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**ISSUES & PROGRAMS**

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**FIRST QUARTER, 2024**

## **New year brings new opportunities for city of Louisville**

Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media

Jan 2, 2024

I'd like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I know many of you are reflecting on the past year and making resolutions for the next one, which is great. As a community, it's important for us to celebrate the wins and learn from the losses.

Looking ahead, we have a lot of opportunities to capitalize on this year. The 150th Kentucky Derby and the PGA Championship will shine a bright light on our ole Kentucky home and will certainly help our local economy. With two major events coming to Kentucky, the state needs to step in and clean up graffiti that's gotten out of control and debris on the roadways. But they need to do it now. Settling for a deep clean two weeks before Derby needs to be a thing of the past.

It's a big week for students heading back to class following winter break. I'm eager to see how JCPS fixes its busing situation. We know what hasn't worked, so that's a start. I'm looking forward to long term solutions for families.

I'd also like to see more growth in downtown Louisville. Derby City Gaming is the kick start we needed, but we need more restaurants and businesses to follow suit to move in, set up shop and invest in our community. Revitalizing downtown must be a priority in the new year.

What's your opinion? Call us or share on Facebook. I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

## **Inflation is out of control**

Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media

Jan 9, 2024

If you've been to the grocery store lately, the gas station or a fast food restaurant, I'm sure you've had sticker shock just like me. Inflation is through the roof, so much that even the U.S. Postal Service is raising the price of its first class mail forever stamp from 66 cents to 68 cents beginning Jan. 21. You may as well just lick a dollar bill and slap it on your next letter and call it a day. I remember when stamps only cost 20 cents and how good it felt to receive a handwritten letter in the mail from a loved one. Now, it seems like that form of communication is a thing of the past.

If you want to wish someone a Happy Birthday, people send each other electronic birthday cards.

Over the holidays, I saw people posting their Christmas cards on social media, instead of sending them in the mail. That personal connection is something now gone in our society.

It's hard to find any part of the household budget that hasn't been hit hard by inflation. Groceries are up 25% since 2020 same, with electricity and the price to rent up nearly 20%. Families are really struggling to make ends meet, and I hope the new year brings a drop in prices for all of us.

What's your opinion? Call us or share on Facebook. I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View

## **Excitement grows as Publix opens in east Louisville**

**Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media**

Jan 11, 2024

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It's been a week of celebration for people living in east Louisville. Publix made a splash on Wednesday, opening its first store in Kentucky near Middletown. People came out like it was Black Friday, lining up by the dozens waiting to get inside. This is a great thing for our community, bringing 150 new jobs to the area.

And I'm not here to squash the enthusiasm. In fact, quite the opposite. I'd like to see a grocery store of the same caliber move into west Louisville. We remember Walmart was planning to build a store in west Louisville and pulled out in the 11th hour. That's water under the bridge now.

The city and neighbors in that community need to come together and figure out a way to attract a new supermarket to offset the food desert that's developed in the western part of the county. Experts have proven fresh food is essential for children to kickstart their day and help them succeed in the classroom.

When it's not readily available to them, that's a problem. When a part of Jefferson County is suffering, there's a trickle down effect, and it eventually impacts our entire community. It goes back to help thy neighbor. Yes, let's celebrate Publix coming to Louisville but push for more in west Louisville too.

What's your opinion? Call us or share on Facebook. I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

**Former President Trump wins Iowa caucus with more than 50% of votes | VIEWER RESPONSE**

Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media

Jan 17, 2024

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The political season is here, and former President Donald Trump swept the Iowa caucus with more than 50% of votes. Ron DeSantis was second, and Nikki Haley was third.

As we look ahead to the New Hampshire caucus, I hope the candidates will focus more on selling themselves to voters and less on bashing each other. President Biden's approval rating is now at 31%, the lowest it's been for a U.S. president in 15 years. It's time to focus on what's important.

Here's what our viewers had to say:

"The Iowa caucuses sure opened up my eyes. I really didn't think Trump would win."

"They all just need to step aside and let a man in that knows what he's doing. Get Trump in there."

"Only half of the Republicans in Iowa wanted Trump to be president. Only half."

"Donald Trump is the only one to be voted in because he's not afraid to tell you exactly what he means."

"If we don't get Trump back in office soon, this country is in a world of trouble."

"All of this Trump winning stuff is just massaging for his ego. He's going to be in jail by the time the presidential election rolls around."

"They need to put both Trump and Biden in a nursing home where they can play Bingo and argue with each other."

## **JCPS using allotted NTI days quickly**

Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media

Jan 18, 2024

Confessions aren't always easy, and I'm here to admit mine. I was a huge advocate of NTI learning for JCPS. I supported the idea that students could learn from home rather than piling up snow days and going to school until mid-summer. However, my assumption doesn't seem to align with reality.

During COVID, students were in a virtual classroom, interacting with their teacher and fellow classmates. NTI mirrored an in-person school day. JCPS made the most out of an unfortunate time in history, and I thought they did a great job. But now, NTI days seem much different. Students are assigned what seems like homework, which is available through an online portal.

They're asked to read a chapter or complete worksheets. But there's a missing component here: that "virtual" face-to-face interaction between students and teachers.

If NTI days fail to replicate the classroom environment and truly enhance a student's education, we should rethink the process. I say let kids enjoy a snow day from time to time. Then, they'll return to the classroom and receive a fantastic education from our hard-working teachers. Because, right now, students are getting the short end of the stick despite the best of intentions by JCPS. It's time to put an emphasis on the quality of education students are receiving.

What's your opinion? Call us or share on Facebook. I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

## **1st infant of 2024 surrendered at Safe Haven Baby Box in Georgetown, Indiana**

Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media

Jan 23, 2024

So often we turn on the TV and violent crime is plastered front and center — another life lost, another family in the midst of tragedy. I talk a lot about the value of life in my Point of View segments and, many times, the lack thereof, especially when it comes to senseless violence.

I truly believe if people valued the gift of life more, we'd be able to turn on the TV and see more uplifting stories. A good example of this is the Safe Haven Baby Boxes. These life-saving devices epitomize what it means to value life. New mothers are able to place their infant in a safe box at a secure location — like a fire house — where authorities are alerted right away.

The first baby of 2024 was surrendered at a Georgetown Fire Station in southern Indiana last week.

Last year, 17 babies were placed in baby boxes. Since this life-saving program began, 39 infants nationwide have been surrendered. I can't fathom how difficult this would be for new mothers but I commend their bravery. They're giving their child the gift of life. They're giving another family the gift of life, the chance to adopt and a lifetime of happiness with their new child. Life is precious, and giving women options like this is important.

What's your opinion? Call us or share on Facebook. I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

## **A big push to make Kentucky safer, new bill makes its way to the Senate**

Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media

Jan 30, 2024

There's an ongoing effort to make Kentucky a safer place to live, something I think we can all agree needs to happen. People should be able to walk down the street without fearing for their safety. They should be able to go to the park after sunset, go to a festival without gunfire erupting or get gas without getting car jacked.

Hopefully, the "Safer Kentucky Act" — or House Bill 5, which just passed the House and is now heading to the Senate — will make a difference. While I appreciate the effort, I think the bill itself could use some tweaking. It's a three-strike penalty for those convicted of their third violent felony. If you ask me, that's one strike too many. Sure, people deserve a second chance, but we shouldn't be giving violent criminals a get-out-of-jail-free card.

The new Safer Kentucky Act is cracking down on fentanyl-related crimes, requiring harsher penalties for offenders. We all know the opioid crisis is killing people left and right. It's horrible. The punishment should fit the crime. If criminals are going to sell and distribute fentanyl, they should be charged with manslaughter.

I'm glad lawmakers are cracking down on carjackings. Unlawful camping should also be more enforceable. This new bill is a starting point, but we have a long way to go to make our community safer.

What's your opinion? Call us or share on Facebook. I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View



## **4 shot in the Louisville; 1 killed, 3 critically injured**

Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media

Feb 1, 2024

Tragedy strikes Louisville yet again. It seems like violent crime used to happen more often at night. Families would be sound asleep inside their homes while criminals would do their dirty work under the night sky in dark alleys and in dangerous parts of town. But things are changing. Take this week for example.

Wednesday afternoon — middle of the the day and people are walking around, kids are in class just down the street — and someone opens fire, shooting and killing a man and critically injuring three others. These criminals are done with hiding. They've made that loud and clear.

I've said it before, and there needs to be harsher penalties for offenders. Local judges need to hold these murderers accountable and keep them behind bars. But we should also try and deter them before they find themselves in jail. Big metropolitan cities have security cameras at every street corner. Why can't we? I understand it's a huge financial cost but it's also an investment, an investment in our future generation and hopefully a deterrence to criminals who think they own the streets of Louisville. It's time we take them back if we want to keep our city safe.

What's your opinion? Call or share on Facebook. I'm Dale Woods and that's my Point of View.

## **Bill proposed in Kentucky would hold parents accountable for child's behavior on school bus**

Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media

Feb 6, 2024

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It's no secret busing is challenging for local schools. From overcrowding to staff shortages, families are frustrated and, many times, left feeling helpless. And sure we can play the blame game, but, as a parent myself, I've realized it's better to focus on things I can control rather than worrying about things I can't.

Which brings me to my next point: Let's talk about the elephant in the room.

It's the one problem that's popping up on school buses that parents do have a say in: their kids' behavior. In some cases, it's gotten so bad that bus drivers are fearing for their safety. Enough is enough.

Parents, this is where you jump in and focus on what you can control, and that's teaching your child how to act appropriately on the bus. If you're not holding up your end of the deal, a group of Kentucky lawmakers are ready to hold you accountable. They've proposed House Bill 446, which would hold parents responsible for their child's bad behavior on school buses.

Parents could face up to misdemeanor charges if their child's destructive behavior warrants it. I've been a big advocate for laws like this, such as parents facing charges if their kids are out in the middle of the night committing crimes. There needs to be accountability on the part of the minor and their parent.

What's your opinion? Call us or share on Facebook. I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

## **Super Bowl 58: Most-watched telecast in history; 200M+ watched**

**Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media**

Feb 13, 2024

Super Bowl 58 goes down in history as the most-watched telecast ever. More than 200 million people tuned in at some point. The game certainly lived up to the hype with all sorts of storylines. Whether you like or dislike the Chiefs or 49ers, there's no denying it was a great game.

I'm glad the game was entertaining because, I gotta say, the network commercials were a letdown for me. I guess it's hard to compete with an up-and-coming dynasty and the Taylor Swift effect. Yes, I must mention it — seems to be a pretty polarizing topic.

My two cents: Let Taylor and Travis enjoy life like anyone else starting a new relationship, and the rest of us should mind our own business. Like my parents used to tell me: If you don't have anything nice to say, then don't say anything at all. I think that's good advice as a lot of people kick off a new work week on a Tuesday. Yes, Tuesday as reports show over 16 million people called in sick the Monday after the Super Bowl. That's a big loss in productivity. I think it's time for the NFL to consider moving the Super Bowl to Saturday.

What's your opinion? Call us or share on Facebook. I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

## Some Kentucky lawmakers trying to remove fluoride from public water systems

Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media

Feb 15, 2024

Here's one that probably won't put a smile on your face. Some Kentucky lawmakers are questioning the value of fluoride in our drinking water. House Bill 141 would no longer require public water systems to add fluoride to their tap water. The Kentucky Dental Association is opposing the move, as they know the benefits of fluoride to our teeth.

Speaking of teeth, the state of Kentucky ranks 49th in tooth loss, only behind West Virginia. Kentucky ranks dead last in dentists per capita, which makes sense since you have less teeth to clean. And 40% of Kentuckians haven't seen a dentist in the last year.

On the flip side, fluoride has been added to Kentucky's water since 1966. Of all the things we need our state government to focus on, this is one that should not have been on any list.

It seems pretty simple to me, something we'd learn in health class or in business school.

Yes, keep adding fluoride to the water. It's obvious the state of Kentucky does need more dentists.

And here's your public service announcement: If you don't already, please go to the dentist.

We don't need a bill for this or lawmakers wasting their time. It's common sense.

What's your opinion? Call us or share on Facebook. I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

## JCPS exploring options to fix busing issues

Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media

Feb 20, 2024

I've been openly supportive of JCPS trying new ideas to remedy the busing situation.

JCPS starts every school day with more bus routes than it has drivers. That's a pretty jarring fact that's gotten our school district into quite the transportation mess. But it's not for a lack of trying. They've tried altering school start and end times, hiring more drivers at a higher pay and a lot of other alternatives. But here we are, still stuck at a crossroads with how to fix the districts busing issues for next year.

The Jefferson County Board of Education is weighing options to do just that. And I'd like to talk about some of those. One option is eliminating transportation to magnet and traditional schools. They say this is the only option that will get JCPS in a position to have more drivers than routes next year. If the plan is to eliminate more bus routes in the future, then I say we go back to original start and end times for the school day. Here we are nearly a year later, and, clearly, it hasn't helped.

Another option being thrown around is utilizing TARC to help with busing issues. Yes, that means putting students on public transportation buses with complete strangers. I'm having a hard time wrapping my mind around that one.

What's your opinion? Call us or share on Facebook. I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

## **University of Georgia nursing student brutally murdered by undocumented immigrant**

Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media

Feb 27, 2024

A nursing student at the University of Georgia was brutally murdered in broad daylight. She was out for a run on campus when an undocumented immigrant grabbed her, took her to a secluded area, killed her, then dismembered her body. The grisly details of this horrendous crime and the circumstances surrounding it should strike a cord in all of us.

As a father myself, I can only imagine the heartbreak her parents must be feeling — but also the anger.

Her killer shouldn't have even been in the country. This horrible situation has reignited the fight to close the border, something I think should've happened a long time ago.

Every day, thousands of migrants are illegally sneaking into the U.S., crossing the border every chance they get. When you look at where we stand right now, communities are overflowing with migrants. Sanctuary cities are buckling with people camping out in airports, hotels and shelters. People are sleeping on neighborhood sidewalks and filling up community centers just feet away from local schools. Something's gotta give.

President Biden wants to keep the border open, and President Trump wants to close it.

This year's election will be more important than ever. And listen: Everyone should have the chance to live the American dream. But it must be done legally. Until then, it's time to close the border and protect our country.

What's your opinion? Call us or share on Facebook. I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

## **Louisville firefighter saves woman in daring rescue after semitruck dangles off side of bridge**

Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media

Mar 5, 2024

No one shines brighter in the face of adversity than Louisville's finest, the brave men and women who keep our city safe. You've seen them all over the news this week. On behalf of all of us at WDRB, I'd like to personally thank our first responders who saved a semitruck driver from plummeting into the Ohio River. The images and video of that massive vehicle, dangling like a toy truck over the Clark Memorial Bridge, stopped all of us in our tracks. When Louisville firefighter Bryce Carden rappelled down the side of the bridge to save that woman, it captivated our entire city. In that moment, we were all on the same page, grateful for our first responders and praying for a happy ending.

When the line between life and death started to blur, the impeccable training of our first responders kicked in. They train for moments like this. To us, it looked like something out of a movie. But, to them, it's part of the job. Within the last month, Louisville firefighters successfully responded to a daring bridge rescue and efficiently tackled an enormous four-story apartment fire in Phoenix Hill, resulting in all lives being saved as their training kicked in to stabilize the situations. Every day, they put their lives on the line to keep us safe, and I can't say thank you enough. To show your appreciation as well, please call us or share your kind words on Facebook.

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

## **Safety issues on Louisville bridges and interstates concerning for locals**

Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media

Mar 12, 2024

We all know Louisville is a river city. We couldn't survive without our bridges, acting as our lifeline.

So the safety of those bridges and our interstates needs to be top notch. But lately, it hasn't been.

The Sherman Minton Bridge is closed indefinitely due to structural concerns. It was a major blow for thousands of people who commute into the city each day.

Then, have you heard about this? Thieves are stealing copper wiring out of streetlights across Jefferson County. They've knocked out about 1,400 streetlights along highways in Louisville, leaving drivers in the dark. That's just another critical safety issue the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet needs to get under control. Then, it's a trickle-down effect from there, things I've been talking about for years: ongoing potholes, graffiti and trash that greet you on your drive. It's not just an eyesore. It's a reflection of how we value our communities and welcome out-of-town visitors.

I know KYTC is working hard to fix these important safety issues but I'd love to see them prioritize cleanliness as well. It's time to work together to ensure Kentucky's roads are safe for everyone and reflect the pride and care we have for our state.

What's your opinion? Call us or share on Facebook. I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.



## UofL fires men's basketball coach Kenny Payne

Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media

Mar 14, 2024

Once again, the Louisville men's basketball team doesn't have a head coach. I know talking about sports isn't everyone's cup of tea. Now more than ever, the pressure is on for UofL to get it right going forward. Before they jump into the deep end and hire their next coach, I hope they're able to see what Kenny Payne brought to the program.

He took on the challenge of coaching a team still dealing with sanctions his first season. That's some serious commitment. His team definitely stepped up their game from last season, but, as fans, we have to be realistic. The Cards aren't going to be a championship team overnight. It takes years of patience and hard work, especially with name image and likeness deals changing the game.

I personally went to almost every home game the last two years and I saw improvement. Apparently, it just wasn't fast enough for the university, and I understand that. I wish Coach Payne nothing but the best going forward. As UofL looks for a new head coach, I hope, as fans, we can have realistic expectations on when we'll bring home a new championship banner. We not only need coaches but also players, as the team is literally starting from scratch.

What's your opinion? Call us or share on Facebook. I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point Of View.

## Parking fines going up in Louisville on April 1

Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media

Mar 19, 2024

There's been an ongoing push to get more people to visit downtown Louisville. I'll tell ya one way that won't happen, and that's raising the price of parking tickets. If you've been downtown recently, I'm sure you've seen all the construction projects going on. Parking can be a pain, and if you're someone who tends to cut corners, it's going to cost you more money.

Starting April 1, parking citations that are currently listed at \$25 will increase to \$30. So if you park at an expired meter or in a spot that says "no parking," expect to pay more. I get trying to raise revenue, but we are at a time when we're trying to encourage people to come downtown, and I think this could easily discourage them by raising fines.

If anything, I almost think we should allow free meter parking. Give people an incentive to come downtown. Make it easier, more convenient and less expensive for people to enjoy downtown Louisville.

What's your opinion? Call us or share on Facebook. I'm Dale Woods, and that's my Point of View.

## **Live like Jesus this Easter**

Dale Woods - President, General Manager WDRB Media

Mar 28, 2024 Updated Mar 28, 2024

Easter weekend is here, and I know the to-do lists are long. There's a lot to do and not a lot of time. But then I think about Jesus and what he accomplished in seven days, and it gives me hope. It reminds me to slow down and lead with love.

Our world is divided right now. I think we can all agree on that. And with the presidential election coming up, I imagine it'll only get worse. I see it on social media and I hear it on the news. That's not what Jesus wants for us. He died on the cross to save us and unite us.

I'd like to think, during challenging times, we'd fall back on that notion — that Jesus died so we can live. That's pretty powerful, if you ask me.

So, as we look ahead to Easter, I encourage you to live in the moment. Enjoy your Easter egg hunts, the chaos of preparing Easter dinner and the silence of prayer at Easter services. And, finally, I'd also like to recognize those celebrating Passover this week.

From all of us at WDRB, Happy Easter.