

# QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAMMING REPORT

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2015

1 July 2015 – 30 September 2015

**ISSUES COVERED: Crime**

**Length: 16 min 30 sec.**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: July 5 @ 7:30am**

Cumberland County Sheriff Moose Butler and his legal counsel, Ronnie Mitchell, discussed details of a recent murder in Cumberland County. Sheriff Butler said the two suspects, Justin Quick and Misty Rogers, are accused of tying up, beating and killing Bill Foster. The suspects were at large, but were eventually arrested in Carolina Beach. Butler said the pair allegedly set the body on fire near Paddle Fish Road. Butler said the motive was robbery. Burns sometimes lived with Foster. Quick and Burns were picked up in Carolina Beach while driving a vehicle they stole from Foster after his death. An additional motive, according to Butler, could have been drug related. Butler then discussed the church shooting in Charleston, South Carolina. He said that warning signs had been ignored, which he said is a common denominator in many such mass shootings. Butler and Mitchell then discussed the Sheriff's annual G.R.E.A.T. camp (Gang Resistant Education & Training). The camp is designed to get kids involved with, and familiar with, local law enforcement. They mentioned the many local community partners supporting the camp, and the local problems with gangs in Fayetteville and the much more rural Cumberland County.

**ISSUES COVERED: Crime**

**Length: 12 min.**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: July 5 @ 7:46am**

Cumberland County District Attorney Billy West was our guest. West talked about the Fayetteville Police Foundation, and what it does to help support the Fayetteville Police Department. West said the foundation is currently raising money for police body cameras. He said that with recent police shootings in other states, people are making videos with their cell phones, but it doesn't show anything from the police perspective, or what led up to the shootings. The body cameras would tell a more complete story, according to West. He also talked about the newly created Fayetteville Crime lab. West said the lab will be much more efficient with turn-around time when evidence is submitted. Previously, evidence was submitted to the state crime lab in Raleigh. However turn-around time was causing a backlog for the judicial system. On many occasions, the state crime lab would take over a year to process evidence. The local crime lab will also benefit those counties bordering Cumberland County. West talked about a recent police department initiative of getting residents to register house parties. Police will send patrols to those house parties to help keep people safe. A number of shootings have occurred at recent house parties, mostly involving young people. The house party registration was suggested by Fayetteville City Councilman Mitch Colvin.

**ISSUES COVERED: Local Politics**

**Length: 13 min**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: July 12 @ 7:30am**

George Breece, former State Representative and local political observer, spoke about the local mayoral race in Fayetteville. Incumbent Mayor Nat Robertson will take on challenger Val Applewhite, former Fayetteville City Councilwoman. Robertson defeated Applewhite two years ago by less than 300 votes. Breece said that if nobody else files, there will be no primary this year for the mayor's seat. Two years ago, Applewhite was the top vote getter in the primary, but during the general election voters in districts 5 & 10 came out heavily for Robertson, who was also endorsed by outgoing Mayor Tony Chavonne. Robertson also was better funded than Applewhite, and ran political advertising and sent out numerous fliers. Breece discussed both candidates experience and the need for campaign money. Robertson already has over \$55,000, while Applewhite had less than \$100. Applewhite's fundraising got off to a slow start because of hip surgery. Breece also talked about city council races and said it looked like there would be a primary for perhaps just two of those city council seats. He said he expects the primary to have a very low turnout. Breece emphasized the need for candidates to raise around \$120,000 for the mayoral election, and motivate their bases to go to the polls. Breece said the mayoral election will be won by the candidate that best motivates their voting base.

**ISSUES COVERED: City Government**

**Length: 16 min**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: July 12 @ 7:43**

Fayetteville City Engineer Lee Jernigan talked about road construction in Fayetteville. Jernigan in particular spoke of the road construction on Glensford Drive. He said the project is not being completed on time because of a number of interruptions, including weather and the need to replace some underground sewage pipes. The pipes were recently discovered to be in need of replacement.

Jernigan said that if crews were to pave Glensford, they would have to rip up the new pavement to fix the underground pipes. Jernigan also spoke of the city decision to install red light cameras to catch light runners. Those who run red lights will get a \$100 ticket in the mail. Jernigan said that three such cameras will soon be installed, based on intersections with high accident rates. The money collected from fines will go to the Cumberland County schools system. The schools will then give back a small portion to help pay for the cameras. He said the city will be installing more cameras in the near future. Jernigan said the city will not shorten the duration of yellow lights in an attempt to get more violators. He said the duration is regulated by the state. Jernigan said that signs will be posted telling drivers about the red light cameras, and said that people can go to the city's website to get more information, and find out where the cameras are located. Jernigan also said that a median will soon be installed on Raeford Road to try to cut down on accidents. He pointed to the success of the medians that were recently put up on Ramsey Street.

**ISSUES COVERED: Financial**

**Length: 17 minutes**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: July 19 @ 7:30am**

Our guest was financial advisor Bruce Brown, who talked about the financial situations in Greece and China, and the fluctuation of the American stock market. Brown said that Greece is paying out more in retirement and entitlements than they are taking in. Brown said they also have a cap on certain jobs that citizens there can hold. He said the unemployment rate in Greece is close to 25%. The banks have not been able to reopen because a loan has not yet come through. The bailout is estimated at \$96 billion. The economy there is almost the size of the economy of either Rhode Island or the city of Miami. Brown said the situation in Greece has made our stock market volatile, but said it will change and the market will correct itself. Brown said that Greece has proposed a 23% sales tax on dining out, and has started to overhaul their pension and retirement system by changing the retirement age to 67. Brown said that Greece wants to leave the European Union, get rid of the Euro and go back to their original currency. The

process would take over six months to print new currency. The vote from parliament is expected to come on July 22. In China, Brown says the problems are many, including high debt, a weak property market and volatile financial conditions. A big part of the problem is converting from communism to capitalism with government restitutions. He said the market there went up 60% and then dropped because the government stepped in, instead of allowing the market to correct itself. Brown compared their situation to our recent stock market problems.

**ISSUES COVERED: Crime**

**Length: 12 minutes**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: July 19 @ 7:47am**

Fayetteville Police Chief Harold Medlock talked about a recent incident involving a motorist shooting at a police officer who had pulled someone over. A dash cam video of the event was captured, and the chief is also reviewing the video images made from security cameras on Bragg Boulevard. Chief Medlock also talked about the latest crime statistics. He said that homicides are up 2%, rapes are down 15%, robberies and assaults are up 15% and burglaries were down 17%. These stats are for the first six months of 2015. Medlock said he encourages more community involvement. He also said that kids are showing less gun violence but more domestic violence. The Chief also spoke about "Operation Safe Summer", and requests that people having house parties register those parties with the city. While it doesn't cost any money, it assures that police will patrol the area where a house party going on, to help keep everybody safe. Medlock also spoke about recruiting, calling it difficult. Medlock said the perception of violence against police has led to decreases in recruits for the department. Medlock said he is utilizing job fairs and speaking with juniors and seniors at universities in North Carolina.

**ISSUES COVERED: City Government****Length: 14 minutes****DATE/TIME AIRED: July 26 @ 7:30am**

Fayetteville City Councilman Larry Wright was our guest. He spoke about the controversy surrounding the Market House on the Fayetteville City seal. Wright said the Market House issue is a bit personal for him because it was a place that sold slaves prior to the Civil War. Wright concedes that although the only slaves sold at the Market House were part of estate sales, and not a place the slave trade was typically conducted, he still has a problem with the city using the image for its official seal. Wright says that even though the Market House has that history, he would not like to tear it down. After all, he says, "It is part of our history." Wright says that the Market House also has some good history. He said the U.S. Constitution was ratified by the state at the Market House, the charter creating the UNC university system was signed there, and land that became the state of Tennessee was ceded at the Market House. However, the slave issue is personal to him as an African American. Wright compared the Market House to his feelings on the church shootings in South Carolina and the waving of the Confederate flag. Wright says we need to have conversations about these things and how he used it as a position when he did the "Fight For the Family" project. Wright said we need to have conversations about the removal of symbols. For example, Wright believes the Confederate Flag needs to be in a museum and not waving over the capital of South Carolina.

**ISSUES COVERED: U.S. Government & Military****Length: 15 minutes****DATE/TIME AIRED: July 26 @ 7:44am**

Our guest was U.S. Congresswoman Renee Ellmers spoke about the extension of the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. The Air Force is trying to shut down the wing and have all C-130 planes sent to another base. Ellmers says she believes such a move would hurt the readiness of Fort Bragg Paratroopers to respond anywhere in the world on short notice. In addition, the closure would have a deep impact on Fayetteville's economy. Ellmers said she has worked with U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis on

getting an extension for the 440<sup>th</sup> until fall of 2016. However, she says she is still working on a long term solution. The current resolution was presented to the Secretary of Defense to sign off on, but will remain a year-to-year fight. Ellmers said the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing brings roughly \$1.2 million to the local economy in just hotels alone. Ellmers also spoke about troop cuts at Fort Bragg. While she opposes the cuts, she said Fort Bragg was fortunate to lose only 842 soldiers instead of the projected 16,000 in a worst case scenario. Ellmers said she opposes President Obama's Iran deal. Ellmers said all Americans should be upset by the nukes deal. She also said that while the VA is making progress, it is slow, and still unacceptable. She mentioned the new VA clinic that will open here in the fall, and called it the first step in improving patient wait times. Ellmers said the U.S. House will soon be voting on a bill entitled the VA Accountability Act. She said it will be of particular interest to Fayetteville and Fort Bragg, because veterans return to our area to live at four times the national average.

**ISSUES COVERED: Technology**

**Length: 13 minutes 50 seconds**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: August 2 @ 7:30am**

Clarence Briggs, owner of AIT technology, spoke about recent hacking incidents. Briggs believes the motives for hacking are economic and state sponsored. Briggs believes the OPM was a state sponsored hack to gain information on government employees with security clearance. Briggs said it is very likely that China is behind the hacking. Briggs also spoke about the ability of hackers to get into a car infotainment system through USB ports, using Wi-Fi. He claims that this can be done from anywhere, and gives the hacker control over your car. This would include steering, braking, etc. Briggs said that Sprint's network was hacked using U-Connect, and that GSM technology is much more secured. He mentioned hacking problems encountered by Google, Chrysler and Android. According to Briggs, hackers can also hack into the cockpit of an airplane, giving the hackers control over the aircraft. Briggs was concerned with network systems being shared because they become vulnerable to hackers. He said that companies such as Life Lock are also vulnerable because they are password security systems. He

said that is why the Ashley Madison website was able to be hacked and personal information stolen from it.

**ISSUES COVERED: NC General Assembly**

**Length: 12 minutes 22 seconds**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: August 2 @ 7:44am**

State Sen. Ben Clark was our guest was our guest. Clark talked about the ongoing problems between the state House and senate regarding the passage of a budget for 2016. Clark said some of the areas of disagreement concern education; in particular teacher pay raises and teacher assistants. Clark said the state House passed a budget, but it got caught up with areas of disagreement with the senate. The senate placed it before a proposed committee substitute, which he said means the senate wrote their own budget. The House version funds driver education provides teacher pay raises and keeps teacher assistants in the school system. The Senate version eliminates teacher assistants, provides a slightly higher salary for new teachers, and gives the others a \$700 increase, the same as other state employees. Clark is at odds with the Republican majority in the Senate, and said it is essential that teacher assistants are kept working because they are important to all school children K-12. Clark said that many teacher assistants often drive the school buses. Clark said that driver education is mandatory in North Carolina schools. If the state doesn't fund it then the schools will have to, or charge students a higher fee for the course. Clark said he'd like to see the way the state distributes sales taxes become more fair. He'd also like to look at increasing sales tax across the state, and bring more revenue to Cumberland and Hoke Counties.



**ISSUES COVERED: Homelessness**

**Length: 13 min 22 seconds**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: August 9 @ 7:30a**

Sue Byrd, Director of Operation In As Much was our guest. Byrd talked about the efforts of her organization to tackle the homeless problem in Fayetteville. She said that while many in the local homeless population have addictions, others are veterans and children. Byrd talked about Operation In As Much and how it started. The concept grew out of collaboration between Snyder Memorial Baptist Church and First Baptist Church o Fayetteville. It started as a 2-day-per-year volunteer day, where church members provided for the homeless. Now, Operation In As Much is a nonprofit organization the serves the homeless full time. Byrd spoke about a proposed homeless shelter her group would like to open. Byrd said the city and the county are working together to help her cause. However, she is getting push back from St. Luke's AME Church. The shelter would be very close to the church and also to a ministry building that Operation In As Much obtained from St. Luke's by way of donation. The church is concerned about attracting more homeless people to the area. They are also concerned that it would draw more police presence in the neighborhood. Byrd believes the shelter can help change lives during their stay in the facility. They could also provide extended stay if needed. No other homes shelter in the area provides the extended stay.

**ISSUES COVERED: City Government**

**Length: 14 minutes**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: August 9 @7:43**

Fayetteville City Councilman Mitch Colvin spoke about the Market House image that is on the official city seal. While he finds the image to be offensive because of its tie to slavery, Colvin suggested that the logo and the Market House itself can be used as a positive for the community. Colvin said he would support having open dialogue about the situation. Colvin believes we need to market the

historical significance of the Market House for tourism purposes. Colvin also talked about the City Council revisiting the Parks & Bond package. The \$45 million parks bond package was defeated two years ago before it could be put before voters in a referendum. The council has revisited the issue and is looking at other funding, and would like to present it to the community. The package would provide pools, parks and recreation. Colvin said these things are needed to make Fayetteville a more attractive place. Colvin said that the perception of Fayetteville is that there is nothing to do here. We also discussed the perception the Fayetteville is a boring and unsafe place to live. Colvin said these are false assertions, but, as he said, perception is reality to a lot of people.

**ISSUES COVERED: Local Economy**

**Length: 9 minutes**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: August 16 @ 7:30am**

Michael Fleishman from Fayetteville Community Concerts and Katie Mikus from the Crown Center revealed the Community Concert Series for the upcoming season. The list includes Hall & Oates, Pete Cetera (formerly with Chicago), Boys to Men and Jay Leno. Fleishman said this year is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Community Concert event. Mikus talked about other upcoming events at the Crown Center, including a Sports Collectable Show, Jay Cole, the Cumberland County Fair and other events.

**ISSUES COVERED: City Government**

**Length: 11 minutes**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: August 16 @ 7:39am**

Fayetteville City Manager Ted Voorhees discussed the PWC charter that is currently being revamped by the General Assembly. He said the City Council has not changed its position, and still wants more governance and oversight of the Public Works Commission. Voorhees said the city is not pleased with the first

draft of the new PWC Charter and hopes it can be slowed by the state Senate. Voorhees also talked about the need for more parks and recreation. He said that smaller municipalities have more amenities, making them more attractive to potential residents. Voorhees talked about possible redevelopment of the Shaw Heights area. Voorhees thought the city could enhance the perception of Cumberland County Schools by putting in better athletic facilities. Voorhees said that by addressing all of these issues it would make Fayetteville more marketable.

**ISSUES COVERED: Health**

**Length: 7 minutes 28 seconds**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: August 16 @ 7:50am**

Fayetteville city Councilman Larry Wright was our guest. Wright spoke about his son, James, who was diagnosed with a rare kidney disease at age 25. Wright said that James has been on dialysis for more than six years and is in need of a kidney transplant. Wright said that his son is now on a list of those waiting for new kidneys. Wright said that James has a go-Fund-Me account. People can make donations that will go toward his long-term care. [JamesKidney@gofundme.com](mailto:JamesKidney@gofundme.com). Wright said the goal is to raise \$15,000.

**ISSUES COVERED: Government**

**Length: 13 minutes 15 seconds**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: August 23 @7:30am**

Congresswoman Renee Ellmers spoke about the uselessness of the armies of the Middle East against the threat from ISIS. Ellmers spoke about what she called “the barbaric nature of the Islamic State and ISIS”. Ellmers gave a short historical perspective of the fear the organization has created and said the world needs to work together to fight the threat. Concerning the Iran nuke deal, Ellmers said she is opposed. She stresses that the 2012 sanctions must remain in place. Ellmers said she believes the upcoming election and President Obama’s need to leave a

legacy has rushed the U.S. into the Iran deal. She said she is not sure if congress has enough votes to override a presidential veto. Ellmers also spoke about HR3339m (Protect Access to Life Saving Screening Act). Ellmers said that from her experience as a nurse, she sees the Affordable Care Act as failing to live up to what it promises concerning screening exams, in particular, mammogram screening for young women. Ellmers also spoke about the Republican Party agenda for reaching more women for office and what they need to do to become elected. Concerning abortion, Ellmers believes in protecting the life of the mother. Ellmers also spoke about drone technology and what we need to do to prevent them from interfering with commercial air travel.

**ISSUES COVERED: Crime**

**Length: 12 minutes 31 seconds**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: August 23 @ 7:43am**

Fayetteville Police Chief Harold Medlock spoke about his initiative, "Operation Safe Summer". Since the initiative began, police have attended approximately 60 registered house parties. Gun play was evident in only 3 of the 60. The chief said that fortunately, there were no injuries or fatalities. Medlock believes that Operation Safe Summer has been a good community building effort for the police department and the citizens of Fayetteville. He compared the reality of what has been happening nationally with what is happening in Fayetteville. Medlock spoke of having concern for his officers every day, and the dangerous nature of traffic stops. He believes the incidents of police being shot by citizens in other parts of the country have hurt recruiting efforts. Medlock said an improved economy goes hand-in-hand in the lowering of crime statistics. Medlock said he still needs 47 additional officers. However, due to retirements and other factors, Medlock will only net 6 new officers, even when the police academy graduates.

**ISSUES COVERED: Politics**

**Length: 16 minutes**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: August 30 @ 7:30am**

Former State Representative and Senator Margaret Dixon was our guest. Dixon said the delayed state budget is costing tax payers \$1.2 million and has been the second longest session in state history. Dixon blames the stand-off between the House and Senate, both of which are Republican controlled. Dixon is not pleased that the budget could possibly cut our teacher assistants from the school systems. She claims that cutting 8500 Teacher Assistants would be the largest lay-off in NC history. She said that driver education could also be cut. Dixon said the PWC charter bill is still sitting on Sen. Meredith's desk, and the issue needs to be put to rest. Dixon spoke about redistricting in North Carolina, and said it is very much a bi-partisan issue within both parties. Dixon spoke about the upcoming presidential election, and spoke about Donald Trump's "maverick appeal". Dixon said that his appeal is bringing out the ugliness in our own country. Dixon spoke about Hillary Clinton and her email controversy. Regardless of that issue, Dixon says she believes in Hillary Clinton and that she would be a good president. However, Dixon said she is waiting to see what Joe Biden does before casting her lot.

**ISSUES COVERED: Crime**

**Length: 11 minutes**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: August 30@ 7:41am**

WRAL news reporter Gilbert Baez spoke about the shooting of a reporter and her camera man this week in Roanoke, Virginia. Baez said that situations like that are always on the forefront of his mind. Baez spoke about the special relationship between a reporter and his camera person. He said that although he has to focus as a reporter, he also keeps a look out for both of them. Baez spoke about mental health issues some shooters have and how we need to pay attention to them early on before they become a problem. Baez said that WRAL decided how they were going to handle the three videos of the Roanoke shooting. The station showed the video right up to the point when the shooting was about to begin and

then froze it. They also decided not to show any of the video on their social media sites. Baez said that he and WRAL will not let the Roanoke incident change how they present the news. However, he did say that he would stress keeping an eye out for mental health issues with co-workers, their families and the public.

**ISSUES COVERED: Military**

**Length: 8 minutes**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: September 6 @ 7:30am**

E.J Snyder was our guest. E.J. is a survivalist who instructs at Fort Bragg and is former Special Forces soldier. He's also one of the stars on the Discovery Channel's "Naked and Afraid." Snyder talked about the wrap up show, Naked and Afraid XL, which was filmed in Columbia. He talked about one of his co-hosts, Hakeem Hassan of Fayetteville, who is a martial arts instructor and owns a local gym. Hakeem didn't make it through the entire show after suffering dehydration. According to Snyder, the hardest part of the show is battling the elements. The survivalist contestants are naked, and can only bring one item to help them through their mission. Snyder brought a knife. He also talked about his line of "Skull Crusher" knives. Skull Crusher is his nickname on the TV show. Snyder also spoke of the dangers of the show. He said it was especially difficult this time because of an encounter with deadly electric eels. However, he said they became a good food source. Snyder talked about a new TV show he is developing. He didn't give much information because it is still under wraps. Details will soon be available his website, Twitter and Instagram. Snyder is a Fayetteville resident, and does motivational speaking and survivalist training.

**ISSUES COVERED: Local Economy**

**Length: 9 minutes 23 seconds**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: September 6 @ 7:38am**

Dr. Hank Parfitt from the Lafayette Society was our guest, and spoke about the upcoming Lafayette Birthday Celebration on September 6. Fayetteville was named after Lafayette in 1783. Lafayette was a French nobleman who was just 19 years old when he came to America to volunteer his service to General Washington, and help America win its war for independence. Parfitt said that although many towns and cities in America are named after Lafayette, this is the only city with his namesake that he visited. Parfitt said the visit came in 1825, and the whole town turned out to give him a hero's welcome. According to Parfitt, the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry building still has the carriage that Lafayette rode in on his visit to Fayetteville. Concerning the celebration that will take place on September 6, Parfitt said there will be a tour of the Lafayette Trail, which includes all of the places he visited in Fayetteville, including the historic Cool Springs Tavern. The event will also feature a meal served upstairs at the historic Market House, a Revolutionary War reenactment, and a sidewalk sale in the downtown area.

**ISSUES COVERED: City Government**

**Length: 9 minutes 12 seconds**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: September 6 @ 7:47am**

City Manager Ted Voorhees was our guest and spoke about revamping the role of city inspectors to make the building process more business-friendly. He said that although the department is fully staffed, the efficiency is still lagging. Voorhees said he hopes to have it corrected and running in a timelier manner by the end of the year. He said some of the backlog is coming from state building codes. Voorhees said he favors the proposed Parks & Recreation Bond, and would like it to go before city residents by way of referendum. Voorhees said that Fayetteville needs more such amenities to help build tourism and promote Fayetteville as a great place to live. Voorhees said he thinks Fayetteville needs to be more competitive as a city to draw more residents. According to Voorhees, Fayetteville has the lowest bond debt of all major cities in North Carolina. He also discussed his recent annual evaluation by the City Council. Voorhees was awarded a salary increase, and the use of a city-owned vehicle.

**ISSUES COVERED: Crime**

**Length: 16 minutes**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: September 13@ 730am**

Fayetteville Observer reporter Paul Wolverton joined us to talk about a recent incident involving a student at 71<sup>st</sup> High School. A young man, who was the quarterback of the school football team, was arrested for “sexting” pictures to his girlfriend. The girl had originally sexted pictures of herself to the boy. He is 17, she is 16. Because of some strange law, or because of the interpretation of that law, the girl was charged with a sexting crime, but because of her age, she was also declared to be the victim because of her own photographs. The boy was also charged with texting. Because of the law, the boy could face jail time and would have to register as a sexual offender for the rest of his life. Wolverton said that statistics show that 28% of all teens engage in sending naked pictures to their boyfriends/girlfriends cell phones. To demonstrate how unusual this law is concerning sexting, Wolverton said that had the two teens had sex with each other, no crime would have been committed. However, because they chose to send pictures on their cell phones, they are being charged. The pictures were found when police asked the boy’s mother if they could examine his cell phone. Wolverton said that Cumberland County Moose Butler is not pleased with the law, but says he is charged with enforcing it.

**ISSUES COVERED: Politics**

**Length: 12 minutes**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: September 13 @ 7:46am**

Spring Lake Democratic Mayor Chris Rey spoke about his interest in a possible run for a U.S. Senate seat currently held by Republican Richard Burr. Rey said he has political aspirations beyond being mayor of Spring Lake. Rey gave some of his reasons for seeking a Senate seat, including what he called “class warfare” in politics. Rey said he wants to fight for the common, everyday Americans, who are currently represented by millionaires serving in Congress. Rey says these



politicians are disconnecting with the everyday citizen. Rey lamented what he said was the constant disregard for the middle class. He said the tax breaks go to the rich, and result in people staying on public assistance for too long. Rey talked about sequestration and how it hurts our Fort Bragg soldiers and the local economy. Rey was critical of Burr for initially voting to down-size the military, and now claims to be working to save the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Pope field. Rey says that Burrs initial vote backed the Secretary of the Air Force into a corner, and he result is the downsizing that is happening right now.

**ISSUES COVERED: City Government**

**Length: 17 minutes**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: September 20 @ 7:30am**

Fayetteville City Councilman Bobby Hurst was our guest. Hurst spoke about a controversial appointment to the PWC board at the City Council meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Hurst was not pleased. He accused others on the council of back room deals. Hurst is chairman of the appointment committee, who had selected Juanita Gonzales to take Lynn Green's spot on the PWC board. Mayor Robertson and Councilwoman Kathy Jensen were the deciding votes against the appointment. The council then appointed Evelyn Shaw despite the fact that Shaw's application was received that night, far removed from the deadline to apply. Both City Councilmen Jim Arp and Hurst felt the process had been corrupted by politics. Hurst also thought that his integrity as the appointment committee chair was compromised. He said there are firm deadlines in place for filing, but apparently no firm policy in effect. Hurst felt the council needed to stick with the deadline and have a process in place to vet all candidates. Councilman Ted Mohn told Hurst that he had never even seen Shaw's application. Hurst explained the reason that he did not grant Green another term on the board. He said that since Green sued the city and didn't attend many meetings, the council needed someone else who would watch out for the city's interests.

**ISSUES COVERED: City Government**

**Length: 9 minutes**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: September 20 @ 7:47am**

Fayetteville City Councilman Larry Wright was our next guest. Wright had a different opinion than Bobby Hurst. Concerning Hurst's allegations, Wright said there was no corruption or back room deals involved in the appointment of Evelyn Shaw to the PWC board. Wright said that anybody can be nominated from the floor, and that the council does not have to go with the recommendation of the Appointment Committee. Wright was asked why bother with an application deadline only to nominate someone from the floor? Wright said that Shaw's name had been circulating for months, although he agreed that the process needed to be tightened to avoid the same type of occurrence in the future. According to Wright, Councilman Hurst and Mayor Nat Robertson are angry simply because their candidate of choice was not appointed.

**ISSUES COVERED: Education**

**Length: 18 minutes 37 seconds**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: September 27 @ 7:30am**

Cumberland County Schools Superintendent Frank Till Jr. was our guest. Dr. Till spoke about problems for the school system concerning the state budget. Dr. Till said the proposed budget would fund teacher assistants (TA), the flexibility to use the money for other things, like teachers, was taken away. In the past, the money did not have to be used for the TA's, but could be used to hire additional teachers. Till said that option has been taken off the table. According to Till, veteran teachers are being cheated as well, because rather than a raise, they will get a \$750 bonus, the same as all state employees in North Carolina. Till said this has led to dissatisfaction among teacher ranks, and many have left, or are leaving the state. These teachers have been recruited from other states who offer a more lucrative financial package. Till said the school system and concerned citizens have been working to get teachers discounts at local businesses in the

community and some other perks so that the teachers will feel appreciated. Till said the state was not going to finance driver education through the schools. If that happens, the schools system will be forced to finance it themselves, or students would have to be charged a fee, making it difficult for financially disadvantaged families. Although the state doesn't want to finance the driver education program, it is a state requirement that schools offer the program.

**ISSUES COVERED: Crime**

**Length: 10 minutes 9 seconds**

**DATE/TIME AIRED: September 27 @ 7:48am**

Deanne Gerdes from the Rape Crisis Center was our guest. Gerdes said that the police department and the Rape Crisis Center recently received a state grant for cold case rape kits, something that she says are desperately needed. However, the grant led to an audit that found that more than 330 rape kits containing evidence were destroyed to make room for other evidence. Gerdes said that this was a major concern because it means that over 330 people would not see justice done on their behalf. Gerdes spoke about her frustrations and those of The Rape Crisis Center. She said there has been an increase in the number of sexual assaults, but domestic incidents have been ruled out as the cause of the increase. Gerdes talked about the trauma and lingering symptoms of rape and domestic abuse. She said sometimes victims don't report the rape until years later. Many are afraid of the stigma. She then gave suggestions for what men and woman should do if they are sexually assaulted. Gerdes highly recommends that victims contact the Rape Crisis Center in Fayetteville.