



## WAAY-TV

Issue-Responsive Programming

Jan 1, 2024 to Mar 31, 2024

Community Issues Identified

- Education
- Politics
- Crime & Public Safety
- Health
- Business, Technology & Economic Development

### Regularly scheduled programs on WAAY-TV:

- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 4:30 a.m. - 5:00 a.m.
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 5:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 11:00 a.m. - noon
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 10:00 p.m. - 10:35 p.m.
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 12:05 a.m. - 12:35 a.m.
- WAAY 31 Local News Sat 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.
- WAAY 31 Local News Sat 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- WAAY 31 Local News S/S 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- WAAY 31 Local News Sat 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

- WAAY 31 Local News S/S 10:00 p.m. - 10:35 p.m.

Each of the above programs represents locally-produced news which includes issues-related news stories and segments on issues of local importance. Issue-responsive program segments are typically 1:00-3:00 segments.

- WAAY 31 LawCall Sun 10:35 p.m. - 11:05 p.m.

WAAY 31 LawCall is a locally-produced legal hotline where viewers are able to call and ask legal questions on a variety of topics.

- Good Morning America M-F 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- World News Tonight M-F 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- ABC News Nightline M-F 11:35 p.m. - 12:05 a.m.
- Good Morning America S/S 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
- Good Morning America Sat 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- This Week Sun 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- World News Tonight S/S 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The above programs are produced by ABC network news discussing issues-related stories and segments of national importance.

**The following is a list of some of the more significant community issues addressed by this station for the quarter specified. This listing is by no means complete, nor is the order in which these issues appear, intended to imply any degree of priority or significance of the issues.**

## ***Education***

### **Flu in Schools - Jan. 3**

- As students returned back to school following Christmas break, flu cases spiked across North Alabama.
- We reached out to Huntsville Hospital's Women and Childrens Center to find out what was causing the spike.
- The hospital also offered tips on how parents can protect their students during flu season.
- We ran a live VOSOT in our 4:30 p.m. and a live PKG in our 6 p.m.

### **Decatur City Schools Teacher of Year - Feb. 9**

- Decatur City Schools made two surprise trips to recognize educators within the school system.

- The annual event is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating outstanding educators in our community by awarding them the prestigious title of “Teacher of the Year.”
- We ran a VOSOT in our afternoon newscasts.

#### Albertville Schools Seeks Support for English Learners - March 7

- One of the biggest school districts in Sand Mountain wants state lawmakers to help address language barriers in its schools.
- Albertville City Schools says 65% of its students are Hispanic and almost 35% are classified as EL Students.
- ACS is asking the Legislature to provide more aides in these classrooms as well as approve an amendment to the Alabama Literacy Act.
- We ran an anchor VO during our morning show.

#### Limestone County Schools Rezoning - March 13

- One of the largest school districts in North Alabama proposed rezoning all of its schools, but was met with pushback from students and parents.
- School officials held several meetings where they could weigh in on how the changes will impact them.
- We ran an anchor VOSOT and a live VOSOT in the morning shows.

#### Marshall County Schools Borrows \$80 Million for Projects - March 29

- School leaders approved borrowing millions of dollars during a board of education meeting to help with school improvements.
- They plan to pay off the loan with proceeds from a one-cent sales tax for schools.
- We ran an anchor VO GFX during our 10 p.m. show.

## ***Politics***

#### Project Say Something Historical Marker Fight - Feb. 9

- Leaders of the activist group ‘Project Say Something’ are working to get a new historic marker put up outside the Lauderdale County Courthouse near a Confederate monument.
- According to a councilman, there’s issues with installing the marker on Lauderdale County property.
- He proposed putting the marker across the street on city property instead.
- At the time of our report, the city of Florence had not made a decision on the marker.
- We ran a live VOSOT in our 4 and 5 p.m. newscasts and a looklive PKG in our 6 p.m.

#### House Minority Leader on IVF Bills - Feb. 23

- Alabama lawmakers jumped into action following that bombshell ruling from the State Supreme Court on IVF.
- The ruling basically said providers could be held criminally and civilly liable for destroying the embryos at any point.
- Both representatives and senators introduced bills to reverse this liability and protect

providers.

- We spoke with House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels about his bills.
- We ran several soundbites from the interview in an anchor-tracked package in the 4 p.m. show and ran anchor VOSOTs in the 5, 6, and 10 p.m. shows.

#### Governor Ivey Signs CHOOSE ACT - March 7

- We dug into what is actually in the Choose Act on the same day it was signed into law.
- We spoke with the Huntsville City School Board President who was disappointed in the bill and doesn't think state money should go towards private schools or homeschool programs.
- We also spoke to two Huntsville parents who were very excited about the opportunity the Choose Act will bring for families in the state.
- We had a live package in the 10 p.m. show and an anchor VOSOT in the morning show.

#### Primary Elections in Alabama - March 5

- Alabama was one of more than a dozen states that held its primaries on March 5.
- We spoke with Secretary of State, Wes Allen, about voter integrity and preparing for Super Tuesday.
- We ran a series of anchor VOSOTs in our morning show as people were headed out to the polls.

#### Gaming Legislation Hits Roadblock - March 22

- Alabama's Senate made multiple changes to a package of gaming bills that would bring a lottery, gambling, and sports betting to the state.
- We spoke with a state representative about the changes which removed sports betting and a casino slated for northeast Alabama.
- The changes also included allocating the gaming revenue to other areas.
- We also spoke with two Alabamians who traveled across the state line to get lottery tickets about their hopes for bringing one to Alabama.
- We had three live VOSOTs in our evening newscasts.

## ***Crime & Public Safety***

#### Reaction to Former Decatur Officer Arrest - Jan. 5

- Officers with Decatur Police shot and killed Steve Perkins in the early morning hours of September 29.
- Both Decatur and ALEA say Perkins pulled a gun on a tow truck driver who was trying to repossess his car.
- The tow truck driver came back to Perkins' house with the officers and that's when the shooting happened.
- One of the officers was charged with murder following the start of the new year.
- We covered this story from every angle possible to get reaction from the city of Decatur, the former officer himself, the police department, the city council, and neighbors of the former officer.

- We had live VOSOTs in the 4, 5, and 6 p.m. shows.

#### One Year Since Legacy Events Center Shooting - Jan. 7

- The family and friends of the two victims gathered outside Legacy Events Center in Madison for a balloon release.
- Quantasia Grant and Kaitlyn Jenkins were killed during a birthday party at the location on January 8, 2023.
- The mother of one of the victims was emotional and called to end gun violence.
- We ran a live VOSOT in our Sunday 5 p.m. newscast and a live PKG in the 10 p.m.

#### Madison Mail Theft - Jan. 25

- We received numerous complaints from viewers about blocked off or removed mailboxes at multiple USPS locations in the Huntsville area.
- USPS confirmed several break-ins at collection boxes in Huntsville and Madison, but did not confirm if they happened at these specific locations.
- We looked into several ways you can make sure you don't fall victim to mail theft.
- We followed up the next day with an exclusive story from a Huntsville woman who had a check taken out of her mailbox.
- We had live VOSOTs in the 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. shows.

#### New Victim Notification System - March 20

- The Alabama Attorney General's Office launched a new notification system for victims of crimes across the state.
- It will allow them to have better communication when it comes to their offender's parole status as well as provide information on their location and if they die in prison.
- We ran an anchor VOSOT in our 10 p.m. newscast and then followed it up with a live reporter package on March 22.

#### Mother of Steve Perkins Speaks Exclusively with WAAY 31 - March 29

- The mother of a Decatur man shot and killed by police in September finally broke her silence following months of protests and calls for justice in the city.
- One of our anchors visited her home and talked to her about the legacy her son left behind.
- We ran 3 anchor packages over a 2 day span with packages in our 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. shows.

## Health

#### Local Woman Named Mrs. Alabama International – Jan. 10

- We spoke with a Hartselle woman who lost more than 150 pounds before winning the competition.
- She hopes to use her platform to promote healthy living.
- The stay-at-home mom is also working to become a certified personal trainer.
- We had a studio looklive PKG fronted by our breaking news reporter that ran in the 5

p.m.

#### Cervical Cancer Awareness Month - Jan. 28

- We spoke with a Huntsville mother who is also a metastatic cervical cancer patient that's been battling the disease for two years.
- She works with Operation Wipe Out which is an initiative aimed at eliminating cervical cancer as a public health problem in Alabama by raising awareness about HPV and cervical cancer prevention.
- It also facilitates access to HPV vaccination, screening, follow-up, and treatment if needed.
- We ran a live VOSOT in our 5 p.m. Sunday newscast as well as a live PKG in our 10 p.m. newscast.

#### Valentines Day Loneliness - Feb. 8

- A report released just before the holiday of love showed loneliness is just as bad as smoking every day.
- We spoke with a flower shop owner about the impacts of the holiday on mental health.
- We ran a studio package in our 10 p.m. show.

#### WAAY Investigates: The Dangers and Benefits of Ketamine - March 15

- We looked into ketamine and its impact after it gained more attention following Matthew Perry's death.
- We spoke with an Alabama native who is undergoing ketamine therapy for depression.
- We also spoke to a doctor in Birmingham who specializes using ketamine for pain management.
- This was an anchor package that was part of our weekly TSRs and ran in our 10 p.m. show.

#### Feminine Hygiene Product Drive - March 20

- The National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc. held a drive to distribute feminine hygiene products to several school systems.
- This included Huntsville, Madison City, Madison County, and Limestone County Schools.
- Items donated to the group's drive came from local businesses and individuals in the community.
- We ran an anchor VOSOT in our 4 p.m. show.

## ***Business, Technology & Economic Development***

#### Prom Dress Donations - Jan. 4

- A nonprofit organization in Limestone County made it their mission to help students say yes to the dress ahead of prom season.
- It provides free dresses to local students with sign ups in February.
- The young women then received a special fitting.

- We aired a looklive VOSOT in our 4 p.m. show and a looklive PKG in our 6 p.m.

#### **Saban's Economic Impact - Jan. 11**

- The entire state of Alabama was in shock when Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban announced his retirement.
- We looked into the economic impact he had on the city of Tuscaloosa during his tenure.
- We spoke to the University of Alabama Alumni Association President in Madison County about the legacy Saban leaves behind.
- We aired live VOSOTs in our 4 and 5 p.m. shows followed by a live PKG in our 6 p.m. show.

#### **Lauderdale County Sheriff's Rodeo Benefit Preview - March 20**

- The Sheriff's Office spent the week before its annual benefit rodeo visiting local schools to promote the event.
- The proceeds from the benefit goes toward the Sheriff's Posse, which assists in searching/rescuing missing people.
- We ran an anchor VOSOT in our 4 p.m. newscast.

#### **AI and Your Child: Do You Know Who is Doing Their Homework? - March 22**

- As the popularity of AI increases, we dug deeper into students using it to complete their homework.
- The Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering in Huntsville weighed in on how they use AI within their curriculum.
- We also spoke with the Jackson County School System about what officials are seeing in their schools.
- This was a reporter package that was part of our weekly TSRs and ran in our 10 p.m. show.

#### **Alabamians Hoping to Win Big - March 25**

- We sent a reporter up to the Alabama-Tennessee state line as Alabamians crossed over ahead of the \$800 million dollar Powerball jackpot.
- Many of them were excited to test their luck buying the tickets and are hopeful that a lottery will come to Alabama finally.
- We aired a live VOSOT in our 6 p.m. newscast and a live package in our 10 p.m. show.