

April-June 2015

THE ATTACHED TOPICS AND NEW STORIES WERE DETERMINED TO MEET THE ISSUES AND NEED OF THE DECATUR, ALABAMA COMMUNITY SERVED BY WEKI FOR THE PRECEEDING QUARTER.

- EDUCATION
- ECONOMY
- ELECTIONS/PUBLIC POLICY
- CRIME
- COMMUNITY RELATIONS
- TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SAFETY
- HEALTH

*GA - EA Monday-Friday*



FRED HOLLAND  
GM/MANAGING MEMBER  
FOCUS RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

*7/10/15*  
DATE



## **EDUCATION**

04/07/15 - Mary Scott Hunter-State School Bd 8-discusses Charter Schools law, Schools to Work concept, dividing two and K-12 into separate boards.

04/15/15 - Matt Massey-MadCo Schools Supr-discusses pain coming with construction of new Monrovia High School including approval of district lines by USDOJ.

04/16/15 - Roger Beckett-Executive Director-Ashbrook Center-Ashland University-Ashland OH-Says Poor Teacher Education is to blame for Students' lack of knowledge about US Gov't and History.

04/30/15 - John Archibald-Columnist-AL.Com-discusses parallels of Auburn/Bobby Lowder and Bama/Paul Bryant Jr. Meddling in UAB and UAH athletics to protect the mother ship. Issue of secrecy with a public institution. Bryant Bank & Protective Life trustee ties are just as troubling as those a decade ago with Colonial Bank.

05/01/15 - Bill Hopkins Jr-Superintendent-Morgan Co Schools-discusses challenges of a small rural system. Getting the most out of every dollar. Outsourcing, including Home Schoolers in on-line education pgms.

05/08/15 - Alabama House yesterday passed the Tebo Bill. If it survives the senate you can play ball but not be in the band.

05/13/15 - Trey Holiaday-Superintendent-Athens City Schools-discusses his systems innovation regarding technology, interaction with private and home schoolers.

05/15/15 - State School Board split this week on appointing members to Charter Schools Commission. Mary Scott Hunter was one of three to vote to approve the members from the list offered per the new law. Three members Bell, Peters & Richardson did not vote refusing to appoint members to the commission. Does this create a constitutional crisis?

05/27/15 - The Alabama Legislature has given final approval to the education budget that expands the state's prekindergarten program. The House of Representatives on Tuesday unanimously approved a conference committee agreement on the spending plan. The budget now goes to Governor Bentley.

06/02/15 - Mary Scott Hunter-AL State School Board 8-discusses new Charter Schools Commission appointment issues, K-12/2 Yr College split and future facing education budget.

06/04/15 - Kaylie Crosby-Univ of Alabama Team Member & Project Mgr-Eco Car 3 Competition-discusses 16 college engineering teams' challenge of hybridizing a 2016 Camaro and keeping it a muscle car.

06/11/15 - Carl Blair-Former Instructor US Naval Academy and Course Coordinator-discusses his review of Advanced Placement US History (APUSH).

06/18/15 - Elizabeth Rose-Teacher/Entertainer/Author-YoMiz-discusses her experience teaching at 25 Manhattan Public High Schools in one year.

## **ECONOMY**

04/03/15 - Two things we learned from Decatur State of the City breakfast yesterday...Private Investment matters and sometimes things don't work out even when you do a lot of things correctly. Sweetwater project died because developer and landowner got into a legal dispute and Bass Pro Shops moved on.



04/02/15 - Decatur State of the City Remote. Mayor Don Kyle discusses failed Sweetwater project, managing more with less, more private investment in city and future economic opportunities.

04/08/15 - Dr John Dove-Asst Prof Economics-Johnson Center for Political Economy-Troy University-discusses Tax Freedom Day. Its tomorrow April 9<sup>th</sup> for Alabama. For USA its April 24<sup>th</sup>. In 1900 6% of income went to Local, State & Fed Taxes. Its today 33%.

04/27/15 - Tommy Battle-Mayor-Huntsville-Talks economic development, Transportation & Cyber Initiative.

05/12/15 - Bill McDowell-Exec Dir-Second Mile Development Inc-discusses his groups successes as a facilitator in Huntsville's Terry Heights since 1986.

05/18/15 - Prof Karmaveer Koonjbearry-DrVry Univ College of Engineering and Information Sciences-reveals survey of Small Business Owners (2/3rds) who say Cyber Attacks are inevitable.

05/20/15 - Dr John Reutter-Dean of Research & Planning-JF Drake State Community & Technical College-discusses coming trends in job market and programs that address them. Hottest areas are Cyber Security, Medical Specialties & Automated Manufacturing.

06/04/15 - Dan de Grandpre-Founder & CEO-Deal News-discusses meteoric growth of his company and its strong roots in Huntsville employment.

06/05/15 - Daniel J. Smith-Asst Prof-Johnson Ctr for Economics at Troy University-Talks about modern day Bootleggers (Bud & Miller) & Baptists and attempts to limit craft brewing industry in Alabama. Economic impact of this exploding industry.

06/08/15 - NerdWallet says Huntsville is America's Number 1 for STEM jobs.

06/16/15 - Randy "Cat" Morris-Chair-discusses mission of the Character Foundation of North Alabama working with Youth, Business and Community Organizations.

06/19/15 - Dr Alan Rozich-Chairman & CEO-Bio Conversion Solutions & Author "Other Inconvenient Truths Beyond Global Warming"-discusses the Super Nexus a 3 way confluence of the need for Environmental and Economic Sustainability including overlooking valuable byproducts of things we already do. Alabama has a huge opportunity to turn Chicken manure into 2 valuable products.

06/19/15 - Dan Sutter-Prof of Economics-Troy University-Continues discussion on how Alabama and neighboring states recruit industry.

06/23/15 - Romina Boccia-Senior Fellow Roe Institute for Economic Policy Heritage Foundation discusses new stats that look bad for Millennials from low savings and investment rates, living with parents and high college debt.

## **ELECTIONS/PUBLIC POLICY**

04/13/15 - Is Gov Bentley surrounding himself with so many Dems made him an easier proponent of Raising Taxes?

04/03/15 - Joe Colangelo-Exec Director-Consumers' Research-talks about why Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rule making on Pay Day Lenders and Car Title Loan could be a really bad idea and hurt those its meant to help.

04/08/15 - Katherine Robertson-VP-Alabama Policy Institute-discusses more reasons we don't need in Alabama. State only needs to reduce spending another 200 million dollars.



04/10/15 - Ed Haislmaier-Senior Research Fellow-Center for Health Policy Studies-Heritage Foundation-discusses the surprises that are here and continue to come for Obamacare Policy Holders including new forms with IRS and refunds vs new taxes.

04/14/15 - Dr Charles Steele-Pres & CEO-Southern Christian Leadership Conference-discusses his Tuscaloosa News Oped EPA Rules will harm the poor most. Higher bills make things worse particularly since the rest of the world is not on board. Environmental benefits are negligible

04/14/15 - Curtis Dubay-Research Fellow in Tax & Economic Policy-Heritage Foundation-Congress Can Raise Your Income 10% by Updating the Tax Code.

04/15/15 - Demian Brady-Director of Research-Nat'l Taxpayer Union Foundation-discusses new study of tax code complexity since Affordable Care Act. Compliance cost equals the GDP of Ireland.

04/15/15 - The Alabama Senate has approved a nearly \$6 billion education budget that includes more money for prekindergarten and additional middle school teachers.

04/20/15 - Coby Boswell-Attorney-New Beginnings Family Law-discusses his concerns about pending Family Law bills.

04/21/15 - Katherine Robertson-VP-Alabama Policy Institute-discusses op-ed co-written with Arkansas State Senator Bryan King advising Alabama to learn the lessons from his state which accepted Medicaid expansion. 5 reasons why it's a bad idea for Alabama.

04/21/15 - Gov Bentley threatens to shut down state parks which according to our source from AlaPark funds 85% of its own cost. This would be like fixing a pothole and making it three times bigger. Why is this guy spending money travelling the state saying we have no money?

04/22/15 - Today, the Alabama Senate overwhelmingly (22-8) adopted Senate Joint Resolution 34 to express the body's intent to not expand or fund the expansion of Medicaid.

04/24/15 - Lindsey Burke-Education Fellow-Heritage Foundation-Rewrite of No Child Left Behind does not solve the challenge of local and state control over Education.

04/29/15 - John Wohlstetter-Senior Fellow-Discovery Institute and London Ctr-discusses why it apparently doesn't matter to voters or the media that Hillary Clinton has lied and withheld information throughout her career. Why she will likely prevail as the Dems nominee.

05/04/15 - The Alabama Secretary of State's Office is attempting to take its contentious voter ID law - enacted in 2011 - one step further by requiring a photo ID when requesting an absentee ballot.

05/04/15 - Carly & Ben Day.....Two more GOPers announce today. Talk of unfairness of the SuperPACs. Take money out of politics..you take away free speech and thus the media will pick your President.

05/05/15 - Paul Winfree-Director-Roe Institute for Economic Policy-Heritage Foundation-discusses same old song with Congress. They may be passing the first buget in 5 years but spending deals are still a big problem.

05/07/15 - Dr. John Dove-Asst Prof-Sorrell School of Business at Johnson Center for Political Economy at Troy University-says Alabama does not have a revenue problem but a spending problem. Says lottery is not a good solution.

05/07/15 - Mike Ball-AL Rep10-discusses session and struggle to find new revenue in an environment where raising taxes is a bad idea.

05/11/15 - Gov Bentley now threatening to close Huntsville Crime Lab. How much is it costing him to be in Mobile today?



05/12/15 - New poll says Alabama would rather have more gambling than new taxes.

05/15/15 - Former State Senator Tom Butler explains how the power structure in Montgomery works at Hsv Tea Party meeting last night.

05/19/15 - Dem AL Rep Napoleon Bracy says Local Interference Bill (HR495) is bad for Alabama. Surfaced after local Mobile county bill to increase the minimum wage in that county. He says local gov't knows community. I'd like to see the long term effect of raising the wage floor.

05/22/15 - Katherine Robertson-VP-Alabama Policy Institute shares her Op-ed expressing her frustration with the Alabama Legislature and Governor over passing a budget without raising taxes or expanding gambling.

05/28/15 - State senators, working on the General Fund budget, are looking for ways to fill a budget shortfall with time running short in the session. Agency heads told members of the Senate budget committee Wednesday that proposed cuts will close circuit clerk offices, slash Medicaid services and send state prisons into more over crowding.

05/29/15 - The lottery and casino bill in the Alabama Legislature is dead for the session. Senate President Pro Tempore Del Marsh (R-Anniston) had proposed allowing Alabamians to vote on creating a state lottery and allowing casinos at four state dog tracks. The Senate Tourism Committee approved the legislation, but the bill never got to the floor.

06/01/15 - Demian Brady-Director of Research-Nat'l Taxpayers Union Foundation-Begins series on Pres candidates who have senate records.

06/03/15 - Tom Butler-Former AL State Senator-Madison-discusses the disfunction of the AL Legislature, Governor etc. Lack of Statesmanship. Prospects of expanded gambling.

06/08/15 - Cully Stimson-Senior Fellow/Nat'l Security Expert-Heritage Foundation says Liberty won with new replacement for Patriot Act. Bulk collection as a practice is limited but we can still go after bad guys. Data breach issue shows DC's weakness to deal with its own problems while trying to make private companies accountable.

06/09/15 - Scott Beaulier-Executive Director-Center for the Study of Economic Liberty at Arizona State University-discusses Alabama's budget woes as we now look forward to a special Legislative session. North Carolina & Georgia are now moving back in the Red State direction. We could learn something from them instead of raising taxes.

06/09/15 - Ed Haislmaier-Senior Fellow-Health Policy Studies-says either way the US Supreme Court rules things look worse for Obama Care subsidies as cost continue to skyrocket.

06/16/15 - While politicians across the U.S. talk about the importance of renewable energy, Huntsville resident Tyler Truitt is doing something about it.

06/22/15 - Demian Brady-Director of Research-Nat'l Taxpayers Union Foundation-Profiles Sen Marco Rubio candidacy based on his legislative record. Looks at Sen Bernie Sanders.

06/24/15 - Brandon Arnold-Executive VP-National Taxpayers Union-says TPA Trade Promotion Authority will be good for Alabama.

06/25/15 - Hans Von Spakovsky-Senior Legal Fellow-Heritage Foundation-discusses last remaining cases before US Supreme Court ending today & Tomorrow including Obama Care subsidies, Same Sex Marriage, EPA Rulings, Capital Punishment, Redistricting, Fair Housing & 3 Strikes Felony case.

06/30/15 - Mo Brooks-5<sup>th</sup> Dist Congressman AL-discusses Trade, Illegals and not bailing out Puerto Rico.



## **CRIME**

04/06/15 - The case of the man who spent decades on death row in Alabama who was released last week taints the criminal justice system and invites more investigation. We the taxpayers are on the hook for this one.

05/06/15 - Another female teacher charged with having sex with her student. Half a dozen of these are in our state. What in our society has changed?

05/08/15 - Liz Loewy-General Council and Senior VP-Eversafe-discusses growing targeting of seniors through credit card services.

05/20/15 - The FTC announced a major action against Cancer Fund of America, Children's Cancer Fund of America, and Breast Cancer Society.

05/27/15 - Jenna Moll-Director-State Strategic Initiatives Coalition for Public Safety-praises Alabama for its new efforts to reduce prison overcrowding and over Criminal Justice reform.

06/04/15 - BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A task force lead by the Jefferson County District Attorney raided 11 convenience stores in the Birmingham area Wednesday morning, arresting 17 on charges of EBT fraud.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

04/13/15 - Jeff Kemp-Former NFL QB and prominent marriage & relationship speaker discusses his new book Facing the Blitz. Life really is like football in many ways.

04/06/15 - Jenny Morris-Autism Society of Alabama-updates us on Autism research, community interaction and Walk for Autism this Saturday.

04/09/15 - Elizabeth Garcia-Pres No Ala BBB-previews Shred Day and latest scams.

04/10/15 - Randy Jinks-Alabama State Parks-Premieres Jazz Concerts in the Park this Sunday at Monte Sano State Park.

04/17/15 - Matt Drayton-Mentor, Speaker & Author-Succeeding While Black-discusses the opportunity that exists through old fashioned life lessons saying "you don't have to come from wealth or have a perfect upbringing to become successful. There are a lot of successful people who aren't wealthy or famous."

04/20/15 - BBB Shred Day tomorrow at Redstone Federal Credit Union on Wynn Drive on Saturday drew well over 2000 cars

04/21/15 - Khris Anderson-Executive Director-North Alabama Chapter American Red Cross-talks 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cajun Fest this Friday at Ingall's Harbor Pavillion.

04/23/15 - Joanna White-Mktg & PR Mgr -The Arts Council-Previews Panoply 2015.

04/28/15 - Dr. Charles Lundquist-Director-Interactive Projects Office UAH-discusses his book "Transplanted Rocket Pioneers" a who's who of the 218 German Rocket Team members. How our community changes in a very short time because of these new arrivals.

04/29/15 - Ellen Vaughn-Co-Author-Mama Maggie:the Untold Story of One Woman's Mission to Love the Forgotten Children of Egypt's Garbage Slums-described as the "Mother Teresa of Cairo" Maggie Gobran demonstrates how a single, transformed life can transform so many others. Many of the children now are leaders in her mission.



05/05/15 - Mohammad Rehman-Islam Expert & Author-Angels Are Crying-discussing the distortion and corruption of Islam worldwide. Only way Islam can escape the global taint of terrorism and violence is to return to the Quran.

05/06/15 - John Stallworth-NFL Hall of Famer & Founder of the John Stallworth Foundation-discusses upcoming golf tournament.

05/07/15 - Fallen Officers Memorial Service last night at Hsv Court House Sq. MadCo Sheriff Blake Dorning's comments about law enforcement community under siege spot on.

05/11/15 - Craig W. Floyd-Chairman & CEO-Nat'l Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund-says 273 names will be added to their memorial this week. Discussed officers killed at a traffic stop in Mississippi this weekend.

05/14/15 - Bud Johnson, George Barry, Charles Orr, Kelly Berry-HSV Tea Party discusses new effort to educate voters on how Montgomery works with former State Senator Tom Butler tonight at The Place on Pulaski Pike.

05/14/15 - Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Awards winners from yesterday. Interviews with Lonnie Williams-Small Business Person of the Year, Ashley Ashwander-Young Professional and Mindy Thwing-Non-Profit Person of the Year.

05/15/15 - Celicia Theys-Project Developer-Talent for Humanity-Celebrates individuals making a difference through their talents in the Arts.

05/18/15 - Dr Jim Penman-Founder Biohistory Foundation/Author "Biohistory: Decline & Fall of the West" discusses social change and historical patterns that have biological roots.

05/21/15 - Jamie Miller & Robert Dowlin-discuss 7<sup>th</sup> Annual SE Cyber Security Summit coming June 3-4 at Huntsville's VBC. Event includes recognition for local high schoolers.

05/26/15 - Eslynne Smith-Author-Taming the Tida-tlaks about her book that really began as a joke but turned into a story about a woman who runs for president as a contestant on a breakthrough reality show called "Who Wants to be President?" She says it helped her see the importance of the 2016 election and the need for both parties to field authentic candidates.

05/28/15 - Clay Vandiver-CEO United Way of Madison County-discusses new challenges of giving and volunteerism. Days of Action June 3-6 is attempt to get more people involved.

05/29/15 - Jim Parker-Jim Parker Songwriters Series-discusses its history and impact on Music Industry as well as impact on North Alabama as series continues its 11<sup>th</sup> year.

06/04/15 - Lynde Kreise-Special Events Coordinator Big Brothers/Big Sisters of North Alabama previews Annual 5K at Bridge Street June 20<sup>th</sup> hoping to engage 300 young people with Bigs this year.

06/05/15 - Chad Burns-Co-Producer & Director-Behind the Mask-Faith-filled Colonial Adventure opening at Carmike 18 this weekend. Discusses success of Christian Based film industry. He's got a Huntsville connection.

06/10/15 - Tim Worley-Chaplain & Doc Overholt-Director Downtown Rescue Mission discuss 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of aiding Homeless population, misconceptions, Bargain Ctrs.

06/26/15 - Joe Fitzgerald-Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army & Chairman Alabama Space Science Exhibits Commission-discusses 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event Aug 10<sup>th</sup>.



## **TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SAFETY**

04/20/15 - Storm damage overnight from two rounds of weather yesterday. Athens Utilities still working to restore around 450 customers and Bell Factory in Northeast Madison county had a tree causing power issues early evening.

04/07/15 - Pedestrians should not wear things that blend in with the pavement even if they are in the crosswalk. It's dark. You may see me. But I can't see you.

05/22/15 - Clay Ingram-Alabama AAA-says travel will be up a full 5% over last year. More people will be on the road this Memorial Day holiday. Gas prices are still a full \$1 less than this time last year.

05/28/15 - Justin Hayes Lamon, 28, is the man who Huntsville police say was hit and killed by a train. Lamon, who died at the scene, was struck around 2am Monday north of the Oakwood and Davidson crossing. Authorities say headphones were found at the scene and believe he might have been listening to music when the accident occurred. Why didn't he feel the rumble?

05/29/15 - I thought I understood sink holes. We've had ample non-flooding kind of rain so why a sink hole swallowing (almost) a city garbage truck? I thought that was a dry weather issue.

06/17/15 - Steven Bucci-Senior Fellow& Cyber Security Expert-Heritage Foundation-discusses governments inability to secure its own data. Future challenge of safeguarding our sensitive network in hands of private sector & military.

## **HEALTH**

04/10/15 - Obese middle-aged people are nearly 30% less likely to develop dementia than those of a healthy weight, a study has revealed. It also found that underweight people of the same age were a third more likely to develop the condition than those who had a healthy body mass index (BMI). The new research published in the The Lancet Diabetes And Endocrinology journal contradicts findings from previous studies, which suggested that obesity leads to an increased risk of dementia.

05/19/15 - Jon Howell-CEO & Alison Boylen 30 Yr Employee Honoree-talk about EMS Week and the evolution of Emergency Response and challenges.