**Current Events
February 4, 2015**

**NATIONAL**

*Pizza and obesity*Pizza may be the leading cause of childhood obesity according to a recent study by University of Illinois. Researchers determined that children consume more fat, calories, and salt on days that they eat pizza. The negative effects on adolescents are even greater.

*Friendship 9 acquitted*On January 28, 2015, the eight activists still alive who took part in civil rights work during their tenure as students at Rock Hill, South Carolina’s Friendship College, were acquitted. In 1961 nine friends planned a sit-in at the local “all white” lunch counter. While this strategy had worked in 1960 at the Woolworth’s lunch counter in Greensborough, NC, it did not work in SC for these young men. They served 30 years in jail, and carried a sentence with them for 54 years. *Romney is not running in 2016*Presidential candidate in 2012, Mitt Romney (R-Utah), will not make a run for the presidency in 2016. In denying a third run for the nation’s highest office, Romney said that he would give other Republican candidates a chance to aspire to the position. He took no questions from reporters.

*Measles outbreak*What began in California during the month of January has now become a national fear. A measles outbreak has infected 92 people in California, with its origin traced to a traveler from Brazil who was most likely infected before traveling to CA. This outbreak puts the young, pregnant women, and those with immune deficiencies at highest risk for possible infection. This outbreak brings the controversy surrounding vaccines to light, with every state having different laws surrounding this. Clinics and hospitals also have to figure out how to screen those potentially infected without exposing other patients to the deadly virus. *Bobbi Kristina Brown*Over the weekend the daughter of the late Whitney Houston and singer Bobbi Brown was found face down and unresponsive in the bathtub of her Atlanta-area home. The cause of the incident is under investigation, with doctors indicating some kind of medical situation. Brown remains hospitalized and sedated. Her condition is guarded. On February 11, 2012, Houston was found dead in the bathtub.

*Airport security gap*The newest security breech at the airport comes not from passengers clearing security, but the security workers themselves. Once initially screened as a new hire, thebackground screening is not repeated, nor are employees screened daily as they enter their jobs in the airport.

*Drone crashed into WhiteHouse grounds*
a government intelligence agency worker showed a drone to a female friend. He crashed it into the WhiteHouse grounds. The President was not home at the time. The man confessed, but the story has raised increased questions about WhiteHouse security.

**INTERNATIONAL**

*ISIS murder Japanese victim*The group ISIS has claimed responsibility for allegedly beheading a Japanese free lance journalist, Kenji Goto. *ISIS is an Islamic rebel group that operates in Iraq, Syria, and Libya seeking to create a Sunni state.

Jordanians execute two al-Qada prisoners in response to killing*The Jordanian government hanged two prisoners after ISIS published a video of a Jordanian pilot being burned to death while trapped in a metal cage. The gruesome death of 26-year-old Lt. Muath Al-Kaseasbeh, captured while participating in airstrikes by a U.S.-led coalition targeting the militants, sparked outrage across the Middle East and anti-Islamic State protests in Jordan

*Plane crash in Taiwan*Rescuers scrambled to rescue 58 people from aboard a turboprop plane that crashed in the river after taking off in Taipei, Taiwan. This is the second crash of this airline in six months. At least 20 people are dead.

*MPs say yes to three-person babies*
The UK is introducing laws to allow babies to be made from three people by removing harmful genes from the mother and adding helpful genes from a donor parent. Some people fear this will lead to designer babies, but other say this will ensure healthier humans.

*RAF fighters intercept Russian bombers*
Two Russian bombers “caused disruption to civil aviation” when they flew near British airspace but did not cross into it. The British jets escorted the bombers for about an hour and a half until the bombers left the area.

**LOCAL**

*$17 million bridge law suit*Following the devastating collapse of the Skagit bridge in May 2013, the Washington State Department of Transportation is seeking $17 million to help defray the cost incurred in rebuilding the bridge. The bridge collapsed after an oversized load hit a support beam. Named in the suit are William Scott, the truck driver whose oversized truck hit the bridge; the driver's employer, Mullen Trucking LP; the pilot car driver, Tammy Detray, and her company, G&T Crawlers; and the owner of the metal shed being transported, Saxon Energy Services, Inc.

*New public university drawings approved, budget sought*
Washington State University is seeking $61 million from the State of Washington to construct the state’s newest four year, public university. Everett would be home to the four-story, 95,000-square-foot building in the north corner of the parking lot of the College Plaza shopping center. Regents of WSU approved the drawings of the University Center of North Puget Sound.

*Three children found abandoned in Lake Stevens*
Two 32 year old parents were arrested after abandoning three kids in Lake Stevens. Police were called Saturday after reports of abuse, including a padlocked seven year old girl, a three year old, and 11 month old baby who were living in filth, with no food or heat.