

WJHL-TV

News Channel 11

(Media General Communications Holdings, LLC)

Tri-Cities TN/VA

(Johnson City, TN)

Community Issues Report

4th Quarter 2015

October 1, 2015-December 31, 2015

1. Agriculture/Environment
2. Alcohol/Tobacco/Firearms
3. Crime
4. Education
5. Government
6. Health

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Pesticides

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 10.1.15

A major group of international obstetricians and gynecologists says dramatic increases in the use of toxic chemicals are threatening human reproduction and health. The organization says miscarriages and birth defects are among the long list of poor health outcomes linked to chemicals such as pesticides and air pollutants.

Boone Lake Levels

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 10.2.15

With several inches of rain forecast for much of our region this weekend, the Tennessee Valley Authority is taking precautions with Boone Dam. The TVA is lowering Boone Lake by an additional one and a half feet to its lowest point ever. TVA says this will ensure that there's room in the reservoir for the heavy rain and runoff that's expected over the next few days. It adds there is no risk of the dam giving way due to heavy rains and after the weekend storms pass, the water levels should return to where they have been over the past few months.

Holston River Pollution

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 10.2.15

The United States Army says a Kingsport ammunition plant must reduce pollution to safe levels by July 2020. The Tennessee Clean Water Network sued the Army and its contractor over the pollution last November. It claimed state regulators were not doing enough to stop illegal dumping of the explosive compound RDX into the Holston River, a waterway that's a source of drinking water. According to the lawsuit filed in 2007, regulators gave a contractor 5 years to reduce the permitted dumping levels for the explosive compound. At the end of those five years, the company was releasing more RDX rather than less. Today, a judge approved the agreement between the Army, the contractor and the nonprofit. The Army says it will spend \$80 million on upgrades to the plant.

BP Settlement

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 10.5.15

The Justice Department and five states have finalized a settlement of more than 20 billion dollars arising from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The deal, announced today, resolves all civil claims against BP and ends 5 years of legal fighting over the nearly 134 million gallon spill. The settlement finalizes an agreement first announced in July.

General Mills Recall

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.5.15

General Mills is recalling nearly 2 million boxes of cereal because the food it's concerned its products may not be gluten free as advertised. The company is recalling 1.8 million boxes of Cheerios and Honey Nut Cheerios. General Mills say the cereal is labeled gluten free but some issues at a California facility may have caused a flour contamination of the product. Customers with wheat allergies who may have bought the affected products are asked to call the company.

Water for Columbia, SC
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over -- Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.6.15

Search and rescue teams in South Carolina say there's a desperate need to get clean drinking water to people impacted by historic flooding. State officials say 15 people have died in the flooding in South Carolina. People in Columbia are being told to boil their water before they drink it. Here in the Tri-Cities, people are working to provide relief. Highlander BBQ in Roan Mountain raised more than \$800 this morning. Employees used the money to purchase water at Sam's Club Store. Now, they will transport it to South Carolina.

Boone Lake
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over -- Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.6.15

Construction crews are getting ready to start an historic repair effort aimed at saving Boone Dam. Last year, the Tennessee Valley Authority said it found a sinkhole at the base of the dam. This past summer, TVA announced water is seeping under and through the earth-filled part of Boone Dam and repairs would take at least 5 years. Engineers ordered the lowering of Boone Lake to protect people downstream. Today, TVA said construction crews removed light poles to make way for a work platform that will be needed for future construction. TVA says grouting work is being done around the original sinkhole found one year ago. TVA plans to drill holes in the dam, fill the holes with grout, and then construct a massive concrete wall to stop the flow of water.

Washington Co. VA Litter
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.17.15

The Washington County, Virginia Sheriff's Office says in about a year's time, it's cleaned thousands of pounds of trash from the roads. Between October last year and September this year, the sheriff's office used jail inmates to clean roads in rural areas. The sheriff's office says more than 73 hundred bags of trash have been collected. Sheriff Fred Newman says the inmates also found more than 13 hundred tires.

Scott County Dirty Ranking
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.18.15

A website known for highlighting specific characteristics about a state has given a bad rating to a county in the Tri-Cities region. Scott County, Virginia has been named the dirtiest county in the state by onlyinyourstate.com for high levels of air pollution. The website says it gave the ranking based on air quality data from federal health officials. The data was gathered in 2011.

Surgoinsville Sewage Leak

Length: :40

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.20.15

State officials helped the Town of Surgoinsville clean up sewage overflow. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation says it got word of the sewage overflow on Main Street October 13. Town officials told the state a tractor ran over a sewer box causing an undetermined amount of sewage to leak into the Holston River. State agents estimated the overflow from the sewer box to be around 5,000 gallons. A contractor cleaned up the overflow. The state said it has not seen an impact on aquatic wildlife and the sewage line has been repaired. The state considers the incident to be resolved.

Boone Dam Environmental Impact

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 10.23.15

Starting next week, you will have the chance to give feedback on an environmental report about the Boone Dam repair project. Before crews can start the major work of fixing the seepage problem, a federal law requires an environmental assessment to be completed. It will give an in-depth look at repair options that are on the table and the environmental consequences of those options. If you think the Tennessee Valley Authority overlooked something you can let officials know. The report on the project's environmental impact will be released Wednesday on the TVA website. A public hearing will be held November 5th at Daniel Boone High School.

Boone Dam

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 10.27.15

The Tennessee Valley Authority says area contractors will continue working 10 our days for the remainder of this week to remove material from the top of the earthen embankment of the dam. The goal is to lower the crest of the dam's embankment by 10 feet. This will give crews a larger area to support drilling and grouting work. TVA adds that sinkhole repair is complete.

TVA Environment

Length: 1:15

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 10.28.15

This evening, TVA released a key study that talks about how repairs to Boone Dam will impact the environment. You can find a link to the report on wjhl.com. Last year, TVA discovered water flowing underneath and through the dam. TVA lowered Boone Lake to below normal levels to assess the problem. The lake will remain that way for 5 to 7 years while repairs are made. The assessment details how those repairs will impact our surroundings. TVA details air quality, water quality and ground quality in the report.

Beef Recall
Length: :35
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.2.15

A meat company based in Nebraska is recalling more than 167,000 pounds of ground beef that might be tainted with E. coli bacteria. The U.S. Department of Agriculture said All American Meats Inc. is recalling the meat that was sold to retailers nationwide. The recalled beef was produced October 16 and was sold in 60 or 80 pound packages.

Volkswagen
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.2.15

Volkswagen cheated on emissions test for a second time. That's the word from the United States Government. The Environmental Protection Agency says the German automaker installed software designed to cheat emissions tests on 2014 to 2016 vehicles with 3-liter, 6-cylinder diesel engines. The EPA says the software has a timer that makes cars perform differently when being tested than they perform on the road. The violation covers about 10,000 vehicles. The automaker acknowledged rigging emissions test for 4-cylinder diesel engines.

Virginia Turkey
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.4.15

New agricultural statistics out of Virginia show there will be plenty of turkeys to go around this holiday season. The Virginia Department of Agriculture says the number of turkeys produced in the Commonwealth this year is expected to total 17.4 million. That's up 4% from last year.

Deer Checks
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.4.15

The TWRA is urging hunters to bring deer to check-in stations so it can gather critical data. Wildlife agents say this is how the agency keeps up with the deer population. Deer management recommendation and decisions are also made using this data. TWRA says you need to bring any harvested deer to a check-in station this Saturday.

TWRA Kills 4 Bears
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.4.15

State wildlife agents say they had to kill 4 bears that posed a serious threat to humans. TWRA euthanized the bears Monday night in Gatlinburg because of aggressive behavior. This particular group of bears was responsible for more than 80 calls between TWRA and the Gatlinburg Police Department. TWRA says it only resorts to this extreme when bears show repeated aggressive behavior.

Another Leak at Boone Dam

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Josh Smith

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 11.4.15

Tomorrow the Tennessee Valley Authority will hold a public hearing on its plan to stop water from moving through Boone Dam. Last year, TVA first detected water moving through the earth portion of Boone Dam and rapidly lowered the lake to keep people safe downstream. This past summer the utility said it would take 5 years and \$300 million dollars to fix the problem. Last week TVA issued an environmental assessment of the Boone Dam repair. The report includes new information about the project, including more details about TVA's on-going monitoring of a second area where water is moving through the dam. It's on what's called the right rim of the dam and TVA calls it a potential problem for the dam's long-term performance.

Restaurants Cage-Free

Length: :20

Format: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 11.5.15

Another restaurant chain is changing what type of eggs it serves its customers. Panera Bread announced it will stop purchasing eggs from cage-confined hens. Other restaurants that have joined the movement include McDonald's, Subway and Starbucks. Panera's goal is to be 100% free of caged eggs by 2020.

Christmas Trees

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: Noon

Air Date: 11.9.15

The Virginia Department of Agriculture wants you to buy your Christmas tree local. The department's 2015 Virginia Grown Christmas Tree Guide lists growers alphabetically by county. The listings include varieties of trees for sale, services offered, hours of operation and directions. Find the guide online at Virginia Grown dot com.

Deer Crashes

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 11.13.15

The Tennessee Highway Patrol is issuing a warning to drivers: be on the lookout for deer. THP says fall is the worst time for deer-related crashes because of deer mating and hunting seasons. Last year, Tennessee reported more than 6400 deer-related crashes, a nearly 4% increase from 2013.

Deer Season
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.16.15

This Saturday, deer gun season opens in Tennessee. This season there will be a two deer statewide bag limit for antlered deer. The number includes those taking during the archery only, muzzleloader and gun seasons. No more than one antlered deer may be taken per day toward the limit.

Taco Bell Eggs
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 11.17.15

Taco Bell is switching to cage-free eggs. By 2017, the fast food chain's 6,000 locations will only use eggs from free-range chickens. The move comes as customers demand healthier and more sustainable food options.

Landfill
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 11.17.15

A public meeting is underway in Blountville on the proposed expansion of the Eco-Safe Landfill. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is taking comments from the community on its tentative decision to allow a more than 100 acre expansion to the landfill in Blountville. The expansion would be at Eco-Safe's current location on Harr Lane.

Boone Lake Levels
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.17.15

The Tennessee Valley Authority is responding to the forecast. Since heavy rain is expected in the region, TVA announced today it is lowering Boone Lake another 2 feet. TVA says the move is to ensure the safety of those on Boone Lake and downstream. Once the storm system moves through the region and flooding risks reduce, TVA will return Boone Lake to its previous level. Boone Lake is already below normal as a safety precaution. TVA found water seeping under the dam. The agency hopes to start a five-year repair effort in the spring.

Johnson City Farmers Market
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.18.15

A \$1.7 million project appears is set for completion by the end of the year. After some delays, the new Johnson City Farmers Market is coming together. City officials say this new facility will add more than 100 new parking spaces to the downtown area when it's finished. The facility is scheduled to open in mid-December.

Genetically Modified Salmon

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 11.19.15

The Food and Drug Administration has approved genetically modified salmon, the first altered animal for human consumption in the United States. The Obama Administration has stalled for more than 5 years on deciding whether to approve a fast-growing salmon. By altering genetic materials, scientists have proposed animals that would be bred to be disease-free, cleaner in their environments or grow more efficiently. Opponents of the technology have taken advantage of increasing consumer concern about genetically modified foods and have urged several major retailers not to sell it.

Capitol Tree

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Regan Russell

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 11.20.15

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in the Nation's Capital. Direct from Alaska, the Capitol Christmas Tree arrived in Washington, D.C. this morning. The Capitol Christmas Tree is a Washington tradition that dates back to 1964. But this is the first tree to come from the 49th state and the first one to travel some 4,000 by boat and truck. Thousands of ornaments made by children and others from Alaskan communities will adorn the tree. This year's tree lighting is scheduled for 5pm Wednesday, December 2.

Thanksgiving Cost

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 11.20.15

Your Thanksgiving dinner will cost less this year. The Virginia Farm Bureau says a traditional meal for 10 adults with turkey and the trimmings should cost around \$44.52 compared to \$46.45 last year. The price includes dressing, sweet potatoes, rolls, peas, and cranberries, a tray of carrots and celery, milk and pumpkin pie with whipped cream. The price varies, depending on where you shop.

Nuclear Landfill Concerns

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 11.22.15

Officials in east Tennessee have growing concerns about the U.S. Department of Energy's plans for a new nuclear landfill in Oak Ridge. Some of the concerns are that having more radioactive waste could tarnish the town's image. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is pushing the Department of Energy to consider other oak Ridge sites. The ideal site is adjacent to an existing landfill on a government reservation which sits just 650 yards from the city boundary. As the current landfill approaches capacity, the Department of Energy says opening a new landfill in Oak Ridge rather than ship the waste to other states will save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and minimize the transportation risks.

Jacob's Nature Park
Length: 1:30
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte – Graphic
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.22.15

A Johnson City man is organizing an event to raise money for a project that is not only near and dear to his heart; he also says it will benefit the city as well. Bill Francisco lost his son, Jacob, 12 years ago after he contracted e-coli. He said he wanted to create this park because Sinking Creek has a high amount of e-coli in its waters. The city set aside this property for Jacob's Nature Park after Francisco told the city he wanted to clean the land up. He hopes to create a pavilion with a living roof on the site and maintain the wetlands to continue to filter the water that runs through it. Francisco is planning a fundraiser at ETSU in January and is getting help from Detroit Tigers pitcher and Johnson City native Daniel Norris.

Kissing Bug
Length: 2:00
Format: Graphic – Package
Reporter: Curtis McCloud
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.24.15

Some say a South American bug has made its way to the United States. It's called the Kissing Bug. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention says the bug is rare, but it can carry a parasite that can cause a deadly disease. We found out, so far, there's no serious concern in the Tri-Cities region. Local health officials told us they have never heard of the bug, but they say they are trying to learn more. It is also called the Triatomine Bug. It's been spotted in Georgia and South Carolina. Experts at Leo's Pest Control told us they are doing research because they have never seen one. The CDC says if you spot a bug you think is a Kissing Bug, trap it and call your local health department.

Fossil Site Discovery
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 12.1.15

Paleontologists at East Tennessee State University report a huge find at the Gray Fossil Site. They are ecstatic about the discovery of a mastodon because paleontologists know very little about the elephant-like mammal in eastern North America. Officials with the Gray Fossil Site say the skeleton, which includes tusks, skull, teeth and vertebrae, has the potential of filling significant gaps in our understanding of their evolutionary history. They are thrilled to have it at the museum. Excavation of the rest of the skeleton is expected to begin next year. Fossil Site officials say their findings suggest they will be unearthing an entire skeleton. It's a project that could take years.

Gump Addition Birds
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Allie Hinds
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.1.15

Efforts will resume tomorrow night to kick out thousands of unwanted visitors taking roost in one of Johnson City's historic neighborhoods. Last year, Johnson City paid the U.S. Department of Agriculture roughly \$6,000 to spearhead a so-called bird harassment blitz designed to send thousands of birds packing. Just a few days after the blitz, USDA officers counted at least 3,000 birds back in the neighborhood. Neighbors are hopeful this year's efforts will kick the birds out for good. The bird harassment will start an hour before sunset each day through Friday.

Old Hospital Demolition**Length: 1:05****Format: Voice Over****Reporter: Shira Evans****Show: 7pm****Air Date: 12.15.15**

A well-known building in the Tri-Cities is being demolished, but it looks like a problem could soon come crashing down. Today, crews tore down a portion of the former Johnson City Memorial Hospital. TruPoint Bank owns the building on West Fairview Avenue. The bank issued a statement today saying the land will be reclaimed and transformed into a green space and parking area for downtown. A spokesperson for the city of Johnson City says while the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation was given for the demolition, the city must green-light the project and issue any required permits. The city says a permit has not been issued and a codes enforcer will visit the site tomorrow.

Former Hospital Demolition**Length: :30****Format: Voice Over****Reporter: John Price****Show: 11pm****Air Date: 12.16.15**

Demolition of a Johnson City landmark halted this afternoon. One day after crews started tearing down the old Johnson City Memorial Hospital, a city codes enforcer stopped demolition because the company did not have a permit for demolition. The owner of the building, TruPoint Bank, says it wants to level part of the building for a greenspace and nursing home. The state gave its okay for demolition to proceed, but a spokesperson for the city said no permit had been issued. No word on when demolition will resume.

Boone Dam**Length: :30****Format: Voice Over****Reporter: Karissa Winstead****Show: 5pm****Air Date: 12.22.15**

It may be almost Christmas, but there is still work going on at Boone Dam this week. Equipment is now in place for the test grout mixing process to begin at the new group plant. Low mobility grout will be tested first, followed by high mobility grout testing next week. Both types of grout will be used in the dam repair process. This will be the first grout testing at the new plant. A drill rig is scheduled to perform the first test directly on the dam's earthen embankment in the coming weeks.

Nature Park Fundraiser**Length: :45****Format: Graphic – Voice Over****Reporter: Karissa Winstead****Show: 5:30pm****Air Date: 12.22.15**

In just a few weeks, Detroit Tigers Pitcher Daniel Norris will participate in a fundraiser for an outdoor classroom at a local park. The fundraiser for Jacob's Nature Park at Sinking Creek is set for January 9th at East Tennessee State University's D.P. Culp Center. The park's name was chosen by the Johnson City commission to honor 6-year old Jacob Francisco, who died in 2004 after 2 weeks of suffering the effects of E.coli. ETSU says Boone Watershed Partnership has taken a lead role in lowering the E.coli content of Sinking Creek and building a hiking bridge over the creek. Future projects include building a large, covered, outdoor classroom devoted to environmental studies.

Full Moon**Length: :25****Format: Voice Over****Reporter: Shira Evans**

Show: 7pm
Air Date: 12.22.15

NASA says the last full moon of 2015 will take place December 25th. Its peak should take place just after 6am eastern time. The rare site is called a full cold moon because it shows up during the beginning of winter. A full moon has not appeared on Christmas Day since 1977. It will not happen again for another 19 years.

Dog Flu
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.22.15

A Tri-Cities animal clinic says it has seen no cases of dog flu in the Tri-Cities. We reached out to Cherokee Animal Hospital in Johnson City. Officials there told us they have not received any cases at their facility and have not received word of reports nearby. The hospital says if you are traveling over the holiday season, you can get a flu shot for your dogs. Veterinarians say reports of dog flu are increasing around the country, with most cases coming from Chicago. The symptoms of the virus in dogs are similar to humans.

Johnson City Sinkhole
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.24.15

Maintenance crews believe heavy rain caused a sinkhole near a busy Johnson City road. On North State of Franklin Road, Johnson City Public Works shut down the far right lane at the intersection of Med Tech Parkway. City engineers say when concrete plants reopen next week, they will take another look at the site to make a permanent fix. Drivers can still turn onto Med Tech Parkway, if needed.

Christmas Tree Drop-Off
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Callie Durham
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.27.15

The Johnson City Solid Waste Division will accept your Christmas Tree for recycling. You can bring your trees to the parking lot at Winged Deer Park near the boat ramp. Officials advise all decorations are removed prior to drop off. You have until January 9th to drop off your tree. Johnson City residents can also take their tree to the curb, and it will be picked up during regular brush collection.

Sinkhole Update
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Regan Russell
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 12.28.15

Johnson City Public Works officials met with an engineering team to see what the next step is to permanently fix a sinkhole on North State of Franklin Road. Crews filled the hole with dirt and removed the light pole that used to stand at the site. No word on when a permanent fix will begin to take place. The turn lane on North State of Franklin road is closed until the hole is permanently repaired.

Sewage in Boone Lake**Length: 1:30****Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte****Reporter: John Price****Show: 11pm****Air Date: 12.29.15**

Raw, untreated sewage appeared to flow freely in Boone Lake tonight. The sewage appears to be from a decades-old Bluff City sewage pump station. The town says the pump fails when the area receives lots of rain. The town has plans to replace the pump station this summer. A public works official said earlier today the department had no evidence of sewage flowing in Boone Lake.

Boone Lake Update**Length: :45****Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte****Reporter: John Price****Show: 11pm****Air Date: 12.30.15**

City leaders in Bluff City say they are coming up with a quicker fix for sewage problems at Boone Lake. Bluff City's Public Works Department says crews are putting in a temporary pump which should stop the sewer from overflowing. Crews hope to have a new pump station up and running by the end of June.

Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms

Oregon Shooting – Local Lawmaker Reaction

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over - Graphic

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.2.15

Tennessee Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey said in a Facebook post today that "Fellow Christians" should consider getting a handgun carry permit after the mass shooting on an Oregon college campus. Survivors told authorities the gunman demanded some of the victims state their religion before shooting them. The Blountville republican went on to say he believes "It is better to have a gun and not need it than to need a gun and not have it."

Gun Control Debate

Length: :55

Format: Voice Over -- Sound Byte

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.3.15

During a campaign stop in Franklin, Tennessee today, Donald Trump addressed his position on gun control. Trump is suggesting arming teachers in the wake of Thursday's mass shooting at a community college in Oregon. At today's campaign rally, the republican Presidential hopeful reminded the crowd that the campus was a gun-free zone and alluded to that being part of the problem. Trump also vowed to uphold gun rights while attacking calls for more gun control.

Kingsport Oktoberfest

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.3.15

The rain didn't keep folks from enjoying local craft beer at the Fifth Annual Kingsport Oktoberfest. Festival organizers set up more than 40,000 square feet of tents to help people stay dry. Despite the weather, organizers report a successful festival.

Craft Beer

Length: 1:30

Format: Package

Reporter: Karissa Manis

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.7.15

Some craft beers are in short supply, and fans are willing to go to great lengths to get their hands on a rare brew. Fans of Heady Topper lined up early and waited hours at a Vermont Grocery store to get their hands on the beer that received a rare, perfect score from Beer Advocate. Heady Topper is the dream creation of Brewer John Kimmich. He and his wife distribute just 2,000 cases a week, only to nearby bars and stores. The craft beer movement sweeping the nation produced a craze within a craze for the hardest to get beers. In California, people are crazy about Pliny the Younger. In Florida, people want Mariana Trench Beer.

Gua Proposal

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over -- Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.8.15

Several Senate Democrats are pushing Congress to pass new gun laws. Two of those Senators are from Virginia. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner helped lead today's effort. The proposed legislation would focus on strengthening existing background checks to identify and block purchases by dangerous people. Senators Kaine and Warner said with the recent Oregon college shooting and the on-air murders of two WDBJ reporters near Roanoke, Virginia, now is the time to act.

Red Wine for Diabetes
Length: 1:36
Format: Package
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.12.15

A new study finds red wine can improve the cardiovascular health of people with type 2 diabetes. The study is published in the Annals of Internal Medicine. It says a daily glass of red wine may actually help people with type 2 diabetes. Over a two year period, it resulted in lower blood sugar and a decreased development of heart disease. It also modestly increased levels of good cholesterol and lowered overall cholesterol.

Wine Trail
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.13.15

The Thunder Road Wine Trail includes six wineries that stretch from Knoxville to Copperhead Road in Butler. You are invited to toast the trail's newest addition, Watauga Lake Winery. A ribbon cutting celebration will take place at the winery this Saturday at 11am. The event will feature a car show, music, food and wine tastings. Watauga Lake Winery is located on Big Dry Run Road in the Old Big Dry Run School.

Beer Trail
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over -- Sound Byte
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.13.15

The booming brewery business in the Tri-Cities region gives birth to the nation's first multi-state craft beer trail. Today, officials with the Kingsport, Johnson City and Bristol Convention and Visitor Bureaus joined together to unveil the Brewly Noted Beer Trail. Nine local breweries will make up the one of a kind experience for craft beer enthusiasts. Once you visit each of the 9 breweries on the trail, you get a Brewly Noted t-shirt. Sign up at brewlynotedbeertrail.com.

Active Shooter Drill
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over -- Sound Byte
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 10.15.15

Recent mass shootings at schools and movie theatres across the country have sparked caution in area governments. Today, the Washington County Sheriff's Office conducted an active shooter situation at the courthouse in Abingdon. The exercise was in real time. The pretend shooter

entered the building at 11 this morning and multiple agencies responded. In the drill, there was a lone shooter and several deaths and injuries. People were taken out on stretchers, officers shot blanks and they even held fake press conferences to update people on the "situation." The goal was to see any weak links in the system and plan, in case anything like this happened in our area.

Arming University Faculty
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over- Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.15.15

A Tennessee republican says he may write up a bill to allow workers at universities and colleges to arm themselves if they have a permit. Senator Mike Bell of Riceville discussed the possibility tonight at the State Capitol. Senator Bell added that he is considering a similar bill that would allow students to be armed with permits at a private college or university.

Anti-Tobacco Campaign
Length: :35
Format: Sound Byte – Voice Over
Reporter: Phillip Murrell
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 10.16.15

Today, the Tennessee Department of Health launched a new campaign to combat tobacco use in the Tri-Cities region. It's called "Don't Start." Today the Commissioner of Health joined Tri-Cities leaders in the campaign kickoff. The program encourages a healthy lifestyle and encourages local governments and schools to ban tobacco use.

Virginia Gun Legislation
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over – Graphic
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 10.16.15

You can no longer bring a gun, even with a permit, into state government buildings in Virginia. Governor Terry McAuliffe signed an executive order to limit where people can openly carry a gun saying he wants to keep guns out of dangerous hands. Southwest Virginia Senator Ben Chafin said by creating gun-free zones, the Governor is creating targets for criminals.

Tennessee Gun Legislation
Length: 1:30
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 10.16.15

Recent shootings at colleges across the country put a spotlight on security and sparked debate about guns on school campuses. Now, Tennessee lawmakers joined the discussion. They are considering legislation that would allow faculty and employees at Tennessee's public higher education institutions to be armed if they have a handgun carry permit. Representatives from the University of Tennessee do not agree with the measure. Current law allows non-students to have guns in their vehicles, but they are not allowed to carry them on campus. Tennessee's legislative session begins in January.

TN Gun Legislation
Length: :50

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.17.15

Tennessee lawmakers say it is guaranteed we will see more gun legislation for the upcoming session. Tennessee's lawmakers are discussing a bill that would allow faculty and staff at universities and colleges to be armed if they have permits. Senator Mike Bell of Riceville is one of the many lawmakers considering sponsoring the bill. Lawmakers are also considering a bill to allow students to also be armed.

Pregnancy and Drinking
Length: 1:30
Format: Package
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.19.15

The American Academy of Pediatrics has issued a new report that stresses no amount of alcohol is safe for pregnant women. It says abstaining from wine, beer and hard liquor is just common sense. Studies show women who drink in the first trimester are 12 times more likely to give birth to a child with behavioral or neurological issues. Drinking throughout pregnancy puts babies at 65 times the risk. Researchers say even small amounts of alcohol can increase the risk of fetal alcohol syndrome.

Countdown to Quit
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.20.15

Virginia's Department of Health is on a mission to get tobacco users to quit. It launched a campaign today to encourage those seeking to kick the habit. The campaign is called "Countdown to Quit." It offers a different tip to motivate you every day. Messages will be posted on the department of health facebook page.

Secondhand Smoke
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.22.15

There is growing evidence that secondhand smoke may contribute to tooth decay in young children. Japanese researchers studied more than 75,000 children. They found exposure to tobacco smoke at 4 months of age was associated with almost twice the risk of tooth decay in baby teeth.

Tobacco Sales
Length: :15
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.26.15

The American Academy of Pediatrics is now recommending banning sales of all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to people under 21. Doctors warn the growing popularity of e-cigarettes is threatening to addict a new generation of teens.

Smoking Age
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.26.15

A group of doctors wants to increase the legal age of smoking. The American Academy of Pediatrics wants to increase the age from 18 to 21. Only Hawaii and about 90 other cities and communities enforce the 21 age limit.

Gun Search
Length: :55
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.27.15

The search for a key piece of evidence in a triple murder investigation will resume tomorrow. Today, Washington County, TN investigators combed parts of the Nolichucky River, but came up dry. The focus of their search: a gun the suspect says he dropped off the Elbert Kinser Bridge on Highway 107 in Greene County. Investigators charged Daniel Henry with first degree murder in the shooting deaths of his parents and aunt.

Kaine Gun Legislation
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.28.15

A Virginia senator says the number of people killed by gunfire outnumbered fatal crashes in the state. That's why Senator Tim Kaine helped file a bill to change current gun laws. The "Background Check Completion Act" would close the loophole that allows a gun sale to proceed even if a background check is not completed within 72 hours. If the bill passes, the gun buyer must go through a completed background check.

Alcohol Sales
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.29.15

Alcohol sales hit a record for the 17th consecutive year in Virginia. The Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control says gross sales totaled 848 million dollars in the fiscal year ending June 30. That's nearly 48 million dollars more than the previous year.

Guinness Beer
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.5.15

Guinness is making some changes. The beer maker is changing its 256 year old method for making beer. It is changing so vegans can enjoy it. Next year, Guinness says it will swap out a gelatin made from fish used to filter yeast with an animal free version.

Alcohol Abuse
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.11.15

New research from the American Heart Association links alcohol abuse to a 70% increased risk of congestive heart failure. Researchers say the link is especially strong among adults under 60 and those without high blood pressure.

Smoking Record Low
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.17.15

Fewer Americans are smoking cigarettes. New government statistics show the number has declined by about 10% over the past 18 years. The study found just 15% of Americans currently smoke. Researchers say the reduction is due to smoking bans, increasing costs of cigarettes, awareness campaigns and improved access to tools that can help smokers kick the habit.

Great American Smokeout
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.19.15

Smokers, if you're trying to kick the habit, today is a great day to do it. Today is the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout. It takes place each year on the 3rd Thursday in November. About 42 million Americans still smoke cigarettes and tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of disease and premature death in the United States. By quitting, even for one day, you will be taking an important step toward a healthier life.

ABC Stores Virginia -- Black Friday
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.19.15

To ensure your holiday season is filled with spirits, Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Stores will again offer discounts on Black Friday. On November 27, all its stores will offer 10% off any in-store purchases totaling \$50 or more before taxes. It will take 15% off for purchases of at least \$75. Lottery tickets and gifts cards are excluded.

Studio Brew Opening
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.20.15

A new microbrewery opened in Bristol, Virginia today. Studio Brew cut the ribbon on its newest establishment. The place Studio Brew calls home used to be a photography studio. It is located on Moore Street in downtown Bristol. It opens 11 tomorrow morning.

Johnson City Police Patrols
Length: :20
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.27.15

Johnson City police are continuing their efforts to bust anyone for driving under the influence. The police department will hold driving under the influence enforcement this weekend. Funding from the State of Tennessee will pay for the overtime. Officers arrested 6 people last year in Johnson City for driving under the influence during the Thanksgiving holiday period.

Cigarette Tax
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.1.15

Higher taxes on cigarettes may be responsible for a lower infant mortality rate. That's according to a new study from Vanderbilt University. Researchers say for every dollar tax increase on a pack of cigarettes, there were 750 fewer infant deaths per year across the country.

Gun Legislation
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.4.15

The Senate voted against expanding background checks for more gun purchases, rejecting the proposal a day after the latest U.S. mass shooting that left 14 people dead in California. It would have required background checks for all gun purchases online and at gun shows. Currently, the checks are only required for transactions from licensed gun dealers.

Gun Stocks Soar
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 12.8.15

President Obama's demand for more gun control has been good news for gun stocks. Shares of Smith and Wesson and Sturm, Ruger jumped more than 5% Monday. In fact, both companies have seen double-digit stock hikes since last week's mass shooting in San Bernardino, California. Mass shootings tend to boost U.S. gun sales, particularly when the President talks about addressing gun violence. Sunday, President Obama asked Congress to make it harder for people on the government's "No Fly" list to buy guns. He also said it should be harder for all Americans to buy assault weapons.

Electronic Cigarette Flavors
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.9.15

Researchers say a flavoring chemical linked to severe respiratory disease can be found in most electronic cigarettes. The Harvard University study says more than 75% of flavored e-cigarettes contain Diacetyl. That chemical has been linked to a debilitating respiratory disease known as "Popcorn Lung." The disease first appeared in workers who inhaled artificial butter flavoring from microwave popcorn. The study also found two related, potentially harmful compounds, in many of the tested flavors. The study's authors say the findings show that there's much to be learned about the dangers of e-cigarettes.

Gun Shows
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 12.10.15

Do local governments in Tennessee have legal authority to regulate gun shows at fairgrounds? Republican Senator Brian Kelsey, Chair of the Senate Judiciary, wants Tennessee's Attorney General to issue an opinion on the question. Senator Kelsey issued a request for the opinion today. Shortly after, the Tennessee Firearms Association applauded the senator's move.

Gun Sales
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 12.10.15

White House officials have said they are exploring closing the so-called "Gun Show Loophole" that allows people to buy weapons at gun shows and online without a background check. Now, President Barack Obama's advisors are finalizing a proposal that would expand background checks on gun sales without Congressional approval. The recommendations will include measures to expand background checks.

Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
Length: 1:05
Format: Voice Over -- Sound Byte
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 12.14.15

On the third anniversary of the fatal Sandy Hook shootings, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence held a rally today in front of NRA headquarters in Fairfax, Virginia. Among the speakers were Andy and Barbara Parker, parents of Alison Parker, a WDBJ reporter who was murdered on live television alongside her cameraman by a former disgruntled co-worker. Earlier this year, the Parkers urged lawmakers to pass legislation to strengthen background checks for gun purchasers.

Smoking Menopause
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.16.15

New research shows a link between smoking and early menopause. The study in the journal Tobacco Control found menopause arrived almost 22 months earlier for women who started smoking before they were 15 years old and a year and a half early for women who smoked at least 25 cigarettes a day. Women exposed to secondhand smoke over long periods of time also entered menopause a year early.

TN Anti DUI Campaign
Length: :35
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 12.16.15

The Tennessee Department of Transportation is paying millions of dollars on another attempt to educate the public about highway safety. This comes after getting rid of a campaign that drew criticism. Last week, the state hired Tuerff-Davis Environmedia, Inc. to oversee the Governor's Highway Safety Office Media Campaign. Earlier this year, the state apologized for the campaign that referred to girls looking hotter to men under the influence. The state took the ad down in July. Proposed work for the new campaign contract began December 9th and runs through December 2020.

Weekend Patrols
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.18.15

State troopers in Tennessee and Virginia are increasing their patrols this weekend. State officials in Tennessee say law enforcement will begin looking for impaired drivers tonight. Virginia State Police will do the same. Both states are kicking off a campaign for safe driving because of an increase in alcohol consumption this time of year.

Christopher Alexander Court Appearance
Length: :30
Format: Graphic -- Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.21.15

A man accused of setting off a pipe bomb at a prosthetics office has been deemed competent to stand trial. That's the decision today by a federal judge. Christopher Alexander pleaded not guilty to the charges against him. Investigators say there was an explosion at Victory Orthotics and Prosthetics on Knob Creek Road in Johnson City in July. Detectives said the investigation led to Alexander. A search of his home turned up two pipe bombs. His trial is set to begin in March.

Virginia Gun Permits
Length: 1:10
Format: Voice Over -- Sound Byte -- Graphics
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 12.22.15

Pretty soon, Tennesseans will not be able to carry concealed handguns in Virginia even if they have a permit. Today, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring announced the Commonwealth will revoke recognition of concealed handgun permits from 25 states including Tennessee and North Carolina. Herring says permit requirements in those states do not meet Virginia's standards. So, if you have a Tennessee or North Carolina permit, and you are caught carrying concealed in Virginia, police could take your gun. The change takes effect February 1.

Ramsey on Concealed Carry
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.23.15

Tennessee's Lieutenant Governor says the state may take action to stop recognizing concealed gun permits from Virginia. This comes after Virginia's top attorney said his state would stop recognizing Tennessee's. Tuesday, Attorney General Mark Herring said Virginia could no longer recognize the conceal carry permits of 25 states, including Tennessee. Lieutenant Governor Ramsey pointed out a part of Herring's announcement where he said the affected states would continue recognizing Virginia's permits. Today, Ramsey said if the agreement is not restored, lawmakers would seriously consider if Tennessee could still recognize permits from the Commonwealth. The change in Virginia's gun laws takes effect February 1.

Crowe on Guns
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.24.15

A Tri-Cities Senator says he expects gun laws to be brought up in the upcoming legislative session. Republican Senator Rusty Crowe says one big point of discussion will include guns on college campuses. Senator Crowe says he expects lawmakers to write up a bill that would not only allow guns on campus but would also allow administrators and teachers to bring guns to schools. Senator Crowe says concerns about terrorism are prompting people to call their legislators and demand more gun rights.

Tennessee Highway Patrol
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.30.15

State and local police are getting ready to bust anyone celebrating the New Year irresponsibly. State troopers are setting up for checkpoints across the state at this hour. THP says it is using "No Refusal" checkpoints beginning at Midnight and ending January 4. Troopers will be watching for those driving under the influence, checking for driver licenses and making sure you are buckled up. Troopers say they will be in Greene and Hawkins Counties over the holiday weekend.

Johnson City Police Patrols
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.30.15

The Johnson City Police Department is preparing to set up holiday checkpoints. The state awarded the department a grant to fund overtime. So far this year, police say they arrested 261 people for driving under the influence. During the 2014 New Year holiday weekend, Johnson City police arrested 5 people.

President Obama on Guns
Length: :20

Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.31.15

President Barack Obama is expected to expand background checks for gun sales next week. A gun control advocacy group got word from White House officials that the President is set to take Executive Action. The order would include measures to expand background checks for guns. The White House would not confirm an exact date for the order.

CRIME

Howard Hawk Willis
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.1.15

An attorney for a death row inmate convicted of murdering and dismembering teenage newlyweds says statements Howard Hawk Willis made to his ex-wife should not have been used against him. In 2010, a jury convicted Willis in the 2003 murders of Samantha and Adam Chrismer. Willis is appealing his conviction to the Tennessee Supreme Court. During a hearing today, Defense Attorney Kathleen Morris said Willis' ex-wife was working with law enforcement when she recorded him saying, "Yeah, I blew their brains out." Morris argued Willis' ex-wife was acting as an agent of the state and said Willis should not have been questioned by his ex-wife without an attorney present. Willis represented himself at trial and changed lawyers multiple times. Willis has raised 20 issues on appeal for the court to consider regarding his conviction and sentence.

Meth Lab
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.1.15

A Saltville couple is behind bars after police found a one pot methamphetamine lab in their hotel room. Police searched a room at the Knight's Inn on River Road in Chilhowie and found the lab. They arrested Joshua Burke and Rebecca Burke. Police later searched the couple's home on Lyons Cap Road and found 38 gas generator bottles behind the house.

Marijuana Arrest
Length: :20
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.1.15

A tip led police to 70 marijuana plants, packaged marijuana, and items to grow the drug at a home on Riverbend Drive in Saltville. Police arrested Charles Snodgrass. Police also confiscated several firearms from the home. Snodgrass is out of jail tonight on a \$5,000 bond.

Triple Murder
Length: 1:20
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte ~ Graphic
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour / Allie Hinds
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.3.15

A man accused of murdering three people in Washington County, Tennessee is behind bars in New Orleans. The Washington County Sheriff's Office issued a warrant for the arrest of Daniel Henry on three counts of first degree murder. Sheriff Ed Graybeal says deputies found three bodies inside a home in Jonesborough early this morning. Graybeal told us central dispatch got a call from California saying the suspect had called a friend to say he'd killed his family. Officers found Kenneth Henry, Melody Henry and Barbara Hammonds dead inside the Skyline Drive home. U.S. Marshals captured Henry at a New Orleans hotel. He's being held in the Orleans Parish Prison.

Sex Offender Arrest

Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.3.15

A registered sex offender is behind bars tonight. Johnson City police said he pitched a tent next door to a daycare. Officers said they found 53-year old Lemar Gipson living in a tent about 200 feet away from the property line of a daycare on East Oakland Avenue. Gipson is a lifetime registered sex offender and is not allowed to be that close to a school or day care center.

Unicoi Meth Bust
Length: :50
Format: Graphic – Voice Over
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.4.15

A traffic stop for a missing headlight landed one man behind bars for meth charges. Investigators believe this may lead them to other meth offenders. Officers with the Unicoi County Sheriff's Office discovered a meth lab in a man's car yesterday during the traffic stop. The investigation then led officers to his home on Tween Lane where they found three one pot meth labs. The Meth Task Force truck was called to the home to dispose of hazardous materials involved in the meth labs. The man is currently being held in the Unicoi County jail. Investigators say they are not releasing the man's name at this time because they believe this discovery could lead to at least half a dozen other arrests.

Daniel Henry Extradition
Length: :45
Format: Graphic – Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.5.15

A man charged with killing three people in the Tri-Cities will appear in a New Orleans courtroom tomorrow. The Washington County Tennessee Sheriff's Office says Henry faces three counts of first degree murder. Investigators say Henry is the prime suspect in the killings of Robert Henry, Melody Henry and Barbara Hammonds. Investigators found the bodies at a home on Skyline Road over the weekend. Federal agents arrested Henry in New Orleans Saturday night. He will appear in court tomorrow for his extradition hearing. Washington County Sheriff Ed Graybeal sent two of his officers to New Orleans this morning. Graybeal said it was still too early to know when Henry would return to Tennessee.

Walgreens Robbery
Length: 1:35
Format: Live – Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: John Price / Jordan Moore
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.5.15

For the third time in a month, police say a Johnson City Walgreens Pharmacy became the target of an armed robbery. The robbery happened just before 8:30 this evening at the Walgreens in Boones Creek. The store is at the intersection of Carroll Creek Road and North Roan Street. No injuries were reported in the robbery. No arrests have been made.

Henry Extradition
Length: :50
Format: Graphic – Voice Over
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 6pm
Air Date: 10.6.15

The suspect in a triple murder will make his way back to the Tri-Cities region, but tonight, it is still unclear when. The Washington County TN Sheriff's Office charged Daniel Henry with three counts of first degree murder after the bodies of his parents and his aunt were found in a Jonesborough home this weekend. Henry was captured by U.S. Marshalls in New Orleans, where he is being held on multiple drug charges. In court today, Henry waived extradition, meaning he agreed to be turned over to local investigators when he is released by New Orleans Police.

Northeast Correctional Center Assault

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.6.15

A Tennessee prison spokesperson said an inmate assaulted a counselor at the Northeast Correctional Center in Mountain City. The TN Department of Corrections told us a "medium custody" inmate and the counselor got into an argument. Officers separated the inmate from the other inmates, pending disciplinary action and prosecution for assault. The Mountain City Prison was placed on lockdown in July after an officer was injured in an attack. Two other prison officers in the state were hospitalized in August after attacks. Correction Commissioner Derrick Schofield told state lawmakers in August that violence in prisons had declined. Critics say a change in scheduling has caused staffers to leave, impacting prison safety.

Daniel Henry

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over – Graphic

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 10.7.15

Washington County, Tennessee deputies are heading back from Louisiana with more than a dozen bags of evidence compiled in the case of triple murder suspect Daniel Henry. 38-year old Daniel Henry will return to Tennessee within ten days. He is accused of murdering his father, mother and aunt at a home on Skyline Road in Jonesborough. He faces charges on three counts of first degree murder. Police arrested Henry in New Orleans. Police held him on drug charges. A judge dismissed those charges in court yesterday. Henry waived extradition, meaning he agreed to be turned over to authorities to return to Tennessee.

Walgreens Robbery

Length: 1:10

Format: Voice Over – Graphics

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.7.15

Police say the man who held up a Johnson City Walgreens Pharmacy earlier this week is the same man who robbed a Kingsport pharmacy just a few weeks ago. A man in full surgical uniform robbed Walgreens on North Roan Street in Boones Creek Monday night. He flashed a gun and demanded prescription drugs. Moments later, police said they found Christopher Fox across the street. Police said he ingested pills and was taken to the hospital where he remains tonight. Fox is the same man accused in a botched robbery attempt at CVS on West Stone Drive in Kingsport. Police said instead of a surgical mask, he disguised himself with calamine lotion. Fox was out on bond awaiting trial on charges when he and three others tried to rob the same CVS pharmacy this past May. Johnson City police told us they do not believe Fox is linked to two other Walgreens robberies that happened last month.

Maurcen McDonnell

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 10.8.15

Former Virginia First Lady Maureen McDonnell is asking an appeals court to suspend her case while the U.S. Supreme Court considers whether to review her husband's public corruption convictions. The U.S. Supreme Court issued an order in August saying former Governor Bob McDonnell could remain out of jail while the high court decides whether to review his case. The McDonnells were convicted last year of doing favors for a former vitamin executive in exchange for lavish gifts and loans. Both have been sentenced to prison but remain free on appeal.

Scott County Drug Charges

Length: :25

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.8.15

Southwest Virginia investigators arrested 5 people this week for drug related charges. The Scott County Sheriff's Office stopped a vehicle on Cliff Mountain Way in the Duffield area Tuesday. Investigators said it placed several charges on 5 suspects. The charges include the drug methamphetamine. All 5 are awaiting trial.

Rosenbalm Sentencing

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over - Graphics

Reporter: Allie Hinds

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.8.15

The former CEO of a Tri-Cities utility learned his punishment today for his role in a public corruption investigation. A judge sentenced former Bristol Virginia Utilities CEO Wes Rosenbalm to 33 months in federal prison. Rosenbalm previously pleaded guilty to defrauding the IRS and illegally soliciting gifts in connection to the federal BVU corruption investigation. Rosenbalm will also pay \$150,000 in restitution. Rosenbalm will spend 2 years on supervised release after he completes his prison term.

Lee County Warden Assaulted

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.8.15

Federal agents are investigating after the person in charge of a southwest Virginia prison was attacked by an inmate. The Lee County Virginia Federal Prison is on what's called a limited operational status. A spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Prisons told us the attack took place around 11 this morning at the Lee County Penitentiary. The spokesman said an inmate hit the prison warden in the head. The warden received a cut above his eye. The spokesman also told us an officer trying to separate the warden and the inmate received a minor shoulder injury. All 3 were sent to the hospital. The inmate was not harmed. The Lee County Prison will remain on limited operational status until the investigation into the attack is complete.

Former Town Manager Sentenced

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 10.9.15

He was once trusted to help lead the Town of Abingdon, Virginia, but a ten month investigation revealed the former Assistant Town Manager used a Town-issued credit card to go on a personal spending spree. William Garrett Jackson pleaded guilty to fraud charges and today received

his punishment of 2 years behind bars. Court documents show Jackson must also serve 2 years on probation following his time in prison. Jackson admitted to using a Town-issued credit card for personal expenses from 2007 to 2014. Jackson was ordered to make a more than \$76,000 restitution payment to Abingdon.

Attempted Murder Arrest

Length: 1:05

Format: Graphics

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.11.15

A traffic stop in Sullivan County leads to attempted murder charges. Investigators said a woman tried to drag an officer alongside her car. Around 12:30 Sunday morning, an officer with the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office tried to pull over Karen Smither after he saw her driving south on the northbound ramp to Highway 11E. When Smither pulled over, the officer says she only rolled down her window a few inches. When he asked her to roll it down all the way, she sped off. The officer chased her and stopped her again. Smither rolled her window down a few inches. When he reached in the window to open the door, Smither sped up, dragging him alongside the car. A second officer used his patrol car to push her car into a guardrail. Smither was arrested and charged with attempted murder, driving under the influence, evading arrest and speeding. The officer was not seriously injured.

McAllister's Robbery

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.11.15

Johnson City police are looking for the person who robbed McAllister's Deli Saturday night. Police said the robbery happened around 8:30. Witnesses told police a person with a gun walked into the deli on North Roan Street and demanded money. The suspect ran from the store with cash from the register. No one was injured in the incident.

Sullivan County Burglar

Length: :30

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.11.15

Investigators arrested four people suspected of breaking into a home in Kingsport this weekend. Homeowners told police they were asleep when the front door of their house was kicked in. They said 2 men pointed a gun at them and demanded money. The two men ran from the house. When deputies arrived, they found Amber Huskins and Kellie Lane hiding in a car near the home. David Whitson, Jr. and Walker Mosely were later arrested. All face aggravated burglary, robbery and vandalism charges.

Dollar General Stabbing

Length: :35

Format: Graphics

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.12.15

Kingsport Police charged a man for stabbing another at Dollar General. Investigators said it happened October 5 at the store on Lynn Garden Drive. Police arrested Jeffrey Hammonds. Hammonds also faces charges in Sullivan County involving several vehicle thefts.

Robert Denton Court Appearance
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over –Graphic – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.12.15

A man accused of killing three of his family members appeared in court today. The Sullivan County Sheriff's Office charged Robert Denton with the murders of his mother, step-father and grandmother at a Bristol, Tennessee home. Investigators said six children were inside the Hudson Road home when the murders happened in late August. After the preliminary hearing, the judge bound the case over to the grand jury.

Trevor Burton Sentence
Length: :40
Format: Graphic – Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 6pm
Air Date: 10.13.15

The man accused of firing a gun at people on a hayride in Hawkins County 2 years ago will spend 15 years in jail. Assistant District Attorney Ryan Blackwell confirmed Trevor Burton pleaded guilty to three counts of aggravated assault. During the incident, Hawkins County investigators said Burton fired shots at officers after they were called to a home in the Caney Creek Community where Burton fired at people on a hayride. Burton will be eligible for parole after serving 30% of his prison sentence.

Jamie Curd Parole
Length: :55
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.13.15

A man sentenced to prison for his role in the murder of a Mountain City couple will be in court next month. That's because he's already up for parole. Curd is one of 4 people accused in the murders of Billy Payne and Billie Jean Hayworth. Investigators said they were murdered after a social media dispute. Their deaths have become known as the "Facebook murders." Curd pleaded guilty to two counts of facilitation to commit first degree murder in the case. A judge sentenced him to 25 years and told Curd he must serve at least 30% of the time. Tonight, he's awaiting his parole hearing on November 19. Assistant District Attorney Dennis Brooks says Curd likely will not be granted parole this early. Barbara, Jenelle and Marvin Potter were sentenced to life in prison in the case. Their attorneys say they are seeking new trials.

McDonnell Appeal
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.13.15

Virginia's former Governor asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review his conviction on public corruption charges. Bob McDonnell argues that he never used the power of his office to help a businessman he knew. McDonnell and his wife were convicted for accepting \$165,000 worth of gifts and loans from a former vitamin executive in exchange for favors. Prosecutors are fighting Mrs. McDonnell's request to delay a hearing in her case while the U.S. Supreme Court considers whether it will review her husband's conviction.

Attempted Rape
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.15.15

Johnson City Police arrested a man they say tried to rape a woman in her home. Police charged 19-year old Austin Castle with aggravated burglary, attempted rape and assault. Police went to Terrace Court off South Roan Street early Thursday morning. The victim told police Castle tried to attack her but was stopped after a neighbor heard what was happening. Castle's bond is set at \$70,000.

Shook Hearing
Length: :50
Format: Graphic -- Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: Noon
Air Date: 10.16.15

A convicted sex offender accused of luring a 14-year old Hawkins County girl from her home will stand trial. Late this morning, a federal court judge in Greeneville ruled Benjamin Shook competent to stand trial. This morning the 41-year old appeared in court for the findings of a mental evaluation, requested by his attorney during his first court appearance in July. Shook is charged with failure to register as a sex offender. He pleaded not guilty.

Chinese Restaurant Robbery
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.17.15

The search continues for the armed robbers of a southwest Virginia restaurant. An employee of the Red Flower Chinese Restaurant in Big Stone Gap said two men with guns robbed the restaurant around 9:30 last night.

Cocaine Arrest
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.18.15

Johnson City Police arrested a man they say spit a baggie of cocaine out of his mouth. Police charged Emmanuel Korha with drug related crimes. They say they stopped Korha for a traffic violation early Sunday morning and found out he was actually wanted on a burglary charge. Police said they noticed something in his mouth and that's when he spit out a clear baggie of cocaine. He's in jail tonight awaiting a court appearance.

Hotel Burglary
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.18.15

Bristol, Tennessee police are investigating a burglary at a Tri-Cities hotel. Police say the thieves stole from an elderly woman while she was getting breakfast. Police say two men broke into the woman's room at the Hampton Inn on West State Street in Bristol. The victim found nearly \$600 in cash and two credit cards were missing from her room.

Teen Freezes
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over – Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.20.15

A Surionsville man who investigators say gave alcohol to a teen then left him on a porch where he froze to death will spend one year behind bars. Preston Bentley pleaded guilty to criminally negligent homicide in the death of 18-year old Jimmy Turner Cradic. Police found the teen's body outside a Burlington Road home in November 2013. Autopsy results revealed Turner-Cradic froze to death and had a blood alcohol content of .19. Bentley will be eligible for release after serving 30% of his sentence.

Daniel Henry Court Appearance
Length: :55
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.22.15

A man accused of killing his parents and aunt in Jonesborough appeared in court for the first time today. The Washington County Tennessee Sheriff's Office spoke before a judge today saying Daniel Henry should not be granted bond. The judge ruled in favor of that. Henry is charged with 3 counts of first degree murder. Investigators say he killed his parents and his aunt.

Cat Shot
Length: 1:30
Format: Package
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.22.15

People with a local humane society say it is one of the worst cases of animal cruelty they have ever seen. A cat, shot with a hunting arrow through the chest, was left to die. The Greeneville – Greene County Humane Society rescued the cat today. Now, the search is on to find the people responsible.

Dylan Hutchins Plea Deal
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 6pm
Air Date: 10.23.15

A rugby player accused of raping a 17-year old girl at a party in the Tri-Cities last year pleaded guilty. 22-year old "Dylan Hutchins is a rugby player for Western Carolina University. Investigators say the party happened in November last year. In January, a judge decided Hutchins should face 4 counts of aggravated rape. Hutchins pleaded guilty to one count of statutory rape as part of a plea deal last week. Hutchins will learn his punishment in January.

Officer Involved Shooting
Length: :50
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.24.15

Virginia State Police are investigating an officer involved shooting that happened early this morning in Scott County. Virginia State Police said deputies were called to a house fire in Dungannon after someone reported an armed man refused to leave the burning home. The VSP says as firefighters were battling the fire, 63-year old Gary Delp finally came to the front door of the home and started walking toward a deputy while carrying a gun. The deputy asked Delp to put the gun down and when he refused, the deputy shot him. The deputy was not hurt. Delp was flown to Holston Valley Medical Center in Kingsport. The VSP is working with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office on the case.

Road Rage
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Graphic
Reporter: Anisch Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.25.15

Police arrested two people this weekend after investigators say they smashed in another driver's windows with pumpkins. Police call it a road rage incident. Johnson City Police say officers responded to a road rage call at Wal-Mart on West Market Street after two people said another car tried to run them off the road. The alleged victims said the two suspects followed them into the Wal-Mart parking lot where the male suspect tried to get into the vehicle. Officers arrested Donnie Roggan and Azure Gouge. Roggan is charged with burglary of a motor vehicle, shoplifting, vandalism and public intoxication. Gouge is charged with driving under the influence, felony reckless endangerment and resisting arrest.

Sexual Battery Conviction
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.26.15

A Church Hill man will spend the next 35 years in prison for aggravated sexual battery of a child. A judge sentenced Charles Patton to 40 years in prison with 5 years suspended. Evidence from the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office revealed Patton sexually assaulted a child under the age of 13 on more than one occasion. Patton admitted to the crimes. He has been behind bars since December of last year.

New Trial Motion
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.28.15

A judge denied a new trial for two women convicted of murder and says he cannot stop an assistant district attorney from writing a tell-all book about the case. Today, Jenelle Potter returned to court. In May, a jury found Jenelle and her mother, Barbara Potter, guilty of first degree murder in the deaths of Bill Payne and Billie Jean Hayworth. The case gained national attention and became known as the "Facebook Murders." The defense says there was not enough evidence and the Potter women want a new trial. The defense also requested the judge stop the assistant district attorney from publishing a tell-all book about the case while appeals are pending. The judge denied both motions.

Kingsport Home Invasion
Length: :55
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.28.15

Police want to find the people responsible for home invasions in a Kingsport community. Police responded to a call around 3:45 this morning at Lee Apartments. The victim told police he opened the door after hearing a loud knock. On the other side, he said he saw several people with

guns. He said they eventually ran away. About an hour later, police returned to Lee Apartments. Two people said 2 men, armed with guns, came up behind them, forced their way into their apartment and demanded money. One of the suspects is accused of hitting one of the victims with a gun. Police identified Xavier Anderson and arrested him this afternoon. He's charged with robbery, kidnapping and burglary.

Indictment

Length: 1:15

Format: Voice Over – Graphic

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 10.29.15

A grand jury indicted a Tri-Cities region educator with child neglect. The indictment against Dr. Cherith Roberts was returned yesterday. Roberts surrendered to the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office. Tonight she is out of jail. The charge against Dr. Roberts stems from an investigation into an incident involving a 5-year old student at Holston View Elementary School in Bristol, Tennessee.

Hawkins County Murder Arrest

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 11.2.15

In May, someone murdered 79-year old Margaret Jack Sliger at her home in the Mooresburg community of Hawkins County. Investigators found the body of the retired teacher outside her home. They said she likely knew her killer. Today, Sheriff Ronnie Lawson announced a break in the case. Investigators charged a juvenile with the crime. No further information was released because the court issued a gag order in the case.

Harrison Sentencing

Length: :30

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 11.2.15

A convicted sex offender accused of attacking two Bristol, Virginia Police Officers will spend the next 5 years in prison. A judge sentenced Steven Harrison on Friday. Investigators say Harrison did not update his sex offender registration after he resisted arrest in Bristol and attacked two police officers in August 2014. Federal agents in Florida arrested him a few months later in November. Harrison was convicted for aggravated sexual assault of a minor.

Gwaltney

Length: :25

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 11.2.15

Investigators in Carter County arrested a man accused of several child sex crimes. The Carter County Sheriff's Office charged Mark Gwaltney with sexual exploitation of a child, sexual battery of a minor, and rape of a child. Detectives said they arrested Gwaltney after responding to a report in the Happy Valley Community. Gwaltney is in jail on a \$250,000 bond.

Child Neglect Charges

Length: :25

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.3.15

Church Hill police arrested a mother after investigators said her 2-year old son was walking by himself half a mile away from home. Police charged Paige Hall with child neglect. Investigators said a man saw Hall's son walking by himself on West Main Boulevard. Police said Hall told them she knew her son was missing and texted her mother to see if she had seen him. Hall's son is currently in the custody of a family member.

Greeneville Lockdown
Length: :35
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.4.15

A woman causes a lockdown at an area school system and that left her behind bars and without a job. Greeneville Police say 19-year old Abigail Ero was an assistant at one of the schools in Greeneville City. Officers say she told a school employee her husband made threats against her and others at Hal Henard Elementary. The schools were placed on lockdown as a precaution. Ero later admitted the story was not true. She is free on bond today. She is no longer employed by the school system.

Church Vandalism
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over – Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.5.15

The Unicoi County Sheriff's Office continues to look for whoever vandalized a Tri-Cities church last night. The damage all happened just before 7 on Marbleton Road at Marbleton Freewill Baptist Church. Authorities arrived to find what appeared to be spray paint on windows, doors and a side ramp. If you have information that could help investigators, call the Unicoi County Sheriff's Office.

Meth Bust
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11.7.15
Air Date: 11.7.15

Police in southwest Virginia say criminal charges are pending in a drug investigation that led to a meth bust in Pound, Virginia this weekend. The Pound Police Department says officers responded to a tip about drug activity at Mockingbird Lane. Police say when they got to the home, they found a one-pot meth lab on the front steps. Police got a search warrant for the home and once inside, they said they found two meth labs, four gas generators, other drugs and drug paraphernalia. Investigators say four people were inside the home at the time of the raid, three men and a woman. The investigation is ongoing.

Boyd Holder
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.9.15

A Kingsport pastor, accused of stealing thousands of dollars from his church appeared in court today. The attorney for Boyd Holder and the prosecution agreed to a motion that evidence in the case be sealed. Holder, the pastor of Victory Apostolic Church, is accused of stealing more than \$60,000 from the church. Today's ruling means all evidence in the case will be released only if the case goes to trial. Holder returns to court in February.

Forman Indictment
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.9.15

A Russell County Grand Jury issues more than 3 dozen indictments against a man accused of sex crimes against a child. The charges against Donald Ray Forman include 4 counts of rape, 2 counts of indecent liberties with a child, 2 counts of sexual battery and 24 counts of proposing a sex act using a communications device. The investigation is still on-going. The 47-year old is being held in jail without bond.

Kingsport Armed Robbery
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.9.15

Kingsport police are looking for the suspect in an armed robbery. Police responded to the Kingsport Moose Lodge on East Main Street around 9:30 last night. A woman told police she was locking up and a man in a mask pulled a gun on her at the front door. She said the man pointed the gun at her and demanded she open the safe. The suspect dumped the safe's contents into a trash bag and ran away.

Dominique Morrison
Length: :50
Format: Graphic – Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.10.15

He pleaded guilty to second degree murder for his role in the 2011 death of a Kingsport man, but just 18 months into his 25-year sentence, we learned he is asking the Governor to let him out of jail sooner. Dominique Morrison and another man struck a plea deal with prosecutors last year in connection to the death of Jarrett Hughes. They killed Hughes during a robbery on Dale Street. The Tennessee Board of Parole is processing Morrison's application for clemency, specifically his request for a lesser sentence. From there, board members will decide whether they will even give Morrison a formal hearing before the request makes it to the Governor's desk. Governor Haslam has not granted clemency to a single prisoner during his time in office.

Sullivan County Home Burglary
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.11.15

The Sullivan County Sheriff's Office wants to find the people who tied up a woman and stole a safe from her home on New Beason Well Road. The woman told deputies she woke up around 5:30 this morning and found the two men standing in her bedroom. She said they tied her up, stole a safe and ripped her phone from the wall.

Sexual Battery Charge
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.12.15

A Carter County Grand Jury indicted Justin Richardson on a charge of sexual battery. The allegations against him involve a juvenile under 13. Elizabethton police said the charge stems from an incident in October at a fall festival at an area church. Carter County Jail officials booked Richardson. His bond is \$25,000.

Cherith Roberts
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.12.15

A Tri-Cities educator accused in a child neglect investigation appeared in court today. Cherith Roberts pleaded not guilty to the charges against her. She's accused in an incident at Holston Elementary School in Bristol, Tennessee. Roberts returns to court in January. Former Holston View Principal Jerry Potcat is also charged in the case. He goes to trial in February.

Daniel Henry
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.12.15

A judge reset the preliminary hearing for a man accused of killing three of his family members. Daniel Henry appeared in court today. District Attorney General Tony Clark said the state may bring in police from New Orleans for the case. That is where Henry was arrested after a multi-state manhunt. Today, Clark also told us the state is still considering seeking the death penalty against Henry. Police charged him with murder for the killings of his parents and aunt in Jonesborough.

Johnson City Shootings
Length: 1:20
Format: Graphics – Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.13.15

Once person is dead and another person is in the hospital after two overnight shootings in Johnson City. The suspect in both cases is behind bars tonight. 22-year old Denver Smith is charged with murder in the shooting death of Tiaria Miler and first degree attempted murder in the shooting of Chelsea Isbell. Police said shortly after 2:30 this morning they responded to reports of a shooting at Creekside Apartments on John Exum Parkway. Police found 24-year old Chelsea Isbell shot inside an apartment. They said she had two gunshot wounds: one to the face and one in the back. Court documents show the suspect told police after shooting Isbell he tried to get away by stopping cars on the road. That's when someone drove by with 19-year old Tiaria Miller in the passenger seat. The suspect shot into the car, killing Miller. Police tell us the victim of the first shooting, Chelsea Isbell, is in stable condition. Denver Smith will appear in court for arraignment Monday morning.

Jonesborough Armed Robbery
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm

Air Date: 11.15.15

A Johnson City man is behind bars after police say he tried to rob a gas station in Jonesborough. Jonesborough Police say it happened around 7 last night at the Shell Gas Station on Boone Street. Investigators say 55-year old Randall Greer walked into the gas station with a broken bottle and demanded money. Officers say he ran away without taking anything from the store and was caught by police outside.

Carter County Shooting

Length: :25

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 11.16.15

The suspect in a weekend shooting in Carter County is free on bond tonight. Deputies arrested Filipe Dos Santos Puimbini and charged him with aggravated assault. The Carter County Sheriff's Office responded to a home in the Okolona Community around 9 Saturday night. Deputies say they found a man with gunshot wounds. The sheriff's office told us that man is in critical condition. The suspect posted bond yesterday.

Murder for Hire

Length: :25

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Nate Morabito

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 11.19.15

A man who wanted to pay someone to kill a Pennington Gap police officer pleaded guilty in federal court today. Harold Owen pleaded guilty after he said he would give someone \$20,000 to murder the officer. Court documents show Owen said an officer was "harassing him" and he wanted him "taken care of." Owen said the officer wrote him a ticket for reckless driving which "ruined him." A judge will sentence Owen in February.

Assault on an Officer

Length: :25

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 11.19.15

Police arrested two people for an attack on an officer. The Washington County Virginia Sheriff's Office says their days on the run are over. Police in White Pine, Tennessee arrested Joseph Hess and Delana Neal. The Washington County Sheriff's Office says they were wanted for an assault on an officer in Abingdon. Both are being held at the Jefferson County Tennessee Jail.

Unsolved Murder

Length: 1:00

Format: Graphic – Sound Byte – Voice Over

Reporter: Jordan Moore

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 11.20.15

More than 2 years after a Hawkins County woman was murdered, her family says they are still struggling to find answers. Regilla Dye was found murdered in her home back in August 2013. Her family says to this day they know very little about the circumstances surrounding her death, and every day they hope to find the person who murdered her. Regilla's daughter is raising money in hopes that someone will come forward. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation is still actively seeking tips from the public.

Domestic Assault
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.21.15

A Johnson City woman is behind bars after police say she attacked a man with a knife. Johnson City police say 28-year old Kristen Renee Huskins was swinging a knife at the man and cut him on the wrist. They say the victim ran away and officers found him in a Burger King bathroom. Huskins was arrested and charged with aggravated domestic assault. She's in the Washington County Detention Center on \$5,000 bond.

Rape Charge
Length: :20
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.23.15

A man who pleaded guilty to several sex crimes will spend 25 years in prison. District Attorney General Tony Clark's office says 45-year old Virgil Thomas pleaded guilty to rape and attempted rape. Investigators say the crimes happened between August and October of last year and involved several victims.

Synthetic Marijuana
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.23.15

A man will spend the next seven years in prison for his role in a synthetic marijuana case in the Tri-Cities region. Prosecutors say he was a major source for the drug between 2010 and 2012. Mitchell Lee Chambers pleaded guilty to two federal charges connected to the distribution of up to almost 900 pounds of fake marijuana, some of which, he and others bought from China and Europe. A federal judge sentenced Chambers to 87 months in prison.

Comcast Threats
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.23.15

Federal and local agents are still looking for answers after several Comcast employees received threatening letters. Those letters caused 3 Comcast officers in our region to shut down last month. But tonight, the letters obtained by News Channel 11 show what was mailed to the employees. The author of the computer-typed letters claimed to be a Comcast manager. One of them threatened that any members of his sales team who disrespected him would quote, "take a bullet through the head." The letter also claimed the man was carrying an assault rifle, had one in his car and both were rigged with explosives. Johnson City police and federal authorities have interviewed the person whose name is at the bottom of the letter, but District Attorney Tony Clark tells us there's no evidence that suggests he is actually the one who wrote the letter. Comcast is continuing to look into the situation as well.

Nurse Pleads Guilty

Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.24.15

A southwest Virginia nurse practitioner pleaded guilty today for illegally prescribing thousands of oxycodone pills. Federal prosecutors say Gloria "Faye" Kennedy prescribed more than 3700 oxycodone pills. Investigators say Kennedy worked in Richlands, Virginia and supplied pills to several people, including her husband. She faces up to 25 years in prison.

Johnson City Mall Shoplifter
Length: :35
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.29.15

A Bristol woman is behind bars tonight. She is accused of stealing from a store inside the Mall at Johnson City. Police said they arrested Leana Wright on Saturday for taking more than \$500 worth of makeup from JCPenney's. Police said Wright took the items and put them in her purse. Police charged her with felony shoplifting.

Dan Bickley Sentencing
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Nate Morabito
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.30.15

The owner of a Bristol, Virginia adult novelty store will spend 2 years in prison for selling synthetic drugs. A federal judge sentenced Daniel Guy Bickley to 24 months in prison today. Bickley previously pleaded guilty to two federal counts of selling synthetic drugs at businesses across the region, including Exotic Illusions. Federal prosecutors say Bickley now also has to forfeit \$300,000 in assets. After he serves his prison time, Assistant U.S. Attorney Neil Smith says Bickley will spend 3 years on supervised release.

Kendra Tweed Charges
Length: :55
Format: Graphic – Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Allie Hinds
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.30.15

State prosecutors say a mother is charged in the murders of her daughters because she knew about a man's violent past. Investigators say 22-year old Kendra Tweed is charged under "Haley's Law." A Greene County Grand Jury indicted Tweed last week for murder. Prosecutors say she can be charged because she contributed to her daughters' deaths. District Attorney General Dan Armstrong says Tweed knew the background of Erick Jones. He was charged with assault in May last year. Jones is also accused in the murders of 13-month old Kinsley Easterly and 2-month old Trinity Tweed. Investigators say the girls were killed in December last year at a home on North Hardin Street in Greeneville. Because of Tweed's knowledge, prosecutors say that's grounds for charges under Haley's Law even though she may not have carried out the act of murder. Tweed is being held on a \$700,000 bond. She returns to court in January.

Shook Trial
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.1.15

The trial for the convicted sex offender at the center of a nation-wide Amber Alert earlier this year is now pushed back. Benjamin Shook sparked an Amber Alert after investigators say he lured a 14-year old Hawkins County girl from her home. Shook was set to go to trial in January, but his attorney filed a motion to push back his trial saying he needs more time to prepare. Shook's trial date is now set for May 2016.

Animal Cruelty

Length: :45

Format: Graphic-Voice Over

Reporter: Yasmeeen Elayan

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.1.15

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office is continuing to investigate an animal cruelty case after several dead and malnourished animals were found inside a home. Caroline Miller is free on bond tonight. She faces 15 charges in the case. Court documents show a deputy searched the home on Fall Branch Road and found several dead animals and 6 dogs in poor health. Miller is set to appear in court December 16.

Meth Charges

Length: :35

Format: Graphics

Reporter: Yasmeeen Elayan

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.2.15

A welfare check results in the arrests of three men after deputies say a child was found inside a home where meth was being made. Washington County Sheriff's Office responded to a home on Scott Hills Road. Deputies said they found a one pot meth lab and items used to make meth inside the home. A child inside the home is now in the custody of the department of children's services. Curvin Laughman faces drug and child abuse charges. Jeremy Messer and Martin Tilley are being held on \$10,000 bond.

Johnson City Death Investigation

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Yasmeeen Elayan

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.2.15

Police say a woman found dead in a Johnson City alley likely died of injuries she sustained after being hit by a car. Police said Angela Williams was found in an alley parallel to East Fairview last night. Police say they interviewed the driver of the car that hit her. So far, no charges have been filed in the case.

Johnson City Murder Investigation

Length: 1:45

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Sydney Cameron

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 12.4.15

Johnson City police arrested 49-year old Dion Flack today. He faces several charges including vehicular homicide by intoxication and leaving the scene of a crash involving death. Police say they are still waiting on results from a blood test, but Flack is cooperating with investigators. This all happened around 6 Tuesday night. Police say Flack ran over 38-year old Angela Williams on Railroad Street, which is commonly used as an alley. Officers say Flack initially fled the scene, but they were able to eventually interview him and witnesses. This morning police arrested Flack at his home. Flack is in jail and is set to have his first court appearance Monday afternoon.

Kingsport Search
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.4.15

Kingsport police are looking for a woman who picked up an envelope full of money that was dropped in a parking lot. It happened just before 1 at Walmart Neighborhood Market on Lynn Garden Drive. Someone dropped the envelope that had \$1100 inside. Surveillance video captured the woman who picked it up and drove away. If you recognize the woman, call Kingsport Central Dispatch at the number on your screen.

Blountville Walgreens Robbery
Length: :55
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte – Graphics
Reporter: Curtis McCloud
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.5.15

Police are searching for a suspect connected to the latest armed robbery of a Walgreens in our region. Police say they got the call around 8:45 Friday night. Police responded to Walgreens on Highway 394 in Blountville. Nobody was injured in the incident. Employees said they gave the man pills and he ran away.

Felony Drug Arrest
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Curtis McCloud
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.6.15

An Erwin man faces felony drug charges. Police arrested him at a Johnson City motel. Police got a call from Johnson City Motel 6 about people staying in a room they did not pay for. Police said they found syringes, glass pipes, a scale and a bag of meth. Police arrested Austin Warrick. He goes to court tomorrow afternoon.

Johnson County Homicide
Length: :20
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.7.15

Johnson County Sheriff's officials are investigating a murder. They received a call just before 10 last night saying an 83-year old woman was missing from a home on Shaw Ward Road. When officers arrived, they found the woman's body about 100 yards from the home. No other details were released.

Flack Court Appearance
Length: 1:15
Format: Graphic – Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.7.15

Family members of a woman killed last week in Johnson City are talking. 49-year old Dion Flack is charged in the death of 38-year old Angela Williams after police say he reportedly hit her with his car the night of December 1 on Railroad Street in Johnson City. Flack also reportedly admitted to police he drank eight or nine quarts of beer as well as liquor the day of the deadly crash. A judge arraigned Flack in a Washington County courtroom on charges including vehicular homicide by intoxication and leaving the scene of a crash. In the courtroom this afternoon, there were several family members of the victim, 38-year old Angela Williams. They told us they are still in shock over what happened. "Words can't describe how terrible it's been. You never expect somebody to lose their life so young and especially under these circumstances." Williams' funeral took place over the weekend. The family says it will continue to fight for justice in this case.

Wise County Drugs

Length: :40

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jordan Moore

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.8.15

Wise County, Virginia leaders say they made a startling discovery inside their own building. They say around the middle of November they found drugs in the registrar's bathroom in the justice center. The Wise County Sheriff's Office says deputies arrested a suspect after finding what they believed to be prescription drugs hidden under a sink. Officials with the registrar's office say they are concerned about just how open and accessible parts of the building are to the public. The Wise County Electoral Board will meet Thursday at 11 in the morning to discuss how to improve security.

Liam Lawlor Arrested

Length: :45

Format: Graphic – Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.8.15

A Greeneville teen accused in connection to a man's murder will soon face more charges. After several days on the run, the Greeneville Police Department said today Liam Lawlor is back in custody. Nashville police arrested him this afternoon after he ran away from a group home last week. Lawlor's escape on December 3 prompted what's called a modified lockdown at Greeneville City Schools. Lawlor was sentenced in juvenile court to charges of accessory after the fact and theft. Greeneville police said because of Lawlor's escape, he will face more charges. He became part of a multi-state manhunt with 3 other teens in April 2014. The teens drove to South Carolina after investigators said Robert Blanchard was killed in his Greeneville home.

Gravel Sentencing

Length: :20

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.10.15

A judge sentenced 4 people to prison for their roles in a drug conspiracy across the Tri-Cities region. Prosecutors say they sold the drug known as gravel. Some common effects of the drug include extreme paranoia and hallucinations. The sentences range from 5 to 9 years behind bars.

Bank Robbery

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.10.15

Investigators are trying to track down the man they say robbed a bank this morning. The Greene County Sheriff's Office says a man used a weapon to demand money at Consumer Credit Union in Mosheim. The bank is located on West Andrew Johnson Highway. The call came in just before 10 this morning. The robbery forced several schools into what's called a modified lockdown today. Greene County Sheriff Pat Hankins says the FBI has been called in to assist. Detectives believe the man got away in a black Ford Crown Victoria with Carter County tags.

Sturgill in Court
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.11.15

Jurors are trying to decide the fate of a man charged with vehicular homicide. The jury will meet again Monday morning in Sullivan County to begin deliberations for a verdict in Jeremy Sturgill's case. Kingsport police said Sturgill ran a red light on Fort Henry Drive in September 2013 and crashed into a car driven by Melissa Lambert. Lambert died in the crash. Testimony in the trial wrapped up today. Jurors also heard closing arguments. Sturgill took the stand today and said when the crash happened; he took drugs which were prescribed to him by a doctor.

Pepper Spray Robbery
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.14.15

The search continues for the man who pepper sprayed a woman in a robbery. Kingsport police say it happened in the 100 block of Tennessee Street. Police say the suspect drove off in a silver Dodge Stratus 4-door sedan. Detectives believe the victim may have been intentionally targeted because she just left a pharmacy with prescription medication.

Jeremy Sturgill Conviction
Length: :30
Format: Graphic – Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.14.15

A Sullivan County jury has convicted a man for a crash that killed a woman on a heavily used road. A jury convicted Jeremy Sturgill in a September 2013 crash on Fort Henry Drive in Kingsport. Investigators said Sturgill's car crashed into a car driven by Melissa Lambert. Lambert died. Today, a jury found Sturgill guilty on several charges including reckless homicide, reckless aggravated assault and reckless endangerment.

Daniel Boone Bomb Threats
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.14.15

Investigators charged a student after finding bomb threats inside Daniel Boone High School. The Washington County Tennessee Sheriff's Office says a school resource officer found bomb threats written on bathroom walls. The school was evacuated as a precaution. Nothing was found. The student will appear in Washington County Juvenile Court next month.

Chattanooga Terrorism
Length: :35

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Regan Russell
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 12.16.15

Today, the FBI confirms the shootings in Chattanooga over the summer were influenced by words from terrorists. In July, the gunman opened fire at two military facilities in Chattanooga, killing 5 service-members. Today, FBI Director James Comey said, "We have concluded the Chattanooga killer was inspired by foreign terrorist organization propaganda." Navy officials say they plan on awarding the Purple Heart to the four Marines and a Sailor who were killed. Christopher Estep, a Marine who was injured, will also be awarded the Purple Heart. He is from Johnson City, Tennessee.

Bank Robberies
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.16.15

Federal agents charged two men with serious crimes involving banks across East Tennessee. The FBI charged Michael Benati of Pennsylvania and Brian Witham of Main in connection to bank robbery and extortion plots. Investigators said the incidents happened in Oak Ridge, Knoxville and Elizabethton. In Knoxville, detectives said the two kidnapped a Smartbank employee along with his wife and son in April. The suspects told the employee to get money out of the bank and give it to them. Officers also charged the men for an extortion plot at Northeast Community Credit Union in Elizabethton. Investigators told us someone approached an employee and threatened violence if he did not give them money. No one was hurt, and no money changed hands. If convicted, the two face up to 142 years in prison.

Animal Cruelty
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.16.15

A judge told a Johnson County woman charged with animal cruelty that she is not allowed to have cats or dogs at her home. Caroline Miller appeared in court this morning where the judge issued the order. The Johnson County Sheriff's Office says it found at least 6 dead animals in her home last month in the 1800 block of Fall Branch Road. Officers found 6 dogs in poor health. Miller will be in court again February 10.

Carter County Shooting
Length: 1:30
Format: Live - Voice Over – Graphic
Reporter: Curtis McCloud
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.16.15

A deputy was shot tonight in Carter County. Dry Hollow Road is closed as the search for the shooter continues. That's in the Stoney Creek area off Highway 91. The Carter County Sheriff's Office has released no information about the investigation, but the Tennessee Highway Patrol confirmed a deputy was shot. Another person was also injured. The THP advises people to stay away from the area.

Richlands Murder
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.17.15

Police in Richlands, VA charged 38-year old Barry Coleman with murder and robbery. Officers say he robbed 58-year old Nancy Smith at Flanary Storage Buildings on Kent Ridge Road yesterday afternoon. Investigators said he robbed her at knifepoint and killed her.

Johnson City Stabbing

Length: :25

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 12.17.15

Johnson City police charged 36-year old Ross Kelley with assault after they say an argument turned violent. Investigators said Kelley pulled out a knife and stabbed someone in the back. When another person tried to break up the fight, he was cut on the hand. Investigators did not release the names or the conditions of the victims. Kelly's bond is \$100,000.

Fake Prescriptions

Length: :25

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.17.15

Johnson City police arrested a man for trying to get medication with forged prescriptions. Police charged Marques Deguire with forgery and fraudulently obtaining narcotics. Police said he first tried to pass forged prescriptions at CVS on South Roan Street. They found him at a nearby Walgreens. Officers said he tried to do the same thing there.

Cantrell Plea

Length: :25

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.18.15

A man will spend the next 10 years in prison for having child pornography. The Russell County Commonwealth's Attorney said 57-year old Terry Cantrell of Lebanon pleaded guilty to the crimes against him in September. On Thursday, a judge sentenced him to 10 years in prison and indefinite probation upon his release. Investigators said Cantrell downloaded child porn from the internet.

Vandalism Arrest

Length: :35

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Curtis McCloud

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.20.15

Johnson City police arrested and charged a man who vandalized property in downtown. Police say 30-year old Christopher Browning busted the windshield of a car in the parking lot in Downtown Square. They said he then ran into the Downtown Square Apartments. Police said he stole a guitar and destroyed a Christmas tree. Police said he busted a second car windshield after he left the apartment building. Browning's bond is \$11,000.

Manhunt Over

Length: :50
Format: Voice Over – Graphic
Reporter: Curtis McCloud
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.20.15

A manhunt for 3 armed men is over tonight. The Unicoi County Sheriff's Office says the manhunt was a hoax. Investigators said the woman they arrested made up the story. Last night, they arrested Jacquelin Lane. She's accused of stealing a car from H&H Auto Sales in Unicoi. They said they arrested her and found the stolen vehicle in the Limestone Cove area. Sheriff Mike Hensley says the woman told investigators three other men acted with her but got away. That sparked a nearly 24-hour manhunt. The sheriff says investigators later discovered Lane lied.

Boone Online Predator Investigation
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.22.15

Police in Boone, North Carolina arrested a man they say wanted to meet a minor for sex. Investigators charged Denny Patel after they say officers posed as a 14-year old girl online. Detectives say they responded to an ad by Patel saying he had no age restrictions. Police charged Patel with indecent liberties with a child and soliciting a child by using a computer.

Washington County VA Suspect Search
Length: :40
Format: Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.22.15

The Washington County, Virginia Sheriff's Office is searching for a man who rammed a deputy's vehicle and led officers on a high speed chase. The Washington County Sheriff's Office wants to find 19-year old Dakota Blankenship. Investigators said he did not pay for gas at a convenience store. Deputies tried to stop him but gave up the chase after concern for public safety. Deputies said Blankenship's speed topped 100 miles per hour. He is considered dangerous. If you see him, do not approach; instead call the sheriff's office.

Dickenson County Meth Lab
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.23.15

Investigators uncovered a methamphetamine lab at a home in southwest Virginia. The Dickenson County Sheriff's Office says officers arrived at a home on Old Georges Fork Road today to investigate a possible burglary. Detectives say that is when they discovered a meth lab. Officers say criminal charges are pending.

Johnson City Armed Robbery
Length: :40
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Curtis McCloud
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.26.15

Police arrested 2 people on armed robbery charges. Police said the suspects robbed two people as they were walking from a night club. It happened early this morning, just after 4 o'clock on West Walnut Street. The victims said a person approached them and asked for directions. When the victims pulled out their phones to look for directions, the person pulled out a gun, took their money and phones and made his getaway in a car. Police arrested 23-year old Thompson Barjebo and 22-year old Chestine Teewia. Police say more charges are pending.

Second Arrest in Johnson City Home Invasion

Length: :30

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Curtis McCloud

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.26.15

Johnson City police arrested a second suspect in a home invasion that happened on West Unaka Avenue on Sunday. Police arrested 25-year old Michael Miller earlier this week and charged him with aggravated robbery. Investigators say they uncovered Miller helped Tiffany Miller commit the home invasion. Michael Miller is currently being held at the Washington County Detention Center. He is expected to appear in court Wednesday.

Wanted Man Captured

Length: :25

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.28.15

A man wanted on multiple felonies is behind bars. Officers said 19-year old Dakota Blankenship led them on two high speed chases last week. The Washington County Virginia Sheriff's Office says they located Blankenship at a business off Exit 14 in Abingdon today. Deputies had been searching for him since December 22. They said he did not pay for gas and rammed a police cruiser, which led to the chases.

Washington County TN Assault

Length: 1:45

Format: Graphic – Live- Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Karissa Winstead / Curtis McCloud

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 12.29.15

A woman was left hog-tied with a rope around her neck and a child was found hiding in a closet in Washington County, Tennessee. The man the sheriff's office says is responsible is on the run. Deputies are looking for 42-year old Luis Alberto Meza Olivera from Anaheim, California.

Sexual Battery Arrest

Length: 1:00

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.29.15

A man the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation calls a violent sex offender is behind bars again. Johnson City police say he assaulted a juvenile. Police said on December 15 an employee at a local business on Sunset Drive was collecting shopping carts from the parking lot when 53-year old Lemar Gipson approached him. The juvenile said Gipson handed him a note with a name and phone number written on it and asked him for his contact information. The juvenile reported Gipson then touched him in the groin area. Police arrested Gipson and charged him with sexual battery. Back in January we reported Gipson's arrest. Then, he was accused of having inappropriate contact with a 14-year old boy. In 1993, Gipson was arrested 2 times on charges of sexual battery, according to the TBI's sex offender registry.

Aggravated Assault Arrest**Length: :30****Format: Graphic****Reporter: John Price****Show: 11pm****Air Date: 12.29.15**

A Johnson City man faces charges after police say he assaulted 2 women. Officers responded to Franklin Woods Hospital on Monday in reference to the assaults. During an investigation, they found 38-year old Donald Latham Junior had assaulted his fiancé and his sister. Officers say Latham broke his fiancé's jaw and leg and punched his sister in the stomach two times. Police charged him with 2 counts of aggravated assault. He's being held on a \$100,000 bond.

Tazewell Embezzlement Arrest**Length: :30****Format: Graphics****Reporter: John Price****Show: 11pm****Air Date: 12.30.15**

A southwest Virginia educator will spend the next 5-years in prison for stealing thousands of dollars from a school. Prosecutors in Tazewell County say a judge sentenced Willie Kathy Hicks after investigators found she stole more than \$350,000. Investigators say she depleted the bank accounts of Tazewell Middle School over a period of 7 years beginning in 2007. Prosecutors say she put the money in a personal checking account and admitted she took the funds.

Baby with Methamphetamine**Length: :25****Format: Graphic****Reporter: John Price****Show: 11pm****Air Date: 12.31.15**

Investigators arrested a Hawkins County woman after they discovered her newborn baby was born with drugs in her system. The Hawkins County Sheriff's Office charged Catherine Baldini with assault on a fetus. She was admitted to the hospital last week. Officers discovered her baby was diagnosed with drug withdrawal syndrome. A drug test revealed the baby had meth and other drugs in her system.

Kingsport Burglary Arrest**Length: :25****Format: Voice Over – Graphic****Reporter: John Price****Show: 11pm****Air Date: 12.31.15**

Kingsport police are trying to find a man they say broke into a business on Christmas Eve. Investigators said the man broke in to the Lock and Key Mini Storage on Lynn Garden Drive by breaking a window. Police said the man got away with a gun and several tools. They add he also vandalized the surveillance camera system. If you know the man pictured on your screen, call Kingsport police.

EDUCATION

Kingsport Schools

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 10.1.15

Kingsport City Schools are looking to make some changes that could mean closing one elementary school. Kingsport City Schools' proposed joint facilities plan seeks to obtain some school buildings from Sullivan County to aid in the projected growth of students. The plan would also close Andrew Jackson Elementary and turn John Sevier Middle School into an elementary school. Members of the Kingsport Board of Education and the Kingsport Board of Mayor and Alderman toured three Kingsport City Schools Thursday to see if closing a school like Andrew Jackson Elementary is a good idea. Regardless of if the joint facilities plan is set in motion, school officials say the top priority right now is moving forward with the idea of building a resource science and technology center. Bidding on the architectural services for the proposed center is set to begin next week.

TCAT Anniversary

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 10.1.15

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology in Elizabethton celebrated its 50th anniversary today. Leaders from across the region gathered for the opening of a time capsule from 1993. Another time capsule will be opened on the 100th anniversary in 2065.

School Resource Officer

Length: :30

Format: Graphics

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 10.2.15

Washington County Virginia Schools hired an additional school resource officer. Deputy Tom Chapman is a veteran deputy. The school system and sheriff's office said he is well qualified for the post. There are currently 7 school resource officers employed with the sheriff's office and the Abingdon Police Department employs 2. The sheriff's office says it plans to apply for additional school resource officers next year.

ETSU State of the University

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over -- Sound Byte

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 10.2.15

East Tennessee State University President Dr. Brian Noland delivered the annual State of the University address to faculty, staff and the community today. Among the things highlighted, he focused on the university's steady enrollment, student recruitment, and the institution's growth. Noland says ETSU has been very strategic about bringing new students to the university. He says the goal is to be at 18,000 students within the planning cycle. Dr. Noland also highlighted the fact that ETSU is preparing for more construction projects than ever before, including the new football stadium and the performing arts center. He said both of the projects should be well underway by the time he gives his address next year.

TN Promise Deadline
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.5.15

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam is encouraging all high school seniors in Tennessee to apply for Tennessee Promise before the deadline. The scholarship program allows high school graduates to attend two years of community college or technical college free of tuition and fees. The deadline for applications is November 2. Nearly 16,000 students from the graduating class of 2015 are utilizing Tennessee Promise benefits this fall, which is the first year of implementation. The number of students enrolling full time in community college directly after high school increased by 14% since last fall.

ETSU Parking Problems
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Jordan Moore
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.7.15

East Tennessee State University hopes to raise enrollment in the coming years and it is asking if more parking is needed on campus. It's just one of the questions university officials asked in a recent survey sent to students and staff. ETSU hopes to plan long term as the university is looking at major projects in the future like the addition of a football stadium on campus. The parking survey closes at the end of the week and ETSU officials say they should have a better idea of where the results will lead them by the spring.

Northeast iPad Initiative
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.8.15

Northeast State Community College has another \$100,000 to get more technology in the classroom. An Appalachian Regional Commission Grant will contribute to the "i-Northeast Initiative" – a program to provide iPad Minis to qualified students. This fall, more than 1,000 iPads were distributed to Tennessee Promise and new full time students. The new grant will help provide another 500 devices. Northeast State hopes the technology will help with student retention by cutting the cost of textbooks and instead using ebooks.

Northeast State Ribbon Cutting
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.8.15

Officials at Northeast State Community College officially opened its Johnson City location this afternoon. Students have been attending classes on the campus since the fall, but the ribbon cutting was held today. There are 13 classrooms and more than 20 offices in the facility. Nearly 300 students attend classes in the new facility.

Pharmacy Dean
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.9.15

The Gatton College of Pharmacy at East Tennessee State University announced today the founding dean of the College is stepping down. Dr. Larry Calhoun worked as Dean of the college of Pharmacy for more than a decade. Calhoun will leave his post at the College of Pharmacy in May 2016. He will then serve in a different role at the College of Pharmacy: Special Assistant to ETSU President Dr. Brian Noland. The search for Calhoun's replacement is already underway. ETSU says its goal is to have a new dean in place by June 2016.

Physical Therapy
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.9.15

An online resource for prospective graduate students ranked ETSU's Physical Therapy Program among the best in the nation. Graduateprograms.com ranked ETSU 14th for Physical Therapy schools and programs across the nation. The school ranked 7th in the nation for financial aid and 9th for career support.

Texting & Driving
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: David McAvoy
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.12.15

Texting is one of the most dangerous things you can do behind the wheel. Today, some Virginia High students learned that first hand. Students experienced a special driving simulator. The goal is to teach teens about the dangers of texting and driving. Students were able to navigate a virtual driving situation and then attempt to send a quick text message. Organizers of the event say most students are overconfident before the test, but they soon change their minds.

Dobyns-Bennett Band
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.13.15

Congratulations to the Dobyns-Bennett Marching Band. The band earned the title of 2015 Winston-Salem Regional Champions. The Bands of America competition took place over the weekend on the campus of Wake Forest University. This marks the third year the Indians won the competition.

VHCC New Logo
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.15.15

Virginia Highlands Community College unveiled its new logo today. It features the school's name with a customized V and H colored in blue and green. School officials say the logo depicts the spectacular views and rolling hills located around the Abingdon campus. The new logo will replace the familiar green triangular logo that has been used at VHCC for more than a decade.

TN Education Changes
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.15.15

Tennessee's education department announced some new goals for the state today. Tennessee will now focus on three ambitious education goals. Department Commissioner Candice McQueen says it's part of a 5 year plan called Tennessee succeeds. Tennessee wants to rank in the top half of the nation on the nation's report card by 2019. High school students will now be challenged to achieve an average score of 21 on ACT exams by 2020. Tennessee will also focus on getting the majority of high school graduates a college degree by 2020.

Mount Carmel Math Night
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Kasey Marler
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.16.15

Students at Mount Carmel Elementary are getting real world math experience thanks to an innovative new program that connects the school, the community and math concepts. The program is called Family Math Night. On this night, families hit the aisles of an area grocery store for real world math. Students from Pre-K to 5th grade are given specific tasks to complete on their journey. Organizers say this gives students the opportunity to see how math applies to their daily lives.

ETSU Nurses
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Phillip Murrell
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 10.16.15

East Tennessee State University's College of Nursing began a new tradition today. The Nursing Class of December 2017 became the first to take part in the program's white coat ceremony. The students donned their white coats and took an oath to give the highest quality of care to their patients. The ceremony symbolizes the students' first steps into the profession of nursing. ETSU's College of Nursing received a grant from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation to support the ceremony.

Emory & Henry Ribbon Cutting
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 10.16.15

A southwest Virginia school opened a new 22 million dollar arts center today. Officials at Emory & Henry College hosted a ribbon cutting for the Woodrow W. McGlothlin Center for the Arts this morning. The 47,000 square foot facility has a nearly 500 seat theatre, an art gallery, and it houses the campus radio station. The Center for the Arts is named after Buchanan County native and alumnus Woodrow W. McGlothlin. He's one of the college's greatest benefactors.

ETSU Pride Walk
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.17.15

Students at ETSU are showing off their Buccaneer spirit in the form of art. The Student Government Association held its annual Pridewalk Street Painting. Student organizations show their ETSU Pride and visibly represent their organization on campus. This fall's theme was simply "ETSU Pride" and forty-one organizations participated. Students said this was not only a time to show their pride in the organization they represented, but it was also the chance to spend time with friends they do not see often.

UT Social Media Campaign

Length: 25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.20.15

The University of Tennessee is trying to raise \$1 million in five days. UT launched its "Big Orange Give" campaign for another year. It's all social media based. Last year, nearly 1600 donors contributed more than \$765,000. That included \$19,000 for band scholarships. The event runs through October 23.

Kingsport Text Messaging

Length: :25

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.22.15

Kingsport City Schools is launching a new texting service to alert parents of any emergencies. The school system says messages will also be sent for schedule changes and other critical information. The messages will be sent through the school district's school messenger communication portal. Parents and staff will receive a test message Monday. You can opt in or opt out of future messages.

School Report Cards

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.22.15

Graduation rates across the state of Tennessee are up for a third consecutive year according to the State Report Card. The state graduation rate is just under 88% for 2015. Many districts in the Tri-Cities are above the state average. Carter County is the only district in our area with a lower than average rate. Kingsport City Schools has the area's highest graduation rates.

Appalachian State Walkout

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.22.15

Protesters are sending a message to Appalachian State University leaders. Students and faculty members held signs to protest, what they say, are misplaced priorities at the school. They stood outside tonight's football game at Appalachian State. The demonstrators say they think more money should go towards student programs and teacher salaries. Instead, they feel all the money is going to athletics. Appalachian State's football program brings in \$6 million for the school each year.

TN Test Scores
Length: :35
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 10.28.15

A national report shows that Tennessee has seen little to no change in 4th and 8th grade math scores over the last 2 years. The U.S. Department of Education released the results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress today. State officials say the news is still positive, since many states declined in many of the categories while Tennessee remained roughly the same. Governor Bill Haslam says the state was able to retain its gains made in scores from 2011 to 2013 and backs the claim Tennessee is one of the fastest improving states in K through 12 education in the nation.

Teacher of the Year
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.29.15

A principal in the Tri-Cities region is getting the red carpet treatment. The state named Ridgeview Elementary Principal as Tennessee's Principal of the Year. Students and teachers congratulated Peggy Greene today. Greene helped open Ridgeview Elementary seven years ago. She is also a nominee for Principal of the Year.

TN Promise Mentors
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.31.15

Officials with the Tennessee Promise Program have less than one month to recruit thousands more volunteers to serve as mentors to scholarship recipients. Volunteer positions need to be filled by November 20.

Sullivan County Schools Plan
Length: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.2.15

Sullivan County's Education leaders are taking a big step forward on a plan that could impact thousands of students. The Sullivan County Board of Education voted tonight to send a costly facilities study plan to the county's government. The board voted 6 to 1 tonight to encourage the Sullivan County Commission to approve a \$140 million plan. The plan aims to improve and expand certain school facilities. It also focuses on consolidating some schools.

Financial Aid Night
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.3.15

ETSU hopes to make the financial aid process easier for students. Next Tuesday, ETSU will host "Tri-Cities Financial Aid Night." Parents, family members, high school students and prospective transfer students are invited to attend. Topics such as the Tennessee Lottery Scholarship, state and federal aid, scholarships and deadlines will be discussed. The event begins at 6 in the D.P. Culp University Center.

TN Promise Sign Ups
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.4.15

Nearly 60,000 high school seniors applied for Tennessee Promise. The program offers eligible seniors free tuition to a two year community college or technical college. The deadline to apply was Monday. Nearly 16 thousand students from the graduating high school class of 20-15 are using Tennessee Promise benefits this fall, which is the first year of implementation.

Washington College Academy
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Callie Durham
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.4.15

The Tennessee Board of Regents will meet tomorrow with Senator Rusty Crowe to discuss converting one of the oldest colleges in the United States into a campus for the Tennessee College of Applied Technology. Currently, Washington College Academy houses adult continuing education programs. As soon as next year, it could serve as a satellite campus for Tennessee College of Applied Technology Elizabethton. Tennessee Promise allows graduating high school students to attend a community college or T-CAT at no charge for 2 years. Tennessee Reconnect offers adults the opportunity to attend TCAT free of tuition and fees.

Church Hill Elementary
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.4.14

Church Hill Elementary School in Hawkins County has been named a National Title One Distinguished School. Tennessee's Education Commissioner notified the school that the state selected it out of all the other schools in the state. Church Hill Elementary met the requirements by showing exceptional student performance for more than 2 years and for closing the achievement gap between student groups. The school will celebrate the accomplishment on Monday.

Andrew Jackson Elementary
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.11.15

Andrew Jackson Elementary in Kingsport received \$1,000 to help teach its students. The school got the "Good Sports Always Recycle Grant" from Eastman Chemical Company. The school has one of the top environmental programs in the state. The school says it makes recycling a top priority throughout the school year.

Virginia Veterans College
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.11.15

State officials are urging colleges in Virginia to make the transition to the classroom easier for veterans. They are calling on schools to give veterans college credit for time served. The Virginia Department of Veterans Services says the state's community college system has until next month to come up with a plan.

TSSAA Background Checks
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.13.15

Officials with the TSSAA are now required to get background checks. The board for the TSSAA voted to begin the practice earlier this week. The background checks will be conducted by a private company every year. The TSSAA has round 4500 officials.

ETSU Stadium Groundbreaking
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.16.15

Construction of East Tennessee State University's new football stadium is now underway. The ceremony this afternoon to break ground took place at the stadium site, just southwest of the Center for Physical Activity. The university hopes the Bucs will hit the field of the new stadium in Fall 2017.

Unicoi Christian Flag
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.17.15

Some school leaders in the Tri-Cities region say they will not take immediate action in response to a letter asking them to remove the Christian flag. The Freedom from Religion Foundation sent the letter to the Unicoi County Board of Education. The foundation says the display of the flag goes against the U.S. Constitution. Board member Tyler Engle told us the Board of Education's attorney is reviewing the letter.

No Child Left Behind
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.18.15

A Tennessee senator says Congress has taken its first step to change a federal education law. U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander says the process to fix "No Child Left Behind" is underway. A committee met today to discuss how to move forward. Senator Alexander says the majority agrees that states and local school districts should be the ones to decide how to improve student achievement.

TN Promise
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.19.15

State education officials say a free tuition program is causing a spike in Tennessee's college enrollment. The state says more than 50,000 first-time freshmen enrolled in college this year, seeing a more than 4,000 student increase over last year. The Tennessee Promise Executive Director says out of the more than 21,000 enrolled students in community colleges, more than 16,000 are using Tennessee Promise.

Greeneville Schools
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.20.15

The Greeneville City School System is being named the top school district in Tennessee. That's according to the 2016 Niche K-12 Best School and District Rankings. Greeneville also ranked second in the Best Teacher category and seventh among state high schools. According to the Niche website, factors include state test scores, college readiness, graduation rates, and teacher quality. Kingsport was named 5th in the state and Johnson City ranked 6th.

Tennessee Higher Education
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.24.15

The board that governs Tennessee's colleges says it will use a \$2 million grant to help boost education. The Tennessee Board of Regents says the money came from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The board says it will use the money to help increase graduation rates, especially among first generation and low-income students. The grant will also help expand and improve existing programs offered at colleges and universities.

Sullivan East Roofing
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Allie Hinds
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.24.15

Students at Sullivan East High School reached out to us about repairs disrupting their classes. We took those concerns to school leaders. Sullivan County's Director of Schools says she's received very few complaints. Some students told us the smell of tar and chemicals due to roof work is causing health concerns and even sending some to urgent care clinics. Students complained of suffering with nosebleeds, headaches and other health problems. Director of Schools Evelyn Rafalowski says she has not heard many complaints but that anyone can express their concerns to the school system. Students and parents told us they have shared their concerns and nothing has changed. Rafalowski says there is a project manager on site to fix any problems that come up as crews finish repairs.

Scholarship Fund
Length: :55
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Anishe Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.28.15

A Johnson City barber shop is establishing a scholarship fund in honor of a local man who died in a scooter crash on Interstate 26 earlier this year. Jeremy Stevens was killed when he hit an uneven patch of pavement and overturned on I-26. He was then hit by a car that swerved to avoid hitting the scooter. Salon Allure offered \$20 haircuts today with the money raised going toward establishing a scholarship fund in Stevens name. Owners of the salon say Stevens was a long-time friend who made a lasting impact on the community. Organizers are hoping to have another fundraiser for the scholarship fund in January.

No Child Left Behind
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.30.15

A Tennessee Senator says the plan to fix a federal education law has received the approval of governors across the nation. U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander says the National Governors Association has endorsed the plan to change "No Child Left Behind." Senator Alexander says this is the group's first kind of endorsement of any federal legislation in nearly 20 years. Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe is vice chair of the association. The current plan to change "No Child Left Behind" has Congress poised to give control over education back to the states.

Hawkins County Schools
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Jordan Moore
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.30.15

People packed a Rogersville church tonight to let school administrators know they do not want them to close two Hawkins County schools. People became concerned earlier this month after the building and grounds committee of the Hawkins County Board of Education discussed maintenance issues at Keplar School and McPheeters Bend. A concerned resident organized a meeting tonight and told us they will fight to the bitter end to keep both schools open. Hawkins County Board of Education Chair Chris Christian says the fate of the schools is still up in the air. Board members will meet again Thursday. Community members say they will bring up their questions at the meeting.

Haslam Drive to 55
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.2.15

East Tennessee State University could get a new, local governing board that would appoint school presidents and set tuition. Governor Bill Haslam announced the proposed legislation today in Nashville. It would create local boards for the state's 6 public universities, including ETSU. If approved, the Tennessee Board of Regents will no longer oversee those 6 universities. Governor Haslam says the state is drafting a bill called the "Focus on College and University Success Act." The proposal would allow the Board of Regents to instead focus their attention on two-year schools. The proposal is part of Governor Haslam's "Drive to 55" campaign to boost the number of Tennesseans with post-secondary degrees.

Congress Education
Length: :40

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.2.15

The House voted overwhelmingly to sharply scale back the federal role in American education. But the legislation would retain the testing requirement in the 2002 No Child Left Behind law that many parents, teachers and school districts do not like. The bill would return to the states the decision-making power over how to use students' test performance in assessing teachers and schools. The measure also would end federal efforts to encourage academic standards such as Common Core guidelines. The legislation still would require states to intervene in the nation's lowest performing 5% of schools. The Senate will vote on the measure next week. President Obama is expected to sign the legislation.

School Closure Concerns
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Curtis McCloud
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.3.15

Parents, students and teachers in the Hawkins County Community put forth an emotional plea tonight to keep their schools open. Kepler and McPheters Bend Elementary schools could close because school leaders say it may cost too much to fix them. More than 50 people packed into a school board meeting to show support for their schools. School leaders say they applaud parents for getting involved, but they say it's too soon to panic. The school board says it is investigating the situation and has not yet made a decision to close the schools. School board members are expected to address the matter concerning the future of the two elementary schools at a meeting on January 14.

UT Office of Diversity
Length: 1:30
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.4.15

The University of Tennessee's Office of Diversity and Inclusion is under fire again. This time it is for a list of best practices for inclusive workplace holiday celebrations. The list said state parties should have no emphasis on religion or culture. It encourages people to "ensure your holiday parity is not a Christmas party in disguise." The list also encourages workplaces to avoid playing games with religious and cultural themes like "Secret Santa." Tonight the UT Diversity Office issued a clarification saying this is not a policy, but instead a list of suggestions. The office issued a statement that says in part, "We honor Christmas as one of the celebrations of the season and the birth of Jesus." That statement is not enough for some lawmakers. Congressman Jimmy Duncan of Lebanon slammed the UT Diversity Office. State Senator Mike Bell of Riceville called for UT Chancellor Jimmy Cheek to resign over the holiday party recommendations. The office defended itself by saying it is not anti-Christmas, but pro inclusion.

Common Core
Length: 1:45
Format: Live – Package
Reporter: Allie Hinds
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.4.15

With an overwhelming vote in Washington to scale back the federal role in education, we found out how it might affect your child's classroom. Some school leaders say less federal control will mean positive changes. The No Child Left Behind Act has been criticized over the years as being impractical and difficult to carry out. The new bill would put education decisions back in to the hands of states. Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey told us he does not think the federal government should be involved in education period. The bill would let states choose how to use students' test performance in assessing teachers and schools and take away some of Washington's authority to tell schools how to improve. The change would also end federal efforts to encourage standards like Common Core guidelines, something Tennessee is already moving away from. The bill would not get rid of the requirement to test students each year in grades 3 – 12. The bill is up for a vote in the Senate next week and President Barack Obama is expected to sign it.

Sullivan East
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.4.15

Students at Sullivan East High School continue to come forward with complaints as crews install a new roof on the building. Today, the Director of Schools confirmed a ceiling tile fell and part of it hit at student on the shoulder. You'll remember last month we told you students reported having nosebleeds and migraines because of what they called a strong tar and chemical smell inside the school. We are told the asphalt portion of roofing will be complete by late today. The entire job should be finished by the end of the month.

Rock Creek Ornaments
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.4.15

Students at Rock Creek Elementary School in Unicoi County showed off their latest classroom lessons by making replicas of what they were learning about. Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Williams' 2nd grade classes recently studied United States monuments and symbols as part of a project-based learning activity. After discussing different monuments in class, students selected one to study independently. They wrote about what they learned and created their own version of the monument. Students made everything from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Washington monuments. The projects are on display in the school's library.

Sullivan South
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: David McAvoy
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 12.7.15

As the University of Tennessee prepares to take the field in the Outback Bowl on New Year's Day, a high school band from our region is also practicing for its performance on the field. The Sullivan South High School Band will perform in the Outback Bowl half time show. The official announcement came today. The Outback Bowl is on January 1.

Van Huss UT Legislation
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.7.15

A Johnson City lawmaker wants the state to cut off all funding to the University of Tennessee's Office for Diversity and Inclusion. This comes after a memo from the office encourages University employees to hold parties that are not exclusively Christmas gatherings. The office says the parties should have not emphasis on religion or culture and the memo is a suggestion, not policy. Representative Micah Van Huss said today he will write legislation to stop all funding to the UT Office of Diversity. He proposes the money instead be used to pay for local or state law enforcement agencies who want a decal of the national motto placed on their vehicles.

TN Promise
Length: :40
Format: Graphic

Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.8.15

The Tennessee Department of Human Services partnered with parents of Families First to register more than 700 high school seniors for Tennessee Promise. The scholarship provides 2 years of tuition-free attendance at a community or technical college in Tennessee. DHS reached out to Families First parents with students in 12th grade to encourage them to enroll in the program. Families First is a temporary assistance for needy families program that has a primary focus on gaining self-sufficiency through employment. Governor Bill Haslam launched his Drive to 55 campaign 2 years ago to increase the number of Tennesseans with a post-secondary degree or certificate.

UT Diversity
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.8.15

The chancellor of the University of Tennessee Knoxville says an online memo about holiday celebrations on campus was “poorly worded.” The UT Office for Diversity and Inclusion came under fire after it posted the memo on “Best Practices for Inclusive Holiday Celebrations in the Workplace.” The memo said parties should celebrate workplace relationships with no emphasis on religion or culture. The memo drew criticism statewide. Some lawmakers called for UT Chancellor Jimmy Cheek to step down. Today, Cheek transferred control of the Office of Diversity’s website to another vice chancellor and acknowledged regret over the memo’s wording. Some students say they supported the memo on diversity and criticized Cheek for not standing firm on the issue.

No Child Left Behind Fix
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.8.15

The nation is now just two steps away from changing a federal education law. Republicans and democrats agree. They say it is time to change “No Child Left Behind” into the “Every Student Succeeds Act.” The Senate will make a final vote on changes tomorrow. U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander says changing the law will give states more control over education standards. Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia says he also supports the change.

TN Haslam Colleges
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.8.15

Governor Bill Haslam is proposing big changes to the way several higher education institutions run in Tennessee. One of those institutions is East Tennessee State University. The Governor will introduce legislation to create a local board for ETSU and other schools. This changes how things currently operate. The Tennessee Board of Regents is still in charge of the schools. A state higher education expert today said even if that changes, it’s still years away from being implemented effectively.

Every Student Succeeds
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.9.15

President Barack Obama is expected to sign a bill that would change how things are run at the schools your children attend. The U.S. Senate gave its final approval today on a move to change a federal education law. No Child Left Behind gives the federal government control over education. Today, the Senate voted to change the name to the Every Child Succeeds Act. The new law would once again give states the power to govern education in the classroom. The bill is headed to the President for his signature.

Every Student Succeeds Act
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.10.15

President Barack Obama signed into law a major bipartisan education law that will lead public schools and teachers in the country to a new set of accountability standards. The revised bill, called the 'Every Student Succeeds Act' rewrites the 2002 'No Child Left Behind' law. The President praised Republicans and Democrats for coming together. The law will change the way teachers are evaluated and how the worst performing schools are driven to improve. President Obama says the Bush-era 'No Child Left Behind' law has the right goals, but in practice, it fell short.

UT Diversity
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.11.15

Tennessee's Lieutenant Governor says he is not satisfied with the response to the holiday diversity controversy at the University of Tennessee. Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey said he told University of TN Chancellor Jimmy Cheek, "Heads need to roll on this." Cheek responded this week by having the list of diversity guidelines replaced on the diversity office's website. He also changed procedures for posting to that site. Ramsey thinks it would be going overboard to have Cheek step down. As far as funding cuts are concerned, Ramsey wants to see a close examination of the \$5 million spent for diversity programs system-wide to see if it couldn't be done for \$1 million dollars.

King Graduation
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Micah Smith
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.12.15

More than 400 students got their college degrees today from King University in Bristol. King held its fall commencement ceremony at Tennessee High School at 10 this morning. Thousands of friends and family members filled Viking Hall for the ceremony. King University is celebrating its 148th year as a higher education institution. Today, the university added hundreds of educated minds to its list of alumnae.

East TN State University Graduation
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Micah Smith
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.12.15

More than 1300 East Tennessee State University students walked across the stage today to accept their diplomas. ETSU awarded 262 students with Bachelor's Degrees with honors, 266 earned Masters Degrees and 75 earned Doctorates.

Sullivan Schools
Length: 1:30
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Micah Smith
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.13.15

During a commission meeting tomorrow, Kingsport, Bristol and Sullivan County School Systems will ask Sullivan County for \$140 million to improve and expand their facilities. Officials with Kingsport City Schools say they need space for their growing student population. They hope to use their portion of the funds to build an addition to Dobyns Bennett High School and to purchase Sullivan North High School and make it a middle school. The Sullivan County School System's plan is to consolidate its 4 high schools down to 2 and do major renovations on aging buildings. The Bristol City School System says it needs a new middle school. Monday is the first reading of a resolution that would allow the school boards to move forward with the first phase, the design phase, of this plan. The final vote on moving forward with this first phase will likely take place in January.

Virginia Higher Education
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.15.15

Virginia's governor wants to include tens of millions of dollars in the state budget for higher education. Governor Terry McAuliffe says he plans to expand access to higher education. His announcement comes just days before he reveals his final state budget to the rest of Virginia. The Governor says the proposal includes more than \$48 million for in-state financial aid, more than \$25 million for raises for employees in higher education and \$100,000 for a regional center to investigate sexual violence. Governor McAuliffe reveals his full budget Thursday.

Tazewell Prayer
Length: :45
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.16.15

School board members in Tazewell County will no longer begin their monthly meetings with prayer. It will instead be inviting area clergy and citizens to deliver the regular invocation. The change follows a recent U.S. Supreme Court Decision that focused on the issue of the Town of Greene, New York, opening its monthly meetings with prayer. The Tazewell County Board adopted the change earlier this week.

ETSU Fine Arts Center
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.18.15

ETSU wants the City of Johnson City to give it more time on an agreement to make a larger performing arts center. City leaders previously approved a memorandum of understanding that would give up to 8 million dollars to ETSU's Fine Arts Center. That investment would allow the university to expand the facility by about 500 seats and guarantee community access. The university has yet to sign that memo, which expires at the end of the month. Dr. Noland says he fully expects TBR to approve the plan. ETSU says it will likely need until mid-February to secure TBR approval. Johnson City's city manager told us he thinks leaders will approve the extension.

Vols Most Valuable

Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.22.15

Forbes Magazine named the Tennessee Vols as the third most valuable team in all of college football. Forbes placed Tennessee at number 7 last year. The magazine says the Vols football team is valued at \$121 million dollars. Forbes comes up with the values by combining a football program's value to the university, athletic department, conference and local economy.

School Choice
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 12.23.15

Supporters of school choice in Tennessee are not giving up. In the legislative session that begins in January, they plan to once again push for proposals that allow parents to play a stronger role in how their children are educated. Over the past few years, measures that would create a school voucher program in Tennessee and allow parents to determine the fate of a failing public school have struggled to pass. That's mainly because of opposition from Democrats and education advocates who argue more attention should be given to public schools. But both measures, particularly vouchers, are expected to be revived this session. And proponents are optimistic they'll fare better in 2016.

TN School Choice
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 12.23.15

Supporters of school choice in Tennessee have their eyes on the upcoming legislative session. They plan to once again push for proposals that allow parents to play a bigger role in their children's education. Measures have struggled to pass over the last few years, including ones to create a school voucher program and one to allow parents to determine the fate of a failing public school. Supporters are optimistic they will fare better in the session that begins in January.

Diversity Programs
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.24.15

Some of Tennessee's lawmakers are speaking out against other legislators over diversity programs, more specifically, programs at the University of Tennessee. Republican lawmakers, including Representative Micah Van Huss of Jonesborough, have vowed to review funding for diversity programs at the school. Van Huss promised to write up a bill that would stop funding the UT Diversity Office after a memo encouraged school workers to hold parties that do not have an emphasis on religion or culture. The same office came under fire for suggesting use of gender neutral pronouns. In response to what they are calling an attack on the programs, the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators says it strongly opposes the lawmakers' actions.

TN Reconnect
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.28.15

Tennessee is preparing to launch a \$1 million advertising campaign to encourage adults who dropped out of college to go back to school to get their degrees. The ads will promote Tennessee's Reconnect and Complete initiative. It seeks to reach 110,000 Tennesseans who were more than halfway to a degree when they left college. College representatives got added training at a meeting this fall on the best ways to work with adult students. Those students often balance families and jobs with their education. Each state college also has put a staff member in charge of outreach to adults.

VA College Savings Deadline
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.31.15

In Virginia time is running out to qualify for a state income tax deduction on college savings. Today is the deadline to make tax-deductible contributions to Virginia 529 College Savings Plan accounts for the 2015 tax year. Virginia allows taxpayers to deduct contributions up to \$4,000 per account in a single year from their state individual income tax. Contributions above that sum can be deducted in subsequent years.

GOVERNMENT

Johnson City Parking Boots

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.1.15

If you have three or more unpaid parking tickets in Johnson City, the city now has the authority to tow your car or put a boot on it. Earlier this evening, Johnson City Commissioners passed the ordinance on final reading. According to the ordinance, Commissioner David Tomita told us drivers will have to pay all unpaid tickets before he or she can pay to have the boot removed.

Johnson City Surplus

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 10.5.15

The City of Johnson City says for the first time in several years the city had more money than it budgeted. The city manager says an unexpected increase in tax collections and decrease in government spending led to a \$2.5 million surplus for the fiscal year that just ended a few months ago. Leaders plan on putting \$1 million of that surplus in the city's fund balance, basically a savings account. The city plans on using another \$750,000 of its surplus to buy a new fire truck and public works equipment. Leaders are putting the remaining \$700,000 in the city's capital project's fund for projects to be determined at a later date. The city manager says the surplus will help the city avoid having to borrow more money for some of its projects and avoid paying more interest in the process.

Sullivan County Finances

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 10.5.15

A Sullivan County commissioner says the county is on what he calls "a collision with a fiscal iceberg" over the next three years. Commissioner Pat Schull sent out a memo to members of the county commission this week saying he believes taxpayers could be facing a tax hike in the near future with some of the financial challenges the county will be facing. Schull cited the county's school facilities plan as a future challenge. Sullivan County passed a 27-cent property tax increase in the upcoming year's budget last month.

Bush and Carson in Knoxville

Length: :30

Format: Voice Overs

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.5.15

Two candidates for President of the United States will soon campaign in East Tennessee. Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush will be in Knoxville Friday for an SEC Tailgating fundraiser. Tickets are \$1,000 to attend and \$2,700 for a photo reception. Bush is also expected to be in Knoxville

Saturday. Republican Presidential candidate Dr. Ben Carson will make a stop in Knoxville Sunday to promote a new book. The book signing is scheduled at Books-A-Million in Kingston Pike at 7 in the evening.

TN Gas Tax
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 6pm
Air Date: 10.7.15

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam says a long-term revenue plan is needed to address the state's growing list of unfunded road projects. The Governor said something must be done to address a \$6 billion backlog in road and bridge repairs. The Governor has suggested a gas tax increase, the first in 25 years, but that has been met with resistance from members of his own party. Haslam added he is open to discussing proposals to use surplus tax collections. He said the state needs a long term fix.

Harrison Resignation
Length: :45
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Josh Smith
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.7.15

A veteran member of the Tri-Cities Delegation to the Tennessee General Assembly will step down at the end of the year. State Representative Mike Harrison was hired today to become the Executive Director of the Tennessee County Mayor's Association. He will start in January, which means he will resign as the Representative of the Ninth District in December. That's Hawkins and Hancock Counties. Harrison has been in office for almost 13 years. His term was not set to expire until next year. The Hawkins County Commission will appoint his replacement. Harrison's new job will be to lobby the General Assembly. Rules prohibit him from lobbying lawmakers for a year after he leaves the Legislature.

Creeper Trail Rezoning
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.8.15

Abingdon, Virginia leaders rezoned a plot of farm land near the Virginia Creeper Trail Wednesday night to allow for a sprawling retail development. The decision came despite complaints from community members. The board discussed a plan to rezone 30 acres of land to allow for the retail project that would include a new Food City grocery store, a hotel and other stores. The land is along Green Springs Road near the Virginia Creeper Trail. Many opposed the rezoning saying the retail project would disrupt the scenic beauty that's helped the trail become one of the most visited and popular in the southeast. Food City CEO Steve Smith was among a small group of people who spoke in favor of the project. The town council approved the proposal on first reading. It will have a second reading on the issue at the next meeting.

Jeb Bush at University of Tennessee
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.10.15

A Republican Presidential candidate made a campaign stop in East Tennessee this weekend. Jeb Bush was in Knoxville today and stopped by a tailgate at the University of Tennessee. The Presidential hopeful chatted with several supporters right before the big SEC match-up against the Georgia Bulldogs. He said, "I'll be back here campaigning as well, because we have to win the votes for young people. Conservatives need to campaign in places where conservatives have not been in a long, long while. We have to have a hopeful, optimistic message, not one that's

angry.” Bush plans to attend 4 SEC football games this season. It’s part of his push to win over more young voters to hopefully win early Southern Primary States.

Ben Carson Knoxville
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.11.15

Republican Presidential hopeful Ben Carson made a stop in east Tennessee this weekend. He appeared for a book signing. Close to 1400 people showed up for the event. The Republican Presidential candidate is on a book signing tour around the country to promote, “A More Perfect Union.” According to CBS Polls, Carson is running behind Donald Trump for the Republican nomination.

Voter Registration
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over – Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.12.15

Virginia voters have until tomorrow night to make sure they can vote in the November election. You can register to vote online or you can register in person at your local voter registration office by 5pm tomorrow night.

Anti-Islam Bill
Length: 1:30
Format: Voice Over – Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.12.15

The nation’s largest Muslim civil rights group is calling on Tennesseans to oppose what they call an anti-Islam bill. Republican Representative Sheila Butt of Columbia wants to ban teaching religious doctrine to Tennessee’s students until they are in high school. This comes after several protests about Islam courses being taught to middle school students. One of those protests happened in Johnson City last month. The bill will be considered by the General Assembly when it meets again next year. Until then, the council is asking people to contact their lawmakers saying they oppose the bill.

Greene County Confederate Flag
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Jordan Moore
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.12.15

Several lawmakers across the United States have successfully won battles to remove the Confederate flag in their communities. Tonight, a county commissioner in our region wants to see it fly right next to the courthouse. Greene County Commissioner James Randolph will introduce the proposal next week to the commission. He says the flag should fly because it’s part of history. But not everyone agrees.

Virginia Budget
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.13.15

A new report shows Virginia's state budget is growing because of Medicaid spending. The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission found Medicaid spending rose 75% from the 2006 to the 2016 budget. That's responsible for 25% of the state budget's total growth from \$32 billion to \$47 billion. The report also found the number of people who got Medicare rose from 76,000 in 2006 to 113,000 this year.

Mayor Van Brocklin Announces Future Plans
Length: 1:30
Format: Package
Reporter: Josh Smith
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.13.15

Johnson City Mayor Ralph Van Brocklin says he will step down as Mayor next month. He said he thinks it is time for new leadership. He plans to remain on the commission and even run for re-election next year. Vice Mayor Clayton Stout will lead the City Commission until the next election in November 2016. Mayor Van Brocklin told us he's most proud of the construction of a new animal shelter in Johnson City during his term as Mayor and the development boom downtown.

New Student Housing
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.15.15

Johnson City Commissioners are moving forward with plans to bring more student housing to the area. Commissioners unanimously approved rezoning land off West Walnut Street and McKinley Road. High Density Residential wants to build a 132 unit apartment complex. Commissioners also approved the concept plan. It could get final approval as early as November.

Jeb Bush to Tennessee
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 6pm
Air Date: 10.16.15

A Republican Presidential candidate is determined to win votes in Tennessee. To help do that, he's recruiting the help of big supporters from our region. Jeb Bush announced who will represent him at one of the largest meetings of GOP leaders across the nation. Bush named 57 people as his delegates in preparation for the Republican National Convention. The list includes former Tennessee U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist. Tonight, we confirmed Mountain States Health Alliance CEO Alan Levine has also been named a delegate.

Haslam Religious Doctrine
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.18.15

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam says a religious doctrine bill could have unexpected consequences. Representative Sheila Butt of Columbia wrote up legislation to ban religious doctrine teachings until students reach high school. The Governor said he did not know how you could teach about the founding of America without religious doctrine. A Muslim civil rights group says the bill specifically targets Islam courses.

Haslam Outsourcing
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.19.15

Governor Bill Haslam is considering outsourcing the management of some state-owned facility to private companies to save taxpayers money. Today, the Governor said he thinks the focus should remain on managing Tennessee's tax dollars in the most efficient way possible. No final decision has been made on privatizing state facilities.

Greene County Confederate Flag Vote
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Curtis McCloud
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.19.15

Greene County Commissioners said no to a proposal to raise the Confederate flag outside the courthouse in downtown Greenville. All but one commissioner, James Randolph, said no to the idea. Randolph does not plan to bring up the proposal again.

Webb Drops Out
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.20.15

Former Virginia U.S. Senator Jim Webb dropped out of the Democratic Presidential race today. Webb says he will now consider running as an Independent. The former Virginia Senator's candidacy never really got off the ground as he did little campaigning and polled poorly. He was also critical of the Democratic Party's strategy and support they gave him during his run.

Drug Addiction in Babies
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.22.15

The U.S. Senate passed a bill to better combat the issue of babies born addicted to drugs. Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander said the Senate based the bill off a rise in drug addicted newborns in the Volunteer State. Senator Alexander says the House is being urged to act quickly on its version of the bill.

Virginia Elections
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 6pm
Air Date: 10.23.15

All 140 seats of the Virginia General Assembly are up for election next month. But for most of those positions, voters will not have much of a choice on the ballot. That's because less than half the posts are not contested.

Ron Ramsey Will Not Run For Governor

Length: :55

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.23.15

Tennessee's Lt. Governor made his decision about running for the state's top government job. Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey of Blountville told us he will not enter the next gubernatorial race. He said, "Absolutely, positively not!"

Outsourcing in Tennessee

Length: 1:15

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 10.28.15

People in the Tri-Cities want Governor Bill Haslam to know they are against an initiative that would allow a private company to manage state owned buildings. Members of East Tennessee State University's faculty and staff met with a representative from the United Campus Workers of America to discuss their concerns about Governor Haslam's plans. The UCWA representative plans to deliver a petition against the measure to Nashville this weekend.

Rezoning Vote Postponed

Length: 1:45

Format: Package

Reporter: Curtis McCloud

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 11.2.15

The decision to rezone property that borders the Virginia Creeper Trail was delayed tonight. The resolution would have cleared the way for a commercial development on the land including a Food City store and possibly a sports complex. The development would be built off Exit 17 of Interstate 81 in Abingdon. Abingdon's Town Manager announced the developer submitted a request to delay the vote. The town council approved. The town council meets again December 7. People against the project plan to attend that meeting.

Elizabethton Signs

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Sydney Cameron

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 11.3.15

The Elizabethton Planning Commission will return to the drawing board with its new, proposed sign laws. This comes after business owners raised concerns as city council was getting ready to vote on it. Some business owners want to use those four square feet yard signs, also known as snipe signs, to attract customers. The signs are not allowed now, and will only be allowed for those living in residential areas under the new proposed law. Elizabethton says it is reviewing the proposed law and trying to address the concerns. The city hopes to have the proposed law back before council in January.

ETSU Performing Arts Center

Length: :50
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.3.15

Johnson City Commissioners voted to invest \$8 million into the East Tennessee State Performing Arts Center. This will allow ETSU to expand the facility to 1300 seats. The current plan calls for 750 seats. ETSU says the city's investment will help attract large scale traveling productions.

Mayor Officially Resigns
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.3.15

Johnson City Mayor Ralph Van Brocklin officially stepped down from the leadership post. Weeks ago, he told us he would resign but only after the commission approved funding for the ETSU Fine Arts Building. The commission did that this evening. He will remain on the Johnson City Commission. Vice Mayor Clayton Stout will serve as Mayor through the next city commission election in one year.

Virginia Elections
Length: 3:00
Format: Voice Over – Live – Graphics
Reporter: WJHL Staff
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.3.15

The makeup of Virginia's General Assembly remains unchanged. Republicans still control the Virginia Senate. Voters also elected people to serve in top spots in local government. We brought viewers the results of those races for southwest Virginia counties.

Naloxone Bill
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.4.15

A Virginia Senator will introduce a bill tomorrow in response to drug overdose deaths across the nation. Senator Tim Kaine is spearheading an effort to draw down the number of deaths. He wants to increase access to the drug Naloxone. It reverses the effects of a drug overdose. The legislation would encourage physicians to co-prescribe Naloxone alongside opioid prescriptions.

Greene County Taxes
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.4.15

Greene County Commissioner Eddie Jennings filed a resolution to lower property taxes by 5 cents. Jennings told News Channel 11 he wanted to propose lowering the taxes because several increases had been approved in the county recently and he feels it's too much on taxpayers. He plans to present his resolution at the next meeting on November 16th.

Biden in Tennessee
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.5.15

Vice President Joe Biden said the federal government should be able to bypass state legislatures to get transportation funding to local communities. He appeared in Nashville tonight to speak to more than 4,000 city officials from across the state. Biden criticized a bill that the U.S. House approved today saying it does not give enough funding for road projects.

Birth Control
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.6.15

Today the Supreme Court agreed to hear the 4th dispute over President Barack Obama's 5 year old health care overhaul. This one involves a battle over birth control. The Affordable Care Act requires group health plans offer a full range of contraceptive coverage to women at no cost. Faith based groups argue the mandate forces them to violate their religious beliefs. Arguments are expected to take place during the Supreme Court's March sitting.

TN Second Session
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over ~ Sound Byte
Reporter: Allie Hinds
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.6.15

A local representative plans to introduce a bill that would create an extra legislative session in Tennessee. Greene County Representative David Hawk says the existing January through April session does not leave much time to address issues beyond the budget. He wants a September session to be held during odd numbered years to begin in 2017. He plans to introduce the plan in January.

Haslam in Kingsport
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Anisch Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.8.15

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam will be making his way to the Tri-Cities this week. Tomorrow he will speak in Kingsport. His stop will highlight various transportation and infrastructure needs in the state. The 2015 comptroller's report showed a lack of funding for important transportation projects. Governor Haslam is calling out Congress for not passing a long-term transportation funding bill in the past 10 years.

McAuliffe Homeless Vets
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.11.15

Virginia's governor says his state has helped more than 1400 veterans find permanent homes in the past year. Governor Terry McAuliffe says this is because he committed Virginia to the "Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness." Twenty mayors and county chairs joined the effort. The Governor says by doing this, Virginia has made it so it will be a rare occurrence to find a veteran without a home.

VA Delegates
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.13.15

Virginia will be a key swing state in the 2016 Presidential contest. Two thirds of the state's democratic super-delegates publicly back Hillary Clinton, including all the state's democratic congressional delegation. Ten of fifteen state's democratic super-delegates support Clinton in the democratic primary. Governor Terry McAuliffe is one of them.

TN Delegates
Length: :35
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.13.15

In Tennessee six of the nine democratic super-delegates publicly support Hillary Clinton's presidential bid. One notable uncommitted super delegate is Al Gore. He was Bill Clinton's running mate in 1992 and served as Vice President for 2 terms. The other uncommitted include state democratic party chair Mary Mancini and democratic national committee member Will Cheek. Super delegates can support the candidate of their choice at the democratic national convention regardless of what happens in the primaries and caucuses. They make up about 30% of the delegates needed to clinch the nomination.

Tennessee Refugees
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.16.15

Tennessee's Governor asked the federal government to stop sending Syrian refugees. Governor Bill Haslam said he wants the U.S. State Department to suspend placing refugees in Tennessee until the state has more of a role in the process. This comes as concerns rise that terrorists may try to sneak across borders with refugees. The Refugee Processing Center says 35 refugees settled in Tennessee over the past year.

Tennessee Refugees
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.17.15

Some of Tennessee's top lawmakers say they are considering legislation in response to Syrian refugees. This comes as concerns rise that terrorists may try to sneak across borders with refugees. Tennessee Senate Republican Caucus Chair Bill Ketron is considering a bill to find out the cost of refugee resettlement in Tennessee.

Tennessee Refugees
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 11.18.15

Fears over a Paris-style attack in the United States are prompting some in Congress to push for a pause in an immigration program that allows some Syrians to come to America. Republicans want a vote tomorrow on a bill that would temporarily stop a White House program that would bring up to 10,000 refugees into the states. One Tennessee lawmaker has a different plan. House Republican Caucus Chairman Glen Casada says he wants the National Guard to round up Syrian refugees who have settled in the state and stop any others who might enter. Casada says he wants the refugees taken to immigration and customs enforcement centers. He joins several governors, including Tennessee's, who issued calls to stop accepting refugees. However, it's not the state's call. The federal government controls resettlement programs.

Tennessee Abortion Regulations
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.18.15

Tennessee's lawmakers have made another change to abortion regulations. Today, Governor Bill Haslam said the state's health department is telling doctors they must now document how it disposes of aborted fetal tissue. Governor Haslam says the health department has also made it easier for people to file a complaint against a surgery center. This comes after lawmakers expressed their concerns of Planned Parenthood. The health care organization is under fire for undercover videos made by the Center for Medical Progress. The center says the videos show top Planned Parenthood leaders discussing how to make a profit off of fetal tissue, something that is against the law.

Mountain Home Trees
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.23.15

Veterans Affairs hospitals in Tennessee and Virginia say they will allow Christmas trees. This comes after one of the hospitals first decided it would not deck the halls this Christmas season. The Salem, Virginia VA Medical Center sent a letter to its employees earlier this month saying it would not put up a tree. On Friday, things changed after a heated meeting, where hospital administration said it would not allow it. We reached out to the Mountain Home VA in Johnson City. Officials there told us the Christmas tree will go up as usual.

Haslam on Refugees
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over – Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.23.15

Tennessee's Governor says people are clearly becoming scared about terrorists entering his state. Governor Bill Haslam said, "People in Tennessee are scared – maybe as scared as anything I've seen." The Governor's comments come after he called on the federal government to halt the settlement of Syrian refugees in Tennessee. Governor Haslam said he wants the state to be more involved in the process. The Governor said there's no indication that the White House wants to give states that kind of role over the process.

Slow Poke Law Proposal
Length: 2:00
Format: Package

Reporter: Anisah Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.27.15

An East Tennessee lawmaker says he is tired of people going too slow on the interstate. Representative Dan Howell says too many people get in the left lane and cruise, causing traffic problems for other drivers. He says he will propose a bill that would make it illegal to hang out in the passing lane. Representative Howell dubbed his bill the "slow poke law" and plans to present it to the General Assembly in January. The law would only apply to sections of the interstate where there are at least three lanes and only when weather and traffic permits. If the General Assembly makes the bill a law, violators would face a class C misdemeanor and a \$50 fine.

Syrian Refugees – Tennessee
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.30.15

Tennessee's top attorney says the state legally cannot refuse to accept Syrian Refugees. Attorney General Herbert Slatery issued his legal opinion on the question of whether the state can refuse to accept Syrian Refugees. Slatery said today federal law prevents Tennessee from refusing entry of Syrian Refugees. He said federal law overrides any rules on refugees enacted by the state. Governor Bill Haslam joined other governors across the nation saying they want the federal government to suspend the resettlement program. The Tennessee Office for Refugees says there are at least 30 refugees from Syria in the state now. It takes up to two years for a refugee to be cleared by federal and state agencies before they can live in the United States.

Drug Addicted Babies
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over- Sound Byte
Reporter: Allie Hinds
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.2.15

The controversial Tennessee law allowing prosecution of mothers who give birth to drug addicted babies will soon expire. If the state legislature takes no action with the law before April 2016, it will go away. Despite opposition, Sullivan County District Attorney Barry Staubus is trying not only to get the law renewed; he is trying to expand it. As the law stands now, a mom can be charged with a misdemeanor if she illegally uses narcotics during pregnancy and the baby is harmed as a result.

Holsclaw Hands Free
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.2.15

Driving while using a hand held cell phone is still allowed in Tennessee, but a state representative from Elizabethton wants to change that. Representative John Holsclaw plans to bring forth legislation in January that would ban drivers from holding a cell phone while driving. He said he is still trying to determine a dollar amount fine attached for violating the law if it passes.

Transportation Bill
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.4.15

Congress overwhelmingly approved a 5 year, \$305 billion bill to address the nation's aging highways and bridges. The bill gained approval in the House and Senate and is on the way to the White House for President Obama's signature. The bill boosts highway and transit spending and assures states that federal help will be available for major projects. This is an update to a Community Watchdog investigation earlier this year. Our report showed more than 2200 bridges in Tennessee and Virginia are labeled as structurally deficient. Two hundred-fifty of those need to be fixed or replaced.

Senate Health Law
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Yasmee Elayan
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.4.15

Republicans muscled legislation through the Senate aimed at crippling President Obama's Health Care Law and Planned Parenthood. The House is expected to vote in favor of the bill next week. If it does, it would be the first bill to reach the President's desk aimed at demolishing his Health Care Law.

Abingdon Town Council
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Curtis McCloud
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.6.15

A potential commercial development that has stirred up controversy in Abingdon will go before town council members for a second reading tomorrow night. Earlier this month, tempers flared after Abingdon's Town Council chose to delay a decision on rezoning property that borders the Virginia Creeper Trail. The resolution seeks to rezone land off Exit 17 in Abingdon for a commercial development that would include a Food City and possibly a sports complex. The meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night in the Grand Ballroom at Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center.

Abingdon Rezoning
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Curtis McCloud
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.7.15

The Abingdon Town Council voted unanimously to rezone farm land off Interstate 81 at Exit 17 on Green Spring Road to make way for a new Food City grocery store and other retail space. Developers say it's a prime location for business. Many rallied to stop the project saying it's too close to the Virginia Creeper Trail, a popular hiking and biking trail that runs very close to the land that was rezoned for retail. Friends of the Creeper Trail say they have not given up hope just yet. The group planned a meeting later this week to discuss tonight's vote. It is scheduled for Wednesday at 7 at the Washington County Library in Abingdon.

Congress Travel Limits
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.8.15

The U.S. House of Representatives gave overwhelming approval to new legislation to impose stricter policies for foreigners traveling to the United States. It requires Visas for anyone who has been to Iraq and Syria in the past 5 years. The legislation takes aim at the "Visa Waiver" program which allows people from 38 countries to travel to the U.S. without a Visa. The White House says it supports the bill. The push for the change in the Visa Waiver program comes in response to ISIS inspired attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, California.

Franklin Graham on Trump

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.9.15

A prominent Christian leader says he supports Donald Trump's call to bar Muslims from entering the country. Evangelist Franklin Graham says he stands behind the republican Presidential candidate. The son of Billy Graham posted on Facebook today that he has already said Muslim immigration to the United States should be stopped until immigrants can be properly vetted.

Tennessee Refugees

Length: 1:30

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.9.15

Tennessee's lawmakers are using a special meeting to help determine Tennessee's security when it comes to Syrian refugees. Members of both the House and Senate sat down to discuss where the Volunteer State stands when it comes to the resettlement of people fleeing Syria. The lawmakers are responding to growing concerns after terrorist attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, California. The former Director of the U.S. Defense and Intelligence Agency attended today's meeting. David Shedd said it's up to the state to make sure the Federal Government is allowing the state to do risk management when it comes to screening procedures for refugees. When asked if Tennesseans are safe, Shedd said he cannot give a definite response. Refugees already here in Tennessee are urging lawmakers to keep their borders open. Last month, Tennessee's Attorney General said the state cannot legally refuse new refugees.

Virginia Budget

Length: :30

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 12.10.15

The Virginia Education Association says it is disappointed in Governor Terry McAuliffe's budget proposal. In the proposal, Governor McAuliffe included a 2% pay raise for state workers, college faculty, public employees and school teachers. The education association says a higher raise is needed to attract the best teachers. The Governor made the pay hike announcement today. He will officially unveil his two year plan next week.

Washington County Redistricting

Length: 2:00

Format: Package

Reporter: Allie Hinds

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.14.15

Some commissioners in Washington County, TN want to make a major change in the way they govern. They think Washington County has too many people on its board of commissioners and they have a plan for that to change. Right now, there are 25 commissioners for 10 districts. The new plan would divide the county into 15 districts with a total of 15 commissioners. The new redistricting map would give each commissioner about 2800 people to represent. The move would save the county an estimated \$45,000 in direct expense plus benefits. Some commissioners suggest the data used to draw new district lines is out of date and suggest they wait until the 2020 census to draw new lines. Tonight, Robbie

Tester, a member of the committee who came up with recommendations on redistricting said the district map up for a vote did not match what the committee approved. For that reason, Tester motioned to wait on a vote. That motion barely passed by one vote.

Sullivan County Redistricting

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.14.15

Sullivan County's Commission is considering reducing its number of seats. The commission's redistricting committee met today to discuss the possibility. They're considering reducing the number of commissioners from 24 to 14. The committee will study the various voting districts and present a recommendation to the full commission in early 2016.

Sullivan County – Gay Marriage

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.14.15

Commissioners in Sullivan County voted, "No," to gay marriage today. The resolution passed by the commission asks the state of Tennessee to only legally recognize marriages between a man and a woman. Twenty commissioners voted in favor of the resolution while two commissioners abstained. One commissioner voted against it because he believes they should not take a stance on an issued involving church and state.

Parks Privatization

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.14.15

Tennessee's Governor Haslam wants state government to stop managing state parks. But the proposal has drawn very little attention from private vendors. The state requested \$55 million just to upgrade the facilities before operations could be passed to private vendors. A top official with the Environment and Conservation Department says when the vendors saw the parks they said they were a little shocked at how poor their conditions were. The proposal would impact 11 parks in the state, including Warriors Path State Park in Kingsport.

Roe Public Housing Bill

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Nate Morabito

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.15.15

A Tri-Cities congressman wrote a bill to remove people who earn a high income from public housing. The legislation is a direct result of a Community Watchdog investigation that found salaries up to \$80,000 in the Tri-Cities and every major city in Tennessee. Republican Congressman Phil Roe says the bill has already gained a lot of interest, and he thinks the bill will pass. The draft would require families with a high income to move out of public housing if they've made 125% over the median area income for at least a year. Congressman Roe hopes to file the legislation next year.

Virginia Budget

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.17.15

Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe unveiled his \$109 billion, 2 year spending plan today. It includes a billion dollar increase in education spending, small tax cuts and a 2 percent raise for state employees. The democratic governor is also renewing his push to convince the republican controlled general assembly to approve an expansion of Medicaid.

Freedom Hall Funding
Length: :55
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.17.15

One of the Tri-Cities top entertainment and sporting venues will get a multi-million dollar upgrade. Johnson City Commissioners approved a plan to spend millions to renovate Freedom Hall Civic Center. Commissioners said yes to a \$3.2 million contract with Burwil, a construction company based in Bristol.

Gray Homeowners Want Out of Johnson City
Length: 1:50
Format: Package
Reporter: Curtis McCloud
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.21.15

Homeowners in Gray say they want out of Johnson City. At a public meeting tonight, an official request was made by people in the community to have their section of Gray de-annexed from the city and fully maintained by Washington County. The area is just off Suncrest Drive. About 3 years ago, Johnson City officially took over the responsibility from the county. The city provides medical, fire and ems services and some utilities to people in Gray. The residents complain they are paying double in property taxes. At this time, owners cannot officially de-annex from the city. There are laws in the works to change that. A petition was presented to city leaders as an official request to de-annex. There was also a form provided by the city for homeowners to make that request. Now, it's up to the city commission to decide what happens next. Johnson City leaders say it will most likely take about 90 days for them to determine if they can honor the request for de-annexation.

VA DMV Smiling
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 12.22.15

The Department of Motor Vehicles announced a change that should bring broad smiles to some of its customers. The DMV is easing its policy on smiling in photos used in driver's licenses and identification cards. In 2009, the DMV adopted what it calls a neutral expression policy. Customers could smile but not show teeth. The change was put into place ahead of the use of image verification software.

Kentucky Gay Marriage
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.22.15

Kentucky's governor is ordering new marriage licenses to protect the religious beliefs of several county clerks. One of those clerks is Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis, who spent 5 days in jail for refusing to issue marriage licenses to gay couples. Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin issued an executive order today directing the state to revise licenses. The licenses will no longer include the names of county clerks.

Cruz in Knoxville
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Allie Hinds
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.22.15

A U.S. Senator seeking the GOP nomination for President is brings his "Christmas Tour" to Tennessee. Texas Senator Ted Cruz stopped in Knoxville this morning. He told voters if elected President, he would repeal the Affordable Care Act and Common Core, destroy ISIS and pass a flat tax. Cruz wrapped up his day at a rally in Nashville.

Elder Abuse Policies
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Nate Morabito
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.24.15

The state of Tennessee is finalizing a plan to help prevent elder patient abuse. A Community Watchdog investigation prompted the state to create an elder abuse task force designed to make that plan. The plan is meant to help state agencies, police and others do more to prevent abuse and be more responsive to abuse cases. The elder abuse task force will hold a final meeting next month before forwarding its recommendations on to the governor and General Assembly. The group's report is due by January 15.

Mount Carmel Mayor
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.24.15

Town leaders in Mount Carmel are trying to reduce the amount of power their Mayor holds. Alderman Chris Jones confirmed to us today that the Bluff City Board of Mayor and Alderman voted to take action during a first reading this week. The proposal would eliminate Mayor Larry Frost's ability to hire, fire, promote, dismiss or move town personnel. A vote is set for Tuesday night.

Virginia Voting
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.24.15

Virginia's Governor is applauding a settlement aimed at reducing long lines when you go to vote. The state's Democratic Party reached an agreement with election officials after democrats filed a lawsuit saying the state's long lines hinder the right to vote. Election officials are now saying they will work with local boards on how to approach voting equipment malfunctions and consult with experts on things like how polls are laid out for voters.

Abingdon Called Meeting Preview

Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Jordan Moore
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.27.15

A special called meeting tomorrow morning in Abingdon, Virginia will be the next step to make way for a new retail development. The plan calls for rezoning farm land off Interstate 81 at Exit 17 on Green Spring Road for a new Food City grocery store and other retail space. Abingdon Mayor Edward Morgan says the next step is approving a financial gift of just over \$2.2 million from K-VAT Food Stores in order to purchase the property. Many oppose the new development, saying it sits too close to the Creeper Trail. A group called Friends of Abingdon says they are looking into pursuing legal action in the case.

Unicoi County Gay Marriage
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.29.15

Unicoi County's Commissioners are considering a proposal to defy gay marriage. Tonight, the commission is already looking at two versions of a resolution that ask the state to uphold its definition of marriage between a man and a woman. The decision was made after a presentation by the Family Action Council of Tennessee. That group says it works to defend the values of marriage and family. Sullivan, Greene, and Johnson Counties have already passed similar measures. The commission could address the matter further at its meeting in January.

Driver License Renewals
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.29.15

Beginning in 2016, you can renew your driver licenses in Tennessee every 8 years instead of 5. That will include all classifications of driver and identification licenses. The legislation was introduced to help reduce wait times at the Department of Motor Vehicles and improve traffic flow. The new law takes effect January 4.

TN Seatbelt Law
Length: 1:30
Format: Graphic – Voice Over - Package
Reporter: Chris Greer
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.31.15

Tomorrow marks a new year and with that will come a new law taking effect in Tennessee. A measure will begin aimed at getting more people to buckle up. The tougher seat belt law increases the fine for first-time offenders from \$10 to \$25 and from \$20 to \$50 for repeat offenders. With the increase, the state is set up to gain more than two times the revenue in 2016. Right now, Representative Jon Lundburg says the state brings in just over \$500,000 each year on seat belt fines. The changes will bring in about \$1.3 million a year. He says the change is not about money; it's about saving lives.

TN Gay Marriage
Length: 1:30
Format: Live – Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Micah Smith
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.31.15

A Tennessee lawmaker is suggesting the Volunteer State stop issuing marriage licenses. The proposal is part of a plan to block same sex marriages in Tennessee. Rick Womick of Murfreesboro asked court clerks last summer to defy the Supreme Court's ruling that legalizes gay marriage. Now, he's asking the state to stop issuing marriage licenses altogether. That would essentially make Tennessee a Common Law state. Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey says that Womick's proposal is a bit extreme, but he understands the intent behind it. Ramsey says there are two committees, one in the House and one in the Senate, that are discussing alternatives to same sex marriage in Tennessee. Ramsey says he worries about how Womick's suggestion would impact heterosexual marriages.

HEALTH

Common Cold
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.1.15

New research reveals new ways to prevent and treat a cold. A review from the Canadian Medical Association found washing your hands may be the best way to prevent catching a cold. Studies in children found that those taking zinc had fewer colds than other kids and adults could benefit as well. Researchers added probiotics could help ward off colds. Vitamin C and Echinacea did not seem to help the average patient.

Flu Shots
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over -- Sound Byte
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.2.15

On this first official week of flu season, area doctors are watching the virus closely to see how it compares to last season. We talked with the Tennessee Department of Health, and officials told us they have not yet seen any cases of the virus. Health experts recommend as flu vaccines become available, make sure you and your family get vaccinated. The CDC recommends annual vaccinations for everyone 6 months and older. In Western North Carolina, state health officials already reported the first flu death of the season.

Blood Transfusions
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.2.15

Researchers in Detroit said they were surprised to find that overweight and obese patients require less blood than healthy weight patients during hip and knee replacement surgery. The study from Henry Ford Hospital also found the heavier patients were not at increased risk for post-surgical complications like blood clots and heart attacks.

Height & Cancer
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.2.15

New research finds a link between height and cancer. The Swedish study of more than 5 million people found for every 3.9 inches of height, the risk of cancer increased 18% in women and 11% in men. Additionally, taller women had a 20% greater risk of developing breast cancer.

Asthma Medication
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.5.15

New research links some asthma medications to stunted growth. Doctors often prescribe inhaled corticosteroids to infants with recurring wheezing. Finnish researchers found those children are often short for their age.

Concussions

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 10.6.15

Older patients take longer to recover from concussions. That is according to a new study in the journal Radiology. Researchers found concussion patients in their twenties had significantly reduced symptoms at their follow-up visits, but there was no significant change of symptoms in patients who were in their fifties and sixties.

Physical Activity

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 10.6.15

Doubling the recommended minimum amount of physical activity lowers the risk of heart failure by 20 percent. The study in Circulation suggests the minimum of at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise per week should be increased.

Carter County Immunization

Length: 2:45

Format: Package

Reporter: Nate Morabito

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 10.6.15

An area school district ranked near the bottom in the state when it comes to the percentage of kids who were not immunized last year. The Carter County School System is now working to make sure there's not a repeat this school year. Out of more than 4,000 kindergarteners in our area, just 48 were not up to date on the state's required six shots last school year. But of those 48 kids, 22 came from Carter County. That means more than 5% of all Carter County kindergarteners had missing or inadequate shot records last school year. The school system expects the numbers to drop significantly this school year. Carter County Schools says of the 22 students, the vast majority was vaccinated but maybe missing one booster or the information was reported wrong on the form. The school system says more students are securing temporary certificates from their doctors. Those allow them to attend school while they're in the process of catching up on their shots. The health department does not agree with vaccinating on a delayed schedule. Officials told us the people most at risk for most of these diseases and preventable diseases are the youngest kids and if you spread them out you're going to leave those kids vulnerable to these dangerous diseases. Carter County Schools told us the district is committed to making sure the numbers go back down and stay down. Some children do not have to get vaccinated because they have medical or religious exemptions. Overall, Northeast Tennessee is above the state average when it comes to immunization rates.

Breastfeeding Program

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 10.7.15

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says 54% of U.S. hospitals are now participating in the World Health Organization's Breastfeeding Program. The 10 step program includes helping new mothers breastfeed within one hour of birth and keeping moms and babies together their entire hospital stay.

Breast Cancer

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 10.7.15

A major study of breast cancer patients finds catching cancer in its earliest stages makes the biggest difference in survival. Dutch researchers compared survival rates of over 173,000 patients. They found even though cancer fighting therapies have improved significantly, patients with smaller cancers that have not spread to their lymph nodes are more likely to survive.

Weight Loss Surgery

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: Noon

Air Date: 10.8.15

A new study links weight loss surgery to an increased risk of suicide. Researchers in Toronto looked at bariatric surgery patients three years before and three years after their procedures. They found patients were twice as likely to attempt suicide before their operations and the risk went up an additional 50% after the surgeries. The study's authors say mental health problems are common in the morbidly obese community and more needs to be done to identify vulnerable patients.

Vitamin E

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: Noon

Air Date: 10.8.15

One in three Americans needs more Vitamin E. A new study from Ohio State University found people who have a cluster of health problems known as Metabolic Syndrome absorb less Vitamin E than healthy people. An estimated 35% of Americans have Metabolic Syndrome, which includes excess belly fat, elevated blood pressure and low good cholesterol.

Pregnancy and Exercise

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 10.8.15

Exercising up to 5 times a week before you get pregnant could protect against common pregnancy-related pains. Pregnancy often leads to pain in the pelvis and nearby areas as the body changes, but a new study in the British Journal of Sports Medicine finds high impact activities like jogging and aerobics are most helpful.

Mail at Johnson City Flu Shots

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over – Graphic

Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.9.15

Doctors are encouraging everyone to get flu shots before the virus hits its peak this winter. The Mall at Johnson City is making it easier for people to get vaccinated. The Health Resources Center will offer flu shots from 9am until 11am next Tuesday. The shot costs \$25. The center will also offer shots on October 27 from 2 until 4.

Breast Cancer Early Detection
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.10.15

A major study of breast cancer patients finds catching cancer in its earliest stages makes the biggest difference for successful treatment. Dutch researchers compared survival rates of more than 173,000 patients. The found patients with smaller cancers that have not spread to their lymph nodes are more likely to survive.

Elephant Cancer Clues
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.12.15

A new study reveals why elephants rarely get cancer and how the discovery could possibly help humans. Biologists say the massive mammals have a cancer rate of just 5% compared to about 25% in people. Scientists found elephants have at least 40 extra genes that stop tumors long before they form. The special genes detect damaged cells and repair or kill them. Humans have only 2 genes of that type. Researchers say the discovery could lead to more effective cancer treatment in humans.

Celiac Disease
Length: 1:20
Format: Package
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.13.15

For some people a gluten free diet is essential. They have the disorder known as Celiac Disease. It's a genetic disorder in which part of the small intestine becomes inflamed as a result of eating gluten, a protein found in wheat, rye and other grains. Dr. John Garber at Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital says the number of people with the disease is soaring. It's classified as an auto-immune disorder in which the body attacks and damages part of the small intestine, including the duodenum, when gluten is ingested. The only treatment is to cut gluten from the diet.

Flu Shots
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 10.13.15

Tennessee's Governor and the state's top health official will come to the Tri-Cities region to get their flu shots. It's part of an effort to get more Tennesseans to get vaccinated. Governor Bill Haslam and Health Commissioner John Dreyzehner will be in Johnson City Monday. The federal government says manufacturers will provide up to 179 million doses of flu vaccine for the United States this year.

Stressful Jobs

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 10.15.15

Chinese researchers say having a high stress job may be linked to a higher risk of stroke. High stress jobs were defined as having high demands with little control over the work, such as waitresses and nursing aids. Those with high stress jobs had a 22% higher risk of stroke compared to those with low stress jobs.

Fat Burning Laser

Length: 1:20

Format: Package

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 10.16.15

Liposuction is the gold standard to get rid of stubborn fat around the stomach, thighs and hips. But now, there's a new non-invasive laser option for people that melts the fat away. It's called SculpSure and it was recently approved by the FDA. In addition to all the tubes and wires, it uses a special applicator that zaps the fat without burning the skin. Studies have shown a single treatment can remove up to 30% of the fat in the treated area. No anesthesia is needed, and there's no down time. The whole process takes just 25 minutes. The treatment costs 1200 to 1500 dollars to treat an area.

Leukemia Drug

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 10.19.15

A drug for leukemia could help reverse the progression of Parkinson's disease. A small clinical trial at Georgetown University found the drug Nilotinib improved cognition and motor skills in patients with the disease.

Alzheimer's Blood Test

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 10.19.15

Researchers from Rowan University are developing a blood test that could detect proteins associated with Alzheimer's disease. They say it will help doctors diagnose the disease early. Researchers say if Alzheimer's can be detected before symptoms begin, changes can be made to help slow the progression of the disease. Alzheimer's disease affects more than 5 million Americans.

New Breast Screening Guidelines

Length: 1:30

Format: Package

Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.20.15

The American Cancer Society has new guidelines on breast cancer that suggest for most women, less screening may be more beneficial. The guidelines call for later mammograms for women at average risk and the recommendations could impact how women get screenings in the doctor's office and even at home. The new guidelines say women at average risk of breast cancer should start getting mammograms at 45 instead of 40. The new guidelines mean 3 different medical groups recommend three different ages for starting mammograms. Some physicians say they're concerned insurance plans may decide not to cover costs of early mammograms, or that the guidelines may shift focus away from catching cancer early. The American Cancer Society guidelines no longer recommend a clinical breast exam or breast self-exams for women of any age, though the group points out that the guidelines should not stop a woman who wants extra screening at any age from getting it.

Blood Test
Length: :15
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.22.15

A routine blood test may help identify seniors suffering from dehydration. New research found that screening blood for sodium, potassium, and glucose can reveal if older people are drinking enough fluids.

Breast Cancer
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 10.23.15

Doctors should have a new tool soon to screen for breast cancer. Scientists at Florida International University have developed an optical handheld scanner to create 3-D imaging in real time. The scanner will go to the FDA for approval.

Processed Meat
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.26.15

A new study suggests processed meats can cause colon cancer and red meat could also be a contributing factor in developing cancer. The World Health Organization's Cancer Group released the study. It says these findings support current public health recommendations to limit the amount of meat in your diet. Meat industry groups blasted the report calling it biased and misleading.

Health Overhaul
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 10.27.15

Some of you could pay more for health insurance in 2016. The federal government announced the cost of a benchmark plan on healthcare.gov will increase 7.5% next year. The government added most people will still be able to buy a plan for less than \$100 per month, after tax credits. A new sign up period starts Sunday.

Cancer Patients Hotline

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Allie Hinds

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 10.27.15

Cancer patients have a new tool to help navigate their medical care. Today, Mountain States Health Alliance unveiled improvements to its “Triumph” program. Before, only those with certain types of cancer could participate in the program. Now, patients across northeast Tennessee and southwest Virginia will get individual patient advocates who will answer questions and help coordinate their treatment process. The service is free to all cancer patients, not just patients of MSHA. Find out how to get registered on our website, wjhl.com.

Due Dates

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 10.28.15

Doctors have found a way to pinpoint a pregnant woman’s due date. Most expectant mothers are given a window of about a month. But researchers at Thomas Jefferson University say one routine ultrasound around 37 to 39 weeks can measure the woman’s cervix and narrow the delivery date to within a week from the time of the test.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 10.28.15

Two treatments are bringing people relief from chronic fatigue syndrome. A study in Lancet Psychiatry says patients have experienced long term benefits from cognitive behavioral therapy and from graded exercise therapy. That’s a course of physical activity that increases gradually over time.

Drug Abuse

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 10.29.15

A new study looks at a growing trend in drug abuse. Research in the New England Journal of Medicine finds that 42% of addicts in treatment last year reported abusing both prescription painkillers and heroin. That’s an increase of about 18% since 2008.

Open Enrollment

Length: :30

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.2.15

Tomorrow, you have the opportunity to join, switch or drop Medicare Part D or Medicare Advantage coverage. The open enrollment event will take place at Memorial Park Community Center in Johnson City from 9 until Noon. Senior Services is partnering with the Tennessee State Health Insurance Assistance Program and ETSU's Gatton College of Pharmacy for the free event. Trained Medicare counselors will be on hand.

Breast Cancer Screenings
Length: :20
Format: Package
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.3.15

Doctors tell patients that regular mammograms are the best way to find breast cancer early. But some women may want to ask more questions. Nancy Cappello was told, weeks after her mammogram was normal, that her doctor felt a lump. It was invasive breast cancer. More than 40% of women have dense breasts, but many are never told that their type of tissue makes cancer harder to find. The dense breast tissue appears white on the mammogram. Cancers also appear as white spots on the mammogram. Doctors may recommend a follow up screening with ultrasound, where cancers can be easier to spot. Supplemental screenings carry the risk of false positives. Capello started the nonprofit "Are You Dense" to educate women and push for reform. Her work led her home state of Connecticut to pass a law requiring radiologists to inform women if they have dense breasts and mention ultrasound or MRI as possible follow ups. Twenty-four states now have density notification laws and a federal bill is making its way through Congress.

Fertility
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.4.15

A new drug could bring hope to couples struggling with infertility. A study in London finds the hormone kisspeptin appears to be safer and more effective for harvesting eggs during in-vitro fertilization. Researchers say using the new hormone in place of conventional drugs may prevent life threatening side effects.

Pregnant and Active
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.4.15

For women who become pregnant, there's a warning about the importance of physical activity. Researchers at the University of Warwick say too much sitting may be linked to depression in expectant mothers, as well as greater weight gain. That can increase the risk of gestational diabetes.

Healthy Breakfasts
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.5.15

A new study at Cornell University looks at what slim people eat for breakfast. Among about 150 healthy weight participants the most common breakfast foods were fruit, dairy, cold cereal and bread. Only 4% said they skip breakfast altogether.

Kidney Disease

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 11.6.15

A simple blood test could soon help determine if you're at risk of developing chronic kidney disease. A study in the New England Journal of Medicine shows that the test, which looks at levels of a protein called suPAR, can reliably predict a person's chances of developing the disease 5 years before symptoms start.

Reversing Cataracts

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 11.6.15

A team of scientists from San Francisco, Michigan and St. Louis has identified a chemical that could be used in eye drops to reverse cataracts. It's the first identified compound that's soluble enough to be used in an eye drop. Cataracts are the leading cause of blindness.

Sleep & Diabetes

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 11.6.15

Getting less sleep could increase your risk for diabetes. Colorado researchers say getting only 5 hours of sleep a night diminishes the body's sensitivity to insulin and impairs the ability to regulate blood sugar. Levels were normal when study participants slept nine hours a night.

Meat and Cancer Risk

Length: 1:45

Format: Package

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 11.10.15

Two weeks ago, the World Health Organization declared processed meat a carcinogen. Now, a new study links grilled and barbecued meat to kidney cancer. The study, published in the Journal of Cancer Research, links higher meat consumption with a higher risk of kidney cancer. Researchers examined the diets and genetic information of kidney cancer patients and then compared them with healthy men and women. They found the kidney cancer patients ate more meat, both red and white, than the healthy people. Specifically, they looked at meat cooked over an open flame, which health experts say can create carcinogens. They also found a certain genetic mutation that made the patients more vulnerable to kidney cancer, suggesting genetics may play a role. The research only looked at the most common type of kidney cancer, renal cell carcinoma. Researchers add people should not stop eating meat, just eat it in moderation and do not burn it.

Drug Addicted Babies

Length: :55

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.10.15

The state of Tennessee say for the first time in years the number of drug dependent babies has not increased. Over the past decade, the state says there's been a nearly 10-fold rise of babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome or NAS. So far this year, 832 cases have been reported in Tennessee, 194 of those come from the Tri-Cities. The state says the numbers are comparable to last year, giving a little more hope they could continue to improve. Some credit in the slowdown to more funding for non-profits helping moms recover from drug addictions.

Cancer Heart Damage
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.11.15

A new study suggests there may be a way to help prevent the heart damage that many breast cancer patients suffer as a result of treatment. Radiation and some cancer medicines beat the disease but can harm women's hearts. In a study in Norway, researchers tried to prevent the damage by giving a drug already widely used to treat heart failure at the time women were having cancer treatment. The drug seemed to prevent heart decline but the effect was modest.

New Autism Numbers
Length: 1:30
Format: Package
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.16.15

Some new government figures just issued on the prevalence of autism in children across the country are stirring up controversy. The estimate released today shows more children may be struggling with the condition than previously thought. New data from the Centers for Disease Control finds as many as 1 in 45 children may be on the spectrum. Another, still current, government survey puts the estimate at 1 in 68. Despite the new figures, doctors emphasize they will not replace the government's official one in 68 number.

World Prematurity Day
Length: :55
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: David McAvoy
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.17.15

Three area groups came together to do something nice for families dealing with difficult times in the neonatal intensive care unit. The March of Dimes, Rec-Direct, and Chick-fil-A put together a "Feed the NICU Families" event at Niswonger Children's Hospital this morning in Johnson City. The groups organized the event for today to coincide with World Prematurity Day. The World Health Organization estimates 15 million babies are born too early every year. Nearly a million of them die. A recent study showed 79% of extremely premature babies survived after being discharged from the hospital in 2012 versus just 70% in 1993.

Health Care Gap
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: Noon
Air Date: 11.18.15

A report released this week by the Tennessee Justice Center in Nashville reveals the negative impact the state's health care gap is having on local communities. People in the health care gap earn too little to pay for private insurance but do not qualify for TennCare, the state's version of Medicaid. The report says 280,000 Tennesseans have no access to health care. The Tennessee Justice Center says its findings emphasize the need for Governor Bill Haslam's plan to extend health care to the thousands of Tennesseans without it. The proposal failed in the last legislative session. Some lawmakers and health care advocates have discussed trying to revive it in the session that begins in January.

Coffee

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: Noon

Air Date: 11.18.15

Whether you drink regular or decaf coffee, a new study says you could be reducing your risk of death. The study says people who drink coffee daily are less likely to die from heart disease, neurological disease and type 2 diabetes than those who do not drink it. Researchers looked at more than 200,000 women and 50,000 men and examined death trends in groups with varying amounts of coffee consumption.

STD Increase

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: Noon

Air Date: 11.19.15

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports an alarming increase in sexually transmitted diseases in 2014. The CDC says 1.4 million cases of chlamydia were reported. That is the highest number of annual cases of any condition ever reported to the CDC. Reports of gonorrhea and syphilis also increased in 2014. The CDC calls the increase in syphilis infections among men troubling. The CDC says gay and bisexual men are most at risk for syphilis infections.

Antioxidants

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 11.23.15

If you prefer to get your antioxidants from chocolate, your medicine is about to get even tastier. Scientists in Belgium say yeasts used to ferment cocoa beans can be used to change the flavor of chocolate. The process could produce chocolate flavors as varied as wines, teas and coffees.

ADHD and Sleep

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 11.23.15

New research on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder suggests children may not be getting the rest they need if they're on certain medications. ADHD affects an estimated 7% of children in the United States. About 3.5 million of them are prescribed stimulant medication which is the most common treatment. The study in Pediatrics recommends pediatricians closely monitor sleep problems in kids with ADHD. The study also found boys taking ADHD medications were more likely to have sleep issues than girls.

Baby Bumpers
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.24.15

Researchers are calling for a nationwide ban on crib bumpers. A new study links them to a spike in infant deaths. The findings in the Journal Pediatrics show 23 crib-bumper deaths reported during the last 7 year period.

Breastfeeding
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 11.24.15

A new study shows breastfeeding lowers the risk of developing type 2 diabetes for certain new mothers. Researchers from Kaiser Permanente found women with gestational diabetes who consistently breastfeed their babies, cut in half their risk of developing type 2 diabetes within 2 years after delivery.

TN Insurance Denied
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 11.29.15

The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance says numerous patients have reported that providers are not accepting their insurance. Some medical services are not taking Community Health Alliance Insurance. The Tennessean reports the Knoxville-based co-op is shutting the doors and will soon stop offering insurance plans after December 31. However, the insurer is expected to pay claims through the end of the year. The Commerce and Insurance Department would like to hear from those that have service with Community Health Alliance who have been recently denied services by doctors or hospitals.

Bone Marrow Drive
Length: :50
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Josh Smith
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.1.15

A Tri-Cities region teen is in desperate need of a life-saving Christmas gift. She has a rare form of cancer and needs a bone marrow transplant. Destiny Miller, 14, needs to find a donor whose marrow will be accepted by her body and used to create healthy new cells. The Wallace Middle School student was diagnosed with aplastic anemia at age 7. No family members were a match. Now, Destiny is out of options. The community will hold a bone marrow registry drive next week in Destiny's honor. It's Tuesday and Thursday at Johnston Memorial Hospital in Abingdon from 10 until 7.

Alzheimer's & Walking
Length: 1:30
Format: Package
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.2.15

New research finds a connection between slower walking speeds in the elderly and protein build up in the brain. Researchers say the findings suggest subtle walking disturbances could be a signal of Alzheimer's disease even before people show any clinical symptoms. The study says how fast elderly people walk could be related to the disease. The study builds on existing data that it pays to be fit. The study found a connection between slow walking speed in the elderly and the amount of amyloid protein built up in their brains. That build-up has been associated with the development of the disease. Researchers say a slow gait could signal the possibility of Alzheimer's before people show clinical symptoms.

Mother Weight Gain

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.3.15

Mothers who gain weight between pregnancies could be increasing their risk of their 2nd child dying at birth or within a year. Researchers in Sweden found women who gained 24 pounds or more between pregnancies have a 50% greater chance of their baby dying in the first 4 weeks of life.

Injuries Down

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 12.4.15

A new international study suggests injuries in daily life are down by almost a third in the past 25 years. Researchers calculated the injury toll in nearly 200 countries and found car crashes, suicides, falls and violence cause the most harm. They say overall the world is actually becoming a safer place.

Cocaine Addiction

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 12.4.15

Scientists in Italy are reporting some success with patients addicted to cocaine. Doctors used magnetic pulses to stimulate the brain and were able to reduce the patient's cravings and drug use. Sixty-nine percent of patients avoided relapse.

John Reed Nursing Home

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over -- Graphics

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 12.7.15

The federal government terminated its Medicaid and Medicare agreement with a Tri-Cities nursing home. Now, the state is also taking action. The Tennessee Department of Health is suspending new admissions to John M. Reed Nursing Home. Last week, Medicaid and Medicare patients learned they had to leave the Limestone facility after a complaint resulted in an investigation that found several problems with patient care. Today, Tennessee Health Commissioner John Dreyzehner said the nursing home cannot accept new admissions because of the findings in an annual survey released last month. Dreyzehner also ordered the facility to pay a one-time penalty of \$4,000. The state assigned a special monitor to review the facility's operations. Medicaid and Medicare patients at John M. Reed have less than a month to find another place to live.

Diabetes Type 2
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.9.15

Many patients with Type 2 diabetes seem to be getting unnecessary tests. Guidelines recommend patients with good blood sugar control get a certain hemoglobin test once or twice a year. Researchers at the Mayo Clinic found more than half of patients had 3 to 4 tests a year. The authors say the extra tests are not only financially wasteful but they lead to overtreatment and patient harm.

ADHD Rates
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.8.15

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder appears to be on the rise among girls. That's according to a new study from George Washington University. Researchers say the number of parents who reported that their daughters were diagnosed with ADHD increased 55% during the last 8 years.

MSHA – Norton Emergency Room
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.10.15

Leaders at Norton Community Hospital unveiled a First Assist Urgent Care Clinic. Leaders also unveiled an expansion of the hospital's emergency room today. The \$13.1 million investment was made to keep healthcare available to rural communities. The new 39,000 square health-plex offers a variety of important services.

State Health Rankings
Length: :35
Format: Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.10.15

Tennessee's health ranking compared to the rest of the nation is improving, but the state remains near the bottom of the list. The United Health Foundation ranked Tennessee as number 43 on America's Health Rankings. The same list last year put Tennessee at 45. On the positive side, the foundation found a low rate of excessive drinking. Obesity is still a problem, but the number was down this year compared to last year.

Child Development
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.14.15

Recent studies suggest children in the United States are developing earlier than in the past. While this may cause parents some concern, the American Academy of Pediatrics says signs of sexual maturation in children do not necessarily mean puberty has started. Doctors warn very rapid development in children younger than 8 might indicate the need for a pediatric specialist.

ACA Deadline
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 12.15.15

If you want coverage under the Affordable Care Act Marketplace and you want it to begin January 1, today is the deadline to sign up. The Obama Administration reports a spike in activity on the website and adds the site has more than 1 million new customers. Still, the administration set a modest target for 2016 of 10 million enrolled and paying premiums.

Shingles & Stroke
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.16.15

A new study finds shingles raises the risk of stroke in people over the age of 50. Researchers at the Mayo Clinic found a 50% increased risk of stroke in the first 3 months after having the painful viral disease. The increased risk disappeared after the first 90 days.

Health Overhaul
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Regan Russell
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 12.16.15

You have one more day to sign up for health care through the government's website. The Obama Administration announced the extension last night after a huge increase in demand. More than 1.3 million people signed up for health care online last week. The Affordable Care Act offers insurance to people who do not have it through their jobs or cannot afford it.

Low Income Risks
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.17.15

Children from low-income neighborhoods appear to have a higher risk of neurological problems than children who are more economically secure. Researchers from the National Institutes of Health say in most cases, the problem may not be significantly noticeable, but it may be enough to increase psychological conditions such as anxiety and schizophrenia and learning disabilities.

Cancer Cases
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.18.15

The CDC says there were 1.5 million new cancer cases reported in 2012 in the United States. It adds the rates of prostate, lung and colorectal cancers fell that year. Scientists said two out of three people diagnosed with cancer are said to survive five years or more after diagnosis.

Tanning Beds
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.18.15

The federal government says it does not want your children to go to the tanning bed. The Food and Drug Administration is proposing new rules to ban minors from using them. Under the new rules, you can only use a tanning bed when you turn 18. As far as adults go, the FDA wants people to sign a risk acknowledgement form saying you know it is a contributing factor to skin cancer. The FDA says 1.6 million children use indoor tanning beds each year.

Blood Donations
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Curtis McCloud
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.21.15

Gay and bisexual men soon will be able to donate blood. Federal health officials lifted the lifetime ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men and replaced it with a policy barring donations from men who have had sex with another man in the previous year. Marsh Regional Blood Center told us it is still in the early stages of the new process. It says it will probably be a few months before it begins accepting the new donations. The lifetime ban was put in place during the early years of the AIDS crisis.

Flu in the New Year
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.21.15

A website run by medical professionals says East Tennessee is at the top of the list for cold and flu symptoms to begin showing up. Web-MD says those high rates are expected to happen in the New Year. Knoxville is ranked second in the country for the city most likely to experience the symptoms. Nashville came in 5th place.

Slow Start to Flu Season
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 12.22.15

One of the region's largest health care providers says the Tri-Cities region has had an extremely slow start to the flu season. That's compared to this time last year when people began filling hospitals because of the virus. Wellmont Health System tells us on the week of Christmas in 2014, its hospitals confirmed 220 cases of flu. We reached out to Wellmont today. So far this season, doctors have only seen 4 cases.

Blood Thinners
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.23.15

A new study finds women taking blood thinners can safely take hormones without an added risk of blood clots or uterine bleeding. Many health care providers avoid prescribing hormone-replacement therapy or estrogen-containing contraception to women who take blood thinners. Researchers in Italy found no significant increase in clots or bleeding among women who took the hormones and those who did not.

IVF Treatments
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.23.15

In Vitro Fertilization is usually limited to 3 or 4 treatment cycles, but a new Journal of the American Medical Association study suggests extending the number of IVF cycles could be beneficial. Researchers in England found 65% of women achieved a live birth by the 6th cycle, although the percentage decreased among women 40 and older.

Diabetes Treatment
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.24.15

Harvard researchers say they developed an anti-body that could lead to new treatments for type-2 diabetes and other obesity-related diseases. It targets a hormone in fat tissue. In early tests on obese mice, the therapy improved the way the animals regulated sugar and reduced fatty liver.

Heart Failure
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.24.15

Heart failure can be slowed down by un-synching the heartbeat a little bit every day. That's the word from researchers in Baltimore. Scientists used pacemakers in dogs and found daily mild electrical shock jumps started a series of recovery mechanisms in the heart and reversed cellular damage. Clinical trials on people could begin in 2017.

Holiday Leftovers
Length: 1:30
Format: Package
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.25.15

Part of the fun of the holiday season is eating and enjoying leftovers. Following some simple rules can keep your food safe. First, make sure you do not leave food sitting out longer than 2 hours. Also, make sure to chill it appropriately. Get the turkey and the trimmings into the refrigerator quickly to keep bad bacteria from multiplying. Put food in airtight containers. The temperature of your fridge should be set below 40 degrees to ensure the food will stay safe. When it's time to reheat, bring the temperature back up to the level needed when cooked the first time. Make sure to eat leftovers within 3 to 4 days.

Flu Shots

Length: 1:30

Format: Package

Reporter: Callie Durham

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 12.26.15

Doctors remind you it's not too late to get a flu shot. More than 125,000 people tested positive for the flu during last year's flu season, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Health experts say the young, elderly, and those with compromised immune systems are most susceptible to the flu. Doctors say the flu vaccine can significantly improve your chances of not getting the flu. Flu season usually wraps up in March, but it is not unusual to see cases of the flu later than that.

Asthma Rates

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 12.28.15

For the first time in more than 3 decades, childhood asthma rates are no longer increasing. A new federal study says the rate peaked in 2009 with 9.7% of all U.S. children having asthma. In 2013, the rate decreased to 8.3%. Researchers find the only sub-group of children whose asthma numbers are increasing are children living in poverty.

Epileptic Seizures

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 12.28.15

A new report from the American Academy of Pediatrics finds schools should collaborate with parents and doctors to help untrained school employees prevent seizures in children with epilepsy. The report suggests each plan should be individualized and might include rescue medication school staff can administer, especially when school nurses are not available.

Coffee & Exercise

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Winstead

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 12.29.15

Researchers say if you need more pep in your step during your workout, grab a cup of coffee beforehand. Research at the University of Georgia shows drinking coffee can enhance your endurance. The study took a close look at previous studies on caffeine, coffee and sports. Researchers found significant improvements in endurance performance in 5 of 9 studies. Three of 6 studies found coffee reduced perceived exertion. Researchers say based on their reviews of these studies, there is moderate evidence that drinking coffee improves endurance, specifically in cycling and running.

Diet Soda & Eating Habits
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.29.15

New research shows you might not be saving as many calories as you think when you reach for a diet soda. The Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics found people who drank a lot of diet drinks tended to eat more and load up on high calorie foods like chips, cookies and ice cream. The researchers looked at the food and drink consumption of more than 22,000 adults for 2 days. Those who drank alcohol and sugary beverages had the largest increase in calories. However, those who drank the diet drinks or coffee ate more unhealthy foods like those loaded with fats and sugars. The researchers say those wanting to eat healthy should consider what they drink in relation to their overall eating habits.

Vitamin D & Multiple Sclerosis
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Winstead
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 12.31.15

Vitamin D may one day be used to treat people with multiple sclerosis. Researchers at John Hopkins found high doses of Vitamin D3 helped reduce the severity of the disease. Doctors say more testing is needed.