You can’t talk about Georgia’s radio talk show hosts without talking about Herman Cain. He grew up in Atlanta and his father worked three jobs— as a janitor, a barber and a chauffeur. His mother was a domestic worker.

According to his website on WSB radio, Herman’s parents had two dreams. First, they wanted to own their own house. Secondly, they wanted both of their children to graduate from college. After years of saving from his many jobs, Herman’s father surprised the whole family, even his wife, by purchasing a home for their family on Albert Street in Atlanta. The second dream was realized when Herman graduated from Morehouse College with a degree in mathematics in 1967. He earned his Master’s degree in computer science from Purdue University while working full-time developing fire control systems for ships and fighter planes for the Department of the Navy.

Herman returned to Atlanta to begin working as a computer systems analyst for the Coca-Cola Company. He later moved on to the Pillsbury Company where he soon rose to vice president and then became the regional vice president of Pillsbury’s Burger King division before taking on what he has called the biggest challenge of his career— president and CEO of Godfather’s Pizza, a company that was teetering on the edge of bankruptcy. In just 14 months, Herman returned Godfather’s to profitability and he led his management team to a buyout of the company.

Herman ran for U.S. Senate in 2004, and came in second, then soon became the host of his own radio talk show, “The Herman Cain Show,” on Atlanta’s WSB 95.5 FM/AM 750. And the rest is history. Today, as a former Republican candidate for the presidency, and as the CEO of the newly formed Cain’s Solutions Revolution, he is still an outspoken voice for conservative issues.
When Neal Boortz retired from radio, Austin Rhodes gained a new distinction: He became the longest running daily current events and political talk show host at one station. July 2016 marks 24 years at WGAC in Augusta and he has no plans of leaving anytime soon.

“I have had opportunities,” he said. “But this is home. I can stay right here and make a real difference in my hometown. To be able to have that type of impact is incredible.”

One of those impacts is current WSB reporter Lori Geary. She was his intern when he worked at WMTZ TV. “I knew from the start she had the spark,” he said.

Rhodes grew up in Augusta, and his parents graduated from Richmond Academy, the oldest public high school in the country. He began his career in Augusta in 1974 when he met Matt Stovall (who worked at WGAC) at the community theatre.

In 1989, Rhodes was hired as an assignment editor at the now defunct WMTZ, but returned to WGAC in 1992.

While he has many memories of great interviews over the years, one stands out in his mind. It was an interview with George W. Bush. Rhodes had his young daughter Christine with him during the interview, and President Bush “seemed mesmerized by my daughter.” Rhodes said the president picked up his daughter and went to the other side of the room and chatted with her for about 10 minutes. “He whispered a secret to my daughter and told her she could tell me on my next birthday. She kept the secret until then, then told me that President Bush had said, ‘Your dad is the luckiest dad in the whole wide world.’"

Rhodes shared what he felt was a “well-kept secret.” “Herman Cain got his start in radio filling in for me after his failed Senate run. And I had to talk him into doing it.”

Rhodes may be the longest running current talk host, but he gives much credit to Neal Boortz for “being the best.” “Boortz is the single greatest talk show host who has ever broadcast in this country.”

Rhodes is married to Bobbie, an English teacher. His daughter Christine now works with U.S. Rep. Rick Allen (after working on his successful campaign), and his son Beau is in the second grade.

The Radio Edition of Hometown Headlines premiered in April 2011 hosted by John Druckenmiller, the 57-year-old owner and publisher of the Hometown Headlines’ family of websites since January 2004. In the daily news broadcasts, “Druck”— a 34-year media veteran— interviews Northwest Georgia’s newsmakers about the community’s critical issues ranging from politics to business to health and more. Guests have included U.S. Senators Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson; U.S. Congressman Tom Graves; state Labor Commissioner Mark Butler; and members of the Northwest Georgia legislative delegation. Local business, government and community leaders also join the radio program each weekday. Each day, more than 1,700 people get tomorrow’s Rome news today on Hometown Headlines (weekends and holidays included).

In his media career, Druckenmiller has worked for four Georgia newspapers including the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the Fulton County Daily Report, The Times in Gainesville and The News-Tribune in Rome. Other career stops include USA Today, Florida Today, The...
Fresno (California) Bee, the Fort Myers (Florida) News-Press and The Ledger (Lakeland, Florida). A Barberton, Ohio native, he is a graduate of the University of Florida’s College of Journalism and Communication. He is married to the former Jean Wilkening, and they have one son, Jack, 12.

**Bryan Crabtree**

Bryan Crabtree began broadcasting at WDBL in Springfield, TN in 1993 while attending Springfield High School, and is celebrating 22 years in radio. He was invited into radio when he was in 10th grade geometry class when his (prior year) freshman English teacher called him out of class. He initially thought he was “in trouble” but he found out differently when his teacher told him he had a technical talent she would hate to see go to waste.

After hosting an afternoon program for more than a year, he moved his radio career to Nashville’s Award Winning WSIX, “The Big 98,” where he produced Hollywood Nights (nominated for 1996 Country Music Association Large Market Host of the Year). While in Nashville, Crabtree simultaneously hosted a Sunday show syndicated on more than 250 Christian radio stations.

Crabtree hosted mornings on WPZM in Huntsville before moving to Memphis for Heritage WGKX as production director and on-air talent.

In May 2013, he began hosting mornings on Simulcast Talker WQSC 1340 and AM950, The Voice. Bryan is now the Live afternoon host on Atlanta’s Biz1190 from 4-6pm weekdays and airing again on AM 920 The Answer from 9-11pm.

His real estate show with his wife, Mackenzie Crabtree, can be heard on Saturday at 9am on AM920 The Answer and Noon on Sunday on Biz 1190. Additionally, his Crabtree Chronicle (focusing on local Atlanta issues) is heard throughout the day on AM 920 The Answer.

Crabtree has provided a unique model of talk radio information to the Atlanta community by inspiring greatness in his stories, speaking for the silent majority and adding common sense to common issues we face.

He admits his favorite part of his job is when he can
research a story and find the truth that most of the media can’t see. Explaining that to his audience “provides me with a great deal of reward.”

In contrast, his least favorite part is the raw nature in which he sees and observes society. “It’s sad to watch our society become so apathetic as it degrades.”

One of his most enlightening interviews was one he conducted with a colleague and his wife in real estate—a Muslim. In the wake of a terror attack in America she vividly described how her family was treated both in school, society and in business.

Kim Peterson (known to fans as “The Kimmertime”) currently hosts a news/information talk-show on Atlanta’s WYAY NewsRadio 106.7 from Noon to 3 P.M. EST. The rowdy show consists of the fast-moving Peterson as host, Pete Davis as co-host/sports anchor/producer, Chad “The Hangman” Potier as associate producer/call screener and show engineer Jon Michael “Jon-Boy” Drain. From 1992 through 2006, he hosted a radio talk show on WGST-AM in Atlanta.

The Kimmertime is a proud Vietnam combat veteran and served in the United States Marine Corps from 1966-1969 with an honorable discharge and rank as Sergeant. He supports Wounded Warriors and the USMC’s Toys for Tots program.

Before becoming a radio host, Peterson was a television anchor in Chicago and New Orleans. He was a write-in candidate for the 1992 Presidential election, receiving 2 votes.

It is noteworthy that WGST and Kim Peterson produced a “best-of” highlights audio CD of his show every year from 1996 to 2005. It was called “The Kimmertime Klassics.” These featured the funniest spots, advertisements, commentaries, and “newsmaker-line” calls for that year. One year the CD included an additional DVD of the Kimmertime roast event. The final CD was released in December 2005; it included a bonus disc with all 10 years of “Kimmertime Klassics” in mp3 format. All CD sales profits were donated to the U.S. Marine Corps “Toys for Tots” program as part of the WGST yearly Christmas fund drive.

The politically well-connected Tim Bryant has been the news director for WGAU in Athens since 1998 and works as correspondent for WSB Radio, ABC and the Associated Press. Previously, he was a commentator for the British Broadcasting Corporation and Radio New Zealand.

An affable and sometimes unpredictable interviewer, Bryant is the co-host of Classic City Today with Jennifer Pointer, who has been working at Cox Media Group Athens since January 2016. Formerly, she was the face of Forsyth County News. Bryant previously hosted the “Zoller & Bryant” morning drive show (with longtime Gainesville talk radio host Martha Zoller) on WGAU before she left her hosting duties to join the staff of U.S. Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga.

A 1980 graduate of Cairo High School, he started work at a radio station “because it offered $15 more a week than the newspaper did.” Bryant elaborates:

“This was in Bainbridge in 1988. I had left a two-year college to do an internship at the National Journalism Center in Washington (working with the late Evans and Novak). Came back and heard that both the local newspaper and the local radio station were looking for part-time help covering cops and Council meetings. For $15 a week, a radio career was born. My first day on the job—my very first story—was breaking the news that Bainbridge High School had hired a new football coach. His name was Sonny Smart. His son’s name is Kirby.”

The reference, of course, is to new University of Georgia football coach Kirby Smart.