

Quarterly Issues & Programs Report

WKML-FM

HD-1 & HD-2

Lumberton-Fayetteville, NC

4th Quarter

OCT—NOV—DEC 2023

Prepared by: Ronnie Glover

WKML-FM
HD-1 & HD-2

ISSUE/PROGRAM SUMMARY
2023
OCT-NOV-DEC

Radio station WKML-FM/HD-1 & HD-2, Lumberton-Fayetteville, NC identified these issues of concern in the community to be addressed from October through December 2023. These items were identified during on-going surveys and interviews conducted by the staff with community leaders.

Gambling Addiction/Poverty/Workplace Matters/Parenting/Personal Health/Medicare/Senior Issues/Drinking Water Safety/Scams/Employment/Holly Day Fair/Fayetteville Christmas Parade

Issues were addressed via ----- Daily Public Service Announcements
Daily Newscasts
Weekly Long-form Public Affairs Programs
Live Broadcasts from Community Events



Call Letters: _____

Weekly Public Affairs Program

QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT, OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 2023

Show # 2023-40

Date aired: 10/1/2023 Time Aired: 6:30am

Timothy W. Fong, MD, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the Jane and Terry Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, Director of the UCLA Addiction Psychiatry Consultation Service, Co-Director of the UCLA Gambling Studies Program

In just five years, legalized sports betting has swept the nation, now embraced as a revenue source by at least 37 states. Dr. Fong discussed gambling addiction, who is most at risk and how to recognize it, particularly in teenagers. Some well-known universities have signed deals with sportsbooks or casinos to advertise on campus, in athletic venues and in some cases, directly in students' university email inboxes. He offered advice for parents to prevent the start of addictive behavior in their teen.

Issues covered:

Length: 9:54

**Gambling Addiction
Government
Parenting**

Lee Newman, MD, MA, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Environmental & Occupational Health and Department of Epidemiology at the University of Colorado, Director of the Colorado School of Public Health's Center for Health, Work, and Environment

Today, the average American lives just 76 years, the shortest lifespan the country has seen since 1996. Dr. Newman talked about growing data that suggests that employers can dramatically affect the quality—and perhaps even length—of an employee's life. A recent report by Deloitte claimed life span could increase by an average of 12 years, and the number of years a person spends in good health by 19 years by 2040, if employers not only made sure their employees are safe on the job, but also addressed their health and well-being in other less traditional ways.

Issues covered:

Length: 7:22

**Longevity
Personal Health
Employment**

Show # 2023-41

Date aired: 10/8/2023 Time Aired: 6:30am

Matt Levendusky, PhD, Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, Stephen & Mary Baran Chair in the Institutions of Democracy at the Annenberg Public Policy Center

Many Americans do not know what rights are protected under the First Amendment and a substantial number cannot name all three branches of government, according to the 2023 Annenberg Constitution Day Civics Survey. Prof. Levendusky shared other findings from the survey, discussed the reasons behind today's widespread civic ignorance and explained why the trend is so worrisome.

Issues covered:
Constitutional Rights
Citizenship
Education

Length: 9:06

Marlene Schwartz, PhD, Director of the University of Connecticut's Rudd Center for Food Policy and Health

Registered dietitians and other online influencers are being paid to post videos that promote diet soda, sugar and supplements on Instagram and TikTok. Prof. Schwartz discussed the little-known tactic often used by the multibillion-dollar food, beverage and pharmaceutical industries to sway consumers faced with often-contradictory health messages about popular products. She offered suggestions to help viewers recognize these paid messages.

Issues covered:
Consumer Matters
Personal Health/Nutrition

Length: 8:11

Show # 2023-42

Date aired: 10/15/2023 **Time Aired:** 6:30am

Devin Mann, MD, Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Population Health at NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Dr. Mann led a study of healthcare consumers that found that most of ChatGPT's responses to people's healthcare-related queries are nearly indistinguishable from those provided by human physicians. He believes the chatbots will be great tools for healthcare providers to communicate with patients, improve quality of care and reduce misdiagnoses and errors.

Issues covered:
Artificial Intelligence
Personal Health

Length: 9:02

Gary Painter, PhD, Academic Director of the Carl H. Lindner College of Business real estate program, Professor of Real Estate at the University of Cincinnati

Prof. Painter shared his research that Americans who pay more than 30% of their income toward rent are forced to make trade-offs in other areas of their lives that can last for years and contribute to many social ills. He said while some trade-offs, such as buying less clothing, might not have severe long-term consequences, some rent-burdened residents reported cutting back on medicine and other health care that could have cascading effects.

Issues covered:
Housing
Poverty
Economy

Length: 8:18

Show # 2023-43

Date aired: 10/22/2023 Time Aired: 6:30am

Adia Harvey Wingfield, PhD, sociologist, Mary Tileston Hemenway Professor of Arts & Sciences and Vice Dean for Faculty Development and Diversity at Washington University in St. Louis, author of *"Gray Areas: How the Way We Work Perpetuates Racism and What We Can Do to Fix It"*

While explicit discrimination no longer occurs and organizations make internal and public pledges to honor and achieve diversity, black employees remain less likely to be hired, stall out at middle levels, and rarely progress to senior leadership positions. Prof. Wingfield discussed what she calls "gray areas:" the relationships, networks, and cultural dynamics that exist apart from specific expectations and duties required for any given job. She offered suggestions to address the problem.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:33

**Racism
Workplace Matters**

Lisa Damour, PhD, Senior Advisor to the Schubert Center for Child Studies at Case Western Reserve University, author of *"The Emotional Lives of Teenagers: Raising Connected, Capable, and Compassionate Adolescents,"* co-host of the Ask Lisa podcast

Dr. Damour offered advice for parents to understand their teenagers' intense and often fraught emotional lives—and how to support teens through this critical developmental stage. She discussed some of the most common myths relating to teenage emotions and distress, and offered tips to help teenagers maintain or regain emotional control.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:45

**Adolescent Mental Health
Parenting**

Show # 2023-44

Date aired: 10/29/2023 Time Aired: 6:30am

Ivan Misner PhD, founder of BNI, the world's largest business networking organization, author of *"The 3rd Paradigm: A Radical Shift to Greater Success"*

Mr. Misner discussed effective ways to complain at work. He explained the importance for businesses to take deliberate actions to be sure their staff is heard. He said scheduling regular "complaining meetings" can change the entire mood of the workplace, and lead to innovation and new ideas.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:33

**Workplace Matters
Business**

Nathalie Huguet, PhD, Associate Professor of Family Medicine, at the Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine

Prof. Huguet led a study that revealed gaps in health insurance coverage for seniors residing in the US. She found that about a quarter of low-income patients receiving care at community health centers remain uninsured when they turn 65. The main reason is that they are not eligible for Medicare because they never paid into the Social Security system, in many cases because they are not legal US citizens. She said 20% of the uninsured patients had five or more health conditions, such as diabetes or high blood pressure, that need frequent treatment and management.

Issues covered:
Health Insurance
Immigration
Senior Issues

Length: 8:45

Show # 2023-45

Date aired: 11/5/2023 Time Aired: 6:30am

David S. Prerau, PhD, author of "*Seize the Daylight: The Curious and Contentious Story of Daylight-Saving Time*"

Mr. Prerau discussed the history of Daylight-Saving time. He dispelled the myth that farmers are the main proponents of DST. He also explained where efforts stand to end the annual time change, and outlined the possible options that Congress would choose from.

Issues covered:
Government
Personal Health

Length: 8:30

Martha Khlopin, Medicare expert, nationally syndicated radio host, founder of Get2insurance.com

Vague and misleading advertisements for Medicare Advantage policies are flooding the airwaves and mailboxes of Medicare recipients. Ms. Khlopin explained what Medicare Advantage is and how it differs from original Medicare. She also shared examples of complaints from seniors who had their plans changed without their consent or knowledge, and how the scams work. She warned that some TV ads and phone calls may give the impression that they are affiliated with the federal Medicare system, when they are not. She advised seniors to be careful and seek help from legitimate sources.

Issues covered:
Medicare
Scams
Senior Issues

Length: 8:38

Show # 2023-46

Date aired: 11/12/2023 Time Aired: 6:30am

David Newman-Toker, M.D., PhD, Lead Investigator and Director of the Johns Hopkins Armstrong Institute Center for Diagnostic Excellence

Dr. Newman-Toker led what is believed to be the first rigorous national estimate of permanent disability and death from diagnostic error. He estimates that 795,000 Americans die or are permanently disabled by diagnostic error each year. He said vascular events, infections and cancers cause 75% of the serious harms, and that stroke is the top cause of serious harm from misdiagnosis. He believes that a serious campaign to target diseases with high error and harm rates may reduce diagnostic errors and improve patient outcomes.

Issues covered:
Medical Errors & Misdiagnoses
Public Health

Length: 8:30

Johnnye Lewis, PhD, Professor Emerita in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at University of New Mexico Health Sciences, Co-Director of Community Environmental Health Program, Director of the UNM METALS Superfund Research Program

Prof. Lewis' research found that water from many wells and community water systems across the US contains unsafe levels of toxic contaminants. She discussed the health effects of seven contaminants, which include cancer, developmental delays, and preterm birth, and how they affect vulnerable populations and communities with lower income levels. She also talked about the challenges of removing these contaminants from water supply systems, and how larger systems tend to have more resources and monitoring than smaller systems

Issues covered:

**Drinking Water Safety
Pollution
Government**

Length: 8:54

Show # 2023-47

Date aired: 11/19/2023 Time Aired: 6:30am

Hilarie Gamm, tech industry expert, author of "*Billions Lost: The American Tech Crisis and The Road Map to Change*"

Ms. Gamm explained why parents, educators, and employers urgently need to understand today's generation of teens and young adults. She talked about the revolutionary effect that technological advances have had on education and the development of the human mind. She said every American needs to have a basic understanding of current technology because of the wide-ranging ramifications these changes have on legislation, regulation and privacy.

Issues covered:

**Education
Career
Parenting**

Length: 8:48

Kelsey Graham, PhD, pollinator conservation specialist at Michigan State University

Dr. Graham explained the importance of bees to the nation's food supply. She also discussed the role that pesticides and climate change may be having on bee populations in North America. She outlined simple steps that people can take to increase bee populations in their communities.

Issues covered:

**Agriculture
Environment**

Length: 8:27

Show # 2023-48

Date aired: 11/26/2023 Time Aired: 6:30am

Chris Bailey, productivity expert, author of "*Hyperfocus: How to Be More Productive in a World of Distraction*"

Mr. Bailey said that the human brain has two powerful modes that can be unlocked when we use our attention well: a focused mode and a creative mode. He explained how to unlock each of these mental modes in order to concentrate more deeply, think more clearly, and work and live more deliberately every day. He explained how to minimize distractions that can cause problems at work and in personal relationships.

Issues covered:

**Workplace Matters
Career**

Length: 8:31

Janet Murnaghan, journalist, author of "Saving Sarah: One Mother's Battle Against the Health Care System to Save Her Daughter's Life"

Ms. Murnaghan's young daughter desperately needed a set of donor lungs. A set of lungs was available and there was nothing standing in the way medically, but a federal policy barred children under the age of 12 from receiving adult lungs. Ms. Murnaghan talked about her quest to save Sarah and other kids in similar situations. After a court fight and through the use of social media, she eventually convinced the government to change organ donation rules permanently.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:44

**Organ Donation
Government Regulation**

Show # 2023-49

Date aired: 12/3/2023 Time Aired: 6:30am

Edward McFowland III, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Technology and Operations Management Unit at Harvard Business School

Prof. McFowland co-authored a recent study that found that the use of artificial intelligence tools elevates the skills of the lowest performers across a wide range of fields to, or even far above, what was previously average performance. Across a set of 18 tasks designed to test a range of business skills - from analysis to idea generation to persuasion - consultants who had previously tested in the lower half of the group increased the quality of their outputs by 43% with AI help, while the top half only gained 17%. He discussed likely limitations in what AI can do well in modern professional work. He believes that AI will not be able to replace most human creativity and problem-solving.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:51

**Artificial Intelligence
Employment**

Morgan Frank, PhD, Assistant Professor in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Computing and Information

Prof. Frank studies job prospects for fossil fuel workers in the green energy transition. He said that fossil fuel workers have skills that are compatible with green jobs, but they face geographic and social barriers to relocate. He also explained why green jobs will span across different skill levels and sectors, but they are not well aligned with the current locations of fossil fuel workers.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:32

**Energy
Employment
Environment**

Show # 2023-50

Date aired: 12/10/2023 Time Aired: 6:30am

Tyra Fainstad, MD, Associate Professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine

Burnout is highly prevalent across most healthcare careers, but especially among trainee physicians. Dr. Fainstad developed a pilot program that successfully reduced burnout among female medical residents. She explained that while the program is digital, including videoconferencing coaching calls, she found that the group aspect was especially important in its effectiveness. She discussed the potential hurdles in expanding the training to hospitals and medical schools nationwide.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:37

**Public Health
Mental Health**

Jason M. Nagata MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at the University of California San Francisco

Dr. Nagata's study of US adolescents found that both victims and perpetrators of cyberbullying were more likely than other youth to experience eating disorder symptoms, including worrying about weight gain, self-worth tied to weight, and binge eating. He believes it is important that teachers and parents are aware that these experiences are relatively common among teens, and encourage kids to report online harassment if it occurs.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:44

**Cyberbullying
Eating Disorders
Discrimination**

Show # 2023-51

Date aired: 12/17/2023 Time Aired: 6:30am

Laurence J. Kotlikoff, PhD, Professor of Economics and William Warren Fairfield Professor at Boston University, former Senior Economist on the President's Council of Economic Advisers, co-author of "*Social Security Horror Stories: Protect Yourself From the System & Avoid Clawbacks*"

Prof. Kotlikoff explained the problem of Social Security clawbacks. He said each year more than a million unsuspecting Americans receive letters from the Social Security Administration, demanding repayment of thousands of dollars of overpaid benefits, due to SSA mistakes that occurred sometimes decades earlier. He proposed reforms to stop clawbacks.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:44

**Social Security
Government
Consumer Matters**

Andrew Perry, postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Educational Studies at Ohio State University

Mr. Perry was the lead author of a study that examined how teachers rate different approaches to student violence. He said teachers believe that removing or expelling students from school after a violent incident is the least effective response, because it may increase the risk of violence against teachers, as the student may come back bitter or angry. He said most teachers prefer proactive strategies, which aim to create a positive learning environment and a sense of community through socioemotional learning and school counseling.

Issues covered:

Length: 8:41

School Violence

Show # 2023-52

Date aired: 12/24/2023 Time Aired: 6:30am

Ryan Kalember, Senior Vice President of Cybersecurity Strategy for security company Proofpoint

Scammers have devised a new scheme to steal thousands of dollars from homebuyers who are about to close on a house. Mr. Kalember said buyers are often tricked into wiring their down payment on the

day of closing to a fraudulent offshore account, by criminals who have hacked their real estate agent's or title company's email account. He explained how consumers can protect themselves.

Issues covered:

Length: 7:43

**Crime
Personal Finance**

Diane Redleaf, family defense attorney, author of "*They Took the Kids Last Night: How the Child Protection System Puts Families at Risk*"

The number of children in the U.S. foster care system is at record levels, thanks in part to the opioid crisis. With nearly 450,000 children in the system, Ms. Redleaf discussed what happens when caseworkers make mistakes, taking children from parents who are neither abusive nor neglectful. She noted that minority families are disproportionately affected by this trend. She also said that once children are taken, parents and their attorneys sometimes can't learn where they are being housed.

Issues covered:

Length: 9:24

**Foster Care
Minority Concerns**

Show # 2023-53

Date aired: 12/31/2023 Time Aired: 6:30am

Brandi Britton, District President of Office Team

Ms. Britton discussed the most common social media mistakes that take job seekers out of the running for a position. She noted that negative or inappropriate comments and questionable photos are the most common social media issues. She said a job hunter should always assume that a company has combed through their social media profile before even scheduling an interview.

Issues covered:

Length: 7:28

**Employment
Career
Social Media**

Jennifer Bradley, co-author of "*Make it Zero: The Movement to Safeguard Every Child*"

Ms. Bradley discussed the issue of human trafficking in the U.S. She said five main factors contribute to the problem, including poverty, abuse and isolation. She explained the shocking role that the foster child system plays in the issue, and she offered suggestions for individuals to make a difference in preventing and stopping human trafficking.

Issues covered:

Length: 9:43

**Human Trafficking
Child Abuse
Poverty**

4th Qtr. 2023 Public Affairs Broadcasts ("Talkback" – Sun. 7:30 AM) (Paul Johnson hosted, with the following guests ☺)

Talkback for Oct. 1, 2023 - Connections Art Auction and Part D Medicare Enrollment - E.T. 29:58

Three stories to tell on Talkback today! The first is about this Thursday, October 5th's Art Auction to benefit Connections of Cumberland County. Both Silent and Active auctions benefit women...both with and without children...who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, by showing them path to self-sufficiency. The event takes place Thursday night 6:30 to 8:30 at Studio 215, 215 Williams Street in Fayetteville at the intersection of Russell St. & Williams! Executive Director Crystal Depietro joins us to tell us more this exciting event and you're caring by attending, donating and winning bids for quality local artwork translates to good for Connections of Cumberland County and the women it tries to lend a hand-up!

Our next story is told in our visit with longtime friend of Talkback, Lisa Hughes, now Executive Director of the non-profit Cumberland County Council on Older Adults. Among Baby Boomers – that huge group of post-World War II generation Americans born between 1946 and 1964 - those born in 1958 are the ones this year that have crossed into the Medicare age-range of 65 and above. In the months surrounding turning age 65, there are a series of choices to be made by every participant. And, to have Medicare serve you the best, there are more decisions to be made every year. The choices are the same for every one of your age, but it's up to you to seek out the information that helps you and your life the most. Sorting through the details to give you the most useful information for you is just one of the services provided by the Cumberland Council on Older Adults. Lisa Hughes joins us in a few minutes.

And our third story in this morning's edition of Talkback is told by the concept providers, architects and drivers of Fayetteville's world-class independent film festival, IndigoMoonFilmFest – dedicated to the idea Film Inspires Change. They are Jan Johnson and Pat Wright. 362 days of the year they run the non-profit Groundswell Pictures – a 501(c3) that produces, promotes, shows films, and teaches filmmaking – plus Moonlight Communications – an award-winning Fayetteville-based Video Production Company – and a host of other businesses. They joined us this morning to

begin detailing this year's Indigo Moon Film Fest. Scheduled Friday, October 13th through Sunday, October 15th. If you're near a computer, look it up and bookmark IndigoFilmFest.com. Jan and Pat will be along forthwith!

First up, Crystal DePietro begins telling us about Connections of Cumberland County, its mission and its Annual Auction of Art by Local Artists – also its biggest fundraising event of the year! She's in a unique position to tell the story of Connections of Cumberland County having been there almost since it began! Meet Crystal DePietro!

(Interview #1 - Crystal DePietro)

For more details, see Connectionsofcc-dot-org. Connectionsofcc-dot-ORG.

Connecting to improve lives – empowering women and children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to become self-reliant.

As promised, Next up is Lisa Hughes with the Cumberland County Council on Older Adults – a 501-c3 non-profit chartered to help Cumberland County residents aged 60 and above. The coolest thing about the Council is although they are respected to whom they give services to, they routinely pass along helpful information, including contact advice, to whomever asks. And she joins me in wanting everyone who is a Medicare Part D Drug Plan recipient OR knows someone who is...the open enrollment period for Part D (October 15 thru December 7) is about to begin....and to be ready to get impartial, unbiased advice about your choices for the next calendar year! Lisa Hughes and the Cumberland County Council on Older Adults stand ready to help!

(Interview #2 - Lisa Hughes)

Even if you don't live in Cumberland County, you can call 910-484-0111 to get the phone number for NC SHIP. Search NC SHIP.

Now, it's been almost a year since the last occurrence of the Indigo Moon Film Fest – this year's gift to the Fayetteville area is about to take place in Historic Downtown Fayetteville. 80 independent films – some full-length, some as short as minute, most in-between. Three screens, two at Fayetteville's Cameo Theatre and Film house on Hay St – one at The Capitol downtown.

See IndigoMoonFilmFest.com for Films, Tickets, Pricing, Sponsor contributions

There's even a feature called Dinner and A Movie Director happening Saturday Night at Sky View on Hay for an additional \$10 to any ticket package you purchase.

We all know Film's Box Office buster of the year has been "Barbie"

With a surprise awaiting, let's begin our conversation with Jan Johnson and Pat Wright!

(Interview #3 - Pat Wright & Jan Johnson)

Thanks, Pat Wright, Thanks Jan Johnson! And the surprise we promised ...there are 80 films selected for this year's Indigo Moon Film Festival scheduled two weekends from now in Fayetteville– October 13-15! We've so far talked about one! (And hope we've inspired some interest in "Black Barbie") We've only got 79 to go! So, Pat and Jan will be back next week on the October 8th Talkback!

Talkback for Oct. 8, 2023 - Indigo Moon Film Fest Returns to Downtown Fayetteville - E.T. 26:59

Today's guests on Talkback are the concept providers, architects and drivers of Fayetteville's world-class independent film festival, IndigoMoonFilmFest – dedicated to the idea Film Inspires Change. Pat Wright and Jan Johnson run the non-profit Groundswell Pictures – a 501(c3) company that produces, promotes, shows films, and teaches filmmaking – plus Moonlight Communications – an award-winning Fayetteville-based Video Production Company. They've got other businesses too! We heard from them last week detailing "Black Barbie" the opening night film from this year's Indigo Moon Film Fest. Scheduled Friday, October 13th, Saturday the 14th and Sunday, October 15th. AS you listen this morning and have a computer nearby, we invite you to look up IndigoMoonFilmFest.com to get the best idea of the 79 other films you're invited to choose from in this year's edition of this world class independent film festival we, in our corner of North Carolina, are treated to on the second weekend of October every year! Here's our conversation with Jan and Pat. We hope you make plans to explore this year's Indigo Moon Film Festival this coming weekend in historic downtown Fayetteville!

(Interview w/ Jan & Pat)

Thank you, Pat Wright and Jan Johnson, for all you and your host of volunteers do to make Fayetteville a better place to live, think and begin improving our-selves through the power of ideas and possibilities you bring us with the Indigo Moon Film Festival the second weekend of October every year! Remember the website, IndigoMoonFilmFest.com!

Talkback October 15, 2023_ Guests: Victoria Huggins and Meghan Korb-Miller of the Walk to End Alzheimer's PLUS Operation Christmas Child's Nicole Nelson - E.T. 31:21

On Talkback today, a reminder of three upcoming events of note around the Fayetteville area. First, this Wednesday, October 18th at 8am in the Crown Ballroom on the second level of the Crown Complex between the Coliseum Arena and Crown Expo Center, the Greater Fayetteville Chamber's Government Affairs Committee invites you to a Fayetteville Municipal Election Candidates Forum. It's designed as a public event where **candidates running for office are invited to express their positions toward various topics. The Chamber** hosts this event for free intending to inform our citizens and foster an engaged business community. Find out more at FAYBIZ.COM by clicking on the EVENTS heading, then Candidates Forum 2023.

Fayetteville is invited to a talk from a guest from Fiji this coming Friday, 9am at the Northwood Temple – 4250 North Ramsey Street. Zac is his name. He was 9 years old when a shoebox gift package from a donor just like you to Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child made its way to Zac in Fiji....and profoundly changed his life. He's here Friday. We'll hear from Nicole Nelson, Fayetteville area Coordinator for Operation Christmas Child who will explain how you can help in this coming year's Fayetteville Operation Christmas Child collection, which turned over nearly 32,000 gifts to Samaritan's Purse last year! She'll be along in just a few minutes.

But we'll start on today's Talkback with an invitation to support the 2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's, a dementia disease affecting more and more citizens and families every year – as America's, North Carolina's and the Fayetteville Area's population ages every year. In North Carolina alone there are more than 180,000 sufferers – expected to exceed 225,000 in just the next few years. Because as time goes on the likelihood Alzheimer's or other dementia related illness could affect someone we know, it's an affliction we should all

know about. The Fayetteville Walk to End Alzheimer's Coordinator is the energetic former Miss North Carolina, Victoria Huggins.

Interview #1 - Victoria Huggins and Korb-Miller

The Fayetteville Walk to End Alzheimer's is coming up in about two weeks, October 28th 9am at Segra Stadium downtown Fayetteville. For more information, it's ALZ.ORG/WALK. Enter your zip code or 28301 (the downtown Fayetteville zip) for more info on the Fayetteville Walk!

Nicole Nelson is well known around Fayetteville. She's a terrific singer. Many know her from her singing every week at Village Baptist Church. (We first met her years ago as the area coordinator for Operation Christmas Child)

Interview #2 – Nicole Nelson...on OCC and 10/20 visit by Zac (Samaritan's First Ambassador

Thank you, Nicole Nelson. For more information see SamaritansPurse.org/OCC - for Operation Christmas Child. SamaritansPurse.org/OCC.

When the world seems currently over-supplied with meanness and cruelty, it's love, prayer, positive thought and kindness that we need the most!

Talkback for October 22, 2023, Guests: Victoria Huggins - Meaghan Korb (Walk to End Alzheimer's) - Bill Bowman-Ms. Everette - (All American Jazz Festival) AND Janifer Campbell-Kiera Geiger (Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church Halloween Alternative "Hallelujah Night") - E.T. 29:54

On Talkback we're highlighting three upcoming Fayetteville events:

On the morning of this coming Saturday, October 28th, our community's Annual Walk to End Alzheimer's will first pause at Fayetteville's Segra Stadium to remember those who have succumbed to this dreadful dementia-related ailment - and then leave and return to Segra Stadium. We'll be joined by Fayetteville Walk Coordinator, former Miss North Carolina and Miss America contestant Victoria Huggins as well as 2023 Walk Experience Volunteer Chair Meaghan Korb-Miller.

Using last year's numbers there are more than 180,000 victims of Alzheimer's in North Carolina. In just a few years, that number will rise to

more than 225,000. Many more family members and friends are involved in unpaid caregiving. The past couple of years have seen unmatched progress in treatments and results...but we've got to keep the effort going! Victoria and Meaghan will invite you to support and detail how you can help! Beasley Media Group will be on hand as well!

Saturday afternoon brings about a special event for music lovers at Fayetteville's Festival Park! The event, aptly named The All-American Jazz Festival starts at 4pm when the gates open – the music starts at 6pm and Smooth Jazz will fill the air all evening! The non-profit Sandhills Jazz Society and a host of community and music appreciating sponsors (one of whom is the Beasley Media Group) hope you'll think about enjoying it too. It isn't often our community is treated to world-class musicianship by the likes of Brian Simpson, Lindsey Webster, Jeanette Harris and Terrance Young. Bill Bowman of sponsoring Up and Coming Weekly is joined by All American Jazz Festival emcee Ms. Everette and Tina Turner of the Sandhills Jazz Society to tell us more.

We'll also hear from Janifer Campbell and Kiara Geiger of Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church bring you news of the Churches latest outreach effort to the community...a safe, positive approach to All Hallows' eve they are calling Halleluiah Night! That's good news and That's coming up!

But to begin our look chronologically - next Saturday's happenings represent the 28th of October - so let's bring on a preview of next Saturday's Fayetteville Walk to End Alzheimer's Fundraiser at Segra Stadium downtown!

(Interview #1 - featuring Alzheimer's Association reps Victoria Huggins and Meghan Korb-Miller)

Thanks again to Victoria Huggins and Meghan Korb-Miller representing the Alzheimer's Association. Their website is ALZ.org

I've probably mentioned this before, but in my life, I have found listening to live music has been the biggest catalyst to my love of music. Whether it's symphony orchestra, jazz quintet or R&B trio or rock or country band...hearing it live is always an exciting experience. That's why I am excited to tell you about the opportunity you've got to come up Saturday night at Festival Park! Bill Bowman, publisher of Up and coming weekly tells us about some world-renowned jazz musicians coming our way....and your chance to pay just \$35 general admission, drop in with your lawn chair, some extra cash

for refreshments if you want them and simply enjoy some magnificent smooth jazz that could open your ears for the rest of your life!

Interview #2 (Bill Bowman and Ms. Everette)

Thanks again to Bill Bowman of sponsoring Up and Coming Weekly is joined by All American Jazz Festival emcee Ms. Everette and Tina Turner of the Sandhills Jazz Society. SandhillsJazz.com is where you can purchase a \$35 general admission ticket! You can bring your own lawn chair...or blanket to sit on the ground!

Our third event is Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church bringing us the Churches latest outreach effort.

Interview #3

Find out more about Hallelujah Night 6 to 8 Free Food, Fun and a Christian teaching orientation to All Hallows Eve at the John D. Fuller RAC! Plus, Trunk or Treat at their 468 Hobson Rd Location in Raeford. See Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church on social media OR the calendar at Lewis Chapel-dot-org!

***Talkback for October 29, 2023 - Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Ch.
Hallelujah Night - Holly Day Fair w/Dr. Tamara Bryant - PWC's Carolyn Justice
Hinson - E.T. 29:00***

On Talkback this week, more proof positive that, in Fayetteville and surrounding area October has become so busy and crowded in terms of community attractions and events. Yesterday, Saturday the 28th for instance, saw Fayetteville alone host to the Walk to End Alzheimer's, a Crime Scene Investigation Workshop at the Public Library and the All-American Jazz Festival at Festival Park. And there are more. All solid, good, public-is-

invited events and all have a right to be part of our growing community planning-scape. As the event list continues to grow, there's got to be greater advance notice and planning to give our busy families more details and notification on how to prepare!

That said, the early weeks in upcoming month of November, just three days away, is loaded in the first two weeks with a trove of happenings we need to put on our calendars – before Thanksgiving and the Holidays begin their domination of our obligated time in late November and December.

We'll focus on three community invitations and list at least one more! The first of these is a safe and positive All Hallows Eve celebration coming up Tuesday night, initiated by Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church – activities for people of all ages - at their John D. Fuller Athletic and Recreational Complex. Here to remind us are – from Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist's Christian Education office - Janifer Campbell and Kiara Geiger.

(Interview #1 - Janifer Campbell and Kiara Geiger)

Janifer Campbell and Kiara Geiger of Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church...creating a fun, safe, free-food and family-friendly alternative 6 to 8pm Tuesday night!

Next up, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday of this coming week see the continuation of a 56-year First-Weekend-In-November tradition in our 4-Time All-American Can-Do City...the Holli-day Fair! The biggest Christmas shows in Eastern North Carolina!

(Interview #2 – Dr. Tamara Bryant)

Enjoy the Holly-day Fair going on later this coming week and weekend! Always worthwhile! You can count on Dr. Bryant joining us again in a matter of weeks to discuss the exciting work being done at the relatively new Fayetteville-Cumberland County Entrepreneurial Hub at Bronco Square – just across Murchison Rd. From Fayetteville State University!

Meanwhile, November 1st – on Wednesday marks the beginning of Wintertime Peak Energy Use Hours moving from 3pm-7pm to 6am to 10am for many areas electric power customers, including Fayetteville's Public Works Commission. PWC's Communications and Community Outreach Officer Carolyn Justice Hinson details that change PLUS a reflection on the month that's about to close on Tuesday!

(Interview #3 - Carolyn Justice-Hinson)

For more information and money-saving tips on the use of energy and water in your home, see FAY-PWC.COM.

Thank you again, Carolyn Justice-Hinson!

Talkback for November 5, 2023 - Beach Boys original member Mike Love & Hope Mills Chamber's Exec. Dir. Casey Ferris – E.T. 29:15

Today is the first day of Standard time. At 2:00 AM this morning our clocks reverted to 1am – allowing us to reclaim the hour of rest we gave up last March when we sprang our clocks ahead to adopt Daylight Saving Time in the spring, summer, and early fall months. Make sure all your clocks have been set back 1 hour and enjoy your day.

Tuesday – November 7th - is Voting Day in municipal and local elections across the state. So many decisions that will affect our lives as local laws and ordinances will be put into the hands of representatives we choose. Make sure you've helped choose the leaders that will serve you by voting on Tuesday!

Thursday - (All Summer Long) the Beach Boys appear Thursday night the 9th – 7:30pm at the Crown Theatre in Fayetteville's Crown Complex....And tickets in all price ranges are still available at Ticketmaster-dotcom, crowncomplexcnc-dotcom and the Crown Center Box Office open Weekdays this week from 10am to 6pm. Longtime singer and original member Mike Love leads the group in bringing those idyllic songs of surfing, everlasting summer fun, cars, motorbikes, boys and girls and dream-filled youth to Fayetteville! Songs we've loved for the past 60 years! Mike love also joins us in a few moments on Today's Talkback show!

Friday the 10th this week – brings the 2nd Round of State High School Football playoffs. Teams from 7 Cumberland County High Schools took to the Gridiron this past Friday but only 3 survived to advance to the second round. All three first week winners were in the 3A Class: The Undefeated 71st High School Fighting Falcons, the Cape Fear Colts and Terry Sanford Bulldogs. All play this Friday night at 7. Cape Fear is at Havelock. Terry Sanford plays at Harnett Central. And 71st plays host to Burlington Williams. That's the Mid-South Sports game broadcast that will be featured on Beasley Media Group's

Sunny 94-3 and all its platforms at 7pm this Friday. Good luck to all teams remaining in the playoffs! In fact, cheers to all those who played and practiced all season long! Your thoughts on your season and the memories you have made will life-lasting regardless!

Saturday is Veteran's Day – honoring all who have served our country in any of the USA's armed services – for any length of time! While Veteran's Day is celebrated every year on November 11th as a Federal Holiday, Cumberland County honored its veteran population with a 10am parade in downtown Fayetteville yesterday –the 4th – as a means of kicking off a week of Recognition and Celebration of those who have worn a service-member's uniform.

Saturday will also bring about the Hope Mills Area Chamber of Commerce Chili Cookoff...a great community Heroes Homecoming gathering at Dirt Bag Ales Brewery and Taproom on Corporation Drive off Chicken Foot Road. Your \$10 donation for a tasty flight of 5 Chili Samples (everything from mild to spicy, veggie to alligator AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN – ALSO provides a "portion of proceeds" donation to a local Veteran Centric Non-profit! Hours are 11 to 3 and beyond! \$5 Chili Bowls available after 3pm! Casey Ferris, Hope Mills Area Chamber Executive Director, joins us to tell us more about it!

There'll be a benefit Saturday the 11th for Ritchie Priest, Greg Packer & Patricia Bullock, sponsored by the Bladenboro Benefit Committee. The Cake Sale, Silent Auction and \$8 BBQ Plate Sale runs from 4 to 7pm at the Bladenboro Historical Building.

We visited with Mike Love of the Beach Boys, visiting with 'America's Band' this coming Thursday night – Interview #1

Thank you, Beach Boy's Mike Love! Tickets are still available for Thursday night's show! Casey Ferris joins us from the Hope Mills Chamber of Commerce to tell us about upcoming events in her part of town – including the upcoming Veterans Day Chili Cookoff! -

Interview #2 (Casey Ferris)

Thanks, Casey Ferris, Executive Director of the Hope Mills Chamber of Commerce!

Talkback for November 12, 2023, FAYFAST X1 Route & Service Source's Tara Brisson-Hinton

Today is Sunday, November 12, the 316th day of the year, with 49 days left in 2023. 11 days remain until Thanksgiving and 42 days to Christmas.

On Talkback today, three reminders of November events! As yesterday marked the official 2023 iteration of Veterans Day, Brandon Price, CEO of the Fayetteville Area Habitat for Humanity thanks contributors from all over our area to Fayetteville Habitat's Veteran Build Program – aiding Veterans needing help with home repair in our community.

Then we'll visit with Tiara Dougherty, Compliance Manager, and Transit Planner Jaimie Walters of Fayetteville FAST – our city-run bus system – about the city's first new Express Bus route (X1) starts tomorrow – and how FAST is letting you ride it FREE the first week to discover the benefits of parking and riding on the city's first EXPRESS BUS service, running between the Two Bells stop near Lowe's in West Fayetteville and Cedar Creek Mall!

We'll also visit with Tara Brisson Hinton of Service Source – about the Five Year Anniversary (on the 26th of November) of the non-profit Friendship House in Fayetteville, a joint venture of Service Source and Highland Presbyterian Church, in a 3-building campus near the corner of Highland and Arsenal in Fayetteville - striving to make blending, living and socialization comfortable for some challenged individuals brave enough to try!

That's coming up! Since the non-profit Fayetteville Area Habitat for Humanity's 2023 Veteran's Build wrapped up just recently, we'll speak first with its Chief Executive Officer.

(Interview #1 with Brandon Price)

For more information about the mission and projects of Fayetteville Area Habitat for Humanity, see Fayettevillenchabitat-dot-org!

In the past few years, the Fayetteville Area System of Transit (FAST, for short) has a brand-new transit center and has been re-doing all its buses. For the first time Fayetteville Fast is also introducing its first Express routes - Aimed at saving area residents' money, time and stress. Welcome to Talkback FAST Compliance Manager Tiara Dougherty, and Transit Planner Jaimie Walters.

(Interview #2 – FAST's Tiara Dougherty and Jaimie Walters)

Fayetteville Area System of Transit information is always available at Ride FAST-dot-Net.

Friendship House in Fayetteville, a joint non-profit venture of Service Source and Highland Presbyterian Church, sits in a 3-building campus near the corner of Highland and Arsenal in Fayetteville - striving to make blending, living and socialization comfortable for some mentally and emotionally challenged individuals brave enough to try!

Interview #3 (Tara Brisson-Hinton of **Service Source**)

We'll visit again soon with Service Source and Tara Brisson Hinton!

Talkback for November 19, 2023, Dr Gerald Newton_Pt1_Encore (Director of Fayetteville's Department of Development Services) - E.T. 28:11

(originally presented March 12, 2023)

Dr. Gerald Newton, The City of Fayetteville's Development Services Director, Chief Planning & Development Officer has served our city, its residents and citizens, its elected leadership, its management and would-be developers since October 2017. He has over 30 years of executive steward leadership of public and private multi-state, local government, and business experience leading teams and communities in transformative work, development, and growth including resolving complex real estate development and redevelopment, business, land use, and regulatory issues. He is married and has four children, a son-in-law, and three grandchildren.

As the Director of Development Services, his department is responsible for the city's planning, zoning, building inspection, permitting, and codes enforcement, all of which is done in conjunction with other departments, the city manager's office, and the city council. But BEFORE we can go on, this bit of background...

Since starting with the city in 2004, and except for five years spent as Manager of a city in Florida BEFORE returning to become Fayetteville's City Manager in 2016, CM Doug Hewitt has always placed a premium on recruitment of quality candidates for jobs in Fayetteville's City Government.

Because of Dr. Newton's rich and principled background, Dr. Newton was sought and recruited for application by City Manager Doug Hewitt.

We'll hear this interview with Dr. Newton in two parts, the first today and the second next Sunday.

Something I only learned after I had completed my original interview with DR. NEWTON is one of HIS daughters – in her interest in family history, had traced the lineage of their Newton name back to England's Sir Isaac. Sir Isaac Newton FRS (1642=1726) was an English mathematician, physicist, astronomer, alchemist, theologian, and author who was described in his time as a "natural philosopher". He was a key figure in the philosophical revolution known as the Enlightenment.

In his writings, Newton formulated the laws of motion and universal gravitation that formed the dominant scientific viewpoint for centuries until it was superseded by the theory of relativity. Newton used his mathematical description of gravity to derive the laws of planetary motion, account for tides, the trajectories of comets, the precession of the equinoxes and other phenomena. Just a few things like that!

And even though our conversation with DR. Newton leaves us with the feeling he will always rely on HIS OWN judgement, work, achievements and stewardship principles, it gives us a little perspective into conscience when DR. Newton says in the beginning of our chat that among the forces with which he weighs his decisions include thoughts of wherein he's come. And now...our conversation.... (Program and interview)

INTERVIEW

Dr Gerald Newton (Development Services Director, Chief Planning & Development Officer for the City of Fayetteville) answers questions about business – and more – next Sunday morning in Part 2 of our conversation on Talkback.

Talkback for November 26, 2023, Encore of Pt. 2 Dr. Gerald Newton (Fayetteville) and Cumberland County Assistant County Manager Brian Haney – E.T. 27:07

We hope you've been enjoying a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend. Among the things we can all feel grateful for are our local public government

workers. Most of the time we don't know their names. They show up every day following their mantra "Public Service IS our business!"

We'll lead off today's edition with an interview we first broadcast on March 19th of this year with the City of Fayetteville's Director of Development Services DR. Gerald Newton. He'll continue his description of what he terms "steward leadership" and how it relates to how the City responds to Business Development opportunities.

We'll also hear from Cumberland County's Assistant County Manager Brian Haney, who fills us in on a few of the County's priorities over the Holidays and into the first months of the upcoming year.

Thanks for joining us. Let's get started!

Interview #1 (Pt. 2 of our conversation recorded in March of this year.)

Dr. Gerald Newton, as we've mentioned, and only learned after I had completed my chat with him, IS descended from England's Sir Issac Newton... and he brings years of experience and know how about how to get difficult things done to the Fayetteville area! We're lucky to have him.

We're also lucky to have Brian Haney of Cumberland County looking out for us as a county servant. We asked Brian Haney to describe his position within Cumberland County!

BH#1 :15 (Asst Co. Manager in charge of General Services and Stewardship, including financial services and Public Information)

Talk about one of your current projects!

BH#2 :27 (*Public and County Employees Food Drive (distributed by 501(c)(3) non-profit Fayetteville Urban Ministries, now through December 15th.)*)

To which County departments can concerned public and county employees donate non-perishable food, useful goods, hygiene items and toiletries?

BH#3 :16 (*There'll be a truck in the County Courthouse parking lot, Animal Services, the Cumberland County Jail, Law Enforcement Center, DSS, Public Health and all County Library locations.*)

What are the most needed items people can donate?

BH#4 :16 (*Fayetteville Urban Ministries says canned meat, other non-perishable food, useful goods, hygiene items and paper products are all good.*)

How long can people donate to give Fayetteville Urban Ministeries a chance to get some items out during the Holidays?

BH#5 :05 (*Now through December 15th!*)

So, the collection runs for about 3 more weeks. Brian Haney, Assistant County Manager of Cumberland County and current Public Information Director, please summarize everything we've talked about regarding the non-perishable food, household goods, hygiene items and paper goods for which you're looking.

BH#6 :53 (*Summary of above, emphasizing the historical contributions over 31 years by caring members of the public and county employees.*)

What other activities are Cumberland County Commissioners and County staff working on as we reach the new calendar year?

BH#7 1:35 (*One of the biggest County initiatives: DSS implementation of North Carolina's recently approved Medicaid expansion to an estimated 35,000 eligible County residents. People wishing to apply should submit applications starting at epass.nc.gov - it's the quickest and easiest way to begin! Cumberland County is also readying an educational campaign to help county residents with Medicaid expansion.*)

The County Commissioners will manage a realignment of their responsibilities for the new calendar year starting at their December 4th meeting.

Compensation study review has begun and will be part of the County's plan for the new year in time to hold a major job fair in January, where the County will attempt to fill numerous county job vacancies.

After that, the addition of budget planning and preparation will occupy much of the county's March through June Period.)

Thank you, Brian Haney, Assistant County Manager and Public Information spokesperson. For more information, visit CumberlandCountyNC.gov.

On this Thanksgiving Weekend, we have gratitude for the efforts of all our genuinely hard-working public servants!

Talkback for Sunday December 3rd, 2023. This Saturday's Fayetteville Rotary Christmas Parade (with Brandon Price) and Supportive Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (with Dr. Justin Johnson) - practicing psychiatrist, Army Reservist and Fayetteville-area native – E.T. 28:59

Today is Sunday, Dec. 3rd, the 337th day of the year. There are 22 days remaining until Christmas, the 8 days of Hannukah begin this Thursday the 7th at Sundown and runs through the 15th. Kwanzaa begins Tuesday the 26th and lasts through New Year's Day on January 1st. Meanwhile, there are 28 days left in 2023.

Starting last Friday, December 1st, North Carolina began its era of Medicaid Expansion, offering health insurance coverage to as many as 35,000 in Cumberland County and hundreds of thousands across North Carolina. As Cumberland County Assistant County Manager Brian Haney told us last Sunday, perhaps the simplest way to sign-up is to sign up at epass.nc.gov.

[Epass.nc.gov](http://epass.nc.gov). You may also show up during regular business hours at the Department of Social Services at 1225 Ramsey St. If you elect to show up there, please be advised you'll probably be part of a busier, big crowd of potential enrollees. So, bring your patience with you! Next Sunday morning, we'll visit with representatives of the Economic Services division of the Department of Social Services - Vivian Tookes, Vanessa McClain-Gray and Jessica Bullock - to explain the sign-up and verification processes AND answer some of the most frequently asked questions. We hope you'll join us next Sunday on Talkback!

Meanwhile, since 1999 – when (as a service project) Rotary Clubs in Fayetteville took over the operation of the Fayetteville Christmas Parade from the City of Fayetteville – the parade has remained one of the most popular events on the local calendar and acknowledged as one of the top 5 parades in North Carolina.

This coming Saturday at 10am marks the scheduled 2023 running of the crowd-pleasing Fayetteville Rotary Christmas Parade through Downtown Fayetteville on Person and Hay Streets from the Courthouse to down near the railroad tracks. We spoke to the current coordinator of the crowd-pleasing event!

Interview with Brandon Price. e.t. 9:30.

Again, the Fayetteville Rotary Christmas Parade will be downtown on Person and Hay Streets this Saturday – step-off at 10am... finishing about 12 noon! Merry Christmas!

Since the pandemic, concern about mental health and its importance to all of us has taken a turn in the spotlight. Most, especially mental health care providers, feel this is long overdue. Dr. Justin Johnson is a psychiatrist – a doctor specializing in mental health care. He's also an Army Reserve officer connected to nearby Fort Liberty. He also grew up around Fayetteville. We first met during the pandemic, and both enjoyed our conversation. We recently caught up with each other again. Same topic, emphasizing that taking care of our minds is just the same as taking care of a cold or a broken wrist. It requires some steps...but help is always available ...hope is always there...and there's no reason not to reach out for it when you need it!

Interview with Dr. Justin Johnson. e.t. 14:30.

Thanks to you, Dr. Justin Johnson!

Talkback for Sunday December 10, 2023 - Department of Social Services describes sign-up for Medicaid Expansion in Cumberland County and North Carolina. - E.T. 25:30

December 1st marked the beginning of a new era in healthcare locally and in North Carolina with enrollment open in the federal Medicaid program now allowed for 35,000 qualified residents in Cumberland County – and 600,000 residents across the state. Key Representatives of the Department of Social Services in Cumberland County join us on Talkback!

Interview #1 (Vivian Tookes, Vanessa McClean-Gray, Jessica Bullock of DSS)

Thanks. Again, for more information, visit cumberlandcountync.gov/Departments and click on social services.

One of the phrases you hear a lot this time of year is Tis the Season. And as we move on down, move on down the road toward Christmas, here's a special announcement of yet another COMPLETELY FREE, all-inclusive, yes-free food too - community-wide, something-for-everyone-in-your-family-and-circle-of-friends-and-neighbors celebrations at Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

– on Raeford Road in Fayetteville, in Raeford on Hodgson Rd...everywhere on Social Media- the John D. Fuller Recreation and Athletic complex....and today on Talkback.

Interview #2 (Pastor Chris Stackhouse and Assoc. Dir. of Christian Educ. Kiera Geiger)

Put it on your family calendar – Wednesday December 20th – starting at 5 – get there when you can and try to be in place by 7. It runs until 9pm. Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church 'd love to see you, family, friends and neighbors all!

Talkback for Sunday December 17, 2023 - Helping the Salvation Army address Donation Shortages in the new post-pandemic economy - and Celebrating at the 'Tis the Season Community Festival at Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church - E.T. 26:30

As the host of the Talkback public affairs program on our Beasley Media Fayetteville stations, my name is Paul Johnson. I've been a proud member of our Fayetteville community for more than 20 years. I started in radio in September of 1970.

I've also known about the Salvation Army, an international charitable organization, almost all my life.

I knew their faith-based purpose was “do the best.” I knew the Salvation Army, along with the Red Cross, was always involved in helping to bring order from chaos at disaster scenes in the U.S., but I'd never needed the Salvation Army's help.

That is, until the spring of 1986. I had become the new program director of WKY, a station in Oklahoma City, earlier that year. The national severe storm forecast center is based in Norman, OK (near the Oklahoma University campus, just south of OKC. One reason why is that area sees 450 Tornadoes every year. It's part of the Great Plains, basically flat land, with no terrain to slow down or stop a twister.

My family became a victim of a tornado, along with 44 other homes in my neighborhood when a twister moved through, lifting the roof on our home about six inches before setting it back down.

They really do sound like a train. Also, thanks to great weather meteorologists and reporting, the worst physical injury suffered by anyone in my neighborhood was a broken toe. The house became uninhabitable for 6 or 7 weeks while the roof was repaired. Mercifully, the Red Cross and Salvation Army helped settle my family and kept us fed, along with the other families that lived there, during that time. They were angels, doing their best, providing some order in a chaotic time.

I've always kept faith in the resources the Salvation Army could muster in times of trouble. Around Fayetteville, I had seen the Salvation Army provide an essential link to services for our community's "at risk" populations – young, old, homeless and in-need. I assumed, maybe like you, that the Salvation Army's funding was always going to be able to perpetuate itself – after all, it's a practical, reasonably frugal and efficient organization - and if I dropped a few dollars into the kettle – it would always be that way.

Major Tim Grider, who, for the past 6 years along with his wife, Major Cheryl Grider, runs the Salvation Army Sandhills, covering an ever-expanding area branching out from Fayetteville, says it's been tougher as our area has emerged from the pandemic. Major Grider, in an interview we taped this past Monday.

Interview #1 (Major Tim Grider, Salvation Army)

Bless you too, Major Tim Grider! Help the Salvation Army Sandhills at SalvationArmySandhill.org! Let's keep our local Salvation Army DOING THE MOST GOOD!

In news of a lighter note, as we began telling you last week, one of our area churches is reaching out to all its families, neighbors, and friends with a special "everybody's welcome event. Let's hear more from Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church Pastor Chris Stackhouse and Associate Director of Christian Education, Kiera Geiger...about their Special EVENT at the John D. Fuller Recreation and Athletic Center (the one they call the RAC) this WEDNESDAY NIGHT!

Interview #2 (Dr. Chris Stackhouse and Assoc. Dir. of Christian Educ. Kiera Geiger)

This Wednesday night 5 to 9 at the RAC! Come as you're able – pick up your children – bring all your friends – they'll feed you – just be in place by 7pm for the program. And Enjoy at the RAC Wednesday night!

Talkback for December 24, 2003. Chief of Fayetteville Police Kem Braden (Encore: Part 1 of 2) PLUS preview of New Years Eve events in Fayetteville including Back to the 60's Party at Gates Four Golf and Country Club. E.T. 30:21

On this date in 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve telecast.

As we move into Christmas tomorrow and New Year's Eve a week from today, we wish you Happy Holidays. And on Talkback today, we reprise Part #1 of a conversation we first had and brought to you near Labor Day. Some say his job is one of the toughest – Chief of Fayetteville Police. He oversees nearly 430 sworn officers and 170 non-sworn personnel. Having been a prior non-sworn Police employee – not in Fayetteville – I can conjecture that makes about 600 opinions on how his job should be done. Most say he's done it well – which is a credit to Kemberle Braden – now about 27 years on the force in Fayetteville.

Interview #1 (Police Chief Kem Braden.)

To learn more about the Fayetteville Police Department, lookup Fayetteville NC-dot-Gov. Then under Departments, choose "Police". To find out more about becoming an officer – and they always need good officers - visit JoinFayPD.com. We'll feature Part #2 of our conversation with Chief Braden next Sunday on Talkback.

As our public affairs show looks ahead to a brand new 2024, we also look forward to another year of Fayetteville's companionship with Fort Liberty.

And welcomed an end-of-year visit from Garrison Commander Colonel John Wilcox and his Command Sergeant Major Greg Seymour. We started our chat by asking Col. Wilcox to frame the population of those directly affected by Fort Liberty.

Interview #2 – Col. Wilcox- CSM Seymour

We'll jump into the coming year with our next conversation with Fort Liberty Garrison Commander Colonel John Wilcox and Command Sergeant Major Greg Seymour on Sunday January 8th.

Finally, it's Christmas Eve on the Christian Calendar. Please have a Merry and Safe Christmas. Beasley Media Group knows there are lots of ways to ring in the new year a week from tonight. Please make it safe and Happy too. As a media group, we're promoting everything from free hymn singing to a free public party at Festival Park. And even a gathering of 60's music fans at Gates Four Golf and Country Club – full disclosure here – This one is not free. And Beasley Media Group is one of several promotional partners involved in presenting a dining and dance-party event featuring a music group from Wilmington – the British Invaders – Bill Bowman of Up and Coming Weekly describes the Fayetteville Dinner Theatre partner event at Gates Four on New Years Eve - sponsored in part by Elizabethton's Cape Fear Winery and Distillers.

Interview #3 – Bill Bowman/Derrick Rice

The website is Fayetteville Dinner Theater-dot-com. The Promo Code to get the discount is "PC". Capital P -no space-Capital C.

A reminder this not a free event – but a production of Fayetteville Dinner Theatre. Beasley Media Group is one of a larger group of promotional partners. We urge all who participate to be socially responsible.

Talkback for Sunday December 31, 2023. Fayetteville Police Chief Kem Braden (Encore: Part 2) and (new) FAST (Transit) Compliance Manager Tiara Dougherty - City of Fayetteville Mar-Comm Director Loren Bymer on upcoming FAST Hiring Event. - E.T. 30:00

On behalf of Beasley Media Group, we wish everyone in our group of listeners a Happy and Safe New Year!

On last week's Talkback. We featured Part 1 of a two-part conversation with Fayetteville Police Chief Kem Braden. In the 1st 20 minutes of our talk, Chief Braden explained how his adherence to the discipline his fairly strict raising provided him a recommendation to get into police work and how his first application led to his being hired at the Fayetteville Police Department almost 27 years ago. He's worked his way up through the ranks and now leads a department of about 430 sworn law enforcement officers (that's the full-strength target) and about 180 more non-sworn staff employees.

That's a considerable quantity of opinion and thought to vector and lead in the same direction. By most accounts he's done well.

As you will hear Chief Braden describe during Part 2, Fayetteville police are great at solving crime and maintaining order, but really need the community's help in preventing it. He says so much is in community control – from managing our family member's attitudes - to simply saying something when we see something. Please listen as he explains how an ounce of cooperation can lead to a pound of cure. Listen too to his thought as to how much of gun violence that arises from poor conflict resolution starts with social media postings. A fascinating discussion picking up right where we left off last week talking about the police departments' need for partnership with us, our concerned citizens and organizations.

Interview #1 (Paul Johnson with Police Chief Kem Braden Part 2)

To learn more about the Fayetteville Police Department, lookup Fayetteville NC-dot-Gov. Then under Departments, choose "Police". To find out more about becoming an officer – and they always need good officers - visit JoinFayPD.com.

As we look ahead to more opportunities in 2024, we hear from Fayetteville Area System of Transit Compliance Manager Tiara Dougherty and City of Fayetteville Marketing and Communications Manager Loren Bymer...talking about quick action to meet an immediate need in our fast-growing city.

Interview #2 (Paul Johnson with Tiara Dougherty and Loren Bymer)

For more details about the immediate need positions of FAST Bus Driver, FAST Supervisor, Dispatcher and more, look up Fayetteville NC-dot-GOV, then Human Resources Development then "CAREER OPPORTUNITIES"

Or just look for every job for which the city is trying to find teammates to match by searching City of Fayetteville jobs. The city is anxious to talk to you about your interests!

Whether you're heading out tonight for a family or church event or any kind of gathering, please be careful and safe! Let's all ring in a Happy New Year!