

July 1, 2013 - September 30, 2013

Through surveys of community leaders, newsmakers and from listener input, Cumulus of Chattanooga has found the following key issues facing our area of license:

- 1) Political/government Issues
- 2) Crime & Public Safety
- 3) Race Relations
- 4) Health
- 5) The Environment
- 6) Economic Development
- 7) Education

The following issues were covered during the third quarter of 2013 in the locally-produced public affairs show called "Conversation Piece," hosted/moderated by Cumulus of Chattanooga News Director Kevin West:

POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT ISSUES

8/4 - Former Chattanooga Times Free Press editorial writer Drew Johnson on his firing for the headline "Take Your Jobs Plan And Shove It, Mr. President" on the day President Obama visited Chattanooga. The paper says it fired him for violating their policy on changing headlines without approval. They say it had nothing to do with content. Johnson says management had every opportunity to change the headline in the online version if they wanted to but now one did, that there was no policy until the day after the opinion piece ran, and he was fired the next day for violating a policy that didn't exist until a day after the piece he wrote. He also claims his criticism of powerful local entities like EPB and the RiverCity Company also played a role.

8/11 - Collegedale Vice Mayor Tim Johnson on the new city ordinance allowing benefits to same-sex government employees who are legally married and can provide a marriage certificate. Collegedale is the first Tennessee government to go that way and Johnson says he opposes homosexual marriage, but believes it absolutely is the proper thing to do in the situation of the female Collegedale police detective and her wife. Tennessee does not recognize gay marriages, so anyone applying for such benefits in Collegedale would have to have a marriage certificate from another state.

9/8 - Tom Murphy from the Vote Hemp organization on the move by two Tennessee lawmakers to introduce legislation legalizing hemp farming. The bill would allow the growth of industrial hemp that contains no THC -- hemp for clothing, paper, rope and other products that can't get you high. The two The lawmakers plan to introduce the measure -- patterned after one recently passed in Kentucky -- during the next session of

the Tennessee General Assembly.

9/15 - John Culpepper, city manager of Chickamauga, Georgia, on the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War battles for Chattanooga -- beginning with the Battle of Chickamauga in September of 1863.

9/29 - State Representative Joe Carr on the "Beat Lamar" Tea Party forum. Carr is one of the candidates running against U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander in 2014. Central in his argument is that Alexander has not done enough to derail The Affordable Health Care Act, a.k.a. ObamaCare.

CRIME & PUBLIC SAFETY

7/7 - John Watts, coordinator of the "Save The Youth Tour," and The Disciple, a rap artist who penned the song "Think Twice." John goes into inner-city schools in an effort to catch kids young before they turn to a violent life and, often, a violent death. John and The Disciple have taken the song to Mayor Berke's office to get his help in expanding the message city-wide. To date: 66 people have been shot in the city of Chattanooga, compared to only 42 at this time last year.

8/11 - Marine Sergeant Michael Austin Pickett recounts the story of how he saved a young boy from drowning in North Carolina last month. Pickett is a graduate of Hixson High School, has been in the Marine Corps for 6 1/2 years, and is currently stationed at Cherry Point, North Carolina.

RACE RELATIONS

7/28 - Janelle Jackson and Ashl-Lee Henderson from Concerned Citizens for Justice. A "Justice For Trayvon National Day Of Action" was held the day before, CCJ upset with the George Zimmerman acquittal in the Trayvon Martin shooting death in Florida. CCJ does not like "Stand Your Ground" type laws and says identifying local talk of solving the "black on black" crime problem is "white supremacist" since we don't talk about white on white crime. Approximately 90% of the shootings in Chattanooga as charted by WGOW News Director Kevin West over the last four years have been blacks shooting blacks.

HEALTH

8/25 - Tobacco-Free Chattanooga Chairman Kevin Lusk on the move to ban smoking in public parks in Chattanooga. It's an initiative Lusk is taking to the Chattanooga City Council, noting that only 18-percent of Chattanoogans still smoke.

9/22 - Deborah Moore, Gerald Lavender, and Joe Shaw from Bradford Health Services on addiction recovery. September is National Recovery Month.

THE ENVIRONMENT

8/11 - Urban Forester Gyene Hyde on the emerald ash borer and its impacts on trees that seems to have been falling at an alarming rate and taking out power lines with them. EPB has blamed the insect, which came over from China, for the uncommonly high

number of outages this summer.

9/15 - Thom Benson with the Tennessee Aquarium and Dr. Jim McClintock, an endowed professor of polar and marine biology at the University of Alabama on global climate change. The discussion centered around the National Geographic article theorizing what might happen by 2070 if the oceans rise by nine feet.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

8/4 - Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke on his 2014 budget proposal -- the first since he was elected, released almost a month after the fiscal year began. Mayor Berke also addressed the fire and police pension fund after the president of the Chattanooga Fire and Police Pension board accused him of creating a crisis where none existed.

8/18 - Abby Garrison and Nick Wilkinson with Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise examine the question "What to do with East Chattanooga?" There has been a lot of gentrification and urban renewal on the North Shore and the South Side while East Chattanooga has gone forgotten. Abby and Nick are wondering if -- and hoping that -- the Harriet Taubman homes replacement(?) project the Mayor has in mind might be a step toward revitalizing that section of the city.

EDUCATION

7/21 - Chattanooga Times Free Press opinion writer David Cook on Common Core, the education curriculum adopted by 45 states including Tennessee and Georgia. Tennessee is moving forward with full implementation, but many in Georgia are urging the state to opt out of the minimum standards approach to education, worried that too many federal strings are attached. Cook has found that many education "experts" worry Common Core will put the U.S. as a whole even further behind other nations in terms of its educational standing.

9/1 - Michael Brickman, the national policy director of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, on Common Core. he calls it "a conservative win for Tennessee -- a great conservative victory." His assessment finds six strong conservative arguments in favor of the national education initiative.

OTHER

7/14 - Clay Dennis, owner of Southern Hearth and Patio, on National Grill Month. He asserts passing the grill tongs is a rite of passage from childhood to adulthood and that grilling brings a family together in an era where members are often separated by their own personal electronic devices.