

WHQR Public Media
Wilmington, North Carolina
Issues and Programs Report, Q1, 2024
WHQR 91-3FM
Category
Government/politics

	Headline	Description	Program	Air date	Length
	NHCS financial officer: "It's going to be a difficult budget process this year"	At Wednesday's New Hanover County Board of Education agenda review, district officials laid some heavy news on the community — that there will be some larger cuts to the budget this year, which is mainly attributed to declining student enrollment and federal Covid relief funds drying up.	All Things Considered	4:04 p.m. January 4	1:27
	Holly Ridge town employee, who advocated for Holly Plaza tenants, fired for 'unapproved' media interview	Kimberly Frankenfield, a Holly Ridge employee who advocated for those impacted by the Holly Plaza mold crisis lost her job on Friday. According to a termination letter, she violated a gag order on town staff issued due to ongoing litigation.	Morning Edition	6:04 a.m. February 13	1:23
	A closer look at Leland's significant proposed tax increase	On Thursday, the Leland town council will be holding a public meeting to hear feedback on the proposed 70% property tax hike. WHQR dives into the reasons behind the tax hike and the impacts it would have on locals.	Morning Edition	7:04 a.m. March 22	0:55
Non-profits / Community organizations	New Hanover Community Endowment gives presentation to commissioners	At Monday's county commissioner meeting, New Hanover Community Endowment CEO William Buster gave an update on the Endowment's activities, and fielded questions about last month's round of grants.	Morning Edition	8:32 a.m. January 9	1:34
	Homeless Continuum of Care asks Wilmington and New Hanover County to only fund participating agencies	The move would bring the city and county in line with other local governments around the country, according to local service providers. But, notably, it would exclude Eden Village from city and county resources until it begins data sharing as other Continuum of Care organizations do.	All Things Considered	4:44 p.m. February 2	4:20
	The Dive: William Buster's abrupt exit from the New Hanover Community Endowment	Every week, WHQR's Ben Schachtman sits down with The Assembly's Johanna Still to talk about our joint newsletter, The Dive. This week, a surprising exit from the president of the New Hanover Community Endowment.	All Things Considered	4:44 p.m. February 10	4:33
Culture/Business	The Dive: Bucks and ballots, and a slippery social-media story	WHQR's Ben Schachtman sat down with The Assembly's Johanna Still to talk about our joint newsletter, The Dive. This week, a look at campaign financing for incumbents in the upcoming state-level elections. Plus, allegations about the owner of Edward Teach Brewing take social media by storm	All Things Considered	4:44 p.m. January 5	50:00:00
	The Dive: TikTok's Prince of Poverty	From this week's edition of The Dive, WHQR's Ben Schachtman and The Assembly's Johanna Still take a look at Thomas Cruz — an infamous former Wilmington landlord who spent years bragging to his social media audience about getting rich while exploiting both the federal government and poor tenants.	All Things Considered	5:44 p.m. January 19	4:33
	"Can we fire y'all?" Carolina Water Service meeting in Hampstead gets tense	Residents of Belvedere Plantation and Olde Point have complained about water quality and rates for several months. But a meeting with their water company on Monday didn't seem to alleviate those concerns.	Morning Edition	6:32 a.m. February 28	1:45
Environment/PFAS	CoastLine: Invasive plants are changing NC wetlands; soundscapes are helping scientists figure out how	Evolutionary Ecologist Stacy Endriss of UNCW's Environmental Sciences Department is exploring how invasive plants are affecting North Carolina wetlands. She's also looking at creative approaches — including biocontrol — for dealing with the impacts.	CoastLine	12:00 p.m. January 9	2:00
	New Hanover County sues over a dozen PFAS manufacturers, sellers	New Hanover County has filed a lawsuit against more than a dozen PFAS manufacturers, ranging from legacy chemical companies to smaller, firefighting foam companies.	Morning Edition	6:32 a.m. January 16	1:24
	CoastLine: Disappearing grasslands, major threat to biodiversity in coastal plain of SE NC	UNCW restoration ecologist Amy Long is rehabilitating local tidal marshes, grasslands, and savannahs. Strategic restoration can bring back biodiversity that was nearly lost, as evidenced by the New Hanover County Landfill property. Two dramatic examples: diverse butterfly populations and regular sightings of bald eagles.	CoastLine	12:00 p.m. February 1	50:00:00
Housing/Transportation	Dispatch: On the street with cops, social workers, and homeless people in a time of uncertainty	Last winter, the Wilmington Police Department started coordinating with social workers from New Hanover County to serve the homeless population downtown. A year later and after the closures of two major homeless encampments, WHQR's Kelly Kenoyer did a ride along with WPD to get an update.	Morning Edition	8:45 a.m. January 3	5:00

	The Dive: What role does politics have in Wilmington's coming traffic nightmare?	WHQR's Ben Schachtman sat down with The Assembly's Johanna Still to talk about our joint newsletter, The Dive. This week, a look at the politics behind the impending traffic disaster as repairs shut down the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.	All Things Considered	5:44 p.m. January 12	4:23
	A Castle Hayne church's affordable housing effort has been rejected by the NHC Planning Board	Last week, the New Hanover County Planning Board rejected plans for an affordable housing development in Castle Hayne. That's despite staff support for a plan that had been revised to work better with county guidelines.	Morning Edition	6:44 a.m. February 6	3:58
	WAVE mulls three options for 'reimagined' service while facing a \$880,000 budget shortfall	Since last summer, officials have been working on 'Reimagine WAVE Transit,' a short-range plan for public transit in New Hanover County. Buoyed for a time by federal pandemic relief funds, the transportation authority is once again facing a serious budget crunch, and the question of how to best serve the region. Will the short-range plan 'reimagine' public transportation, or leave the region with diminished service?	All Things Considered	5:44 p.m. February 15	3:51
Education	NHCS students to weigh in on controversial employees' standards of conduct policy	At Tuesday's New Hanover County Board of Education meeting, members voted to let a student organization weigh in on changes to the district's professional standards for employees. There was strong pushback from some board members, including a move by Josie Barnhart to disband the student group rather than hear from them.	All Things Considered	4:44 p.m. January 10	4:03
	Facing \$20-million shortfall, hundreds of positions could be cut from NHCS budget	On Monday's New Hanover County Board of Education budget work session, members got briefed on the worst-case scenario for staffing cuts.	All Things Considered	4:04 p.m. February 12	24:00:00
	State Sen. Michael Lee discusses last year's controversial education legislation	On this episode, Republican State Senator Michael Lee sits down to discuss two pieces of major education legislation: a significant expansion to the 'Opportunity Scholarship' program, and the Parents' Bill of Rights.	The Newsroom	12:00 p.m. February 16	2:00
Criminal Justice	New Community Justice Center aims to centralize services for victims of crime	On Thursday, the District Attorney's office along with other law enforcement partners held a meeting to announce the new Community Justice Center, slated to open in the Harrelson Center this summer.	All Things Considered	4:32 p.m. January 3	1:38
	NHCSO says additional training ordered, but no policy violations found after viral video claims wrongful detention	The YouTube video features footage taken by a man who appears to be detained by numerous New Hanover County Sheriff's Office deputies. They repeatedly ask for his name and identification, but the man declines, saying the deputies have given no grounds for suspicion and aren't charging him with anything.	All Things Considered	5:04 p.m. January 12	1:00
	How the justice system hurts, and helps, the homeless people in our community	In the past year or so in New Hanover County, we've seen public officials pushing back on the homeless population, even as it grows because of our housing crisis. As homeless individuals are pushed into the margins of the community, and into the woods, the justice system continues to interact with the unhoused. On this week's episode, we'll dig deep into the many ways the police, courts, and judges interact with the unhoused, in ways that help, and in ways that harm. It's an exploration of the criminalization of homelessness, and the consequences for everyone that	The Newsroom	12:00 p.m. January 12	2:00
	Court documents: Pender County commissioner candidate Joe Cina misled internal affairs as a NHCSO deputy	According to court filings from the Office of Administrative Hearings, Cina was "untruthful" when he was investigated by internal affairs while a deputy at the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office. Cina resigned from law enforcement in 2016 and later ran for Pender County Sheriff in 2018; he's currently making a second run for Pender County commissioner. He called the initial reporting on the documents a "smear campaign."	All Things Considered	4:04 p.m. January 30	1:45
Healthcare	NHC holds first conference for critical crisis response	On Tuesday, New Hanover County held its first-ever annual Critical Response and Readiness Conference.	All Things Considered	4:32 p.m. March 5	1:29
	Courts dismiss CFCC student's claim she was mistreated, but there's more to the story	Earlier this year, a Superior Court judge dismissed a case brought by a nursing student against Cape Fear Community College and several other organizations, which alleged she was treated unfairly. But court documents, recordings, and interviews with the student show there's much more to the story — including evidence that CFCC both took action to remove two employees who were involved and tried to	All Things Considered	5:44 p.m. March 7	3:50
Diversity	Few answers on the future of Mosley at emergency Hispanic-Latino Commission meeting	On Tuesday, the New Hanover County Hispanic-Latino Commission called an emergency meeting to address the closure of the high school program at Career Readiness Academy, which serves a majority Latino population. But school district representatives had little information to	All Things Considered	5:04 p.m. January 3	1:15

[CoastLine: Breaking the News is a study on inclusivity for both film team and the news team at The 19th*](#)

Breaking The News was supposed to be a documentary about a new nonpartisan, nonprofit newsroom called The 19th*, started by two women who wanted to cover news at the intersection of gender, politics, and policy. But when The 19th* launched in early 2020, so did an international pandemic. The way the filmmakers had to film changed. And the story they thought they were telling also changed.

CoastLine

12:00 p.m. February 7

2:00