

**Issues/Public Affairs
4th Quarter 2023
WHRP-FM 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 Oct 6 6:00am
Length: 9:54**

Timothy W. Fong, MD, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the Jane and Terry Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, Director of the UCLA Addiction Psychiatry Consultation Service, Co-Director of the UCLA Gambling Studies Program

In just five years, legalized sports betting has swept the nation, now embraced as a revenue source by at least 37 states. Dr. Fong discussed gambling addiction, who is most at risk and how to recognize it, particularly in teenagers. Some well-known universities have signed deals with sportsbooks or casinos to advertise on campus, in athletic venues and in some cases, directly in students' university email inboxes. He offered advice for parents to prevent the start of addictive behavior in their teen.

Issues covered:
Gambling Addiction
Government
Parenting

Length: 9:54

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Oct 13 6:00am

Length: 9:02

Devin Mann, MD, Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Population Health at NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Dr. Mann led a study of healthcare consumers that found that most of ChatGPT's responses to people's healthcare-related queries are nearly indistinguishable from those provided by human physicians. He believes the chatbots will be great tools for healthcare providers to communicate with patients, improve quality of care and reduce misdiagnoses and errors.

Issues covered:

Artificial Intelligence

Personal Health

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Oct 20 6:15am

Length: 8:11

Marlene Schwartz, PhD, Director of the University of Connecticut's Rudd Center for Food Policy and Health

Registered dietitians and other online influencers are being paid to post videos that promote diet soda, sugar and supplements on Instagram and TikTok. Prof. Schwartz discussed the little-known tactic often used by the multibillion-dollar food, beverage and pharmaceutical industries to sway consumers faced with often-contradictory health messages about popular products. She offered suggestions to help viewers recognize these paid messages.

Issues covered:

Consumer Matters

Personal Health/Nutrition

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Nov 3 6:00am

Length: 8:38

Martha Khlopin, Medicare expert, nationally syndicated radio host, founder of Get2insurance.com

Vague and misleading advertisements for Medicare Advantage policies are flooding the airwaves and mailboxes of Medicare recipients. Ms. Khlopin explained what Medicare Advantage is and how it differs from original Medicare. She also shared examples of complaints from seniors who had their plans changed without their consent or knowledge, and how the scams work. She warned that some TV ads and phone calls may give the impression that they are affiliated with the federal Medicare system, when they are not. She advised seniors to be careful and seek help from legitimate sources.

Issues covered:

Medicare

Scams

Senior Issues

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Nov 10 6:10am

Length: 8:30

David Newman-Toker, M.D., PhD, Lead Investigator and Director of the Johns Hopkins Armstrong Institute Center for Diagnostic Excellence

Dr. Newman-Toker led what is believed to be the first rigorous national estimate of permanent disability and death from diagnostic error. He estimates that 795,000 Americans die or are permanently disabled by diagnostic error each year. He said vascular events, infections and cancers cause 75% of the serious harms, and that stroke is the top cause of serious harm from misdiagnosis. He believes that a serious campaign to target diseases with high error and harm rates may reduce diagnostic errors and improve patient outcomes.

Issues covered:

Medical Errors & Misdiagnoses

Public Health

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Nov 17 6:00am

Length: 8:27

Kelsey Graham, PhD, pollinator conservation specialist at Michigan State University

Dr. Graham explained the importance of bees to the nation's food supply. She also discussed the role that pesticides and climate change may be having on bee populations in North America. She outlined simple steps that people can take to increase bee populations in their communities.

Issues covered:

Agriculture

Environment

Program: Info Trak
Date: Sun Nov 24 6:15am
Length: 8:44

Janet Murnaghan, journalist, author of "*Saving Sarah: One Mother's Battle Against the Health Care System to Save Her Daughter's Life*"

Ms. Murnaghan's young daughter desperately needed a set of donor lungs. A set of lungs was available and there was nothing standing in the way medically, but a federal policy barred children under the age of 12 from receiving adult lungs. Ms. Murnaghan talked about her quest to save Sarah and other kids in similar situations. After a court fight and through the use of social media, she eventually convinced the government to change organ donation rules permanently.

Issues covered:

Organ Donation
Government Regulation

Program: Info Trak
Date: Dec 1 6:00am
Length: 8:32

Morgan Frank, PhD, Assistant Professor in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Computing and Information

Prof. Frank studies job prospects for fossil fuel workers in the green energy transition. He said that fossil fuel workers have skills that are compatible with green jobs, but they face geographic and social barriers to relocate. He also explained why green jobs will span across different skill levels and sectors, but they are not well aligned with the current locations of fossil fuel workers.

Issues covered:

Energy
Employment
Environment

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Dec 8 6:10am

Length: 8:44

Jason M. Nagata MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at the University of California San Francisco

Dr. Nagata's study of US adolescents found that both victims and perpetrators of cyberbullying were more likely than other youth to experience eating disorder symptoms, including worrying about weight gain, self-worth tied to weight, and binge eating. He believes it is important that teachers and parents are aware that these experiences are relatively common among teens, and encourage kids to report online harassment if it occurs.

Issues covered:

Cyberbullying

Eating Disorders

Discrimination

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Dec 15 6:20am

Length: 8:44

Laurence J. Kotlikoff, PhD, Professor of Economics and William Warren Fairfield Professor at Boston University, former Senior Economist on the President's Council of Economic Advisers, co-author of "*Social Security Horror Stories: Protect Yourself From the System & Avoid Clawbacks*"

Prof. Kotlikoff explained the problem of Social Security clawbacks. He said each year more than a million unsuspecting Americans receive letters from the Social Security Administration, demanding repayment of thousands of dollars of overpaid benefits, due to SSA mistakes that occurred sometimes decades earlier. He proposed reforms to stop clawbacks.

Issues covered:

Social Security

Government

Consumer Matters

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Dec 22 6:10am

Length: 9:24

Diane Redleaf, family defense attorney, author of "*They Took the Kids Last Night: How the Child Protection System Puts Families at Risk*"

The number of children in the U.S. foster care system is at record levels, thanks in part to the opioid crisis. With nearly 450,000 children in the system, Ms. Redleaf discussed what happens when caseworkers make mistakes, taking children from parents who are neither abusive nor neglectful. She noted that minority families are disproportionately affected by this trend. She also said that once children are taken, parents and their attorneys sometimes can't learn where they are being housed.

Issues covered:

Foster Care

Minority Concerns

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Dec 29 6:10am

Length: 9:43

Jennifer Bradley, co-author of "*Make it Zero: The Movement to Safeguard Every Child*"

Ms. Bradley discussed the issue of human trafficking in the U.S. She said five main factors contribute to the problem, including poverty, abuse and isolation. She explained the shocking role that the foster child system plays in the issue, and she offered suggestions for individuals to make a difference in preventing and stopping human trafficking.

Issues covered:

Human Trafficking

Child Abuse

Poverty