

WDRB-TV
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
INDEPENDENCE TELEVISION COMPANY

ISSUES & PROGRAMS

EDITORIALS

FOURTH QUARTER, 2019

POV | Paying college players

Oct 17, 2019

An NCAA enforcement official has been in Louisville during the past week interviewing individuals on matters related to the school's recruitment of Brian Bowen in 2017.

You've heard the argument for years about paying college athletes just like the pros. Now California is taking steps to allow college players to be paid starting in 2023.

If you ask me this is one of the worst ideas for student athletes. Colleges would have to sharpen the already blurry line between endorsements and bribes for joining teams. The biggest problem is how money would drive a wedge through the fabric of almost every team that is expected to give equal participation. Some players will be compensated but others will be expected to do the hard work without any money.

If your sport isn't football or basketball I would imagine your compensation would be zero. Let's keep the money out of college sports and focus on the success of student athletes who love the game.

I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

GUEST POV | Junior journalists provide impromptu 'Point of View' editorial to WDRB News crew

Oct 18, 2019

While one of our news teams was out in the field Friday, they met James, DeAireus and Emerald, some young but avid viewers who have a "Point of View" to share with you.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (WDRB) -- Twice a week, our General Manager records his "Point of View" editorials, which you've probably seen here on WDRB News.

But on Friday afternoon, while one of our news teams was out in the field, they met James, DeAireus and Emerald, some young but avid viewers who have a "Point of View" to share with you.

"Everybody have a nice day. Make sure you treat others how you want to be treated. And this is my Point of View," they said.

POV | Bet on Kentucky to make the right decision on sports gambling

Oct 22, 2019

In May, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a previous ruling that banned sports betting. Indiana, which has already been taking Kentucky's money at its casinos, quickly passed legislation legalizing sport bets.

With only a portion of sports books taking action the first month that it was legal, the Hoosier state took in more than \$35 million. That equals more than \$800,000 in revenue for Indiana.

I know Kentucky only had a few weeks to work on this issue in the last session, but there is no excuse not to be ready as soon as the next assembly opens in January.

Nine Kentucky lawmakers are already on the case, and they plan to pre-file legislation to expedite their efforts. We can only hope that the backwoods good ole' boy system stays out of the way. These taxes could rake in millions for the Commonwealth and put a nice dent in Kentucky's \$43 billion pension shortfall.

I'm Dale Woods and that's my Point of View.

POV | Louisville needs to protect and support LMPD

Oct 24, 2019

We need more police officers patrolling the streets of Louisville, not fewer. Police Chief Steve Conrad says this year Metro Council approved a smaller budget that is forcing him to downsize the department.

By the end of June, Chief Conrad will have to make due with 75 to 100 fewer officers. He is going to do this by eliminating a recruiting class and not filling jobs of retirees. Violent crimes are on the rise. More people are falling victim to gun violence. Drug use seems to be everywhere.

Louisville's finest will be forced to do more, with less. Chief Conrad has devised a plan to restructure the force. Major command positions will be cut and divisions will be combined.

Frankfort has mismanaged the state pension funds. They are putting the onus of fixing Kentucky's problem on Louisville. The state's pension problem is putting our city in danger. We must find a better way to balance our deficits. We must protect those who protect us.

I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

POV | Preserve progress with compromise on Odd Fellows building

Oct 29, 2019

There has always been a battle between preservationist and progressives. On one side, progress is to improve and grow the city. The other side says leave it as it is.\

The latest squabble surrounds the Odd Fellow's building in downtown Louisville. The Omni Hotel was granted rights to the property as part of its contract with the city. After an internal review of the building, Omni plans to bulldoze it and start anew.

Last Thursday, the Landmarks Commission decided to start its own review and ultimately has the final say. Both sides have merit. Just because a building is old doesn't make it historic. The counter point says just because a structure is rundown, doesn't mean it has no value.

The way forward is compromise. Save the historical etchings. Save the symbolic designs. Incorporate the old into the new. I'll borrow words from the Odd Fellows themselves: relieve the distressed; make the world around you a better place.

I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of view. What are your thoughts? Tell us what you think.

POV | Why are we so attached to political parties?

Nov 1, 2019

In November of next year, American voters will decide if President Donald Trump receives another four years or if one of his challengers will lead the nation.

The election is exactly one year away; however, the majority of us already know how we plan to vote.

That's because we consider ourselves Republican, Democrat or Independent. But why are we so attached to political parties?

What if we remove the (R) and (D) on the ballot box and vote on the issues that best align with our interests and beliefs?

Does the other candidate have an idea that you like? If so, why can't you cross party lines and vote for the person instead of the party?

I think it is safe to say most of us want the best for our country. Why vote against your best interest just because you're a Republican or Democrat and the person on the ballot is from the opposing party?

Winston Churchill said, "Some men change their party for the sake of their principles; others their principles for the sake of their party." I don't know about you, but I would much rather change my party than my principles.

I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

POV | Video of student and teacher fight highlights question of respect and maturity

Nov 5, 2019

Did you see this fight from last week at Iroquois High School?

This fight started because the teacher told the student to put his phone away. Foul mouth name calling from both parties, escalates the situation. The student pushes and strikes the teacher. The teacher defends herself, pushes the kid to the ground. She must be the better person. She is the adult in the room.

The unruly kid earned a trip behind bars for the assault, but a trip behind the proverbial wood shed might teach him a better lesson about respect.

The only person that showed any maturity surrounding this altercation was the boy's mom. At least she reprimanded her son. I suggest she takes his phone away for a year. A mom holding her child accountable is a rarity today.

Call us. Tell us what you think about this video.

I'm Dale Woods and that's my Point of View.

Use technology to protect kids from vaping and e-cigarettes

Nov 12, 2019

Juul produces smoke free vaping products. They advertise as an alternative for cigarette smokers. Recent studies have shown Juul products are dangerous and might be more addictive than cigarettes. Juul developed many flavors that have garnered the attention of kids. Recent studies show underage vaping has skyrocketed. We must stop the trend of kids vaping.

The FDA is about to ban fruity flavors including the popular MINT. Companies will only be allowed to have tobacco and menthol flavors. This will certainly make Juul less attractive to minors.

I have an idea to further curb underage usage. Geofencing. We have the technology. We ban sports betting as soon as you cross the bridge from Indiana into Kentucky. Bluetooth innovation, like Juul, can be geofenced out of schools, parks, and any other public places.

Currently, the U.S. government doesn't allow geofencing the use of vaping products, but it should. We use Bluetooth technology to protect boundaries for sports gambling, so why can't we use it to protect our kids from dangerous chemicals. Call us. Tell us what you think.

I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

POV | Kentucky moving forward with new governor, 5 challenges ahead for lawmakers

Nov 14, 2019

Election season is almost officially over. The people have spoken. After all is said and done, Andy Beshear is the governor-elect.

Kentucky clearly wants to head in a new direction. Governor Bevin's slogan was "Moving Kentucky Forward." The Commonwealth voted Republican for every statewide office except Governor. Kentucky wants to move forward, but without Matt Bevin.

The pension crisis remains the state's biggest problem. You can't cut your way to greatness. You have to build towards it. Governor-elect Beshear can move the state forward by pushing to legalize casinos. He can build state revenue by allowing sports betting. Working with lawmakers to eliminate pollution taxes will clear one obstruction. Ending the reformulated gas surcharge and replacing it with a sun-setting gas tax will add more revenue.

Governor-elect Beshear should not be afraid of greatness. Governor Bevin refused to listen to the people. The remaining elected officials need to realize Kentucky's path forward. If they don't listen, you can bet they will be sidelined too.

I'm Dale Woods and that's my Point of View.

POV | You Are the Hazard

Nov 19, 2019

Recently I was driving in a rain storm. The car in front of me turned on their hazard lights and kept going. I thought to myself, "that's odd."

Another time there was an accident on the interstate. The same thing happened. A driver puts on their hazards and continued driving.

Then, during our first snow, a car in the next lane proceeded down the highway blinking their hazards.

Now, I have realized these people didn't have any car problems at all. They wanted to tell fellow drivers it was raining or snowing. I know it is raining and snowing. My windshield wipers are on too. Use your running lights. Emergency lights mean you need assistance. Having a flat tire, a broken down vehicle, or pulling to side of road is the time to use hazards.

Driving with your flashers on makes you the hazard.

Get this: Kentucky is one of a few states where it is legal to drive with your hazard lights on. In most states your car must be in park. This goofy law needs to change. Hazards lights are not intended to be running lights.

What have you seen on the road that needs to change? Call us. Tell us what you think.

I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

POV | Get into the Christmas spirit by decking your halls when and how you like

Nov 21, 2019

It seems like everyone gets all worked up about getting in the Christmas spirit before Halloween and Thanksgiving. Don't let the Scrooges and the Grinches put you in a foul mood. Decorate to your heart's desire! Be the first in your neighborhood with your holiday lights on.

I'm the kind of guy that normally drives my car in complete silence, but not during the holidays. As soon as I know a radio station is playing Rudolph songs, I'm ready for reindeer games. I take Halloween decorations down, and enter into the Christmas mode. I even exchange the fall scented candles in the house for pine ones.

I deck the halls of my house too. The trees have been up for a while. The garland is strung; the lights and wreaths are hung. The Christmas season is pure joy for me. The spirit has hit me, and I am very merry. This Thanksgiving, be thankful how Christmas blessings make you feel, regardless of the date you start to decorate.

I'm Dale Woods, and that's my festive Point of View.

POV | Louisville vs. Kentucky rivalry is a win-win for fans

Nov 26, 2019

This Saturday, the University of Louisville travels to Lexington to play the University of Kentucky for the coveted Governor's Cup.

The Cats and the Cards first played football in 1912. The combined scores of the first six games were 220 to 0 favoring UK. The modern day series started in 1994 and has been much more balanced. Kentucky leads the all-time series by the slimmest of margins 16 to 15 and currently possesses the Cup.

This year's game will continue to be the talk of the state until it is settled on the field. Yes, the fans on the winning side might remember the final score for a year. Yes, bragging rights are still on the line. Yes, the victor still takes home the Governor's cup. But this year is different. This year, there are no real losers. Both football teams have another game to play. Both teams are going to a bowl game. Football fans on both sides of the rivalry are the winners.

I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

POV | Thanksgiving traditions bring together family and way too much green bean casserole

Nov 27, 2019

Happy Thanksgiving. I hope you spend time with your family, eat way too much food and watch some football. Thanksgiving is a holiday known for its traditions. My family has a couple traditions during the meal.

In the first tradition we reflect over the past year and give our thanks. The quirky twist is you must say your thanks in ascending alphabetical order. The first person says thanks for something beginning with the Letter A. The next uses the letter B and so on. It's all good unless you get stuck with the letters Q, X or Z.

Another tradition was always having green bean casserole. Last year my kids petitioned to end this custom, and I couldn't have been happier. Yes, Green beans are healthy, but not when you add cream of mushroom soup and fried onions on top. This dish is not worth the calories or the real estate in your stomach. Save those calories and have some pie. Enjoy your family time and ban the soupy sad mess called green bean casserole.

I'm Dale Woods and that's my Point of View.

POV | Caesars has been a good neighbor in southern Indiana

Dec 10, 2019

Twenty years ago "The Boat" sailed into southern Indiana, but not everyone was in favor. Moral high-grounders protested gambling. These adversaries preached how casinos would draw in seedy characters. Did anyone dream Caesars would rake in \$5.2 billion of revenue?

Caesars has been a windfall for southern Indiana. The last two decades drew in \$1.1 billion for Indiana. Harrison County itself collected over \$650 million from local taxes and profit sharing. Harrison County has enjoyed many benefits, including \$92 million in college scholarships, preschool for low income families, a new county sewer system, a Boys & Girls Club, high speed internet infrastructure and miles of paved roads.

Thursday, Caesars becomes a land-based casino. Those who go will parlay their experiences at the state-of-the-art new facility. Those who don't will double down and stay at home.

Regardless of your feelings about gambling, you must admit Caesars has greatly given back to southern Indiana. How do you think Caesars has been as a neighbor? Give us a call. Tell us what you think.

I'm Dale Woods and that's my Point of View.

POV | Passport Health

Dec 12, 2019

Listen up. This is something I rarely say. Frankfort legislators got something right. Kentucky's capital has been a busy place over the past few weeks. It waved goodbye to an outgoing Governor and inaugurated a new one. Political jockeying is in full stride, but one issue has unified Frankfort.

Kentucky legislators Blocked Governor Bevin's Medicaid deal. This was not just a Democratic referendum against Bevin. The Republican majority sought to unravel this contract as well. The Bevin administration awarded the state's Medicaid Managed Care business, to five national health insurance companies. That is a total of eight billion dollars in contracts. None of which going to the local Passport Health Plan.

Passport has been committed to improving Kentucky's health and well-being. Passport is Kentucky's only community based non-profit healthcare provider. It has saved the commonwealth hundreds of millions of dollars since its inception in 1997. Three-hundred-thousand Kentuckians rely on passport for their Medicaid coverage. If this deal would have stuck, Passport would have dissolved to nothing. Thank you legislators for avoiding another "Frankfort Fail" and getting this one right.

I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

POV | Oh, my bridge

Dec 17, 2019

Oh my bridge! It's getting closer. Indiana Department of Transportation officials and the Kentucky Transportation cabinet are close to deciding which plan will be used in the Sherman Minton renewal. Commuters only have thirteen months to prepare.

Of the six proposals, the three main ideas for the project are: number one, Complete shutdown; number two, closing four of the six lanes, leaving one lane open in each direction; or number three closure of two lanes at a time, one each way.

Transportation officials "Do not close this bridge!" The Sherman Minton is the major artery into Louisville. Ninety-thousand commuters use this vital path daily, nearly half of all river crossers. New Albany and southern Indiana as a whole became economically anemic in 2011 when the bridge shut down for just five months. Imagine the financial devastation a fifteen month moratorium would bring. Traffic must be allowed to continue to flow over the Sherman Minton, no matter how long it takes to repair the bridge.

Call us, tell us your opinion. I'm Dale Woods and that's my Point of View.