Features and Interviews January – March 2020

Morning Edition (ME): Monday – Friday, 5am – 9am All Things Considered (ATC): Monday – Friday, 4pm – 6:30pm Weekend Edition (WE): Saturday – Sunday, 8am – 11am Weekend All Things Considered (WATC): Saturday – Sunday, 5pm – 6pm Here and Now (H&N): Monday – Thursday, 1pm – 3pm, Friday 1pm – 2pm

Economy:

Nearly 1-hundred thousand people per year have moved to North Carolina in the past decade... an influx that is showing no signs of slowing down *Interview, ME, 1-20-2020*

Millions of people have moved to North Carolina in recent years. That's led to explosive growth in urban areas, and all kinds of economic benefits. But it's also caused enormous challenges in housing, especially for those at the lower end of the income ladder. *Feature, ME, 1-21-2020*

It's a warm and sunny late fall day and Wanda Morgan is sweeping the last of the autumn's leaves off her front porch. The brick on her house and front walkway has the kind of weathered look that tells you the house isn't new, but was built sturdy. *Feature, ME, 1-22-2020*

This is Ernest Alston. He has the kind of smile that's warm and inviting. He's a Marine Corps veteran who sits and stands straight. Not at attention, exactly, but with his shoulders back. He had a post-military career as a truck driver, and says he can still back a long trailer down a narrow alley. Now he spends his free time fishing, reading the Bible, and, of course, singing. *Feature, ME, 1-23-2020*

A recent play in Chapel Hill took a sharp look at what causes housing to become unaffordable. Set at a public hearing in the cleverly named fictional city of "Church Mound," the fictional council contemplates what to do with a piece of property. Affluent, and largely white residents, had some ideas. *Feature, ME, 1-24-2020*

This is Morning Edition. I'm Will Michaels. North Carolina is implementing strict social distancing measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus: No school. No mass gatherings. No going out to restaurants or bars. What we need to do for the sake of public health will likely come at the expense of its economy.

*Interview, ME, 3-19-2020*Congress today [Thursday] passed urgent legislation to ensure that military veterans can continue to attend college.

Extended social isolation. Layoffs. A run on firearms. These are knock-on effects of the covid 19 (KOHvid) pandemic. They are also conditions that have suicide experts worried about at-risk Americans. From Boise State Public Radio, Heath Druzin has more. And a note to listeners... this story deals with suicide. *Feature, ME, 3-26-2020*

Education:

The research is pretty clear: integrated schools are good for kids across the board. But in Wake County, and many other districts across the country, schools have become increasingly racially and socioeconomically segregated. As Wilson Sayre reports, the current Wake County Board of Education is attempting to reverse that trend.

Feature, ME, 1-3-2020

The Governor hopes to expand a program that helps community college students finish their degree. Liz Schlemmer reports. *Feature*, *ME*, *1-14-2020*

This is Morning Edition. About three thousand undergraduate women start their college careers at U-N-C Chapel Hill each fall. By the time they graduate, almost half are likely to experience sexual assault or misconduct. A quarter are likely to experience assaults that meet the definition of rape. Liz Schlemmer has more on what the university is doing to respond. *Feature, ME, 3-2-2020*

Discussing racism can be difficult - especially with elementary students. A project at U-N-C Greensboro gives future elementary school teachers the tools to teach diverse classrooms about racism - through reading. Liz Schlemmer has the story. *Feature, ME, 3-6-2020*

North Carolina school districts are working to feed kids who rely on school meals while students stay home to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As Liz Schlemmer reports, some schools are employing the help of their yellow buses... *Feature, ME, 3-19-2020*

Universities across North Carolina are dealing with the complications that come with reducing on-campus operations. Liz Schlemmer has more on the measures that colleges are taking to ease into a semester dominated by the coronavirus pandemic. *Feature, ME, 3-25-2020*

School closings could lead to a break from standardized testing and that could have huge ripple effects for public education in North Carolina. From W-F-A-E, Ann Doss Helms reports on the legislative group that's starting to look at those challenges. *Feature, ME, 3-27-2020*

The UNC Board of Governors has voted to allow its member schools to loosen admissions standards - due, in part, to the coronavirus pandemic. Liz Schlemmer reports the new policy will make it easier for thousands of North Carolina high school students to get into a 4-year college. *Feature, ME, 3-31-20*

Environment:

With the federal government's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, state and local governments in North Carolina have set their own ambitious goals for addressing climate change. Now, they're puzzling over how to carry out the big changes needed to reach those goals. They include switching to electric vehicles and shifting to more renewable energy. WFAE's David Boraks reports.

Health:

Hospitals across the Triangle are enacting a variety of plans in preparation for a possible surge in covid-19 cases. Jay Price reports. *Feature, ME, 3-16-2020*

This is All Things Considered. I'm Dave DeWitt. Coronavirus testing is ramping up in North Carolina and across the country. But it still lags behind almost every other developed country in the world. Thousands of tests are still in the pipeline here in the state. *Interview, ATC, 3-18-2020*

Labs across the world are scrambling to develop a vaccine for Covid-19. But just as important is a more immediate treatment. And the treatment the World Health Organization has classified as the most promising is coming out of a lab at the U-N-C Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health. Dave DeWitt reports.

Feature, ME, 3-18-2020

This is All Things Considered. I'm Dave DeWitt.

As the number of coronavirus cases climbs, hospitals in North Carolina are preparing for the worst. Elective surgeries are getting canceled and those patients who are able are being moved to other location. It's all an effort to free up bed space for the distinct possibility that a wave of very ill people will need intensive care.

Interview, ATC, 3-20-2020

This is All Things Considered. I'm Dave DeWitt.

The state of North Carolina continues to track behind those with the worst outbreaks of COVID-19, like New York and Louisiana. And political leaders at a levels of government are revising and updating their orders for people to stay home.

Interview, ATC, 3-27-2020

This is All Things Considered. I'm Dave DeWitt. Governor Roy Cooper's Stay Home order is now in effect. That means residents are to stay home, unless absolutely necessary, for 30 days. *Interview, ATC, 3-30-20*

Military:

Overnight, more than 650 soldiers from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg started deploying to the Middle East. They'll be leaving throughout the day. The Pentagon said President Trump ordered the deployment in response to the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad by Iranian-backed militia members.

Interview, ME, 1-1-2020

Climate change is making wildfires worse around the world. Hotter temperatures, drier conditions, and unusual rain patterns all mean that vegetation is more likely to burn. It's a danger not only to communities, but on military bases as well, leading the Pentagon to declare fires and other effects of climate change a national security problem. *Feature, ME, 1-7-2020*

The Department of Veterans Affairs has banned smoking at its medical facilities, eliminating designated smoking areas at hospitals and clinics. The change went into effect for patients and visitors in October. And as of January 1st, it also includes employees. The V-A is one of the last medical providers to ban tobacco, and it's been a difficult transition for some veterans. *Feature, ME, 1-7-2020*

The Department of Veterans Affairs is experimenting with ways to keep older veterans out of nursing homes and assisted living facilities. One pilot program in Texas places federally-backed volunteers in the homes of veterans -- to help with cooking, cleaning and other tasks. *Feature, ATC, 1-8-2020*

Even before the latest hostilities in the Middle East, the Army was trying some new methods to try to recruit more soldiers. A new marketing campaign, called "What's Your Warrior" launched in November. It's short on crawling in the mud and long on high tech. Dan Boyce reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project. *Feature*, *1/16/2020*

Meanwhile, the U-S military support continues. American aid is helping the Ukrainian Army buy vehicles and supplies ... and U-S troops are continuing to conduct training with their Ukrainian counterparts.

Some U.S. military recruits are fighting with the government to allow them to serve. They were recruited through a special program that allowed non-American citizens into the armed services if they had foreign language skills or other special expertise. *Feature, ME, 1-30-2020*

This is Morning Edition. A growing body of research is showing the value of peer counseling for military veterans returning to civilian life. Programs where former service members support each other have become common around the country, and in some cases have been shown to be more helpful than traditional mental health treatment. *Feature, ME, 2-5-2020*

This is Morning Edition. When wartime veterans or their spouses can no longer live independently, a government program can help them pay for nursing homes, assisted living, and home health care. The V-A's "Aid and Attendance" benefit can make a big difference for people struggling to afford long-term care. But the application process is often long and complicated. Stephanie Colombini reports for the American Homefront Project. *Feature, ME, 2-20-2020*

The Department of Veterans Affairs says people who served in the military have a higher risk of gambling addiction - and the risk is especially high in veterans with P-T-S-D. *Feature, ME, 3-5-2020*

Even before the U.S. signed a peace deal with the Taliban last month, some members of Congress were trying to build a national memorial to veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. *Feature, ME, 3-9-2020*

The coronavirus pandemic is affecting every aspect of American life--including military life. Carson Frame of the American Homefront Project sat in on a virtual town hall meeting at San Antonio's Lackland Air Force Base, where troops and their families shared some of their concerns. *Feature, ME, 3-12-2020*

The unemployment rate for veterans is at a 20-year low. But for military spouses, it's a different story. Almost a quarter of military spouses are unemployed. Jennifer Brookland reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.

Feature, ATC, 3-16-2020

Congress today [Thursday] passed urgent legislation to ensure that military veterans can continue to attend college. *Feature*, *ATC*, *3-19-2020*

Even as people in much of the country stay at home to try to protect themselves from COVID-19, the Navy and Marines are trying to balance social distancing with military readiness. As Steve Walsh of WUNC's American Homefront Project reports from San Diego, the results can seem inconsistent. *Feature, ME, 3-27-2020*

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced most of us into social isolation. But for veterans with mental health issues, staying at home runs counter to advice they've long received to get out and interact with the world. Jennifer Brookland reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project. *Feature, ME, 3-31-20*

Politics/Government:

State lawmakers will reconvene later this month in Raleigh, though it's unclear how much will get accomplished. If last year was any indication divided state government will mean plenty of inaction. Jeff Tiberii reports from Raleigh. *Feature, ME, 1-2-2020*

Early voting begins next month--and almost a quarter of North Carolina's counties will be using new elections equipment to replace outdated touch-screen systems that were de-certified by the state in December. The certification of new machines raised questions that set two of the state's largest counties on divergent paths. Rusty Jacobs reports. *Feature, ME, 1-15-2020*

Yesterday, while we were airing live coverage of the impeachment trial, Jeremy talked politics with W-U-N-C's Jeff Tiberii and Roll Call columnist Mary C. Curtis with one week to go until the Iowa caucuses. *Feature, ME, 1-28-2020*

North Carolina's primary election to help decide the Democratic presidential nominee is five weeks from today. But, as Liz Schlemmer reports, that hasn't always been the case *Feature, ME, 1-28-2020* When North Carolina voters go to the polls on Super Tuesday, they will be faced with making a

when North Carolina voters go to the polls on Super Tuesday, they will be faced with making a preliminary selection on who should be the next Superintendent of Public Instruction. It's a position that directs an enormous amount of state and other funds. But it's also a role that is poorly defined, and, currently, a source of contention. *Feature, ME, 2-4-2020*

This is Morning Edition. Not too long ago, a Democratic primary in North Carolina's 2nd Congressional District was little more than an exercise in futility. That's because the second was a deeply red district, and the Republican candidate was almost assured of winning the general election. But the district in

central North Carolina has been redrawn, virtually guaranteeing this year's *Democratic* primary winner will go on to claim the seat. Rusty Jacobs reports.

This is Morning Edition. There are 35 U-S Senate Races in the country this year. North Carolina's is expected to be one of the tightest and most expensive. Five Democrats are vying for the nomination and a general election match-up with Republican incumbent Thom Tillis. Jeff Tiberii reports on the leading contenders.

Feature, ME, 2-11-2020

As Super Tuesday draws closer, presidential candidates and their surrogates are crisscrossing North Carolina. At the top of their agendas... do everything possible to appeal to Black voters. Naomi Prioleau reports on why the black vote here is so important. *Feature, ME, 2-17-20*

This is Morning Edition. Not too long ago, a Democratic primary in North Carolina's 2nd Congressional District was little more than an exercise in futility. That's because the second was a deeply red district, and the Republican candidate was almost assured of winning the general election. But the district in central North Carolina has been redrawn, virtually guaranteeing this year's *Democratic* primary winner will go on to claim the seat. Rusty Jacobs reports. *Feature, ME, 2-19-2020*

For years Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and High Point have been chopped up and divided among Republican-dominated congressional districts. But after courtroom fights over partisan gerrymandering concluded last year, the cities were united in a new Sixth district that's likely to go blue. Jay Price reports on what that might mean for the Triad. *Feature, ME, 2-20-2020*

More than one million North Carolina residents have registered - or re-registered - to vote since the 2016 election. Race and Southern Culture Reporter Leoneda Inge says a lot the new voters are young and are more than twice as likely to identify as Latinx or Asian, than in previous elections *Feature, ME, 2-26-2020*

Governor Roy Cooper is running for re-election this year--and will undoubtedly win his Democratic primary. Cooper's campaign has raised more than 8-million dollars. His opponent has raised a little more than 15-hundred. The real question is which Republican Cooper will face in the general election: Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest or State Representative Holly Grange. Rusty Jacobs reports. *Feature, ME, 2-27-2020*

This is Morning Edition I'm Will Michaels... North Carolina is one of fourteen states where voters are weighing-in on the presidential election today [SUPER TUESDAY]. But there's much more on our ballots than the crowded Democratic primary. Here to lay out some of the contests in play is Capitol Bureau Chief Jeff Tiberii. Hi Jeff... Interview, ME, 3-3-2020

This is Morning Edition. Joe Biden's big Super Tuesday included a win in North Carolina. Cal Cunningham and Roy Cooper also won Democratic races last night. Jeff Tiberii reports. *Feature, ME, 3-4-2020*

Race/Diversity:

The FBI is reviewing the facts surrounding the death of a black teenager named De'Von Bailey (duh-VON BAY-lee), who was shot in the back while running from police in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in August. As part of the ongoing series, 'When you look at a gun, what do you see?" Guns And America's Leigh Paterson (Lee PAT-er-sun) has this profile from the neighborhood where it happened. And a warning for listeners: this story includes the audio of a shooting, which some may find upsetting. *Feature, ME, 1-1-2020, 1-6-2020*

One of the largest Ku Klux Klan demonstrations in North Carolina was in the summer of 1966. That's when Klansmen marched in full regalia through downtown Raleigh. Race and Southern Culture Reporter Leoneda Inge says that day was also historic because the Reverend Martin Luther King Junior was in the capital city.

Feature, 1-20-2020

Sixty years ago tomorrow, four North Carolina A&T State University students walked into the Woolworth's Department Store in downtown Greensboro. Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, Jibreel Khazan, and David Richmond staged a sit-in at the segregated lunch counter, launching a movement that spread across the south. *Feature, ME, 1-31-2020*

The legal battle over the U-N-C System's 2-point-5 million dollar settlement with the Sons of Confederate Veterans heads back to court today [Wednesday]. Reporter Liz Schlemmer introduces us to four of the U-N-C Chapel Hill alumni seeking to have the settlement thrown out *Feature, ME, 2-12-2020*

Sports:

Zion Williamson is one of the top prospects in professional basketball. Going into NBA All-Star weekend, Mary Louise Kelly talks to Jeff Nowak of The Advocate about Williamson's promising career. *Interview, ATC, 2-14-2020*

Before this weekend, David Ayers was an unknown to even the biggest hockey fans. But after his performance as the emergency backup goalie on Saturday, Carolina Hurricanes fans won't soon forget him. On Tuesday, Ayers was welcomed to North Carolina. Jason deBruyn reports. *Feature, ME, 2-26-2020*

Other:

In the wake of the Sandy Hook mass shooting in 2012, bereaved families sued gun manufacturer Remington Arms. After five years of delays, that lawsuit is now moving forward. And as Guns and America's Ryan Lindsay reports...the case could offer a window into how the gun industry thinks and operates.

Feature, ME, 1-10-2020

Donations of clothes, diapers and food are pouring in for residents of McDougald Terrace in Durham. Hundreds of people will be displaced again this week after a carbon monoxide scare at the public housing apartments. Feature, ME, 1-15-2020

In many American cities, gun homicides are on the decline. But Durham, North Carolina, saw its homicides rise in 2019, leaving residents to cope with what they feel is chronic violence. As WUNC's Adhiti Bandlamudi [AH-dih-tee BUND-luh-MOODY] reports, the new year has provided the community a chance to reflect — and recommit to a less violent future. *Feature*, *ATC*, *1-17-2020*

Seventeen states now have what are commonly called "Red Flag laws," and many more are debating adding them to the books. These laws allow police to temporarily seize guns from someone deemed to be an immediate threat to themselves or others. But the new laws don't lay out a process for actually *seizing* the guns... leaving local law enforcement to figure out how those confrontations should go.

Feature, ME, 2-3-2020

Anti-government protesters in Lebanon say the sectarian powers that be have long tried to keep the public divided. One way the protesters are pushing back? They're creating new public spaces for themselves. Rebecca Collard reports from Beirut.

Feature, The World, 2-11-2020

Henderson County is the lone sheriff's department in Western North Carolina that participates in the federal 287G program. Blue Ridge Public Radio's Cass Herrington explains how that led to a 25-year-old Hendersonville man to be deported after he was arrested last month following a traffic stop. *Feature, ME, 2-13-2020*

This is Morning Edition. It's a simple idea: send convicted abusers who illegally possess guns to jail, with a little extra help from federal firearms laws. But as Guns and America's Hady Mawajdeh [HAH-dee Mah-WAHG-dee] reports, it's part of a larger mission to not only help survivors, but decrease violent crime.

Feature, ME, 2-24-2020

This is Morning Edition. Domestic violence offenders generally aren't allowed to possess firearms. But in many states, it's difficult to ensure they turn over their guns. A new investigator in the Denver District Attorney's office in Colorado is trying to change that... by removing guns, case by case. For Guns And America (Lee PAT-er-son) reports.

Feature, ME, 2-25-2020

Last night, the Durham City Council approved six new officers for the Police Gang Unit. Police departments of almost every major city now employ units trained to deal with gangs. These officers are charged with reducing gun violence and other crimes perpetuated by gang activity. But experts warn that if these units are not implemented the right way, they can be ineffective or even counterproductive.

Feature, ATC, 3-3-2020

Like several major cities, Kansas City, Missouri, is struggling with high levels of violent crime. Officials there are testing new tactics they learned from police in Tampa, Florida. Guns & America's Chris Haxel visited the sunshine state to learn more.

Feature, ME, 3-17-2020

Rockingham County has signed an agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement that will assist the agency in deporting undocumented immigrants. Naomi Prioleau reports that Rockingham is the first county in North Carolina to sign up ...

Feature, ME, 3-23-20

Arts/Culture: Changing Economy: Education: Environment: Greensboro/Triad: Health: Military: Politics/Government: Race/Diversity: Sports: Weather: Other: