



LISTEN DEEPER

(/)

Issues/Program Report 2nd Quarter 2017

July 1, 2017

Per the FCC, this is a list of the most frequently cited issues of concern to the people in the WBHM/WSGN listening area during the last quarter. The list details the most significant programs addressing these issues. All of these programs were published at WBHM.ORG and broadcast on WBHM 90.3 FM and WSGN 91.5 FM between January 1, 2017 and March 31, 2017. The list includes the following issues:

Government

Ethics Commission Sends Complaints Against Bentley to Prosecutors (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/ethics-commission-forwards-complaints-against-bentley-to-prosecutors/>)

2017-04-06 10:18:37

Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald discusses the the Alabama Ethics Commission's decision to forward complaints against Gov. Robert Bentley to prosecutors.

House Judiciary Committee Releases Bentley Impeachment Report (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/gov-robert-bentley-impeachment-investigation-report-released/>)

2017-04-07 19:24:33

UPDATE: The Alabama Supreme Court stayed the injunction issued by Montgomery County Circuit Judge Greg Griffin against the start of impeachment proceedings, allowing them to go on. Click here for more info.

What to Expect From Bentley Impeachment Hearings (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/what-to-expect-from-bentley-impeachment-hearings/>)

2017-04-10 07:10:46

Kay Ivey Moves From Lieutenant To Governor (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/kay-ivey-moves-from-lieutenant-to-governor/>)

2017-04-10 20:00:31

The 72-year-old Ivey held the seat of Lieutenant Governor since 2010; the first Republican woman to hold the office. Ivey is only the second woman to be governor in Alabama.

The Way Forward in Post-Bentley Alabama (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/the-way-forward-in-post-bentley-alabama/>)

2017-04-11 05:00:00

Alabama is still absorbing yesterday's historic news, the resignation of Governor Robert Bentley after he became embroiled in scandal amid allegations he used state resources and intimidation to cover up an alleged affair. But some state leaders are already looking ahead.

Fourth Graders Witness History as Bentley Exits (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/alabama-fourth-grades-find-themselves-a-witness-to-history/>)

2017-04-12 07:48:20

Fourth graders from Coosa Christian School in Gadsden were on a field trip to the Alabama Capitol Building as news broke that Governor Robert Bentley would resign.

New Governor Steadies the Ship of State after Bentley Resignation (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/new-governor-steadies-the-ship-of-state-after-bentley-resignation/>)

2017-04-13 09:33:09

Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald discusses the opening days of Governor Kay Ivey's term in office.

Bill Would Allow Birmingham Church to Have its Own Police Force (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/bill-would-allow-birmingham-church-to-have-its-own-police-force/>)

2017-04-13 10:50:17

A bill in the Alabama legislature would let a church in suburban Birmingham do something that appears unprecedented. It would allow this church to have its own police force. Critics say the bill isn't constitutional and vow a legal showdown.

Gov. Ivey Briefs Reporters and Lawmakers Advance Autism Bill (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/gov-ivey-briefs-reporters-and-lawmakers-advance-autism-bill/>)

2017-04-14 10:44:56

Widening Rifts and Unfriending in Politically Tense Times (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/unfriending-in-a-politically-tense-climate/>)

2017-04-19 10:15:32

Thirteen percent of people, according to one survey say they blocked, unfriended, or stopped following someone on social media because of what they posted about politics. Haden Holmes Brown takes a look at tensions over politics three months into President Donald Trump's time in office.

Advocates Push for Autism Therapy Coverage (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/push-autism-therapy-coverage/>)

2017-04-19 16:39:51

The Alabama House of Representatives will vote April 20 on a bill that would require insurance companies cover autism therapy. Alabama is one of just five states that doesn't offer health care coverage for autism.

Bill Would Require Licensing for Religious Day Care Centers (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/bill-would-require-licensing-for-religious-child-care-centers/>)

2017-04-19 16:56:32

Gigi Douban talked with Reveal reporter Amy Julia Harris, who investigated incidents of abuse and neglect at Alabama's religious child care centers.

House Approves Autism Therapy Coverage, Monitors Church Day Cares (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/houses-approves-autism-therapy-coverage-monitors-church-day-cares/>)

2017-04-21 08:30:31

Members of the state House of Representatives on Thursday passed these two bills many parents across Alabama were watching. Don Dailey, host of Alabama Public Television's Capitol Journal talks with WBHM's Gigi Douban about them.

Savings Uncertain With Birmingham's LED Street Lights (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/deal-for-new-led-street-lights-leaves-birmingham-in-the-dark-about-savings/>)

2017-04-24 13:54:26

Birmingham is installing new LED street lights across the city. But while other cities across the country have seen dramatic savings after switching, there's no guarantee Birmingham will see similar savings.

Roy Moore Announces U.S. Senate Run (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/roy-moore-announces-u-s-senate-run/>)

2017-04-27 12:38:56

Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald discusses Roy Moore's announcement he's running for U.S. Senate and how the field of gubernatorial candidates is shaping up.

Historic Monuments Bill Passes, City Council Raises Blocked (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/historic-monuments-bill-passes-city-council-raises-blocked/>)

2017-04-28 11:44:04

This week in the Alabama legislature, the Senate voted to block a big pay raise for the next Birmingham City Council. And after hours of heated debate Thursday, lawmakers in the Alabama House passed the controversial historic monuments bill.

UAB Political Scientist Assesses The First 100 Days of President Trump (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/uab-political-scientist-assesses-first-100-days-president-trump/>)

2017-04-29 22:33:21

The first 100 days is the time when the new president could be possibly more successful than later in the term.

Judge has Questions for Special Grand Jury Meeting in Birmingham (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/judge-has-questions-for-special-grand-jury-meeting-in-birmingham/>)

2017-05-04 08:49:38

Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald discusses a special grand jury that's been meeting in Birmingham.

Alabama's Exotic Pet Laws Could Soon Change (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/alabamas-exotic-pet-laws-soon-change/>)

2017-05-04 14:18:11

Nick Patterson, editor of Weld, discusses how Alabama lawmakers are considering changing the state's regulations on exotic pet ownership.

Autism Bill May Fall Short in Legislature (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/autism-bill-may-fall-short-in-legislature/>)

2017-05-11 09:31:10

Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald says if bill requiring insurers cover a particular type of autism therapy receives final passage, it would be a miracle.

Lawmaker Investigation Tied to Pollution Near North Birmingham (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/oliver-robinson-investigation-tied-to-pollution-near-north-birmingham/>)

2017-05-11 18:02:40

Former State Rep. Oliver Robinson confirmed to WBHM he is under investigation. The investigation, as al.com reports, seems to be connected to efforts by the EPA to test neighborhoods in Tarrant and Inglenook for air pollution. Gigi Douban talked with Robinson Tuesday afternoon and offered this update.

Crowded Field Vies for U.S. Senate Seat (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/crowded-field-vies-for-u-s-senate-seat/>)

2017-05-18 10:55:09

Wednesday was the deadline for candidates to qualify to run for U.S. Senate in this year's special election. As expected, it's a crowded field.

Former State Lawmaker Discouraged Pollution Cleanup Efforts (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/former-state-lawmaker-pushed-against-efforts-to-cleanup-pollution-in-north-birmingham/>)

2017-05-18 11:15:24

Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald discusses an investigation that found former State Representative Oliver Robinson tried to discourage efforts to clean up pollution from North Birmingham neighborhoods.

The Great Gun Rights Divide in Alabama (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/great-gun-rights-divide-alabama/>)

2017-05-18 16:01:37

A look at gun rights and ownership in Alabama following the death of a bill in the 2017 legislative session that would've made the concealed carry permit optional.

Alabama Lawmakers Close Out Legislative Session (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/alabama-lawmakers-close-out-legislative-session/>)

2017-05-22 09:51:02

Alabama Public Television's Don Dailey discusses the final week of the 2017 legislative session.

Birmingham's VA Faces Challenges Keeping Wait Times Down (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/birmingham-va-faces-challenges-keeping-wait-times/>)

2017-05-25 09:18:50

Wait times have been shrinking at the Birmingham VA after zooming up last year, but challenges with space and hiring still remain.

Monuments Law Adds to Alabama's Troubled Story (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/monuments-bill-adds-to-alabamas-troubled-story/>)

2017-05-25 09:44:23

Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald discusses a new law that prevents removal of long-standing historic monuments, including those connected to the Confederacy.

Birmingham Mayor's Office Releases Proposed Budget (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/birmingham-mayors-office-releases-proposed-budget/>)

2017-05-25 16:00:39

Weld editor Nick Patterson talks about Birmingham Mayor William Bell's proposed city budget.

Former Lawmaker's Message Led to Concerns About Property Values (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/former-lawmakers-message-led-concerns-property-values/>)

2017-05-30 12:14:56

Former State Rep. Oliver Robinson abruptly resigned his legislative seat last November. He recently confirmed to WBHM that he is under investigation. The details of that investigation aren't known, but reports suggest it's tied to his interference with efforts by the US Environmental Protection Agency to test for contamination in his former district.

Mayor Bell Takes Interest in Delinquent Water Works Customers (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/mayor-william-bell-takes-interest-in-water-works/>)

2017-06-08 08:44:56

Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald talks about why all of a sudden Mayor William Bell is voicing concern about the Birmingham Water Works' decision to start cutting off service to customers who are behind on their bills.

Changes to Mayor-Council Act Deepening Rift at Birmingham City Hall (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/changes-mayor-council-act-deepening-rift-birmingham-city-hall/>)

2017-06-08 17:51:51

Weld investigates changes to the Mayor-Council Act and what Mayor William Bell is doing with his new authority.

Finding Agreement in a Divisive Culture (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/finding-agreement-in-a-divisive-culture/>)

2017-06-15 09:10:21

Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald discusses a shooting that left a congressman wounded and flaws he sees in Alabama's constitution.

Humane Society Approved for New 27-acre Facility in Titusville (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/humane-society-approved-for-new-27-acre-facility-in-titusville/>)

2017-06-15 15:11:47

The Birmingham City Council Tuesday transferred ownership of the property in Titusville to the Greater Birmingham Humane Society. Despite overwhelming support from residents, some in the neighborhood voiced concerns about the move. Hear more from Nick Patterson of Weld.

Investigation Shows State School Board Member Conspired Against Superintendent Candidate (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/investigation-shows-state-school-board-member-conspired-against-superintendent-candidate/>)

2017-06-22 07:53:22

The Alabama Board of Education accepted a report Wednesday that found five people, including a state school board member, conspired to keep a leading candidate from being chosen as state superintendent last year.

Ex-State Lawmaker Oliver Robinson to Plead Guilty In Federal Bribery Case (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/ex-lawmaker-oliver-robinson-agrees-to-plead-in-bribery-case/>)

2017-06-22 21:35:43

Former State Representative Oliver Robinson will plead guilty to federal charges of conspiracy, bribery, tax evasion and wire fraud in a scheme to block expansion of a Superfund site.

Medicaid Cuts Could Hit Alabama Seniors Hard (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/medicaid-cuts-could-really-hit-alabama-seniors/>)

2017-06-28 16:43:34

The U.S. Senate has delayed a vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. As of now, the proposed new bill would result in deep cuts to Medicaid. But a recent report says Alabama is one of seven states where rural seniors rely more on Medicaid for their health care than they do in most other places.

Focus on Birmingham Mayor's Race as Election Revs Up (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/focus-birmingham-mayors-race-election-revs/>)

2017-06-28 17:05:28

Between the mayor's race, city council and school board – 19 seats in all are up for grabs in the Birmingham City Elections set for August 22.

Is Robinson Indictment the Beginning of 'Alabama's Watergate?' (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/is-the-oliver-robinson-indictment-alabamas-watergate/>)

2017-06-29 07:55:20

Alabama is currently waiting to see what happens next in the situation involving former state Rep. Oliver Robinson. He pleaded guilty last week to federal charges of conspiracy, bribery, tax evasion and wire fraud. AL.com's John Archibald thinks there may be more indictments to come.

Birmingham Officials Spend Hundreds of Thousands on Travel Annually (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/birmingham-officials-spend-hundreds-thousands-travel-annually/>)

2017-06-29 13:07:35

A review by the weekly newspaper Weld finds one Birmingham City Council member was responsible for nearly half of the council's entire travel budget last fiscal year.

Alabama's Governor Resigns Amid Scandal Over Alleged Affair And Cover-Up (https://news.wbhm.org/npr_story_post/2017/alabamas-governor-resigns-amid-scandal-over-alleged-affair-and-cover-up/)

2017-04-10 17:34:08

Gov. Robert Bentley was accused of abusing his office to try to conceal an affair with a staffer. He was facing impeachment proceedings, and has pleaded guilty to two misdemeanors.

Alabama Prisons Ruled 'Horrendously Inadequate,' Must Improve (https://news.wbhm.org/npr_story_post/2017/alabama-prisons-ruled-horrendously-inadequate-must-improve/)

2017-06-27 16:31:28

Special Coverage of James Comey's Senate Testimony (<https://news.wbhm.org>)

2017-06-07 17:18:47

Former FBI Director James Comey is testifying before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence this week, speaking publicly for the first time since he was fired by President Trump nearly a month ago. Thursday's public hearing begins at 9 am CT. NPR journalists covering national security and politics have annotated Comey's opening remarks, which the Senate Intelligence Committee released in advance.

Special Coverage: Attorney General Jeff Sessions Testifies on Capitol Hill (<https://news.wbhm.org>)

2017-06-13 14:00:31

Attorney General Jeff Sessions is testifying before the Senate Intelligence Committee in an open hearing on Tuesday. Senators will likely ask about his recusal from the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election and what if anything he knew about President Trump reportedly asking former FBI Director James Comey to ease off the inquiry into onetime national security adviser Michael Flynn.

Education

Fourth Graders Witness History as Bentley Exits (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/alabama-fourth-grades-find-themselves-a-witness-to-history/>)

2017-04-12 07:48:20

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Income Inequality in Birmingham, Alabama (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/income-inequality-birmingham-alabama/>)

2017-04-27 15:41:02

Officials say there are three main obstacles keeping people in Birmingham and Alabama from achieving prosperity: education, poverty and crime. These barriers also contribute to the growing wage gap. WBHM's Esther Ciammachilli talks about this with Nick Patterson, editor of the weekly newspaper Weld.

Woodlawn Students Growing a Healthier Neighborhood (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/woodlawn-students-grow-healthier-neighborhood/>)

2017-04-12 05:00:21

Where some see blight and signs of economic decline, others see potential. Under the flight path of Birmingham's airport and a stone's throw from busy railroad tracks, almost a dozen Woodlawn High School environmental science students are planting fruit trees. It's part of a partnership between the school, the Woodlawn Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy that's transforming vacant lots into lush landscapes meant to benefit the neighborhood.

Birmingham Board of Ed Members Protest Superintendent Candidates (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/birmingham-board-ed-members-protest-superintendent-candidates/>)

2017-04-13 17:47:34

Members gathered in protest recently after the five finalists for the superintendent position were announced. Among their concerns are the process by which the finalists were chosen and the finalists themselves.

Birmingham Superintendent Selection Continues After Lawsuit, Bomb Threat (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/birmingham-superintendent-selection-continues-lawsuit-bomb-threat/>)

2017-04-19 21:47:44

Interim Supt. Larry Contri applied but was excluded because some believed he would retire in June. Contri agreed to a June 2017 retirement last year as part of a lawsuit settlement. But Still said no one asked the interim superintendent about his plans.

Uproar Over Birmingham City Schools Superintendent Search (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/uproar-over-birmingham-city-schools-superintendent-search/>)

2017-04-20 10:48:30

Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald discusses the search for a new Birmingham City Schools superintendent which has included two candidates dropping out, a lawsuit and a bomb threat.

What's Next in Heated Race to Fill Birmingham City Schools Superintendent Post (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/whats-next-heated-race-fill-birmingham-city-schools-superintendent-post/>)

2017-04-20 15:48:19

Esther Ciammachilli talks about what's next in this saga with Nick Patterson, editor of the weekly newspaper Weld.

Stillman College Determined To Win Financial Struggle (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/stillman-college-determined-win-financial-struggle/>)

2017-04-25 08:21:14

At Stillman, the grass is neatly trimmed and flowers are in bloom. Sorority members cooked out on the campus lawn and there was a symposium in the math and science building. Underneath the manicured exterior, Stillman sits on a mountain of debt – about \$ 43 million worth.

Questions Remain Following Gardendale Schools Ruling (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/questions-remain-following-gardendale-schools-ruling/>)

2017-04-27 09:56:04

The Gardendale Board of Education met Tuesday night, one day after a long-awaited order from a federal judge cleared the way for Gardendale to form its own school district apart from Jefferson County. But questions remain like whether the growing city in north Jefferson County can afford to pull out?

Birmingham Hires New School Superintendent (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/birmingham-hires-lisa-herring-new-school-superintendent/>)

2017-05-03 11:56:11

Birmingham City Schools have a new leader. The school board voted last night to hire Lisa Herring of Louisville, Kentucky, following days of controversy after no candidates from Birmingham or Alabama were named finalists for the job.

First Public Charter School Approved for Birmingham (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/first-public-charter-school-approved-birmingham/>)

2017-05-11 17:51:23

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission voted this month to approve a request to open STAR Academy, which will be the state's first public charter school and will open in Birmingham. Charter schools are a contentious subject, with both opponents and supporters both citing statistics supporting their opinions.

Gardendale School Appeals May Delay Pullout from Jefferson County (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/gardendale-schools-appeals-may-delay-pullout-from-jefferson-county/>)

2017-05-24 10:12:23

The City of Gardendale is expected to take control of the two elementary schools in its city limits on June 1, one of the first steps in pulling away from the Jefferson County School system. But two court filings this week may delay that move.

New National Report Critical of School Secession in Alabama (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/national-report-critical-of-school-secession-in-alabama/>)

2017-06-21 00:01:05

A report out Wednesday says Alabama is at the forefront of a trend: school systems breaking away to form separate districts. According to the report from the national advocacy group EdBuild, almost a quarter of the nation's school district breakaways since 2000 have happened in Alabama.

Thousands of Students Compete in Birmingham to be Top Speaker (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/thousands-of-students-compete-in-birmingham-to-be-top-speaker/>)

2017-06-21 14:53:18

Thousands of high school students are in Birmingham this week for the National Speech and Debate Association's national tournament. WBHM's Andrew Yeager follows one Alabama student through the competition.

Crime

Ex-State Lawmaker Oliver Robinson to Plead Guilty In Federal Bribery Case (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/ex-lawmaker-oliver-robinson-agrees-to-plead-in-bribery-case/>)

2017-06-22 21:35:43

Former State Representative Oliver Robinson will plead guilty to federal charges of conspiracy, bribery, tax evasion and wire fraud in a scheme to block expansion of a Superfund site.

Sex Trafficking in Alabama: The Crime & the Fight Against It (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/sex-trafficking-alabama-crime-fight/>)

2017-05-10 05:00:47

By conservative estimates, human trafficking in the U.S. is a growing industry worth tens of billions of dollars a year. Birmingham is not immune. In fact, it's a regional hub. But efforts to fight it here are growing too.

Sex Trafficking in Alabama: Former Victim, Current Rescuer (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/sex-trafficking-alabama-former-victim-current-rescuer/>)

2017-05-10 23:24:03

As a teenager, Tajuan McCarty started off selling drugs. Soon, she sold herself. But not voluntarily. McCarty had become one of tens of millions of sex-trafficking victims around the world. Years later, she founded The WellHouse, a shelter and rehab facility for sexually exploited women.

Sex Trafficking in Alabama: What a Pediatrician Sees (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/sex-trafficking-alabama-pediatrician-sees/>)

2017-05-12 07:49:31

Each year, an estimated 2 million children are exploited in the global sex trade. As Alabama has become part of an elaborate interstate sex trafficking network, countless underage victims need treatment. That's where the Children's Hospital Intervention and Prevention Center in Birmingham comes in.

Economy

Birmingham's Construction Boom: How Long Can it Last? (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/birminghams-construction-boom-how-long-can-it-last/>)

2017-04-10 05:00:59

Birmingham Business Journal editor Ty West evaluates Birmingham's construction boom over the last few years.

When Single Mothers Make Too Much for Government Help But Too Little to Pay the Bills (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/single-mothers-make-much-government-help-little-pay-bills/>)

2017-04-13 05:30:00

What a New Governor Means for Alabama Business (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/what-a-new-governor-means-for-alabama-business/>)

2017-04-17 05:00:31

Birmingham Business Journal editor Ty West discusses what new Governor Kay Ivey might mean for Alabama's business community.

More Venture Capital Flowing into Birmingham (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/more-venture-capital-flowing-into-birmingham/>)

2017-04-24 05:00:52

The Birmingham Business Journal's Ty West discusses the increase in venture capital deals around Birmingham.

Income Inequality in Birmingham, Alabama (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/income-inequality-birmingham-alabama/>)

2017-04-27 15:41:02

Officials say there are three main obstacles keeping people in Birmingham and Alabama from achieving prosperity: education, poverty and crime. These barriers also contribute to the growing wage gap. WBHM's Esther Ciammachilli talks about this with Nick Patterson, editor of the weekly newspaper Weld.

Ratings Agency Downgrades Birmingham's Credit Rating (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/fitch-downgrades-birminghams-credit-rating/>)

2017-05-01 05:00:19

Ratings agency Fitch downgrades Birmingham's credit rating.

Regions Bank Takes Steps To Be Autism-Friendly (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/regions-bank-takes-steps-to-be-autism-friendly/>)

2017-05-01 10:33:56

Regions Bank recently announced efforts to make its 1,500 branches autism-friendly. It's something many businesses across the country are doing. But there isn't a one-size-fits-all approach.

The Next Wave of Downtown Birmingham Development (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/the-next-wave-of-downtown-birmingham-development/>)

2017-05-08 05:00:57

Birmingham Business Journal editor Ty West discusses buildings that could potentially form a new wave of redevelopment in downtown.

JeffCo Judge Overturns Alabama's Workers' Compensation Law (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/jeffco-judge-overturns-alabamas-workers-compensation-law/>)

2017-05-15 06:00:39

Birmingham Business Journal editor Ty West discusses a Jefferson County judge's decision overturning the state's workers' compensation law.

Property Values Jump in Birmingham's Parkside District (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/property-values-jump-in-birmingham-parkside-district/>)

2017-05-22 05:00:58

Birmingham's Parkside District has seen the highest increase in property values among the city's redeveloping neighborhoods.

Stadium vs. Dome: Which is the Better Choice for Birmingham? (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/dome-vs-stadium/>)

2017-05-29 05:00:44

Birmingham Business Journal editor Ty West explains the debate around a downtown stadium.

Business Community Concerned about I-20/59 Bridge Project (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/business-community-concerned-over-i-2059-bridge-project/>)

2017-06-12 11:44:34

The I-20/59 bridge replacement project has Birmingham's business community concerned as investors and developers work to revitalize the area in and around downtown. We talk more about that in this week's Magic City Marketplace.

Get 'Em Now: Local Peach Shortage Looms (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/get-em-now-local-peach-shortage-looms/>)

2017-06-16 06:09:09

If you love local peaches, the kind you see at roadside stands and farmers markets in Alabama, stock up now. There's almost certainly going to be a significant dip in supply.

Proposed Tower Would Rise Above Birmingham's Five Points South (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/proposed-tower-would-rise-above-birmingham-five-points-south/>)

2017-06-19 05:00:11

City leaders have given conditional approval for a 17-story tower in Birmingham's Five Points South neighborhood.

Millennials Want to buy Homes but Face Challenges (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/millennials-want-to-buy-homes-but-face-challenges/>)

2017-06-26 05:00:11

There's this persistent idea that millennials don't want to buy homes. While that's not true millennials are approaching the housing market differently.

Environment

Woodlawn Students Growing a Healthier Neighborhood (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/woodlawn-students-grow-healthier-neighborhood/>)

2017-04-12 05:00:21

Where some see blight and signs of economic decline, others see potential. Under the flight path of Birmingham's airport and a stone's throw from busy railroad tracks, almost a dozen Woodlawn High School environmental science students are planting fruit trees. It's part of a partnership between the school, the Woodlawn Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy that's transforming vacant lots into lush landscapes meant to benefit the neighborhood.

New Report Ranks Alabama Second-Worst in Drinking Water Pollution (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/new-report-ranks-alabama-second-worst-in-drinking-water-pollution/>)

2017-06-08 08:33:57

Contaminants called perfluorinated chemicals or PFC's have been detected in the drinking water according to findings released on June 8 by The Environmental Working Group, an advocacy organization, in conjunction with researchers at Northeastern University.

When the Nation's Top Polluter Drives a Small-Town Economy (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/miller/>)

2017-06-12 09:45:43

The Miller Electric Generating Plant in West Jefferson is the nation's top greenhouse gas polluter. But it's boosted the town's economy, and many residents aren't concerned about pollution.

UAB Unveils Completely Solar-Powered House for Upcoming Competition (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/uab-unveils-house-for-solar-competition/>)

2017-06-15 10:15:13

The project is part of the 2017 Solar Decathlon competition taking place in Denver this October. UAB is competing against 12 other teams from around the world to see which team can build the best, completely solar-powered, full-size home.

Family

Alabama Receives Best Ever Report on Overall Child Well-Being (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/alabama-receives-best-report-overall-well-children/>)

2017-06-13 12:39:54

Alabama improved last year in 11 of 16 indicators used to measure overall child well-being, according to the national Kids Count Data Book released annually by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Science and Technology

UAB Program Unravels Mysteries Of The Human Body (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/uab-program-unravels-mysteries-of-the-human-body/>)

2017-04-15 16:03:48

Each year thousands of people suffer from diseases that defy diagnosis, sometimes for decades. They are medical refugees. These undiagnosed diseases, as they are called, mean a doctor can't figure out what's wrong with their patient. But UAB is trying to change that.

Tesla to Boost Charging Sites in Alabama to 10 (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/tesla-to-expand-car-charging-network-in-alabama/>)

2017-05-26 07:50:33

Tesla is known for fast electric cars with price tags that can easily reach six figures. But this summer, the company plans to produce its first mass-market model. To prepare for more Teslas on the road, the company says it's expanding its network of charging sites in North America by 150 percent, including in Alabama.

UAB Research Finds Security Risks with Computer Created Voices (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/simulated-voices-pose-security-risk/>)

2017-06-13 09:24:41

As computers get better at mimicking human speech, new security issues arise. Researchers at UAB looked at some of them.

Arts and Culture

Bruised Fruit? Wilted Greens? Don't Toss Just Yet (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/bruised-fruit-wilted-greens-dont-toss-them-just-yet/>)

2017-04-21 09:45:38

Saturday is Earth Day, and if you're looking to turn over a new leaf, one place to start is in the kitchen. Each year, Americans toss out 133 billion pounds of food, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. The number one wasted food category? Fresh produce.

House Concerts: An Intimate Way to Enjoy Live Music (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/house-concerts-intimate-way-enjoy-live-music/>)

2017-04-21 15:25:54

Imagine attending a concert in the comfort of your home surrounded by dozens of friends both old and new. That's what it's like hosting a house concert. This tradition has been around for decades and is a popular way to enjoy music in an intimate setting.

A Roman God's Spa Day: Vulcan Gets A Fresh Coat Of Paint (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/roman-gods-spa-day-vulcan-gets-fresh-coat-paint/>)

2017-04-27 07:08:09

Vulcan, the world's largest cast iron statue, gets a paint job -- bare bottom and all.

Arc Stories: April 2017 Edition (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/arc-stories-april-2017-edition/>)

2017-04-27 15:00:52

Four stories recorded in Birmingham in which each person is put in risky situations by some of their closest family members.

How History Can Heal (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/how-history-can-heal/>)

2017-05-02 05:49:17

Vanderbilt University graduate student Stephanie Fulbright studied Birmingham and Northern Ireland to see how historic markers and other public objects can be used for reconciliation.

The Heritage Band: Keeping Birmingham's Big Band Spirit Alive (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/heritage-band-keeping-birminghams-big-band-spirit-alive/>)

2017-05-05 07:23:08

The Heritage Band was founded in 1976 by late saxophonist J.L. Lowe. The group is keeping the big band spirit alive in Birmingham, long after the days of the Duke Ellington big bands have disappeared.

History Professor's Book Reconstructs One African-American's Legal Saga (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/book-on-bessemer-legal-case-details-jim-crow-in-action/>)

2017-05-08 05:30:31

In his new book "He Calls Me By Lightning," Samford University history professor Jonathan Bass writes about the 13-year legal journey endured by a Bessemer man in Jim Crow Alabama.

Vintage Video Games Get An Extra Life (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/vintage-video-games-get-extra-life/>)

2017-05-09 10:03:09

Saturn's Vintage Video Game Night gives gamers an opportunity to replay parts of gaming's past, as well as childhood favorites.

Tank and the Bangas, NPR's Tiny Desk Winners, Coming to Birmingham (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/tank-bangas-nprs-tiny-desk-winners-coming-birmingham/>)

2017-05-12 09:44:18

Tank and the Bangas won NPR's Tiny Desk contest. The New Orleans-based group was chosen unanimously by judges from roughly 6,000 entries. The group is bringing their spirited, high-energy show to Birmingham Saturday and they spoke to WBHM's Esther Ciammachilli ahead of their gig.

Condoleezza Rice's Book Explores Democracy, Segregated Birmingham (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/condoleezza-rices-newest-book-explores-life-segregated-birmingham/>)

2017-05-16 12:20:41

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has just come out with a new book, "Democracy: Stories from the Road to Freedom." While in Birmingham Monday, she told WBHM's Sherrel Wheeler Stewart how memories of a segregated Alabama during her childhood have stuck with her and laid the foundation for her latest work.

Writer Clair McLafferty on Cocktails and the Art of Bartending (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/writer-clair-mclafferty-on-cocktails-and-the-art-of-good-bartending/>)

2017-05-17 12:07:55

Cocktail writer Clair McLafferty talks to WBHM about her new book, *The Classic and Craft Cocktail Recipe Book*, and about what makes a person a good bartender.

"This isn't a party trick"... (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/opera-leah-pickett-mcs/>)

2017-05-17 18:26:23

On the job problem solving... (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/job-problem-solving/>)

2017-05-18 16:52:50

Itzhak Perlman Returns to Birmingham (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/itzhak-perlman-returns-birmingham/>)

2017-05-19 07:07:01

World-renowned Violinist Itzhak Perlman performs at UAB's Alys Stephens Center Sunday. He talks about his career and whether classical music is still relevant today.

A Very Sordid Wedding Mirrors Familiar Same-Sex Themes (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/a-very-sordid-wedding-premieres-in-birmingham/>)

2017-05-24 07:09:15

The sequel to Del Shores' cult film and TV series *Sordid Lives* debuts in Birmingham Thursday.

Arc Stories: May 2017 Edition (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/arc-stories-may-2017-edition/>)

2017-05-26 18:52:54

Birmingham Launches Film Office as State Lags in Big Productions (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/alabama-film-versus-georgia-film/>)

2017-06-06 08:54:39

Birmingham is investing in a new film office, but Alabama still lags behind Georgia in film incentives.

Scott Simon Brings Weekend Edition to Birmingham (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/scott-simon-brings-weekend-edition-birmingham/>)

2017-06-08 08:45:27

NPR's Scott Simon brings *Weekend Edition Saturday* to The Lyric Theatre on June 10. He spoke with WBHM's Michael Krall about the broadcast.

A George Washington Museum -- in Alabama (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/a-george-washington-museum-in-alabama/>)

2017-06-09 06:00:30

A short drive south of Birmingham is a museum that might seem more at home in the nation's capital. It's dedicated to George Washington.

Brothers Basketballing into their 80s at Senior Games (<https://news.wbhm.org/feature/2017/brothers-basketballing-80s-senior-games/>)

2017-06-12 12:51:35

The Cleveland Cavaliers and the Golden State Warriors are battling for the NBA Championship with guys mostly in their 20s and 30s. But the Twomey brothers are in their 80s. They're among the more than 10,000 athletes in Birmingham competing for gold.