

98.1 The Max Cumulus Memphis

**Sydney Nabors, Public Service Director
Jeremy Park, cityCurrent Host
WXMX, Public Affairs Programming**

**1st Quarter, 2018
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WXMX / City Current / Agenda 1st Quarter 2018

January 7, 2017

7:00am – 8:00am

Ebiz Solutions and ThinkProxi

Sridhar Sunkara, CEO, Ebiz Solutions and ThinkProxi discussed current initiatives on which eBiz is working as well as Artificial Intelligence and its the impact, especially now. He also explained Blockchain and its importance and the technologies to watch for and how they impact jobs. In addition, he suggested what people and companies need to do to be relevant and competitive in the future.

The University of Memphis

Dr. Justin Lawhead, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students at The University of Memphis talked about student engagement and success initiatives at the University of Memphis. He explained how an urban institution can support career planning and growth and detailed his role as the Dean of Students.

Milla's House Center for Grief Counseling

Andrew Gieselmann, CEO of Sandler Training by Capstone Sales Performance, LLC, and Frazer Gieselmann, Sr. Vice President of Bank One offered suggestions on starting the year off strong with planned goals, and a vision board of the things to get people motivated. They also discussed Milla's House (Center for Grief Counseling). It's an expansion from Baptist Center for Grief Counseling in Collierville. Milla, a close relative, lost her fight to Batten disease in November of 2016. The concept of Milla's House is to offer grief counseling from mental health experts free to the community.

January 14, 2017

7:00am – 8:00am

Chalkbeat Tennessee

Caroline Bauman, Community Editor of Chalkbeat Tennessee discussed their mission, which is to provide Tennesseans with accurate information about education so they can make informed decisions. Their focus is on equity in education; they write stories that wouldn't be written otherwise, and she gave examples. She also previewed their upcoming events, Show Mem the Money. The event joins High Ground News, Chalkbeat Tennessee and MLK50: Justice Through Journalism for "Show Mem The Money: The Education Edition," a conversation with Memphis education leaders about how the business of education can be an economic driver for women- and black-owned businesses as one of the city's largest employers. This event is the third in a

series of discussions about racial and economic inequality in Memphis which seeks to answer what role educators play in promoting economic equity in Memphis business. Another event she mentioned which is hosted by Chalkbeat Tennessee, is Spillit Center Stage: Teachable Moments.

Germantown Mayor Mike Palazzolo

Germantown Mayor Mike Palazzolo revealed that the City of Germantown has been selected to receive the prestigious Excellence Award from the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence. Since the TNCPE program was founded in 1993, only 24 organizations have attained the excellence designation. To do so, applicants must participate in a multi-step assessment, and exhibit outstanding results and processes that serve as role models for others.

This achievement is the result of years of work that began following the Great Recession, which forced the City to take a more business-minded approach to local government. The shift resulted in a clear focus on customer requirements, process improvement and data-driven results.

The award comes at the end of a very successful year for the City. During 2017, Germantown achieved reaffirmation of the City's triple-A bond rating from both Moody's and Standard and Poor's, Fire Department Class 1 ISO rating, Germantown Police Department Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police accreditation, National Recreation and Parks Association re-accreditation and distinguished budget and audit awards from the Government Finance Officers Association. Other significant honors include being named the Healthier Tennessee Community of the Year, Commercial Appeal Top Workplace for the third year in a row, 100 Best Fleets in America and recognition as a TVA Platinum Sustainable Community.

Next up for the City is an update of the Germantown Forward 2030 strategic plan. The plan was developed over the course of a year, beginning with a 30-member steering committee in January 2015. In total, over 230 members of the community invested approximately 2,000 hours in the Germantown Forward 2030 plan. The update will take place in the spring and will again engage residents to ensure that the City is headed in the right direction.

Technical Education for Communities

Darrin Mellinger, Corporate Responsibility Leader for Cummins talked about the company noting it's the world's largest independent diesel engine manufacturer. Their products do everything from carry groceries to groceries stores to providing backup power for the Statue of Liberty. They power the buses that transport children to school and people to work. Cummins is a company committed to innovation, and they are currently working on the next generation of energy-diverse power solutions. Cummins is also deeply rooted in the success of the city of Memphis as they employ over 700 people and engage in various activities throughout the year to support the needs of our local communities. Memphis is critical to our business as a whole, so we have a vested interest to ensure the continued growth and success of Memphis and its citizens. On that note, he discussed the TEC initiative.

TEC is an acronym that stands for "Technical Education for Communities". It is a worldwide initiative aimed at closing the skills gaps and providing career opportunities for disadvantaged students by providing hands-on training in technical programs, such as diesel mechanics. TEC takes a unique approach to this mission by forming a coalition of multiple industry, educational, and government partners who all work in unison to ensure the success of the program and its students.

Just as Mayor Strickland mentioned in his address to the group, there are approximately 15,000 technical-based jobs that are going unfilled just within the city of Memphis alone, so this is their attempt at doing what they can to solve that issue. He also talked about where TEC has been successful and East High School being the first site in North America to be chosen due to their T-STEM program.

He noted the ways TEC will ensure the success of the program and its students. We have also incorporated educational partners into this coalition, including The University of Memphis, Tennessee College of Applied Technology, Southwest TN Community College, and Arkansas State University that provide guidance on the program as well as post-secondary educational opportunities for graduates of the program.

January 21, 2017

7:00am – 8:00am

Palmer Home for Children

Drake Bassett, President & CEO of Palmer Home for Children talked about their growth over the past few years, their expansion in Hernando and detailed their Whole Child Model of Care. Palmer Home provides superior residential care for children while introducing the love of God through our service to each individual child.

LOVE: Each child is received in a spirit of love, and we are committed to serving every aspect of their life. We long for healing and restoration. Over time, our children learn to overcome existing obstacles, build on valuable strengths and learn traditional family values.

CARE: Children receive care through a residential model on one of Palmer Home for Children's two campuses and foster care through Palmer Home and Whole Child Initiative's partner ministry, Jonah's Journey.

SUPPORT: Children on each campus are placed in a home, typically with seven other Palmer Home children, and a caregiver couple, who provide the daily guidance and love the children need.

COTTAGES: The cottages allow Palmer Home to accommodate sibling groups and provide all children a family context they can use to overcome existing obstacles, building on strengths, and have the foundation to become responsible, caring adults.

EDUCATION: Children are supported through college age

Dave & Buster's Memphis

Chris Bruno, General Manager of Dave & Buster's Memphis talked about the progress of the current hiring site at the Hilton for their new location near Wolfchase and grand opening Feb 5th. He also discussed their commitment to the community and Make - a- Wish.

Sacred Heart Southern Missions

Laura Grisham of Sacred Heart Southern Missions detailed how the organization staffs and funds the programs and work of two Catholic elementary schools providing a proven path out of

poverty for more than 550 children. They also help eight Catholic social service offices serving over 3000 families each month, including the only ministry in the area to HIV/AIDS patients and their families. They staff a housing program including Dehon Village with 38 single family homes for low-income families whose rent is subsidized by Sacred Heart Southern Missions. Their Social Services department includes an active volunteer program, and their priests serve six widely scattered parishes in an area that is only 2% Catholic.

January 28, 2017

7:00am – 8:00am

Memphis Jewish Community Center

Marcy Stagner: Program Director of Cultural Arts and Adult Services and Susan Levko: Membership and Marketing Director at the Memphis Jewish Community Center discussed their programs and services as well as the upcoming Morris and Mollye Fogelman International Jewish Film Festival.

ServiceMaster by Stratos

Stacy McCall, CEO & President of ServiceMaster by Stratos talked about advancing the evolution of integrated employment. If you are a business owner, increasing profit year after year and retaining employees is important, but there is nothing more valuable than giving back to the community in which you serve. That's why ServiceMaster by Stratos partners with local organizations such as [SRVS](#).

SRVS was founded in 1962 to advocate for individuals with disabilities of all types. Throughout the organization's history, it has developed and provided a number of programs to support individuals as they strive toward increased independence. One large step toward that is obtaining meaningful employment, which is where ServiceMaster by Stratos comes in.

“As new goals are being set for 2018, I encourage other business owners to consider taking a step toward joining SRVS employment partners who are contributing to the evolution of integrated employment.”

The Church Health Center

Andreana Smith, Director of MEMPHIS Plan and Patient Services at The Church Health Center explained The MEMPHIS Plan: Affordable Healthcare for Small Businesses

The MEMPHIS Plan is Church Health's affordable healthcare plan for small businesses and self-employed people. However, it is not health insurance. It offers quality, affordable healthcare to those in lower-wage jobs by relying on donated services from volunteer doctors, area hospitals, and laboratories.

The MEMPHIS Plan provides very affordable healthcare for uninsured working people who fall through the cracks of the current healthcare system because they earn too much to qualify for state or federal programs, by way of the aforementioned donated services. It helps small businesses be able to provide an essential benefit to their employees, and addresses a need in the current affordable healthcare system.

February 4, 2017

7:00am – 8:00am

Couture Cares

Davina Jones, Executive Director of Couture Cares shared their upcoming events, Her Prom Closet Giveaway in March and the Prom Dress Drive in which they're collecting dresses. Her Prom Closet Drive – Drop off is on a Saturday at various Chick-fil-a throughout the city. Our organization Couture Cares hosts a Prom Dress Giveaway FREE for high school seniors that are deserving students but don't have the funds to purchase attire. They come to this event and get an experience. They make Prom dreams come true, and offer mentoring programs. Road to Success is a mentoring program they now offer to our recipients which involves college prep, resume building and a Day in the Life in which they're mentored specifically in their interest of career.

Christ Community Health Services

Cris Stovall, Director of Communications at Christ Community Health Services detailed their organization and mission as well as the myriad of services offered and locations. The vision of the four founding doctors, Rick Donlon, David Pepperman, Karen Miller and Steven Besh resulted in the formation of Christ Community Health Services. Since opening the first health center in 1995, their mission has been to provide high quality healthcare to the underserved in the context of distinctively Christian service. They strategically enter Memphis communities that, over time, have become deficient in resources and services. Residents of these communities lack access to quality healthcare and often manageable health issues go untreated or undiagnosed. Through God's calling, Christ Community is standing in the gap, delivering quality healthcare and spiritual healing.

When their patients enter their health centers Christ community wants them to experience the hope, love and healing that the staff offers in the name of Jesus Christ. From the first strategically placed health center on Third Street, to today's many locations the passion, mission and vision has not changed.

My City Rides

Andy Nix, President of My City Rides scooter rental discussed their mission and program info, the timing of the program rollout, and noted that they're looking for employer partners. To get a job and keep it, you have to be able to get there affordably and reliably. With My City Rides, three dollars a day gets the scooter, gear, safety course, scooter license, scooter tag, insurance, scheduled maintenance and interest-free financing. A 3-year commitment is required by the driver.

February 11, 2017

7:00am – 8:00am

City of Memphis Office of Business Diversity and Compliance

Joann Massey, Director of the Office of Business Diversity and Compliance for the city of Memphis talked about the Office of Business Diversity and Compliance 2016 Griffin and Strong

Disparity Study. Their goal is to increase city contracting opportunities for small, minority/diverse and women owned businesses. While increasing the number of certified firms on the city's registry who have the required skills and the capacity to perform is important, its equally important to eliminate barriers to doing business with the City Of Memphis where possible.

At this time there is no cost for the Shelby County certifications. The study also showed the 60% contract spending increase with MWBEs, improved outreach/boots on the ground at the Business Development Center and the upcoming Universal Life Building. Mayor Strickland was named the MWBE Champion by the National Association of Women Business Owners this month, while Director Massey was a recent panelist at the National League of Cities City Summit 2017. Some upcoming events she discussed include the Cook Convention Center Transformation Diversity Workshop #3, Memphis Black Restaurant Week (MBRW), the Competitive Bidder's Prep Accelerator course (CBPA) designed to identify and groom potential "willing, ready and able" suppliers for the City of Memphis, Securing the bid Workshops and the We Mean Business Symposium.

Healthy Here

Sandy Bradford of Healthy Here talked about the importance of employee health noting that salaries and benefits are, by far, the greatest expenses for most companies, so protecting these investments is key. She discussed the reasons employee access to healthcare so important now noting that paid employee absences can cost employers more than 20 percent of their payroll expenses. She listed some of the barriers that keep employees from tending to their health and the main illnesses and risk factors that employees face today. If more employees participate in regular primary care and follow up visits, there would be a decrease in spending on pharmaceuticals, better prevention, early detection and management of chronic illness, a decreased number of catastrophic health events and overall enhanced health and wellness. She discussed their mobile clinic and how it works.

MVP3 Entertainment Group

Marie Pizzano, CEO/Founder, MVP3

Marie Pizano is a Chicago native who now calls Memphis home. Pizano is Founder/CEO of MVP3 Entertainment Group, and is an award-winning film producer and author. Her films have won awards at the Monaco Film Festival, Bel Air Film Festival and Hollywood Reel Film Fest. Her book, "From Barefoot to Stilettos: it's not for sissies" is now also in audio-book format and produced by Grammy Award winning music producer Lawrence "Boo" Mitchell at the legendary Royal Studios in Memphis. The audio-book format has made history by being the first audio book ever to be recorded at the legendary Royal Studios. In the fall of 2016, the film version, "Barefoot to Stilettos", inspired by her book, will begin production to be released 2017.

Under the umbrella of Marie's company, MVP3 Entertainment Group, she represents music artists and has a music & publishing company, which released several debut CDs. Endorsed by actor Morgan Freeman, and her book can be summed up as "The inspiring first person story of a woman driven to prove to the world that she can." Just this past year, Ms. Pizano recently received a 2017 NAMI TN Media Award at the NAMI 2017 Nashville convention for bringing awareness to Nami in films in which she is involved.

February 18, 2017

7:00am – 8:00am

Center for Good Grief

David Dufour, Director of Human Resources at The Bank of Fayette County talked about how he copes with the loss of his son and the resources here in Memphis such as family, friends and groups we're a part of, the church (Stephen's Ministry in particular), and the non-profit Kemmons Wilson Center for Good Grief. Their master's degree-level counselors are specially trained in grief issues and dedicated to providing comprehensive bereavement services to all ages. Programs include one-on-one counseling, support groups and bereavement camps. All services are completely free to clients as the Center is fully supported through the generous donations of individuals, foundations and corporations. He discussed giving back in terms of two Memphis scholarships set up in his son Christopher's name at Collierville Schools and at the University of Alabama.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis

Keith Blanchard, President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis detailed their Annual Youth of the Year Competition at Hattiloo Theatre, their recent recognition as one of the highest performing organizations and individual clubs in America, and their recent League of Eagles Award for the highest performing board nationwide. He discussed expansion into Shelby County Schools and ultimate goal to serve more kids in Memphis, especially those that need them most. He promoted the upcoming Golf Tournament in June and 20th Anniversary Tennis Invitational in August, noting that they just won the USTA special tennis event of the Year.

Las Americas Youth Development Center

Greg Diaz, Executive Director, Las Americas Youth Development Center talked about Las America's beginnings in 2004 as well as their programs and the Children Day Festival in May. When Pastor Diaz came to the U.S., he was just 12 years old where he found himself in the same situation many Latino youth encounter in Memphis today. Very few people spoke the language he was most comfortable speaking and very few understood how confusing, difficult, heartbreaking, and hopeless he felt every day.

At that early age, in the midst of the pain and suffering of trying to be successful at school, he made a promise to God that if he was ever given the opportunity he would help kids and youth that were in those same shoes.

Today at Las Americas Greg, Daisy and the rest of their team serve 300 of them a day...many of them who have experience the same feelings I did when he did at just 12 years old.

Las Americas exists to serve and develop functional and successful Latino youth and children of all ages and to help them make a smooth transition into the American school system and lifestyle, here in Memphis and its surrounding areas; by empowering them through outreach, missions, recreational, and educational programs all with the purpose of sharing the love of God. They are the only Youth Development Center that helps Latino children with their education and assimilation into the American culture. They're also the only Youth Development center that goes into 13 different schools to work alongside the ESL teachers during the school hours with ESL tutoring and the principals doing boys, girls groups and making Character building

programs. In addition, they offer tutoring, bible studies, and recreational opportunities for those students.

February 25, 2017

7:00am – 8:00am

Vintage901 and Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis

Stephanie Ferreira, Founder of Vintage901 & Shante Avant, Deputy Director at Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis discussed the 2018 Vintage901 Spring Weekend Festival which includes The Grand Tasting, March 2 at Crosstown Concourse, Perfect Pairings, March 3, 2018 at Memphis College of Art and the Sparkling Brunch March 4. The event is used to raise money for The Women’s Foundation For a Greater Memphis whose main goal is Vision 20/20, a mission to reduce poverty in 38126 through grants, education, support programs and more.

Community Legal Center and Baptist Memphis ER

Anne Mathes, Executive Director, Community Legal Center & Melanie Mays, Nurse Manager Baptist Memphis ER talked about what CREA is. [The Community Legal Center](#) has provided legal services to Memphis and Shelby County’s “working poor” for more than 20 years. They talked about their members and the funders. Melanie talked about the ways that Baptist tackles the elder abuse issue noting their Elder Abuse Training Model, the development of the programs and golas related to stopping elder abuse.

Agape Child & Family Services and Robbins & Popwell, LLC

David Jordan, President & CEO of Agape Child & Family Services and Dale Sharp, President of Sharp, Robbins & Popwell, LLC discussed Agape, who it serves and how and some of the challenges that Memphis families struggle with today. Agape will serve children, families, and communities by sharing God’s love throughout the Mid-South. With excellence, we will connect people to God’s mission by uniting children with loving families, strengthening homes and communities with intentional relationships, and linking servants to service. Their services include foster and adoption services, school-based support, counseling, homeless services, workforce readiness and more. They talked about their role with regard to the importance of MLK50.

March 4, 2017

7:00am – 8:00am

Girl Scouts Heart of the South

Kristen Posey Russell, Chief Marketing Officer for Girl Scouts Heart of the South. Throughout the nation, Girl Scouts has 112 regional councils—they’re 2.7 million girl members strong—and last year, Girl Scouts Heart of the South (GSHS) served nearly 6,000 girls, with the help of over 2,000 volunteers, who live by the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

They serve 59 counties in north Mississippi, west Tennessee and Crittenden County, Arkansas, and maintain three camps and four regional service centers, with headquarters in Memphis. Girl Scouts Heart of the South is proud to be the creators of the [National Stand Beside Her Movement](#) - a national call to action initiative to mentor, support and develop women and girls; to end comparison and competition and create more collaboration and support for one another – that has been adopted by 21 Girl Scout councils, and the [National Association of Junior Auxiliaries, Inc.'s](#) 97 chapters across the country. Each year during National Stand Beside Her Week (the last week in October), participating organizations encourage others to commit to supporting girls and women in their lives, their home, their office and in their community. Kristen discussed their chapter and promoted Girl Scout Cookie season, how they strengthen the organization, how they teach the girls and how people can purchase them.

International Paper's Employee Relief Fund

Amy Grow, Manager of Community Engagement and Executive Director of International Paper's Employee Relief Fund outlined their signature causes: Literacy, Hunger, Health & Wellness and Disaster Relief and discussed how they mobilize their volunteers, products (paper and boxes) and resources (funding) to be a force of good in the communities where they live and work. She talked about their projects to include the Coaching for Literacy Fight for Literacy game in February which supports Memphis Teacher Residency. She also discussed the American Red Cross Sound the Alarm campaign coming up in April as well as the Employee Relief Fund Golf Tournament, United Way, and Feeding America, MLK 50 and NCRM support. They also promote literacy with summer camps.

Memphis Oral School for the Deaf

Lauren Hays, Development Director for Memphis Oral School for the Deaf gave an overview on MOSD, the only program serving children who are deaf and hard-of-hearing under the age of 2. Their Sound Beginnings program (birth-2) has quadrupled since 2013, and their programs are expanding as more children are identified earlier in life. She expressed the need for community support with the cost for services at approximately \$50,000 per child each year. She discussed their 7th Annual SpeakEasy Gala presented by Pickler Companies and Subsidiium Inc. on April 7th. It includes a live auction with items such as a bottle of Pappy Van Winkle Bourbon, VIP Justin Timberlake tickets, and an electric guitar from the former manager of the Doobie Brothers, etc.

March 11, 2017

7:00am – 8:00am

Tennis Memphis

Rachel Reddin, Fundraising and Development Manager of Tennis Memphis highlighted Tennis Memphis' outreach. Tennis Memphis is a USTA Community Tennis Association organization, a 4-Star NJTL Chapter and a non profit 501(c)(3) governed by a Board of Directors. Our mission is “to build a better community and enhance lives through tennis and education.” We intend to increase the exposure of the sport of tennis in all areas of our community and are committed to

working with other organizations committed to the growth of tennis in Memphis to accomplish this goal.

The scope of what Tennis Memphis does extends well beyond managing the city's tennis centers. As a member of the National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) network of 350 non-profit organizations, Tennis Memphis is deeply committed to making tennis available to all children in Memphis with affordable, low-cost, and free year-round programming throughout the community. The National Tennis and Learning (NJTL) Network is an organization co-founded by Arthur Ashe, Charlie Pasarell, and Sheridan Snyder in 1969. Their vision was to utilize tennis as a vehicle to engage children and teach them about life as well as sports. The NJTL Network is supported by the USTA Foundation, the charitable arm of the USTA. She talked about their 4 star NJTL program, TNT Program and Summer Camps as well as their upcoming main fundraiser, A Serving for Tennis, April 27.

Renewing the Mind Body and Soul

Chasity Torry, Founder and CEO of Renewing the Mind Body and Soul discussed her new nonprofit that's currently implemented at Ridgeway High School where she mentors a group of 9th grade girls that were referred to her by the principal due to behavioral issues. Her goal is to work with them throughout their high school career to change their behavior through self empowering methods, group, individual, and family counseling.

Her organization offers opportunities to explore different career fields to help young girls find their purpose, to give them an outlet to speak up for themselves in a positive environment, teach them communication skills, build spiritual wellness and work on inner confidence, leadership skill development, critical thinking skills, etc.

She discussed their upcoming event "Career and College Tour with a Purpose" in Nashville March 15-18, where her goal is to spread awareness about the behavioral, emotional, and mental health issues among our youth, and the need to address these issues within the school system in order for our children to become mentally healthy and academically successful. She added that there is much need for more than just career counselors in schools, but rather, the need also for mental health specialists.

Crye-Leike Realtors

Donnie Chambliss, Realtor with Crye-Leike Realtors in Southaven discussed the housing market, real estate trends and Desoto county real estate. He detailed the Southaven amenities including theater, parks, the Tanger Outlet Mall, the Bank Plus Amphitheater, dog parks, the convenience to Shelby County, Olive Branch and Hernando and the upcoming Silo Square mixed use development center. Also, Interstate 269 will be fully complete and open in September.

March 18, 2017

7:00am – 8:00am

My Town Miracles

Brandon Artiles, Executive Director for My Town Miracles talked about his non-profit based in Collierville, Tennessee and his new role as Executive Director having transitioned from his previous career in local TV news to the non-profit world. His latest "miracle" is with RedZone Ministries which serves underserved youth in Orange Mound by covering the costs of a college visit tour for college eligible high school juniors in the RedZone program. He noted that 24 students will visit 5 colleges in 3 days throughout Tennessee and Arkansas and that many of the students would be the first person in their family to go to college. They're also preparing for their annual fundraiser "Chick-fil-A Family Picnic & Field Day", in June at Tiger Lane.

The Arc Mid-South

Carlene Leaper, Executive Director of The Arc Mid-South shared some of their events. The 501c3 nonprofit agency provides respite care, career development & job placement services for individuals w/intellectual and developmental disabilities. We have their Annual Wheelchair Basketball Tournament on March 24, which will feature the Rollin' Grizzlies, members of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association, competing against corporate teams without disabilities. The event is meant to demonstrate the empowerment of individuals with disabilities; it's not the disability that counts, but the ability of each individual. She also discussed their Annual International Tea & Fashion Show May 19.

Memphis Zoo

Matt Thompson, Director of Animal Programs at the Memphis Zoo shared the recent transformation of the zoo, new exhibits, upcoming events and the future of the Zoo. It all began in 1906 with a black bear named Natch - a retired baseball mascot. Today, the Memphis Zoo spans 70 acres and is home to more than 4,500 animals, representing over 500 different species. In 2008, the Memphis Zoo was ranked America's No.1 zoo by TripAdvisor.com. In 2009, the Memphis Zoo was rated the "top zoo in the country" in a national survey by Morey Associates. The Memphis Zoo has completed more than \$90 million in renovations and expansion, since the early 1990s. The Zoo's animal inhabitants reside in one-of-a-kind exhibits like Once Upon A Farm, Commercial Appeal Cat Country, Primate Canyon, Animals of the Night, Northwest Passage and CHINA. In April 2003, the Memphis Zoo became one of only four zoos in the United States to exhibit giant pandas. Giant pandas "Ya Ya" and "Le Le" live in the Zoo's exhibit, CHINA – a brand new, three-acre facility that features animals that are indigenous to China, complete with authentic Chinese gardens and architecture. The Memphis Zoo is home to the world's longest living hippopotamus, "Adonis," who died in 1965 at the age of 54. The male hippo sired approximately 25 offspring in his lifetime, giving the Zoo the title of "hippo capital of the world." An accredited member of the [American Zoo and Aquarium Association](#), the Memphis Zoo works cooperatively with animal facilities and organizations around the world, in order to further its mission of preserving wildlife through conservation, education and research.

March 25, 2017

7:00am – 8:00am

Tennessee Housing Development Agency

Ralph Perrey, Executive Director of the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) discussed the organization and a new program. The Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) is Tennessee's housing finance agency, created by the General Assembly in 1973. THDA was created to promote the production of more affordable new housing units for very low, low and moderate income individuals and families in the state, to promote the preservation and rehabilitation of existing housing units for such persons, and to bring greater stability to the residential construction industry and related industries so as to assure a steady flow of production of new housing units. In addition, we aspire to excel in the management and stewardship of our resources and to produce strong earnings that allow creative reinvestment to meet the housing needs in Tennessee. Programmatically, our aspirations include these areas: to expand homeownership opportunities statewide; support successful, ongoing homeownership; and maximize the value of THDA rental housing programs to Tennesseans and their communities. One year ago, THDA launched a new program that provides \$15,000 in financial assistance to qualified homebuyers who purchase existing homes in targeted ZIP Codes statewide, including 18 ZIP Codes in Shelby County. Because of this program, THDA was able to more than double their home loan production in Shelby County last year—a 125% increase in the number of families served. To date, more than 425 Shelby County homebuyers have been approved for this program and purchased a home with \$15,000 in down payment assistance from THDA.

Germantown Area Chamber of Commerce

Janie Day President/CEO of the Germantown Area Chamber of Commerce talked about the Chamber's job of supporting small to medium sized businesses in their growth challenges by engaging these businesses in events/activities and learning techniques. For example, there are weekly and monthly opportunities for members to interact with each other along with learning new ways to acquire new customers. For example, the Lunch 4 U Initiative is 4 Chamber members going out to lunch with 3 other chamber members so each can get acquainted in an informal setting. It's a monthly outing so during the year each member has met 36 new people with whom they might do business or refer business. She also discussed their Young Professionals group called Rise UP, an emerging group of people who are under 40. On April 26th the Germantown Chamber is hosting a Health and Wellness EXPO at the Great Hall and Conference Center in Germantown. The Chamber is supported by membership fees, sponsorships, and events. The Health and Wellness EXPO is one of those events along with their 18th Annual Taste of the Town and Night Rider in October.

MyBlockMusic

Shawn A. Gates President & C.E.O. of MYBLOCKMUSIC.net explained MyBlockMusic. It's a digital entertainment platform that helps musicians improve their brand recognition. They take a personal approach with each artist, valuing every relationship. Each artist deserves attention as they strive to be a household name, and their musicians have an opportunity to get a customized package to meet their needs. Founded in 2016, MyBlockMusic is an industry leader in assisting

musicians with their professional development and brand growth. He discussed how they engage Memphis and promoted the event Music on Main happening later in March.

Drake in the Morning guests on 98.1 The Max

Every Wednesday Shea Flinn with the Memphis Chamber discusses local topics such as city council agendas and proposals, city administration issues and chamber events.

Every other Tuesday, Kyle Veazey, Deputy Communications Director of the Mayor Strickland's office covers city issues such as budgets and deadlines, the police and fire departments' proposals for restoring their retirees' healthcare and pensions, MLK50 and progress the city has made with issues such as blight, creating jobs, filling pot holes, addressing poverty and trying to promote and push Pre-K education for all children.

Every Tuesday David Waters, editor for the Commercial Appeal discusses his positive community-centered editorials.

January 12, Kevin Kane, President of the Memphis Convention and Visitor's Bureau talked about the upcoming development of the Cook Convention Center and improvement to Graceland, the Pinch District and downtown to attract more business and improve tourism.

January 16, Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland recapped his first full year in office and previewed his plans and goals for the coming year, noting the increasing number of police officers going through the academy, programs he has introduced for students, changes he has made in his administration, combatting crime, and budgets.

January 24, Southaven Mississippi Mayor Darren Musselwhite talked about his undertakings since he was elected, city development and growth, improving traffic flow on Goodman Road, the new Tanger Mall and the upcoming Silo Square with the commerce it will bring.

February 7, Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell talked about his last year and last term in office, his plans for fighting opioid abuse, his working closely with Mayor Strickland on several issues, county budgets, the county economy and the candidates running for county mayor.

February 21, Shelby County District Attorney discussed the new program that could have a major impact in driving down our violent crime. Operation Comeback deals with focused deterrence, and began Tuesday night with a call-in of about 10 selected high-risk offenders who were warned to stop the violence while also being offered a wide array of social services to help them change their criminal lifestyles.

February 26, Jennifer Pignolet, Education writer for the Commercial Appeal recapped her recent ongoing investigation into grades being altered at 2 high schools and what the Superintendent is doing about it.

February 28, Brett Batterson with the Orpheum Theater previewed their programs as well as

their upcoming Broadway season.

March 13, Jack Sammons, Board member, MEM Shelby County Airport Authority, discussed the airport's newest flights and the reconfiguration of the airport to include a Concourse B revamp.

March 14, Karen Golightly, Director of Paint Memphis talked about the city's new mural moratorium AFTER Paint Memphis painted murals around town on some privately-owned buildings. The city took a few down, but they weren't the ones they were told to take down.