

**WRBL**

**Columbus, Georgia  
Media General Communications holdings, LLC**

**First Quarter 2016 (January 1 – March 31)**

**WRBL (TV) has ascertained the following issues are of the interest to the Columbus, Georgia community:**

- **Government**
- **Economy**
- **Environment/Land Use/Sprawl**
- **Education**
- **Family**
- **Values**

**WRBL (TV) addressed these issues by providing significant treatment in the following local programs:**

- **News 3 This Morning (Monday through Friday, 6:00 – 7:00 a.m.)**
- **News 3 Midday (Monday through Friday, 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.)**
- **News 3 Evening Edition (Monday through Friday, 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.)**
- **News 3NightWatch at (Monday through Sunday, 11:00 – 11:35 p.m.)**

**As a CBS network affiliate, WRBL (TV) also aired a variety of CBS programming responsive to the interests and needs of the Columbus, Georgia community.**

**While this list describes much of WRBL (TV)'s most significant issue-responsive programming, it is not exhaustive. Programming described in this Quarterly List of Issue – Responsive Programming may relate simultaneously to more than one issue. Each segment aired for a duration of between 30 seconds and two minutes, unless otherwise noted.**

Filed by: D. H. H.  
Signed

4-8-16  
Date Placed in Public Inspection

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**GOVERNMENT: LOCAL/REGIONAL :JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> - MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>**

**1/4 Bentley Drive Triple Homicide .**

IF YOU WERE TO ASK ANYONE WHO LIVES OFF BENTLEY DRIVE IN THE CEDAR POINT SUBDIVISION.

THEY SAY THE ONLY NOISES YOU HEAR ARE THE NOISES OF NATURE.

THAT ALL CHANGED MONDAY MORNING WHEN THE FATHER OF THE FAMILY DISCOVERED THE BODIES OF GLORIA SHORT, HER SON CALEB AND HER GRANDDAUGHTER GEONA LINDSEY.

DEAD. OF BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA.

"Wow, really? My best friend, a brother to me, a brother to all of us. Why would that really happen?

MATTHEW IS REFERRING TO HIS FRIEND CALEB.

HE'S KNOWN THE FAMILY SINCE HE MOVED IN ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO.

"They was really good people. They was actually great people too. They didn't cause no trouble to anybody around us. They was just some well-known good people. It was quick to like them cause they was just amazing people."

GALO ANDRADE HAS LIVED NEXT DOOR TO THE FAMILY SINCE HE MOVED TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN 2007.

THE BASKETBALL HOOP OUTSIDE HIS HOME IS A SPECIAL PLACE.

IT IS THE PLACE WHERE GALO HIS SON AND CALEB PLAYED A GAME THEY LOVED.

THE LAST TIME THEY PLAYED WAS NEW YEAR'S EVE.

IT WAS THE PLACE THAT GAVE GALO HIS NICKNAME, FROM NONE OTHER THAN CALEB.

"I went way up in the corner of the cement and I rose my ball and I shoot the three pointer. He was very amazed. He said hey man, you're Mr. Basketball." **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm PKG 1:30**

**1/5 Fort Mitchell Double Murder -**

"We had a Christmas get-together, that was the last time I had seen him."

JESSIE AND HELEN CRAWFORD HAVE DEALT WITH TRAGEDY BEFORE.  
THE KOREAN WAR VETERAN LOST TWO BROTHERS... ONE DROWN... AND ANOTHER WAS MURDERED.

NOW, HIS LAST LIVING BROTHER IS ALSO DEAD... ALLEGEDLY KILLED BY HIS OWN GRANDSON.

"I know, common sense tells me I'm going to have to go too. But it don't have to be like that I hope."

19-YEAR-OLD TRAVON HARMON IS ACCUSED OF SHOOTING HIS GRANDFATHER LEROY HARMON AND HIS SISTER BIANCA... AND A CHILDHOOD FRIEND.

"We're dealing with a person who killed his grandfather and his sister. I mean, it's certainly a case where you just go, what is the guy thinking? What is he on? What is going through his mind. But we live in a different world today."

"Sheriff Taylor says his deputies got a call shortly before midnight about a shooting here at this home on Bradley Road. As his deputies came around four minutes later, they ran into Harmon coming out of the house."

TRAYVON HARMON WAS ARRESTED THERE AT THE HOUSE WITHOUT INCIDENT.  
AND NOW... DEPUTIES, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY ARE LEFT TO WONDER WHY...  
We certainly are wanting to remember the Harmon family. This is without a doubt, an awful tragedy that has occurred in our county."

A TRAGEDY IMPACTING THE FAMILY... INCLUDING A GRANDMOTHER WHO WAS THERE DURING THE SHOOTING.

"He took care of his family, and he took care of his wife since she's been sick. That's all I can say."

TRAYVON HARMON FACES CAPITAL MURDER CHARGES, AND POTENTIALLY, THE DEATH PENALTY.

"When you're talking about the death penalty, particularly in regards to a 19-year-old, you need to know all the facts to make that decision."

MEANWHILE, THE CRAWFORD'S ARE STILL TRYING TO GRASP WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR BELOVED BROTHER.

I'm a firm believer in Christ. And the Lord will take me through this." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

#### **1/5 Gun Control Local Reaction -**

IN LIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT...  
WE WANTED TO SEE HOW \*LOCAL GUN DEALERS  
FEEL ABOUT THE PROPOSED MEASURES.

GENE LIVELY AT SHOOTER'S VALHALLA  
ON FIRST AVENUE SAYS  
HE'S GOT CONCERNS ABOUT  
THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED  
BACKGROUND CHECKS ON SELLING  
OR TRADING BETWEEN  
FAMILY OR FRIENDS --

BUT HE SAYS AS A DEALER...  
NOT MUCH WILL CHANGE SINCE  
MANY OF THE MEASURES ARE  
ALREADY IN PLACE. **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

#### **1/8 FEMA In Lee And Russell -**

FEMA AND ALABAMA STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES  
SURVEYED THE DAMAGE ALONG THE RIVERWALK FRIDAY -

RUSSELL COUNTY IS ONE OF THE HARDEST HIT IN THE STATE WITH ROUGHLY 1-  
POINT-6 MILLION IN FLOOD DAMAGE.

Chris Newton, AEMA Division Coordinator

"We're not finished with the figures at this point in time but the level of damage out here is severe."

THIS GROUP ALSO TOURED LEE COUNTY - ANOTHER AREA HIT HARD BY THE  
RECENT FLOODING.

THIS ROAD - COUNTY ROAD 1-88 IN WESTERN LEE COUNTY - IS STILL CLOSED.  
ROCKS ARE STACKED SEVERAL FEET HIGH TO ENSURE MOTORISTS DON'T  
DANGEROUSLY TRY TO DRIVE AROUND THE BARRICADES.

Rita Smith, Lee County EMA

"Now we've had some days for it to recede and days for them to actually go out and do assessments- we know there is significant damage in the county to warrant a federal declaration for the damage."

Mercer Van Schoor

"The damage to many of these roads - like this one - is so immense - it could take 2-3 weeks just to get back to normal."

BRAD WILLIAMS OWNS F-AND-M CIGARS JUST STEPS FROM THE RIVERWALK IN PHENIX CITY.

HE'S NEVER SEEN THE FLOODING LIKE THIS BUT IS THANKFUL HIS BUSINESS DIDN'T SUFFER ANY DAMAGE.

Brad Williams, F&M CIGARS

"I'm glad to be where we are - sitting on top of the hill."

ONCE FEMA FILES THE PAPERWORK CONFIRMING DAMAGE ESTIMATES - THE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A DETERMINATION IF HE WILL MAKE A FEDERAL DECLARATION AND OPEN UP FEDERAL AID.

Chris Newton, AEMA Division Coordinator

The purpose of this process is to allow FEMA as well as the state to assess the damages in order to move forward." ON YOUR SIDE IN RUSSELL AND LEE COUNTY, MERCER VAN SCHOOR, W-R-B-L NEWS 3. 6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45

#### **1/11 Sex Trafficking -**

Dorsey Jones, Child Sex Trafficking Survivor

"For me it started when I was 11 years old. My neighbor crumpled up \$20 and put it in my hand."

SEX TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR DORSEY JONES IS SHARING HER STORY - TO HELP THOSE SOME 37-HUNDRED CHILDREN BEING EXPLOITED IN GEORGIA EVERY MONTH.

"When I turned 12, I had already slept with half of the community. It wasn't by choice. It was a need that needed to be met at my house because there were things we needed."

Rep. Dee Dawkins-Haigler, (D) Lithonia (91)

"They will drive through neighborhoods just to see who some of the younger pretty girls are - because remember the prime age is 14 to start getting these girls."

THAT'S RIGHT - 14.

AND IT'S HAPPENING RIGHT HERE IN COLUMBUS.

JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO - AN UNDERCOVER OFFICER AT THE AIRPORT THRUWAY WALMART FOUND A 21 YEAR OLD WOMAN IN THE BATHROOM WHO SAID SHE WAS KIDNAPPED FROM CLAYTON COUNTY.

LAW ENFORCEMENT RAIDED THIS HOME ON GLEASON AVENUE.

THEY SAY THEY ALSO FOUND A 16 YEAR OLD GIRL DURING THIS INVESTIGATION.

REPRESENTATIVE DAWKINS-HAIGLER SAYS THE FACE OF THIS INDUSTRY IS CHANGING AND EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.

THAT'S WHY SHE IS PUSHING FOR NEW LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE STRIP CLUBS TO GIVE ONE-PERCENT OF ITS EARNINGS TO HELP FIGHT SEX TRAFFICKING.

IT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER.

"She now looks like me or you you just can't gage it. It may be a divorced mother who is working and doesn't realize it now but her child is turning tricks on her lunch break."

SHE ADDS THERE ARE THREE WAYS MOST VICTIMS BECOME INVOLVED - THEY ARE FORCED INTO IT BY A BOYFRIEND OR FRIEND, THEY ARE LURED INTO BY WANTING NICE THINGS, OR THEY ARE WANTING TO GET OUT OF POVERTY.

DORSEY CHANGED HER LIFE AND IS NOW A WIFE AND MOM- WHO WANTS TO SPEND HER LIFE TO PREVENT ANOTHER STORY LIKE HERS.

Dorsey Jones, Child Sex Trafficking Survivor

"Me being in that close knit family - I realized I didn't have to put myself in that situation anymore."

6pm PKG 1:30

#### **1/12 Aquatic Center Update -**

IN MARCH - THESE WATERS WILL BE SWIMMING WITH HUNDREDS OF COMPETITIVE DIVERS AND SWIMMERS.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETES WILL HOLD ITS 20-16 AND 20-17 MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS HERE BRINGING IN MORE THAN 450 ATHLETES AND THEIR FAMILIES - AND 337-THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

"We need to be marketing not only to other communities, but to our own people too.

THE AQUATIC CENTER OPENED IN 2013 - BUT AFTER JUST 18 MONTHS THE CITY CANCELLED THE CONTRACT WITH THE PRIVATE COMPANY THAT WAS HIRED TO RUN IT.

THE N-A-I-A TOURNAMENT IS PART OF THE PLAN TO KEEP THE AQUATIC CENTER AFLOAT.

THAT AND A NEW 15 PERSON TASK FORCE.

James Worsley, Parks and Rec Director

"A group of people that can come up with ideas to generate ideas and short and long term goals that perhaps could be sustainable."

PARKS AND REC DIRECTOR JAMES WORSLEY PRESENTED THE GOALS OF THE TASK FORCE TO CITY COUNCIL TUESDAY.

THEY WANT TO FUNDRAISE, GAIN CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS, MARKET THE CENTER, AND ATTRACT ADDITIONAL EVENTS... ALL TO GENERATE MORE REVENUE.

Jerry "Pops" Barnes, District 1 Councilor

"I'm not interested in the naysayers. I'm interested in one thing - making this natatorium the success I know it can be."

IN DECEMBER - WORSLEY TOLD COUNCILORS HE MAY HAVE TO CUT THE HOURS OF THE AQUATIC CENTER.

SO THEY CITY IS HOPING THIS TASK FORCE AND THE UPCOMING N-A-I-A CHAMPIONSHIP WILL TURN THINGS AROUND.

Gary Allen, District 6 Councilor

"You have an opportunity coming up to showcase the Aquatic Center." 6pm PKG 1:30,11pm  
Vo/Sot:45

### **1/13 Autism Medical Marijuana -**

DALE JACKSON'S SEVEN- YEAR- OLD SON COLIN IS SEVERELY AUTISTIC AND COMPLETELY NON VERBAL.

JACKSON IS FIGHTING FOR GEORGIA HOUSE BILL 7-22 IN HOPES THAT MEDICAL CANNABIS OIL WILL HELP HIS SON.

"Cannibas oil is not potentially going to cure my son of autism but it's one more thing that I as a parent want to do to try to improve his life."

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN PEAKE FILED THE BILL WEDNESDAY.

THE BILL WOULD ALLOW FOR JACKSON'S SON COLIN TO USE CANNIBAS OIL - ALONG WITH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS GEORGIANS SUFFERING FROM P-T-S-D, CANCER, AND OTHERS.

IT ALSO ALLOWS BETWEEN TWO AND SIX MEDICAL-CANNABIS MANUFACTURERS TO BE LICENSED BY THE STATE AND SERVE PEOPLE WITH CERTAIN MEDICAL CONDITIONS REGISTERED WITH THE STATE.

AS THE CURRENT STATE LAW STANDS - ONLY A FEW HUNDRED CAN USE MEDICINAL MARIJUANA - BUT THEY HAVE TO BUY IT IN ANOTHER STATE - IN ESSENCE FORCING DESPERATE PARENTS TO BREAK THE LAW TRANSPORTING FROM STATE LINES.

"With the bill that eventually passed last year - it's just a notch above worthless."

MORE THAN A HUNDRED LEGISLATORS SUPPORT THIS BILL.

JACKSON PLANS TO KEEP VISITING THE CAPITOL AS MUCH AS IT TAKES TO GET HIS OPPONENTS TO REALIZE - CANNIBAS OIL IS DESPERATELY NEEDED FOR THOSE STRUGGLING JUST LIKE COLIN.

"They fought out bill last year. They're fighting our bill this year because they are fearful that one day down the road it may lead to full recreational use." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**1/14 Lottery Scam -**

PHIL AND TERESA, I SPOKE WITH VICKI STINSON TODAY.

SHE ALMOST WON A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND A NEW CAR.

IF IT WERE TRUE, SHE KNEW WOULD USE THE MONEY TO PAY BILLS AND TAKEN CARE OF HER CHURCH.

BUT, SHE KNEW IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

VICKI STINSON HAS TWO CELL PHONES.

ONE IS RARELY USED, BUT MONDAY SHE HAD TO MAKE A CALL OFF IT.

NATS-

WHEN SHE OPENED THE PHONE, SHE WAS GREETED WITH A MESSAGE SAYING SHE WON 3 AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS ALONG WITH SOMETHING ELSE.

"I said husband, we won a black mercedes. He was shocked. He was laughing and I was winking at the same time knowing that it was a scam."

ALL SHE HAD TO DO WAS PAY \$784 TO GET THE CAR AND PAY THE IRS FOR THE MONEY.

SHE CALLED THE NUMBER PROVIDED,

NO ANSWER,

THEN A CALL FROM A DIFFERENT NUMBER,

SHE CALLED THAT NUMBER BACK, NO ANSWER,

SHE WAS CALLED BACK, SHE CALLED AGAIN AND GOT NO ANSWER.

ALL THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS, SHE WAS REPORTING THE NUMBER TO THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU.

"Satan. Worshippers of Satan. You have devils undercover and angels undercover. The only thing I can think of is that these people are working Satan."

ACCORDING TO THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU, YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE TO PAY TO COLLECT ANY WINNINGS.

YOU CAN'T WIN A LOTTERY YOU DIDN'T ENTER

ALSO YOU SHOULD CHECK TO SEE IF THE OFFER IS REAL BUT DON'T CALL ANY NUMBERS PROVIDED IN THE WINNING MESSAGE.

"I feel like I have already won the money, the mercedes and everything he offered and said I was gonna win because God has blessed me tremendously that anything I ask God for or he feels that I need he always finds a way for me to get it."

STINSON ADDED THAT SHE HOPES AND PRAYS THAT NOBODY FALLS VICTIM TO A SCAM LIKE THE ONE SHE AVOIDED.  
PHIL AND TERESA? 11pm PKG 1:30

**1/18 AL House 80 Election Preview -**

ELECTION SIGNS ARE POPPING UP THROUGHOUT LEE AND RUSSELL COUNTIES. AND VOTERS WILL HEAD TO THE POLLS FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS ELECTION YEAR - ON TUESDAY.

ONE OF THOSE CANDIDATES - CHRIS BLACKSHEAR - IS CURRENTLY A PHENIX CITY COUNCIL MEMBER.

BLACKSHEAR SAYS HE WANTS TO BRING SOME FRESH NEW IDEAS TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO HELP REGAIN THE TRUST OF THE CONSTITUENTS.

HE PLANS TO FOCUS ON EDUCATION AND BRINGING JOBS TO THE DISTRICT.

"Fresh voice, fresh angles, and fresh opinions on things I think puts me in the right position to be the right person at the right time for this job."

JAMES MCGILL - IS A FORMER RUSSELL COUNTY ENGINEER AND OWNER OF AN ENGINEERING FIRM.

HE IS ALSO RUNNING FOR THE SEAT.

THIS IS HIS FIRST TIME RUNNING FOR OFFICE BUT SAYS HE'S VERY FAMILIAR WITH MONTGOMERY AND HAS A FRESH PERSPECTIVE OF WHAT WORKS IN EACH COMMUNITY BASED ON HIS ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE.

MCGILL SAYS HIS MAIN PRIORITY IS UNITY WITH ALL THE COUNTIES HE'LL REPRESENT.

James McGill, Al House District 80 Candidate

"See if we can serve more than one and still have same return on investment is one I'm looking for."

THE THIRD CANDIDATE - TOMMY PUGH HAS SERVED ON THE RUSSELL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD FOR THREE YEARS.

PUGH FELT IT WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE WHAT HE'S DONE ON THE SCHOOL BOARD AND APPLY IT ON A STATE LEVEL.

HE SAYS THE PEOPLE ARE THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.

Tommy Pugh, House District 80 Candidate

"The ability to have the open communication and open lines so the general public in our communities in the district. We'll have a better understanding of what's going on and the different things that are passed, how it would affect them and being able to present that back to them and being there to be contacted."

POLLS OPEN AT 7 A-M CENTRAL, 8 A-M EASTERN TIME.

IN PHENIX CITY, MERCER VAN SCHOOR, WRBL NEWS 3. 6pm PKG 1:30,11pm

Vo/Sot:45

**1/19 State Of The City Address -**

Mayor Teresa Tomlinson,

"Our Columbus region has had net zero job growth over the last 30 years or so."

MAYOR TERESA TOMLINSON SAYS COLUMBUS IS OUTPACED BY ALMOST EVERY CITY OF COMPARABLE SIZE IN A SIX STATE REGION IN JOB GROWTH.

TOMLINSON SAYS THIS IS SHOCKING - AND SAYS PART OF THE REASON MAY BE DUE A DECISION MADE THIRTY YEARS AGO.

WHEN COMMUNITY LEADERS DECIDED NOT TO EXTEND I-85 THROUGH THE CITY - HAVING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES PASS BY.

SHE SAYS THOSE LEAVING MUSCOGEE COUNTY EARN 25-HUNDRED DOLLARS MORE THAN THOSE WHO STAY.

"No legitimate claim can be made that our property tax freeze is anything but detrimental for this city."

TOMLINSON ADDRESSED SOME BIG ACHIEVEMENTS.

SHE SAYS IN JUST ONE YEAR COLUMBUS HAS HOUSED OR HAS THE CAPACITY AND RESOURCES TO HOUSE ALL OF THE CITY'S 86 HOMELESS VETERANS.

THIS IS ONE OF THE GOALS OF ZERO 20-16.

COLUMBUS IS ONE OF 71 COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATING IN THIS MOVEMENT TO END VETERAN AND CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS.

"Few cities have accomplished such collaboration and yet here we are in the forefront of cities nationally. Folks, that's a miracle."

MAYOR TOMLINSON SAYS IN 20-16 COLUMBUS ALSO NEEDS TO MAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION MORE ACCESSIBLE AND DESIRABLE.

SO PEOPLE HAVE THE OPTION TO LEAVE THEIR CARS IN THEIR GARAGES.

SHE ALSO REFLECTED ABOUT THE BEST AND WORST MOMENTS OF 20-15.

"THE BEST IS ACHIEVING GOALS OF HOMELESS. The worst was the lawsuit from the elected officials. **6pm PKG 1:30, 11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**1/19 MCSD Director Of Budget Vote -**

APPOINTING A NEW SENIOR DIRECTOR OF BUDGET WAS THE FIRST ITEM ON THE ACTION AGENDA AT TUESDAY NIGHT'S SCHOOL BOARD MEETING.

JUST BEFORE IT WENT TO A VOTE,

DISTRICT 2 BOARD MEMBER JOHN THOMAS SAID HE FELT LIKE THE NOMINEE'S QUALIFICATIONS DID NOT MEET THE POSITION..AND ASKED THAT THE NOMINEE BE WITHDRAWN FROM CONSIDERATION.

"I think that we can probably find someone who has better qualifications in the field and perhaps more experience. I don't know about that- certainly a master's degree or CPA for a highly compensated and a very critical position in this finance department."

DISTRICT 8 BOARD MEMBER, FRANK MYERS CITED THE REASON HE RAN FOR SCHOOL BOARD WAS ACCOUNTABILITY.

HE STATED THAT RUBBERSTAMPING AN APPOINTMENT WITHOUT MEETING THEM IS NOT SERVING THE PEOPLE.

MYERS CLAIMED THAT INFORMATION WAS WITHHELD, SPECIFICALLY THE RESUMES OF THE NOMINEES.

"It's time to give the board the information they want when they ask for it, period. End of story. Ma'am, I apologize in advance, I can't vote for you, but this system, I believe is rigged and I just will not be able to be a part of it and I wish you well."

BOARD MEMBER PAT HUGELY GREEN ADDED SHE HAS NOT EXPERIENCED THE WITHHOLDING OF INFORMATION, ADDING IT'S THE SUPERINTENDENT'S JOB TO MAKE THE BEST CHOICES.

GREEN SAID THE ONLY PERSON THE BOARD EVALUATES IS THE SUPERINTENDENT.

GREGORY ELLINGTON, THE BOARD'S LEGAL COUNSEL, ADDRESSED THE RESUME ISSUE..SAYING IT'S NOT BOARD POLICY FOR THEM TO BE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD.

HE CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR BOARD MEMBERS TO BE GIVEN THE RESUMES OF APPLICANTS NOT CHOSEN..

ELLINGTON ADDED THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD REMAINS NEUTRAL AND DOES NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN THE REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS FOR VACANT POSITIONS.. EXCEPT FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT. **11pm PKG 1:30**



**1/20 District 80 Follow up-**

TUESDAY, CHRIS BLACKSHEAR WON THE SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION FOR ALABAMA HOUSE DISTRICT 80 SEAT WITH 63-PERCENT OF THE VOTE - PREVENTING A RUNOFF ELECTION FROM TAKING PLACE.

Chris Blackshear, Republican House District 80 Candidate

"We're going to have the opportunity now to save some taxpayers dollars and not have 2 election and just one on the March 1st primary. Everybody can focus on these other races that are going on now."

WHILE THERE WAS NO DEMOCRAT ON THIS BALLOT - STATE DEMOCRATIC LEADERS STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN THE RACE.

Probate Judge Alford Harden, Russell County

"Because the democrats did have a candidate in the race at some point in time, they have an opportunity between now and January 29th to register with the Secretary of State. "

STATE DEMOCRATIC LEADERS SAY THEY **\*\*DO\*\*** PLAN TO HAVE A CANDIDATE RUN AGAINST BLACKSHEAR.

ALL THAT CANDIDATE NEEDS TO DO IS PAY A FEE AND THE ALABAMA STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL ELECT A PERSON TO BE THE NOMINEE.

THEY JUST HAVE TO HAVE THAT NOMINEE IN PLACE BY NEXT FRIDAY - JANUARY 29TH.

"We're going to have to do that very quickly now. There is a provision that we can have a postcard ballot so that will speed things up."

DEMOCRATIC STATE LEADERS PLAN TO MEET WITH LEE AND RUSSELL COUNTY LEADERS EARLY NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CANDIDATES -

THEN THEY EXPECT TO HAVE OPEN QUALIFYING FOR A COUPLE DAYS.

"There's only one person who qualifies then it makes it very easy. If there's more than one who qualifies then will have to have the committee vote by ballot." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

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**1/20 Westmoreland Present Purple Heart -**

IT WAS AN HONOR CAPTAIN ROBERT GOOLSBY WAS SUPPOSED TO RECEIVE.... AND IS NOW GETTING FOUR AND A HALF DECADES LATER.

"It took a long time, but I guess that's what to be expected with the Army. But I feel good."

IN 19-71, CAPTAIN GOOLSBY'S PILOTED A HELICOPTER SHOT DOWN BY ENEMY FIRE. EVEN THOUGH HE WAS PROMISED A PURPLE HEART THEN, GOOLSBY HAD TO SUBMIT PAPERWORK IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE MEDAL.

AFTER YEARS OF CONFUSION AND A LACK OF DOCUMENTATION, CONGRESSMAN LYNN WESTMORELAND'S OFFICE FINALLY SEALED THE DEAL TO GET GOOLSBY HIS MEDAL.

AND HIS FAMILY COULDN'T BE PROUDER.

"I'm mad he didn't have it this whole time because he deserved it. Now that he has it, it's great because he earned it."

THE VETERAN GOOLSBY ACCEPTS THE HONOR ON BEHALF OF HIS ENTIRE FAMILY. GOOLSBY'S WIFE, SHARON, DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HER HUSBAND WOULD RETURN FROM VIETNAM.

"I've seen him suffer through the years with this, from his injuries. And it's just awesome to see him get the recognition he deserves."

U-S CONGRESSMAN LYNN WESTMORELAND PRESENTED GOOLSBY HIS LONG-AWAITED PURPLE HEART MEDAL.

AS HE FACES HIS LAST MONTHS IN OFFICE, WESTMORELAND SAYS HE'LL MISS THIS PART OF HIS JOB.

"Being able to stand here in front of heroes and pin medals on them because I think about the sacrifice that they made for me and my family and my children, my grandchildren...to be able to live in the kind of freedom that we do today."

AND GOOLSBY HAS A LITTLE ADVICE FOR ANYONE PURSUING WHAT THEY DESERVE. Just keep slugging it out. And not just a Purple Heart but anything you're entitled to. Do whatever it takes and just keep doing it." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**1/21 PC State Of The City -**

A LITTLE LESS THAN 100 PEOPLE GATHERED IN THE CENTRAL ACTIVITIES CENTER FOR THE 2016 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS.

THE ADDRESS BEGAN WITH A LOOK AT THE CITY'S FINANCIALS FROM 2012 TO THE END OF 2015.

THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND BALANCE ROSE FROM 8.2 MILLION TO 11 MILLION.

"That's tremendous growth. Anytime you have 34% growth in 3.5 years, that's great."

THE CITY'S TOTAL FUND BALANCES ROSE FROM 6.5 MILLION TO 9.2 MILLION DOLLARS.

A 42 PERCENT INCREASE.

THE CITY ALSO HAS 9.2 MILLION DOLLARS IN RESERVE AS WELL, BUT HOPES TO HAVE IT INCREASE FROM 115 TO 120 DAYS.

THE GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT DROPPED 2.9 MILLION DOLLARS.

THE TOTAL GENERAL DEBT DROPPED FROM 68.8 MILLION DOLLARS TO 64.5 MILLION DOLLARS.

THESE NUMBERS ARE POSITIVE FOR THE CITY AND MAYOR EDDIE LOWE HOPES THEY IMPROVE EVEN MORE.

ALSO DURING THE ADDRESS, CITIZENS HAD THE CHANCE TO ASK CITY OFFICIALS QUESTIONS.

ONE ASKED IF THE CITY SHOULD TURN TO A CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT.

"Due to the fact that we have annexed part of Lee County into Phenix City. It makes it almost impossible to do that. Because of the annexation of Lee County a part of Lee County."

MAYOR LOWE ADDED THAT PHENIX CITY IS POISED FOR EVEN GREATER THINGS.

"We have raised the level in Phenix City regardless of what people may say and you have a lot of nuances out there saying that things hadn't changed, but things have changed. That's why we did that format. What people are meaning that things hadn't changed, is that the people haven't changed, but the people don't need to change cause of what the numbers look like." **11pm PKG 1:30**

**1/22 Sen Perdue Rep In Town -**

DOZENS OF CONCERNED PEOPLE WANTED TO LET SENATOR DAVID PERDUE'S OFFICE KNOW - THEY WANT CHANGE.

LIKE JONNELL MINEFEE - SHE WANTS TO KNOW WHERE PERDUE STANDS ON THE TRANSPACIFIC PARTNERSHIP.

Jonnell Minefee , Concerned Citizen

"Very nervous about manufacturing - we're constantly being outsourced like our labor isn't good enough. "

OTHER CITIZENS LIKE FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE JED HARRIS DIDN'T HAVE A PARTICULAR CONCERN - BUT WANTED TO ESTABLISH AN OPEN DIALOGUE TO HELP PEOPLE WITH FEDERAL NEEDS.

Jed Harris, Former Ga. State Representative

"People from time to time local citizens will communicate with me their needs."

THE BIGGEST GROUP TO SHOW UP - VETERANS - LIKE JAY WILKOFF.

HE SAYS THERE ARE A LOT OF ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED AND HE APPRECIATES THE OPPORUTNITY TO TALK TO PERDUE'S REPRESENTATIVE.

Jay Wilcoff, Concerned Citizen

"Even though the VA seems to be appropriated more and more money every year, there is a misues of those funds by the middle bureacracy."

Kathy Burns, Sen. Perdue Field Representative

"My goal is to let people know we're here and we care."

KATHY BURNS LISTENED TO EVERY CONCERN AND TOOK DETAILED NOTES TO PRESENT TO THE SENTATOR.

Kathy Burns, Sen. Perdue Field Representative

"My job is to gather those concerns and then get them to the experts in our staff office that can delve deeper in those issues." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**1/26 Candidates For Westmoreland Seat -**

JUST A COUPLE WEEKS AGO DISTRICT -THREE CONGRESSMAN LYNN WESTMORELAND ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT AT THE END OF THE YEAR - SAYING "IT'S TIME TO PASS THE TORCH TO OUR NEXT CONSERVATIVE VOICE."

HIS FIELD REP COLIN MARTIN HELD A MOBILE OFFICE IN LAGRANGE TUESDAY...

"Congressman Westmoreland has announced he's not running for Congress. He going to retire. There's lots of speculation about what he's going to do next. I can't comment on that."

THERE ARE STILL WEEKS BEFORE QUALIFYING ENDS - BUT SO FAR TWO REPUBLICANS HAVE EMERGED AS CANDIDATES TO FILL THE SEAT.

THE FIRST TO ANNOUNCE - GEORGIA STATE SENATOR MIKE CRANE.

THE LEGISLATURE IS CURRENTLY IN SESSION SO HE SPOKE TO US BY PHONE.

"I probably have the most conservative record of any candidate that will put their name forward for this race."

CRANE, SURROUNDED BY STATE LEADERS AT THE GEORGIA CAPITOL, ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD RUN.

COLUMBUS STATE SENATOR JOSH MCKOON HAD CONSIDERED A RUN BUT IS NOW THROWING HIS SUPPORT BEHIND CRANE.

CRANE SAYS THIS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IS ONE OF THE MOST CONSERVATIVE IN THE STATE AND SOME OF THE MOST CONSERVED STATE LEADERS ARE ENDORSING HIM.

"It's not going to be a question to the voters of what type of representation we'll present in Washington. If you get anybody else that enters the race that doesn't have a legislative background, they can say what they're going to do in Washington but they won't be able to prove it."

WEST POINT MAYOR DREW FERGUSON ANNOUNCED MONDAY THAT HE ALSO PLANS TO RUN FOR WESTMORELAND'S SEAT.

"We know what it takes. We need Washington to get out of the way and we need local communities and state and county governments and give them the opportunities to succeed."

WHILE FERGUSON HAS BEEN IN OFFICE - HE SAYS WEST POINT HAS SEEN A REVITALIZATION AND AN ECONOMIC BOOM SEEN NOWHERE ELSE IN GEORGIA - 14-THOUSAND NEW JOBS WERE CREATED IN THE LAST FEW YEARS - THANKS IN PART TO THE KIA PLANT - AND HE SAYS HE'S MANAGED TO LOWER TAXES.

"What we don't need is people who say no to everything and burn bridges. We need people to come across as bridge builders and we need people that can lead. I can do that and I know we can make this district great." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

#### **1/27 Campaign 2016 Social Media -**

TODD ROBINSON IS RUNNING FOR A SEAT ON THE MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD.

HE IS USING FACEBOOK TO REACH OUT TO HIS SUPPORTERS IN HOPES THAT HIS MESSAGE WILL GO VIRAL.

"When you have one person, then they can contact several other people and it's a chain reaction."

IT'S A TOOL TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S IMPORTANT FOR VOTERS.

IT ALLOWS HIM TO PREPARE FOR QUESTIONS THAT MAY COME UP DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

"You put the platform issues out and you ask them to comment and then you get a feel for the effectiveness of your platform issues."

CHRIS ROBINSON IS A SOCIAL MEDIA EXPERT AT COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY.

HE SAYS SOCIAL MEDIA IS VITAL TO CANDIDATES... AND ANYONE TRYING TO GET A MESSAGE OUT.

"What it allows you to do is have one extra tool or many extra tools depending on how many sites you choose to use social media wise to be able to get your message out and to promote your ideas."

CANDIDATE ROBINSON RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA... BUT DOESN'T THINK IT WILL BECOME MORE IMPORTANT THAN SEEING A CANDIDATE IN PERSON.

"Anybody can manage your Facebook page and answer questions, but they want to see it and they want to hear it coming from the candidate themselves."

HE SAYS USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO GET VOTERS TO PARTICPATE IS ESSENTIAL, BUT HE BELIEVES IT'S WHAT THE CANDIDATE SAYS AT THOSE EVENTS THAT WILL WIN OVER VOTERS. **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**1/27 Russell Co Fire Referendum -**

"Part of this fire fee will help provide equipment for firefighters. Their gear like their helmet, jacket, pants, and boots - for one firefighter can cost up to \$4,000."

"We're at the point we need additional funding."

RUSSELL COUNTY'S ELEVEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE USED TO OPERATING ON A SHOE STRING BUDGET.

IN LADONIA - THE FIREFIGHTERS TOGETHER SAVED ENOUGH TO BUY THEIR REFRIGERATOR, AND THIS PROJECTOR.

THEY EVEN USED THEIR OWN MANPOWER TO TURN THIS FORMER GARAGE INTO A TRAINING ROOM.

Chief Thomas Kane, Ladonia Volunteer Fire Department

"Sometimes the fire department doesn't actually have the budget at the time and the firefighters purchase equipment because there isn't a budget and they'll purchase boots or different pieces of equipment that are needed."

THESE FIRE FIREFIGHTERS ARE HOPING THE PUBLIC WILL APPROVE A FIRE FEE ON THE BALLOT MARCH FIRST.

40-DOLLARS A YEAR FOR HOMEOWNERS.

100-DOLLARS A YEAR FOR BUSINESS OWNERS.

THE FEE WOULD APPEAR ON THE PROPERTY TAX BILL.

Bob Franklin, Russell County Firefighters Association

"They're having to scrape for money. Even if you have a grant to purchase a big item, you still have a match you have to come up with and the money just isn't there."

CURRENTLY - THERE IS A BEER AND TOBACCO TAX IN RUSSELL COUNTY THAT PROVIDES ROUGHLY 25-THOUSAND DOLLARS ANNUALLY FOR EACH OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

OUTSIDE OF THAT - DEPARTMENTS DEPEND ON DONATIONS... TO PAY FOR FIRE TRUCKS, EQUIPMENT, AND THE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS LIKE ELECTRICITY AND GAS.

AND A FIRE TRUCK LIKE THIS - COSTS MORE THAN 200-THOUSAND DOLLARS.

THEY ARE THERE YOU NEED THEM... AND ARE NOW ASKING THAT YOU WILL BE THERE FOR THEM.

Chief Thomas Kane, Ladonia Volunteer Fire Department

"People use our services whether they know it or not. They use our service. We're asking for them to answer our page and assist us in what we're doing."

"Russell County residents who live outside the Phenix City limits will be voting on this issue March 1st. In Ladonia, Mercer Van Schoor, WRBL News 3." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**1/27 Sheriff VS Mayor Lawsuit -**

"As much as one would not like to at this point, it would be contempt of court."

"I'm voting for it, but I'm gonna close my eyes, hold my nose and spit in my palm before I push that button."

THOSE WERE JUST SOME OF THE COUNCILORS WHO VOICED THEIR OPINIONS ABOUT THE CASE.

THEY WANTED MORE ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE PAYMENT OF THE FEES.

I MET WITH MAYOR TERESA TOMLINSON TODAY.

THE MAYOR TOLD ME THE CITY IS REQUIRED TO PAY THE LEGAL FEES REGARDLESS OF THE LAWSUIT'S VALIDITY.

SHE SAYS THIS CASE HAS GONE FROM FRUSTRATING TO INFURIATING.

SHE ADDS THAT THE GEORGIA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION HAS INJECTED THEMSELVES INTO THE CASE..

ADDING THAT SINCE THESE AREN'T THE CITY'S ATTORNEY'S FEES, THEY CAN NOT SEE THE BILLS.

SHE BELIEVES THAT THE CITY IS FOOTING THE BILL TO THE SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION.

"So, I think what we've seen now is that it looks like Muscogee County has been chosen by the Georgia Sheriff's Association to be a test case for a broader political agenda that is statewide for all 159 sheriffs and really doesn't have a direct bearing on any legitimate dispute that our sheriff could have."

SHERIFF DARR SAYS HE IS NOT TRYING TO WIN THIS CASE IN THE MEDIA..

ADDING THERE IS NO COLLUSION BETWEEN HIM AND THE SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION TO MAKE COLUMBUS A TEST CASE.

HE STATES HIS DEPARTMENT IS CRITICALLY UNDERFUNDED, AND IT'S UNFORTUNATE A SUIT HAD TO BE FILED TO RECTIFY HIS BUDGET.

"I think it's unfortunate that you have someone such as the mayor who continuously makes statements that are not factual. I think it's unfortunate that you have a mayor that continues to make misleading information out there to give an appearance when it's not there." **11pm PKG 1:30**

#### **1/29 Campus Carry Bill -**

"The topic is extremely polarizing. In fact, This House Bill 859 would affect all Georgia universities - and when we contacted C-S-U - they did not want to comment on the story. Possibly because the University System Board of Regents - is one of the biggest opponents of this bill."

TUESDAY - TWO GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WERE ROBBED IN THE LIBRARY AT GUN POINT.

ONE STUDENT SAYS A MAN THAT LOOKS LIKE THE SUSPECT IN THIS CRIME - STOLE HIS LAPTOP TWO WEEKS AGO.

"He punched me in the face and that's when I realized he was serious."

GEORGIA STATE REPRESENTATIVES ARE CONSIDERING A BILL THAT WOULD ALLOW ANYONE WITH A CONCEALED WEAPONS PERMIT TO CARRY A GUN ON A POST SECONDARY CAMPUS.

MANY SUPPORTERS OF THIS BILL ARE POINTING TO THESE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY ROBBERIES.

RIGHT NOW - UNIVERSITIES IN GEORGIA ARE GUN FREE - ALONG WITH THEATERS, LIBRARIES, RESEARCH FACILITIES, STUDENT HEALTH CENTERS, AND GYMNASIUMS.

HOUSE BILL 8-59 WOULD CHANGE THAT.

NO SUPER (Jerry Henry, Georgia Carry Executive Director)

"We feel it's easy pickens. It's a soft target at these schools. There is absolutely no way those kids can protect themselves."

BUT UNIVERSITY SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS REMAINS OPPOSED TO GUNS ON CAMPUS.

"There is no imperial data to support Campus Carry as a safety measure."

MELINDA ENNIS WITH THE GUNSENSE GEORGIA COALITION SAYS OTHER STATES WITH CAMPUS CARRY LAWS HAVE NOT SEEN A REDUCTION IN VIOLENCE ON CAMPUSES.

HER SON WAS ACTUALLY A STUDENT A GEORGIA STATE AND DOESN'T FEEL SOME OF THE STUDENTS ARE MATURE ENOUGH FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HANDLING A GUN IN AN EMERGENCY ON CAMPUS.

Melinda Ennis, GunSense Georgia Coalition

"The notion that 21 years who may or may not be trained to act as a vigilante police force on campus is just something more Georgians want."

THE BILL DOES EXCLUDE ALLOWING GUNS AT ATHLETIC EVENTS, STUDENT HOUSING - INCLUDING FRATERNITY OR SORORITY HOUSES, ONLY THOSE 21-AND OLDER WHO HAVE A GEORGIA WEAPONS LICENSE AND HAVE PASSED A CRIMINAL AND MENTAL HEALTH BACKGROUND CHECK WOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY ON CAMPUS.

(Jerry Henry, Georgia Carry Executive Director)

"Right now people are carrying on the campus. Some legally, most illegally. We think we should be able to carry our weapon anywhere we want to protect ourselves if the criminal can get there. "HB 859 is expected to pass the House - it will then go to the Senate for more discussion. Both sides are encouraging you if you have a strong opinion - get involved and contact your state rep. Mercer Van Schoor, WRBL, News 3. " 6pm PKG 1:30

#### **1/29 Foster Care Forum -**

"Will I see my mama again? What about Christmas?"

WORDS THAT ARE HARD TO HEAR.

EDWARD DUBOSE IS A COUNSELOR FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE AND THEIR FAMILIES.

HE IS CHANGING LIVES...

LIKE THIS ONE... A FORMER FOSTER CHILD WHO IS NOW A COLLEGE GRADUATE.

<voicemail from former foster child he worked with

"I don't know if you really remember me, but I remember you. You really helped me. You really changed my life."

THERE ARE 147 FOSTER CARE HOMES IN MUSCOGEE COUNTY FOR THE 500 PLUS FOSTER CARE CHILDREN HERE.

JUDGE GIL MCGINNIS' GOAL IS TO KEEP MORE OF THESE CHILDREN IN MUSCOGEE COUNTY INSTEAD OF SENDING THEM ALL OVER THE STATE.

"Just to make certain that these kids who unfortunately will be in foster care are at least able to go their own schools and be in their own churches and be around their own friends and try to maximize what continuity is good in those kids lives.">

MITCH MCGINNIS' IS A FOSTER CARE PARENT.

HE'S HAD FIVE FOSTER CARE CHILDREN.

"We understand it as a calling from God that we are called to be foster parents in this child's life for this amount of time. It may be weeks or months or years and so we kind of understand that going in that it's going to be hard."

SO WHY \*\*ARE THERE SO MANY FOSTER CARE CHILDREN IN MUSCOGEE COUNTY?

A LOCAL JUDGE SAYS IT COULD BE TIED TO DRUG USE.

DUBOSE SAYS HIS JOB IS ALL ABOUT GIVING FOSTER CHILDREN HOPE.

"This is a serious business that we're dealing with and I think once we understand what these families go through, not just the children. When children are pulled away from families everybody suffer."

A SUFFERING THIS GROUP HOPES TO STOP. 6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45

#### **1/29 Blackshear Wins 80 Seat -**

IT'S OFFICIAL...CHRIS BLACKSHEAR

IS ALABAMA'S NEWEST STATE REPRESENTATIVE.

SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN MERRILL DECLARED AND CERTIFIED BLACKSHEAR AS HOUSE DISTRICT 80'S STATE REPRESENTATIVE EARLIER TODAY.

AS NEWS THREE REPORTED, BLACKSHEAR RAN AGAINST TWO OTHER REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES IN THE SPECIAL ELECTION PRIMARY LAST WEEK.

A DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE QUALIFIED TO RUN, BUT LATER REALIZED SHE DIDN'T LIVE IN THE DISTRICT. 11pm Vo/Sot:45

**1/29 Opelika State Of The City -**

EARLIER TODAY, CLOSE TO 200 OPELIKA CITY LEADERS AND BUSINESS PERSONS GATHERED AT THE SAUGAHATCHEE COUNTRY CLUB FOR THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS.

MAYOR GARY FULLER ADDRESSED THE CROWD SAYING 2015 WAS A BANNER YEAR FOR THE CITY.

THE CITY CREATED 368 MANUFACTURING JOBS DURING THE YEAR.

THEY ALSO SAW 27.2 MILLION DOLLARS IN SALES TAX REVENUE.

MAYOR FULLER SAYS THEY ARE HOPING TO IMPROVE ON THESE NUMBERS FOR THE FUTURE. **11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**2/1 TSA Weapons -**

"By far the most surrendered item is the knife but according to TSA representatives they're seeing an increase in guns as well."

"This flammable, this is explosive, and this can't go on the plane at all."

T-S-A REPRESENTATIVES WANT YOU TO KNOW - DON'T TRY TO BRING THESE ITEMS ON THE PLANE.

ALL OF THESE - KNIVES, TORCH LIGHTERS, GRENADES, AND BULLETS - HAVE BEEN SURRENDERED IN COLUMBUS IN THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS.

THE MOST DANGEROUS ITEM SURRENDERED IN COLUMBUS - AN R-P-G, A ROCKET PROPELLED GRENADE.

"It's a weapon used to take down aircraft in the air. Mount it on the shoulder, fire and take down aircraft."

ACCORDING TO THE T-S-A - GUNS ARE UP - WAY UP .

IN FACT IN 2005- THEY REPORT 660 GUN SURRENDERED.

IN 2015 - 2,653.

AND 83-PERCENT OF THOSE WERE LOADED.

"We have more travelers than ever flying and we have more people than ever owning and carrying firearms. So it's a simple equation - more gun owners plus more travelers means more guns at airports."

ALL FLIGHTS AT THE COLUMBUS AIRPORT GO TO ATLANTA -

IN 2015 - 144 GUNS WERE SURRENDERED.

ONLY DALLAS HAD MORE WITH 153.

COLUMBUS HAD ONE GUN SURRENDERED.

WANT TO TAKE YOUR GUN WITH YOU? IT'S PERFECTLY LEGAL BUT YOU HAVE TO CHECK IT WITH YOUR BAGS - UNLOADED IN A LOCKED HARD CASE SEPARATE FROM AMMUNITION.

"When you're talking about the rules like taking your shoes off or the limits on liquids, all of those rules are based on real world events and it's to keep you safe."

"The security rules remain the same but if you have any questions on what you can bring aboard the airplane - go to [tsa.gov](http://tsa.gov). On your side at the Columbus airport, Mercer Van Schoor, WRBL News 3." **6pm PKG 1:30, 11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**2/2 Blackshear Replacement -**

AFTER A FEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS ON CITY COUNCIL'S AGENDA WERE TAKEN CARE OF THEY MOVED TO UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

MORE SPECIFICALLY, FILLING FORMER COUNCIL MEMBER CHRIS BLACKSHEAR'S SEAT.

COUNCILMAN ARTHUR DAY MADE A MOTION FOR JOHNNY BARFIELD TO FILL THE SEAT.

THAT MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.



BARFIELD RAN AGAINST BLACKSHEAR FOUR YEARS AGO.

NOW, THE MAN WHO HAS CALLED PHENIX CITY HOME FOR MAJORITY OF HIS LIFE,  
SAYS HE PLANS TO HIT THE GROUND RUNNING WITH THE REST OF THE COUNCIL TO  
KEEP MAKING THE CITY BETTER.

"We have such a vibrant city going on now and it can only get better, and with the actions this council has already taken and with a few of the ideas I have, hopefully we can build on that together."

BEFORE THE MEETING ENDED, CITY MANAGER WALLACE HUNTER SAID PRIOR TO  
BARFIELD'S APPOINTMENT,

HE WAS GETTING FLOODED WITH PHONE CALLS ABOUT HOW TO FILL THE SEAT.

HUNTER SAYS HE DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE VOTING PROCESS,

ADDING SOME OF THE CALLS WERE DOWNRIGHT DESPICABLE.

"People was flocking around yesterday, calling around trying to tell which way people should vote. We live in a Democracy, but instead they telling people who they should vote for, who should be this way and saying things that's not true about people over an 8 month appointment."

MAYOR EDDIE LOWE ADDED HE HAS RECEIVED LETTERS FROM PEOPLE AND SEEN  
LETTERS SENT TO COUNCILORS SAYING NEGATIVE THINGS AND TELLING THEM HOW  
TO DO THEIR JOB.

HE SAYS YOU CAN'T ALWAYS FUNCTION THAT WAY, ADDING YOU HAVE TO DO THINGS  
FOR THE RIGHT REASONS.

HE SAYS THAT'S WHAT THE COUNCIL DID IN THIS PROCESS.

ANYONE WHO RAN FOR THAT SEAT IN THE ORIGINAL RACE WAS CONSIDERED FOR  
THE JOB. **11pm PKG 1:30**

**2/2 Ken Davis Town Hall -**

FOLKS IN RUSSELL COUNTY  
GATHERED THIS EVENING TO HEAR FROM  
RUSSELL COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
KEN DAVIS.

DAVIS HELD A TOWN HALL MEETING  
IN CRAWFORD TO ANSWER QUESTIONS  
ABOUT HIS OFFICE..

AND TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS  
AND ISSUES FACING THE D-A'S OFFICE.

HE TOLD US THAT HE PLANS TO  
CONTINUE TO TACKLE THOSE ISSUES  
IF RE-ELECTED. **11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**2/8 Pastor Protection Act -**

"It has been one bill after another in retaliation against that ruling."

COLGAY PRIDE DIRECTOR JEREMY HOBBS BELIEVES SINCE THE SUPREME COURT'S  
RULING DECLARING SAME SEX MARRIAGE LEGAL IN ALL 50 STATES - THE L-G-B-T  
COMMUNITY IS NOW A TARGET.

COLGAY PRIDE MEMBERS WILL MARCH AT THE CAPITAL IN PROTEST TUESDAY.

THE GEORGIA STATE HOUSE AND SENATE ARE CONSIDERING SEVERAL BILLS - AT LEAST EIGHT - LOOKING AT RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS INCLUDING HOUSE BILL 7-57 - THE PASTOR PROTECTION ACT.

IT MAKES IT CLEAR CLERGY CAN NOT BE FORCED TO PERFORM SAME SEX WEDDINGS - BUT HOBBS SAYS THE FIRST AMENDMENT ALREADY COVERS THAT. "It's nothing but to pat yourself on the back. If a pastor doesn't want to perform a service, he doesn't have to."

"This bill is called the Pastor Protection Act. I would call it the Politician Protection Act."

CONSERVATIVE STATE SENATOR JOSH MCKOON ACTUALLY AGREES WITH HOBBS. "It really does very little to change the law. It's designed for the politicians to go home and tell people during election time that they did something substantive for religious freedom."

BUT THAT'S WHERE THE AGREEMENT ENDS.

MCKOON HAS TRIED TO PASS A BILL THAT WOULD SUPPORT RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

HIS BILL - THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT - WOULD ALLOW BUSINESS OWNERS TO CITE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS TO DENY PEOPLE SERVICE.

HOBBS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM COLGAY PRIDE WILL TRAVEL TO ATLANTA TUESDAY TO FIGHT MCKOON'S BILL AND THE REST OF THE BILLS MAKING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE STATE LEGISLATURE

"These are all singled out toward the LGBT community. This is the type of legislation that destroys our society. " **6pm PKG 1:30, 11pm Vo/Sot:45**

#### **2/9 Inmate Reading Program -**

WHILE READING MAY BE A RITE OF PASSAGE FOR SOME KIDS, FOR MANY OTHERS, BOOKS ARE HARD TO COME BY... ESPECIALLY IF THEIR PARENTS ARE BEHIND BARS. THAT'S WHERE SIMPLE STEPS "STEPS" IN TO MEND THE READING GAP.

"We bring the Muscogee County library children's department. And those library ladies show up every Thursday afternoon and they work on teaching how to teach your kids to read."

SARAH SPENCE WITH THE COLUMBUS PUBLIC LIBRARY SAYS THE FIRST WEEK IS ALL ABOUT THE BASICS.

"A lot of times we'll see parents come in with their kids and they don't even know how to open a book. They don't know because they've never --their parents are waiting until the kids get to school to be taught that."

FLIPPING PAGES EACH WEEK MEANS STARTING A NEW CHAPTER FOR INMATES AND THEIR KIDS.

"If kids come in here, and they are welcomed, and they get help and they get smiles, they're going to want to come back. And that's going to help them when they're teenagers and adults. They'll continue to want to read and come to the library."

AND ACCORDING TO JAIL CHAPLAIN AND SIMPLE STEPS CO-COORDINATOR NEIL RICHARDSON, IT CAN KEEP THEM OUT OF JAIL.

64% of children that are not reading at home by age 4, will be incarcerated.

A SOBERING STATISTIC THAT A GROUP OF INMATES ARE TRYING TO REVERSE... OTHERWISE, THE CYCLE CONTINUES.

If a child does not read at a third grade level by the third grade, typically we end up seeing them dropping out. Most of those dropouts end up in here.

AT THE END OF THE SIX-WEEK PROGRAM, THE INMATES SHOW A LITTLE POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE AT A GRADUATION CEREMONY.

" For Thursday's graduation, Simple Steps participants will finally get to share what they've learned about reading with their kids, especially that reading can be fun."

EVEN IF INMATES DON'T NECESSARILY GET THROUGH BOOKS WORD-FOR-WORD, THEY LEARN CREATIVITY CAN GO A LONG WAY.

They can look through books without actually reading the words. They can talk about the pictures in the books. We want them to see that reading is fun and you can build a bond with your children by doing that. **6pm PKG 1:30**

**2/10 Thaw Freeze Debate -**

THE OPENING STATEMENTS ALLOWED EACH SIDE TO VOICE THEIR OPINION ABOUT THE TAX FREEZE.

SETH HARP, ONE OF THOSE BEHIND THE FREEZE, SAYS IT WAS DONE TO PROTECT PEOPLE FROM BEING TAXED OUT OF THEIR HOMES.

MAYOR TOMLINSON SAYS HER PLAN WOULD ALLOW PEOPLE TO KEEP THE FREEZE, BUT AFTER JANUARY FIRST, 2017, TRANSFERS WOULD GO TO A FAIR MARKET VALUE SYSTEM.

SHE SAYS THE FREEZE INHIBITS JOB AND POPULATION GROWTH.

HARP SAYS IF THE FREEZE IS ELIMINATED, TAXES WILL GO UP.

"If we eliminate the freeze, we got to that fair market value that that three comp system does and your house will be worth more."

TOMLINSON SAYS BECAUSE OF THE FREEZE, 75 PERCENT OF HOMEOWNERS ARE SUBSIDIZING THE OTHER 25 PERCENT.

IF THE FREEZE IS THAWED, THE 75 PERCENT WOULD STOP SUBSIDIZING THE 25 PERCENT WHO HAVE THE FREEZE.

"There will be an equilibrium and there will be a tax reduction and tax relief. Right now, we have some of the highest property tax because of this system."

TOMLINSON ADDED THAT THE FREEZE IS THAWED, IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME FOR THE CITY TO SEE REVENUE FROM THE GROWTH THE THAWING WILL CREATE.

SHE ADDS THAT THE FREEZE ONLY BENEFITS THOSE WHO STAY IN A HOME FOR A LONG TIME.

DURING THE DEBATE, HARP SAID THE MAYOR WAS DANCING AROUND THE ISSUE OF WHY THE CITY DOES NOT MANAGE THE BUDGET BETTER.

HE STATED THAT THE CITY NEEDS MORE LAW ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES.

TOMLINSON REPLIED THE CITY HAS BEEN RUNNING ON A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET AND THE THAW IS NOT A WAY FOR THE CITY TO BE FREE SPENDERS.

AND THAT THE CITY TAKES PUBLIC SAFETY VERY SERIOUSLY.

"If you thaw ice, it's melted and it is gone as ice. What I'm saying is if you thaw this freeze, you are doing away with the freeze. Plain and simple." **11pm PKG 1:30**

**2/11 Thaw The Freeze Changes -**

"The main change removed from the original proposed referendum is the 6,500 dollar homestead exemption increase, which Tomlinson suggested as a way to provide tax relief upfront."

COLUMBUS MAYOR TERESA TOMLINSON IS WORKING TO REMOVE THE FREEZE ON PROPERTY TAX FOR CITY HOMEOWNERS.

THE NEW REFERENDUM IS HALF THE LENGTH OF THE ORIGINAL.

THE MAYOR SAYS THE REVISED PROPOSED BALLOT QUESTION IS SIMPLER.  
"It also had the homestead exemption increase removed. Otherwise, it basically is the same concept where we will be retiring the existing freeze so, if you have it you keep it. It's just no new transfers can get into the freeze."

THE ORIGINAL REFERENDUM ASKED VOTERS WHETHER OR NOT THEY WOULD LIKE TO RETIRE THE FREEZE, BASE PROPERTY TAX ON THE CURRENT MARKET VALUE, AND OFFER A HIGHER HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR NEW HOMEBUYERS.

THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL SUGGESTED THE WORDING OF THE ORIGINAL REFERENDUM IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

"It wasn't so much a question of the policy, as it was the fact that our lawyers were telling us no you can't do this. They were saying it dealt with multiple subject matters and in a ballot question you can only deal with a single subject matter."

TOMLINSON SAYS WITHOUT THE PROPOSED HOMEOWNER EXEMPTION INCREASE, IT WILL TAKE LONGER FOR PEOPLE TO SEE THE TAX RELIEF.

"We had tried to work out a system where we tried to get it in the very first year. It was going to be costly, but we were going to do it anyway, but now one of the members of the state delegation wanted that tax relief removed and so now it will just take longer for it to occur."

HOMEOWNERS WITH PROPERTY CURRENTLY UNDER THE FREEZE WOULD STILL REMAIN UNDER THE FREEZE UNTIL THEIR PROPERTY CHANGES HANDS.

AFTER CHANGING OWNERSHIP, THE PROPERTY'S TAX VALUE WOULD BE BASED OFF OF THE NEW FAIR MARKET SYSTEM AFTER JANUARY FIRST OF 20-17.

THE MAYOR SAYS WHETHER OR NOT THIS HAPPENS IS UP TO THE CITIZENS OF COLUMBUS.

"All we're asking is that citizens be allowed to vote. They can vote it up or they can vote it down."  
"Columbus homeowners will still have the 13-thousand 500 dollar homestead exemption, it's just the proposed increase that has been removed from the new proposed ballot. On your side, Brennan Reh, WRBL News Three." **6pm 1:30, 11pm Vo/Sot:45**

#### **2/15 President Day In Plains -**

"Hundreds of people came out to Plains High School to honor former President Jimmy Carter. People of all ages including a few local students came to show their support for our 39th President."

JJ: "I'm incredibly thankful that he still has time to share his knowledge with us."

COLUMBUS STATE SENIOR JOHN JOSEPH HAS DREAMS TO RUN FOR OFFICE ONE DAY. IT HELPS THAT HE MET HIS INSPIRATION ON PRESIDENT'S DAY.

JOHN JOSEPH, SENIOR, COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

"For someone with such stature, he really is just a friendly guy, very approachable, seems to be just very cordial and really he just has a presence about him that I just really enjoyed."

JOSEPH AND 50 OTHER C-S-U STUDENTS PACKED BUSES AND CARS AND TO SEE FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER SPEAK IN HIS HOMETOWN.

JJ: "We had a limited number of seats. We left this morning, and it's just been a great trip, great experience."

G KENDALL ARMSTRONG, ATTENDEE: "He's just so down to earth, such a gentle and sweet soul, him and Mrs. Carter."

THE EXPERIENCED AND INEXPERIENCED LEARNED A GOOD DEAL ABOUT THE NATION'S 39TH PRESIDENT.

CHANDLER HARRIS, SIXTH GRADER: "I learned that President Carter is always honest with the public."

THE PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE, ROSALYNN SPOKE WITH HUNDREDS IN A CROWDED AUDITORIUM AT PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL.

THE TWO ADMIT THEIR TOUGHEST CHALLENGES IN CARTER'S BID FOR PRESIDENT. ROSALYNN CARTER, FORMER FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES: "To get the press to take me seriously. I remember the first meet the press appearance and I was excited to be there and talk about the issues and about Jimmy and I got questions like wouldn't you rather be traveling to Europe or cooking?"

JIMMY CARTER, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: "I had to show the people that I was not a racist and I had reached out in my early years as governor to people of all types." THE CARTER'S SAY THE LONG JOURNEY TO THE WHITE HOUSE ACTUALLY BROUGHT THEM CLOSER TOGETHER AS A COUPLE.

"We worked with that one goal. We always felt like we could do it. He couldn't win without me."

AS FOR CARTER'S CHARGE TO THE CROWD:

JIMMY: "Don't ever give up on our country. We have a great country. Eventually the people will prevail. Even though we might be discouraged or alienated or aggravated, at some of the things going on during the campaign, I believe that in the future, our people will make the right decision."

AND MAYBE JOHN JOSEPH WILL HAVE THAT POWER IN HIS HANDS ONE DAY.

JJ: "Really re-inspired me all over that they told us if you want to be involved, run for office, get involved in campaigns. It makes it all worth it in the path I want to follow and lets me know I can make a difference."

JOEY RIPLEY, PLAINS, GA: "Whether they grew up during the Carter years, or they're learning about the Carter years, everyone had a chance to see and hear more from the peanut farmer from Plains, Georgia and how he grew up to become President. On your side in Plains, Joe Ripley WRBL News 3. 6pm PKG 1:30, 11pm PKG 1:30

#### **2/17 AL Ballot Confusion -**

IF YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THE SAMPLE BALLOT IN RUSSELL COUNTY - CHANCES ARE YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW SOME OF THE NAMES... A LOT OF THE NAMES.

"You go and you vote for your delegates - or your representatives to go to the National Convention based on which candidate you decide you want to support."

IN OTHER WORDS - IF YOU WANT TO VOTE FOR DONALD TRUMP - YOU NEED TO ALSO VOTE FOR THE DELEGATES THAT REPRESENT TRUMP

AND THERE ARE A LOT OF DELEGATES ON THE BALLOT.

DELEGATES YOU PROBABLY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT.

"Oftentimes people haven't the vaguest idea of who they are and it's pretty tough for people to decide.. We all have our ways of deciding."

WHEN YOU GO TO VOTE IN GEORGIA AND ALABAMA - YOU GET TO CHOOSE WHICH PRIMARY YOU WANT TO VOTE IN...

ON THE RUSSELL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC BALLOT - THERE ARE SEVERAL LOCAL RACES ON THE BALLOT INCLUDING THE D-A', TWO DISTRICT COURT JUDGE POSITIONS, SCHOOL BOARD AND RUSSELL COUNTY COMMISSION SEATS.

YOU CAN'T VOTE FOR THOSE LOCAL RACES IF YOU VOTE REPUBLICAN.

"Our Republican followers are going to have to make a decision that day. Are they going to vote in the local races or are they going to vote in the national races?"

ALL OF THE LOCAL RACES WILL BE DECIDED IN THE PRIMARY FOR RUSSELL COUNTY.

AND VOTERS ARE RESPONDING.

VOTER REGISTRATION HAS INCREASED.

THANKS TO ONLINE REGISTRATION - HARDEN SAYS HE'S SEEING 20-TO-50 NEW REGISTERED VOTERS EVERY DAY - HARDEN FEELS IT COULD PRODUCE A RECORD NUMBER OF VOTER TURNOUT.

Harden

"I think you're going to see 30-35% (voter turnout) Would that be a record? Since I've been a probate judge ...Yes." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**2/18 Harris Co Electric Grid** - "This is the resolution of concern passed by the Harris County Commission. This came after one man did a little research and took his concerns to them."

EARL CHEAL IS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE HEAT SOURCE IF THE POWER WERE TO GO OUT.

CHEAL IS CONCERNED ABOUT E-M-P OR ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE.

IT'S CREATED FROM A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION ABOVE THE EARTH OR FROM A SOLAR FLARE.

THAT COUPLED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF HACKING AND PHYSICAL ATTACKS ON THE NATION'S POWER GRIDS - AND IT BOTHERED CHEAL... A LOT.

SO MUCH - HE TOOK HIS CONCERNS TO HIS COUNTY COMMISSION.

"Even though you don't have any control with the grid - I request you would pass a resolution of concern."

AND THEY DID.

THE HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE RESOLUTION TUESDAY.

COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIR HARRY LANE SAYS HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE AN ALARMIST BUT HE DOES WANT THE ISSUE TO BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE MINDS OF OUR STATE AND FEDERAL LEADERS.

"Is it enough of a concern or should we be concerned to do something on the federal and state level."

"Is our country and our elected representatives looking at ways to protect us or to protect our electrical grid system so if any happens the effects will be minimized.

EARL AND HIS WIFE JEANETTE ARE GETTING PREPARED NOW.

THEY ARE PACKING EMERGENCY BAGS WITH EVERYTHING THEY NEED JUST IN CASE THE WORST HAPPENS.

HE IS HOPING HIS ELECTED OFFICIALS HEAR HIS CONCERNS AND ADDRESS THIS ISSUE.

"We need effort on both parts. At the state and federal level to make sure we're protecting the grid from EMP."

"Commission Chair plans to take this resolution to the state capitol next week when he meets with their local delegation. In Harris County, Mercer Van Schoor, WRBL News 3. " **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**2/22 Russell Co Judge 1 -**

BUSTER LANDREAU IS THE CURRENT PLACE ONE DISTRICT JUDGE.

HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE POSITION IN 20-13.

THIS RUSSELL COUNTY NATIVE HAS BEEN PRACTICING LAW IN THE COUNTY FOR 35 YEARS, 19 YEARS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE, AND 15 YEARS AS CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

LANDREAU WAS ALSO THE CHIEF OF THE LADONIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

IN HIS MORE TWO YEARS IN OFFICE - HE SAYS HE'S HELPED TO CREATE A JUVENILE DIVERSION PROGRAM, ENTERED INTO A PARTNERSHIP WITH BIG BROTHERS/ BIG SISTERS, UTILIZED ELECTRONIC MONITORING OF INMATES, AND STARTED AN INTENSIVE PROBATION FOR MINORS.

"When I took over, we had 840 juvenile cases. We have cut that in half."

LANDREAU SAYS IT'S HIS EXPERIENCE AND COMMUNITY ROOTS SET HIM APART AS THE BEST CANDIDATE.

LANDREAU

"When you determine what's to be done with a child, you have to know what's out there. You cannot do that if you've never been a member of this community."

LEANDREAU IS RUNNING AGAINST ZACH COLLINS WHO WAS BORN AND RAISED IN COLUMBUS.

HE IS AN AIRFORCE VETERAN AND A PRACTICING ATTORNEY FOR 13 YEARS.

COLLINS WAS A WALK ON AUBURN FOOTBALL PLAYER - WHO MADE THE TEAM - AT 25 YEARS OLD.

HE GRADUATED FROM COLUMBUS STATE AND WENT ON TO LAW SCHOOL IN MONTGOMERY.

HE MOVED BACK TO THE BI-CITY AREA TO TAKE CARE OF HIS MOM.

COLLINS SAYS HE SAW A NEED IN THE FAMILY COURTS AND DECIDED TO RUN FOR THE SEAT.

"I certainly feel like I can inspire young folks to do the right thing and stay in school and not break the law and look forward to a bright future."

COLLINS SAYS HE IS THE BEST CANDIDATE BECAUSE HE HAS 13 YEARS OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT EXPERIENCE AS AN ATTORNEY AND IS COMMITTED TO BEING FAIR.

"I believe that being a judge is not just about disposing of cases, it's about having the right disposition and I'm a person of fundamental fairness." **6pm PKG 1:30, 11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **2/22 Webster Co Splost Ref -**

"While several Georgia counties rely on specialized taxes and other revenue streams to provide resources and services for their citizens, here in Webster County, even funding fire equipment can be a challenge."

"We have better vehicles and newer vehicles and safer vehicles."

DARRYL HOLBROOK IS GOING ON 18 YEARS MANAGING WEBSTER COUNTY'S FIRE, E-M-S AND EMERGENCY SERVICES.

HE SAYS RENEWING THE ONE-PERCENT SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTIONS SALES TAX, OR SPLOST, WOULD LIGHTEN THE LOAD ON TAXPAYERS.

"Without the SPLOST, Webster County would not be able to replace a lot of these high-dollar value pieces of equipment without raising taxes to the stream where tax payers will be burdened. This way, every individual that comes through Preston and Webster County helps pay for these items."

ITEMS LIKE POLICE CARS, AMBULANCES... EVEN FIRE GEAR.

"The county purchased all brand new turnout gear for every one of our volunteer firefighters, which is 30 suits and it's about \$1200 a suit.">

PROPERTY TAXES MAKE UP HALF THE REVENUE FOR WEBSTER COUNTY.

TIMBER AND FARMING ALSO ADD TO THE COUNTY'S COFFERS.

BUT 12-THOUSAND DOLLARS A MONTH FROM SPLOST DOLLARS CAN GO A LONG WAY TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE.

The ambulance I'm in now was one of the first purchases used by SPLOST dollars here in Webster County."

"This is my home."

JESSE BELL PRAISES THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES.

"That's my privilege, my purpose of being here."

BELL SAYS HIS COMMUNITY COULD BE THREATENED IF THE PEOPLE OF WEBSTER COUNTY DO NOT RENEW THE ONE-PERCENT SPLOST.

"When they buy a drink or buy a car, or a boat or whatever those sales taxes are going to be going back to Webster County."

"By next Tuesday, Webster County will transform this space into a voting precinct. Like all counties in Georgia, their precinct will be open from 7-7. On your side in Webster County, Joe Ripley, WRBL News 3." **6pm PKG 1:30**

### **2/23 Westmoreland Next Move -**

WESTMORELAND

"It's nice to go out on the top."

WESTMORELAND ANNOUNCED IN 20-15 HE WAS NOT RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION.

HE'S A VERY WELL CONNECTED CONGRESSMAN IN A REPUBLICAN LED HOUSE - SITTING ON THE INTEL, BENGHAZI, AND THE STEERING COMMITTEES.

HE'S WORKED HIS WAY UP THE POLITICAL CHAIN IN D-C.

WESTMORELAND SAYS HE'S MOST PROUD OF THE WORK HE'S DONE - NOT WITH LEGISLATION - BUT WITH CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT - AND HELPED REPUBLICANS REGAIN THE MAJORITY.

Westmoreland,

"We beat 63 sitting Democrats. With a total of 27 freshman Republicans - the largest class maybe in history."

WESTMORELAND INSISTS HE IS DONE WITH WASHINGTON - BUT THIS GEORGIA NATIVE WHO SERVED 12 YEARS IN THE GEORGIA HOUSE - FOUR AS THE REPUBLICAN LEADER - ADMITS HE'S \*\*NOT\*\* DONE WITH POLITICS.

Westmoreland

"I certainly hope it's not. It's not my intention for it to be the end. That's up to the voters."

WHEN ASKED IF HE WOULD RUN FOR GOVERNOR - WESTMORELAND SAYS THE GOVERNOR'S RACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN 20-18 AND THAT \*\*WOULD\*\* BE AN OPPORTUNITY.

Westmoreland

"I have no desire to go back to Washington so we would be looking at something locally or in the state..." 6pm PKG 1:30

#### **2/23 Lee Co District Attorney Race -**

"Come March first, the people of Lee County will either choose to vote Robbie Treese to a second term, or usher in a change with Brandon Hughes."

(NATS: I'm District Attorney Robbie Treese. I've been in the Lee County DA's office for the last 16 consecutive years.//Politicians show up at election time. Prosecutors, we show up everyday.)

A WAR OF ACCUSATIONS DEFINES THE LEE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY RACE FOR THE 37TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT.

"We've got a nameless and faceless District Attorney. He's rarely in the office and this started when he took office back in 2011. He's rarely in the office, he does not prosecute cases, and he's not at all involved in the community."

STIRRING WORDS THAT HAVE CURRENT DISTRICT ATTORNEY ROBBIE TREESE ON THE DEFENSE.

"Just because you don't see me, doesn't mean that I'm not there number one. And that's just not true. I mean, the honest truth of the matter is I go many many places that I've never seen my opponent, including the courtroom."

TREESE'S OPPONENT, BRANDON HUGHES, HAS SPENT THE LAST DECADE PROSECUTING CASES IN MONTGOMERY WITH THE D-A ASSOCIATION.

AFTER MOVING TO LEE COUNTY, HE NOW HAS A DIRECT MESSAGE ABOUT HIS GOALS IF ELECTED.

BH:"The day I take office, we say let's change gears and we're going to take ourselves from out front. And we're going to put the victims and law enforcement officers first. That's where it starts."

MEANWHILE, TREESE WANTS TO EMPHASIZE HOW HUGHES HASN'T PROSECUTED A CASE IN MONTHS.

RT:<"I'm the only person in this race who has managed to keep a prosecution related job for any significant length of time. And I'm the only one who kept it right here in Lee County.">

WHILE TREESE WANTS A SECOND TERM, THERE'S A LOT RIDING ON HUGHES'S BID FOR D-A.

BH:<"I'm feeling the weight of the citizens of Lee County. I'm feeling the weight of the law enforcement. So yeah, it would mean a great deal to win this not just for me and my family, but for everybody."

AS TREESE EXPLAINS, BEING THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY IS A 24-HOUR COMMITMENT. BUT THAT'S NOT THE TOUGHEST PART OF THE JOB.



RT:<"It's a shame that people have to suffer before I do what I do. But that's the way it works.">  
"Treese believes Hughes does not have enough experience prosecuting capital murder cases to be the D-A. Hughes countered by saying he has prosecuted similar cases in Montgomery. Back to you." 6pm PKG 1:30

**2/24 Sec Of State Talks Primaries -**

Mercer Van Schoor

"In just a few days, all eyes will be focused on the Southeast, Georgia, and the Secretary of State in Georgia. "

Brian Kemp, Secretary of State

"We're now tailgating for the SEC Presidential Primary and the big game is going to be next Tuesday."

IT IS A BIG DEAL FOR KEMP - HE CREATED THE S-E-C PRIMARY- BRINGING EIGHT SOUTHERN STATES IN FOR THE S-E-C PRIMARY MARCH FIRST.

THE GEORGIA PRIMARY - NOW MOVED UP EARLIER IN THE ELECTION YEAR - PUTS THE SOUTH FRONT AND CENTER WHEN CHOOSING THE PRESIDENT.

Kemp

"I've been working for over two years to try to get this coalition of regional states together. We won't be ignored like we have been in the past. It's really come together."

BUT POLITICAL PUNDITS HAVE QUESTIONED IF PUSHING THE S-E-C PRIMARY UP FOR GEORGIANS MAY HAVE HELPED TO ELECT AN UN-ELECTABLE CANDIDATE - LIKE DONALD TRUMP - THE CANDIDATE EXPECTED TO WIN.

KEMP DISAGREES AND POINTS TO THE FACT THAT THOSE SAME CRITICS SAID THE PRIMARY WOULD HELP CRUZ.

Kemp

"I mean look, who would have thought early on before any of these elections that Trump would do as well in Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina as he did. I don't know how they can blame that on the SEC Primary."

KEMP ALSO SAYS REPUBLICANS \*\*AND\*\* DEMOCRATS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TUESDAY TO VOTE ON A CANDIDATE WHEN IT REALLY MATTERS - TRULY EVERY VOTE WILL COUNT AND WHAT OUR STATE DECIDES WILL AFFECT THE RACE.

Kemp

"Who knows? That's what's so great about this election. Our folks have the opportunity to weigh in with their say so and we're looking forward to that happening."

Mercer Van Schoor

"Kemp also says He expects Georgia to continue to be a national presence in National elections. Reporting at the Capitol in Atlanta, Mercer Van Schoor, WRBL News 3." 6pm PKG 1:30

**2/29 Russell Co District 5 Race -**

NATS- I'M EXCITED 3 SECONDS.

FOR JEFF FAIRCLOTH THIS IS HIS FIRST TIME RUNNING FOR PUBLIC OFFICE.

HE'S BEEN A BUILDER FOR 16 YEARS--10 OF THOSE IN RUSSELL COUNTY.

FAIRCLOTH SAYS HIS FIRST CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN VERY INFORMING.

HE HOPES THE COUNTY AND PHENIX CAN CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER.

IF ELECTED, HE WANTS TO WORK TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE, WIDEN ROADS, BRING CITY SEWAGE TO THE AREA.

HE ALSO WANTS TO ADD TO RECREATION AND SEE MORE DONE FOR THE MILITARY.

"I wanted to see Phenix City build its own name and not be recognized by being south of Auburn or being just over the water, left of Columbus. I wanted us to be able to have our own name and our own identity."

FOR CHARLES HOLLOWELL, THIS IS HIS FIRST CAMPAIGN AS WELL.

HE ALSO WANTS TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE BY IMPROVING ROADS, BRING SEWAGE LINES TO THE AREA AS WELL ALL IN AN EFFORT TO ATTRACT BUSINESS.

HOLLOWELL IS A BIG MILITARY SUPPORTER AS WELL AND WANTS TO CONTINUE IMPROVING RECREATION FOR THE AREA.

ANOTHER GOAL OF HIS--TO HELP KEEP THE COMMUNITY WHOLESOME.

"What I want to do is bring a sense of objectivity and decisiveness to the table. None of this, that, black, white, yada this yada that, I don't want to hear that. We want to get things done for this community and that's what I'm determined to do."

CATTIE EPPS IS THE INCUMBENT.

SHE HAS SERVED SINCE 2000.

SHE SAYS IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE FOR HER TO SERVE THE PEOPLE AND SEE THE GROWTH.

IF RE-ELECTED, SHE HOPES TO KEEP IMPROVING RECREATION, SOMETHING SHE HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED.

AND HOPES TO KEEP IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE AREA.

"This area for me, it's my home. I love it. I enjoy it and anything I can do for this area within my power, I will do it." **11pm PKG 1:30**

### **3/1 Lee Co Voter Turnout -**

THE VOTERS ARE FEELING COMFORTABLE ABOUT THEIR DECISIONS.

THEY SAID THE EXPERIENCE HERE AT SMITHS STATION JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL WAS QUICK AND EASY.

HERE IN LEE COUNTY, THE RACE FOR THE U-S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT BETWEEN INCUMBENT MIKE ROGERS AND LARRY DICHIARA PIQUED VOTERS' INTEREST ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE.

MEANWHILE, MUCH OF WHAT'S ON THE NEARLY 15-HUNDRED VOTERS' MINDS... REVOLVES AROUND THE RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.

THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE BROUGHT OUT 21-YEAR-OLD C-S-U STUDENT KONNOR PRICE, WHO THINKS MORE PEOPLE HIS AGE SHOULD CAST THEIR BALLOT. **6pm Vo/Sot:45**

**3/1 Ballot Breakdown -** HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY THERE ARE SO MANY CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT WHEN THEY'VE DROPPED OUT OF THE RACE?

IF YOU'VE VOTED TODAY - THEN YOU PROBABLY SAW SEVERAL CANDIDATES ON YOUR BALLOT - LIKE MARTIN O'MALLEY, MICHAEL STEINBERG, AND LINDSEY GRAHAM.

THE REASON IS BECAUSE these ballots need to be printed 45 days before an election.

They need to have them ready to send overseas for someone in the military, as an example. So everyone who was running for president 45 days ago - they are still on the ballot. 6pm  
**Vo/Sot:45**

**3/1 Delegates Breakdown -**

"Phil and Teresa, today when you fill out your ballot for your presidential candidate preference, you are voting to help that candidate earn delegates. Those I spoke to today helped break this process down."

JOSEPH BRANNAN OF THE GEORGIA G-O-P SAYS SUPER TUESDAY GIVES A COLLECTION OF STATES THE CHANCE TO CAST THEIR VOTES FOR A PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE.

FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN GEORGIA THERE ARE 76 TOTAL DELEGATES.

34 ARE STATEWIDE AND 42 ARE SPLIT AMONG THE STATE'S 14 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS.

FOR THE 34 STATEWIDE DELEGATES, IF ONLY ONE CANDIDATE GETS 20 PERCENT OR MORE OF THE REGISTERED PARTY VOTERS, THEY GET ALL 34 DELEGATES.

IF ANOTHER CANDIDATE GETS 20 PERCENT OR MORE, THEY ARE SPLIT PROPORTIONALLY.

AND THERE IS A DIFFERENT SYSTEM FOR 42 DELEGATES AMONG THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS.

"If Donald gets 50 percent of the vote, 50 percent plus 1, he gets all three delegates. If he does not meet that, then he gets two of the delegates and then the second place finisher gets the one delegate."

FOR THE ALABAMA G-O-P, THEY HAVE THE SAME SYSTEM FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS, BUT HAVE SEVEN DISTRICTS WITH 21 TOTAL DELEGATES.

THEY HAVE THE SAME PROCESS WITH THE STATEWIDE DELEGATES AS GEORGIA.

ON THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE IN GEORGIA, THERE ARE 102 DELEGATES.

67 ARE FROM THE 14 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS.

35 ARE STATEWIDE.

IN ORDER TO BE AWARDED DELEGATES, THE CANDIDATE MUST GAIN 15 PERCENT OF THE VOTE AT THE STATE AND CONGRESSIONAL LEVEL.

THAT IS THE SAME FOR ALABAMA, EXCEPT THERE ARE 53 DELEGATES.

35 FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS AND 18 STATEWIDE.

HARRIET TOLBERT OF THE ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE SAYS EVEN THOUGH THE DELEGATE TOTAL IN THE STATE IS SMALL, THE VOTE IS MIGHTY.

"Being a small state, with our minute amount of delegates, it will do a little but it will show what side we are on and who we are for."

NEWS 3 IS WALL TO WALL WITH ELECTION COVERAGE TODAY.

STAY WITH US ON AIR AND ONLINE FOR RACE UPDATES.  
ON YOUR SIDE IN COLUMBUS, ALEX DERENCZ WRBL NEWS 3. **6pm PKG 1:30**

### **3/2 Sex Trafficking Prevention -**

IN DECEMBER - AN UNDERCOVER OFFICER CAME TO THE AID OF A 21 YEAR OLD IN A WALMART BATHROOM .

THE INVESTIGATION LED TO THIS HOME ON GLEASON AVENUE -- INVOLVING HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

THIS EVENT HIT A NERVE WITH ROTARY MEMBER TOM LYNCH - HE IS HEADING UP A ROTARY COMMITTEE ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE LOCALLY -- WITH SOME PRETTY BIG COMMUNITY LEADERS.

"Each one of these folks put his hands up and said I want to get involved to help figure out how we can solve this."

"Columbus is a great community. We care about our kids and this is something we don't want in our community"

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT DAVID LEWIS IS ON THIS COMMITTEE - ALONG WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY, THE MEDIA, THE GIRL SCOUTS, AS WELL AS LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Superintendent Lewis,

"We have 32,000 kids in our school district. Many of whom could be approached about this. We want to make sure we're at the table and having a conversation about this."

LEWIS IS AT THE TABLE AND HAVING A CONVERSATION ABOUT THIS WITH THE OTHER LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM ORGANIZATIONS LIKE SET FREE COLUMBUS AND THE CHILDREN'S TREEHOUSE.

"It's out there. We need to be educated and aware of it so we can protect our children."

"We'd like to see a multidisciplinary task force created in our community. Eventually, we need a restoration home in our community for those children who are trafficked."

"COLUMBUS JUST WON'T STAND FOR IT. **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/3 Congressman Candidate Controversy**

"This is a copy of the Temporary Protective Order we attained from the Muscogee County Superior Court. This document describes events that occurred in May 2014."

ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENT - SCOTT'S WIFE AT THE TIME DESCRIBES HIM HITTING HER IN THE CHEST, THROWING HER ONTO THE PAVEMENT OF THEIR HOME, AND SLAPPING HER ACROSS THE FACE IN THE PRESENCE OF THEIR SON - WHO WAS 6 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME.

SHE GOES ON TO STATE ON JULY 5TH - POLICE WERE CALLED TO THEIR HOUSE BY NEIGHBORS AFTER SEEING HER HUSBAND BACK UP HIS PICKUP TRUCK WITH HER DIRECTLY BEHIND IT.

THEIR SON INFORMED THE POLICE HE HAD WITNESSED HIS FATHER SLAM HER AGAINST THE CAR DOOR.

THE REPORT GOES ON TO SAY SCOTT REACHED INTO THE INTERIOR OF THE VEHICLE CHOKING HER WITH TWO HANDS.

THE OFFICER ON THE SCENE WROTE A REPORT REFERRING THE SITUATION TO DFCS.

HIS WIFE DID LATER FILE FOR A DISMISSAL OF THE TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER.

BOBBY SCOTT IS A REPUBLICAN RUNNING AGAINST FELLOW REPUBLICAN GREG DUKE FOR CONGRESS IN GEORGIA'S 2ND DISTRICT.

THAT SEAT IS CURRENTLY HELD BY DEMOCRAT SANFORD BISHOP.

"We have contacted Bobby Scott's campaign team - they acknowledge this document - and told us Bobby Scott and his wife will be talking to news 3 exclusively to tell the real story in the coming days. Mercer Van Schoor, WRBL News 3." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/7 Crossover Day Wrap Up -**

GEORGIANS WILL NOT GET TO VOTE ON CASINO GAMBLING THIS YEAR. LEGISLATION THAT WOULD HAVE ALLOWED UP TO FOUR CASINOS TO OPERATE IN GEORGIA DIED IN THE HOUSE.

CASINO SUPPORTERS SAY THEY REMAIN POSITIVE AND THAT IS STILL COULD BE IN THE STATE'S FUTURE.

THE CULTIVATION OF MARIJUANA IN THE STATE WAS ALSO TAKEN OUT AGAINST THE PROTESTS OF SUPPORTERS.

Dale Jackson, Medical Marijuana Supporter

"They passed House Bill 722 after they gutted it with cultivation."

HUNDREDS OF CONCERNED PARENTS BEGGED LEGISLATORS IN THE HOUSE TO APPROVE HOUSE BILL 7-22 ALLOWING MORE PATIENTS TO USE MEDICAL MARIJUANA - LIKE AUTISM, TOURETTE'S, AND P-T-S-D - IT PASSED EASILY - BUT IT WAS BUT GUTTED.

LEGISLATORS SAID IT WASN'T PRACTICAL - PARENTS ARE STILL UPSET TO ACCESS THE CANNIBUS OIL - YOU HAVE TO GO GET IT FROM ANOTHER STATE AND BREAK FEDERAL LAW.

Dale Jackson, Medical Marijuana Supporter

"I'm asking you. I'm begging you. Please do not turn me into a felon next year because this is the last year I will come and ask for your permission. Thank you. "

THE CAMPUS CARRY BILL IS ONE STEP CLOSER TO BECOMING A LAW IN GEORGIA.

Darryl Carter, Muscogee County Association of Educators

"You know this a big deal. It's something to be very worried about."

IT PASSED THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MONDAY - THAT WOULD ALLOW LICENSED GUN OWNERS TO CARRY CONCEALED WEAPONS ON PUBLIC COLLEGE CAMPUSES, AS SOME OTHER STATES HAVE DONE.

THE PROPOSAL BACKED BY THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION WON SUPPORT FROM A SENATE PANEL MONDAY.

IT WAS **\*\*NOT\*\*** SUPPORTED BY MANY CONCERNED PARENTS - THE BOARD OF REGENTS, AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS.

Darryl Carter, Muscogee County Association of Educators

"We're against this legislation because you never know if that student who goes into the classroom and although they have a license to carry - they may not be stable that day." **6pm**

**PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/10 Mayor Addresses Juvenile Crime -**

LETS TALK WITH THE MAYOR HAS RECENTLY WRAPPED UP AND ONE THE MAJOR ISSUES WAS JUVENILE CRIME AND HOW IT'S AFFECTING OUR COMMUNITY.

"there is a lot of frustration that there are juveniles who are committing some of the smash and grab the car break-ins and one of the things that were very limited all jurisdictions very limited in how we can deal with juveniles because it's very difficult to lock them up and of course we would have 15-year-old child 14-year-old child is the object really to lock them up."

I SPOKE WITH POLICE CHIEF RICKY BOREN ABOUT WHICH CRIMES ARE MOST COMMON AMONG THE YOUTH.

"The leaving the car in the driveway and somebody driving off with it by the smashing grab swear car is parked in parking lot shopping center and even sometimes in the driveway and they not going to go out and then go in and a car that's unlocked where they just go in and grab and ramble through the car."

ANOTHER ISSUE..THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH JUVENILE BEDS TO HOUSE THE YOUNG CRIMINALS.

**BOREN SAYS COLUMBUS POLICE CONSTANTLY HAVE TO DRIVE YOUNG OFFENDERS TO OTHER CITIES WHERE SPACE IS AVAILBLE.**

"In the middle of the night we apprehend juveniles that they will take and we drive them to Stateboro, we drive them to savannah and different areas wherever there may be bed space at the time."

**LISA JENKINS WANTS TO KNOW WHAT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM CAN DO TO KEEP AT KIDS OFF THE STREETS.**

"And opportunities in our school system to keep increase the arts and sports anything to try to keep the children off the streets and more involved in the public education and give them options to make better choices ." **11pm PKG 1:30**

### **3/15 Safety Exchanges Signs -**

"Well it's the sheriff's office for one thing. I would feel really safe doing it here." "I thought it was a really good idea because I do a lot of bartering, buying, selling and trading things."

**JENNIFER WHITAKER AND CHANCE PARKER FEEL A LOT MORE SECURE KNOWING THEY CAN NOW EXCHANGE ANYTHING THEY BUY OR SELL ONLINE RIGHT HERE IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.**

"Well it's all about keeping your citizens safe and having them comfortable about anything that takes place."

**SHERIFF MIKE JOLLEY SAYS HIS STAFF BROUGHT UP THE IDEA OF CREATING THESE SAFE EXCHANGE ZONE SIGNS TO SOOTHE THE UNEASINESS OF SOME DOING BUSINESS ONLINE.**

"If I did meet someone to buy something on the internet, it would have to be a safe place, like say a restaurant or a gas station. Somewhere well lit."

**EVEN IF PEOPLE TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION TO STAY SAFE...SHERIFF JOLLEY SAYS WORRY STILL LINGERS IN THE BACK OF PEOPLE'S MINDS.**

But still there's that small apprehension of worry to the citizens. Are they going to get ripped off, is it still safe, is it a place they feel comfortable at?//

"There's a lot of liability when you're going to do things like that. Because if you're going to buy a gun, they know you have money. What if they choose to rob you of that money you're going to buy the gun with? It's always a big if when you're buying stuff like that."

**THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE WILL EVEN WORK TO PREVENT POTENTIAL SCAMS WITH 24-HOUR SURVEILLANCE AND...A SPECIAL SERVICE.**

If the item is here and it has a serial number, we will provide the capability to run that serial number to make sure the item being purchased or exchanged is not stolen. **11pm PKG 1:30**

### **3/18 Fort Benning Change Of Command -**

**Mercer Van Schoor**

"Brigadier General Eric Wesley, Ft. Benning's new commander talked to the media before the change of command ceremony - he directly addressed a question like what he plans to do during the 'inter-war periods.'"

**BRIG GEN Eric Wesley, Comm. Maneuver Ctr. Of Excellence**

"If we're in that window of time that is the interwar years - this is a window to prepare for that next conflict."

**WESLEY SAYS IT'S HIS JOB IS TO THINK DEEP AND FAR \*\*NOW\*\* SO THE ARMY IS READY FOR THE NEXT CONFLICT.**

**Wesley**

"So the opportunity to participate with our leadership in shaping the future of the Army is really what struck me and I'm really looking forward to that."

THE NEW COMMANDER SAYS HE HAS A CHALLENGE DOWN THE ROAD WITH GENDER INTEGRATION- AND SAYS IT WILL MAKE THE ARMY STRONGER.

Wesley

"I'm excited about what that will bring for us because I think that will make us better. "

IN FRIDAY'S CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY - ERIC WESLEY ASSUMED THE POSITION OF COMMANDER FROM MAJOR GENERAL SCOTT MILLER.

WESLEY CALLS MILLER A FRIEND AND MENTOR.

THE TWO MADE A POINT TO HONOR EACH OTHER AFTER THE CEREMONY.

"You are a gentleman, you are gracious, you are humble but you're also a phenomenal freakin' warrior."

MAJ GEN Scott Miller, Fmr. Comm. Maneuver Ctr. Of Excellence

"You can think big and make sure soldiers understand it. Ladies and gentlemen, Ft. Benning... you're in better hands and you're going to get better. "

"Major General Scott Miller is currently waiting his reassignment. On Your Side on Fort Benning, Mercer Van Schoor, WRBL News 3." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/22 Columbus Police Bonuses Budget -**

Mercer Van Schoor

"This proposed incentive for Columbus police officers is the second of its kind bringing about a big boost in morale. But according to other public safety officers it's having the opposite effect."

Mayor Teresa Tomlinson, Columbus

"This one will actually be coming from unfunding positions that have been difficult to fill ."

COLUMBUS MAYOR TERESA TOMLINSON SAYS THE MONEY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS BUDGETED FOR POSITIONS THEY DIDN'T FILL - WILL PAY FOR THIS SECOND POLICE PAY REFORM PLAN SHE IS GOING TO PROPOSE IN THE UPCOMING 20-17 BUDGET.

THAT'S AROUND ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

Mayor Teresa Tomlinson, Columbus

"That will involve taking already budgeted monies the police department has - already and reallocating them to move police officers up one step."

THIS STEP UP - WILL ALSO INCLUDE A PAY INCREASE.

SHE'LL GET THE MONEY BY UNFUNDING 16 POSITIONS AND CREATE A PERMANENT PAY INCREASE ... BUT FOR POLICE OFFICERS ONLY.

NEWS 3 SPOKE WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT WHO AREN'T VERY HAPPY WITH THIS PROPOSAL AND PLAN TO TELL THE CITY COUNCIL ABOUT IT TUESDAY EVENING.

ONE SHERIFF'S DEPUTY SAYS THIS PROPOSAL WILL ACTUALLY DIVIDE THE PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS WHEN THE COMMUNITY NEEDS TO PULL TOGETHER.

MAYOR TOMLINSON SAYS THE INCREASE COULD KEEP OFFICERS FROM LEAVING FOR OTHER AGENCIES.

Mayor Teresa Tomlinson, Columbus

"What's important is that our officers stay and we're able to find officer who can fill those critical positions that we need. "

Mercer Van Schoor

"Public safety workers are going to be at the city council meeting Tuesday night to tell the board and explain to them that one incentive for one department is not a good a idea. On Your side in Columbus, Mercer Van Schoor, WRBL News 3." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/24 Opelika Citizen Law Enforcement Academy -**

"Tonight, 20 Opelika citizens will gather here at the police department for the Citizens' Police Academy. This is the first time this event has been held in eight years. The Opelika Police Department says this a perfect way to bridge the gap between citizens and law enforcement."

PEOPLE WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO LEARN WHAT IT'S LIKE INSIDE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

INCLUDING HOW THE PATROL DIVISION FUNCTIONS AND HOW INVESTIGATORS HANDLE CASES.

CAPTAIN SHANE HEALEY SAYS THE CLASS GIVES PEOPLE THE CHANCE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT POLICE WORK THAN THEY MIGHT SEE ON TELEVISION.

HE ALSO SAYS IT'S A GOOD WAY TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES.

"We rely on the citizens to help us solve crime. We have to have the citizens tell us the things they see when they witness a crime. We have to have them come to us and say this is what I saw."

LATER IN THE ACADEMY PEOPLE WILL TAKE PART IN THE DEPARTMENT'S SHOOTING SIMULATOR.

"Captain Healey says even though this class is currently full, the Opelika Police Department plans to hold another Citizens Police Academy later this year. On your side in Opelka, Alex Derencz, Wrb1 News 3." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/25 Religious Liberty Bill Impact -**

"I think it's a bad thing from Georgia."

PAUL PIERCE WITH THE SPRINGER OPERA HOUSE SAYS THIS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM BILL HURTS THE GROWING FILM INDUSTRY IN GEORGIA.

SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE WORKING TO BRING MORE FILM RELATED JOBS TO COLUMBUS.

"It's film industry is just taking off so, any idea that Georgia is not open for business, the State of Georgia just can't afford that."

SENATOR JOSH MCKOON SUPPORTS THIS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM BILL AND CALLS CORPORATIONS SAYING THEY WILL PULL BUSINESS FROM GEORGIA "EMPTY THREATS".

"It's one of the easiest places to finance film and television production in the country. People are not going to leave that environment because at the end of the day, these companies are in business to make money."

HE SAYS IF THE GOVERNOR SIGNS THIS BILL INTO LAW, THIS CONTROVERSY WILL BE SOMETHING OF THE DISTANT PAST IN A FEW MONTHS.

"Almost every one of these companies does business with very repressive regimes. If we're talking about the film industry, one of the number one markets for them is China, the People's Republic of China. They have a horrific record on human rights."

PIERCE SAYS THEATER AND FILM ARE COLLABORATIVE INDUSTRIES - AND THIS BILL GOES AGAINST THAT.

"That's what the creative economy is all about, collaboration. That's what we're accustomed to and that's the atmosphere that we want to send to the world."

PIERCE SAYS GEORGIA IS NUMBER THREE IN FILM PRODUCTION IN COUNTRY - AND DOES NOT WANT THIS BILL COULD JEOPARDIZE THAT. **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/28 City Lawsuit New Detail -**

"Things that have been sent out to the citizens that are absolutely not true."

MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK VIVIAN CREIGHTON BISHOP IS ONE OF FOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS SUING THE CITY OF COLUMBUS.

SHE ALONG WITH MARSHAL GREG COUNTRYMAN SAY THEY WANT TO SPEAK ABOUT WHAT THEY CALL "UNTRUTHS" BEING SAID ABOUT THEM IN THE LAWSUIT.

THEY ARE BOTH RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION.

"We are paying our own legal fees, Greg Countryman and I."

"The city charter clearly says that the elected officials turn in our budget to city government that our budget is to be incorporated into the overall budget."



COUNTRYMAN SAYS THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN - HE SAYS THE MAYOR TOOK HIS BUDGET AND CUT SIX DEPUTIES - A MOVE THAT WAS NOT A PART OF HIS BUDGET - AND HE SAYS IT GOES AGAINST THE CITY CHARTER.

COUNTRYMAN

"This suit could have been settled a long long time ago. We have had the courts to rule in our favor 3 times but each time they ruled in our favor - the city appeals it."

"There has been a lot of money spent in attorney's fees which would have never been spent had we not been sued as a city. "

TOMLINSON SAYS IT'S COST THE CITY TWO-MILLION DOLLARS.

SHE SAYS COUNTRYMAN AND CREIGHTON BISHOP USED 15-THOUSAND DOLLARS IN CITY CREDIT CARDS TO PAY FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES.

SHE SAYS THAT VIOLATES CITY POLICY AND THE LAW.

TOMLINSON ADDS THERE IS A PENDING LAWSUIT ON THAT ISSUE.

COUNTRYMAN AND CREIGHTON-BISHOP SAY IT WAS WITHIN THEIR RIGHTS AND THEY'VE USED THEIR OWN MONEY.

THE MAYOR ARGUES THIS SUIT COULD POTNETIALLY BANKRUPT THE CITY.

Teresa

"They've undertaken a very serious course of conduct which was to file these lawsuits in the first place which was so tremendously ill advised I can't overemphasize that."

THE NEXT COURT DATE INVOLVING THIS CASE IS IN APRIL.

IN COLUMBUS, MERCER VAN SCHOOR, W-R-B-L NEWS 3. 6pm PKG 1:30,11pm

Vo/Sot:45

## ECONOMY :

### **1/6 Powerball Jackpot \$500m -**

IF YOU'RE FEELING LUCKY....

THE POWERBALL JACKPOT HAS REACHED HALF-A-BILLION DOLLARS!

TICKET SALES HAVE SOARED AHEAD OF WEDNESDAY NIGHT'S DRAWING - BOOSTING THE PRIZE MONEY BY ANOTHER 50 MILLION IN JUST ONE DAY.

THE LUCKY NUMBERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT 11 O'CLOCK EASTERN TIME TONIGHT ON WRBL.

SINCE NOVEMBER... THERE HAVE BEEN 17 DRAWINGS -- WITH NO WINNER SO FAR.

BUT SEVERAL PEOPLE HERE IN TOWN... ARE HOPEFUL THEY'LL BE THE ONES TO STRIKE IT BIG TONIGHT. 6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm Vo/Sot:45

### **1/11 Bama Gears In Store -**

"Phil, Teresa, the night has finally arrived. Clemson versus Alabama for all the marbles, the biggest night in college football: the College Football Playoff National Title game. And just in case Alabama wins, Academy Sports and Outdoors is ready to roll."

MB: It's just pure adrenaline, everyone's excited.

ACADEMY SPORTS AND OUTDOORS WILL WELCOME ALL THOSE EXCITED FANS INTO THEIR STORES ALL ACROSS ALABAMA MONDAY NIGHT.

BUT THAT'S IF...AND ONLY IF...THE TIDE CAN MANAGE TO DEFEAT THE NUMBER ONE RANKED TEAM IN THE COUNTRY: CLEMSON.

"If Alabama wins, obviously we will roll it out. We will reopen the store immediately after the win." AND MATT BROWN EXPECTS HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE TO COME OUT AND SPORT THE POTENTIAL NEW NATIONAL CHAMPIONS' GEAR.

Everyone a lot of times feels like they've been at that game, they've participated in that game.

You know they're super excited that their home team won."

Alabama fans are eager to change this number from 15 to 16 by the end of the night. And even some Auburn fans are on board too."

"I think that there's enough room for everybody. We get Auburn and Alabama fans alike, especially with our association with Bob Bomhaur and him being our owner. I think people will be excited to see an Alabama victory tonight."

"Alabama...//well a lot of people that I know are going to be pulling for Clemson, so..."

SO MAYBE LOYALTIES ARE SPLIT...

"Well I think it's nice to keep it in the state at least."

CHAE REDDOCH WITH BOB'S VICTORY GRILLE

EXPECTS ABOUT 300 PEOPLE TO POUR INTO THE RESTAURANT AND STAY LATE, WHETHER OR NOT THEY TAKE PRIDE IN THE TIDE.

"We've got about a 100 AV and TV equipment to watch these games on and we fill em up. We show all the sports we can show and fit all the sports fans in Auburn we can get in here."

BACK AT ACADEMY SPORTS, THEY'LL TRY TO

FIT EVERYONE IN ALABAMA CHAMPIONSHIP GEAR BY NIGHT'S END.

BUT UNLESS THE TIDE ROLL, THE BOXES STAY SEALED.

"Alabama is vying for their 16th national title. Clemson is searching for their first title since the 1980's. News 3 Sports Director Dayne Young will bring you the highlights on News 3 Nightwatch. On your side in Auburn, Joe Ripley, WRBL News 3." **6pm PKG 1:30**

### **1/12 Aquatic Center Update -**

IN MARCH - THESE WATERS WILL BE SWIMMING WITH HUNDREDS OF COMPETITIVE DIVERS AND SWIMMERS.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETES WILL HOLD ITS 20-16 AND 20-17 MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS HERE BRINGING IN MORE THAN 450 ATHLETES AND THEIR FAMILIES - AND 337-THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

"We need to be marketing not only to other communities, but to our own people too.

THE AQUATIC CENTER OPENED IN 2013 - BUT AFTER JUST 18 MONTHS THE CITY CANCELLED THE CONTRACT WITH THE PRIVATE COMPANY THAT WAS HIRED TO RUN IT.

THE N-A-I-A TOURNAMENT IS PART OF THE PLAN TO KEEP THE AQUATIC CENTER AFLOAT.

THAT AND A NEW 15 PERSON TASK FORCE.

James Worsley, Parks and Rec Director

"A group of people that can come up with ideas to generate ideas and short and long term goals that perhaps could be sustainable."

PARKS AND REC DIRECTOR JAMES WORSLEY PRESENTED THE GOALS OF THE TASK FORCE TO CITY COUNCIL TUESDAY.

THEY WANT TO FUNDRAISE, GAIN CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS, MARKET THE CENTER, AND ATTRACT ADDITIONAL EVENTS... ALL TO GENERATE MORE REVENUE.  
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, District 1 Councilor

"I'm not interested in the naysayers. I'm interested in one thing - making this natatorium the success I know it can be."

IN DECEMBER - WORSLEY TOLD COUNCILORS HE MAY HAVE TO CUT THE HOURS OF THE AQUATIC CENTER.

SO THEY CITY IS HOPING THIS TASK FORCE AND THE UPCOMING N-A-I-A CHAMPIONSHIP WILL TURN THINGS AROUND.

Gary Allen, District 6 Councilor

"You have an opportunity coming up to showcase the Aquatic Center." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

#### **1/13 New Walmarts Opening -**

COLUMBUS MOM SHALON CHESTER SAYS THE MANCHESTER LOCATION WILL SAVE HER TIME... ALLOWING HER TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH HER FAMILY.

"Getting off of work. Being able to come over here and then traveling. It's easier for me and especially going back and forth to her school, too."

WHEN NEWS THREE TOLD YOU ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHODO MARKETS COMING TO TOWN IN 20-14, PEOPLE SHARED SOME CONCERNS ABOUT IT CAUSING ISSUES WITH TRAFFIC.

Where are all the people going to park? Traffic is going to get more congested, then you have a school right here too, so how are you going to fit all that into this little bitty space?

BUT RICK JONES WITH THE COLUMBUS PLANNING DEPARTMENT TELLS NEWS THREE TRAFFIC SURROUNDING THE MANCHESTER EXPRESSWAY LOCATION SHOULDN'T BE AN ISSUE.

AND THIS SHOPPER ACTUALLY FEELS SAFER DRIVING TO THIS LOCATION BECAUSE OF HOW EASY IT IS TO GET AROUND.

"I ride a scooter so it's very convenient compared to going across town."

CITY COUNCILMAN POPS BARNES SAYS THE OPENING OF THESE STORES OFFERS MORE THAN JUST CONVENIENCE TO THE COMMUNITY.

"They bring a majority of jobs because they have all the associates and all the various departments here and that equates to a lot of sales taxes, which you know the city does need, but more importantly it's jobs for families."

AS SHE SHOPS...

"Neighborly, so more economically friendly."

CHESTER SAYS SHE HOPES "NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET" WILL LIVE UP TO ITS NAME.

**6pm PKG 1:30,11pm VO/Sot:45**

#### **1/14 Lottery Scam -**

PHIL AND TERESA, I SPOKE WITH VICKI STINSON TODAY.

SHE ALMOST WON A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND A NEW CAR.

IF IT WERE TRUE, SHE KNEW WOULD USE THE MONEY TO PAY BILLS AND TAKEN CARE OF HER CHURCH.

BUT, SHE KNEW IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

VICKI STINSON HAS TWO CELL PHONES.

ONE IS RARELY USED, BUT MONDAY SHE HAD TO MAKE A CALL OFF IT.

NATS-

WHEN SHE OPENED THE PHONE, SHE WAS GREETED WITH A MESSAGE SAYING SHE WON 3 AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS ALONG WITH SOMETHING ELSE.

"I said husband, we won a black mercedes. He was shocked. He was laughing and I was winking at the same time knowing that it was a scam."

ALL SHE HAD TO DO WAS PAY \$784 TO GET THE CAR AND PAY THE IRS FOR THE MONEY.

SHE CALLED THE NUMBER PROVIDED,

NO ANSWER,

THEN A CALL FROM A DIFFERENT NUMBER,

SHE CALLED THAT NUMBER BACK, NO ANSWER,

SHE WAS CALLED BACK, SHE CALLED AGAIN AND GOT NO ANSWER.

ALL THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS, SHE WAS REPORTING THE NUMBER TO THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU.

"Satan. Worshippers of Satan. You have devils undercover and angels undercover. The only thing I can think of is that these people are working Satan."

ACCORDING TO THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU, YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE TO PAY TO COLLECT ANY WINNINGS.

YOU CAN'T WIN A LOTTERY YOU DIDN'T ENTER

ALSO YOU SHOULD CHECK TO SEE IF THE OFFER IS REAL BUT DON'T CALL ANY NUMBERS PROVIDED IN THE WINNING MESSAGE.

"I feel like I have already won the money, the mercedes and everything he offered and said I was gonna win because God has blessed me tremendously that anything I ask God for or he feels that I need he always finds a way for me to get it."

STINSON ADDED THAT SHE HOPES AND PRAYS THAT NOBODY FALLS VICTIM TO A SCAM LIKE THE ONE SHE AVOIDED.

PHIL AND TERESA? 11pm PKG 1:30

#### **1/29 Campus Carry Bill -**

"The topic is extremely polarizing. In fact, This House Bill 859 would affect all Georgia universities - and when we contacted C-S-U - they did not want to comment on the story. Possibly because the University System Board of Regents - is one of the biggest opponents of this bill."

TUESDAY - TWO GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WERE ROBBED IN THE LIBRARY AT GUN POINT.

ONE STUDENT SAYS A MAN THAT LOOKS LIKE THE SUSPECT IN THIS CRIME - STOLE HIS LAPTOP TWO WEEKS AGO.

"He punched me in the face and that's when I realized he was serious."

GEORGIA STATE REPRESENTATIVES ARE CONSIDERING A BILL THAT WOULD ALLOW ANYONE WITH A CONCEALED WEAPONS PERMIT TO CARRY A GUN ON A POST SECONDARY CAMPUS.

MANY SUPPORTERS OF THIS BILL ARE POINTING TO THESE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY ROBBERIES.

RIGHT NOW - UNIVERSITIES IN GEORGIA ARE GUN FREE - ALONG WITH THEATERS, LIBRARIES, RESEARCH FACILITIES, STUDENT HEALTH CENTERS, AND GYMNASIUMS.

HOUSE BILL 8-59 WOULD CHANGE THAT.

NO SUPER (Jerry Henry, Georgia Carry Executive Director)

"We feel it's easy pickens. It's a soft target at these schools. There is absolutely no way those kids can protect themselves."

BUT UNIVERSITY SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS REMAINS OPPOSED TO GUNS ON CAMPUS.

"There is no imperial data to support Campus Carry as a safety measure."

MELINDA ENNIS WITH THE GUNSENSE GEORGIA COALITION SAYS OTHER STATES WITH CAMPUS CARRY LAWS HAVE NOT SEEN A REDUCTION IN VIOLENCE ON CAMPUSES.

HER SON WAS ACTUALLY A STUDENT A GEORGIA STATE AND DOESN'T FEEL SOME OF THE STUDENTS ARE MATURE ENOUGH FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HANDLING A GUN IN AN EMERGENCY ON CAMPUS.

Melinda Ennis, GunSense Georgia Coalition

"The notion that 21 years who may or may not be trained to act as a vigilante police force on campus is just something more Georgians want."

THE BILL DOES EXCLUDE ALLOWING GUNS AT ATHLETIC EVENTS, STUDENT HOUSING - INCLUDING FRATERNITY OR SORORITY HOUSES,

ONLY THOSE 21-AND OLDER WHO HAVE A GEORGIA WEAPONS LICENSE AND HAVE PASSED A CRIMINAL AND MENTAL HEALTH BACKGROUND CHECK WOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY ON CAMPUS.

NO SUPER (Jerry Henry, Georgia Carry Executive Director)

"Right now people are carrying on the campus. Some legally, most illegally. We think we should be able to carry our weapon anywhere we want to protect ourselves if the criminal can get there.

"HB 859 is expected to pass the House - it will then go to the Senate for more discussion. Both sides are encouraging you if you have a strong opinion - get involved and contact your state rep.

Mercer Van Schoor, WRBL, News 3. " **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **2/3 Anthem Hiring 450 job -**

ON THE JOB WATCH TONIGHT...

ANTHEM PLANS TO ADD 4-HUNDRED-50 NEW JOBS AT THE BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD IN MIDLAND BY THE END OF 20-17.

NO TIMELINE FOR HIRING HAS BEEN RELEASED.

12-HUNDRED WORKERS ARE ALREADY AT THE CUSTOMER CARE CENTER IN MUSCOGEE TECHNOLOGY PARK.

THE COLUMBUS CENTER OPERATES AS A CALL CENTER, HANDLING CLAIMS PROCESSING, ENROLLMENT, BILLING AND OTHER SERVICES. **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm Vo/Soot:45**

### **3/2 Rec Facilities Cut Back -**

"The mayor says the Aquatic Center will likely have to cut back how many hours it is open in order to lower costs.">

TOM JOHNSON IS A MEMBER AT THE BRITT DAVID CENTER FOR CULTURAL ARTS AND WORRIES THAT SOME THE ACTIVITIES THERE COULD BE CUT BACK.

"It's sort of sadly remarkable to me that a new program would come in and basically take the money from things that are working well and serving the constituents that they were set up to serve."

MAYOR TERESA TOMLINSON SAYS THE PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET HAS SHRUNK OVER THE YEARS.

"Unfortunately we're at that stage where there is no easy choice. If there were easy choices, they were made years ago. That money is long since gone and now we really are down to the 60 day reserve level, which is our minimum."

SHE SAYS THEY ARE HOPING TO AVOID CUTTING PROGRAMS COMPLETELY.

"I do think it's a possibility that there might be a reduction in hours in some programs. It may be that if there's other entities that are providing those types of programs, perhaps we partner with them."

TOMLINSON SAYS THE PARK AND REC PROGRAMS HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY.

"It provides important services for our citizens with disabilities."

"It's given me an outlet and a place to go. My wife is now on disability with neurological problems and it gives her a place to socialize and to do things that she can still do with art."

"City council has a special work session planned for March 15th in order to discuss the Parks and Recreation funding. On your side, Brennan Reh, WRBL News three." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm**

**Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/4 AMC Buys Carmike -**

THE MERGER AGREEMENT BETWEEN CARMIKE CINEMAS AND AMC THEATERS IS WORTH 1.1-BILLION DOLLARS AND WILL SAVE THE COMPANY MILLIONS.

AMC WILL ACQUIRE ALL OF CARMIKE'S OUTSTANDING SHARES WHICH ARE CURRENTLY VALUED AT 30- DOLLARS PER SHARE.

CARMIKE TWEETED OUT QUOTE,

"OUR COMBINATION WITH AMC IS A TRANSFORMATIVE MILESTONE FOR CARMIKE THAT PROVIDES A SIGNIFICANT VALUE TO CARMIKE SHARE HOLDERS." END QUOTE.

I SPOKE WITH BRIAN ANDERSON WHO'S THE PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE GREATER COLUMBUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. HE SAYS ALTHOUGH IT WAS A SMART BUSINESS MOVE, IT MAY IMPACT THE CARMIKE EMPLOYEES HERE.

"It's the right thing in the sense of creating a share holder value, but it's difficult for us when we have one of these announcements, but we're happy for the shareholders in the since that obviously this is a good business deal for them, but we think about and are concerned for any employees that won't be able to continue their employment there."

I'M HERE AT CARMIKE PLAZA WHERE CARMIKE CINEMAS IS HEADQUARTERED, BUT NOW THAT THEY'RE MERGING WITH AMC THEATERS AND THEY'RE HEADQUARTERED IN KANSAS, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR THE EMPLOYEES THAT ARE CURRENTLY WORKING HERE IN UPTOWN COLUMBUS.

"Well locally there will be some losses and headquarters will be merged to Kansas at the headquarters with AMC, but overall we are neutral in the since that we have a lot of openings in the community. We've had some good companies growing from Blue Cross Blue Shield to TSYS to SYNOVUS...so we hope that those types of jobs might just continue to hire." **11pm PKG 1:30**

### **3/22 GA Film Industry -**

"I didn't know much about film, I knew i was interested in it, but I didn't know the nitty gritty."

DOZENS OF STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF GATHERED AT LEGACY HALL IN THE RIVERCENTER FOR THE 2016 SPRING SPEAKER SERIES.

JEFFREY STEPACOFF, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GEORGIA FILM ACADEMY WAS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND HE SAYS THERE'S BIG PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES IN COLUMBUS.

" The city understands film and television the college is incredibly supportive the community is supportive of arts and economic activities in general so you think that Columbus will really benefit from them and television crew base"

THE GEORGIA FILM ACADEMY WAS CREATED TO ADDRESS THE DEMANDS FOR A TRAINED PRODUCTION WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT THE GROWING FILM INDUSTRY.

STEPAKOFF SAYS THE INDUSTRY HAD A SIX BILLION DOLLAR ECONOMIC IMPACT ON GEORGIA IN 2015.. WITH 248 PRODUCTIONS SHOT IN THE STATE.

HE ADDS THAT OVER THE NEXT THREE TO FIVE YEARS THE FILM INDUSTRY IS PROJECTED TO GENERATE 3,000-5,000 NEW JOBS IN GEORGIA.

CSU STUDEN BRIANNA MCCLAIN SAYS AFTER GRADUATION SHE PLANS TO PURSUE HER CAREER IN PRODUCTION.

"I plan on staying in georgia after graduation and getting into the film and production. I'm really excited about it and the film academy has taught me a lot."

"It's critical to put our students and our neighbors and returning vets to work events on set and at the sound stage. We want to make sure that Georgians are participating in our industry here. We want to make sure that we don't see people coming in and out of our state taking work and then leaving. We want to keep the business here." **11pm PKG 1:30**

**3/28 Lee Co Gun Permit** - "This is a pistol permit application. Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones says close to a 1,000 more of these have been filed January to March of this year as opposed to last year. The reason being, personal protection."

DAVID HYATT IS DOING SOMETHING HE HAS BEEN MEANING TO DO FOR A WHILE.

APPLYING FOR A PISTOL PERMIT.

NOT ONLY TO BE IN LINE WITH THE LAW, BUT FOR A SENSE OF EASE.

"It's like having a spare tire in your truck. You hope you never have a flat tire cause you just spent \$1,000 on four tires, but if you do, you don't want to be stranded on the side of the road."

HYATT IS ONE OF THE MANY IN LEE COUNTY DOING WHAT THEY CAN TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

ACCORDING TO THE LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, FROM JANUARY TO MARCH OF 20-15, 34-HUNDRED CONCEALED CARRT PERMITS WERE ISSUED.

FROM JANUARY TO MARCH OF THIS YEAR, CLOSE TO 44-HUNDRED HAVE BEEN ISSUED.

THAT IS A DIFFERENCE OF MORE THAN 900.

LEE COUNTY SHERIFF JAY JONES SAYS THAT INCREASE IS CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND COUNTRY.

HE SAYS THERE IS THE PERCEPTION THAT CRIME IS ON THE RISE IN THE COUNTRY.

HE ADDS THAT THE FIRST OF THE YEAR SAW AN INCREASE IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS.

AND PEOPLE WANT TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE PROTECTED.

"We are all for that. They certainly have that right and we want to do what we can to make sure that right is maintained. The only thing we feel important is that they should be familiar with that firearm trained in an extent to the use and certainly basic safety issues in how to properly handle that firearm."

AS FOR HYATT, HE BELIEVES THAT IF PEOPLE WANT TO CARRY AND FOLLOW THE PROPER STEPS TO DO SO THERE WOULD BE FEWER PROBLEMS... LIKE THE SHOOTINGS THAT HAPPENED AT THE PEACHTREE MALL IN COLUMBUS.

"My kids love to go to the mall here. I'd really hate to see something like that happen and knowing I couldn't do nothing but hide up under a table to help somebody out. You like to pretend that we're safe, but still, you watch the news or read the newspaper, you know that everyday can't be roses."

"We spoke to a firearms dealer in the area. They didn't want to go on camera, but they said they've seen a spike in people purchasing pistols as of recently. On your side in Lee County, Alex Derencz, WRBL News 3." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/29 Kia 2 millionth Car -**

"The Kia plant in West Point has had a huge economic impact on the entire region. In fact, since 2009 - they helped to create 15,000 jobs."

(Randy Jackson, Kia Chief Administrative Officer)

"Here she is folks. Let's give her a round of applause!"

WITH KIA PRESIDENT AND C-E-O H-J SHINN AT THE WHEEL AND GEORGIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER CHRIS CARR RIDING SHOTGUN - THE TWO PRESENTED THE PLANT'S TWO-MILLIONTH VEHICLE - A WHITE 2016 SORENTO S-X-L. (COMM. CHRIS CARR, GEORGIA ECONOMIC DEV.)

"It's a testament to your leadership and a testament to the opportunity that is available to you here in the state of Georgia. "

WHEN KIA DECIDED TO BUILD ITS NORTH AMERICAN PLANT IN WEST POINT - IT BECAME THE FIRST MANUFACTURING SITE IN NORTH AMERICA.

IN 2011 - K-M-M-G, OR KIA MOTORS MANUFACTURING GEORGIA, INVESTED 100 MILLION TO EXPAND THE PLANT.

TOTAL INVESTMENT IS MORE THAN ONE- POINT- ONE BILLION.

(Randy Jackson, Kia Chief Administrative Officer)

"I can tell you having been in this industry for a long time with so many others that is an accomplishment that no one can be proud of like we can."

LOCAL LEADERS FROM TROUP COUNTY, LAGRANGE, AND WEST POINT CELEBRATED PROUDLY.

THESE LEADERS HELPED TO BRING KIA TO THE VALLEY AND HELPED RESUSSICATE A STRUGGLING ECONOMY AFTER THE MILLS SHUT DOWN.

GEORGIA REPRESENTATIVES BOAST KIA AS BEING ONE OF THE LARGEST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE STATE'S HISTORY.

(Commissioner Chris Carr, Georgia Economic Development)

"I am confident this will not be the last time we gather to celebrate a KMMG success."

"This plant helps to create 40% of all KIA's sold in the United States. On Your Side in West Point, Mercer Van Schoor, WRBL News 3." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**



## **ENVIRONMENTAL/ LAND USE/ SPRAWL:**

### **1/1 Russell Co Flooding Damage -**

"We've never seen the complete washout where you can't get through the road at all."

PAT SMITH AND HER FAMILY HAVE LIVED ON THIS PROPERTY IN COTTONTON, SOUTH RUSSELL COUNTY FOR 45 YEARS AND SHE SAYS SHE'S NEVER SEEN DAMAGE LIKE THERE WAS THIS HOLIDAY.

"We aren't able to go out on one end of the road. We have to travel 4.5 miles out of our way to get to work and town so we're concerned about that end of the road to continue to wash."

SMITH LIVES ON GATEWOOD DRIVE.

THE ROAD TO AND FROM HER HOME IS A DIRT ROAD.

ON ONE SIDE - THE ROAD IS CLOSED BECAUSE THE ROAD COMPLETELY WASHED OUT.

SINCE CHRISTMAS EVE - RUSSELL COUNTY HAS SEEN SEVERAL ROADS WASH OUT. THEY'VE HAD TO CLOSE SIX ROADS MOSTLY BECAUSE OF CULVERTS UNDERNEATH DIRT ROADS - BUCKLED UNDER THE MASSIVE AMOUNT OF RAIN WE SAW BEGINNING CHRISTMAS EVE.

"According to Russell County EMA Director Bob Franklin, the county is facing more than a million dollars in damages and that could grow."

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES ARE EXPECTED TO TOUR RUSSELL COUNTY ON MONDAY TO CONFIRM THE ESTIMATED DAMAGE.

THE DAMAGE IN THIS COUNTY IS EXCEEDING ITS LOCAL RESOURCES SO THEY ARE HOPING THE RECEIVE STATE - AND POSSIBLY FEMA FUNDS - TO HELP IN THE RECOVERY.

FRANKLIN IS HOPING TO GET SOME HELP IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS TO HELP FIX THE ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGED BY THE FLOODING - BUT HE NEEDS FEEDBACK FROM RESIDENTS TO DOCUMENT THEIR DAMAGE.

PAT SMITH IS HOPING THIS HELP DOES COMES THROUGH.

"We know the county is limited in their funds and resources so we're concerned these issues won't be fixed for a long time. "

IN RUSSELL COUNTY, MERCER VAN SCHOOR, WRBL NEWS 3. 6pm PKG 1:30,11pm  
Vo/Sot:45

### **1/7 Russell Co Flooding Update -**

"That whole big bank is the concern."

COLLEGE DRIVE IN PHENIX CITY IS BLOCKED OFF BY BARRICADES BECAUSE THE BANK ALONG THE HILL IS SLIDING TOWARD THE ROAD MAKING FOR A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SITUATION - BUT WE WITNESSED SEVERAL DRIVERS IGNORING THE WARNINGS.

Bob Franklin, Russell County EMA

"What we don't want is somebody drive through that barricade and the whole side of the hill come down and potentially injure or kill someone."

BUT THEY'RE \*\*ARE\*\* DRIVING THROUGH.

THE SIGNS BLOCKING THE ROAD WERE MOVED AND WE SAW AT LEAST FOUR VEHICLES DRIVE AROUND THE BLOCKADES IN JUST 10 MINUTES.

THIS IS JUST LATEST ROUND OF THE SOME 1-POINT-6 MILLION DOLLARS IN DAMAGE FOLLOWING THE FLOODING.

CAUTION SIGNS ARE SPLATTERED THROUGHOUT THE AREA AND A TOTAL OF SIX ROADS ARE STILL CLOSED.

"While emergency workers continue to discover damage throughout the county, they have managed to open and repair two roads including this one on Gatewood Road."

THE ROAD WAS COMPLETELY WASHED OUT - SIMILAR TO THIS ROAD.

STATE EMERGENCY WORKERS TOURED THE DAMAGE ON MONDAY AND CONFIRMED THE ESTIMATES

FEMA WORKERS PLAN TO TOUR AS WELL - IF THEY CONFIRM THE DAMAGE - THEY WOULD PICK UP 75-PERCENT OF THE COSTS - EVEN THE COSTS THEY ALREADY SPENT MAKING REPAIRS.

Bob Franklin, Russell county EMA

"If we have the numbers and I think we will, the Governor should ask FEMA and the President for a declaration so we can get some Federal Assistance on all the damage we have." **6pm PKG**

**1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**1/11 Auburn Development -**

THE CITY OF AUBURN IS TRYING TO BRING A COMBINATION OF A NEW HOTEL, PARKING DECK AND GROCERY STORE TO THE DOWNTOWN AREA OFF GAY STREET.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVED A TERM SHEET THAT ALLOWS THE CITY TO WORK WITH A DEVELOPER ON A FULL CONTRACT.

THE HOTEL WOULD HAVE BETWEEN 90 AND 130 ROOMS.

THE NEW PARKING DECK WOULD HAVE 730 SPACES.

CITY OFFICIALS SAY THIS PROJECT WOULD ADD TO THE VIBRANCY OF THE DOWNTOWN AREA. **11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**1/12 Farm To Cafeteria -**

HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOLS ARE REAPING THE BENEFITS OF SERVING LOCALLY GROWN FRESH PRODUCE.

IN A FOLLOW UP TO A REPORT WE BROUGHT YOU BACK IN DECEMBER, WEST GEORGIA FARMERS CO-OP IS SOWING SEEDS BACK INTO HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOLS.

THEY PROVIDE FOODS WITH NO CHEMICALS TO EACH SCHOOL IN HARRIS COUNTY.

CURRENTLY, THE CO-OP SENDS OVER TWO TONS OF PRODUCE TO THE SCHOOLS PER MONTH.

THAT'S A 20-PERCENT INCREASE IN THE LAST MONTH.

THE MOVE TO GROW LOCAL HAS STUDENTS AND FACULTY BUZZING WITH EXCITEMENT. **6pm Vo/Sot:45**

**1/25 Pine Grove Landfill Expansion -** ALVIN ROBINSON IS DROPPING OFF CARPET HE PULLED FROM HIS HOUSE.

HE SAYS THE TIPPING FEES TO DROP OFF TRASH ARE REASONABLE AT 40 DOLLARS A TON AND WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY A BIT MORE.

"To make sure everyone has somewhere to put their trash, I'd pay a little more to get what you need done."

THERE ARE NINE LANDFILLS IN COLUMBUS - SIX ARE CLOSED.

PINEGROVE HAS TWO OF THOSE LANDFILLS STILL OPEN.

ONE OF THEM IS THE CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION LANDFILL - OR C-AND-D LANDFILL.

THE CITY COUNCIL IS CONSIDERING A MEASURE THAT WOULD EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE C-AND-D LANDFILL MORE THAN 50 YEARS BY UTILIZING THE AREA BETWEEN THE ACTIVE AND INACTIVE LANDFILLS.

Kyle McGee, Waste Disposal Division Manager

"The current C&D has roughly two years of life left. "

IT'S EXPECTED TO COST 200-THOUSAND DOLLAR FOR THE PERMIT AND DESIGN AND ROUGHLY A MILLION DOLLARS FOR CONSTRUCTION.

WASTE MANAGEMENT ALSO NEEDS HELP KEEPING UP WITH THE CLOSURE OF ITS OTHER SIX LANDFILLS.

AND ITS FLEET NEEDS REPLACING.

MCGEE SAYS THEY ARE LOOKING INTO USING METHANE - THE GAS THAT COMES FROM THE TRASH - FOR ELECTRICITY OR FUEL - TO HELP SAVE MONEY.

"The plan is to put an active gas system here at Pine Grove and use the methane for a beneficial use for possibly sell back to the grid."

MCGEE SAYS IT COULD HELP PROVIDE ELECTRICITY FOR THE RECYCLING CENTER OR THE PRISON.

"You drill horizontal wells and just pipe it to a central location like our Schautaga center is just being flared off. **6pm PKG 1:30, 11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **1/28 Waste Management Fees-**

PAT BIEGLER WITH PUBLIC WORKS PROPOSED THREE NEW FEE OPTIONS TO CITY COUNCIL.

WASTE MANAGEMENT FEES IN COLUMBUS COULD RANGE FROM 17 TO 30 DOLLARS IF HER PROPOSAL PASSES.

"I don't like to pay more fees so, I'm not a fan of it."

COLUMBUS' CURRENT TRASH FEE IS 15 DOLLARS PER MONTH... WHICH IS THE CHEAPEST FEE COMPARED TO AREAS OF SIMILAR SIZE.

THE TRASH FEE IN PHENIX CITY IS 17.40 PER MONTH

ALBANY'S FEE IS JUST OVER 30 DOLLARS.

AUGUSTA'S FEE IS ABOUT 25 DOLLARS.

MACON'S IS 20 DOLLARS PER MONTH.

AND SAVANNAH'S IS 30 DOLLARS AND 50 CENTS PER MONTH.

COLUMBUS PICKS UP AS MUCH TRASH AS PEOPLE PUT OUT... BUT THESE OTHER AREAS ONLY PICK UP ONE CAN.

THE INCREASE IN FEES WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE AND REPAIR GARBAGE TRUCKS.

BIEGLER SAYS THE MAJORITY OF THEIR GARBAGE TRUCKS ARE CRITICAL IN TERMS OF CONDITION AND AGE.

"Anticipating that kind of failure is not something we want to do. It's not fair to employees and it certainly doesn't provide the service we need and deserve."

"This truck here is 19 years old, which is almost three times its life expectancy. These wires are supposed to have a part that covers them, but the truck is so old that they don't make that part anymore."

"We should see really significant savings if we can replace some of these old trucks. We're paying far too much on maintenance and far too much on fuel. I have at least three trucks that are getting less than a mile a gallon."

COLUMBUS RESIDENT LOGAN KILGORE IS A RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATE.  
MONEY'S TIGHT FOR HIM RIGHT NOW.

"Kind of looking for a job. You're kind of tight on money and to throw almost double, or up to double, like the paying is kind of a rough thing to think about right now."

BIEGLER KNOWS THIS WILL NOT BE AN EASY SELL BUT SAYS THE SAFETY OF WORKERS IN THESE TRUCKS IS A MAJOR CONCERN. **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

## **2/2 High Speed Rail Update -**

BRENNA MAIZE COMMUTES FROM ATLANTA TO COLUMBUS TO SPEND TIME WITH HER FAMILY .

SHE KNOWS ALL TOO WELL ABOUT ATLANTA TRAFFIC AND CONGESTION.  
AND BELIEVES HIGH SPEED RAIL IS A GREAT IDEA.

"A train directly from Atlanta to Columbus and not think about traffic? As long as there is somewhere to park in Atlanta and come down here. That would be great!"

NEWMAN CITY LEADERS APPROVED THE EFFORTS AND NOW COLUMBUS IS SEEKING A SIX-MILLION DOLLAR GRANT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY FROM THE GEORGIA STATE ROAD AND TOLLWAY AUTHORITY.

COLUMBUS MAYOR TERESA TOMLINSON ENCOURAGED THIS VOTE OF SUPPORT IN HOPES IT WILL HELP COLUMBUS WIN THIS GRANT.

"The city of Newnan voted to support the application unanimously. That's excited because there's only one stop and that would be in Newnan."

THE PROPOSED THREE-BILLION DOLLAR RAIL WOULD BE PLACED 90 MILES ALONG THE INTERSTATE - FROM THE COLUMBUS AIRPORT TO ATLANTA'S AIRPORT - RUNNING UP TO 210 MILES AN HOUR - MAKING A STOP IN NEWMAN.

A TRIP TO ATLANTA FROM COLUMBUS WOULD BE ABOUT AN HOUR.

A TRIP FROM NEWMAN TO ATLANTA - 15 MINUTES.

IT'S EXPECTED TO PUT COLUMBUS' AIRPORT ON THE MAP - POSSIBLY CREATING A LOWCOST AIRLINE HUB FOR THE REGION AND POSSIBLY CREATING ATLANTA'S SIXTH RUNWAY.

Mayor Teresa Tomlinson, Columbus

"What we're talking about is connecting the economic resources of two separate communities. Making Columbus and Atlanta bedroom communities of one another without recreating the expensive sprawl. "

A FEASIBILITY STUDY CONDUCTED A FEW YEARS AGO SHOWED A HIGH SPEED RAIL WOULD BE PROFITABLE IN THE FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION.

TOMLINSON SAYS THEY EXPECT TO FIND OUT IF THE GRANT IS APPROVED.

IF IT DOES GET THE GREEN LIGHT - IT WILL ROLL OUT IN 20-30.

Mayor Teresa Tomlinson, Columbus

"We have to think to ourselves what an opportunity we missed on the US Interstate System, and whether we want to miss that opportunity again." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

## **2/9 River Road Roundabout -**

JOHN CHATWOOD IS NO STRANGER TO TRAFFIC ON RIVER ROAD.

"I just go that way to see my son in Columbus hospice. that's where I'm fixing to go now."  
HE DOESN'T MIND THE IDEA OF A ROUNDABOUT WHERE THE ROAD INTERSECTS AT BRADLEY PARK DRIVE...  
UNTIL IT COMES TO PAYING OUT OF HIS AND OTHER TAXPAYER'S POCKETS.

"if the state's paying for it, I think that will be fine, but if Columbus has to pay for it, I believe that wastes Columbus' money because there's a lot more roads here in Columbus that need to be repaired."

COLUMBUS' DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DONNA NEWMAN TOLD ME THE PROJECT IS ESTIMATED TO COST AROUND TWO-MILLION DOLLARS.. SHE SAYS THE STATE'S LOCAL MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT GRANT SHOULD PAY ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THAT--BUT THE REST IS LEFT TO THE CITY.

WE'RE TOLD THE PLANS SHOULD BE FINALIZED SOON. BUT THE DESIGN IS MORE COMPLEX THAN OTHERS AROUND TOWN-- IT WILL HAVE FIVE APPROACHES INSTEAD OF THE TRADITIONAL FOUR. ONCE COMPLETE, THIS ROUNDABOUT WILL BE ONE OF AT LEAST FOUR IN THE CITY.

IT'S A TREND THAT'S FORCING PEOPLE IN THE FOUNTAIN CITY TO FIND WAYS TO ADAPT.

"it would take them a while but they would have to get used to it."

ON YOUR SIDE IN COLUMBUS...SAVANNAH DAILY. WRBL NEWS 3. 11pm PKG 1:30

### **2/11 City Village Master Plan -**

"I think that would be super super fun."

COLUMBUS STATE STUDENT BIANCA ALOMAR LOVES LIVING IN THE DORMS UPTOWN.

THIS THEATER MAJOR AND C-S-U JUNIOR IS THRILLED ABOUT THE PROPOSED REVITALIZATION OF CITY VILLAGE.

IF IT'S ANYTHING LIKE UPTOWN COLUMBUS - SHE WANTS TO BE A PART OF THE PLAN.

"It's a great idea to get younger folks out there and to be a part of something all together." THE CITY VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD REDEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION GROUP IS HOPING TO EXTEND THE SUCCESS OF UPTOWN COLUMBUS JUST A LITTLE FARTHER NORTH.... AND CREATE THIS 30 SQUARE BLOCKS INTO A RESIDENT ARTIST AND TECHNOLOGY INCUBATOR COMMUNITY.

"Make it a funkier and quirky neighborhood."

THIS IS A RENDERING OF WHAT CITY VILLAGE WOULD LOOK LIKE.

NOW ARMED WITH THE MASTER PLAN - THEY'RE LOOKING FOR DEVELOPERS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES AND PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE A PART OF THIS PROJECT.

THE GOALS ARE TO ATTRACT A YOUNG, TALENTED WORKFORCE WHILE KEEPING THE FOLKS WHO CURRENTLY LIVE THERE - TARGET ECONOMIC GROWTH - AND CREATE AN ENTERPRISING CULTURE FOR A VIBRANT AND CONNECTED NEIGHBORHOOD -

IN OTHER WORDS CREATING THAT FUNKY AND QUIRKY COMMUNITY.

"Young professionals can move into the neighborhood and get a discounted rent space to live and work."

THE CITY PROVIDED 225-THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE MASTER PLAN - BUT THEY DON'T EXPECT THE CITY TO HELP THEM ANY MORE FINANCIALLY.

THEY HOPE TO GET THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL TO DESIGNATE CITY VILLAGE AS A TAX ALLOCATION DISTRICT IN THE NEXT MONTH. 6pm PKG 1:30, 11pm Vo/Sot:45

### **2/26 Structurally Deficient Bridge -**

U-S 2-80 OVER THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER... BUENA VISTA ROAD OVER BULL CREEK... AND MACON ROAD OVER FLATROCK CREEK ARE LABELED AS THE BUSIEST STRUCTURALLY DEFECIENT BRIDGES IN COLUMBUS.

CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEER DOC DORSEY SAYS TRUCKS ARE HEAVIER NOW THAN WHEN THEY WERE DESIGNED YEARS AGO.

"When the bridges were designed in the 1950s or 1960s, they were only designed with a 50 year life span and that 50 years has come and gone. When the bridges were designed they did not anticipate the amount of traffic and number of vehicles that would be crossing the bridge everyday."

GEORGIA D-O-T SPOKESPERSON NATALIE DALE SAYS THE BRIDGE OVER FLATROCK CREEK IS LABELED AS STRUCTUALLY DEFICIENT BECAUSE OF WEAR AND TEAR ON A CULVERT.

"This specific bridge is programmed to be replaced in the next five years."

THE U-S 280 BRIDGE HAS WEAR AND TEAR IN THE COLUMNS OF THE BRIDGE.

"We're looking forward for efficient ways to either repair or replace the bridge because it's a border bridge and so it is a bridge for both Alabama and Georgia we do have to coordinate with the State of Alabama.">

THE BUENA VISTA BRIDGE IS A COUNTY BRIDGE.

"The bridge on Buena Vista is likely going to be replaced as part of our Spider Web project that we're beginning our design on and construction should be happening within the next few years."

DORSEY SAYS THAT OF THE THREE BRIDGES ON THIS LIST... THE BRIDGE ON U-S 2-80 IS THE BUSIEST. **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/18 City Village Master Plan -**

THIS PROJECT WILL DIRECTLY AFFECT HAL AVERETTE - WHO OWNS PROPERTY ON SECOND AVENUE.

"It might take 50 years. Hopefully it won't take 50 years, but even it takes 10 or 15 or 20, it'll be amazing. It will be wonderful the community especially for people coming down Second Avenue from out of town."

AN ARCHITECTURE FIRM RECENTLY UNVEILED THESE PLANS FOR THE 200 ACRES.

PROJECT CO-CHAIR MARQUETTE MCKNIGHT SAYS ONE OF MOST EXCITING PARTS OF THE PLAN IS THAT IT PROVIDES MORE PLACES TO LIVE.

"I can see it being a very cool, hip, urban neighborhood. It's not going to be for everybody, but for those that like to live and work and play in the same five mile vicinity, it's going to be perfect."

"This City Mill, which was around during the late 1800's is a major part of the City Village project."

"There are plans for what that could be. So far, it's retail space, office space, outdoor. It's got unrivaled views of the river."

HISTORIC COLUMBUS IS PART OWNER OF THE CITY MILLS.

JUSTIN KRIEG (CREE-G) WITH HISTORIC COLUMBUS IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEE HOW THESE CITY MILLS WILL ADD TO THE OVERALL PROJECT.

"We hope this kicks it off. We hope this is a way to encourage and engage the community and seeing the potential that this neighborhood has and finding more ways to invest in it."

AVERETTE IS EXCITED TO SEE WHAT THIS PROJECT HAS TO OFFER FOR SECOND AVENUE AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS.

"Seeing what's happened in the past with downtown Columbus and knowing that it can happen and it's got a lot of momentum. A lot of good people behind it and it's going to happen. It might take a little while, but it's going to happen."

THIS CITY VILLAGE MASTER PLAN IS A 20 YEAR PLAN.

ON YOUR SIDE... IN COLUMBUS... BRENNAN REH... WRBL NEWS THREE. **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/21 Golden Park Property -**

Mercer Van Schoor

"The estimated value of Golden Park is \$3.7 million. This property along with several others are on deck to help the city raise money."

Mayor Teresa Tomlinson, Columbus

"It is riverfront property. It could be valuable property for development."

THE PROPERTY IS GOLDEN PARK - FORMER HOME TO THE COLUMBUS CATFISH - AND THE USED FOR SOFTBALL EVENTS IN THE 19-96 SUMMER OLYMPICS.

BUT IN 2008 THE CATFISH LEFT COLUMBUS.

WHILE THERE ARE STILL SPECIAL EVENTS ON THE PROPERTY - MAYOR TOMLINSON SAYS THE CITY HAS AN ANNUAL NET LOSS OF 83-THOUSAND DOLLARS.

THAT'S WHY SHE'S REQUESTING COUNCIL TO DECLARE this 3-point-7 million DOLLAR PROPERTY SURPLUS AND PUT IT UP FOR BID.

Mayor Teresa Tomlinson

"I think we look at our maintenance costs. What it costs us to keep these properties up and running and the grass cut. Keep the lights on so to speak."

PART OF THE FIVE-AND-A-HALF ACRE GOLDEN PARK PROPERTY INCLUDES THE COLUMBUS LIONS' FOOTBALL TEAM OFFICE.

HEAD COACH JASON GIBSON SUPPORTS THE MAYOR'S PLANS FOR THE FUTURE BUT HE DOES HAVE CONCERNS.

Coach Jason Gibson, Columbus Lions

"Being down here every day and working down here and seeing the impact - my concern would be for all the baseball teams that come down here. It's not just sitting empty."

IN ADDITION TO GOLDEN PARK - THE CITY IS ALSO CONSIDERING PUTTING THE FORMER FIRE DEPARTMENT PROPERTY OFF OF TALBOTTON (TALBUTON) ROAD AND POSSIBLY A FEW OTHER PROPERTIES UP FOR BIDS... TO MAKE THE CITY MORE MONEY IN A FISCALLY TIGHT YEAR.

Tomlinsons

"Certainly we're always looking for budget considerations. This year will be tough. We have to run the city with higher costs and more expenditures with less revenue."

Mercer Van Schoor

"There have been proposals to bring back baseball to this stadium but that would mean millions in investment that the city just doesn't have. On Your Side in Columbus, Mercer Van Schoor, WRBL News 3." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/22 Auburn Rezoning Ordinance -**

"phil, Teresa, tonight just through these doors, the Auburn City Council will vote on the culmination of implementing the downtown master plan. I spoke with some today who say they know it will have a great impact on the city and others who hope it will have a great impact on the city."

IN DOWNTOWN AUBURN, THERE ARE THREE STUDENT HOUSING PROJECTS UNDERWAY OR ABOUT TO START.

ONE ON GLENN AND WRIGHT STREET.

ONE AT THE CHEVRON RIGHT NEXT TO IT AT GLENN AND COLLEGE STREET.

AND ONE AT THE OLD CHECKERS ON NORTH GAY STREET.

HAD THESE PROJECTS NOT BEEN UNDERWAY, THEY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED IF CITY COUNCIL VOTES ON ZONING MAP AMENDMENTS.

"If people are out that way looking at private dormitory development downtown, they're gonna have to look elsewhere after tonight, if in fact the regulations are approved tonight."

ALONG WITH ZONING ORDINANCE, WHICH REGULATES THINGS SUCH AS HEIGHT OF BUILDINGS.

TUESDAY, COUNCIL WILL VOTE ON ELIMINATING THE UNIVERSITY SERVICE DISTRICT, AND CREATING THREE NEW URBAN ZONING DISTRICTS.

ONE WEST, SOUTH AND EAST OF DOWNTOWN.

THE COUNCIL WILL ALSO VOTE ON ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT, WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE DORMS IN DOWNTOWN AUBURN.

INSTEAD SHIFTING THEM TO THE NEW WEST DISTRICT AND SOME IN THE EAST.

FORREST COTTEN IS THE PLANNING DIRECTOR FOR THE CITY.

HE SAYS THESE ORDINANCES RECOGNIZE THE UNIQUE QUALITIES OF EACH PART OF DOWNTOWN.

"As a result of that, I think we're gonna provide a much greater level of predictability for future development. For people coming into town and wanting to develop, they'll know much more precisely where they should locate and for people who currently live in those areas, they'll know much more precisely what to expect in terms of future development."

RAY HUFF IS A MEMBER OF KEEP AUBURN LOVELY.

A GROUP DEDICATED TO SEEING POSITIVE AND CONTROLLED GROWTH IN THE CITY,

AS WELL AS KEEPING AUBURN'S SMALL TOWN CHARM.

HE HOPES THE MASTER PLAN HAS A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE CITY.

"As long as Auburn can retain its charm and its small town feel, I think it will, but if it loses that, I don't think Auburn will be the same place everybody has known to grow and love throughout the years."

"If unanimous consent is denied tonight, the items will appear back on the agenda in two weeks where a majority vote will lead to their passing. On your side in Auburn, Alex Derencz, Wrbl News 3." **6pm PKG 1:30, 11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/24 Stewart Co Nuclear Plant -**

THE PROPERTY GEORGIA POWER IS CONSIDERING FOR A NEW NUCLEAR PLANT LIES JUST OUTSIDE OF LUMPKIN.

CITY MANAGER RANDY BUTTS WORRIES ABOUT SAFETY ISSUES THE PLANT MIGHT BRING.

"If you have a nuclear plant and we have another war, a nuclear plant is a target. Just like Fort Benning is a target."

IN A STATEMENT TO NEWS THREE... COLUMBUS MAYOR TERESA TOMLINSON STATES SHE IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT ON FORT BENNING.

"That is an Armor training facility and I am unsure what the Department of Defense thinks about having a nuclear or natural gas facility close to it."

GEORGIA POWER SPOKESPERSON JACOB HAWKINS SAYS THIS PLAN FOR A NUCLEAR PLANT IS PART OF LONG TERM PLANNING PROCESS TO ENSURE THEY HAVE RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY FOR CUSTOMERS.

"We're doing some very preliminary work including geology and hydrology simply to preserve the option in the future, years down the road, to build a new nuclear plant if we decide to move in that direction."

HE SAYS THE PLANT WOULD BRING CONSTRUCTION JOBS AND OTHER POSITIONS TO OUR AREA ONCE THE PLANT IS UP AND RUNNING.

"It's a tax revenue source. It brings a lot of jobs, but again we are in the very preliminary stages just looking at this property and figuring out what may be possible there."

"We don't have a large employee base in Lumpkin, but you could start with the high school grade students and start training them for that purpose."



IF GEORGIA POWER DOES DECIDE TO PUT A NUCLEAR PLANT IN STEWART COUNTY, IT WOULD NOT BE UP AND RUNNING FOR AT LEAST 20 TO 30 YEARS. **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

## **EDUCATION:**

### **1/7 GA School Superintendent In Troup -**

GEORGIA SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT STOPPED BY ROSEMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO RECOGNIZE THEM FOR ONE OF THE HIGHEST AWARDS IN THE COUNTRY. WOODS SAID ROSEMONT STANDS OUT BECAUSE IT RECOGNIZES THE TOTAL CHILD.

"Just entering the school you can see that the teachers are excited about learning, excited about their children. It is something as I've shared that the attempt is really to focus on the total child."

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL NATALIE GIVINS SAYS THEIR FITNESS CLUB IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE "TOTAL CHILD" CONCEPT.

"Our children we want them to be great academically and be well prepared for the 21st century, but we also want them to have the skill, the lifestyle to be able to know how to look after themselves and to be healthy."

"Superintendent Woods presented Mrs. Givins and Rosemont Elementary with this certificate."

"It's just a way for us to remember that what we're doing is effective and that we need to be inspired to continue to look for ways to be effective. You never want to sit back and say well we've done enough."

WOODS' FAVORITE PART ABOUT HIS VISIT IS SEEING THE PASSION TEACHERS HAVE FOR THEIR STUDENTS.

AND HOW THE STUDENTS RESPOND.

"These young people are just excellent examples and models for anyone in our state so it's wonderful to see them and see them excited about learning."

AN EXCITEMENT FOR LEARNING THAT HE HOPES IS A MODEL FOR SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE. **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **1/13 Golden Apple Griffin -**

NOW TURNING THE SPOTLIGHT TO AN OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR HERE IN MUSCOGEE COUNTY - IN THIS WEEK'S M-E-A FEDERAL CREDIT UNION GOLDEN APPLE AWARD.

J.D. DAVIS THIRD GRADE TEACHER CHRISTIE GRIFFIN ACCEPTED THE HONOR FROM NEWS 3'S CARLOS WILLIAMS.

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD AUDREY UPSHAW NOMINATED MS. GRIFFIN FOR HER DEDICATION TO HER STUDENTS.

SHE SAYS GRIFFIN, WHO HAS TAUGHT ALL OF HER 25-YEARS AT J.D. DAVIS, HELPS PARENTS WITH STRATEGIES TO HELP THEIR KIDS AT HOME AS WELL.

GRIFFIN TOLD US THAT SHE WAS SURPRISED BUT THRILLED TO RECEIVE THE HONOR. **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

#### **1/14 Opportunity School District -**

"Deal is pushing for Opportunity School Districts, which will directly affect Muscogee County schools. This would allow the state to temporarily take over failing schools."

MUSCOGEE COUNTY RESIDENTS HAVE THE CHANCE TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, LOCAL SUPERINTENDENT, AND LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS LIKE PAT HUGLEY GREEN.

HUGLEY GREEN SAYS THAT WILL ALL CHANGE IF THE STATE TAKES OVER STRUGGLING SCHOOLS.

"You lose your local voice. That's what you need to understand. Your tax dollars will no longer serve public education as we know it today."

GOVERNOR NATHAN DEAL SAYS LOUISIANA AND TENNESSEE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL WITH SIMILAR INITIATIVES.

HUGLEY GREEN HAS FAMILY IN A LOUISIANA SCHOOL THAT WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE STATE.

"The Opportunity School District came in. They removed all the personnel and the children were upset. The parents were upset and they were calling on their local School Board and the local School Board could not intervene or assist in that."

DEAL ALSO ANNOUNCED A THREE PERCENT INCREASE FOR STATE-LEVEL EMPLOYEES, WHICH INCLUDES TEACHERS.

A CHANGE WHICH MAKES GUIDANCE DIRECTOR HEATHER OSBORN OPTIMISTIC.

"What that says to me is that maybe there is a shift more on the importance of education and putting more support back into the system for Georgia."

HUGLEY GREEN THINKS AN INCREASE IN TEACHER PAY WILL BUILD MORALE.

BUT... SAYS EDUCATION REFORM IN GEORGIA HAS A LONG WAY TO GO.

"There's a lot of discussion that needs to be had with education reform and I think we can do that without mending the constitution to allow the for-profit organizations to come in and take over schools."

"The state Legislature passed Deal's proposal for an Opportunity School District last year. The public will have the chance to vote on this issue this November. On your side, Brennan Reh, WRBL News Three." **6pm PKG 1:30, 11pm Vo/Sot:45**

#### **1/15 CSU Goal Program -**

SHAWNA JOHNSON IS WANTS TO BE A DAY CARE TEACHER. HER LIFE-LONG DREAM IS TO GO TO COLLEGE.

THAT WAS HARD FOR SHAWNA TO DO - UNTIL LAST YEAR.

"It means I'll be one step closer to fulfilling what I really want to do in life."

SHAWNA'S COLLEGE IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GOALS PROGRAM. IT'S A TWO YEAR CERTIFICATION THAT ALLOWS STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK TOWARD ACHIEVING THEIR GOALS OF FINDING AND SECURING THEIR DREAMS... A JOB.

GREG BLALOCK WORKS VERY CLOSELY WITH THE STUDENTS.

AND SAYS PART OF ITS SUCCESS IS MAKING THE STUDENTS FEEL INCLUDED.

"They pay for classes and sit in in the same classes that any other student would take here at the university so it's an inclusive program. It's not a separate program."

TONI JOHNSON MENTORS THE STUDENTS IN THE GOALS PROGRAM.

SHE SAYS THE PROGRAM IS NOT ONLY GOOD THE STUDENTS... BUT OTHERS AS WELL.

LIKE THOSE STUDYING TO BE TEACHERS.

"This provides the opportunity for our teacher candidates to have hands on experience just socializing and getting to know a diverse population of individuals."

INDIVIDUALS WITH A SOCIAL LIFE WHICH IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE ACADEMICS.

ALLOWING STUDENTS LIKE SHAWNA TO ENJOY THE FULL COLLEGE EXPERIENCE.

AND HER FAVORITE PART ABOUT BEING IN COLLEGE...

"Being here and trying my best to be what I want be."

WHICH MEANS STRIVING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE CLASSROOM... NOT ONLY AS A STUDENT... BUT SOMEDAY AS A TEACHER. **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**1/20 Golden Apple Hudson -** TIME NOW TO SALUTE ANOTHER AREA TEACHER WITH OUR M-E-A GOLDEN APPLE AWARD.

THIS WEEK, NEWS 3'S CARLOS WILLIAMS HEADED OUT TO LAKEWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL IN PHENIX CITY TO HONOR KINDERGARTEN TEACHER LIZ HUDSON.

MS. HUDSON WAS NOMINATED BY PATRICIA GRIFFIN WHO CALLED THE 7-YEAR TEACHING VETERAN THE BEST TEACHER SHE'S EVER MET.

GRIFFIN SAYS HUDSON'S PATIENCE IS GOLDEN AND HER PASSION FOR TEACHING SHINES BRIGHTLY.

SHE ADDS THAT MS. HUDSON IS AN EXTREMELY HARD WORKER WHO POURS BOTH TIME AND LOVE INTO HER YOUNG STUDENTS. **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**1/27 Golden Apple Reed -**

THIS WEEK'S M-E-A GOLDEN APPLE AWARD WINNER COMES TO US FROM HANNAN MAGNET ACADEMY.

SECOND GRADE TEACHER CHRIS REED ACCEPTED THE HONOR FROM NEWS 3'S CARLOS WILLIAMS.

REED WAS NOMINATED BY GRANDPARENT ANGELA TREADWELL WHO DESCRIBES THE TEACHER AS ONE WHO ALWAYS ENCOURAGES HIS STUDENTS TO DO THEIR BEST.

TREADWELL SAYS REED TAKES TIME TO MAKE PHONE CALLS TO UPDATE PARENTS ON THEIR CHILD'S PROGRESS AND SHE SAYS BOTH PARENTS AND STUDENTS THINK HE IS AN AWESOME TEACHER.

REED SAYS HE IS THE ONE WHO IS BLESSED. **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**2/3 Golden Apple Womack -**

EARLIER TODAY, OUR CAMERAS HEADED TO SMITHS STATION JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL TO PRESENT THE M-E-A GOLDEN APPLE AWARD.

NEWS 3'S CARLOS WILLIAMS PRESENTED THE HONOR TO 8TH GRADE TEACHER LISA WOMACK.

MS. WOMACK WAS NOMINATED BY PARENT AMANDA MONAGHAN -- WHO TOLD US THAT MS. WOMACK GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR

HER STUDENTS AND IS ALWAYS THERE TO ENCOURAGE THEM.

THE AUBURN UNIVERSITY GRAD IS IN HER 6TH YEAR AT SMITHS STATION JUNIOR HIGH.

SHE SAYS THE GOLDEN APPLE AWARD REALLY MADE HER DAY. **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **2/5 Hope Stem LG College -**

"LaGrange College just announced its \$21 million project building and renovating its science department. With this recent push for more Science and Technology education - this private college is hoping to continue to increase its student population."

"They've had to open new dorms and they're adding a lot of new things here."

LAGRANGE COLLEGE SENIOR AND BIOLOGY MAJOR KEITH SIMMS IS EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AT LAGRANGE COLLEGE.

THIS COLUMBUS NATIVE IS ALSO A HOPE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT AND IS EXCITED ABOUT THE CHANGES TO HOPE THAT ENCOURAGE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ALSO THE PLANS TO MASSIVELY EXPAND THE SCIENCE PROGRAM AT LAGRANGE COLLEGE.

"I see it being constructed everyday. I'm excited about it. I mean this is my department."

LAGRANGE COLLEGE LEADERS ANNOUNCED A 21-MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT - THAT INCLUDES BUILDING THIS 43-THOUSAND SQUARE FOOT STATE OF THE ART LAB FACILITY AND RENOVATING THE CURRENT 27-THOUSAND SQUARE FOOT SCIENCE BUILDING.

"It will triple the amount of space for amount of science education. We are growing in enrollment and this is a way to meet the needs of the growth."

SINCE 2008 - THIS COLLEGE HAS SEEN A 30-PERCENT INCREASE IN ITS STUDENT POPULATION.

ACCORDING TO MCALEXANDER - HE HOPES TO SEE AN ADDITIONAL INCREASE IN 30-PERCENT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

THE NEW FACILITY WILL HOUSE STATE-OF-THE-ART SPACES FOR IN BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND IMMUNOLOGY -

AND MCALEXANDER BELIEVES THIS PROJECT WILL HELP PUT LAGRANGE COLLEGE IN A GREAT POSITION FOR STEM EDUCATION.

"We know that in today's world all the STEM fields, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics are core to our country's goals and our state's goals and certainly to the city's goals and we want to be a contributor to that."

"This \$21 million project at LaGrange College should be completed by January 2017. On Your Side, in LaGrange, Mercer Van Schoor, WRBL, News 3." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **2/10 Golden Apple Wheelis -**

TIME NOW TO SALUTE ANOTHER OF THE AREA'S TOP TEACHERS.

THIS WEEK, NEWS 3'S CARLOS WILLIAMS HEADED OUT TO PHENIX CITY'S SHERWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO PRESENT TEACHER MELISSA WHEELIS WITH THE M-E-A GOLDEN APPLE AWARD.

MS. WHEELIS, A THREE YEAR TEACHING VETERAN, WAS NOMINATED BY PARENT RITA JONES WHO SAYS MS. WHEELIS GOES THE EXTRA MILE TO INSURE HER STUDENTS' PROGRESS.

WHEELIS, A TROY STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE, SAYS SHE IS FLATTERED TO RECEIVE THE AWARD AND SHE SAYS SHE THOROUGHLY ENJOYS HER JOB. **6pm**

**Vo/Sot:45,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**2/12 Auburn HS Veteran Program -**

STUDENTS WILL SOON SIT DOWN WITH VETERANS TO HEAR THEIR STORIES.  
"It was really awesome to hear what they had done in their lives and also throughout the war."  
THE STUDENTS WILL INTERVIEW OUR LOCAL VETERANS AND CONTRIBUTE THE INTERVIEWS TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

"Hopefully through this project we can show our gratitude and appreciation for the bravery and heroic actions that they contributed to the war effort."

"The interviews with veterans will take place at Auburn High School in March over the course of two days."

"We want to know about the veterans life as a whole. Questions range from what was life like in training to what was the environment like in which you served. Such questions as how have you stayed involved with veterans affairs following?"

BENTLEY SIMS PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT LAST YEAR.

AND NOW HAS A NEW APPRECIATION FOR VETERANS AND WHAT THEY WENT THROUGH.

"I got to hear a bunch of different stories from people who were in combat and one of my guys was in charge of flying the planes and jets over Vietnam so it was really interesting to hear."

THE PROJECT IS IN ITS THIRD YEAR AT AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL.

"We've added this year a dimension in which we're trying to collect photos of the fallen heroes from Georgia and Alabama to then contribute them the Vietnam Memorial fund's Wall of Faces in hopes that their faces, as well as their names, will never be forgotten."

THE STORIES FROM AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL WILL BE PART OF A NATIONAL PROJECT CALLED THE VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT.

ON YOUR SIDE IN AUBURN...BRENNAN REH, W-R-B-L NEWS THREE. **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**2/17 Golden Apple Cooper -**

NOW TIME FOR THIS WEEK'S M-E-A GOLDEN APPLE AWARD WINNER -- WHO IS DESCRIBED AS "SIMPLY AMAZING."

MEET EAGLE RIDGE ACADEMY KINDERGARTEN TEACHER TELISKA COOPER..

WHO ACCEPTED THE PRESTIGIOUS HONOR THIS WEEK FROM NEWS 3'S CARLOS WILLIAMS.

MS. COOPER, A PROUD GRADUATE OF FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY, WAS NOMINATED BY GRAND PARENT DEBI BEYER WHO ALSO VOLUNTEERS IN MS. COOPER'S CLASSROOM.

BEYER SAYS THE TEACHER WORKS TIRELESSLY BEYOND NORMAL SCHOOL HOURS AND KEEPS HER CHILDREN ENGAGED EVERY SECOND OF THE DAY.

THE 11-YEAR TEACHING VETERAN SAYS SHE IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE PARENTS AND GRAND PARENTS LIKE MS. BEYER HELPING OUT. **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**2/24 Golden Apple Bullard -**

NOW TIME FOR THIS WEEK'S M-E-A GOLDEN APPLE AWARD WINNER -- WHO GOT A DOUBLE TREAT THIS WEEK.

NOT ONLY DID RIVER ROAD ELEMENTARY SECOND GRADE TEACHER -JOHN BULLARD- RECEIVE THE AWARD FROM NEWS 3'S CARLOS WILLIAMS --

BUT HE ALSO GOT A SURPRISE

VISIT FROM HIS DAUGHTERS --  
SIERRA AND CHLOE --  
WHO SHOWED UP TO CONGRATULATE HIM.

THE 15-YEAR TEACHING VETERAN WAS  
NOMINATED BY MARIA RODRIGUEZ WHO  
PRAISED BULLARD FOR BEING A POSITIVE  
ROLE MODEL.

BULLARD WORKS WITH THE SCHOOL'S SCIENCE OLYMPICS  
AND ALSO HELPS COACH THE SOCCER TEAM.

BULLARD SAID IT WAS A PRIVILEGE TO WIN THE HONOR. **6pm VO/Sot:45,11pm  
Vo/Sot:45**

### **2/29 PC Chrome Books -**

This is a great way to prepare our students for the 21st century."  
GABRIELLA DUBOSE RUNS THE MEDIA CENTER AT CENTRAL FRESHMAN ACADEMY.

SHE INSTRUCTS TEACHERS ON HOW TO INTRODUCE  
CHROMEBOOKS TO THE CLASSROOM.

"A lot of the time, students don't always like the paper and pencil, the old way of doing things."  
BUT CHANGE IS SWEEPING ACROSS THE PHENIX CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

A NEARLY HALF-A-MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT WILL PROVIDE  
LAPTOPS FOR 22-HUNDRED STUDENTS.

OF COURSE WITH CHANGE, THERE CAN BE SOME DISCOMFORT.  
I thought it was going to be really difficult to keep them on task."

VALERIE BORDERS TEACHES ENGLISH.

AND SAYS THE CHROMEBOOKS OFFER HER STUDENTS FLEXIBILITY  
IN THE CLASSROOM.

"And it helps too that they can collaborate with one another. And they keep the volume down and  
they can work at their own pace."

"Along with suring up challenges students may face in the classroom, these chromebooks also  
have a feature so if they're dropped, the student and the chromebook are A-OK."

TAMARA SANDERS WILL TRAIN DOZENS OF TEACHERS  
TO USE THE CHROMEBOOKS.

SHE SAYS DESPITE THE NEW TECHNOLOGY, THE DISCIPLINE  
REMAINS THE SAME.

"If there were punishments given for messing up a textbook, writing in the textbook, then those  
same types of punishments will be given to those who do something to the device."

SANDERS BELIEVES THE LAPTOPS WILL GET STUDENTS MORE ENGAGED IN THE  
LEARNING PROCESS.

AND FOR VALERIE BORDERS, THAT'S A GOOD THING.

"I think they'll appreciate having it at their fingertips. But also the faith I have in it is that their  
textbooks will be on it too, so they can't say I forgot my book at home." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm  
Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/2 Golden Apple Carlsen -**

NOW TIME FOR THIS WEEK'S  
M-E-A GOLDEN APPLE AWARD --  
WHICH WILL BRING MUSIC TO YOUR EARS.

THAT'S BECAUSE THIS WEEK'S HONOREE IS HARRIS COUNTY  
BAND DIRECTOR MIRANDA CARLSEN WHO ACCEPTED THE HONOR  
FROM NEWS 3'S CARLOS WILLIAMS.

MS. CARLSEN WAS NOMINATED BY STUDENT BRITTANY MERSFELDER  
WHO SAYS HER TEACHER HAS HELPED HER AND OTHER STUDENTS WITH  
THEIR MUSICAL STRUGGLES AND HAS HELPED THEM TO BECOME  
OUTSTANDING MUSICIANS.

SHE IS ALSO HELPING SEVERAL

STUDENTS GET INTO COLLEGES..  
ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO PLAN  
TO MAJOR IN MUSIC.

CARLSEN SAYS SHE ENJOYS  
WORKING WITH THE YOUNGSTERS..  
AND IS PROUD TO RECEIVE THE HONOR. **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/4 Redesigned SAT -**

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR JUSTICE ARMSTRONG IS TAKING THE S-A-T ON SATURDAY.  
"Nervous, but excited."

ARMSTRONG TOOK A CLASS AT SCHOOL TO PREPARE FOR THE S-A-T.  
HE PRACTICED QUESTIONS FROM BOTH THE OLD AND NEW TEST.

"We did have a few sort of pre-cal, calculus problems on the new one. It's really just geared more  
towards the curriculum we are learning in school today."

ON THE NEW TEST... STUDENTS WON'T LOSE POINTS FOR GUESSING ON  
QUESTIONS.

"There's no guessing penalty. So definitely guess."

NOREEN RODRIGUEZ - WHO TEACHES ARMSTRONG S-A-T MATH PREP - SAYS THE  
NO GUESSING PENALTY CHANGES THE STRATEGY.

"On the old SAT, if you don't desire an 800, if that's not your goal, then you only answer a certain  
amount of questions that will get your goal whereas now, if you leave a question blank it's scored  
differently."

ANOTHER CHANGE TO THE TEST IS THE MATH SECTION.

IT IS NOW SPLIT UP INTO TWO SECTIONS - A CALCULATOR AND NON-CALCULATOR  
PART.

"I've seen the trend moving towards that, too, like the AP Calculus exam has a calculator and non  
calculator section."

SHE SAYS THERE IS LESS GEOMETRY AND MORE ALGEBRA ON THE NEW TEST.

RODRIGUEZ WAS HESITANT ABOUT THE RE-DESIGNED TEST BEFORE SHE SAW  
QUESTIONS FROM THE NEW FORMAT.

"It sounded a little scary. I thought it was going to be harder, but I like it now that I've seen.  
We've practiced on the new SAT and I feel that it's more aligned with what we teach in school so,  
I feel like our students are going to have a much better success rate on it."

ANOTHER BIG CHANGE IS THE OPTIONAL ESSAY - WHICH STUDENTS WILL HAVE AN  
EXTRA 50 MINUTES TO COMPLETE.

ARMSTRONG SAYS HE'LL GO FOR THE ESSAY. **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/7 Board Meeting -**

THE MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL  
BOARD HELD A WORK SESSION  
THIS AFTERNOON.

ONE OF THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA  
WAS THE "REACH" PROGRAM.

REACH IS AN ACRONYM FOR:  
REALIZING EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT  
CAN HAPPEN.

REACH IS A NEEDS-BASED MENTORSHIP  
AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM DESIGNED TO  
ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO PURSE  
A COLLEGE EDUCATION..

AND COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY  
IS ON BOARD TO HELP. **11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/9 Golden Apple Hart -**

NOW TIME FOR THIS WEEK'S

M-E-A GOLDEN APPLE RECIPIENT...  
WHO COMES TO US FROM REESE ROAD  
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY.

SHE IS THIRD GRADE TEACHER MELANIE HART  
WHO WAS PRESENTED WITH THE HONOR BY  
NEWS 3'S CARLOS WILLIAMS.

MS. HART WAS NOMINATED BY PARENT TYNIKIA  
KILLINGS WHO TOLD US THE TEACHER IS ALWAYS  
AVAILABLE ANY TIME OF NIGHT.

AND SHE SAYS MS. HART HAS  
A WELCOMING SMILE AND MAKES  
LEARNING FUN FOR HER STUDENTS.

MS. HART TOLD US THAT IT WAS A HUMBLING  
EXPERIENCE TO RECEIVE THE AWARD. **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/10 Auburn Super Citizen -**

P-E TEACHER BARDI HODGES WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE WHEN HER STUDENTS  
CALLED HER A HERO.

"They kept it a secret from me so, I was so honored. I've been in the school system 21 years and  
this is just such an honor."

THIRD GRADER FORD MARTIN RECOGNIZED HODGES ON STAGE.

"PE would never be good without her and that she helps us with so many things and that she  
makes our schools one of the best schools I've been to."

"Heroes are presented with this replica of the Statue of Liberty. The inside heart is made with  
pieces from the original statue of liberty."

THE LIBERTY LEARNING FOUNDATION ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO NOMINATE  
MEMBERS OF THEIR COMMUNITY WHO TEACH CITIZENSHIP, CHARACTER AND CAREER  
DEVELOPMENT.

"We're trying to teach citizenship and we're trying to get children to have pride in themselves  
through character and pride ultimately in the community. They can look around their community  
and see that there are people there beyond super heroes on television."

HODGES - WHO IS ONE THOSE COMMUNITY HEROES/

SHE DOES EVERYTHING FROM TEACHING P-E, TO COOKING POPCORN AND  
HELPING IN THE LUNCH LINE.

AND SHE WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.

"To loving them and just being there with them everyday. I love to come to work. I've missed  
very few days and it's just great. It's great. My job is great."

ON YOUR SIDE IN AUBURN... BRENNAN REH W-R-B-L NEWS THREE. **6pm PKG  
1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/11 Steamul8 Robotics -**

"High school students from across Georgia made these robots that are competing behind me.  
Columbus has one team in the competition."

COLUMBUS HIGH STUDENT JARED VALE IS A PART OF A COLUMBUS TEAM.

THE TEAM IS ONE OF 40 TEAMS IN THE ROBOTICS COMPETITION BUILDING 120  
POUND ROBOTS FOR A MEDIVAL GAME.

"This is where teamwork, team collaboration happens where some of the stuff you learn in the  
classroom comes together."

VALE SAYS THE TEAM WORK AND PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS ARE HELPING HIM  
TAKE WHAT HE LEARNS IN THE CLASSROOM TO THE REAL WORLD.

"Some people say, when am I going to use Algebra again? When will I use trigonometry or  
physics. This is where you use it and just put all that information together and actually coming up  
with something that can score points and show inspiration to others is such a big deal to me."

THIS IS PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT.



CONNIE HAYNES SAYS THIS COMPETITION IS UNIQUE IN TERMS OF THE STEM EDUCATION EXPERIENCE BECAUSE IT IS A HANDS ON, MENTOR BASED PROGRAM.

"These students would have a really hard time ever being able to be successful without the mentor help they get and mentor help comes from industry, engineers, fabricators, welders."

VALE SAYS THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR STEM EDUCATION IS HELPING HIM PREPARE FOR HIS FUTURE AS A MECHANICAL ENGINEER.

"The future of the world is possessed by technology. Technology will drive the future and this is where it all comes together and this is where the students of today will learn the technology that is necessary to help drive that future."

STUDENTS HAVE SIX WEEKS OF BUILDING THE ROBOTS AND SEVEN WEEKS OF COMPETING.

THIS WEEKEND - STUDENTS ARE HOPING TO QUALIFY TO MAKE IT TO THE NEXT ROUND.

"The competition continues tomorrow starting at 9 am. On your side in Columbus, Brennan Reh WRBL News Three." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**3/16 Golden Apple Ellis -** NOW FOR THIS WEEK'S M-E-A GOLDEN APPLE AWARD WINNER -- WHO IS DESCRIBED AS A FIRECRACKER FULL OF PASSION.

MEET FORT MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER VANESSA ELLIS -- WHO WAS SURPRISED WITH THE HONOR THIS MORNING BY NEWS 3'S CARLOS WILLIAMS.

AS YOU CAN SEE, ELLIS' STUDENTS WERE JUST AS SURPRISED AS SHE WAS.

THE VETERAN TEACHER WAS NOMINATED BY HER HUSBAND OLIVER - WHO JUST A FEW YEARS AGO - WAS A FINALIST FOR MUSCOGEE COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR.

HE ADMIRES HOW HIS WIFE BRINGS LIVING HISTORY INTO HER CLASSROOM AND HOW SHE TEACHES HER STUDENTS EDUCATIONAL RAP SONGS.

ELLIS SAYS SHE IS PROUD TO HAVE BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE AWARD. **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**3/24 Auburn High Student Project -**

"75 Auburn High School Students and 29 Vietnam Veterans are walking away today knowing that the stories they shared today are memorialized forever. The veteran and student that I spoke to today say today is a day they will never forget."

THIS IS CHARLES KNAUSE.

HE SERVED 29 YEARS IN THE ARMY.

TWO TOURS IN VIETNAM.

"I flew Chinooks. Two tours. A little over 3,000 hours flight time; not all in Vietnam of course, but for the career. Flying is flying, whether you're here or there."

IN ADDITION TO SHARING HIS STORY WITH NEWS 3,

KNAUSE SHARED IT WITH AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR THEIR VETERAN PROJECT.

THE SCHOOL WANTED TO GIVE BACK TO VETERANS BY PRESERVING THEIR LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

EACH VETERAN'S STORY IS RECORDED AND WILL BE SENT TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

NOAH MARBLE IS LISTENING TO KNAUSE'S STORY.

NOAH HAS A GRANDFATHER WHO SERVED AND SO THIS PROJECT HIT CLOSE TO HOME FOR HIM.

"It felt like I was talking to a relative. That made me feel a special way being able to connect to someone who put their life on the line for me to live the way I live and him able to serve his country."

KNAUSE SAYS IT WAS AN HONOR TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY AND HE WOULD DO IT AGAIN IN A HEARTBEAT.

KNAUSE WAS GLAD THE STUDENTS TOOK AN INTEREST TO HIS SERVICE.

WHILE NOAH IS GLAD THAT HE WAS ABLE TO PRESERVE KNAUSE'S LEGACY.

ONCE THE INTERVIEW WAS FINISHED, BOTH MEN WALKED AWAY WITH DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES.

"Don't take things for granted because some people have to fight for their freedom, but in this country we are born with our freedom and we're able to prosper and we're able to go places in life, where other places are riddled with war. It's always enjoyable for someone to say thank you for your service and I do the same."

"The creator of this project, Dr. Blake Busbin says more interviews will be taking place tomorrow and over the course of the two days, 12 students will be interviewing their grandparents who served. On your side in Auburn, Alex Derencz, WRBL News 3." **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/30 Golden Apple Berklín -**

THIS WEEK, OUR CAMERAS HEADED OUT TO SMITHS STATION HIGH SCHOOL TO PRESENT THE M-E-A GOLDEN APPLE AWARD.

THE AWARD WENT TO PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER AND COACH RICHARD BERKLIN.

BERKLIN WAS NOMINATED BY STUDENT CAITLYN OLDENBURG WHO SAYS THE COACH PUSHES HIS STUDENTS TO DO THEIR BEST - AND WORKS INDIVIDUALLY WITH THEM TO HELP THEM IMPROVE. THE 20-YEAR TEACHING VETERAN SAYS HE IS GLAD HE'S BEEN ABLE TO IMPACT THE LIVES OF SO MANY YOUNGSTERS. **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

## **FAMILY VALUES:**

### **1/6 Home Invasion Safety Tips -**

FROM THE OUTSIDE THIS DOOR LOOKS LIKE A NORMAL FRONT DOOR... BUT FROM THE INSIDE IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.

JOSHUA BROWN CAME HOME FROM WORK MONDAY TO FIND HIS FRONT DOOR KICKED OPEN.

"When it first happened I was very shaken up. My hands were trembling."

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPUTY JEFFREY HACKEY SAYS IN THIS SITUATION, IF YOU GET HOME AND IT APPEARS YOUR HOUSE HAS BEEN BROKEN INTO, DON'T GO INSIDE AND CALL 9-1-1.

"I would get in the car. Leave. Get a safe distance from the house."

HACKEY SAYS IF YOU ARE HOME WHEN SOMEONE BREAKS IN, THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO HANDLE THE SITUATION.

"If people have easy access to the window they can jump out of the window or if they think that they'd be better off hiding. There's a lot of different scenarios that all could have a lot of different outcomes."

BROWN SAYS THREE T-V'S... TWO PLAYSTATION-FOUR'S AND AN X-BOX-ONE WERE STOLEN.

HIS ROOMMATE BOUGHT A NEW T-V RECENTLY AND PUT THE BOX OUTSIDE- WHICH HE BELIEVES MADE THEIR HOUSE A TARGET.

"When we first put the box out, the thought never really occurred to me. It was after the fact that I really thought about that."

BROWN AND HIS ROOMMATES TALKING ABOUT WAYS TO MAKE THEIR HOME MORE SECURE.

"This is what we have to use to keep our door shut."

AND BROWN IS GETTING A SECURITY SYSTEM FOR HIS HOME. **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm**  
**Vo/Sot:45**

### **1/11 Dog Brightens Spirits -**

WHEN SCOTT  
BALKCUM AND HIS  
DOG CLYDE ENTER  
A CLASSROOM..

THE MAGIC BEGINS.

"The first thing I notice is the  
smile...ear to ear...big smile,  
big eyes."

CLYDE AND SCOTT  
BELONG TO A NON-PROFIT  
GROUP CALLED PET PARTNERS.

THEY CERTIFY PET  
OWNERS AND THEIR ANIMALS  
TO GO INTO SETTINGS LIKE  
CLASSROOMS, HOSPITALS  
AND RETIREMENT HOMES  
TO LIFT SPIRITS AND  
MAKE FOLKS FEEL BETTER.

"It's first graders all the way up to  
when we go to assisted living,  
the seniors. They really enjoy when

they see the animal come in,  
and it brightens their day."

SCOTT VOLUNTEERS  
REGULARLY TO VISIT PLACES  
LIKE MS. TRACEY CUTT'S FIRST  
GRADE CLASS AT DOWNTOWN  
MAGNET ACADEMY..  
AND HE'S ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED  
BY CLYDE.

"How old is Clyde? Clyde's three.  
So a few more years and he'll start  
first grade (laugh)." Do you know  
how old he'd be in human years?  
21!"

MS. CUTT'S FIRST GRADERS  
HAD TO COMPLETE A READING  
ASSIGNMENT FIRST BEFORE  
GETTING TO SEE CLYDE IN ACTION.

"They really want to get to the end and  
pet him, so they focus on the task at hand  
which is reading, getting through their  
vocab words, doing their spelling, and  
then they get to play with him, get to see  
him do his tricks."

"Something's on fire. What do you do?  
Stop, drop and roll. That's right. Fire!  
Good boy."

"Speak...speak. Good boy."

CLYDE IS OBVIOUSLY VERY  
COMFORTABLE AROUND KIDS.

BUT SCOTT SAYS CLYDE'S  
SPOTS CHANGE WHEN HE'S  
AT HOME.

"From sun up to sundown he's ready to  
go. He's ready to run. He's ready to play.  
He's a mess. But he's my mess and I love him.  
He's definitely man's best friend." **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm PKG 1:30**

#### **1/19 Nail Salon Practice -**

"TIME TO POLISH UP ON SOME LITTLE KNOWN FACTS.

WE HEAD TO NAILS BY WILLA IN SMITHS STATION.

WILLA NIECE TOLD US ABOUT SOME SHORTCUTS  
OTHER SALONS MIGHT TRY TO GET AWAY  
WITH WHEN DOING YOUR NAILS."

"As long as you don't sacrifice sanitation and the health and safety of your client, it's ok."  
NAIL SALON OWNER WILLA NEICE DESCRIBES SOME OF THE SHORTCUTS NAIL TECHS  
MIGHT USE.

"We all have our little, you can call them bad habits if you want to. They're not really bad habits.  
But everybody does a shortcut to a degree."

BUT FOR ONE PERSON WHO HAD A LESS THAN SATISFACTORY EXPERIENCE, NEICE  
BLAMES A SHORTCUT THAT TURNED SOUR.

YOU CAN SEE CUTS ON THIS WOMAN'S FEET AFTER GOING TO A DIFFERENT SALON  
FOR A TREATMENT.

"It could've happened any number of ways. And things do happen. It's how it's handled  
afterwards that's important."

NEICE THINKS A CHEESE GRATER MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE CULPRIT.

"The cheese grater, for lack of a better term, is illegal. The reason it's illegal is because there is no back on it. So it takes off at least seven layers of skin every time."

CREDO KNIVES ARE ALSO ILLEGAL.

INSTEAD, NEICE SUGGESTS USING FOOT BUFFERS BECAUSE THEY HAVE A BACK AND ARE EASY TO CLEAN.

SO WHAT IF SOMEONE DOES EXPERIENCE MALPRACTICE AT A NAIL SHOP OR ANYWHERE ELSE?

THAT'S WHERE THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU COMES IN.

"There's always two sides to every story. And that's how we approach each issue that a consumer might have with a company. Sometimes the consumers wrong, but it's hard for the company to basically convey that to their customer.

THE MAIN GOAL IS TO BUILD, OR IN SOME CASES, REBUILD TRUST BETWEEN THE CUSTOMER AND THE BUSINESS.

"The point of reestablishing trust between the customer and the company is part of the free enterprise system. If you don't trust anybody, you're not going to do business with them."/"Once you've got that loyalty, it's pretty much whipped.")

"IF YOU DO RUN INTO A PROBLEM AT A COSMOTOLOGY SHOP, YOU CAN CONTACT THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU -- WHO WOULD THEN REPORT YOUR COMPLAINT TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

TO LEARN MORE, JUST HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE AT W-R-B-L DOT COM. **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

**1/25 Doc Atoms School Visit -**

"Good morning, good morning.

Very good. My name is Doc Atoms, the mad scientist, and I love science.. all types of science."

DOC'S REAL NAME IS ERIC WILLIS.

HE'S FROM CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY..GRADUATED FROM SPENCER HIGH SCHOOL.. AND COLUMBUS STATE.

HE'S FOUND HIS NICHE WITH A TRAVELING SCIENCE SHOW.

Doc Atoms, "Mad" Scientist

"What I like to do is show you why science is applicable in your day to day life."

ON THIS PARTICULAR DAY HIS AUDIENCE..THE FIFTH GRADE CLASSES AT RIVER ROAD ELEMENTARY IN COLUMBUS.

AND THE STUDENTS WERE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS.

"Keep going, keep going. Stop. Put them on your face. What do you feel? You feel hot, right? And that is something called what? Very good, friction. Okay."

DOC ATOMS DOESN'T MIND  
WHEN HIS EXPERIMENTS BLOW UP  
IN HIS FACE.

"Go ahead, pump one, two, three, keep going. (screaming and laughing as bottle pops and squirts him in the face) You see why I don't like that one."

"Today they learned something about air pressure. And because of the wonder and the happiness when they see it...and they're just so excited and so happy and it's so loud. I love that. That for me is the best part. That is my motivation, seeing them laugh, seeing them learn something new."

"One, two, three...that's enough. Whoa! This is called the cloud in a bottle. So much pressure was added to the alcohol that it automatically evaporated."

DOC BELIEVES THE STUDENTS  
HE PERFORMS FOR ARE THE HOPE  
OF TOMORROW.

"What I hope I plant the seed of is exploration in science...because those are the people, these people that were sitting down on the floor, those are the people that will be the doctors, the engineers, they will be the scientists that we need to build a bridge." **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm PKG 1:30**

#### **1/29 Foster Care Forum -**

"Will I see my mama again? What about Christmas?"

WORDS THAT ARE HARD TO HEAR.

EDWARD DUBOSE IS A COUNSELOR FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE AND THEIR FAMILIES.

HE IS CHANGING LIVES...

LIKE THIS ONE... A FORMER FOSTER CHILD WHO IS NOW A COLLEGE GRADUATE.  
voicemail from former foster child he worked with

"I don't know if you really remember me, but I remember you. You really helped me. You really changed my life."

THERE ARE 147 FOSTER CARE HOMES IN MUSCOGEE COUNTY FOR THE 500 PLUS FOSTER CARE CHILDREN HERE.

JUDGE GIL MCGINNIS' GOAL IS TO KEEP MORE OF THESE CHILDREN IN MUSCOGEE COUNTY INSTEAD OF SENDING THEM ALL OVER THE STATE.

"Just to make certain that these kids who unfortunately will be in foster care are at least able to go their own schools and be in their own churches and be around their own friends and try to maximize what continuity is good in those kids lives."

MITCH MCGINNIS' IS A FOSTER CARE PARENT.

HE'S HAD FIVE FOSTER CARE CHILDREN.

"We understand it as a calling from God that we are called to be foster parents in this child's life for this amount of time. It may be weeks or months or years and so we kind of understand that going in that it's going to be hard."

SO WHY \*\*ARE THERE SO MANY FOSTER CARE CHILDREN IN MUSCOGEE COUNTY?

A LOCAL JUDGE SAYS IT COULD BE TIED TO DRUG USE.

DUBOSE SAYS HIS JOB IS ALL ABOUT GIVING FOSTER CHILDREN HOPE.

"This is a serious business that we're dealing with and I think once we understand what these families go through, not just the children. When children are pulled away from families everybody suffer."

**A SUFFERING THIS GROUP HOPES TO STOP. 6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **2/3 New Tendontis Procedure -**

BRUCE GETZ IS AN AVID GOLFER, BUT AN INJURY LAST SUMMER INTERRUPTED HIS GOLF SWING. HE WAS HELPING HIS SON MOVE WHEN HE MADE A QUICK DECISION THAT TURNED OUT TO BE A PAINFUL ONE.

"Something was falling and since it was going to fall on me, I caught it. And that's when I first felt the pain and then I hurt it further, I do a lot of stuff in my yard."

HE DIDN'T SEE A DOCTOR THE FIRST TIME, BUT HE KNEW HE NEEDED ONE WHEN HE INJURED HIS TENDON JUST INSIDE THE ELBOW.

"It just made it harder to do everyday functions like opening a door picking up a suitcase, picking up a brief case. That kind of thing was painful."

DR. CHAMP BAKER AT THE HUGHSTON CLINIC OFFERED GETZ A RELATIVELY NEW MINIMALLY INVASIVE OPTION TO TREAT HIS TENDON PAIN, TENEX HEALTH TX.

"It's ultra sound guided, ultra sound energy, just like the ophthamologists use for cataracts." USING THE ULTRA SOUND, THE DAMAGED TENDON IS LOCATED, AND THE TX MICROTIP IS INSERTED THROUGH A TINY PUNCTURE IN THE SKIN TO BREAK DOWN AND REMOVE THE DAMAGED TISSUE.

"I'm putting this right on the spot. This pulses it, fragments it, the suction takes it out. I'm resecting, removing the tendon."

DR. BAKER SAYS THERE'S NO HARM TO SURROUNDING TISSUE AND THAT THE TENDON DOES REGENERATE. THE PROCESS TAKES ABOUT 20 MINUTES, USING A LOCAL ANESTHETIC. THIS TINY LITTLE MARK ON BRUCE GETZ'S ARM IS WHERE THE PUNCTURE WAS MADE. RECOVERY USUALLY TAKES SIX WEEKS OR LESS.

"I was actually amazed I think at day ten, I remember no pain, zero pain in my elbow which had been painful since July." **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm PKG 1:30**

### **2/9 Inmate Reading Program -**

WHILE READING MAY BE A RITE OF PASSAGE FOR SOME KIDS, FOR MANY OTHERS, BOOKS ARE HARD TO COME BY... ESPECIALLY IF THEIR PARENTS ARE BEHIND BARS. THAT'S WHERE SIMPLE STEPS "STEPS" IN TO MEND THE READING GAP.

"We bring the Muscogee County library children's department. And those library ladies show up every Thursday afternoon and they work on teaching how to teach your kids to read."> SARAH SPENCE WITH THE COLUMBUS PUBLIC LIBRARY SAYS THE FIRST WEEK IS ALL ABOUT THE BASICS.

"A lot of times we'll see parents come in with their kids and they don't even know how to open a book. They don't know because they've never --their parents are waiting until the kids get to school to be taught that."

FLIPPING PAGES EACH WEEK MEANS STARTING A NEW CHAPTER FOR INMATES AND THEIR KIDS.

"If kids come in here, and they are welcomed, and they get help and they get smiles, they're going to want to come back. And that's going to help them when they're teenagers and adults. They'll continue to want to read and come to the library."

AND ACCORDING TO JAIL CHAPLAIN AND SIMPLE STEPS CO-COORDINATOR NEIL RICHARDSON, IT CAN KEEP THEM OUT OF JAIL.

64% of children that are not reading at home by age 4, will be incarcerated.

A SOBERING STATISTIC THAT A GROUP OF INMATES ARE TRYING TO REVERSE... OTHERWISE, THE CYCLE CONTINUES.

If a child does not read at a third grade level by the third grade, typically we end up seeing them dropping out. Most of those dropouts end up in here.

AT THE END OF THE SIX-WEEK PROGRAM, THE INMATES SHOW A LITTLE POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE AT A GRADUATION CEREMONY.

For Thursday's graduation, Simple Steps participants will finally get to share what they've learned about reading with their kids, especially that reading can be fun."

EVEN IF INMATES DON'T NECESSARILY GET THROUGH BOOKS WORD-FOR-WORD, THEY LEARN CREATIVITY CAN GO A LONG WAY.

They can look through books without actually reading the words. They can talk about the pictures in the books. We want them to see that reading is fun and you can build a bond with your children by doing that. **6pm PKG 1:30,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **2/15 Facebook Devotions -**

**PATSY LEARY**

JOINED FACEBOOK IN  
2012..

AND ALMOST  
IMMEDIATELY HER EYES  
WERE OPENED TO HOW  
PEOPLE EXPRESS  
THEMSELVES ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA.

super: Patsy Leary/Facebook Devotion Author

"I was not on there long before  
I realized that there was so much  
negativity on there that I just thought,  
you know, if people are like me, they  
need some encouragement."

SO PATSY HAD AN IDEA  
THAT SPRANG FROM HER  
DAILY DEVOTIONAL TIME.

"So I just asked the Lord if what  
He was giving me in the mornings,  
if it would be appropriate to put on  
Facebook."

SHE GOT THE GO AHEAD  
FROM ABOVE, AND LAUNCHED  
HER DAILY DEVOTIONAL POSTS.

"I feel like that the Lord has given me  
the gift of encouragement to people  
because of some things I've been  
through in my life, and I turn it around  
to where I can help others, and I just  
feel that's what He's given me."

PATSY GETS HER INSPIRATION  
FROM VARIOUS SOURCES BESIDES  
THE BIBLE.

"I read a lot of Max Lucado. I really  
enjoy...he's just so right down the middle.  
I just love the way he says things. It just  
grabs me sometimes. And the Lord  
will say, that's a good thought...start  
with that and go with that."

AND PATSY IS CAREFUL TO



CREDIT HER SOURCES.

MANY OF HER FACEBOOK FRIENDS  
HAVE MADE A HABIT OF BEGINNING  
THEIR DAY WITH PATSY.

super: Bobbie Bartlett/Facebook Friend  
"It kind of sets the stage for your day and normally  
it's something that speaks to me and starts my  
day in a good way."

super: Andrea Blanchard/Facebook Friend  
"I think that she spends so much time just really  
listening to the voice of the Lord and taking the time  
to hear Him. And then being willing to put it out there  
for other people to read, it's just such a relational thing.  
And it impacts me because it makes me really want to  
dig in with the Lord and really seek that same voice  
that she hears."

PATSY'S PASTOR IS ALSO AMONG  
THOSE WHO READ HER DEVOTIONAL  
POSTS.

super: Rev. Paul Thomas/Patsy's Pastor  
"You can tell that she's spent time in the presence  
of the Lord when you read what she writes, and she's  
taking the blessing the Lord's given her and she's  
passing it on to other people." **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm PKG 1:30**

**2/22 JR Marshall Program -**

THERE ARE OVER 100  
JUNIOR MARSHALS IN MUSCOGEE  
COUNTY.

THEY ARE SEVENTH AND  
EIGHTH GRADERS REPRESENTING  
ALL OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED  
TO MENTOR THESE YOUNG PEOPLE  
AND ENCOURAGE THEM IN THEIR  
EDUCATIONAL PURSUITS.

"We're focusing on citizenship, leadership,  
education, fun and teamwork. That's what  
we centralize on."

THE MORNING STARTED WITH  
SOME ADVICE FROM A JORDAN  
HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR..MARKUS  
WRIGHT.

HE RECENTLY SIGNED A  
FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP TO PLAY  
FOR ARMY AT WEST POINT.

AND THAT HELPED HIM  
MAKE A POINT ABOUT EDUCATION.  
"I'm going to one of the best schools  
in the entire world next year. I couldn't  
do that without my education. I'm an  
okay football player. I do a little bit of  
everything. But education was the  
whole thing that got me there. So  
focus on your education and always  
make sure you're doing the right thing

in the classroom."

THEY ALSO NEEDED THE  
RIGHT STUFF IN THE CLASSROOM  
AT THE SPACE SCIENCE CENTER.

YOU CAN'T COME THERE  
WITHOUT BEING EXPOSED TO  
FLYING AIRCRAFT.

IN THIS INSTANCE, THE  
STUDENTS GOT A LESSON IN  
HOW TO CONSTRUCT A ROCKET  
MADE OUT OF PAPER.

THEN THEY HEADED  
OUTSIDE TO SEE HOW THEIR  
HAND-CRAFTED ROCKETS  
WOULD FLY.

THERE WERE FLIGHT  
PREP PROCEDURES..  
JUST LIKE AT CAPE CANAVARAL.

THERE WAS, OF COURSE,  
A COUNTDOWN..

THEN THE MOMENT OF  
TRUTH..

IGNITION..  
AND LIFTOFF.

AS THE STUDENTS  
WATCHED THEIR AIRCRAFT  
TAKE FLIGHT..

THE HOPE OF THEIR  
GUEST SPEAKER WAS THAT  
THEIR CAREERS WILL  
SKYROCKET TO HEIGHTS  
BEYOND BELIEF.

"Take pride in being an individual.  
Take pride in being not like anyone  
else. Separate yourself from the  
regular crowd and be yourself, really.  
Chase your dreams and do everything  
you want to do with your life. Don't let  
anybody tell you you can't." **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm PKG 1:30**

### **2/29 Open Door Violin Lesson -**

KOYAL ANSINGKAR  
HAS BEEN PLAYING  
THE VIOLIN SINCE SHE  
WAS FOUR.

"I was thinking about how if I never  
had the opportunity to pick up a violin  
and start playing it, my entire life would  
be different. It's become such a huge  
part of my life that I think I should share  
this ability that I have to play the violin."

ONE WAY KOYAL HAS CHOSEN  
TO SHARE HER TALENT IS THROUGH  
TEACHING THE VIOLIN TO STUDENTS

IN THE AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING PROGRAM  
AT OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY HOUSE.

THE BROOKSTONE SENIOR  
IS A FAMILIAR FACE HERE.

"I've created so many relationships  
with these kids over the years after  
volunteering here since my freshman  
year."

KOYAL COMES ONCE A WEEK  
TO TEACH VIOLIN..A PROGRAM  
SHE ORCHESTRATED AS PART OF  
HER SENIOR CLASS PROJECT.

SHE HELD A FUNDRAISER  
LAST YEAR AND GOT ENOUGH  
DONATIONS TO BUY NINE USED  
VIOLINS.

"My umbrella organization is the Columbus  
Symphony Orchestra. I partnered with them  
right before Christmas and that's when  
I purchased all the violins and I've been  
coming here regularly since January."

"When I first brought these violins here  
and I opened them, they were all so excited.  
I think it was such an awesome thing for  
them to see something like this that they'd  
never seen so up close, you know."

THE EXPRESSIONS ON THE  
KIDS' FACES OFFER A GOOD MEASURE  
OF HOW MUCH THEY ENJOY KOYAL'S  
LESSONS.

"We've actually gone over some theory  
which is quite important in the very beginning,  
like reading notes, understanding certain  
symbols in the music language."

BUT THE KIDS' FAVORITE PART  
IS WHEN THEY GET THEIR HANDS ON  
THE INSTRUMENTS.

THE FOLKS AT OPEN DOOR ARE  
ENTHUSED ABOUT THE PROGRAM.

"We're going to let Koyal's dream play out  
and let her do what she sees fit with this  
program and just super excited about not  
only what she's accomplishing, but how  
excited our kids are about learning an  
instrument and what it's doing for their  
self esteem."

THE KIDS ARE STILL GETTING  
USED TO HOW TO PROPERLY HOLD  
THE VIOLIN.

"We've also started making some notes,  
and hopefully if we keep progressing at this  
rate, I'll be able to put on an awesome concert  
for them and their parents in the future." 6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm PKG 1:30

**3/2 Painkiller Abuse Battle -**

"80 percent of all the narcotics consumed in the world are consumed in this country."

DR. ARVIND CHAKRAVARTHY IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AT WEST GEORGIA HEALTH. HE SAYS OPIOID ADDICTION HITS THE YOUNG AND OLD, MEN AND WOMEN. SOME TRY PHARMACY AND DOCTOR SHOPPING, BUT THE DEA DATA BASE MAKES THAT DIFFICULT BECAUSE PHARMACISTS CAN NOW TRACK PRESCRIPTIONS. OVERDOSING IS COMMON.

"Whether it's accidental or whether it's intentional we, on a regular basis, once a week we usually see a pretty bad overdoes that ends up going to the ICU or the step down unit."

AND IF THEY CAN'T GET THEIR DRUGS LEGALLY, THERE ARE THE STREETS.

"That's kind of the new burgeoning market now unfortunately, rather than people using the typical heroine and cocaine like they did back in the 2000's and 90's, it's more going to prescription meds with the hydrocodone and percocet."

YOU MAY RECALL THE COLUMBUS NURSE RECENTLY CHARGED WITH PEDDLING MORPHINE, HYDROCODONE, AND AT LEAST A DOZEN OTHER TYPES OF PRESCRIPTION AND ILLEGAL DRUGS OUT OF HER HOME.

AT WEST GEORGIA HEALTH DRUGS LIKE MORPHINE AND HYDROCODONE ARE KEPT IN THIS NARCOTICS VAULT ALONG WITH THE PRESCRIPTION PADS.

"By law, Georgia law we are required to keep our pads up under lock and key."

DR. CHAKRAVARTHY SAYS THEY ARE MAKING AN EFFORT TO TRY TO LIMIT THE USE OF NARCOTICS. HE SAYS KETAMINE, USED BY VETERINARIANS IS GROWING AS AN OPTION.

"It's proven in small doses to give marked pain relief comparable to opioids." 6pm  
Vo/Sot:45,11pm PKG 1:30

**3/3 Special Need Gospel Singer -**  
{\*\*\*NATS FULL\*\*\*}

DYLAN PADGETT ISN'T AFRAID TO VOICE HIS LOVE FOR THE GOSPEL.

"it just makes everybody happy and to worship the Lord is my favorite thing to do and be happy AND THAT HAPPINESS IS GOING VIRAL.

A VIDEO OF DYLAN SINGING WAS POSTED ON FACEBOOK BY A FAMILY FRIEND LAST MONTH... IT HAS SINCE RECEIVED HUNDREDS OF SHARES--AND NEARLY 25-THOUSAND VIEWS.

DYLAN'S MOTHER, CARLA STEPHENS WAS SHOCKED TO SEE THE RESPONSE.

I said 'do you know what that means' and he said 'that means a lot' then said 'can I go to bed now?'

FOR DYLAN - IT'S JUST ANOTHER DAY OF DOING WHAT MAKES HIM HAPPY.

"dylan and his gospel group spend every weekend traveling from church to church in Georgia to sing their gospel music."

he's a very spiritual person, he's been that way even from a young age. he's touched a lot of lives. He reaches people that we can't reach.

BUT CARLA SAYS HE'S JUST LIKE ANY OTHER 19-YEAR-OLD...DESPITE HAVING CHALLENGES WITH MOTOR SKILLS FROM COMPLICATIONS AT BIRTH.

CARLA STEPHENS

he's a pretty normal guy. Like I said, his life's a lot more normal than it is abnormal."

A NORMAL GUY WITH A DRIVE TO SHARE HIS PASSION.

DYLAN

"to tell you the truth, I love God because he smiles whenever I sing for him and I know one day I'll be seeing him."

ON YOUR SIDE...SAVANNAH DAILY WRBL NEWS 3. 11pm PKG 1:30

**3/7 Calvary Christian Honors Teacher -**

TODAY WAS BUSINESS  
AS USUAL FOR CALVARY  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
FIRST GRADE TEACHER  
POLLY SUMMERALL..

OR SO SHE THOUGHT.

WHILE SHE WAS  
GETTING HER DAILY  
ROUTINE UNDERWAY..

THE ENTIRE STUDENT  
BODY WAS GATHERING IN  
THE GYMNASIUM TO GIVE  
HER A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY  
CELEBRATION.

MRS. SUMMERALL'S  
CLASS WAS THE LAST TO  
ARRIVE..AND YOU COULD  
TELL BY THE LOOK ON HER  
FACE..THE SURPRISE WORKED.

HER TEACHING CAREER  
AT CALVARY HAS SPANNED  
37 YEARS.

SHE'S TAUGHT 48 YEARS  
IN ALL..AN ESTIMATED 800  
STUDENTS.

ONE OF HER FORMER  
CALVARY STUDENTS RECALLED  
HOW MRS. SUMMERALL EASED  
HIS FEARS ON THE FIRST  
DAY OF SCHOOL.

"And little first grade me on my  
first day looked up and saw that  
gentle smile, with those gentle,  
loving eyes, and yes I still cried,  
but the fear was gone."

MRS. SUMMERALL  
WAS PRESENTED A BOUQUET  
THAT CONTAINED 117 FLOWERS..  
ONE FOR EACH FORMER STUDENT  
STILL ATTENDING CALVARY.

TWO OF HER FORMER  
STUDENTS GREW UP TO BE  
TEACHERS AT CALVARY, TOO.

"What I remember most about  
Mrs. Summerall is her soft voice.  
I can hear her voice now, reading  
and praying.

"I think that's pretty neat to still  
be able to hear her voice."

"And if someone compared you to  
Mrs. Summerall, would that be...  
How much of a compliment would that be?  
That would be a great compliment. She's  
a wonderful lady, a wonderful teacher.  
That would just be great to be compared  
to her."

AFTER ALMOST HALF A CENTURY  
OF EXPERIENCE IN THE CLASSROOM,  
MRS. SUMMERALL'S TEACHING  
TECHNIQUE IS STILL THE SAME.

"First of all I teach the love of Christ.  
I teach because I love these children,  
and I want them to get something from  
me that they can remember for the rest  
of their lives."

MRS. SUMMERALL'S DAUGHTER,  
SUSAN, TEACHES RIGHT NEXT DOOR  
TO HER.

"She's the reason I'm here. I was originally  
in computer science, and then, after watching  
her my whole life, I decided to go into teaching.  
There just happened to be a position right  
next to her. So, I've been here 13 years  
teaching beside her and learning from  
the master." **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm PKG 1:30**

**3/14 Community Garden -**  
WHAT USED TO BE  
A VACANT LOT IN THE  
WINCHESTER NEIGHBORHOOD  
OF COLUMBUS..HAS BEEN  
TURNED INTO A COMMUNITY  
GARDEN.

RYAN AND ERIN  
GUTOWSKI PLANTED THE  
IDEA FOR THE GARDEN  
ONE YEAR AGO..  
AND IT TOOK ROOT.

"I think any neighbor you ask  
in our neighborhood in Winchester,  
they would say that their relationships  
even with the people living next door  
are better because this garden is a  
place where they meet and congregate  
and spend time."

OVER THE WEEKEND

A DOZEN OR MORE FOLKS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD GOT TOGETHER TO GET THE GARDEN IN SHAPE FOR THIS YEAR.

"We're putting a lot of our vegetables in the ground. We're putting in at least three or four more boxes. We're building some trellises today. We're planting a flower bed back in the front of the garden."

THAT'S WHERE LINDA RAMSEY GOT HER HANDS DIRTY.

SHE'S LIVED IN THE WINCHESTER NEIGHBORHOOD FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS.

"When you can come here and you can pick your vegetables and go home and cook them, there's nothing like it."

AND THE MENU'S LOOKING GOOD AGAIN THIS YEAR.

"We'll have zucchini. Last year we had egg plant. We're going to bring those back this year. We're trying out snow peas for the first time and they're actually coming out of the ground already. We've got an herb bed which is fantastic for the neighbors who enjoy cooking."

BUT TO GET A GOOD BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE BIG PICTURE THAT'S GOING ON WITH THIS GARDEN, YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT WHAT'S GROWING BESIDES THE PLANTS.

"I've seen a lot of new friendships develop here. I've watched kids learn about vegetables and frogs, and I've seen people work together and become a team."

A FEW YEARS AGO..

RYAN AND HIS WIFE PLANTED A CHURCH THAT MEETS IN THEIR HOME.

THE COMMUNITY GARDEN IS AN OUTGROWTH OF THAT EFFORT.

"We're trying to bring the church back into the neighborhood."

LINDA SAYS IT'S CULTIVATING A FEELING OF COMMUNITY.

"I reconnected with a neighbor that helped raise me as a child."

"It's so easy to go to work, come home and go in your house and close the door.

And this garden has brought us out of our houses and has reconnected us." **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm PKG 1:30**

### **3/16 Second Hand Smoke -**

SECOND HAND SMOKE CHANGED CHARELLE RADCLIFFE'S LIFE FOREVER. AT THE AGE OF 17, THIS NON-SMOKER STARTED HAVING SOME RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS.

" My voice started changing, that was the most notable symptoms and I started to have shortness of breath which was described as you can hear me breathing across the room."

CHARELLE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH ADENOID CYSTIC CARCINOMA...HER RARE CANCER WAS IN HER LARYNX. SHE BREATHES THROUGH A TRACHEOSTOMY TUBE.

" I can't breathe and speak through my nose and mouth normally I have to use the tracheostomy to assist me in that matter."

THE BREATHE EASY COALITION OF COLUMBUS WANTS TO KEEP THIS FROM HAPPENING TO MORE PEOPLE. NICOLE LETH SAYS MANY BUSINESSES IN OUR AREA HAVE VOLUNTARILY BANNED SMOKING. BUT SOME BARS AND RESTAURANTS ALLOW SMOKING THANKS TO A LOOPHOLE IN THE SMOKEFREE AIR ACT OF 2005.

"So if there's an age limit like 18 or older to enter or employees have to be 18 or older they're allowed to have smoking indoors."

AND THAT'S A LOOPHOLE THE COALITION WOULD LIKE TO SEE PLUGGED.

" When people understand how it's endangering employees and patrons of that business that are being exposed absolutely we'd like to see that changed."

SAVANNAH PASSED A SMOKEFREE AIR ORDINANCE IN 2010. A STUDY SHOWED NO IMPACT ON TAXABLE SALES REVENUE FOR BARS AND FULL SERVICE RESTAURANTS. MEANWHILE, CHARELLE HAS BEEN CANCER FREE FOR 14 YEARS AND IS GRATEFUL TO BE AROUND TO SHARE HER STORY ABOUT THE DANGERS OF SECONDHAND SMOKE TO ANYONE WHO ASKS, ESPECIALLY SMOKERS.

"This could happen to you it could happen to me and they actually smoke." **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm PKG 1:30**

### **3/18 Kids Receive Free Shoes-**

NEW AT SIX...

SOME LOCAL CHILDREN ARE LACING UP FOR EASTER.

THIS MORNING, AROUND ONE-THOUSAND CHILDREN WERE AT THE PEACHTREE MALL TO RECEIVE FREE SHOES.

THE CONTROLLER'S CIVIC AND SOCIAL CLUB PROVIDED THE SHOES FOR KIDS IN HEAD START, THE EASTER SEALS OF COLUMBUS, AND THREE TITLE ONE SCHOOLS. **6pm Vo/Sot:45,11pm Vo/Sot:45**

### **3/23 Alzheimer Center Opening -**

IT WAS IN 2002 THAT RUBIE NEAL NOTICED SOME CHANGES IN HER MOM'S BEHAVIOR.

"She began to become confused. She began to wander. She began to not remember names. It was devastating because we kind of like were in denial about it."

THEY WERE IN SUCH DENIAL THAT THEY TOLD NO ONE, NOT EVEN HER MOM'S DOCTOR. BUT SIX MONTHS LATER, REALITY BEGAN TO SET IT IN. THEY TOOK THEN-68 YEAR OLD MARY BUNKLEY IN FOR AN EXAM. AND HER DOCTOR GAVE THEM THE DIAGNOSIS THEY NEVER WANTED TO HEAR.

"Something like went through me because this in my mom, the strong woman that, you know she reared us, and I'm like no, this can't be."

BUT IT WAS. AND NOW THE FAMILY HAD TO DECIDE HOW TO BEST CARE FOR MARY. FOR ALL SHE'D DONE FOR HER FAMILY, THE ANSWER WAS SIMPLE. SHE'D BE AT HOME WITH FAMILY LOOKING AFTER HER. AND THEY'D COUNT THE GOOD DAYS.

"She loves to color. She loves, before this, she played the piano. So we have an organ there and she'll just play the organ. And she loved to quilt."

BUT THERE WOULD BE BAD DAYS TOO. AND THOSE DAYS AND THE TOTALITY OF THE SITUATION REQUIRED A LOT OF STRENGTH, FOUND IN HER FAITH.

09:10:04 "My faith stood when I couldn't stand anymore."

>>> HER ADVICE FOR OTHER FAMILIES IMPACTED BY ALZHEIMER'S, DON'T TRY TO DO IT ALONE.



09:10:50 "I tried to do it within my own strength, this is my mother, I can take care of her better than anyone else. Do not make that mistake. Get help." **6pm Vo/Sot:45, 11pm PKG 1:30**

**3/28 Peachtree Mall Security -**

We haven't always had this gun violence."

BERTHA AVERETT SHOPPED AT THE PEACHTREE MALL WITH HER SEVEN-YEAR-OLD GRANDDAUGHTER THE DAY BEFORE EASTER.

"We passed the location where the tragedy was at least three times. And we never felt anything." AVERETT SAYS SHE FELT SAFE BECAUSE SAW AT A SECURITY GUARD AND A POLICE OFFICER AS SHE ENTERED THE MALL.

BUT AS SOON AS SHE AND HER DAUGHTER LEFT, TRAGEDY STRUCK.

IN THIS EXCLUSIVE CELL PHONE VIDEO, YOU CAN SEE EMERGENCY PERSONNEL ATTEND TO ANTHONY MEREDITH, WHO WAS SHOT SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE HE DIED.

THIS IS THE SECOND SHOOTING AT PEACHTREE MALL IN THE SPAN OF ONE MONTH.

BUT THE MALL IS ALSO THE SITE OF COLUMBUS'S FIFTH MURDER OF 20-16.

"It was around innocent people that had nothing to do with what was going on between these two individuals. And that's what's so reckless about it all.

BECAUSE THE MALL IS A PRIVATE BUSINESS, THE MAYOR CAN ONLY MAKE SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL SECURITY.

"In years past, the mall used off-duty police officers to bolster security. They may want to think about that again."

SOME PEOPLE SAY CONCEALED CARRIERS COULD HELP PREVENT FUTURE TROUBLE.

BUT THE MAYOR SAYS PEOPLE SHOULD FEEL SAFE, RELYING ON C-P-D'S EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE.

"People who have not been trained, even if they go to the range periodically, even if they have a license they've not been so trained to identify who the shooter is. They run a very high risk of shooting an innocent person."

AND WHILE MANY HAVE VOWED NOT TO RETURN TO THE MALL, BERTHA AVERETT IS JUST WAITING FOR THE RIGHT TIME.

I will go back to the mall...don't know when..." **6pm PKG 1:30, 11pm Vo/Sot:45**