

## FIRST QUARTER 2015

ISSUES COVERED: City Government

Length: 14 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: January 4 @7:30am

Our guest was Fayetteville City Councilman Larry Wright. He addressed the recent "Sweet 16" murder, which occurred in his city district. Some gang members crashed a birthday party, a number of shots were fired, and a young man was killed. Wright said he heard the gun shots from his home that Sunday morning around 1am. Wright said that by the number of shots, somebody had to have been hurt. Wright said the victim was a young man who had recently spoke to the city council about ending violence among our young people. The young man was fearful that more people would die if there was no initiative to halt the violence. Just one night before, Wright had organized a crime vigil that was held downtown at the Courthouse parking lot. Wright, who is also a pastor, went to the family of the victim and prayed with them after the shooting. Wright also spoke about the proposed Sanderson Farms chicken processing plant. Wright said the plant would provide over a thousand jobs that are sorely needed to help local unemployment figures. He also noted the connection between unemployment and some crime in Fayetteville and Cumberland County. Because environmental issues are at the heart of protests against bringing the chicken plant to the local area, Wright said he went unannounced to the company's Kinston plant. Wright said he did not smell foul odors in the vicinity of the plant. He said he went out to the spray fields and noticed no smell and no fungus build up. Both of those concerns have been brought up by opponents of the plant. Wright said the chicken plant would be a win-win for Fayetteville and Cumberland County. Commissioners will soon decide on whether or not to offer an incentives package to Sanderson Farms. If they decide to offer the package, the Fayetteville City Council will also vote on approving incentives.

ISSUES COVERED: Cumberland County Crown Complex

Length: 14 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: January 4 @ 7:44am

Global Spectrum General Manager Jim Graftstrom was our guest. Global Spectrum just finished their first year as managers of the Crown. During their short tenure, Global Spectrum oversaw a facelift on the Crown Complex, especially in the Coliseum. Graftstrom said they refinished the concourse and replaced all the seats. Other areas received a fresh coat of paint. Graftstrom said they are working to get all employees in matching uniforms. In addition, Graftstrom said they have been working hard with Center Plate, who handles the food concession. A number of complaints had been received concerning food at the venue, and Global Spectrum considered finding another company to work with. However, Graftstrom said they are pleased with recent advances made by Center Plate. Many concession items were changed, and some new additions were added to the menu, including Liberty BBQ and Market House Burgers. He also said all the burgers are hand-pressed and that Center Plate smokes their own

pork. Graftstrom said he has found out that Fayetteville is generally a "walk-up" crowd, meaning that many people buy tickets the day of a performance. Graftstrom said they are working to improve advanced ticket sales to quit the concerns of promoters who have used the venue in the past.

ISSUES COVERED: Military

Length: 14 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: January 11 @ 7:30am

Our guests were Brig. Gen. James Scanlon and Command Chief Master Sgt. Rocky Heart. Both were speaking about the possible deactivation of the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. Gen. Scanlon said that he is aware of the local legislative delegation and their efforts to save the 440<sup>th</sup>. However, he said he has not yet spoken with U.S. Senator Thom Tillis. Gen. Scanlon said that he has stayed within his chain of command in the Air Force when discussing the possible deactivation. He said he is aware of the possible economic impact the deactivation would have on the local economy in Fayetteville, especially if 1300 airmen are sent elsewhere. The deactivation would remove all C-130 transport planes from Pope Field at Fort Bragg. The legislative delegation believes the move would be detrimental to global response issues. Command Chief Master Sgt. Heart added that what makes the 440<sup>th</sup> so unique is that civilian employees from our own community are working on base, and are doing what they can to take care of the local community, their country, and supporting the Air Force. Heart said the 440<sup>th</sup> provides about one quarter of the airlift support for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. According to Scanlon, the possible deactivation is being driven by cuts in the military budget. Congress has ordered a report justifying the possible closure. Once it is issued, congress will have 60 days to review it, before the deactivation goes into effect, or is aborted. Scanlon said that the report is basically a cost analysis.

ISSUES COVERED: State Government

Length: 14 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: January 11 @7:44am

North Carolina State Representative John Szoka was our guest. Szoka said that he has met with the Fayetteville City Council to hear their concerns and has met with smaller municipalities as well. Szoka said that while crime is the top concern for Fayetteville, smaller towns like Godwin and Falcon are very concerned over the proposed Atlantic Pipeline. Szoka said the pipeline would run over 400 miles, stretching from Virginia to just outside of Lumberton. The pipeline would roughly mirror the 1-95 corridor through North Carolina, with parts running across private properties. Land owners are not only concerned about the pipeline crossing their properties, but also about any possible environmental impacts. According to Szoka, the pipeline would be buried as opposed to being an above-ground pipeline. Szoka then witted emphasis to tax reform, which he has been working on in the General

Assembly. While the rate may be lower, Szoka said the state has been able to broaden the tax base to make up for the shortfall caused by lower rates. Concerning the expired tax credits for restoration of historical properties, Szoka said the tax credit may come back in some form. He believes it affects rural areas more than urban areas. However, he pointed out that by letting the historic tax credits expire, it would hurt efforts in Fayetteville to rebuild the Prince Charles Hotel, because investors would end up paying a lot more out-of-pocket expenses to refurbish the structure. Szoka said that conversations must also be had concerning transit funding. Szoka said he is listening to local leaders to determine what the transit needs are.

ISSUES COVERED: Education

Length: 13 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: January 18 @ 7:30am

Pam Story and Robert Heinz were our guests and spoke about mentoring young people. Story is with the Cumberland County School System, and Heinz is CEO of the Cumberland County United Way. The two organizations are teaming up to create a mentoring program. Story said that children from all socioeconomic levels can benefit from having a relationship with a caring adult. Mr. Heinz stressed that they are looking for mentors, not tutors. Heinz said that rather than looking to improve the academic performance of the students, this program will offer role models that children can communicate with. Heinz said that if mentors don't reach out to kids, the street gangs will. Story said they want to provide positive mentors. She added that mentors are needed for children in all walks of life, to include those going to Sunday school and those who are honor society students. For those interested in becoming mentors, they can find information on the websites of both the Cumberland County School system and the Cumberland County United Way. Heinz said that the organizations have a process to check out the backgrounds of prospective mentors, and they have a step-by-step process to screen prospective mentors.

ISSUES COVERED: Cumberland County Government

Length: 15 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: January 18 @ 7:43am

Cumberland County Commissioner Glenn Adams was our guest. Adams spoke about the proposed Sanderson Farms chicken processing plant. While other commissioners have made their decisions on the plant fairly public, Adams has reserved his opinion and says he's waiting to see more information. Adams said that a public meeting to discuss incentives should be held so that all citizens have an opportunity to be heard. Adams said the public hearing should not just be about incentives, but also should be a chance for the public to talk about their concerns. According to Adams, some of those concerns include environmental issues, especially concerning the Cape Fear River. Adams said that while both the commissioner and the public would like a less messy, more upscale company to invest in the area, we don't have the quality of life infrastructure that businesses want when they relocate. Some of those desires are for green spaces, arts and top tier education. Adams said that Fayetteville and Cumberland County does not do a good job telling our story. He said the TV stations in Raleigh don't have a vested interest in this area, so they just show the bad side of Fayetteville and the county. Adams said that some towns and cities close to the Triangle want to take 19 million more gallons of water a day from the Cape Fear River Basin and transfer it to the Neuse River Basin. Adams said the commissioners are paying close attention to the request, and will oppose it before the deadline for a decision by the state.

ISSUES COVERED: Education

Length: 12 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: January 25 @ 7:30am

Cumberland County Schools Superintendent Dr. Frank Till Jr. was our guest. Dr. Till spoke about the decision-making process concerning school closures due to inclement weather. Till said the school system monitors the weather reports several days in advance of an anticipated storm. Till said they weigh the predictions very closely. He said that he will make and announce a decision the evening before the next school day, to make it convenient for parents, students, teachers and staff, rather than announcing a decision just prior to the start of school. Till said he has to consider the entire county, not just Fayetteville public schools. Till said the county has a lot of rural roads where snow removal is not as efficient as it is in the city. Many of those rural roads also have quick-freezing bridges and overpasses that ice up well before the roads do. Till was asked if he would be spending as much time in Raleigh this year lobbying for money for the school system. Till said he plans to spend plenty of time with the state legislators in the General Assembly to ensure the county schools get what they need. He said the school system saved a lot of money during the good times to get them through the recent cuts to the education budget, but the top priority is quality education in the classroom.

ISSUES COVERED: City Government

Length: 12 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: January 25 @ 7:42am

Fayetteville City Councilman Chet McDougald was asked what changes the City Council would like to make to the Fayetteville Public Works Commission. McDougald said that one thing they are examining is the amount of time that an individual serves on the board. He would be in favor of limiting the terms. According to McDougald, there are a lot of wonderful and capable people in Fayetteville would be excellent choices for the PWC board. When asked if the City Council is trying to turn PWC into a department of the city, McDougald said he doesn't think they should be a city department, that they deserved more autonomy than that would provide. However, the councilman said at the same time, PWC needs to be more accountable to the City Council. He reminded the audience that all the assets of PWC belong to the city. McDougald was asked if the council has considered adding a fifth board member to the utility, and if they have discussed procedures for removing a board member, McDougald said they are considering a fifth member and they are also talking about limiting terms to make it easier to remove a standing board member. McDougald used the board of Cape Fear Valley Medical Center as a comparison. He said terms on the hospital board are three years in duration. Board members there can only serve two terms, in spite of having a larger budget than PWC.

ISSUES COVERED: Education

Length: 4 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: January 25 @ 7:54am

Leisa Greathouse, Director of the Museum of the Cape Fear talked about the Civil War Bowl. This is an annual event that allows students and enthusiasts of the Civil War to test their knowledge. The Civil War Bowl is conducted like a game show. Prizes are offered for the winners. The event will be held January 29, 7pm, in the Pate Room at the Headquarters Library on Maiden Lane. People can sign up at the Museum of the Cape Fear. If spaces are still available on the 29th, people will be allowed to register at the door.

ISSUES COVERED: Road Maintenance & Construction

Length: 14 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: February 1 @7:30am

Our guest was Greg Burns, local road engineer for the State Department of Transportation talked about recent road construction on Glensford Drive. The road is being widened and will soon connect to Raeford Road. This construction has been going on for over a year, but Mr. Burns said that an urban widening project is always very challenging. Burns pointed out that in that area there is congestion, especially during morning and afternoon commutes, and there is an enormous amount of underground infrastructure that has to be navigated around. When the project first began, there were a lot of complaints and concerns from local residents living in that area, but as the department has come closer to the completion, those concerns and complaints have pretty much ended. Many of the complaints were over noise and dust levels. Mr. Burns also discussed the raised medians that were put on Ramsey Street last year. When that construction first started, there were also disruptions, but since the completion, traffic accidents have shown a 40% drop. Burns said they department is looking to do on Raeford Road what they did on Ramsey Street with the medians. In addition, they plan on lowering the speed limit on Raeford Road. The area of the proposed medians will stretch from Robeson Street to 71<sup>st</sup> High School. In addition, the speed limit will be reduced in the area between Robeson Street to the All American Expressway.

ISSUES COVERED: Credit & Debt Management

Length: 14 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: February 1 @ 7:44am

Our guest was Lolita Wilkerson from Consumer Credit Counselling Services. Wilkerson said they are under the umbrella of the Cumberland Community Action Program. She said they do a number of educational programs, including mortgage default counselling, to help people keep their homes when they are in danger of repossession. Wilkerson said they also do credit analysis, to help people increase their credit scores through good financial behavior. In addition, Consumer Credit Counselling Services features a debt management program that emphasizes financial goals. Wilkerson said they also have a home Ownership Center that includes a first-time homebuyer workshop. People are given a complete crash course on home ownership, including budgeting. People in the class learn what their credit scores mean, how much they could successfully borrow for a home, and terminology crucial to dealing with mortgages and home ownership. The course lasts for one day, but Wilkerson said that one day is very full. The services are free, but the public must register to be assigned a class.

ISSUES COVERED: State Government

Length: 27 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: February 8 @ 7:30am

Our guest was North Carolina State Representative John Szoka. He was asked about a possible request for Cumberland County or the city of Fayetteville to get state approval for a raise in the sales tax. Szoka said that until that request becomes a reality, he is neutral on the subject. Szoka said he does not get into the county or city budgets as deeply as he gets into the state budget, because that is his job. He said he cannot go to the General Assembly with preset ideas on what the city or county should or should not do with taxes. Szoka said that is the job of those governments. If they should decide to make the request, the legislature could then act upon it. When asked about Medicaid expansion, Szoka said it's not a cut and dry issue. He said unlike some in the media report, Republicans are not bad guys who want people dying because they don't have health care coverage. According to Szoka, Medicaid is a very complex issue. He explained that there is the base Medicaid that will get some services, and there are about 32 other expanded services. Szoka said that North Carolina is one of the most generous states and offers 29. The issue with Medicaid in North Carolina is cost containment, according to Szoka. He said that when the state went to the federal government to ask for some exemptions, they were denied.

ISSUES COVERED: The Homeless Population

Length: 13 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: February 15 @ 7:30am

Our guest was Police Officer Stacy Saunders, director of the city's Project Homeless, where no day is the same for her. She begins the morning by checking on the homeless on bridges, wood lines, and tents. Her priorities are 1) that they are safe with no harm overnight 2) that they are warm 3) that they receive the latest information on available resources and 4) that they receive cold weather gear as needed (coats/blankets). When asked if her job is depressing, she admits that it can be rough at times, especially dealing with children, but after years of street work, she knows the homeless situation well, knows many on a first-name basis, and can invest time in particular families. She can make a *needs assessment* that is realistic and effective. When asked about the recent extreme temperatures (low 20's), she states that churches have "stepped up" to provide shelter (white flag night), and in the hot days of summer, the library is a welcoming place. Regarding the background check controversy, she explains that it is meant to keep a shelter safe from anyone with outstanding warrants; any shelter with children will not want sex offenders present. To get clearance, one must obtain paperwork from the sheriff's department. Some shelters have no requirements. In general, the two reliable night shelters are: 1) the Salvation Army @ 245 Alexander St. which does require a criminal check and 2) True Vine Ministries on Morganton Rd, whose gym will provide 40-50 cots inside and a safe warm parking lot

outside for those sleeping in their car. True Vine is more lenient in its rules. As to the reason for homelessness, Officer Saunders is of the opinion that such persons have an underlying mental issue. That is the main problem, and why they will turn to drugs or alcohol for relief instead of their prescribed medication, too expensive to afford. She finds the label HOMELESS an ugly name, and the situation not an intentional one. Veterans do make up a certain percentage. As for the actual population number of homeless, Officer Saunders describes this count as conducted every year over the course of 24 hours during the last week of January. It is mandated by HUD across the USA in order to qualify for federal funds. Police officers search the high-risk areas (bridges / pay-by-nite sheds / cars) and civilian volunteers walk the perimeter of the Greyhound Bus Station and the HQ Library. This count can vary dramatically when the homeless definition changes from year to year, i.e. only counting those physically outdoors and excluding multiple families occupying a motel or an abandoned home temporarily. This is why the recent count changed from 1400 to 600. On the positive side, involvement of the community has led to good results. One initiative was to provide a backpack for every homeless child in the Cumberland County School System (est.600); this was coordinated between the office of the Registrar of Deeds and the Police Department. Indeed, every school has a human resource individual available to children. When asked if there are ever any success stories, Officer Saunders recalls a certain gentleman she saw recently who used to stand on street corners homeless. He is now a preacher, married with children. All in all, she sees herself as a cheerleader for these displaced persons, continually and constantly encouraging them month after month, year after year, i.e. rehab for the drug-addicted.

#### ISSUES COVERED:

Length: 13 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: February 15 @ 7:45am

North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory was the guest, answering questions relevant to his 80minute State of the State address the previous evening which covered Medicaid, education, jobs&economy, vets and the military, etc. He was applauded for highlighting the military members present; he himself was proud to have our General Anderson there along with an American flag that had flown overseas. In answer to a question about the measles vaccine, he is all in favor of vaccines, which keep our children safe. Unvaccinated kids infect others. Quarantines are sometimes necessary, as with Ebola. When asked about unemployment benefits, he defended his stance on not extending that time period; it would continue the high debt to the federal government; plus, he would prefer that jobs be found for these people. In fact, some unemployment centers have been converted to job centers. As for city revitalization, he was complimented for his advocacy of historical properties. He suggested that we contact our legislators to support this cause since he has battled the state senate to endorse such tax credits. His hope is to eliminate the blighted and abandoned buildings in many of our NC cities. When asked about education, he stated that more was in store for teachers beyond the pay raise that was legislated last year. He is working with a bipartisan committee to reform testing. He referenced our local Superintendent Frank Till besides the State Public Instruction Director June Atkinson. When asked

about his military initiatives, he described the purpose of his new Department of Veterans Affairs, mandated to provide four things: 1) find jobs for the military 2) health & safety of the families 3) protect our bases and 4) connect them to community resources (as Fayetteville does so well—referencing our Mayor).

A final item was a news headline about two incarcerated half-brothers seeking a pardon and monetary compensation in view of wrongful imprisonment. Such inquiry was submitted by Fayetteville Observer reporter Paul Woolverton. Respectful of the investigative process currently underway by the state's law enforcement and legal bodies, the Governor stated that he is not ready to reveal his ruling.

ISSUES COVERED: Business Seminar

Length: 7 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: February 22 @ 7:30am

Guest Dr. Michael Chitwood has dedicated his life to helping people who want to go into business. He is aware that people are currently hurting because they cannot find jobs, and would prefer to be their own CEO. His consulting company has held seminars for 46 years, and on 26 February, at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux, he will be conducting one in Fayetteville, from 9am to 3pm. He will provide a free manual with the Registration Fee of \$49. He intends to show people how to finance a new business and how to apply for government grants. He wants people with Christian agendas and community ideals to not be afraid to partake of the available dollars. He gives direction on how to obtain these funds. So many people are no longer in the workforce, he wants to inspire them to be an entrepreneur, to be a CEO. He states, "We're for everybody with a dream." His organization claims responsibility for garnering \$600 million over 60 years for people starting their own business or their own non-profit. They have represented thousands of churches for 75 years and a large number of NPO's. His seminar, *The Power to Prosper in Business and in Ministry*, will feature 4 speakers on different subjects: Bishop Ronnie Shaw from Lexington, NC; Dr. Shannon Cook from Louisville, Ky; Bishop David Sellers from Cleveland, Tenn.; and himself. There are two ways to register and to pay for an event seat: by phone at 1-800-344-0076 (the office) or through the website at [www.iccmworldwide.org](http://www.iccmworldwide.org). The seats fill up quickly, and given the 1 on 1 coaching that will be offered in Fayetteville compared to other venues allowing a mass audience of 300-500, this upcoming event is limited to 100 people.

ISSUES COVERED: Politics, local and state

Length: 22 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: February 22 @ 7:37am

Linda Devore, Cumberland County Republican Party Chairman, was the guest, fielding questions on multiple topics from the local business climate to the federal stance on immigration. On the local front, municipal elections are coming up this fall. Former council member Val Applewhite was the 1st to announce one year ago that she would again seek the position of MAYOR. Chair Linda pointed out that Mayor Nat Robertson won that seat by 260 votes. As the incumbent, he will have the advantage of name recognition. When asked about accomplishments of the current Fayetteville city council over the past 1 ½ yrs, she referenced the recent mediation session between the city and PWC, the results of which will be incorporated into a legislative BILL. This ongoing PWC debate, which has festered since the 2003 big-bang annexation, appears to be near resolution. In the previous week's WFNC interview, councilman Mitch Colvin had said that things were looking good after much negotiation, that 8 out of 10 items had gotten "knocked out," and that this next Friday should complete the discussion. Other items that Linda applauded were the council's stand on 1) public safety and 2) the tax increase benefitting #1. She felt the council has proven itself to be responsible by only advocating a tax increase when it is targeted for a specific purpose, as in public safety. When asked about divisiveness on the council, comparing now and two years ago, Linda opined that the current members have been understandably "settling into" their positions while, in the past, Val Applewhite quit her committee obligations x 18months in protest to not being voted Mayor ProTem. On the topic of Sanderson Farms, Linda also applauded that the city council was "rock solid" in majority support of the company's move to our area. At this point, given the organized protest by the "red shirts" --- the citizens against the S.F. relocation who had sought professional advice from the Southern Environmental Law Center, and have threatened a lawsuit --- she does not expect them to do so. She believes the S.F. public statement that they are no longer considering this county, and that they do not play communities against each other. They consider one location at a time. She bemoaned the January 5<sup>th</sup> vote against a public hearing, and when pressed as to why County Commissioner Charles Evans was receiving "all the heat" she explained that he had made entry-level jobs a main point of his political campaign. The other 3 negative votes were staked out beforehand; his was the defining vote. The upshot is that Sanderson Farms may end up locating nearby (Robeson Co.), and we will have no control on their production, and no financial gain from their tax base; at best, there may be jobs for us. As for the future of the Cedar Creek Business Center, Linda wonders what will ever be accepted. Will the nearby residents repeat the claim: Not In My Backyard (NIMB). 18 million dollars were spent to create it, and it remains empty for over a decade, generating no tax rolls. A recycling center does exist there, and a smattering of residential homes; no offices or subdivisions. It is zoned as an industrial-commercial park. Had Sanderson Farms moved in, it would have fostered nearby businesses, as Cape Fear Valley Hospital has caused business development in its surrounding neighborhood. S.F. would furthermore have been a good corporate citizen in view of its cutting-edge technology on waste water treatment, and its standing in Forbes' Top 100 of most trusted companies. As for a question on national politics, namely the Court Injunction on the president's Executive Order on Immigration, Linda believes that it was truly appropriate, to avoid

irreversible harm to society. It will now serve as a test case for the Supreme Court. She expects the Court to defend the separation of powers and to rule that this is an overreach by the executive branch. She further disagrees with NC Congresswoman Renee Ellmers who voted against a "tighter" immigration bill, claiming the hardship on employers in her district who hire illegals. In fact, says Linda, the federal government has made it harder the past 5-6 years to verify backgrounds, and the border remains open. As touted in recent political signs, Secure Our Borders is the general public's opinion. Building an intact border would be a psychological and physical asset to our security. A final question referenced the 2016 Presidential election; Scott Walker (Gov-Wisc) is her (R) nominee.

ISSUES COVERED: Community Prayer Walk

Length: 27 minutes 31 sec.

DATE/TIME AIRED: March 1 @7:30am

Jeromy Wright and Craig Morrison discussed the "As One Prayer Walk." Wright is from Mt. Olive Missionary Church and Morrison is from Snyder Memorial Baptist Church, where he serves as youth pastor. The prayer walk is scheduled for April 11, beginning at Festival Park. They are expecting a crowd of from 10,000 – 15,000 people. The previous prayer walks had about half of that amount. Wright said they are getting the word out by way of Facebook and social media. Morrison said they just created a new website, where people can register and get a prayer walk tee shirt. However, registration is not necessary. The new website can be found at [prayerwalk.org](http://prayerwalk.org). Wright said that all Judeo-Christian denominations are welcome. Morrison said the goal is to present a unified Christian unit, to show what the faith looks like beyond the church walls. The walk will begin at Festival Park. It will stop at various destinations for prayer. Destinations include Veterans Park, where walkers will pray for the military. It will then move to City Hall, where prayers will be offered for our leaders and public servants. The walk then moves to the Market House, where prayers will be offered for racial diversity and social and economic divides. Prayers will be said at this destination in a number of different languages. The walk then moves to the Cumberland County Detention Center to pray for inmates. After that, the walk will move to the Headquarters Library to pray for teachers, educators, administrators and for the homeless, who often find shelter in the public libraries. The walk will then return to Festival Park to pray for pastors and spiritual leaders. Most of the participants will do silent prayers, with a pastor praying aloud at each location. The event will also feature music from several praise bands.

ISSUES COVERED: City Government

Length: 28 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: March 8 @ 7:30am

The guest was Fayetteville City Manager, Ted Voorhees. The City Manager discussed the recent City Council retreat, held this year at Botanical Gardens. He said the council selected its priorities to focus on for the next year. The primary focus will be on crime and economic development. While Voorhees conceded that Fayetteville Police Chief Harold Medlock has made substantial gains recently in the fight against crime, Voorhees said there is still much work to be done. He pointed out that more police have been hired and will hit the streets sometime later this year. Voorhees pointed to recent crime figures which shown drops in most substantial areas, and credited Medlock for the success of his new community policing policy. While gains have been made in the battle against crime, Voorhees said the city has not been making significant gains in economic development. Voorhees said the council has also added homelessness to its priorities list. He said the visible signs of homelessness in the city are frustrating. He said this issue will be particularly tough because city government is not the lead agency in fighting homelessness, that it is more of a county issue. Voorhees said the city will only spend about \$100,000 for nonprofits to help the homeless. He said the city and county will have to combine resources to make an impact. Voorhees said a building has been donated to the city as a shelter, and will probably be run by the Salvation Army. That group would lease the building from the city for \$1 a year. The building is the former "Hope Center" building that has since been evacuated. The city manager also pointed out that the city has worked a deal with Time Warner cable to allow free Wi Fi in the downtown area. Voorhees spoke about the recent ground breaking for the Westover Pool, at Westover Recreation Center. Parks and Recreation was not a top priority for the council last year, but by shuffling some funds around, they were able to finance the pool, which should be open by summer. Voorhees said the council must now decide if the city is ready for a Parks and Recreation bond.

ISSUES COVERED: Help for the Homeless

Length: 12 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: March 15 @7:30

Our guests were Pastor Laverne Hayden and Pastor Alan Phillips. Hayden is pastor at Wesleyan Pentecostal Church in Fayetteville and Phillips is pastor at Calvary Holiness Church in St. Pauls. They have founded "Oasis Mission," to help the homeless in Fayetteville. Hayden said their mission is to reach the homeless in the B-Street, Minor Street, School Street and Link Street areas of Fayetteville. Hayden said they do a service that is open to homeless and the general public every Tuesday night at 7pm. Phillips added that in addition to the church service, they also provide food and clothing for the homeless. In addition, they include a Bible study and present testimonies of people who have been delivered from drug addiction. Hayden said that many of the homeless they encounter are veterans

show ended out on the street after battling post-traumatic stress disorder. Hayden said many of these veterans turned to alcohol or drugs because of a lack of timely professional help after leaving the military. Hayden said that there are around 1,000 homeless people in Cumberland County, and many of them are children. For some of these kids the best meal they get during the week comes from the school system. Phillips said they are leasing a church at the corner of B and Minor Streets, off Person Street. Hayden said the lease costs around \$300 a month, plus they have to pay utilities. The mission is in need of financial donations and contributions of food and clothing. Donations can be made at the Oasis Mission on Tuesday nights, or dropped off at Wesleyan Pentecostal Church or Cavalry Holiness Church at any time.

ISSUES COVERED: Politics

Length: 14 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: March 15 @ 7:42am

Our guest was North Carolina State Representative John Szoka. When asked, Szoka said he is not in favor of expanding Medicaid in North Carolina. He would rather see a tailored Medicaid program designed for the state. Szoka said the Affordable Care Act has had a bad effect on business in the state. Many employees have been dropped from 40 hours a week to 30 hours (or less) per week, because employees can't afford health care for all full time personnel. At 30 hours a week, many people can't afford to pick up premiums. Szoka was asked about other states that had previously rejected a Medicaid expansion, only to reverse course. Szoka said many of these states think they have an arrangement with MMA, and if they do certain things, they will get special arrangements. However, it is left to be seen if those arrangements will ever be approved. When asked if there is a plan set to go to replace the Affordable Care Act, Szoka said he has seen bits and pieces of various replacement plans, but nothing has yet been formalized. Switching to a local issue, Szoka was asked by the host if we need to change the formula for school funding, as recommended by Cumberland County Schools Superintendent Frank Till Jr. Szoka agreed, and explained that in the past, the state would compute the county median income. However, for a county like Cumberland, they figure into the formula incomes from Fort Bragg, many of which are far above those of the typical resident. Szoka says that messes up the real median income level of Cumberland County, which would otherwise get state funding that goes to low income counties. Szoka said it would be more fair if we remove the military component from the formula. When asked if the money from the state lottery truly goes to education, Szoka said that lottery money has always gone to the schools. However, money has also been taken out for other things. Concerning the City Council and PWC mediation, Szoka said that things are going well but a few things still need to be decided on. Those will be left to the General Assembly to decide, and to update the 1905 Charter that established the utility.

ISSUES COVERED: Local Sports

Length: 12 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: March 22 @ 7:30am

Former Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden was a call-in guest for Fayetteville Focus. The purpose of his call was to promote a fundraiser he would be attending to raise money for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, who are trying to start chapters in local public schools. Bowden discussed his life and faith. He planned to use the head coaching position at Florida State as a stepping stone to the head coach position at Alabama. However, Bowden said, "We started winning so I decided to stay right here." Bowden also talked about a number of other key events in his coaching career. Bowden will be a featured speaker on March 26 at Snyder Memorial Baptist Church to help raise funds for the Coastal Carolinas Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

ISSUES COVERED: County Government

Length: 17 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: March 22 @ 7:42am

Cumberland County Commissioner Jimmy Keefe was our guest. Keefe said he was disappointed that Sanderson Farms chose to build their processing plant in Robeson County rather than in Cumberland County. However, Keefe said he wasn't surprised. He said that Sanderson Farms is a business and they are going to make the best decision that fits their business model. Keefe believes that Robeson County will be pleased with Sanderson Farms, who he said is a good company. Keefe also spoke about a recent job fair held at the Crown Complex. He said the crowd of job seekers numbered around 2-thousand. Sanderson Farms would have hired around 1,100 people had they chosen Cumberland County. Keefe said it was ironic that Smithfield was one of the vendors at the job fair. He said the representative said almost 2,500 people from Cumberland County work there. Keefe commented on the proposed Atlantic Pipeline, and its effect on the empty Cumberland County Industrial Park in Cedar Creek. He said the pipeline will run by the park but will not have much of an effect. Keefe said he was more concerned that that the park is on a hundred year flood plain. Keefe said that information wasn't known 15 years ago when the county purchased the land.

ISSUES COVERED: City Government

Length: 14 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: March 29@ 7:30am

Fayetteville City Councilwoman Kady-Ann Davy was our guest. Davy represents the district where the proposed Sanderson Farms chicken processing plant would have been built. Most of the opposition to the plant came from her district, and Davy is one of only two on the council who voted against offering incentives. Davy said she heard from not only the people in her district, but also from people all around the city with concerns that the proposed project should be looked at more closely. When asked if Mrs. Davie thought the Sanderson Farms issue will hinder us attracting other employers she responded by saying, "It is a learning process for us." She said it gives the council reason to revisit their memo of understanding with the Chamber of Commerce. Concerning the proposed water basin transfer from the Cape Fear River basin to the Neuse River basin, Davy said she hopes our delegation to the General Assembly will be active in this issue. Communities near Raleigh are hoping to take an additional 9 million gallons of water per day from the Cape Fear River.

ISSUES COVERED: Military

Length: 14 minutes

DATE/TIME AIRED: March 29 @ 7:44am

Our guest was Air Force Brigadier General Thomas Scanlon Jr., who discussed the possible deactivation of the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. Congress has demanded that the Air Force submit a report justifying their desire to deactivate the wing. Scanlon said the report has not yet been submitted. Scanlon said it was his belief that the report was to have been submitted by February 1. That was the original goal, but apparently, he says, there was yet more information to be added before it could be reviewed. Scanlon said the Chief of Staff for the Air Force told the Senate Appropriations Committee that the report will now be done by the end of March. Scanlon says he knows local community leaders are not pleased that the 440<sup>th</sup> could be shuttered, but he said when appropriations came through it did not include the 440<sup>th</sup>. He said the Air Force has been operating it with whatever money they can find to support it. Fortunately, the Air Force has found funding to operate the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing until the end of September. If the 440<sup>th</sup> is deactivated, 12-hundred airmen would be reassigned and civilian employees at Pope Field would be jobless. The economic impact on the local economy is in the millions of dollars. Congress is trying to write a bill with language that would defund any deactivation and movement of C-130 cargo planes to another location.