

TELEVISION STATION WSB-TV / ATLANTA
QUARTERLY LISTING OF LOCAL PROGRAMS REFLECTING CONCERNS
AND/OR NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY
OCTOBER 1, 2011 – DECEMBER 31, 2011

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 430am-7am; 12-1:00pm; 4-7pm; 11-11:35pm; 1:35-2:05am (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, 2011)

QUARTERLY ISSUES / PROGRAMS LIST

- EDUCATION / YOUTH
 - ECONOMY
 - IMMIGRATION
- TRAFFIC / TRANSPORTATION
- LAW ENFORCEMENT & CRIMINAL JUSTICE
 - POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORHOODS

GSU Students Object to Rapper's Planned Appearance

Date: 10/14/11 6pm duration :27 Monica Pearson

A group of local college students is trying to stop popular rapper Rick Ross from taking the stage in Atlanta. "We don't understand why the lyrics are this way, why is this an artist that we support, why we spending thousands of dollars on this message." Ross is scheduled to perform next Friday for Georgia State University's homecoming concert. Concerned students say the rapper promotes the wrong message. A university spokesperson told us a student group is hosting the event.

Taxes and Education

Date: 10/20/11 6am duration :30 Fred Blankenship

Some Gwinnett County parents say they're not sold on renewing an \$876 million dollar sales tax for education. Diane Ogden: "There are many parts of the county that are lavish and endowed. There are other parts that just don't get as much." That's just one of the concerns Diane Ogden says she and many parents have about who's benefiting from the special tax. Gwinnett school leaders say the money will help all schools in all clusters. They say the money will help build five new schools, renovate existing ones and help upgrade technology in the classroom.

Date: 10/13/11 4:30am duration :27 Fred Blankenship

Fulton County school leaders say if voters do not extend the education sales tax next month, property taxes could go up. The sales tax would raise more than \$900 million dollars over five years for the district. About half would go to building new schools and maintaining existing ones. Parents say it should be used for instructional technology in order to keep up with leading school systems. Others say they support the idea. However, the district needs to make administrative cuts.

Date: 11/07/11 4:30am duration :20 Fred Blankenship

Some North Fulton county parents are asking people to vote "yes" on an education tax this week. It is *not* a new tax, but an extension of the .01 cent sales tax for schools. The North Fulton PTA council is sending out emails, rallying for support on election day. Members say the tax is critical for renovations of existing schools and adding technology.

Elementary Schools Closing in Cobb County

Date: 10/26/11 12pm duration :34 Carol Sbarge

Students, parents and teachers will meet one more time tonight to try to save some Cobb County schools slated to close. Many came to a meeting last night. District officials are choosing between two new redistricting maps that would close two elementary schools. Parents call that a mistake. Erin Stack: "I would consider pulling them out of the public schools and sending them to private school at this point. I'm very disappointed in how the school board has handled this." District leaders say redistricting will balance enrollment and classroom capacity.

Date: 10/27/11 5am duration 1:00 Sophia Choi

This is one of two hearings held this week on the largest school redistricting plan in Cobb County history. Parents who went to the meetings this week say they're upset about the proposed changes. Parent: "We

had planned on moving two years ago and changed our minds so that we can stay in Skyview because of the focus and attention my boys get from their teachers.” In the plan, kids at Skyview Elementary would move to the new Mableton School which – when finished – will have more than twice the students. Not just angry parents, but students who went to the hearings this week, say bigger isn’t always better. “I just want to say our teachers, they have time to get to each and every student, no matter if it’s homework, reading, writing or social studies. 3:59 and with a class that has 20 more people we won’t be able to get that.” School officials say the change is needed to cut costs. They say kids in overcrowded and old schools need to be moved. And more students need to be added to under-enrolled ones. But this teacher says Skyview is unique and should be saved. “Skyview has heart, and we have a family.”

APS Cheating Scandal Fallout

Date: 10/28/11 4:30am duration :30 Fred Blankenship

A teacher shortage triggered by the test cheating scandal in Atlanta Public Schools has parents complaining about crowded classrooms. One parent called Channel 2 Action News to report her child has a class with more than 30 students at Parks Middle. Two teaching positions are unfilled; a third teacher is on medical leave. Parents say they’re frustrated. Chandra Galashar: “If you’re going to offer us something, offer us some real teachers to teach! Atlanta Public Schools say it’s still short about 120 teachers but are hiring more each week.

Date: 11/02/11 6pm duration 1:06 Tom Regan

Samuel McClendon: “I don’t like it at all. But they have to straighten it out sir.” Dobb, along with Parks Middle, Harper-Archer Middle, Kennedy Middle and Gideon’s Elementary will have state monitors placed in the classroom. Parent Valencia Hutchenson: “It’s sad when we have to go that route, it’s really sad.” Parents leaving Dobb Elementary told me they were somewhat discouraged but also hopeful to hear the state is placing EM for missing federal academic benchmarks for multiple years in a row. They’ll have to develop turnaround plans to improve their standing. Superintendent John Barge: “They have to identify a turnaround model with our office of school turnaround. Might be open to the school as a charter or transformational model.” The superintendent told us there were encouraging signs for many other schools in making adequate yearly progress. “Roughly fifty percent of those schools flagged for cheating in 2009 made AYP in 2011, so that is really good news for Atlanta Public Schools.” And parents at Dobbs are hoping for a turnaround at their school with state monitors in place. Tristan Johnson: “If it will help improve the school, definitely I’m in favor of it.”

Date: 10/14/11 12pm duration 1:15 Tony Thomas

Errol Davis: “It’s been a bit frustrating for us.” Three and a half months into the job, Atlanta Schools super Errol Davis says his hands are somewhat tied. Until the state’s professional standards commission and prosecutors finish their work, APS can’t clear cheaters off its payroll. Davis: “If they accept the sanctions then we will move immediately against them.” Davis says right now the district is paying some 120 accused educators who are not working. The commission which licenses educators revoked the certifications of three administrators and imposed two years suspensions on eight teachers Thursday. These were the first eleven of 200 cases the board is looking at. All are accused of cheating on state standardized tests or CRCT’s. Kelly Henson: “No matter what you’re thought are on state’s testing nothing give one the right to cheat.” For many parents the suspensions are welcome news. Parent Pamela Kipreos: “It’s a good first step. Now we need to make sure it doesn’t happen again! The state hopes to hear all 200 cases by January, but appeals could take years. Davis: “This process clearly should be modified. I don’t think people should be paid ad infinitum while they exercise their due process rights. Kipreos: “As long as those people aren’t in the classrooms during the appeals, I don’t care how long it takes.”

University Tuition Rates Could Hold Steady

Date: 10/10/11 6pm duration :20 Jovita Moore

The head of Georgia's university system says he's cautiously optimistic he'll get full funding from the state next fiscal year. That could mean lower tuition increases for students, and about \$100 million dollars for cash-strapped campuses. The state has cut the budgets to Georgia's schools by more than \$1 billion dollars since the economy started to decline.

Parents Upset Over "Fetus Doll" in Halloween Trick-or-Treat Bags

Date: 11/07/11 4pm duration :41 Monica Pearson

Some parents are upset about a certain kind of doll handed out during a local Halloween event. A Christian organization handed out fetus dolls, at a trick or treat event in Loganville. Some adults say the dolls represent a topic that is inappropriate for children. But the senior minister of "Project Ignite" says he handed them out to show families about life in the womb, and nothing else. Joshua Edmonds (Project Ignite): "The whole point of the event is explaining that life is fragile, life is complex, even in its smallest stages of development." Parent John Ramsey: "I think there's a time and place for everything but I don't think handing out toy fetuses to 3-year-olds is an appropriate thing to do." The organization says it did not mean to offend anyone.

Date: 11/07/11 11pm duration :36 Justin Farmer

A local grandfather is upset an organization gave out "fetus dolls" during a Halloween event. John Ramsey says his three-year-old grandson received a figurine of a 12-week old fetus during Loganville's trick or treat event. Josh Edmonds of Project Ignite, a Christian social justice organization, brought the dolls. Edmonds: "We're still trying to understand where the offense is at – we think it's with the assumption that when we talk about life in the womb it's about abortion – but the whole concept of the event – the point of the outreach, the point of the models – we should respect life." Edmonds says he apologizes if someone took offense.

Cobb Will *Not* Change School Calendar

Date: 10/30/11 7am duration :25 Linda Stouffer

Cobb County will *not* go forward with plans to change the school calendar. This comes after a lot of controversy and heated debate among parents and administrators over the last two years. The board was considering adopting permanent changes to the calendar based on recommendations from school district administration. But they rejected the plan. The district went through several votes before settling back into a traditional calendar this year.

PTA Officer Charged with Misuse of Funds

Date: 11/14/11 6pm duration :42 Monica Pearson

A judge delayed a hearing today for a former PTA president. She is accused of stealing money, meant for a Senior class trip. Former Westlake PTA president Kimberly Wright appeared in magistrate court this morning on charges she took thousands of dollars for that trip but never delivered, and kept the money. Her attorney told the judge she's trying to pay it all back. Parents say it's taking too long. Regina Daniels: "And when I heard that only like seven parents had gotten money, I thought, well, gosh, if it's 53 of us, it's going to take forever for us to get our money back. My daughter might be graduated by then." The judge is giving Wright and her attorney until November 30th to gather their evidence and information before she proceeds with the hearing.

Georgia College Institutes New Rule for Faculty Requiring Disclosure of Sexual Preference

Date: 10/28/11 6am

duration :36

Fred Blankenship

Controversy on a college campus. Shorter University is asking employees to disclose their sexual preference or face termination. The board of trustees at the private Christian college are now mandating that all employees adhere to and sign a personal lifestyle statement. It rejects premarital sex, adultery and homosexuality. Dowless: "That is the biblical view. This is our view and anything outside that is not biblical, we do not accept." Student "The bible says thou shall not judge.. who is one person to judge what somebody else does.. it's none of their business." The president says its policy is legal since Shorter does not receive federal funding.

Date: 10/27/11 11pm

duration 1:40

Michael Bczuyner

"I reject as acceptable all sexual activity not in agreement with the bible, including – but not limited to – premarital sex, adultery, and homosexuality." That statement is now at the center of a college controversy at Shorter University. Don: "Our goal is not to offend people. Our goal is to declare who we are." The board of trustees at the private Christian college now mandating that all employees, more than 200 of them, adhere to and sign a personal lifestyle statement, which rejects premarital sex, adultery, and homosexuality. Don: "That is the biblical view, this is our view and anything outside that is not biblical, we do not accept." President Down Dowles tells me failure to sign the statement could result in an employee being terminated from the college. Reporter: "Do you believe that a homosexual employee should lose their job if they choose not to sign this?" Dowles: "Anybody who adheres to a lifestyle that is outside of the biblical mandate is and what the board has passed, including the president, would not be allowed to continue here." We took the personal lifestyle statement to campus and showed it to students. Michael Loreda: "Being the Baptist institution that it is, I can see where they're coming from." This sophomore, who didn't want to be identified, says making employees sign the statement is discrimination. "The bible says thou shall not judge. Who is one person to judge what somebody else does – it's none of their business." Student 3: "It's taking it too far, I believe." The president tells me the practice of making employees sign the lifestyle statement is done at other Christian universities, and he says since Shorter doesn't receive federal funding, it's perfectly legal. Dowles: "These are biblical positions and we believe the bible is relevant for all ages and in every area of life."The president tells me all new employees will have to sign the statement. Current employees will have to sign it to renew their contract.

Parents Critical of School Food Nutritional Value

Date: 11/04/11 4pm

duration 1:45

Tom Regan

Atlanta parents who believe their kids should get a hot, nutritious breakfast at school may be quite surprised when they see what the kids are actually eating on any given day. Verdalla Turner: "Children in the APS are getting – for the most part – prepackaged foods." The head of the Atlanta Federation of Teachers showed me an assortment of the typical daily breakfast food provided to students. "Small amount of fiber. 2 grams. 35 grams of carbs. 16 grams of sugar; It's not 100% juice; "One teacher gave me a cookie served this morning high in oils. Children with a lot of sugar can lead to type 2 diabetes, and leads to childhood obesity." Bryan Amos, an Atlanta School parent and candidate for the school board told me kids should be getting something more substantive, like hot oatmeal or grits. Amos: "With breakfast the most important meal of the day we need to give the kids something more nutritional that they can survive off and be prepared to learn, so I'm very concerned about the food." Parent Shawna Hayes-Tavares: "We have to look and say, this is the not the kind of balanced food the kids should have every day." Atlanta Public Schools say that they serve fresh fruits, cereals and nutritious juices but many teachers aren't so sure of that. Turner: "We feel APS should get out of the food business or start serving prepared foods that are nutritious." An APS spokesman told me the school system follows government set nutritional guidelines. But parents told me they will ask the school board to reconsider some of the breakfast menu items served to students.

Farmers Warn of New Immigration Law's Impact on Economy

Date: 10/08/11 6am

duration 1:30

Justin Farmer

Georgia farmer Connie Horner went from crops to congress today. "There is a serious problem and i have tried desperately to do the right thing." She is among the many Georgia farmers blaming House Bill 87 for scaring away migrant Hispanic workers they say they depend on. A study released today by the state's agriculture industry shows Georgia's economy is projected to shrink by \$391 million dollars and lose more than 3,000 jobs as a result of labor shortages. The report doesn't cite the reasons for the shortage, but Connie blames HB87. "Plain and simple. The threat of e-verify caused a lot of the migrant workers to skip over the state of Georgia.. So where they had 60 employees, they needed 90, 100... and the crops just weren't getting picked. Americans have other choices of air conditioned positions. On my farm there are very few air conditioned positions." Georgia's agriculture commissioner told us it's been a tough year and he pointed out several factors, including weather conditions. "We all know there were challenges there always are but we did experience some challenges that we kind of above what we had in the past" He says the labor shortage is serious and we need to find a solution. "This whole issue has been about developing a viable guest worker program, not for Georgia agriculture but for American agriculture." Connie says her farm won't be the only one in trouble, if something doesn't change. "If we don't fix this, there will be no agriculture in this country."

Hundreds Protest Food Stamp Problem

Date: 10/13/11 6pm

duration 1:36

Aaron Diamante

The Georgia Department of Human Services office in Marietta packed Thursday with a lot of very angry people. Simone Colbert: "I've been here since eight o'clock this morning. I haven't been seen, yet." Derreck Pendleton showed me how his ordeal started – even earlier. "The line starts right here and went all the way, snaked all the way round... trying to get in and everybody had basically the same problem." Their food stamps suddenly cut off by the state even though they had their renewal paperwork in on time. We mailed them back at least two to three weeks ahead of time so that problem wouldn't happen. Amy Crosley also found her Georgia EBT card empty this month. "I did the process online and they had no record of that when I came to figure out why they didn't put the money on my card." Those here are frustrated and looking for answers. Pendleton: "Everybody's not lying, and everybody's not negligent and not doing their paperwork." DHS officials told me when the economy tanked, the number of food stamp claims soared, and admitted September was a rough month for this office that serves Cobb, Cherokee and Douglas counties. A spokesperson sent this email saying: "An estimated 12% (642) of reviews failed to be processed by staff timely, which has consequently delayed the availability of benefits." The spokesperson said DHS is looking for ways to speed up the review process but in the meantime... Colbert: "There's no food in my refrigerator now. I was supposed to get our food stamps this past weekend and me and my son are at our end." Waiting out a delay many here can't afford.

The Occupy Protests

Date: 10/07/11 11pm

duration :24

Erin Coleman

The "Occupy Wall Street" movement spread to downtown Atlanta this evening. A group calling itself "Occupy Atlanta" gathered tonight at Woodruff Park to protest inequality in the American economy. Hundreds of people chanted and held signs at the park. Organizers say they're demonstrating to define the problems of the community and to try to lay out a plan to correct them. They say they're fed up with the political process.

Date: 10/08/11 8am

duration :20

Linda Stouffer

Local protestors are at Woodruff Park in hopes of sending a strong message to Washington – they are not happy about the economy. This is Georgia's version of "Occupy Wall Street."

Date: **11/04/11 12pm**

duration :31

Fred Blankenship

In a few hours, "Occupy Atlanta" plans to turn its focus to unemployment. Protestors plan to demonstrate in front of the metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. Thursday, the Reverend Jesse Jackson joined protestors saying there's too much poverty in America. And he says it's all part of the same effort that's been going on for generations. Jackson: "It is civil rights movement, it's never stopped. we've been fighting this fight of economic greed for a long time." Jackson told the demonstrators to stay focused, disciplined and non-violent.

Date: 12/30/11 4pm

duration 1:19

Ross Cavett

"Banks got bailed out! We got sold out!" The monthly auction of foreclosed properties was a couple of hours old before the protestors moved in. Between the chanting and whistles, it was hard for those gathered to hear if a foreclosed home was on the block, and within minutes the small group attracted men in uniforms. "We need to ask you to move to the sidewalk." Which led to a standoff and a debate. "Are you listening to anything I'm saying?" That's a risk some of us might be willing to take. Protester: "The problems not now all we are trying to trying to do is clean up the system." Protester: "You are strongly misinformed. When we disrupt, we slow down the auction process." Occupy Atlanta organizer Tim Franzen says the group wanted to disrupt the auction long enough to keep at least some of the homes from being sold. That doesn't save the house for good before its auctioned off. But their chanting and message largely fell on deaf ears among the group here looking to scoop up foreclosed homes at bargain basement prices. I mean I can understand where they are coming from that's how it is, but in the meantime there's two sides to fence and I'm choosing a different side.

Georgia Prisoners Taking Jobs Away?

Date: 11/02/11 5pm

duration 3:13

Aaron Diamante

A lot of unemployed Georgians would love free job training right now. The catch? You have to be in prison to get it. It's a program that might save the state money, but some say it's killing Georgia companies and costing too many jobs. The century-old Georgia Chair Company is one of our state's last few furniture makers. Harry Bagwell: "It's not easy making stuff in Georgia anymore, is it?" And when the economy tanked, Harry Bagwell's family business had its legs cut out from under it. Sinking sales forced him to lay off half his staff, now down to just 50 workers. Bagwell: "It hurts. It's hard to let somebody go that's been with you for 10 or 12 years." It's a problem at least one Georgia manufacturer doesn't have. Georgia Correctional Industries has been around since the 1960s and every day, more than 1000 state inmates volunteer to work in prison factories for free, making everything from eyeglasses to mattresses. They also make wood furniture. Under Georgia law, if state agencies need certain products that GCI makes, they have to buy them from GCI. Plus, all that free labor allows GCI to easily under-bid private companies, like Georgia Chair, for government contracts across the country. Former lawmaker Kevin Levitas: "What we're doing with this program, very clearly, is taking jobs out of the private sector." Levitas has been going after GCI for years. "The government should either be out of the way, or at a minimum, aiding businesses, not competing against them." GCI says its main mission is to give inmates the "real world" job skills they'll need to find work when they get out. After we made an open records request, the Georgia Department of Corrections gave us a database listing every inmate who has worked for GCI over the last five years. After digging through it, we found GCI training more than 700 workers serving life sentences. Job seeker: "Why would they do that?" A question many unemployed Georgians – at this massive job fair in Marietta – asked after we clued them in. A good point, considering we also found 48 of those workers are in for life without parole! We found Samuel David Crowe, who shot his victim then beat

him to death with a paint can, making lenses at Hays State Prison in north Georgia. He got the gig just two months after the state commuted his death sentence. "It would be funny if it weren't so ridiculous that we're training people for jobs that they're unlikely to ever even have the opportunity to apply for, much less get." We tried for weeks to get anyone with GCI to talk to us on camera about any of this. When that didn't work, we just showed up. We never make it past the intercom. We finally set up an interview with GCI's director, but it got cancelled at the last minute. Meantime, competition from those lifers has left Georgia manufacturers like Harry Bagwell hunting harder for contracts they can actually get. Bagwell: "You just hope you don't get completely squeezed out of business." The workers at GCI may work for free, but the stuff they make pays the salaries of supervisors, guards and other staff. Even with free labor, GCI is struggling. Our search of the finances shows GCI has been operating in the red since 2003.

Attracting Chinese Business to Georgia a Priority

Date: 10/19/11 4pm

duration 2:29

Lori Geary

I'm here in the central business district in downtown Beijing. Behind me is China's World Trade Center. Michael Su works up on the 14th floor. His mission here in China is to sell Georgia to this Communist nation. Beijing is the capital city of the Peoples Republic of China. Walk the streets and you see how communism and capitalism somehow co-exist. The Chinese government calls it modern socialism. The city's population almost doubles the size of the entire state of Georgia. Su: "18 million people on any given day." UGA alum Michael Su is one of them. He works for Georgia's Department of Economic Development but is based here in China. I caught up with him here on the streets of Beijing. Su: "We're here to get in the game." It's a competitive game. Thirty US states have offices here in Beijing, all of them competing for Chinese business. If Georgia is not aggressive, will businesses go to other states? Su: "Definitely. It's a relationship based economy. People tend to deal with people they know." Su says when he started in 2007, most Chinese people had never heard of Georgia, but that's starting to change. Recently, the state landed two huge Chinese companies, Hisense in Gwinnett County and Sany in Peachtree City. Su: "We put our Georgia name out here for the Chinese people to know." Su works just a few blocks from one of the newest buildings here in Beijing. This architectural gem houses CCTV, state owned television.

Public Assistance Help Line Outsourced to India

Date: 11/14/11 5pm

duration 2:37

Jodie Fleischer

Caprice Johnson is very careful at the grocery store. She's on food stamps, what's now called SNAP--the supplemental nutritional assistance program. But if Johnson has a question about her funds... "I can't understand you, can you repeat that please?" Johnson can't figure out who's on the other end, answering questions about benefits paid for by you. "Why are you not authorized to tell me where you're located." So who's on the other end? The state of Georgia hired megabank JP Morgan Chase to handle the food stamp program. And Chase uses our taxpayer money to hire call center workers. Those workers are in India. So while our tax money pays for call center jobs in India, another Southern state decided to stop the practice. Everetts, North Carolina. The area has a 12 percent unemployment rate. Martin County, North Carolina has a 12 percent unemployment rate. But it does have one thing going for it: A call center for the state's food stamp program is right here.....the calls used to go to India. "When we started this job and we trained in this same room here, we had to listen to the phone calls, they let us listen to some phone calls from India and they were like robots - get them on get them off, it's just a number. you know what I'm saying? Well, here, at the call center, it's more personable, we can relate, we're in the economy, we see everyday what people are going through, we see there are no jobs out there." A Government Accountability Office Report shows when North Carolina brought its call center back to the U.S., it cost the state another million a year. Government's job is to do things as efficiently as possible, with a smaller burden on taxpayers as possible, and if you're starting to do this...we're not supposed to be "make work" agencies, we're supposed to be efficient agencies and guardians of our taxpayer dollars. State senator Nan Orrock says it's more complicated than that. Orrock: "I think it's very very foolish spending our taxpayer dollars, creating jobs in India, creating jobs in Costa Rica, rather than creating those jobs here,

because we will be employing people who will then put their paycheck back into our economy and there's a multiplier effect of that." Georgia also outsources all of its I.T. work. Because of privacy issues, the contract requires the all the data to stay here in the U.S. But when police or others have a computer problem during the night shift, The first point of contact is: a call center in India. It's about bringing value to the taxpayer and making sure that we're spending every dollar that's entrusted to us in a very wise manner. Back at Caprice Johnson's home, she's looking for full time work. And she says she'd love a call center job like the ones we pay for overseas. "I think it's wrong to take the jobs away from your own, when you've got people right here that really needs it."

Georgia Legislator Pay

Date: **12/05/11 6pm** duration :25 **Justin Farmer**

Georgia legislators will *not* get a pay raise next year. Today, the Legislative Services Committee voted unanimously to freeze the cost-of-living adjustment. This will save taxpayers almost \$30,000 dollars per year. Members of the General Assembly earn a little more than \$17,000 dollars for their 40-day legislative session and performing other constituent duties. House and Senate leaders agree it is the right thing to do in the down economy.

Dalton Loses Carpet Industry Jobs

Date: **10/11/11 6pm** duration :29 **Erica Byfield**

Nearly 300 people who work at a north Georgia carpet plant will lose their jobs. "Plant 20" in Dalton is closing. It is owned by Shaw Industries. Yesterday, company leaders told their employees about the plan to close the plant, within the next 60 days. A local business owner tells us he's worried about what this says for the local economy. Business owner Gerald Martin: "It is frightening, it takes spending like my business and other small business in this town to work." Dalton's mayor says the closing could cost his city, millions in lost utility revenue."

Hundreds Show Up for Health and Dental Clinic

Date: **10/21/11 5am** duration :50 **Sophia Choi**

Several people are already here, getting warm inside this church and the health fair doesn't even kick off until 9 this morning. This was the scene Thursday as the doors opened here. Doctors, nurses and vision care specialists are volunteering to help as many people as they can. Like many people dealing with this tough economy, Barbara Brown says she needs the help. Brown: "I'm here to get new glasses. Times are hard; we don't have insurance. Some of us really can't afford it." This is what the lines looked like back in August when this same church hosted a free dental clinic. So many people showed up, some had to be turned away. So the advice for those who need this help? Get here early. The doors open at 9 and close at 4. We'll be here to talk to those who show up. We'll try to bring you some of their comments in the next half hour.

Georgia's New Immigration LawDate: **11/05/11 11pm**

duration :25

Craig Lucie

Secretary of State Brian Kemp says Georgia's new immigration law may *triple* the time it takes to renew professional licenses. The law, which has sparked protests – requires people applying for public benefits, including professional licenses, to show a secure form of I.D. Secretary Kemp says it normally takes 30 days to process new licenses, or two weeks for renewals. He says with more paperwork, it could push approval times to 90 or 120 days.

Date: **11/10/11 4pm**

duration 1:18

Manuel Bojorquez

The people you see here are in many ways the enforcers of Georgia's new immigration law, a role they've never played. They are city and county employees with questions, lots of questions. This meeting aimed to give them answers – every city and county must register and participate in e-verity, a database to check new workers legal status and can't offer contracts for services to companies that do not, or they face stiff fines. Joan Garner: "If we have a contractor for public works, if they have not complied with this process, then they will not be eligible to work for the county, so I think sessions like this are very important." Joan Garner is a Fulton County Commissioner, who must also deal with the other side of this, even though it's a state law, the cost – in time and resources – will fall on already cash-strapped cities and counties. Garner: "It certainly will and it's important for training like this because we have to understand what the impact is because we are stewards of the taxpayers' dollars." The laws supporters say the savings will come from benefits not paid to illegal immigrants. Critics say it's an unfunded mandate that will have harmful unintended consequences, these men and women just know that they must comply. Todd Edwards: "There are a lot of questions: Do we have all the answers? Not quite, but we're working on it and we're gonna continue to educate our members in that regard.

Date: **11/26/11 5am**

duration :20

Craig Lucie

Georgia's new immigration laws will be scrutinized by the US Commission on Civil Rights. The panel plans to review whether the laws are contributing to an increase in hate crimes, racial and ethnic profiling, or if they affected students rights to a public education. The group will study laws in several states, including Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina.

Date: **12/02/11 6pm**

duration :24

Justin Farmer

The University of Georgia president says the school will continue to follow state policy on illegal immigrants. The policy applies to Georgia's five largest schools, including UGA and Georgia Tech. They cannot admit an illegal immigrant *if* they have rejected qualified, legal students in the past two years. UGA faculty members voted to reject the policy. They will forward their resolution to the state board of regents.

Date: **12/09/11 6am**

duration :36

Fred Blankenship

Immigration advocates say Georgia is one of 22 states where more children are forced into child care because their parents are deported. Thursday, dozens of children and parents took their case to Capitol Hill. A report from a think tank called "The Applied Research Center" shows that the US deported more than 46,000 undocumented parents in the first half of this year. Leslie Pineda: "Nobody can imagine how hard it is to have your family torn apart and to know that it seems like nobody really cares." Immigrations and Customs enforcement called the report "misleading." They say in some cases parents are released if they're the primary caregiver.

Date: 12/15/11 6pm

duration :23

Erin Coleman

Georgia is asking an appeals court to delay a hearing on its controversial immigration law. Attorney General Sam Olens is joining the Attorney General from Alabama. They want the hearing postponed until the US Supreme Court makes a ruling on Arizona's Immigration Law. Federal judges have blocked part of Georgia and Alabama's laws because of challenges from activist groups and the federal government.

Date: 12/18/11 8am

duration :24

Linda Stouffer

Key parts of Georgia's new immigration law will go into effect in a couple weeks. It will require employers with more than 500 workers to begin using a federal database called e-verify. It checks the employment eligibility of all new hires. Employers with ten or more workers have until July 1, 2013 to comply. Applicants seeking public benefits must also verify immigration status with documentation. The law takes effect January 1, 2012.

Agriculture Impacted by Immigration Bill

Date: 10/08/11 5pm

duration 1:30

Justin Farmer

Georgia farmer Connie Horner went from crops to Congress today. Horner: "There is a serious problem and I have tried desperately to do the right thing." She is among the many Georgia farmers blaming house bill 87 for scaring away migrant Hispanic workers they say they depend on. A study released today by the state's agriculture industry shows Georgia's economy is projected to shrink by \$391 million dollars and lose more than 3,000 jobs as a result of labor shortages. The report doesn't cite the reasons for the shortage, but Connie Horner blames HB87. "Plain and simple, the threat of e-verify caused a lot of the migrant workers to skip over the state of Georgia, so where they had 60 employees, they needed 90, 100 – and the crops just weren't getting picked. Americans have other choices of air conditioned positions. On my farm, there are very few air conditioned positions." Georgia's Agriculture Commissioner told us it's been a tough year. And he pointed out several factors, including weather conditions. "We all know there were challenges. There always are, but we did experience some challenges that were kind of above what we had in the past." He says the labor shortage is serious and we need to find a solution. "This whole issue has been about developing a viable guest worker program not just for Georgia agriculture, but for American agriculture." Connie says her farm won't be the only one in trouble, if something doesn't change. "If we don't fix this, there will be no agriculture in this country."

Cobb Sherriff Speaks Out on Jessica Colotl Case

Date: 10/08/11 5am

duration :41

Linda Stouffer

A local sheriff had tough words for a recent college graduate caught in the middle of the national immigration debate. Jessica Colotl *thought* she would begin a pre-trial diversion program. But after Cobb Sheriff Neil Warren strongly objected, the judge returned the case to active status. Deputies arrested Colotl last year during a traffic stop for lying to police. They later learned she'd been brought to this country illegally as a child. Warren: "She doesn't appear to have any remorse and its by opinion that she does not respect the laws of the State of Georgia or local traffic laws." Cobb District Attorney Pat Head recommended the diversion program because Colotl is a first time offender. No word on when a final decision could come.

Victims Urge Deportation for Paroled Felon

Date: 10/31/11 11pm

duration :36

Justin Farmer

The families of three teenagers killed by a drunk illegal immigrant are fighting efforts to deport him, if he's released. Sergio Montelongo-Sanchez pleaded guilty to the deadly crash in Marieatta 11 years ago.

Victims' families are upset that the pardons and parole board could release him next year, after serving just 12 years of a 45 year sentence. Immigration officials have sent a letter outlining plans to deport him if he's released. Michael Bourgeois: "He'll catch the next moving van right back across the border just the same way he got here in the first place." The parole board says Montelongo-Sanchez is eligible for parole based on the law.

Immigration Activist Goes After City of Atlanta Hiring Practices

Date: **01/03/12 5am**

duration :25

Fred Blankenship

This morning, it looks like Georgia's new immigration law could get its first test, against Atlanta. Activist DA King has filed a complaint against the mayor's office with the new Immigration Enforcement Review Board. King claims the city of Atlanta officially recognizes Mexican ID cards and allows people with them to get public benefits and services. King says that directly violates state law, and strains Georgia's budget.

ARC to Suggest Allocation of Transportation Funds

Date: 10/06/11 5pm

duration 1:44

John Bachman

"At stake, 6 billion dollars in transportation projects, and the folks here at the roundtable are well aware of the HOT lanes controversy, but they're confident that it won't impact their vote next summer." MARTA expansion, other train and bus projects are on the regional roundtable list for transit projects. This group will finalize that \$6 billion dollar wish list next week. The projects only become reality if metro taxpayers agree to pay for them next summer by passing a penny sales tax. It's expected to be a close vote, so could the controversy over the I-85 Hot Lanes tip the scales? Norcross Mayor Bucky Johnson: "Can that in a way, come July, hurt what's happening here? Obviously if it keeps up, it can impact the way people are going to vote. And how upset they are." Johnson hopes that by July the HOT lanes will not be an issue. Gwinnett County Commission Chair: "Will people, in Gwinnett County especially, be looking at what's happening right now with HOT lanes, why would I want to pay an extra penny sales tax, for projects after I've seen what's happened with HOT lanes. Well, the public is going to be smart enough to distinguish this referendum from the HOT lane situation." Nash points to a big difference with the T-SPLOST and HOT lanes. "They're going to get a vote on this project list. They didn't have a vote on the HOT lane." But that doesn't mean voters will pass the list. Johnson: "Well, my job is not to get it passed. My job is to get the best list out there possible and that's what we're trying to do." The roundtable still has a lot of work to do. They've called an emergency meeting for next Tuesday and a final vote scheduled for Thursday. We will keep you posted.

Date: 10/14/11 12pm

duration :35

Carol Sbarge

Members of Georgia's Tea Party patriots are already raising money to fight a transportation tax. Twenty one regional leaders have approved a final list of projects aimed at easing traffic congestion. It totals \$6 billion dollars. Fifty-three percent of the money would go to transig, including the Atlanta Beltline. Also, an extension of MARTA for the Clifton corridor. Clayton County's bus service would be restored. There are also several road improvements. Mayor Kasim Reed: "The data shows the number one concern and the number one reason people will vote for this, is their concern about the economy and job creation. Voters will have their say in July.

Date: 10/20/11 4pm

duration 1:46

Tom Regan

The interchange here on Holcomb Bridge Road at Georgia 400 will see a major face lift if TSPLOST is approved next year. But some political leaders in north Fulton county say billions in road and rail projects won't solve the long-term transportation needs of the metro area. From highway expansions and upgrades, to new rail lines and a new beltline. Six billion dollars in mass transit projects that promise to ease the ordeal of getting in and around metro Atlanta. But it comes at a steep price. An added penny sales tax for ten years. North Fulton resident Keith McLain: "My first thought would be against it. But I have to look more into it to give an informed answer." Resident Lois Sokolow: "Maybe it will do some good. Who knows..this economy is so bad to begin with. Nobody want to spend more money." Roswell mayor Jerry Wood – like many mayors in North Fulton – told me he supports TSPLOST but says it doesn't go far enough. Wood: "We're not asking for more money. We are simply saying in passing this regional transit tax, we should be creating a regional transit system, which we are not." Wood says the state can't be successful at creating a model mass transit system when there are so many different transit entities in different counties, different cities. He says more efficiency and cost savings would come by placing mass transit under one umbrella, which a governor's task force is now trying to come up with. Wood: "The current list is perpetuating independent agencies. It's not bringing things together. It's not unifying Atlanta. If we are going to do something on a regional basis, we need to work together as a region rather than working independently." You can expect to see a lot of campaigning for and against the penny transportation sales tax before the referendum is put before voters in July.

DOT Backlog Means Longer Wait for Road Repairs

Date: 10/08/11 6am

duration :35

Linda Stouffer

Crumbling medians and guardrails along metro highways are taking longer to repair because of a DOT backlog. We found chunks of the concrete median sticking out into the shoulder, other areas where it is missing altogether, and broken for months. The DOT says there are about 500 projects in and around Atlanta they haven't been able to get to yet. "We've gotten behind due to the economy the past few years. Our budget dramatically dropping like it did with a reduction in motor fuel collections." The DOT is in final negotiations to get a contractor to fix all the guardrails.

Drivers Complain Poor Sign Placement Causing Citations

Date: 11/14/11 5am

duration :32

Carol Sbarge

This week, DeKalb county plans to take a look at an area where drivers say they are being wrongfully ticketed for making improper u-turns. The problem intersection is at Chamblee-Tucker Road at Peachtree Industrial. Drivers say they're busy looking down Chamblee-Tucker Road to avoid oncoming traffic when they drive past a "no U-turn" sign. One ticketed driver says the signs are placed in the wrong location. Sandy Feit: "It should be in that median where a driver turning right is more likely to see it." The county says it plans to send out a traffic engineer to look at the issue.

The HOT Lane Controversy

Date: 09/30/11 11pm

duration 1:05

Eric Phillips

Driver: "I think it's a good idea. Some people don't, but I do." Even less than an hour before their debut, the new Hot Lanes on I-85 were sparking hot opinions. Driver 2: "I'm not going to ride in it. I'll just sit in traffic." Driver 3: "It doesn't make sense to put a pass on 85 just to go where you normally usually go." The point of the new high occupancy toll lanes is to allow drivers with a Peach Pass to use the lanes to bypass traffic. The Hot lanes will run from Chamblee Tucker Road in DeKalb to Old Peachtree Rd in Gwinnett. Unlike the old HOV lanes, those driving alone can use the Hot lanes but they'll have to pay a fee anywhere from 10 cents to 90 cents a mile, depending on the congestion. Also, unlike the old HOV lanes, you must have 3 instead of 2 people in your car to ride in the Hot lanes for free. Terrance Wright says that has the potential to make traffic worse. Wright: "People who typically are carpooling with just one other person now they're gonna have to get into traffic or they're gonna have to pay more money." It has the possibility of being a bit confusing at first, but leaders say it will benefit everyone.

Date: 10/07/11 11pm

duration :39

Justin Farmer

The Governor tells Channel 2 he is working on even more solutions to alleviate traffic on I-85 where the Hot lanes opened this week – and is willing to work quickly. Even though it does take a while for them to formulate all of their data, I think just observation of the traffic on the roadway can tell you a lot. Governor Deal lowered the toll prices for the Hot lanes yesterday, and is thinking about reducing the rates even more next week. That came after Georgia's state road and toll way authority said it would take 4-6 weeks to make changes because it needed to wait for data. The Governor also told us he applied for a federal waiver on the three-passenger minimum to use Hot lanes for free.

Date: 10/05/11 5am

duration 1:15

Richard Elliot

At I-85 and Jimmy Carter Boulevard, we set up our camera and watched five lanes of brake lights and one empty lane - the express lane. Here's a view from News Chopper 2 as well at around 6:00pm. The state road and tollway authority says during peak traffic hours, Peach Pass users are shaving their commute times in half, but at a cost. Some gentleman paid four dollars just to get one way. That's outrageous. SRTA actually says the highest toll posted was \$5.55 from Old Peachtree Road to Chamblee Tucker Road Tuesday morning. That's 30 cents more than Georgia's minimum wage at \$5.25. Commuter: "A lot people could afford that, but I surely can't." As we moved to another location along I-85 - more aggravated drivers: "Did you find yourself stuck in traffic because of that hot lane? Oh yeah. I mean I just pulled off the road. We've been standing here for about 5 minutes and in that time period I've seen about 5 cars use the express lane so I'm going to time it and see how long it will be until another car passes us in that lane. That was about 45 seconds. We counted more than 100 cars pass us in the same time frame in the other five lanes. SRTA spokeswoman Malika Wilkins says despite the aggravation - give the express lane project time.

Date: 10/05/11 4pm

duration 1:27

Late last night, SRTA released this data showing the heaviest congestion and highest toll so far along the I-85 Hot lanes was Tuesday in the 8:00am hour. So this morning, around 8:00am, we set up our camera on the Jimmy Carter Boulevard pass. We found heavy congestion, but only two users of the Hot Lane. Then we saw only one user for a moment; minutes later only 3 users. We moved locations and this time, we didn't see any users. Driver James Brandt: "60 million dollars to reduce the number of lanes we have to go downtown doesn't seem like a very good use of money." We went to a nearby coffee shop where people were willing to pay around \$4.00 for a hot cup of coffee but were still steaming about eh new lanes. Brandt: "For me this in an exception. I don't generally, I brew my own." Driver Carol Graham: "Things are hard enough. You don't need to pay to pass." Many commuters say because the Hot Lanes aren't being used, it's making traffic worse in the general purpose lanes. Some are avoiding I-85 altogether now. Graham: "Looks very congested." Brandt: "I guess the philosophy is to make it worse and people will get in more carpools." Graham: "I know Georgia is broke, but so am I."

Date: 10/11/11 5pm

duration 1:02

Kerry Kavanaugh

There have been countless complaints that new Hot Lanes in I-85 have sat empty. The State Road and Tollway Authority, or SRTA, says their data proves otherwise. During last Monday's rush hour, SRTA reported 3,200 registered Peach Pass users in the express lanes. That number jumped to 5,300 by week's end. One thing that may have lead to an increase in drivers was a decrease in tolls. Responding to the outrage from frustrated drivers, last Thursday Governor Deal asked SRTA to temporarily adjust the tolls to a maximum of \$3.05 cents. The tolls - that fluctuate with traffic - were peaking around \$5.50. Still many drivers we found were still not convinced it was something they could or wanted to afford. Carlos Abreu: "I'm not gonna get in that lane. I can tell you that." SRTA also quick to point out the average fares drivers are paying are lower than the peak. During this morning's rush hour, officials say the highest toll rate was \$1.75.

Date: 10/28/11 12pm

duration :36

Fred Blankenship

Concerned about the fate of his commute, a Gwinnett county man crunched numbers on his own to see how the I-85 toll lanes are affecting traffic. Chris Haley used data from G-DOT's website to compare traffic volume before and after the Hot lanes opened earlier this month. He found volume in the morning and afternoon rush is down an average of ten percent. Chris Haley: "I attribute that more to the fact that people are altering their schedules to avoid congestion in the peak periods." We took the research to the State Road and Tollway Authority. They told us they are seeing similar trends. A Georgia Tech study on the toll lanes should be complete in a few weeks.

Date: 11/18/11 6am

duration :20

Carol Sbarge

The I-85 Hot Lane controversy has the governor concerned about a similar project. Governor Nathan Deal says he's proceeding with caution when it comes to so-called "Hot Lanes" along I-75 and 575. The state would have to provide \$300 million dollars for the project. This project is so expensive because new toll lanes would be build instead of converting old lanes.

Privatization of Gwinnett Airport Studied

Date: 10/20/11 6am

duration :23

Erin Coleman

The privatization for Gwinnett County's airport will soon get a fresh look from a citizen's committee. The group will study the controversial plan to privatize Briscoe Field in Lawrenceville. County commissioners picked ten people from across the county to discuss the issue. Leaders decided to restart the privatization process earlier this month. Commissioners have not set a date for the first meeting.

Controversy Over Red Light Cameras

Date: 11/04/11 4pm

duration :17

Scott McFarlane

Red hot controversy over red light cameras. Some blistering reports question whether local cities should be using traffic cameras to snag drivers. There are concerns that the cameras actually make us *less* safe on the road. A private contractor that operates traffic cameras in our state slipped us this video. The crashes and near disasters at some of the red lights it patrols. More than 700 cities use red light cameras now. They generate hundreds of millions of dollars. But, among some drivers, they're also wildly unpopular. Brad Hines took his camera on a trip to point out so-called camera traps – short yellow lights. It went viral online. And in a new report, the US Public Interest Research Group says local communities using these cameras face something similar to "quotas." That camera vendors require a certain number of tickets – which the group says makes cities less likely to improve dangerous intersections. Expert: "The best way to save the lives of motorists might be to lengthen a yellow light and then the city finds doing that will force them millions of dollars in fines to a contractor." A separate report from the "Highway Safety Practices Institute" says it's finding drivers are now more likely to accelerate into yellow lights to avoid a ticket. Not everyone agrees. A third group, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety – says deadly crashes are down 24% at lights with cameras. David Kelly: "If you look at the people who don't like them, it's people who get tickets. That's the kind of society we live in today. People want to get away with something."

Critical Cancer Patient Ticketed En Route to HospitalDate: **11/28/11 5pm**duration **1:21****Tom Regan**

Roxanne White: "Come to find out that I actually had a life threatening blood clot that could easily taken my life and he was just sitting there writing john a ticket." Roxanne White, who stricken with breast cancer, says she was stunned when a Roswell police officer stopped her husband for speeding and would not escort them to the hospital less than a mile away, despite her complaints of chest pains. White: "He could have easily followed us. As I stated, we were that far from the hospital. He could easily have seen me go into the emergency room." John White: "May God forbid if someone in your family and you remember this day. And you stopped us from seeking medical treatment so you can write the ticket for whatever violation." The officer called for an ambulance but continued writing a speeding ticket and asked for documentation of her cancer condition. Roxanne: "When he asked for a cancer card, I was dumbfounded. I have a port, I have a double mastectomy, what do you want me to show you?" Roswell police say the officer was courteous and followed department procedure by declining an escort. But both say the officer should be allowed to make a judgment call. John White: " We're citizens. We should be afforded services of our public's officers outside of ticket writing." Roxanne: "This was life threatening, and those few minutes could have cost me my life."

Shooting by Marta Officer QuestionedDate: **10/16/11 6pm**duration **1:35****Linda Stouffer**

This was the scene shortly after witnesses say a Marta police officer shot and killed 19-year-old Joe Tavis Stafford. Friends of the victim, visibly upset, had to be held back as they arrived on the scene right outside the Vine City Marta station at about 10:30 last night. Lyle V. Harris: "There was an officer involved fatality. The suspect was shot and fatally wounded at the Vine City Marta station. The incident is being investigated by the Georgia Bureau of Investigations, and we don't have any more details at this time, but we will keep you apprised of the facts as they unfold." We did get more information from the victim's brother who says he was there, and says it began with a fight between his little brother and a group of guys. Rodney Stafford: "and they were, like, where the gun at – where the gun at? So after that, I heard a gun shot – pow – and everybody started running." He says that's when a Marta officer ran past him with a gun drawn. As he was drawing his gun, I was turning back around, my brother threw his hand up, Marta police shot him in the back – pow. And my brother laying on the ground, just looking at me. As he was looking at me, I was looking at the gunshot wound, and as I'm looking at that, Marta police shot him two more times – in the back." Mr. Stafford says police questioned him after the shooting. Now he's dealing with what he's witnessed.

Nurse Tased, Arrested While on DutyDate: **11/01/11 12pm**duration **:33****Carol Sbargo**

The family of a Gwinnett County nurse is fighting back, after police tased and arrested her. We were there as Martha Bien-Aimes walked out of the Gwinnett County jail yesterday. Sunday night, police say they were at Summit Ridge Hospital, investigating a patient suspected in a sexual assault. They say Bien-Aimes refused to let officers inside the suspect's rom. Police charged her with obstruction.

Innocent Woman Serves 53 Days in Jail Due to Simple Error

Date: 10/25/11 11pm

duration 1:34

Mark Winne

"They just asked me 'is the person who done the harm to me in court' and I looked over and like I told them, I never seen her before in my life." "The first time you saw Teresa Culpepper is when you went to court to clear her?" "Yep, that's the very first time." A lawyer for Angelo Boyd laid the foundation for her freedom. Attorney: "Without him coming to court and testifying, she would probably still be in jail." Boyd says he works hard laying bricks for a living, but took off from work to go to court when someone from the legal system called and let him know the wrong woman might be locked up for attacking him. Winne: "When you realized they had the wrong person, what happens in your heart and mind?" Boyd: "That if I could help this person, then I really need to go and do something." He says he immediately knew when he laid eyes on Teresa Culpepper in court she was not the Teresa who poured scalding water on him August 21st, causing 2nd and 3rd degree burns. Ashleigh Merchant, one of Ms. Culpepper's lawyers, said Ms. Culpepper's 53 days in jail for a crime she had nothing to do with could easily have been prevented if Atlanta Police had taken her by South Fulton Medical Center where Boyd was treated or even texted her photo to an officer taking his statement there. Boyd: "Nobody ever brought you a picture of Teresa Culpepper or brought Teresa Culpepper to you? Matter of fact I never heard anything else about this case till I went to help free this woman that was wrongfully locked up for the crime." Ms. Merchant says without a subpoena, many folks are hesitant to take off from work to come to court. Merchant: "So it's very rare to see someone who doesn't know the other person actually going the extra step and coming and helping them." Boyd: "It was the right thing to do. If it was the other way around, I would want somebody to step up to the plate and do it for me."

Shooting of 15-Year-Old With Mental Health Issues

Date: 12/30/11 5pm

duration 1:27

Kerry Kavanaugh

Measuring more than two feet long, police say this was the machete a Buford teen was carrying when he stormed officers last week. Gwinnett County police say when they arrived at this home on Windward Gate Lane December 19th, a situation involving 15-year-old Dawntree Williams had reached its tipping point. His therapist was on the phone with 9-1-1. Dawntree suffered from numerous mental health problems and had exploded during in-home counseling. Police say Dawntree charged officers with machete in hand. The officers fired 12 rounds hitting the teen five times. Marcus Coleman: "And I'm not trying to say that I don't understand officer's endangerment...they have to protect themselves but again when do you use non-lethal force?" That's a question Marcus Coleman of the National Action Network would like the GBI to ask as well. Today his group is calling for the GBI to investigate how officers handled the situation start to finish. Coleman: "The call was dispatched wrongly...the call was dispatched as a domestic dispute." Corporal Jake Smith says it doesn't matter what kind of call officers are responding to once they encounter a deadly threat. Smith: "We don't train them to use tasers, bean bag rounds, hand to hand combat none of that comes into play if somebody has a deadly weapon." Dawntree's grandmother told us last week she believed he dropped the machete before approaching the officers. But police say crime scene photos show it near the end of the driveway where Dawntree fell after he was shot.

Woman Sent Out of Court for Dress Code Violation

Date: 10/12/11 5am

duration :36

Carol Sbarge

A woman is worried that police may arrest her after she was kicked out of the DeKalb County courthouse for how she was dressed. Olivia Walker says deputies told her she could not go into court Tuesday afternoon because her dress was too short. There's a clearly posted policy against miniskirts. She says the dress came to just above the knee. She was going to court for a speeding ticket and worries she could be in trouble for missing the hearing. Walker "I don't know if they're going to stop me and say there's a warrant out for your arrest because you didn't show up to court." Walker says she plans to file a complaint with the Department of Justice.

Local Man Proposes Eisenhower Monument

Date: 11/17/11 6pm

duration 2:30

John Bachman

Georgia past becomes present at the Millenium Gate Arch and museum in Atlantic Station. The arch designer hopes one day the same will happen with his design for a memorial in Washington DC for our 34th President, Dwight David Eisenhower. Rodney: "Ours is a monumental column. And it's topped by General Eisenhower dressed in his DDay uniform." The cost to build it: \$50 million dollars. But the Eisenhower Memorial Commission didn't select his design for next year's groundbreaking. Instead, it chose one twice as expensive. And your tax dollars are paying for almost all of it. "Our working number is \$112.5 million dollars." The Martin Luther King memorial that just opened cost taxpayers \$10 million dollars. The Eisenhower Memorial Commission already has gotten nearly \$60 million tax dollars and will ask for much more. Critics say the timing is bad. Historically taxpayers have funded Presidential memorials in Washington – the most recent – the FDR Memorial in 1997 was 89% federally funded. The memorial commission believes the financial constraints of 2011 shouldn't matter. Commissioner: "The Jefferson Memorial was started in the depression, 1934, and finished in the middle of World War II in 1943." But it's not just the cost of the memorial. The design is controversial too. The commission selected world renowned architect Frank Gehry. "The pairing is as if Norman Rockwell was asked to paint a portrait of Lady Gaga." Critics say the four acre design with large stainless steel tapestries held up by huge columns is too over-the-top for the simple man who preached fiscal responsibility. "If there are giant pillars – 80 feet tall here – these cylinders – they are not the columns it will look like a permanent highway construction project that is never completed." The Eisenhower family also is raising a red flag. The three granddaughters released this statement: "Family members are concerned about the concept for the memorial, as well as the scope and the scale of it. You got controversy over the design; controversy over the size and the cost, and I think it might be time to slow the process down and take a look at some of those things." Rodney Cook agrees. His design was one of two selected in an alternative contest, not recognized by the memorial commission. Cook: "You can do it and spend that kind of money for something I think most people don't like, or you could do something that people are drawn to that is beautiful and uplifting and is really evocative of what Eisenhower was about."

Alpharetta Official Reimburses City for Questionable Perks

Date: 10/01/11 6am

duration :38

Erin Coleman

An Alpharetta city leader is paying back costs for the tickets he received from the local convention bureau. Last week, we reported on the ticket controversy with Alpharetta's Convention and Visitors Bureau. They gave elected city and convention bureau officials \$33,000 dollars worth of tickets to Verizon Amphitheater events. Council member David Belle Isle told us he is repaying \$450 dollars for six tickets he received. Belle Isle: "I don't think we had ill intent, but i think we owe it to the citizens to be as faithful to the calling of service as possible." Councilman Belle Isle is running for mayor. He's challenging his opponents to pay back money for their tickets too.

Discrimination Charges Investigated in Gwinnett County

Date: 11/01/11 6pm

duration :35

Monica Pearson

Channel 2 Action News has learned the US Department of Education is investigating claims of discrimination in the Gwinnett County school district. In July, we showed you a contract the district has with the state. In some instances, it laid out different achievement goals for specific groups of students. A coalition of parents says the district is setting lower expectations for some minorities and they filed a complaint. Parent Marilyn Tillman: "They've determined that there is something there that's viable to look at." Parent Sharon Capers: "Nobody rises to low expectations." The Gwinnett county school district says an investigation does not mean a complaint has been filed."

Gwinnett Adopts New Ethics Policy

Date: 11/16/11 6pm

duration :23

Justin Farmer

Gwinnett County has a new ethics policy. Today, commissioners unanimously approved the new rules. They require companies that do business with Gwinnett, to disclose their financial ties to elected officials. The new policy comes a year after a grand jury looked into questionable land deals. It indicted former Commissioner Kevin Kennerly and forced the resignation of former Chairman Charles Bannister.

East Point Utility Fight

Date: 11/18/11 6pm

duration :25

Justin Farmer

Recent utility rate increases prompted the city of E Point to launch a new service. City officials received criticism from residents, after announcing the increase in utility rates. Some say they have to move because they can't afford it. The city is launching a new campaign called "What's Up With my Utilities?" for questions. The campaign will include the city's first virtual town hall meeting, Nov 29 and Dec 7.

Sexual Harassment Charges Mount Against Herman Cain

Date: 11/03/11 12pm

duration :39

Fred Blankenship

The lawyer from one of Herman Cain's accusers says he's trying to get a statement from his client released. He says it'll make clear her version of what happened between her and the Republican Presidential candidate in the late '90s. It comes as a third woman lobbed similar allegations of sexual harassment against Cain. He's now pointing a finger at Republican rival, Texas Governor Rick Perry, as the architect of the controversy. "We've now been able to trace it back to the Perry campaign that stirred this up in order to discredit me, my campaign and slow us down." The women are said to be well known in government circles.

Sunday Alcohol Sales

Date: 11/02/11 5pm

duration 1:09

Lori Geary

Voter Anna Sexton: "I think that in the current economy it can bring some money back into Atlanta businesses." Voters we talked to cited one major reason for saying 'yes' to Sunday alcohol sales in Georgia – the economy. Antoine Carter: "I think it will be a good thing for the city, as far as economic wise." Matt Towery: "The victory is in the hands of the proponents." A new Insider Advantage poll taken last night of more than 400 registered Atlanta voters likely to vote Tuesday shows more than 60% will vote yes on the issue – less than 30% are opposed. Because voter turnout is expected to be so low, political analyst Matt Towery says anything can happen. Towery: "I do think the proponents probably need to do a little to bolster their efforts because a 60 something lead could turn into a tight race if you have one section of the city turning out at a much higher rate." The issue forced a huge fight at the state Capitol between Christian conservatives and supporters of Sunday sales. But that fight hasn't escalated into local communities deciding the issue. Voter 1: "It doesn't matter to me, I don't drink." Voter 2: "Personally it's annoying when you're going to Sunday dinner with your friends and family and you need to pick up a bottle of wine and you can't do it."

Date: 11/09/11 6pm

duration :32

Monica Pearson

After years of controversy, some Georgia voters overwhelmingly approved Sunday alcohol sales. Palmetto in south Fulton County was the only metro city to vote down the measure. Though Sunday sales won't start until January in some areas, they'll begin in just two weeks in Sandy Springs. But not all package stores will open Sundays. For some, it's a staffing problem. Nick Patel: 'Because at least we need one day off Sundays. Probably after a few months like that we might be open or not but we are not preparing right now to open on Sunday.' Dunwoody starts Sunday sales on December 4th.

Doraville Police Officers Try to Help Widow of Slain Colleague

Date: 12/01/11 4:30am

duration :34

Carol Sbarge

Controversy this morning over officers' efforts to donate to the wife of a Doraville detective who died on the job. Doraville police officers tried to donate cash from their paid time off to the family of Robert Shane Wilson. Wilson was killed by a suspected drunk driver two weeks ago. But city officials say the officers cannot donate their paid time off. Gene Calloway: "Rank and file has the best example you got the top down wanting to do the right thing and here we have the city trying to figure out how to do the right thing." City leaders say the officer might be able to donate their comp time to the family.

Scientologists Charge Sandy Springs with Discrimination

Date: 10/31/11 6pm

duration :43

Justin Farmer

Attorneys for the Church of Scientology say they have proof that the city of Sandy Springs discriminated against the church when it denied plans to expand. The church is suing, after Sandy Springs denied its request to expand a building at Roswell Road and Glenridge Drive. Last month, a federal judge ruled the city followed its parking ordinance and did *not* intentionally discriminate. But the church says city leaders comments and questions during a 2009 council meeting were discriminatory. Andrea Cantrell Jones: "There was an animus, a negative approach to the church's request for the full sized building." Former city council member Rusty Paul says the council's primary concern was parking and traffic, *not* religion. Current city leaders would not comment about pending litigation.

Neighbors Unhappy About Glock Facility Expansion

Date: 10/14/11 6pm

duration :37

Jovita Moore

An accident is adding to resident's concerns about the expansion of a gun maker in Smyrna. A dump truck on its side, near a school bus stop, just outside the Woodland Brooks subdivision. The accident blocked the only way out of several neighborhoods. They say it's a reminder about the expansion of the Glock facility as the end of the road. Resident Tarun Gareriwal: "It's just constant dump trucks going back and forth, and again they're going ... about what the speed level should be." Glock promised to have workers with flags on the street when school buses are on the road. The city told us late today, it's inspectors have seen the workers as promised.

Date: 10/17/11 5am

duration :37

Fred Blankenship

This morning parents should see workers with flags directing traffic near a school bus stop. The Glock plant is providing the workers after parents expressed concern about safety. They point to this dump truck accident near a school bus stop, just outside the Woodland Brooks subdivision. It blocked the only way out of several neighborhoods. Parents say it's a reminder about the expansion of the Glock facility at the end of the road. Glock promised to have workers with flags on the street when school buses are on the road.

Zip Code Error Costs Sandy Springs Residents Extra Tax Money

Date: 10/17/11 11pm

duration :36

Justin Farmer

The US Postal Service says it will fix a software issue that is costing Sandy Springs residents thousands of dollars. The mistake lists seven zip codes as Atlanta, instead of Sandy Springs. That means many shopping websites automatically default those addresses to the wrong city. It costs residents because Sandy Springs charges seven percent sales tax, while Atlanta charges eight. Resident Charles Salter: "I'm retired and trying to watch the way I spend. But that is a very valid point, that all of us need to be more conscious of." The postal service will require Sandy Springs to hold several public hearings about the issue before it makes any changes.