

Community Issues Report

FIRST QUARTER 2015

Meredith Corporation
WHNS FOX Carolina

4/1/15

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COMMUNITY ISSUES
1/01/15 – 3/31/15

Consumer, Health & Safety

An interest in knowing about events that impact our daily lives. A need for information about how to be wise shoppers of goods and services and how to live healthy and safe lives.

Crime

A need to know about crime and law enforcement activities and a concern for personal safety.

Education

A concern about the money and skills needed to improve schools and an interest in improving student's quality of education.

Environment

A concern for how the environment is affected by human activity.

Government

An interest in how government affects our personal lives

Jobs/Economy/Growth

An interest in the local and national economic outlook and the impact growth has on our communities

Quality of Life

An interest in things that improve one's satisfaction with life.

The following pages list representative samples of program segments from The Ten O'clock Newscast and The Morning Newscast during this quarter that respond to our ascertained issues. Each segment was 20 seconds to 3 minutes in length (except as otherwise reported).

The following pages also identify issue-responsive episodes of programs, which are listed under the appropriate issue.

WHNS also broadcasts public service announcements, news and weather cut-ins as needed to inform local community of breaking news and emergencies.

Attachments



Consumer, Health & Safety

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THRID QUARTER 2014**

Problem/Need: **CONSUMER, HEALTH & SAFETY**

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM
Saturdays (airs weekly)	6:30am	TODAY'S HOMEOWNER

Description: A half-hour weekly television show that features information on how to maintain and improve your home, both inside and out. The approach to home improvement helps everyone from the experienced do-it-yourselfer to the first time homeowner. Projects are taken from start to finish in each weekly episode. (30:00)

Jan. 9, 2015

About 20 Wofford College students on their way to Greece had their trip take a startling turn on Friday as a dramatic standoff unfolded on their layover in Paris. Charles de Gaulle Airport closed two runways for arrivals to avoid interfering in the standoff and kept the student from leaving the airport. "You've got to go through a lot of security to go through the terminal. I haven't felt as though I'm in any danger, but I'm aware of the situation that is occurring with the hostages, which isn't far from my current position," said Wofford student Sarah Lamberth as the events unfolded. The students were able to board their flight later in the afternoon to Greece, where they will spend the next two weeks.

Jan. 12, 2015

The South Carolina Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal collision that occurred Sunday night in Spartanburg County. Troopers said the wreck took place about 9:10 p.m. on Highway 176, two miles east of the city of Spartanburg. The driver of a Chrysler four-door was involved in a collision with the driver of a Freightliner tractor-trailer, troopers said. No specific details were released about how the collision occurred. The driver of the Chrysler was taken to Spartanburg Regional, where they succumbed to their injuries. No information has been released at this time about the identity of the deceased, but troopers said the person was a resident of Pacolet. The collision remains under investigation by Highway Patrol and the MAIT team.

Jan. 14, 2015

The Oconee County Sheriff's Office has asked for the public's help locating a woman who left home on Christmas Day and didn't return. Deputies said Katie Nicole Hicks, 31, was living at her parents' home on West-Oak Highway with her son. The couple told deputies that Hicks left and was heading toward Anderson on Christmas Day. She has not been heard from since. Deputies said Holmes has not been able to be reached by cell phone and she has health issues that the family is worried about. Hicks was purportedly last seen driving a gold 2007 Chevrolet HHR, bearing a University of South Carolina sticker and SC license plate 4834GW. Since Hicks left home, deputies said they received information that she was spotted in Anderson County on Jan. 9. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Hicks is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-888-CRIME-SC.

Jan. 15, 2015

If this rifle could talk. In a gravelly voice, it may recite a yarn of weary settlers swaying on horses' backs in the parched, rocky Nevada wilderness. It may talk about riding in a saddle holster across neighboring Utah more than a decade before it became a state of the union. Great Basin National Park workers found the Winchester Model 1873 propped against a tree in the desert in November. Who knows how many years the rifle stood there, after someone left behind the model called "the gun that won the West." Did they have to depart in a hurry -- running from danger? Or did they not see it, as it stood neatly camouflaged against the arid trunk of the juniper tree? Wind, snow, desert sun have beaten years of furrows into the Winchester's grayed stock, and rusted its barrel brown, along with its receiver and signature figure-8 repeating lever. But its model name remains steadfastly engraved on its tang, along with a serial number. The Great Basin National Park's staff checked it against the Cody West Firearms Museum's records. The gun was manufactured and shipped in 1882, the museum told them. "Winchester records do not indicate who purchased the rifle from the warehouse or where it was shipped," the park said on its Facebook page. Cultural researchers will try to squeeze out a few more secrets about the gun's history from old newspapers and family trees. Then conservationists will not restore, but conserve it in the condition in which was found. It will become part of the display commemorating the park's 30th birthday in 2016. The 1873 model was widespread. Between 1873 and 1916, more than 760,000 were made, the park said. Today, collectors offer hundreds to around 10,000 dollars for one online. But in 1882, the price dropped by half to \$25 dollars apiece, the Park said. It put them in the hands of many towards the end of "Indian Wars" in the Southwest. But those battles were mostly in surrounding states, particularly fights against Apache warriors who refused to be confined to reservations in Arizona. That would seem a safe distance away. The spot where the gun was found in the Great Basin Desert could hardly be more in the middle of nowhere.

Jan. 21, 2015

South Carolina Highway Patrol troopers said a driver died Wednesday after his vehicle overturned in Anderson County. Troopers said the wreck occurred about 9:43 a.m. on US-29 northbound at Cherokee Road. Corporal Bill Rhyne said the driver was operating a 1993 Nissan Pathfinder when they ran off the right side of the road and struck a culvert. Rhyne said the driver was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from the SUV when it overturned. The driver was transported via EMS to Greenville Memorial Hospital where they succumbed to their injuries, Rhyne said. Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore said the driver was a man from Pelzer. His name has not been released at this time.

Jan. 28, 2015

Durham police are concerned about their safety after two officers were shot at over the past week. The department is seeking the public's help in finding the shooters. Meanwhile, Deputy Police Chief Larry Smith says officers have been told to be "extra vigilant." Last Thursday, an unidentified man fired six shots at Officer J.T. West as he stepped out of his marked patrol car near N.C. Central University. A preliminary report shows West fired two shots as he ran for cover. He was not hit. On Monday afternoon, someone shot at an off-duty officer's apartment in northern Durham. No one was injured. The officer was inside when a shot shattered the outer pane of a sliding glass door. Smith says police don't know whether the shooters were targeting officers.

Feb. 1, 2015

A Greenville man who lives downtown says traveling the city is like entering a war zone if you are a pedestrian. Richard Triplett said he feels pedestrians should get a head start before lights turn green. He said as a man who travels by wheelchair, it takes him longer than someone traveling by foot. Triplett also wants all crosswalks to end with a handicap ramp. FOX Carolina spoke with the city about Triplett's concerns and the traffic engineering department said the street lights and crosswalk signs are an infrastructure issue and they said it is extremely expensive to replace the conduit that's underground as well as the wiring. "They say well we don't have the funding, or it's the national norm, well excuses are not going to help, the first time someone gets killed, those people are going to be responsible for that life," said Triplett. Triplett also said the crosswalks at Elford Street and Academy Street do not have handicap ramps, so when someone in a wheelchair tries to cross the street they are stopped by the sidewalk curb and have nowhere to go but up the busy street. "It's terrifying, but you don't realize it when I'm sitting out here and I'm here everyday when these cars are buzzing by," said Triplett. Greenville's city engineer, Dwayne Cooper said he was unaware there was a crosswalk that did not connect to a handicap ramp. He said the reason a ramp may not have been put in at Elford and Academy is because it's a state maintained route. But he said he would be sending someone from his department to the location to see what can be done about getting a ramp installed.

Feb. 3, 2015

North Carolina will officially ban the use of gas to euthanize animals early next year, although most if not all shelters have given up the practice already. The state Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services in early December advised shelters to stop using gas chambers as of Feb. 15, 2015. Animal welfare director Patricia Norris says most, if not all, shelters have already moved entirely to lethal injection because of changes in guidance from veterinary groups. In 2013, shelters took in more than 284,000 dogs and cats, of which more than 159,000 - 56 percent - were euthanized.

Feb. 15, 2015

The number people across the Carolinas who were without power began to decline Tuesday afternoon. More than 120,000 outages had been reported during at one point Tuesday morning, but by noon that number was down to around 107,000, according to Duke Energy and Laurens Electric Cooperative's websites. Duke Energy was seeing the highest number of outages in South Carolina, with more than 70,000 outages reported.

Feb. 17, 2015

The winter storm that hit the Carolinas has taken its toll on Upstate roads. Troopers with the South Carolina Highway Patrol said that between noon Monday and noon Tuesday, there were approximately 305 collisions on interstates and highways in Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, Pickens and Oconee counties. Authorities also said that same area had 175 different calls for downed trees on roads, 62 calls for abandoned cars, 11 calls for power lines on roads and 11 calls for assisting motorists. Troopers are urging caution heading into the rest of the week due to the melting ice and snow freezing back over during the overnight hours.

Feb. 27, 2015

As you're driving down Pelham Road in Greenville County, you may have seen quite a bit of new construction going up. Central Realty Holding, LLC is expanding the shopping center to include all new retailers, restaurants, a hotel and possibly a fitness center. The large expansion will bring more businesses and foot traffic to the area. "Well obviously it's going to be a great thing." Is the sentiment of current retailers in the Earth Fare shopping plaza. "We're excited! As you know, it's always help the business as far as traffic coming in, so i think it's a great move for everybody," said Hai Giang, manager of King Nails "It's going to bring more people in to this area, which gives us opportunity to get more people in to our shop," said Bermuda Triangle sales associate JT Lee. The developer says the two-part expansion will include a number of retailers, eateries, hotel, green space and possibly a fitness center. Current business owners say they're also looking forward to the developers revamping the current

shopping complex and signage. "It's going to help out and give it a new look, fresh look," Giang said. The additional foot traffic will certainly help business in the area, but some consumers say they are concerned about the traffic. "I think more restaurants would definitely be exciting; we do like to eat out but I have to admit I can only imagine what it's going to do for traffic. Pelham road is already very busy with lots of retailers and shops. I'm not sure that the road can handle all that extra traffic, but you know more stores would be a good thing," consumer Danese Addesi said. Developers say they are excited about the direction Pelham Road is going and are looking forward to the new retailers joining the shopping center. The first set of retailers are expected to open in the spring. We're told Tazikis, Chicken Salad Chick, The Local Taco, The Lost Cajun and possibly a large well known retailer are included in that group.

Mar. 9, 2015

A volunteer firefighter in Laurens County was killed in an accident at his Gray Court home Sunday night, according to the Laurens County coroner. Coroner Nick Nichols said 25-year-old Daniell Edward Kruger was cutting down a tree at his home on Tractor Drive around 8:30 p.m. The tree fell toward Kruger and hit him. Nichols said Kruger died from blunt force trauma to the head. Kruger was a volunteer fireman with the Greenpond Fire Department. Nichols said the accident scene was a highly emotional one as Kruger's fellow firefighters and other emergency responders arrived to help. Nichols said Kruger was well liked in the community and will be missed.

Mar. 10, 2015

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control is partnering with local veterinarians to offer low cost vaccinations for animals. "Participating veterinarians will conduct rabies clinics to vaccinate dogs, cats and ferrets against this fatal disease," says Sandra Craig of DHEC's Bureau of Environmental Health Services. Craig says vaccinations will not exceed \$10 per pet. In 2014, laboratories confirmed 139 cases of rabies. Last year DHEC clinics vaccinated over 11,300 pets. "Wild animals carry the disease most often, but domestic pets can contract rabies as well," Craig said. "Unvaccinated pets that are exposed to the rabies virus must be quarantined or euthanized. The disease is fatal once the virus reaches the brain, yet the heartache of losing a pet to this disease can be avoided through vaccination." To see a map of confirmed rabies cases, visit <http://gis.dhec.sc.gov/rabies/>.

Mar. 11, 2015

An Amtrak passenger train has collided with a truck in North Carolina, toppling the engine on its side and causing several injuries. Halifax County Sheriff Wes Tripp told The Daily Herald of Roanoke Rapids that the accident occurred around noon Monday. Tripp didn't say exactly how many people were hurt. But he says those who were hurt had injuries that didn't appear to be life-threatening. The sheriff says the engine was on its side. The car directly behind the engine was derailed, and a third car was partially derailed. There was no word on the condition of the truck's driver. The Amtrak train was the Carolinian, which runs between Charlotte, North Carolina, and New York each day.

Mar. 20, 2015

Top crime fighters are getting straight to the source to curb synthetic drug use and abuse. State leaders demand that big oil companies make the stores that sell their gas stop selling illegal drugs. The North Carolina Attorney General's office announced Tuesday that they're joining 42 other states, including South Carolina and Georgia, to get big oil on their side. They wrote a letter to nine big oil companies, BP, Chevron, Phillips 66, Shell, Sunoco, Citgo, Exxon Mobil, Valero, and Marathon Petroleum. Attorneys general from 42 states confirmed at least 130 recent cases where branded gas stations were busted for selling synthetic drugs. They asked the oil companies to talk with their franchises, prohibit them from selling the drugs, end their relationship if they do, and report them to police. Franchise policies are their own, but the letter may add that much more peer pressure to stores who want to keep a wholesome reputation. Lt. Ashley Harris runs the Spartanburg County Forensics Lab and explained that while synthetic drug busts have gone down in the area, he still sees the drugs. He describes them as more dangerous than many other street drugs, since people have no idea exactly what is in them, when manufacturers manipulate their recipes to skirt changing laws. "By going to the oil companies themselves and saying, 'if you could put some pressure on these companies that are using your product, you may have a little more ability to tell them to change their policies than we would have cause you can contact all of them at one time,'" said Harris. Harris credits stricter laws that ban not just specific drugs, but even modifications of ingredients, to lowering the synthetic drug trend. It makes them less available to consumers. He hopes states continue to work together, like with the letter, to curb the issue.

Mar. 27, 2015

Cyclists will be peddling a new message through Spartanburg this spring. The West Gate Family Therapy Institute, a nonprofit organization, will host an underwear bike ride to raise awareness about mental health issues. It's a bare yourself bike ride. The streets of Downtown Spartanburg will soon be filled with bikers wearing next to nothing. Organizers say it's not just about the shock value of seeing riders in their skivvies. There's a bigger message that they want to send. The bare yourself bike ride is the first of its kind in our area, so event organizers are hoping for the best. "I think it will definitely have that shock factor for a lot of people," participant Chelsey Thompson said. Bikers riding down Main Street Spartanburg in their boxer, bras, and bikinis "I think it's a really interesting concept," Thompson

said. "It sounds really cool, sounds like a fun activity to be a part of," participant Brendan Joanou said. The bare yourself bike ride means just that. Dozens of bikers wearing very little as they pedal the message of mental health. "We do want to create a buzz around this issue," Executive Director for the West Gate Family Therapy Institute Elizabeth Martin said. Martin, one of the event organizers, said it's not just about the shock value. "The idea is that when people seek counseling services for the first time they have to make themselves vulnerable and so by being in our undies in public we can simulate that vulnerability and support people who choose to seek help," Martin said. Event participants said they are ready to bare it all for the cause. "I think it's really great that we are broaching the topic of mental illness here since there is a very big need for services," Joanou said. "Mental illness is something that's effected a lot of my friends and family throughout the years, so the fact that they're having this new event really catering and trying to bring awareness to that it really strikes home for me," Thompson said. For everyone else who's not quite willing to bare it all, organizer say you can still support the event. "You can dress to your level of comfortability, so if undies aren't comfortable for you, you can wear more and still ride," Martin said. "I'm a little nervous to see people's reaction but I guess that's the whole point of an awareness event," Thompson said. "For me it's just like a when else do you get a chance to do this. It's a fun little adventure that you might have," Joanou said. The two mile bike ride will take place on April 18 on the corner of East Main and Spring Street in downtown Spartanburg. Proceeds from the event benefit the west gate family therapy institute.

Attachments



Jobs, Economy, Growth

**PROGRAM ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2014**

Problem/Need: **JOBS, ECONOMY, GROWTH**

Jan. 8, 2015

Fewer Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week, a sign that employers expect ongoing economic growth and the need to hold onto workers. The Labor Department says applications for unemployment benefits fell 4,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 294,000. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, slipped 250 to 290,500. That average has plunged 16 percent in the past 12 months, as averages have stayed at historically low sub-300,000 levels since September. In the monthly jobs report being released Friday, employers are expected to have added 243,000 jobs in December, according to a survey of economists by data firm FactSet. That would follow job gains of 321,000 in November and put total job growth in 2014 at just shy of 3 million, the best performance since 1999.

Jan. 9, 2015

U.S. employers are showing more confidence than they have since the Great Recession began and will probably propel the economy in 2015 to its fastest growth in a decade. December's job gains capped a stellar year for hiring that saw nearly 3 million jobs created, the most since 1999. The acceleration put further distance between the steadily strengthening American economy and struggling nations overseas. "Last year was a truly breakout year for the labor market," said James Marple, an economist at TD Securities. "Businesses are increasingly looking to hire." Friday's report from the Labor Department showed that employers added 252,000 jobs in December and 50,000 more in October and November combined than the government had previously estimated. The unemployment rate dropped to 5.6 percent from 5.8 percent in November. The rate is now at its lowest point since 2008. The government's report did point to some weaknesses, notably in Americans' paychecks, which have barely kept ahead of inflation during the 5½-year recovery. In December, average hourly pay actually fell. "The continued listless performance of hourly earnings is an ongoing frustration," said Richard Moody, an economist at Regions Financial. And one reason the unemployment rate fell last month had nothing to do with more hiring: Many of the jobless gave up looking for work and so were no longer counted as unemployed. Still, while December's hiring did not match November's huge 353,000 gain, job growth in the final three months of 2014 averaged a robust 289,000. That was up sharply from the 239,000 average for the third quarter of 2014. The unemployment rate is now near the 5.2 percent to 5.5 percent range that the Federal Reserve considers consistent with a healthy economy - one reason the Fed has been expected to raise interest rates from record lows by midyear. Yet for now, the plummeting oil prices and weak pay growth are helping keep inflation even lower than the Fed's 2

percent target rate. Many economists think inflation may fail to reach even 1 percent this year. A result is that the Fed could feel pressure to avoid raising rates anytime soon. "There is still room for stimulus without having to worry about inflation taking off," said Michael Strain, an economist at the American Enterprise Institute. Most economists forecast that the U.S. economy will expand more than 3 percent this year. If it does, 2015 would mark the first time in a decade that growth has reached that level for a calendar year. In December, hiring was widespread across most industries. Construction firms added 48,000 jobs, the most since January. Manufacturers gained 17,000, restaurants and bars 44,000. One industry where hiring slowed in December was retailing, which cut back after having staffed up in November for the holiday shopping season. Overall, American businesses have been largely shrugging off economic weakness overseas and continuing to hire at solid rates. The U.S. economy's steady improvement is especially striking compared with the weakness in much of the world. Europe is barely growing, and its unemployment rate is nearly double the U.S. level. Japan, the world's third-largest economy, is in recession. Russia's economy is cratering as oil prices plummet. China is straining to manage a slowdown. Brazil and others in Latin America are struggling. Fears about significantly cheaper oil spooked investors earlier this week before financial markets recovered. But most economists remain optimistic that lower energy prices will benefit U.S. consumers and many businesses. Though 2014 job growth was the best since 1999, other measures were less encouraging. Average hourly pay rose just 1.7 percent last year, less than half the 3.5 percent gain in 1999, a pace more typical of a strong economy. Hourly wages fell to \$24.57 in December from \$24.62 in November. Hourly pay over the past two months has now risen just a penny. As hiring ramps up and the unemployment rate falls, those pressures should, at least in theory, compel employers to raise pay to attract workers. But that trend has yet to emerge. Consider CMIT Solutions, a fast-growing IT services company based in Austin, Texas, with 800 employees in 147 U.S. cities. CEO Jeff Connally says his firm plans to add 80 to 120 jobs this year. But in most cities, he doesn't expect to have to raise pay to attract employees. Despite weak pay growth, strong hiring is still providing much-needed relief to the unemployed. During 2014, the unemployment rate fell 1.1 percentage points, similar to 2013's decline of 1.2 points. But there was a crucial difference: Last year's drop occurred even though the number of Americans either working or looking for work rose by more than 1 million. That's a welcome change from 2013, when the unemployment rate's decline was fueled by an exodus of about 500,000 workers. Those people gave up on their job hunts and were no longer counted as unemployed. The job gains are healing some of the deep scars left by the recession. The number of people who have been unemployed for more than six months fell 28 percent last year. And the number working part time who would prefer full-time work dropped 13 percent. Spending at retailers and restaurants rose in November by the most in eight months, an early sign that Americans are spending some of the savings they are enjoying from gas-pump prices. AP Economics Writer Josh Boak contributed to this report.

Jan. 12, 2015

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park got more than 10 million visitors last year. It's the first time that's happened since 2000 and only the fourth time in the park's 80 year history. According to the park, visitation in 2014 was just over 10,099,000. That's an increase of 8 percent over the previous year. Also, camping at the park's developed campgrounds increased by 14 percent over 2013 and backcountry camping increased by 11 percent. Overall visitation in 2014 was higher than 2013 for nearly every month, but July and August were especially strong and October had its highest visitation in 27 years. The record for highest visitation ever in a year was in 1999, when 10,284,000 people visited the park.

Feb. 4, 2015

Thinking of spending less on your loved one for Valentine's Day this year? If so, you'll be in the minority. According to a recent press release by PriceGrabber®, a part of Experian, most Americans will spend about the same amount of money this year as they did last. The data, resulting from a recent survey of 2,458 U.S. online consumers who plan to spend money on a Valentine's Day celebration revealed that even though the economy will not impact the Valentine's Day purchase decisions for many consumers, they still are not planning to spend more on the holiday than last year. Data also shows differences between the types of gifts purchased by men and women, as well as the recipients on their gift lists. Economy does not impact Valentine's Day spending for many consumers An uncertain economy has made a significant impact on retail spending over the past few years, but this trend may be ending. According to PriceGrabber survey data, 52 percent of Valentine's Day shoppers indicate that the economy will not have any effect on their purchasing decisions for Valentine's Day 2011. While many report the economy will not affect their Valentine's Day purchasing decisions this year, the majority are not planning to increase their spending compared with last year. Seventy-eight percent of survey respondents indicate they will not spend more money on Valentine's Day shopping this year compared with last year. The remaining 22 percent of consumers plan to spend more on Valentine's Day shopping this year. Significant differences in the most popular purchases for men and women Survey respondents also were asked how much money they plan to spend and what they plan to spend on during their Valentine's Day celebration, which revealed some significant differences in products purchased by each gender. The most popular Valentine's Day expense among women was greeting cards, with 62 percent of female Valentine's Day shoppers planning to purchase greeting cards this year. Forty-two percent of female shoppers anticipate spending money on an evening out, and 26 percent will purchase candy. For male survey respondents, the most popular Valentine's Day expense was an evening out, selected by 53 percent. Forty-five percent of male respondents plan to spend money on greeting cards. Forty-five percent plan to spend money on flowers, and 18 percent plan to spend money on candy this Valentine's Day. Women are more likely to purchase Valentine's Day gifts for their nonromantic relationships. The difference in the Valentine's Day items purchased by each gender may be attributed to the gift recipients on their lists. While both male and female Valentine's Day shoppers plan to spend money on significant others, women are more likely to make Valentine's Day purchases for family, friends and pets. Among female respondents who plan to spend money on Valentine's Day

this year, 73 percent plan to spend money on a significant other. Fifty-two percent plan to spend money on family, and 13 percent plan to spend money on friends. Six percent plan to spend money on pets. Of the male respondents who plan to spend money on Valentine's Day this year, 95 percent plan to spend money on their significant other. Eighteen percent plan to spend money on family. Five percent plan to spend money on friends, and two percent plan to spend money on pets. This survey was conducted from Jan. 12 to Jan. 26, 2011.

Feb. 13, 2015

The Republican presidential contenders are campaigning their way into the first of two debates before a decisive weekend vote in South Carolina. Hours before the candidates were to gather Monday night in Myrtle Beach, SC, for the FOX News Channel-sponsored forum, former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman announced he was withdrawing from the race and endorsing front-runner Mitt Romney. Huntsman said Romney, despite their differences, is the candidate "best equipped" to defeat President Barack Obama in the fall. Romney savored the endorsement while his four pursuers struggled to emerge as the leading conservative candidate alternative to him. That dynamic was likely to play out on the debate stage, as well. Under heavy debate pressure from his rivals, Romney defended his record as a venture capitalist, insisted he bears no responsibility for attack ads aired by his allies and grudgingly said Monday night he might release his income tax returns this spring. Romney came under criticism from the opening moments of the debate, the first of two in the run-up to this weekend's first-in-the-South primary in South Carolina. His opponents also asked why Romney has not released his tax returns. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich asked reporters why Romney would wait "if there's nothing there." Romney said he would follow the lead of previous presidential candidates and would release the returns in April if he is asked to. Texas Gov. Rick Perry also went on the Romney attack, talking about South Carolinians that were laid off by Romney's company. "I visited Georgetown, South Carolina and Mitt, it was a town where there was a steel mill and Bain swept in, and they picked that company over there were a lot of people who lost jobs there," said Perry. The other candidates had their chance to sell viewers on their ideas. Congressman Ron Paul said he would cut overseas money and military money. "I'd probably have more bases here at home," said Paul. "We were closing them down in the 1990's and building them overseas. That's how we got into trouble." Gingrich talked about his economic and job creation ideas, including a job training program to train people with the skills needed to be employable. Former Senator Rick Santorum said during the debate that it was a mistake to vote for Bush's signature sweeping education overhaul "No Child Left Behind." He said he wants repeal it. Some of the 3,000 people who were lining up to attend Monday night's debate said they want to hear more about what the candidates would do for the economy. "We're both out of work," said Carla Stike, as her friend stood nearby. "I just got laid off, and she's been (laid off) since August. So, we're really here to hear the issues about the economy." "The economy, jobs (and) the spending and how they're going to stop it," said Pat Payne, when asked what she'd like to hear from the candidates during the debate. A second debate is scheduled for Thursday in Charleston, SC. South Carolina holds its Republican presidential primary on Saturday.

Feb. 18, 2015

Early results of exit polls in South Carolina show that for most voters, the economy was the top issue when picking a Republican presidential candidate. Around a third of them said Saturday that someone in their household has been laid off in the last three years. The preliminary data also show that when it comes to the qualities of their candidate, nearly half want someone who can defeat President Barack Obama in this fall's elections. The conservative viewpoint of many of the state's GOP voters was also clear. Solid majorities consider themselves conservative and around the same number support the tea party. And well more than half say they are born again or evangelical Christians.

Feb. 28, 2015

A report from the Greenville Arena District said that the BI-LO Center generates \$56.6 million annually for the local economy. The independent economic and financial impact analysis was done for the 2010-2011 fiscal year and showed that events at the arena generated approximately 33,000 hotel room nights, \$14.4 million net new spending to the state, and created approximately \$25.5 million in increased earnings and 540 full-time equivalent jobs. The report said 410,392 people attended 104 events during that fiscal year. "It is our expectation that the community will be surprised at the size of business the BI-LO Center is in terms of economic contribution to Greenville," the study said. "When this venue is added to the positive contribution of the Peace Center, Fluor Field and the TD Convention Center, it creates a positive entertainment and activity concentration for the downtown business volume." The report also showed that a major concert generates \$1.4 million in the local economy from spending to taxes to jobs.

Mar. 3, 2015

The Greenville County School District is searching for new bus drivers. The district will host a school bus driver job fair Tuesday evening. The job fair will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at Eastside High School, which is located on Brushy Creek Road in Taylors. The district needs to fill approximately 30 full-time positions in the transportation department. Transportation staff will be on hand to discuss the job details with applicants. The jobs pay \$12.80 per hour with no experience needed. Training will be provided. Benefits include health and dental coverage, retirement, pension, sick leave, and free life insurance for full time employees.

Mar. 10, 2015

Greenville Tech is offering people who want to change their careers to attend an open house at the Buck Mickel Center Tuesday morning. The event is called Quick Jobs with a Future. The event will showcase Greenville Tech's short-term training programs that can lead to careers in manufacturing, health care, business, industry, IT and more. Officials said the college offers numerous quick, non-

college credit career training programs and financial assistance options. Some can be completed in 90 days or less. The open house will be from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at 216 South Pleasantburg Drive in Greenville. Visit www.gvltec.edu/quick-jobs for more information.

Mar. 25, 2015

More than 800 full or part-time positions will be up for grabs Thursday during the Asheville Outlets Job Fair at the WNC Agricultural Center. The job fair will be held from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Expo Building. There are expected to be more than 45 retailers looking to fill positions in the job fair, including Brooks Brothers Factory Store, Coach Outlet, Forever 21 and more. Job candidates should dress and be prepared for an interview on the spot. Candidates are also encouraged to bring several resumes. Asheville Outlets will be a 325,000-square-foot, open-air outlet mall with 75 stores. Asheville Outlets is scheduled to open May 1.

Mar. 25, 2015

Sen. Tim Scott (R, SC) is sponsoring a veterans' job and resource fair in Greenville on Wednesday. According to a news release, the fair will "provide veterans with various skills and information on topics, including: how they can transfer their military skills and certifications to the civilian world, an overview of the available educational and entrepreneurial resources, and a resume writing and interviewing skills workshop with a hiring manager's panel." The fair will be held at the Salvation Army Kroc Center, located at 424 Westfield Street, Greenville. An employment workshop will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the job and resource fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is hosted in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation - Hiring Our Heroes initiative, the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service, the South Carolina Committee for Employer Support for Guard and Reserve, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the American Legion and Goodwill Industries International.

Attachments



Government

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM OR NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2014**

Problem/Need: **GOVERNMENT**

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM
Sundays	10:00 am	FOX NEWS SUNDAY

Description:

Fox News Sunday is a national weekly program with current events and political issues. (60:00)

Jan. 9, 2015

In a double blow, the newly empowered Republican-led Congress and the Nebraska Supreme Court on Friday undercut President Barack Obama's opposition to the long Keystone XL oil pipeline. But the White House, which issued a veto threat earlier in the week, said its "position and posture" remained unchanged, and environmentalists said Obama should kill what would amount to "a global warming disaster." The House voted 266-153 to approve a bill authorizing construction of the Canada-to-Texas pipeline, with 28 Democrats joining majority Republicans in support. It was one of the first pieces of legislation considered by the new, GOP-controlled Congress, which has made approval of the pipeline a top priority and has long been headed for a confrontation with Obama on the issue. The Republican cause was emboldened Friday, when Nebraska's highest court tossed out a lawsuit challenging the pipeline's route, an obstacle the White House said must be removed before it could decide whether the huge cross-border project was in the national interest and the administration could proceed with its own review. "We shouldn't be debating it, we should be building it," said House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California. On the House floor, he read aloud a passage of the administration's veto threat that objected to authorizing the project "despite uncertainty due to ongoing litigation in Nebraska." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, following the court's decision, renewed his call for Obama to reconsider his promise to veto the measure. "Today's ruling provides the perfect opportunity for the president to change his unproductive posture on this jobs project and reverse his veto threat," McConnell said. "The president now has every reason to sign it." But a White House spokesman said the court's decision changed nothing. "Regardless of the Nebraska ruling today, the House bill still conflicts with longstanding executive branch procedures regarding the authority of the president and prevents the thorough consideration of complex issues that could bear on U.S. national interests, and if presented to the president, he will veto the bill," said deputy press secretary Eric Schultz. The House vote marked the 10th time the chamber has voted on legislation to advance the Keystone XL pipeline, an \$8 billion project that would carry tar sands oil from Canada to Gulf Coast refineries along a proposed 1,179-mile route through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma. Strong

as the vote was, it fell short of the two-thirds majority that would be needed to override a presidential veto. And the Senate, though newly controlled by the Republicans, is also likely to fall short of that threshold. The Senate is expected to clear a test vote on an identical bill on Monday. The proposed pipeline is at the center of a major political fight. Environmental groups have waged protests, including arrests, in an effort to halt what they view as an environmentally destructive project that would unravel the progress the administration has made to combat climate change. They called on the White House to reject TransCanada Corp.'s permit request outright on Friday after the Nebraska court decision didn't go their way. The Nebraska Supreme Court let stand a 2012 state law that allows the governor to empower Calgary-based TransCanada to force eastern Nebraska landowners to sell their property for the project. If the decision had gone the other way, the State Department, which is in charge of evaluating the pipeline's environmental risks, may have had to do additional analysis. A State Department spokeswoman said Friday it would now move forward with its review by seeking comment from eight federal agencies about whether the pipeline is in the national interest. "No matter the route, as long as the pipeline is carrying tar sands oil it is a global warming disaster and fails the president's climate test," said May Boeve, executive director of 350.org, an advocacy group that has orchestrated many of the protests against the project. "It's time for President Obama to build on his veto threat and reject Keystone XL outright." Republicans argued on Friday that the pipeline was a jobs creator and critical infrastructure that could further wean the U.S. off Middle East oil. Pointing to a State Department review that found the pipeline would not exacerbate global warming because the oil would otherwise be transported by other means, they said it was a safer and more environmentally sound way to transport oil. "The president has been hiding behind the Nebraska court case to block this critical jobs project," said Rep. Fred Upton of Michigan, the top Republican on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. "With that contrived roadblock cleared, the White House is now out of excuses and out of time." Democrats, meanwhile, kept up their criticism of the project. Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., the top Democrat on the Energy committee, said building the pipeline would increase reliance on Canadian tar sands oil and reverse the strides Obama has made to reduce pollution blamed for global warming. "We get all the risk," he said, "while the oil companies will reap all the rewards." Follow Dina Cappiello on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/dinacappiello>

Jan. 12, 2015

An advocacy group has filed an ethics complaint against North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory over omissions on his state disclosure forms and potential conflicts of interest from his business dealings. Progress North Carolina Action executive director Gerrick Brenner says the complaint was filed Monday with the North Carolina Ethics Commission. It seeks a formal investigation into McCrory's holdings of stock in his former employer Duke Energy and payouts he received from a Charlotte-based mortgage broker where he was a board member. The Associated Press reported after last year's Dan River coal ash spill that McCrory held Duke stock while his administration made regulatory decisions favoring Duke. AP also reported McCrory got cash and stock from LendingTree after becoming governor. He previously has denied any wrongdoing.

Jan. 14, 2015

Shunning a White House veto threat and opposition within their own party, House Republicans approved legislation Wednesday to overturn President Barack Obama's key immigration policies and expose hundreds of thousands of younger immigrants to expulsion from the U.S. The 236-191 vote came on a broad bill that would provide \$39.7 billion to finance the Homeland Security Department through the rest of the budget year, legislation that lawmakers of both parties said was sorely needed to pay for counterterrorism, cybersecurity and other priorities at a moment when the Paris terror attacks have underscored dire threats. Democrats accused Republicans of putting that money at risk by attaching veto-bait amendments on immigration, and some Republicans voiced the same concern. But House GOP leaders and most of their rank and file accused Obama in turn of reckless and unconstitutional actions on immigration that had to be answered. "This executive overreach is an affront to the rule of law and to the Constitution itself," said House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio. "The people made clear that they wanted more accountability from this president, and by our votes here today we will heed their will and we will keep our oath to protect and defend the Constitution." But Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-Calif., who chairs the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, said the Republicans were simply pandering to the far right. "Shame on Republicans for attacking the Latino community," Sanchez said. "Republicans are consciously targeting millions of families who work hard, contribute to our communities and are just trying to give their children a chance at the American dream." One of the immigration amendments, approved 237-190, would undo executive actions that Obama announced in November to provide temporary deportation relief and work permits to some 4 million immigrants in the country illegally, mostly people who have children who are citizens or legal permanent residents. The amendment also would cancel earlier directives to immigration agents aimed at giving them discretion in focusing deportations on criminals. A second amendment would delete Obama's 2012 policy that's granted work permits and stays of deportation to more than 600,000 immigrants who arrived in the U.S. illegally as children under age 16. That measure passed narrowly, 218-209, as 26 of the more moderate Republicans, some representing large Hispanic populations, joined Democrats in opposition. The underlying bill passed on a mostly party line vote, with 10 Republicans voting "no" and two Democrats voting "yes." But even with Republicans in control of the Senate, the bill faces tough sledding there. Republicans are six votes shy of the 60-vote majority needed to advance most legislation, and some GOP senators have argued that the Homeland Security bill shouldn't be the vehicle for a contentious debate on immigration. Within the House GOP, too, there's frustration from some centrist lawmakers that two weeks into a new session of Congress, with a bigger party majority in the House, the most conservative lawmakers are still calling the shots, successfully pushing leaders for a vote to undo the 2012 policy dealing with younger immigrants known as "Dreamers." "If we were just specifically dealing with the November overreach of the president, you'd have Democrats who'd be voting with us on that piece of it but we've gone well beyond that," said Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Calif. "We're passing a bill for political reasons, a bill that has no ability to pass the Senate." Before leaving town for a two-day retreat in Hershey, Pennsylvania, Republicans also steered the House to approval of legislation to ease the landmark Dodd-Frank law, which aimed to rein in banks and Wall Street. The new legislation would give U.S. banks two extra years to ensure that their holdings of certain complex and risky securities don't put them out of compliance with a new banking rule. The Dodd-Frank changes, approved 271-154, also face an Obama veto threat. Given the growing importance of Latino voters, Wednesday's immigration votes could end up raising questions in the 2016 presidential election for the eventual GOP nominee. Potential candidates weren't touching the issue Wednesday. Requests for comments from former

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and former GOP nominee Mitt Romney went unanswered. At an event in Manchester, New Hampshire, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky refused to say if he would back his House colleagues' efforts. Democrats, on the other hand, were eager to weigh in. Rep. Luis Gutierrez of Illinois warned Republicans they were igniting "the mobilization of an immigrant community throughout this nation that will be the death knell to the future of your party." Wednesday's votes were set in motion late last year, after Obama infuriated Republicans by announcing executive moves on immigration not long after the GOP swept the midterm elections. Republicans passed full-year spending bills for most of the government but kept the Homeland Security Department on a short leash in order to revisit the issue when they would be in full control of Congress. Yet given Obama's veto pen and Senate rules granting significant rights to the minority party, it's not clear that the GOP has much more leverage now than it did before. House and Senate Republican leaders have ruled out a government shutdown or any disruption to Homeland Security funding, so it appears likely that once the House bill is rejected by the Senate or vetoed by the president, the House will have to accept a version with less contentious language on immigration. Current Homeland Security funding expires at the end of February, so House leaders have given themselves more than a month to find a solution. It's expected to be a topic of debate at the Hershey retreat. Associated Press writers Alan Fram, Connie Cass and Marcy Gordon in Washington, Steve Peoples in San Diego, Michael Mishak in Miami and Kathleen Ronayne in Manchester, New Hampshire, contributed to this report.

Jan. 15, 2015

The Obama administration is putting a large dent in the U.S. embargo against Cuba as of Friday, significantly loosening restrictions on American trade and investment. The new rules also open up the communist island to greater American travel and allow U.S. citizens to start bringing home small amounts of Cuban cigars after more than a half-century ban. Thursday's announcement of new Treasury and Commerce Department regulations are the next step in President Barack Obama's plan to re-establish diplomatic relations with Cuba. They come three days after U.S. officials confirmed the release of 53 political prisoners Cuba had promised to free. Only Congress can end the five-decade embargo. But the measures give permission for Americans to use credit cards in Cuba and U.S. companies to export telephone, computer and Internet technologies. Investments in some small business are permitted. General tourist travel is still prohibited, but Americans authorized to visit Cuba need no longer apply for special licenses. Obama announced last month that he would soften the embargo and begin restoring diplomatic ties with Havana, saying "these 50 years have shown that isolation has not worked." The deal was the product of 18 months of secret talks that culminated in the exchange of imprisoned spies and release of Alan Gross, a U.S. government contractor who had been imprisoned in Cuba for five years. The few U.S. companies facilitating travel to Cuba say inquiries have exploded since December. American visits could triple this year, from about 90,000 annually. "We're hiring more people, we've secured more hotel rooms and assets in Cuba to provide additional travel," said Tom Popper, president of New York-based insightCuba. With the new regulations public, the focus shifts to American businesses and the Cuban government. Some changes could take months as U.S. firms analyze the risks and benefits of moving into a complicated new market. And the Cuban government has said nothing publicly about how it will regulate new trade with the United States. Foreign companies currently deal almost entirely with state-owned firms that are notoriously slow,

inefficient and short on cash. Cuba will likely be more open to a surge in new travelers than to other potential effects of the loosened rules. But Cuban hotels generally fall short of international standards and those with better food and service are almost always fully booked during the winter high season. "This is good news, but we're lacking infrastructure in hotels and in administration," said Maikel Gonzalez, a 34-year-old hotel receptionist. "American tourists are really demanding. How do I explain to one that the taxi didn't come because it doesn't have tires or that there's no water in the rooms?" Individual Cubans can legally rent out their homes or apartments- a potential source of thousands of rooms for travelers and a flood of funding for private citizens that would be largely outside state control. Also casting a shadow on potential deals is the possibility of litigation by Cuban-Americans and U.S. firms whose property was confiscated in Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution and may try to sue companies entering into business with the Cuban government. In Washington, Congress may also seek to erect barriers to new investment. The sudden rapprochement between Cold War foes has divided U.S. lawmakers. Republican Marco Rubio of Florida and Democrat Bob Menendez of New Jersey, both Cuban-Americans, have been particularly opposed. But some pro-business types have welcomed the opportunity to open up a new export market in a country 90 miles from Florida. Thomas Donohue, the head of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, for example, said Wednesday it was better for the U.S. to sell computers, smartphones and cars to Cuba than to cede such business to countries like Russia and China. Still, the embargo as a whole appears unlikely to fall anytime soon. Starting Friday, U.S. companies will be able to export mobile phones, televisions, memory devices, recording devices, computers and software to a country with notoriously poor Internet and telecommunications infrastructure. Internet-based communications will fall under a general license. The new rules "immediately enable the American people to provide more resources to empower the Cuban population to become less dependent upon the state-driven economy," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Thursday. With hundreds of thousands of Cuban-Americans visiting family each year, Cuba is already awash in American products brought in people's luggage, including iPhones and flat-screen TVs. The main barriers to Internet access are high prices and restrictions imposed by a government desperate for hard currency and worried about allowing citizens unrestricted communications among themselves and with the outside world. Americans permitted to travel to Cuba for family visits, official U.S. government business, journalism, research, education, religious activity and other reasons now fall under a U.S. general license and don't need to apply for a separate license. A limit on remittance payments to family members in Cuba will be raised to \$8,000 per year, from \$2,000. Americans visiting Cuba will be allowed to bring home \$100 in alcohol and tobacco products, and \$400 in total goods. The U.S. is now "one step closer to replacing out of date policies," Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said Thursday. Other changes include: The elimination of limits on how much money Americans spend in Cuba each day or what they spend it on. Permissible use of U.S. credit and debit cards. Travel agents and airlines can fly to Cuba without a special license. Insurance companies can provide coverage for health, life and travel insurance policies for individuals residing in or visiting Cuba. Financial institutions may open accounts at Cuban banks to facilitate authorized transactions. Investments can be made in some small businesses and agricultural operations. Companies may ship building materials and equipment to private Cuban companies to renovate private buildings. The U.S. and Cuba are scheduled to hold migration talks in Havana next week, the next step in their normalization process. Leading the American delegation is Roberta Jacobson, the top U.S. diplomat for Latin America. Her visit marks the highest-level trip to Cuba by a U.S. official since 1980. Further down the road, Washington envisions reopening the U.S. Embassy in Havana and carrying out high-level exchanges and visits between the

governments. Secretary of State John Kerry could travel to the island later this year. Weissenstein reported from Havana. AP White House Correspondent Julie Pace contributed to this report.

Jan. 19, 2015

North Korea is experiencing widespread Internet outages. One expert says the country's online access is "totally down." It's not immediately clear if the Internet connectivity problems were an act of retribution for a major intrusion at Sony Pictures Entertainment that the FBI last week linked to North Korea. President Barack Obama on Friday said the U.S. government would respond but didn't say how. The White House declined to comment Monday. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf told reporters that of the federal government responses, "some will be seen, some may not be seen." Doug Madory, director of Internet analysis at Dyn Research, said the Internet connectivity problems were discovered in the last 24 hours and have gotten progressively worse to the point that "North Korea's totally down."

Jan. 21, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden says he feels optimistic that the Obama White House and the Republican-run Congress can score several achievements together. Biden says in an interview he didn't feel an atmosphere of blatant partisanship Tuesday night in the House, where President Barack Obama delivered his next-to-last State of the Union address. He says it "felt the opposite," compared to recent tensions. Biden tells NBC's "Today" show that "Republicans realize they're in control and have to govern." He says that reality makes him "more optimistic about getting things done." The vice president also was asked about what seemed like derisive laughter among some Republicans when Obama noted at one point that he'd run his last campaign. Biden responded that he didn't think it represented "any institutional disrespect" of the president.

Jan. 30, 2015

Voters will get the chance to decide what type of government they want for the town of Lyman. The special election is set for Tuesday Aug. 12, according to Lyman's clerk. Voters will have decide between a stronger council form of town government or a strong mayor-council format, which is how the government is currently set up. Currently, the council serves as a legislative branch with six members who pass ordinances, policies, the city's annual budget and appoint other town officials. The mayor acts as the chief executive officer, overseeing the daily operations of departments and carrying out the policies and ordinances enacted by the council. Some want to give the council more power to make decisions for the town in addition to possibly hiring a town manager.

Feb. 3, 2015

The Greenville County Council has re-elected Bob Taylor as chairman, government affairs coordinator Bob Mihalic announced on Tuesday. Butch Kirven was elected to be vice chairman. The positions have two-year terms.

Feb. 12, 2015

The federal government is proposing that South Carolina cut carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by more than half by the year 2030. One environmental group says the state is in a good position to do so. Blane Holman of the Southern Environmental Law Center says South Carolina has reduced carbon pollution by almost a third in the past decade and has burned less coal even as the economy has expanded. The Environmental Protection Agency announced specific targets for all states Monday as part of efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere. South Carolina's 2012 carbon emission rate was almost 1,600 pounds per megawatt hour of energy produced. The new target is just over 770 pounds. About 30 percent power in South Carolina comes from coal-fired power plants.

Feb. 20, 2015

Gov. Nikki Haley wants South Carolina's agencies to step up collections on the hundreds of millions of dollars owed in unpaid fees, fines, taxes and tuition. Haley has directed her Cabinet agencies to maximize efforts. That includes enrolling in the Department of Revenue's two debt-collection programs that are available to agencies and local governments. One involves Revenue siphoning money from income tax refunds the debtor would otherwise get. The other program is more extensive, with recovery methods that include garnishing people's wages and seizing money from bank accounts. A report by Inspector General Patrick Maley says the state should make better use of its "own internal collection agency." His recommendations for Revenue include better marketing both programs and lowering its fees to agencies and local governments.

Feb. 27, 2015

Graduate students at Clemson University are now taking a stance on the highly talked about re-naming of Tillman Hall. Late Thursday night the Graduate Student Government passed a resolution to change the name, and now, the climate on campus is again making headlines in the student newspaper. The

president of the student government said the administration has not yet seen the passed resolution, but a member of the Clemson Board of Trustees, David Wilkins, said there is no momentum from the board to change the names of any historic buildings on campus. The resolution asks that the board of trustees change the name of Tillman Hall because it goes against the university's views. Ben Tillman helped found the university and was a governor of South Carolina in the late 1800s, but he was also a white supremacist. "I think a lot of what you hear and a lot of the escalation comes from a group of students that don't feel heard," said Ryan Heil, president of the Graduate Student Government. Heil said a senator in the organization brought forth the legislation. "He spoke very emotionally and passionately about why he thought this should be this way and other senators within our body absolutely agreed," Heil said. Heil said the student government has been working closely with President Clements and other administrators about enhancing the climate on campus. "The climate is an issue here i think climate is something that everyone recognizes that Clemson could do better," Heil said. Many students feel the name of Tillman should not be changed and don't know if this resolution will help. "Renaming the building does not do anything to change the culture of the climate, and those are the real issue we should be focusing on," Clemson student Kyra Palange said. But other students say all students should be taken care of and think that a survey titled "the campus climate survey," which is said to hit campus in March, will benefit the climate in a big way. "Clemson isn't just this university it's made up of students and we all have different views about things and so I think the survey is a great way for the administration to get a feel for what the students are thinking, what we believe in and what we think should change," Clemson student Kelli Martin said..

Mar. 9, 2015

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker on Monday signed into law a measure that prohibits requiring a worker to pay union dues, striking another blow against organized labor four years after the state effectively ended collective bargaining for public-sector employees. Walker, a likely presidential candidate fresh off a weekend visit to Iowa, signed the right-to-work bill affecting private-sector workers at an invitation-only ceremony at Badger Meter north of Milwaukee. The company's president was one of the few business owners who publicly supported the measure, which rocketed through the Legislature in less than two weeks. His sleeves rolled up and his suit jacket off, the Republican governor sat at a table with a banner that said "Freedom to Work" as he signed the bill that makes it a misdemeanor to require workers to pay unions dues. Just before the signing, Walker said the new law "sends a powerful message across the country and around the world." Supporters have argued the law will help keep and attract new businesses to the state who were wary to spend in Wisconsin before. But opponents say it will drive down wages and make the workplace less safe. "By signing Right to Work into law, Gov. Walker continues his crusade on the hard-working, middle-class families of Wisconsin," said Phil Neuenfeldt, president of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO in a prepared statement. A coalition of more than 400 businesses formed to oppose the bill and upward of 3,000 union members and others gathered at the Capitol in a failed attempt to block its passage. Walker was surrounded Monday by Republican lawmakers who shepherded the bill through the process, including Assembly Speaker Robin Vos and Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald. Representatives from the state chamber of commerce, along

with Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch, were also on hand. "This is one more big tool to help places like Badger Meter, when they can put jobs anywhere around the world, they can put them in Wisconsin," Walker said. Badger Meter's chief executive and chairman Rich Meeusen said because of the law the company will place a \$2.5 million piece of new water control equipment at the Brown Deer facility and that will lead to 30 to 50 new manufacturing jobs in the state. Walker left without taking questions. The new law, which takes effect immediately, makes Wisconsin the 25th right-to-work state and the first to do it since Michigan and Indiana in 2012. Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee, said the action now puts pressure on other Midwest states to follow suit. "Every worker deserves freedom of choice when it comes to union membership and dues payment, and if states like Michigan and Wisconsin can pass Right to Work then Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri and Ohio can too," Mix said in a statement. Walker signed the bill after spending the weekend in Iowa with other Republican presidential prospects at an agriculture summit. Walker heads to New Hampshire this on Saturday where he'll give the keynote speech at a state Republican Party event. Follow Scott Bauer on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/sbauerAP>

Mar. 9, 2015

Forty-seven Republican senators warned on Monday that any agreement the Obama administration strikes with Iran to limit Tehran's nuclear program may be short-lived unless Congress approves the deal. The White House accused the GOP of advocating a "rush to war." In an open letter to Iranian leaders, freshman Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas and 46 other Republicans said that without congressional approval any deal between Iran and the U.S. would be merely an agreement between President Barack Obama and Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "The next president could revoke such an executive agreement with the stroke of a pen," they wrote, "and future Congresses could modify the terms of the agreement at any time." The U.S. and other nations are seeking a pact that would let Western powers verify that Iran will not obtain a nuclear weapon. At the White House, spokesman Josh Earnest said the Republican letter interferes with negotiations over limiting Tehran's nuclear ambitions. "I would describe this letter as the continuation of a partisan strategy to undermine the president's ability to conduct foreign policy and advance our national security interests around the globe," Earnest said. "The rush to war or at least the rush to the military option that many Republicans are advocating is not at all in the best interest of the United States." Earnest said the talks with Iran are no different from the negotiations that resulted in an agreement with Syria to eliminate its chemical weapons arsenal. Earnest noted that Congress did not have to approve that agreement. With Cotton presiding over the Senate at the start of Monday's session, Democratic leader Harry Reid assailed the GOP for undermining the commander in chief and labeled the effort politically motivated. "Republicans have to find a way to get over their animosity for President Obama," Reid said. Though the GOP letter was addressed to leaders in Tehran, it seemed as much aimed at delivering a message in the United States. Republicans and some Democrats want Congress to vote on any agreement. The pact the bargainers are working on would not require congressional approval because it is not a treaty. A treaty would require a two-thirds majority Senate vote to be ratified. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate, accused the Republicans of risking another war in the Middle East. "This is a cynical effort by Republican senators to undermine sensitive international negotiations - it weakens

America's hand and highlights our political divisions to the rest of the world," Durbin said in statement. "Understand that if these negotiations fail, a military response to Iran developing their nuclear capability becomes more likely. These Republican senators should think twice about whether their political stunt is worth the threat of another war in the Middle East." Last week, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., postponed action on legislation to give Congress a vote on any deal that emerges. He delayed the measure in the face of solid Democratic opposition to moving ahead on the bill now, just weeks before an end-of-March deadline for negotiators to produce an outline of an agreement. On CBS' "Face the Nation" Sunday, McConnell said the president would need congressional approval to lift sanctions already imposed on Tehran because of its nuclear program. "I think he cannot work around Congress forever," McConnell said. Obama said in a separate CBS interview that the U.S. would "walk away" from the talks unless they produce a procedure for verifying that restrictions on Iran's nuclear effort were working. The letter released Monday was signed by 47 of the Senate's 54 Republicans. Included were McConnell and the rest of the Senate GOP leadership plus presidential contenders Marco Rubio of Florida, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Ted Cruz of Texas. Missing from the letter were seven Republicans, including Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. The next negotiations are scheduled for March 15, and wide gaps remain between the two sides. Iran has said its nuclear program is peaceful and is aimed at producing energy. There was no immediate Iranian government reaction to the letter or any discussion of it in Iranian media. Cotton is a freshman senator who serves on the Senate Armed Services and Intelligence committees.

Mar. 21, 2015

The amount of money South Carolina gets from the federal government for roads has dropped since 2008, but lawmakers say that is only a small part of the funding problems for a crumbling highway system. Figures compiled by The Associated Press show the total amount of money the state has received from the Federal Highway Trust Fund dropped by nearly \$43 million, or more than 6 percent, during the five-year period ending in 2013. That's the latest year for which numbers were available. Lawmakers say state road funding has never matched South Carolina's growth with a gas tax that remained unchanged for nearly 30 years. The management of the Department of Transportation has come under fire too for relying on political pressure instead of objective rankings to make decisions.

Attachments



Environment

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2014**

Problem/Need: **ENVIRONMENT**

Jan. 9, 2015

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) - SpaceX is taking another crack at delivering supplies to the International Space Station and landing the rocket on an ocean barge. The company's unmanned Falcon rocket is set to blast off before dawn Saturday from Cape Canaveral, Florida. On Tuesday, steering-system trouble halted the countdown at the last minute. A suspect motor was replaced. The rocket holds more than 5,000 pounds (2,267 kilograms) of space station supplies. NASA needs the shipment more than ever because of a launch explosion last fall that destroyed another company's supply ship. Good weather is forecast for the 4:47 a.m. (947 GMT) launch. Once Dragon is headed to the station, SpaceX will attempt to fly the first-stage booster to a platform in the Atlantic for a vertical landing. Such a feat is unprecedented.

Jan. 12, 2014

Three properties in Santa Cruz County and all of the animals on them have been quarantined after two horses tested positive for Vesicular Tomtits Virus (VS). That's according to information released on the Cochise County Sheriff's Office [Facebook](#) page. Humans can become infected when handling the infected animals. VS can cause flu-like symptoms [and](#) only rarely includes lesions or blisters in people. Signs of infection in animals include blister-like sores on the mouths, noses and sometimes feet. "Vesicular Tomtits Virus [mainly](#) affects equine and to a lesser extent cattle and swine," said State Veterinarian Dr. Perry Durham. "It can be painful for animals and costly to deal with." According to the release, the horses involved have no history of travel. Other livestock located on the premises show no signs of disease [. A](#) United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) official initially investigated and then brought the Arizona Department of Agriculture into the investigation. Investigation of the situation is on-going to detect and prevent further spread. Veterinarians and livestock owners who suspect an animal may have Vesicular Tomtits or any other vesicular disease should immediately contact State or Federal animal health authorities. Livestock with clinical signs of Vesicular Tomtits are isolated until they are healed and determined to be of no further threat for disease spread. There are no USDA approved vaccines for Vesicular Tomtits.

Jan. 15, 2015

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office [said](#) a fire truck was responding to a crash Wednesday morning when it rolled off a mountain. Major Frank Stout said the rollover occurred about 8 a.m. inside Carriage Park, a Hendersonville mountain home community. Stout said the fire truck from Mountain

Home Fire Department was driving on a very steep and icy road, which led to the truck rolling off the mountain. Officials said the truck nearly rolled into Lake Bowen. Trooper Spero Davis with the North Carolina Highway Patrol said the incident is a "prime example of the dangers of black ice." Mountain Environmental Services said they will be cleaning up a small diesel fuel spill leaking from the truck. Three firefighters involved in the crash suffered non-life-threatening injuries and have been transported to Pardee and Mission hospitals. Stout said those injured include Lt. Matt Brackett, 31, who suffered a broken collarbone and internal injuries. Rick Hodge, 51, David Jones, 39, and Matthew Tweed, 25 were also on the truck. Hodge and Tweed were treated and released from the hospital. Jones was not injured.

Jan. 21, 2015

The old South Carolina tobacco town of Conway, where for decades tobacco auctions were held, is not quite ready to pass a smoking ban. Media outlets report that city council was expected to give final approval to a public smoking ban Tuesday. But council held off so the proposal could be tweaked. One councilwoman wants the ban to apply to parks, sidewalks and other property owned by the city. Under the proposed ordinance, people could be fined \$100 for smoking in businesses while business owners allowing smoking could also be fined. Public businesses would have to have no smoking signs at entrances and anyone smoking outside would have to stay at least 5 feet from the doors of a building.

Feb. 3, 2015

The Greenville Zoo is inviting the public for a day of animal activities and education Saturday. The zoo's annual Animal Enrichment Day will be held April 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Throughout the day, guests can watch and learn about the process of enrichment and how it benefits animals in captivity. Enrichment provides opportunities for the zoo's animals to interact with stimulating and challenging environments and to participate in engaging activities. The zoo will also offer an activity table where children can help create enrichment toys for the animals and a zoo employee dunk tank. Activities and talks are scheduled at the following times: 10:30 a.m., Lion Exhibit – Blood Pops 11:00 a.m., Siamang Exhibit – Enrichment Cable 11:30 a.m., Ocelot Exhibit – Minnow Madness 12:00 p.m., Spider Monkey Exhibit – Easter Egg Hunt 12:30 p.m., Farm Yard – Farm Yard Frenzy 1:00 p.m., Alligator Exhibit – Alligator Anecdotes 1:30 p.m., Coati Exhibit – Wheel of Enrichment 2:00 p.m., Orangutan Exhibit – Hanging Enrichment

Feb. 17, 2015

A powerful winter storm dumped snow from Nashville to Nantucket, and arctic-like temperatures gripped much of the U.S. and hundreds of thousands of people lost power in the South. While some shivered, others bundled up and tried to make the best of a frustrating situation. Here's a look at how people were handling the land of ice, snow and subzero temperatures. Some things just won't wait, as

Jerry Nuesell can attest. With his wife 33 weeks pregnant, the couple was headed to the doctor's office when Lisa's contractions led them to UNC Hospitals for the arrival of their first born, a boy. "Turned out the little fellow was ready to make an appearance much sooner than we planned," Nuesell said Tuesday. He watched his son be born, then drove 30 miles back to Cary, North Carolina, to take care of their dachshund, Schnitzel. Ice covered most of his windshield and the drive wasn't easy. "I had probably a good 6-inch-by-6-inch square that I had to peer through to get the best vision," he said. "On multiple occasions, I thought this might not be the best idea." The tourism office of Ithaca, New York, is waving the white flag, advising visitors on its website to check out the Florida Keys instead. VisitIthaca.com's home page displays sunny photos from Florida and provides links to Florida Keys information. The top of the page reads: "That's it. We surrender. Winter, you win. Key West anyone?" Ithaca and the rest of upstate New York have been in the grips of a snowy and brutally cold winter. Two New Hampshire school districts remain closed a day after schools were evacuated over concerns of snow buildup on roofs. A teacher noticed the ceiling sagging in a classroom at Sanborn Middle School in Newton on Monday and cracks were seen around the doorways of some classrooms in Epping. On Tuesday, Moharimet Elementary School in Madbury was evacuated after cracks were seen on the walls, believed to be caused by the heavy snow on the roof. Roads were icy and slushy, making driving difficult in many places and causing at least seven traffic deaths. There were three deaths in Tennessee, including a mother and son in Williamson County who stopped to help people in a sport utility vehicle that overturned in front of them when they were struck by a tractor-trailer. Two people were killed in Virginia as nearly a foot of snow fell in some places. In North Carolina, a woman died in a two-car crash in the northeastern part of the state. A woman was also killed Monday evening while driving across the Thomas Johnson Bridge in Calvert County, Maryland. "I'll just back up and fly out," is the strategy Brent Seney had for freeing his black convertible Mazda Miata from the snow in the nation's capital Tuesday. Despite the thick blanket of snow along his street, Seney, 60, was confident his sporty ride could handle the roads. In fact, he planned to drive to his boat harbored at James Creek Marina in southwest Washington. "I'll shovel the snow off, make sure it's not frozen too much because the harbor is all frozen in," Seney said. Trudging along a snowy sidewalk, Robin Winter and her daughter, Melissa, made their way to a Metro station in Washington so Mom could catch her flight home to St. Louis. Robin Winter, carrying multiple bags and sporting a sock monkey hat, said she'd gotten into town Thursday, and had been watching the forecasts as the snow made its way across the country. "If I would have decided to fly out Sunday night instead, you never know for sure if it's gonna really happen until it really happens," she said. The Winters were optimistic the flight would not be canceled, though they were prepared for a delay. It appeared her flight left on time, but others weren't so lucky. More than 1,800 flights were canceled at many airports, from Nashville, Tennessee, to the nation's capital. Even though the snow in D.C. wasn't ideal for a fight, people showed up anyway, some in costumes and battle gear. One wore a ski helmet and goggles, another had on a giraffe costume, and one wore a Captain America shirt and carried a shield. "It's not really snowball material. You can kind of get one, but it's a lot of squeezing," said Reco Thomas, of Alexandria, Virginia, as she tried to compact fluffy snow. Rob Grell, a George Washington University medical student dressed as Batman, carried fellow student Shaunak Mulani on his shoulders as people pelted the two of them. "This is overall just a fine time," Mulani said as he shook off snow. The sound of 61-year-old Joe Peldunas shoveling his driveway echoed across the otherwise quiet Marywood neighborhood in north Durham, North Carolina, around 8 a.m. Tuesday. No one else on his cul-de-sac was out, and there were few tracks in the layer of snow and ice more than a half inch thick on the road. "This snow is probably going to stick around for a few days," he said, adding

that he wanted to clear his driveway as soon as possible. Indeed, forecasters warned that temperatures over the next few days wouldn't provide much relief. After two hours of shoveling his steep driveway in the Cabe's Mill subdivision of north Durham, North Carolina, 68-year-old Clay Shepherd was only halfway done. Still, he didn't seem anywhere close to running out of energy. He was considering an afternoon hike along the nearby Eno River. "It happens to be my 68th birthday. I didn't imagine I'd be doing this," he said, wearing a green sweater, dark jeans and a knit cap. "The driveway doesn't get much sun, and if you don't get it, it's not going to melt," he said. Somers reporter from Washington. Associated Press writers Amanda Lee Myers in Washington; Jessica Gresko in Arlington, Virginia; Matthew Barakat in McLean, Virginia, Lucas Johnson in Memphis, Tennessee, contributed.

Mar. 9, 2015

Flooding remains a concern on the Ohio River and some rivers in Kentucky as the workweek gets underway with the warmest temperatures the Tri-State has seen so far this year. Monday's forecast is a major improvement after weeks of record-cold temperatures and more mounds of snow than anyone cares to count. It will be mostly sunny with a high of 51 degrees. A flood warning for the Ohio River at Cincinnati remains in effect until 8:38 p.m. The river crested over the weekend and stands at flood stage at 52 feet. Minor flooding is occurring in the area as the river continues to fall below flood stage by early Monday afternoon. Normally dry areas along the Ohio River on Cincinnati's east side are underwater. A boating club in the East End nearly washed away by flood waters that swelled over the banks. Flooding has not been that bad on the Kentucky side of the river. In Newport, Riverboat Row remains open, but Hooters Restaurant shut down Saturday after high water flooded the eatery's exit ramps. "Anytime their exit ramps are underwater, obviously you can't exit," said Newport Fire Captain Randy Childress. "As soon as the river goes back down and they can get the ramps clear, they will reopen, probably Monday or Tuesday. It just depends how fast it goes back down. It's pretty standard. Whenever the river rises - and it hasn't happened in the past couple of years - but when it does, they know the drill." An area of low pressure will bring some wet weather by Tuesday. Monday night's low will only fall to around 40 degrees. Tuesday's forecast will hold a 50 percent chance for rain, mainly after 11 a.m. Otherwise, it will be mostly cloudy with a high of 51 degrees. The rest of the week will remain warm with daytime highs in the upper 50s and overnight lows in the 30s and 40s. Conditions will stay dry through Thursday. There's a 60 percent chance for rain Thursday night, Friday and Friday night.

Mar. 11, 2015

Despite another push, this time from Clemson University's faculty senate, for the university's board of trustees to change the name of Tillman Hall, board Chairman David Wilkins said the board does not intend the change the building's name. The building is named after Benjamin Tillman, one of the men who founded Clemson. Tillman was also South Carolina governor in the late 1800s and a white supremacist. In January, a group of students began asking that the name of the building be changed after a series of issues regarding race relations on campus. Other students argued that Tillman Hall and Tillman himself were a part of the university's history and need not be altered. Rallies were held on

campus where students and faculty members held signs and advocated both sides of the debate. The student government has also asked university officials to change the name of the building. The university faculty senate said a motion to change the name was tabled in the senate's January meeting. In a recent meeting, Monica Patterson, program coordinator for the Clemson faculty senate, said one of the senate's 35 voting members requested the motion to rename Tillman Hall be removed from the table but a subsequent vote passed the motion with the required majority. Clemson Board of Trustees Chairman David Wilkins released a statement on Wednesday in which he urged both supporters and opponents of the name change debate to put the issue behind them and focus on the university's future, not the past. Wilkins' full statement is below. The Clemson University Board of Trustees is committed to diversity and will continue to be so. While we respect the many differing opinions of our graduates, our students, our faculty and staff regarding this matter, the Clemson University Board does not intend to change the names of buildings on campus, including Tillman Hall. We believe that other, more meaningful, initiatives should be implemented that will have more of an impact on the diversity of our campus than this symbolic gesture. Every great institution is built by imperfect craftsmen. Stone by stone they add to the foundation so that over many, many generations, we get a variety of stones. And so it is with Clemson. Some of our historical stones are rough and even unpleasant to look at. But they are ours and denying them as part of our history does not make them any less so. For that reason, we will not change the name of our historical buildings. Part of knowledge is to know and understand history so you learn from it. Clemson is a strong, diverse university in which all of us can be proud. That is today and tomorrow's reality and that is where all our energy is focused. To that end, the Board recognizes there is more work to be done. President Clements has recently outlined a number of new diversity initiatives that will make meaningful progress towards our goals. We are proud of Clemson's national reputation and leadership in increasing opportunities for minority students on our campus and elsewhere through programs such as Emerging Scholars and Call Me Mister. We are committed to increasing the number of minority students on our campus, increasing diversity among our faculty and staff, and providing an environment that is supportive of everyone. It is time to put this issue behind us and move on. We need to look to the future, not to the past, and the future is bright for Clemson University.

Mar. 16, 2015

A Special Olympics athlete from the Greenville will head to Washington D.C. on Wednesday to urge lawmakers to continue to support [Special Olympics](#) programs. Rachel Lewis and Sue Maner, Executive Vice President, Special Olympics South Carolina will travel to the nation's capital [to participate in the 12th annual Capitol Hill Day for Special Olympics](#), according to a news release. Special Olympics athletes and program officials from 39 states will make the journey to Capitol Hill [to meet face-to-face with Congressional representatives from their individual states](#), the release stated. Lewis won bronze and silver medals in Aquatics events at the 2014 USA Games in Princeton, New Jersey in 2014. Officials said Special Olympics South Carolina is about much more than sports. The program encourages fitness, provides leadership training and opportunities [and strives to create inclusive environments in schools and communities](#), according to the news release.

Attachments



Education

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2014**

Problem/Need: **EDUCATION**

Jan. 9, 2015

About 20 Wofford College students on their way to Greece had their trip take a startling turn on Friday as a dramatic standoff unfolded on their layover in Paris. Charles de Gaulle Airport closed two runways for arrivals to avoid interfering in the standoff and kept the student from leaving the airport. "You've got to go through a lot of security to go through the terminal. I haven't felt as though I'm in any danger, but I'm aware of the situation that is occurring with the hostages, which isn't far from my current position," said Wofford student Sarah Lamberth as the events unfolded. The students were able to board their flight later in the afternoon to Greece, where they will spend the next two weeks.

Jan. 11, 2015

The Greenville Branch of the NAACP formally swore in the local officers for the 2015 and 2016 term on Sunday. The installment ceremonies were held at Tabernacle Baptist Church on South Hudson Street in Greenville. Rev. J.M. Flemming will serve a second term as chapter president. Rev. Jonnie Terry was announced as first vice president. Patrick Prince will serve as the second vice president. Georgianna Taylor has been named secretary. Jessie Wofford will serve as treasurer with Carrie Wilson as assistant treasurer. Flemming said the local chapter will focus on economic issues, education, and the jail system in Greenville.

Jan. 14, 2015

One juvenile was arrested after a fight at a middle school basketball game on Tuesday, according to the Anderson County Sheriff's Office. The Liberty Falcons were down and only a few seconds were left against Riverside Middle School in Pendleton when Lt. Sheila Cole said a 15-year-old ran on the court. According to Cole, the teen was the brother of a Liberty player and he attacked a member of the Riverside team. When the fight broke out, Cole said people began flooding the floor of the court.

A representative from Riverside Middle School in Pendleton issued the following statement via Facebook: "After reviewing the video tape last night, we only saw one punch thrown and that was from the 11th grade student. Many parents and staff members did come immediately on the court to help restore order. I can say that after the situation had settled down the teams did shake hands and show great sportsmanship. It was a physical and emotional game. Both teams and schools are to be commended for not allowing it to turn into a major brawl. We will be calling the High School League this morning to discuss the situation. Thanks to all parents and staff members who helped last night. Proud to be a Bulldog!!" Cole said the teen was arrested and later released to his parents. Charges are pending against the teen.

Jan. 15, 2015

A policy change to the home school exemption in Goochland County has a number of parents ready to speak out and make their concerns known at tomorrow's school board meeting. "Go ready to stand and speak intelligently for what you stand for and express that," Salem church Pastor Zbinden said. Zbinden is encouraging parents in Goochland to get involved, but ask they do so in a rational manner. "Go with love and grace, this needs to be a peaceful thing," Zbinden said. Zbinden and his wife home schooled their children, but didn't have to use an exemption for religious purposes. Still, he knows first hand what parents who home school their children have to endure. "You have to make sure that the parent who is doing the main teaching has a high school diploma but also that you provide some outline of the curriculum," Zbinden said. While home schooling has those requirements religious exemptions do not. Majority of the complaints with Goochland's new home school exemption policy have to do with a request that 14-year-olds who are home schooled must submit their religious beliefs in writing to the school board or be called to explain their faith in front of board members. Family Foundation President Victoria Cobb disagrees with this change and calls it a violation of state law. "A family should not in any way should have to defend what they are choosing to do in terms of the education of their child," Victoria Cobb said. In a statement on his blog, Goochland Superintendent Dr. James Lane says in part, the policy will be reviewed by board members in a meeting scheduled for Tuesday. It goes on to address the issue of 14-year-olds addressing board members: "Per the law, it is actually the pupil who is asking for exemption from compulsory attendance and their parents must concur and support that objection." That school board meeting is expected to happen tomorrow night at 6:30 at the Goochland County Administration Building.

Jan. 15, 2015

North Carolina public universities want to raise tuition and fees by an average of 4 percent next year and 3.5 percent the following year for undergraduate state residents. The governing board of the 16-campus University of North Carolina system opens discussion of proposals to raise the cost of attending each school at its monthly meeting Thursday. A UNC Board of Governors decision isn't expected until next month. The cost of attending Elizabeth City State University would be the lowest

next year at under \$4,700 while the costliest would be the North Carolina School of the Arts at \$8,500. North Carolina's constitution requires that university education for state residents be as cheap as possible. University system comparisons with similar schools around the country finds North Carolina campuses are among the cheapest.

Jan. 21, 2015

Prosecutors have filed additional charges against a western North Carolina man accused of damaging and stealing part of Clemson University's iconic Howard's Rock. Howard's Rock sits atop a pedestal in Memorial Stadium and has been a part of Clemson tradition since it was gifted to the school in the 1960s. Clemson players gather around the rock to rub it for luck before each home game. Micah Rogers, 20, is accused breaking into the glass case that holds Howard's Rock and chipping away part of the rock before stealing it on June 2, 2013, according to Clemson University. Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins said Rogers now faces charges of grand larceny and malicious injury to property valued at more than \$10,000. Initially, Rogers was charged with malicious injury over \$2,000 and trespassing, but Wilkins said the higher charges stem from the state's evidence showing the damage done and stolen rock was valued at more than \$10,000. Rogers was served the charges at the Pickens County Courthouse Wednesday morning and remains free on bond. Wilkins said if he is found guilty on the new charges, Rogers could face a 10-year prison sentence for each charge. But in 2013, surveillance video showed that Rogers did not act alone. Clemson University police said the video recorded outside Memorial Stadium showed three people get out of a truck and they believe three people were responsible for the vandalism. In August 2013, two other suspects were charged in connect with the vandalism of Howard's Rock. A Clemson University spokesperson said Michael Rogers, 46, and Alden Gainey, 17, were both arrested after being charged with conspiracy and obstructing justice. Michael Rogers, who FOX Carolina sources said is the father of Micah, released a statement following his arrest denying any involvement in the crime. "My determination into finding the truth has resulted in me being charged with a crime that I absolutely did not commit," Michael Rogers said. The investigation into the extent of the involvement on the parts of Michael Rogers and Gainey remains ongoing. Police said they have yet to recover the piece of Howard's Rock that was taken in 2013.

Jan. 26, 2015

The Pickens Co. School District board Monday heard the public talk about the pros and cons of a property tax hike to fix local schools. "These are needs, they are not wants," said district spokesman John Eby. He, along with the group Concerned Citizens for Pickens Co., argue raising the \$5.8 million on property taxes would be in the best interest of students. "This is for replacing things that are very fundamental to having a school and keeping it open," said Eby. "Our current level of local funding is \$5 million less than it was in 2007," said Robin Miller, founder of Concerned Citizens for Pickens Co. "We have an excellent school district, we have excellent teachers, and nurses, and guidance counselors and administrators - and we just want to restore the school district." Those opposed to the tax hike, including the group Conservatives of the Upstate, said Monday they want the board to put the issue to a referendum for the people to decide whether to raise taxes. They also claimed the money should

come from Columbia to fix the schools. "The state is responsible for education," said Junius Smith, the group's president. "Spending more money on education has not improved academic results at all," added Johnnelle Raines. But Monday the school board said 'Yes' to refinancing a 2006 Building Program created to fund some of the improvement projects, including new schools and upgrades to existing schools. Refinancing the fund would free up about \$3 million without raising the millage rate, but the district says to fund all the needed repairs, including roof replacements and air conditioning repairs, a tax increase is necessary. The district hopes to raise \$5.8 million. Eby argues that if the tax increase is not approved, some schools could shut down. "Will the priorities be to keep every school open that we currently have? Will there be a decision to consolidate some of the schools? A lot of those things are on the table if it doesn't pass," said Eby. Both sides have petitions posted. To sign in favor of the tax increase, click [here](#). To sign in opposition to the tax hike, visit the following locations: GBS Lumber, 148 S. Main St. Six Mile SC Durham's Service Station, 132 S. Main St, Six Mile, SC Durham's Convenience Store, 3210 Walhalla Hwy., Six Mile SC Pickens Flea Market on Wednesdays The board is scheduled to make a decision on the issue in March.

Feb. 4, 2015

The coldest temperatures so far this season are moving in, and the Greenville County School District is considering student safety. Superintendent Oby Lyles of the Greenville County School District said officials are carefully monitoring weather conditions. Lyles said they are especially considering their school bus fleet and making sure students are warm and safe. Wind chills will be at dangerous levels overnight, and highs are expected to stay below freezing area-wide on Thursday. With frostbite possible due to the severe cold, students and schools need to be prepared. "I think just making sure that we're prepared and we do have that plan in place where we're checking our buildings, where we're checking our buses and everyone is well educated about their role," Lyles said. "We would certainly want parents to know to be ready for cold weather. "If we do have cold weather, make sure your students are appropriately dressed."

Feb. 12, 2015

Graham County Schools in Western North Carolina will be closed Thursday and Friday after officials said the schools' electrical system sustained damage during a power surge in the Robbinsville area. The schools will also be closed on Monday Jan. 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. School will resume on a normal schedule on Tuesday Jan. 20, according to the school district's website. The Graham County closing was the only school closure listed on [FOX Carolina's closings and delays section](#) Thursday morning.

Feb. 16, 2015

Firefighters responded to a fire at Laurens Middle School on Monday evening. Police dispatchers said they received a call about the fire at the school on West Main Street just after 10 p.m. They said the fire was contained at 10:30 p.m. and was completely out a short time later. Laurens Fire Chief Bill Hughes said the fire started in an electrical outlet inside a special education classroom in a small brick building near the back of the school. Hughes said the short sparked a fire that was quickly ignited by papers that were on top of a desk in the classroom. The fire damage was contained to one classroom, but there is smoke damage in part of the back building. The main building was not affected by the fire, according to Hughes. Laurens District 55 Superintendent Billy Strickland said school will be in session on Tuesday. Students were not in school on Monday because of the Dr. Martin Luther King holiday. Strickland said he was thankful to the quick response time from the fire department. On Tuesday, Strickland said that due to smoke damage in the art room, about 30 students would need to be relocated during class hours. According to Strickland, the Laurens Middle School principal has plans to relocate the students to other rooms. Stay with foxcarolina.com and The FOX Carolina News as we continue to update this story.

Feb. 19, 2015

Many school districts across our area will be on their fifth consecutive snow day on Friday. This has parents asking the questions: What criteria goes into making the call and what options are available to parents who can't be late to work? FOX Carolina reached out to several Upstate school districts to answer those questions. The majority of school districts told us the two-hour delay is mainly so that maintenance crews can get ahead of any cold-weather related issues and get them fixed. "When the temperature gets down this low, like it did last night, you're going to have battery problems starting and also water leaks that you thought you hosed," said transportation director for Spartanburg School District 7 Linton Carpenter. Carpenter said his crews begin cranking and assessing the buses at 4:15 a.m. "We had issues with a couple of buses yesterday, but because students were on a delay we were able to get them fixed and on their way without causing any inconveniences," Carpenter said. Greenwood County School District 52 Superintendent Dr. Mark Petersen said the delay also gives extra time to "allow bus drivers to allow students to watch for the bus and then come out of the house to get on the bus." But some parents say they simply cannot be late to work and wonder what options are available to them. Officials say there are two types of delays: cold and road conditions. When the primary reason for the delay is cold as opposed to road conditions, both Greenville and Pickens Counties said their staff reports at the normal time and accept students being dropped off at the normal time so parents can get to work. In Pickens that means 7:30 a.m. When the primary reason for

the delay is because of ice and snow, the schools want staff to wait until the roads are safe, so they don't accept early drop off times. "Safety is the first consideration, and convenience is the second," said Pickens County Schools spokesperson John Eby

Mar. 17, 2015

The SC Highway Patrol is investigating a crash that involved a Greenville County school bus Tuesday morning. According to the SC Highway Patrol website, the crash happened just after 7 a.m. on Pleasantburg Drive at the intersection of Wade Hampton Boulevard. Susan Clarke, spokesperson for Greenwood County Schools, said a car side-swiped a school bus near the Red Lobster restaurant. Nine students from Lakeview Middle and Duncan Chapel Elementary schools were on board. No injuries were reported, Clarke said.

Mar. 24, 2015

Several Upstate schools are getting some game-day gear from the Carolina Panthers. The Panthers announced on Tuesday that they donated 1,300 pairs of game-worn and practice-worn pants to 23 high schools in North and South Carolina, including Mauldin High School in Mauldin and Westside High School in Anderson. The Nike pants, which are valued at \$150,000, are in excellent condition, according to the team. "The Carolina Panthers are thrilled to provide this opportunity to schools in our region, especially when the need for resources is at a premium but adequate funding may be a challenge," said Peter Vacho, the Carolina Panthers military & football outreach manager. "Having the basic necessities, such as practice gear, can go a long way in helping school athletic departments make ends meet."

Mar. 30, 2015

Stephens County Schools will hold the first of two hearing to discuss the closing of an elementary school on Monday. The school district is \$2 million in the hole and they may have to take drastic measures to stay on budget. Tuesday hundreds of parents, students and educator turned out for the Stephens County School Board meeting. They wanted to know what happened to the money and why an elementary school is on the chopping block. Tuesday was the community's first chance to see what the board wants to do about their budget woes. Stephens County Superintendent Bryan Dorsey shared his proposed budget reduction plan for next year. The plan includes cutting 25 positions, the closing of Eastanollee Elementary school, shortening the school calendar and shuffling kids to other schools. Pre-K and Kindergarten at Big A First and second grade at Liberty Third and fourth grade at Toccoa, Fifth Grade Academy at the Middle School on the lower level Sixth, seventh, and eighth grades in the upstairs level High school remain as is The board voted unanimously in favor of moving forward with the reduction plan. The budget saving restructuring proposal will need to be vetted and voted on at two public hearings before anything happens. While many parents are outraged, school leaders say this is the best way to move forward without raising taxes. "You can't stay the same size, change nothing

and somehow cut out millions of dollars that we don't have," Dorsey said. "Eastanollee the best school in the county, the biggest school in the county and they're shutting it down. There's something wrong with that," parent Eneree Bohamnoe said. "If they shutdown Eastanollee, it's a bad thing a very bad thing, I don't think it's right at all," fifth-grader Camron Shirley said. Under the plan, once Eastanollee Elementary closes, fifth-graders will be moved to the middle schools in order to prevent overcrowding in the other elementary schools. Those fifth-graders will be kept on their own floors to keep them separated from the older kids. If approved, these changes would take effect 2016. Hearings will be held at Stephens County High School in the Tugaloo Performing Arts Center at 6:30 p.m. on Monday and April 13.

Mar. 31, 2015

Greenville County Schools want to remind parents that any rising seventh or eighth grade student must have the Tdap vaccination or an objector's statement to their child's school prior to the first day in order to attend in August. State law began the requirement for the Tdap vaccination in the 2013-14 school year. The vaccination protects against tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) and diphtheria. Greenville County Schools and the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) will provide Tdap clinics at all 20 Greenville County middle schools between Monday, April 13 and Friday, April 24. GCS suggests that parents contact their child's school for specific dates and times. Consent to vaccinate forms will be sent home with all sixth grade students during the week of March 2, and must be completed and returned to the school's nurse by Thursday, March 12.

Attachments



Quality of Life

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2014**

Problem/Need: **QUALITY OF LIFE**

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM
Sundays	6:00am	MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH

Description: A church service airing Sunday mornings. (1-hour)

Sundays	8:30am	MUD CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
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Description: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays	10:30am	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Description: A church service that airs every Sunday morning and Saturday night. (30:00)

Jan. 9, 2015

Many tears were shed Friday morning as Eric and Tanya Hughes met the doctors that saved their twin grandchildren as their daughter passed away following a car accident. The meeting occurred at Spartanburg Regional Hospital where Dr. Samy Iskandar and Dr. Brian Thurston treated 19-year-old Ashton Gailann Hughes Tuesday afternoon after she was involved in a car crash. Hughes was pregnant with twins at the time of the crash. Iskandar and Thurston said they were able to deliver the babies but not able to save the young mother. "Our goal was to take care of all three of them and as much as we celebrate the lives of the two infants that were saved, the death of their mother hits everyone very hard," Thurston said. "The two of us were the surgeons but there are at least 30 or 40 other people that need to get credit," Iskandar added. "There were multiple teams involved and everyone gave their best." Hughes' parents thanked the doctors for saving their grandchildren's lives and doing all they could for their daughter. The doctors said saving babies in this type of situation is rare. They said many things had to fall into place for the babies to have survived, including being in an operating room just minutes after the accident. "The reality is that not all hospitals are trauma centers but we are lucky that Spartanburg has a trauma center," Thurston said. "Meaning, when a patient is brought in, we have an operating room immediately available, blood immediately available, multiple specialists immediately available. Without any of that falling into place, I don't think we would have saved anyone." The meeting came on what would have been Hughes' 20th birthday. Eric Hughes said Ashton was born in

the same hospital. "Today is a very difficult day," Eric Hughes said, noting that Ashton's memorial service would be held later Friday and that she would be laid to rest on Friday. The doctors also shared Hughes' last words with her parents. Doctors said Hughes asked them to "take care of me, take care of my babies" and asked if her 11-month-old daughter was OK. The baby, Dixie, was in the car with Hughes when the crash happened and was not hurt. Eric said Ashton was able to see the twins before she passed away. Hughes was leaving a medical appointment at Mary Black Hospital when the crash happened on Skylin Drive.

Jan. 12, 2015

A federal lawsuit says South Carolina's embattled child welfare agency is endangering kids in its care by failing to provide them with basic health care and the right kind of attention. The lawsuit filed Monday in federal court faults a shortage of foster homes and excessive caseloads for some of the shortcomings at the Department of Social Services. The suit was filed by two advocacy groups on behalf of nearly a dozen children in the care of South Carolina's social services system. A bipartisan Senate panel has been investigating the agency's problems for a year. Hearings focused on the deaths of several children, caseloads that climbed above 100 children for some workers and excessive turnover. DSS and Gov. Nikki Haley's office did not immediately comment on the lawsuit.

Jan. 14, 2015

University of Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota, the first Ducks player to ever win the Heisman Trophy, will forgo his senior season and enter the NFL Draft this spring. Mariota announced the decision Wednesday, and he filed the paperwork to make himself eligible for the NFL Draft. In a posting on GoDucks.com, he is quoted as saying he reached the decision after meeting with his family. "My four years at the University of Oregon have been an awesome experience. I cannot thank Coach (Chip) Kelly, Coach (Mark) Helfrich, Coach (Scott) Frost, the rest of the Oregon coaches and the support staff enough for molding me as a person, player and student-athlete," he said. Mariota went 36-5 as a three-year starter for the Ducks. He set an NCAA passing record by passing for a touchdown in all 41 career starts, and he became the first player in Pac-12 history to account for 5,000 yards of total offense in a single season. Mariota said the support he received from the university, the city of Eugene and Ducks fans was tremendous, and that he'll "always remember the great times and support I received." "Once a Duck, always a Duck," Mariota said. Mariota obtained a general science degree from the university, and he participated in graduation ceremonies last spring. "It's been an honor to watch Marcus develop over the last four years, and I'm excited to see what his future holds," UO coach Mark Helfrich said in a statement. "He's given this program everything we could have asked, and he'll be the standard by which others are judged. Mahalo." No press conferences are scheduled regarding Mariota's decision.

Jan. 15, 2015

A struggling Taylor's woman has some new wheels thanks to D & D Motors, Esurance, Charity Cars and Greer Community Ministries. Officials from the four organizations handed over the keys to a reconditioned 2012 Kia Forte to Sue Hollingsworth, as part of the Recycled Ride program Thursday morning at the D & D dealership on Wade Hampton Boulevard. Hollingsworth had been driving a 1998 vehicle that she said she prayed would start each morning. "It was nothing but trouble for the five years I've had it," Hollingsworth said of her old car. She said the reconditioned Kia would make things much easier. Hollingsworth lost her husband when she was in her 30s and raised her children on her own, according to a news release. She later raised her granddaughter after her son's wife passed away. She continues to help another single mom in her neighborhood by providing child care, the release stated. The Recycled Rides program is a program in which dealers, repair shops, and others in the motor vehicle industry collaborate to repair and donate vehicles to people across the country. More than 800 vehicles have been donated since the program began in 2007.

Jan. 25, 2015

After a fire burned down the home of a Boiling Springs High School custodian last year, her students vowed to help her rebuild. On Wednesday, the students got one step closer to their goal with a little help from a group called Carpenters for Christ. Custodian Brenda Hurst said her home burned down last June and the land it sat on has been in her family for generations. Hurst said she is overjoyed to be able to continue the legacy thanks to the students and the nonprofit group. The students said Hurst has helped and inspired them. "She's always there supporting us, always pushing somebody to do better, telling us that we can. She sees the potential in anybody," said Boiling Springs High School student body president Alexis Ork. Ork, the school's principal, Carpenters for Christ and a group of 40 other students were there when they broke ground on the new home on Wednesday. The nonprofit group Carpenters for Christ said they will manage the construction aspects, pulling permits and gathering materials for the home, but the students will be there helping every step of the way. "I'm going to help build this house. Everyone here is going to help build this house - and it's like, alright, let's get through this, let's do this together, just for miss Brenda," said student Heath McGill. The group said they are still looking for donations, such as concrete and roofing materials. Anyone looking to donate can contact Mike Raven at 864-621-0916 or email mrravan@yahoo.com.

Feb. 3, 2015

The father of a woman fatally shot when she tried to drive off in a Duncan police officer's patrol car has filed a lawsuit against the department and the officer involved. In March 2014, Duncan Police Chief K.R. Cothran said officers were called to a disturbance on Frontage Road. Cothran said the responding officer was speaking with a suspect on scene when he fled on foot. When the officer returned to his patrol car, Cothran said he found Rebecca Lynn Oliver, 24, in the vehicle. Oliver purportedly put the car

in drive and the officer, fearing for his life, fired shots at her. Cothran said the patrol car was in gear and moving when shots were fired. Coroner Rusty Clevenger confirmed that Oliver's cause of death was a gunshot wound to the chest. The lawsuit filed by John Oliver tells a different side to the story, though. The lawsuit alleges that the officer used grossly excessive and deadly force "despite never being in jeopardy of serious bodily harm or death." The officer had "other available methods of handling the situation which would have been less forceful and would not have placed him in any harm," the lawsuit reads. Oliver requests a jury trial be used to determine the claims in the lawsuit. To view the full lawsuit, [click here](#).

Feb. 12, 2015

An Upstate woman [with a disability](#) is sharing her story about parenting. Kim Wooten, who was born with cerebral palsy, became pregnant in June 2012, and her daughter Madelyn was born March 20, 2013 via C-section. She says her life's purpose was to be a mother [with a disability](#), but things people take for granted, such as opening a package or getting her daughter a cup of juice, are much more of a challenge. "From Madelyn's sweet hugs and kisses to hearing her say 'momma' a hundred times a day, there is nothing sweeter than raising my beautiful little girl. The joys do come with difficulties, such as getting Madelyn and myself dressed, preparing meals and opening the cookie package [with a disability](#) for an impatient 2-year-old. However, the difficulties don't hinder me, they make me stronger," Wooten said. Wooten said that her hope for Madelyn and other children like her is that they'll embrace the fact that their parents [with a disability](#) have disabilities and show the world the true meaning of acceptance and love.

Feb. 17, 2015

The American Red Cross has opened a warming shelter in Oconee County ahead of Tuesday's forecasted temperature drop and the lingering winter weather that is in the area. The shelter is located at 314 S. Church St. at the Walhalla Rescue Squad. The Red Cross said that it will be open until 7 p.m. and an overnight shelter will be established if needed.

Mar. 9, 2015

When a man went to a Utah river Saturday hoping to haul out fish, he inadvertently saved the life of a baby who had been trapped -- possibly for half a day. The angler waded into the Spanish Fork River around noon and then noticed a car upside-down in the water, public safety officials said in a statement. Rescuers arrived and tipped the four-door car onto its side. They found the 18-month-old girl strapped in her car seat, still alive. The baby was taken to a Salt Lake City hospital, where she was in critical condition. Rescuers also found the body of Lynn Jennifer Groesbeck, the girl's mother, in the driver's seat. She was 25 years old. A resident nearby told authorities that he had heard a loud crash the night before around 10:30 and stepped outside to check, but saw nothing unusual, police said. If

that sound was the car going into the river, then the baby was trapped in the car for about 14 hours. Police are investigating the incident as a traffic accident, though many questions remain unanswered. "This is just a tragedy all the way around," Spanish Fork Police Lt. Matt Johnson said. "There's not anything at the scene, as far as evidence goes, as why the vehicle left roadway. There were no skid marks to show evasive maneuvers, to show why the vehicle left the roadway and traveled into the river." The car was towed and is being examined to determine whether there was brake failure or some other malfunction, Johnson said. Family members of the mother told police she had left Salem, Utah, and was supposed to be heading to her home in Springville, about 9 miles away. The baby, who was in a car seat in the rear passenger side, was not submerged during the ordeal, Johnson said. Three police officers and four firefighters were treated at a hospital for hypothermia. The rescuers have since been released.

Mar. 18, 2015

Callie Marie Croughwell, a friend of a missing Leicester woman [\[link\]](#), created a tribute video to honor her. The video [\[link\]](#) shows a smiling Cristie Codd cooking and traveling. Cristie Codd and her husband Joseph "JT" Codd were reported missing by family [\[link\]](#) members on Sunday. Jason Owens was charged with murder since their disappearance. Mobile [\[link\]](#) users click here to watch.

Mar. 31, 2015

A Furman baseball [\[link\]](#) player will miss playing against Clemson on Tuesday but it isn't from injury. Jake Kinsley, a senior [\[link\]](#), will donate bone marrow Monday to a 55-year-old mother in need. Kinsley originally tested for matches on Furman's campus [\[link\]](#) while in a class. He wasn't a match but his testing was put into the international Bone Marrow Transplant registry on BeTheMatch.org. Kinsley received a call during the middle of winter workouts and tested to see if he was a match. He was the perfect match and will now have a chance at saving [\[link\]](#) a woman's life. Kinsley will miss practice and the game [\[link\]](#) against Clemson. The procedure will last six to eight hours Monday. Kinsley's last practice before the procedure will be today at 4 p.m. at Latham Stadium on campus.

Attachments



Crime

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2014**

Problem/Need: **CRIME**

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM
Monday – Friday	12:00pm	COPS RELOADED

Description: COPS follows law enforcement officers as they answer calls and deal with the subjects and victims involved in the complaints and crimes. (30:00)

Monday – Sunday	10:00 pm	FOX CAROLINA’S MOST WANTED
Monday – Friday	5:00a-9:00am	

Description: The FOX Carolina’s Most Wanted airs during the Ten O’clock News on various nights Monday thru Sunday and The Morning News Monday thru Friday. Each segment profiles locally wanted criminals and gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. Each segment is 45 seconds.

Jan. 9, 2015

Five-year-old Phoebe Jonchuck was likely alive when her father dropped her over a bridge railing, sending her into the waters of Tampa Bay, police said Friday. Detectives said they had "preliminary evidence" indicating Phoebe was alive, but they wouldn't say specifically what it was. Police previously said an officer who saw John Jonchuck drop Phoebe from the bridge may have heard her scream. Her body was found in the water a couple of hours later. An autopsy is pending. Detectives obtained a search warrant for Jonchuck's car and found a pink booster seat, cellphone and religious items they would not describe. Hours before Phoebe's death, Jonchuck called his attorney "God" and asked her to translate a Bible, police said. The comments prompted his attorney to call police and a child welfare abuse hotline, but when police interviewed Jonchuck in person, he appeared fine and Phoebe was smiling and holding his hand. He said he want to hurt himself or his little girl and had "new clarity in his life." Jonchuck was charged with murder. It's not clear if he has an attorney. At a court hearing Thursday, a judge asked him if he wanted an attorney and he said: "I want to leave it in the hands of God." Police are trying to piece together a timeline of Jonchuck's week. Detectives think he might have spoken to members of a Tampa-area church in the days before dropping his daughter over the bridge. Officials are especially interested in anyone who might have seen Jonchuck, his daughter, or his PT Cruiser vehicle on Wednesday. Phoebe's death led state's child welfare agency to revamp how it handles calls to its abuse line, requiring officials to respond within four hours if a caregiver is believed to be experiencing a psychotic episode. Jonchuck's attorney called the Florida Department of Children and

Families hotline at 2:45 p.m. Wednesday, saying Jonchuck was "depressed and delusional." The lawyer, Genevieve Torres, also called Hillsborough County Sheriff's deputies. Torres told the 911 dispatcher she had asked Jonchuck if he wanted her to file paperwork in his custody case during a meeting Wednesday in Tampa. "It's not going to matter anymore," she recalled him saying. "That really scared me," Torres told the dispatcher, her voice trembling. He was "out of his mind." A child welfare services team is reviewing the agency's involvement with the family, which included at least three prior investigations. Both Jonchuck and the child's mother had arrest records and there were allegations of drug abuse in the home. AP Researcher Jennifer Farrar contributed to this report.

Jan. 12, 2015

The state Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case of a man convicted of first-degree murder in the death of his 10-month-old stepdaughter, whom he admitted abusing and killing in a drunken rage. The court will hold the hearing Monday in the case of Joshua Stepp, who was convicted of killing Cheyenne Yarley in November 2009. The jury's finding that Stepp sexually abused the child was key to convicting him of first-degree murder instead of second-degree murder. He's serving a life sentence without parole. Stepp said he didn't sexually abuse the girl but instead aggressively cleaned her during a diaper change. In a 2-1 decision last year, the Appeals Court said jurors should have been told Stepp's cleaning of the child was an accepted medical practice under state law. PREVIOUSLY: Jury finds NC stepdad guilty of fatally beating infant

Jan. 14, 2015

A 19-year-old registered sex offender has been arrested after deputies said the man offered a juvenile money in exchange for a sex act. The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office said William Thomas, of Lyman, has been charged with criminal solicitation of a minor. According to the sheriff's office, the victim's mother filed a report with them at the end of December saying a neighbor offered her son money in exchange for oral sex. The victim was referred to the Children's Advocacy Center for an interview. A warrant was later obtained after the investigator presented her findings to a magistrate, according to the sheriff's office. Thomas was arrested, and deputies said he confessed to the incident. The sheriff's office's Special Victims Unit said they wanted to make the public aware of his arrest, since it was alleged that Thomas hangs out at the bus stop in the neighborhood. The sheriff's office said Thomas is a registered sex offender in the county for a conviction in Tennessee in 2013 for two counts of rape of a child.

Jan. 21, 2015

An Opelousas woman is awaiting trial after she was arrested for allegedly burning her 5-year-old child with cigarettes. According to a news release by the St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office, detectives were told about potential signs of torture to a juvenile after staffers at the Opelousas General Hospital treated the boy for burns to his hands and torso. Detectives interviewed the child as well as the concerned father who brought his son to the emergency room. After the investigation, the boy's mother, Jessica Deville, 26, was arrested and charged with cruelty to a juvenile. St. Landry Sheriff Bobby Guidroz says that a crime like this is "shocking to the senses." The 5-year-old is recovering and will live with his father. St. Landry Parish Child Protection Services have been notified and are in the process of their own investigation. Deville has been released from jail on a \$3,500 bond.

Feb. 5, 2015

A bond hearing was held Thursday for a man accused of assaulting his ex-wife's boyfriend in December. Deputies with the Anderson County Sheriff's Office said Kenneth McCullough, 42, was charged with assault after he purportedly ran a man off the road in Belton on Dec. 15. According to the victim, McCullough is the ex-husband of his girlfriend. According to the incident report, the victim exited the vehicle with a pistol after being run off the road. McCullough then took it from him and struck him in the head with it several times, the report said. Two days later, McCullough was charged with possession of a destructive device after deputies said a search warrant led to the discovery of Molotov cocktails in his home. McCullough was denied bond at the hearing on Feb. 5. The defense attorney at the hearing said McCullough's ex-wife's ex-boyfriend tried to run him over during their divorce. The judge at the bond hearing described the circumstances as, "all interesting and weirdly insane."

Feb. 13, 2015

Authorities are looking for a teenage couple from central Kentucky who are suspected in a multi-state crime spree. Grayson County Sheriff Norman Chaffins says 18-year-old Dalton Hayes disappeared Jan. 3 with a 13-year-old girl. Since then, police say they believe the couple has traveled to Manning, South Carolina, and Henry County, Georgia. Along the way, police say they're suspected of stealing multiple vehicles and using stolen checks. Chaffins says it's imperative that authorities locate the two "as their behavior is becoming increasingly brazen and dangerous." They were spotted Monday at a Wal-Mart in South Carolina. On Thursday, authorities in Georgia found the vehicle they had been using abandoned, and another vehicle with guns was reported stolen from a nearby location. Chaffins says anyone who spots the couple should call 911.

Feb. 17, 2015

The father of a 13-year-old girl who police say went on a crime spree with her boyfriend says claims that she was abused at home are "completely bogus." Shawn Phillips said Tuesday that anyone who knows his family knows that they did not abuse his daughter Cheyenne. The abuse allegations were brought to light after a jailhouse interview with Cheyenne Phillips' boyfriend, 18-year-old Dalton Hayes. Hayes says the two ran away from their Kentucky home to escape her abusive family. Grayson County Sheriff Norman Chaffins told The Associated Press that he was unaware of any previous accusations of abuse. The pair's travels took them to South Carolina and Georgia and included a night in a frigid barn. The pair were arrested late Saturday in Panama City Beach after authorities found them sleeping in a stolen vehicle.

Feb. 20, 2015

One of two teenagers suspected in a multistate crime spree of stolen vehicles and pilfered checks has returned to Kentucky to face several charges including statutory rape. Local news outlets report 18-year-old Dalton Hayes was crying during his arraignment Thursday afternoon at the Grayson County courthouse. He pleaded not guilty to charges that included statutory rape, custodial interference, criminal mischief, trespassing, theft and burglary. In addition, he was appointed a public defender and given a \$250,000 cash bond. Hayes was arrested in Panama City Beach, Florida, on Saturday, two weeks after he disappeared with his 13-year-old girlfriend. Authorities say they suspect the two of stealing vehicles and writing stolen checks while they were on the run. The girl is expected to face charges in juvenile court.

Feb. 21, 2015

South Carolina's 7th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office has honored a Spartanburg County nurse for the care she provided to crime victims during difficult times and for her testimony during criminal trials, according to a spokesperson for the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System. The solicitor's office recently awarded Nurse Kelli Clune the Bill Barnet Service Above Self Award. Clune is the coordinator for the Spartanburg Medical Center Forensic Nursing program. Forensic nurses are trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners. According to a SRHS spokesperson, forensic nurses are trained both as registered nurses and with the forensic aspects of a scientific investigation of the trauma inflicted during acts of violence. "Forensic nurses deliver trauma-informed care to minimize the long-term negative impact experienced by victims of violence and ensure that follow-up care is provided to begin the healing process," according to Jessica Pickens, Media Relations Coordinator at SRHS. "They also serve as witnesses by giving expert testimonies in criminal court." "I fell in love with the work," Clune said. "There are certain wounds that are 99 percent trauma-based, but things were being missed because that specific training wasn't there. I also like learning the science behind it." Clune works with adults and children. She said she plays an important role with child victims, who are often very

frightened. "Evidence can be lost during some forensic interviews, because the children will be asked so many questions that they will clam up," Clune said. "We play and bond with the children to make it less scary in order to get the information. We give holistic care, where we look at both the physical and emotional side of trauma. We also serve the suspect and work to be non-biased." In addition to providing medical care and testimony in court, Clune also trains and educates other forensic nurses and is part of a statewide team that writes to state legislature related to forensic nursing. "With winning this award, I'm hoping this will increase word-of-mouth in the community," Clune said. "I want to raise awareness and bring more education to the area."

Mar. 3, 2015

The City of Spartanburg is looking into crime rates. The city is organizing a crime study to figure out what to do to improve the rates. Milliken and Company has decided to donate more than \$70,000 to fund the study. Will Rothschild, the communications manager for the City of Spartanburg, said its crime stats are decreasing every year, but said they can always get better. This is the first time an outside firm is coming in to look at their crime rates. The goal: "Dive deeper than really anyone has before on what's driving our crime, where's it occurring, who's committing it, some of the underlying causes behind it," said Rothschild. Rothschild said crime has dropped 30 percent in 10 years, and from 2012 to 2013 it dropped another 10 percent. He said that the city struggles with strict annexing policies, which means, "even though we have those neighborhoods that were built right on the outside fringes of the city, just beyond the city limits, for all intents and purposes, those people consider themselves city residents," said Rothschild. But there are only 37,000 people included in the official population, and the number of people served by law enforcement and fire officials is more than 120,000 because of the outside communities. "When you divide your numbers of crime by 40,000 people, instead of 100 or 120,000 people, your crime averages are going to look a lot higher," said Rothschild. He said it's higher than what the overall safety of the city really is. Milliken said they care about this issue greatly, and that's why they're backing it. Monday, a spokesperson for the company released this statement, "The Milliken foundation is proud to partner with Spartanburg, not only to understand the opportunities to improve the safety and quality of life for all our residents." Local businesses also said crime can be an issue downtown at night, and they would like to see more enforcement. Almost all businesses say they support the study and hope it brings change to the city. The crime stats released by the city also show that the more violent crimes, called "annex crimes" including murder, robbery and arson have gone down 45 percent in the past 15 years, but officials said they are hoping to increase that percentage even more once the study is complete.

Mar. 7, 2015

Two out of four suspects arrested in connection to a double homicide that left a husband and wife dead, were granted bond Monday morning. The two victims found deceased Friday at a Myrtle Beach hotel and the four suspects that have been arrested in connection to the double homicide have been identified by the county coroner and law enforcement officials. Horry County Coroner Tamara Willard identified the victims as Carrie Daley Turner, 52 and Steven Gray Turner, 61, from Durham, North Carolina. The married couple are the parents of the suspect, 23-year-old Alexander Turner. The victims died at the scene, at the Landmark Resort in Myrtle Beach, from gunshot wound injuries, according to Willard. Two suspects arrested in connection to the deadly crime are Coastal Carolina University students. The suspects were arrested following a search warrant that was executed at Monarch 544 apartment complex Saturday. According to Myrtle Beach Police Department officials, Alexander Turner and 19-year-old Chelsi Griffin, both of Conway, were arrested in connection to the homicide. Both have been charged with murder, according to arrest warrants. Alexander Turner was also charged with possession of a weapon during a violent crime. Grant Dollens, 20, of Columbia, and 18-year-old Roxanna Lisa Cumpan of Potstown, PA, have been arrested and charged with accessory after the fact. Dollens and Cumpan admitted to knowingly helping to hide suspects wanted for murder. They also admitted to attempting to help the murder suspects resist arrest. In addition to accessory, Cumpan was charged with possession of scheduled two narcotics. Arrest warrants state that two orange and white capsules identified as Vyvanse was found in Cumpan's possession at Monarch apartments. According to J. Reuben Long Detention Center's booking website and the Horry County Court Public Index, Cumpan and Dollens had bond hearings at 9 a.m. Monday. They each received \$25,000 bond for the accessory to murder charges. Cumpan received an additional \$5,000 bond for possessing a controlled substance. According to Martha Hunn, Dollens and Griffin are currently enrolled at CCU. On March 6, officers with Myrtle Beach Police Department responded to the Landmark Resort in reference to a double homicide. Police responded to the hotel on South Ocean Boulevard just before 5:30 p.m. Friday, he said. The double murder happened inside a room on the twelfth floor of the hotel, according to Crosby. According to records from the Myrtle Beach Police, Alexander Turner and Griffin attempted to extend the stay of the victims' hotel room. The request was denied and the suspects left the hotel in the victims' vehicle. According to police, the suspects used the victims' credit cards on March 6, after the bodies were discovered by law enforcement. Griffin and Alexander Turner were arrested on March 4, 2015 for having at least five fire arms in their possession. According to MBPD, information obtained during the investigation led police to the Monarch apartment complex located on Highway 544 off of the Coastal Carolina University complex. Around 5 p.m. Saturday, CCU's official Twitter page tweeted, "Police initiating search warrant at Monarch Apartments. Stay inside." According to Lt. Selena Small with Conway Police Department, law enforcement officials executed a search warrant at the complex near Coastal Carolina University. In addition to CPD, Horry County Police Department SWAT and Myrtle Beach Police were on the scene. Lt. Small reported that officials told all residents and occupants to move to Monarch's front office until police were done with the search warrant. Small said no one was allowed to enter the complex. During the search, residents who lived at Monarch and were not home, were asked to stay away from the area. On September 4, 2014 WRAL reported that the victims' NC home was destroyed by fire while they were on a cruise. According to the article, "emergency crews responded to the home, at 6 Maere Court, shortly after midnight. When firefighters arrived, the two-

story home was completely engulfed in flames.” The article stated that officials from Durham Fire Department were investigating the fire.

Mar. 9, 2015

The Greenville Police Department is searching for leads in a deadly shooting that claimed a man's life Sunday night. Officer Jonathan Bragg said the shooting happened at 7:37 p.m. in the parking lot of the West Greenville Community Center on Rochester Road. The victim was later pronounced dead at Greenville Memorial Hospital. The Greenville County Coroner's Office identified the victim as Alexander Xavier Paden, 24, of Blake Street. The coroner's office said an autopsy conducted on Monday revealed that Paden had been shot multiple times. In a news release, the coroner noted that the gunshot wounds were the cause of death. The manner of death was listed as homicide. According to the incident report, the community center was locked and secured when officers arrived. No arrests have been made or suspects identified at this time. Officers do not believe there is any threat to public safety. Anyone with information regarding the shooting is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 864-23-CRIME.

Mar. 18, 2015

Anderson County deputies have asked for the public's help tracking down Donnie Earl Thomason Jr. who deputies said is wanted in connection with five recent crimes in Anderson County. On Jan. 19 deputies said Thomason took a 2003 Ford Explorer from a home on Pamela Drive in Williamston. He ransacked the vehicle, stole several items from inside, including an iPad that belonged to Anderson County School District One, and left the SUV parked across the street. Later that morning, deputies said Thomason broke into a 2008 Ford F150 on Diane Lane in Williamston. The keys to a 2013 Volkswagen Passat were in the truck. Deputies said Thomason stole the keys and the Passat. The next crime occurred on Jan 28, when deputies said Thomason broke into a house on Campbell Road in Williamston and stole nearly \$5,000 worth of items. The stolen items included musical instruments, electronics, computer equipment, and three Samurai swords. Early on Feb. 2 deputies said Thomason stole a 1994 Ford Ranger from a rental business on Belton Highway. The truck was secured inside a locked, fenced-in area and Thomason drove through the front gate in order to escape with the vehicle, deputies said. On March 8 a deputy spotted Thomason on a motorcycle near the intersection of Anderson Drive at McAlister Road in Williamston. The deputy tried to pull Thomason over but said the suspect sped away. The deputy chased Thomason but ended the pursuit due to safety concerns. Deputies have since secured eight warrants for Thomason's arrest. He is charged with three counts of grand larceny, breaking into a motor vehicle, burglary, malicious injury to personal property, failure to stop for blue lights, and driving under suspension. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Anderson County Sheriff's Office at 864-260-4400 or Crime Stoppers at 1-888-CRIME-SC.

Mar. 20, 2015

With many questions left unanswered, Buncombe County Sheriff Van Duncan held a press conference Friday to discuss the deaths of a Leicester couple and the arrest of a man facing murder charges in connection with the case. Cristie Schoen Codd, 38, and Joseph "JT" Codd, 45 were reported missing by family members on Sunday, March 16. According to family, Cristie Codd was five months pregnant. After murder charges were filed against a neighbor, the worst possible outcome in their disappearance was confirmed. Robert Jason Owens, 36, was charged with two counts of first-degree murder and murder of an unborn child after deputies conducted an extensive search at the Codd's and Owens' homes. Owens was taken in to custody Monday night and his truck was towed from his home on Owens Cove Road. Arrest warrants state that Owens "unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did of malice afterthought kill and murder" Cristie and JT Codd and their unborn child on March 12. The Codd's, who lived nearby on Hookers Gap Road, hired Owens as a handyman often, according to neighbors. Duncan said in the press conference Friday that while investigating the missing persons reports for the Codd's, officials learned items were suspiciously disposed of in a dumpster on Donna Drive in Candler. Duncan said items were located in the dumpster belonging to Cristie Codd and the items led them to question Owens. Based on answers in an interview, the sheriff said search warrants were executed for Owens' residence where what is believed to be human remains were located in a wood stove. One of the properties where search warrants were served was 8 Owens Cove Rd., which is on Owens' property but is not his primary residence. A fire burned down the property early Friday morning. Duncan said Owens' wife gave a statement to deputies saying Jason Owens admitted to killing JT Codd with a vehicle. Deputies have not released information about a motive in the case to protect their investigation and the prosecution's case against Owens.

Mar. 25, 2015

The Henderson County district attorney's office announced Wednesday that a former Henderson County deputy was sentenced for various sexual crimes that he committed while working as a school resource officer. Daniel Lindsey was sentenced earlier this month to a 63 month prison sentence, the district attorney's office said. Lindsey must serve a minimum sentence of 30 months before he can be considered for release. Lindsey was charged in connection with a sex act with a then-16-year-old female at the Balfour Educational Center. During the investigation more charges were filed after deputies discovered sexually explicit images of minors on an electronic device. The investigation also revealed that Lindsey had texted lewd images and videos of himself to minors. Lindsey had no previous criminal history.

Mar. 29, 2015

The Easley Police Department said tips that came in after the agency posted surveillance photos on Facebook led officers to identify two suspects in two recent crimes. Police said Sunday that warrants were being sought for a male and a female wanted in connection with recent shoplifting and auto theft incidents at the Easley Walmart. Officers said the male and female pictures are accused of stealing merchandise from the store Feb. 21. Officers believe the same suspects stole a car from outside Walmart on Feb. 24. Police said fans of the department's Facebook page helped officers identify the two suspects within three hours of posting the photos Saturday. The suspects' names and charges were not yet available Sunday afternoon. Police said they hoped to post a status update with arrest information within the coming days.