

Q4 2013 ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST  
WPGA-TV

**CONSOLIDATION:** Voters approved the consolidation of Macon and Bibb County governments beginning in 2014. Elections to select nine commissioners and a mayor was heated at times, and the public has been kept up to date on the issues of consolidation through the efforts of this station.

**HEALTH CARE:** Many middle Georgians are uninformed about many health problems. Coliseum Health Systems, Dr. Johnny Gayton, local optometrist, Melody Faircloth of the health supplement store Willow Tree and others appear on Mix in the Morning regularly with health tips in many fields.

**ECONOMY AND JOBS:** The unemployment rate in middle Georgia does fluctuate, depending on the season, but during most times of the year, it is as high or higher than the state average. Regular reports on the unemployment issue and public service announcements help to keep the public informed of the trends.

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE:** Robins Air Force Base is the largest single employer in middle Georgia, and is a vital player in the economy of the area. Constant confirmation of the community's support of the base help to keep the base open and flourishing. With periodical BRAC assessments, it's important that those in higher places know that the community appreciates the value of the base and supports it's efforts. Periodical releases from the office of information, 21st Century Partnerships and other base-related organizations and our own news department help this station keep the public updated

**EDUCATON:** This is not only a class-room issue, but one that encompasses education on issues that concern the community, information on programs that assist residents and progress made in consolidating educational institutions to reduce costs while adding availability.

**ANIMAL CONTROL:** Efforts continue to convince pet owners to have dogs and cats spayed or neutered to control the growing population. While this is next to impossible where animals are abandoned and left to roam freely, spaying and neutering will continue to downsize and control the pet population. Programs of free spaying and neutering is offered by several local businesses.

| Issue                | Title | Description |
|----------------------|-------|-------------|
| <b>CONSOLIDATION</b> |       |             |

October 4, 2013. Mix in the Morning news anchor Gail Daniels reported that Macon-Bibb County mayoral candidate Jack Ellis announced his plans for fighting poverty. During a news conference, Ellis said he plans to take advantage of state and federal grants for new programs. Ellis stressed that his plan calls for high quality education for all children, and creating lifelong education and skills development programs. Ellis said he wants to see a reduction in teen pregnancy and holding fathers accountable for supporting their children.

Recap: story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of two and a half mins.

October 4, 2013: Mix in the Morning reported this morning that the Technology Committee of the task force working on the Macon-Bibb County consolidated government has decided to hold off on buying a package of public safety software after learning that Bibb County Commissioners want to defer the purchase until the new consolidated government takes over on January 1, 2014. Sheriff David Davis said the purchase of the software would not be a prudent use of funds at this time. Davis instead wants to focus on such things as disparity in pay between the police department and the sheriff's department. At the same time, the Technology committee asked for pricing on a stripped down computer-aided dispatch system.

Recap: story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30am, for a total of five minutes

October 7, 2013: Macon-Bibb County District 4 candidate Mallory Jones appeared on Mix in the Morning from 8:00 to 8:30 to address issues confronting the new city-county government, and voiced his plans and intentions if elected to the post.

Recap: Candidate Jones appeared for 14 minutes

October 7, 2013. Gail Daniels reminded viewers and listeners this morning that today is the first day of early voting for the October 15th runoff election for the new Macon-Bibb County government. Mayor Robert Reichert and former mayor Jack Ellis are in a runoff for mayor. Voters will also choose between Henry Ficklin and Larry Schlesinger in district two, Mallory Jones and Beverly Olson in district 4, Ed DeFore and Adah Roberts in district 6 and Charles Jones and Virgil Watkins in district 8. Daniels reports that early voting will be held Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 5:30 pm at the Board of Elections.

Recap. Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am, for a total of four minutes.

October 8, 2013: Mayoral candidate Jack Ellis was a guest on Mix in the Morning from 7:15 to 7:30. During that time, Ellis stressed his plans and platforms for the new city-county government. Ellis appeared for 12 minutes

October 11, 2013. Even while engaged in a runoff for mayor of the consolidated Macon-Bibb County government, Macon mayor Robert Reichert will take time to host his monthly Mayor's Night In on Monday October 14th in his city hall office. According to Mix in the Morning news anchor Gail Daniels, the gathering will start at 5:30pm. Citizens will have five minutes with the mayor, to ask questions and voice concerns. Mayor Reichert says that each citizen is limited to five minutes in order to accommodate

as many as possible. Citizens can schedule a time to speak before the meeting by calling 478-751-7170.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of four minutes

October 15, 2013: Gail Daniels reminds voters on her Mix in the Morning newscasts today that today is election day in Macon and Bibb County. Voters will choose between mayor Robert Reichert and former mayor Jack Ellis in the runoff for mayor on the consolidated Macon-Bibb County government. Four commission seats are also being decided in today's runoff. A pair of Macon city councilmen, Larry Schlesinger and Henry Ficklin, are vying for the district 2 seat. In district 4, businessman Mallory Jones is facing city council member Beverly Olson. The district 6 seat will go to either councilman Ed Defore or Adah Roberts, while in district 8, voters will choose between council members Charles Jones and Virgil Watkins.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of five minutes.

October 16, 2013. Gail Daniels has the results of yesterday's runoff elections for offices in the new Macon-Bibb County consolidated government. Macon mayor Robert Reichert easily defeated former mayor Jack Ellis for the mayor's seat. Reichert earned 63% of the votes cast by voters county-wide. In district commission races, the winners were Larry Schlesinger in district 2, Mallory Jones in district 4, Ed Defore in district 6 and Virgil Watkins in district 8.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of two minutes.

November 7, 2013. Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that three dozen Precinct 1 officers were sworn in as Bibb County deputies as Macon-Bibb County prepare for the January 1st, 2014 consolidation. Macon traffic officers, K-9 units, crime lab technicians and bomb squad members have already been deputized. The SWAST team, criminal investigation division and other precincts will take the oath before January first.

November 20, 2013. According to Gail Daniels, reporting this morning of Mix in the Morning, bibb County commissioners have agreed to name the county's three newest fire stations in honor of current commissioners Bert Bivins and Joe Allen, and former commissioner Elmo Richardson. The decision comes just a little over a month before all three will be former commissioners. Bivins did not run and Allen was defeated in the primary. Also during Tuesday's meeting, commissioners approved a resolution to name the interchange at Eisenhower Parkway and Interstate 475 in honor of t. Warren Bennett, Jr., a B-52 pilot who was shot down during the Vietnam War and is still listed as missing in action. The interchange will be dedicated to all POW/MIA soldiers.

Recap; Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of five minutes.

November 26, 2013. On her Mix in the Morning news summaries this morning, Gail Daniels reports that Henry Ficklin's request for a judge to nullify the October 15th runoff election is scheduled to be heard today. Ficklin lost by 26 votes to Larry Schlesinger in the District 2 commission race. Schlesinger is asking a judge to uphold the results of the election and throw out Ficklin's request. In a news release, the Macon-bibb County

Board of Elections acknowledged the border between Districts 2 & 3 that runs through the Overlook Apartment Complex had some flaws, with some voters placed in the wrong district.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of five minutes

November 27, 2013. Gail Daniels reports today on the outcome of Henry Ficklin's request to call a new election in District 2 based on improper assignment of some voters who were mistakenly placed in District 3 for the runoff between Ficklin and Larry Schlesinger. Senior Superior Court Judge Stephen E. Boswell sided with Ficklin, and discussions are now under way to decide how to handle a new runoff for the seat. The earliest date would be December 24th, but that date isn't likely, according to Board of Elections attorney William Noland.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30am Total of seven minutes

December 9, 2013. Mix in the Morning news anchor Gail Daniels reports this morning that a judge has approved Macon-Bibb County Mayor-elect Robert Reichert's request to move up the start date for the new consolidated government. Bibb County Superior Court judge Edgar Ennis agree Friday to move the government's start date to January 1, 2014 instead of the scheduled January 4th. Mayor Reichert and the new board, with the exception of District 2, will be sworn in December 31st according to Daniels report.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30 am for a total of three minutes.

December 12, 2013: According to Gail Daniels this morning on Mix in the Morning, a date has been set for a new election in Macon-Bibb County District 2. Judge Stephen Boswell, who agreed with candidate Henry Ficklin that there were enough discrepancies in the runoff election to throw out the results and call a new election. Ficklin will now oppose Larry Schlesinger on January 14, 2014. The new consolidated government will be sworn in on January 1st, but judge Boswell refused to appoint either Ficklin or Schlesinger to represent District 2 in the meantime. Daniels said in her story this morning the Ficklin's request for attorney's fees and costs was not addressed, but could be considered at a later date.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of four minutes.

December 31, 2013. Gail Daniels reminded Macon and Bibb County citizens this morning that the public is invited to watch history in the making today when the new Macon-Bibb County government is sworn in during 11:00 am ceremonies at City Hall. Mayor Robert Reichert and seven commissioners will be sworn in, but the District 2 seat will remain vacant until a January 14th election will decide between Henry Ficklin and Larry Schlesinger. Daniels said the swearing in ceremonies will also be streamed online at [www.maconbibb.tv](http://www.maconbibb.tv) for those citizens who cannot attend in person.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of five minutes.

## **HEALTH CARE**

October 24, 2013: On October 26th from 10AM till 2PM, the Bibb County sheriff's office and the Drug Enforcement Administration will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs with the national Take Back Initiative.

According to a news story released by the Bibb County Sheriff's department and aired today by Gail Daniels on Mix in the Morning, prescription drug abuse in the U.S. and accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs are extremely high. In addition, flushing unused medicine down the toilet or throwing it in the trash pose potential health and safety hazards. Take your unused medications to the main entrance of Wal-Mart on Zebulon Road Saturday with no questions asked. The service is free and anonymous.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of five minutes.

October 25, 2013

The Macon-Bibb Health Department is offering flu vaccinations to Bibb County school kids. Elementary, middle and high school students are able to participate in the district's Flu Vaccine Program to keep children healthier during the flu season. Parents who would like to have their children vaccinated should call their school to request a flu release form. Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that the program ends Friday, November first

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of three minutes

October 29, 2013: Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that today is the last day for Robins Air Force Base employees to get a flu vaccination provided on base. The base has been partnering with the Houston County Health Department to provide flu vaccinations to civilian employees. The vaccine costs \$25. However, employees with certain types of insurance may have the cost covered. The partnership was formed after Budget cuts led to the elimination of Air Force Materiel Command's free flu vaccine program.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of three minutes

November 20., 2013: Due to Obama Care, Perry City Council has set new restrictions on part-time and seasonal city employees. In order to prevent violations of the new Affordable Healthcare Act, employees will not be able to work more than 25 hours a week. City officials said Tuesday that their health insurance carrier warned them that any employee who works more than 130 hours per week, even just once, could be eligible for health care under the ACA. Seasonal workers include lifeguards and summer camp employees and part time employees include positions in the police and fire departments. Gail Daniels reported this story today on Mix in the Morning

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of four minutes

November 22, 2013: Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that during a press conference Thursday at Macon City Hall, several partners announced the official launch of StandTogether's new international Sister City cancer survivor and caregiver support website. StandTogether is a collaborative effort of cancer survivors, caregivers, educators, business leaders, health care and technology professionals between Sister Cities of Macon and Ulyabnovsk in the Russian Federation, recognizing that no one,

regardless of geography, should fight cancer along. The site is accessible at [www.standtogetherwebsite.com](http://www.standtogetherwebsite.com) and is in both English and Russian languages.  
Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of five minutes

December 3, 2013: On her Mix in the Morning newscasts today, Gail Daniels reports that a medical technician who intentionally infected dozens of patients with hepatitis C in several states including Georgia, has been sentenced to 39 years in prison. The man, identified as 34-year old David Kwiatkowski, worked as a cardiac technologist in 18 hospitals in seven states, including the Houston Medical Center in Warner Robins. Prosecutors said Kwiatkowski created a national public health crisis, putting a significant number of people at risk and caused substantial physical and emotional harm to a large number of victims..

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of six minutes

December 13, 2013. Georgia health officials say the flu has killed two people in the state. Gail Daniels said today on Mix in the Morning that health officials report both victims were adults and were the first to die of flu related symptoms in Georgia this year. Health officials recommended frequent and thorough hand washing to prevent the flu. They also recommend getting the flu vaccine. Peak flu season typically stretches from the end of January through late February or early March.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of three minutes.

## **ECONOMY AND JOBS**

October 9, 2013: A water park initially proposed for development in Warner Robins will now apparently locate in Peach County. Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that Atlanta businessman Jeff Franklin had proposed to build the park on the East side on I-75, off Vietnam Veterans Memorial Parkway. Franklin reportedly had asked Warner Robins to commit to providing utilities to the park, and Peach County provide the access road. Mayor Chuck Shaheen said it didn't make sense to commit to anything with an out of town developer when one in-town has wanted to build a water park. He also said Franklin has yet to acquire funding for the project. The new location in Peach County will cost Franklin \$800,000 less than the first option, according to Daniels' story. Franklin did not say how many jobs the project will provide.

Recap: Story ran at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 9:30 am for a total of five minutes

October 17, 2013: On today's Mix in the Morning, news anchor Gail Daniels reported that an Oklahoma-based company has purchased 10 grocery stores in Georgia, including several in the midstate. Last week, HAC, Inc. announced the acquisition of the Belle Foods store on Rocky Creek Road. Other stores include Belle Foods or Piggly Wiggly stores in Warner Robins, Gordon, Cochran and other cities. According to Daniels' report today, the company does not plan to change the names of the stores at this time, and existing employees have been offered jobs with the new company. A spokesman for the store said customers can expect to see improve quality of perishables, lower prices and an expanded and improved private label offering. Additional jobs are also likely

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30am for a total of four minutes

October 29, 2013: Gail Daniels reports today that the Macon-Bibb County Planning and Zoning commission voted Monday to postpone a decision on a \$30 million shopping center off Zebulon Road. Birmingham, Alabama-based developer Blackwater Resources plans to purchase a bout 25 acres to build a shopping center with 200,000 to 250,000 square feet of retail space, including five out-parcels. About 130 concerned residents attended Monday night's meeting at Macon City Hall. After about two hours of discussions, commissioners voted 3-1 to defer the decision until November 12th. Blackwater did not say how many jobs would be provided once the project is approved and completed

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of three minutes

November 21, 2013: The Georgia Department of Labor announced today that Georgia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 8.1 percent in October, down two tenths of a percentage point from 8.3 percent in September. The rate was seven tenths of a percentage point lower than the 8.8 percent in October a year ago.

Recap. Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of three minutes

November 25, 2013. According to a news release from the office of Governor Nathan Deal and reported today by Gail Daniels on Mix in the Morning, Aspen Products, Inc., a major private label paper manufacturer, is opening a facility in Macon. The company is investing \$13 million into the project, and creating more than 200 jobs. The 200,000 square foot facility will be built in Airport Industrial Park. The Macon facility will manufacture paper plates, cups, bowls, and lunch bags. The hiring process has already begun and interested applicants should contact the Department of Labor to learn more.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of four minutes

November 26, 2013: Gail Daniels reports on today's Mix in the Morning that the Georgia Department of Community Affairs has chosen the city of Perry for Georgia's Main Street Start-up Program. The program is expected to help the Perry Downtown Development Authority increase small business development. The GDCA will also help Perry devise a plan of action to attract visitors. According to a release from the GDCA, the plan will focus on four main aspects to help Perry: the new downtown design plan, prospective businesses and new jobs, promoting and marketing the city and choosing the people that will help take these ideas to the next level. Perry was one of 19 Georgia cities chosen for the program.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of five minutes.

December 6, 2013: The Georgia Department of Labor will begin providing employment-related workshops in Monroe County next month. The workshops will run from 10:00 am to 12 Noon on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, beginning January 8th. Workshop topics will include completing applications and resume writing. They will be held at the Monroe County Workforce Development Center. Gail Daniels informs listeners and viewers today that more information can be obtained by calling 404-273-5244.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of four minutes

December 13, 2013: Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that the Air Force will cut a bout 900 civilian positions next year to meet the demands of its 2114 budget. About 217 of those cuts will occur at Robins Air Materiel Command. According to an email release from base spokesman David Donato, the Air Force plans to offer early retirement to eligible employees and incentive pay for those who volunteer t leave. Under the plan, employees can getup to \$25,000 if they voluntarily leave their positions. During the State of the Community luncheon in Perry Thursday, retired Major General Robert McMahan discussed the future of Robins in his new role as president of 21st Century Partnerships. McMahan said there is always the threat of BRAC, and Robins needs to be more productive and reduce operating costs to be more competitive.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of six minutes

December 27, 2013: The Georgia Department of Labor announced Thursday that Macon's unemployment rate fell from 8.4 percent in October to 7.6 percent in November. It marked the lowest rate since November, 2008, according to Gail Daniels on today's Mix in the Morning. Macon area employers added 1,000 new jobs in November. Meanwhile, Warner Robins' unemployment rate fell to 6.4 percent, down from October's 7.2 percent. It marks the lowest unemployment rate since it was 6.4 percent in November 2008. More people were holding onto their jobs, too. The number of new layoffs fell b y 42.5 percent from October to November.

Recap Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of five minutes

## **ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE**

October 7, 2013: Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that many civilian employees at Robins Air Force Base who were furloughed due to the government shutdown will begin returning to work this week. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced Saturday that the Pentagon would recall most furloughed civilian workers. The decision came after congress passed a bill last week exempting Defense Department civilians from furlough if they provide direct support to the military. According to a pres release from the Public Affairs Office at Robins, the base is in the process of notifying affected workers about returning to work.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of five minutes

November 18, 2013: During her Mix in the Morning newscasts today, news anchor Gail Daniels said that, in an effort to reduce housing around Robins Air Force Base, the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority has expressed an interest in purchasing property in an area between North Davis Drive and Georgia Highway 247. According to the authority, 200 notices were sent out in August, and so far, about 80 property owners have said they are interested in selling. The first sales are expected to become final by the end of the year, or early January, Daniels says. A mixture of federal and state money as well as local sales tax dollars are being used to purchase the properties. Local leaders say resolving the encroachment issue is important to protect the base in the event of a Base Realignment and closure Commission.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of five minutes.

November 18, 2013: Gail Daniels reported today on Mix in the Morning that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration honored the 402nd maintenance support group at Robins Air Force Base Friday for keeping a safe and clean environment. The group won the OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program STAR SITE award in August. The program builds on safety and occupational health programs already in place in businesses. The 402nd maintenance support group provides industrial, engineering and laboratory services for maintenance production groups in the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex. Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of five minutes.

November 25, 2013: The Middle Georgia Model Railroad Club is once again hosting "Planes and Trains" at the Museum of Aviation on Robins Air Force Base. The exhibit offers over 600 feet of track and hundreds of rail cars. The kids will especially love the "Thomas the Train" exhibit and the Christmas Village display, according to a news story by Gail Daniels today on Mix in the Morning. The display will run through December 1st at the Museum of Aviation. The museum is open from 9am to 5pm and admission is free. Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of three minutes.

## **EDUCATION**

October 22, 2013: On her Mix in the Morning newscasts this morning, Gail Daniels reports that Howard High School, Bibb County's newest school, will present a fall concert by the school's orchestra ensemble on Thursday October 24th at 7:00pm. The school is located at 6400 Forsyth Road in Macon. The event displays some of the extracurricular activities at the school. The event is open to the public and is free of charge.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of two minutes.

October 23, 2013. News anchor Gail Daniels reported today on Mix in the Morning that applications for most magnet schools and programs in the Bibb County School District are now available, and will be accepted until November 14, 2013. The only schools with exceptions to the November deadline are Central High School and Hutchings Career Center. Applications for Central's magnet programs will not be available until January 6, 2014. Applications for Hutchings Career Center are available now and will be accepted as long as slots are available, with no designated date parameters. Applications at several schools have been sent home to parents and guardians, and applications can also be picked up at the magnet schools. Parents with questions can get more information at [www.bibb.k12.ga.us](http://www.bibb.k12.ga.us) according to Daniels' report.

Recap. Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of five minutes.

October 24, 2013. Not all news coming from Macon and middle Georgia schools is education related. Gail Daniels reports this morning that The Bibb County School District is investigating an incident that occurred Wednesday at Springdale Elementary School. Daniels reports that a school system news release indicated that an unidentified male was interacting suspiciously with students during dismissal. School administrators immediately sought the unidentified man, who had moved toward the playground. When he was approached, the man reportedly ran toward Northside Drive. Several parents who

witnessed the incident helped detain the man until emergency personnel arrived. Other details about the incident were sketchy, according to Daniels. Macon police will investigate.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of five minutes.

October 24, 2013. On Mix in the Morning today, Gail Daniels reported a couple of stories from area schools. Heard Elementary will host a Family Fun Literacy Night from 5:00 to 7:30 tonight at the school, located at 6515 Houston Road in Macon. The program includes a visit from storyteller Sandra French, the Book Fair Grand Opening, and a drawing for a Book Fair gift card. Daniels also reports today that Howard High School will host a Math Night for freshmen and their parents from 6 to 7pm. Parents will learn about what they can do to help their child with math assignments through presentations and math activities. Howard is located at 6400 Forsyth Road in Macon.

Recap: Stories ran at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of five minutes

October 29, 2013. News anchor Gail Daniels reports today that the Bibb County School District's title I Parent Center will begin hosting a monthly series of 50-minute workshops for parents. Each workshop is designed to help parents assist their children in achieving academic success. The first two workshops will be held Wednesday October 30 and Tuesday November 19, 2013 at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm at the Title I Parent Center, 2003 Riverside Drive in Macon, and will be conducted by Dr. Tamica Means, a Parent Academic Instructor.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of four minutes

November 4, 2013. On Mix in the Morning today, Gail Daniels reports that Bibb County public schools are getting technology upgrades that include faster networking, wireless internet access and more reliable email. The upgrades would mean schools would have five times the internet speed they had previously. Hartley Elementary School is the system's first site to start getting the faster network and wireless access. Daniels says the upgrades are being paid for with a mixture of funds from an education sales tax initiative and the federal E-Rate Program. According to Mike Hall, the school system's executive director of technology, the system has and estimated 15,000 computers, 12,000 of which are at least five years old.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of five minutes.

November 5, 2013. The Academy for Classical Education is hosting the first of several forums for parents to register their students for a new charter school. Parents and students are invited to attend the first pre-registration forum on Saturday November 9 at Macon City Hall from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. According to Gail Daniels today on Mix in the Morning, sessions will begin each hour. Parents in the Macon and bibb County area can also submit pre-admission applications online through the school's website at [www.academyforclassicaleducation.org](http://www.academyforclassicaleducation.org).

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of seven minutes.

November 8, 2013. Gail Daniels reports this morning on Mix in the Morning that Catrice Allen, a fifth grade teacher at Taylor Elementary, has been selected as Bibb County's

Teacher of the Year. Interim Superintendent Steven Smith made the announcement during a banquet at Mercer University's University Center on Thursday. Allen has been teaching in Bibb County for seven years. Six other finalists were also recognized at the banquet, Daniels reports.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of four minutes

November 22, 2013. The closure and consolidation of some Bibb County schools is once again on the agenda of the Bibb County School Board. Gail Daniels reports this morning that board members could finalize the cuts or consolidations in the next month. Board members did not identify any targeted schools during their meeting last Thursday night. Enrollment has been shrinking, and new charter schools are expected to siphon off students from the system. The board has already implemented staff cuts and furloughs this year as a way to close holes in the budget.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of five minutes.

November 22, 2013. Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that the Bibb County School system is working to fix a half dozen problem areas flagged by AdvanceEd, the system's accreditation agency. Interim Superintendent Steve Smith said a re-accreditation visit wouldn't normally be scheduled for two more years, but he's scheduled accreditors to visit at the end of April, 2014. The accreditation report faulted areas including leadership, technology and human resources, and said the system needed to use data better to plan improvements. It also needs to focus on students in special needs and gifted programs and ensure that all students are learning.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of five minutes.

November 27, 2013. The Central Georgia Technical College Foundation has received a \$100,000 grant from the Peyton Anderson Foundation in Macon. According to Gail Daniels today on Mix in the Morning, the money will be used to purchase equipment for the Charles A. Jones Advanced Technology Center. Plans for the center include several classrooms as well as manufacturing and industrial labs for college students, employees and industry managers.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of three minutes.

December 3, 2013. The Bibb County School District's Title I office is accepting applications for a free tutoring service through the Flexible Learning Program. Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that the free tutoring service is designed to provide eligible students with additional math support at Priority and Focus schools. The deadline for the Flexible Learning Program is December 12, 2013. Daniels says the after school program will run from February 11, 2014 through May 15, 2014. In another story this morning, Daniels says that parents interested in the Academy of Classical Education are invited to attend a series of forums coming up this week at the Shoppes at River Crossing. The forums will be held at Barnes and Nobles book store. The Bibb County Board of Education approved the charter for the new school on September 19, 2013.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of five minutes

December 9, 2013: Houston County schools will be holding a series of meetings to discuss rezoning three elementary schools next fall. Gail Daniels reports this morning on Mix in the Morning that the meetings will allow the community to ask questions, offer feedback and listen to proposed changes for Lindsey, Parkwood and Westside elementary schools. The schools will be rezoned and grade levels will be shuffled in an effort to streamline academics and finances. The meetings will be held at 6:00pm Tuesday at Westside, Wednesday at Lindsey and December 18th at Parkwood. School officials have suggested they become sister schools, with Parkwood housing pre-K through first grade, Westside second and third graders and Lindsey fourth and fifth graders. The board of education will vote on the rezoning in February, 2014.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am Total of five minutes.

December 12, 2013. During her Mix in the Morning newscasts today, news anchor Gail Daniels reports that numbers released yesterday show graduation rates among middle Georgia's most troubled high schools improved drastically in 2013. Daniels says that in Bibb County, most high schools remained below the state average, but the county's graduation rate overall increased by 8.8 percentage points, to 61.1 percent. In Houston County, the district graduated 76.8 percent of its students, an increase of 3.2 percent. Twiggs County showed the most drastic improvement, increasing the graduation rate by 30 percentage points to 75.3 percent.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30, Total of five minutes.

## **ANIMAL CONTROL**

October 2, 2013: An investigation has cleared a Jones County deputy of any wrongdoing in the shooting of a dog on September 22nd. The investigation was conducted after Sgt. David Little, Jr. wounded a pit bull that reportedly charged while the officer was arresting a convicted felon at 295 Chapman Road. According to a news release from the Jones County Sheriff's Office, Corey Marshal Farley, Jr. was at the home in a car stolen from Virginia. He was charged with numerous offenses, including drug and firearms possession and charges related to the stolen automobile. The dog is expected to make a complete recovery.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of four minutes

October 2, 2013: Macon city Council passed a new ordinance Tuesday that pet owners must spay or neuter their dogs and cats. The ordinance, sponsored by Council member Nancy White, passed 8-5 with two members absent. Beginning July 1, 2014, dogs and cats over the age of six months within city limits must be spayed or neutered. For \$10, some dogs and cats can get unaltered animal permits. Those that are excluded from the procedure must be microchipped. Violators could be fined up to \$500.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of four minutes.

October 3, 2013: With the possible new Macon-Bibb County Ordinance requiring most pet owners to have their dogs and cats spayed or neutered, city officials have released a list of agencies that residents can contact that offer low-cost spay and neuter programs. Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that the complete list can be found on

the Mix in the Morning Facebook page. Additionally, the Georgia Department of Agriculture has a website for its dog and cat sterilization program at [goo.fl/mctr6sU](http://goo.fl/mctr6sU)  
Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30am for a total of three minutes

October 23, 2013: Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that the Macon Police Department continues to investigate the release of dogs at the All About Animals animal shelter last week. Late last Wednesday or early Thursday someone entered the facility and released approximately 40 dogs of various breeds. Three dogs were killed by other dogs during the incident and several others were injured. According to Jami Gaudet of the police department, there is no evidence that organized dog fighting was involved or a motivation for the incident. The animal rights group PETA is offering up to \$45,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the incident.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of eight minutes

November 18, 2013: Bond was set Friday for a Macon woman arrested and charged with criminal trespass and cruelty to animals for last month's break-in at All About Animals Shelter on Riverside Drive. 36-year old Crystal Gayle Fessler was arrested last Thursday afternoon and charged with criminal trespass, 13 counts of cruelty to animals and a probation violation. Bond for Fessler was set at \$9,100. She must also stay away from the shelter, avoid controlled substances and weapons, and not break any other laws. Fessler is accused of breaking into the shelter on October 17th and releasing up to 40 dogs from their pens. A dogfight ensued, leaving several dogs dead, according to Gail Daniels, reporting on the story today on Mix in the Morning.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of five minutes.

November 20, 2013: Bibb County commissioners have approved Animal Welfare Director Sarah Tenon's request to add three additional animal control officers and an office manager to the shelter's current staff. Tenon said adding the additional officers to the current roster of four will reduce overtime and allow the department some flexibility if an officer is out sick. According to Gail Daniels on Mix in the Morning, commissioners also approved paying \$38,960 to repair a truck in the department as well as additional funds to purchase two new animal transports.

Recap: Story ran at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of four minutes

November 26, 2013: Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that Macon-Bibb County Animal Welfare is hosting an adopt-a-thon now through Wednesday November 25th. During the promotion, the cost to adopt a pet has been reduced to \$40. A \$50 refundable spay/neuter deposit is required. The fees include rabies and other necessary shots for up to a year. The agency is also looking for sponsors to help cover the costs of adoption fees for those that can't afford it.

Recap: The story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of two minutes

December 23, 2013: According to news anchor Gail Daniels on Mix in the Morning, a local woman is offering a unique Christmas gift for Macon. Kerri Hatcher Fickling is offering to personally pay for any female dog to be spayed. Fickling, who owns a real

estate business with her husband, says she will even take time off work to pick up your dog, take her to the vet and return her to you. Fickling is a passionate animal advocate. She says she wants to have 2,000 dogs spayed. Anyone in Macon interested in having their dogs spayed should contact Kerri through her facebook page, Daniels says.