

Quarterly Issues Report

July – August – September 2023

July

- 7/5/23 Hamilton County has been chosen to receive \$2,800 in FEMA Phase 40 funds to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county. The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross, Catholic Children's Charities USA, National Council of Churches of Christ USA, The Jewish Federations of North America, The Salvation Army, and United Way Worldwide. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country. A local board from Hamilton County will determine how the funds awarded to the county are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area.
- 7/11/23 Coverage from Norris City Village Board meeting includes naming of new board member following the death of Sue James. Wabash Area Development representative addresses board regarding obtainment of grant funds for the ball field. \$100,000 has been secured with WADI taking \$16,000 for administrative costs.
- 7/11/23 On air and online interview with Ferrell Hospital Patient Navigators Callie Johnson and Haley Wurst. The conversation is specifically centered around Medicare Wellness Visits. Why you should schedule yours, what happens at those visits, the role of navigators, and how to learn more.
- 7/12/23 Enfield Village Board meeting coverage includes information on naming of new Police Chief, Mark Wheeler. Concerning the possible closure of Booth School, discussion surrounds the trust that includes the ball park and several acres of land around it. If the school is closed, a court case could ensue brought on by the heirs. During :30 minute discussion, some board members and several visitors in the chamber were unhappy with how the situation is being handled and believe that even though the NCOE School Board says there hasn't been a decision on whether to close Booth School, many in the audience believe that closing it has already been decided.
- 7/12/23 Carmi City Council coverage includes Annual Financial Report and Independent Auditor's Report. Board approves mobile home permit and a TIF request for local business. Carmi Police Chief addresses council regarding

regulation of low speed electric and gas powered bicycles which have been problematic for some in the municipality.

- 7/14/23 Booth Elementary School officially shuttered at Thursday NCOE Board meeting. “An unfortunate predicament”, is how Superintendent Matt Vollman described the third and final public hearing prior to the official announcement to shutter Booth School in Enfield Thursday night. About 40 individuals showed up, many continuing to voice concerns over the procedure and reasoning. It’s not a new phenomenon. NCOE School Board member Dr. Joe Lane himself said he’d been through a consolidation in Gallatin County. It’s been about 20 years since Crossville closed and in neighboring Hamilton County, Dale and Beaver Creek closed. The rub for many in the room surrounded a perceived secrecy behind the planned closure and the timing. Folks say they don’t trust that this closure just came about in June and some voiced passionate disdain saying they believed plans were in motion as much as a year ago.
- 7/19/23 White County States Attorney speaks out against the end of cash bail in Illinois following Supreme Court judgment. Denton Aud says, “As expected, the 5 Democrat Justices sitting on the Illinois Supreme Court (including two who were each reportedly given a million dollars in their recent campaigns by one of the named defendants and who chose not to recuse themselves) chose to endorse a perspective of supremacy of those in governmental power over the sovereignty of the People and their will as embodied in the Illinois Constitution; I fear that today’s ruling will be seen as a signal that rather than acting as a co-equal branch of government, they will have the appearance of a rubber stamp for the actions of the legislative and executive branches regardless of what the Illinois Constitution and prior Supreme Court precedent says. To say that I found the majority opinion to be devoid of sound constitutional reasoning or at least interesting legal gymnastics employed to validate an otherwise unconstitutional law for the sole reason that the majority simply agreed with the policy would be a gross understatement.”
- 7/25/23 On air and online interview with Mayor Charles “Skip” Land about the new playground equipment being installed at the City Park. Land answers lingering questions surrounding the project and encourages citizens to call with any questions.
- 7/29/23 Coverage from significant storm that rolled through region resulting in townwide power outage. Power outage lasts into following week as does storm cleanup.

August

- 8/9/23 On air and online interview with former State Representative and gubernatorial candidate, and newly announced candidate for Congress, Darren

Bailey. During the talk, Bailey outlines his mission for Illinois and the country. He'll face off with incumbent Mike Bost in the March 2024 primary.

- 8/10/23 Officials with the Carmi Compassion Center update the community on their fundraising goal in the hopes of growing/expanding services by purchasing and constructing a new building. The poverty rate in White County is somewhere between 12 and 15% depending on reporting from governmental agencies. That puts the number anywhere from roughly 1,633 to 2,042 people. Of those, more than a quarter are under the age of 18 and 6% are age 65 or older. The Carmi Compassion Center is growing to meet the need and since the non-profit's conception in 2014 has already outgrown it's home once. It's under the same strain again and is currently working on a capital building campaign. Tina Youngman, the director for the Carmi Compassion Center says the need has increased by more than 400% since she started in October of 2020 going from serving about 85 people per month to 400 in June of this year. In the last year alone, the center has helped more than 3,600 people according to Youngman. The organization is more than halfway toward their goal of \$150,000.
- 8/16/23 Storm prompts Carmi City Council to make generator purchase. In addition to pay requests for Brown and Roberts Engineering and to Sierra Bravo Contractors totaling more than \$244,000, council also unanimously approved an expenditure of \$58,550 for an Evapar Generac 150 kilowatt Diesel Generator and 600 amp ATS following some discussion. The recent storm fast tracked getting that item put on the agenda. Alderman Doug Hays says the storm "was a wake up call that we were underprepared in that aspect." The generator purchase wasn't included in the budget for the year; Mayor Pollard anticipates paying for it out of light and water reserves. City electric engineer David Coston says the generator being purchased is 10x larger than a normal house generator. Sheila Headlee says she received several calls in the hours after the outage from constituents on oxygen that were concerned. Mayor Pollard says he hopes to eventually address that.
- 8/16/23 White County Board hears from locals and representatives of Invernergy. A handful of county residents, a landowner/lessee and the project manager for Invernergy agree that after weeks of aggravation and high anxiety, things around the solar farm being built in the Centerville area are getting better. Brooks York, Craig Williams, Martin Rae Barbre, and John Stockton all spoke up at the White County Board meeting Tuesday night. A month ago, Stockton was vocal about the state of the roads, the speed at which workers were traveling, and the disruption from noise that affected third shift workers in his family. Since speaking with Matt Julson, project manager with Invernergy, all 4 men said that things had gotten much better, though Stockton says his family lost a dog that was hit by a worker's truck. York suggested a committee be formed made up of residents, landowner/lessees, a county board member, and an Invernergy representative.

- 8/16/23 White County Board continues to explore building new courthouse. A building committee meeting preceded the county board meeting in which members continued to discuss square footage needed for offices and courtrooms in a proposed new courthouse. The group also talked about funding options. About \$680,000 remain from the Energy Transition Grant that representative Dave Severin's office helped White County get ahold of. Treasurer Mike Baxley says there are some funding options that look promising.
- 8/22/23 Carmi School Board approves bringing on Second School Resource Officer. The board approved a Second School Resource Officer for the 2023-24 school year in an agreement with the City of Carmi and through its Police Department. Officer Drew Grider will be the new SRO. In Public Communications to the Board, Villager's Voice reporter Kathy Sands read a statement asking them to not let woke ideology into our schools that have been passed into law in the state legislature and supported by the Governor.
- 8/24/23 On air and online interview with White County States Attorney Denton Aud. A recent story regarding a well recognized local man known for walking around town revealed the brighter side of small town living. The community largely spoke positively, surprising some, both about the gentleman in question and his wellbeing. We got a chance to visit with State's Attorney Denton Aud this morning about the challenges especially in prosecuting folks with a known or suspected mental illness.
- 8/25/23 Mike "Spud" Egbert gives an update on New Harmony Bridge progress. His group, the White County Bridge Authority, has been working to try to re-open the span since it's abrupt closure in 2012. Egbert says in 2019, the Illinois and Indiana General Assemblies passed legislation to create the White County and New Harmony Bridge Authorities. The White County Bridge Authority is made up of three individuals appointed by the governor, one appointed by county government, and one appointed by Phillips Township. Those individuals are Egbert himself, Clint Spencer, Sara Brown, Linda Henning, and Ellen Schanzle-Haskins. Egbert would go on to say the most important thing members of the communities affected can do is to write letters of support.
- 8/28/23 The Carmi hospital, shuttered in 2005, is back on the market according to social media and Zillow. It could be yours if you have the remarkable funds to pony up. According to records, the Carmi hospital sold from New Chicago Investments in Bolingbrook to TSA Holding Group in San Francisco for \$84,000. New Chicago Investments, listed as an Indiana company purchased the hospital at tax sale for a paltry \$5,000. The property is now listed on Zillow at \$45 per square foot or better put, \$2,000,000. The Phoenix Foundation failed in it's efforts to re-open the hospital in the years following it's sudden closure.

September

- 9/5/23 Carmi City Council meeting coverage includes multiple residents who speak out against a proposed mobile home permit for a Chicago couple. The residents claim allowing a mobile home in their neighborhood will lower their property values. Council agrees to table the permit until September 19th meeting.
- 9/6/23 Pastor Steve Norris invited local residents to a prayer gathering from noon until 1, on Monday, Sept. 11 at the White County Courthouse. Norris said the gathering is a statewide event at every county seat in Illinois and “will welcome the Holy Spirit to fully have his way, lifting voices as one.” The pastor asked everyone to join the gathering to “worship, pray and take communion together to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and ask for his will to be done in Illinois, as it is done in Heaven.”
- 9/8/23 Lawyer in the Library Program launches in Shawneetown. The program consists of a local attorney meeting one-on-one with individuals and providing them with free legal coaching, document review, e-filing, and referrals regarding civil issues. These services are made possible through a grant from the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice and the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts that seeks to fund programs aimed to assist self-represented litigants. The Second Circuit applied for and was awarded funding last year to create the “Lawyer in the Library” program in Franklin County. This year’s grant award will allow these services to be offered in three additional counties, including Gallatin County. Gallatin County native and local attorney Allen Roe has partnered with the program and will begin meeting with individuals on a walk-in basis only on the third Wednesday of each month between the hours of 1:00 – 4:00 pm.
- 9/14/23 White County officials are continuing to work toward the feasibility of constructing a new courthouse. During Thursday morning’s White County Board meeting, board members moved forward with ordering that study following a Building Committee meeting prior to the regularly scheduled gathering. The cost of the feasibility study is not to exceed \$8,500. Additionally, White County EMS Director Adam Allen says he wants to accrue Vacation and Sick Time even though he’s a salaried, administrative position. He says because he works shifts as an EMT, he should get the same benefit. Board members chose to table the agenda item in favor of gathering more information.
- 9/15/23 After years of delayed property tax bills, White County Treasurer Micheal Baxley says the 2022 payable 2023 tax bills have been generated and went out in the mail Thursday. Folks should expect to start receiving them as early as Saturday or early next week. Installment dates for the year have been

established as October 16th and November 15th. Baxley is also reminding residents that the Treasurer's office has moved from the courthouse to the former Carmi Times building if folks are planning to stop in.

- 9/18/23 While SAFE-T Act results in massive prisoner release in some counties, White County barely notices. While about 60 inmates were released over the weekend in Williamson County, White County Sheriff Jordan Weiss says only one individual behind bars at the jail here wasn't eligible for detainment under the SAFE-T Act which takes effect today throughout Illinois. The jail roster in Carmi is just over 60 right now and Weiss says his department does a good job getting detainments on individuals that they can in the county. The jail in Williamson County had about 163 people in custody as of Wednesday last week according to reports. Officials there said they expected as many as 85 would be released. Illinois is becoming the first state in the US to eliminate cash bail as a condition of pre-trial release from jail. The Supreme Court of Illinois upheld the constitutionality of the law abolishing it in June.



Call Letters: _____

Weekly Public Affairs Program

QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT, JULY-SEPTEMBER, 2023

Show # 2023-27

Date aired: 7/2/23 Time Aired: 5:00 am

Nora Volkow, MD, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, part of the National Institutes of Health

Fentanyl overdoses are the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18 to 49, more than car accidents or suicides. On average, one person dies of a fentanyl overdose in the United States every seven minutes, and the number of Americans killed by the drug has jumped 94 percent since 2019. Dr. Volkow discussed why the problem has skyrocketed and what steps the federal government is taking to address it. She said that, while the epidemic was worse in certain rural areas of the US in past years, the problem has now overwhelmed every city and state. She talked about the importance of education and treatment programs, and also explained why fentanyl is a particularly troubling issue for pregnant women.

Issues covered:

Length: 17:52

**Substance Abuse and Treatment
Government Policies**

Sam Quinones, author of *"The Least of Us: True Tales of America and Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth"*

The opioid crisis' damage to US communities cost the economy \$1.5 trillion in 2020 alone, according to a congressional analysis. Mr. Quinones talked about steps that cities and towns can take to try to repair community bonds, most effectively on the neighborhood, school and church level. He believes that stronger law enforcement is necessary to force drug abusers into treatment, whether they want it or not.

Issues covered:

Length: 5:08

**Substance Abuse and Treatment
Community Rehabilitation
Law Enforcement
Homelessness**

Show # 2023-28

Date aired: 7/9/23 Time Aired: 5:00 am

Paul R. Lawrence, former Under Secretary of Benefits at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, author of *"Veterans Benefits for You: Get What You Deserve"*

Mr. Lawrence offered tips for veterans to successfully apply for benefits they have earned from their service. He explained several ways that a veteran can document a service-related injury, and how they can request their medical records with help from the National Archives and Veterans

Administration. He also talked about the value of benefits not just to a veteran, but to his or her family, as well.

Issues covered:
Veterans' Benefits
Military Service

Length: 8:14

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

Length: 9:09

Lori R. Sackler, Senior VP and family wealth advisor at Morgan Stanley, author of *"The M Word: The Money Talk Every Family Needs to Have about Wealth and Their Financial Future"*

Conversations about money remain taboo for most U.S. households. Ms. Sackler said a staggering 70 percent of families lose their money, assets, and family harmony in the aftermath of estate transfers. She explained how to successfully talk about money matters. She said many people make the same money mistakes that their parents made.

Issues covered:
Retirement Planning
Aging

Length: 5:05

Show # 2023-29

Date aired: 7/16/23 Time Aired: 5:00 am

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

Length: 9:05

Ruchi S. Gupta, MD, MPH, board-certified pediatrician and health researcher, Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Clinical Attending at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, founding director of the Center for Food Allergy & Asthma Research

Dr. Gupta led a groundbreaking study of allergies in adults and found the prevalence of food allergy is highest among black, Hispanic and Asian individuals across all ages. She also found that food allergy

is lowest among households earning more than \$150,000 a year. She talked about potential reasons for these findings and the importance of getting a proper diagnosis.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:23

**Food Allergies
Minority Concerns**

Greg Keoleian, Director of the Center for Sustainable Systems at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability

Environmentally-conscious consumers have probably heard that today's highly efficient dishwashers use less energy and water than traditional hand-washing techniques. However, Prof. Keoleian led a study that found that one manual washing technique--the two-basin method, in which dishes are soaked and scrubbed in hot water and then rinsed in cold water--that is associated with fewer greenhouse gas emissions than machine dishwashing. He offered numerous energy-saving tips related to the task of washing dishes.

Issues covered:

Length: 5:03

**Environment
Energy
Consumer Matters**

Show # 2023-30

Date aired: 7/23/23 Time Aired: 5:00 am

Haywood Talcove, CEO of LexisNexis Risk Solutions' Government Group, a multinational information and analytics company based in Atlanta

Mr. Talcove outlined a frightening new wave of scams: next-gen thieves are utilizing sophisticated new artificial intelligence tools to steal millions of dollars from consumers. He discussed the use of AI-generated voices--that criminals can now clone from social media profiles--to easily con parents or grandparents out of significant sums of money. He said the schemes are almost impossible to detect, but he suggested three steps every family should take to defend themselves

Issues covered:

Length: 8:49

**Crime
Identity Theft
Technology**

F. Perry Wilson, MD, MSCE, Associate Professor of Medicine, Director, Clinical and Translational Research Accelerator at the Yale University School of Medicine, author of "*How Medicine Works and When It Doesn't*."

Dr. Wilson explained how and why the doctor-patient relationship has eroded in recent years. He believes that profit-driven companies—from big pharma to healthcare corporations—have corrupted what should have been medicine's golden age. He offered several potential solutions to restore trust between patients and doctors.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:15

Personal Health

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:

Length: 5:06

**Railroad Safety
Child Safety
Parenting**

Show # 2023-31

Date aired: 7/30/23 Time Aired: 5:00 am

Kate W. Bauer, PhD MS, Associate Professor of Nutritional Sciences, University of Michigan School of Public Health

Prof. Bauer recently led a study that compared beverage consumption in low-income households that utilize taxpayer-funded food assistance programs. She found that families that used just one of the programs were in the normal range, but those that participated in both the Supplementation Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), consumed high amounts of sugar-sweetened beverages. She explained why this is a concern.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:00

**Government Food Assistance
Poverty
Nutrition**

Patrick Olsen, Editor-in-Chief, CarFax

More than 2.5 million vehicles that have been issued a "Do Not Drive" or "Park Outside" safety recall remain unrepaired, Carfax data shows. Mr. Olsen talked about the most common reasons behind these serious recalls, and why consumers fail to take their cars to dealers to get the issue taken care of. He also explained how someone can check to see if their car is on a recall list.

Issues covered:

Length: 9:22

**Auto Recalls
Consumer Matters
Transportation**

Rachel Neale, PhD, Professor, Group Leader, Deputy Coordinator of the Population Health Department at QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Brisbane, Australia

Dr. Neale led a study that examined whether monthly vitamin D supplementation for older adults can prevent major cardiovascular events. She found that vitamin D did result in a small reduction for patients who were already at risk of a heart attack, and she believes further research is needed to better understand the link.

Issues covered:

Length: 4:58

**Personal Health
Nutrition**

Show # 2023-32

Date aired: 8/6/23 Time Aired: 5:00 am

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:

Length: 9:17

Parenting
Substance Abuse
Foster Care
Retirement

Maryanne Wolf, PhD, Professor of Child Development and Director of the Center for Reading and Language Research at Tufts University, author of *Reader, Come Home: The Reading Brain in a Digital World*

Prof. Wolf discussed the latest research into the human brain as we become increasingly dependent on digital technologies, rather than the printed word. She expressed concerns for both children's and adults' ability to "deep read," as the brain is literally rewired by huge amounts of short bursts of information. She offered suggestions for how the nation's education system needs to adapt.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:04

Literacy
Education
Technology

David Michael Slater, teacher, author of *We're Doing It Wrong: 25 Ideas in Education That Just Don't Work—And How to Fix Them*

Mr. Slater explained why he believes that many current approaches in education simply aren't working—for students, for teachers, and for society at-large. He explained how teacher evaluations could be improved and why anti-bullying programs in schools don't work.

Issues covered:

Length: 4:50

Education

Show # 2023-33

Date aired: 8/13/23 Time Aired: 5:00 am

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:

Length: 8:50

Crime
Home Ownership
Legal Issues

Anupam Bapu Jena, MD, PhD, Joseph P. Newhouse Professor at Harvard Medical School, physician at Massachusetts General Hospital, co-author of *"Random Acts of Medicine: The Hidden Forces That Sway Doctors, Impact Patients, and Shape Our Health"*

Dr. Jena explained how unexpected—but often predictable—events can profoundly affect our health. He offered several examples of how randomness affects medical decisions and treatment options. He said a healthy diet and exercise are the wisest choices to lead a healthy life.

Issues covered:
Personal Health

Length: 8:16

Sophie Kjærviik, doctoral candidate in communication at Ohio State University

Firearms contribute to the deaths of more children ages 1-17 years in the U.S. than any other type of injury or illness. While much of that total is gang-related teen shootings, sometimes younger deaths are tragic accidents after a child finds an unsecured gun. Ms. Kjærviik was the co-author of a recent study that found that a simple 60 second video on gun safety made a significant difference in whether kids ages 8 to 12 played with a found gun.

Issues covered:
Gun Safety
Parenting

Length: 5:04

Show # 2023-34

Date aired: 8/20/23 Time Aired: 5:00 am

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

Length: 9:01

LeRoy Hood, MD, PhD, biologist who has served on the faculties at the California Institute of Technology and the University of Washington, developed ground-breaking scientific instruments which made possible major advances in the biological and medical sciences, author of *"The Age of Scientific Wellness"*

Dr. Hood discussed the reasons that medicine is undergoing a major transformation from a reactive, hit-or-miss approach to a personalized, predictive, data-rich, and preventive one. He calls this new form of care "scientific wellness", which uses information from our blood and genes, as well as AI, to optimize our health and extend our "healthspan." He believes this new technology can eventually conquer heart disease, Alzheimer's disease and many other illnesses, with noticeable progress within five years.

Issues covered:
Personal Health
Technology

Length: 8:15

Tobias Rose-Stockwell, author of "*Outrage Machine: How Tech Amplifies Discontent, Disrupts Democracy—And What We Can Do About It*"

The original internet was not designed to make us upset, distracted, confused, and outraged. But Mr. Tobias explained why something unexpected happened at the turn of the last decade, when a handful of small features were quietly launched at social media companies with little fanfare. Together, they triggered a cascading set of dramatic changes to how media, politics, and society itself operate. He explained what needs to happen to find a promising pathway back to a healthier online environment.

Issues covered:
Social Media
Mental Health

Length: 5:14

Show # 2023-35

Date aired: 8/27/23 **Time Aired:** 5:00 am

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

Length: 7:50

J. Scott Roberts, PhD, Professor in Health Behavior and Health Education at the University of Michigan, Associate Director of a poll from the University of Michigan Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation

Prof. Roberts led a poll of people age 65 to 80 and found that while 80% adults see the benefit of tests that can give an early warning of memory and thinking decline, 80% of older adults said they haven't had a cognitive test in the past year to look for early signs of dementia, and 59% reported never having had such a screening. He said the poll also found very low awareness of blood tests that can help detect Alzheimer's disease.

Issues covered:
Personal Health
Technology

Length: 9:17

Peter Clark, Applied Forest Ecologist at the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont

The US Forest Service has been given taxpayer funding to plant more than a billion trees across the country in the next nine years. Prof. Clark's research found a troubling bottleneck that could threaten these efforts: U.S. tree nurseries don't grow nearly enough trees—nor have the species diversity needed—to meet the unprecedented plans. He talked about the reasons behind the problem and what can be done to remedy it.

Issues covered:
Environment
Government

Length: 5:13

Show # 2023-36

Date aired: 9/3/23 Time Aired: 5:00 am

ChatGPT, an artificial-intelligence (AI) chatbot

ChatGPT was launched as an artificial intelligence prototype on November 30, 2022, quickly gaining much attention for its detailed responses and articulate answers across many topics. It explained how was it trained and learns, and what its biggest weakness are. It acknowledged that the concerns about potential biases in its answers are legitimate. It also outlined the top 5 human endeavors in which it anticipates making the biggest impact.

Issues covered:

Length: 9:29

**Artificial Intelligence
Technology
Employment**

Andrew Houtenville, PhD, Professor of Economics at the University of Hampshire, Research Director of the UNH Institute on Disability

Prof. Houtenville discussed recent findings from the National Trends in Disability Employment report, issued semi-monthly by Kessler Foundation and the University of New Hampshire. He explained what is driving historic highs in employment of people with disabilities, and why disabled employment has outstripped the non-disabled since the start of pandemic lockdowns.

Issues covered:

Length: 7:59

**Disabilities
Employment**

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:

Length: 5:06

**Personal Health
Senior Citizens**

Show # 2023-37

Date aired: 9/10/23 Time Aired: 5:00 am

Erica Eversman, President of the Automotive Education and Policy Institute in Akron, OH

Drivers are looking for ways to save money on auto insurance as premiums rise rapidly. Ms. Eversman explained a new offering from some insurance companies: usage-based car insurance programs, where the insured agrees to share detailed data about their driving habits with their insurer via a phone app or an in-vehicle device. She said the data does permit insurance companies to evaluate risk better and better match the price of the insurance for the risk, but at a steep cost to consumers' privacy and legal rights.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:55

**Consumer Matters
Auto Insurance
Legal Matters**

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:

Length: 8:15

**Child Mental Health
Parenting**

Edgar Dworsky, Founder & Editor of ConsumerWorld.com

Grocery costs for Americans have skyrocketed in the past two years. Mr. Dworsky discussed the subtle trend of "shrinkflation," in which many manufacturers shrink their packaging, rather than raising prices. He explained what products most commonly are affected, and ways that consumers can protect themselves against the tricky practice.

Issues covered:

Length: 5:01

Consumer Matters

Show # 2023-38

Date aired: 9/17/23 Time Aired: 5:00 am

Ryan P. Burge, PhD, sociologist, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Eastern Illinois University, co-author of *"The Great Dechurching: Who's Leaving, Why Are They Going, and What Will It Take to Bring Them Back?"*

The largest and fastest religious shift in US history is in progress. Prof. Burge co-authored a comprehensive study to learn who is leaving organized religion and why. He said the most common reason people stopped attending church was because they moved, and that lower-income people with a high school education or less are the most likely to leave. He also talked about societal effects when faith-based community services such as food banks, after-school programs and prison ministries disappear.

Issues covered:

Length: 9:22

Religion

Chris Carosa, MBA, Certified Trust & Financial Advisor, Senior Contributor to Forbes.com, author of *"Hey! What's My Number: How to Improve the Odds You Will Retire in Comfort"*

A recent New York Life survey found that Americans believe they need \$4.3 million stashed away to retire comfortably. Unfortunately, the average person has around \$135,000 saved. Mr. Carosa explained how to determine how much money will really be needed for a comfortable retirement, along with simple steps to get there.

Issues covered:
Retirement Planning
Personal Finance

Length: 8:03

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

Length: 4:50

Show # 2023-39

Date aired: 9/23/23 **Time Aired:** 5:00 am

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

Length: 7:26

Dawn Graham, PhD, psychologist, employment and career expert, Director of Career Management for the Executive MBA Program at The Wharton School, author of *"Switchers: How Smart Professionals Change Careers -- and Seize Success"*

Dr. Graham offered job search advice, particularly for those in middle age who are considering career changes. She said a job search in a new field or occupation requires much more work than a typical job search. She offered suggestions on how to tailor a resume to sidestep age biases and other potential hurdles.

Issues covered:
Career
Aging

Length: 9:45

Susie Vanderlip, teen counselor, author of "*52 Ways to Protect Your Teen*"

Ms. Vanderlip has conducted school assemblies for more than 1 million teens and adults, aimed at helping youth make wise choices and seek help. She talked about the motivations of today's teenagers and why parents may be fearful of their kids. She offered tips to improve communication in a parent/teen relationship.

Issues covered:

Youth at Risk
Parenting Issues
Drug Abuse

Length: 4:54