

4th Quarter 2021 (Oct 1 – Dec 31)

Issues and Programs for WJTC

Issues addressed:

Public Health
Public Safety
Consumer Awareness
Education
Crime

Regularly Scheduled Programs:

NBC 15 News – Daily local news programs

WPMT's daily newscasts give considerable time to issues that concern the communities of the South Alabama and Western Florida areas.

7pm – 7:30	WJTC News at 7:00	M-F
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9pm – 11pm	The National Desk	M-F
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The National Desk airs M-F. The National Desk covers news across the country showing issues that are important to both national and local communities.

Public Health

For Oct 1 – Dec 31 – WJTC featured daily reports about where and when you can acquire Corona virus vaccines.

10/11/21 NBC 15 News at 7PM (WJTC) trt: 1:52 Natural Deaths Higher

THE NUMBER OF DEATHS IN BALDWIN COUNTY CAUSED BY *DELAYED MEDICAL CARE-- MAY HAVE REACHED A PEAK IN AUGUST-- DUE TO PEOPLE'S FEAR OF Contracting COVID AT THE HOSPITAL. NBC 15'S JAMES GORDON HAS DETAILS-- AND A WAKE-UP CALL FROM DOCTORS TO MAKE SURE FOLKS GET THEIR CHECK UPS.

THE WAKE-UP CALL FOR THE PATIENTS AND FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR THOSE PATIENTS AT HOME. THE BALDWIN COUNTY CORONER OFFICE SAW ITS BUSIEST MONTH IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST.

Dr. Brian Pierce/ Baldwin county coroner

" we typically would have around 30 natural deaths a month that would come to the coroners office. in the month of august we had a little over 80 natural deaths that came through the coroners office,"

DR. PIERCE SAYS MANY OF THOSE DEATHS APPEAR TO BE CAUSED BY PEOPLE DELAYING THEIR MEDICAL CARE -- THE MAJORITY OF THE DEATHS IN AUGUST WERE RELATED TO CARDIAC ISSUES.

Dr. Daren Scroggie/ infirmiry health

" it doesnt matter what's going on with covid if you are having a heart attack you still need the kinds of interventions that help people survive a heart attack.... and so normally people would have said i dont know if this is really my heart but im going to get checked out and lot of times thats where we find something and intervene,"

DR. DAREN SCROGGIE A LOCAL DOCTOR WITH THE INFIRMARY HEALTH SYSTEM SAYS ITS WHAT THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY FEARED WOULD HAPPEN.. THE IMPORTANT THING NOW IS TO CONTINUE GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT...

Dr. Scroggie

"its those tests that you really need to be at the doctor to get done. checking to make sure your blood is oxygenated that your anemia hasn't gotten worse...if we wait until its very apparent that its a bas situation sometimes its too late to do anything,"

DELAYED HEALTH CARE MAY HAVE BEEN THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF NATURAL DEATHS -- BUT THE CORONOR SAYS DRUG OVERDOSES UNFORTUNATELY COMES IN AS A CLOSE SECOND.

Dr. Pierce

"If it weren't for covid I'm sure that overdoses would be our other epidemic with the rise in fentanyl deaths,"

10/14/21 NBC 15 News at 7PM (WJTC) trt: 2:29

Booster Shots

TONIGHT, A HEALTH ADVISORY PANEL FOR THE FDA IS RECOMMENDING A HALF DOSE OF A MODERNA BOOSTER SHOTS FOR SENIORS AND OTHER HIGH-RISK GROUPS. THE F-D-A'S VACCINE CHIEF SAYS THE ORIGINAL DOSAGE IS STILL PROTECTING PEOPLE AGAINST HOSPITALIZATION AND DEATH. AND TOMORROW, THE GROUP WILL MEET TO DISCUSS BOOSTERS FOR THOSE WHO RECEIVED THE JOHNSON AND JOHNSON VACCINE. AS MEDICAL REPORTER LIZ BONIS EXPLAINS, WE SHOULD SOON KNOW MORE ABOUT WHO NEEDS A BOOSTER, OR PERHAPS A MIX OF BOTH.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SPECIALISTS SAY IT DOES APPEAR THAT BASED ON ANTIBODY RESPONSE MOST OF US WOULD BENEFIT FROM A BOOSTER. BUT JUST *WHEN AND WHICH ONE, A BIT OF A CONTINUED DEBATE.

THAT'S BECAUSE ACCORDING TO RESEARCH PRESENTED AT THE FDA MEETING TODAY, IT APPEARS THAT DELAYING A DOSE OF THE VACCINE -GIVES QUITE A BOOST TO THE BODY - BUT INFECTIOUS DISEASE SPECIALISTS POINT OUT -THAT MAY HAVE TO DO WITH THE DELAYED TIMING -AS MUCH AS THE DOSE ITSELF.

DR. STEPHEN BLATT/ TRIHEALTH INFECTIOUS DISEASE SPECIALIST

It looks like if you initially got a vaccine six months ago, and then got a vaccine now even if it was only two doses, the boosting effect is better the longer you wait.

MODERNA PRESENTED ITS CASE TODAY FOR A THIRD SHOT AT SIX MONTHS AFTER THE ORIGINAL SERIES, WITH HALF THE ORIGINAL DOSE.

ITS CRITERIA IS SIMILAR TO PFIZERS BOOSTER: OLDER ADULTS, YOUNGER PEOPLE MORE AT RISK OF COMPLICATIONS, AND THOSE IN JOBS WITH HIGH RISK OF INFECTION.

BUT SINCE MODERNAS ORIGINAL VACCINE STILL SHOWS GOOD PROTECTION AGAINST HOSPITALIZATION AND DEATH -

TO DECIDE IF YOU NEED THE MODERNA BOOSTER -NO MATTER WHAT THE FDA SUGGESTS YOU MAY NEED TO ASK --

DR. STEPHEN BLATT/ TRIHEALTH INFECTIOUS DISEASE SPECIALIST

What's the goal of a booster, is it to keep me from getting seriously ill or is it to keep me from spreading the disease to somebody else, and the decision to get a booster may be how you answer that question.

AS FOR THE JOHNSON AND JOHNSON DISCUSSION,, PRELIMINARY RESEARCH SHOWS AN MRNA VACCINE MAY GIVE A BETTER BOOST TO THE BODY, THAN A SECOND SHOT OF THAT VACCINE -BUT FULL DATA IS EXPECTED ON J AND J AND MIXING AND MATCHING ON FRIDAY.

DR. STEPHEN BLATT/ TRIHEALTH INFECTIOUS DISEASE SPECIALIST 3:35 It looks like the MRNA vaccines are just more potent than Johnson and Johnson, so it doesn't matter what you get first, you should probably get your mrna as a booster.>

THE STUDIES OF COURSE EVEN AS BOOSTERS ROLL OUT - ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO HELP US LEARN MORE ABOUT IMMUNITY AND RISKS -- FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT TWO YEARS. IM MEDICAL REPORTER LIZ BONIS, NOW BACK TO YOU.

12/11/21 NBC 15 News at 7PM (WJTC) trt: :53
Omicron Variant

TONIGHT WE ARE LEARNING MORE FROM OUR LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS ABOUT THE OMICRON COVID-19 VARIANT IN ALABAMA. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTED ALABAMA'S FIRST CASE YESTERDAY. ACCORDING TO DOCTOR RENDI MURPHREE WITH THE MOBILE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, THAT CASE WAS *NOT FOUND IN OUR AREA.

BUT... HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY THE PATIENT DID NOT TRAVEL OUT OF THE STATE MAKING THIS A PERSON TO PERSON TRANSMISSION RATHER THAN ONE ASSOCIATED WITH TRAVEL.

DR. RENDI MURPHREE, MCHD

"So that means that this patient contracted Omicron variant of COVID-19 from someone else who lived in Alabama. So that person the person transmission is what really concerns us, travel associated omicron we would expect."

NATIONWIDE HEALTH OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDING BOOSTER SHOTS TO HELP FIGHT THE OMICRON VARIANT AND THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO GET ONE

Public Safety

10/05/21 NBC 15 News at 7PM (WJTC) trt: 1:55
Killing No Trial

THREE YEARS LATER STILL NO ONE HAS BEEN TRIED FOR THE SHOOTING DEATH OF A 21-YEAR OLD MOTHER OF TWO. FAMILY MEMBERS ARE GROWING FRUSTRATED WITH HOW SLOW THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE ARE MOVING. MOBILE COUNTY D-A'S OFFICE SAYS IT'S BECAUSE OF A BACKLOG OF CASES. AS NBC15'S JUSTIN MOORE HAS THE STORY.

Alexandria Lee/Jones' Aunt

"was a young girl enjoying her life. two children. loved her children."

THREE YEARS LATER, ALEXANDRIA LEE STILL MOURNS the loss OF HER NIECE ANGELISHA JONES.

THE 21-YEAR OLD MOTHER OF TWO WAS SHOT AND KILLED AT THE DICKEN FERRY APARTMENTS IN MARCH OF 2018.

HER BOYFRIEND KENNETH SMITH IS CHARGED WITH HER MURDER AND IS OUT ON BOND.

Alexandria Lee/Jones' Aunt

"October 4th which was yesterday we were supposed to start trial this week and it was thrown off again."

THE JONES FAMILY IS UPSET AFTER MOBILE COUNTY'S DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TOLD THEM THE MURDER TRIAL OULD BE DELAYED--AGAIN.

Alexandria Lee/Jones' Aunt

"due to still, quote unquote looking for witnesses."

ACCORDING TO COURT DOCUMENTS THE JUDGE GRANTED MOBILE'S D-A'S OFFICE MORE TIME TO GATHER WITNESSES FOR THIS PENDING CASE... BUT IT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON THIS CASE IS PENDING...

CHIEF ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY KEITH BLACKWOOD TOLD ME THERE IS A BACK LOG OF ABOUT 300 MURDER CASES and around 10-thousand felony cases ON HOLD TO DUE to the pandemic. Some of those trials resumed yesterday and around 90 cases were on the docket with only 3 judges hearing criminal cases.

Alexandria Lee//Jones' Aunt

"i know they are doing what they can. but what they are doing right now is not enough for us. we need closure."

LEE SAYS HER FAMILY WANTS TO PUT THIS BEHIND THEM. SO THEY CAN FOCUS ON HEALING... ESPECIALLY FOR JONES TWO YOUNG CHILDREN WHO WILL GROW UP WITHOUT THEIR MOM...

Alexandria Lee//Jones' Aunt

"and they can never have her back. and that's the most heartbreaking for me."

THE NEW TRIAL DATE FOR SMITH IS JANUARY 31ST, BUT THERE are A LOT OF OTHER CASES SCHEDULED THAT DAY. THE CHIEF ASSISTANT D-A SAYS HE SHARES THE FAMILY'S FRUSTRATIONS.

12/21/21 NBC 15 News at 7PM (WJTC) trt: 1:46

Speeding Complaints

A SAFETY ALERT TONIGHT. FAIRHOPE CITY OFFICIALS ARE WORKING ON PLANS TO SLOW TRAFFIC ALONG SEVERAL STREETS WHERE RESIDENTS HAVE REPORTED DRIVERS GOING MORE THAN TWICE THE POSTED SPEED LIMITS. THE PLANS INCLUDE NARROWING THE STREETS TO SLOW DRIVERS DOWN. NBC 15'S JAMES GORDON OUTLINES WHAT'S NEXT..

THE CAUTION LIGHTS ARE UP AND THE SPEED LIMIT SIGNS SAY 25 MPH ...BUT TRAFFIC STUDIES SHOW DRIVERS WHO USE CUT THROUGH STREETS LIKE MORPHY AVENUE ARE GOING MUCH FASTER.

Jack Burrell/ Fairhope city council

" we wanted to come up with something that wouldn't tear people's cars up and might be visually pleasing. we have a lot of planters throughout the city, I thought that we could have the mayor and the staff look at ways to beautify those streets while still slowing the traffic down,"

CITY COUNCILMAN JACK BURRELL WHO ALSO SITS ON THE CITY'S TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE SAYS WIDENING A PORTION OF THE RIGHT OF WAY TO NARROW THE STREET IS A NOVEL APPROACH TO SLOWING DOWN TRAFFIC - THE KEY IS NOT TO MAKE THE CHANGE TOO DRASTIC.

Burrell

"The one on merchon we have some city property that is across the street from the residents so we thought if we put one there we wouldn't have to put it on private property we can put it on our own property so that was a natural choice,"

STATE AND FEDERAL HIGHWAY GUIDELINES SUGGEST NOT TO USE STOP OR YIELD SIGNS TO SLOW DOWN TRAFFIC AT INTERSECTIONS LIKE MERCHON AND MORPHY AVENUE.

James

"And just to show you how busy this intersection can be we've been standing here for quite sometime just trying to cross the street right here at the crosswalk ...some cars are stopping and we are going to cross. this is a busy intersection, folks use it as a cut through all the time, all day long,"

Gretchen turner / Fairhope

"There's a lot of kids that run up and down an play around here , riding their bikes and its really needs to be an issue that's addressed and pushed,"

THE TRAFFIC COMMITEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS WILL NOW BE STUDIED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL.

IN FAIRHOPE JAMES GORDON NBC 15 NEWS

Consumer Awareness

10/4/21 NBC 15 News at 7PM (WJTC) trt: 2:03

Flood Insurance

TONIGHT -- IF YOU HAVE FLOOD INSURANCE PREPARE TO FORK OUT MORE CASH..... RATES ARE GOING UP FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF YOU. FEMA IMPLEMENTED IT'S NEW RISK RATING 2 POINT OH (2.0) FRIDAY -- WHICH RAISES PREMIUMS IN MOST CASES... NBC 15'S ANDREA RAMEY SPOKE WITH HOMEOWNERS TODAY WHO SAY ANY LITTLE INCREASE RIGHT NOW STINGS....

For two years Stephen Green has enjoyed living by Dog River... but when he renews his flood insurance... he may find... it costs more to stay here.

According to FEMA data -- flood insurance rates will be going up for nearly 80% (79.5) of policy holders in Mobile County.... in Baldwin County it's nearly 78% (77.8) of policy holders.

That just means more increases on my mortgage and, you know, just more money out of our pocket

For those impacted by rate increases -- FEMA records show the majority will pay up to an extra \$120 a year... less than 10% will have to pay \$240 extra a year... and for others it will be even higher.

FEMA says under it's old pricing methodology, policyholders with lower-valued homes were paying more than their share of the risk.... while policyholders with higher-valued homes were paying less than their share.

Green argues any increase, especially where he lives will hurt folks.

Especially in the DIP area, I mean, we're not extravagant. We're, you know, we're just trying to get by. It affects everybody on Dauphin Island, everybody on the Bay Area, all the way up the river system.

Rep. Jerry Carl says he and other lawmakers have been pushing back against rate increases but to no avail....

Our challenge to them was how did you put the numbers together? Because we didn't we didn't necessarily agree with the numbers. But they're using satellite imagery. I know it's good, that's fine, but we still need to shoot some grades especially down on Mobile Bay. I'd love to tell you that your local congressman or your local senator can fix it. I mean, this is FEMA. FEMA is very tough to deal with

The new pricing model went into effect for new policies Friday. Starting April 1st next year all renewals will be subject to it.

Sure, it made me mad. I don't know if I can pay it.

ROUGHLY 20% of POLICY HOLDERS IN MOBILE AND BALDWIN COUNTIES... ARE NOW ELIGIBLE FOR A RATE *REDUCTION UNDER THIS PLAN... CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE AGENT TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY.

ONE AGENT Telling us today: THERE ARE SOME *PRIVATE COMPANIES NOW OFFERING FLOOD INSURANCE-- IN ADDITION TO THIS FEDERAL PROGRAM -- FOR THOSE WANTING THE SHOP AROUND.

10/14/21 NBC 15 News at 7PM (WJTC) trt: 2:14

IRS Plan

A CONSUMER ALERT... THE HEAD OF ALABAMA'S BANKERS ASSOCIATION IS CALLING PRESIDENT BIDEN'S TAX PROPOSAL CURRENTLY BEFORE CONGRESS UN-AMERICAN. THE PLAN WOULD ALLOW THE IRS TO FLAG TRANSACTIONS OF MORE THAN 600 DOLLARS. NBC 15'S KEN MCGRATH TELLS US MORE.

Scott Latham/Alabama Bankers Association/President & CEO

"It is probably one of the most intrusive proposals on the personal privacy and personal financial information of united citizens that we have ever seen."

SCOTT LATHAM SAYS PRESIDENT BIDEN'S PLAN PUTS THE BANKING INDUSTRY IN A TOUGH SPOT AND WILL HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON PEOPLE...

"We believe it will impact those consumers who maybe don't have a bank account—who we say are underbanked part of the population we believe it will affect them negatively because of an additional lack of trust of banks and certainly of government and of the system."

LATHAM TELLS NBC 15 NEWS THAT bank customers HAVE BEEN CALLING IN HIGH VOLUMES AND WALKING INTO BRANCHES ASKING A LOT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL....

Ken says---some are really saying that this is an invasion of privacy---would go as far as to saying that---I would say it is not only an invasion of privacy—I've termed it un-American..it is simply un-American to think that our government wishes to spy into our personal bank accounts

LATHAM SAYS WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL IT insinuates THAT A LOT OF AMERICANS ARE CHEATING THE GOVERNMENT WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR TAXES....

"We believe there is a much better way to focus on and to deal with those who may be breaking the law than casting a net over all of the population."

SOME BANKERS ALSO ARGUE THE IRS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROCESS THE DATA BECAUSE THEY ALREADY HAVE A HARD TIME NOW PROCESSING TAX RETURNS NOTING THE 35 MILLION BACKLOG OF UNPROCESSED TAX RETURNS.

THAT WAS KEN MCGRATH REPORTING. TREASURY SECRETARY JANET YELLEN SAYS THERE'S A LOT OF UNWARRENTED PANIC ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL... SHE SAYS IT HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY MISCHARACTERIZED AND IT INVOLVES NO REPORTING OF INDIVIDUAL TRANSACTIONS.

11/23/21 NBC 15 News at 7PM (WJTC) trt: 2:21

Stimulus Checks

THE PRESIDENT'S MASSIVE SPENDING PLAN THAT IS CURRENTLY BEFORE CONGRESS-- COULD EXTEND THE EXPANDED CHILD TAX CREDIT THROUGH THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

THIS MEANS ELIGIBLE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS COULD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE MONTHLY CHECKS THROUGH 20-22. NBC 15'S JAMES GORDON HAS A CLOSER LOOK AT HOW LOCAL FAMILIES AND THE ECONOMY COULD BE AFFECTED.

IN 2021 INSTEAD OF A LUMP SUM AFTER A PERSON FILES THEIR TAXES, MANY AMERICANS HAVE BEEN RECEIVING HALF THEIR ESTIMATED CHILD TAX CREDIT IN MONTHLY PAYMENTS.

CONGRESS IS NOW DEBATING EXTENDING THE PAYMENTS THROUGH 2022.

A BIG DIFFERENCE --- INSTEAD OF RECEIVING HALF THE CREDIT IN MONTHLY PAYMENTS AND HALF AFTER A PERSON FILES TAXES - THE BUILD BACK BETTER ACT WOULD CHANGE THE SYSTEM TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO RECEIVE THEIR FULL CREDIT IN MONTHLY PAYMENTS.

Ted Langley/ cpa Baldwin county

"For each child under six next year they will get \$3600 based on the proposal for 2022. they will be getting \$300 for each child under six next year, for children over six and through 17 they'll be getting \$3000 per child and that would be \$250 per child in advance,"

tammy davis/ case manager

"they can opt out if they want to, if they don't need it right now. its not going to harm them if they need it and are living month to month it really has been a game changer,"

TAMMY DAVIS IS WITH CLIENT SERVICES AT THE PRODISSE PANTRY IN SPANISH FORT.

SHE SAYS GETTING THE CHILD TAX CREDIT EARLY HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE -- EVEN FOR FAMILIES WHO ONCE HAD HIGH PAYING JOBS.

THIS WEEK ALONE SHE'S BEEN WORKING WITH THREE DIFFERENT FAMILIES ALL WITH COLLEGE DEGREES.

Davis

"It's not that they are sitting at home not working, they just don't have the job that's equivalent to what they had before the company shut down so that has really helped out a lot. and I've seen it, every month we see families come through, they are hard working families they just hit a rough spot,"

ACCOUNTANTS LIKE TED LANGLEY SAY THESE ADVANCES ON THE CHILD TAX CREDITS ARE NOTHING LIKE THE EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION THAT KEPT PEOPLE FROM GETTING BACK INTO THE WORKFORCE.

Langley

"it helps put food on the table for a lot of parents so I don't have the same issues I've seen with the child credit as I had seen with the unemployment compensation. this is actually a good thing it's just another nightmare for accountants to keep track of something,"

12/29/21 NBC 15 News at 7PM (WJTC) trt: 1:47

Dredging

A NEW PLAN FROM THE STATE PORT AUTHORITY IS RAISING EYEBROWS. THE IDEA IS TO USE DREDGING SEDIMENT TO CREATE A 12 HUNDRED ACRE ISLAND SOUTH OF THE CAUSEWAY-- BUT SOME ARE QUESTIONING HOW THE PROJECT MAY AFFECT THE QUALITY OF THE AREA'S WATER. NBC 15'S JAMES GORDON HAS A LOOK AT THE CONCERNS GOING FORWARD TONIGHT.

THE PROJECT IS AIMED AT REDUCING THE DISPOSAL COSTS OF DREDGED MATERIAL FROM THE MOBILE SHIP CHANNEL -- BY CREATING A 12 HUNDRED ACRE ISLAND OVER A PERIOD OF 20 YEARS.

Cade Kistler/ Mobile baykeeper

"we are not opposed to the project out and out. our concerns are that if you are going to put 1200 acres of dredge spoils in the bay lets make sure we follow that through. right now there's about 700 words in the permit about what they are going to do,"

THE NEW WETLANDS WOULD BE SIMILAR TO GAILLARD ISLAND A 13 HUNDRED ACRE ISLAND WHICH SITS 11 MILES SOUTH OF THE SHIP CHANNEL.

GAILLARD ISLAND WAS COMPLETED IN 1981 -- IT TOO WAS BUILT WITH DREDGED MATERIAL -- AND IS HOME TO NESTING FOR THE BROWN PELICAN.

THIS NEW PROJECT NEAR THE CAUSEWAY IS STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS.

Kistler

"They got \$2.5 million to design and permitting from the restore act so seven pages are not all the detail that are out there,"

...AND SPANISH FORT CITY OFFICIALS WHO HAVE BIG PLANS FOR THE CAUSEWAY SAY THE NEW WETLANDS WOULD SIT IN SHALLOW WATER AND ABOUT A MILES AND HALF SOUTH OF THE CAUSEWAY.

SPANISH FORT ITS ASKING FOR THE PUBLIC COMMEN PERIOD ON THE PROJECT TO BE EXTENDED BEYOND JANUARY 3RD. CITY OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT POTENTIAL POLLUTANTS IN THE DREDGED MATERIALS THAT COULD BE PLACED OFFSHORE AT THE CITY LIMITS.

AND THE CITY WOULD LIKE TO SEE REQUIREMENTS TO TEST THE DREDGED MATERIALS.

Kistler

"One is the potential for heavy metals in the sediment in the dredge spoils. we don't want to mobilize those kinds of things that might be in the ship channel so let's go forward and understand all the blind spots before we put something into the bay using millions of cubic yards of dredge spoils,"

OVER A 20 YEAR PERIOD ABOUT 9.5 MILLION CUBIC YARDS OF MATERIAL WOULD BE PLACED IN THREE CONTAINMENT DIKES PROTECTED BY ROCK BARRIERS.

NOW THROUGH JANUARY 3RD-- YOU CAN COMMENT TO THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ON THIS PROPOSED PERMIT. WE'VE CREATED A LINK WITH MORE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE-- MY NBC 15 DOT COM.

12/16/21 NBC 15 News at 7PM (WJTC) trt: 1:48

High Water Bills

TONIGHT -- AN NBC 15 NEWS REALITY CHECK. MORE PRICHARD WATER CUSTOMERS have been SLAPPED WITH FOUR FIGURE BILLS. FED UP CUSTOMERS TALKED WITH NBC 15'S ANDREA RAMEY.... THEY SAY THEY RECEIVED NO WARNING.

They just sent me a \$1,197 bill for November.

Edward Sylvester says he couldn't believe what he was seeing when he got this nearly \$12 hundred water bill.

(Andrea -- Can you afford to pay that bill sir?) I really can't.

The 72 year old says it turned out there was a leak under his home he didn't know about... Prichard Water is in the process of switching to digital meters that would've detected the issue but his home doesn't have one... and he says the utility isn't cutting him a break.

Edward Sylvester/Water Customer

I really think this is really highway robbery for me to pay this bill.

Sylvester's not the only one... last month, Tyrone Pettway showed us a \$2,300 water bill he received and is still fighting the utility over. He never did find a leak but says after a technician fixed an issue on the utility's side his meter stopped running constantly.

Tyrone Pettway/Water Customer

But the bill is still high. The second bill they sent out for that one was, of course 500 Some. Now they're saying it's going down to 300 and something.

We asked Prichard Water board member Cherry Doyle about steep bills...

(Andrea - What do you say to those customers? Put leadership, they need to stand up and correct and catch these before they go out to customer because if you got a customer's receiving that kind of water within a month, is something wrong.)

Today we called and left a message for Prichard Water's operations manager but did not receive a response. Two other utilities we spoke told us when leaks happen customers can apply for credit... but Sylvester and Pettway say that was never presented as an option to them.

It's just a lack of concern for the citizens is the best way I can describe.

Sylvester tried to speak at the water board's meeting this week but wasn't let in the door -- security told him they were at capacity. If he'd had the chance to address the utility he would've given them a piece of his mind.

"You're robbing Prichard."

PETTWAY SAYS THE UTILITY CUT HIS WATER OFF TWO DAYS BEFORE THANKSGIVING. IT'S SINCE BEEN TURNED BACK ON AND HE'S HIRED AN ATTORNEY.

Education

10/1/21 NBC 15 News at 7PM (WJTC) trt: :42

Tiktok Challenge

NEW INFORMATION TONIGHT. SCHOOL SYSTEMS HERE AT HOME-- AND NATIONWIDE--- ARE WARNING KIDS *NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN A TIK TOK CHALLENGE SET TO BECOME VIRAL IN OCTOBER.

YOU MAY REMEMBER A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO: WE TOLD YOU ABOUT "DEVIOUS LICKS". IT WAS A TREND ON TIK TOK FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER IN WHICH STUDENTS WERE ENCOURAGED TO VANDALIZE OR STEAL ITEMS FROM SCHOOL.

OFFICIALS SAY SEVERAL BALDWIN COUNTY SCHOOLS HAD REPORTED INCIDENTS. ONE ROBERTSDALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WAS EVEN ARRESTED FOR STEALING A FIRE EXTINGUISHER. THIS MONTH'S CHALLENGE ENCOURAGES KIDS TO QUOTE SMACK A STAFF MEMBER ON THE BACKSIDE.

THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY ALABAMA SCHOOL SYSTEM SHARED A POST ON FACEBOOK: ASKING PARENTS TO TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE CHALLENGES.

12/17/21 NBC 15 News at 7PM (WJTC) trt: 1:48
College Alternative

A NEW STUDY REVEALS MOST STUDENTS WHO HAVE GRADUATED FROM THE MOBILE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM ARE NOT ENROLLED IN A 2 OR 4 YEAR COLLEGE. THE NUMBERS FROM THE ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION SHOW THAT ONLY 34 PERCENT OF MOBILE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES BETWEEN 2019 AND 2020 MOVED ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION... NBC 15'S KEN MCGRATH HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO THIS TREND.

Akareem Spears - Adult Education & GED Director/Bishop State Community College

"We're in a market now, every company every corporation needs people and one of the things we want to do is give them qualified people."

TODAY AN OPEN HOUSE AT BISHOP STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ----IT'S PARTNERING WITH ALDOT TO FIND CONSTRUCTION AND CARPENTRY WORKERS... TRADE PROGRAMS LIKE THIS ONE PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES AT NO COST TO THE STUDENTS....

A lot of times our students are not confident in what they can do...but once they start these programs and see we all have to start somewhere....they realize hey I can do this...

THE HEAVY HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION TRAINING IS A SIX-MONTH PROGRAMTHE CARPENTRY PROGRAM IS A SIMILAR 13-WEEK PILOT PROGRAMBOTH PROGRAMS GIVING STUDENTS THE HANDS ON EXPERIENCE THEY NEED TO GET A JOB.

THE GOAL TO HELP THEM ACHIEVE SUCCESS-----THE PROGRAM eliminates any barriers for students so that they can focus on learning.

Melisa Gaither - Workforce Development/Bishop State Community College

What Aldot is offering through this grant is to allow the students mileage to and from their work as well as coming to class....

Aldot WILL ALSO reimburse STUDENTS for any extra student services they may need...including babysitters....

AL-DOT IS ALSO LOOKING TO HIRE MORE WOMEN.

COMPANIES ARE DOING WHAT THEY CAN TO ATTRACT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS....

FOR INSTANCE, AIRBUS....IT HAS A PROGRAM CALLED FAST TRACK....WHERE IT PARTNERS WITH AREA SCHOOLS TEACHING BASIC SKILLS FOR JOBS IN AEROSPACE INDUSTRY...

Crime

10/14/21 NBC 15 News at 7PM (WJTC) trt: 1:41

Robberies

A CRIME ALERT! A NUMBER OF ONLINE DEAL-MAKING ENCOUNTERS HAVE GONE AWRY IN THE SPANISH FORT AREA THIS WEEK. POLICE SAY WOULD-BE SELLERS WERE MET AT GUNPOINT-- AND THE ITEMS FOR SALE WERE stolen FROM THEM. A WARNING TONIGHT TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL. NBC 15'S JAMES GORDON EXPLAINS WHAT WENT DOWN AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.

IN ALL THREE CASES THIS WEEK THE SELLERS AND WOULD BE BUYERS MET ON FACEBOOK MARKETPLACE.

Capt. Clint Cadenhead/ Baldwin county sheriff's office

"A robbery is one trigger pull away from a homicide so we are imploring with people that if you are going to do these type of transactions not to do it up some dirt road or back country road go to a police station," AUTHORITIES ARE ASKING THE PUBLIC TO BE MINDFUL OF THE DANGERS OF THESE TYPE TRANSACTIONS AND TO USE SAFE EXCHANGE ZONES.

NEARLY EVERY LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS ONE.

TWO OF THE INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE IN THE BROMLEY AREA NORTH OF SPANISH FORT AND A THIRD AT A LOCAL SUPERMARKET PARKING LOT IN SPANISH FORT.

Cadenhead

"What they are doing is the people who are selling the items are pulling up and while one person is approaching them they engage in conversation, then you have other people coming out of the woods or wherever armed with handguns and taking over,"

SAFE ZONES ARE MONITORED BY SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS - OFFICERS DO NOT GET INVOLVED OR ACTIVELY MONITOR THE TRANSACTION

IN SOME CASES IF ASKED AN OFFICER MIGHT GO OUTSIDE AND MEET THE BUYER AND SELLER JUST TO MAKE PUBLIC CONTACT AND REASSURE THEM.

11/29/21 NBC 15 News at 7PM (WJTC) trt: 1:58

Violence Stimpson

WE BEGIN TONIGHT WITH NEW INFORMATION. MOBILE'S MAYOR REACTING TO *ANOTHER VIOLENT WEEKEND IN THE PORT CITY. FOUR WOMEN WERE SHOT IN TWO SEPARATE SHOOTINGS SUNDAY... TWO OF THE WOMEN DIED... AND ONE IS CLINGING TO LIFE TONIGHT. NBC 15'S ANDREA RAMEY HAS THE STORY.

Two deadly shootings happened within 40 minutes of each other Sunday.

Off Dauphin Island Parkway in what police are calling a domestic violence shooting -- 29 year old Quanita Fletcher was killed and a 28 year old victim is in critical condition.

A neighbor told us the victim's children tried to save her.

That was just heartbreaking for me because they told me that they tried to do CPR

Thirty six minutes before that near Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard -- police say an unknown suspect shot into a car killing 20 year Canyra Osborne and injuring a 21 year old woman. A neighbor on scene told us... they're fed up with the constant violence.

Shared Space.Sunday 10P/11.28/A02 10P DOUBLE SHOOTING

We've got to find solutions to stop this violence some kind of way. I tired of it. Mayor Sandy Stimpson addressed the violence...

MAYOR SANDY STIMPSON/CITY OF MOBILE

My first comment is that to the community is we need your help. 1:00 There are individuals who know you know, who's doing the shooting.

Stimpson says while police can't predict when a crime of passion will occur in domestic situations... they can target high crime areas.

Last week -- Chief Paul Prine swore in new officers who will be sent to 1st and 3rd precincts, where he says the majority of violent crimes are happening... it's also where the shootings on Sunday occurred. Prine and Stimpson also say another solution is getting the courts ramped up and process repeat offenders who Prine says commit new crimes while out on bond.

We've been in communication with judicial branch to the circuit court level and we're hopeful that we will be able to talk about things that they are going to do to start doing more criminal trials in the near future.

- WJTC gives coverage and free advertising to Operation Reconnect to military veterans which helps them and their families vacation together.

Appearances:

Alan Sealls visited the following to speak about weather and broadcasting:

Oct 12	Virginia Tech University meteorology/communications class, via Zoom	20 students
Oct 14	Semmes ES, 3 rd grade, via Teams	80 kids
Oct 15	Orange Beach ES, Gifted Students, via Google	30 kids
Oct 21	Cornell U, Earth Sciences Dept, student career panel, via Zoom	5 students
Oct 24	Natl Weather Association, student career conference, via Zoom	80 people
Oct 28	Missouri School of Journalism, climate communications, via Zoom	25 students
Oct 29	Mathis ES, Foley, 3 rd grade via Google	120 kids
Nov 4	Saraland ES, 3 rd grade, via Zoom	40 kids
Nov 5	Breitling ES, Grand Bay, 3 rd grade, via webex	80 kids
Nov 10	Baldwin County Virtual ES, via Google	65 kids
Nov 18	UMS-Wright Preparatory, 3 rd grade, via Zoom	40 kids
Nov 23	Lighthouse Baptist Academy, Theodore, via Google	50 kids
Dec 3	Natl Assoc Black Journalists, Conference Panelist, via Zoom	unknown
Dec 14	Alabama School of Math and Science, via Teams	200 kids

TND FCC REPORT OCT 2021

The National Desk; Interview	October 7, 2021	7, 9, 10	5:05	Ilya Shapiro talks about the new Supreme Court session and cases regarding abortion and gun rights
The National Desk; Flu Shot Concerns	October 8, 2021	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	2:19	Reporter Angela Brown reports that 44% of Americans may not get a flu vaccine this year, experts are worried about the flu and COVID coalescing
The National Desk; Latinos in Business	October 8, 2021	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	2:36	Reporter Angela Brown covers how Hispanic Americans are the fastest growing group of business owners in America, especially women
The National Desk;	October 8, 2021	7, 8, 9, 10	1:16	Ahtra Elnashar reports on bill that if passed through the House next week would temporarily extend the debt ceiling through December 3 rd .
The National Desk;	October 8, 2021	7, 8, 9, 10	1:40	Ahtra Elnashar reports on how parties in Congress have changed their opinions about the debt ceiling and how it should be handled according to who is in power
The National Desk; Interview	October 8, 2021	6, 9, 10	4:07	Adam Andrzejewski talks about the Waste of the Week, universal income in Chicago and
The National Desk; Interview	October 8, 2021	8	5:21	Dr. Jeffrey Singer comments on COVID outcomes and the vaccine for children and opioid overdoses among veterans
The National Desk; Interview	October 8, 2021	8, 9, 10	4:21	Carol Roth, former investment banker, talks about the September Jobs report, how supply chain issues are affecting small businesses, and the debt ceiling and spending bills in Congress
Oct 11-15				
The National Desk; FB New Controls	October 11, 2021	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	2:33	Reporter Angela Brown covers new controls for Instagram that let parents better supervise what their kids are doing and alert teens if they are repeatedly viewing content that is bad for their mental health
The National Desk; Winter Money Blues	October 11, 2021	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	2:14	Reporter Angela Brown investigates how inflation and rising natural gas prices could increase the price of

				holiday goods and home gas prices
The National Desk; Dems Deal Race	October 11, 2021	7, 8, 9, 10	1:16	Ahtra Elnashar reports on everything Congress must accomplish before the end of their session, including raising the debt ceiling, funding the government, and two major spending bills
The National Desk; Navy Secrets Charges	October 11, 2021	7, 8, 9, 10	1:16	Ahtra Elnashar covers charges against a Navy engineer who thought he was handing over nuclear submarine secrets to a foreign government that was actually an FBI agent

TND FCC REPORT NOV 2021

The National Desk; Interview	November 4, 2021	7, 9	9:16	Sheriff Mike Chapman speaks about the recent sexual assaults in Loudoun County Schools, answers questions about investigation
The National Desk; Interview	November 4, 2021	8, 10	5:32	Dr. Mike Clauson provides insight into election results and status of Congressional spending bills
The National Desk; Trump Russia Dossier	November 5, 2021	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	1:29	Reporter Angela Brown reports that the Russian analyst who provided info for the Steele Dossier has been arrested for lying to the FBI
The National Desk; Cancel Culture	November 5, 2021	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	2:12	Reporter Angela Brown investigates a rise of celebrities pushing back against cancel culture, including Dave Chappelle
The National Desk; Spending Bill Vote	November 5, 2021	7, 8, 9, 10	1:18	Correspondent Ahtra Elnashar reports that the house could vote on the infrastructure and social spending bills today
The National Desk; Food Prices	November 5, 2021	7, 8, 9, 10	1:22	Correspondent Ahtra Elnashar investigates why food prices will be higher this holiday season
The National Desk; Interview	November 5, 2021	7	5:37	Adam Andrzejewski covers the Waste of the Week, ivy league schools collecting millions in endowments

				and unreleased federal relief for covid vaccine related injuries and deaths
The National Desk; Interview	November 5, 2021	8	6:13	Anne Emerson from WCIV details the latest developments on the mysterious Murdaugh case
Nov 8-12				
The National Desk; Biden's Approval Ratings	November 8, 2021	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	1:22	Reporter Angela Brown reports Biden's approval rating has dropped to a new low, which could negatively affect Democrats in the midterms
The National Desk; COVID-19 College Measures	November 8, 2021	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	2:04	Reporter Angela Brown investigates restrictive COVID measures on college campuses, including masks, vaccines, and even a device that tracks vitals
The National Desk; Vaccine Mandate	November 8, 2021	7, 8, 10	1:30	Correspondent Ahtra Elnashar reports on a legal challenge to Biden's vaccine mandate that applies to businesses with over 100 workers
The National Desk; Spending Bill	November 8, 2021	7, 8, 10	1:30	Correspondent Ahtra Elnashar reports on the passing of the infrastructure bill on Friday, prospects of passing the social spending bill
The National Desk; Interview	November 8, 2021	6, 7, 9, 10	6:23	Armstrong Williams discusses congressional spending bills and Biden administration approval ratings
The National Desk; Interview	November 8, 2021	8, 9, 10	5:15	Elaine Parker, President of the Job Creator's Network, discusses the organization's lawsuit against Biden's vaccine mandate
The National Desk; Stay at Home Stocks	November 9, 2021	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	2:14	Reporter Angela Brown reports that stocks related to a stay-at-home lifestyle have recently plummeted as life begins to return to normal
The National Desk; Woke Racism	November 9, 2021	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	2:43	Reporter Angela Brown investigates claims from black celebrities and politicians that leftists have gone too far when it comes to anti-racism
The National Desk; Biden Democrats	November 9, 2021	7, 8, 9, 10	0:58	Correspondent Ahtra Elnashar looks at the tasks Congress still must complete before the end of the year
The National Desk; Rising Energy	November 9, 2021	7, 8, 9, 10	1:33	Correspondent Ahtra Elnashar reports on what the Biden Administration is doing in response to rising energy prices

The National Desk; Interview	November 9, 2021	7, 9, 10	4:31	Mark Morgan responds to the Biden administration's decision to pay families who were separated at the southern border and the vaccination mandate for border officers
The National Desk; Interview	November 9, 2021	8	6:01	Rep. Kevin Brady discusses the remaining spending bills in Congress and the most recent jobs report

TND FCC REPORT DEC 2021

The National Desk; Interview	December 7, 2021	7, 9, 10	5:23	Mark Morgan, Former Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, discusses a surge at the border and the reinstatement of the Remain in Mexico policy
The National Desk; Interview	December 7, 2021	8, 9,	8:32	Former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie (R) discusses covid, the midterm elections, and Biden's virtual meeting today with Putin
The National Desk; Year End Inflation Surge	December 8, 2021	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	1:55	Reporter Jay O'Brien reports that inflation will rise even more by the end of the year
The National Desk; Anti Hacker Crisis	December 8, 2021	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	1:45	Reporter Jay O'Brien investigates how some of the most important federal agencies received poor grades for their readiness against cyber attacks
The National Desk;	December 8, 2021	7, 8, 9, 10	1:30	Correspondent Ahtra Elnashar reports on how the supply chain crisis is affecting farmers
The National Desk;	December 8, 2021	7, 8, 9, 10	1:30	Correspondent Ahtra Elnashar reports the latest on the debt ceiling – the Democrats have found a way to raise the ceiling on their own using a complicated legislative procedure
The National Desk; Interview	December 8, 2021	6, 8, 10	6:54	Bo Sneddy reflects on the life of radio host Rush Limbaugh, who passed away earlier this year of lung cancer
The National Desk; Interview	December 8, 2021	7, 9	5:12	Scott Rasmussen discusses new polls on the 2024 presidential race, energy, and gas prices

The National Desk; Interview	December 8, 2021	7, 8, 9, 10	7:51	Representative Mike Waltz, (R) Florida, comments on the Biden-Putin meeting and tensions between Russia and Ukraine and the Beijing Olympics
The National Desk; Instagram Hearing	December 9, 2021	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	1:15	Reporter Jay O'Brien reports Instagram CEO testifies before Congress that the app is good for kids and not addictive
The National Desk; Supply Chain Inflation	December 9, 2021	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	2:00	Reporter Jay O'Brien investigates how higher supply costs and supply chain disruptions are affecting small businesses
The National Desk; Senate Mandate	December 9, 2021	7, 8, 9, 10	1:30	Correspondent Ahtra Elnashar reports on the Senate's attempt to block President Biden's vaccine mandate, which will likely not pass because it will not be brought to a vote in the House
The National Desk; Court Packing	December 9, 2021	7, 8, 9, 10	1:30	Correspondent Ahtra Elnashar reports on Biden's commission's report on Supreme Court reforms like expansion
The National Desk; Interview	December 9, 2021	6, 9	4:20	Attorney Karen Conti provides insight into the Jussie Smollett trial
The National Desk; Interview	December 9, 2021	7	5:12	Cybersecurity expert Leeza Garber discusses the Instagram's Congressional Hearing and the recent Amazon Web Services Outage
The National Desk; Interview	December 9, 2021	8, 10	6:14	Representative Byron Donalds, (R) Florida, discusses the debt ceiling, Russia potentially invading Ukraine, the federal covid vaccine database, inflation, and the Beijing Olympics
The National Desk; Interview	December 9, 2021	10	7:05	Senator Rand Paul, (R) Kentucky, comments on the debt ceiling, the United States' response to the omicron variant, the origin of COVID-19, and the Beijing Olympics
The National Desk; Supply Chain Issues	December 10, 2021	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	1:43	Reporter Jay O'Brien reviews the current supply chain crisis and how some costs could be dropping while supply shortages are making other products' prices rise
The National Desk; Biden's Broken Promises	December 10, 2021	6, 7, 8, 9, 10	2:15	Reporter Jay O'Brien reports on how President Biden is stuck between two sides on the Build Back Better plan and if he will be able to keep all of his

				promises regarding social spending
The National Desk; Build Back Better	December 10, 2021	7, 8, 9, 10	1:20	Correspondent Ahtra Elnashar reports the latest on Build Back Better, which still needs two crucial votes to pass in the Senate
The National Desk; Hispanic Vote	December 10, 2021	7, 8, 9, 10	1:30	Correspondent Ahtra Elnashar investigates a report saying that Hispanic voters are now evenly split between the Republican and Democratic parties