

QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAMS LIST

WRSA-FM
Holly Pond, Alabama

THIRD QUARTER 2023
July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023

Placed in Public File October 10, 2023

NEWS/WEATHER/TRAFFIC

WRSA-FM provides News and Weather reports every half hour from 6am until 8am; Traffic updates run every 15 minutes from 5:45am until 8:30am, during morning drive time, then every 15 minutes beginning at 3:45pm until 6pm during afternoon drive.

Weather updates are provided at the top of the hour from 9am through the first morning report the following day. News updates are also provided at the top of the hours of 4, 5 and 6pm for afternoon drive.

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

WRSA-FM is a participating station in the Alabama Emergency Alert System. Weekly tests are performed as required.

TOURS

WRSA-FM Mix 96.9 conducts tours of our station for anyone desiring to know more about radio and our operations. Tours are limited to children over age 5, with adult supervision through adults and include information about the stations origin, how traffic and commercials work, discussion about broadcast equipment, and viewing the tower. They may also watch on-air personalities in action and potentially be allowed to say something live. Tours are scheduled in the afternoon or on school holiday.

Station Tour Date	Business/School	Contact	# of Participants/Age

MUNICIPAL (CITY/COUNTY/STATE); POLITICAL; ROADS; CRIME; TRAVEL/SAFETY; EDUCATION)

7/3

Police in Somerville are searching for a man who broke into and stole from a grocery store. Officers say this man broke into Somerville Grocery on State Highway 67 Saturday night. In the surveillance the video man breaks the glass on the front door, runs behind the counter, grabs several items and then runs out. What was stolen and how much it's worth - is not known.

48 is on your side in Decatur, where plans for a dance studio are creating controversy. A lot of people aren't happy about *where* it will be built. It will be right at this parking lot, located at the corner of East Moulton Street and First Avenue, that's according to our partners at the Decatur Daily. Local leaders set aside 19 million dollars for the Alabama Center for the Arts dance studio. It will be used by local colleges and Decatur City Schools. While great for education, local business owners are concerned it's taking away parking for their customers. City leaders say there will be more parking available when the new parking deck on First Avenue is complete. They say construction on the dance studio will not start until the parking deck is complete.

As it is a holiday weekend, Huntsville Police will have D-U-I check points around the city. If you are stopped at one of these checkpoints, be prepared to show your I-D, insurance, and registration.

If you don't want to spend money on fireworks, or deal with the clean-up - there are quite a few firework shows this week all across the Valley, including: the Red, White and Boom Fireworks show Tuesday night at Athens Middle School. It starts at 8. Fireworks over Lake Guntersville will start Tuesday night at 9. The Smith Lake Park's Firework Show will also start Tuesday night at 9. All of these shows are free.

7/5

A 62-year-old Florence cancer patient who was missing is back home with his family - thanks to a massive search effort. William Chapin has stage 4 cancer. Authorities say he got disoriented and wandered off Monday. Yesterday, 16-different agencies including the Air Force banded together to track him down. After some 40-hours of searching, they found him only a mile and a half from where he was last seen. Sgt. Matt Burbank with the Lauderdale County Sheriff's Office says they were able to find him by tracking the last ping from his cell phone which had already died.

A fire in Huntsville has forced an adult and child out of their home. This all happened at a home on Penny Street near Drake Avenue yesterday afternoon. Huntsville Assistant Fire Marshal Trent Bennett says the home was heavily damaged but not a total loss. The fire also damaged a neighbor's home. One person has minor burn injuries from the fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Enrollment is up this summer for community colleges across the state. Our news partners at the Times Daily say Alabama Community College Enrollment is up more than 10 and a half percent this summer. The System is reporting 21 of the state's 23 community colleges are seeing an increase in students. Typically, these numbers dip during periods of high employment. But, the schools are *thriving while Alabama's unemployment numbers remain at an all-time low.

If you live in Limestone County, C-S-X Railroad crews will be shutting down and working on 14-different crossings over the next three weeks. They will work on each crossing for 2-to-3-days and then move on to the next. So expect delays for a good while as the project gets underway. If you want a full list of impacted crossings, check out our website at WAFF-DOT-COM.

7/7

In Madison County, State troopers are investigating after a pedestrian was hit by car. It happened on highway 231-431 near Steger Road in Meridianville around 9 last night. Don Webster with HEMSI says the driver of the car hit the person in the northbound lane....The victim died at the scene. The northbound lanes were closed for hours, but have since reopened. State troopers haven't identified the victim at this time.

Now to an update on an unusual armed robbery at a Decatur gas station. Police are now saying the suspect threatened the clerk with fireworks. Decatur Police say Jeffrey Gladden parked his jeep at a gas pump at the Texaco on 6th avenue and told the clerk he didn't have any money. When the clerk refused to give him gas, police say he opened the back of his jeep, showing off a bunch of fireworks, and threatened to blow up the gas station. The clerk says Gladden continued threatening him until he got 70-dollars worth of gas. A witness called police, leading to a brief chase where he was arrested.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars are going the city of Rainsville to help upgrade the 40-year old sewer system. Governor Ivey awarded 350-thousand dollars in grant money for the improvements. That's on top of 500-thousand dollars in grants the city already had. Brad Willingham, who runs the city's water department, says whenever the city gets a lot of rain, it causes the old and damaged pipes to back up, causing sewage overflows. He says these overflows are not in heavily populated areas but it's still a problem that needs to be fixed.

7/11

Happening right now, the frantic search is on for the missing kidnapped baby. Many of you received an alert on your smartphone last night about this. 9 month old Harlow Freeman has brown hair and blue eyes. She was last seen just before 7 last night in Walker County in the Parrish community. Officials say she was wearing a tie dye onesie and light pink shorts. Authorities believe she is in extreme danger. They also say the people who took her may be traveling in a white 2009 Lexus R-X-350. If you spot that car, Harlow, or anything suspicious, call 911. Of course, we will continue to follow this story...and keep you updated on the 48 news app.

In Limestone County, the bridge on Sand Springs Road between Thatch and Bethel Road is closed until further notice. Officials say the closure is due to deterioration over time. County inspectors discovered the issue and closed it as a precaution. They will start accepting bids to repair the bridge.

If you live near Hazel Green, prepare for delays if you drive on the bridge over the West Fork Flint River. Crews with the Alabama Department of Transportation will be repairing the northbound lanes of the bridge over the next few weeks. The bridge is on Highway 231/431 north of Hazel Green. Outside northbound lanes will be closed all this week. Inside northbound lanes will be closed next week.

7/13

Happening today, some Alabama lawmakers will be heading to Montgomery to work on creating a new congressional district map. It comes after the Supreme Court's decision, mandating a second majority Black congressional district be created. More than 100 map suggestions have been submitted so far. House Minority leader Anthony Daniels, who is on the re-districting committee, believes the submissions need to be reviewed thoroughly. Representative Daniels will be co-hosting a town hall meeting with Representative Laura Hall Monday at 4:30 p.m. at Mae Jemison High School.

A sad update to a story we brought you as breaking news. Police are telling us that a woman involved in a fiery crash Monday has died. Police say Elizabeth Lively died from her injuries at Huntsville Hospital on Wednesday. Lively was only 20 years old. Lively was involved in an accident on Governors Drive near Monte Sano Boulevard on Monday morning. Officers say the crash is still under investigation.

One local pilot is ready to get back in air after crashing his plane into trees in Limestone County. Bill Gildersleeve says his engine malfunctioned during an afternoon flight yesterday. His plane crashed into the tree line not far from his backyard. With his plane stuck in the tree, he found he couldn't get out and cried for help. His neighbor's son heard him screaming for help, and the boy's mother called firefighters. With the help of a bucket truck from Athens Utilities, Gildersleeve made it safely to ground. This isn't the first crash he's survived. This is number two. But he says it won't keep him from flying again. He says it could be a few days before someone can get his plane out of the trees.

Auburn football legend and former NFL star *Cam Newton* will be in Huntsville tonight. He is the guest speaker for a *Boys and Girls Club* fundraiser and dinner. If you have tickets...a reminder the event starts tonight at the VBC in Huntsville. But if you were waiting to buy a ticket...the event is now sold out.

7/17

Many of you are dealing with the impact of the storms that ripped through the Tennessee Valley. WAFF 48 is staying in contact with E-M-A officials. We have visited several areas with reported damage. But widespread power outages impacted thousands. Huntsville Utilities is reporting more than 22 hundred customers w/o power. 17,000 had no power at one point. Utility officials told us 8 poles had to be replaced, and 15 lines were knocked down due to the strong storms. We have damage reports from the shoals to Sand Mountain right now on the 48-news app.

State troopers have confirmed a 16-year-old from Hazel Green was killed in a wreck on Elkmont Section Road. We told you about this as breaking news, minutes after it happened Saturday night. Investigators are not releasing the victim's name due to their age. They say the teenager was driving a car, left the road and hit a tree stump. The cause of the crash is being investigated to see if weather played a factor.

It's a big week for many students and administrators in the Tennessee Valley. Students in Morgan County, Albertville, Florence and Athens are returning to the classroom. There will be more schools starting back as well. WAFF 48 is *your back-to-school station. We'll give you updates all this week on security improvements, classroom expansion and the effort to find new teachers.

Huntsville city leaders will make a major announcement this week, promising to talk about a *premier global sports championship event* coming to town. Our sources are being tight lipped about what this might be. We'll all find out together tomorrow morning at 10, when city and county leaders make the announcement. You'll be the first to know, if you have the *48 news app* with your alerts turned on.

7/18

We begin with breaking news in Madison County where one man is dead after a wreck in Owens Crossroads. According to Don Webster with HEMSI, it happened around 9 last night. He adds that the car flipped ejecting the man. The accident happened at the intersection of Hwy. 431 and Sutton Road. As soon as we get more information, we'll let you know.

Here's a warning before you meet up to buy anything online. In broad daylight, a buyer went to meet up with the alleged seller and instead got a gun pulled on them. Huntsville Police say the two were meeting for a Facebook Marketplace sale on Lynn Circle near the parkway. That is when the suspect allegedly pulled a gun, took money from the victim and ran. No one was injured. Several valley police departments now offer Safe Trade zones with surveillance cameras recording the entire transaction.

A Madison County man originally charged with the murder of his son will now get off with probation. In a plea deal, Bradley Parker pled guilty to manslaughter, moments before jury selection for his trial. This comes only a few months after his wife, Aleisha Parker, was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to 20 years in prison. In her trial, prosecutors proved the couple was fighting while their 13-month-old son, Dante Parker, was in the room. The state argued the couple's fight ended when the gun

they were fighting over went off, killing their son. Bradley Parker received probation because he is the sole parent of the couple's remaining child.

Covering your community in Guntersville, Hydrofest is returning for another year. Despite storms during this year's race, the event brought in big numbers for Marshall County. It generated 3-million dollars in economic impact. Hydrofest's social media posts got international attention, reaching over one-million people and 200 thousand engaging through likes, shares, and comments. 18thousand people attended the weekend event. The events coordinator, Katy Norton, said hotels were full and ticket sales included 21 states, Germany and Australia.

7/19

Last night's storms cause widespread power outages and damage. Trees are down across the Tennessee Valley. In Marshall County, Strong winds blew off part of the roof off at City harbor in Guntersville. And in Limestone County, Several trees fell on the Athens State campus. A lot of them fell right near Founders Hall.

At one point, more than 26-thousand Huntsville Utility customers were without power. At last check, crews were able to cut that down by roughly 20-thousand - now leaving around 6-thousand without power in Huntsville. 6-thousand Athens Utilities customers are in the dark. More than 13 hundred don't have electricity in Lauderdale County. Crews have been out all night and this morning working to restore power. The 48 first alert weather team is tracking another round of rain and potential storms later this morning...

Madison County Deputies are sending out an urgent warning that the person on the other end of your phone call may not be the person you think. Brent Patterson with the Madison County Sheriff's Office says they are seeing an increase in scam calls. Patterson says these scammers are using every trick in the book to take your hard-earned money. Even if the caller I-D says law enforcement, Patterson says don't trust it. If you think you are being scammed, hang up and call 9-1-1 to report the caller.

Smoke from the Canadian wildfires lingers across the country, including here in the Tennessee Valley. Health experts are warning those with respiratory issues be extra cautious. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has issued an air quality alert for Madison County. The current air quality in Huntsville is moderate with an unhealthy alert for sensitive groups. Including people with asthma, C-O-P-D, or any condition that affects your breathing or lungs. Doctor Wes Stubblefield with the state health department says keep your inhaler on hand. Dr. Stubblefield advises if you experience symptoms from the air quality, contact your health care provider.

7/20

Happening now, Huntsville Police are searching for people involved in a shots fired call from Wednesday evening. Police say when they got to the area last night near I-565 and Triana Blvd, they heard gunshots. Many of you saw the commotion and told us about it. Police say the individuals ran away as they closed in. Thankfully, no one is hurt. We will update you as we learn more.

Happening today, Alabama death row inmate is set to be executed. This comes 22 years after James Barber of Madison County murdered 75-year-old Dorothy Epps of Colbert County. Barber wanted to be executed by nitrogen hypoxia. However, a judge has denied his request and he will be executed by lethal injection. WAFF 48'S Matthew King will be in Atmore today and will bring you the latest on the execution of James Barber.

The national weather service is confirming that a tornado touched down in Madison county Tuesday night. The national weather service says an E-F-zero tornado was on the ground for about 4 minutes Tuesday night. It started near Jeff road and Kelly Spring and traveled south and east, ending at Indian Creek and Blake Bottom. That's about a 2-mile stretch. There was some serious damage from the 80 mile per hour winds but luckily no injuries were reported.

One of Alabama's biggest music festivals kicks off today. But with extreme heat in the Valley, organizers want you to be prepared if you're heading to Rock the South. Bringing your own water isn't allowed, however there will be 25 vendors scattered throughout the venue where food and drinks can be purchased. Organizers say heat is one of their biggest concerns this year. In years past they've seen people suffering from heat exhaustion before they even made it through the gates. Organizers are urging concert goers to hydrate...before throwing back the booze. Rock the South officials say they anticipate heat-related issues, and that they have adequate EMS staff for the event. Please have fun but most importantly, be safe.

7/21

We begin with the weather. Overnight storms have knocked out power to thousands in Madison County. Huntsville utilities say they responded to a large outage in NW Huntsville impacting customers from Bob Wade Ln south to Old Madison Pike and from Jeff Rd east to Memorial Parkway.

And breaking overnight...Alabama death row inmate James Barber was executed early this morning after the US Supreme Court denied his request for a stay, despite his claim that lethal injection could result in cruel and unusual punishment. Barber was sentenced to death for the 2001 murder of 75-year-old Dorothy Epps. His time of death was 1:56 a.m. at Holman Correctional Facility in Atmore.

Fort Payne Police are holding 5 people on drug charges while they try to sort out if any of them are connected to a shooting that sent a girl to the hospital. This happened around 2:30 on Wednesday near 16th street and Gault Avenue. Investigators say they were called to a shots fired call and found a 16 year old girl had been hit. She was rushed to the hospital, and she's expected to be okay. Police arrested 5 people who they say all know each another. They're facing drug possession charges, but none have been charged in the shooting at this point.

A woman is facing charges right now after police say she attacked an ER nurse. Decatur police arrested Cheyanne Beard on Wednesday. They say this goes back to an incident at Decatur Morgan hospital last week. Officials say Beard punched a nurse in the emergency room. The arrest report doesn't detail what led up to the incident. Beard is charged with assault.

7/24

Decatur Police are still searching for who shot 2 people at a party. Police say this happened after 10 pm at *All Creations, * on Wolverine Drive. Officers say the man and woman shot were taken to the hospital. They're expected to survive. We spoke with one man who said this was a baptism party. James Evans was there recording video and says someone came in looking to start a fight. He and others ran out before the shooting. Decatur Police arrested 2 men for an un-related incident at the scene, after the shooting. But, again, they're still looking for whoever fired the shots.

A Limestone County teen convicted in the brutal killing of his family will be sentenced tomorrow. Mason Sisk was just 14 when he shot his stepmother, father and 3 younger siblings in 2019. Sisk was found guilty in April. But he is *not* eligible for the death penalty. At the time, his attorney said he believed he had a strong case on appeal. We will be in the Limestone County Courthouse tomorrow, and let you know the ruling.

We are also expecting to learn more about the Sheffield police officer this week, as he could spend 2 years in prison. As were reported, Sergeant *Max Dotson* was convicted on Friday of assault, menacing and reckless endangerment charges. Prosecutors say he threatened a man in a store, he thought was harassing his daughter. He's currently free on bond awaiting an appeal. Sheffield's police chief told our news partners at the *Times Daily* Dotson's employment status will be discussed today. Police are offering a 10-thousand-dollar reward for information in the brutal beating of a man on the final night of the Rock the South festival. Viral video shows multiple people beating and stomping a man named Reid Watts. Cullman police have

seen the video and are looking for those involved. Doctors say he has a broken nose and concussion. Cullman police would like you to call them if you have any information about this beating.

7/25

Now to an update to a story we brought you as breaking news this weekend. A 22 year old is dead, and a Gurley Police Officer is on paid leave after a deadly police chase. On Friday, Hollywood police started chasing a suspect in a Nissan Altima before they called off the chase. Gurley police officer Christopher Whalen joined the chase and later crashed into an innocent bystander, Matthew Norwood on Jordan lane in Huntsville. Norwood was killed in the crash, and Whalen was sent to the hospital. A family friend of the Norwood family says Norwood was a bright, young spirit and was active in the church and he loved to worship through music. No arrest has been announced at this time. Gurley Mayor *Stan Simpson* says Police chief *J.C Martin* is holding an internal investigation into officer Whalen.

Happening today, the Limestone County teen convicted in the brutal killing of his entire family in 2019 will be sentenced. Mason Sisk was just 14 when police say he shot his stepmother, father and 3 younger siblings in 2019. Sisk was found guilty in April. But he is *not* eligible for the death penalty-due to his age. Of course, we will be in the courtroom later and let you know the ruling.

New details in the case that many of you are talking about! Police now say that Carlee Russell -the Hoover woman who claimed to have been kidnapped is coming clean. Russell is admitting that the kidnapping never really happened. This is according to a statement from Russell's attorney. We have been following this case for almost two weeks now. The attorney's statement also saying there was never a baby on I-459 in Jefferson County and that Carlee acted *alone* during this whole situation. Police say Russell was missing for 49 hours and took items from her work before she was reported missing. It's also unclear where Carlee was during those 49 hours. The statement did say she did not leave the Hoover area but that's all we know. Hoover police are set to meet with Russell's attorney today, which should give us more information on charges she could face.

In Albertville...the board of education narrows down the superintendent search to 5 candidates. Board members will begin publicly interviewing each candidate next week. A public meeting will be held at the Fine Arts Center from 6-7 pm- starting August 1st. You're asked to send in your questions to the candidates. We have more information on the candidates plus where you can send your questions on waff.com.

7/28

Alabama Senator, Tim Melson, who represents parts of North Alabama is in critical condition after having a heart attack. He was on a state recruiting trip in South Korea with fellow lawmakers when he suddenly fell to the floor in a coffee shop. Fellow Senator Arthur Orr administered CPR. Soon after - sources say paramedics arrived took Melson to a nearby hospital along the DMZ. He was transported from a rural hospital to a larger facility in Seoul, last night. Melson's wife and family are traveling to Seoul today to be with him. Melson represents District 1 which is all of Lauderdale County, a part of Limestone and a small section of Madison County.

A corrections officer and two inmates are facing murder charges, accused of killing *another inmate in south Alabama. Sergeant Demarcus Sanders, Frederick Gooden, and Stefranio Hampton are each charged with murder in the death of Rubyn Murray. This happened Wednesday at Elmore Correctional. Officials say Murray was involved in a fight with officers outside his cell. He was taken to a holding area. Officials say inmates Gooden and Hampton got into that holding area and attacked and killed Murray. Sergeant Sanders has resigned from his position after being charged. Investigators are being vague about how he was involved.

A popular area in Huntsville is currently covered in trash. Many of you are voicing your concerns on social media about the growing piles of garbage around the MidCity district. The Executive Director of MidCity

District saw the concerns online and worked with the city to find a solution quickly. Now, a contractor will be doing trash pick-up twice a day, seven days a week. She welcomes people going to social media to be heard because it keeps the city accountable.

7/31

A new police report has shed some light as to why a prison guard is charged with murder in Elmore County. Earlier this week - we told you that jail sergeant D'Marcus Sanders and inmates Fredrick Gooden and Stefranio Hampton were charged with killing inmate Rubyn Murray. The new police report shows Murray was beaten to death in a holding area. According to investigators, Sergeant Sanders escorted Gooden and Hampton to the back gate and unlocked the cell, allowing them into the cell to attack and beat Murray. The report does not go into detail on why investigators think he did this. Sanders resigned after being charged and is being held without bond.

In *Madison County...Around 20 people were forced out of their homes after an apartment fire in Huntsville. The fire was at the Wedgewood Apartments on Newson Road. Huntsville Fire Chief Jay Gates tells us firefighters arrived at the scene a little after 10 yesterday morning. Don Webster with HEMSI says one person was treated for smoke inhalation at the scene. Volunteers with the North Alabama Red Cross helped the residents find a place to spend the night. The cause of this fire is still under investigation.

The hottest time of the year just got worse for people in the Valley who depend on help from The Salvation Army. The A-C at one area Salvation Army location went out - and it landed several in the hospital. Don Webster with HEMSI has confirmed three people who were staying there - were hospitalized due to heat-related illnesses. They got overheated because of the A-C outage. Salvation Army officials say we should know today... ..when they're going to replace three units. For now, they're serving meals with fans blowing to keep people in need as cool as possible. Major Mark Smith, Director of The Salvation Army in Huntsville, says replacing the units will cost more than 70-thousand dollars. Although this will be an expensive fix, Smith says in the peak of summer, it must be done.

8/1

After the recent kidnapping hoax by Carlee Russell, one state Senator is responding with a bill to prevent others from doing the same thing. Senator April Weaver says will introduce a bill in the next regular legislative session that creates a new felony crime for faking an abduction. Right now, Russell only faces *misdemeanors after police say she faked her abduction earlier this month. Weaver says she's meeting with law enforcement to determine exactly what type of felony the crime will carry.

Healthcare providers in Alabama have filed a lawsuit against the state's attorney general. They're seeking clarity on whether they could face criminal charges for helping women get abortions outside the state. It comes after recent comments by Attorney General Steve Marshall, who said that while state law can't be used to prosecute a woman for getting an abortion outside of Alabama. But it could possibly allow for prosecution of entities that help facilitate those visits. These healthcare providers say this would illegally extend Alabama's abortion ban outside of its borders.

8/2

The search continues for a missing kayaker on the Tennessee River in Guntersville. U-S Coast Guard officials and State Troopers say the kayaker was hit by a barge Monday night near the Guntersville Dam. Dive teams recovered a kayak, a life jacket, and a paddle from the area but not the kayaker. Another kayaker was involved in the incident, but was able to make it out of the water. Of course, we will update you as we learn more.

Today is the day. Almost 23-thousand Huntsville City Schools students head back to the classroom for the first day of school. But they aren't the only ones starting a new chapter. Dr. Clarence Sutton also has his first day of school as the new superintendent. Dr. Sutton says he spent his summer improving security, recruiting new teachers, and ensuring that students have a safe and successful year. At the end of last year, the district lost around 200 teachers. Now, they have less than 20 vacancies. As for students' safety, they have 66 security officers working alongside school resource officers this year. Sutton says they will also continue using the Evolv weapon detection system that they implemented during the spring. Dr. Sutton added that his top priority this year is improving communication and collaboration among teachers, students and their families.

Also happening today, nearly 20-thousand students and staff are preparing to return to Madison County Schools. As that happens, the superintendent wants you to know that the district is trying to implement measures to make sure everything is in order. Superintendent Ken Kubik said having ample transportation and teachers are key. Safety is the other major topic on his mind going into this year. That includes hiring two additional school resource officers and contracting with off-duty Madison County Sheriff's deputies to work at schools without SROs. The district also added five airlock chambers to schools and plans on putting weapons detection systems in every school.

8/3

It's back to school today for many students...including Tuscumbia and Muscle Shoals. Muscle Shoals superintendent's main focus is on the well-being of the students -both physically and emotionally. Superintendent Dr. Chad Holden says the district will also be upgrading their security systems. There will be new cameras and a visitor system that scans drivers' licenses of visitors, for a background check. Dr. Holden's main focus this year though, is helping students come to school feeling supported, safe and ready to learn. He says he is looking to create that type of learning environment across the board in all Muscle Shoals schools.

Several other school districts are also starting back this morning. They include Madison City Schools, Sheffield City Schools and Decatur City Schools. We spoke with the superintendents for each of these districts. For the full stories, head over to our website at waff-dot-com.

Now to a story, we brought you as breaking news out of Marshall County last night. The person Deputies says is responsible for a shooting near Grant is waking up behind bars this morning. This is according to the Marshall County Sheriff's Office. The search for the suspect played out in the area of Swearingin Road and Olinger. Deputies say during a *traffic stop, the alleged shooter took off into the woods on foot. They say the suspect is connected to a shooting over the weekend. We are asking more questions about the identity of the suspect. As soon as we learn more , we'll update you on the 48 News app.

Governor Kay Ivey is speaking out for the first time since President Biden decided to make Colorado Springs the home of the Space Command Headquarters. Former President Donald Trump promised to build the headquarters in Huntsville during the final days his administration. The decision was up in the air until this week. Military leaders say Biden made the right call because Colorado Springs was already home to the temporary headquarters. This means they can be fully operational in just a few weeks. Governor Ivey says Huntsville was the right decision, no matter what. Ivey sent out a statement saying quote.....its a great disappointment that was based on political science and not rocket science. Study after study showed Huntsville was the best place for space command to be and I still support that. Im very disappointed in the decision the president made. End quote.

8/4

A motorcyclist is dead after wreck in Huntsville. This happened on I-565. Don Webster with HEMS1 tells us it happened just after 9 in the westbound lanes near the Research Park Blvd exit. We're told a man on the

motorcycle, collided with a car. Police say he died on the scene. The driver of the car was not hurt. We are asking more questions about the victim and the crash.

Now to Morgan County where a 19-year-old corrections officer was behind bars, in the same jail he used to oversee. Deputies arrested Bobby Simmons as part of an ongoing investigation into jail contraband by the Drug Enforcement Unit. Simmons is charged with promoting prison contraband. He has since bonded out of jail.

Many students are headed back to school today. So expect more traffic. Colbert County, Limestone County, Jackson County, Scottsboro, and Dekalb County all heading back to campus today.

8/7

Many of you are dealing with the impact of the storms that ripped through the Tennessee Valley. WAFF 48 is staying in contact with E-M-A officials. We have visited several areas with reported damage. But widespread power outages impacted thousands. Huntsville Utilities is reporting more than 22 hundred customers without and 17,000 had no power at one point. Utility officials told us 8 poles had to be replaced, and 15 lines were knocked down due to the strong storms. We have damage reports from the shoals to sand mountain right now on the 48-news app.

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8/8

Some sad news to report this morning, lightning struck and killed a man in Florence Monday afternoon on Kendall Drive in the Florence Industrial Park. Officials say the victim was a 28-year-old man. Police say the man was at work when he was struck by lightning in the Party Pros Warehouse parking lot. The name of the man has not yet been released.

Students and administrators in Lauderdale County, are waking up this morning ready to head back to school. The Superintendent says parents, you can rest easy knowing they've upgraded the security systems this year. Lauderdale County Schools received a 400-thousand-dollar grant to make these upgrades. Superintended Jerry Hill says this is part of a 2-step approach. Last year...new safety locks and 360-degree cameras were installed. They also put a locking system on all school doors.

It's a state-wide search happening right now for a murder convict who escaped from prison. Prison officials with ADOC said Jordan Thomas escaped from Staton Correctional Facility in Elmore Monday. We are asking more questions about how he escaped the prison. He is 5'8" and has several distinctive tattoos, including an I-65 tattoo on his neck. Thomas was serving a life sentence for murder. If you see him, call the police.

8/9

A Decatur man is in jail accused of setting his own wife on fire inside their apartment. 40-year old Riley Willis is charged with arson and domestic violence. He is being held without bond. It happened at Summer Courtyard Apartments on Acadia Drive yesterday morning. Police say Willis used an accelerant to set his wife and their apartment on fire before hiding inside *another apartment, where he was found by police and arrested. Police say the woman has burns over 40-percent of her body. The victim is at the UAB Burn Center where she was last in critical condition.

We now know the name of the man killed by lightning at the Florence Industrial Complex Monday. The Lauderdale County coroner identified the man as 28-year-old Marquin Russell. The coroner says he was struck sometime before 2 Monday afternoon. Florence Police say Russell went to his car to take a break when he was struck and killed by the lightning strike. We talked to his father, Marquin Russell Senior who said his son was a loving and kind hearted young man. He also wanted to thank the city of Florence for embracing his son and his family during this tough time.

Today is a first alert weather day...Remember, the best way for you to stay up to date on the latest forecasts is to use our 48 first alert weather app. You can download it from any major app store. With the app you'll get moment by moment updates during severe weather and forecasts everyday from our expert team of meteorologists.

Many schools and administrators in the Tennessee Valley will start the new school year today. Athens City, Albertville City, Cullman City and County and Lawrence County Schools - just to name a few - are all heading back today. Keep those back-to-school pictures coming. Plus waff dot com has all your back-to-school resources.

8/10

Several families in the Athens area are waking up in a place that's not their home after lightning struck their homes. Limestone County's EMA director says three confirmed lightning strikes happened Wednesday. A home on Mooresville Road has a gaping hole from the lightning strike. Homeowners say this happened around 4 PM yesterday. Thankfully, no one was hurt but now that family is without a home right now. The red cross is helping that family in this house.

And homeowners on Summit Lake Drive suffered a similar fate when lightning hit the chimney. There was a small fire in the attic, but it was mostly water damage. No one was injured there.

Also in Athens, a tree fell across lanes of Highway 72 during yesterday's storms. This was near Little Elk Road. First responders say this caused a two-car accident in the West bound lanes. No injuries were reported.

Due to the threat of severe weather overnight and into the morning, some school districts will be starting on a delay today. Scottsboro City, Jackson County, and Marshall County Schools will be operating on a 2 hour delay. We will keep you updated on air and online if more delays or closures are added to the list.

With all these storms moving through our area for the past couple weeks we want you to be safe. The best way to stay up to date on severe weather is to download our 48 First Alert Weather app for free. There you'll get weather alerts as soon as they come in. You will also have access to live updates from our 48 First Alert Weather Team.

Today is the big day in Florence. Students and Teachers with The Florence City School district are headed back to the classroom. Parents: school leaders say, you have nothing to worry about! They will be more protected than ever! Air lock doors were recently installed in Weeden and Harlan Elementary Schools.

The school system has also installed new cameras across the district. Bullet proof glass and fencing is on the way for some schools. However, those aren't the only improvements. Superintendent Doctor Jimmy Shaw says the high school is getting a new roof.

In just a few hours, Governor Kay Ivey will be in the Valley. She will be speaking at the Athens-Limestone County Chamber of Commerce's State of the State Luncheon. She is expected to cover several topics. Including her plan to continue setting record-breaking economic achievements, her commitment to ensuring every Alabama student receives a high-quality education, as well as provide an update on her other priorities to move Alabama forward. It will take place at the Alabama Veterans Museum in Athens at 11-30 this morning.

8/11

A local real estate agent is in the Morgan County Jail this morning charged with sexual abuse. Decatur police arrested 26-year-old Lucas Rymer Tuesday. They say a minor reported him to Lauderdale County DHR last week. Rymer is accused of sexually abusing her multiple times while she slept in his Decatur home. Court documents reveal he confessed to investigators revealing the abuse started in 20-21 and continued up until this summer.

The name of a Florida woman killed in a Colbert County crash has been released - State Troopers say 82-year old Patrica Mannone died after she was airlifted to the hospital. We're told the driver of another car crashed into her Wednesday night on Highway 20. This was a few miles outside Muscle Shoals. A passenger in her car and the driver of the other car were both injured and were taken to the hospital. As of right now, we don't know their conditions.

The water you use may end up costing you more. City leaders are considering allowing Huntsville Utilities to increase water rates by 35 percent. The price hike equates to roughly a \$6.50 increase per month for residents who average 4-thousand gallons of water usage without a sprinkler meter. Those with a sprinkler meter are looking at a 17-dollar increase. Huntsville Utilities will meet in two weeks at the next council meeting to give a more in-depth presentation and allow you to voice your concerns. A final vote could come as early as September.

The deadline for the annual Crime stoppers online auction will end today! You have through today to bid on lots of items. You can bid on cars, electronics, Football Tickets, furniture, and more. If you want to look at the items in-person, go to the Atrium at Redstone Federal Credit Union on Wynn Drive in Huntsville from 4 until 5 tonight.

8/15

Athens police are busy right now searching for the suspect who shot a man in broad daylight. Police say they found the 43-year-old victim lying in the middle of Hardy Street around 5-30 Sunday evening. He was taken to Huntsville Hospital and we are asking more questions about his condition. Police say they have identified the suspect and are working to track him down but didn't release any information on them. Anyone with information is asked to call Athens Police.

We now know when Carlee Russell will make her 1st court appearance as she faces charges for faking her kidnapping. New court documents show Russell's pretrial hearing will be October 11th. She's facing 2 misdemeanor charges in connection to the case, but more charges could come as investigators continue to investigate where Russell was during those 49 hours, she disappeared last month.

We're covering your community in Huntsville as more places to live, eat, and shop are coming to Downtown. Across the street from Big Spring Park is the AC Hotel, the Eclipse Apartment Complex, and construction behind it. Developers say it's all part of a bigger plan called "City-Centre". Reps with the company say the idea of the project is to help improve walkability in Downtown Huntsville. They say the

company saw a demand for downtown living and hit the ground running to provide more options to residents. They also have plans to build a parking garage, another hotel, as well as a food hall for CityCentre. Developers expect to wrap up the entire project in the next 3-4 years.

A traffic alert you need to know - before you walk out the door. A major road in Florence is closed for several weeks. Pine Street from Tuscaloosa to Tennessee Street is closed so crews can fix a collapsed storm drain. City officials say the closure should last three to four weeks. There is a detour taking you around the area. Pine Street is the same road where crews are currently building a new parking deck. Officials say that the project should be finished by May. After the storm drain is fixed, Pine Street will go back to one lane like it was before. The mayor of Florence says businesses on Pine Street will remain open.

8/16

A former Crestwood Medical Center administrator is expected to go on trial for sexual abuse. A grand jury has indicted former Human Resources Director David Brown on a charge of sexually abusing a child. He's accused of committing this crime last summer. A hospital spokesperson says Brown hasn't worked for Crestwood since the incident. His trial is set for January.

A local man is behind bars accused of attempting to rape and sexually abuse a child. According to our partners at the Times Daily, Carlos Che of Florence is accused of inappropriately touching a 5 year old Saturday night. He's charged with attempted sexual abuse of a child and attempted rape. He's in jail on a 100-thousand dollar bond.

We're hearing from a member of the North Alabama Drug Task Force after a large fentanyl bust. Deputy Commander Joe Kennington says close to 6 out of 10 street drugs have traces of fentanyl in them. He says dealers make pills that look like ecstasy, hydrocodone, or oxycontin because dealers can increase their profits by cutting it with fentanyl. He says in the past, people called drug deaths "victimless crimes," but he says fentanyl ruins people's lives. We're already seeing officials crack down on fentanyl use. Four suspects have been arrested this week. Two arrested in Madison County have 1.5 million dollar bonds after agents say they found 3-pounds of drugs on them.

Tomorrow, city leaders are inviting you to celebrate everything Madison Alabama. The "Celebrate Madison" event is totally free and open to the community. Everything starts at 6-PM on Thursday at Toyota Field. City leaders say you can take part in games, a wine tasting, and stadium food while speakers look back on the history of the town and look forward to what the future has in store. The first 500-people to show up will get a voucher for free food, so make sure to get there early.

8/17

Covering the courtroom - A Limestone County capital murder suspect is asking for youthful offender status ahead of his trial. Antonio Burks is accused of murdering his ex-girlfriend last year. Deputies say he was 19 years old when shot Alabama A&M student Chi McDade during an argument. She later died in the hospital. As of right now, a judge has not ruled on the youthful offender request. Burks is 21-years old, he was 19-when McDade was killed.

Members of the Alabama NAACP says today, they have a message for Senator Tommy Tuberville, publically and directly. Local members of the NAACP, along with Veterans and Retired Military Members will hold a news conference. They're all demanding Senator Tuberville release his hold on the promotions of Senior Military Officers. The State NAACP President says Senator Tuberville has never served in the military, adding Tuberville does not understand the importance of having key leaders in position to maintain the security and safety of our nation.

The impact of this wildfire in Hawaii is being felt here in the Tennessee Valley, and its prompting many to do something. In fact, A local business owner is doing her part to help those impacted. Yarden Binns owns

Pure Joy Plants at Lowe Mill in Huntsville. She was stationed on the neighboring island of Oahu for about 5 years. She says her time spent there inspired her to open her business. 25-percent of all sales at Pure Joy Plants will be donated to help. Binns said a lot of the plants in her shop are native to Hawaii. She added she is collecting proceeds through September.

Our parent company, Gray Television, is partnering with the Salvation Army to help victims in Hawaii. The Salvation Army needs donations to provide food, shelter, and essentials for those who lost everything. If you would like to help, you can text FIRE-RELIEF to 5-1-5-5-5. You can also do so by visiting our website waff-dot-com. 100-percent of the donations go straight to funding relief efforts.

8/18

Covering the courtroom, where a local woman is facing new charges connected to her baby's death. Elizabeth Case is now facing manslaughter, murder, and aggravated child abuse charges. The Lauderdale county woman was originally facing a capital murder charge for the death for her 13-month-old baby in 2019. Court documents show prosecutors want to drop the capital murder charge for the new ones. Investigators say Case left her baby in a car for nearly eight hours, while she went dumpster diving. Deputies say Case was a known drug user and was out of jail on bond for robbery at the time.

Crestwood Medical Center opened the doors to its newest walk-in clinic in Meridianville. This comes to an area of the county rapidly growing. The staff there will be able to diagnose and treat patients at the clinic. Officials say the new clinic will help expand healthcare in a growing community. They expect to see close to 40 to 50 patients a day at this new facility.

Alabama A&M University is celebrating a milestone – the largest freshman class ever. But on the flipside, that is exactly what some students and parents are criticizing. Some students are left with no on-campus housing available to them. Class will be in session in just a few days, but many students are still figuring out where they're going to live. We spoke to several students who say they were informed early this summer that the residency halls are at capacity. They also learned that they would be put on a wait list. One student told us she is paying at least two thousand more to live at an apartment per semester. One mom who asked to remain nameless says her son was wait-listed for a dorm over the summer and learned just last week he will not be able to stay on campus. Now, he is living in a hotel room for the first week of school. Leaders at A&M told WAFF they are not doing interviews on this topic and referred us to their website for housing questions.

8/21

This week, Medical examiners are expected to conduct an autopsy on a body pulled from the Tennessee River in Jackson County. Sheriff Rocky Harnen says officials discovered the body in a bag Friday. It was spotted near the Highway 67 bridge in Langston. Sheriff Harnen tells us they could not identify the body or a possible cause of death at the scene.

A Huntsville city councilman is set to go before a judge this week to answer to multiple theft charges. As we reported, Devyn Keith was arrested in February. He is accused of using a Wal-Mart self-checkout machine and leaving without paying for all his items. The police report indicates this happened several times at three different stores. He apologized to his family and the community for the incident at a city council meeting in February. Keith has remained silent on the issue since pleading not guilty in March. His bench trial is set for tomorrow in Huntsville municipal court.

Before you head out today - there's a traffic alert you need to know about. A critical stretch of I-65 could see traffic problems this week. A new construction project gets underway in Morgan County today. Workers will be repaving I-65's north bound lanes between mile marker 3-32 and 3-34. That's between the Fredrick's outdoor shop and the Priceville exit, a very busy stretch of road, Avoid the area if you can. Work begins today and will last through Thursday.

8/22

Today is another first alert weather day, due to the dangerous heat and humidity. With the heat index each day this week ranging from 102 to 112 degrees. Here's an story about just how serious this heat is. HEMSI Ambulances rushed to Columbia High School in Huntsville after receiving a call that 4football players suffered from heat exhaustion. HEMSI Spokesperson Don Webster told us two players were taken to the hospital as a precaution and two others were able to cool off and hydrate enough to go home with their parents.

Alright , let's talk sports! The High School Football season kicks off Thursday and Friday. It's Week Zero of the season. It's also our first 48 Blitz Game of The Week. The Austin Black Bears will host the Hartselle Tigers in a non-Region match-up – a great game to start the season. Austin won the Class 7-a region Four Championship last season, while Hartselle won the Class 6-A Region 8 title. The WAFF 48 Sports team We will have you covered throughout the week leading up to kick off Friday night.

A Huntsville city councilman is set to go before a judge today to answer to multiple theft charges. Devyn Keith is facing multiple 4th degree theft charges - for allegedly shoplifting from area Walmarts over the course of several months. He's accused of taking items at a value over 400-dollars. Keith was arrested in February and apologized to his family and the community for the incident at a city council meeting following his arrest. Keith has remained silent on the issue since pleading not guilty in March. His bench trial will take place in the Huntsville municipal court this afternoon.

Now to an update on the body found in a bag floating in the Tennessee River. Jackson County Sheriff Rocky Harnen has confirmed the body is a man. Right now, he's waiting for the autopsy to determine his identity and how he was killed. A fisherman found the bag containing the man's body in the river on near County Road 67 on Friday. Investigators suspect foul play was involved in the man's death.

8/23

Two people are hurt after a shooting at Alabama A&M University that led officials to lockdown the campus. A Huntsville Police spokeswoman said the shooting is believed to be an isolated incident stemming from an argument between two people. One of the people involved, according to HPD, drove to Huntsville Hospital with minor injuries. Police took the second person involved into custody on A&M's campus. The police spokeswoman said the second person also has minor injuries. No arrests have been announced at this time.

Now to an update on a breaking traffic story we told you about. Highway 431 in Huntsville is back open after a deadly crash that happened Tuesday afternoon. State troopers tell us this involved several cars. The northbound lanes of 431 were closed near Dug Hill Road for about 2 hours. Some of you were on that highway when this happened. We are asking more questions about what led up to that crash and the victim's identity. HEMSI confirmed 1 person was killed and another was taken to the hospital.

Huntsville City Councilman Devyn Keith is feeling remorseful .This after pleading guilty to multiple misdemeanor theft charges. Keith was originally facing four shoplifting charges after being arrested for 'skip-scanning' items at the Walmart checkout. This is where someone intentionally does not scan all of their items. He pleaded guilty to two charges, but the others were dropped. For the first charge, the judge gave him a 90 day suspended sentence and two years probation. For the second, Keith will serve fifty hours of community service. And he must pay restitution to Walmart, equaling almost \$500. He is also banned from all Walmart properties. Keith is apologizing but still maintains he didn't steal intentionally. City leaders tell us there is nothing in state law that will prevent Keith from continuing his service as an elected city council member.

8/24

Safety and security! These are the main things many in the Alabama A&M community are begging for after a shooting on campus. The shooting stemmed from a fight inside the cafeteria Tuesday evening. Police say the two left, got their guns and began shooting at each other. WAFF 48 was the first media outlet to air the fight video. We spoke with one student about this situation. She says hopes the University increases campus security moving forward. 23-year-old Willie Brandon Nance was released from the hospital Wednesday morning and booked into the Madison County Jail on a \$5,000 bond. Another student is still in the hospital recovering, but when they are released, they will also be booked. We are hearing from A&M President Dr. Daniel Wims about the shooting. Dr. Wims saying "We deeply regret the distress caused by the unfortunate incident on our campus and want to assure you that we are taking every measure to maintain the ongoing safety and security of our campus."

Covering your community... HEMSI and Huntsville Hospital may join forces. They're in talks right now Huntsville Hospital is trying to build a network of ambulance services HEMSI could become part of its expansive network of emergency services. They're in talks to join forces according to David Blair... the president of HEMSI's board. They're still discussing if this will be more or a merger or acquisition. The whole reason this is happening is because Huntsville Hospital is expanding across the region.... They're also acquiring ambulance services. They're establishing a network of ambulances through the region. A large hole is here in the Huntsville area. right now... HEMSI leaders are trying to wade through the pros and cons of this possible deal.

Happening today, the State of the City address in Florence. Mayor Andy Betterton will discuss the goals for the year, and milestones already reached. This event is taking place at the Florence Coliseum, Thursday 11:35am.

8/25

A Lauderdale county jury found Yalrick Pride guilty in the death of a toddler. That toddler was the son of her ex-boyfriend's son. The verdict was delivered to a packed courtroom. In closing arguments, prosecutors say Pride was not being truthful. They say she was dishonest in every interview with police. The defense closed by blaming the toddler's father, Blake Townsend. Townshend has already pleaded guilty to child abuse related to Kaiden Garner's death. One of Pride's defense attorneys said she would not comment on the case. But will appeal Pride's conviction. Pride will be sentenced on September 27.

If you live in Huntsville, you're water bill may be going up - but it doesn't look like it will happen immediately. The decision is up to the Huntsville City Council. Last night the City Council heard a presentation on Huntsville Utilities' plan to increase your water bill. But last night- they didnt' take a vote on this. It's back up for debate next month. If approved, rate hikes will go into effect in October. A family of 4 typically uses around 12-thousand gallons of water a month. Under the current plan, that would cost you an extra 20 dollars. Under the new plan, it is about 7 dollars more.

Today is the last day to register at the early-bird rate and be guaranteed a t-shirt nfor this year's Liz Hurley Ribbon Run. This is the 20th annual and we're featuring a PINK race shirt, too, so we need to know who is joining us! Register today for a 25 dollar donation and help save lives. Starting *tomorrow, the rate goes up. You can run, you can walk, as an individual or part of a team! We just want to see you! The 20th Annual Liz Hurley Ribbon Run is Saturday morning, October 21. Proceeds will purchase a new ultrasound machine for the Huntsville Hospital Breast Center.

8/28

Madison County school leaders continue investigating the situation that happened at Friday's football game between Hazel Green and Sparkman. The game was called off at half time after some commotion in the stands led to a mass exodus from the stadium. The rumor mill spun out of control and it's still not clear what

exactly happened. Madison County deputies say there were no weapons and no injuries reported. The school board will be meeting Tuesday night at 5:30 to go over the incident and provide new guidance on events moving forward.

The trial for the man accused of killing another man in a Huntsville Waffle House parking lot is set to begin this morning. Bryant Davis is accused of stabbing and killing Joshua Bankston during a fight in 2021. Investigators say it started as an argument that escalated to a physical attack. Jury selection for Davis' trial is set to begin in the Madison County Courthouse at 9-AM.

We're covering your community in Guntersville, where construction for the new high school is currently ahead of schedule. The school is being built using half a million bricks, and it takes a lot of hands. On any given day, there are more than 100 employees out working. The construction crew is moving fast, but building a huge school takes time. Our partners at the Advertiser Gleam found out the goal is for students and staff to move into the new high school during Christmas break next year. Once it's finished, crews will demolish the old high school.

Happening this week, you'll get a glance at some of the proposals to add a new bridge across the Tennessee River, to help with your commute. There's a public meeting scheduled for this Thursday from 4 to 7 p-m at the Turner-Surles Community Center. This is part of a 2 million dollar research project to find the best option for a new bridge. They're looking at locations west of the Hudson Memorial bridges and the US 31 Causeway. You can give feedback during the meeting this Thursday.

8/29

Opening statements will begin today in a Madison County murder trial. Bryant Davis is accused of killing Joshua Bankston in 2021. Police say it happened in the parking lot of the Waffle House on University Drive near Wynn Drive. Investigators believe it started as an argument. Monday consisted entirely of jury selection. The judge immediately gave jurors instructions to not discuss the case outside the courtroom.

We now know the name of the second accused shooter in the on the campus shooting at Alabama A&M. Christopher Thomas also faces an assault charge. Police booked him into the Madison County jail after being released from the hospital. He has since bonded out on a 5-thousand dollar bond. Police say this shooting happened after an argument between Thomas and 23-year-old Willie Nance in the cafeteria on campus. Officials say the two continued to fight outside, and that's when shots rang out. Both were taken to Huntsville Hospital for injuries. Nance is also charged with assault.

In Huntsville – driving hands free is already a state law. But one Huntsville city leader wants to make the law even tougher. Councilman David Little introduced a 'Hands Free' Ordinance for the City of Huntsville. If passed, drivers would no longer be allowed to use or even touch their phone while driving. A Hands Free Driving Law for Alabama went into effect in June, but the law only makes holding your phone while driving a secondary offense, meaning in addition to another traffic violation. Little's ordinance would make it a primary offense in Huntsville, meaning an officer can pull you over for it. The Huntsville City Council is expected to vote on the ordinance during its September 14th meeting. If it passes, it will go into effect in January.

Huntsville drivers listen up! A busy stretch of road is undergoing some improvements, and could impact your daily commute this week. One lane in each direction of Governors Drive, at Seminole Drive will be closed. Crews are making improvements at the intersection. The lane closures will start at 9:30 in the morning, and will stay closed until 3:30 in the afternoon. This could impact your commute all week.

8/30

We begin in Albertville- where a teen is recovering from serious injuries after being hit by a car on Friday night. 17-year-old Daniel Leija is recovering after a car hit him at the walking trail crossing on Highway 69 at

Sunset Drive in Guntersville. His medical team says he has already undergone 3 surgeries for his injuries. Leija is known in Marshall County as the area's varsity boys' cross-country champion. School leaders have since released a statement, saying that he has a long road to recover from these extensive injuries.

This morning, 10 people in Boaz are without a home after a fire that's believed to have started in the garage. Boaz Fire and Rescue got the call to respond to a house fire on McGee Road in Boaz just before 11 Sunday morning. The home is a total loss. Boaz Fire Department Captain James Ramsey says he believes a gas line ruptured in the garage. The job was further complicated as the nearest fire hydrant was nearly 15-hundred feet away from the fire. What led to that gas line rupturing is still unknown but when we learn new details, we'll let you know.

This Thursday, the Huntsville City Council is expected to begin talks on 2 significant issues. The first is on passing a massive budget. That would give city workers a raise, and set aside more money to update the transit system. Secondly, a controversial ordinance on distracted driving, which aims to make driving with a phone in your hand a primary offense. This means police could pull you over if you're seen holding a phone. Right now, it's only a secondary offense, meaning you have to be doing something else illegal to be stopped. The proposal was met with a lot of push back from the community 2 weeks ago.

This week, the Huntsville Career Center is hosting a job fair for Polaris. The job fair will last from 9 am to 2 pm on Wednesday. This is happening at the Huntsville Career Center on Sparkman Drive. They're looking for to hire for several different positions including general assembly, production welders and more. Starting wages range from 18-28 dollars an hour.

The Prize Patrol from Publishers Clearing House, renowned for awarding over half a billion dollars in prizes nationwide, is traveling to Albertville, AL on *Thursday, August 31st* to award \$1,000,000.00 to one lucky winner – who has absolutely no idea what is about to happen. Come witness the live surprise! Sometimes winners are at work or shopping or off doing errands when the Prize Patrol arrives. But with so many people still home-based, the chances are better than ever that the Prize Patrol will find the winner without delay. So join us for the excitement! WHEN AND WHERE? Thursday, August 31st at 12:30 PM - The Flower Market: 109 S. Carlisle St., Albertville, AL 35950. Depart to surprise the lucky winner who lives nearby.

8/31

Right now Huntsville Police are still searching for a killer. 23-year-old Devin McDonald was killed on Quality Circle in Research Park earlier this week. Now- police have released a picture of a car they say was stolen from the scene – It's a 2018 Silver Nissan Altima. Police say the car is also missing a mirror on the passenger side and a front passenger hubcap. If you see this car, you are urged to call HPD.

A Former Huntsville City Schools security guard accused of having sexual contact with a student is heading to court today. Gregory Lankford was arrested and charged with sexual contact with a student in March. He was indicted on those charges in April. Lankford will be in court later this morning for a pretrial hearing. 48 will be inside that courtroom and we will bring you the latest in our later newscasts.

We're covering your community in Huntsville, where the owners of a hotel are suing a business in MidCity claiming loud music is turning away their customers. The lawsuit was filed by Madison Square Hotels which owns the Holiday Inn on University Drive. The hotel sits next to The Camp, which is a restaurant, bar and music venue. In the lawsuit, the hotel owners claim the live music is "deafening" and has made the hotel lose customers. The owners say they were told the music would be acoustic and played at low volumes. Leaders with The Camp released a statement saying, "We take reports regarding disruption seriously and will continue efforts to be considerate of our surrounding communities."

Happening this weekend, an Athens group is fighting cancer and they want you to join the cause and "run like a boss". The run takes place Saturday. Every year, the race helps one local child battling cancer.

This year, proceeds will go to 8-year-old Karson Collier and his family. The race will take place from 7 to 11 Saturday morning, starting at Athens Middle school.

9/1

Today, classes will continue at Snead State Community College after someone fired a gun near its Boaz campus. The campus went into lockdown just after 8:30 last night. Boaz police say they responded to a house near the college for a shots fired call. Officers say the person who called 9-1-1 claimed an armed man dressed in black came onto their property. They say a person inside the home admitted to shooting a round into the ground to scare the person off. Police think the person ran from the home and then possibly got into a car. So far... police have not found that person.

One person is dead after a house fire in the Clements area in Limestone County. It happened in the Clements area on highway 72 at around 9 last night. Coroner Mike West says the rescuers rushed the victim to Athens-Limestone hospital where the person was declared dead. Officials closed the highway for hours into the night as firefighters fought the blaze. It has since reopened. We expected to learn more about this fire later today.

State Representative David Cole is officially stepping down from his position after pleading guilty to voter fraud. This is a statement Cole's legal team provided to WAFF. It says in part "Doctor Cole admits and takes full responsibility for the mistakes he made in the political process. Dr. Cole is a physician in Madison. Voters elected him to represent District 10 in the state house last year. Court records show he lived in district four during the election making him *ineligible for office in District 10. They also show Cole had asked someone to lease a second home on Conservancy Drive in District 10... while his family continued living on Cedar Spring Place. Cole did admit to using one address to absentee vote in the primary, and in person for the run-off election. However, he used his family's home address to vote in the general election. Doctor Cole will now serve 60 days in the Madison County Jail. He will serve the remainder of his sentence on probation. Cole has also agreed to pay back any salary, stipends, and any other expenses he used as an elected official.

9/5

We begin in Marshall County- where a high school is mourning the loss of a student after a deadly car crash. Albertville City school officials say 16-year-old Julius "JJ" Staten died in a car crash yesterday. The Marshall County Coroner says the crash happened on Highway 205. Staten was a student and football player at Albertville High School. Friends, family, and community members met up at Life Point Church yesterday to honor and remember JJ's life. Albertville Coach, Bert Browne says JJ's absence will be felt throughout the community. As students and staff members head back to campus today, Albertville City School leaders say there will be multiple counselors on site to help any struggling students. In the meantime... police are still investigating the cause of this deadly crash.

In Lawrence County, where a 16 year old from Madison County died in a car crash after trying to outrun police. The Lawrence County Coroner says officers tried to stop 16 year old Jaiden DeJarnett of Harvest for a traffic violation. This was at the intersection of highway 67 and Danville Road just before 3 am Monday He refused to stop and led them all the way to Jefferson Street in Courtland. Officers say he lost control, swerved off the road, and hit a tree. State Troopers are looking into the cause of the crash. Madison County School district Leaders have since confirmed a Sparkman High School student died in a crash this weekend, but they did not identify the student.

Drivers in Madison listen up there's some road work starting tonight! Crews will be shutting down some parts of I-565 west bound so they can build the new west-bound interchange. Lanes will be closed starting at 7 tonight to 6 am tomorrow. The work is expected to wrap up Friday morning at 6.

9/11

Today... we remember the lives lost 22 years ago. On September 11, 2001, almost 3000 people died in a coordinated terrorist attack on U-S soil. The City of Huntsville joins the rest of the nation to remember this pivotal, historic moment. In Huntsville - Officials will raise the flags to full staff at the Huntsville fire stations....The main event is at fire station 1 on Clinton Avenue. At 7:46 am all trucks will activate lights, sirens and air horns. That is when the first plane hit the world trade center. Officials will then lower the flags to half-staff.

In Sheffield, a death investigation is underway after police say they found A dead body in burnt out car. Police Chief Ricky Terry says his officers received a call about a car on fire in an alleyway on South Columbia Avenue around 4 yesterday afternoon. As officers arrived to the scene the car exploded. Officers later discovered a man's body in the back of the burnt out car. His identity has not yet been released. The chief says this is a death investigation.

Two North Alabama teens are facing multiple charges- accused of breaking into a Hartselle gas station. Hartselle Police say the two broke into the Shell gas station on Highway 31 at 3 AM Sunday morning. Officers say one of the suspects used a BB gun to break the glass on the front door. Police say both suspects then walked through the store, stealing vapes and several other items. Due to their age, their names have not been released. Authorities say the teens were arrested and charged with burglary.

This Wednesday the new skate park and playground are opening for you to use and enjoy at John Hunt Park, in Huntsville. The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for 11 am. Combined, the skate-park and the playground cover almost 5 acres. It cost almost 7 million dollars to build and design.

9/12

A bicyclist is in the hospital after being hit by the driver of a car at a busy Decatur intersection. Decatur Police say the crash happened around rush hour at Beltline Road and Danville Road. The bicyclist was taken to Parkway Hospital and then airlifted to another hospital with serious injuries. We are still waiting for an update on the cyclist's injuries and the crash investigation.

This morning two people are recovering and one person dead following a crash on Highway 72 in Gurley. It happened just after 4 Monday afternoon in the eastbound lanes of Highway 72 near Rock Cut Road. According to Don Webster with HEMSI, a semi-truck and a car collided. The driver of the semi-truck was not injured in the wreck. State troopers are investigating the cause of the crash.

We're getting a first look at the city of Decatur's budget plan for 20-24 ahead of the council vote next week. If the budget is approved, it'll cost 91 million to run the city in 20-24. Top priorities for the budget are funding first responders and educators. 57 percent of the budget will pay city employees, with police and fire accounting for a combined 35 percent. And nearly 30 million dollars will go to the school system. They also plan to improve the recreation center at Wilson Morgan park, as well as the softball complex on Modaus road. Council President Jacob Ladner says this budget makes sense to him... but he has growing concerns about how quickly the budget is rising every year. The council will vote on the budget next week.

In Huntsville, city leaders are also crunching numbers ahead of their budget being announced this Thursday. A priority for council members is resurfacing and repairing city roads. Council member Jennie Robinson says she is looking to put more money into three things her constituents email her about-: roads, ditches, and garbage pickup. As for Councilman David Little, he wants to put more money into the police and fire departments. Council members must pass the budget by October 1st.

9/13

Dozens of people are searching for a place to stay after a massive fire destroyed a Huntsville apartment building. Massive flames and the damage left behind after crews worked for nearly 5-hours yesterday trying

to extinguish the fire. Officials say the fire trapped several residents inside the burning building, forcing them to jump out of second floor windows. Thankfully only minor injuries were reported, but one resident and firefighter were sent to the hospital. A spokesperson for the Red Cross says they are now working to provide a place to stay for those impacted. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

One person is in jail this morning after a police chase in Huntsville ended in a crash. Huntsville Police say an officer tried to stop a car on Memorial Parkway near Martin Road. But the driver didn't stop, and the chase started. We're told police pulled back from the pursuit after losing sight of the car. They later found the car wrecked near Ivey Avenue and Drake Avenue. Police say the driver tried to run away but was quickly arrested. Charges are expected for the driver.

New this morning- a second woman has died of injuries she got in a 2-car crash on Winchester Road. Huntsville Police say 33-year-old Tina Lee of Madison died at Huntsville Hospital yesterday. We first told you about this crash last week. Police say Lee and 60-year-old Pamela Milton crashed on Winchester Road near Fortune Drive on September 5th. Milton died on the scene. The crash is still under investigation.

A piece of NASA history and a massive landmark sitting along I-65 in Ardmore will soon be disassembled. The Saturn 1B rocket removal will begin today. Officials with the Marshall Space Flight Center said the rocket had deteriorated over the years and the damage was too significant to repair. There wasn't a lack of trying with State Senator Tom Butler introducing legislation this year to restore or replace it - but it would only cover a fraction of the costs. Officials say taking that massive rocket apart will take one to two weeks.

9/14

We begin this morning in Madison County, where a man is dead following a shooting in Hazel Green. The shooting happened on Ready Section Road before 8 Wednesday night. We were first on the scene and neighbors told us they heard gunshots from the home a few doors down the street. Deputies believe the shooting was domestic violence related. At this point, no arrest has been made. The investigation is still underway.

A piece of NASA history sitting along I-65 in Ardmore is coming down piece by piece. This as crews work to de-construct the Saturn 1B rocket at the Alabama Welcome Center. Wednesday, crews removed the escape tower of the rocket. This all started due to leaders with the Marshall Space Flight Center deemed the rocket a safety hazard. Leaders say the rocket was built to go to space, not to sit in the elements for four decades. State Senator Tom Butler passed legislation earlier this year in hopes of saving the Saturn 1B. Butler says because the rocket was on loan from NASA, not much could be done to stop the removal. It could take weeks before it's completely removed. Once removed, the rocket will be returned to NASA.

And tonight- City leaders in Huntsville will come together to decide the best ways to spend your tax dollars. Huntsville's city council is set to meet to lay out next year's budget for the area. And leaders say the main topics up for discussion include road repairs, and improving quality of life. 48 will be inside that meeting later tonight, and we will bring you the latest in our later newscasts.

9/15

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency is investigating a downtown Huntsville shooting involving a police officer. Huntsville Police responded to a call at the Huntsville Area Association of Realtors parking lot around 6-last night. Investigators would only tell 48 that an officer had shot a man. That man was taken to the hospital. We have asked police why they responded to the area, what led up to the shooting, and how the man is doing. So far they have not answered any questions.

The search continues this morning in Lauderdale County for a suspect who escaped police custody. The attempted murder suspect who was already out on bond - escaped police custody Thursday on another charge. Rogersville Police say, 49-year-old James Tucker managed to slip out of the handcuffs and jump

out the window of a patrol car. This went down around 2 yesterday afternoon in the area of Cherry Grove Road and Flanagan Road. For hours, Alabama State Troopers searched from the air with a helicopter. Rogersville Police, K-9 units from Florence P-D, and Limestone County Deputies all searched on the ground. The Police Chief is asking the public to be on the lookout for Tucker and if they know his whereabouts, call 911 right away.

People living in Huntsville will soon see a spike in their water bill. This comes after city Council members approved a request from Huntsville Utilities. Prior to this meeting, leaders with Huntsville Utilities requested a 35-percent increase to the water rate, but council members were concerned that it would be too high for customers. Now- the average home customer who uses just over 4-thousand gallons a month will see their bill increase by about 4 dollars, instead of the proposed 6. This increase will create about 16-million dollars in revenue for Huntsville Utilities. The new rates are set to start between October 1st or November 1st

Saturn 1-B dismantling will continue at the I-65 rest stop today. We're on your side answering the question of what happens to the money set aside to erect a replica in its place. Senate Bill 313 was signed into law earlier this summer. Two million dollars was allocated to either save the rocket or replace it. State Representative Rex Reynolds says that money is ready and waiting. Reynolds says the House General Fund Budget committee is waiting to see if someone comes forward with a design or plan for a replica. The budget committee will then review it and if approved, allocate funding. Reynolds says he's hopeful they will be able to use that money to put something in Saturn 1B's place. The state has until October 1st, 2024 to spend that two-million-dollars.

9/18

We're covering breaking news overnight out of Cullman County where a man is on the run from police. Cullman Police say this man- John Drozda fled the scene of a shooting last night. Authorities say they received word of a shooting call on Hickory Avenue. When they arrived, they found a man in critical condition, but Drozda was nowhere to be found. Police believe Drozda is armed and dangerous. If you see him, you are urged to call police.

And turning to Rogersville- where Police are still searching for an attempted murder suspect who broke free from police custody. Rogersville Police James Tucker is hiding somewhere in the community. Police say they arrested Tucker for committing several burglaries in the Anderson area while out on bond for attempted murder. But while he was in the back of a patrol car, officers say he kicked out a window and ran away. If you see Tucker - you are urged to call the police.

A fiery head-on crash in Cullman County has claimed the lives of two women. It happened early Saturday morning on Highway 91 near Hanceville. Troopers say 22-year-old Sdyni Helms' Jeep crashed into 20-year-old Katherine Lambert's car. After the crash both cars burst into flames. Troopers are investigating the cause of this deadly crash.

Huntsville's city council is finalizing its budget this week. They are meeting Thursday night to go over the final numbers. It includes more money for firefighters, police officers, and to pay for the first phase of a public transit expansion. And there is also a 2 and a half percent pay raise for city employees.

9/19

We start with breaking news overnight in Huntsville. One person is recovering after being cut at an apartment complex overnight. Huntsville Police tells us, officers responded to a cutting call at the Colonial Grand at Edgewater apartment complex at around 9:45 last night. One person was sent to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. We talked to a witness....who told us a man was beating up a woman, and she stabbed him. Police believe this was an isolated incident. At this point, no arrest has been made.

The search continues in Lauderdale County for a man who led deputies on a chase in an RV. After the RV ended up crashing, deputies say the driver took off and they weren't able to find the driver. This happened near County Road 11. We're told the chase started when deputies noticed suspicious activity yesterday morning and tried to stop the driver of the RV and another car. Deputies were able to use spike strips to get the car to stop. The driver of the car, 38-year-old Joshua Terry was charged with attempting to elude and possession of drug paraphernalia. If you have any information about his accomplice in the RV, call Lauderdale county deputies.

In Florence, a man is now charged with sex abuse after an incident at church. Brian Dickinson is accused of walking into the women's bathroom on Sunday at Chisholm Hills Church of Christ. Court documents reveal when a girl came out of the stall, he tried to kiss her and groped her. Dickinson admitted to it when police questioned him. Later saying to police that he knew what he was doing and wanted to see what would happen.

If you take the Whitesburg or Tennessee River Bridge as part of your morning commute, a heads up. Leaders with ALDOT say you should expect single lane traffic this week on Highway 231 and I-65 bridges. Crews are going to work on the lights at each bridge from 8-30AM to 3-30PM each day this week. So expect delays.

And don't forget, we're getting closer and closer to the Huntsville Veterans Day Parade. Registration is open right now. All you have to do to register for the parade is visit our website at WAFF-DOT-COM. There, just click on the Veterans Day Parade tab.

9/20

Troopers release the name of the man whose body was recovered near a submerged car at the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge. Troopers say 39-year-old Anthony Williams died after his car ran off the road, hit a rock embankment and landed in the Tennessee River. They say the wreck happened yesterday around one in the morning. Troopers added that Williams was not wearing a seatbelt. The submerged car was spotted about a mile from Rockhouse Road by a passerby who reported it. The body has been sent to the forensics lab for an autopsy.

A multi-day manhunt has come to an end in Lauderdale County, ending with the capture of an attempted murder suspect in Limestone County. James Tucker was on the run for almost a week. But he was captured around midnight yesterday. Rogersville Police say he escaped custody last week while they were investigating a theft they believe he was involved in. Tucker reportedly climbed out of a patrol car window and ran away all while still in handcuffs. Police Chief Brian Hudson says Tucker took off again when they tracked him down to Limestone County where they were able to catch him. Tucker is now in the Limestone County Jail without bond.

The Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission has officially cancelled it's meeting this month. The director saying- they have nothing to discuss. However, several lawsuits are still looming over the commission.

Happening this week, the Space and Rocket Center will be holding a job fair! This event will be taking place tomorrow at the center's education programs building. It'll run from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. They'll be hiring for both part-time AND full time positions. Positions include human resources, security, custodial, Space Camp counselor, and much more.

9/21

A Decatur man is in jail accused of possessing child pornography. In June, Decatur Police received a cybertip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of an Instagram account uploading images of child sexual abuse. Instagram provided account owner information including the IP address.

An investigation led to the arrest of this guy... 30-year-old Michael Conville. Following a search warrant, he was arrested and charged with possession of obscene matter. He's in the Morgan County jail on a 7500-hundred dollar bond.

A former State lawmaker's guilty plea will soon be finalized by a judge in Huntsville. Former Alabama House District 10 Representative David Cole is returning to court on October 10th to finalize his plea agreement. Cole signed an agreement to plead guilty to voter fraud several weeks ago. Court records revealed that Cole had lived outside his district when he ran for office last year. His seat is sits empty and will remain so until a special election is held. The Primary is set for December and the General Election is set for March.

Happening today...Huntsville city leaders will be looking through the city budget. They are having a work session to peel through the almost 280 million dollar budget. There are some big-ticket items here. We looked through the proposed budget. We found that a quarter of the budget is going to the police department... about 72 million dollars. The fire and rescue falls behind it at nearly 58 million dollars. Infrastructure also looks like a priority. There are more people in Huntsville... and I'm sure many of you noticed that there are a lot more cars on the road. City council member Bill Kling says this is the most money we have seen going towards roads.

If you are searching for a job in the valley- leaders at the US Space and Rocket center want to see you at their job fair today! Today's job fair will be hosted at the Education Programs Building. It all starts at 11 AM and ends at 7 this evening. Event organizers say they are looking for candidates for both full and part time positions. Some open positions include, Space Camp Counselors, Nurses, Cooks, and Human Resources officials.

9/22

That massive fire in Lincoln County at Palatec manufacturing is finally out. Firefighters say this all began when a driver of a car crashed into a nearby utility pole. The Power lines, then sparked a fire where pallets were laying on the ground and immediately caught fire. That fire then caught a thousand-gallon propane tank on fire, and created an explosion. Utility employees have been busy repairing the damage to the utility poles. The CEO of Fayetteville Public Utilities says close to 99 percent of drivers who crash into utility poles are eventually held liable for damages. But he's not sure if that translates to the fire damage as well.

A Scottsboro murder suspect is heading to a mental health facility instead of jail. 75-year-old Alvin Cornelison is accused of killing his wife earlier this month. Jackson County deputies say he admitted to using a wooden baseball bat to kill her. Cornelison's family has reached out to us several times, explaining he suffers from Alzheimer's. In his bond agreement, it states he will stay in a facility capable of treating dementia. He will be moved to Mountain Lakes Behavioral Health-care on Monday

Later tonight, we roll right into Week Four of the season with our 48 Blitz Game of The Week. A battle of undefeated teams set for Pat Trammell Stadium as Scottsboro host Arab. The Wildcats under Head Coach Cris Bell continue to improve each year. After three wins in year one, the Wildcats jumped to 7 wins last season. Heading into tonight, Scottsboro is third in the state in scoring, averaging 54 points per game.... A lot of great high school football games on tap tonight...be sure to tune into 48 news tonight at 10...for scores and highlights.

9/25

An Albertville teen is recovering from serious injuries after being hit by a car on Friday Night. 17-year-old Daniel Leija is recovering after a car hit him at the walking trail crossing on Highway 69 at Sunset Drive in Guntersville. His medical team says he has already undergone 3 surgeries for his injuries. Leija is known in Marshall County as the area's varsity boys' cross-country champion. School leaders have since released a statement, saying that he has a long road to recover from these extensive injuries.

This morning, 10 people in Boaz are without a home after a fire that's believed to have started in the garage. Boaz Fire and Rescue got the call to respond to a house fire on McGee Road in Boaz just before 11 Sunday morning. The home is a total loss. Boaz Fire Department Captain James Ramsey says he believes a gas line ruptured in the garage. The job was further complicated as the nearest fire hydrant was nearly 15-hundred feet away from the fire. What led to that gas line rupturing is still unknown but when we learn new details, we'll let you know.

This Thursday, the Huntsville city council is expected to begin talks on two significant issues. The first is on passing a massive budget. That would give city workers a raise, and set aside more money to update the transit system. Secondly, a controversial ordinance on distracted driving, which aims to make driving with a phone in your hand a primary offense. This means police could pull you over if you're seen holding a phone. Right now, it's only a secondary offense, meaning you have to be doing something else illegal to be stopped. The proposal was met with a lot of push back from the community 2 weeks ago.

This week, the Huntsville Career Center is hosting a job fair for Polaris. The job fair will last from 9 am to 2 pm on Wednesday. This is happening at the Huntsville Career Center on Sparkman Drive. They're looking for to hire for several different positions including general assembly, production welders and more. Starting wages range from 18-28 dollars an hour.

9/26

A near death experience for an Albertville teen is highlighting the dangers of a busy intersection in Guntersville, and for some city leaders this near tragedy is the final straw. On Friday, 17 year old Daniel (Leah) Leija was running on the trail by Sunset Drive. He's the defending Marshall County Varsity Boys' Cross-Country champion. As he attempted to cross at the intersection of Sunset and Highway 69, he was hit by a car. He was flown from the scene to Huntsville Hospital, and has since had to undergo several surgeries. Guntersville Mayor (Lee) Leigh Dollar says they have already secured funds to make improvements to the intersection. This morning, Albertville High School's Student Government Association will be hosting a community prayer for Daniel's recovery.

The Saturn 1-B Rocket at the rest stop in Ardmore, could be removed from the Alabama Welcome Center as early as this week. Marshall Space Flight Center officials tell us the rocket has safely been taken down. Now it's in the hands of the Marshall Space Flight Center for disposal. But officials say significant parts of the rocket may be used as artifacts by NASA. The rest will be demolished in accordance with federal regulations. Officials with the Marshall Space Flight Center anticipate the rocket's removal from the rest area to be complete by tomorrow.

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle is expected to give his state of the city address. The state of the city address happens today at noon the Von Braun Center. The mayor and other city leaders will come together to talk about the city's strengths and what it's goals are moving forward.

9/27

Sheffield police are continuing their investigation into the homicide of 64-year-old Thomas Hairell. Police say the shooting happened yesterday morning at a duplex on North Montgomery Avenue. A neighbor found Hairell's body with several gunshot wounds, laying at the front door of a neighbor's home. The neighbor also says she spotted a suspicious man in the area around the time of the shooting and believes he's key to the investigation. If you have any information, contact Sheffield police.

State troopers have arrested a Madison County School bus driver after his bus crashed with students on board. Christopher Brazelton was arrested earlier this week and charged with DUI. This comes after he crashed a school bus on Dan Crutcher Road in Toney with 10 students in his care. District leaders say they received reports of the driver's "unusual" driving. Brazelton was booked into the Madison County jail and was released on bond yesterday morning. Madison County Schools Superintendent Ken Kubik has

since released a statement about the incident, saying district leaders are discussing new procedures to prevent this from happening again. As for the driver, he is on leave pending an investigation by the school board.

Another candidate is throwing their name in a hat to fill the vacant House District 10 seat in Madison County. Libertarian Elijah Boyd announced his candidacy yesterday evening. The district 10 seat was left open after David Cole stepped down because he pleaded guilty to charges of voter fraud. Boyd, who ran against Cole during last year's election, brought the lawsuit that unraveled Cole's political career. He will be running alongside Democrat Marilyn Lands, who also ran for the seat last year. The special primary election will be on December 12.

After 4 decades of welcoming travelers to Alabama the iconic rocket is now nothing more than rubble. Crews are expected to finish removing the Saturn 1-B Rocket from the Alabama welcome center today. The significant pieces of the rocket like its engines could be saved and preserved by NASA. The rest will be demolished. Due to its deterioration, the rocket was deemed unsafe and ordered to come down.

9/28

Sheffield Police are still looking for the man wanted for murder, and they need your help. 40-year-old Dedrick Pride is the man wanted for murder. Police believe he shot and killed 64-year-old Thomas Hairrell. The shooting happened Tuesday morning at an apartment complex on Montgomery Avenue. Police say Pride is about five feet, five inches tall and weighs about 135 pounds. They say he has ties to Sheffield and Tusculumbia but could be anywhere. Detectives say he is considered armed and dangerous. Officials say a witness saw Pride shoot Hairrell twice at a duplex. The witness then ran next door for help. Police say the neighbor scared Pride and he ran off. If you know where he is, call police.

In Huntsville- the man accused of killing an HPD officer and injuring another has now been indicted on a separate shooting case. Investigators say Juan Laws shot 2 people near the Goodyear store in downtown Huntsville in January of 2022. Now this week, a Madison County grand jury has handed down 2 indictments against Laws for assault charges in the case. Both of these victims survived. Laws was released on bond following his arrest. But 6 months ago this week, he was arrested again and charged in connection to the shooting death of Officer Garret Crumby and injuring officer Albert Morin.

9/29

Authorities have confirmed to us that there was an officer involved shooting in Decatur...and the man police shot – is dead. A resident did tell us that the neighborhood along Ryan Drive is being blocked by police. 48's Sean Dowling is on the scene asking questions and trying to get you information.

Morgan County officials are still investigating a serious car crash that claimed the life of a local man. Morgan County officials say 45-year-old Jason Hart died after being involved in a car crash on Highway 67 yesterday morning. Deputies say the wreck involved a car and a semi-truck.

A crash in Russellville is sending a wave of emotion through the tight-knit community after a mother and her 11-year-old son died. Dozens gathered for a vigil at Russellville Elementary school last night to remember, Jase Fretwell and his mother Jennifer Fretwell. They were killed Wednesday night around 10, in a two-car wreck on Highway 43 in Russellville. We're told two other teenagers in Fretwell's car are currently in stable condition. Last night people gathered at Russellville Elementary School for prayer and support. Jase's classmates shared their memories, saying he always made sure everyone had a smile on their face. A 65-year-old woman in the other car, was injured and transported to Huntsville Hospital.

An update now on the Albertville High School Cross Country star, who was hit by a car last weekend, is on the road to recovery. Last Friday, the 17-year-old was hit while he was running in Guntersville. He's undergone three surgeries since then and is now walking and starting rehab.

NATIONAL/WORLD NEWS (POLITICAL; AUTOMOTIVE/PRODUCT RECALLS; SPACE TRAVEL; CRIME OR NEWS OUTSIDE AL)

7/11

The Powerball jackpot is now at 725-million after there was no winner in last night's drawing. The next Powerball drawing is set for Wednesday. Wednesday's prize is the seventh-largest in the promotion's history. If someone matches all the numbers in that drawing and decides to take the lump sum option, the cash value will be about 366-point-2 million before taxes.

7/20

There's a big Powerball winner in LA. Somebody finally won that billion dollar jackpot. The ticket was sold at a convenience store in Los Angeles. The soon-to-be billionaire has the only ticket, matching all five numbers and the Powerball.

8/1

The decision has been made. U.S. Space Command Headquarters will stay in Colorado. The Biden administration announced U.S. Space Command will find its permanent home in Colorado Springs - NOT the Rocket City - the opposite of what many local and state lawmakers have been hoping for. Congressman Dale Strong says the Administration is ignoring what is best for our nation's security and is instead using their quote-woke agenda to make this choice. Since Strong stepped into Washington, he's spent the majority of his time advocating for the relocation of the command center to the Rocket City. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, Strong and other Alabama delegates on the committee pressured the U-S Air Force to make a move. However, now that the decision has been made... Strong says this could have *lasting effects on our nation's safety. Senator Katie Britt calls the move irresponsible and Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle says – to have this taken away is demoralizing.

8/4

Former President Trump is expected to travel to Alabama today, after being arraigned in the nation's capital Thursday. Trump pleaded not guilty to multiple felonies related to efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election. Meanwhile, Trump is expected to be at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Montgomery. 2-thousand people are expected to be there for the event today.

9/14

Alabama Senator Tommy Tuberville is responding to Kevin McCarthy's announcement of an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden. This investigation is relating to business dealings relating to President Biden's son, Hunter. Senator Tuberville now says this probe may be necessary. Saying The American People deserve the truth...adding they need to look at all the evidence, bring it forth. Several Republicans admit there is no evidence connecting the President to his son's business practices. However, the house oversight committee says a hearing on the matter is set for later this month.

9/28

Today, Alabama lawmakers will have one more chance to grill military decision makers on why U-S Space Command headquarters isn't being built in Huntsville. The House Armed Services Committee Hearing will

be examining the quote "irregularity" of the basing decision. A decision that named Colorado Springs, not Huntsville as its permanent home even after a country-wide competition by the U-S Air Force and two federal investigations that verified the results. Alabama lawmakers are fighting to overturn the decision. Senator Tuberville says he looks forward to seeing Congressmen Mike Rogers and Dale Strong fight for Alabama. The Biden administration maintains Colorado Springs is the right choice. It claims the move to Huntsville would impact America's military readiness.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS (LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS; LIVE EVENTS FOR CHARITY)

WRSa-FM promoted these community organizations and events. Due to COVID-19, events are scarce this quarter.

JULY

- *Fireworks*
- *Huntsville Hospital Urgent Care provides school physicals.*
- *Hotdog eating contest with Monrovia Fire Rescue and Madison County Sheriff – Benefits Next Step Farms. Free.*
- *Century Automotive donates proceeds from Cars & Coffee for a Cause event, \$10,000 for Huntsville Police Department.*
- *Fifth Sunday Singing at Edgefield Baptist Church*
- *Danny Funderburk in Concert at Grace Baptist Church*
- *Inner Defense Initiative PTSD Blood Drive at HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology Auditorium*
- *Peck Hollow Bluegrass Music Jam at Gurley's Soggy Bottom Music Barn*

AUGUST

- *Christian Authors, fiction and non-fiction, Book Festival, held at The Event Center at Roto-Rooter. Sharing books with others, book signings and more.*
- *The Flip Sports Cards and Collectibles Trade Show at the Von Braun Center*
- *The Bookends Alabama Football Autograph Signing features John Copeland and Eric Curry, at the Scottsboro Goose Pond Civic Center*
- *Scottsboro Sports Card Show at Scottsboro Goose Pond Civic Center*
- *Adam Crabb and the Northeast Alabama Gospel Music Jubilee at Collins Elementary School.*
-

SEPTEMBER

- *Celebrate Quilting! Connect with other quilters, check out the swap tables, all things quilting – held at the Dr. Richard Showers Community Center.*
- *Wreaths Across America invites all Americans to wave the flag on September 12 – to honor all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and those who risked their lives on September 11, 2001.*
- *Over the Edge to benefit Kids to Love Foundation – presented by Twickenham Advisors and hosted by Colliers*
- *Lawn Bowling to benefit the National Children's Advocacy Center held at Campus 805 on the Butler Green.*
- *Auditions held for "The Dinner Detective Murder Mystery" at the Double Tree in Decatur.*
- *Haven Huntsville hosts Home Instead's Brain Workshop to help those who care for those with Alzheimers. Free and open to the public.*
- *Motorcycle Toy Run in Cullman – proceeds benefit Kids Loving Kids*
- *Holmes Street Holiday Market @ Holmes Street United Methodist Church*
- *Isla-Ween Halloween Bash to help provide financial and emotional assistance after infant/child loss.*

ABA RECORDED PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONTH	DESCRIPTION	# SPOTS	LENGTH
July	DHR	41	:30
	Alabama Dept of Tourism	41	:30
	AL Dept of Labor	31	:30
	ALDOT	31	:30
	Adult Protective Services	31	:30
	AL Department of Public Health	31	:30
	Veteran's Affairs	36	:30
August	DHR	39	:30
	Veterans Affairs	35	:30
	AL Dept of Labor	31	:30
	Adult Protective Services	31	:30
	ALDOT	31	:30
	AL Department of Tourism	39	:30
	AL Department of Public Health	31	:30
September	DHR	39	:30
	AL Dept of Labor	30	:30
	ALDOT	30	:30
	Adult Protective Services	30	:30
	AL Dept of Tourism	39	:30
	Alabama Dept of Public Health	30	:30
	Veteran's Affairs	34	:30

ISSUES IN ADVERTISING – State of Alabama**POLITICAL ADVERTISING - STATE OF ALABAMA** (March 1, 2018 & forward)**POLITICAL ADVERTISING - NATIONAL** (March 1, 2018 & forward)