

Quarterly Issues Programs List

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2nd Quarter – April 1 through June 30, 2021

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- Wichita Community Issues
- Travel
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- Child Safety
- Community Events
- Traffic Safety
- Race Relations and History
- Health
- Sports
- Fireworks Safety

Section II - Programs

Issues: Severe Weather Safety and Air Quality

April 4, 2021 – 8 a.m. – 28 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson presents an edited repeat of an interview with Warning Coordination Meteorologist Chance Hayes of the National Weather Service office in Wichita. Mr. Hayes addressed severe weather safety, a topic which was important to repeat in light of recent tornadoes and flooding in the southern United States. This program concludes with a segment featuring Wichita Mayor Brandon Whipple and Alejandro Arias-Esparza of the Environmental Health division under the city’s Public Works Department. They talked about ozone season and the importance of taking steps to keep ozone levels down during the spring and summer.

Issue: Economic Development and Innovation

April 11, 2021 – 8 a.m. – 31 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson hosts a program about the upcoming Make48 competition, which challenges visionaries in the Wichita area to come up with a new innovative product to improve the quality of life in the U.S. and around the world. The first portion of the program is an interview with Make48 co-creator and CEO Tom Gray. The next segment is an interview with Assistant Director Kim McCollum of the GoCreate facility at Wichita State University. The third and final segment is an interview with Melissa Scheffler of Koch Industries, a sponsor of the Make48 competition. The deadline for submitting applications is coming up Friday, April 16.

Issue: The Political Divide in America

April 18, 2021 – 8 a.m. – 29 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson hosts a program with StoryCorps founder and President Dave Isay, to talk about a project his group has launched in Wichita and other communities across the country called One Small Step. The goal of this Program is to reconnect people in America after all of the recent debates, disagreements and divisions. He discusses bringing people from opposite viewpoints together for a conversation on a human level to promote more understanding and to remind people of the humanity in all of us. The interview includes a segment with Marty Smith of Wichita, in a segment with her father, Paul Wilson, that was recorded for StoryCorps related to family history.

Issues: Health and the Coronavirus Pandemic, Crime and Law Enforcement

April 25, 2021 – 8 a.m. – 29 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson hosts a program with an update on the COVID-19 vaccine and an interview with Teresa Lovelady, President and CEO of the HealthCore Clinic. She talks about the public information campaign being conducted in Wichita to get the word out about the vaccine. The second segment of the program features comments from Wichita Police Lieutenant Casey Slaughter, providing an update on the department’s license plate reading system that helps police find stolen cars and criminal suspects. The City Council recently approved a contract to extend use of this system for one year, which provides 110 readers for use around the city.

Issues: Family and Medical Leave and Government Policy, Wichita Community Issues

May 2, 2021 – 8 a.m. – 30 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson hosts a program featuring comments from a virtual news conference on the issue of family medical leave. Kansas State Treasurer Lynn Rogers participated in the event, along with Wisconsin State Treasurer Sarah Godlewski, California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, Washington State Treasurer Mike Pellicciotti, and Oregon State Treasurer Tobias Read. They discussed the appeal they made to Congressional leaders to adopt a federal paid family and medical leave program. The news conference was hosted by Annie Sartor, Senior Director of Business Partnerships for the group PL+US (Paid Leave for the United States). The second half of the program is devoted to an online presentation of Wichita Mayor Brandon Whipple’s State of the City Address released during the past week, during which he talked about the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and the progress made in the community for economic growth and development.

Issue: Travel

May 9, 2021 – 8 a.m. – 31 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson hosts a program on travel for the upcoming summer season. He presents an interview with Dr. Dean Headley, Emeritus Associate Professor of Marketing at the W. Frank Barton School of Business at Wichita State University. Last week, Dr. Headley and Dr. Brent Bowen of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona released their annual Airline Quality Rating survey. Dr. Headley discusses the rankings and what to expect from air travel this summer. The second portion of the program is about an online media briefing from AAA about the upcoming travel season, looking at flying, driving, safety and other issues. The segment features comments from AAA Travel Services Senior Vice President Brenda Hunsberger, AAA Leisure Travel Vice President Chip Morgan, AAA Auto Travel and Merchandise Managing Director Debra Calvert, and AAA Leisure Travel Sales Director Micki Dudas. The discussion is moderated by AAA Strategic Travel Partnerships Manager Amy Short.

Issues: Mental Health, Crime and Law Enforcement

May 16, 2021 – 8 a.m. – 31 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson hosts a program featuring comments from a recent workshop meeting of the Wichita City Council. Sedgwick County EMS Program Manager Malachi Winters gives a presentation on the results of the Integrated Care Team (ICT-1) program. It combines a police officer with a paramedic and a mental health professional to deal with people in the community who are experiencing a mental health crisis. This frees up first responders to handle emergencies. In the second segment of the program, Wichita Police Chief Gordon Ramsay introduces Wichita Police Captain Jason Stephens to discuss the Wichita Cease Fire Initiative, a new program about “focused deterrence” aimed at preventing teen offenders from becoming career criminals.

Issues: Health and the Coronavirus Pandemic, Child Safety

May 23, 2021 – 8 a.m. – 31 minutes - KFDI’s George Lawson hosts a program with two segments. The first segment features comments from Sedgwick County’s Local Health Officer, Dr. Garold Minns, speaking at a county commission meeting earlier in the week. He talks about the situation with COVID-19 and the need to continue to follow health recommendations regarding the wearing of masks and social distancing. Commissioners voted to strongly recommend the vaccine for county residents and to encourage businesses to use their best judgement about the wearing of masks in their establishments. The second segment is part of an online news conference held by the groups Kids and Car Safety and Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety. It includes a discussion, moderated by Cathy Chase, President of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, about the introduction of the Hot Cars Act that calls on auto manufactures to install technology that can detect the presence of an occupant inside when the engine is off. U.S. Representatives Tim Ryan of Ohio and Jan Schakowsky of Illinois provide comments as do Dr. Andrew Dill, who lost his 3-year-old son, Oliver in 2019 in a hot car, and Dr. David Diamond of the University of South Florida, who explains the psychology behind the issue of children being left in hot cars during summer heat.

Issues: Traffic Safety and Community Events

May 30, 2021 – 8 a.m. – KFDI’s Chris Maslen hosts a program with two subjects. The first one is a portion of a press conference on the ongoing “Click It or Ticket” campaign by law enforcement agencies to encourage seat belt use. Wichita Police Officer Paul Cruz, Chris Bortz with the Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Ben Gardner, Wichita Police Sergeant Jess Hancock, and Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Captain Brad Hoch share their comments. The second segment is an interview with Teri Mott, Director of Marketing and Communication for Wichita Festivals, Incorporated about the upcoming Wichita River Festival, which will have some events in June and other events in September.

Issue: Race Relations and History

June 6, 2021 – 8 a.m. – 31 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson hosts a program featuring comments made during the past week by U.S. President Joe Biden during a visit to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Biden is introduced by Tulsa resident Lauren Usher, who tells a family story about the 1921 race massacre in Tulsa’s Greenwood district. President Biden then talks about the massacre at a 100th anniversary event, and outlines some proposals for improving economic equity for Blacks in America.

Issues: Health, Sports, and the Political Divide in America

June 13, 2021 – 8 a.m. – 28 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson presents an interview with Charles Fuschillo, President and CEO of the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America. He talks about a virtual conference for Kansas residents on June 15th about issues related to Alzheimer’s Disease, from a perspective of health, caregiving and legal matters. A second segment is hosted by KFDI’s Chris Maslen, and presents an interview with Dr. Sandra Morris with MedExpress Urgent Care on the differences between COVID-19 and seasonal allergies. The third segment features comments from Sean Jones of the Wichita Public Library, Paris Cunningham of the Kansas African American Museum, and Taishma Council of Wichita Urban Professionals about the various programs related to Wichita baseball this summer. A fourth segment features comments from Dave Isay, founder of StoryCorps about his One Small Step project to bring people together. We featured an interview with Isay on April 18th, but these were later comments made during a visit to Wichita.

Issues: Travel, Fireworks Safety, and Economic Development and Innovation

June 20, 2021 – 8 a.m. – 29 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson hosts a program that includes additional comments about a May virtual media briefing with AAA Travel Services. Senior Vice President Brenda Hunsberger, AAA Leisure Travel Vice President Chip Morgan, AAA Auto Travel and Merchandise Managing Director Debra Calvert, and AAA Leisure Travel Sales Director Micki Dudas all talk about the summer travel season with respect to issues involving gas prices, rental cars, COVID-19 restrictions and safety. The second segment features comments from Wichita Fire Battalion Chief Jose Ocadiz on the sales of fireworks in the city and the plan to enforce city ordinances. A third segment features comments from Wichita Vice Mayor Brandon Johnson and Christina Long of CML Collective, talking about the PROPEL loan program to help women-owned and minority owned businesses in northeast Wichita.

Issue: Crime and Law Enforcement

June 27, 2021 – 8 a.m. – 30 minutes – KFDI's George Lawson hosts a program with comments from Wichita Police Chief Gordon Ramsay on recent increases in shooting incidents in the city and around the country. A Wichita police officer was injured in one of several shooting incidents from the previous weekend. The Chief talks about his concerns and the value of programs like Operation Triple Beam, which will have Wichita officers working with U.S. Marshals to target violent offenders. The rest of the program features comments from United States Attorney General Merrick Garland and President Joe Biden about combating crime by cracking down on rogue gun dealers, and providing funding to help with the court system, staffing and technology, and programs for violence intervention.