

For Station: WPKL Uniontown
City of License: Uniontown, Pa
Licensee: Forever Media Inc..

The following issues have been determined to have importance and concern within the Stations City of license during the past three months. These issues were found to be significant, and for these issues the (documented) Program issues. Responses were broadcast to inform, explain, promote/advocate a position on or report on these issues. The issues that were saved in this folder are listed in a time sequence because of the time sensitivity of the issues, not as a ranking by importance or significance to the listeners or station management.

* See WOOG for list of stories. Stories are the same
Compiled 10/09/15

7/14/15

A former Washington County Common Pleas judge is headed to jail. Paul Pozonsky pleaded guilty earlier this year to stealing cocaine that was submitted in court as evidence. He was ordered to serve at least one month of a nearly two-year sentence followed by two-years of probation. The district attorney says no cases involving the cocaine taken by Pozonsky have been affected.

A pit bull is dead after being shot by police in Connellsville. Officials say the dog was being walked on a leash, but broke away and attacked a smaller dog on Decatur Avenue yesterday. The smaller dog was being severely injured so officers shot and killed the pit bull. Police say the dog's owner may be charged.

Pennsylvania's energy costs are pretty high. In a survey of all 50 states and the District of Columbia, the Keystone State ranked 35th. The "WalletHub.com" rankings are based on consumption rates and prices for electricity, natural gas, motor fuel and home heating oil. The least expensive place is Washington, DC, and the most expensive is Connecticut.

7/15/15

California University of Pennsylvania is going to begin offering a doctoral program. The Doctor of Health Science degree was approved by the board of the State System of Higher Education last week and will begin in the spring of 2016. Officials say the program is the first of its kind available through the state's 14 universities.

Pennsylvania is ranked 41st among the 50 states in a fiscal health survey. The survey is based on several financial factors including debt, unfunded pensions and healthcare liabilities.

7/16/15

A Laurel Highlands Middle School substitute teacher is facing charges. The 36-year-old man was arrested following a yearlong investigation. He's charged with possession of child pornography, unlawful contact with a minor and other offenses. His 67-year-old father is also facing child porn charges.

7/21

A car crash in Fayette County is under investigation. The two car crash happened at the intersection of Keefer Road and Route 982 in Bullskin Township yesterday morning. Two people were airlifted to the hospital, a third person was also injured.

Two Greensburg residents are launching an online guide to the city. Ashely Reefer and Jessica Hickey say they're newly adapted hometown needs a one-stop website to find out about downtown businesses and events. They launched downtowngreensburgpa.us this month.

7/24/15

A 29-year-old Fayette County man is behind bars after a terrifying break-in at a private home earlier this week. Police said Nathan Williams broke into a house in Bullskin Monday morning, grabbed a metal baseball bat and hit a man inside twice in the head and threatened to kill him. A woman inside watched it all happen and said Williams left but came back again to try to get to the male victim, who had locked himself in the bedroom by then. Williams is facing charges for assault, burglary and making terroristic threats.

The wet summer this year is taking a toll on farmers markets in the area. The National Weather Service reports that since June 1st, western Pennsylvania has gotten more than four inches more rain than the average.

7/27/15

The Greene County Planning Commission is holding a meeting tonight about a proposed drug treatment clinic in Cumberland Township. The plan was approved at a meeting in June, but a property owner near the site claims he was never notified of that meeting so another must take place.

Officials are investigating a house fire that killed a man in Monongahela. James Huffstickler called 911 to report the Lawton Street blaze yesterday morning, and was still inside the house when crews arrived. Firefighters found him dead on the second floor. His mother escaped unharmed.

7/28/15

A man is facing charges after allegedly pointing a gun at two Fayette County firefighters and threatening to shoot them. Derek Paul McKulka is accused of pointing a shotgun at the two firefighters under the Dawson Bridge Sunday afternoon.

A bicyclist is being treated for injuries suffered when he was hit by a car Monday morning in Fayette County. The man reportedly pulled onto a street in Uniontown without stopping, and tried to cross several lanes. He was flown to a trauma center with head and leg injuries.

A woman is facing charges for allegedly attempting to stab a man in Uniontown. Robin Reckart got into a fight with the victim yesterday and attacked him with a kitchen knife. He suffered minor injuries.

A man is facing charges after leading police on a high-speed chase through Uniontown. Officers were attempting to stop John Burkland for a traffic violation on his motorcycle Sunday afternoon on West Main Street when he took off. The chase lasted about three miles and reached speeds of 120 miles-an-hour before Burkland crashed into a police cruiser.

7/29/15

An armed convenience store robbery suspect is being sought by Connellsville police. The hold-up happened late Monday night when the man ordered a clerk at South Side Grocer to empty all the cash drawers. He was then seen making his getaway in a green Dodge Dakota.

7/30/15

Three people are being questioned by police following a shooting in Fayette County. Triblive.com reports authorities were called to East Park in Connellsville last night for reports of gunfire. No one was hurt. No more information is available.

A Uniontown man, accused of killing his girlfriend, is claiming the charges should be dropped because of his high blood-sugar. Terry Walker is facing homicide charges in the February death of Mya Grady.

8/10/15

Uniontown police are looking for a man suspected of two armed robberies in the area. The Quick Fill Gas Station in North Union Township was held up Saturday night and the Sunoco in Uniontown was robbed yesterday.

The man killed in an ATV crash in Fayette County is being identified. State Police say Robert Basinger was killed when the utility vehicle he was driving flipped over on Adelaide Road in Dunbar Township Saturday night. He was not wearing a helmet.

8/11/15

The Connellsville Area School District could soon have a new athletic and transportation director. The school board is expected to vote tomorrow on whether or not to appoint Rich Evans to the position. If appointed, Evans would take over for Jim Lembo who retired at the end of this past school year.

A Uniontown man is facing drug charges following a traffic stop in East Huntingdon Township. Thomas Beck was arrested Friday after being pulled over on Route 119. Beck consented to a search of his vehicle and was found to have more than 500 stamp bags of heroin.

A man is in the hospital after being injured in a fireworks explosion in Greene County. He was flown to the hospital last week for a serious hand injury.

8/12/15

Authorities are investigating after a body was discovered in the Youghiogheny River in Fayette County. Authorities say the body of a man believed to be in his 60's was found yesterday afternoon in the Rivers End Rapids at Ohiopyle State Park.

The Mount Pleasant Area School Board is accepting some resignations. The district will look for someone to replace head baseball coach Tom Hudzema. The board president says Hudzema's leaving to have more family time.

8/13/15

Students in the Connellsville Area School District will be able to eat breakfast and lunch at school for free this year. The school board agreed last night to enter a federal reimbursement program. To qualify, the district had to have at least 40 percent of the student population below the poverty line.

A Union Township man is facing charges for allegedly assaulting his brother over a Big Mac. Thomas Veres got mad yesterday because his brother ate three of the burgers and did not save him one. Veres allegedly ransacked his brother's Pleasant Street house and then attacked him. The victim suffered minor bruises and cuts.

A Waynesburg man is facing charges for allegedly assaulting his girlfriend. Jeremiah Davis was with the woman at a bar Sunday night, but she left when he began getting drunk. The victim went to her mom's house and says Davis followed her and threatened both of them.

Fayette County commissioners are pondering a proposal from Chevron, which would give the company the right to extract Marcellus shale gas from under German-Masontown Park. Members recently voted to place the issue on the agenda for their voting meeting next week.

A Uniontown man is going to jail for sexually assaulting an elderly woman. Ronald Hunter was sentenced to ten-to-20 years yesterday after being found guilty of the October crime. He will also be required to register his whereabouts with police for the rest of his life. Hunter maintains his innocence.

8/14/15

More information is being released after a body was found in the Youghiogheny River in Fayette County. Sixty-two-year-old Darryl Lohr likely drowned. His body was found in the Rivers End Rapids at the Ohiopyle State Park earlier this week

8/24/15

Washington County officials are reporting more heroin overdoses in the area, one of them deadly. There have been eight overdoses in Charleroi since last Monday, four of which occurred Thursday. Investigators say many of the overdoses involve bags of heroin with the same stamp. The whole county has seen a rash of overdoses over the last nine days, with 38 total reported.

Police are investigating the discovery of a body in Greene County. Few details have been released but the man's remains were reportedly found by some kids riding ATVs in the woods in Franklin Township Friday. The coroner's office says it will not comment on the case until the investigation is complete.

The Belle Vernon Area Education Association is getting ready to hit the picket line. Officials announced Friday that teachers will strike Tuesday, the second day of classes. School administrators say seniors should still report, as should vo-tech and special education students. The teachers have been working without a contract for a year.

8/25/15

A teen is being charged as an adult for allegedly using a gun to steal a dirt bike in Fayette County. Javon Lewis Leonard is facing several charged including four counts of robbery and two counts of terrorist threats. Leonard pointed a gun at a man and his 17-year-old son who were showing the bike to Leonard, who said he was interested in purchasing the bike.

A man is going to be on probation for the next two years for attacking a police officer in Mt. Pleasant. Charles Chandler pleaded guilty to the assault yesterday and received the probation sentence, which includes house arrest and anger management classes. The attack happened in December when Chandler was being taken into custody on suspicion of hit-and-run.

A house fire in Mt. Pleasant is being investigated as arson. The flames broke out last week in the East Walnut Street home, causing significant damage to the upper floors. Police believe the blaze was intentionally set by some kids.

8/26/15

The Fayette County Fair worker accused of hitting another man with his car, is facing additional charges. Yesterday David Lee Weaver was in court for a preliminary hearing. Weaver is facing an additional charge of attempted homicide.

A disbarred Uniontown attorney is facing charges after allegedly overdosing on heroin. Brian Salisbury was found unresponsive in a Rite Aid parking lot earlier this month. Officers revived him with Narcan, and charged him with possession of drug paraphernalia. The incident is also a violation of Salisbury's parole. He previously pleaded guilty to slipping drugs to a client who was in police custody in 2013.

The Uniontown Fire Department is having an open house. The event will be held at the North Beeson Boulevard station from noon until 5 o'clock Saturday evening during the Italian Festival. Fire equipment will be on display, the Fayette County ambulance service will be doing blood pressure screenings and technicians will be on hand to check and install child car seats.

The Penn State Extension in Greene County is accepting applications for its Master Gardener program. Weekly classes start at the local Extension office in October and run through March. Candidates must agree to volunteer with the program after completion. More information is available at extension.psu.edu.

8/27/15

A pair from Mt. Pleasant is facing additional charges in connection with several cases of vandalism in the Connellsville area. Charles Boyd Crouse and Ila Lorraine Blair are facing charges including criminal mischief and conspiracy.

A Uniontown attorney is trying to get a group of wind turbines shut down near Farmington. Gary Altman sent a letter to the county's Office of Planning Monday, asking them to order Iberdrola Renewables to stop operating the turbines. Altman claims the wind farm does not comply with zoning conditions set by the board. A spokesman for the company says the turbines comply with all regulations.

8/28/15

A teenager is dead following a car crash in Fayette County. Twenty-two-year-old Tyler Wolfe was speeding on Breakneck Road in Bullskin Township yesterday afternoon when he lost control of the car and crashed into a tree. Both Wolfe and a 16-year-old passenger were taken to the hospital.

A Clarksville man is facing child pornography charges. Investigators received a tip indicating pornographic material involving minors was sent from James Kovach's cell phone. Kovach was arrested yesterday after admitting to looking at the photos. He reportedly told officers he was trying to help detectives with a child pornography investigation.

A man is in custody in connection to an armed robbery in Wind Ridge. The suspect entered the Stokes General Merchandise store along Route 21 yesterday, displayed a gun and demanded money. The clerk recognized the robber and officers picked him up a short time later.

Three people are happy to be back on land after their boat capsized in the Youghiogheny in Ohiopyle State Park. Police say the trio was in a kayak Wednesday night when it overturned and got away from them. Two of the boaters swam back to shore, but could not find the third. Crews later found the missing person, unharmed, in another area of the park.

Twenty-two percent of Pennsylvania voters think politicians are the state's biggest problem. That's one in five according to a new poll from the Franklin & Marshall College Center for Opinion Research. A poll spokesman says the state budget stalemate, and Attorney General Kathleen Kane's legal troubles have intensified the issue for people. The poll of 605 registered voters has a margin of error of three-point-nine percent.

8/31/15

Friends and family are remembering two victims killed in a car crash in Fayette County. A candlelight vigil was held last night for 22-year-old Tyler Wolfe and 16-year-old Kayla Wilttrout.

A white lion at a resort in Fayette County is dead. Officials at Nemaquin Woodlands Resort in Farmington say the five-year-old lion named Price died after undergoing a routine medical procedure for an ear infection last week.

9/9/15

The death of a Fayette County jail inmate is under investigation. The woman was taken to the hospital Sunday after experiencing health "difficulties" at the jail. The warden of the facility says the woman was previously medically cleared by the hospital for incarceration. Her death is not considered suspicious.

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Officials are investigating a six-alarm fire at a Charleroi business. The flames broke out yesterday at Thorpe's Reconditioned Appliance & Repair building on McKean Avenue. The blaze appears to have started on the second floor of the building, which also houses apartments.

Two people are dead following a one-car accident in Connellsville. Police say it appears the vehicle ran off Springfield Pike into a wooded area yesterday. Detectives are trying to determine what caused the car to veer off the road.

9/10/15

More allegations are surfacing against the Golden Living Centers nursing home chain. The Attorney General's Office filed more papers yesterday claiming the facilities are understaffed and residents have missed meals and been left in diapers for long periods of time. Fourteen centers were named in the original lawsuit and eleven more have been added, including locations in Murrysville and Uniontown.

Work is underway along Route 88 in downtown Charleroi. Crews are replacing collapsed sewer pipes that may be causing sinkholes on Fallowfield Avenue. The contractors will also dig up sections of McKean to further investigate the extent of the damage.

9/11/15

Fallen tree limbs are being blamed for a minor injury on a Connellsville school bus. Officials say the branches cracked several windows on the bus yesterday near the Pleasant Valley Country Club in Bullskin. One student was cut by a shard of glass.

Officials are releasing more information about the death of a female inmate at the Fayette County Prison. The coroner announced yesterday that there were no findings of recent trauma that would have contributed to Jeana Scott's death. Scott died Sunday after experiencing "respiratory difficulties." Toxicology results are pending.

A new television series is being filmed in the area. A crew was set up at Joseph A. Hardy Connellsville Airport in Dunbar Township Wednesday filming scenes for a 13-episode, drama on the WGN America network. The series, which is called "Outsiders," will begin airing next year.

9/14/15

An escaped SCI-Greene inmate is back in custody. Charles Ulrich was at WHS-Greene hospital for medical treatment last week, when he ran away from security staff. He was wearing an electronic monitoring device, so police were able to track him. He was caught along Ten Mile Creek in Morrisville.

The deadline for Connellsville City Council to appoint someone to the vacant council seat is approaching. No one has requested the appointment yet and if council doesn't name someone by September 15th, the County Common Pleas Court will take over the selection process. The seat was left vacant when Councilman Aron Zolbrod resigned in August.

9/15/15

A man is hurt after he stabbed himself while trying to shoplift a phone at a Fayette County Walmart. David Lee was able to get a Straight Talk Wireless cell phone off a shelf at the South Union Township Walmart yesterday evening. He then went into another aisle of the store and was trying to use a knife to cut open the packaging when he stabbed himself in the arm.

Police are looking for three suspects who led officers on a high-speed chase through Westmoreland County. Officers pursued the vehicle along Route 119 from South Greensburg to a Sheetz in Youngwood last night.

A North Belle Vernon man is going to prison for assaulting a baby. Robert Radacy Jr. received the two-and-a-half to eight-year sentence yesterday and was also ordered to complete parenting and anger management classes. Prosecutors say the four-week-old child suffered excessive physical abuse, including broken bones in every extremity.

9/16/15

A Fairchance man is facing charges in connection to child pornography. Matthew Sible was arrested last week on six counts of distribution following an undercover Internet investigation. Detectives searched his home and recovered a computer allegedly containing multiple illegal images.

9/17/15

Another Connellsville Community Field Day is scheduled in Fayette County. The second annual event will take place on Sunday. The event is put on by the Connellsville Area Senior High School and will benefit the Carnegie Free Library. An obstacle course and a scavenger hunt along with other activities will be featured.

A North Belle Vernon woman is facing charges for allegedly leaving her children home alone. Kristi Novak left the three-and-four-year-old boys unsupervised in her apartment Tuesday. A neighbor saw the boys running in the halls and called officers. This is the second time in four months Novak is accused of leaving her children alone.

A man is facing assault charges after allegedly attacking a woman in Smithfield. The victim was reportedly at Robert Null's house with a friend over the weekend and fell asleep on the couch. The woman claims when she woke up, Null was removing her clothes and touching her inappropriately.

Police are looking for a man who robbed a convenience store in North Charleroi. Officers say the suspect entered the Cougar Mini Mart early Monday morning, showed a gun and demanded money. No injuries were reported but the thief got away with some cash.

9/18/15

Two people are facing charges after their son was injured in an all-terrain vehicle accident in Dunbar Township. Police were called to Pechin Beverage Distributor yesterday for a report of an intoxicated couple operating the ATV with a small child on it. When officers arrived, the suspects took off into a field behind Laurel Mall along Route 119. The 18-month-old boy was thrown and suffered a head injury when the ATV hit a ditch.

Officials are confirming another black bear sighting in Mt. Pleasant. The 100-pound bear was spotted on Wednesday on Braddock Road and then made his way around town for several hours, eventually causing the evacuation of the playground at Ramsay Elementary School.

9/21/15

A fundraiser will take place this weekend to benefit the Tri-Town Cheerleaders in Fayette County. A Paint and Sip event will take place this Saturday at the West Leisenring Fire Hall from seven to ten p.m. Admission is 40 dollars and includes the canvas and supplies.

9/21/15

Police are investigating an accident that killed one person and injured six others in Redstone Township. Officers say Beverly Smitley veered into the wrong lane Saturday morning on National Pike and hit another car head-on. Smitley did not survive the crash and her three-year-old, who was not secured in a car seat, was seriously injured. Five people in the other car were also hurt.

A man is facing charges for allegedly assaulting a child in Uniontown. Christopher Shallenberger was arrested Friday after the five-month-old boy was taken to the hospital with significant facial injuries. Shallenberger allegedly admitted he hit the boy because he would not stop crying.

9/22/15

Greene County once again has a board of elections. The entire board resigned last week but President Judge Farley Toothman reappointed himself yesterday. Toothman also reinstated Michael Dulaney and appointed former County Elections Director Frances Pratt. The board reportedly stepped down over accusations that county commissioners were usurping their authority.

9/23/15

Officials are confirming that a three-year-old is dead following a car accident that also killed the driver of the vehicle. Beverly Smitley was driving on Route 40 in Redstone Township when she crossed into oncoming traffic and hit another vehicle head-on last weekend. Smitley died shortly after the accident. The toddler died Monday.

Connellsville is getting ready for the First Annual Fayette County UFO, Bigfoot and Paranormal Expo. The event will be held on October 17th at the Edwin S. Porter Theater in the Greater Connellsville Community Center. UFO expert Stan Gordon will be the keynote speaker.

Authorities are investigating after learning of a case of attempted luring in Westmoreland County. The incident happened Friday evening in Youngwood. A 17-year-old girl was reportedly approached by a man in a truck who tried to get her to get into his vehicle.

A Westmoreland County volunteer firefighter who died last year, is being remembered. The name of Youngwood firefighter Jeffrey "Lance" Wentzel will be added to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation monument in Maryland next month. He died after being hit by a train while looking for a missing woman in North Versailles.

9/24/15

A Uniontown woman is headed to trial after her three-year-old took marijuana to daycare. Jazmin Robinson was held for court yesterday for the incident, which occurred last year when employees found four bags of the drug in the child's coat. Robinson told police the girl had been with her father and claims he might have planted the drugs.

A Monessen man is going to prison after pleading guilty to three separate drug charges. Michael Standard, Jr. entered the plea Tuesday, the day before his trial was scheduled to begin, and was sentenced to three-to-ten years. Two of the charges are related to drug sales in 2011 and one stems from a raid in Charleroi last year.

A Redstone couple is heading to trial for allegedly setting a teenager on fire and refusing to take him to the doctor. William Kirby, Jr. and his wife were held for court yesterday for the 2014 incident. Officials say Mrs. Kirby poured rubbing alcohol on her stepson and ignited him as part of the "fire challenge" on social media.

9/25/15

The Allegheny County Health Department is warning people to avoid feeding stray animals. Two stray kittens that scratched members of a Wilmerding family tested positive for rabies. Anyone who is bitten, scratched or comes in contact with the saliva of a stray animal should wash the affected area, seek emergency medical treatment and report the incident to the health department. Rabies is almost always fatal if left untreated.

Several Washington County school districts are going to begin keeping an anti-overdose drug at their high schools. The state Department of Education recently began encouraging districts to stock the drug and says parental permission is not necessary to administer it. Ringgold and Charleroi have both confirmed they will take the department's recommendation.

9/28/15

Officials are investigating a fire that destroyed a home in Mt. Pleasant. The flames broke out early Saturday on Fort Cherry Road. No injuries were reported but crews had to go back to the scene to extinguish some hot spots later in the day.

A home is damaged following a fire in Westmoreland County. A coffee pot may have sparked a fire yesterday at a home on Green Street in North Belle Vernon. No one was home at the time.

9/29/15

A missing man was found dead in Fayette County. Pennsylvania State Police say the body of Ryan Hunt was found yesterday on state game land in German Township. His abandoned vehicle was also located nearby. Hunt died from an apparent gunshot wound.

Alpha Natural Resources is closing its Emerald Mine in Waynesburg. Officials informed the 290 employees last week that the closing date for the mine is November 24th. The move was originally announced in 2014 and 140 miners have since been transferred to the company's Cumberland Mine, where production is being increased.

Police are investigating a rash of thefts from unlocked vehicles in the south end of Perryopolis. Officers say there were five reported thefts between Thursday night and Sunday morning and are advising people to keep their windows closed and their doors locked. Two guns, two laptops and an iPhone were stolen.

9/30/15

Governor Tom Wolf is standing firm against a temporary state budget fix. Wolf vetoed a stopgap yesterday, frustrating Republicans, who say the move hurts those who need state aid. Wolf says the temporary measure would have undercut his chance to get a real budget passed. No new talks have been scheduled.

A man is in custody following a standoff in Uniontown. Robert Burns was upset over a relationship yesterday and called 911 saying he wanted to harm himself. When officers arrived at his Gallatin Avenue home, he allegedly fired a shot. Crews evacuated the area and eventually convinced Burns to surrender.

A Uniontown man is going to prison for exposing himself to school children. Richard Harbaugh, Jr. pleaded guilty yesterday and was sentenced to one-to-two-years behind bars. Police say Harbaugh was seen standing naked in the window of his Lincoln Street home in April, exposing his genitals to school children. He was already on probation for a prior sex assault case.