

**WSML
1200 AM
GRAHAM, NC**

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

FOR

STATION WSML

2nd QUARTER 2023
(April 1 – June 30)

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Report compiled by:
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WSML-AM 1200
2nd Quarter Community Affairs
April 1 – June 30 2023

Tom Britt newscasts M-F 6a, 6:30a, 7a, 7:30a, 8a, 8:30a, 9a CD, EC, ED, EH, IM, NS, HB, FY, GR, HO, PA, POL, PS

4/5/23 8:30a-9a Carson Johnson, Leanne Petty, and Tom Britt talked with PD Ross and Vaughn Willoughby about the up coming 1st Annual Farm Fest. Farm Fest is a benefit concert for the Alamance County Farm Bureau Agricultural Extension. 100% of the proceeds support the Alamance County Farm Trust which preserves farmland for the purpose of farming and for Farm Bureau's Ag In The Classroom. The Farm Trust is necessary do to development in rural areas and increasing property values. Discussed the dangers to the family farm due to inheritance taxes, property taxes, and competition from corporate farms. Discussed the number of farmers in Alamance County and how much food is still produced locally. Talked about the challenges faced by farmers in addition to economic conditions, including weather. Many farmers are only one bad season away from losing everything. Talked about the need for Ag In The Classroom which provides curriculum and materials for Alamance County Teachers to encourage farming in younger generations. Also discussed 4-H Club and FFA, both of which are very active in Alamance County. **AG, EC, TAX**

4/13/23 8:30a-9a Carson Johnson, Leanne Petty, and Tom Britt talked with Jennifer Lawson and Casey Johnston about the Choose Joy Make A Wish Foundation Golf Tournament. Jennifer is is the local coordinator for Make A Wish Foundation and Casey was a family friend to Brady Niles. Brady was 8 years old and a recipient of a wish from Make A Wish Foundation. As his health worsened he looked back on his wish, to swim with dolphins, and said he had one last wish- the other kids could have a “best day ever.” In honor of his final wish a goal was set to make 13 wishes come true in honor of Brady. To support this a Golf Tournament was organized in Alamance County. Discussed Make A Wish Foundation and its roll in the community, talked about the fact that it isn't just terminally ill children that receive wished but any child facing serious illness. Talked about the number of Alamance County kids that are recipients of wishes and the need to help kids who battle every day of their lives have a chance to “just be kids”. **FY, VOL,**

4/19/23 8:30a-9a Carson Johnson, Leanne Petty, and Tom Britt talked with Carol and Lucas Howard from Elevation Heroes. Elevation Heroes is a non profit program designed to help local heroes achieve the dream of home ownership. These heroes include educators, military, first responders, and anyone in the medical field. Unlike many similar programs it is open not only to teachers or doctors but janitors in schools and hospitals, and anyone, regardless of their level of employment. Elevation Heroes offers a minimum of \$2,000 towards homebuyers as well as assistance in closing costs and lawyers. Discussed the challenges faced by first time homeowners, the current real estate market, pay levels for supporting employees like janitors, bus drivers, and cafeteria workers. Talked about how much red tape can be involved in applying for grants and loan assistance. **EO, HO, EC,**

4/24/23 8:30a-9a Carson Johnson, Leanne Petty, and Tom Britt talked with NC State Secretary Of The Treasury Dale Folewell about the current state of North Carolina finances. Discussed the changes in state health insurance, including the decision to drop Blue Cross as its provider. Talked about the current state of the state pension and the need to make wise investment choices on behalf of state employees. The state of NC is the largest employer in the state. Talked about the issue of medical debt. Also discussed NCCash.com which holds “missing” money for North Carolinian's and can be claimed at no cost. **EC, HC, PF**

4/26/23 8:30a-9a Carson Johnson, Leanne Petty, and Tom Britt talked with Daniel Flack and Molly Ellington- 4th and 3rd grade teachers- at Alexander Wilson Elementary School about the upcoming 100th anniversary of the school Alexander Wilson is the oldest school in Alamance County. Talked about the history of the school, the fact that both Daniel and Molly attended school in Alamance County and Molly actually attended Alexander Wilson and returned home to teach. Discussed education in North Carolina, and specifically education in Alamance County. Talked about the challenges faced by teachers today, many of which have been complicated since COVID-19. **COVID, ED, FY**

5/2/23 7:30a-8a Carson Johnson, Leanne Petty, and Tom Britt discussed the prior days press conference by the Alamance County Sheriff's Office and Alamance Burlington School System. Tom Britt attended the press conference as a member of the press. The conference was in regards to the arrest of a teacher at an ABSS middle school for improper conduct with several students. Discussed the intricacies of the case, the swift reaction the the school system, and the safety of students in our schools. **ED, LE, PS, PA**

5/8/23 8:30a-9a Carson Johnson, Leanne Petty, and Tome Britt talked with PIO Les Atkins and Ashley West, Alamance Burlington School System Teacher of The Year. Discussed the inovative ideas Ashley has used in the classroom, the idea that a single teacher can change the life of a student, the challenges faced by teachers. Talked about teaching as a true calling in which it is truly the commitment of the teacher to impact lives that drives them to do what they do. **ED, FY**

5/10/23 8:30a-9a Carson Johnson, Leanne Petty, and Tom Britt talked with Jackie Fortner, one of the organizers of the Big C Concert. The Big C was organized in 2020 as a way to lift Alamance County's spirits during the COVID-19 pandemic and was originally a "social distance compliant" concert broadcast on the radio to attendees in their cars. It was such a success that the organizers decided to continue as a non profit. Discussed the moving of the concert to downtown Graham. Talked about the need, in a world that has grown overly political, for a concert that allows folks to simply forget about everything that is wrong in the world and focus on the good. **COVID, FY**

5/13/23 10:00a-1p Carson Johnson and Chuck Marsh broadcast live at Westcott Buick GMC to raise awareness of Alamance County's youth football combine. The combine provides a chance for students from elementary to middle school age to gain experience and training for football at higher levels of competition. The combine is non-profit and all proceeds are donated to youth sports leagues in Alamance County. Discussed the roll of youth sports in education, the discipline and life skills that are taught by playing youth sports. **HA**

5/15/23 8:30a-9a Carson Johnson, Leanne Petty, and Tom Britt talked with NC State Secretary of Treasury Dale Folewell about NC finances. Discussed the NC Senate passing the Medical De-Weaponization Act and the number of North Carolinian's facing bankruptcy due to medical debt. Discussed the need for transparency in pricing for medical procedures by healthcare conglomerates. **EC, HC, PF, POL**

5/24/23 8:30a-9a Carson Johnson, Leanne Petty, and Tom Britt talked with Wayne Brewer, a Vietnam veteran and part of the AlcoVets. Discussed the upcoming Memorial Day Holiday and the need for mental health treatment for veterans. Discussed PTSD, homelessness among veterans, the challenges of finding employment for vets. **MI, FY, HO**

5/31/23 8:30a-9a Carson Johnson, Leanne Pett,y and Tom Britt talked with coaches and players from the Western Alamance Softball team about their upcoming appearance in the state 3A Softball Championships. Discussed the hard work and discipline needed to adance to the championships, talked about community support and their representing Alamance County on a state level. **HA, FY**

6/8/23 8:30a-9a Carson Johnson, Leanne Petty, and Tom Britt talked with Chris Gillespie from Habitat For Humanity about their upcoming "Family Feud" fundraiser for Habitat. Discussed the number of Habitat homes built each year in Alamance County and the history of Habitat For Humanity. Alamance County was one of the first areas in North Carolina to begin building Habitat homes. Discussed how home recipients must be invested in the building of their home, including spending time during the build process and saving the money to help pay for the home. Discussed homelessness in Alamance County and the challenges of becoming a first time homeowner. Talked about the housing crisis and current cost of rent in Alamance County. **HO, EC**

6/14/23 8:30a-9a Carson Johnson, Leanne Petty, and Tom Britt talked with current chief of the Burlington Police Department Brian Long and the soon to be chief Alan Balog. Chief Long is retiring in the coming month and Chief Balog is his replacement. Discussed the challenges currently faced by the BPD and police officers in general. Talked about gang and drug issues in Alamance County. Discussed the transition between chiefs, the need for more funding and current vacancies in the department. **LE, CD, PA**

6/19/23 8:30a-9a Carson Johnson, Leanne Petty, and Tom Britt talked with ABSS board member Ryan Bowden and PIO Les Atkins about the upcoming county commissioner's budget meeting. Talked about a proposed two million dollar budget cut to the Alamance Burlington School System. Discussed what the budget cut would mean, including the inability to remain competitive in teacher pay, the cutting of athletic trainers from our school. Discussed other major projects including the need to replace roofs at several schools as well as staffing the new school which opens this coming school year. Talked about the recent property tax assessment and the commissioner's plan to remain "revenue neutral". Discussed the bond referendum which passed to build the new school and the sales tax which did not pass and the need to pay for it through property taxes. **ED, PA, HA, IN, GR, PA, POL**

6/22/23 8:30a-9a Carson Johnson and Tom Britt talked with Tari Thornton, director of the Bread Of Life Food Bank in Alamance County. The food bank is facing a critical shortage after serving nearly 300 families the prior week, a number about 75 families higher than usual. Discussed current economic troubles faced by families, inflation, and the need for Alamance County to help feed our neighbors. **HN, FY**