

**TELEVISION STATION WSB-TV / ATLANTA**  
**QUARTERLY LISTING OF LOCAL PROGRAMS REFLECTING CONCERNS AND/OR NEEDS**  
**OF THE COMMUNITY**  
**JANUARY 1, 2008 – MARCH 31, 2008**

ALL PROGRAMS LISTED BELOW ARE PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED,  
AND ARE LOCALLY PRODUCED. WE ALSO CARRY ABC NETWORK AND SYNDICATED  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS THESE ISSUES.

(Mini-Series Documentaries are produced by WSB-TV's News Department and appear within the newscasts as a public service to the community. The Action News "mini-series" are aired one to four times daily Monday -Friday from 5am-7am; 12-1:00pm; 5-7pm; 11-11:35pm; 12:35-1:05am (repeat). On Saturdays, Action News is aired from 6-9am; 12-12:30pm; 6-6:30pm; and 11-11:35pm. Sundays: 7:30-11am; 12-12:30pm; 6-7pm; and 11-11:35pm. Segments are generally 1:00-6:00 minutes in length. The following, in date order, are the reports broadcast during fourth quarter, 2007)

**QUARTERLY ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST**

- EDUCATION / YOUTH
  - HEALTHCARE
  - ECONOMY
- ENVIRONMENT / CONSERVATION
  - TRAFFIC / TRANSPORTATION
- LAW ENFORCEMENT & CRIMINAL JUSTICE
  - POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
  - COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORHOODS
    - ANIMAL WELFARE

**DeKalb Schools Get High Marks**

Date: **01/14/08 5pm** duration :13 Jovita Moore

At his "State of the System" address on Saturday, Superintendent Dr. Crawford Lewis said teachers are doing a great job in DeKalb County. And students are improving. But he's facing a battle with his plan to redistrict DeKalb schools.

**Atlanta School Redistricting Proposal Concerns Parents**

Date: **01/15/08 12pm** duration :45 John Pruitt

Parents decked out in red came out tonight to share their frustrations with a proposed redistricting plan. It would send some children in Buckhead to schools farther away from their homes. The Atlanta Board of Education was not prepared to handle a public debate or answer questions about the plan, but they did allow parents to talk. Many tell us they just want the districts left alone. Tom Tidwell, parent: "It's our neighborhood, our neighborhood school, Jackson is not our school. All we're asking is keep the districting as it is, it makes no reason to flip flop them, and let's develop a long term goal." There is a special hearing scheduled this month to answer questions about the redistricting plan. It takes place January 22 at 7pm at North Atlanta High School.

Date: **01/21/08 6pm** duration :26 John Pruitt

Parents upset over a proposed redistricting plan in northwest Atlanta want their neighbors to join the fight. The Atlanta school district is considering redistricting that would affect some students at Morris Brandon, Jackson, and Sarah Smith. Many parents say the plan unfairly moves some children out of neighborhood schools. But the district says it must adjust to growth in the area. The school board is holding a public meeting tomorrow night at North Atlanta High School.

Date: **02/07/08 11pm** duration :16 Monica Pearson

Anger and frustration ... that's what some parents felt tonight during a meeting with Atlanta Public School officials. It's about the touchy subject of rezoning. It could change where at least 200 students go to school.

**Clayton County Schools Lose Accreditation Status**

Date: **02/25/08 6pm** duration :37 Monica Pearson

There is a heavy police presence at the Clayton County School Board for tonight's work session meeting. The meeting comes after the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce placed a newspaper ad urging board members to resign. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools recommended revoking the districts accreditation because of in-fighting and micro-managing. The Chamber says the problems are clearly the board's fault. Lacy Ekberg, Clayton County Chamber: "Its not student related, its not test related. It is administrative. And if that's where the problem is then the problem needs to stop." The school district added metal detectors at its central office, but says it has nothing to do with the controversy swirling over the board.

Date: **03/02/08 6pm**

duration 1:45

Bill Hoffman, Editorial

For two weeks now, we have been watching events unfold with the Clayton County School Board that are not only disturbing but downright embarrassing. For the second time in five years, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, has cited the Clayton system for problems that point to the School Board membership itself. This time threatening to revoke its accreditation beginning next school year. If that happened, it would be only the third school system in the nation to have lost accreditation...and the only time in Georgia history!!! What's worst is the list of standards the Southern Association has cited would get most administrators fired. Those items include NO Vision and Purpose.... Governance and Leadership.... Documenting and Using results... and Communications & Relations... None of those standards have been met, and we're not making this up!!! Here it is... In addition, there are accusations that some school board members don't even live in Clayton County.. The Governor has sent in liaisons from the State Board of Education to try to help the situation. But the best solution now is obvious... The School Board should just resign .. Resign and save the property owners who are losing their shirts over this controversy. Resign and save all state taxpayers from having to pay for investigations and even lawsuits that may result. Resign and save money on the increased security costs.. But above all resign... and save Clayton County's children from further punishment.

### **Cobb Officials Handling School Safety In Question**

Date: **02/29/08 5pm**

duration :18

Jovita Moore

Some Cobb County parents are upset with how school officials handled an alleged threat. Police say a teenager threatened to bring a gun to school and kill his Walton High classmates back in December. The school suspended the student ... but he's back now. Officials are not identifying the student. A criminal case is pending.

**Grady Hospital's Future**

Date: **01/24/08 5pm**                      duration :36                      John Pruitt

A community group fighting to save Grady Hospital is opposed to a change in management. The Grady Coalition protested outside the Atlanta Chamber headquarters Wednesday. The Hospital Authority is preparing to turn over control to a private, not-for-profit board. But coalition members fear a change in management could mean a change in the mission. State Senator Vincent Fort: "We have no doubt that they will in fact make the cuts and this is not something we think will happen they have said it they have proposed it." Chamber president Sam Williams tells us that business leaders would never propose cuts in service to the poor or needy.

Date: **01/24/08 5pm**                      duration 1:19                      Richard Elliot

House Speaker Glenn Richardson is sending a clear message to Grady Hospital's Board of Trustees – if it doesn't form that not-for-profit corporation soon, it won't get any of the nearly \$30 million dollars promised by the state. While speaking at an Atlanta Press Club luncheon, Richardson went one further: He says if that –not-for-profit \*isn't\* formed, he will push through legislation creating a state board to oversee all the money earmarked for Grady. State Senator Vincent Fort is a vocal opponent of privatization, but concedes it'll probably happen. He blames Grady's financial crisis on the state and believes the state ought to bail it out.

Date: **01/25/08 6pm**                      duration :17                      Jovita Moore

A new plan could eliminate hundreds of jobs at Grady Hospital. Hospital leaders say a draft plan shows Grady could become more efficient if it eliminated as many as 500 positions. The strategy calls for cutting the jobs through attrition and not layoffs. Grady officials say the plan is far from final.

Date: **01/28/08 6am**                      duration 1:00                      Tara Jones

With the threat of losing tens of millions of dollars in state funds looming over Grady Memorial Hospital, most expect it's board members to approve that non-profit plan. Today's much anticipated vote follows months of heated debate and wrangling over the best way to save the financially strapped trauma center. Membership of the new board has proven an especially controversial topic. Some claim the hidden agenda in the move for a non-profit facility is to push the poor out. Senator Vincent Fort, an outspoken critic of privatization, says the deal must include language to ensure key services for the poor and not wiped out. House Speaker Glenn Richardson recently threatened to create a state board to oversee all of the money earmarked for Grady.

Date: **01/28/08 5pm**

duration 1:09

John Bachman

About two dozen protestors staked out Grady this afternoon. The move to create a new non-profit corporation to run the hospital has been met with opposition from the beginning. The Metro Chamber of Commerce Task Force recommended the idea, suggesting millions of private dollars would go to the hospital if management changed. State leaders are also waiting on a decision before approving an infusion of state money to Grady, which has historically gotten very little direct state funding. Opponents say a private, non-profit board will forget poor patients and the employees who've helped them through the years. Nancy Lenk, Grady Worker's Union: "When the board changes, uncertainties for workers rights ... they should have document going to hire them and keep seniority." As the hospital authority looked over the lease agreement moments ago, the board's lawyer read language written to address concerns for the poor.

Date: **02/04/08 5am**

duration :30

Carol Sbarge

This morning, DeKalb County lawyers have questions about the new non-profit corporation that would run Grady Hospital. Channel 2 obtained a legal memo from lawyers hired by the county. It outlines serious issues. The lawyers concerns include controls over hospital spending, the quality of medical care, and debt. Lawmakers have raised their own concerns about the board overseeing Grady. "We've not been completely briefed. i think that's why the oversight, the accountability is going to be so critical." DeKalb and Fulton County must approve the deal before the change-over can take place.

Date: **02/22/08 11pm**

duration :29

John Pruitt

Channel 2 Action News has learned of a new dispute over a Grady Hospital trustee accused of conflict-of-interest. The hospital says Clayton Shepherd was \*not\* even in the room when the \$55 million dollar contract was discussed. But a source who was there tells us that was \*not\* the case. Grady acknowledges Shepherd should not have had any role in the vote because of an indirect link to the winning bidder, and insists he did not. The losing vendor, University Health System Consortium, filed a formal protest last month.

Date: **03/07/08 6pm**

duration :18

John Pruitt

Channel 2 Action News has learned that Grady Hospital's Chief Legal Counsel cautioned board members that the way Grady awarded a huge contract raised numerous issues and concerns. Timothy Jefferson said the award was legal, but told board members they should strengthen their conflict-of-interest guidelines.

Date: **03/11/08 6pm**

duration 1:19

Jovita Moore

With Grady's restructuring possibly final in a few days, the grassroots Grady Coalition is not satisfied with names tossed in as possible board members. Reverend Tim McDonald, Grady Coalition: "It is clear to us that we are merely replacing one form of government for another form of government, and this particular new form may be even more political than the one they're trying to replace." The group made its comments in front of the Chamber of Commerce, which has been instrumental in pushing along Grady's changes. But, the final say will come from the hospital authority, which is expected to finally seal the deal on Friday. Sam Williams, Chamber of Commerce: "We think the financial stability of Grady has to be insured and we think the governance of Grady has to be changed and the Grady Board is gonna make that decision – no one else." At the Capitol, several proposals are also trying to push for Grady's changes. DeKalb Representative Mike Jacobs wants to mandate that non-profit organizations work with hospital authorities, in order to get funding. Grady's situation was his sole motivation. Mike Jacobs (R), Ga. District 80: "There is broad consensus that that change is what is necessary in order to get Grady solvent again and keep the hospital afloat and if the authority is not going to do it on its own we have to be sure that we protect the taxpayer and we protect the hospital."

Date: **03/18/08 12pm**

duration :26 Jovita Moore

We know who will head the new Grady Hospital Board of Directors ... and there's more controversy. Former Georgia Pacific Chairman Pete Correll is the new chairman of the private, non-profit corporation for Grady Hospital. The Board will take over day-to-day operation of Grady later this year. Correll's election did not come as a surprise. But there are critics. "We've just seen, uh, here as is happening in many other parts around the world where something the public paid for now is controlled by private interests. Correll says the board is committed to saving the deep-in-debt hospital. He wants to bring in a world-class, proven CEO to run Grady.

Date: **03/26/08 5pm**

duration 1:19

Jovita Moore

"I'm probably uniquely qualified because I know all the moving parts at this time and worked through the transition." Attorney, state lawmaker and hospital authority chair Pam Stephenson has added Grady CEO to the list of hats she wears. Without any prior day-to-day experience, which doesn't seem to be an issue to her. Stephenson: "Running a hospital is secondary to understanding the issues of Grady. The question of whether or not I know the Grady Health System is a resounding yes." Otis Story was hired last year as CEO, then fired this year for violating board policy. As hospital authority chair, Stephenson was part of that decision, but doesn't see any conflict in her new double role. Stephenson: "There's a lot of evidence of other hospitals particularly when you're going through changes when you're stabilizing an institution such as Grady that the chairman has stepped in." Stephenson says she's pleased with the new non-profit board

and confident Grady's mission will stay the same – to serve the least of these. Her focus is to push for funding for uninsured Georgians, and to find ways to sustain Grady for those patients in years to come. "We have a duty to the people in our state to address the issues and start really looking at the public policy issues about uninsured and underinsured. How do we reimburse healthcare? How do you shore up accountability?"

Date: **03/27/08 5am**

duration :35

Fred Blankenship

Some local med students say one of the best ways to help Grady Hospital is to make sure more people have insurance. Last night med students held a vigil outside the downtown Atlanta hospital. Grady has struggled with financial problems and a new board just took over. Med students say one way to ease the burden on Grady is to get more people insurance. Some critics are concerned Grady's new private board may cut some services used by low-income patients.

**Drought Leads to Economic Woes**Date: **02/26/08 5pm**

duration :24

Jovita Moore

It will probably be a few more hours before we know the result of today's closed-door auction of Norcross-based Pike Nurseries. Today, five firms submitted bids to buy some of all of the company. Pike filed for bankruptcy last year, citing huge drought-related losses. We expect specific information on the bids later tonight. AS the drought worsened last summer and fall, Pike's sales slowed to almost half of their normal levels.

Date: **03/13/08 5pm**

duration 1:23

Diana Davis

It's enough to put a smile on the face of any landscaper ... water – and lots of it. Not in violation of the stiff drought restrictions, the water is reclaimed from Gwinnett County's waste water treatment system. Richard Porter, Gwinnett County Water: "The water is very safe. It's treated to very stringent limits. It's disinfected. It's been through at least eight or ten different processes before we're done with it." It could be enough to save landscapers who wondered if they'd be able to survive the tight watering restrictions. Bradley Griffin, Landscaper: "If this drought is ongoing, this will allow us to stay in business, to be able to not have to put installations on hold." At least three metro counties – Gwinnett, Forsyth, and Paulding – now allow landscapers to use the treated reclaimed water. Landscaper: "We're using a product that was just going down the Chattahoochee." AS much water as landscapers want, as long as they're certified and follow restrictions. Richard Porter: "IT can be used for pesticide and herbicide application. You can use it for washing the streets. You can use it for flushing sewer lines." Things that you \*can't\* use it for include pressure washing, washing cars, and filling swimming pools. So far, several golf courses, the Mall of Georgia, and even Gwinnett's new baseball stadium have expressed interest or signed up for the new program.

**Governor Pans Tax Cut Plan**Date: **03/20/08 7am**

duration :21

Fred Blankenship

The Governor wasted no time criticizing a proposed tax cut plan the senate introduced this week. The idea would cut income taxes in Georgia by 10% in 5 years. Perdue questioned how the state would pay for education, transportation and health care, if it loses millions in income tax. He says with the economic downturn, this is the wrong time for this tax cut.

### **Neighborhood Group Hopes to Save Historic Tree**

Date: **03/20/08 6pm** duration :23 Monica Pearson

A group trying to save an old tree is refusing to give up their fight. A developer plans to tear down the tree, neighbors named "Grandma Gordon." The tree at DeKalb and Gordon Avenues in northeast Atlanta is more than 100 years old. The city gave neighbors 30 days to raise \$1 million dollars to buy the property. They came up \$997,000 dollars short. The group now plans to take their battle to court.

Date: **01/15/08 6pm** duration 1:15 Jeff Dore

On a bluff above the lake, and in the silt below the lake, the city of Cumming is grappling with the drought. Lake Lanier is 18 feet below full pool, and the original pipe where Cumming draws out water is out of the water. They put in emergency pipes and there's another intake deeper down, but if they don't dredge out an underwater ridge, that intake pipe could go dry too, with much more drought. John Heard, Water Director: "The dredging projects are drought driven." This will buy hundreds of thousands of people more time and lake depth to ride out the drought, but it won't solve a worst-case situation. Heard: "Approximately ten feet and then we'll have to take more drastic measures." That would involve running a pipe about 3,000 feet out into the lake. Meanwhile, the city had made plans for a backup pumping system back before the drought drained the lake so much. That's what all the tree removal is about, and now – with the lower lake – they're glad they got started ahead of time. Heard: "...and takes us down to a deeper level in the lake to help us prevent any problem with the water supply should we have a drought in the future."

### **The Georgia Drought**

Date: **01/02/08 5pm** duration :22 Fred Blankenship

There is good news to report. Atlanta has met its goal to conserve water by 10 percent. Atlantans used an average of 78.81 million gallons of water in December. That's more than 3% below the city's target of 81.47 million gallons. Despite the recent rains, we still are suffering at a 'Level 4' drought. These numbers reflect production from the Hemphill and Chattahoochee water treatment plants.

Date: **01/22/08**      **12pm**      duration :37      John Pruitt

Now for the latest on Georgia's water crisis. There are signs today that recent snow and rain are helping local lake levels. Boaters and business owners tell us Lake Lanier has risen a little bit in recent weeks ... after months of falling. Some fear it will drop again in the Spring and Summer. Others tell us they think it's a sign the drought situation is turning around. Ben Morgan: "I actually plan on starting to put boats back in the water here over the next several weeks if everything keeps up like it's supposed to." Lake Lanier is still about 20 feet below full summer pool. Lake Allatoona is actually above full \*winter\* pool.

Date: **01/22/08**      **6pm**      duration :19      John Pruitt

Some environmental groups are unhappy with Georgia's new statewide water plan. The plan creates water planning districts throughout the state. But groups like the Sierra Club say the boundaries are sure to create "water wars." For example, the plan may divide some river basins among several planning districts. Environmentalists fear those districts will fight over the shared resources.

Date: **01/25/08**      **5pm**      duration 1:15      Diana Davis

I want to go down to North Florida and have me some fresh water mussels in a pot. At the Green Industry Trade Show in Athens, water restrictions and the Georgia drought were the hot topics. In an industry that's been crippled as lake levels and water dried up ... there will be some garden centers and landscape companies that won't make it back into the industry. The new water proposal would loosen watering restrictions for landscapers and homeowners. Attendee: "If we can get the water turned on in a minimal way for our customers, home owners through this spring season, which is like Christmas for the green industry, we stand a much better chance of staying in business". The state plan would allow limited outdoor watering if homeowners and landscapers attend conservation classes either in person or possibly online. The Green Industry will be holding its breath. Believing landscapers have shouldered too much of the drought burden, (attendee): "we really are looking for an equitable share of the water resource in our state, and this method of turning the water back on for spring for homeowners will not use water that's detrimental to public safety. Druid Hills Gardener Ericka Glazer has conserved with rain barrels and cisterns. Though she welcomes loosening of restrictions, she wonders how a plan might be enforced. Homeowner Glazer: "But I just wonder about the practicality of having certificates for homeowners. I mean, who's going to implement that? Wouldn't it be easier to say you get one day a week just use your hose ... don't use a sprinkler."

Date: **01/30/08 18:25:14** duration 1:15 Jovita Moore

The idea of shutting down pools this summer doesn't seem to be going over well with many across north Georgia. Chip Rogers (R), Woodstock: "Clearly, we're in a drought. Everyone ought to conserve, but you have to weigh cost and benefit of any decision." Senator Chip Rogers this week proposed Senate Bill 368, which would stop the state EPD from closing pools because of the drought. Rogers says he's getting dozens of emails from constituents, and neighbors, concerned about summer recreation. "You're talking about tens of thousands of children that are on swim team. You're talking about millions of Georgians – parents and kids – who spend their weekends around swimming pools. I just don't see the sense of taking all that away for something where you really don't see any appreciable difference in the amount of water that's conserved." Rogers doesn't believe the water that could be used in existing pools around the state is large enough to restrict usage. "The amount of water that's necessary to keep it at full level for the average pool is the same amount of water that a family of four uses every day to brush their teeth." At a news conference Wednesday, Governor Perdue says it may be just too early to talk about restricting pools.

Date: **01/31/08 07:24:39** duration :33 Fred Blankenship

This morning we also have the latest in the controversy to shut down pools because of Georgia's drought. A state lawmaker is now proposing a bill which would stop the state EPD from closing pools this summer. Rogers: "The amount of water that's necessary to keep it at full level for the average pool is the same amount of water that a family of four uses every day to brush their teeth.." At least three state senators say childhood obesity, exercise and economics are good reasons to keep pools open. The bill could be up for a hearing next week.

Date: **02/16/08 20:19:37** duration :34 Jaquitta Williams

A new plan to cut water releases from Lake Lanier has drawn strong criticism in Georgia. Channel 2 Action News has obtained a copy of the Georgia Environmental Protection division plan. The agency wants to reduce water releases by almost 27% to preserve water storage. Some worry the change could harm water quality by \*not\* diluting treated sewage. Betsy Nicholas: "A lot of it is from nutrients, a lot of nutrient loading, it comes from waste -- and you get algae growth and nasty bacteria in the water." The Army Corps of Engineers has not issued a response to the request by the Georgia EPD.

Date: **03/27/08 18:55:10** duration :20 John Pruitt

Four local counties say they shouldn't be included in state drought restrictions. You can see Clarke, Barrow, Jackson and Oconee Counties on this map – three counties fall under Level Three drought, Oconee is Level Two. Officials say the Bear Creek Reservoir has enough water to ease restrictions in the area. They've sent a letter to the state asking for the exemption.

### **Eco Friendly Cars Bring Bureaucratic Roadblocks**

Date: **03/10/08 17:30:34** duration :19 Jim Strickland

Two bills in the legislature help clarify which types of vehicles can get a title. The Senate bill passed the House; the House bill has passed the Senate. Meantime the Department of Revenue will be in touch with Webber next week ... seeking information about his car. In the mean time, they advise him to park his \$10,000 car.

Date: **03/11/08 06:21:54** duration :30 Fred Blankenship

A DeKalb County man who's "going green" is being forced to stay off the road. The Department of Revenue gave Jeremy Webber a tag and title for his three-wheeled electric car, and then cancelled them months later. The car does not go faster than 40 miles per hour, and officials tell us it should never have been titled! Webber: "I've bought a car...I've had it for 5 months...2100 miles on it, and suddenly they say oops, sorry we've changed our minds." The Department of Revenue says it will review the case.

### **5Pp WATER PLAN GA PKG**

### **6P POOLS DROUGHT GA PKG**

**WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest: Traffic/Transportation**

**More Red Light Cameras Coming to Metro Atlanta**

Date: 12/04/07 6pm                      duration :15                      Jovita Moore

Whether you like them or not, more red light cameras are showing up at intersections across Georgia. After trying them out, Marietta wants to double the number of intersections covered by the cameras.

**WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest: Government/Politics**

**East Point Residents May Face Costly Meter Upgrades**

Date: 10/16/07 5pm                      duration :37                      John Pruitt

The city of East Point has delayed a controversial water fix that would cost taxpayers! Homeowners received notices this month saying the city would require them to pay for meter changes or risk losing service. The cost of the changes runs as high as \$1,500 dollars for some houses. But last night, the city council put the change on hold. "If we can buy some more time for our citizens to get this done, we can look for alternative funding mechanisms for people who may have a hardship paying for this." State law requires the city to update the water meters, but East Point has pushed back any repairs for 160 days.

### **5Pv NICHOLS MOTION FULTON VO**

Date: **01/09/08 18:12:27** duration :26 Monica Pearson

Prosecutors in the Brian Nichols courthouse shootings case are not giving up efforts to get the judge removed from the case. Today, the Fulton County DA's office accused Superior Court Judge Hilton Fuller of being an advocate for the defense. Now prosecutors want the state Supreme Court to review Fuller's refusal to step down. Brian Nichols is charged with killing a judge and three others on March 11, 2005. The case has had countless delays because of defense funding problems.

### **5Pv VERNON VETO NEWSER DEK VO**

Date: **03/12/08 18:14:27** duration :38 Jovita Moore

He said he would, and this afternoon he did! During a visit to a Senior Center, DeKalb's CEO Vernon Jones vetoed budget cuts to pay for police and firefighter raises. Commissioners approved 1.25% across the board cut in most department budgets to pay the raises. Jones said those cuts would hurt Seniors and other DeKalb residents. Jones: "We have cut, cut, and cut." Commissioner Ellis is now proposing another cut that will come into the heart of central services. It's un-American and I will not do it." We called Commissioner Burrell Ellis who introduced the budget cut plan to get his response to the veto. But we haven't been able to reach him yet.

### **6P NICHOLS JUDGE ARTICLE VO**

Date: **01/29/08 19:02:31** duration :56 John Pruitt

An article about the Brian Nichols murder case is getting national attention, and stirring controversy about the judge overseeing the trial. An article in the New Yorker by CNN Reporter Jeffrey Toobin quotes Judge Hilton Fuller talking about Nichols' possible mental illness defense. He's quoted as saying: "That's their only defense, because everyone in the world knows he did it." Late this afternoon, Judge Fuller told our Mark Winne he had a lengthy conversation with the author of the article. He said, "my agreement with the reporter was that all our conversation would be background, that no quotations would be printed without my specific approval. And there were none approved." The judge told Mark he does not remember making the statement – but it does not sound like something he'd say. Jeffrey Toobin tells us the judge was clearly on the record. Nichols is accused of killing four people during his escape from the Fulton County courthouse in March 2005.

## **6P FULLER STEPS DOWN FUL PKG**

Date: **01/30/08 21:46:06** duration 2:10 Mark Winne

Judge: "Mark, I took this case for the right reasons, and as far as I'm concerned those reasons include that I'm an experienced Superior Court Judge who has handled death penalty cases before, and I felt like this case needs that." Senior Judge Hilton Fuller says in his judgment he had become too much of an issue as the judge presiding over accused courthouse shooter Brian Nichols efforts to fight the charges against him in Fulton County, and it threatened to get in the way of justice. Fuller: "When I was asked to do it, I wasn't excited about that, but I did take it for what I think to be the right reasons. I am disappointed not to be able to complete that – that responsibility professionally – I'm very disappointed." Now in a letter to Fulton County Chief Superior Court Judge Doris "Dee" Downs, he says "judicial impartiality, real and perceived, is a critical element of the trial process. "In light of recent media reports I am no longer hopeful that I can provide a trial perceived to be fair for both the state and the accused. Whether I was accurately quoted is immaterial. What is material is the perception created by the attribution. For that reason, I hereby recuse myself." The DeKalb County Senior Judge was caught up in a recent controversy about a New Yorker article in which Judge Fuller is quoted about a version of the insanity defense, as saying "that's their only defense, because everyone in the world knows he did it." Judge Fuller has told us his agreement with the reporter was that their conversation would be background, that no quotes would be printed without his specific approval, and none were approved. The judge said he does not remember whether he specifically made the remark, though it doesn't sound like something he'd say. The author, Jeffrey Toobin, has told a Channel 2 producer, the judge was clearly on the record. A defense motion has said 'Mr Nichols was acting under a delusion, which overmastered his will to resist committing acts which are criminal' ... does that suggest even if you said what was attributed to you, it was not a great departure from what was in the record?" Mark, I'm just gonna leave that to other people to evaluate. I don't think any comment about that would be appropriate from me at this time.

## **6P SA CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD GA PKG**

Date: **02/18/08 15:35:37** duration 3:10 Richard Belcher

Henry County historian Mark Pollard says this box of bullets has something to say. Pollard: "...and the ultimate thing is when the artifacts come from the ground, that's what tells the story." They are proof, he says, that this site – for which Henry County paid \$8 million dollars – was a battlefield. Pollard became the county's first 'civil war historian' immediately after this land was purchased in 2005. But a critic is raising

questions about this site ... located a mile and a half from nearby Lovejoy Station ... in Clayton County. Questions like: where did the battle take place? Pollard: "The battle?... It's according to whichever way you look at it. it started in Lovejoy... it made it's way thru these fields here that belonged to the Nash family." Nash: "It did not happen here." But amateur historian Larry Stanly believes Henry County is rewriting history. He says the actual battle was in Clayton County, not Henry. Stanley: "there were confederates on the property, there were union soldiers on the property, but the battle had actually raged for 3 hours before that charge..." Belcher: "So it does have official status with the federal government?" Pollard: "It's part of the Battle of Lovejoy." Perhaps, but there is no 'Nash Farm Battlefield' listed with the national park service, and Lovejoy ranks as 'class D' which means 'having a limited influence on the outcome' of the Atlanta campaign. Stanley: "this has been a matter of controversy from day 1. the cost of the property was 8 million." But is has been controversial because the county used "eminent domain" to take it away from a developer who wanted to put 300-400 houses across that field. Stanley argues that this 'unknown' battlefield was discovered to prevent the housing development. "you had to have a reason to take the property, the county created a position called the Official Civil War Historian, and.. lo and behold we have a battlefield. I don't want it to be undone, I'm very happy that the county has the property and I think it can be put to great use, but I think such things as the historical marker behind us truly needs to tell the truth." This sign looks exactly like the Georgia historical markers seen throughout the state. But it's brand new and designated 'official' by Henry County itself. Pollard: "Anybody, you know counties can... county or any kind of place that has a historical home can, get a historical marker, there, that's not hard to get. Hard to obtain." So ... 143 years after the end of the civil war, a passionate debate is unresolved and not likely to be settled any time soon." Stanley: "these guys were good. they laid their life on the line, they were fighting for their last, vestige of a life and a culture, they were defending their home turf. I will never take anything away from these guys... that's a battle." "Thirty minutes worth of cavalry coming through and the Confederates running back to the woods – that's not a battle." Pollard: "Regardless of what Mr. Stanley thinks, you put yourself in the soldier's shoes, the one's that was barefooted, and told to charge and take that hill. They would tell you that was a battle."

## **12v PSC VOTE ATL VO**

Date: **03/07/08 12:38:35**

duration :22

Fred Blankenship

Georgia's largest natural gas marketer is giving some customers refunds to end a billing controversy. Georgia Natural Gas has agreed to settle claims it did \*not\* offer long-time customers the same pricing plans as new ones. Eligible customers will receive credits up to \$25 dollars. Scana Energy did \*not\* accept a similar deal. It will face a trial in front of the Public Service Commission in May.

## **6P BORDER BATTLE TN-GA PKG**

Date: **02/22/08 17:50:01** duration 1:30 Jeff Dore

To Georgia lawmakers, it's just a matter of correcting an old mistake. Here in Tennessee, it's not so simple. The people who might know best what it feels like to be a pinball in a political game between Georgia and Tennessee, work at Chattanooga Pinball where Georgia wants to take over. Tane Levin, Chattanooga Pinball: "But I don't like bouncing from state to state. I like Tennessee. That's where I want to stay." Georgia really just wants the water in the Tennessee River, but to get that, they have to take the land, homes and businesses. Alton Park would become a part of Georgia and so would J's Barbeque and Hot Dog stand. Ron Jones owns J's. He doesn't mind sharing the water, but says leave the land. Jones: "Don't go back a hundred years and say it's ours now. A hundred years from now. Just go and work something out to where the water can flow to Atlanta. Some Tennessee legislators have seasoned their reactions with words like 'stupid.' But some Chattanoogans say if Georgia would connect them to Atlanta jobs with a high-speed rail ... bring on the new border. Akelia Dwight: "Why? For one thing, I think it would bring money into our town." They're more interested in cooperation than boundaries.

## **6P BORDER BATTLE TN-GA VO**

Date: **03/27/08 18:55:08** duration :22 John Pruitt

Georgia might \*not\* need Tennessee to settle a border battle that could mean more water. Georgia lawmakers say a mistake 190 years ago placed Georgia's border just short of the Tennessee River, so they want to move the border to get to the water. Turns out federal land lies between Georgia and the river, so the state may bypass Tennessee and go straight for a deal with the feds.

## **6P WATER WAR GA PKG**

Date: **02/28/08 18:01:47** duration 1:22 Richard Belcher

Mid-December in Tallahassee – the three governors, plus the Secretary of the Interior and other federal officials met in Tallahassee, their second meeting aimed at finding common ground on water. Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue: "I think the biggest issue for all three states is how we fairly and adequately allocate a resource as vital and precious as water in times of scarcity." Even though the current drought has eased slightly, politicians and planners know another one is inevitable. In the meantime, metro

Atlanta continues to grow and downstream needs in Alabama and Florida are foremost in the minds of their Governors. Florida's oyster industry faces an uncertain spring due to the current drought. Georgia won a sweet victory last fall when the Corps of Engineers agreed to an up to 17% reduction in the water flows at Woodruff Dam in southwest Georgia. That's the point where the Chattahoochee and the Flint Rivers form the Apalachicola. The cuts actually never exceeded 5% and rains in the basin allowed the Corps to increase the flows starting in late December. That's just one of many points of contention that have made it difficult for the states to reach an agreement. Even after relatively productive talks in December, Alabama Governor Bob Riley offered a hint about the tone around the table. Governor Riley: "It was brutally candid."

**WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest: Community/Neighborhoods**

**"Big Building" Ban in Duluth**

Date: **12/18/07 6pm** duration :20 John Pruitt

In Gwinnett County, a temporary ban in big buildings in Duluth is over, but a fight over a new Wal-Mart is not. City leaders passed a new ordinance for large scale buildings last night. The change paves the way for a new Wal-Mart slated for Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to move ahead. A group against the store is vowing to keep fighting.

**55Pv HOUSING DEMOLITION ATL VO**

Date: **01/20/08 06:18:06** duration :22 John Bachman

But first ... the plan to tear down three public housing developments has sparked a battle between Atlanta's City Council and its housing authority. The City Council will consider two bills this week. They could delay demolition of the complexes until residents are given more information. The affected developments are Bowen Homes, Bankhead Courts, and Hollywood Courts. The Housing Authority says the apartments are old and crime-ridden.

**5AV ASSISTED LIVING COBB VO**

Date: **01/31/08 07:26:22** duration Fred Blankenship

The operator of an assisted living home in Cobb County says she is ready to fight back against a lawsuit filed against her facility. The city of Powder Springs is suing "The Home for the Mentally Ill" on Atlanta Street in a zoning dispute. But Edith Page believes there is another reason. She believes the city changed the zoning from a commercial to residential to force her and the home's residents out. Page: "It has to go somewhere and this "NIMBY" syndrome of 'not in my backyard' is just not going to work because people have to have care." Page says she's counter-suing the city.

### **12v ADULT THEATER DEK VO**

Date: **02/21/08 13:05:50** duration :31 Carol Sbarge

Opponents of an adult theater in DeKalb County will get their day in court later this spring. Some parents are fighting to shut down the Belvedere Theater on Columbia Drive. They say the X-Rated theater is too close to a school, and violates zoning laws restricting adult businesses. The county has cited the owners, but never forced them to close. "They're grandfathered, because their existence in this community pre-dates the ordinances under which the county is citing them." The attorney for the theater says she's anxious to get the case resolved.

### **5AV ADULT THEATER DEK VO**

Date: **02/21/08 06:56:02** duration :38 Carol Sbarge

Owners of a DeKalb County adult theatre and the neighbors who want it shut down will face off in court. Residents who live near the Belvedere Theater on Columbia Drive tell us, patrons do more than just watch movies there... but the theater's attorney says it's all perfectly legal. "I'm told there are condoms available that would lead one to believe that it isn't just a movie theater." Attorney: "The people in charge of the police and code enforcement need to stop persecuting my clients and recognize that they have a legal right to exist." The theater is also near a school. A judge was set to hear the case Wednesday, but postponed it until April.

**WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest: Public Safety / Law Enforcement**

**Walton County Sheriff Defends Taser Use**

Date: **12/11/07 11pm**

duration :24

John Pruitt

Tonight, the Walton County sheriff is defending the use of a taser on a suspect who died. Deputies went to a home in Monroe to talk to Leroy Patterson, Jr about a woman's sexual assault allegations. They say Patterson got angry and got into a scuffle. A deputy tasered him and he died. The GBI hopes toxicology tests will help determine what, if any, role the taser played in Patterson's death.

**6P CAR EXPLODES POLK VO**

Date: **03/04/08 18:52:53**

duration :37

Monica Pearson

A Polk County man claims he was burned badly because of an unjustified police pursuit. Derrick Williams says he was hit with pepper spray during a routine traffic stop because an Aragon police officer believed he had drugs. He says that caused him to hit his accelerator and crash  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile away. Williams: "My ear has been burned as you can see, and my face and I have some type of neck injury that I have to go to surgery tomorrow." Aragon police tell a different story. They believe there were drugs in the car and say they sprayed Williams after he became combative. They say Williams crashed while trying to escape.

**11v GIRL ARRESTED ATL VO**

Date: **01/29/08 23:52:01**

duration :42

MONica Pearson

A local mother is furious tonight, after police arrested her daughter at school and no one told her! Police arrested Nikita Stevens' 12-year-old daughter yesterday morning. They say she got into a fight at a convenience store Friday, when she was supposed to be at a supervised school dance. When her daughter did not return home from school yesterday, Stevens went to the school and was then told about the arrest. Stevens: "I leave my child in your care, and you don't have enough courtesy to let me know that she's been taken away to juvenile." A school investigation is underway. A juvenile court official told us, a parent should be informed if their child is at the facility. The 12-year-old girl will go before a juvenile judge tomorrow.

**WSB-TV Local News of Public Interest:**

**Animal Welfare**

### **Fulton County Animal Control Resists Humane Society Take-Over**

Date: **12/14/07 12pm**

duration :37

Fred Blankenship

The Atlanta Humane Society is dropping efforts to take over animal control for Fulton County. The county needs a new vendor to run the operation. But Humane Society president Carl Leveridge says their attempts to get information about the \$2.4 million dollar contract went nowhere. They say the county was slow in providing information. Leveridge: "To try to do a professional job I started asking a lot of questions and I wanted to make sure I had the best information before I moved forward." The Humane Society now says it will not submit a bid. Fulton acknowledges some delays in providing information but denies it tried to block any vendor's efforts.

### **5Pp DOGFIGHTING BILL GA PKG**

Date: **01/16/08 17:12:09**

duration 1:15

Richard Elliot

Dog fighting occurs ... that's why State Senator Chip Rogers has been pushing for a new dog fighting bill long before Michael Vick admitted to his criminal involvement in a dog fighting operation in Virginia. But he says once the Vick controversy played out across the news, passage of this bill seemed much more likely. At the capitol Wednesday, a committee tried to combine a house and senate version into one comprehensive dog

fighting bill. The new bill would make it illegal to fight dogs, and train them to fight, while also protecting hunters who use dogs and breeders who train them. It does not, however, make it a felony to watch ... at least for the first offense. Bobby Reese: "Many people, including some in law enforcement, wanted tougher penalties for spectators ... but they're still happy with what they got." Carolyn Danese: "It's a good bill."

