

Issues Programs List
WECI 91.5 Radio Station
July 31- September 30, 2023
Placed in Public File October 10, 2023

Section I: Issues

WECI has identified the following issues as significant and relevant to the local communities and listening audience:

COVID-19 Pandemic/Public Health

Climate/Environmental Issues

Economics

Education

Politics

Social Justice

Ukrainian War

Section II: Responsive Programming

COVID-19 Pandemic/Public Health

Wednesday, August 30, 2023, 3pm. Duration 30 minutes.

Democracy Now! Biden vs. Big Pharma: Medicare to Begin Negotiations to Lower Price of 10 Costly Drugs & Insulin

The Biden administration has taken a major step to rein in price gouging for prescription drugs in the United States. Medicare will now be able to negotiate prices on 10 of the most expensive drugs used to treat diabetes, cancer, heart disease and more. That list is set to expand over the years. In what's seen as a blow to Big Pharma, the White House says the move, a part of the Inflation Reduction Act, will benefit more than 9 million people in the U.S. and lead to \$100 billion in savings over the next decade. Pharmaceutical companies have already filed at least eight lawsuits contesting the new rule.

Climate/Environmental Issues

Monday, August 21, 2023, 3pm. Duration 60 minutes

Democracy Now! British Columbia in State of Emergency as Climate Change Fuels Canada's Worst Wildfire Season Ever

In Canada, the province of British Columbia has declared a state of emergency where entire towns have been burned to the ground in the country's worst wildfire season ever. Evacuation orders are in place for more than 35,000 people, and 30,000 more have been told to be prepared to evacuate. Nearly all 20,000 residents have already left the city of Yellowknife, the capital of Canada's Northwest Territories. Scientists say climate change is increasing the risk of wildfires because they are fueled by the increasingly hot and dry weather.

Wednesday, September 6th, 2023, 3pm. Duration 60 minutes.

Democracy Now! Kenyan Activist at Africa Climate Summit: Fund Green Transition on Continent & Phase Out Fossil Fuels

As the Africa Climate Summit wraps up in Nairobi, Democracy Now gets an update from Kenyan climate justice organizer Eric Njuguna. He says the focus by Western leaders and multinational companies on establishing carbon markets in Africa amounts to a "ticket to pollute" without directly addressing the need to phase out fossil fuels. Njuguna says a key demand from activists is to create access to climate financing without new debt burdens on the continent's governments. "Africa is bearing the brunt of the climate crisis and people are dying," says Njuguna.

Saturday, September 23, 3pm. Duration 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club

Green Energy in Red States

Emma Dumain Reporter, E&E News in conversation with Heather Reams, President, Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions, Terry Weickum Mayor, Rawlins WY, and Greg Dalton Founder and Host, Climate One.

Economics

Tuesday, September 12th, 2023, 3pm. Duration 30 minutes.

Democracy Now! The World Is Undergoing "Significant Realalignments": Economist Jayati Ghosh on G20, India, China & More

Democracy Now gets an update on the G20 summit, which welcomed the African Union as a permanent member and took place for the first time in India as the country faces criticism for bulldozing slums near the site of the meeting. "What we are seeing is a period of significant realignments," says economics professor Jayati Ghosh, who critiques the meeting for a lack of action and largely performative events such as a negotiated joint statement which stopped short of condemning Russia's aggression in Ukraine. "This G20 has done nothing for the major problems of our time," says Ghosh, who calls on the group of world leaders to act on climate change and wealth inequality.

Education

Friday, August 25th, 2023, 3pm. Duration 47 minutes.

Democracy Now! Are “Mugshots” Unethical? How Jailhouse Photos Undermine Defendants & Reinforce Systemic Bias

While being booked for attempting to overturn the 2020 presidential election, Donald Trump made history as the first former president to have his mugshot taken and released to the public. Shortly after the image of Trump scowling at a police camera started to circulate, the embattled real estate mogul and politician began using it to raise money for his 2024 presidential campaign. “Mugshots have these various ways of being deployed ... to craft a narrative, or to reinforce a narrative,” says Emory University professor Carol Anderson, who contrasts the novelty of Trump’s mugshot with the usage of mugshots by the media and the state to convey an image of Black criminality.

Saturday, August 26, 2023, 3pm. Duration 59 minutes.

Commonwealth Club

Ivy Ross and Susan Magsamen: Your Brain on Art

Susan Magsamen, Founder and Director, International Arts + Mind Lab, Center for Applied Neuroaesthetics, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Co-author, *Your Brain on Art: How the Arts Transforms Us* in conversation with Ivy Ross, Vice President of Design for hardware product area, Google; Co-author, *Your Brain on Art: How the Arts Transforms Us* and Susan Schneider Williams, Artist; Advocate.

Sunday, September 30, 2023, 11am. Duration 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club

Avi Loeb’s Search for Extraterrestrial Life

Avi Loeb, Ph.D., Frank B. Baird Jr. Professor of Science and Former Chair of the Department of Astronomy, Harvard University; Author, *Interstellar: The Search for Extraterrestrial Life and Our Future in the Stars* In Conversation with George Hammond Author, *Conversation With Socrates*.

Politics

Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 3pm. Duration 35 minutes.

Democracy Now! Colombian President Gustavo Petro: Charges Against Julian Assange Are “Mockery of Freedom of Press”

At the United Nations General Assembly this week, multiple world leaders voiced support for the imprisoned founder of WikiLeaks, Julian Assange, including Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Colombian President Gustavo Petro. We air an excerpt of *Democracy Now!*'s exclusive interview with Petro, who calls Assange's continued incarceration “the greatest mockery of freedom of press ... brought to bear by the country that built the concept.”

Friday, September 22, 2023, 3pm. Duration 50 minutes.

Democracy Now! Despite “Symbolic Rebukes” of Israel & Netanyahu, Will Biden’s Legacy Be Apartheid?

President Biden has invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the White House later this year after the two leaders met on the sidelines of the United Nations this week. The invitation is a major victory for Netanyahu and comes as his far-right government guts the power of the judiciary and moves closer to full annexation of the West Bank, with Israeli forces killing hundreds of Palestinians so far this year. Democracy Now speaks with Palestinian American analyst Yousef Munayyer, a scholar at the Arab Center Washington DC, as well as journalist Alex Kane, whose latest piece for *Jewish Currents* is headlined “Biden’s Legacy Will Be Apartheid.” The article looks at the decades-long Biden-Netanyahu relationship and how reluctant the U.S. administration has been to impose consequences despite Israel’s growing extremism.

Sunday, August 21, 11 am. Duration 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club

Thomas Byrne Edsall: American Democracy at the Crossroads

Thomas Byrne Edsall Columnist, The New York Times; Author, *The Point of No Return: American Democracy at the Crossroads* in conversation with Ray Suarez Host, KQED’s “On Shifting Ground.”

Social Justice

Friday, August 18, 2023, 3pm. Duration 25 minutes

Democracy Now! Plantation Disaster Capitalism: Native Hawaiians Organize to Stop Land & Water Grabs After Maui Fire

With the death toll from the Maui wildfires at 111 and as many as 1,000 still missing, Democracy Now speaks with Hawaiian law professor Kapuaāla Sproat about the conditions that made the fires more destructive and what’s yet to come for residents looking to rebuild their lives. Decades of neocolonialism in Hawaii have redirected precious water resources toward golf courses, resorts and other corporate ventures, turning many areas into tinderboxes and leaving little water to fight back against the flames. Now many Hawaiians say there is a power grab underway as real estate interests and other wealthy outsiders look to buy up land and water rights on the cheap as people are still reeling from the loss of their family members, livelihoods and communities.

Friday, September 15th, 3pm. Duration 33 minutes.

Democracy Now! UAW on Strike: In Historic Move, Auto Workers Target All Big Three Automakers at Once

For the first time in history, the United Auto Workers has launched a strike against the Big Three U.S. automakers — Ford, General Motors and Stellantis, the parent company of Chrysler — all

at once. UAW President Shawn Fein announced targeted strikes at three facilities: a General Motors plant in Wentzville, Missouri; a Stellantis complex in Toledo, Ohio; and a Ford assembly plant in Wayne, Michigan. The action could grow to more locations in the coming days to ramp up pressure on the companies.

Friday, September 29, 2023, 3pm. Duration 30 minutes

Democracy Now! Fearing Ethnic Cleansing, 90,000 Armenians Flee Nagorno-Karabakh After Azerbaijan Military Blitz

The government of Nagorno-Karabakh is dissolving itself after decades of struggle for autonomy from Azerbaijan, just days after Azerbaijani forces carried out a military blitz to seize the breakaway region, which has a majority of ethnic Armenians. More than half the territory's 120,000 people have reportedly fled to Armenia, while thousands more remain without food, shelter and clean drinking water. "Basically, this is ethnic cleansing," says Roubina Margossian, managing editor of *EVN Report*, an independent media outlet based in Armenia. "This is the victory of a dictatorship over a democracy."

Ukrainian War

Thursday, August 24th, 3pm. Duration 60 minutes.

Democracy Now! Should the U.S. Keep Funding War in Ukraine? Debate Reveals Deep Divisions Within Republican Party

The first Republican presidential primary debate highlighted "deep divisions within the Republican Party about foreign policy," says *The Nation's* national affairs correspondent John Nichols. He says the nationalist "America First" ideology championed by former President Donald Trump is now being pushed even further by Vivek Ramaswamy and Ron DeSantis, who are critical of U.S. funding to Ukraine, while more establishment candidates like Nikki Haley insisted on continued support for the country's defense against Russia.