

Alabama Public Radio Newsroom

Public File

April 1st through June 30th, 2021

TOPICS COVERED

Alabama Economy

Alabama History

Poverty in Alabama

Crime

Water Rights

Science

Environmental issues

COVID relief

Alabama Tornadoes

April 1-- The U.S. Navy may give Mobile a reason for "Tardy Gras"

COVID-19 canceled Mardi Gras parades on the Gulf Coast. There were no parades and the celebrations that did occur took place in the shadow of social distancing and the coronavirus. But, a bit of the good times will roll next month with what some are calling "Tardy Gras." Guy Busby reports. 7:51 am, 4:51 pm, Runtime 7:15

April 1-- Federal help for renters in Baldwin County starts today

Baldwin County residents feeling financial hardships from the COVID-19 outbreak may see help as soon as today. The U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program is meant to address homelessness or housing instability due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This relief package includes \$25 billion for emergency rental assistance. Close to \$7 billion of that will go to Baldwin County. Lynn Oldshue reports. 7:51 am, 4:51 pm. Runtime 6:00

April 15-- Alabama Power's statewide coal ash plan concerns environmentalists

The argument drags on over what to do with coal ash in the Mobile area. A public hearing was held last week on a plan by Alabama Power. The utility company wants to bury coal ash in an existing pit at its plant Barry facility. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management is now deciding whether or not to issue a permit to allow Alabama Power to do that. We spoke with all sides on the issue for this report. Lynn Oldshue reports. 7:51 am, 4:51 pm. Runtime 6:00

April 20-- From Chernobyl, to 'Bama, and Back

An APR news feature -- Next week marks 35 years since the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster. The 1986 explosion in the Soviet nation of Ukraine sent radioactive fallout drifting north over the neighboring country of Belarus. That's where families in Alabama stepped in. During the years 1999 and 2000, over 200 Belarusian children were flown to the state for medical treatment and a chance to get away from the shadow of Chernobyl. APR and the University of Alabama's Center for Public Television collaborated on this coverage. Pat Duggins reports. 7:51 am, 4:51 pm. Runtime 8:00

April 21-- From Chernobyl, to 'Bama, and Back (Part 2)

"The Inside Man"—

Next Monday marks 35 years since the Soviet nuclear plant disaster that became known as Chernobyl. Yesterday on APR, we met the Lee family of the city of Pelham. They took in a 9-year-old boy from the nation of Belarus in the year 2000. Belarus is just north of where the Chernobyl plant blew up in 1986. It's also where a lot of the radioactive fallout drifted. Alabama Public Radio and the University of Alabama's Center for Public Television collaborated on the story on how children from Belarus were brought to our state for visits beginning in the year 2000. 7:51 am, 4:51 pm. Pat Duggins reports. Runtime 8:00

April 21-- The environmental healing process 10 years after the BP oil spill

Today marks 10 years since the Gulf oil spill. Over the past four months, the APR news team has been following up on issues related to this disaster. That effort includes our reporters along the Alabama Gulf coast. We've outlined concerns about the ongoing impact the spill may be having on the health of coastal residents and the seafood industry. But, there's another issue. Mike Dumas reports. 6:51 am, 8:51 am, 3:51 pm. Runtime 6:33.

April 22-- From Chernobyl, to 'Bama, and Back (Part 3)

"Welcome to Alabama"

All week long on Alabama Public Radio, we've been looking at the ongoing impact of the so called Children of Chernobyl program. Twenty years ago, Alabama families hosted children living in the shadow of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster. APR and the University of Alabama's Center for Public Television collaborated on the story how after this time, the family bonds created by the program still appear strong. In part three, we explain what happened when the kids got here. 7:51 am, 4:51 pm. Pat Duggins reports. Runtime 8:00

April 23-- From Chernobyl, to 'Bama, and Back (Part 4)

"When Vanya came home"

Next Monday is the thirty fifth anniversary of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster. All week long, Alabama Public Radio and the University of Alabama's Center for Public Television have been looking at the ongoing impact of the so-called Children of

Chernobyl. That's when Alabama families hosted children in the shadow of the nuclear plant disaster. It may have been 20 years ago, but the family ties still appear strong. Pat Duggins reports. 7:51 am, 4:51 pm. Runtime 8:00

April 26-- ..It's me, Vanya.

An APR/UACPT news documentary

Today marks 35 years since the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster. The 1986 explosion in the Soviet nation of Ukraine sent radioactive fallout drifting north over the neighboring country of Belarus. That's where families in Alabama stepped in. During the years 1999 and 2000, over two hundred Belarusian children were flown to the State for medical treatment and a chance to get away from the shadow of Chernobyl. Alabama Public Radio collaborated with the University of Alabama's Center for Public Television on this story, which is still unfolding. Pat Duggins reports. 7:00 pm, Runtime 29:00

April 27-- 10 years later: APR revisits victims of the storms

It was 10 years ago today that dozens of tornadoes hit Alabama. The outbreak on April 27, 2011 killed over 200 people. In Tuscaloosa, the National Weather Service said 65 people died and more than 1,000 were injured. The agency said cleaning up the debris in the Druid City cost over \$100 million. Alabama Public Radio has kept in touch with many people affected by the storms over the years. Stan Ingold reports... 7:51 am, 4:51 pm. Runtime 6:31.

April 29-- Re-enactors work to preserve the story of the battleship U.S.S. Alabama

The second World War ended more than 75 years ago. Here in Alabama, one symbol of that conflict is the state's World War II battleship, the USS Alabama. A group of men and women are working to preserve the memory of the service and sacrifices of the millions who helped win that war. Guy Busby reports. 7:51 am, 4:51 pm. Guy Busby reports. Runtime 7:00

May 6-- Florists facing challenges after flower shortage caused by COVID-19

This Sunday is Mother's Day, and celebrating that special day with mom may have been made worse because of COVID-19. We're not just talking about vaccinations and social distancing. Another issue is flowers. The coronavirus made 2020 a tough year for the floral industry that traditionally showers mothers with blossoms. And, florists say 2021 could be even worse because of a worldwide flower shortage. COVID-19, labor shortages, floods, hurricanes, and shipping bottlenecks may add up to a different Mother's Day for many this year. Lynn Oldshue reports. 7:51 am, 4:51 pm. Runtime 6:00

May 12-- Water Wars: Meet the Stakeholders

A collaboration between Alabama Public Radio, WFSU and WABE

The disagreements over water between Florida, Georgia and Alabama aren't over even though earlier this year the U.S. Supreme Court sided with Georgia. The states have been arguing for decades with Florida and Alabama accusing Georgia of using too much water. A plan was put forth six years ago by people who say there is a way to find agreement between the states. APR's Stan Ingold, WABE's Molly Samuel, and WFSU's Roberto Diaz de Villegas report on this joint story. 7:51 am, 4:51 pm. Runtime 8:00

May 13-- Lofty memories at the Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival

People in south Baldwin County had a chance last weekend to see a colorful display of more than 50 hot air balloons taking to the skies around Foley. Many of the balloonists taking part came from around the country for a chance to fly, display their aircraft and get together with old friends. Guy Busby reports 7:45 am. 4:44 pm. Runtime 6:09

May 20-- The famous Mobile resident that may leave some Mobilians saying "who?"

When artists create a painting or sculpture to honor someone, the subject is often someone who's famous. That may not be the case with a new artwork in Mobile. It's about a scientist who's arguably the most famous Mobile resident that most other Mobilians may not know about. The four-story-tall work of art is about biologist E.O. Wilson. Our story with the local artist who's working to immortalize Wilson with a mural. Lynn Oldshue reports. 7:45 am, 4:44 pm. Runtime 5:00

June 1 – “From NASA Astronaut to Confessed Killer.”

A five time Space Shuttle astronaut is now a convicted felon. James Halsell stood before a Tuscaloosa judge and pleaded guilty to two counts of manslaughter in the 2016 traffic crash that killed two young girls. APR has been following the case from the beginning. It was a shock to observers of the space program and a long wait for justice for the victim's family. Pat Duggins reports. 7:45 am. 4:44 pm. Runtime 5:30

June 3-- Mobile area businesses wait for the return of cruise ships

The city of Mobile may have a few more hoops to jump through regarding the future of the cruise ship industry. The CDC is considering what COVID-19 rules to impose on passenger ships. Another possible wrinkle is a new state law in Alabama that outlaws coronavirus passports that prove someone has had their shots. Mobile area businesses that depend on cruise ship passengers for their livelihood are watching and waiting as well. Guy Busby reports. 7:45 am. 4:44 pm. Runtime 5:17

June 4-- Alabama Gulf coast braces for 2021 hurricane season

The Alabama Gulf coast is still cleaning up from last year's storms named Sally and Zeta. Gulf Coast emergency management officials met recently to make plans for the 2021 Hurricane Season. Baldwin County EMA Director Zach Hood said the region is still recovering from last year. Guy Busby reports 7:51 am, 4:51 pm. Guy Busby reports Runtime 7:00

June 10-- Pride in Alabama Part 1: Misinformation and transgender legislation

Alabama is joining a growing list of states that ban transgender youth from participating in high school sports. Another proposal to ban medical treatment to help with gender affirmation and transitioning failed to pass this legislative session. June is PRIDE month. This is part one of an ongoing series on transgender legislation. The focus is on one bill that's expected to come back next year and how trans activists are already planning how to fight it. 7:51 am, 4:51 pm. Baillie Majors reports. Runtime 8:00

June 17 -- PRIDE in Alabama Part 2: Trans athletes and sports restrictions

Alabama is joining the growing list of states to restrict how transgender youth participate in high school sports, and trans activists are now pushing back on the new rules. APR is spending Pride Month, during June, examining issues pertaining to the transgender community. That includes this deep dive into the new rules and restrictions. Baillie Majors reports. 7:51 am, 4:51 pm. Runtime 8:00

June 22-- Unemployment cuts hurt most vulnerable Alabamians

Alabama is listed as one of the poorest states in the country and a policy change in mid-June may not help. Governor Kay Ivey joined leaders in over 20 states who plan to end federal unemployment payments as part of COVID-19 relief. Alabama stopped issuing the extra dollars on June 19. Supporters of low-income Alabamians say they are already dealing with problems like a poor education system, food insecurity, and low incomes. Llyas Ross reports. 7:51 am, 4:51pm. Runtime 7:00

June 24-- PRIDE in Alabama Part 3: Medical Accessibility

June is Pride month, and Alabama Public radio has spent the past few weeks diving into issues that affect the transgender community. This is the third installment of our PRIDE series, focusing on the medical accessibility for trans people of color in Alabama. That includes the risk transgender people take to get treatment. Baillee Majors reports. 7:51 am, 4:51 pm. Runtime 8:00