

Issues/Public Affairs
3rd Quarter 2023
WHRP Gurley, AL

In our ongoing effort to serve the public interest, WHRP broadcasts programming responsive to issues of concern to the entire Huntsville/Decatur Metropolitan area. Our programming also discusses issues important to the entire state of Alabama and the nation. The following contains summaries of public affairs broadcasts that aired.

Program: Info Trak
Date: Sun Jul 2 6:00am
Length: 9:06

Matt Levendusky, PhD, Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, Stephen & Mary Baran Chair in the Institutions of Democracy at the Annenberg Public Policy Center

Many Americans do not know what rights are protected under the First Amendment and a substantial number cannot name all three branches of government, according to the 2023 Annenberg Constitution Day Civics Survey. Prof. Levendusky shared other findings from the survey, discussed the reasons behind today's widespread civic ignorance and explained why the trend is so worrisome.

Issues covered:
Constitutional Rights
Citizenship
Education

Program: Info Trak
Date: Sun Jul 9 6:10am
Length: 9:09

David Maimon, PhD, Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Georgia State University

Prof. Maimon explained how criminals are increasingly targeting US Postal Service blue collection boxes and residential mailboxes to steal filled-out checks. He said the thieves sell the stolen checks via social media platforms, then buyers alter the payee and amount on the checks to rob victims' bank accounts of thousands of dollars. He recommends that consumers only hand mail directly to a clerk at a US Post Office, or use other methods to send payments.

Issues covered:

Crime

Identity Theft

Government

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Jul 16 6:15am

Length: 9:05

Pam Baker, freelance journalist who focuses on emerging tech topics like artificial intelligence, data analytics, and edge computing, author of "*ChatGPT For Dummies*"

ChatGPT has garnered an amazing amount of attention in just a few months. Ms. Baker explained how the rise of artificial intelligence has already begun affecting our daily lives. She talked about the importance of learning to use AI in the workplace, and why learning how to prompt AI is both the easy part and the most difficult part of using it.

Issues covered:

Artificial Intelligence

Education

Career

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun July 23 6:00am

Length: 5:06

Morag MacKay, Director of Research, Safe Kids Worldwide

Ms. MacKay said that an American child is killed every five days in a train collision, a preventable tragedy that most parents overlook. She outlined the most common scenarios for these incidents and explained how parents can teach their children to avoid dangerous situations with trains.

Issues covered:

Railroad Safety

Child Safety

Parenting

Program: Info Trak
Date: Sun Aug 6 6:10am
Length: 9:17

Bacall Hincks, Family Advocate and Program Coordinator at Children's Service Society of Utah

More than one million American children now live with grandparents, primarily because of their parent's addiction to opioids and other drugs. Ms. Hincks said this growing trend is causing grandparents to put off retirement and plow through savings to rescue their grandchildren from dangerous situations. She discussed how these difficult experiences can negatively affect children's mental and physical health.

Issues covered:

Parenting
Substance Abuse
Foster Care
Retirement

Program: Info Trak
Date: Sun Aug 13 6:00am
Length: 8:50

Paul Pilibosian, a Houston attorney specializing in real estate law

It is a pattern being played out in many cities in the United States: squatters move into a home, refuse to leave, and homeowners have few options to evict them. Mr. Pilibosian explained why this trend is on the rise and what homeowners should do to try to discourage squatters from moving into a house in the first place.

Issues covered:

Crime
Home Ownership
Legal Issues

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Aug 20 6:15am

Length: 9:01

Karl Brauer, Executive Analyst at ISeeCars.com

The pain of inflation has hit every consumer's pocketbook in the past couple of years, but perhaps the impact has been greatest in the car buying market. Mr. Brauer shared research that found that while the value of used electric vehicles has been plummeting in 2023 (and the trend is accelerating), the price of used cars in general has jumped 47% since 2019. He added that more than half of today's used cars also have 20% or more miles than they did three years ago.

Issues covered:

Consumer Matters

Transportation

Program: Info Trak

Date: Aug 27 6:00am

Length: 7:50

Anna Mills, textbook author, English instructor at the College of Marin, member of a joint Artificial Intelligence task force with the Modern Language Association and College Conference on Composition and Communication

AI chatbots have triggered a panic among educators, who are flooding listservs, webinars and professional conferences to figure out how to deal with the technology in this new academic year. Ms. Mills explained why many professors are expecting chaos. She said few universities are offering clear guidelines for teachers or students. She also talked about the difficulty of detecting AI-generated cheating.

Issues covered:

Higher Education

Artificial Intelligence

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Sep 3 6:10am

Length: 5:06

Erin Dooley, PhD, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health

Prof. Dooley was the lead researcher of a study that measured the number of daily steps that may make a difference in the risk of heart problems in senior citizens. Her study of people ages 70 and older found walking an additional 500 steps per day, or an additional quarter mile of walking, was associated with a 14% lower risk of heart disease, stroke or heart failure.

Issues covered:

Personal Health

Senior Citizens

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Sep 10 6:20am

Length: 8:15

Caroline Leaf, PhD, clinical and cognitive neuroscientist, author of "*How to Help Your Child Clean Up Their Mental Mess*"

Increasingly, children ages 3-10 are struggling with anxiety, depression, and mental health challenges. Dr. Leaf discussed the factors behind this trend and warning signs that parents should watch for. She said if left unaddressed, childhood mental health problems often follow kids into their teens and adulthood.

Issues covered:

Child Mental Health

Parentin

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Sep 17 6:10am

Length: 4:50

Kevin Fiscella, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Community & Preventive Medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry

Dr. Fiscella discussed his groundbreaking research that found that the lives of nearly 8,000 black Americans could be saved each year if doctors could figure out a way to bring their average blood

pressure down to the average level of whites. He talked about the reasons behind the gap between the races in controlling blood pressure, and the possible ways to reduce it.

Issues covered:

Personal Health

Minority Concerns

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Sep 24 6:10am

Length: 7:26

Diane Mullins, founder of Deborah's Voice, a national non-profit women's advocacy organization

Pastor Mullins said that child trafficking has become the 2nd largest criminal activity in the world behind illegal drug sales. She said most Americans are unaware of the existence of human trafficking and forced prostitution in their own towns, but it is surprisingly prevalent – not just on dimly lit street corners, but at music concerts, VIP dinners, and sporting events. She talked about techniques used by human traffickers to select their victims.

Issues covered:

Human Trafficking

Women's Issues

Crime