

Issues/Public Affairs
1st Quarter 2024
WVNN-AM Athens, AL
WVNN-FM Trinity, AL

In our ongoing effort to serve the public interest, WVNN 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 Jan 7 6:00am
Length: 8:44

Steve Elek, Senior Automotive Data Analyst at Consumer Reports

Mr. Elek shared results of Consumer Reports' newly-released annual car reliability survey, which found that electric vehicle owners continue to report far more problems with their vehicles than owners of conventional cars or hybrids. He said that on average, EVs from the past three model years had 79 percent more problems than cars powered by internal combustion engines. He outlined the most common problems cited by EV owners, and the potential reasons behind this trend.

Issues covered:
Electric Vehicles
Consumer Matters

Program: Info Trak
Date: Sun Jan 14 6:00am
Length: 8:48

Annie Grace, recovering alcoholic, author of "*This Naked Mind*," founder of the This Naked Mind community

Ms. Grace shared her personal experience of overcoming alcohol addiction by asking herself why she drank so much and doing research on the effects of alcohol. She explained how alcohol affects the body and the brain, and how quitting alcohol can restore the natural pleasure system. She also advised people who want to quit alcohol to be compassionate with themselves, and to treat drinking as a habit that can be changed with the right approach.

Issues covered:

Alcoholism
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 Jan 21 6:00am

Length: 8:54

Jared Walczak, Vice President of State Projects, Tax Foundation

More and more homeowners are struggling as property values across the nation are rising rapidly, and property taxes are following suit. Mr. Walczak said typical property valuations have risen 30% to 40% over the past three years. He explained that at least some homeowners who are already grappling with high inflation may get a brief reprieve, because property taxes typically take one to three years to catch up to home prices.

Issues covered:

Property Taxes

Inflation

Home Ownership

Program: Info Trak
Date: Sun Feb 4 6:10am
Length: 8:43

Rachel Slade, author of "*Making It in America: The Almost Impossible Quest to Manufacture in the U.S.A. (And How It Got That Way)*"

The US has fallen from the top spot, to now the 10th largest manufacturing economy in the world. Ms. Slade discussed how America can revive manufacturing and why is it so important. She explained why manufacturing is vital for the country's independence, economy and innovation. She also talked about the impact of the great resignation, the resurging role of unions, and the new priority for a work-life balance among workers.

Issues covered:
Manufacturing
Economy
Government

Program: Info Trak
Date: Sun Feb 11 6:00am
Length: 8:41

Mariel Buqué, PhD, psychologist, author of "*Break the Cycle: A Guide to Healing Intergenerational Trauma*"

Many Americans are living with the effects of trauma and long-term stress. Dr. Buqué discussed scientific research that suggests that if trauma is not addressed, it can be genetically passed down from generation to generation, and even be transmitted to entire communities. She said most forms of abuse typically begin in childhood. She talked about therapeutic practices than can pass down strength instead of pain, thereby breaking the cycle.

Issues covered:
Mental Health
Child Abuse

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Feb 18 6:15am

Length: 9:27

Bridget Freisthler, PhD, Professor in the College of Social Work at Ohio State University

Child abuse and neglect cases have been on the rise since the pandemic and its aftermath. Prof. Freisthler led a study of an alcohol control project in Sacramento. The program's purpose was to reduce alcohol-related problems in two neighborhoods in the city, but it discovered an unexpected byproduct: in one of the neighborhoods, total entries into foster care were reduced by nearly 12%. She discussed factors behind child abuse and why she believes additional research is needed before trying to duplicate the program elsewhere.

Issues covered:

Child Abuse & Neglect

Alcohol Abuse

Foster Care

Program: Info Trak

Date: Feb 25 6:00am

Length: 9:33

Jeremy Nobel, MD, MPH, founder of the nonprofit Foundation for Art & Healing, author of "*Project UnLonely: Healing Our Crisis of Disconnection*"

Dr. Nobel said loneliness has increased dramatically since the pandemic. He outlined the three types of loneliness. He also discussed the negative health consequences—both mental and physical—of loneliness or isolation. He said the answer to loneliness is connection through activities like creative expression and serving other people. He believes it all begins with being aware of loneliness and having the courage to address it.

Issues covered:

Mental Health

Personal Health

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Mar 4 6:10am

Length: 8:14

James E. Rogers, PhD, Director of Food Safety Research and Testing, Acting Head of Product Safety Testing at Consumer Reports

Plasticizers--used to make plastic more flexible and more durable--are so widely used that today, they show up inside almost every American's body. Dr. Rogers talked about Consumer Reports' recent tests, which found that nearly all foods contain phthalates and bisphenols, often at very high levels. He talked about the potential health consequences, and offered steps for consumers to try to reduce their exposure.

Issues covered:

Food Safety

Personal Health

Consumer Matters

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Mar 10 6:20am

Length: 7:29

Angela Fagerlin, Ph.D., Chair of Population Health Sciences at University of Utah Health, Research Scientist with the VA Salt Lake City Health System's Informatics Decision-Enhancement and Analytic Sciences (IDEAS) Center for Innovation

Dr. Fagerlin was the senior author of a study that found that 60 to 80 percent of people surveyed are not honest with their doctors about information that could be relevant to their health. She explained why people are sometimes reluctant to be truthful with their doctors, and why that can be a dangerous practice.

Issues covered:

Personal Health

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Mar 17 6:10am

Length: 8:50

David Rein, PhD, Senior Fellow at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago

Dr. Rein led a recent study of hearing loss rates, and found that where a person lives and their occupation have a surprising impact. He found that the occupations most associated with hearing loss besides mining were in retail and restaurant settings. Rates of hearing loss are higher among men, non-Hispanic whites, and residents of rural areas, and increases significantly starting at age 35. He talked about the reasons behind the study's findings, along with the societal stigma of wearing hearing aids.

Issues covered:

Personal Health

Aging

Program: Info Trak

Date: Sun Mar 24 6:10am

Length: 8:12

Michael Redlener, MD, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine of Mount Sinai

Dr. Redlener led a study that found that emergency medical service (EMS) systems are not consistently providing optimal care, based on new national standards of quality, for patients who call 911. He explained the significant differences in EMS care he found in comparing urban, suburban, and rural services. He explained why the unnecessary use of lights and sirens, which he found is common in rural areas, is a dangerous practice.

Issues covered:

Emergency Services

Public Health