

APTV
Birmingham, AL
PBS Quarterly Program Topic Report
October 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

American History/Biography

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 10/2/2020 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:03:16

As the coronavirus pandemic drags on into the fall, we remember the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have passed away from the virus. Here are a few of their stories.

Series Title: Secrets of the Dead
Episode Title: Abandoning the Titanic
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 11/4/2020 9:00:00 PM
Service: PBS-NPS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 00:56:44

Join a team of investigators as they search for the identity of the captain of a "mystery ship" that turned away from the "unsinkable" Titanic in its darkest hour, abandoning thousands of lives to the icy waters and their deaths.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Episode Title: Episode 115
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 12/8/2020 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:03:51

The first man to break the sound barrier, Chuck Yeager died on Monday in California at the age of 97. John Yang has the story.

Culture

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 10/1/2020 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:04:48

Another 837,000 Americans filed new claims for unemployment benefits last week -- a slight decline from the week before, but still a historically high level. Meanwhile, prospects for new federal pandemic relief remain uncertain, though House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin continued their talks Thursday. Lisa Desjardins and Yamiche Alcindor join Judy Woodruff to discuss.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 11/9/2020 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:02:28

Alex Trebek was known to millions the world over for hosting the TV game show "Jeopardy!" Diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer, he continued taping programs until recently, with the final episode of "Jeopardy!" due to air on Christmas. The Canadian-born Trebek was beloved for his dignity and demeanor through 37 years and more than 8,000 episodes of the show. Jeffrey Brown has our remembrance.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 12/2/2020 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:02:48

Many Americans will carefully weigh the risks when deciding whether to gather together or travel for the holidays amid a global pandemic. Maria Konnikova, poker player and author of "The Biggest Bluff," shares her humble opinion on how to balance luck and skill.

Environment/Nature/Natural Disasters

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 10/6/2020 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:07:49

Filmmaker Sir David Attenborough has been documenting the natural world since the 1950s. In his latest book and film, "A Life on Our Planet," he offers a grave and alarming assessment about the climate crisis Earth is facing. The 94-year-old Attenborough spoke with William Brangham recently as part of our ongoing arts and culture series, Canvas.

Series Title: NOVA
Episode Title: Hagia Sophia - Istanbul's Ancient Mystery
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 11/18/2020 8:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 01:00:00

Istanbul's magnificent Hagia Sophia has survived on one of the world's most active seismic faults, which has inflicted a dozen devastating earthquakes since Hagia Sophia was built in 537 AD. As Istanbul braces for the next big quake, a team of architects and engineers is investigating Hagia Sophia's seismic secrets. NOVA follows the team's discoveries as they examine the building's unique structure and other ingenious design strategies that have insured the dome's survival. The engineers build a massive eight-ton model of the building's core structure, place it on a motorized shake table and hit it with a series of simulated quakes.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Episode Title: Episode 122
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 12/17/2020 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:06:22

President-elect Biden has said that tackling climate change, the environment and green energy are top priorities for his administration. And so far, his team appears to be a mix of some familiar faces and some not-so-familiar faces. John Yang spoke with Amy Harder, an energy and climate reporter for Axios, to learn more.

Family/Marriage

Series Title: Finding Your Roots
Episode Title: DNA Mysteries
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 10/20/2020 7:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Other
Segment Length: 01:00:00

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. uses DNA detective work to solve mysteries in the family trees of actor Téa Leoni, and radio host Joe Madison, introducing each of them to parents and grandparents whose names they've never heard before.

Series Title: Finding Your Roots
Episode Title: Flight
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 11/17/2020 7:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Other
Segment Length: 00:56:44

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. meets actors Scarlett Johansson and Lupita Nyong'o and chef Lidia Bastianich, whose families crisscrossed the globe to escape oppression and find opportunity, leaving them with questions about those who stayed behind.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 12/1/2020 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:08:33

The pandemic has accelerated a change in housing in the U.S. that began well before the spread of COVID-19. Millennials, adults between the ages of 24 and 39, continue to move back home with their parents in significant numbers. For some it's by choice, but for many it's a necessity. Special correspondent Catherine Rampell, who is a columnist for The Washington Post, has the story.

Health/Healthcare

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 10/5/2020 7:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:05:20

President Trump returned to the White House Monday evening, after spending just under three days at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for coronavirus treatment. How will his medical care continue outside the hospital, and what does his illness mean for White House staff and Trump's reelection campaign? Yamiche Alcindor joins Judy Woodruff to discuss.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 11/2/2020 7:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:03:09

Several U.S. public health leaders warned this weekend that the coronavirus is spreading unchecked throughout the country -- and likely to become significantly worse in the coming days and weeks. Unlike in the spring and summer, virus cases are rising in 49 of 50 states. William Brangham looks at the urgency of the situation with Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of Brown University's School of Public Health.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Episode Title: Episode 132
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 12/31/2020 7:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:09:06

Since the first reported case of COVID-19 a little more than a year ago, the pandemic has taken a devastating toll in the U.S. -- far worse than in many other developed countries. Donald G. McNeil Jr., a science and health reporter for The New York Times, joins Judy Woodruff to give some perspective.

Minorities/Civil Rights

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 10/7/2020 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:05:48

Totaling some 6.8 million people, American Indians and Native Alaskans could play a key role in the upcoming election, especially in Western swing states like Arizona and Nevada. But there are some obstacles in Native communities that make their residents less likely to vote. Stephanie Sy talks to attorney Jacqueline De Leon of the Native American Rights Fund about efforts to change that.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 11/23/2020 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:06:01

President-elect Joseph Biden on Monday announced the nominations for his national security team, including the first Latino to head the Department of Homeland Security and the first woman to lead the intelligence community. Wendy Sherman, the former undersecretary of state for political affairs during the Obama administration, joins Nick Schiffrin to discuss.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Episode Title: Episode 112
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 12/3/2020 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:08:32

More than 1 million Uighurs, an ethnic-Muslim minority in China, are being detained in hundreds of Chinese detention facilities and camps, where there are reports of widespread torture and detentions that have evolved into forced labor. The Department of Homeland Security is now banning products thought to be made in China by forced Uighur labor. Nick Schiffrin reports.

Science/Technology

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 10/20/2020 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:06:34

The Justice Department is suing Google for allegedly leveraging its market power to block competition illegally. In the most significant challenge to a big tech company in decades, prosecutors say Google pays phone manufacturers to make its search engine users' default, among other charges. Amna Nawaz talks to Dipayan Ghosh of the Harvard Kennedy School's Digital Platforms & Democracy Project.

Series Title: Secrets of the Dead
Episode Title: Nero's Sunken City
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 11/11/2020 9:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Other
Segment Length: 01:00:00

Baiae... An escape for ancient Rome's powerful elite, the Las Vegas of its day. Now, archaeologists are mapping underwater ruins and piecing together what life was like in this playground for the rich.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Episode Title: Episode 123
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 12/18/2020 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:08:25

The U.S. cybersecurity team is still trying to determine exactly who is responsible for a major cyberattack in the U.S., with many signs pointing to the Russian government. Microsoft, which has built the systems for a majority of computers in the U.S., said they too have found malicious software on its systems. William Brangham spoke with Brad Smith, president of Microsoft, to learn more.

Alabama Public Television
Quarterly Programs/Issues Report
October – December 2020

Capitol Journal

10/2/20, 7:30pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, health, youth

We were joined by former Governor Robert Bentley, who talked with us about his contention that current Governor Kay Ivey's decision to set a special U.S. Senate election in 2017 could have consequences in the upcoming Supreme Court confirmation process. We were also joined by State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris, who discussed that week's extension of the statewide masking mandate. And Representative Wes Allen of Troy was with us to talk about his bringing back a bill that would ban puberty blocking drugs and transgender surgeries for minors.

10/9/20, 7:30pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, health, environment, economic

We were joined by State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris, who talked with us about how a coronavirus outbreak at the White House should be a cautionary tale as we continued to battle the disease. We were also joined by Dr. David Hughes with Auburn University at Montgomery, who talked with us about a new school poll which showed Tommy Tuberville leading Doug Jones in the U.S. Senate race by 12 percentage points. And Sen. Chris Elliott of Fairhope was with us to discuss hurricane relief, an upcoming vote on a Baldwin County toll road authority, and his bill that would exempt Alabama residents and businesses from having to pay state taxes on their federal CARES Act benefits.

10/16/20, 7:30pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, youth, health

Former Chief Justice Roy Moore joined to discuss a masking lawsuit, the U-S Senate race and the new gay marriage debate. We were also joined by Rep. Neil Rafferty of Birmingham, who talked with us about gay marriage and about his opposition to a new bill to ban transgender surgeries for minors. And State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris joined us to discuss a slight uptick in our coronavirus cases and hospitalizations.

10/23/20, 7:30pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, health, economic, race

Congressman Gary Palmer of Hoover joined us to discuss negotiations over a possible new federal coronavirus relief bill. State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris was with us to talk about a continued uptick in our virus cases and hospitalizations. And Representative Merika Coleman

of Pleasant Grove joined us to discuss the amendment she sponsored on the November ballot that would remove racist language from the Alabama constitution.

10/30/20, 8pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, health

U.S. Sen. Doug Jones joined us to discuss the final days of his heated re-election campaign. GOP political consultant Angi Stalnaker and Democratic pollster Zac McCrary were with us to offer pre-election analysis. Secretary of State John Merrill joined us to talk about predicted record voter turnout in the upcoming Alabama election. Sen. Arthur Orr of Decatur talked with us about a constitutional amendment he sponsored that would make some changes to the Alabama court system. And State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris joined us to discuss a continued rise in Alabama coronavirus cases and hospitalizations.

11/6/20, 8pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, health

U.S. Senator-elect Tommy Tuberville joined us to discuss his decisive win over Doug Jones that week and his thoughts on the presidential race. Congressman Mo Brooks of Huntsville was with us to talk about what he thought was at stake in the election and about his census lawsuit. Alabama Republican Party Chair Terry Lathan of Mobile joined us to discuss big GOP strides in the election. And State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris talked with us about that week's decision to extend the statewide masking ordinance.

11/13/20, 7:30pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, health

State Democratic Party Chair Chris England joined us to talk about Joe Biden winning the White House and about his party's disappointing showing in Alabama. District 1 Congressman-elect Jerry Carl of Mobile was with us to talk about his victory and about the presidential election controversy. State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris joined us to discuss worsening Alabama coronavirus numbers. And state Mental Health Commissioner Lynn Beshear talked with us about the recently announced mental health crisis centers around the state.

11/20/20, 7:30pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, health, education, crime

State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris joined us to urge residents to stay home for Thanksgiving, as the coronavirus surged in Alabama. Superintendent of Education Dr. Eric Mackey was with us to talk about how the rising virus was forcing more schools to go back to remote learning. Attorney General Steve Marshall joined us to discuss the election controversy. And Sen. Cam Ward talked with us about being named the new Director of the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles.

12/4/20, 7:30pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, health, economic

State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris joined us to discuss a new daily record for Alabama coronavirus cases and his fears for the future. Alabama Hospital Association President Dr. Don Williamson was with us to talk about a new record for COVID-related hospitalizations in the state. Jason Isbell with the Alabama Bankers Association joined us to discuss how businesses were faring as the pandemic raged. And Congressman Mo Brooks of Huntsville talked with us about his decision to oppose ratifying the Electoral College vote next month in the U.S. House.

12/11/20, 7:30pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, health, crime

State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris joined us to talk about the imminent arrival of the coronavirus vaccine and about our surging virus numbers. Senate Majority Leader Greg Reed of Jasper joined us to talk about the state being sued over prison conditions and about his nomination to be the next President Pro Tem. Rep. Russell Bedsole of Alabaster was with us to discuss constituent concerns over a proposed new state prison in his district. And Rep. Jamie Kiel of Russellville joined us to talk about an election-related bill that he had pre-filed.

12/18/20, 7:30pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Government, health

Congressman Robert Aderholt of Haleyville joined us to discuss the negotiations over a new coronavirus relief package, as well as the election controversy. State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris talked with us about Alabama that week administering its first doses of the virus vaccine. And Senator Arthur Orr of Decatur joined us to discuss a bill he was working on that would not require Alabamians be given the vaccine.

Spotlight on Education

10/22/20, 7:30pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Education, government, youth

Superintendent of Education Dr. Eric Mackey joined us to discuss the imminent launch of a new school system-specific coronavirus dashboard. Dr. Neil Lamb was with us to talk about his recent appointment as chairman of the governor's new Alabama STEM Council. Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind President Dr. John Mascia joined us to talk about expanding the school's services. And Nancy Pack, Director of the Alabama Public Library Service, was with us to discuss services for schools and students during the pandemic.

Alabama Gospel Roots

10/3/20, 8pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Culture

Guests included artists DeDee Frazier of Birmingham, New Reason Quartet of Ranburne, AL, and Minister Felton Hodges and the Anointed Voices of Faith of Columbus, MS; Rev. Quentin Byrd of Montgomery, and Gospel DJ Rod Tompkins of WAGG in Birmingham.

10/10/20, 8pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Culture

Guests included artists the Pylant Family of Eva, AL, Samuel Brown and LaDonna Taylor of Birmingham, The Gospel Voices of Hollins, AL, Thermon Bell of Scottsboro, AL; Rev. Michael Paciello of Birmingham; Dr. Jacqueline Stewart of Birmingham; and Gospel DJ Doug Brewer with 97.7FM in Birmingham.

10/17/20, 8pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Culture

Guests included artists Rev. Lawrence Thomison of Nashville, Jeannie Jackson of Birmingham, 'Redeemed' of West Jefferson, AL, 'Cake Walk;' Gertha Davis; Mason Bonner of Tuscaloosa; and Gospel DJ Bill Roberts from WLWI in Montgomery.

10/24/20, 8pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Culture

Guests included artists 'Point of Honor' of Rainsville, AL, 'Like Paul' of Birmingham, Bishop Felix Hill of Phenix City, AL, Monica Lisa Stevenson of Atlanta; Bishop Phillip Wright of Birmingham; Willie Wilder; and Gospel DJ Mary McInnis.

10/31/20, 8pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Culture

Guests included artists Pastor James Bolton of McClain, MS, Bonita Eileen of Fort Payne, AL, Loni Crawford of Birmingham, Pastor Lawrence Thomison of Nashville; Rev. Jeremy Saylor of Birmingham; Mollie Witt of Birmingham; Ruthie Bolton of McClain, MS; and Gospel DJ Walter Peavey of WDJL in Huntsville, AL.

11/7/20, 8pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Culture

Guests included artists Teddy Cross, 'Spoken For' Trio of Prattville, AL, Delon Charlie, LaDonna Taylor of Birmingham; Dr. Paul Amamoo; Hardenia Doll Monroe; and Gospel DJ Trini Moye of WYVC in Camden, AL.

11/14/20, 8pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Culture

Guests included artists 'Big Prophet' of Birmingham, Vann Burchfield of Birmingham, 'Spoken For' Trio of Prattville, AL, Kamelyn Easley of Birmingham; Eric Harris of Birmingham; Dr. Donna Turner of Birmingham, Scott Evans of Blount County, AL; Hoyt and Rachel Minyard of Rainbow City, AL.

12/12/20, 8pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Culture

Guests included artists 'The Connells' of Jacksonville,, AL, Fred Perry and '2nd Generation' of Memphis, TN, The Ricketts Family of Speake, AL, Benita Jones of Selma, AL; Rev. E.O. Jackson of Birmingham; Allison Sander of Birmingham; Peggy Sisson of Riverchase, AL; and Michael Dillard of Selma, AL.

12/19/20, 8pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Culture

Guests included artists Felix Omar Hill of Phenix City, AL, Lance Driskell of Huntsville, AL, Janell Moore of Columbus, GA, 'Eagle's Wings' of Jasper, AL; Darlene Powell of Birmingham; Lue Thomas Baker of Birmingham; and Gospel DJ Glinda Perkins of WXVI in Montgomery.

12/26/20, 8pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Culture

Guests included artists Allen Pruitt and 'Called 2 Worship' of Birmingham, The Cleghorn Family of Cullman, AL, Darryl Luster of Jackson, MS, Rickey Powell of Birmingham; Emma Lu Washington Evans and Cora Thomas Williams of Birmingham; Kenneth Grubbs of Clayton, AL.

Spotlight on Agriculture

11/12/20, 8pm, 1 hour Issues discussed: Education, youth, economic, environment

'4H & ACES' explores the work of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES). The system provides research-based educational programs in agriculture, forestry, wildlife, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, economic and community development, 4-H and youth development, and urban affairs.

Monograph

12/14/20, 9:30pm, 30 minutes Issues discussed: Education, culture

Host Jackie Clay checks in with voices from around the state to reflect on the arts in 2020 and look to where Alabama creativity is headed in 2021. Featured segments include Montgomery photographer Sydney A. Foster; the Book Arts MFA Program at the University of Alabama; and Shaheed and DJ Supreme - an internationally known Birmingham hip hop duo dedicated to spreading messages of love.

Distinguished Young Women 2020 Awards

12/27/20, 2pm, 2 hour Issues discussed: Youth, education

Highlights of the 2020 Distinguished Young Women National Finals recorded in Mobile, Ala. Distinguished Young Women is a national scholarship program that inspires high school girls to develop their full, individual potential through a fun, transformative experience that culminates in this celebratory showcase of their accomplishments.