

**FIRST QUARTER ISSUES PROGRAMS LIST FOR  
TROY UNIVERSITY PUBLIC RADIO  
January 1 – March 31, 2023  
Placed in the Public File April 7, 2023**

**Section I. Issues.**

The station has identified the following issues as significant issues facing our community this quarter:

- A. Societal Issues:** Inflation; Respiratory viruses – Covid 19 Subvariants, Flu, RSV; Choctawhatchee River pollution; The Crypto market; Alabama’s State Flower – the Camellia; Workforce Development and recruitment of young adults; the January 12<sup>th</sup> tornado destruction of parts of Selma and Autauga County, AL; Better Business Bureau precautions about post-tornado fraudulent activity; Inflation impacted by high transportation costs of consumer goods; Guide Dogs of America update; Alabama Trucking Association and costly diesel fuel amid supply chain issues; Alabama Literary Alliance; Cloverdale Playhouse presents imagined sequel to *A Doll’s House* as applied to today; Romance scams; Oldest Appalachian Trail Hiker Nimblewill Nomad (Dr. Meredith Eberhart, retired optometrist) leaves Flagg Mountain, AL, to hike the 800-mile Old Chisholm Trail; Trusted Contacts on *The Exchange*; Empress Trees mitigating carbon; Alabama Writers Hall of Fame; Spam Text on *The Exchange*; Seventh District Congresswoman Terri Sewell on federal help to rebuild Selma after EF-2 tornado; the Alabama economy on *The Exchange*; Genealogy research; Educator Greta Lambert to retire from Alabama Shakespeare Festival; United Through Reading’s service to military families; *The Exchange* examines Alabama’s underutilized waterways to transport consumer goods; *The Exchange* discussion of the FDIC and safety of customer bank deposits; Opioids and Fentanyl crisis; The World Bank.
- B. Historical Issues:** Black Voter Registration efforts in Pike County, AL, in the 1960s; Architect Frank Lloyd Wright’s Rosenbaum House in Florence, AL; Montgomery’s Railroad history; Mt. Sinai Rosenwald School in Autauga County, AL; Black History Month at the Alabama Department of Archives and History; Fort Benning’s Boy Scout Troop 27’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; Ancient Grains at Russell Cave National Monument in north Alabama; Autauga County historic structures; Selma in the Civil Rights era; Documentary about the descendants of the last slave ship Clotilda; Women’s History Month programs on Winnie Wright, the Opp 1920s Flapper who broke glass ceilings; Vietnam War POWs return to Maxwell AFB.

## Section II: Responsive Programs

The station has presented programming dealing with each of the above-referenced issues. Programming on *In Focus*, with host-producer Carolyn Hutcheson, dealt with each issue in a 9 ½-minute segment, beginning at 12:40 p.m. Central time Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. On Mondays, *The Exchange* was presented at 7:40 a.m. and 12:35 p.m. targeting consumer and finance issues in a 4 ½-minute format.

### Special Note:

Troy Public Radio continued to make the *In Focus* program available by podcast, and on February 25<sup>th</sup>, launched *In Focus Weekend*, featuring back-to-back episodes of the program on Saturdays at 3:40 p.m. and Sundays at 6:40 a.m.

### A. Societal Issues

-Broadcast on January 2:

A discussion on *The Exchange* with guest Joseph Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission, about signs of inflation in the economy.

-Broadcast on January 3:

A re-broadcast of a discussion with guest Dr. Wes Stubblefield, District Medical Officer for the Alabama Department of Public Health, about respiratory viruses of concern – Covid-19 and its Subvariants, Flu, and RSV. He differentiated among the symptoms and treatments.

-Broadcast on January 5:

A discussion with guest Mike Mullen, Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper, about signs of pollution in the river's Wiregrass region of southeast Alabama. Chemical pollutants – PFAs – are of special concern.

-Broadcast on January 9 and February 6:

A discussion on *The Exchange* with guest Joe Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission, about Crypto and the risks associated with that type of investment. The February 6<sup>th</sup> program dealt with filings for bankruptcy by several Crypto exchanges.

-Broadcast on January 10:

A discussion with guest retired Alabama Cooperative Extension Agronomist Charles Mitchell, who also is president of the Auburn – Opelika Men's Camellia Club, about Alabama's first designated official State Flower, the Camellia, with insight on how the plants are recovering from the December deep freeze.

-Broadcast on January 11:

A discussion with guest Dr. Jim Purcell, Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, about the challenge of attracting, training, and keeping young adults in Alabama as key components of workforce development.

-Broadcast on January 19 and 25:

A discussion with guest Kyle Gassiott, Troy Public Radio's Operations Manager, about the January 12<sup>th</sup> EF-2 tornado's destruction in Selma and Autauga County, AL. He reported on-site at both locations for NPR. As a follow-up, Carolyn Hutcheson interviewed guest Candi Duncan of the Selma-Dallas County Historic Preservation Society, about the damage to Selma's historic structures, several of which are recognized on state and federal registers of historic places.

-Broadcast on January 23:

A discussion on *The Exchange* with guest economist Judson Edwards, Dean of the Troy University Sorrell College of Business, about the impact of transportation costs on consumer goods, spurring inflation amid supply chain issues. Edwards also hosts the *Double Dome* podcast about economic issues.

-Broadcast on January 24:

A discussion with guest Monde Donaldson, Vice-President of the Better Business Bureau Educational Foundation Serving Central and South Alabama, about the aftermath of the Selma and Autauga County tornadoes, with precautions about fraudulent activity against storm victims.

-Broadcast on January 26:

A discussion with guest Adam Beasley of Ozark about Guide Dogs of America, for which he is a longtime volunteer. He shared the news that the organization has merged with Tender Loving Canines to supply support dogs to veterans, those on the autism spectrum, and others with emotional conditions.

-Broadcast on January 30:

A discussion with guest Mark Colson, President and CEO of the Alabama Trucking Association, about the high cost of diesel fuel and the feasibility of alternative fuels. The nation continues to grapple with supply chain issues and inflation.

-Broadcast on February 2:

A discussion with guest Margaret Gunter, Immediate Past-President of the Alabama Literary Alliance, about their statewide advocacy for literacy and reading initiatives. There are many adults in Alabama who cannot read and write, and literacy volunteers in various organizations are actively teaching these skills.

-Broadcast on February 8:

A discussion with guest Cliff Christian, former Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 27, celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The troop was chartered in 1923 by the Fort Benning Infantry School and has continued its strong tradition of community service. Several troop members became leaders in the U.S. Military as adults.

-Broadcast on February 9:

A discussion with guest Sam Wooten, Artistic Director of Montgomery's Cloverdale Playhouse, About how the upcoming production of the imagined sequel to Ibsen's *A Doll's House* by playwright Lucas Naith speaks to today's societal issues.

-Broadcast on February 13:

A discussion on *The Exchange* with guest Monde Donaldson, Vice-President of the Better Business Bureau Educational Foundation, Serving Central and South Alabama, about online romance scams. A key red flag is if the object of affection asks for money for any reason.

-Broadcast on February 14:

A discussion with guest Nimblewill Nomad, the retired optometrist Dr. Meredith Eberhart, about his Trail poetry and plans to hike the 800-mile Old Chisholm Trail. Eberhart holds the title of World's Oldest Appalachian Trail Hiker (at 83). He is a Triple Crown Hiker, having hiked the longest U.S. trails.

-Broadcast on February 20:

A discussion on *The Exchange* with guest Joseph Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission, about the importance of having a Trusted Contact for investors, in the event of emergencies.

-Broadcast on February 21:

A discussion with Montgomery guest Grover Plunkett for Arbor Week about how his north Alabama cattle farm also became a tree farm. He planted Empress Trees that mitigate carbon. Former President Jimmy Carter also has an Empress tree farm in south Georgia.

-Broadcast on February 22:

A discussion with guest poet Jeanie Thompson, Executive Director of the Alabama Writers Forum, about the upcoming induction of eight new honorees in the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame.

-Broadcast on February 27:

A discussion with guest Joseph Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission, about the prevalence of Spam Text messages on cell phones and how to deal with them

-Broadcast on March 2:

A discussion with guest Seventh Congressional District Congresswoman Terri Sewell about federal help rebuilding Selma following the January 12<sup>th</sup> EF-2 tornado. Sewell is in Selma for the annual Bridge Crossing Jubilee, with President Joe Biden expected to attend.

-Broadcast on March 6:

A discussion on *The Exchange* with guest economist Judson Edwards, Dean of the Troy University Sorrell College of Business, about the Alabama economy as the Legislature convenes this week. Edwards is hopeful the legislators will consider repealing the state grocery tax, to lessen the impact of inflation on consumers.

-Broadcast on March 7 and 14:

A two-program discussion with March 7th guest Jennifer Utley, Executive Story Producer for Ancestry.com, and with March 14th guest Lynn Schlick, about the Alabama Genealogical Society's spring seminar, with both guests sharing personal stories of tracing their family history. The Alabama Department of Archives and History offers public access without charge to ancestry.com in its research room.

-Broadcast on March 8:

A discussion with guest actor Greta Lambert, Education Director and Deputy Artistic Director of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, about her upcoming retirement. She talked about her current role as Prospero in *The Tempest* and its message of forgiveness that applies today.

-Broadcast on March 9:

For National Reading Month, a discussion with guest Molly Haskin, Speech Pathologist, and United Through Reading's Director of Army, Air Force, and Space Force programs, about the nonprofit organization's worldwide activities that facilitate deployed service members' reading of books to their children and families. She is a military spouse at Fort Rucker.

-Broadcast on March 13:

A discussion for *The Exchange* with guest economist Judson Edwards, Dean of the Troy University Sorrell College of Business, about the underutilization of Alabama's waterways to transport consumer goods. The current supply chain features delivery by truck, rail, air, but not by waterway, due to Alabama's failure to provide inland ports. Also, Alabama has no water management policy, although every adjoining state has a water management policy.

-Broadcast on March 20:

A discussion on *The Exchange* with guest Scott Latham, President of the Alabama Bankers Association, about the safety of customer deposits in Alabama banks. Following the collapse of two banks in California and New York, Latham addressed how the FDIC insures bank deposits, with all insurance funded by its member banks.

-Broadcast on March 21 and 22:

A two-part discussion with guest D.E.A. Special Agent Towanda Thorne-James, Assistant Special Agent in charge of Alabama, about how drug cartels south of the U.S. border are

organized to facilitate the illegal drug trade in the U.S., as well as how the drugs are distributed inside the U.S. In addressing the fentanyl and opioid crisis that is killing users, she discussed red flags for parents to watch for in teen and young adult behavior.

-Broadcast on March 23:

A discussion with guest Ian Knapp about the World Bank and its mission to help financially stabilize underdeveloped countries. Knapp had a seventeen-year management career with the World Bank in Kenya, the Philippines, and other African and Asian countries.

## A. Historical Issues

-Broadcast on January 12:

A discussion with guest John Reynolds about the Scope organization's efforts to register black voters in Pike County, AL, in the 1960s. Careful planning and racial cooperation resulted in the peaceful registration of black voters, and a commemorative historical marker erected.

-Broadcast on January 16 and 18:

A two-part discussion with guest Jeff Ford, Site Director of the Florence, AL, Rosenbaum House, the only structure designed by Usonian Architect Frank Lloyd Wright in Alabama. Ford compared Wright's design concepts and use of materials with the current Tiny House Movement. The two-part program was also featured on *In Focus Weekend* February 25 & 26.

-Broadcast on January 31 with February 10 and 11 podcast posting:

A discussion with guest retired Bishop of Upper South Carolina Andrew Waldo, a Montgomery native, about the city's railroad history and the gandy dancers who laid railroad track for this railroad hub that was central to the economy of the Southeast. The City of Montgomery is preserving that history in a new documentary film about the Western Railway of Alabama. Added to the *In Focus* podcast was a discussion with guest University of Alabama architect Jeremiah Stager, who constructed a Western Railway of Alabama display model and narrated the new film about the railroad's Montgomery Shops.

-Broadcast on February 1:

A re-broadcast discussion with guest Zenobia Marshal, President of the Mt. Sinai Rosenwald School and Community Center in Autauga County, AL., in honor of Black History Month. The school was founded in 1919, one of 5000 across the South established by Sears CEO Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington to educate black children during segregation. The on-site interview was originally made in the summer of 2021, and the school/community center was still standing after the recent January 12<sup>th</sup> EF-3 tornado in the county.

-Broadcast on February 7:

A discussion with guests Sam Christensen, Exhibit Curator, and Scotty Kirkland, Curator of the Alabama Radio Moments Exhibit, about the Alabama Department of Archives and History's Black History Month activities for families.

-Broadcast on February 16:

A discussion with guest archaeologist Stephen Carmody, Chair of the Troy University Department of Anthropology, Sociology, and Criminology, about ancient grains related to Quinoa found in Russell Cave National Monument in north Alabama. The Alabama Archaeological Society will hold its Winter Conference at Troy University next weekend.

-Broadcast on February 19:

A re-broadcast of a 2022 discussion with guest Larry Caver, President of the Old Autauga Historical Association, about the historic structures the organization is helping restore, including an African American school in operation prior to integration. Following the January 12<sup>th</sup> EF-3 tornado in Autauga County, Caver confirmed that the historic structures were unaffected.

-Broadcast on February 28:

A discussion with guest Willie Mae Brown, whose childhood memories of Selma included attending Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church and hearing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speak in 1965. Her book is *My Selma, True Stories of a Southern Childhood at the Height of the Civil Rights Movement*. This program was part of the radio coverage leading up to Selma's Bridge Crossing Jubilee. Willie Mae Brown was preparing to speak at the Selma-Dallas County Public Library.

-Broadcast on March 1 and 15:

A two-part discussion with guest retired Covington County District Judge Frank "Trippy" McGuire about his research into the life of Winnie Wright, whom he wrote about in the book, *A Roaring Twenties Flapper Who Broke Glass Ceilings – Winnie Wright in the Early Boomtown Years of Opp, Alabama*. Wright was at the center of the "Murder Trial of the Century." This program kicked off Women's History Month and was also featured on *In Focus Weekend* March 18 and 19.

-Broadcast on March 3:

A discussion with guest Theo Moore, documentary filmmaker, about the stories shared by the descendants of the last slave ship Clotilda at their homes in Africatown. Moore is to return to his alma mater, Troy University, to participate in the McPherson – Mitchell lecture series and present his film, *Afrikan by Way of American*.

-Broadcast on March 10:

A discussion with guest Lt. Col. Christopher Troutman, USAF, about the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the return of 43 POWs from the Vietnam War to Maxwell AFB following the Paris Peace Accords. Maxwell Air Force Base is commemorating the return of 591 POWs to ten U.S. military bases in 1973 with a series of events open to the public, including a replica of the War Memorial.

