are Shaping Our Lives and How We Can Stay in Control*"

Computer algorithms and the artificial intelligence that underlies them make a staggering number of everyday decisions for nearly every American, from what products we buy, to how we consume our news or entertainment, to whom we date, and how we find a job. Dr. Hosanagar discussed the potentially dangerous biases algorithms can give rise to as they increasingly run our lives, and offered suggestions for consumers to regain control.

Issues covered:

Length: 9:16

**Consumer Matters
Technology
Government Regulation**

Jennifer L. Eberhardt, PhD, Professor of Psychology at Stanford, recipient of a 2014 MacArthur "genius" grant, author of "*Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do*"

Dr. Eberhardt talked about the numerous forms of bias hardwired into every human being. She said unconscious bias can be at work without our realizing it, even when we genuinely wish to treat all people equally. She explained how bias and racial inequality seeps into classrooms, police departments and businesses. She offered advice on how to recognize our own biases.

Issues covered:

Length: 7:57

**Racism and Racial Bias
Law Enforcement**

Show # 2019-18

Date aired: 5/5 Time Aired: _____

Michael Mina, PhD, MD, Resident Physician in Clinical Pathology, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Measles outbreaks are spiking worldwide. Dr. Mina discussed the reasons behind the soaring rate of infections. He noted that for even those who survive an outbreak, measles can compromise a person's immune system for up to two years afterwards. He said the MMR vaccinations are proven to be very safe and parents should not hesitate to have their children vaccinated.

Issues covered:

Length: 9:14

**Measles Outbreaks
Vaccinations
Public Health**

Deborah Schwengel, MD, Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Johns Hopkins Children's Center

Dr. Schwengel, led a comprehensive nationwide study that found that the rate of lawnmower injuries remains at a consistently high level, with most of them requiring surgery and hospitalization. She explained how the most common incidents occur and how adults can take steps to protect children from injury.

Issues covered:
Personal Injury Prevention
Child Safety

Length: 8:09

Show # 2019-19

Date aired: 5/12 **Time Aired:** _____

William G. Gale, PhD, Arjay and Frances Miller Chair in Federal Economic Policy, Senior Fellow in the Economic Studies Program at the Brookings Institution

Most Americans are aware that the Social Security program will soon run short of money. Dr. Gale discussed the even shakier financial situations of Medicare and Medicaid. He said the Medicare trust fund will run out of money in 2026. He stressed the importance for Congress to either reduce costs, raise taxes or make other major policy changes soon.

Issues covered:
Government
Retirement Planning
Public Health

Length: 9:03

Megan Maas, PhD, Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at Michigan State University, certified sexuality educator

Teens spend hours every day on internet-connected devices, often with little or no supervision. Dr. Mass led a study that found that online sexual experiences can predict a teen's likelihood of becoming a victim of sexual assault one year later. She outlined the specific patterns of behaviors that can put teenagers at risk. She said she believes teens need to receive much better education to learn how online activities can affect their real life.

Issues covered:
Sexual Assault
Youth at Risk
Parenting

Length: 8:12

Show # 2019-20

Date aired: 5/19 **Time Aired:** _____

Tina Seelig, PhD, Professor of the Practice in the Dept of Management Science and Engineering at Stanford School of Engineering, faculty director of the Stanford Technology Ventures, author of "*What I Wish I Knew When I Was 20 - 10th Anniversary Edition: A Crash Course on Making Your Place in the World*"

Many young people struggle as they make the transition from the academic environment to the professional world. Dr. Seelig discussed skills and thought processes that can lead to success and resilience in their adult lives. She also talked about the effectiveness of our nation's higher education system in preparing students for life.

Issues covered:

Education
Career

Length: 8:37

Tony Corbo, Senior Lobbyist for the Food Campaign at Food & Water Watch, an advocacy group that supports stricter food safety regulations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that the frequency of several types of food poisoning infections climbed last year, but that the increases could be the result of new diagnostic tools that help identify more cases. Mr. Corbo explained the complex system that tracks illnesses such as salmonella and campylobacter. He said illnesses connected to produce are on the rise, while meat and poultry cases are unchanged.

Issues covered:

Food Poisoning
Government Regulations

Length: 8:32

Show # 2019-21

Date aired: 5/26 Time Aired: _____

Steven Roberts, college-funding expert, author of "*Winning the Money Game in College: Any Major and Any GPA Can Finish College Debt-Free or Better*"

Families at every income level struggle with the question of how to pay for a college education. Mr. Roberts explained how students can save on application fees and locate lesser-known resources to pay for college. He also suggested where to find scholarship money and why a student's GPA isn't everything. He also discussed the less obvious reasons why it is useful for students to earn money while in school.

Issues covered:

Education
Consumer Matters
Parenting

Length: 8:38

Laura Adams, Senior Insurance Analyst at insuranceQuotes.com

A traffic ticket can cause a driver's auto insurance rates to skyrocket. Ms. Adams outlined a report from insuranceQuotes.com that found motorists who are slapped with a serious moving violation can see their auto insurance premiums jump by an average of 94 percent. She discussed 17 different moving violations, how each causes car insurance rates to spike, and why rate increases can vary drastically from state to state.

Issues covered:

Traffic Safety
Consumer Matters

Length: 8:35

Show # 2019-22

Date aired: 6/2 Time Aired: _____

David Swenson, PhD, Associate scientist in the Department of Economics, Iowa State University

While a number of metropolitan regions across the US are struggling, many more midsize and rural counties are wrestling with long-term decline. Dr. Swenson explained why most of the country's smaller urban and rural counties are not growing in terms of population and jobs, and will not grow in the future. He said government policies need to address the issue and assure access to necessary public services and modern technologies, to ensure that rural residents are connected to society.

Issues covered:

Length: 9:01

**Rural Concerns
Employment
Economy**

Lauren Stiller Rikleen, President of the Rikleen Institute for Strategic Leadership, author of "*The Shield of Silence: How Power Perpetuates a Culture of Harassment and Bullying in the Workplace*"

Ms. Rikleen discussed workplace misconduct, sexual harassment and other negative behaviors on the job. She believes the best way to address these problems is to eliminate the fear of retribution against those who report the misconduct. She said that change is also needed in the court system because judges and juries often discount the credibility of victims and are reluctant to hold employers accountable.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:16

**Sexual Harassment
Workplace Matters
Women's Concerns**

Show # 2019-23

Date aired: 6/9 Time Aired: _____

Stefanos N. Kales, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Professor and Director of the Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Dr. Kales co-authored a recent study that suggested that the number of push-ups a middle-aged man can perform might be a strong indication of his overall heart health. He found that men who can do more than 40 pushups in one minute have a 96 percent reduced risk of heart attack, stroke and heart disease compared with men who could muster fewer than 10. He also noted that push-up capacity appears to be a better and obviously less costly measurement of heart health than the standard treadmill test routinely used by cardiologists.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:27

**Personal Health
Healthcare Spending
Physical Fitness**

Karen Page Winterich, PhD, Associate Professor of Marketing, Frank and Mary Smeal Research Fellow, Penn State University

Dr. Winterich's research team conducted six studies that found that when consumers are aware that recyclables are transformed into new items, they recycle more. She believes that improving consumer education should be a priority for any organization seeking to increase recycling.

Issues covered:
Recycling
Consumer Matters

Length: 8:54

Show # 2019-24

Date aired: 6/16 Time Aired: _____

Joshua Gotbaum, Guest Scholar in the Economic Studies Program at The Brookings Institution, Chair of the Maryland Small Business Retirement Security Board

Mr. Gotbaum said the retirement industry has spent decades largely sidestepping perhaps the biggest question most Americans have about retirement planning: how much of their earnings should they be saving? He cited research from the Employee Benefits Research Institute that recommends saving at least 10% of each paycheck. He stressed that Millennials should begin saving in earnest as soon as they enter the workforce.

Issues covered:
Retirement Planning
Personal Finance

Length: 8:36

David Andrews, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Environmental Working Group

A recent investigation by the Food and Drug Administration found toxic per- and poly- fluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, in a wide variety of produce, meats and processed foods. Dr. Andrews outlined the health dangers. He said food packaging is a major source of the chemicals, along with contaminated water and soil used to grown the food. He would like to see greatly increased government regulation and monitoring of the chemicals.

Issues covered:
Food Safety
Environment
Government Regulation

Length: 8:48

Show # 2019-25

Date aired: 6/23 Time Aired: _____

Jamie Cooper, PhD, Associate Professor in the Department of Foods and Nutrition at the University of Georgia

Prof. Cooper led a study that found that stepping on the bathroom scale once per day may help to avoid weight gain. She said the average adult gains 1-2 lbs. over each vacation or holiday period, and normally doesn't lose it afterwards. She said although people may walk more and get other forms of physical activity during vacations, they tend to eat more.

Issues covered:
Personal Health
Obesity

Length: 9:31

Laurie Nadel, PhD, psychotherapist who specializes in treating acute stress, anxiety and PTSD, author of "*The Five Gifts: Discovering Hope, Healing and Strength When Disaster Strikes*"

An American Psychiatric Association report found that Americans have experienced a 51% increase in anxiety levels in the past two years. Dr. Nadel said the report illustrates an epidemic of anxiety issues, including PTSD. She said it can be triggered just by watching disturbing images on electronic devices, causing what she terms "vicarious traumatization." She outlined five techniques that may help those suffering from mental trauma.

Issues covered:

**PTSD
Mental Health**

Length: 8:48

Show # 2019-26

Date aired: 6/30 **Time Aired:** _____

Rick Smith, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Norman, OK

Over the past two decades, there have been major changes in tornado forecasting technology and how Americans receive alerts. Mr. Smith discussed the latest developments and what everyone needs to know to stay safe. He said the number or intensity of tornadoes hasn't changed, but media attention has increased, partly because nearly every tornado is now captured on a smartphone camera.

Issues covered:

Tornado Preparedness

Length: 9:49

Laura Condon, PhD, Assistant Professor of Hydrology and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Arizona

Dr. Condon led a study that found that groundwater pumping in the last century, for drinking water and agricultural use, has contributed as much as 50 percent to stream flow declines in some US rivers. She explained why this is such a serious concern and what can be done by communities and individuals to conserve water resources.

Issues covered:

**Environment
Water Conservation
Government Policies**

Length: 7:28

Issues/Programs List

Date Filed: July 10, 2019

Quarter Date: 2nd Quarter 2019

Title of Program: Community News Break

Time of Airing: See Below


Duration Program: 5 Minutes

Stations & Airtimes: WZZL – 5:30a; WREZ – 5:30a; WGKY – 5:45a; WRJJ – 5:30a

Program Information

Date	Guest/Topic	Issue
4/7	Charlotte Whittaker – Drug Pricing	Drug Prices
4/14	Jo Martin – Tattoo Removal	Prison Tattoo Removal
4/21	Scott Kenkel – Voter Registration	Voting
4/28	Danny Crunk – Grandparents Give Care	Grandparent Caregivers
5/5	Jamie Sizemore – Feeding America	Hunger
5/12	Jonathan Shepherd – Farming Issues	Farming
5/19	Rhonda Randall – Kentucky Ranks 49 th	Mental Health
5/26	Shericka Smith – Impairing Mental Health	Mental Health
6/2	Joe Bargione – Childhood Trauma	Children’s Trauma
6/9	Rob Perez – Hire People in Recovery	Addiction
6/16	Leah Binder – Patient Safety	Hospital Safety
6/23	Michael Brown – Election Audit	Election
6/30	Ashley Spalding – Staying in Jail	Justice System

Filed by: _____



Date: _____

7/9/19

*Please see attached

6/30

Kentucky News Connection

A statewide news service for Kentucky

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June 24, 2019

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Report: In KY, Staying in Jail May Depend on Where You Live

Frankfort, KY – A new report by the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy finds the use of cash bail varies widely by county, and suggests this results in an "arbitrary" system of justice that disproportionately affects lower-income people and contributes to jail overcrowding. Comments from Ashley Spalding, senior policy analyst with the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy.

Intro: Where you live in Kentucky might determine whether you stay in jail before trial because you can't afford the cash bail. That's according to a new report from the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy. Researchers found the number of people released from jail before their trial without monetary conditions differs drastically depending on the county – from just five-percent in McCracken County to 68-percent in Martin County. Ashley Spalding with the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy says the penalties for being arrested in one county could be substantially greater than an arrest for the same offense across county lines.

:18 "And this is really important because people who are not released pre-trial – who await trial while they're incarcerated – are more likely to be found guilty, have harsher sentences, and even plead guilty in order to get out of jail."

Tag: Nearly 60-percent of criminal court cases in Kentucky are subject to cash bail, according to the report. To contrast, Spalding points out that in Washington, D-C, more than 90 percent of defendants are released pre-trial without financial conditions.

Second Cut: The report suggests that judges too often override or don't seem to take into account the findings of Kentucky's Pretrial Risk Assessment tool – and says if they did, 90-percent of people would be released before trial without setting bail. It recommends the pretrial release system be reformed statewide, especially when it comes to requiring bail payment as a condition of release. However, Spalding doesn't think that will be easy.

:13 "Not everyone's on the same page about bail reform. There are people within the system who want to see this change. So, we're hoping that we can all get on the same page in the 2020 legislative session."

Tag: Previous research has shown that people with low incomes and people of color bear the brunt of consequences if they can't afford to pay cash bail amounts – including job loss, health problems, and negative effects on children and family members.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEDE: Where you live in Kentucky might determine whether you stay in jail before trial because you can't afford the cash bail. That's according to a new report from the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy. More from Nadia Ramlagan (ROM-la-gon).

Older Kentuckians Demand Lower Prescription Drug Prices

Nadia Ramlagan

FRANKFORT, Ky. - AARP members in Kentucky are calling on lawmakers to stop price-gouging by pharmaceutical companies.

New surveys from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and AARP show nearly three-quarters of Americans over age 50 worry about the rising cost of prescription drugs. Of those surveyed, 80% said they regularly take at least one prescription drug - yet nearly half said they either delayed or did not get a prescription filled because they couldn't afford it.

Charlotte Whittaker, AARP Kentucky's volunteer state president, says people are being forced to make hard choices in order to stay healthy.

"It's almost a crisis because, you know, the average person on Medicare D are on 4.5 drugs per month," says Whittaker. "You know, these people are having to make decisions daily. Do I take my medicine? Do I eat? Do I pay my light bill? Because there's not a whole lot left when you're only drawing \$26,000 a year."

There's been a recent outcry over the astronomical cost of insulin, which has led in some cases to rationing. Kentuckians with diabetes have demanded state and federal lawmakers take action.

Pharmaceutical companies spent more than \$6 billion marketing drugs to consumers in 2017. AARP says Americans, especially seniors, are done footing the bill for drug marketing and lobbyists.

Whittaker says the group wants Congress to pass legislation allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices, and make it easier for lower-priced generic drugs to come on the market.

"We just want some changes," says Whittaker. "We have 38 million members, and we have launched a campaign. We have already sent over 100,000 letters to congressmen. And this is just the beginning, folks."

Whittaker says there are no current federal laws or regulations to keep costs reasonable.

4/14

Kentucky News Connection

April 10, 2019

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Volunteers in Northern KY Remove Tattoos for Returning Citizens

Nadia Ramlagan

COVINGTON, Ky. - A small nonprofit in Northern Kentucky is removing face, neck and hand tattoos for people starting a new life after serving time in prison.

It all started several years ago when Jo Martin retired from a long corporate career and began tutoring GED subjects to people incarcerated at the Kenton County Detention Center in Covington. Martin realized that even with a GED, the prison and gang-related tattoos she kept seeing would prevent many individuals from finding employment. She decided to start a nonprofit, Tattoo Removal Ink, that specializes in tattoo removal for men and women who are coming out of incarceration, at no charge.

"About three years into it, I kept seeing all of these terribly offensive tattoos on these young men and women," she said, "and I thought, 'How are they going to get a job?' They can get their GED - that's what I tutored was GED subjects - but they had tattoos on their face and necks and hands, pretty unemployable stuff."

According to the latest statistics from the Prison Policy Initiative, more than 40,000 Kentuckians currently are behind bars, and most will struggle to find work after being released.

Tattoo removal is expensive, and for the formerly incarcerated, who may have covered their faces and other visible parts of the body, the process can cost thousands of dollars. Martin said most of the tattoos her organization removes are white-supremacist related.

"We have done the grand wizard of Ku Klux Klan," she said. "We took his tattoos off. He served 16 1/2 years in prison, and when he came out, he didn't want anything to do with the Klan anymore."

For her clients, Martin said, removing face, neck and hand tattoos is a symbolic process associated with erasing past choices and lifestyles.

"They want to be able to walk into, like, say, Krogers and shop without people looking at them and putting their children behind them, because they're afraid of that person that has a tattoo on their face or hand," she said.

Martin estimated that her organization has removed tattoos on hundreds of formerly incarcerated Kentuckians, as well as victims of human trafficking.

April 17, 2019

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April 22 Deadline Looms for KY Voters to Register

Nadia Ramlagan

FRANKFORT, Ky. - The deadline to register to vote in next month's primary election is less than a week away.

Monday, April 22, is the last day Kentuckians can register to vote in the May 21 primary. Elections for statewide offices this fall will determine the next governor, attorney general, secretary of state, auditor, commissioner of agriculture and state treasurer. College students are allowed to register to vote in the county where they attend college. Those who registered in their home counties can go home to vote, cast an absentee ballot or participate in early voting.

Scott Kenkel, a graduate student at the University of Kentucky, said planning ahead is key to making sure there's no confusion on Election Day.

"One big thing is to think in advance about where you are going to be on Election Day; that's probably the easiest single thing to do," he said. "So, for the primaries, you want to register for where you're going to be. So, if you're going to be here, do that; and it's OK if you're not going to be here, of course - there are also absentee ballots."

Kentucky residents 18 years of age and older are eligible to register to vote. Seventeen-year-olds also can register and even vote in the May primary if they'll be 18 on or before Election Day, Nov. 5. Residents can register to vote or update their voting address online at govoteky.com or in person at their local county clerk's office.

James Bacon-Brown, a volunteer with the Central Kentucky chapter of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, said that while state positions tend to receive the most media attention during election season, communities are shaped by their local races.

"Sometimes people feel a little bit helpless, sometimes they feel like they don't know enough about particularly local races," he said, "and that's why getting more information about who's running locally and making that information widely available is also very important."

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on May 21. According to the state Board of Elections, more than 3 million people currently are registered to vote in Kentucky.

April 23, 2019

4/28

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Ceremony Shines Spotlight on Kentucky's Grandparent Caregivers

Nadia Ramlagan

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - Grandparents raising their grandchildren are being celebrated in Louisville today at the 18th Annual AARP Kentucky Grandparent of the Year ceremony, hosted by the Kentucky Retired Teacher's Association.

Danny Crunk, a retired Christian County resident raising his grandchild, is being recognized as the 2019 Grandparent of the Year. He was nominated by his grandson, fifth-grader Sebastian Dazey.

The surge in children being raised by their grandparents has largely been fueled by the opioid crisis. Yet resources and support for grandparent caregivers haven't caught up to demand.

Claude Tiller and his wife, Peggy, live in Pulaski County. Like Crunk, they are raising their grandson, who is 4-years-old.

"There are a lot of grandparents that are fighting as hard as they can to provide support to the grandchild," Claud Tiller said. "But in many cases, the mother or the father or both don't acknowledge the current situation they're in, and as a result I think some grandparents just give up."

Claude said grandparents spend much of their time and money navigating the state's community-based services. One of the biggest problems Tiller sees is the high turnover rate among social workers. He said at least three social workers have been involved with his family's case.

Kentucky has the nation's highest rate of grandparents raising grandchildren. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 95,000 children in Kentucky are cared for by relatives.

Peggy Tiller said for her, the lack of child-care options available to grandparents means losing social interaction and missing out on other life activities.

"As a grandparent, you don't have a lot of the support that you would have if you were a young parent," she said. "You know, you have something, you have an event you need to go to, you can ask your parents to take care of the child. We really don't have anyone to assist us with my grandson."

Peggy Tiller said she worries about what will happen to her grandson in the future. In 2018, the Trump administration passed the The Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act, a law that creates a new Federal Advisory Council tasked with developing resources to help grandparent caregivers.

S/S

Kentucky News Connection

A statewide news service for Kentucky

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May 2, 2019

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Families Across KY Unable to Afford Food, Many Don't Qualify for Assistance

Berea, Ky - Families and children are struggling with food insecurity across Kentucky, according to a new "Map the Meal Gap" report by Feeding America. Comments from Jamie Sizemore, executive director of Feeding America, Kentucky's Heartland.

Intro: More than six hundred thousand Kentuckians, many of them children, are going hungry. That's according to a new "Map the Meal Gap" report by Feeding America, which looked at food insecurity in all one hundred twenty counties in the state. The report found Magoffin County had the highest rate of food insecurity, at 22-point-5 percent. Oldham County had the least number of people going hungry, at 7-point-6 percent. Jamie Sizemore of Feeding America says families working minimum-wage or low-income jobs are struggling the most, because many do not qualify for federal food assistance or SNAP benefits.

:18 *"What we're finding is, we're seeing more and more working families that are just scraping to get by, living paycheck to paycheck. And so what frequently happens is, they may have something happen in their household like a car breaking down. Food just typically is the last thing on the list."*

Tag: The number of food-insecure people living in Kentucky remains higher than the rest of the country. Nationwide, 78 percent of counties with the highest rates of food insecurity are rural, according to the report.

Second Cut: Children are especially vulnerable when it comes to hunger. According to the report, food insecurity among Kentucky children is 18 percent, compared with 15 percent for the overall population. During the summer, children don't have access to regular school nutrition programs. Currently, the federal Summer Food Service Program helps feed children in need when school is not in session, but Sizemore says the program's strict requirements on how and when children can be fed don't always align with life in rural communities.

:23 *"Right now, it has to be a congregated meal. They have to actually sit down and serve that meal. That's just not viable when you're living in rural Kentucky. So we're working really hard to try to feed those people. But it's just a Band-Aid. We've got to get to the root causes; we've got to look for other ways. And until we do that, food insecurity is going to persist."*

Tag: The rising cost of a meal is another contributor to food insecurity. The report found that since 2017, food prices have been steadily inching upward.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEDE: More than six hundred thousand Kentuckians, many of them children, are going hungry. Nadia Ramlagan (ROM-la-gon) has more.

S/12 Kentucky News Connection

A statewide news service for Kentucky

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May 10, 2019

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Facing Financial Pressure, KY Farmers Forced to Navigate Options

Lexington, KY – A new resource guide is designed to help Kentucky farmers navigate tough financial decisions. Comments from Jonathan Shepherd, farm management specialist, University of Kentucky Department of Agricultural Economics.

Intro: With a downturn in the farm economy, many Kentucky farmers are under increasing financial pressure – and there's a new resource guide that could help. Low commodity prices are shrinking cash flow for many farmers, forcing some to take out more or higher loans. But Jonathan Shepherd, a farm management specialist at the University of Kentucky, says farmers make up only two percent of the population, so it can be easy to overlook their financial burdens. He hopes the university's new resource guide will connect farm families to lenders and programs that can help them weigh their options.

:17 *"Really, it comes down to educating farmers on cost and what their true cost of production is, and trying to make smart, strategic decisions along the way, so that we don't get fixed costs way out of control, and just try to keep the cost of production as low as possible."*

Tag: Kentucky is home to more than 75-thousand farms, spanning 13-million acres of land. A link to the farmers' resource guide is on the University of Kentucky's Department of Agricultural Economics website.

Second Cut: Prices for most farm commodities are forecast to remain relatively low in 2019, so Shepherd says farmers should be thinking about whether scaling down the size of their operation or making other changes is in their best interest. And while there's stigma associated with the word 'bankruptcy,' he says for some farmers, it may be a smart financial move.

:20 *"Nobody likes to talk about bankruptcy or debt reorganization. But, that's a reality for some farmers, unfortunately. And depending on the specifics of an individual's situation, they may in fact be able to file Chapter 12 bankruptcy and actually continue farming and do some debt reorganization."*

Tag: The resource guide also provides information for farmers and their families trying to manage stress and mental health challenges in the face of financial loss and growing debt.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEDE: With a downturn in the farm economy, many Kentucky farmers are under increasing financial pressure – and there's a new resource guide that could help. Nadia Ramlagan (ROM-la-gone) has more.

S/19

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May 17, 2019

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Report: Kentucky Ranks 49th in U.S. for Senior Mental Health

Frankfort, KY – In Kentucky, rates of depression and mental distress experienced by people in their 60s and older are among the highest in the nation, according to a new America's Health Rankings Report for Senior Health. Comments from Dr. Rhonda Randall, executive vice president and chief medical officer of United Healthcare.

Intro: More older Kentuckians are struggling with mental-health issues. The latest America's Health Rankings Report found Kentucky is one of the states where high numbers of people age 60 and older report experiencing depression, frequent mental distress and social isolation. Nationwide, the percentage of seniors diagnosed with depression by a health professional has increased by 19 percent in the past year. Dr. Rhonda Randall of United Healthcare says for many older people, poverty, living alone, and having a disability all can contribute to mental distress.

:11 *"So, those are seniors who are reporting that they feel, experience, mental distress more than 14 days a month. And the state of Kentucky ranks 49th in the nation for that measure."*

Tag: Depression among older adults may go undiagnosed, as many are likely to believe the symptoms are an inevitable part of aging, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Randall encourages people of any age who are feeling hopeless or isolated to reach out to their doctor. Kentucky's Mental Health and Aging Coalition, with local chapters across the state, also works to educate families about mental-health issues for older adults.

Second Cut: The report lists Alabama, Louisiana and Oklahoma as also having high rates of depression and stress among seniors. The number of older Americans has increased by 45-percent since 2000. Randall points out as a large swath of the population ages, looking at the issues that most affect seniors is critical for healthcare providers, families and caregivers.

:16 *"There's been a significant demographic shift in the United States; there's more than 50 million seniors living in the United States. And so, as that population grows, it really makes us want to take a deeper look into the behaviors that individual seniors are engaged in, in the community."*

Tag: The report also found Kentucky seniors are at least getting the medications they need. The state ranks 8th for its percentage of Medicare beneficiaries 65 and older whose prescriptions are covered through Medicare 'Part D' or another source.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEDE: More older Kentuckians are struggling with mental-health issues. Nadia Ramlagan (ROM-la-gone) has the story.

SH6

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May 22, 2019

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KY School Districts Focus on Improving Mental-Health Resources

Frankfort, KY - School districts in Warren, Bullitt and Henderson counties have received a \$9 million federal AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education) grant to improve mental-health services for students. Comments from Shericka Smith, coordinator of extended school services, social work and mental-health services for Fayette County Public Schools.

Intro: School districts in Warren, Bullitt and Henderson counties have received 9 million dollars in federal funding to improve-mental health services for students. Kentucky is one of only four states receiving this year's Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education - or AWARE - grant. Shericka Smith is coordinator of extended school services, social work and mental-health services for Fayette County Public Schools. She says her team has been able to use previous AWARE grant funds to train thousands of staff members and parents in a curriculum called Youth Mental Health First Aid. She says more and more students seem to be struggling with mental-health issues.

:18 *"We have seen an increase in referrals to outside agencies, referrals to our mental-health resources in the schools. So we have seen parents reach out more. Our student support staff have done a great job in trying to explain to parents that it is OK, it's nothing to be ashamed about, if you need mental-health resources."*

Tag: Kentucky's School Safety and Resiliency Act, which requires public school districts to boost mental-health resources and utilize School Resource Officers, goes into effect on July 1st.

Second Cut: Smith says anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts are the most commonly diagnosed mental-health conditions among youths. She also points out that social-media use is contributing to the rise in mental-health crises in schools across the country.

:14 *"I do think that a lot of kids are moving toward social media for acceptance, and if they don't get that, it may increase depression and suicidal thoughts and anxiety. There's a lot of cyber bullying. Parents need to certainly monitor that."*

Tag: Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Kentucky's youth and young adults, and in 2017, 15 percent of Kentucky high school students reported having seriously considered suicide within a 12-month period, according to the Kentucky Department of Education.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEDE: School districts in three Kentucky counties have received 9 million dollars in federal

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May 31, 2019

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Rural KY School District Aims to Address Childhood Trauma

Louisville, KY – This summer a pilot program in Russell County will begin to help public school staff members deal with student trauma, known as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Comments from Dr. Joe Bargione (bar-she-OWN), Bounce Coalition leader; and Michael Ford, superintendent of Russell County Public Schools.

Intro: A pilot program launching in one rural Kentucky school district this summer aims to help schools better support children dealing with the violence, addiction and other trauma known as Adverse Childhood Experiences. Nearly 27-percent of Kentucky children have experienced two or more so-called "ACEs" by the time they're 17, according to a 2018 America's Health Rankings report. The national average is less than 22 percent. Dr. Joe Bargione is a psychologist who leads the "Bounce" program. He says there is mounting evidence that childhood trauma contributes to poor health outcomes later in life.

:19 "The more Adverse Childhood Experiences a child has, the higher the likelihood of those negative health outcomes, depression, anxiety, suicide attempts. But also, there's a link to the physical health — there's an increase in heart disease, there's an increase in cancer rates as adults; there's an increase of diabetes."

Tag: Bargione says adult life expectancy is 20 years lower for people who have had six or more Adverse Childhood Experiences. The Louisville-based Bounce Coalition will work with the Lake Cumberland District Health Department to train Russell County teachers and staff, bus drivers and parents about childhood trauma and teach techniques to help students cope with stress. The two-year program, which begins in August, is funded by a grant from The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

Second Cut: A similar Bounce program was implemented in 2014 in Louisville's urban school districts. There, researchers found the ACEs training reduced out-of-school suspensions for students, improved teacher retention and increased parent engagement. Russell County school superintendent Michael Ford says he's concerned about the well-being of his staff, working year-round to help children cope with mental health problems – which he says are on the rise.

:14 "And another part of this is, the self-care for school employees, so that we do not become so bogged down with the emotional needs of our students that we can still take care of ourselves, so we can take care of the kids."

Tag: Ford also points to reforms to the state's criminal justice system that could help decrease the likelihood of Adverse Childhood Experiences for kids, such as the incarceration of a parent.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEDE: A pilot program launching in one rural Kentucky school district this summer aims to help schools better support children dealing with the violence, addiction and other trauma known as Adverse Childhood Experiences. Nadia Ramlagan (ROM-la-gone) has more.

1:11 Outcue...I'm Nadia Ramlagan

Note to Editors: Reach Bargione at 502-773-5258; Ford at 270-343-3191.

6/9

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June 7, 2019

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

KY Business Teaches Others How to Hire People in Recovery

Lexington, KY – The owners of DV8 Kitchen are showing other Kentucky businesses how to hire and train people in recovery. Its “Soul-full Enterprise” event is happening June 11-12 in Lexington. Comments from Rob Perez, owner of DV8 Kitchen.

Intro: D-V-8 Kitchen, a restaurant and bakery focused on hiring and training people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction, is now teaching other Kentucky businesses how to do the same. The two-day event happens next week in Lexington. Owner Rob Perez says he hopes to lessen the stigma for other business leaders about the idea of hiring "second-chance" employees in their communities, and show the potential benefits as well.

:20 "And we realized that what we really probably need to work on is convincing the general public and every business to hire one person that's in second-chance employment position, because there's a demand problem. We kind of need to work on the demand, and change the way people think about hiring people that are in recovery."

Tag: Research indicates people in recovery face many barriers to employment, and that inability to get a job is a major factor leading to relapse. A 2018 study by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland found labor-force participation by men ages 25-to-54 was nearly five-percent less on average in counties with high rates of opioid prescribing than in those with lower rates.

Second Cut: Perez points out that, while it's rewarding to hire someone in the early stages of recovery, there are currently no procedures, guidelines or resources for employers.

:15 "What we still don't have is a nomenclature of what questions to ask to verify that people are in recovery versus active addiction. We as a business community need to work on that."

Tag: Last year, U-S Senator Mitch McConnell introduced the "Comprehensive Addiction Recovery through Effective Employment and Reentry" or CAREER Act, which aims to help people in recovery living in states hit hard by the opioid epidemic find and maintain employment.



OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEDE: D-V-8 Kitchen, a restaurant and bakery focused on hiring and training people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction, is now teaching other KY businesses how to do the same. More from Nadia Ramlagan (ROM-la-gone).

1:03 Outcue...I'm Nadia Ramlagan

Note to Editors: Reach Perez at 859-321-5600. Link to event:
<https://dv8kitchen.com/soulfullenterprise/>.

6/16

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June 3, 2019

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Majority of KY Hospitals Ranked 'Average' for Safety

Frankfort, KY - A new report by the nonprofit Leapfrog Group gave most hospitals in Kentucky a "C" or average grade for safety, but one hospital in Henderson County received a failing grade. Comments from Leah Binder, president and CEO of the Leapfrog Group.

Intro: A new report ranks most Kentucky hospitals "average" for patient safety. Published by the watchdog organization Leapfrog, the report ranks hospitals by letter grade. Out of fifty-two hospitals, twenty five received a "C" grade, for incidence of infections, problems with surgery, and other criteria. Methodist Hospital in Henderson County was one of only nine hospitals nationwide that received a failing grade. Leah Binder, president of the Leapfrog Group, says about five hundred people die every day in the U-S from preventable medical errors in hospitals.

:16 "Well, Kentucky ranks 33rd in the country among states on the percentage of your hospitals that have an "A." But, you know, when your family's life is at stake and you're worried about small errors that can happen in a hospital that can have terrible consequences, I don't think middle-of-the-pack is where we all want to be."

Tag: The report rates more than two thousand hospitals across the US.

Second Cut: Binder points out that access to safe medical care should not depend on income or health status.

:19 "We're looking for things like accidents, like giving a patient the wrong medication, or leaving a sponge in after surgery. Those kinds of accidents and mistakes — those things should never happen to patients no matter how sick the patient is, or how rich or poor the patient is."

Tag: Researchers also found that when compared to "A" graded hospitals, patients at "C" graded hospitals on average face an 88 percent greater risk of avoidable death, while patients at "D" and "F" graded hospitals face a 92 percent greater risk.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEDE: A new report ranks most Kentucky hospitals "average" for patient safety. Nadia Ramlagan (ROM-la-gone) has more.

6/23

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June 18, 2019

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

6 KY Counties Selected for Post-Primary Election Audits

Frankfort, KY - State officials have randomly selected six counties to be audited for any irregularities in the May 21 primary election. Comments from J. Michael Brown, Deputy Attorney General of Kentucky.

Intro: Six Kentucky counties have been randomly selected by state officials for post-primary election auditing. Investigators will visit Bourbon, Carter, Fleming, Marion, Muhlenberg and Scott counties to inspect election forms and interview county officials. Kentucky's Deputy Attorney General J. Michael Brown says the process helps pinpoint any potential wrongdoing or irregularities that might have occurred during the May 21st primary election.

:11 *"The fact that we are looking at these counties does not imply that there were any irregularities; it's just a process for ensuring open and transparent elections in Kentucky."*

Tag: The Office of the Attorney General by law is required to conduct post-election audits in no fewer than 5 percent of Kentucky's counties following each primary and general election.

Second Cut: Brown points out that state officials rely heavily on information from voters, and says he plans to investigate and prosecute any potential election-law violations.

:22 *"Our main source of information during any election comes from voters themselves, who can call into a hotline and report anything that they think might be an irregularity. For instance, in this last election we had a really relatively few number of calls — 60 total — and that's compared to over 300 from a year ago."*

Tag: Statewide general elections will be held this November to choose the next governor.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEDE: Six Kentucky counties have been randomly selected by state officials for post-primary election auditing. Nadia Ramlagan (ROM-la-gone) has more.

:45 *Outcue...I'm Nadia Ramlagan*

Note to Editors: Reach Brown through Crystal Staley at 502-696-5659.