

1st Quarter 2017 "Georgia Focus" Public Affairs Issues/Clearance

Station: WTGA/WEAL **Market:** THOMASTON/MILNER,GA

Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education

The Top Ten Issues to Watch is an annual publication of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education. Dr. Stephen Dolinger, President of the Partnership, and Dr. Dana Rickman, Director of Policy and Research discuss this year's list .Available January 7-8.

This show aired on (Day) SUNDAY from: (Start Time) 6:00AM to: (End Time): 6:30AM

Goodwill of the Southern Rivers

Goodwill of the Southern Rivers based in Columbus covers 50 counties in west and southwest Georgia and east Alabama with free services such as job coaching, money management and classes to facilitate job placement and advancement. Jane Seckinger, President and CEO of Goodwill of the Southern Rivers provides an overview of their facilities and programs. Available January 14-15.

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Georgia Operation Lifesaver

Operation Lifesaver is a program dedicated to ending tragic collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and on railroad rights of way. Jennie Glasgow, State Coordinator, Georgia Operation Lifesaver, is program guest. Available January 21-22.

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Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation works for the preservation and revitalization of Georgia's diverse historic resources and advocates for their appreciation, protection and use. Each year the Georgia Trust releases a list of 10 historic locations in Georgia that are in need of revitalization. This list is called *Places in Peril* and Mark McDonald, President and CEO of the GA Trust for Historic Preservation talks about the 2017 list. Available January 28-29.

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Georgia State Patrol Recruitment

The Georgia State Patrol is in need of Troopers. The shortage is such that in portions of the state there aren't enough troopers to patrol the roads 24 hours a day. Gov. Deal recently gave troopers a 20% pay raise which will help but still the need is great. Trp. Carlos Searcy, recruiting trooper for GSP, talks about their recruitment program. Available February 4-5. .

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Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency works to make Georgia the very best State in the Union for persons with disabilities regarding employment and independence. Sean Casey, Executive Director of GVRA, discusses their programs. Available February 11-12.

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Human Trafficking in Georgia

On a global scale, human trafficking is the second largest criminal enterprise after drug trafficking. Human trafficking has been reported in over 100 Georgia Counties. Public Service Commissioner Tim Echols discusses the “Unholy Tour”, a bus tour of areas of Atlanta where the sex trade and human trafficking thrive, and Kasey McClure tells her story of going from adult entertainers to founder of 4sarah, which works to rescue those being trafficked. Available February 18-19.

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Potential uses of casino gambling funds

State Rep. Paulette Rakestraw who represents District 19 which includes portions of Paulding County, discusses a proposal to use funds from casino gambling, if passed, for mental/behavioral health and addiction treatment as well as to combat human trafficking in Georgia. Available February 23-24.

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Farm Equipment Safety on Georgia’s Roads

Spring means more farm equipment traveling on Georgia roads especially in rural areas. This year, officials from the Department of Agriculture and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety are again uniting to urge both farmers and motorists to use caution when sharing the road. Here to discuss this issue is Harris Blackwood, Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and Kenny Burgamy from GA Farm Bureau. Available March 4-5.

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Georgia Chamber’s Rural Prosperity Council

For many of the state’s counties, economic prosperity has dwindled and many of these communities are slowly dying. The Georgia Chamber of Commerce recognized this and established the Rural Prosperity Council to champion the needs of rural Georgia across a spectrum of economic development and quality of life issues. Chris Clark, President/CEO of the GA Chamber, discusses this new initiative. Available March 11-12.

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End Distracted Driving

Thousands of people have been killed by distracted drivers; hundreds of thousands more injured. Casey Feldman was just 21 years old when she was struck by a distracted driver and killed in 2009. Her father, Joel Feldman, discusses the Casey Feldman Foundation and the End distracted Driving initiative which works to change our driving culture. Available March 18-19.

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Georgia Alzheimer’s and Related Dementias State Plan

The Georgia Alzheimer’s and Related Dementias State Plan is the state’s blueprint for improving dementia prevention and treatment, access to community services, developing family support and increasing public awareness of dementia. Victoria Helmly, Georgia’s Alzheimer’s disease and Related Dementias State Plan coordinator for the GA Department of Human Services division of Aging Services discusses the plan. Available March 25-26.

This show aired on (Day) SUNDAY from: (Start Time) 6:00AM to: (End Time): 6:30AM