

WJHL-TV

News Channel 11

(Media General Communications Holdings, LLC)

Tri-Cities TN/VA

(Johnson City, TN)

Community Issues Report

1st Quarter 2015

January 1, 2015-March 31, 2015

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

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Hawkins County Water

Length: 1:15

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.2.15

Some customers of a Hawkins County utility are wondering if their water is safe to drink. They received a letter citing higher than normal levels of a chemical. The letter, from the First Utility District of Hawkins County, said the chemical is used to kill harmful bacteria, and health problems like cancer could come up, but only if you drink the water for 70 years and drink 2 liters each day. First Utility District of Hawkins County General manager Jeremy Jones blamed the high chemical levels on the quick rise in temperatures this summer. He said since then, the utility district took steps to improve the water. Jones added that the levels of the disinfectant chemical are now at a normal level.

Abingdon Farmers Market

Length: :40

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jordan Moore

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.3.15

One of the most popular farmers markets in southwest Virginia held its first market of the winter season today in Abingdon. Three years ago, the Abingdon Farmers Market started winter season events. Last year, the market held two events per month. They expect to do the same this season. The Abingdon Farmers Market takes place every 1st and 3rd Saturday throughout the winter and resumes the normal market schedule in April.

Coffee Savings

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 1.6.15

Your morning routine may be getting more expensive. That's partially thanks to coffee prices rising, but also there's an increase in demand. We have ways to trim your coffee budget. First, you should brew your coffee at home. Next, buy whole beans. They tend to run cheaper than pre-ground coffee. Also, buy your coffee in bulk for bigger savings. Finally, look for loyalty programs at your favorite brew shops.

Vultures Discovered Dead

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Nate Morabito

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 1.6.15

Why were three dead vultures hanging upside down on a vacant lot in Piney Flats last month? A viewer said she found the birds hanging by fishing line by trees in the Biltmore on Boone neighborhood. It turns out, this is completely legal. We learned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a permit to a man who's building a home on that property. Although vultures are generally protected, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service told us the permit allowed the man to take these measures to try and discourage other vultures from roosting in the area. The City of

Greeneville obtained a similar permit back in 2010. It allowed the police department to kill turkey buzzards and hang them from trees in an effort to deter the birds from roosting on people's roofs and cars.

TVA Saving Power
Length: 2:00
Format: Voice Over - Package
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.7.15

People across the Tri-Cities region are being asked to conserve energy tonight as power companies prepare for a huge demand in service. As temperatures plummet tonight, most people's first instinct is to turn up the heat. But the Tennessee Valley Authority asks you to rethink that move. TVA says that reduced power usage will ensure that everyone stays warm tonight. It asks people to restrict unnecessary power usage like the dishwasher, clothes washer and dryer. Many people we spoke with are not willing to compromise their comfort or convenience. Some even posted on our facebook page, "TVA customers are asking for a voluntary reduction in rates." Others we spoke with told us they are happy to do their part. TVA said one easy way to conserve energy is to turn your thermostat down to 68 degrees.

Booming Noises
Length: :40
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Josh Smith
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.7.15

If you felt the ground shake and heard a loud boom tonight, you're not the only one. Just before 8 pm, multiple emergency agencies in Greene County took several reports of a booming sound that coincided with the ground shaking and windows rattling. Greene County EMA Director Bill Brown said he felt the ground shake in Mosheim at the scene of the Appalachian Forest Products fire. Brown said the incident had nothing to do with the fire. Several viewers called us to see if there was an earthquake. The U.S. Geological Survey map showed no seismic activity in East Tennessee this evening. Brown contacted the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency to get more information.

Ground Shaking
Length: :45
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.8.15

Last night, many of you contacted us with concerns about loud booms and the ground shaking in Greene County. The U.S. Geological Survey map showed no seismic activity in East Tennessee. In an effort to get you answers, News Channel 11 turned to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. TEMA told us more than 100 calls came in describing the same thing happening in Hamblen County on Tuesday. The Center for Earthquake Research in Memphis put seismic equipment in Hamblen County in hopes of pinpointing the source of the shaking and booms there. As of today, there were no results to report. As for the source of the rattling ground and loud booms in Greene County, Emergency Management Director Bill Brown told us it remains a mystery.

Nullife Glass – Bristol
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Allie Hinds
Show: 6pm
Air Date: 1.9.15

A new company and new jobs are coming to Bristol. Nulife Glass announced it will invest \$5.9 million to locate in a vacant building across from the Bristol Mall. The company says it will create nearly 50 new jobs. But not everyone is thrilled by the news. Neighbors behind the building are concerned because the company works with lead. They feel they haven't had any say in who becomes their new neighbor. Joyce Hensley said, "If lead gets in the soil or in the water, it's very detrimental to our health." The company recycles cathode ray tube glass. It separates glass from lead using a furnace. Nulife officials said everything happens inside and there are no emissions from the process. Still, that's no comfort to Hensley, "If it's in the air in that building, it's going to get out of the building on to our property." Nulife Glass said it should be in full operation next year.

Listeria Outbreak

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.11.15

A California apple packing plant has been linked to a deadly listeria outbreak. Bidart Brothers, based in Bakersfield, recalled all of its Granny Smith and Gala apple shipments from its facility this past year. The fruit has been linked to a listeria infection found in prepackaged caramel apples. The bacteria may have caused up to 6 deaths and 31 illnesses reported in 11 states.

Glade Spring Spill

Length: 1:45

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jordan Moore

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.11.15

Crews spent the day cleaning up a sticky mess in Glade Spring, Virginia today. A truck hauling tree sap spilled its load. The incident happened at Petro Truck Stop off Exit 29 in Glade Spring. Firefighters on the scene told us the liquid that spilled is called Lignin. It's a product derived from tree sap. The Lignin spilled when a tractor trailer backed into the side of a tanker truck carrying the non-hazardous material. Firefighters told us their first priority when they arrived on scene was to keep the spill away from drains. Commercial crews were called in to clean up the mess. They said it would take all day, maybe longer, to finish the job.

Firewood Rules

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.11.15

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park adopted new restrictions on firewood use. Beginning in March, campgrounds will only allow certified heat-treated firewood. The policy aims to slow the spread of invasive, tree-killing insects like the Emerald Ash Borer. Park officials said the insects have the potential to devastate wildlife habitat, park biodiversity and scenic views. Campers will be able to purchase heat-treated firewood from concessionaires in many campgrounds and from private businesses near the park.

Senator Kaine on Pipeline

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.12.15

The U.S. Senate held a test vote on the long stalled Keystone XL Pipeline. Senators cleared construction of the pipeline on an initial hurdle. This comes even after President Barack Obama continues to warn of a veto if both the House and Senate pass legislation. Senate republicans say the pipeline would carry oil from Canada to the Gulf Coast and create thousands of jobs. The measure is expected to attract the support of several democrats, but a democratic Senator from Virginia remains opposed to the pipeline saying it does not provide clean energy. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell expects a full vote to take place Friday.

TVA Lake Levels
Length: 2:00
Format: Voice Over - Package
Reporter: Lauren Haviland
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.12.15

Tennessee Valley Authority officials hope to make an announcement soon about the future of Boone Lake. TVA said it is too soon to tell if the lake's water level will rise like normal in March. In October, the utility announced it found riverbank seepage and a nearby sinkhole at the Boone Dam. TVA launched what it now calls a "prolonged analysis" of finding the source of the water moving underground. Those who operate businesses along the lake wait anxiously and work to prepare for anything. TVA plans to make an announcement about the investigation before mid-March. So, it's business as usual at Sonny's Marina where employees work to get boat slips ready in March to open by April 1. TVA said it does not yet know the plan for this spring, but the situation at Boone Lake is a top priority.

Energy Savings Plan
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.14.15

A southwest Virginia city is trying to become more energy efficient. Bristol City leaders said becoming more energy efficient could save about \$3 million over 15 years. Last night, city leaders voted to allow the city attorney and manager to negotiate a contract with Energy System Group to start an energy saving project in the spring. The project would allow for every building owned by the city, including the police and fire departments, the courthouse, and the jail to get internal upgrades. Energy System Group will help with changing light fixtures, windows, and faucets to save energy. If the changes are approved, Councilman Guy Odom said the City of Bristol, Virginia will be the first entire LED lit city in the nation.

TWRA Licenses
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.17.15

For the first time in a decade, the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission has approved a fee hike for fishing and hunting licenses. Tennessee Hunting and Fishing licenses expire at the end of February, but the changes will not go into effect until July 1. Licenses will now cost \$6 more. TWRA said a big reason for the increase is operating costs. The agency said it is funded almost exclusively through hunting and fishing licenses. You're encouraged to buy your 2015-16 season licenses at the current price before July.

Unicoi Dead Animals
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.22.15

The Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency is seeking the public's help to solve a case of littering in Unicoi County. Earlier this week, TWRA received reports that someone had dumped more than 30 dead fish and several geese in the Rock Creek Road area. TWRA says if you encounter an animal dumpsite to contact TWRA or your local law enforcement agency. TWRA's investigation into the find in Unicoi County continues.

Keystone Pipeline
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.29.15

The U.S. Senate passed a bill approving construction of the Keystone XL Oil Pipeline. Today's vote advanced a top priority of the newly empowered GOP, which championed the legislation despite a Presidential veto threat. The measure fell short of the threshold needed to override that veto. Virginia Democratic Senator Tim Kaine voted against the bill saying America should push for cleaner uses of energy.

Milk Sales
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: Noon
Air Date: 2.2.15

Each year, more families say, "No, thank you" to cow's milk. Over the past 4 decades, sales deteriorated. Dairy farms call the trend devastating. Now, the industry is scrambling to turn the tide. Many believe plant-based milks like soy, almond and rice are a healthier option. Dairy Management, Inc. just launched campaign includes new blended milk products in round, resealing container. Dietician Alissa Rumsey said however it is packaged, milk is a healthy part of the diet.

Virginia Green Buildings
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 2.4.15

Virginia ranks number 4 in the nation when it comes to environmentally friendly buildings. The U.S. Green Building Council released its annual rankings today, placing Virginia behind only Illinois, Colorado and Maryland. The rankings are aimed at highlighting states that are making strides in sustainable building design and construction. These buildings use less energy and water resources. The council found that Virginia had 150 projects certified in 2014. One of the "green" buildings cited by the council included The Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech.

Foods Not to Refrigerate
Length: 1:30
Format: Package
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 2.5.15

Storing foods properly can help save money on groceries. We put many items in the refrigerator because it can help foods last longer, but not all foods should go in the refrigerator. In the fridge, tomatoes lose texture and potatoes can get gritty. Other foods like apples, onions, avocados and citrus do better at room temperature. Bananas should never be refrigerated. They turn black faster in the fridge. Berries can also be kept on the counter, but they should be eaten quickly. Bread can dry out in the fridge. One item that does do better in the cold: nuts. They contain oil that can go bad over time.

Unicoi County Greenhouse

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.5.15

Today, Unicoi County High School opened its brand new greenhouse. A generous donation by Farm Bureau and Farm Credit made the greenhouse a reality. Some students helped plant the first seeds that will soon grow into fresh food for school lunches. Right now, students are growing cold weather crops like lettuce and broccoli. Later, they will plant tomatoes and carrots.

Wildfire Season

Length: :40

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Karissa Manis

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 2.9.15

This weekend marks the beginning of the spring wildfire season in Virginia. Sunday at 4pm, the burn law goes into effect. That means anyone with an open-air fire needs to use extra caution through April 30th. Thirty-seven percent of the wildfires that happen in Virginia each year are caused by people burning trash or debris.

Tire Pollution

Length: :40

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.10.15

Two state agencies and a local sheriff's office are investigating what appears to be dozens of tires dumped at the Quarryville Boat Ramp in Rogersville. Very little information is being released about the investigation. The Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the Hawkins County Sheriff's Office are involved in the search for answers.

Fracking

Length: 2:00

Format: Voice Over – Live – Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Lauren Haviland

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.10.15

People who live in Washington County, Virginia will now know exactly what's being pumped into the ground when and if there's fracking. That's the controversial method of harvesting natural gas from bedrock. Last August, Washington County's Board of Supervisors approved

fracking in the county. The approval came despite protestors worried about the environmental impact. Tonight, county leaders clarified their position. Leaders adopted a resolution in favor of total disclosure. That means any company that conducts fracking in the county will be required to reveal exactly what chemicals are going into the ground. Fracking opponents still have concerns about the environmental impact. The resolution must go through the General Assembly before its part of state law. As of right now, no companies have applied for fracking permits in Washington County.

Tire Dump Update

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 2.11.15

The tires dumped at a Rogersville boat ramp have been cleaned up. Tennessee Valley Authority Spokesperson Travis Brickey told News Channel 11 TVA cleared the litter. A concerned viewer alerted us to the dump at Quarryville Boat Ramp. How the tires made their way to the ramp remains a mystery. The incident remains under investigation.

Saving Energy in Cold Weather

Length: :40

Format: Voice Over – Graphics

Reporter: Karissa Manis

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 2.12.15

The Tennessee Valley Authority provided tips to keep your utility bill low in cold weather. TVA says you should lower your thermostat by one degree. TVA says that will not impact your comfort level but the small reduction can mean a savings of 3% on your power bill. TVA advises to keep curtains open on clear days on the south side of your house and closed on the north side. That will allow the sun to help warm your home.

Creation Zoo

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jordan Moore

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.14.15

In just the last month, Creation Kingdom Zoo in Gate City, Virginia has welcomed two new additions to its family. Zoo Director Marc Bradley says in the last few weeks a White Capped Mangabey Monkey named Biscuit was born. Just a few days ago, the zoo welcomed a Dromedary camel named Brink. The Creation Kingdom Zoo opens for the season sometime in March.

Winter Storm

Shows: 6pm / 11pm

Air Date: 2/15/15

Reporter: WJHL Staff

The first major winter storm of the season blew into town Sunday evening. We got the viewers prepared for what was ahead with expanded coverage from our weather team. Our reporter spoke with EMS personnel about how counties are preparing in a live report. The team also provided additional tips so people could be prepared for the storm. We also showed damage from the previous night's high winds. School schedule changes, shelter locations and road conditions were also included in our coverage. We also provided information on how to drive in the snow.

Winter Storm**Shows: 5pm / 5:30pm / 6pm / 7pm / 11pm****Air Date: 2.16 & 17.15****Reporter: WJHL Staff**

The News Channel 11 Storm Team kept viewers informed about snowfall. Our reporters provided team coverage of the snow storm with live reports from across the Tri-Cities region. We also provided information about road conditions, shelters and power outages. We also provided information about how viewers should prepare for winter weather emergencies should they happen. Our coverage also included live phone interviews with the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Transportation. We also kept viewers informed about cancellations including businesses, schools and sports events.

Winter Storm**Shows: 5pm / 5:30pm / 6pm / 7pm / 11pm****Air Date: 2.18.15****Reporter: WJHL Staff**

In addition to the snow, the storm ushered in temperatures well below zero. The National Guard was on call across Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia to respond to emergencies. The News Channel 11 weather and news teams brought viewers the information they needed to weather the storm in live reports. Road conditions, power outages, tips to prepare for power outages, tips to reduce power usage because of high demand, and tips to protect your pets were included in our coverage.

Boone Lake Update**Length: :50****Format: Voice Over - Graphic****Reporter: Kylie McGivern****Show: 5pm****Air Date: 2.19.15**

Boone Lake levels are still unusually low and there's still no word on when they will rise. In January, Tennessee Valley Authority told us it hopes to make an announcement about the investigation in March. After several viewers reached out to us, we went in search of answers. In October, water and sediment seepage were discovered and prompted the TVA to draw down Boone Lake to its winter pool quicker than normal. Today, TVA Spokesperson Travis Brickey told us the TVA engineering team is working diligently on this project and analysis is ongoing.

Another Round of Winter Weather**Shows: 5pm / 5:30pm / 6pm / 7pm / 11pm****Air Date: 2.19.15****Reporter: WJHL Staff**

Another system dumped more snow on the region. The Storm Team kept people informed about the current conditions and what was ahead. The weather made for tricky travel with crashes across the region. It also impacted Meals on Wheels delivery and led to an increase in winter weather injuries in area emergency rooms. It also led to more schedule changes for schools, businesses and area organizations. We provided our viewers with complete coverage.

Frozen Bugs**Length: :40****Format: Graphics****Reporter: John Price**

Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.20.15

The subzero temperatures have been deadly for the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. That's the insect that has decimated much of the hemlocks in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. White cotton-looking spots on the trees signal their existence. Last winter was the coldest since the pests were found in the park in 2002. A park biologist said the insect dies when the thermometer drops to 3 degrees or below. Which is has easily hit in the region over the last few days.

Fishing Licenses
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.20.15

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency says fishing licenses are now on sale. All licenses from the 2014-15 season expire at the end of the month. You can buy a license at some major retail stores, over the phone and online.

More Snow
Shows: 11pm / 5pm / 530pm / 6pm / 7pm / 11pm
Air Dates: 2.21.15 - 2.24.15
Reporter: WJHL Staff

Some parts of the region are still digging out from the last round of winter weather, but Mother Nature did not get the memo. Another system dumped more snow across the region. We warned viewers about the approaching system at 11pm the night before. The following day, our team hit the streets to report on problems plaguing people in our communities. Many areas had water lines rupture which left many without water and others under boil alerts. School closings continued. Some areas in southwest Virginia declared local states of emergency. Emergency food distribution operations went into effect. Tennessee and Virginia Governors visited the hardest hit areas across the states.

POTUS Vetoes Pipeline
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.24.15

President Barack Obama showed the republican controlled Congress he is a man of his word. Today, Congress learned the President vetoed the bill that would have forced construction of the Keystone Pipeline. This makes President Obama's third veto while in office. Congressional republicans may try to override the veto, but they have yet to show they can get the two-thirds majority in both chambers that they would need.

Wise County Damage Costs
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 3.3.15

Days of winter weather left its mark on southwest Virginia. The heavy snowfall left behind a staggering amount of damage in Wise County. County Finance Administrator David Cox told News Channel 11 commercial businesses and churches have already reported nearly \$7 million in

damage. Many still have insurance officials gathering information. Cox expects the total damage to easily exceed \$10 million once residential reports are compiled.

Wicked Weather

Format: Live reports – Video & Sound elements

Reporter: WJHL Staff

Shows: Noon, 5pm, 5:30pm, 6pm & 11pm

Air Date: 3.4.15

The snow is melting and that sparked major flooding across southwest Virginia. The Storm Team kept people informed about the weather conditions. Reporters took a look at the damage and problems people across southwest Virginia were facing including closed roads, water problems, cancellations and delays. The flooding also stretched across parts of northeast Tennessee.

TSSAA Tournament

Length: :40

Format: Graphics

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 3.5.15

The weather forced TSSAA Basketball officials to adjust scheduling for the state tournament in Murfreesboro. Today's games will be played tomorrow starting at 11:00am. Friday's Semi-Final games will be played Saturday at 1:30pm. Saturday's scheduled Championship games will now take place Sunday.

Flooding & Snow

Format: Video & Sound Elements

Reporter: WJHL Staff

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.5.15

Parts of southwest Virginia and northeast Tennessee continue to battle high water. Members of the Virginia National Guard responded to help people across southwest Virginia. Additional evening snowfall made for a driving mess. Virginia State Police responded to dozens of crashes in the region. Our weather team kept people informed about what kind of conditions they could expect through the evening and early morning hours. Our news team reported on information that emergency teams wanted to get out to the public and revealed the problems the high water and snow caused.

Tennessee State of Emergency

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.6.15

Tennessee has remained under a State of Emergency for nearly 3 weeks. Tonight, emergency officials declared the emergency over. The Tennessee Emergency Management agency declared a Level 3 State of Emergency on February 16. It was elevated to a Level 2 just 5 days later. It was scaled back to a Level 3 earlier this week. Tonight, it's over. TEMA said there are no outstanding needs reported in Tennessee from the most recent storm, and there are no outstanding requests for assistance from any Tennessee counties.

Greene County Road Damage**Length: 2:00****Format: Package****Reporter: Allie Hinds****Show: 5pm****Air Date: 3.9.15**

Recent winter storms left a trail of road damage in Greene County. The road superintendent estimates millions of dollars in road damage due to the snow and ice. With an already stretched county budget, the fixes may not happen any time soon. Greene County Mayor David Crum said it's estimated this year's winter storms left behind a road repair price tag of about \$3 million. That includes pothole repair and overtime for road crews. Crum told us, without touching the weather-related road repairs, the highway department will be left with just over \$600,000 at the end of the fiscal year. Today, Greene County leaders met with Tennessee Emergency Management Agency officials to explain the county's need so TEMA can report it to the federal government in hopes of getting grant money for repairs.

Boone Lake Meeting**Length: 2:00****Format: Voice Over – Sound Bytes****Reporter: Lauren Haviland****Show: 11pm****Air Date: 3.10.15**

A week and a half after the Tennessee Valley Authority announced Boone Lake levels will remain below normal for at least a year, TVA has still not pinpointed what the problem is underneath Boone Dam. Earlier tonight, TVA held an open house to answer questions after announcing the news about Boone Lake levels. Starting this spring, TVA will stabilize the foundation of the dam by injecting grout into the ground. TVA told us engineers are committed to finding out what the problem is and to executing the proper fix so that Boone Dam can maintain its conditions safely for the next 50 or 60 years. Boone Lake home and business owners told us they are trying to make the best out of the bad situation.

Black Bears**Length: :25****Format: Graphic****Reporter: Jenna Moore****Show: 5:30pm****Air Date: 3.11.15**

Appalachian Bear Rescue says it expects to see plenty of cubs this April. That's because of a good food harvest last year. Cubs are born in January and February. Male bears typically leave their dens in March. The females and cubs usually come out in early April. Bear tracks have already been spotted in some areas in the Smoky Mountains.

Beekeepers**Length: :30****Format: Voice Over – Graphics****Reporter: Jenna Moore****Show: 5:30pm****Air Date: 3.11.15**

Honeybees pollinate crops, trees and flowers, and the population is diminishing. The Washington County and Davy Crockett Beekeepers Association encourages you to get involved. It is holding a Beginning Beekeeping School. The school kicks off tomorrow at the Appalachian Fairgrounds in Gray. You will learn about the basic equipment and techniques you will need to become a beekeeper. Registration begins at 6pm. The class costs \$20.

Pothole Problems
Length: :25
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 3.11.15

Pothole problems are keeping Virginia Department of Transportation crews busy. It asks that you report any potholes you see or hit on state maintained roadways. You can report potholes on the VDOT website or you can call 1-800-367-7623.

Pothole Repair Plan
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 3.11.15

Today, the Tennessee Department of Transportation announced its plan for pothole repair. TDOT said multiple 5 and 6 men crews in each of TDOT's four regions will work to patch the holes. TDOT will post a daily pothole patching schedule on its website. You can report potholes on that same website or by calling 1-877-smart way.

Bright Zoo Grand Opening
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Jordan Moore
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.15.15

Bright's Zoo in Limestone officially kicked off its 8th season today. Owner David Bright told us there are several things you can look forward to this season. The zoo boasts a new giraffe feeding station and a train ride. Bright added that he hopes to expand the zoo in the future. The zoo hopes to reach 150,000 visitors this season. Last year, the zoo hosted 70,000 visitors.

Rabies
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.17.15

The Virginia Department of Health is investigating several rabies cases in southwest Virginia. All the cases are in the Mount Rogers Health District, which includes Washington and Smyth Counties. The health department says two cases are confirmed in a goat and a raccoon. Officials are looking into whether a groundhog and a bat also have the disease.

Bed Bugs
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.17.15

Rogersville Senior Center and Library will reopen tomorrow. County officials shut down the facilities due to bed bugs. Hawkins County Mayor Melville Bailey said the infestation was contained to a hallway connecting the buildings. The infestation was discovered Thursday and the buildings were closed as a precaution. Exterminators will return to check the area in a few weeks, and staff will make routine checks, too.

Food City Growers

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 3.19.15

Farmers from across the region gathered today to celebrate agriculture at the Food City Growers Appreciation Lunch. Through a partnership with local farmers, Food City brings its customers farm fresh produce. Each year, Food City honors a local grower with the Wayne Scott Memorial Grower of the Year Award. This year, David and Steve Scott took home the honor. The award was named after their father. Food City purchases an average of \$6 million in fresh produce from local growers each year.

Solar Panel Woes

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Allie Hinds

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 3.19.15

A 100-acre solar farm raised concerns among many in Greene County. Birdseye Renewable Energy plans to lease land from two property owners in Chucky. One of the two property owners agreed to have solar panels on her property. But some in Greene County filed appeals to stop the plan. Some are concerned about the impact a solar farm would have on property value. Others are concerned about drainage issues. Next week the county's board of zoning appeals will meet to determine whether the agriculture zone is appropriate for the solar farm. If it decides it is, the company plans to start construction by the end of the year.

Nolichucky Prayer Circle

Length: 2:00

Format: Package

Reporter: Jordan Moore

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.22.15

An activist group in Greene County called "Save the Nolichucky" is fighting U.S. Nitrogen as the company continues work to install a 12-mile pipeline along the Nolichucky River. The pipeline would carry water from the river to the U.S. Nitrogen plant and return the water to the river. Those against the pipeline gathered for prayer today. Members of the group also raised their voices in song. They say they will not give up their fight to save the river.

Pound, VA Water

Length: 2:00

Format: Package

Reporter: Jordan Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 3.23.15

The Town of Pound, Virginia has been under a boil alert for more than a month. The snow and ice from February's winter blast continues to cause headaches for people in Pound. Heavy water usage and busted pipes put a strain on the water system. People have relied on bottled water as a drinking source. Public work crews are still trying to resolve the problem. Crews are listening for leaks, and crews are driving around looking for leaks in water pipes. They described their work as "like trying to find a needle in a haystack." Town officials told us they do not know when the boil alert will be lifted.

Air Pollution

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: Noon

Air Date: 3.25.15

Air pollution can make you anxious. That's the finding from researchers at Johns Hopkins and Harvard. They studied data on 70,000 older women and found those who lived close to busy roads and were exposed to high levels of pollution were more likely to be stressed. Researchers say air pollution compromises the body's ability to detoxify, which can lead to inflammation or aggravate existing health conditions.

Grape Harvest

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 3.25.15

Governor McAuliffe announced Virginia's wine grape harvest is up 17% from 2013. Officials say it's a good growing season in the Commonwealth. Growers produced more than 8,000 tons of wine grapes last year. The Virginia Wine Board's 2014 Commercial Grape Report says the number of bearing acres increased by 56 and newly planted acres rose by 67. Virginia is the nation's 5th largest wine grape producer.

Solar Panels Meeting

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Allie Hinds

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 3.25.15

Despite about 100 people petitioning against a proposed 100-acre solar farm in their neighborhood, the Greene County Board of Zoning Appeals voted today to allow the plans to move forward. Greene County Building Official Tim Tweed previously told Birdseye Renewable Energy its project was appropriate for the Agriculture Zone Property in Chucky. Neighbors disagreed and appealed the decision. The board denied the appeal today. Birdseye Renewable Energy said it has already invested about \$150,000 in the project that will carry a total cost of about \$25 million. Birdseye Renewable Energy plans to start construction of the solar farm later this year.

Water Project

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over – Graphics

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 3.25.15

A project announced this morning by Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe will bring water to more than 100 southwest Virginia homes. Buchanan County will receive a federal grant totaling \$1 million. The money will provide public water to 163 homes in the Hurley Community that have been impacted by past coal mining practices. The project consists of 13.5 miles of water lines, two pump stations and two tanks.

Boil Alert Lifted

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 3.25.15

The water is safe to drink in Pound, Virginia. The Virginia Department of Health lifted the boil alert for the town. Mayor George Dean shared the news today. February's severe winter weather caused extreme damage to the water system, specifically the water distribution lines. Because of that, People in Pound have boiled their water for more than a month. That is all history tonight.

Andrew Johnson Playground

Length: 2:00

Format: Package

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.26.15

Hundreds of people turned out for the unveiling of plans for a new playground outside Andrew Johnson Elementary School. The playground was a gift to children from the community 25 years ago. After a quarter century of use, the playground needs a facelift. However, renovations will not be cheap or easy. Community leaders announced the launch of a fundraising campaign. The new playground will cost an estimated \$250,000. Organizers hope the community will get behind this project like they did in 1990. The people in attendance told us the playground is used by the community just as much as it is by the school. It's known as Castle Park. Organizers hope to build the new playground in fall next year.

Kingdom Zoo

Length: 1:15

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 3.27.15

Creation Kingdom Zoo in Gate City, Virginia opens for its 6th season this Saturday. Throughout Creation Kingdom Zoo, visitors can buy food and feed many of the animals. Zoo officials told us they have several new additions to the family this season, "We've got monkey babies, a camel baby, some lemur babies, and soon, we will have zebra babies." This year, the zoo features an indoor learning center where visitors interact with reptiles. Creation Kingdom opens tomorrow at Noon.

Organic Farmers

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 3.27.15

If you grow organic produce in Tennessee, you can be reimbursed for your certification costs. Certified Organic Producers can apply to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture for a 75% cost share to help pay for the costs of organic certification. It costs small farmers between \$600 and \$1,000 every year to receive and maintain the USDA certification.

Peaches – Cold Snap
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.27.15

Some peach farmers in western North Carolina are bracing for what the cold snap could do to their crops. Temperatures are dropping tonight and tomorrow. That could threaten peach blossoms and other emerging plants. Farmers in Henderson County said apples, which is a more valuable crop, likely will not be impacted because blossoms have not emerged yet.

New Unicoi County State Park
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.27.15

After years of planning, a state park is finally becoming a reality and set to open in Unicoi County within the next couple of years. Rocky Fork State Park has been in the works for the better part of a decade. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation worked to acquire more than 2,000 acres of land for the 55th Tennessee State Park. The park, which is located near Flag Pond, will be the highest elevation state park. TDEC is working to complete park facilities. People in Unicoi County told us they are eager to draw tourism dollars to the area. Mayor Greg Lynch told us a soft opening of the park is expected soon. The park's official opening should take place in 2018.

Creeper Trail
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.28.15

Today marked the opening day for the Virginia Creeper Trail. This year will be the first year the Creeper Trail Welcome Center in Abingdon will be open for visitors. More than 150,000 people use the Creeper Trail every year to hike and bike. The trail's peak season for visitors begins in March and runs through November.

Flower Beds for the Elderly
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Landon Bedford
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.28.15

The Wellmont Madison House in Kingsport is setting up a special way to garden for seniors. Home Depot made it possible. Raised flower beds were built as an activity for seniors. Many of those who live at Madison House wanted to get back into gardening, and now they can without the added stress to their bodies. As demand grows, Madison House hopes to add more raised gardens.



ALCOHOL TOBACCO & FIREARMS

New Wine Bill
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.5.15

Tennesseans may see wine on grocery store shelves faster than expected. Democratic Representative Bo Mitchell of Davidson County wrote legislation seeking to allow grocery stores to sell wine in July of this year instead of waiting until next year as originally planned. In November, Tennesseans decided if wine could be sold on grocery store shelves in their area. Locally, several areas said, "Yes," to wine in grocery stores.

Alcohol Poisonings
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.6.15

A new report shows most deaths from drinking too much involve middle-aged adults, not teens or college students. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found six Americans die each day from alcohol poisoning. Seventy-five percent of those deaths are adults ages 35 to 64, and most are men. Researchers looked at death records from 2010 through 2012 and focused on people who died after a single episode of binge drinking.

Gun Checks
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: Noon
Air Date: 1.8.15

December marked a big month for gun sales. The FBI said more than 2.3 million background checks were performed in December. That's up from about 2 million during the same time in 2013. Background checks are the most reliable measure of gun sales. The December numbers cap a year when gun sales grew strongly over the last three months.

Guns in Virginia
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: Noon
Air Date: 1.8.15

In 2014, gun sales in Virginia declined for the first time since 2010. Virginia State Police recorded background checks for 405,838 gun transactions in 2014. That's down 15% from 2013. The decline followed three years of growth. Virginia Commonwealth University Assistant Professor and Criminologist Thomas R. Baker said the decline is not surprising. He said the previous sales jumps were fueled by fears of increased gun control.

Washington County, Virginia Schools Smoking

Length: :20
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.8.15

Washington County Virginia Public Schools are now tobacco and electronic cigarette free. Effective January 1, students, faculty, nor guests are allowed to smoke on campuses. The rule applies to all Washington County, Virginia schools.

Longer Hours – More Drinking
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.14.15

A new British study found those who work longer hours are more likely to drink too much, compared to employees with a standard work week. Researchers looked at more than 300,000 men and women from around the world who work more than 48 hours a week. They were 11% more likely to drink too much. Too much is defined as more than 14 drinks per week for women and more than 21 drinks per week for men. Researchers say risky drinking is associated with many diseases, and regulating work hours could constitute a public health intervention.

Gluten-Free Beer
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 1.14.15

One of the nation's largest beer makers is making a gluten-free beer. Miller-Coors will launch "Coors Peak" next month. It will mark the company's first gluten-free brew. The company will market test the beer in Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington.

Gun Debate
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.19.15

This session, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe will push for a package of new gun measures. Some pro-gun advocates in Richmond called the Governor and others pushing for gun-control, "gun grabbers." The gun-control advocates are trying to make their case by saying more than 800 deaths in Virginia last year involved a gun. McAuliffe's measures are not expected to pass the republican controlled General Assembly.

Alcohol Consumption
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.20.15

New research suggests moderate alcohol consumption is linked to a lower risk of heart failure. Scientists from Harvard and Brigham and Women's Hospital studied nearly 15,000 middle-aged men and women for more than 20 years. They found up to 7 drinks per week lowered the risk of heart failure by 20 percent in men and 16 percent in women.

Brews for a Cause
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.20.15

The Johnson City Brewing Company invites you to help feed the hungry in our community. Saturday from 3pm until 10pm, the brewing company will host "Brews for a Cause." Music, craft beer and food will be part of the fun. Proceeds from food sales will go to Second Harvest Food Bank. You're also reminded to bring some non-perishable food items for donation to Second Harvest.

Gun at Tri-Cities Regional Airport
Length: :30
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.21.15

Agents with the Transportation Security Administration uncovered a loaded gun in a carry-on bag at Tri-Cities Regional Airport. TSA discovered a .45 caliber pistol at a checkpoint Tuesday. Agents immediately alerted police and confiscated the bag. Police did not charge the passenger. Tri-Cities Regional Airport officials told us this is the first gun discovered by TSA this year. Agents found four guns at the airport last year.

Virginia Tobacco Grade
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.21.15

Virginia received failing grades for its tobacco control efforts from the American Lung Association. The state received F's for tobacco prevention, smoke-free air, tobacco taxes and access to cessation services in the annual report. Virginia also got a failing grade for having the second-lowest cigarette tax in the nation at 30 cents per pack. The American Lung Association in Virginia is asking lawmakers to restore funding for tobacco use prevention programs, eliminate smoking in all public places and workplaces and increase funding for state tobacco cessation services.

Tennessee Tobacco Grade
Length: :30
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.21.15

Tennessee did not do well in the annual report from the American Lung Association. The Volunteer State earned a failing grade in the categories of tobacco prevention and control program funding, tobacco taxes, and access to cessation services. To improve 2015 scores, the

American Lung Association suggests Tennessee increase the tobacco tax by \$1 per pack, strengthen Tennessee's non-smokers' rights law, and increase funding for tobacco prevention and cessation products.

Liquor Stores in Erwin

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.21.15

Package stores and mixed drink sales will soon be legal in Erwin but not before town leaders can figure out how to monitor them. Erwin town leaders met this afternoon in a work session to craft an ordinance that will govern package stores and what's known as liquor by the drink. As of now, only two liquor store licenses will be permitted. Where those businesses can locate is still a topic of debate. The current plan would keep package stores out of downtown. Mayor Doris Hensley told us the policy can always be changed in the future. The board of mayor and alderman plans to hold one more work session before a first reading vote in early February.

Electronic Cigarettes

Length: :40

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: Noon

Air Date: 1.22.15

Remember the pungent chemical used in biology class that preserved the animal you dissected? According to a new study, that chemical is found in e-cigarettes. Researchers said more formaldehyde is found in e-cigarettes than in traditional cigarettes. They added that the study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, is preliminary. However, it does add to growing fears of the popular vaporizers. Researchers say long-term e-cigarette users could be up to 15 times more at risk for cancer than long-term cigarette smokers. E-cigarette advocates say actual users would never smoke as much or as often as what researchers tested.

Pass the Bottle Bill

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.22.15

A Bristol, Tennessee state representative will try again to pass the so-called "Pass the Bottle" bill. Republican Jon Lundberg told the Tennessean he will push for a bill that will make it illegal for passengers to consume alcohol in a moving vehicle. Lundberg says the law needs to be changed because Tennessee opts out on as much as \$12 million a year in federal transportation money. Lundberg says a violation under the bill would be considered a misdemeanor.

Virginia Tobacco Commission

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 1.23.15

Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and Delegate Terry Kilgore are proposing tighter grant-making rules for the Virginia Tobacco Commission. The legislation would require more examination and transparency for how the commission spends its funds. The commission has come under

fire in recent years for what critics say is a disorganized system of awarding grants, often based on political considerations. The commission has doled out more than \$1 billion on projects to spur economic growth in southwest and south side Virginia.

TSA Firearms
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.23.15

The TSA seized a record number of firearms last year. The Department of Homeland Security said the TSA seized more than 2200 guns from carryon luggage in 2014. That's a 22% increase from 2013. TSA screened more than 2 billion carryon bags last year.

E-Cigarettes Flight Risk
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.23.15

The Federal Aviation Administration says electronic cigarettes can pose a fire hazard if they're placed in cargo compartments of airplanes. Earlier this month at Los Angeles International Airport an overheated e-cigarette sparked a fire in a piece of luggage in a baggage area. Four months earlier at Boston's Logan Airport, an e-cigarette in a passenger's bag caught fire in a cargo hold of a plane. The problem lies in the batteries that power the electronic smoking devices. They're made with lithium ion. The FAA has already banned lithium ion cell phone and laptop computer batteries from checked baggage. The FAA is not banning e-cigarettes from planes altogether. It just wants passengers to carry them on so that they can be monitored.

Brewery Fundraiser
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over -- Sound Byte
Reporter: Jordan Moore
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.24.15

A local brewery added soup to its menu today. Johnson City Brewing Company partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank for the fundraiser. Proceeds from soup purchases go to the food bank. It works to feed the hungry in 8 different counties in the region.

New Bristol Brewery
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over -- Sound Byte
Reporter: Jordan Moore
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.25.15

A new brewery is set to open in southwest Virginia. About a year ago, a home brewer in Bristol, Virginia entered and won an entrepreneur contest. Fast forward to today and he is preparing to open the doors of his new business Bristol Brewery. Ken Monyak told us heavy-duty brewing equipment was delivered to the brewery off of Piedmont Avenue this week. Construction at the brewery began in December. Monyak has not set an official opening date, but he hopes to open this spring.

Virginia Gun Control
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 6pm
Air Date: 1.26.15

A republican-controlled Virginia Senate Committee defeated a series of measures aimed at beefing up gun control laws in the state. The Senate Courts of Justice Panel voted today against bills that include limiting handgun purchases to one month and closing the so-called "Gun Show Loophole" that allows sales to private sellers without a criminal background check. Not all gun control measures failed. The committee voted in favor of a bill that would make it illegal for those convicted of certain violent crimes to own a gun. The panel also voted to allow gun owners to obtain a lifetime concealed carry permit.

Tennessee Beer Signs
Length: :35
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 1.27.15

The Tennessee law banning bars and stores from having beer brands or sales on outside signs might be unconstitutional. State Attorney General Herbert Slatery said today, if challenged on grounds of free speech, it would most likely be overturned. He says that's because it bans "truthful and non-misleading commercial messages about lawful products." Slatery noted beer retailers can use window displays to show information about available beers and promotions. This raises questions about whether the state can make a consistent argument about promoting public health and safety.

E-Cigarette Regulations
Length: :45
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.28.15

Health officials in California say electronic cigarettes are a health threat, especially to children, and should be strictly regulated like tobacco products. The California Department of Health released a report saying e-cigarettes emit cancer-causing chemicals. It also says it gets users hooked on nicotine. Officials are concerned young people will become nicotine addicts if the products remain unregulated. E-cigarette makers say their products are far safer than tobacco.

Super Bowl Drinking & Driving
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.29.15

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles reminds you not to drink and drive on Super Bowl Sunday. It says drunk driving killed 188 people in Virginia during the 2014 Super Bowl. The state reported 38 alcohol-related crashes. The DMV is urging you to designate a driver before you start drinking.

Glade Spring Guns

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over -- Sound Byte

Reporter: Kylie McGivern

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 1.30.15

Almost a year ago, investigators say a Glade Spring man killed his wife, Kristin Palmer, his son, Griffin Palmer, and his mother-in-law, Nancy Griffin before taking his own life. Investigators said they charged Palmer with assault and battery of his wife and son a week before the fatal shooting. Yesterday, Kristin Palmer's sister urged the Virginia Legislature to pass a bill that would take away gun rights for people with a violent misdemeanor. Yesterday, the Virginia House voted down House Bill 2085, but its companion bill is still alive in the Senate.

Johnson City DUI Patrols

Length: 2:00

Format: Package

Reporter: Jordan Moore

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.1.15

The Johnson City Police Department placed additional offices on the streets for Super Bowl weekend. Those officers are specifically looking for impaired drivers. Police tell us they watch for drivers who are crossing center lines, driving without headlights, speeding, and driving too slow. They say all those could signal a driver who has been drinking. Johnson City police will continue their DUI enforcement throughout the evening and through the early morning hours.

Virginia Guns at Schools

Length: :40

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 2.2.15

The Virginia Senate narrowly defeated a proposal to allow concealed handguns on school property. If approved, the measure would have allowed concealed handgun permit holders to bring guns onto school grounds outside normal school hours when no school-sponsored events are taking place. The republican controlled chamber rejected the measure on a 20 to 18 vote. Opponents said the measure would be confusing because schools serve as community centers and that makes it hard to know what activities are school-sponsored.

Tennessee Whiskey Sales

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 2.3.15

Sales are up for Tennessee Whiskey and Kentucky Bourbon. The Distilled Spirits Council said when combined, revenues rose by nearly 10% to \$2.7 billion last year. That's just in the United States. The demand for bourbon and whiskey remained strong overseas. Exports topped \$1 billion last year.

Lifetime Gun Permits

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 2.3.15

A proposal to offer lifetime concealed handgun permits was shot down because of state budget constraints in Virginia. The State Finance Committee decided to keep the current law where concealed –carry permits must be renewed every 5 years. Lawmakers are struggling to close a \$2.4 billion revenue gap. The proposal to establish permits that never expire would have cost more than a million dollars next year and \$600,000 each year after. Budget woes also shot down a bill that would have prohibited a person convicted of stalking, domestic assault or sexual battery from owning a gun.

Drunken Driving Decline
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 2.9.15

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration did an anonymous roadside survey of drivers across the country. Drivers who agreed to participate were pulled over on the spot and tested. The survey found that drunken driving was down a third from the last test 7 years ago. It was down 80% from the first survey in 1973. However, the survey showed more people are driving impaired by marijuana or other drugs.

New Diseases Caused by Smoking
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 2.11.15

A study ties a host of new diseases to smoking and says an additional 60,000 to 120,000 deaths each year in the United States are likely due to tobacco use. The survey tied breast cancer, prostate cancer, and routine infections to the list. Doctors said smokers die about a decade sooner than nonsmokers. They said smoking accounts for one of every five deaths in the U.S.

Bulletproof Desks
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: Noon
Air Date: 2.12.15

The Washington County Virginia Sheriff's Office is creating bulletproof desks at no expense to taxpayers. Sheriff Fred Newman told News Channel 11 after recent shootings across the nation, he and his office wanted to be proactive. For \$1500, the department installed ballistic material under the desks of the Board of Supervisors. This was approved by the board after a vote on Tuesday. The sheriff's office hopes to have the material installed by the end of the month. Sheriff Newman said the department is also looking into installing the same material in the county's courtrooms.

Jonesborough Beer Samples
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm

Air Date: 2.23.15

An ordinance that recently passed the first of two readings would allow stores that sell craft beer to give out beer samples. Roadrunner Markets asked Jonesborough to change its policy. The ordinance would allow convenience stores that sell craft beer to hand out up to three, two ounce samples at a time. That's equal to about half of a regular size beer. On March 9 a public hearing is scheduled and then, the Jonesborough Board of Mayor and Alderman will have a second reading of the ordinance to determine if it will take effect.

Wine in Supermarkets

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over – Graphics

Reporter: Karissa Manis

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 3.21.15

Some 270 stores around Tennessee will be the first supermarkets to sell wine under a new state law taking effect next year. Keith Bell, the director of the State Alcoholic Beverage Commission, told lawmakers those first stores include 109 in middle Tennessee, 105 in Chattanooga and Knoxville regions and 56 in the western part of the state. Industry projections estimate 10 times as many grocery stores might choose to sell wine over time because of the change in state law.

DUI Checkpoint

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.3.15

Kingsport police are trying to bring down the numbers of people driving under the influence. To help do that, police will conduct a sobriety checkpoint Friday night. The checkpoint takes place from 10 until 2 in the morning. Police say they are not revealing where officers will conduct the checkpoint.

Jonesborough Beer Ordinance

Length: :55

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.9.15

You will soon be able to sample craft beer at a Washington County Tennessee convenience store before you buy it. After discussion, Jonesborough aldermen voted two to one on second and final reading to change the town's beer law. A local convenience store asked for the ability to offer a maximum of three 2-ounce samples of its craft beer selections. While most town leaders did not have a problem with the change, some who live in the town do. However, town leaders approved the change and said for now, only one convenience store plans to serve the samples.

TN Handgun Permits

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over – Graphics

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.10.15

The number of handgun carry permits in dropped sharply in Tennessee last year. An annual report by the state department of safety showed about 46,000 new applications were granted last year. That's down 45% from the more than 83,000 new permits in 2013. The state department of safety said nearly 498,000 Tennesseans have permits to carry handguns in public.

TN Gun Bill

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.10.15

A bill seeking to strip city and county governments of the power to ban guns at local parks, playgrounds and athletic fields advances in the Tennessee House. The House Civil Justice Committee approved the measure. The bill sponsor said the proposal would eliminate confusion among those with state-issued handgun carry permits about where they can legally be armed. The bill now heads to the finance committee because of an estimated \$24,000 price tag to change signs at state parks.

Brew Day

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 3.11.15

The trend to buy local, craft beer is booming in our region. Today, local breweries came together to brew something new. Six breweries in the Tri-Cities region met in Abingdon at Wolf Hills Brewing Company to collaborate on a limited edition beer. It's been in the works for a while and will be debuted during the Tri-Cities first Craft Beer Week, April 4 through April 11. Tri-Cities Craft Beer Week kicks off with the opening of Triple B Brewery in Kingsport. All the events lead up to the Thirsty Orange Beer Festival. In honor of that festival, the collaborative Belgium Pale Ale beer will feature blood oranges.

Haslam Gun Bills

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 3.11.15

Governor Bill Haslam is urging fellow republicans in the Tennessee General Assembly not to let the upcoming convention of the National Rifle Association influence their consideration of several bills seeking to loosen state gun laws. He said, "short term circumstances are not a good reason to drive long-term policy." The NRA's annual meeting is set for April 10th in Nashville.

Gun Ownership

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over – Graphics

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 3.11.15

A major U.S. trend survey revealed the number of Americans living in a household with at least one gun is lower than it has ever been. The decline, according to the General Social Survey, is paralleled by a reduction in the number of Americans who hunt. The survey showed 32% of Americans either own a firearm or live with someone who does. That percentage ties a record low set in 2010. In the late 1970's and early 1980's, about half of Americans reported a gun in their household.

Palcohol

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over – Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.11.15

The maker of a powdered alcohol says his product has gained approval from the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. The product, dubbed "Palcohol," received the green light briefly last year when the label approval was issued by mistake. Today, a bureau spokesperson said the issues were resolved and the product was approved. Many states have already moved to ban powdered alcohol, including Virginia.

TN Handgun Bill

Length: :45

Format: Graphics – Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.11.15

A proposal by a local lawmaker to remove permit requirements to carry handguns in public has been defeated in the Tennessee House. The measure, sponsored by Republican Representative Micah Van Huss of Jonesborough, was defeated today in the Civil Justice Subcommittee. The quick defeat of the open carry proposal stands in contrast to last year's version. The measure remained the center of debate through the final days of the legislative session before being killed.

Tobacco Age

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 3.12.15

A federal report released today said raising the legal age to buy tobacco products would likely prevent premature death for hundreds of thousands of people. The federal minimum age to buy tobacco products is 18. Congress would have to act to raise it nationally.

Yee Haw Brewing

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 3.12.15

Something new is brewing in downtown Johnson City. Today's announcement got a "Yee Haw" from beer lovers in the Tri-Cities. Yee Haw Brewing Company revealed it will open a new brewery in the Tweetsie Depot. The Buffalo Street facility will serve as the Yee Haw Brewing Company's flagship location. Yee Haw Brewing plans to open for business and begin distribution early this summer.

St. Patrick's Bar Crawl

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte – Graphic

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 3.13.15

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Johnson City, all you have to do is get dressed up in green and head to Main Street Pizza to participate in the Pub Crawl. It starts at 6. Participants will go from restaurant to restaurant and bar to bar enjoying beverages, food and fun.

St. Patrick's Patrols

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 3.13.15

if you're celebrating St. Patrick's Day, don't count on the luck of the Irish to get you home. Police advise you to designate a driver. Johnson City police will be on patrol during the St. Patrick's Holiday watching for impaired drivers. Extra enforcement efforts begin tonight and continue through Monday morning.

Guns in Parking Lots

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.23.15

Tennessee lawmakers voted in favor of allowing employees to keep their guns in their cars while at work. The House and Senate passed the measure today. The bill would allow workers to sue their employers if they are fired for storing guns in their cars in company parking lots. This comes after the state allowed permit holders to store their guns in their cars regardless of their employer's wishes. An attorney general opinion found employers could still terminate workers for violating their employers' gun policies.

Serving Mistake

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.24.15

An Asheville, North Carolina steakhouse admits it accidentally gave a 2-year old child alcohol. A family says it was dining at Texas Roadhouse in Asheville last week when their daughter was given Sangria instead of cranberry juice. The parents said their child was stumbling and said her drink tasted funny. The child was taken to the hospital and diagnosed with accidental alcohol ingestion. The restaurant apologized to the family.

Guns In Parks

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.24.15

A Rogersville lawmaker wants to keep local governments from banning guns in public parks. The Tennessee House agrees with the proposal. Republican Representative Mike Harrison's bill won approval from the House today. Currently, community parks, playgrounds and sports fields are among the few areas in Tennessee where local governments can ban people with handgun carry permits from carrying firearms. Harrison's proposal would change that. The bill now heads to the Senate floor.

TN DUI Proposal
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over -- Sound Byte
Reporter: Jordan Moore
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 3.25.15

Some Tennessee lawmakers are looking to further regulate the sale of alcohol. The proposal aims to keep those convicted on multiple counts of driving under the influence from buying alcohol. Republican Representative John Holsclaw of Elizabethton drafted the bill that would ban people from buying alcohol if they have three or more DUI convictions. Holsclaw told us through his own research, he found more than 1,000 third and fourth time DUI convictions in Tennessee last year. Many who patrol the roadways support the move. Some question its legality. However, the Criminal Justice Committee passed the bill, it now moves to the Finance Ways and Means Subcommittee in the House.

Guns in Parks
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.30.15

A Rogersville Republican's push to give less gun control to local governments wins approval in the State House. State Representatives gave overwhelming approval today to Representative Mike Harrison's bill that would strip city and county governments of the power to ban guns in parks, playgrounds and sports fields. The Senate is scheduled for a vote on Wednesday.

Children Sipping Cocktails
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Anna Zaak
Show: 5am
Air Date: 3.31.15

A Brown University study suggests children who take a sip of mom or dad's cocktails could start drinking at an earlier age. Researchers tracked 500 students, and found those allowed sips before 6th grade were nearly five times more likely to down a whole drink by high school. The likelihood of binge drinking quadrupled.

CRIME

Attempted Murder Arrest

Length: :55

Format: Voice Over – Graphic

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 1.2.15

An argument turned violent in the middle of a Walmart parking lot in Johnson City. The man police believe is responsible faces attempted murder charges. Johnson City Police arrested 27-year old John Connelly and charged him with attempted murder. Police said he rammed his car into another vehicle. Police said it happened at Walmart on Browns Mill Road. Police told us Connelly's girlfriend and someone helping her get away got into the car that Connelly rammed. Investigators said Connelly hit the victim with his car two times and threw a spare tire at him. Connelly also faces aggravated assault and reckless endangerment charges. His bond is \$240,000.

Sex Offender Arrested

Length: :30

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.2.15

Johnson City police arrested a registered sex offender. Police said he had inappropriate contact with a 14-year old boy. 52-year old Lamar Quincy Gipson is a registered sex offender with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. The TVA said he's a violent offender. He has 4 sexual battery charges on his record. One accused him of trying to commit rape. Johnson City police said officers charged Gipson with assault for the inappropriate contact with the boy and for violating community supervision. He's being held on a \$51,000 bond.

Greene County Murder

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over – Graphics

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.4.15

A Newport man has pleaded guilty to two counts of second degree murder in the shooting deaths of an east Tennessee couple almost 3 years ago. Christopher Allen Jones pleaded guilty Friday in the deaths of Courtney Thompson and Terrence Stewart. The two were found dead near a bridge over the Nolichucky River in Greene County in March 2012. Jones was sentenced to 35 years behind bars. Three other people were also charged in the case.

Copper into Cash

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte – Graphic

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 1.5.15

Crooks know they can quickly turn copper into cash. The Carter County Sheriff's office is looking for the people who broke into a home on Dyer Road in November. Investigators described the damage to the home as devastating. Investigators said the suspects ripped through sheetrock, tore down ceilings and ripped out light fixtures in an effort to get their hands on copper wiring. If you have information that could help investigators track down the suspects, call the Carter County Sheriff's Office.

Howard Hawk Willis
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.5.15

A man found guilty of murdering a couple from Georgia and hiding their bodies in a Johnson City storage facility wants a new trial. Howard Hawk Willis claims he has new evidence that he did not discover until after his 2012 trial for the deaths of Samantha and Adam Chrismer. The trial ended in double murder convictions for Willis. Samantha and Adam Chrismer were killed in 2002. Court documents show Willis filed the petition for a new trial on December 2. The petition says the new evidence involves a detective's interview notes and a phone recording. Willis says those show he was not illegally using another person's credit card at the time of his arrest in 2002. The petition claims had Willis not been jailed on the credit card accusation, a jail recording of him confessing to the murders would not have been obtained and used at trial, resulting in a different judgment at trial. Willis said those taped conversations violated his rights.

Guard Bribes
Length: :25
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.6.15

A former correctional officer at the U.S. Penitentiary Lee County will spend a year and a day in prison. A judge sentenced Scottie Austin of Kingsport on Monday. Austin pleaded guilty to accepting a bribe as a public official. The prosecution said an inmate's family paid Austin at least \$10,000 to smuggle tobacco and cell phones into the prison. Austin received the money in multiple payments between April 2013 and April 2014.

McDonnell
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.6.15

Former Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell will spend 2 years in prison. A judge sentenced him today after a jury convicted McDonnell on 11 counts of corruption. The charges stemmed from money and gifts the former Governor received in exchange for promoting a dietary supplement while he was in office. Prosecutors recommended a sentence of at least 10 years behind bars. McDonnell's lawyers asked for 3 years public service. McDonnell said he plans to appeal. McDonnell is to report to prison by February 9.

Sexual Battery
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.8.15

Hawkins County investigators said a Kingsport man confessed to inappropriately touching a 12-year old girl while she slept. Deputies arrested Gordon Anthony Fields. Investigators said the child's stepfather told them he caught Fields sitting on the girl's bed with his arm under the covers. The Hawkins County Sheriff's Office charged Fields with aggravated sexual battery.

Child Neglect Sentencing
Length: :35
Format: Graphic – Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.8.15

Two parents from Church Hill have reached a plea agreement in a child neglect case. Archie and Jessica Ramsey pleaded guilty to three counts of child neglect. Archie Ramsey also pleaded guilty to drug charges. Police said they found three children in a local motel living in what they described as "deplorable" conditions. A judge sentenced the Ramseys to 16 months in prison. They will serve probation after they complete their sentences. They also must complete 100 community service hours.

Elderly Assault
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.8.15

A Washington County, Virginia man is accused of roughing up his 85-year old aunt. Investigators said it happened January 2 at a home on Watauga Road in Abingdon. The Washington County Virginia Sheriff's Office said hospital staff called detectives when they found an elderly woman suffering several broken ribs. 49-year old Donnie Lee Kiser is accused of hurting his aunt when she told him to clean up a mess he made in her home. Kiser is in jail without bond tonight.

Kingsport Shooting
Length: :55
Format: Graphics – Voice Over
Reporter: Jordan Moore
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.10.15

A man accused of shooting two people in Kingsport last night shot himself after being cornered by police. Kingsport police said they tracked 42-year old Marvin McClore to the Holiday Inn on West Springbrook Drive in Johnson City. Police said as they moved in to arrest McClore, he took his own life. McClore was suspected of shooting two people, killing one of them, at an apartment in Kingsport.

Child Porn Sentencing
Length: :45
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.12.15

A Lee County Virginia jury is urging a judge to give a man the maximum sentence for his crimes. The jury asked the judge to sentence 52-year old Lewis Daniel Nimety to 520 years in prison on 104 child pornography charges. Investigators said they found inappropriate photos of children on his computer in November 2013. Investigators said all 102 images involved children under 12 years old. Formal sentencing for Nimety is scheduled for May 18.

Attempted Murder
Length: 1:00
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.12.15

33-year old Thomas Stringer remains in jail on attempted murder charges. Investigators said he tried to run over an officer two times. Kingsport police responded to the Farragut Avenue area to check out a woman wanted on outstanding warrants. The truck she was said to be in was pulling into the driveway of a home on Fort Henry Drive. Officers said Stringer was driving the truck and when they approached it, Stringer put the truck in reverse and slammed on the gas, trying to hit the officer. When a second officer responded, that officer said Stringer tried to run over him, too. Stringer and the wanted woman ran. Police did not find her, but they arrested Stringer. He's charged with two counts of attempted murder, felony evading arrest and resisting arrest.

Kingsport Murder Investigation
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.12.15

The prime suspect is dead, but a Kingsport homicide investigation is far from over. Police said several unanswered questions remain surrounding the death of a Sullivan South High School Student. 18-year old Dylan Ferguson, a Jr. ROTC student who enlisted as a Marine, was shot and killed Friday night. His step-sister, 23-year old Amber Purifoy remains hospitalized in critical condition. Investigators said Purifoy was in Kingsport at Allandale Falls Apartments visiting family when she and Ferguson were shot. Police told us the step-siblings knew their attacker. Police said that man, Marvin McCloire took his own life at a Johnson City hotel as officers were moving in to arrest him. Police said they are not releasing the motive at this time.

McDonnell Appeal
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 6pm
Air Date: 1.13.15

A federal judge denied former Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell's request to remain free while he appeals his convictions on corruption. A U.S. District Court Judge in Richmond denied the request today. That means McDonnell could begin his two year sentence February 9. On Monday, McDonnell's attorneys argued the appeal could take almost as long as the sentence.

Inmate Escape
Length: :50
Format: Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.13.15

The escape was brief for a Wise County Virginia jail inmate who walked away from a local hospital. The Wise County Sheriff's Office announced they captured Ricky Jerome Estep. Deputies took Estep to Lonesome Pine Hospital to see doctors. Deputies said he made his getaway wearing only a hospital gown and socks.

Child Sex Abuse
Length: :30
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.14.15

A supervisor who worked at a children's home in Bristol, Tennessee will do time for failing to report child sex abuse. Rosa Honeycutt worked at Tri-State Children's Home and was originally indicted on the charge in fall 2013. A Sullivan County Assistant District Attorney told us Honeycutt knew about sexual contact between minors but did not report it. She pleaded guilty and could serve more than 11 months in jail. Honeycutt's sentencing is scheduled for March 26.

Gergish Gully
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.17.15

A jury returned a guilty verdict in the case against a man accused in the shooting death of a Johnson City man back in April 2013. Marcus Gergish was charged with first degree murder in the death of Timothy Perego, Sr. Perego's body was found outside a Johnson City apartment complex. A jury found Gergish guilty of criminally negligent homicide and two counts of attempted aggravated robbery. Marcus Gergish is scheduled to be sentenced in February.

Vehicular Homicide
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over – Graphic
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: Noon
Air Date: 1.19.15

Tomorrow, a second trial is set to begin for a man facing a vehicular homicide charge. A judge declared a mistrial in 24 year old Cody Dingus' first trial. Johnson City police charged Dingus in a 2012 Valentine's Day crash that followed a short police chase. Dingus and his girlfriend, 18-year old Sheridan Edwards of Kingsport, were thrown from the car. Edwards died 5 days later. During the first trial, the defense said Dingus had been drinking, but Edwards jerked the steering wheel and caused the wreck.

Delivery Attack
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Allie Hinds
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.19.15

An investigation is underway in Johnson City to find the suspect in a food delivery beating. A delivery driver for Mid-City Grill remains in the hospital. A police report outlined the incident. It said Bradley Booker was making a late night deliver Wednesday on Wyndale Road. Booker told police he got out of his car and found three men, two of them with guns. Booker told police they demanded his money and hit him in the head with a gun. Booker returned to work Friday. He suffered a seizure during a food delivery. He's been in the hospital every since.

Scam Warning
Length: :50

Format: Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.19.15

Kingsport police say a phone scammer is trying a new trick to take people's money. If you received a call today from someone claiming to be Police Chief David Quillin and asking you to pay a \$500 fine, it wasn't the Chief. Police said a phone scammer tried the trick all day long, telling would-be victims they owned the money for missing jury duty. The caller then said to put the money on a Green Dot money card and meet in a designated area. Police said neither the Chief nor a representative of the court would ever do this. Police say if you get a call like this, contact them.

Child Abuse
Length: :50
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.20.15

A nap at an area convenience store landed two people behind bars facing numerous charges. Kingsport police responded to Roadrunner Market on West Stone Drive to check out a report of two people sleeping in a vehicle. Police said inside the vehicle, they found prescription pills, marijuana, the synthetic drug Gravel, drug paraphernalia, a stolen, loaded 9 millimeter gun and a 3 week old crying baby. Police said the baby's diaper had not been changed in awhile. They worked to clean up and find a caregiver for the baby. They arrested Joshua Bradley and Jessica Kilgore. Both face numerous charges that include child abuse and neglect, drug possession, and possession of stolen property.

Bank Robbery
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.20.15

A man accused in an area bank robbery remains on the run tonight. Johnson City police said around 4:30 this afternoon police responded to a robbery call at Capital Bank on South Roan Street. Bank employees told police a man walked into the bank with a note demanding money. The bank employees gave the man what he wanted and then, the man ran away.

Cell Phone Scammers
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.21.15

A search is underway tonight in Kingsport for two men involved in a cell phone scam. Kingsport police said on December 3 the duo went to an AT&T store and opened an account. But they opened the account using someone else's information. Police discovered the victim lives out of state.

Officer Impersonation
Length: 1:20
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.22.15

The hunt continues for the man impersonating a police officer. On Monday night, a man told Greene County deputies he was pulled over by a man in an unmarked car claiming to be an officer. The impersonator threatened to send the man to jail if he did not agree to a search of his truck. The man complied and said the imposter searched every corner of his vehicle. The Greene County Sheriff's office told us it currently has no unmarked vehicles. The sheriff's office advises if you're being pulled over and you're not sure if the person really is an officer, call 9-1-1.

Stallard Sentencing
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.22.15

He told investigators he was one of the biggest Gravel dealers in the area. Now, 39-year old Johnny Michael Stallard will spend the next 15 years in prison. A judge sentenced Stallard in a Greeneville courtroom today. Court documents showed Stallard admitted to selling Gravel and having his family sell drugs.

Harrell Indicted
Length: :35
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.28.15

A former corrections officer is under criminal investigation. The Sullivan County Sheriff's Office tells us Corrections Office Leslie Harrell was fired following an internal investigation. Harrell was accused of using force against an inmate back in August. Sheriff Wayne Anderson ordered a criminal investigation. Evidence was presented to a grand jury. The grand jury indicted Harrell on two counts of simple assault.

Stabbing Arrest
Length: :40
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.28.15

Johnson City Police booked an attempted murder suspect. Erwin police arrested 21-year old Zachery Smith-Lyon for the attempted first degree murder of his roommate. Investigators said the alleged incident happened in October at Millercrest Apartments in Johnson City. Investigators said the victim suffered several stab wounds. The victim has since recovered. Smith-Lyon is being held on a \$100,000 bond.

Rape Suspect
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.29.15

A Greene County man is behind bars charged with the aggravated statutory rape of a 15-year old girl. The Greene County Sheriff's Office told us last Wednesday, 30-year old Miguel Sarrat went to the girl's grandparents' home, where he went into her room and allegedly raped and threatened her. Sarrat is being held on a \$30,000 bond.

Purse Snatcher

Length: :40

Format: Voice Over – Graphic

Reporter: Karissa Manis

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 1.29.15

A purse snatcher is on the run tonight in Sullivan County. The Sullivan County Sheriff's Office released surveillance video from Scotchman Convenience Store on Weaver Pike in Bluff City. It shows a man parking beside a vehicle, opening its door and taking a purse from the front seat. The owner of the purse said she was inside the store for just minutes.

Death Penalty Case

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over – Graphic

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 1.30.15

Tri-Cities prosecutors filed a notice this week of their intent to seek the death penalty against a teen who confessed to the murder of a Roan Mountain man. Anthony Lacy and Demetric Cordell are charged with first degree murder and robbery in the July 4th murder of Danny Vance. District Attorney General Tony Clark told us his office filed paperwork to seek the death penalty against Lacy. The 18-year old is also charged with attempted murder after investigators said he attacked a Carter County jailer with a broom.

Guilty Plea

Length: 1:00

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.30.15

A southwest Virginia attorney pleaded guilty in district court after investigators said he did not stop his secretary from stealing money from an elderly woman. The Department of Justice said Lee County Attorney Joseph Rasnic admitted today he knew his secretary was committing bank fraud. He pleaded guilty to knowing about the actions but not immediately reporting them. More than \$180,000 was taken from the victim's account between May 2013 and August 2014. Rasnic is scheduled for sentencing on May 28. He faces up to 3 years in prison and a fine up to \$250,000.

Vehicular Homicide

Length: :25

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.30.15

A 70-year old woman faces up to 12 years in prison after being convicted of vehicular homicide. Investigators said Patricia Rhea was intoxicated on prescription medication when she lost control of her car on Highway 11-E in Piney Flats and hit the car driven by 66-year old Fleming Sluder. The crash happened August 3, 2013. Rhea will be sentenced in March.

Aggravated Assault
Length: :35
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.1.15

A Johnson City man is behind bars after police said an argument over money turned violent. Johnson City police said Tyrell Hill and his ex-girlfriend were fighting over money and paying bills last night. The two have one child and are expecting another, according to police. Police said the victim told them Hill grabbed a knife and threatened to hurt her and her unborn child. Police charged Hill with aggravated assault.

Attempted Murder
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: Noon
Air Date: 2.2.15

A Johnson City man facing attempted murder charges is scheduled to appear in court this afternoon. Police said Delmar Mack, Jr. shot his wife around 2 this morning on Delaware Street. Officers found Jennifer Mack with a gunshot wound to her hip. She is in surgery at an area hospital. Delmar Mack, Jr. is charged with attempted second degree murder. His bond is \$50,000.

Most Wanted Roundup
Format: Graphics – Live Shots – Phone Bank
Reporter: WHL Staff
Shows: 5p, 5:30p, 6p
Air Date: 2.2.15

News Channel 11 featured most wanted suspects from the Sullivan County and Washington County Sheriff's Offices. Viewers called in tips, and we hit the streets with deputies. The roundup resulted in more than a dozen arrests.

Officer Impersonation
Length: :40
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.3.15

The Washington County Tennessee Sheriff's Office says someone is calling people and posing as a sheriff's deputy. Officers told us a scammer is telling targets there is a warrant out for their arrest for failure to pay court cost or failure to answer a jury summons. Then, the scammer demands money to prevent an arrest. The sheriff's office told us its employees are not making the calls and do not try to get payments over the phone.

Vickie Ringley
Length: :35
Format: Graphic – Voice Over
Reporter: Nate Morabito

Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.3.15

Three hundred seventy victims are linked to a theft investigation involving a local cemetery owner. Vickie Ringley has remained the focus of several Community Watchdog investigations since August 2013. Tonight she is in jail on a \$200,000 bond. Grand jurors indicted her on two counts of money laundering, one count of forgery, and seven counts of failure to follow cemetery regulations. Ringley is officially due in court again on June 1.

Johnson City Stabbing Investigation
Length: :40
Format: Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.3.15

Police arrested a couple for their alleged involvement in a stabbing. Police responded to East Mountcastle Drive to investigate a fight around 11:30 this morning. When they arrived, they said their investigation revealed Brandon Mays stabbed the victim. Mays is charged with aggravated assault. Police also charged Emily Elam and charged her with false reporting. Investigators said she came up with a false excuse to help cover for Mays.

Officer Impersonations
Length: :30
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.14.15

The Sullivan County Sheriff's Office arrested a man impersonating as a law enforcement officer. Investigators said a Kingsport Police Detective noticed an SUV with flashing blue lights making a traffic stop. The detective approached the man, who looked like an officer, to ask if he could help. The man could not prove he was an officer of the law. The detective called the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office. Deputies arrested Gary Harris. He's charged with impersonating an officer and unlawful use of blue flashing lights on a vehicle.

Vickie Ringley
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Nate Morabito
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 2.6.15

A local cemetery owner, accused of stealing thousands of dollars from 370 victims, remains in jail tonight. Vickie Ringley appeared before a judge today, just days after Grand Jurors indicted her on multiple charges including theft over \$60,000, money laundering, and failure to follow cemetery regulations. Ringley has remained the focus of Community Watchdog investigations since August 2013. Today, Hawkins County Sheriff Ronnie Lawson told us a judge ordered Ringley to hire her own attorney because she does not qualify for a public defender.

Johnson City Drug Arrest
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.7.15

A Bristol, Tennessee man was arrested this weekend in Johnson City. Police say they found drugs and items used to sell drugs in his car. Police arrested Joshua Morrison for manufacture, delivery and sale of a controlled substance, schedule 6 marijuana, and unlawful drug paraphernalia. Police said they found pre-packaged marijuana, scales, and a large number of small baggies in Morrison's car during a traffic stop. Morrison's bond is \$6,000.

Holston View Investigation

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jordan Moore

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.7.15

An investigation is underway in Bristol, Tennessee after allegations of child abuse and neglect. Sullivan County District Attorney Barry Staubus said the allegations stem from an incident at Holston View Elementary School. Staubus could not elaborate on the details of the allegations or identify the suspects in the case. Bristol City Schools told us there is an ongoing, active investigation at Holston View, but the system would not comment further. News Channel 11 learned students were sent home with a letter to parents that said Holston View Principal Jerry Poteat and Program Assistant Cherith Roberts are on administrative leave pending the outcome of an active police investigation. The letter is signed by Director of Schools Gary Lilly. It also says Dr. Kristie Coleman was named interim Principal at the school.

Child Abuse Charge

Length: :40

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 2.9.15

Bite marks, bruising and broken bones on a young child led to the arrest of a Kingsport man on child abuse and neglect charges. Church Hill Police arrested Alfonso Christopher Cedeno. Investigators said the child was less than six months old at the time of the abuse. Cedeno's bond was set at \$100,000.

Child Porn Sentencing

Length: :30

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 2.10.15

A Johnson City man will spend 15 years in prison. He pleaded guilty to distributing child pornography. Ronald Radford learned his punishment in federal court yesterday. Last year, Radford pleaded guilty after evidence collected by local and federal investigators led to indictments on several child pornography charges. After he completes his sentence, he must serve a 10 year term of supervised release.

ETSU Robbery

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Manis

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 2.11.15

The search for a man accused of robbing an East Tennessee State University student with a knife continues tonight. It happened early Sunday morning between Buildings J and K at Buccaneer Ridge Apartments. The student told police she was walking between the buildings when a man in a small, red car followed her. She said the man jumped out of the car, pulled a knife and told her to hand over her belongings.

Wrecker Service Burglary

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Karissa Manis

Show: Noon

Air Date: 2.12.15

The Sullivan County Sheriff's Office is looking for the suspect in a wrecker service burglary. Investigators told us the incident happened Saturday at Sexton's Wrecker Service on Bloomingdale Pike. Surveillance video shows a man in a white van forcing his way into the business. The owner reported tackle boxes, a tool box and tools missing.

Delivery Driver Attack

Length: :25

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 2.12.15

A month long investigation led to the arrest of Matthew Dammann. He is accused of robbing a Mid City Grill delivery driver at gunpoint in January. The delivery driver suffered serious injuries. Police charged Dammann with especially aggravated robbery and theft under \$500.

Collins Arrest

Length: :30

Format: Graphics

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.14.15

Police arrested a Johnson City woman and charged her with false reporting and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Investigators accused Brittany Collins of helping a teenage runaway. Police said Collins was the passenger in a car they pulled over just after midnight. Police said the driver of the car was a 16-year old the Department of Children's Services had reported as a runaway. Police said Collins gave them false information about the teen's identity.

Robbery Investigation

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over – Graphics

Reporter: Karissa Manis

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 2.19.15

A Watauga man is behind bars after police say he robbed a business in Elizabethton this morning. It happened around 8:00 at Stateine Market on Highway 11-E. Investigators said 34-year old Brian Kimbrel showed the clerk a knife and demanded cash. He made off with money and lottery tickets. Police found him at an apartment complex not long after. They said they found the cash and lottery tickets on him as well as some marijuana. Kimbrel faces multiple charges including aggravated robbery and resisting arrest.

Murder Investigation
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over – Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.19.15

The person responsible for killing a man at a Johnson City convenience market is still on the run tonight. A lead detective told us the Johnson City Police Department hopes someone comes forward with some information that could help detectives crack the case. It happened just before 11 last night at Roadrunner Market on East Unaka Avenue. Police said a man died after being shot. The man has not yet been identified. Investigators believe the suspect knew the victim.

Maureen McDonnell Sentencing
Length: :35
Format: Voice over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 2.20.15

One year and one day in prison is the sentence a judge issued to former Virginia First Lady Maureen McDonnell. She was convicted on 8 counts of corruption. The sentence is less than the 18 months prosecutors requested but more than the defense. The defense asked for probation and thousands of hours in community service. A jury found former Governor Bob McDonnell and his wife guilty of doing favors for a nutritional supplements executive in exchange for more than \$150,000 in gifts and loans. Last month, Bob McDonnell was sentenced to 2 years in prison.

Stewart Peppers Death
Length: :40
Format: Graphics – Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 2.23.15

A federal judge will not dismiss a multi-million dollar lawsuit against Washington County over the death of an inmate. 22-year old Stewart Peppers died in jail in April of 2013. His parents filed against the jail, Sheriff Ed Graybeal and six corrections officers. The suit alleges the corrections officers beat Peppers while he was restrained. U.S. District Court Judge Ronnie Greer denied the county's request for dismissal because he, "cannot find the defendants did not violate a clearly established right." An autopsy ruled the death was accidental, caused by a condition called excited delirium, which the medical examiner said could lead to hallucinations and death.

Marcus Gergish Sentence
Length: :45
Format: Graphics – Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 2.23.15

The man convicted in the shooting death of a Johnson City man will spend more than 2 decades behind bars. A judge sentenced Marcus Gergish to spend 21 years in prison. The sentence came one month after a jury found Gergish guilty of criminally negligent homicide and two counts of attempted aggravated robbery. The convictions stem from the shooting death of Timothy Perego, Senior. Perego was found outside his Johnson City apartment complex in April 2013.

Marion Pharmacy Break-In

Length: :25

Format: Graphics

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 2.24.15

Marion, Virginia Police Department continues to search for the person responsible for a break-in at an area pharmacy. Investigators said it happened yesterday morning at Marion Family Pharmacy on North Main Street. Smyth County Sheriff's Office and K-9 units helped Marion Police search the area but did not have success locating the suspect.

Mullins Indicted

Length: :35

Format: Graphics

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.24.15

The case of a high school teacher accused of sex crimes against students is moving forward. A Bristol, Virginia Grand Jury indicted Robert Neal Mullins, Junior. Mullins is charged with two counts of taking indecent liberties with a child. He's accused of sexual misconduct involving 2 17-year old students while working as a teacher and coach at John S. Battle High School. He faces similar charges in Washington County, Virginia. Today's indictment only applies to charges filed in Bristol. Mullins case goes to trial March 30.

Waterhouse Indicted

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.3.15

Investigators say Kris Waterhouse hit a grandmother and her grandson at a bus stop. Now, a Carter County Grand Jury indicted her on reckless aggravated assault charges. In March last year, the Tennessee Highway Patrol said 6-year old Austin Smith was trying to catch the bus in Unicoi. That's when troopers say his grandmother, Katherine Brant, noticed Waterhouse's car passing the bus when it was stopped. Investigators say Bryant jumped in front of the car to shield her grandson. Waterhouse will appear in court next month to face charges.

Arson Arrest

Length: :30

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Shlra Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 3.4.15

The Hawkins County Sheriff's Office arrested a Bulls Gap man and charged him with arson. Eleigh Christian is accused of setting two barns in Rogersville on fire. Investigators said Christian admitted to setting fires and watching as the Bulls Gap Fire Department worked to put them out. The sheriff's office charged Christian with arson and vandalism over \$60,000.

Carter County Contraband

Length: :40

Format: Voice Over – Graphic

Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.6.15

A former Carter County Corrections officer is out of a job tonight. The Carter County Sheriff's Office said it got help from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to catch someone sneaking drugs into the jail. Investigators said that person was Kenneth Turner, Jr. The sheriff's office said he was smuggling drugs and tobacco into jail for several inmates. Turner was fired. He faces several charges including official misconduct.

Roadrunner Homicide
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.6.15

Police arrested a man investigators said is connected to a Johnson City murder, but they say he may not be the only one involved in the crime. 34-year old Anthony Hardaway is accused of killing a man at a Johnson City convenience store. Investigators found him 700 miles away. Massachusetts State Police said they arrested Hardaway in Berkshire County. Police charged him with the homicide of 38-year old Perry Folk.

Aggravated Assault
Length: :35
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.8.15

Johnson City Police arrested a Kingsport man this weekend on charges of aggravated assault. Witnesses told investigators they saw 25-year old Francisco Javier Claudio, Jr. assault another man. Police found the alleged victim in the road unconscious and unresponsive. Claudio is being held on a \$50,000 bond.

Rape Investigation
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 3.9.15

Former University of Tennessee linebacker A.J. Johnson and suspended defensive back Michael Williams pleaded not guilty to aggravated rape charges. Johnson and Williams were arraigned today after being indicted by a grand jury last month. They will go on trial August 24. The two are accused of raping a woman at a Knoxville apartment in November. Lawyers for both players maintain their innocence.

Attempted Murder Charges
Length: :40
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 3.10.15

A man accused of trying to kill his girlfriend is scheduled for arraignment tomorrow in Hawkins County. The sheriff's office arrested Billy Dutton and charged him with attempted first degree murder and possession of a gun by an intoxicated person. The alleged victim told deputies Dutton started a fight over a tobacco machine, pulled a gun and said he was going to kill her. She said Dutton fired the weapon several times in her direction.

Counterfeit Merchandise

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Graphics – Sound Byte

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 3.10.15

Name brand merchandise at bargain prices, if the deal seems too good, your items not be the real deal. The Sullivan County Sheriff's Office said its detectives arrested two people for pedaling counterfeit items. Investigators charged Kathy Debord of Blountville and Herbie Noel of Cedar Bluff, Virginia with criminal simulation. Investigators said both admitted to knowing they were selling "fakes" and making money doing it. Investigators said during this operation they seized \$80,000 in counterfeit merchandise. The Sullivan County Sheriff's Office said the investigation is ongoing and more charges are pending.

Boothe Arrest

Length: :25

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 3.11.15

A Washington County man remains in jail after investigators said he broke into a home and assaulted someone inside. Johnson City Police responded to a burglary in progress on Pardee Street. Officers said James Boothe got into the home through a back window before attacking the victim. Boothe was charged with aggravated burglary and assault. He remains in jail on a \$30,000 bond and will appear in court tomorrow.

Rhea Sentencing

Length: :45

Format: Graphics – Voice Over

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 3.11.15

A woman convicted of vehicular homicide will not spend one day in jail. Patricia Rhea faced up to 12 years in prison, but her punishment will be 8 years probation. Investigators said Rhea was under the influence of prescription medication when she lost control of her car on Highway 11E in Piney Flats. Dwight Sluder was sitting at a stop sign when she slammed into him. Sluder died as a result of that 2013 crash.

Holston View Update

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.11.15

An investigation surrounding allegations of child abuse and neglect at Holston View Elementary School is now in the hands of the district attorney's office. Sullivan County District Attorney Barry Staubus tells us the Bristol Tennessee Police Department completed its investigation. General Staubus said he will review the department's findings and hopes to reach a decision about the case by the beginning of April. Last

month, a letter was sent to Holston View parents stating Principal Jerry Poteat and Program Assistant Cherith Roberts were placed on leave pending an active investigation. No charges have been filed in the investigation.

School Resource Officer Investigation

Length: :25

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.11.15

An Elizabethton Police Officer is the focus of an investigation after allegations of misconduct. Police Chief Greg Workman said his office is conducting an administrative investigation into allegations of possible misconduct involving a student resource officer assigned to T.A. Dugger Junior High School. Chief Workman said Officer Michael Sproviero has been reassigned while the investigation takes place.

Franklin Delph

Length: :50

Format: Graphics

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 3.12.15

He told investigators his wife committed suicide. Today, he revealed a different story. Sullivan County prosecutors said Franklin Delph pleaded guilty to murdering his wife. A judge sentenced Delph to 25 years behind bars for killing his wife, Sue. He pleaded guilty to second degree murder. In return, prosecutors said he received a 25 year sentence. Delph must serve 100% of the sentence.

VSP Rape Charge

Length: :40

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.12.15

A Dickenson County Grand Jury indicted a Virginia State Trooper on one count of rape. The March 9th indictment also charged Andre Peak of Clintwood, Virginia with buying alcohol for a person under the age of 21. Peak is suspended without pay from VSP.

Edwards Indicted

Length: :40

Format: Graphics – Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.12.15

Almost two years after a Johnson City murder case, a grand jury indicted 40-year old Kimberly Edwards with accessory after the fact of murder. Johnson City police said her arrest is the result of her involvement in the murder of Timothy Peregoy, Senior. Investigators said he was shot and killed outside a Johnson City apartment complex after a botched drug deal in April 2013.

Attempted Murder

Length: :30
Format: Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.13.15

Investigators said he tried to kill someone in Pound, Virginia. Now, 22-year old Jordon Ponder is behind bars. The Wise County Sheriff's Office teamed up with the Pound Police Department to arrest Ponder in his apartment on Old Mill Village Road. Investigators said they found components of a meth lab and a loaded gun. Ponder is charged with attempted murder and using a gun while committing a felony.

Johnson City Stabbing
Length: :40
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.15.15

Johnson City Police are looking for the person or people responsible for stabbing two men early this morning. Police said they responded to an incident near the intersection of State of Franklin and Spring Street. Police identified the stabbing victims as Benjamin Mejia and Freddy Mejia. Police are still looking for the person or people responsible.

Denton Arrest
Length: 2:00
Format: Graphic – Package
Reporter: Kylie McGivern
Show: 6pm
Air Date: 3.20.15

A former Kingsport Alderman and one-time candidate for Sullivan County Mayor is charged with sexual battery and kidnapping. Hoyt Denton currently serves as Vice-Chairman of Kingsport's Regional Planning Commission and is a member of the Historic Zoning Commission. Sullivan County Deputies arrested Denton yesterday. The alleged victim came forward earlier this month. She alleges she was assaulted by Denton at his storage unit business in Sullivan County. Denton's first Court appearance is set for March 31 in Bristol.

Vehicular Homicide
Length: :30
Format: Graphic – Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.23.15

A man accused in a fatal crash is out on bond tonight. Today, a judge arraigned Jason Mistele on a vehicular homicide charge. Last week, the Tennessee Highway Patrol charged Mistele with evading arrest and failure to exercise due care. The charges stem from a crash on January 26. Daniel Gross died in the crash on Highway 107 in Greeneville. THP said at the time of the crash Mistele's blood alcohol level was .20.

Roger Ratliff Arrest
Length: :30
Format: Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.24.15

Johnson City Police charged a man with stealing while he was on the job. A victim told police she hired a company to clean her carpets in her home in September 2013. After the cleaners left, the woman discovered some of her jewelry was missing. Johnson City Police said investigators in Kingsport received similar complaints. Police arrested 28-year old Roger Ratliff in Kingsport and transported him to a state prison. He was released to Johnson City Police.

Manis Plea

Length: :30

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Nate Morabito

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 3.25.15

A former Washington County Tennessee educator pleaded guilty today to assaulting two of his special education students. The First Judicial District Attorney General's Office told us Larry Manis pleaded guilty to misdemeanor simple assault charges. Judge Stacy Street placed the former special education teacher on probation for one year. Since he had no prior record, Judge Street granted Manis judicial diversion. That means the offense will be erased from his record in a year if he complies with probation requirements.

Wise Murder Charge

Length: :30

Format: Graphics

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 3.26.15

Big Stone Gap Police Chief Stephen Hamm told us the shooting happened around 12:30 Wednesday afternoon at an apartment complex on Third Avenue. Police arrested Dylan Holbrook and charged him with second degree murder. Investigators told us the victim, Kenny Dietz, died at an area hospital. The motive remains under investigation.

CVS Robbery

Length: :35

Format: Graphics

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 3.26.15

Your tips helped Kingsport police track down the suspect in a pharmacy robbery. Investigators told us they received a tip 20 minutes after our initial story aired today at noon that led them to Benjamin Altizer. Police arrested him on an outstanding warrant for armed robbery. Investigators said he walked into CVS Pharmacy on Memorial Boulevard, pulled a gun, and threatened to shoot employees if they did not give him drugs.

Bristol Virginia Utilities Guilty Pleas

Length: 1:50

Format: Voice Over – Sound Bytes

Reporter: Nate Morabito

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.26.15

They were once trusted to help run a local utility company. Now, both face prison time after pleading guilty in a federal public corruption case. Investigators said they were involved in a fraud scheme and pocketed thousands of dollars through shady dealings. Jim Kelley, Jr. and David Copeland both worked as Vice Presidents for Bristol Virginia Utilities. Kelley left the job in 2009. Copeland picked up his duties soon after. Investigators said both violated public trust. Kelley pleaded guilty to arranging a scheme that helped a contractor collect \$330,000 in work that was never completed. Copeland admitted to approving \$144,000 in false invoices. David Copeland could face up to 5 years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines. Investigators said Copeland spent money from the Virginia Tobacco Commission. Both are scheduled for sentencing on June 18th. Both could receive a reduced sentence.

Kingsport Stabbing

Length: :25

Format: Graphics

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.27.15

Kingsport police are not saying much about a stabbing investigation. Police said they responded to an area hospital on Thursday because someone had been stabbed. When they got there, they found a patient with non-life threatening injuries. The patient was released and is working with police on the case.

Alvin Street Shooting

Length: :50

Format: Graphics

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.28.15

Three people are behind bars in Sullivan County after deputies found drugs inside a Kingsport home. The Sullivan County Sheriff's Office got a call from a man who said he was going door to door on behalf of a local communications internet provider. The man said Christopher Ferguson came out of his home yelling that he was trespassing. The man told investigators Ferguson fired a rifle at him and threatened to shoot again. Deputies were investigating the alleged aggravated assault and found a variety of pills packaged for resale, marijuana, cash and drug paraphernalia. Ferguson was charged with aggravated assault and faces several drug charges. His mother, Mary Ann Ferguson, and his girlfriend, Takisha Barnette, also face drug charges.

Kingsport Shooting

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.28.15

Kingsport police are investigating a shooting that sent one man to the hospital. The police department said a man was shot and drove to the McDonald's at 4300 West Stone Drive for help. Police said the man was unable to communicate and was transported to the hospital. Police did not release any information on his condition. Investigators are still trying to determine where the shooting happened and when.

Erwin Death Investigation

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.28.15

Erwin police are looking for a man they say is a person of interest in a murder investigation. Erwin Police Chief Regan Tilson said a 73-year old woman was found dead in an Erwin home this morning. Investigators want to find James Howard Peery, III in connection with the case.

Body Discovered
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.29.15

A Unicoi County manhunt is over tonight. Police said they found the body of a murder suspect. Erwin Police Chief Regan Tilson said the body of 50-year old James Peery, III was found near the Nolichucky River by a kayaker. Tilson said it appears Peery shot himself. Peery was a person of interest in the death of his mother, 73-year old Helen Peery. Her body was discovered in her home Saturday morning. Chief Tilson described the death as, "violent."

Harper Arrest
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.29.15

Police in Johnson City arrested a Bristol, Tennessee man for a fight at a local night club. Police said 22-year old Zavier Harper choked his girlfriend and assaulted two witnesses in the parking lot of New Beginnings. Police said when they tried to arrest Harper, he assaulted two officers.

Grow Lab
Length: :30
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 3.30.15

Deputies responded to a robbery call, and a big find during the investigation also landed the alleged victim behind bars. Deputies responded to a home in Gray. The person at the house told deputies Joshua Sies and Jimmy Ingle pulled a gun on her and robbed her. Deputies arrested the duo and charged them with aggravated robbery. Detectives said during the investigation, they uncovered a marijuana grow lab at the home. They also arrested Kelly Riley. The Washington County Tennessee Sheriff's Office says she faces numerous drug charges.

Shaken Baby Investigation
Length: :40
Format: Graphics – Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.30.15

A local district attorney's office is trying to decide how to move forward with a criminal case after the infant at the center of the investigation died. Last year, a Sullivan County Grand Jury indicted James Casteel on aggravated child abuse charges. Kingsport police responded to an area hospital where doctors were treating a 6-month old boy exhibiting signs of shaken baby syndrome. Today, District Attorney General Barry

Staubus told us the infant died. Investigators said Casteel was alone with the child and living in a storage building for about 2 weeks. Police said he threw the child on a bed to make him stop crying. Staubus said the case may go to a grand jury once again.

Murder Charge

Length: :35

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Karissa Manis

Show: Noon

Air Date: 3.31.15

One person is dead and another is behind bars after a stabbing in Kingsport. Kingsport police told us 22-year old Huey Stanley, Jr. died at an area hospital. Officers said Stanley and another man, 21-year old Zachary Morris Gardner, were fighting in the YMCA parking lot when Gardner stabbed Stanley. Gardner turned himself in to police about an hour later. Police charged him with first degree murder.

EDUCATION

College Financial Aid
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 1.1.15

Today marks the first day students planning to go to college in 2015 can submit your Nationwide Financial Aid Application. Experts say it's a good idea to apply early to better maximize the amount of money you can get. The application determines the amount of financial aid you can get from three main sources: the federal government, state governments and schools.

Culinary School Closes
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.5.15

Sunday marked the last day for a private culinary school in Bristol, Virginia. The Southeast Culinary Institute shut its doors yesterday. So did the school's cafeteria and catering business at the Bristol Mall. Founder and President Richard Erskine said he could not work out a dispute with the U.S. Department of Education. He said the agency owes him \$300,000 in student tuition and other expenses. Enrollment at the for-profit school plunged after President Erskine did not renew the school's accreditation.

Unicoi County School Board
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Lauren Haviland
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.5.15

After hours of heated debate, a seat on the Unicoi County School Board is no longer vacant tonight. It's a key position that could determine the fate of Unicoi County's top education official. Unicoi County Commissioners petitioned the county mayor for a special called meeting. In late November, board member Dwight Bennett passed away. He was elected to represent District 3 in August. Tonight, some board members said there was a sense of urgency to fill the position. That's because Superintendent of Schools Denise Brown's contract expires Thursday. Three people wanted the open position: Ruth Gaines, Tracy Moore and Norman O'Dell. Each explained why they were best to fill the post. After much debate, commissioners voted. Ruth Gaines will fill the open spot. She taught at Unicoi County High School for 35 years. Gaines will be sworn into office tomorrow at the county courthouse.

ETSU Sorority Housing
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Lauren Haviland
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.6.15

A new, long-term agreement will soon give sororities at ETSU a new place to call home. But that could come at a cost for those who current live at Buccaneer Ridge Apartment Complex. Effective next fall, the four Panhellenic sororities will move into four different buildings at the complex. ETSU told News Channel 11 it sees this as a great opportunity for the school and the organizations. Not everyone agrees, especially

freshman Lucy Lyon. She lives in a 4 bedroom apartment at Buccaneer Ridge. She had plans to live here again in the 2015-16 school year. That changed when ETSU sent an email before holiday break alerting students that sororities would be moving into Buildings A and B and parts of C and D. The move will displace about 100 people. The school is giving students an alternative. They can move into a two bedroom unit in the same complex at the cost of a 4 bedroom for a full year. ETSU Vice President for Student Affairs said moving sororities to Buccaneer Ridge will hopefully grow the student organization presence on campus. The transition at Buccaneer Ridge will start at the beginning of the fall semester.

Kingswood School
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Kylie McGivern
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 1.7.15

An area group home is hoping 2015 does not mark the end to a historic program. We've learned Kingswood School, Christian-based, non-profit group home in Bean Station that cares for displaced children in need, could close before the end of the year if donations do not come through to make up for a significant shortfall. Kingswood opened on the grounds of the former Tate Springs Resort and Hotel in 1943. One person we spoke with said Kingswood provided a foundation for him to later join the military and start a family business. Now, Reuben Couch is doing everything he can to give back to the place he says gave him everything. Kingswood's budget is \$935,000 a year. The school gets no state or federal funding. The school's downfall is about \$300,000 to \$400,000 each year. Right now, that's all the school has in savings. School officials say the school could be looking at closure within half a year. Right now, 30 children, many siblings, overcoming abuse, abandonment and neglect currently call Kingswood home.

Supreme Court at Niswonger
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 1.7.15

Today, students in East Tennessee got to see the State Supreme Court at work. The Justices met to hear cases at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Greeneville today. Students from 11 schools across 4 counties heard arguments in a case they studied in advance with local attorneys. The Supreme Court typically hears cases in Nashville, Knoxville or Jackson.

Virginia Education
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 1.8.15

Improving Virginia's public schools is a top priority in the upcoming legislative session. That's according to republican lawmakers in Richmond. Today, they outlined a series of measures aimed at improving how the state trains teachers, administers standardized tests, and grades schools. GOP lawmakers want to replace the current A through F system of grading schools with a more comprehensive school report card. Democratic Governor Terry McAuliffe outlined his education priorities yesterday. He wants to increase spending on Pre-K and allow retired teachers to teach at struggling school systems without losing their retirement benefits.

North Carolina Grading Changes
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 1.8.15

North Carolina high school students will have more leeway to earn better grades next school year. The plan, approved today, will convert the current seven point grading scale into a 10 point scale. That means a student earning between 90 and 100 percent in a course would earn an "A" grade. Under the current scale grades of 90, 91 and 92 means a B. The new scale does not go into effect until August 2015.

Obama Community College

Length: 1:15

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.8.15

Tomorrow, the President of the United States makes his way to East Tennessee. The keynote in his speech will be to make education free for all Americans. Tonight, President Obama made a video aboard Air Force One previewing his high points to his visit to Knoxville. The President said he's going to Pellissippi State Community College with Vice President Joe Biden and Biden's wife. President Obama said he's proposing an education plan that appears very similar to a plan in Tennessee that became law at the beginning of the year. "Tennessee Promise" gives graduating high school seniors two free years of tuition at community colleges. About 58,000 of Tennessee's 62,000 high school seniors have applied to participate in Tennessee Promise this fall.

Unicoi County Superintendent Contract

Length: 2:00

Format: Package

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.8.15

A vote tonight in Unicoi County took many by surprise. The county's school board voted not to renew the contract of Director of Schools Denise Brown. Brown has served in the position for the past 12 years. The 6-member board could not agree on whether to extend her contract. Cathy Tomas, Lisa White, and Steve Willis decided it was time for Brown to go. Brown told us the friction between her and certain board members began in August. Brown is contracted to work through the end of June. Those who voted to keep Brown told us they can't quite explain why the vote went the way it did. As for those who voted to oust Brown, our calls to them were not returned.

Sullins Academy School of Music

Length: 2:30

Format: Package

Reporter: Kasey Marler

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 1.9.15

Many families know how difficult it can be to get their children to music lessons after school. One area school takes that pressure off parents. Professional music teachers come to Sullins Academy's School of Music to teach students and give personalized lessons during the school day. Nearly 50 students take part in a 30 minute lesson then return to their regular class. Students can take voice lessons and learn to play the guitar and the violin and the piano and mandolin. It's important to note that the school of music does not replace traditional music class. Every student at Sullins takes traditional music. The School of Music is offered at an additional charge to students who choose to take advantage.

Free Community College

Length: 1:15

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.9.15

The President of the United States has returned to the White House after a big trip to East Tennessee. The proposal during the President's trip: make education available to the masses. Today's visit to Knoxville ended a 3-day blitz by the President in what the White House called a pre-State of the Union Address. The President announced what's being called "America's College Promise." The program is based off of Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam's "Tennessee Promise." A bill made into law in Tennessee gives graduating high school seniors in the state 2 free years of school at community colleges. The President's plan to copy the program on a national scale failed to impress some of Tennessee's republicans. They recommend other states do for themselves what Tennessee did. The White House said the program would cost the federal government about \$60 billion over 10 years. The President will say how it will be paid for next month.

Hawkins County School Budget

Length: 2:00

Format: Package

Reporter: Jordan Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 1.12.15

Hawkins County school officials are already talking budget for the upcoming year. Right now, the budget is already a little more than \$1 million in the red. We learned the school system could fall another million short if enrollment decreases. Director of Schools Steve Starnes broke down the current budget for us. "Eighty-five percent of our budget is personnel, teachers, bus drivers, custodians, and assistants. Once you get down as lean as you can, be in that 15%, the only other area you can look at is personnel." Just last year, the Hawkins County School System had to cut \$2.7 million from the budget to get to where it is today. The system cut 13 teaching positions. Starnes told us a tax increase or personnel cuts would be the very last resort when making budget cuts. He said all the system can do now is work with what it has. He added that the first priority is providing the best education for the children.

King Announcement

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 1.12.15

Beginning today, King University and Virginia Highlands Community College will work together to help more students graduate college. The schools signed a reverse transfer agreement this afternoon. The agreement allows Virginia Highlands students to transfer to King University before completing their associate degree. School officials told us the agreement will provide students the opportunity to complete college at both the associate and baccalaureate levels. Currently, King has agreements like this with ten community colleges. Seven of those are in Tennessee and 3 are in Virginia.

Virginia Public Colleges Enrollment

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over – Graphics

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 1.12.15

Enrollment at Virginia's public colleges is down this year, the first time in a decade. That's the word from a new report by the State Council on Higher Education. The study shows fall enrollment declined at more than half of the state's 15 four-year schools, compared to fall 2013. Total head count dropped by nearly 1,000 students. During the same time period, enrollment at private, non-profit four-year institutions rose by 4,000 students.

Hands On! Museum Exhibit

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.13.15

A world-renowned and educational exhibit is coming to downtown Johnson City's Hands On! Museum. It's called, "Our Body: The Universe Within." It reveals mysteries of the human anatomy using real human organs. The exhibit opens February 7th.

Carson Newman – Tennessee Promise
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.13.15

Carson-Newman University will become a Tennessee Promise institution beginning this fall. The school qualifies for Governor Bill Haslam's initiative after adding a new associate of arts degree program. The new degree is expected to catch the attention of upcoming high school graduates. It will allow students to transfer seamlessly to Carson Newman's baccalaureate program. Officials hope this will open doors to those who do not qualify for the Hope Scholarship or Pell Grants and make education at Carson Newman more affordable for families.

Alexander – No Child Left Behind
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.13.15

One of Tennessee's United States Senators says he wants to fix "No Child Left Behind." Republican Lamar Alexander addressed the Senate floor today to announce his proposal. He said "No Child Left Behind" expired more than 7 years ago, but it's still a system being used today. The Senator said the original provisions today would cause all schools in the nation to be classified as failing schools. Alexander wants to help schools set realistic goals, keep the best parts of "No Child Left Behind," and give states and communities the power to decide whether schools are failing or succeeding. The first Senate hearing for the plan is scheduled for next Wednesday.

Walters State Announcement
Length: :35
Format: Graphics
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.15.15

An announcement today by an area college will better prepare people for the workforce. Walters State Community College celebrated the opening of its workforce training facility for welding and industrial skills in Greeneville. Classes are already underway at the Asheville Highway facility. A \$337,000 state grant paid for the equipment. The Walters State program will work with local companies to assess skills needed to fill jobs and develop training to prepare students for those positions. Assistant Dean of Workforce Training, Dr. Anita Ricker, said the industrial skills program will play a major role in industrial recruitment to the area.

Civics Test
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.15.15

Today, Arizona became the first state in the nation to pass legislation requiring high school students to pass the U.S. Citizenship Test before they can graduate. The swift action by the Arizona legislature comes as states around the country take up similar measures. Tennessee is one of the states considering the legislation. The law would require high school students to pass the Civics test before graduating. This is a test immigrants must pass before they become U.S. citizens. Critics question whether the test, which relies on memorization, is the best way to engage students in a Civics education.

Teacher Evaluation Bill
Length: :30
Format: Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.15.15

Governor Bill Haslam's administration filed a proposal to adjust the way Tennessee's teachers are evaluated. Under the proposal, the weighting of student growth data used in a teacher's evaluation would be adjusted. Governor Haslam wants state assessments in English and Math to count for 10% of overall evaluation in the first year of being administered, starting in 2016. The second year would count for 20% and the third would count 35%.

Teamwork-Enrichment-Academics-Movement
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Kasey Marler
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.16.15

At Cherokee Elementary School in Johnson City, the second grade class is known as "The Wolfpack Team." TEAM stands for teamwork, enrichment, academics and movement. Three days a week, second grade classes emphasize art, music, and literature, but Fridays are reserved for fun. Fridays students head to the gym to participate in the new program, "Math Movin' and Literacy Groovin'." Students go through 5 stations where they learn math and spelling skills. The games and lessons are specific to lessons being taught in class during each nine week period. It's 30 minutes of fun and reinforcement. Teachers said the program is a cutting-edge approach to make sure students are learning and having fun while they do it.

Tennessee High Auditorium
Length: 1:05
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.20.15

A generous donation will help pay for an auditorium face-lift at Bristol's Tennessee High. The renovated space will happen thanks to a gift from the Bill Gatton Foundation. The auditorium will also bear a new name, The Frank Winston Auditorium. Winston, a close friend and attorney for Bill Gatton, graduated from Tennessee High in 1946. He served as valedictorian of his class. Tennessee High did not disclose the amount of the gift. The school said the gift will total half the anticipated cost of renovation. The project is expected to cost between \$500,000 and \$750,000. School officials hope to complete the renovation by the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year. Construction begins in March.

Laptop Distribution
Length: :55

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.20.15

Middle school students in Kingsport are going high-tech. Sixth graders at Robinson Middle School received laptops. Students and parents lined the hallway to register the computers and get them set up before taking them home. The technology will be used every day at home and in the classroom. Kingsport City Schools will distribute more computers at Sevier Middle School later this week. The school system hopes to expand to other grade levels this fall. Kingsport taxpayers funded the laptops. The board of mayor and alderman approved a 13 cent property tax increase last year. That increase included additional funding for schools.

Bristol Virginia Schools Budget
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Allie Hinds
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 1.20.15

Bristol Virginia Schools Superintendent Rex Gearheart says if the school system does not get more help from the city and state, severe cuts will have to be made next year. Last year, the system made significant cuts. More than 20 people lost their jobs. Gearheart said he predicts up to a \$1 million shortfall next year. Bristol Virginia Mayor Catherine Brilhart said education is a priority and if the city has additional funding, the city can give additional funding to schools. The Mayor added that it is too early to tell how much the city can give. Gearheart told us in the end, cuts remain a real possibility and any cut the system has to make will impact instruction in Bristol.

ETSU Lab
Length: :30
Format: Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.20.15

East Tennessee State University is being recognized around the globe tonight for its work in its Innovation lab. The National Business Incubation Association awarded ETSU the only award in the Soft Landings Program. The association's senior director said ETSU received the award for its work in helping foreign firms and helping businesses enter the U.S. business market. ETSU hopes to use the award to boost the local economy.

No Child Left Behind
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.21.15

One of Tennessee's U.S. Senators is taking the lead on discussing whether "No Child Left Behind" should be changed. Republican Senator Lamar Alexander says a top issue is whether it should be required for all states to have 17 standardized tests each year, as required by that education law. Alexander chairs the committee looking over the potential changes. He says most everyone agrees it's time to fix "No Child Left Behind." Alexander said he's open to all sides of the debate.

Tennessee Common Core Repeal
Length: :40

Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.22.15

A co-sponsor of legislation to repeal Tennessee's Common Core Standards says the measure is likely to change. Senate Education Committee Chair Delores Gresham says she's now alright with the higher benchmarks in English and Math. She said talking with teachers and other educators changed her mind. They convinced her, the tougher standards are helping students. The standards spell out what students should know and when. They have been adopted by most of the states and are intended to provide students with the critical thinking, problem solving and writing skills needed for college and the workforce.

Virginia Common Core
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.22.15

A bill that would ban Common Core Standards in Virginia cleared a state Senate committee. The republican-controlled Education and Health Committee approved the bill that would forbid adoption of the national standards without prior approval from the General Assembly. Governor Terry McAuliffe's administration opposes the bill. The administration called it unnecessary because the state has no plans to adopt the national standards. Forty-three states adopted the Common Core Standards.

Johnson City Schools – Funding
Length: 1:10
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.22.15

Johnson City school leaders are pushing for more financial support in the upcoming budget. Tonight, the Johnson City School Board hosted a rare, joint meeting with the Washington County Commission. The city school system's budget depends upon the amount of money given to the system by the Johnson City Commission and Washington County Commission. In recent weeks, school board members met with Johnson City leaders to make their case for increased funding. Last year's request for more money was only partially met. The message from the Johnson City School Board to the Washington County Commission was city school students live in the county, and their parents pay taxes. It's estimated the city school system needs about \$5.5 million in new, recurring funding.

Technology Upgrade
Length: 1:50
Format: Package
Reporter: Kasey Marler
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.23.15

Earlier this week, 6th grade students at Robinson Middle School received laptops to use in the classroom and at home. The Kingsport School System's goal is to have students ready for college and the workforce. The system says technology is critical. The system is taking all necessary precautions to prohibit misuse on the devices. Officials said there's no facebook, no internet, no browsing, and no youtube. The total cost to the school system was \$600,000 during phase 1. The total cost of the project is close to \$3 million over the next 6 years. The ultimate goal of the project is to have a laptop computer for every student in the district between 4th and 12th grade.

ETSU Sex Week
Length: :35
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.25.15

Sex Week at ETSU is full steam ahead after organizers met their fundraising goal. They raised a little more than \$6,000 for the event. After ETSU Student Government voted not to fund the event, organizers reached out to the community through online fundraising. The event will be held February 10 – February 12. An official schedule of events will be released later this week.

Unicoi County School Board
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.26.15

Unicoi County Commissioners are considering whether to add more members to the county's school board. Commissioners discussed the possibility of adding 3 more members. There are currently 6 members on the board, creating the possibility for tie votes. County leaders say adding 3 more would cost about \$200,000 over 4 years. Commissioners decided to postpone the discussion for a later meeting.

Boones Creek School Funding
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.26.15

Should Boones Creek Elementary and Middle Schools consolidate? Washington County Mayor Dan Eldridge told us new construction is needed rather than more repairs on the old buildings. The Mayor hopes to borrow \$50 million to build a single, new K-8 school. Commissioners decided to pick up the discussion at a later meeting.

Northeast State Influx
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.27.15

Community colleges across Tennessee are seeing record breaking application numbers this year, thanks to Tennessee Promise. That's Governor Haslam's program that gives 2 years of free community college tuition to high school graduates. In the Tri-Cities, 79% of graduating seniors applied to the program at Northeast State Community College. The college told us that's more than double the applications in past years. Northeast State officials are considering some changes to accommodate the influx of students. One of the changes Northeast is considering is the addition of online classes.

School Study Meeting
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Lauren Haviland

Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.27.15

A consultant says the consolidation of some Sullivan County and Kingsport Schools is unavoidable. The school systems hired a consultant after agreeing that the current use of buildings did not match the city and county's needs. Last September, the consultant began a detailed process of gathering facts and moving toward a final recommendation this spring. Tonight marked the second of two opportunities for community input. The consultant unveiled 5 options for the future of Sullivan County Schools. While a final plan is not ready, all signs point to the closure of at least one high school in the county. The consultant said one of the main problems in the county is that they have a lot of space that is not needed. We could see a final presentation from the consultant in early April.

College Saving Plans
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 1.28.15

The White House dropped a plan to scale back 529 College Saving Plans. President Barack Obama announced the proposal in his State of the Union Address. It was immediately met with opposition from both republicans and democrats. The White House Says it will instead focus on other education tax relief.

Virginia Testing
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 6pm
Air Date: 1.29.15

A bill aimed at reducing the number of required standardized tests taken by school children failed in a Virginia Senate committee. The measure would have slashed the number of required tests from 29 to 17. That's the minimum required by federal law. The Education and Health Committee rejected the bill by a 9 to 6 vote.

Common Core Resolution
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.29.15

Tennessee lawmakers want Congress to help them put the brakes on Common Core Education Standards. Lawmakers proposed a resolution urging Congress in part to quote, "end decades of federal intrusion in state and local education policy decisions." State Senator Bill Ketron is a co-sponsor of the measure.

All-Star Reading Night
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Kasey Marler
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.30.15

Parents, teachers and school administrators are getting kids excited about reading. A North Side Elementary program is a big hit. It's called All-Star Reading Night. Once a year, academics and athletics collide at North Side. In its 9th year, All-Star Reading Night features 4 stations. More than 100 athletes from area high schools and colleges participated in the event. Organizers say the students look up to the athletes, and the athletes inspire the students to read and to participate in physical activities.

School Security Cameras

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.30.15

Some Sullivan County Schools are getting upgrades to increase security. Three to four schools will divide \$100,000 for extra security measures. Blountville Elementary received \$25,000 worth of upgrades over Christmas Break. The school now has 22 cameras. School officials say the process takes time and to overhaul schools in the entire Sullivan County system would cost millions.

ETSU Education Day

Length: :30

Format: Live Shot

Reporter: Karissa Manis

Show: Noon

Air Date: 2.2.15

More than 1,600 students from Washington and Greene County Schools are at East Tennessee State University right now for Education Day. The students are taking in a basketball game featuring the Lady Bucs during their visit to campus. Students also learned about programs offered by the university and campus life.

TN Teachers Lawsuit

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 2.5.15

Tennessee's largest teachers union has filed a federal lawsuit challenging the use of standardized test scores to evaluate teachers. The lawsuit, filed today in Nashville, says more than half of public school teachers in Tennessee receive evaluations based substantially on standardized test scores in subjects they do not teach. Last year, state lawmakers passed legislation that prohibits those test scores from being tied to teacher licensing. Governor Bill Haslam signed the measure.

Towne Acres Giving Back

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Karissa Manis

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 2.5.15

A group of Johnson City Kindergarteners are proving you're never too young to give back. Today, they gave from the heart. Students at Towne Acres Elementary spent the morning filling care packages for children in foster care. They filled the packages with everything from

toothbrushes and toothpaste to books and movie posters. In return, they learned giving truly is receiving. Students filled 70 bags. The bags will be distributed by Youth Villages.

Chicks In Space
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Kasey Marler
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 2.6.15

Three sisters are doing amazing things in the world of science. They call themselves "Chicks in Space." Their out of this world invention is on display in Greeneville. Eighth grader Adia Bulaway and her sisters, 11th grader Lily and college bound Mary Ann spent two years creating the Garden of Eton. It's a hydroponic garden. It stands for Extra Terrestrial Organic Nutrition. These self proclaimed "Chicks in Space" hope to send their creation to the international Space Station. The girls are working with a group called Nanoracks out of Houston, Texas. The company is helping get their creation to space. Last fall it was about 90% ready for launch. As for the cost, Chicks in Space has that covered with a crowd funding page. Their goal is to raise \$15,000, and they are one-third of the way there. Then, they can send Nano Eton onto the ISS to see if plants can grow in space.

Tennessee Promise
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 2.6.11

A new poll by Middle Tennessee State University shows overwhelming support for Governor Bill Haslam's "Tennessee Promise" program. It makes community college and technical schools free for upcoming graduates. The poll found 70% approve of the program, 12% were against it, and 8% were unsure. President Barack Obama traveled to Knoxville last month to unveil a proposal for a similar plan for students across the country. Another MTSU poll found that only 37% of Tennesseans approve of the job President Obama is doing.

St. Mary's Donation
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.6.15

More than \$1,000 worth of gifts are in the hands of patients at Niswonger Children's Hospital. Second graders at Saint Mary's School collected donations for two weeks and used the money to buy toys, coloring books, and plenty of other goodies for patients at the children's hospital. This is the second year Mrs. Kirkland's class chose Niswonger Children's Hospital for its Catholic School Week of Service Project.

Sex Week at ETSU
Length: 1:45
Format: Package
Reporter: Jordan Moore
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.8.15

An event that was met with a fair amount of controversy is finally coming to the campus of East Tennessee State University. Sex Week at ETSU kicks off this week. Some students we spoke with had never heard about the event. Others had heard of it, but not much. Max Carwile has

worked on the project for months. One of her group's very first organized meetings dates back to July. Much changed since then, like the slogan. Now it's "Health, Communication and Empowerment." With no school funding, the group raised more than \$6000 to fund the event. Most of that money will go to the event speakers. Sex Week kicks off at ETSU on Tuesday at Noon with a roundtable discussion called "The Stigma of Sexuality."

ETSU Study

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Karissa Manis

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 2.10.15

East Tennessee State University is participating in a landmark study that could help prevent sudden and unexplained deaths of young people in the future. The William L. Jenkins Forensic Center is one of four centers in Tennessee taking part in the national project. Forensics experts will analyze death certificates, medical records, death scenes and pathology reports to be entered in the Sudden Death in the Young Case Registry. It will include anyone under the age of 20 who seems to have died suddenly within 24 hours of their first symptom onset and there's no apparent reason. Tennessee is one of ten states involved in the project. The Tennessee Department of Health will oversee the data collections for the four locations in the state.

Sex Week at ETSU

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.10.15

Preventing sexual assault on campus is just one of many topics being covered in a controversial event at East Tennessee State University this week. Sex Week is underway. The three day event will include several guest speakers and is focused on encouraging open dialogue about sexuality and diversity. Most of the events will take place in the Culp Center on campus and are open to the public.

Common Core Letter

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.10.15

Many of Tennessee's School superintendents are urging lawmakers to hold off on making changes to Common Core Standards. More than 100 superintendents signed a letter addressed to members of the Tennessee General Assembly. With growing opposition to the federal education program, opponents are calling for the repeal of Common Core Standards and want to replace them with ones developed by the state. Kingsport City Schools Superintendent Dr. Lyle Ailshie signed the letter and attended a news conference where he asked lawmakers for time to complete the review, "We need to let Governor Haslam's standards review process go forward. We're just fearful of any move that would completely repeal any standards because the state really doesn't have a backup plan." The only director of schools in our area who did not sign the letter was Johnson City Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Bales.

Tazewell County Drug Testing

Length: :25

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.11.15

The Tazewell County School Board says it will start drug testing its student athletes. Board members approved the move Monday night. The school board said it will implement the policy sometime this spring. Students and parents would be required to sign a consent form before taking part in a sport. School board members say the testing is completely random and at no cost to taxpayers.

ETSU Higher Education Budget

Length: :55

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 2.12.15

East Tennessee State University President Dr. Brian Noland said he fully supports Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam's proposed budget for higher education next year. Governor Haslam announced Monday night his plan to give higher education funding a big boost. The proposed budget includes about \$100 million in pay increases for teachers and state employees. \$260 million dollars would go to proposed construction on college campuses throughout the state.

Elizabethton Stadium

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 2.12.15

Elizabethton High School's new stadium could be complete in time for the Cyclone's first home football game this year. Workers broke ground on the new facility in November and are ahead of schedule. Crews cleared the stadium site and will soon begin putting down cinder blocks. Elizabethton High School will host a groundbreaking for the music room portion of the project in a few months.

Bullying Program

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Karissa Manis

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 2.12.15

Students in Bristol, Tennessee are hoping to shed some light on recent allegations of abuse at a local elementary school. Back in October, students at Vance Middle School wrote a play for anti-bullying month. Today, students took the play to the stage at Holston View Elementary. Last week, we told you two administrators were placed on leave pending a police investigation surrounding allegations of child abuse and neglect. One student we spoke with said doing the play for the kids felt good because bullying can impact someone for the rest of their life.

Unicoi County School Board

Length: 2:00

Format: Voice Over – Package

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.12.15

The Unicoi County School Board has had its share of problems. It took more than three dozen separate votes last fall to decide on a chair. Just last month the board decided to not renew the contract of the director of schools. Tonight, the board had more heated debate. Members of

the board had trouble seeing eye to eye on issues surrounding the budget and newly dismissed superintendent. The meeting began with a disagreement about how much money certain board members are spending to attend out of town training sessions. It ended with a plea by one board member to buy out the remaining contract of Superintendent Denise Brown. A board member asked Brown about her spending after she was notified she would no longer serve as superintendent. Brown responded that she is superintendent until June 30. After a demand to buy out Brown's contract, elect an interim superintendent and post the job immediately, members of the board said a work session was needed. In the end, board members decided to self-fund any trips that surpass budget. A special work session was scheduled for February 20 at 6 pm.

The Morning Mile Program

Length: 2:00

Format: Package

Reporter: Kasey Marler

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 2.13.15

Last semester, a teacher at Holston Elementary School came across an idea to get his students moving. It's called The Morning Mile Program. He did a little leg work and the program was born. Now, the kids are doing the leg work. Sixty Pre-K through 6th graders participate in the program. It begins at 7:30 and ends just before 8 every morning before school. Students get awards for reaching milestones along the way. The program gets kids up and moving, and studies show students who exercise do better in school. The program is free and made possible by the Niswonger Kohl's Morning Mile Grant.

ETSU Classes

Length: :55

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.18.15

East Tennessee State University says it will hold classes tomorrow. Administrators decided to delay the start of classes until 10 in the morning. News Channel 11 received several emails and calls from students who said they were concerned about going to class because of the snow and single-digit temperatures. They said the parking lots are still covered in snow and ice. When we went to check things out, we found snow plows clearing the sidewalks. The university closed Monday in anticipation of the winter storm that hit in the afternoon hours. The school remained closed yesterday and today. We reached out to ETSU with the students' concerns. We were forward an email that was sent to students saying, "With our delayed opening tomorrow, we encourage all faculty, staff and students to use good judgment given weather and driving conditions in their area."

Unicoi School Board

Length: 2:00

Format: Voice Over – Package

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.20.15

The Unicoi County School Board met tonight to plan how it will find a new superintendent. But the headline of the night came in the form of a letter from Director of Schools Denise Brown, who remains on the job. The board failed to renew Brown's contract last month. She remains employed until June 30th. But in a letter, delivered to the board, Brown said she believes it would be best for everyone if she left now. She asked the board to buy out the remainder of her contract. Board members made no decision tonight. Instead they hashed out the details of replacing her. They made a list of expectations: documented history of successful experience gained through service in roles of increased responsibility including classroom teacher, principal, and central office level experience and the willingness to reside in Unicoi County. The candidates must also be willing and able to implement new and exciting curricula and techniques into the classroom. Board members proposed opening the position for up to 30 days and interviewing the top 5 candidates. They also want input from the community, faculty and staff. The board also must decide whether or not to appoint an interim or hire a replacement to start this spring. The board will vote on the items discussed tonight at a meeting next Thursday. It's likely they will then also discuss Brown's request for a contract buyout.

Track Events**Length: :40****Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte****Reporter: Karissa Manis****Show: 7pm****Air Date: 2.23.15**

After nearly 40 years, Tennessee will hold a state indoor track championship for high school students. It will take place February 28 at David E. Walker Indoor Track at East Tennessee State University. The event will alternate between ETSU and Vanderbilt University each year. The event will bring high school students from across the state to see what ETSU has to offer. The economic impact of the event is expected to be more than half a million dollars.

ETSU Student Fee Increase**Length: 2:00****Format: Voice Over – Package****Reporter: Lauren Haviland****Show: 11pm****Air Date: 3.3.15**

Students at East Tennessee State University may see an improved student union, but the improvements will come at a cost. ETSU Student Government Associations plans to present a piece of legislation that will give the D.P. Culp University Center a facelift. A survey last year revealed what students would like to see in a university center. The improvements could cost around \$45 million dollars. That means a student fee increase of \$145 dollars per semester. The Student Government Association says \$120 dollars of that will go toward construction and design and \$25 will provide staff to extend university center hours. If the proposal passes the Student Government Association, ETSU administrators will take it to the Tennessee Board of Regents in May. If approved, SGA says the project could be completed by 2019.

School Vouchers**Length: :30****Format: Voice Over****Reporter: John Price****Show: 11pm****Air Date: 3.4.15**

Parents may soon have the option of moving their children from a failing public school to a private school. The Tennessee Senate and House approved legislation on the school voucher proposal. The legislation is similar to a measure Governor Bill Haslam proposed last year that failed. The current proposal would be open to low-income students in districts that have a school in the bottom 5%.

Tuition Equality**Length: :30****Format: Voice Over – Graphics****Reporter: John Price****Show: 11pm****Air Date: 3.4.15**

The Tennessee Senate approved legislation to give undocumented students in-state tuition. Under the proposal, a student must have attended a Tennessee school for at least 4 years before graduating high school or obtained a GED awarded by a state approved institution. The student also has to meet certain standards such as an overall 3.0 grade point average. Undocumented students currently pay nearly 3 times more for higher education.

TN Department of Education Chief Academic Officer

Length: :30

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.9.15

Greene County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Vicki Kirk will soon serve as the Tennessee Department of Education's Chief Academic Officer. She will be one of three Deputy Commissioners in the state. Kirk has served as Greene County Director of Schools for the past five years and was Assistant Director of Greeneville City Schools for the decade prior. She begins her new job on April 6.

Student Bill of Rights

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 3.10.15

Today, President Barack Obama unveiled the Student Bill of Rights at Georgia Tech. It requires private lenders to offer more repayment options for student loans. The plan also requires loan companies to better inform borrowers about repayment options and delinquent payments. The President also wants loan servicers to apply extra payments first to the highest-interest loans, helping students pay off debt quicker.

Career Day

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 3.11.15

What do you want to be when you grow up? 8th grade students pondered that question as their schools visited the Career Expo at the Higher Education Center in Kingsport today. News Channel 11's Kasey Marler and Anna Zook took part in the festivities where adults shared their career paths and the specifics of their jobs.

Globetrotter School Visit

Length: :55

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Karissa Manis

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 3.11.15

Harlem Globetrotter Zeus McClurkin visited some excited students at Rock Springs Elementary School today. McClurkin traveled to Kingsport to spread a message close to his heart. He shared with the kids that as a child, he was bullied. He hopes eventually, no child will have to relate to his experience. His anti-bullying message included the ABC's: action, bravery and compassion. McClurkin also dazzled the students by showing off some of his world-famous basketball moves.

Wise County Schools Missed Days

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.11.15

Students across our region enjoyed plenty of snow days this year, but two winter storms will cut summer vacation short in Wise County. Wise County School Board member Larry Greear told us the school district closed 15 days due to severe weather this year. Ten days still have to be made up. Wise County School Board voted to make up those missed days at the end of the school year. That means the last day for classes in Wise County will be June 10.

Unicoi County Buyout
Length: 1:30
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.12.15

Denise Brown no longer serves as Superintendent of Unicoi County Schools. Tonight, the school board voted to buyout her contract. The school board appointed Tommy Clouse as the Interim Director of Schools. Clouse is currently the Supervisor of Transportation and Attendance for the school system. He served in the interim role before, in the months leading up to Denise Brown's hire. A job posting for a full time Superintendent of Schools is posted and will close March 27.

Bartow Fired
Length: 1:30
Format: Voice Over – Live – Voice Over – Graphic
Reporter: Kenny Hawkins
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.12.15

If multiple national news reports are correct, major change is on the way for the ETSU Men's Basketball Program. Late this afternoon, two major sports networks broke the news that long-time ETSU head coach Murry Bartow is no longer on the job. We reached out to university officials to confirm the news, but they offered no comment to our questions. We will continue to follow this story and bring you more information as the school releases it.

ETSU Football Stadium
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.12.15

East Tennessee State University can move forward with the construction of a 10,000 seat football stadium. The plan won approval from a state commission earlier today on a revised project funding plan. The commission approved the requested change in the total project budget from \$18 million, which had already been approved, to \$24 million. Most of the money will come from student fees. Commissioners also agreed to fully plan the remaining project and move forward with the first phase of construction. That phase includes a playing field, seating, concession stands and restrooms. ETSU has yet to officially announce where the stadium will be built.

Bartow Out
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.13.15

East Tennessee State University officially announced that men's head basketball coach Murry Bartow is no longer part of the athletics program. Now, the school is on the hunt for the person to replace Bartow. ETSU's athletic director told us Bartow will get paid for the remaining two years of his contract at \$180,000 per year. He said part of the severance will be covered by donors to the program.

Kingsport Snow Days

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over – Graphics

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.17.15

Kingsport City School students missed 8 days so far this school year due to severe winter weather. Tonight, we found out students will not have to make up those days. The Kingsport Board of Education voted tonight to use 8 days of banked instructional time. That is time accrued because Kingsport City School Students attend class for 30 extra minutes every day beyond what is required by the State of Tennessee.

ETSU Football Stadium

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Graphics – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.17.15

Today, East Tennessee State University announced where it will build the school's new football stadium. It will go in the parking lot between the school's facility plant and the Basler Center for Physical Activity. The school will make a formal announcement tomorrow.

TN Academic Standards

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 3.19.15

An agreement has been reached on legislation that would keep Tennessee's current academic standards in place, despite efforts to repeal them. Tennessee Senate Speaker Ron Ramsey of Blountville said the agreement was made this week. The state's standards include the contentious Common Core Standards for English and Math.

Fraternity Suspended

Length: 1:45

Format: Voice Over -- Sound Byte – Graphics

Reporter: Nate Morabito

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 3.20.15

An East Tennessee State University fraternity is suspended for 5 years effective immediately for violation of regulations, including hazing. News Channel 11 learned what allegations led to the decision to suspend Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. The ETSU Judicial Board found the fraternity is responsible for violating sections of ETSU's Institutional Disciplinary Policies. Those violations included hazing and disorderly conduct. Lambda

Chi Alpha was on probation at the university since 2011 due to hazing allegations. Documents revealed the current charges were based on allegations of blindfolding new members, sensory and sleep deprivations and coerced drinking. At a judicial board hearing, the fraternity took responsibility for the disorderly conduct charge, but not hazing. The fraternity appealed the punishment today. A spokesperson from its national office told us, "It is our understanding that this matter still has to go through a final appeal process. Once that process is completed, we will support the university's decision."

ETSU Match Day

Length: :55

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 3.20.15

Medical students at East Tennessee State University's Quillen College of Medicine learned today where they will spend the next few years in residency. Sixty-eight members of the Class of 2015 opened match letters at the Millennium Center.

Unicoi County HOSA Winners

Length: :30

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.22.15

Three Unicoi County High School students are home today after participating in HOSA state competition in Nashville over the weekend. HOSA is an organization geared toward future health professionals. Victoria Bailey, Chelsey Harness and Carter Powers came home with gold medals, winning first place in their categories. They will go on to compete in Anaheim, California this summer.

Emory and Henry Band

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 3.24.15

Music will fill the air at Emory and Henry football games this fall. The college launched the first marching band of the Old Dominion Conference. Dr. Matt Frederick will lead the band. It will begin with 60 musicians and a color guard. The band is expected to grow to 100 playing members over the next 5 years.

Citizenship Test

Length: :25

Format: Reader

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 3.25.15

Students in Tennessee would have to pass the U.S. Citizenship Test before getting a high school diploma, under legislation advancing in the Tennessee House. The proposal passed a voice vote in a House Education Subcommittee today. The bill would require students to answer at least 60% of the questions correctly. They would be allowed to take the test as many times as necessary to pass.

Physical Education in Tennessee

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 3.25.15

Legislation advancing in the Tennessee House would require students K-5 to participate in physical education classes at least twice a week. Right now, school districts must integrate a minimum of 90 minutes of physical activity per week into the school day for elementary and secondary students. The proposal would be in addition to that.

School Vouchers

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 3.26.15

Legislation that would give parents the option to move a child from a failing public school to a private school is scheduled for a vote Monday on the Senate floor. The legislation is similar to a measure Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam proposed last year that failed. Under the current proposal, eligibility would be open to low-income students in districts that have a school in the bottom 5 percent.

ETSU Head Basketball Coach

Length: 1:25

Format: Graphic – Newsroom Live

Reporter: Kenny Hawkins

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 3.26.15

ETSU has found its new men's basketball coach. Multiple sources tell News Channel 11 Sports Director Kenny Hawkins that Wichita State Assistant Coach Steve Forbes will be the next head coach for the ETSU men's basketball program. The university will make an announcement about its pick on Monday. Forbes was on the court tonight for Wichita State's loss during its Sweet 16 matchup against Notre Dame. Forbes was asked after the game about the ETSU job. He had no comment.

TN Reconnect

Length: :40

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 3.27.15

Adults looking to go back to college can do so at no charge. The Tennessee Reconnect grant will cover tuition for eligible adults at any of the state's technology colleges. That includes the Elizabethton campus. This weekend it will hold an open house to answer questions about the program. It's tomorrow from 8am until 2pm.

University of Tennessee Fires Tyndall

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm
Air Date: 3.27.15

After just one season, Donnie Tyndall is out as the University of Tennessee's head basketball coach. Tennessee Athletic Director Dave Hart said he would not have hired Tyndall if he would have known the details of his activities during his tenure at Southern Miss that surfaced during an NCAA investigation. Hart said Tyndall acknowledged deleting emails that could have been relevant to the investigation.

SOL Tests
Length: :25
Format: Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.27.15

The Virginia Board of Education says students could have a chance to retake state mandated exams if they fail this spring. That only applies if the student fails by a narrow margin or because of extenuating circumstances. Students would in grades 3 through 8 would get to retake the Standards of Learning tests before the end of the school year if they meet the criteria.

Forbes Named New ETSU Men's Basketball Coach
Format: Live Press Conference
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 3.30.15

On News Channel 11 at 5:30 we carried the East Tennessee State University Press Conference live. The school announced Steve Forbes as the new men's basketball coach. Forbes is the 16th coach of the Bucs basketball team.

University of Tennessee Basketball Coach
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.30.15

The University of Tennessee fired its head basketball coach last week. Now, it appears UT already has someone in place to take the job. CBS Sports is reporting former Texas coach Rick Barnes is close to inking a deal with the Big Orange. A source told CBS Sports a deal could be finalized by the end of the day.

Virginia Tech Tuition
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: Noon
Air Date: 3.31.15

Virginia Tech says increasing tuition and fees is necessary to offset budget cuts and state-mandated costs. The school's board of visitors voted Monday to increase undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees by 3.9% or \$468. Room and board fees will also increase. Those fees will cost 3.8% more or \$302.

Government

Unicoi County Audit
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.2.15

A just released audit by the Tennessee State Comptroller found multiple problems in Unicoi County Government finances. Several departments in the county were cited in the state audit for not following the rules. The audit found issues with bookkeeping in the mayor's office, the sheriff's office, the highway superintendent's office, the circuit and general sessions court clerk and the county commission. Audit findings show all of those departments were not fully in compliance with state code. Mayor Greg Lynch and Sheriff Mike Hensley both called the audit a valuable teaching tool, and it will help them make changes in the way they serve the people of Unicoi County.

Tennessee Divorce Law
Length: :30
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.4.15

The Tennessee Bar Association is pushing for legislation this year that would delay when the public is notified about people filing for divorce. The TBA believes the proposal would make sure that the public does not find out about a divorce filing before the responding husband or wife has been notified. Attorneys say in order to reduce the risk of retribution, they will ask lawmakers to consider a proposal that would keep the initial filings a secret.

Johnson City Flood Plan
Length: :45
Format: Graphic – Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.6.15

Johnson City will not move forward with its plan to purchase homes in the city's flood prone areas until later this year at the earliest. Last year, Johnson City unveiled its plan to buy up to 95 houses in the areas known for regular flooding as funds are available in the city's storm water fund. After allocating \$300,000 for the buyout, the city recently put the plan on hold to focus on more pressing projects. Now, the plan is to resume home-buying in July at the start of the next fiscal year, if funds are available.

Washington County, TN Commission Size
Length: 2:15
Format: Package
Reporter: Nate Morabito
Show: 6pm
Air Date: 1.7.15

Although many Washington County Tennessee commissioners made campaign promises last election saying they would reduce the commission size if elected, voters will not actually see some of the 25 commissioners eliminated until the next election in 2018. The county's newly formed reapportionment committee will hold its first meeting a week from tomorrow. That's when committee members will begin the process of trying to figure out how many commissioners Washington County really needs. No matter what they decide, the change will not take effect

until this commission's term is up. That's more than 3 years. The state requires county commissions to be made up of somewhere between 9 and 25 commissioners.

Erwin Restaurants

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Nate Morabito

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.7.15

Plans for a new Taco Bell and Bojangles in Erwin continue to move forward. Town leaders call the restaurants significant when it comes to growth. The Erwin Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission both gave their support to the proposed businesses tonight. Bojangles is already well under construction on Jonesborough Highway. City planners expect it to be ready by the end of February. Planners tell us Taco Bell intends to open a location across the street. A Pal's and McDonald's already sit in the same area.

FCC Internet

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.8.15

Federal Communication Officials say they want to give Americans faster internet. FCC Chair Tom Wheeler proposed a new standard to provide a minimum speed of 25 megabits per second. The current standard is 4 megabits. Wheeler said the current standard cannot cover today's high-quality voice, data, graphics and video. A recent report suggests the average download speed is 11.5 megabits per second.

Insure Tennessee

Length: 1:15

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.8.15

One of the President's most unpopular initiatives with many lawmakers is health care reform. Now, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam is poised to introduce a Medicaid expansion plan to the Tennessee General Assembly. Haslam's plan, "Insure Tennessee" would use funding from the federal government. Lawmakers will take up the proposal in a special session on February 2.

Wheel Tax

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 1.9.15

Drivers in Greene County could soon pay more to keep their cars on the road. Later this month, the Greene County Commission will vote on the second reading of a resolution to raise the wheel tax by \$35. Greene County Mayor David Crum told us if the wheel tax hike passes the second reading, he wants state lawmakers to pass it as a private act, which would implement the increase almost immediately. He said the bottom line is there has to be an increase in revenue. If it does not pass second reading, Mayor Crum told us the commission would have to consider a property tax increase to generate revenue.

Insure Tennessee Reaction

Length: :40

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.9.15

Governor Haslam unveiled a more controversial legislative plan this week called Insure Tennessee. The pilot program would give health care coverage to 200,000 uninsured Tennesseans. While local leaders are more open to this plan than the Affordable Care Act, the use of federal money is causing some lawmakers to pump the brakes. We spoke with legislators today about their thoughts on the plan. Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey said at this time, he cannot fully support the plan.

Johnson City Commission

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jordan Moore

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.10.15

The Johnson City Commission met this morning for a work session to get to work on the budget. Mayor Ralph Van Brocklin told us about this time every year they begin to look at potential capital improvement projects over the course of five years. Leaders work to figure out what the city's major priorities are and what they can and cannot fund. He says it is too early to tell what projects will move forward, but they discussed everything from new roofs on schools to Freedom Hall improvements and road repairs. The city has until June 30 to finalize a budget.

Dinner Discussion

Length: 2:00

Format: Voice Over - Package

Reporter: Nate Morabito

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.12.15

The Town of Erwin was prepared to charge taxpayers the full cost of a \$1,000 Christmas dinner, until our Community Watchdog started asking questions. His investigation, along with concerns from a newly elected alderman, prompted town leaders to rethink that decision tonight and only cover about half the bill. Nate Morabito found out taxpayers will still pay for the meals of the aldermen, department heads and planning commissioners who went to Bonefish Grill last month. The town however, will not pay for the dinner of their spouses.

Tennessee Legislature

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Josh Smith

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.13.15

Tennessee lawmakers convened the 109th General Assembly today. Republican Representative Beth Harwell and Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey were re-elected as speakers of the House and Senate. As the Assembly moves forward, Governor Haslam's Medicaid expansion bill is expected to take top priority. New abortion regulations are also part of lawmakers' agendas. That brought protesters to the Capitol today. In November, the majority of Tennesseans voted in favor of a Constitutional Amendment known as Amendment One. That gives the state more power to regulate abortions.

Virginia State of the Commonwealth Address

Length: 1:50

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.14.15

Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe outlined his goals for the year in his State of the Commonwealth address this evening. The Governor's speech officially kicks off the 2015 legislative session. He urged Virginia's lawmakers to work with him on improving the state's economy and strengthening ethics laws for public officials. The Governor said he wants to restore Virginia's faith in elected officials. His predecessor, former Governor Bob McDonnell was found guilty on public corruption charges. The Governor also said tonight it is essential for Virginia's economy to grow. He also pushed for Medicaid expansion.

The Falls Retail Development

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jordan Moore

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 1.15.15

"We cannot comment." That's the phrase Bristol, Virginia city leaders gave us when we asked what went on in their 90 minute called meeting this morning. News Channel 11 received a public notice concerning a called meeting of the Bristol Virginia City Council. The reason for the meeting was to talk with legal counsel about The Falls development. It's a project that has been through its share of challenges from lawsuits to funding. Late last year, the development's anchor store, Cabela's, finally began construction. The company broke ground after Bristol Virginia City leaders announced \$33.8 million in bond revenue sales. We asked city leaders if the meeting should concern taxpayers. The mayor only told us there are no pending lawsuits.

Methadone First Reading

Length: :55

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Lauren Haviland

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.15.15

Johnson City Commissioners approved on first reading an ordinance concerning methadone clinics. The ordinance still must pass two more readings, which is a public hearing. According to City Attorney Erick Herrin, many methadone clinics generate a bunch of traffic. If approved, the zoning ordinances will not allow for a clinic to be a residential subdivision, only in a medical zone.

Unicoi County Ambulance Service

Length: 1:30

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Lauren Haviland

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.15.15

Big changes may be on the way for emergency medical services in Unicoi County. Medic One Medical Response's contract with Unicoi County ends April 1. At a work session this afternoon, some county leaders said the county cannot afford to renew the deal. The emergency transport company has been with the county for the past 4 years providing 2 24-hour ambulances. County commissioners said the county pays \$180,000 a year to Medic One for their services. Today, Medic One's CEO addressed commissioners and offered a reduced price down to \$120,000, a reduction of \$60,000. County commissioners said even with the reduced amount, the county budget will not allow it. Next Thursday, the

commissioners will meet for another workshop. Medic One has yet to be invited. Commissioners told us they will make a final decision January 26.

Gay Marriage

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 1.16.15

The Supreme Court announced today it will decide whether same sex couples nationwide have the right to marry under the Constitution. The justices said they will review an appellate ruling that upheld bans on same sex unions in four states. Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee are among the 14 states where same-sex couples are not allowed to marry. The case will be argued in April and a decision is expected in late June.

Ethics Complaint

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over – Graphics

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 1.16.15

The Virginia Republican Party wants an ethics committee to investigate the actions of Democratic U.S. Senator Mark Warner. The Virginia GOP wants to know if Senator Warner violated federal law when he discussed possible job opportunities for a former state senator's daughter. GOP Party Chair Pat Mullins sent a letter today to the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Ethics asking for the investigation on Warner. He was part of a group of democrats that tried unsuccessfully to prevent former state Senator Phil Puckett of Russell County from resigning last summer. Puckett's resignation gave the GOP control of the state Senate. Federal prosecutors said in December their investigation into the resignation was closed.

Red Light Bill

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.16.15

A state lawmaker is proposing legislation that would ban speeding and red light cameras in Tennessee. Republican Representative Andy Holt wants to outlaw the cameras. He said hundreds of people have contacted him with concerns. We talked with some drivers in the Tri-Cities region who would support a ban on the cameras. Johnson City Police Chief Mark Sirois supports the cameras. He said they encourage safer driving and reduce crashes at intersections where they are installed.

Haslam Inauguration

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.17.15

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam was officially sworn in to his second term in office this afternoon. During his 11 minute speech, he stressed educational improvement and job creation. He said the state needs to ensure students are qualified for the increasing skills required in the job market.

Virginia Minimum Wage

Length: :40

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 1.19.15

A Senate panel killed a proposal to raise Virginia's minimum wage. The Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor voted 11 to 3 to table the proposal aimed at incrementally increasing the minimum wage above the current \$7.25 an hour to \$10.10 an hour by 2017. Supporters said raising the minimum wage would help low-income workers escape poverty. Opponents argued raising minimum wage would result in higher unemployment and hurt Virginia's business climate.

Virginia Medicaid Expansion

Length: :40

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 1.20.15

Virginia House republicans said Governor Terry McAuliffe implemented a poorly conceived plan to provide health care coverage for low income Virginians with severe mental illnesses. Today, republicans described McAuliffe's plan as a political ploy implemented by improperly invoking emergency authority. The McAuliffe Administration recently began enrolling individuals with severe mental disabilities into a limited program that provides only out-patient care. McAuliffe said "The Governor's Access Plan" is legal and necessary because the General Assembly will not agree to expand Medicaid to cover as many as 400,000 low-income Virginians.

Greene County Wheel Tax

Length: 1:30

Format: Voice Over – Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Lauren Haviland

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.20.15

Greene County Commissioners took another step tonight toward increasing the tax people have to pay if they own a car. A majority of commissioners voted to increase the wheel tax from \$20 to \$55 per car. Despite tonight's vote, this is not a done deal. Plenty of people showed up to express their anger over the wheel tax hike. But county commissioners who voted for the tax increase said they have no choice. The increase will likely take effect May 1, but that could change. Opponents of the tax have the opportunity to collect signatures to overturn tonight's vote. They have 30 days.

Erwin Meals

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Nate Morabito

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.21.15

Just two months before Erwin officials and their spouses racked up a \$1,000 dinner bill, our Community Watchdog found out many of those same people enjoyed another \$1,000 meal, a meal we learned was an annual tradition. Our discover of that meal at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville comes as Erwin town leaders decided not to use taxpayer money to buy their spouses' portions of a \$1,000 Christmas appreciation dinner. That decision came after our investigation prompted leaders to ask their city attorney and auditor for advice on the matter. The state comptroller's office continues to maintain there should always be a standard policy in place when it comes to using taxpayer money. The bottom line is the city should not pay for meals of spouses of employees. City Recorder Glenn Rosenoff said from now on, the town will not cover spouses' meals. Rosenoff added the town will draft a formal written policy at the BMA workshop in the coming months.

Marijuana Decriminalization

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 1.22.15

An effort to decriminalize marijuana in Virginia was introduced today by Senator Adam Ebbin. His measure would eliminate jail time for possession of pot charges. Instead, possession would be punishable by a maximum penalty of \$100. The measure would also reduce criminal penalties for distribution.

Gay Adoption

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 1.23.15

Gay, unmarried couples in Virginia will still not be able to adopt children. Today, the Senate rejected a proposal aimed at changing that. Same sex couples can marry in the Commonwealth thanks to court rulings last year. One Senator proposed a bill to allow someone other than the spouse of a parent to adopt a child. This would accommodate gay couples who choose not to wed. Governor McAuliffe supported the bill, but the republican controlled Senate did not. It argued unmarried couples are unstable.

Tennessee Primaries

Length: :35

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.25.15

The Executive Committee of the Tennessee Republican Party plans to meet next month to discuss a potential change to the primary election process. GOP leaders have proposed a resolution that would recommend that lawmakers close primary elections in the state. Instead, voters would have to register with their political party before they could vote in primary elections and could only vote for the candidates in the party for which they registered. Former Unicoi County Sheriff Kent Harris is on the Executive Committee. He says he supports closing primaries.

Medic One Decision

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.26.15

An ambulance service company fought tonight to stay in Unicoi County. After weeks of discussion, Unicoi County Commissioners voted to allow other companies to enter bids to become the county's ambulance provider. Commissioners have said they no longer can afford to pay Medic One, even though the company offered to lower its asking price. Unicoi County's contract with Medic One expires April 1.

MMA Licensing
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.28.15

Professional Mixed Martial Arts fights and boxing matches may be a thing of the past for local fighters. The Tennessee General Assembly cut funding for regulation of combat sports. The Tennessee Athletic Commission regulates professional combat sports like boxing, MMA, and kickboxing. Since the commission has not been profitable for four of its six years in existence, it will disband June 30. Local fighters told us they are worried they will not be able to fight professionally in Tennessee if the commission is not extended for another year. If no legislation to extend the Athletic Commission is on the books by February 12, the General Assembly will have to come up with another way of regulating the sport, leaving the future of the fighters unclear.

Virginia Employee Pay
Length: :25
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 6pm
Air Date: 1.29.15

Virginia state employees could see a pay raise under a new proposal by House republicans. Under the proposal, state employees, including police and teachers, would receive pay raises between 1 and 2 percent. Republicans said the total cost of the raises would be \$130 million. Lawmakers said Virginia has more to spend during the next fiscal year thanks to higher than expected state revenues.

Virginia Abortion Ultrasound
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 6pm
Air Date: 1.29.15

A republican controlled Virginia Senate committee defeated an attempt to repeal a 2012 law requiring a woman seeking an abortion to undergo an ultrasound first. The Education and Health Committee rejected the repeal bill today on a party line vote. The committee also rejected a bill to repeal a ban on abortion coverage in insurance plans sold through a health benefits exchange.

Governor Haslam in Johnson City
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.29.15

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam's statewide tour to promote a plan to provide health insurance to more than 200,000 low-income Tennesseans made a stop in the Tri-Cities today. Governor Haslam detailed his plan to local health professionals and state representatives. Under new estimates released Wednesday, about 280,000 low-income Tennesseans would be expected to enroll in the first year. The state legislature

goes into special session Monday to take up the proposal. The plan has been met with skepticism among republicans because it would draw down more than \$1 billion per year in federal money available under President Barack Obama's health care law.

Medical Marijuana
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.3.15

Medical marijuana is one of the many bills under consideration by Virginia's General Assembly this session. Last night, the bill cleared a second Senate committee. The measure would allow marijuana based medicines that use oil extracts from the plant when a doctor determines a patient has a serious problem with seizures. Advocates, including some parents, say the treatment is in such low doses that it does not make you high and is a safer alternative to legal prescriptions that have serious side effects. The bill is still under consideration in the House of Delegates.

Insure TN Special Session
Length: 2:30
Format: Voice Over – Package – Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.3.15

After day 2 of a special legislative session in Tennessee, it's still unclear if Governor Bill Haslam will get enough votes to support his Medicaid expansion proposal, Insure Tennessee. We found out the Governor does have the support of a Johnson City State Senator who chairs the first committee to vote on the measure. Republican Senator Rusty Crowe told us he will vote in favor of the expansion plan. Crowe told us six of the 11 committee members must vote "yes" or the legislation dies. Tonight, Senator Crowe told us the Governor is one vote short of passage. Senator Crowe is the first northeast Tennessee lawmaker to be a firm yes vote for Insure Tennessee. Bristol State Representative Jon Lundberg is the only northeast Tennessee lawmaker to be a firm vote no.

Insure Tennessee Fails
Length: 3:00
Format: Sound Bytes – Package – Graphics
Reporter: John Price / Josh Smith / Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.4.15

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam's plan to extend health coverage to more than a quarter million low-income Tennesseans met an early death today in Nashville. The Senate Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Johnson City Senator Rusty Crowe, failed to approve the measure. Just last night Crowe told us he was a likely yes vote on Insure Tennessee. After testimony today, Crowe voted no with the majority, killing the bill in committee. After the vote, the Governor said he is not sure what's next. The Tennessee Hospital Association has been a big backer of Insure Tennessee, and area hospitals are not happy with the committee's decision, saying the need to extend health care is not going away.

Insure Tennessee
Length: 1:30
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.5.15

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam says despite a defeat in Nashville, he's not giving up on expanding Medicaid. Right now, the governor is not sure where to pick up the pieces. He says even though Insure Tennessee could make its way back to the state legislature this year, it's still going to be an uphill battle. Last night, Governor Haslam's signature Medicaid expansion proposal died in a senate health committee. The vote was 4 yes votes and 7 no votes. It needed at least 6 votes to move ahead in the legislature. Governor Haslam said the defeat was shocking and embarrassing after 21 months of negotiations with the federal government. He said trying to find another deal with federal dollars will be a hard task to pull off. The governor added that he was surprised by lawmakers' level of mistrust with the federal government.

Virginia Medicaid Plan

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over – Graphics

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.5.15

Virginia's lawmakers successfully stopped their Governor's Medicaid expansion plan. The plan would have expanded coverage to 400,000 low income Virginians. The GOP controlled General Assembly told Democratic Governor Terry McAuliffe they would not support his plan. Tonight, Virginia House Republicans are trying to expand Medicaid in a different form. They are proposing expanding health services to 30,000 mentally ill Virginians. That's 10,000 more than the program McAuliffe established by Executive Order last year.

Tennessee Gas Tax

Length: :45

Format: Voice Over – Graphics

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 2.6.15

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam says Tennessee needs to do something about its tax on gasoline, but he added he won't be in a position to make a proposal until next year. Tennessee's 21.4 cents per gallon gas tax has not been raised in 25 years, and a recent report from the state comptroller's office found the state's fuel taxes are insufficient to maintain existing infrastructure and meet long-term transportation needs. Haslam says he wants to draw up a 10 year comprehensive plan.

Tennessee Closed Primaries

Length: :30

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.8.15

The Executive Committee of the Tennessee Republican Party stopped an effort to close primaries in the state. The panel voted 37 to 29 against the measure that would require party registration to vote in primary elections. Right now, Tennessee voters are not required to register by party and sometimes voters cast ballots in primaries for reasons other than their party affiliation. Supporters of closing primaries said crossover voting can negatively impact the outcome of nominations.

Virginia Pay Raises

Length: :40

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.8.15

Virginia State employees and public school teachers will get a small pay increase under new budget proposals. Both chambers of the republican controlled General Assembly revealed proposed budgets this weekend that include raises for state workers that vary between 1.5 and 3 percent. The Senate proposed slightly higher pay increases for state employees than the House.

Welfare Drug Testing
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5:30pm
Air Date: 2.9.15

A new law went into effect in Tennessee six months ago requiring welfare recipients to undergo drug testing. The Department of Human Services said since the law went into effect, only a few recipients tested positive for drugs. State data revealed more than 16,000 people applied for Families First Cash Assistance Benefits. Of those, 37 tested positive for drugs, 81 discontinued the application process after filling out a drug screening questionnaire. Tennessee is one of 12 states that require welfare applicants to go through a drug screening and testing process.

Tennessee State of the State Address
Length: 2:30
Format: Voice Over – Graphics – Package
Reporter: Lauren Haviland
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.9.15

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam wants pay raises for state employees and K-12 educators. He's also calling for the state to spend millions to build a new fine arts center at East Tennessee State University. The Governor outlined his goals for the upcoming legislative session in his State of the State Address this evening. His proposed budget included \$100 million for school districts to increase teacher pay, \$48 million for state employee pay raises and \$260 million for capital projects, including \$39.1 million for a fine arts building at ETSU. Governor Haslam's budget also includes \$25 million for improvements to colleges of applied technology.

Wheel Tax
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 2.12.15

A petition to stop a tax hike in Greene County is gaining momentum, but it still needs more signatures, and there's only a week left to sign. The petition is aimed at putting the brakes on a wheel tax. Right now 1100 people signed it. Three hundred more signatures are needed. Last month, Greene County Commissioners passed a \$55 wheel tax. That's an increase of \$35. If enough registered voters sign the petition, the wheel tax hike will be put to a vote. If the petition falls short, the wheel tax will take effect in May.

Marijuana Bill
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.13.15

A couple of Tennessee's lawmakers have introduced companion bills that would legalize having and exchanging marijuana up to half an ounce. Democratic State Representative Harold Love and Democratic Senator Jeff Yarbrow, both of Nashville, are sponsoring the bills. The bills would amend the Tennessee code to allow possession and casual exchange of small amounts of marijuana without buying it. Possession, casual exchange or distribution of one ounce or more would then become a misdemeanor with a \$100 fine. If passed, the amendment would take effect in July.

Electric Chair

Length: :40

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.13.15

The Tennessee Supreme Court agreed to hear a legal challenge over a law that allows the state to electrocute death row prisoners if lethal injection drugs are unavailable. Thirty four death row inmates are suing over the state's death penalty protocols, both lethal injection and electrocution. The new electrocution law was meant to jump-start the state's stalled execution process, but it opened the door to new legal challenges. The hearing is scheduled for May 6 in Knoxville. Governor Bill Haslam became the first governor in the nation to put death by electricity back on the list for executions.

Sullivan County Election Deadline

Length: :35

Format: Graphics

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 2.19.15

The ballot is set for the May election in Sullivan County. This afternoon marked the deadline for candidates to turn in their paperwork to appear on the ballot. One of the most watched races will be in Kingsport where five candidates want to be Kingsport's next mayor. Those candidates are John Clark, Mike Freeman, Gary Lane, Tom Parham, and Nathan Vaughn. Mayor Dennis Phillips is not running for re-election.

Greene County Wheel Tax

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over – Graphics

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 2.19.15

A petition to stop a tax hike for anyone who owns a car in Greene County has been turned in with more than 1600 signatures. That is 300 more than were needed. Now, the Greene County Election Commission will sift through the signatures to verify all are registered Greene County voters. Last month, a majority of commissioners voted to increase the wheel tax from \$20 to \$55 to solve a more than \$1 million shortfall in the county budget. Once the signatures are verified, the wheel tax will be put to a vote rather than take effect this spring.

Methadone Third Reading

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.19.15

For the first time in more than 10 years, Johnson City Commissioners made a change governing methadone clinics. Methadone is a drug used to help addicts kick their drug habit. At tonight's commission meeting, city leaders approved the final reading of an amendment to a zoning ordinance. Tonight's decision means the zoning ordinance will not allow for a methadone clinic to be in a residential subdivision only in a medical zone.

Medic One

Length: :55

Format: Voice Over – Graphics – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 2.20.15

Unicoi County Commissioners will vote next week on a proposal to continue with the county's current ambulance service provider. Medic One Medical Response was the only company to submit a bid by yesterday's deadline to the county's ambulance committee. Under the current contract, Unicoi County pays Medic One \$180,000 for services and provides offices. The proposal will pay the group \$132,000 and no offices. The current contract ends in April. The Unicoi County Commission will vote on the new proposal Monday at 6pm.

Johnson City Flooding Plan

Length: 1:50

Format: Voice Over – Live – Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Allie Hinds

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 2.20.15

Johnson City Commissioners approved two contracts that will transform the old U-Haul site to include storm water improvements. Part of the city's master plan, aimed at revamping downtown and attracting both businesses and customers, also looks to ease a long-standing flooding problem. The U-Haul building will be demolished in the next 90 days. Within the year, construction to help storm water flow could start. The contracts approved yesterday totaled more than \$100,000. The city calls it Phase One of the master plan. The plan is to turn the old U-Haul site into something similar to Founder's Park.

Virginia Budget

Length: :25

Format: Graphics

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5:30pm

Air Date: 2.23.15

Virginia lawmakers made a tentative agreement on the state budget. Leaders in the House and Senate say the proposed budget will include small raises for state employees and teachers. If passed, it will also restore \$30 million that had been previously been for local governments. The full General Assembly is expected to vote on the budget as early as Thursday.

Medic One Vote

Length: :40

Format: Voice Over – Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.23.15

A local emergency medical service will stay in Unicoi County. Tonight, Unicoi County Commissioners voted 7 to 2 to keep Medic One as its primary EMS Group. After commissioners voted to put its EMS contract out to bid. Medic One was the only company to enter a bid by the

deadline. Retaining Medic One means the county will provide a subsidy for \$132,000. The county's current contract with Medic One ends in April. That contract required the county to pay \$180,000.

Tennessee Medicaid
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.1.15

After voting down a proposal to expand Medicaid coverage to more than a quarter million low-income Tennesseans, some lawmakers are now looking to ban a state-run health insurance exchange. That would affect about 230,000 people who are enrolled through the federal health insurance exchange. State Senator Brian Kelsey is proposing a ban on state run exchanges if the U.S. Supreme Court rules that the federal government cannot pay subsidies in states that do not set up their own insurance markets.

Erwin Property Taxes
Length: :20
Format: Graphic
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.1.15

Officials with the Town of Erwin extended the deadline to pay property taxes to March 6. Town officials say inclement weather is the reason they extended the deadline.

Virginia Budget
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 2.26.15

Virginia lawmakers approved a new state spending plan. The new budget includes a 2% pay increase for state employees, college faculty and state police. Teachers will get a 1.5% pay increase. The budget also boosts cash benefits for welfare recipients and it gives Governor Terry McAuliffe more money to spend on economic development. The budget does not raise taxes.

Medical Marijuana
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 2.26.15

Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe signed a law that allows the use of marijuana derivatives to treat severe epilepsy. House sponsor, Delegate Dave Albo, said this marks the first effective medical marijuana legislation to win approval in Virginia. The law allows possession of THCA Oil with written certification from a doctor.

Quaker Steak Bike Night

Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.10.15

Bike nights will return to State Street in downtown Bristol, but not everyone is happy about it. Some business owners on State Street expressed their concerns tonight at the Bristol Virginia City Council Meeting. Quaker Steak and Lube requested to close portions of downtown for seven nights this year for the event that showcases motorcycles. Some businesses say this will heavily impact their bottom line. Quaker Steak and Lube said it stands to lose \$80,000 if bike night events are cancelled. City council members voted to allow the first of four bike nights. Then, they said they would decide on the remaining 3.

Virginia Senate Control
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.13.15

Republicans control the Virginia General Assembly, but Governor Terry McAuliffe made it clear he's determined to change that. Today, Governor McAuliffe warned of what he called a "full-out" campaign to help democrats win back the Senate this fall. Republicans currently have a 21-19 advantage in the Senate. That advantage helped kill the Governor's plan to expand Medicaid. Democrats lost control of the Senate last summer with the surprise resignation of former Senator Phil Puckett from Russell County.

Greene County EMS Restored
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.16.15

Greene County Commissioners decided to restore money to the county's Emergency Medical Services Agency. The decision came after months of debate and a decision by the county commission last year to reduce funding to the Greene County EMS budget to help deal with a shortage of funds. Commissioners restored more than \$205,000 to the EMS budget. The money was sent to restore a first responder unit for the South Greene District. The resolution also empowers interim EMS Director the power to use the remaining funds as he sees fit.

TN Cannabis Oil
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.18.15

A bill that would decriminalize the possession of cannabis oil is moving forward in the Tennessee legislature. Those for the bill say it would help people who suffer from seizures. The bill's sponsor says this is the furthest step the state has made in using cannabis. State Representative Jeremy Faison of Greene County was at today's hearing in Nashville as other lawmakers considered his bill. Two Greene County mothers pushing to get the bill made into law also attended the hearing. The bill moves on to the House Health Subcommittee.

Devaney
Length: :30

Format: Graphic
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 3.23.15

In the middle of his fourth term in charge of the Tennessee Republican Party, Chairman Chris Devaney announced he will leave the post. Devaney told members of the State Executive Committee his resignation is effective April 11. Devaney said he accepted a position to lead the CNP, The Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti. It's a faith-based non-profit headquartered in Chattanooga.

Wheel Tax
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over – Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.23.15

Greene County's Mayor says there are not enough signatures on a petition to stop a wheel tax increase. Mayor David Crum tells us the election commission verified a little more than 1200 signatures for the petition. It required more than 1300 in order for it to be used to request a referendum. The mayor told us this means the wheel tax increase from \$20 to \$55 will go into effect May 1.

Cabela's Road Expansion
Length: 1:30
Format: Voice Over – Sound Bytes
Reporter: Lauren Haviland
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.24.15

Leaders in Bristol, Virginia call the widening of a main road leading to the entrance of the city's massive new retail development an urgent project. Tonight, council members voted to spend millions of dollars in public money to pave the way for the August opening of The Falls' anchor store, Cabela's. Lee Highway from Island Road to Blevins Boulevard will be widened. The goal is to make it a six lane road to include turning lanes. The project will cost about \$2.9 million. Half the money, \$1.5 million, will come from the state of Virginia. The other half will come from the city. The city council voted unanimously to spend the money to expand Lee Highway. Work could begin as early as next week. Cabela's hopes to open in August, in time for race weekend in Bristol.

TN Medicaid
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 6pm
Air Date: 3.26.15

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam said today he is willing to risk a second defeat of his "Insure Tennessee" proposal to highlight the need for improving health standards. A revised version of the Governor's proposal to extend health coverage to 280,000 low-income Tennesseans cleared its full Senate committee yesterday. The Governor said he knows the challenges the proposal faces as it moves to its next Senate committee.

McAuliffe Signs Virginia Budget
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.26.15

Virginia's Governor has signed the new state budget for the upcoming year. The 2015-2016 budget includes pay increases for state employees, boosts cash benefits for welfare recipients and has more money for the Governor to spend on economic development.

Greene County Wheel Tax
Length: :50
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Allie Hinds
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 3.30.15

Soon, people in Greene County will pay more to keep their cars on the roads. The official word came today from the Greene County Election Commission. People in Greene County will pay a \$55 wheel tax starting this summer. Those against a wheel tax, passed earlier this year by commissioners, did not collect enough signatures to put the issue to a vote. Some people at the election commission today asked the commission to reevaluate the signatures, claiming some had been thrown out that should have been counted. The request was denied. The wheel tax will go into effect in May.

Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Budget
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Jordan Moore
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 3.30.15

The Sullivan County Sheriff's Office operates on a budget of around \$16 million per year. For the past few years, Sheriff Wayne Anderson asked commissioners to add millions to the office's bottom line. The story remains the same this year. Sheriff Anderson wants an additional \$7 million for the department. Sheriff Anderson told us much of that money would go to adding personnel like deputies, corrections officers and school resource officers. County commissioners have until July to make a decision about the budget for the upcoming year.

Insure Tennessee
Length: :35
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.30.15

Tomorrow, some of Tennessee's Republican Senators will vote on a proposal to extend health coverage to thousands in Tennessee. The proposal is a revived version of Governor Bill Haslam's Insure Tennessee proposal. The Governor says he spent the weekend trying to gain votes from fellow republicans. At the State Capitol today, health care professionals from across the state spoke about why the plan would be beneficial. A Senate Commerce Committee will vote on the Insure Tennessee proposal tomorrow.



HEALTH

Dementia Research
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.1.15

Belgian researchers identified a new strategy to treat an inherited form of dementia. Scientists found a defect in stem cells that prevents normal brain development. The discovery could lead to new drugs to slow dementia.

Fast Food Calories
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Karissa Manis
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.1.15

New research shows most fast food portions and calorie counts have not changed significantly since 1996. Two new reports from Tufts University looked at three fast food chains. Researchers found calories, sodium, and saturated fats remain the same, despite warnings that excessive fast food can lead to obesity and high blood pressure.

Adult Cancers
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.2.15

New research from Johns Hopkins finds two-thirds of all adult cancers are a result of bad luck. Researchers say some cancers are due to the environment or inherited genes, but most are the result of random stem cell mutations. They say bad lifestyle choices can increase mutations.

Modified Antibiotics
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.5.15

Researchers at Stanford University developed a modified version of a commonly used class of antibiotics that does not cause common side effects in mice. Forty to 60% of patients who receive sometimes life-saving amino glycosides develop partial or complete hearing loss. Kidney damage is another side effect. The researchers intend to test the modified antibiotic on humans soon to see if it has the same benefits as it does in mice.

Mountain States Health Alliance – Flu
Length: 1:15
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.5.15

Local health officials issue an urgent plea tonight, "If you have the flu, stay at home." Mountain States Health Alliance said the flu is widespread in the Tri-Cities region. The hospital system does not want its patients exposed to the virus. If you have the flu or flu-like symptoms, health experts advise you call your loved one to let them know you are thinking about them.

RAM at BMS
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over – Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.5.15

Remote Area Medical Clinic will return to Bristol Motor Speedway in the spring. The clinic that provides free medical, dental and vision care. It is scheduled May 1 through May 3.

Flu Epidemic Expands
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.6.15

Last week, 36 states reported widespread flu activity. Now, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says activity in 43 states is classified as widespread. CDC officials say 6 children died from the flu this week, bringing the total number of pediatric deaths this season to 21. Health officials say this could be a very dangerous year for those affected by the virus. The CDC says years with a high number of H3-N2 flu cases, usually the number of deaths triples.

Lee County Hospital
Length: 1:05
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Kylie McGivern
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.6.15

The Lee county Hospital Authority and Wellmont Health System made an agreement for the people of Lee County to own the hospital that Wellmont closed more than a year ago. Wellmont cited reimbursement cuts and low community use among the reasons for closing the county's only hospital. The hospital authority says as of now, everything is still on track to reopen the hospital July 1. In the meantime, Hospital Authority Commissioner Tom Clarke told us the hope is April 1 will mark the first day of operating an urgent care center.

Wellmont on Flu
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.6.15

Both of the region's largest health care providers are urging people with flu symptoms to stay away from their hospitals. Last night, Mountain States Health Alliance issued that request. Today, Wellmont Health System did the same. Both said they do not want their patients to catch the virus. Wellmont said more than 500 flu cases have been confirmed at its hospitals over the past several weeks. Doctors urge if you or your children exhibit flu symptoms, stay at home.

Free Flu Shots

Length: :20

Format: Graphic

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 1.6.15

The Carter County Health Department is now offering flu shots and nasal vaccines free of charge. You can get one of the two during department hours Monday through Friday. The Washington County Health Department is also administering free flu vaccines. Officials there will administer vaccines Monday through Wednesday from 3 until 6.

Flu Web Chat

Format: Viewer Submitted Questions via Facebook

Reporter: Health Officials from MSHA and Wellmont

Shows: 5pm, 5:30pm, 6pm

Air Date: 1.7.15

Health officials from Mountain States Health Alliance and Wellmont Health System joined us in our studio to answer viewer questions about the flu. Viewers submitted questions via the WJHL.com facebook page.

Cancer Center Opens

Length: :50

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 1.8.15

Today, Wellmont Health System opened the doors to its brand new Cancer Institute. The center is located in Bristol, Virginia. It features oncology, hematology, and genetic counseling cancer services. Wellmont officials hope the new center eases the inconvenience and stress associated with traveling for cancer treatments. The new facility opens to patients Monday at 8am. It is located on Island Road.

Aspirin & Heart Patients

Length: 2:00

Format: Package

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 1.12.15

A new study in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology finds more than 10% of patients who are being prescribed aspirin to prevent a first time heart attack or stroke, should not be receiving the medicine. While aspirin can help thin the blood in order to prevent blood clots, researcher say for many patients, taking aspirin could do more harm than good. It could cause bleeding in the stomach and brain.

Positive Childhoods
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.13.15

A study in the journal *Circulation* says factors like growing up in a family that's financially secure, emotionally stable, and physically healthy are strong indicators of good cardiovascular health in adulthood. Researchers say those are people more likely to be normal weight and have healthy glucose levels.

A Reason to Smile
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.13.15

Researchers at the University of Illinois found people with an upbeat, can-do attitude have significantly better cardiovascular health. The study also found optimists typically had better blood sugar and overall cholesterol levels than their counterparts. They were also more physically active, had healthier body mass and were less likely to smoke.

Breast Cancer
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.14.15

A new study shows white women are significantly more likely to be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer, but black women are twice as likely to die from the disease. That comes from a new study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. It looked at nearly 375,000 women with breast cancer. The study's authors said while some of this could be attributed to race and socioeconomic factors, more research is needed on biological explanations.

TennCare Delays
Length: 1:30
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Nate Morabito
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 1.14.15

Hundreds of people on TennCare spent the last two weeks struggling to get through to a call center that's supposed to help them set up rides for doctors' appointments. Now, a local agency is stepping up to help until the problem on the other side of the state is fixed. Pam Richardson told us she waited on the phone for 45 minutes and then an hour and 15 minutes trying to arrange a ride for her sick brother. When TennCare added a third healthcare plan at the start of 2015, a new call center began handling calls for two of the state's three healthcare plans. A TennCare spokesperson told us that call center, Tennessee Carriers in Memphis, has since added 30 new employees, extended its hours and added new phone lines to try to help with call volume. Transportation provider Net Trans told us if TennCare patients still can't get through to the number on the back of their TennCare card, they should call Net Trans to arrange a ride.

Work & Weight

Length: :45
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.15.15

Forty-one percent of 3,000 workers surveyed said they gained weight in their current jobs. On the job stress could be one reason. The stress hormone Cortisol triggers sugar cravings and fat that is stored around the midsection. Another reason could be what you have for lunch. The survey showed people who work in or commute through areas with plenty of drive thrus are more likely to stop at them. Don't give in to the vending machine. Packaged snacks are high in calories and low in nutrients. A tip from researchers: forget the elevator and take the stairs. That simple step adds calorie burning steps to your day.

Fighting Obesity
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.15.15

Exercise that burns between 9 and 110 calories a day, like a brisk 20 minute walk, could reduce the risk of early death between 16 to 30 percent. A new study from the University of Cambridge measured the physical activity and health of more than 334,000 Europeans over 12 years. Researchers found just a little exercise could go a long way, while a lack of exercise could cause twice as many deaths as obesity.

Eczema Treatment
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.16.15

The Food and Drug Administration fast-tracked a new drug to treat eczema. The new drug, Dupilumab, targets molecules that trigger inflammation. In a study, 85% of the people taking it saw dramatic improvement in their skin. The FDA dubbed it a "breakthrough therapy." That puts it on the fast track for approval. Medical experts are also studying use of the drug in children with eczema.

Sitting Dangers
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.19.15

A new study in the Annals of Internal Medicine finds too much sitting is linked to serious health risks and death, regardless of whether you exercise regularly. Health experts want people to stand more. A new study finds sitting is linked to a higher risk of death, cancer, diabetes and heart disease, even for people who exercise regularly. Doctors say if you have to sit at work, make sure to get up from your computer for 1 to 3 minutes every half hour. Experts say standing burns twice as many calories as sitting.

Walking Heart Disease
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.20.15

Researchers found that walking outside in groups can help prevent heart disease, depression and other life-threatening conditions. The study, by the University of East Anglia in Great Britain, found people who walk in groups have lower blood pressure, a more positive attitude toward physical activity, and feel less lonely.

Coffee Benefits
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.21.15

A new study finds drinking coffee may lower the risk of a deadly form of skin cancer. Researchers at the National Cancer Institute looked at the coffee habits of about half a million participants. They found those who drank 4 or more cups of caffeinated coffee had a 20% lower risk for malignant melanoma. The study points out results are preliminary and may not apply to all populations.

Painkillers
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.23.15

Researchers say there's a new risk for women taking painkillers. The Centers for Disease Control warns women of child-bearing age to be careful using opioid painkillers. Research shows exposure to opioids during pregnancy can increase the risk of birth defects.

Unicoi County Memorial Hospital
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 1.23.15

Mountain States Health Alliance says the Unicoi County Memorial Hospital project is still a go. Mountain States first announced it would invest in the hospital in 2013. Today, the hospital system announced everything continues to move along behind the scenes. Mountain States officials say the focus on the hospital for this year will be to file paperwork with the State of Tennessee to get permission to build a replacement hospital as well as finding an architect and a construction firm. Hospital administrator Tracy Byers said, "We are pleased with how things are progressing." Construction new the new Unicoi County Memorial Hospital is expected to start fall 2016. Mountain States said the hospital is scheduled to open spring 2018. That's one year later than originally announced.

Kingsport Cancer Fundraiser
Length: 1:00
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Jordan Moore
Show: 11pm

A local man battling kidney cancer will undergo surgery tomorrow. In the meantime, his friends and family rally behind him. Worley Head grew up in Kingsport. This is not the first time Worley has battled cancer. In middle school, his friend told us Worley traveled to St. Jude in Memphis for treatment for a form of lymphoma. Friends and family will host a fundraiser for Worley Head on February 7th at Domtar Cabin in Colonial Heights. Donations will help him in his fight against cancer.

Autism Genes
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.26.15

New research suggests the genetics of autism are more complicated than previously thought. Autism is known to run in families, so researchers believed siblings inherited the same autism-predisposing genes. New research shows that's not the case. The largest ever autism genome study, funded by Autism Speaks, sequenced 340 genomes from 85 families with two affected children. About 70% of siblings had little or no overlap in the gene variations known to contribute to autism. Researchers are making the 1,000 autism genomes from their study available to other scientists around the world through Google Cloud to further the understanding of autism.

Kids: Sleep & Obesity
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.27.15

In 2012 more than one-third of children in the United States were overweight or obese. A recent study in the Journal Pediatrics found a contributing factor is lack of sleep. Not getting enough sleep may mean not suppressing the appetite, making you want to eat more and taking in more calories and carbohydrates. According to the CDC, newborns should sleep on average 16-18 hours a day. Preschool aged children should sleep 11-12 hours a day. School aged children should get about 10 hours of sleep each night.

Flu & Sepsis
Length: 2:00
Format: Package
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.28.15

More than a million Americans each year are diagnosed with a life-threatening condition known as sepsis. It can develop out of almost any kind of infection, including the flu. Sepsis can develop when the body releases chemicals into the bloodstream to fight an infection. Those chemicals can cause inflammation, damaging organs. Immediate treatment with IV fluids and antibiotics is critical. Recognizing the symptoms could be life-saving. Those include shortness of breath, rapid breathing, rapid heart rate, dizziness or light-headedness. Doctors say the elderly and those on immune suppressing drugs, like chemotherapy, are at a higher risk of developing sepsis.

Blood Pressure Guide
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 1.29.15

Recent blood pressure guidelines could prevent 13,000 deaths a year without increasing overall health care costs. In a new analysis from Columbia University, researchers found the guidelines could also prevent 56,000 heart attacks and strokes a year. Under the new guidelines, fewer patients need treatment. The focus is on patients with severe hypertension and increasing office visits and home blood pressure monitoring for them.

Health Insurance Marketplace

Length: 1:10

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Jordan Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 1.31.15

The deadline for people looking to get health coverage in 2015 through the online marketplace is fast approaching. If you are uninsured and do not sign up by February 15, it could mean penalties on your taxes in the upcoming year. Project Access set up shop in downtown Johnson City today to help people navigate their way through the healthcare system. Executive Director Aubrey Everhart says as of 1pm, Project Access saw only 5 people come through the doors, but it expects to see more in the coming weeks as the deadline draws near. Project Access will hold another walk-in help clinic next Saturday from 10 until 2 at its office off South Roan Street in Johnson City.

Salt & Sugar

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shlra Evans

Show: Noon

Air Date: 2.2.15

Monitor how much pre-packaged food you give your children. That's the advice from new research in the Journal Pediatrics. The study warns about too much salt and sugar in pre-packaged food. Researchers studied more than 1,000 meals and snacks marketed for babies and toddlers. They found a significant number were too high in sodium or sugar. That included packaged fruits, vegetables, cereals and juices.

Daily Pill

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 2.4.15

A new survey revealed one out of every three people said he would risk living a shorter life rather than take a daily pill to prevent heart disease. The study, in the journal of the American Heart Association, was aimed at measuring how much a daily pill interferes with a person's quality of life. Eight percent of respondents said they would be willing to trade as much as two years of life to avoid taking daily medicine.

Open Enrollment

Length: :30

Format: Graphic – Voice Over

Reporter: John Price

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.6.15

You have 9 days left to get health insurance via the federal marketplace. A non-profit group wants to help you make informed decisions. Federal Market is holding events to help you get enrolled. Tomorrow, a registration event will take place at Appalachian Mountain Project

Access from 10am until 2pm. AMPA is located at 809 South Roan Street, Suite 4 in Johnson City. Another event is set for Friday, February 13th. Open enrollment ends February 15.

Vaccine Records

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Aniseh Hamour

Show: 11pm

Air Date: 2.6.15

The recent outbreak of measles is just the latest consequence of a decline in the immunization rate across the country. That's according to local health officials. Dr. Stephen May with the Sullivan County Health Department told us, fortunately, Tennessee's vaccination rates are higher than the national average. He says a resurgence of preventable diseases has been recorded across the country over the past few years because of the growing anti-vaccine trend. Dr. May said, "Vaccines are wonderful at prevention, and all I can say is if you've ever seen a child die of one of these diseases and you know it was unnecessary, it really breaks your heart."

Elderberry for Kids

Length: 2:00

Format: Package

Reporter: Karissa Manis

Show: 7pm

Air Date: 2.9.15

Some parents are turning to an herbal remedy called Elderberry to help treat their child's cold. Some research suggests Elderberry may reduce swelling in the mucous membranes. Dr. Lawrence Rosen believes it can help children fight the symptoms of a cold. Elderberry contains chemicals which are flavonoids or anti-inflammatory agents. One study suggests the supplement can shorten the duration of the flu. Experts say pregnant women should not take Elderberry.

Chronic Fatigue

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 2.10.15

A new report says chronic fatigue syndrome is a serious disease and needs a new name to reflect that. The Institute of Medicine redefined the illness today. The panel advised the government it should be named Systemic Exertion Intolerance Disease or SEID, to reflect that symptoms worsen after exertion. They also set new criteria for diagnosis saying doctor should focus on five main symptoms in addition to post-exertion worsening. The other include fatigue that lessens activity levels for six months or more, non-refreshing sleep, cognitive problems, and symptoms that improve when lying down.

Dietary Guidelines

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 2.11.15

The Federal Dietary Guidelines Advisory Panel wants to lift limits on dietary cholesterol. It issued a recommendation that says cholesterol is not considered a nutrient of concern for overconsumption. The proposed change shows a shift in the way we view cholesterol. The committee

says cholesterol consumed in food plays a relatively insignificant role in determining blood levels of cholesterol. The Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture will receive the final recommendations.

Chocolate Benefits

Length: :40

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 2.12.15

Chocolate has nutrients called flavonols to help protect our heart by increasing blood flow. It also helps reduce the amount of plaque that can stick to arterial walls. That helps prevent clots which can lead to a heart attack or stroke. Dieticians say be sure to choose dark chocolate for the most benefits. Its main ingredient, cocoa powder, can raise good cholesterol levels while lowering bad cholesterol levels. Dark chocolate with at least 70% cacao contains fiber and is high in antioxidants.

Energy Drinks

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 2.13.15

A new study shows just how much sugary energy drinks affect kids. The Yale School of Public Health studied obesity and unhealthy hyperactivity in 12-year olds. Researchers say the more energy drinks the kids drank, the more the kids were hyper and could not focus. They said one energy drink can contain more sugar than what a child should have in an entire day.

Obesity Study

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 2.13.15

A new study shows the role genetics play in why people gain different amounts of weight and why fat gets stored in different parts of the body. Researchers at the University of Michigan analyzed genetic samples for over half a million people and found more than 100 locations across the genome that play roles in various obesity traits. Their findings could lead to ways for treating obesity and helping people with unhealthy metabolisms.

Wellmont No Deadline Set

Length: :30

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 2.13.15

In November, Wellmont Health Systems said a merger with another health system was close and narrowed the choices down to two options. Tonight, there's still no merger, and we learned there's no longer a target date in sight. The original merger deadline was November 2014. A Wellmont spokesperson told us today the panel continues to examine Wellmont's options. Last year, Wellmont confirmed two potential alignment partners remain. One is a regional option and the other is an outside organization outside the region.

Frostbite**Length: :45****Format: Graphics – Sound Byte****Reporter: Jenna Moore****Show: 5pm****Air Date: 2.18.15**

If you have plans to venture outdoors, it's important to take precautions to keep young children, older adults and those with chronic illnesses safe. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers the following safety tips for cold weather protection. It may sound obvious, but dressing appropriately is key. Wear several layers of warm clothing. Frostbite mostly affects the hands, feet, nose and ears. So, do not ignore those first warning signs of pain or a "pins and needles" sensation of numbness. Exposure to extremely cold temperatures can also put people at risk for hypothermia. If someone exhibits those signs, do not hesitate to get the person emergency medical treatment. It can set in within 5 to 10 minutes.

Well Being Survey**Length: :30****Format: Voice Over****Reporter: Jenna Moore****Show: 5pm****Air Date: 2.19.15**

When it comes to being happy and healthy, Alaska is best while West Virginia is the worst. That's according to this year's Healthways Well-Being Index. The index is based on more than 176,000 phone interviews with people from all 50 states. It measures how people feel about their daily lives and overall health. Tennessee came in at number 44 for lowest overall well-being. Hawaii, South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana finished just behind Alaska as best for well-being.

Lack of Sleep**Length: :20****Format: Voice Over****Reporter: Jenna Moore****Show: 5pm****Air Date: 2.19.15**

Researchers at the University of Chicago found sleep loss led to increased fatty acid levels in the blood. Higher levels of fatty acids make it harder for the body to regulate blood sugars. Researchers say the bottom line is lack of sleep is linked to diabetes and obesity.

Sledding Injuries**Length: :30****Format: Voice Over****Reporter: Karissa Manis****Show: 7pm****Air Date: 2.19.15**

Doctors are warning that when you head out to have fun in the snow, make sure to keep safety in mind. Doctors at Niswonger Children's Hospital said the majority of kids who are injured are between the ages of 10 and 14. They urge the importance of keeping an eye on kids and making sure they are in a safe area not near a road or trees. Doctors also remind you to make sure your kids wear protective head gear. They told us the majority of emergency room visits with sledding are head injuries.

Healthcare Extension
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 2.20.15

The deadline for those wanting to enroll in health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act has been extended. The special enrollment period runs from March 15 through April 30. The extension is for those who owe a penalty for being uninsured last year. In the meantime, the administration admits that some 800,000 enrollees received incorrect subsidy information on their tax forms.

Measles
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 2.22.15

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the measles cases linked to Disneyland are genetically similar to a massive outbreak in the Philippines. Health officials believe the outbreak in California likely started from an infected traveler visiting the amusement park. In the Philippines, the disease infected more than 50,000 and killed 110 people last year. So far, the United States reported 141 cases of measles this year, 98 of them from California.

Dishwasher Allergies
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 2.23.15

A new study says if you want to reduce your child's risk for allergies, you should wash your dishes by hand. Research in the Journal Pediatrics uncovered children whose parents washed dishes by hand were less likely to develop allergies than kids whose parents used the dishwasher.

Peanut Allergy Study
Length: 1:50
Format: Package
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 2.23.15

A new study reveals giving peanuts to a child at an early age may help protect against peanut allergies in high risk children. The study, conducted by King's College London, involved more than 600 babies at high risk for peanut allergies. The infants were between 4 and 11 months old and were assigned to eat peanut protein or avoid it. The findings, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, found introducing peanuts early dramatically decreased the risk of developing a peanut allergy. One doctor said this is a landmark study that will change food allergy guidelines. It is estimated that 2% of children in the United States have food allergies.

Angry Heart
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm
Air Date: 2.24.15

A new Australian study found anger can increase the risk of a heart attack. Researchers say the risk is more than 8 times greater during the two hours after a person gets really angry. Arguments with family or co-workers were the biggest triggers for anger associated heart attacks.

Sleep Recession
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 2.24.15

The Centers for Disease Control is now calling America's lack of sleep a public health epidemic. Teens may be the biggest victim of this problem. Researchers at Columbia University found that during a 21 year period, teens were getting less and less sleep. Teens should get at least nine hours of sleep. The average is only 7. Not getting enough sleep can cause you to eat more, shrink your brain and is linked to type 2 diabetes.

Drinking Coffee
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 3.3.15

Research in the British Medical Journal shows people who drank 3 to 5 cups of coffee a day had less calcium buildup around their arteries than people who drank fewer than 3 cups a day. Calcium buildup increases the risk of blood clots. But too much coffee is not good either. People who drank more than 5 cups a day had the highest levels of calcium buildup.

Testosterone Drugs
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 3.3.15

Millions of American men take testosterone boosting drugs, but today, the Food and Drug Administration is warning about overusing the drugs. The FDA says the popular treatments have never been proven safe or effective for treating common signs of aging like low libido and fatigue. The FDA warning added that the drugs can increase the risk of heart attack and said drug makers must add that information to their warning labels.

Niswonger Radiothon
Length: :40
Format: Voice Over -- Sound Byte
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.3.15

A local children's hospital surpassed its fundraising goal. Niswonger Children's Hospital wrapped up its 3rd annual radiothon tonight. The goal was to raise \$200,000. Officials said the radiothon generated \$351,000.

Relay for Life
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 3.5.15

The American Cancer Society kicked off Relay for Life events this morning with an awards breakfast. The ACS honored volunteers who have given more than their fair share of time and effort to events like Relay for Life to help raise money in the battle against cancer. The ACS also honored media members who help with Relay for Life. News Channel 11's Chris McIntosh accepted the Lighthouse Media Award on behalf of WJHL. The Johnson City Relay for Life is set for Saturday, May 2 from 11am until 11pm at Indian Trail Middle School.

Timmy's Playroom
Length: :55
Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 7pm
Air Date: 3.5.15

Niswonger Children's Hospital celebrated the ribbon cutting of Timmy's Playroom. The new playroom provides a positive atmosphere where patients can go to take their minds off medical treatment. The playroom is a special project of the Tim Tebow Foundation. The one at Niswonger Children's Hospital is the first to open outside the state of Florida.

Memory Loss
Length: :30
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 3.6.15

A new study from the Centers for Disease Control highlights the growing number of families with a loved one suffering with memory loss. Researchers tracking data in 13 states found four million American households, that's about 10 million people, are dealing with at least one adult who has confusion or memory loss.

Antidepressants
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 3.6.15

New data suggests a link between antidepressants and improved cardiovascular health. Research in the Salt Lake City shows patients with moderate to severe depression had a 53% lower risk of fatal heart disease and stroke when treated with antidepressants.

Virginia Flu

Length: :30
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.8.15

Cases of the flu are going down in Virginia after 11 weeks of widespread activity. The latest state figures show the level of flu activity declined from widespread to regional in the last week of February. Health officials say flu cases could increase again, but typically, flu activity decreases when it drops out of peak range.

Losing Weight
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 3.9.15

A new study suggests obese women who most need to lose weight are least likely to do so. Researchers in Nashville followed nearly 2 dozen obese women and found women who were insulin resistant and had the slowest metabolisms were also the hungriest and least likely to be able to eat less.

Fertility
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 3.9.15

U.S. researchers tracking more than 500 couples trying to conceive say they discovered three factors that can have a negative impact on men's fertility. Those include high blood pressure, taking multiple medications, and working in a physically demanding job.

Lee County Hospital
Length: 2:40
Format: Voice Over – Package
Reporter: Kylie McGivern
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.10.15

Wellmont Health System closed Lee Regional Medical Center in October 2013, pointing to federal reimbursement cuts and low community use. Ever since, the southwest Virginia community has rallied to reopen its doors. Tonight, we learned what's next from the Lee County Hospital Authority and where negotiations with Wellmont stand now. The authority met for more than an hour and a half in executive session tonight. After the meeting, members announced the authority accepted Wellmont's proposal for the price of the building. The Authority will pay cash at closing, and closing will take place as quickly as possible. However, Wellmont must still accept the deal. The Hospital Authority anticipates an urgent care center will open in the facility on May 1, June 1 at the latest.

ETSU Rural Medicine
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm

Air Date: 3.11.15

East Tennessee State University's Quillen College of Medicine ranks in the top ten for Rural Medicine Training. U.S. News and World Report released its 2016 "Best Graduate Schools" on Tuesday. The list ranked ETSU's Quillen College of Medicine 8th in the nation for Rural Medicine Training. In recent years, ETSU consistently ranked in the top 10 for Rural Medicine.

TN Health Initiative

Length: :35

Format: Voice Over – Graphics

Reporter: Yasmeen Elayan

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 3.11.15

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam launched an initiative that aims to get communities involved in helping Tennesseans live healthier. The "Healthier Tennessee Communities" program is being piloted in a few counties and cities including Kingsport. The program aims to increase physical activity, to encourage healthier eating and smaller portions, and to kick tobacco.

Alzheimer's disease Research

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 3.12.15

UCLA researchers are closer to developing a blood test to diagnose Alzheimer's disease. Scientists came up with a test that could predict the presence of proteins in the brain that are typical with the disease. Researchers say they still need to refine their test to make it more accurate.

Cancer Survival Rates

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 3.13.15

The Centers for Disease Control says two out of three people with invasive cancer are surviving five years or more. Numbers show the five year survival rate for prostate cancer is 97%, breast cancer 88%, and colorectal cancer 63%.

Cancer Drug Costs

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 3.16.15

Top U.S. oncologists say it's time to do something about the high cost of cancer drugs. In recent years, prices for cancer treatments have jumped from about \$10,000 to \$100,000 a year. An article in the Mayo Clinic Journal recommends lifting restrictions on imported drugs and having Medicare negotiate drug prices.

High Blood Pressure
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 3.16.15

A new study on people with high blood pressure suggests folic acid supplements can significantly reduce the risk of first stroke. Researchers in China tracked more than 20,000 adults with hypertension who took folic acid and hypertension medication together.

Diet Soda Warning
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Jenna Moore
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 3.17.15

New research reveals a link between drinking diet soda and a rise in abdominal obesity. The study focused on Americans 65 and older. Doctors in Texas say the increase in waist circumference of diet soda drinkers is triple that of non-drinkers.

Wellmont Merger Update
Length: :40
Format: Graphic
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.18.15

Wellmont Health System says it plans to announce something in the coming weeks about a possible merger with another company. This comes several months after the Wellmont Board's original merger deadline. Not much is being revealed about the announcement but today a Wellmont spokesperson told us, "The Wellmont Board continues to make great progress on determining the right partnership for Wellmont. While we do not have anything more specific to share today, we do expect to have something definitive to announce in the coming weeks." Wellmont previously confirmed it is considering aligning with a regional option and an organization outside the region.

Allergies
Length: :55
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Aniseh Hamour
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.22.15

The itchy, red eyes, the sneezing, and the watery eyes, while we love welcoming spring, most of us do not enjoy the pain that comes with it. Allergy experts say the most important thing you can do is start treating your allergies before symptoms appear. You can go the over the counter route with nasal sprays, oral antihistamines and decongestants. For more serious symptoms, experts also say you can talk with your doctor about allergy shots. Don't forget to do some spring cleaning. Wash your clothes and vacuum more often. Experts also advise keeping windows closed at home and in your car.

Vitamin D
Length: :25

Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: Noon
Air Date: 3.23.15

Researchers released the findings of a new study surrounding prostate cancer. Vitamin D could provide help. The Medical University of South Carolina says Vitamin D supplements may slow or even reverse the progression of low-grade prostate tumors. Researchers said more than half of men taking 4,000 units of Vitamin D over a 2 month period showed improvement and sometimes even the disappearance of their tumors.

Battle of the Bulge
Length: :20
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: Noon
Air Date: 3.23.15

Researchers may have uncovered a new weapon to fight the battle of the bulge. A team at Vanderbilt University says it programmed bacteria to live in the gut and suppress hunger. In tests, lab mice that drank water with the microbes stayed lighter and leaner for up to 3 months treatment.

Insure Tennessee Bill
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: John Price
Show: 11pm
Air Date: 3.23.15

Tennessee's State Senate is advancing a bill that would revive Governor Bill Haslam's Insure Tennessee proposal. The bill received a positive recommendation by Senators. Democratic Senator Jeff Yarbro of Nashville is sponsoring the bill. The legislation would authorize Governor Haslam to strike a deal with the federal government to expand Medicaid to 280,000 low income Tennesseans. Last month, the General Assembly defeated the proposal called Insure Tennessee.

Health Rankings
Length: :45
Format: Voice Over – Graphics
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: Noon
Air Date: 3.25.15

A new report revealed counties across southwest Virginia as the least healthy in the state. The sixth annual County Health Rankings, by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is based on 30 factors including education, housing, diet, exercise and jobs. The report ranked Arlington County as Virginia's healthiest followed by Albemarle, Fairfax, Loudoun, and York Counties. The least healthy counties across the state include Tazewell, Henry, Buchanan, Dickenson and Wise.

Autism
Length: :25
Format: Voice Over
Reporter: Shira Evans
Show: 5pm
Air Date: 3.26.15

Young children with autism are more likely to have gastrointestinal problems. That's according to a new Columbia University study. Researchers found mothers of children with autism were twice as likely to report gastrointestinal symptoms in children up to three years old.

Heart Disease Tool

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 3.26.15

Doctors will soon have a new tool to predict your risk for heart disease. Researchers have developed a model that estimates the 10 year risk for deadly cardiovascular disease in nearly a dozen countries. It will be available later this year.

Kidney Donation

Length: 1:00

Format: Voice Over – Sound Byte

Reporter: Allie Hinds

Show: 6pm

Air Date: 3.26.15

Imagine finding out you have only a few months to live, and a co-worker you barely know wants to save your life. When Belvie Morant of southwest Virginia found out she would be one of hundreds of thousands needing a kidney transplant, she tried to keep it to herself, until a co-worker stepped in. After the co-worker offered her kidney to Morant, they still had to find out if they were a match. It's something very rare in non-relatives. It turns out, they matched as perfectly. Delilah White, an Emory and Henry graduate, told her story today at the Founder's Day Address at the college.

FDA Remedies

Length: :30

Format: Graphic

Reporter: Jenna Moore

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 3.27.15

The Food and Drug Administration plans to scrutinize unproven alternative remedies. The FDA will evaluate the safety and evidence behind remedies like Zicam and Cold-eeze next month. Those are so-called homeopathic products and protected by federal law. Homeopathic products are not required to prove they are safe or effective before being sold on the market, and they can state that they are designed to treat specific medical conditions.

Children's Medication

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 3.30.15

The American Academy of Pediatrics has a message for parents: regular kitchen spoons are not the right tools for measuring medicine. It advises you use tools like doctors and pharmacists, dosing cups and syringes. Each year, more than 70,000 children go to the emergency room due to accidental medication overdoses.

Drug Testing

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Shira Evans

Show: 5pm

Air Date: 3.30.15

A new policy statement in the Journal Pediatrics recommends against random drug testing in schools. The report says there's not enough evidence the tests actually help prevent substance abuse. Doctors express concerns about the risk of false positives and about straining relationships between students and their schools.

Fruits and Veggies in Men

Length: :25

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Anna Zook

Show: 5am

Air Date: 3.31.15

Men who eat strawberries, spinach and other fruits and vegetables high in pesticide residue may be prone to lower sperm count. That's according to a study from Harvard. It found men who ate organic produce had much better counts than men who ate non-organic.

Apple A Day

Length: :20

Format: Voice Over

Reporter: Anna Zook

Show: 5am

Air Date: 3.31.15

Everyone has heard the age old saying, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Did you know that eating an apple could keep you out of the pharmacy? Researchers said they found daily apple eaters had better odds of avoiding prescription medications.