

WGSN Quarterly Issues 2023

2nd Quarter

Steve Boutelle

Connie Cody

April 1-June 30, 2023

July 10, 2023

Section 1: Issues

- A. Health: Issues dealing with health concerns.
- B. Transportation: Various issues related to local roads and travel.
- C. Education: Local issues related to students and affecting education.
- D. Government: Discussing local politics and government issues.
- E. Politics: Activities of our state government officials.
- F. Economy: Discussing economic issues.

Section II: Responsive Programs

- A. **WGSN News: "UTMC on New Best Hospital List"** According to a recent news release, The University of Tennessee Medical Center is included as one of only 101 hospitals in the U.S. on Money.com's first-ever Best Hospitals for Bariatric Surgery list. **Broadcast:** 4/10/23 **3 Code:** 9312 **Duration:** 1:05 **Airing:** 17:04:04 and 7:04:04 4/11/23

WGSN News: "Vaping Problem in E TN Schools" WVLT-TV News reported that kids vaping at school is a growing problem in East Tennessee. Knoxville Police Department School Resource Officer Tim Edwards said, "Between nicotine, THC, CBD, I've seen it all at every school I go to." He confiscates several different kinds of vapes from students every month.. **Broadcast:** 5/5/23 **Code:** 9351 **Duration:** :51 **Airing:** 17:04:12 and 7:04:04 5/8/23.

WGSN NEWS: "New Free Standing ER to Open In Morristown" As reported by the Citizen-Tribune, Morristown's first free standing emergency department is scheduled to open on its target date of June 5th. Morristown-Hamblen West is a Covenant Health hospital. **Broadcast:** 6/2/23 **Code:** 9351 **Duration:** 0:35 **Airing:** 17:04:04 6/5/23.

- B. **WGSN NEWS: "No Holiday Construction on Roadways"** The Tennessee Department of Transportation will suspend all interstate construction work on Easter weekend in anticipation of increased holiday travel. TDOT crews and contractors will stop all road construction work that requires lane closures beginning Thursday, April 6 at 6:00 p.m. through Monday, April 10 at 6:00 a.m. **Broadcast:** 4/5/23 **Code:** 9332 **Duration:** :54 **Airing:** 17:04:04 and 7:04:04 4/6/23.

WGSN NEWS: "Road Construction Halted for Memorial Day Weekend" Road Construction will not delay motorists as they travel Tennessee's highways this Memorial Day weekend. The Tennessee Department of Transportation will suspend all construction-related lane closures on interstates and state routes beginning at noon on Friday, May 26 through 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 30. **Broadcast:** 5/24/23 **Code:** 9331 **Duration:** :38 **Airing:** 17:04:04 and 7:04:04 5/25/23.

WGSN News: "I-640 Road Construction Project Halted" According to WATE-TV News, work on the I-640 reconstruction project has been slowed due to unexpected changes in the grades of the concrete, according to the Tennessee Department of Transportation spokesperson Mark Nagi.

He said TDOT discovered that the grades used for the I-640 construction were higher than planned . **Broadcast:** 6/5/23 **Code:** 9310 **Duration:** :40 **Airing:** 17:04:04 & 7:04:04 6/6/23.

- C. **WGSN News: "Knox BOE Vote on Charter School Application."** WBIR-TV News reported that on Thursday, the Knox County Board of Education met to discuss whether to approve an application for a new charter school — Knoxville Preparatory School. However, a motion to approve the school's application failed in a 4-4 vote.. **Broadcast:** 4/7/23 **Code:** 9350 **Duration:** 1:13 **Airing:** 17:04:04 and 7:04:04 4/10/23.

WGSN News: "Knox Co. Schools Prepare for Law's Impact." As reported by WATE-TV News, the 3rd-grade retention law that took effect in Tennessee during the current school year is changing how Knox County Schools operates. The law does not permit third graders to continue on to fourth grade unless they score proficiently in English Language Arts on the TCAP. **Broadcast:** 5/3/23 **Code:** 9330

Duration: 1:11 **Airing:** 17:04:04 and 7:04:04 5/4/23.

WGSN News: “Knox Co. BOE Votes on Policy Changes” According to WBIR-TV News, on Thursday the Knox County School board discussed and voted on several proposed policy changes. One proposal would change how people sign up to speak during public comment sessions during meetings. There were also proposals to implement a new sexual harassment and sex-based discrimination policy and change how much school bus services are paid. **Broadcast:** 6/9/23 **Code:** 9351 **Duration:** :57 **Airing:** 17:04:04 and 7:04:04 6/12/23.

- D. **WGSN News: “Planning Commission OK’s Zoning Request”** In a follow-up to a previous news story, WBIR-TV News reported that on Thursday evening Knox County leaders approved changes to two senior living facilities owned by longtime developer Rick Dover this week. The Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission voted to approve a zoning change, allowing the McNabb Center to buy South High and turn it into a drug rehab center. **Broadcast:** 4/14/23 **Code:** 9351 **Duration:** 1:17 **Airing:** 17:04:04 and 7:04:04 4/15/23.

WGSN News: “Mayor’s Office Delays Documents Request” In a follow-up to a continuing news story, the Knoxville News-Sentinel reported that for nearly 14 months, it asked Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon to share public records about how she conducted her search in 2022 for a new police chief...Knox News sued in July after the mayor's office repeatedly refused requests for public records. On May 1 at 2:06 p.m., the mayor’s office sent hundreds of pages of documents related to the hiring process to media outlets in Knoxville--except the News-Sentinel...After the News-Sentinel once again asked for the documents after the media release, the city supplied the list to Knox News at 7:43 p.m. **Broadcast:** 5/4/23 **Code:** 9340 **Duration:** 1:17 **Airing:** 17:04:04 and 7:04:04 5/5/23.

WGSN News: “Knox Co. Mayor, Sheriff Reach Budget Compromise” According to WATE-TV News, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and Knox County Sheriff Tom Spangler announced pay increases for Knox County Sheriff’s Office employees this [on Friday] morning at the City County Building. Jacobs said that he and Spangler had reached a compromise on the pay increases Thursday, calling them “historic” in his announcement. **Broadcast:** 6/2/23 **Code:** 9350 **Duration:** 1:08 **Airing:** 17:04:04 and 7:04:04 6/5/23.

- E. **WGSN News: “E TN Rep. Removed From Committees”** WATE-TV News reported that Tennessee House leadership has relieved Knoxville Rep. Gloria Johnson of her committee assignments after she joined demonstrators who broke through a line of State Troopers and entered the State Capitol last week. **Broadcast:** 4/3/23 **Code:** 9321 **Duration:** 1:14 **Airing:** 17:04:04 and 7:04:04 4/4/23.

WGSN News: “Yager Files Pay Increase Amendment” 12th District State Senator Ken Yager and Representative Patsy Hazlewood filed a FY 2024 budget amendment that secure \$16.3 million to increase the pay for Direct Support Professionals, who provide support to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. **Broadcast:** 5/3/23 **Code:** 9332 **Duration:** 1:01 **Airing:** 17:04:04 and 7:04:04 5/4/23.

WGSN News: “New Area Code Coming to East Tennessee” According to WBIR-TV News, a new 729 area code will be introduced in East Tennessee, including in the Tri-Cities region, officials said. The new 729 code is the latest sign of a growing state. According to a 2022 study by the University of Tennessee, the state's population grew by 83,000 people in 2022. **Broadcast:** 6/14/23 **Code:** 9332 **Duration:** :50 **Airing:** 17:04:04 and 7:04:04 6/15/23.

- F. **WGSN News: “Construction Starts on New Entertainment District”** According to WBIR-TV News, the development of "Smoky Gap," a unique entertainment district located within The 407: Gateway to

Adventure, began on Tuesday, April 11. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Council announced last May that it approved \$75 million for Smoky Gap. **Broadcast:** 4/13/23 **Code:** 9322 **Duration:** 0:57 **Airing:** 17:04:04 and 7:04:04 4/14/23.

WGSN News: "Governor's Order Seeks to Make State Key Nuclear Leader" On Tuesday Governor Bill Lee signed an executive order to advance Tennessee's position as a national leader in nuclear energy. Executive Order 101 creates the Tennessee Nuclear Energy Advisory Council, which will seek to build upon the state's legacy in nuclear innovation and drive continued investment to create a nuclear energy ecosystem for the future of Tennessee. Gov. Lee said, "Tennessee is ready-made to lead America's energy independence and drive continued economic growth with safe, clean and reliable nuclear energy for the future..." **Broadcast:** 5/17/23 **Code:** 9331 **Duration:** :48 **Airing:** 17:04:04 and 7:04:04 5/18/23.

WGSN News: "Nearly Half of TN Distressed Counties in E TN" According to WBIR, three East Tennessee counties are considered "distressed," according to an index by the Appalachian Regional Commission. The federal commission examines indicators like counties' three-year average unemployment rates, per capita market incomes and poverty rates to determine counties' well-being. Eight counties in Tennessee were considered distressed. Three of those are located in East Tennessee. **Broadcast:** 6/28/23 **Code:** 9330 **Duration:** :56 **Airing:** 17:04:04 and 7:04:04 6/29/23.