

QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAMS LIST

WRSA-FM
Holly Pond, Alabama

FIRST QUARTER 2024
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NEWS/WEATHER/TRAFFIC

WRSA-FM provides News and Weather reports every half hour from 6am until 8am; Traffic updates run every 15 minutes from 5:45am until 8:30am, during morning drive time, then every 15 minutes beginning at 3:45pm until 6pm during afternoon drive.

Weather updates are provided at the top of the hour from 9am through the first morning report the following day. News updates are also provided at the top of the hours of 4, 5 and 6pm for afternoon drive.

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

WRSA-FM is a participating station in the Alabama Emergency Alert System. Weekly tests are performed as required.

TOURS

WRSA-FM Mix 96.9 conducts tours of our station for anyone desiring to know more about radio and our operations. Tours are limited to children over age 5, with adult supervision through adults and include information about the stations origin, how traffic and commercials work, discussion about broadcast equipment, and viewing the tower. They may also watch on-air personalities in action and potentially be allowed to say something live. Tours are scheduled in the afternoon or on school holiday.

Station Tour Date	Business/School	Contact	# of Participants/Age

1/2

We begin in Huntsville- where a man has died after a serious car crash on 565. Police say this crash happened around 3 yesterday morning in the area of Westbound I-5-65 and the I-65 Northbound ramp. Authorities say 24-year-old Cardai Parker was injured in that wreck. Parker were taken to Decatur Morgan Hospital but later died. Police are now investigating the cause of the crash.

Several people in Huntsville are now out of their homes after a New Year's Day fire. The 9-1-1 call went out at the Laurelwood Apartments, on Laurelwood Drive just around 5 last night. We've been told the fire started in a unit on the first floor and quickly spread. 2 units were badly damaged. Officials say everyone in the apartment building had to leave. A witness told W-A-F-F there were no injuries. The Red Cross was contacted to provide help to the tenant.

In Decatur, church members are now planning their next steps following a devastating fire that destroyed their place of worship. Pastor Sean DeMars with the 6th Avenue Community Church says he got a call at 4:30 yester morning, saying the church was on fire. He says a fire investigator told him they believed the fire was caused by a water heater. However, Decatur fire officials are still conducting their investigation. Despite this, Pastor DeMars organized a healing service for church members yesterday. He says while it will take a lot of work to rebuild, he knows this is a part of God's plan. DeMars says several churches in the area have offered their buildings, for his members to worship in on Sundays.

As you cross the Hudson Memorial bridge, that first look you get of Decatur isn't the best. But that's not our opinion, that's something city leaders freely admit. Today, the Decatur City council will decide on a proposal they've been working on for 2 years to enhance drive into the river city. The plan includes expanding the sidewalks, creating flower beds, and relocating power lines underground. This improvement project specifically targets 6th avenue, spanning from the bridge to the park. We'll be at the council meeting to get more information.

1/3

We begin this morning in Huntsville, where it's been almost 1 year since a man was tragically shot and killed while asleep in his bed. As we approach the anniversary of his death, police are still searching for the person responsible for the murder of 27-year-old Andrew Gilliam. Gilliam lived at the Sunlake at Edgewater Apartment Complex. Around 3 AM on January 4th, while he was asleep in bed, he was hit by a bullet. He was rushed to the hospital where he later died from his injuries. Gilliam's Uncle, Vic Hartman, says they feel as if the investigation has come to a standstill. Huntsville Police have followed up on several leads, but nothing solid, as this remains a cold case. CrimeStoppers is offering a cash reward to anyone who comes forward with a tip that could lead to an arrest in this case. A spokesperson with HPD says they have no updates to provide on the case.

In Limestone County, where a Meridianville man accused of murder in will appear in court for a hearing. 42-year-old Donald Patterson is currently facing charges of reckless murder and DUI following a fatal accident in 2018. Patterson was driving with a man named Jason Conley when the car slammed into a tree. The crash happened on Edgewood Road, about five miles north of Athens. Conley was pronounced dead at the scene. Patterson has since been released on bond will appear in court later this afternoon.

And a Lawrence County murder suspect was in court, for his Aniah's law and preliminary hearing yesterday. Jordan Hernandez maintains his innocence and his attorney says there's no probable cause to charge him. He's accused of killing Dustin Grimes and kidnapping Dustin's wife, Karen. Karen Grimes says she only remembers seeing 2 masked people in the room when her husband was shot and killed. Later, a 3rd person came in to get Karen and help rob the Grimes. Karen pointed out all three suspects, but it still unclear who shot Dustin Grimes. Hernandez's defense attorney wonders why not everyone has NOT been charged yet.

Lawrence County Assistant District Attorney Brian Clark says they're still looking at the evidence. Hernandez's bond reduction was denied.

1/5

We begin this morning in Decatur...Today we're expecting to learn more about the deadly police shooting of Steve Perkins. The Morgan County District Attorney is expected to hold a news conference this morning, at 10 and WAFF 48 will be there! DA, Scott Anderson was recently given the findings of ALEA'S investigation into the shooting death of Steve Perkins. Since the end of December, Anderson has been combing over the details of thier investigation. Meanwhile, Decatur Mayor Tab Bowling has fired three officers and suspended one for not following department procedures. All of which have appealed the mayor's decision.

To mark Steve Perkins 40th birthday - protestors paraded through downtown Decatur last night. It comes on the heels of the city cracking down on protests and now requiring those involved to request a parade permit. It was called 'Parade for Peace." People came out to celebrate his memory by parading down 2nd Avenue with dozens of people holding signs. In the three months since Perkins was shot and killed, community members say they've struggled to find common ground over several debates: including the *right times to protest. They say that's created a division in the community, so the parade has a different meaning...They say that's created a division in the community, so the parade has a different meaning...

We're continuing to search for answers as to how a Madison county man sentenced to three years in Federal prison, - also nicknamed the MAGA Lumberjack -- hasn't reported to federal prison. Wednesday, we first broke the news of Dillon Harrington's arrest on a rape charge in Limestone County. 48 then asked federal authorities why he wasn't already in prison since he was sentenced last month for his role in the Capitol riot. He earned the nickname after being caught on camera hurling a large piece of lumber at Capitol officers on January 6th. We contacted the U.S. Attorney's Office, who then referred us to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. We discovered that he had to voluntarily report to the federal prison in Talladega. However, prison officials refuse to disclose the scheduled date. Harrington is due back to the Limestone County courthouse though, today, for a bond hearing on the rape charge.

1/9

Several school districts, including Jackson County, Scottsboro City, Fort Payne City, Marshall County, and DeKalb County schools, have decided to delay classes by 2 hours today due to the threat of strong wind. We will keep monitoring school delays in the valley and provide updates on-air and online at WAFF.com.

And with the storm system that moved through overnight and into this morning - several families across the valley are waking up in the dark this morning. At last check- there were roughly 1-thousand people without service. Due to the high winds and storms overnight- several power lines have been damaged or torn down, possibly causing these outages.

And in Florence- around 150 customers are currently without service. Crews are out right now- working throughout the day to try and restore power for customers across north Alabama.

The strong winds are being blamed for a fire in Guntersville! Crews were called to the Riverbend Condos on Riverbend Circle and Highway 79 just after 8 last night. According to Marshall County Dispatch, Guntersville Firefighters and multiple volunteer departments were on the scene. Marshall County Dispatch confirmed at least 4 condo units were engulfed after a power line blew onto the roof.

An update on the Decatur Church fire. Investigators have wrapped up their investigation into what caused the fire. Around 4-30 in the morning, the Sixth Avenue Community Church was destroyed by a fire. According to Lt. Brandon Sivley from Decatur Fire and Rescue, the fire originated from a wall heater located in the church's foyer. We're told the pastor was unaware of the heater which was covered by a church pew.

1/10

And due to road conditions in northeast Alabama- a couple of schools districts starting later this morning . Both Jackson County Schools and Scottsboro city schools will be starting class 2-hours late. We are continuing to monitor any delays, and you can find those updates both on air and online at WAFF dot com.

And in Morgan County, 8-people are without a home after a fire broke out in Decatur. Firefighters say the fire broke out inside the home on Somerville Road last night. The cause of the fire is believed to be a malfunctioning space heater. No injuries have been reported. The Red Cross is helping the family find a place to stay for the time being.

Meantime- fire investigators in Florence are releasing a preliminary cause of what sparked a massive fire that left 200 people without a home. The cause? A Cigarette. The fire happened the morning of December 29th, at The CourtView towers in downtown Florence. Fire Chief Tim Anerton says the initial 9-1-1 call came from inside an apartment. Eva Crittendon reportedly made that call, but later died from her injuries. An investigation revealed that the fire was started by a cigarette. Officials say it will take some time before all 216 residents can move back home. But Chief Anerton says the quick response of firefighters helped keep the fire contained to the 4th floor apartment. The official report- highlighting the cause of the fire will be released once investigators review Crittendon's autopsy report.

The results are in! We now have a fresh face representing District 9 as the new State Senator. Representative Wes Kitchens won the special election for District 9, securing slightly more than half of the votes. More than 7-thousand people voted in the district which covers all of Marshall county and parts of Blount and Madison counties. Kitchens wins the seat uncontested as no democrat ran. The district seat became vacant when longtime Senator Clay Scofield resigned to join the Alabama Business Council.

1/11

Today, a man accused of murder will be appearing in a Madison county courtroom for his arraignment. In 2020, Huntsville Police got a call about a dead man found in a grassy area on Oakwood Road. The man had been shot. A suspect, Druvanta Love, was identified. A BOLO alert was issued for Love. A few weeks later, police responded to a domestic dispute call and recognized Love, leading to his arrest and murder charges. He is currently out on bond.

Now to Limestone County, where today, people in the Belle Mina community are coming together, in hopes of stopping a rock quarry from opening in the area. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management, or ADEM has extended the public comment period, to give residents more time to voice their concerns. Several residents have reached out to WAFF 48, upset about the idea of blasting happening in their community. Residents tell us, explosions at the quarry might damage historical homes, in the area and disrupt underground lines. There's a public meeting, organized by residents happening tonight at 6...at Belle Mina Methodist Church.

If you are looking for a job, or a career change... A big job fair is happening today at the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville . It is from 11:00am - 7:00pm . There are several full- and part-time positions available, and hiring managers will be on-site doing interviews. They're looking to hire bus drivers to planetarium specialists. That job fair will be held in the Education Training Facility.

1/12

Due the threat of severe weather today - several schools districts have cancelled for the day or switched to virtual learning. A list detailing several closures and schedules changes is up right now our website- WAFF dot com. There are too many to name. To find it just click on the "closures" tab on our homepage.

The man convicted of killing a Huntsville STAC agent will head to court for sentencing today. In October, Lajermoney Brown was convicted and sentenced to death for the shooting and killing Huntsville STAC agent Billy Clardy the third. Since that sentencing, Brown's legal team has been trying for a different sentence. His attorneys believe Brown's non-unanimous jury sentencing is unconstitutional. They are pushing for life in prison without parole. He will be in court later today, and we will keep you updated both on air and online.

Now to Dekalb County...where Ft. Payne Police are investigating after a pedestrian was hit and killed Thursday night. Police say this happened on Williams Avenue north, near Fire station #1. At this time, it's unclear if the driver who hit the pedestrian will face charges. And once we learn more about the pedestrian, who was hit and killed we will keep you updated on air, and on the 48 news app.

Also happening this weekend is an event to honor civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. The Huntsville Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, will host the MLK Parade on Saturday. It starts at noon in Downtown Huntsville. The parade will start from lot K on Clinton Avenue. "Keeping the Dream Alive" is the theme for this year's event.

1/15

And due to the weather - all of North Alabama is now under a state of Emergency. This declaration includes 25 counties - even areas as far south as Tuscaloosa, Jefferson, and Saint Clair. And this is not just because of the snow. Freezing temperatures will stick around the valley all week, possibly causing icy conditions. Governor Ivey is encouraging you to be extra careful over the next few days and stay-up-to-date on weather forecasts.

The Arsenal and Marshall Space Flight Center – are both closed today due to the weather. And as far as valley school districts go, they are all closed today observing the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. So far, district officials have not made a decision concerning Tuesday classes. But we are continuing to monitor possibly delays, and will keep you updated both on air and on WAFF dot com.

Madison County leaders say they've been working all through the weekend to prepare for these cold conditions. Road crews have been brewing thousands of gallons of road brine to help your commute. We caught up with District 1 commissioner Tom Brandon, who says they have already put down their allotment, and they have salt trucks ready for any slick spots. Meanwhile, Commissioner Phil Vandiver says there are 7 or 8 plows placed around the county to help drivers get around today.

If you use Huntsville's transit services to get around town - there are some changes coming this week. The city is expanding transit services now that the number of riders has rebounded to pre-pandemic levels. Transit leaders say 4 routes are changing. And under this change, they are eliminating less popular stops and moving them to more busy areas. City leaders say this all comes in response to your feedback over the past few months. For more information, check out the city of Huntsville's website or this story on WAFF dot com.

1/17

We still have extremely dangerous road conditions across North Alabama. Officials have closed part of Alabama 73 in Jackson County. The highway is expected to stay closed today between County Road 159 and Tennessee 156. Officials also encourage you to avoid Highway 71 in Jackson County. In Huntsville, Golf Road and Cecil Ashburn are closed in both directions because of hazardous conditions. Carl T. Jones Drive from Whitesburg Drive to Tannahill Drive is also closed. In Marshall County, a stretch of Highway 231 is closed from Pleasant Valley Road to Rescue Road.

Due to the snow and ice making road conditions unsafe, school districts across the valley will also close today. We will keep you updated throughout the day today, on school closures for tomorrow. You can find the full list on our website WAFF-dot-com.

Officials from the Tennessee Valley Authority are anticipating an unprecedented surge in energy demand this morning. And, to prevent the need for rolling blackouts, they have a request...TVA officials say they have invested millions of dollars to improve infrastructure and now it's being put to the test. They anticipate that today's low temperatures will result in a higher demand for energy than usual. As a result, they, along with local power companies, are requesting you voluntarily decrease their electricity usage. TVA leaders say they are still confident in the power grid's ability to handle today's demand, as they recently invested more than 123-million dollars in equipment upgrades.

For the most part, you all have stayed hunkered down at home and off the roads. But there are some who have no choice and must be at work. And there are people willing to help you. Jared Reeves runs Rocket City Wranglers, they transport medical professionals to work during severe weather in their Jeep Wranglers. This week, his group has taken 500 trips, shuttling doctors and nurses to and from work, when they otherwise may not be able to drive.

1/23

We're covering your community in Madison County, where leaders are already looking at their response to the winter storm in hopes of improving in the future. Madison County commission chair Mac McCutcheon says the main reason clearing the roads were difficult was because of the amount of ice. He said crews treated the roads with salt and brine before to the wintry mix. But, due to the extreme cold, and ice, it was not very effective. In the future, McCutcheon hopes for a more efficient response to road conditions and to be better prepared.

With last week's winter spell impacting roadways across the valley, many of you have been asking how city leaders prepared. Decatur City council president Jacob Ladner says while Alabama was not as prepared for the colder temps as other states, Decatur's street department crew did the best they could with their resources. However, he admits that this year was a prime example of how there are still ways the city can improve and prepare for the future. He mentioned next year, they'll look at having more sand and salt on hand. But said it doesn't make sense to buy salting trucks that cost millions of dollars for something that doesn't happens very often. And while many major roadways are clear of ice and snow, city leaders are urging you to be extra careful on side streets.

Around 500 homes in Lauderdale County are still without water due to the winter storm causing multiple leaks in the system. TVA distributed water to residents in need. Customers say they are just frustrated. Some residents tell 48 News they have been melting snow for cooking and using it in their toilets. Board Members of the West Lauderdale *Water *Authority say they understand people are upset. But now, they are requesting patience as the area continues to thaw.

Water woes continue in Ardmore! Officials at the Water Department turned the water back on for about five hours yesterday, after its overused tanks emptied from last week. Officials say everyone in the area should boil all tap water for a minimum of 3 minutes. To help anyone still without water, the department called in some reinforcements to pass out cases. The boil water notice may not be lifted until Wednesday...

1/29

We begin in Madison County this morning, where we are learning more about a scary situation at a local fire station. A firefighter is recovering after being attacked while on the job. Authorities say this happened around 1-yesterday afternoon at the Moore's Mill Fire station number 1. We're told that a man was dropped off at that fire station to get checked out. But while he was inside, he started attacking a firefighter who was trying to help. Authorities say 45-year-old Johnny Morton is the man behind this. Madison County Sheriff's deputies say he is now being charged with multiple counts of drug possession, with more charges expected. A spokesperson for the fire department says the firefighter involved is expected to be ok. The fire department also released this photo showing the massive police response to the incident. They say it's nice to know that both HPD and Madison County sheriff's department are willing and able to help.

We are covering the classroom in Huntsville - where this week Huntsville City's School Board is set to meet with the U.S. Department of Justice. This is to ensure the district has made changes to the hiring process to boost diversity in its faculty, staff, and administration. This comes after the district was required to follow a consent order to resolve the issue. Since then, the district says several improvements have been made. The deadline to ensure the district made the necessary improvements is this Thursday, February 1st.

If you're looking for a new job and want to work on the arsenal - Redstone Garrison is holding a hiring event this week. It's happening Wednesday at the Yulista Building near Advanced Gateway from 9 AM to 2 PM. Leaders at Redstone say they are searching for several positions, including: security guards, engineers, and program analysts. To attend, all you need is your resume and 2 forms of an ID.

1/31

We begin with breaking news overnight in Huntsville. We are working to get more information surrounding about a large police presence near Blue Spring Road. At around 10 last night, we began hearing reports of several Huntsville Police officers staging around Blue Spring Road. Authorities say the officers were responding to a barricaded subject in the area. A portion of the road was also shut down due to the search. At around midnight, Huntsville police say they were able to take that person into custody. So far, there is no word on their name or any charges, but we will keep you updated throughout the day.

Now to a 48 new update- a 23-year-old man is dead after a serious crash involving a Greyhound bus. State troopers say Sidney Benson died after his car collided with the bus at the intersection of Highway 53 near Pinedale Road in Limestone County. This all happened Monday night. Crews on the scene say the bus ended up careening off the road and rolling over. 9 others inside the bus were injured, 2 of them were even airlifted to Huntsville Hospital. Greyhound officials say 6 of the injured have already been treated and released. Right now, it's unclear what led up to the crash. But we do know it was traveling from Tallahassee Florida to Nashville.

Overnight in Colbert County, a man was hit by a car at the intersection of 2nd and East Street in Tuscumbia. This happened shortly after midnight, according to our partners at the "Shoals Insider." The victim was airlifted to the hospital. Tuscumbia police are questioning a person of interest and gathering security footage from neighboring houses.

2/1

We start off the show in Huntsville, where the woman is in jail after police say she two police officers with her car and drove off. 22-year-old Kadieza Timmons is charged with 2 counts of aggravated assault on a police officer and now sits in Madison County jail on a 30-thousand dollar bond. This all started yesterday afternoon, when two HPD officers arrived at the parking lot near Belk at Parkway Place Mall in response to a traffic accident involving two civilians. According to the police, Timmons, who was one of the individuals involved in the crash, attempted to leave the scene. Police say Timmons hit the two officers, sending them to the hospital with minor injuries. Police spent the following hours investigating the crash scene, before eventually towing away two cars.

A single car crash has left one person fighting for their life. According to police, the wreck happened last night in South Huntsville on Bailey Cove Road. The driver was rushed to Huntsville Hospital in critical condition. The crash is still under investigation. We will update you as we learn more.

Covering the classroom...If your child attends a school in Limestone County, they might have switch schools next school year. Limestone County Schools Superintendent Randy Shearhouse say they're considering redistricting. The reason behind this is the increasing number of people moving into the county. He says he wants to redraw district lines to combat overcrowding in schools like East Limestone High and Creekside Elementary. Depending on their age, your child may be able to stay at their current school. But, they could be transferred to schools such as Tanner or Elkmont. This plan isn't official just yet. The school board has to

vote on redistricting and the first public meeting by today. That will take place at Johnson Elementary at 6 tonight. For more information, visit WAFF-DOT-COM.

Tennessee Valley, get ready!! Tomorrow is Groundhog Day, but we Alabamians put a different spin on the big day with a possum named *Sand Mountain Sam.* He's a possum living in Sardis City - between Etowah and Marshall counties. Sand Mountain Sam has given his early spring and late winter predictions for decades. We'll see him do it again tomorrow at Bama Bucks restaurant on Bryant Road. Sam's forecast is scheduled for 7 a-m.

2/2

1 person is dead, and another is recovering after a double stabbing in South Huntsville. Huntsville Police say they were called to Mountain Gap Road just before 5 PM yesterday. 1 victim was found dead at the scene. So far, their identity has not been released. Another victim was taken to the hospital with serious injuries. We do know that one person is in custody. We will keep you updated as the investigation progresses.

A Decatur man is now in jail after police say he stole an ambulance. On Tuesday, 25-year-old Montez Fletcher was arrested and charged with theft. Cops say he drove off in an ambulance from Decatur Morgan Hospital. Police just haven't told us how he was able to drive off with the emergency vehicle. He is currently being held in Morgan County Jail on a 5-thousand-dollar bond.

Today, Governor Kay Ivey will be in the Tennessee Valley to continue promoting her statewide broadband initiative. Ivey's visit to the Dekalb Regional Medical Center in Fort Payne marks the 5th stop on her statewide broadband tour. During her visit, Governor Ivey will discuss upcoming broadband projects in Dekalb and Jackson counties and throughout statewide. The event will begin at 10 A-M.

It's Groundhog Day and that means its time to head to Sardis City, today to hear from everyone's favorite, Sand Mountain Sam. Sam is an opossum who makes a prediction about the weather around Feb. 2 each year. Sam predicted an early spring last year... So be sure to tune into waff 48 news today....to see Sam's prediction.

2/5

We start off in Morgan County, where we have a tragic update related to a deadly crash we reported on over the weekend. 21 year old Kildon Green of Town Creek, and 36 year old Cody Terry of Trinity, were killed in a single-car accident on Saturday. The wreck happened on Highway 157 near State Crusher Road, about 9 miles south of Danville. According to state troopers, the car ran off the roadway, went off a cliff, overturned when it landed in a ravine, and resulted in the deaths of both occupants.

We are covering the community Limestone County, where the fight to prevent construction of a rock quarry continues. Today, residents of the Belle Mina community will voice their concerns at the county commission meeting. Two permits to start construction on a limestone quarry and dirt-mine await approval from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. There have been several community meetings among residents for months...in hopes of stopping this. We will be at today's commission meeting, and let you know what county leaders have to say.

Tomorrow night at 6, Governor Kay Ivey will deliver her annual State of the State address. She is expected to outline her priorities for the coming year and reflect on the state's progress over the past year. You can watch the State of the State address on the 48 News app and other social media platforms.

2/6

We are covering your community in Decatur- where 2 major development came from last night's city council meeting. In that meeting, city leaders highlighted new wording for city's parade ordinance. However, this

meeting also opened the floor for Councilman Billy Jackson to call on Mayor Tab Bowling to step down. Council Member Billy Jackson is calling out the mayor after recently choosing to leave city council meetings during the public comments section. The mayor says it's become unproductive. However, Jackson proposed the idea of Council President, Jacob Ladner taking up the role and being more qualified for the position. Mayor Bowling has already announced he will not be running for re-election when his term end in August of 2025. Regarding to parade ordinance, city leaders unanimously voted to remove the permit requirement for those picketing and protesting on public property and sidewalks. This resolves recent confusion and frustration among protestors waiting to highlight the response to the deadly officer-involved shooting of Steve Perkins.

Members of a small, Limestone County community are petitioning county officials to prevent a rock quarry from moving in their neighborhood. People in Belle Mina packed the Limestone County commission meeting yesterday. They are asking commissioners to vote to limit rock quarry blasts, which they believe will deter Grayson, Carter & Sons from developing a quarry near their community. The commission has asked the Attorney General whether they have the authority to regulate quarry blasting. In the meantime, residents fear that blasts from a quarry would endanger Belle Mina. Another community meeting will be held this Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Belle Mina Methodist Church. Residents are also preparing for their meeting with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management on March 7.

Happening tonight, Governor Ivey's State of the State Address will be live today on our 48 news app and our website WAFF-dot-com. Governor Ivey will outline her political priorities for the coming year. This comes as the legislative session gets underway today at noon in Montgomery. She'll deliver the address tonight at 6. You'll also be able to see a recap of the speech right here tonight at 10

2/7

We begin in Decatur this morning- where we are learning new details surrounding a child abuse case. Jessica Cowley is now out of the Morgan County jail on bond after police say her 9-year-old son ran away from home this past weekend. Authorities say they eventually discovered the child after 4 hours hiding not too far away from home. Police say the child was covered in injuries they believe came from abuse. We are also learning that Cowley was previously indicted in 2014, for chemical endangerment of a child. However, that case was dismissed after she completed drug court.

In Huntsville, a person is in jail this morning after police say they locked themselves inside an apartment after officers tried to serve a warrant. Last night around 6, police arrived at an apartment on Academy Drive near Meridian Street to serve a robbery and assault warrant. The suspect initially refused to surrender, prompting police to call in the SWAT team and the U.S. Marshals Task Force for assistance. Nearby residents were temporarily evacuated from as law enforcement personnel surrounded the area. After some time, the suspect was taken into custody. The name of the suspect has not been released.

And all eyes were on Montgomery last night for the official start of the 2024 legislative session. Governor Kay Ivey also addressed Alabamians- laying out her goals for the year during the annual State of the state address. In her address, Governor Ivey covered several subjects from state's new prisons to record breaking investments in broadband internet access. Governor Ivey also discussed improving the state's public school system, calling on lawmakers to pass the Choose Act. Along with other top priorities, Governor Ivey also announced her support for a measure preventing ballot harvesting. Governor Ivey says with this measure, she hopes to ensure the complete safety and security of Alabama elections.

2/8

With the Alabama Legislative Session underway, gaming in the state is up for debate AGAIN! And Governor Ivey says "now is the time for Alabama voters to have another say on the issue." Governor Ivey says that Alabama lawmakers are working on two gaming bills. One bill would allow statewide gaming. The other bill would establish a state-run infrastructure to regulate these new gaming operations. Lawmakers indicate they likely have enough support to pass the bills, which would require voter approval before being

implemented. According to new data from our parent company Gray TV and Cygnal Analytics, 71% of Republican voters in Alabama support legalized gambling.

The flow of commerce in Alabama is constant, but it's expected to increase. The Alabama Port Authority announced a new inland port is coming to Decatur. Morgan County Economic Association President Jeremy Nails says the port will act as a central hub for goods to be transported to and from the city via train. This would increase the flow of cargo *away from the roads, easing traffic on the interstate. Decatur Mayor Tab Bowling says the announcement is exciting and will boost the city's economic vitality. Leaders agree, the announcement comes at a crucial point for the city's growth. This will now be the third inland port in the state, and the first for North Alabama. The Alabama Port Authority has not released a timeline for the project.

In Florence, the grassroots organization Project Say Something is working with the city on ways to handle the Confederate monument outside the Lauderdale County courthouse. The Confederate monument has sparked several protests, a lawsuit, and changes to city ordinances. But, the city has now agreed to install a historical marker acknowledging the monument's racist origins, a decision organizers view as a major victory for the community's commitment to truth and reconciliation. We'll update you on when that marker will be installed.

Happening this weekend in Huntsville... A big Mardi Gras parade. It starts at 3:30 this Saturday on Green Street near the old town beer exchange before making its way through downtown. The fun will cap off with a dog parade.

And in DEcatur....A Mardi Gras-inspired parade is taking place in the River City this weekend .. The fun kicks off Saturday night at 6. The Carnival parade route begins on Bank Street at Founder's Park. It will continue along Lee Street to 2nd Avenue, ending on Grant Street. The 48 first alert weather team is tracking rain this weekend, but event planners tell our new paper partners at The Decatur Daily, Rain or Shine, the show will go on.

2/9

After evading capture for several months, a man wanted for capital murder in Huntsville is now behind bars. Since December, Travis Blackburn was wanted in connection to a shooting on Fairview Farm Way that left 31-year-old Jacobley Moore dead. Blackburn was recently arrested Wednesday near Austin, Texas by U.S. Marshals. He will be extradited to Huntsville and booked into the Madison County Jail on a capital murder charge.

In Sheffield, a motel owner is dead, and according to police, a customer shot him during an argument over a hotel room. Pravin Patel, the owner of Hillcrest Motel, got into an argument with William Moore while Moore was trying to rent a room, according to Sheffield police. During the argument, officers report that Moore pulled out a handgun and shot Patel. Police say Moore left the motel and was later found by Sheffield Police trying to break into a house on 13th Avenue. Police say they found the murder weapon in Moore's possession when they arrested him.

The city of Moulton will soon have a safe haven baby box. State officials just approved this upcoming installation. As we reported, these boxes are placed at fire stations. This gives mothers the option to anonymously surrender her baby, up to 45 days after birth. Once a mother places her child in the box, an alarm rings, alerting firefighters so they can care for the child before surrendering them to the state. The box in Madison was used a little over a week after its installation. We will update you when and where the box in Moulton is installed.

The annual Mardi-Gras inspired Carnegie Carnival in downtown Decatur is still happening. The Carnegie Visual Arts Center executive director, Kim Mitchell says she plans to host the carnival rain or shine. It will take place on Saturday, February 10. A 5K will begin at 7 Saturday morning, followed by the Prince and Princess Parade at 12:30. A Canine Parade will happen at 2:30, and the main parade at 6 PM.

2/12

In Tuscumbia, city leaders are taking steps to tackle a shortage of police officers. Tuscumbia Police Chief Tony Logan says this shortage has been worsening since last summer. He says that officers typically stay for about 3 years before leaving for higher salary jobs. Chief Logan has discussed increasing officer pay with Mayor William Foster and city council members. But says raising salaries is challenging when Tuscumbia's tax base remains stagnant. He says the force will have 21 people when they are fully staffed, and right now, he's looking to hire six or seven officers.

Attorneys representing the Decatur police officer charged with the murder of Steve Perkins have released their first public statement since their client's arrest. 2 days after Bailey "Mac" Marquette pleaded not guilty to murder charges, his attorney Liz Young released a statement to WAFF declaring the shooting an act of self-defense and added. Quote "We are disappointed that he is being prosecuted for such a clear case of self-defense and justified force." Young went onto say, "Officer Marquette adamantly denies any wrongdoing, and his defense team will work zealously on his behalf." End quote.

We are learning new details about a story we reported as breaking news over the weekend. The man who was killed in a car crash just outside Athens has now been identified. Saturday night, a fatal head-on collision happened on Highway 72 near Line Road, resulting in the death of 31-year-old Antonio Langford of Athens. Police tell us Langford was killed when another car crossed the median and hit his car. Two other people were injured in the wreck but are expected to be ok.

The Athens Art League is sponsoring its own unique Mardi Gras celebration downtown on Tuesday. But rather than elaborate floats, participants will push their own decorated shopping carts, which ties into the food drive happening during the parade. Festivities kick off at 5 PM on the courthouse square, followed by the shopping cart parade at 6-30.

2/13

Supporters of Justice for Steve Perkins debated with a Decatur City Councilman. This is over his public support of an officer who is now charged with murdering a homeowner. Former Officer Mac Bailey Marquette is charged with murder. He's accused of shooting homeowner, Steve Perkins. Council Member Hunter Pepper has continued his support for Marquette on social media. That isn't sitting well with some people. During last night's city council meeting, people spoke up criticizing his comments on Facebook. Pepper says we do not have all the facts yet to know if Marquette is guilty, so public criticism is unfair. Several residents disagreed, saying his remarks online are insensitive. One resident says it just shows his lack of leadership, while Pepper says you should not take everything online seriously. While Pepper's fellow council members say they do not fully agree with his use of his platform to take sides on this serious issue, Pepper says he will continue to share his opinions.

Meanwhile, we've learned...that Marquette will stand before a judge for his trial on November 18th. Last week he pleaded not guilty to the fatal shooting of Steve Perkins. He is now out of jail on bond. Perkins was shot and killed in his front yard in the early morning hours of September 29th. Police officers arrived to Perkins' home after a local tow truck driver claimed Perkins flashed a gun at him while he was repossessing Perkins' truck. Police say Marquette shot Perkins after he pointed a gun at officers. 3 other officers on the scene that night were also fired or suspended following the shooting.

If you drive I-65 southbound through Morgan County, expect lane closures this week. From today through Thursday expect single lane closures from 8 AM to 3:30 PM as crews continue repaving I-65 southbound between Exits 328 in Hartselle and the Falkville exit in Morgan County.

Today is Fat Tuesday, which means people coast to coast are celebrating Mardi Gras. And here at home, there is a Parade happening today in Athens to celebrate! The Athens Arts League is hosting its annual quirky Mardi Gras Parade with a purpose and a celebration in downtown Athens later today! And instead of

the famous floats, shopping buggies will be decorated and pushed down the streets. Organizers say they chose the carts to encourage the community to collect canned goods for a local food bank. Live music all starts at 4:45 on Marion Street, and the parade kicks off at 6:30!

2/14

The man who allegedly shot and killed a motel owner in Sheffield will stay in prison, this comes after his Aniah's law hearing on Tuesday. Police say William Moore shot Pravin Patel at the Hillcrest Motel last Thursday after he was asked to leave. Security camera footage shows Moore start to leave, then quickly turn around, whip out a gun, and shoot Patel. Moore was later found by police while attempting to break into a home near the motel, with the murder weapon. We will keep you updated as we learn more.

Turning now to Lincoln county- where authorities are on the hunt for a man, they say stole multiple pieces of artwork from a local business. And the entire thing was caught on camera. The owner of Elk River Carving Co., Terrie Phillips say she woke up yesterday morning to find nearly 2-thousand-dollars' worth of art missing. She says this isn't the first time this has happened. She says during the ice storm last month, she believes the man pictured in this video was caught stealing a large eagle statue from their business. She says while they did call police, they haven't been able to locate the thief. And it's even more devastating since Phillips' husband makes all the pieces by hand. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office is now asking the community to be on the lookout for a white, four door, Dodge Ram truck.

In Montgomery, lawmakers heard public comments on two gaming bills: one that would remove all local constitutional amendments related to gaming. While the second bill establishes a statewide lottery and legalizes sports betting and casino-style gaming. During the meeting, there were more people in favor than against. Opponents expressed their moral opposition to gambling and gambling addiction worries. While there are also concerns about the lack of protections to prevent children from gaming, supporters of this bill argue there would be financial benefits for the state if gaming was legalized. One of the bill's sponsors says the state could make up to 1 BILLION DOLLARS. We can expect the committee to vote on the bill as early as this afternoon.

2/15

Former Limestone County Sheriff Mike Blakely could soon be released from jail. You may remember that Blakely, the longest serving sheriff in Alabama history with 38 years in office, was convicted in 2020-2021 for misusing county funds for personal trips. He has a parole hearing scheduled next month and is currently being held in the Franklin County Jail.

New details are coming to light surrounding a lover's quarrel that ended in a shooting in Muscle Shoals. 78-year-old Bonnie Schean is accused of shooting her boyfriend James Landrum in the leg, but is expected to recover. Officials say it happened early Monday morning. According to court documents, Schean shot Landrum after the two quarreled about another woman who was living with him at the time. Schean told authorities she believed Landrum was replacing her. She is now in jail on a 100-thousand dollar bond.

Today- people across the valley are remembering the lives of two Tennessee National Guardsman. A year ago today, the two officers were on a training mission over the valley, when their Blackhawk crashed in Harvest. Authorities say Chief Warrant officers Daniel Wadham and Danny Randolph were on a routine mission last February when their helicopter came crashing down a busy stretch of Highway 53 in Harvest. Both men were killed. Officer Wadham served 15 years while officer Randolph served 13 years

Now to a quick traffic alert to tell you about before you go! If you drive I-65 southbound through Morgan County, expect lane closures this week. Today and Thursday, expect single lane closures from 8 AM to 3:30 PM as crews continue repaving I-65 southbound between Exits 328 in Hartselle and the Falkville exit in Morgan County.

2/16

The investigation into who shot a HEMSI ambulance continues this morning. Thursday afternoon just before 3, Don Webster with HEMSI says his crews were responding to a medical call on Beard Street when it happened. He says no injuries were reported. We will keep you updated as we gather more details.

Now to Limestone County- where 4 of the 9 men accused of trying to meet children for sex have been granted bond. In court yesterday were: Edgar Castro Juarez, Christopher Tomasello, Bernardo Sanchez, and Collin McGee. They all received different bond amounts in the hundreds of thousands. Investigators spent the day testifying *against the defendants, reading transcripts and text conversations with decoys posing as minors. In those texts, authorities say all the men were repeatedly told the minor's ago, but did nothing to stop the sexual advances. Instead, all 4 defendants agreed to meet the decoys at various hotels in the county. When McGee was caught at a hotel, Limestone County Sheriff Josh McLaughlin says he tried to take a deputy's gun while yelling "shoot me".

2/19

This weekend, former University of Alabama basketball star John Petty was arrested in Huntsville on multiple serious charges, including DUI, reckless driving, and attempting to evade police. Petty bonded out of jail early Sunday morning. Huntsville police have yet to release more details on the charges. Petty was a star for the crimson tide from 2017 to 2021. He went un-drafted but briefly signed with the pelicans. At last check, he played with Birmingham in the NBA G-league.

The Alabama state senate will meet Tuesday to discuss a bill that would legalize sports betting, lottery games, and casinos within the state. The bill is advancing swiftly. It cleared the house last week. Pending approval from the senate, legalized gaming will be up for voting on the ballot this November. Some of the funds generated from the lottery will be designated for education programs and scholarships for community colleges. The rest would go into a flexible trust fund lawmakers would use for different projects every year. A poll conducted 3 weeks ago by Gray TV and Signal found that 71 percent of Republican voters support legalized gaming, while just 20 percent are against it and 8 percent are undecided.

Today is President's Day, and many of you get to enjoy some well-deserved time off. But, not everyone does. Schools, government offices, such as the post office and most banks, will be closed. However, most businesses, including Fed Ex and UPS, will remain open. And all our newscasts will run as scheduled today.

2/20

We start with a tragic story out of Morgan County. A Woman is dead after a house fire in Somerville. Fire officials say this fire started at around 11:30 yesterday morning near Highway 36 in Somerville. The area coroner says 95-year-old Elizabeth Maxwell died in the fire. Crews say it took around 5 hours to get the scene under control. Oden Ridge Fire Chief, Adrian Fowler says due to the extensive damage, it will take some time before an thorough investigation can be complete. Neighbors and community members say it's hard to believe Maxwell is gone, but they remember her as a kind and caring woman.

And Madison County Investigators are hard-at-work this morning, after someone spotted a dead body near Oconee Drive. Authorities say the body was spotted near the Buckhorn Youth Athletic Association fields. Deputies say the body was of a woman, but they don't suspect foul play at this time. Madison County Sheriff's office spokesperson, Brent Patterson, says the coroner is now arranging for the body to be moved to the forensic sciences building. There, investigators can determine the cause of death.

If you live in Madison County- deputies with the Sheriff's office are warning you about a scam tactic popping up. Deputies say recently they've received reports of scammers calling people in the area, telling them they have outstanding warrants or have committed a crime. And to make it go away, all you must do is pay. Deputies say the calls may look like they are coming from the Madison County Sheriff' Office phone

number. But remember, employees from the sheriff's office will never call you about warrants or request money over the phone. If you or someone you know has fallen victim to this scam, call the Sheriff's office.

2/22

This morning, we now know one of the two people arrested after a chase with deputies in Madison County. Robert Vanvoorhis was arrested yesterday by Madison County deputies. We're told a deputy tried to pull him over at Kings Inn on Memorial Parkway for an unregistered tag. But he fired a shot at the deputy and took off. The chase ended in a field on Hobbs Island Road, where Vanvoorhis and a female suspect fired again running on foot. SWAT, K-9 units, and drones, were deployed and both suspects were eventually arrested. Vanvoorhis is currently in the Madison County jail facing several charges including attempting to elude a police officer and attempted murder. We're looking into his criminal history, and he has a lengthy criminal past. He was indicted last month on an escape charge, and set to stand trial in April. The identity of the female suspect has yet to be released.

Now to the city of Madison, a second newborn was surrendered in the newly installed safe haven baby box. A mother made the difficult decision to place her baby in the incubator-like box attached to First Station 1 on Mill Road in Madison. The box triggered a silent alarm when the baby was placed inside. Firefighters care for the child before transporting them to the hospital where state authorities take over. We spoke with the CEO and founder of "Kids To Love," which spearheaded the effort to install these baby boxes across the state. They say the fact that the box has been used twice in just a few weeks confirms there is a need for mothers in crisis.

We're covering your community in Huntsville, where the new city hall will soon be open for business. The new 7-floor city hall is said to be a one-stop shop for Huntsville residents. It will house around 400 city employees and host public meetings. City leaders anticipate opening the hall to employees by mid-April and to the public in late May. So what about the old marble city hall building- city officials say it will be torn down to expand the green space at Big Spring Park.

Spring is almost here, and so is Severe weather. So, starting tomorrow , you can buy items you need for severe weather season a bit cheaper. The state Department of Revenue is waiving all state sales tax on weather preparedness items like flashlights, batteries, and even generators. The deal ends on Sunday when stores close. For more information, check out our website- WAFF dot com.

2/23

Eyes across the nation are set on Montgomery this morning following the state Supreme Court's ruling determining that frozen embryos are considered children. Now- state lawmakers are filing back-to-back bills in hopes of clearing up confusion -to help IVF patients and providers. Following this landmark ruling, state lawmakers are scrambling to draft measures clarifying existing law to protect Alabama patients. Out of fear of legal ramifications, a handful of IVF clinics across the state have paused IVF treatment options. House Minority Leader, Anthony Daniels says his new bill is looking to eliminate the possibility of criminal charges in the event embryos are damaged or lost. And State senator Tim Melson is drafting his own measure in hopes of protecting those who provide or seek IVF treatment. Representative Daniels' bill will now go before a committee to decide whether it will advance to the house floor. Senator Melson's bill will follow shortly.

Happening today, Robert Vanvoorhis, who is accused of leading officers on a chase in Madison County and shooting at them. will appear in court for a bond revocation hearing. He faces charges of attempting to elude and attempted murder. Vanvoorhis allegedly shot at a deputy who tried to pull him over. That's when the chase started. Officials say he fired shots again, when Vanvoorhis and a woman ditched the car in a field on Hobbs Island Road. They were later caught, but the woman has not been charged. This isn't the first time Vanvoorhis has had a brush with the law. Just last month, he was indicted by a grand jury for an escape charge. His trial for that charge is set to happen in April.

Now to a 48 news update. Officials at Alabama A-and-M University are taking action after they got dozens of reports of identity theft from students. Wednesday, University leaders emailed students saying that there is

no evidence of anyone affiliated with the school illegally accessing students' personal information. The email also disclosed that the university has received about 100 reported concerns, including tax filing rejections and decreased credit scores. Administrators are still investigating the issue and advise affected students to get in touch with them. They have hired a third-party vendor to assess each student's case.

2/26

We are working to learn more about a deadly motorcycle crash on University Drive. It's a story we brought you as breaking news last night at 10. Don Webster with HEMSI told 48 News that a motorcyclist was killed after crashing with a car after 9:30 last night. This happened near the target shopping center between Huntsville and Madison, near the Providence area. We will update you on air and online as soon as we learn more about this and the victim's identity.

We begin in New Market this morning- Where the old Brady's Grocery Store at the intersection of Winchester Road and Coleman Road, burned to the ground. Multiple fire crews helping battle those flames. The building has been abandoned for over 20 years. But authorities were concerned because it's right next to a gas station. Luckily, those flames did not spread to nearby fuel pumps. Right now, there is no word on what caused this fire, but an investigation continues.

If highway 31 in Decatur is the way YOU drive work, you may want to head out a little early this morning. Starting later this morning, crews will be working on portions of Highway 31 in Decatur. We're told crews will be working on a paving project, sealing cracks along the south-bound lanes, near the Tennessee River. Work is expected to start at 8 AM and wrap-up around 3 this afternoon. Drivers are asked to avoid the area during this time.

We are covering your community in Huntsville this morning- where the landmark V-B-C will be marking a big birthday next year. And to celebrate- the city is hosting several events leading up to the massive milestone! The first event celebrating the VBC's 50th birthday is this Friday! So, starting a 4-PM come out to enjoy some live music, food trucks, and a big announcement during a news conference that's set to start at 5pm. Event organizers say all through 2024, there will be tons of special events and projects leading up to the mega 50th-birthday bash next year!

2/27

The family of a local tow truck driver is filing a wrongful death lawsuit over his murder. The widow of 38-year-old Jayson Click is now suing his alleged killer, Warren Siao. This lawsuit claims the night Siao shot Click, he was being reckless, shooting at Click while he was lawfully performing a repossession at his home. In December, Investigators say Siao admitted to shooting 5 to 6 rounds at two men outside his home in Harvest. He told police he thought the pair was stealing his car. He went on to claim the two never identified themselves. Siao is now out of jail on bond while his case heads to a grand jury.

In Albertville, 5 men are behind bars, each with a bond of one million dollars. All of them are charged with traveling to meet a child for sex acts. They were all ***BUSTED*** in an organized sting! Several agencies worked together, including the Marshall County Sheriff's office, Albertville Police Department, and the Covenant Rescue Group. They worked closely to conduct a sting operation leading to the arrests. Sheriff Phil Sims says it took six months to carry this out and says decoys were used to engage with the suspects online. The CEO of the Covenant Rescue Group says technology has made child sex crimes easier to commit, but also easier to detect. The Sheriff says they are open to conducting future undercover operations to prevent real children from becoming victims.

Following the landmark IVF decision from the State Supreme Court, the Biden Administration is sending top U.S. health officials to Alabama. Later today, U-S Health and Human Services Secretary (Javier) Xavier Becerra will be meeting with doctors and patients in Birmingham who are being impacted by this ruling.

In that decision, the state supreme court ruled that frozen embryos are considered "children". This has prompted many facilities to pause treatments in fear of legal repercussions. Democrats have now filed a measure, saying a fertilized embryo outside a human uterus is not a person. The bill's sponsor, House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels says that language should carve out protections for IVF. Republican Senator Tim Melson is also planning to file a measure in response to this decision. Tomorrow, members with the Fight for Alabama Families group will gather in Montgomery to advocate in response to this decision.

2/28/2024

New this morning out of Sheffield, 2 police officers will face disciplinary action after crashing into each other on their way to a call! This is according to our partners at Times Daily. Police Chief Ricky Terry says the officers were responding to a burglary call in January. On the way to the scene, the officers' vehicles collided at the intersection of North Atlanta Avenue and Sixth Street. Chief Terry says one officer returned to work while the other is still under concussion protocol and can return in 2 weeks. He went on to say both officers did break policy and will be disciplined in house. He added one officer was at fault in the wreck. The officers involved in the crash have not been named

In Madison County, a controlled burn got out of control in the Mt. Carmel Community, due to the strong wind. This was here along Clearvue Road and, threatened nearby homes and spreading to across three acres. By the time firefighters arrived, homeowners were already outside using garden tools and hoses to contain the blaze. Moores Mill Volunteer Fire Spokesperson Ethan Fitzgerald says that actually was a huge help for his team. New Market and Central Fire responded to assist the Moores Mill fire department. No homes were damaged.

Turning now to Morgan County- where community members are in mourning after a serious dog attack left a 4-year-old dead. On Monday- 4-year-old Beau Clark and his father were attacked by a neighbor's Olde English Bulldog near Ramblewood Private Drive. The pair were both rushed to the hospital, where Beau later died. His father is expected to make a full recovery. The dog in this case was killed by deputies at that scene. The Morgan County Sheriff's Office Spokesman Mike Swafford says the attack has left the surrounding community shocked. Counseling services will continue to be available for Hartselle City School students today, where Clark's mother works. The attack remains under investigation.

2/29

A Cullman man has been arrested for allegedly making threats against election workers in Arizona. On Wednesday, 59-year-old Brian Ogstad appeared before a federal judge in Huntsville. Prosecutors say Ogstad sent threatening messages to Maricopa County election workers through Instagram, falsely claiming they would be executed for election fraud in the 2022 Arizona Gubernatorial race. He has been charged with five counts of communicating interstate threats and faces up to five years in prison for each count if convicted.

In Montgomery, lawmakers in the House and Senate moved forward with three bills to safeguard IVF treatment access without facing criminal charges. Patients and providers gathered outside the State House on Wednesday to show their support. Lawmakers in both chambers have proposed legislation to clarify the definition of a frozen embryo. Senator Tim Melson's bill will soon go before the Senate floor for a vote. State senators are set to discuss the bills protecting IVF today. They are expected to pass them, and they'll head to the House.

High-speed internet service is expanding throughout Southeastern Madison County, connecting more homes and businesses. The Madison County Commission approved a 2 million dollar project to expand high-speed internet access, funded by the Biden Administration's American Rescue Plan. The project, which will be implemented by the New Hope Telephone Cooperative, aims to provide improved broadband service to the Killingsworth Cove area. County Commissioner Craig Hill says this will enable students to learn without being left behind by slow internet. The project is expected to be finished by next summer when customers can sign up for internet access.

City leaders in Huntsville are gathering at John Hunt Park today, to welcome a brand-new community center to the area. The grand-opening ceremony for the Raymond W. Jones Community Center is set for today. This comes after the former National Guard Armory was bought by the city and transformed into this new center. This facility will directly serve the community by providing programs for senior populations, specialized athletes, and those with Parkinson's disease. A ribbon-cutting ceremony opening the new facility is set for 2 PM at John Hunt Park.

3/1

In Morgan County, many are mourning and preparing to say their final goodbyes to a young boy today. Earlier this week, 4-year-old Beau Clark was killed after a dog attack. Officials say Beau was riding his bike when he decided to stop in and visit his neighbor's yard where the dog was. Something he'd done before. Deputies say the dog was securely maintained on the property. But, They say when his dad went looking for him, he discovered that the dog had attacked Beau. The dog was euthanized, and its body was sent off for forensic testing. They also say the dog had no prior incidents of aggression and that the boy had been around the dog multiple times before the attack. We are learning that no charges are expected in this case. Some Morgan County deputies will act as substitute teachers to allow Hartselle teachers to attend the funeral and support the family today.

New this morning, we are learning that a new college scholarship is NOW named after Beau Clark, This is according to our newspaper partners at the Decatur Daily. The Beau Thomas Clark Memorial Scholarship Fund will be given to a senior at Hartselle High School. According to the Decatur Daily, one organizer said they established this to honor Beau's legacy. This is especially special considering that Beau's mother teaches at Hartselle High. The Clark family will determine the criteria for the scholarship.

A death investigation is underway in Lawrence County. This comes after possible human skeletal remains were discovered in the woods along Highway 101. The remains have been sent to the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences to determine the identity of the deceased and investigate the circumstances. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office.

Alabama Senator Katie Britt is set to give the Republican response to President Biden's State of the Union speech next Thursday. The news was shared Thursday by House Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. The newly elected Senator, who is both Alabama's first female Senator and the youngest Republican woman ever elected to the Senate, says she feels "honored and grateful" for the opportunity to "have a candid conversation about the future of our nation."

3/2

In Huntsville - a suspect is dead and a woman is recovering after a shooting at a local bar. Authorities say this shooting sparked an hours-long police chase, that ultimately ended with the suspect taking his own life. Police say Saturday night at around 10 pm, a woman was shot at the 4th Quarter Re-vamp bar on Heathland Drive. The suspect then took off- leading police on a chase. Officials later found the suspect's car in a parking lot on University Drive, with the man dead inside. Marc Patton, the owner of the bar says the woman was out celebrating with her friends, when the gunfire erupted. The woman was taken to Huntsville Hospital, where she is stable. Police haven't released the name of the shooter, or the victim.

Happening this week in Colbert County- a woman facing dozens of animal cruelty charges is expected to stand trial this week. Debra Catledge is facing over 40-charges of animal cruelty and failing to bury livestock. This comes after- Colbert County Deputies say they discovered 29 dead horses on her property last fall. Another 10 horses and 45 dogs were also taken from her property and taken to the local animal shelter for treatment.

And in Limestone County- former Sheriff- Mike Blakely is set to be in court for a parole hearing this week. Blakely has been inside the Franklin County jail after being convicted of theft and ethics violations. However, last November, Blakely was seen out in the community- directly violating his work release agreement.

Right now it's unclear if that decision will impact his chance at parole. Before his conviction, Blakely served as Limestone's Sheriff for almost 40-years.

It's almost time to vote. Starting tomorrow- Alabama and a dozen other states are holding primaries on Super Tuesday! Current President, Joe Biden, and Former president Donald Trump may have the race locked in, but there are still several critical local races. County school board seats are now up for grabs. So are several spots of the state supreme court and county commission positions. And don't forget, many of these races will go unopposed, so the primary winners will win the position - make sure to stay with WAFF 48 for all election results. Polls open at 7 AM and close at 7 PM.

3/5

We start with breaking news overnight in Florence- where police have arrested a suspect- accused of shooting into an occupied home. Sergeant Hal Howard says just before 9 last night- Florence Police received a shots fired call at a home near Trade Street and Woodward Avenue. When police arrived, they say the male suspect barricaded himself inside another home. Crews worked for hours to try and convince him to come out, but SWAT crews were eventually called to the scene. Sergeants Howard says that's when officers were able to get inside that home. So far police haven't released the name of the suspect, but an investigation is underway.

Today's the day to get out and vote! And across the nation- voters are gearing up to head to the polls. But before heading out, let's look at a few local races taking place today. In Madison County- 3 people are hoping to win a seat on the County's Board of Education. The Candidates vying for the seat are: Adrian Bone, Mark Cowherd, and Wes Jones. They're all hoping to take over for current District 2 board member, Angie Bates.

Another big race in Mad Co is the district 6 county commission seat. In Madison County, only two democrats will be listed on today's ballot for the county commission, District 6 seat. This district spans Research Park to Bob Wade Lane and University Drive. The two candidates are: incumbent Violet Edwards and JesHenry Malone. During her 4-year term, Edwards says she's secured millions of dollars to projects benefiting universities, veterans, and homelessness. There are no republican challengers on the ballot for District 6 in the Primary election.

And in Dekalb County- the race for the area's superintendent is on! And Incumbent Wayne Lyles, is hoping to keep his seat. He's up against Heath Kirby, who's the current principal over at Sylvania High School.

As we mentioned, the polls open at 7:00 am and close at 7:00pm this evening. In the meantime, you can download the free 48 news app or visit our website, WAFF 48 DOT COM, to stay updated once we learn election results.

3/7

We begin in Montgomery- with an update on the state of IVF treatments in Alabama. Governor Kay Ivey has now signed a measure into law- protecting in-vitro fertilization patients and providers from legal liability. This- after some clinics shut their doors following a state supreme court ruling declaring frozen embryos as children. State lawmakers finalized the measure late last night. Under the law, facilities providing services relating to IVF will be protected under civil and criminal immunity. This comes after last week's state Supreme Court ruling stating those who destroy frozen embryos can be held liable for wrongful death. While this measure does not fully address the issue of whether embryos in storage have the status of children, under the law. Lawmakers hope the process resumes in the next few days. While this is a step forward for IVF Patients and providers, experts say it's going to take more work from lawmakers to fully protect fertility services in Alabama.

Authorities in Athens are now releasing the name of a man killed in a Limestone County crash. Officials say 69-year-old Ronald Anderson was hit along Zehner Road near New Cut Road in Limestone County. State

troopers say, Anderson was hit by a driver after he got out of his car to check on a detached trailer. He was killed at the scene. An investigation is now underway.

A Tennessee Valley woman is facing embezzlement charges this morning- accused of funneling over 70-thousand dollars from a local youth sports league. 51-year-old Heather Spier is now out of jail on a 15-thousand-dollar bond. She was arrested back on March 1st- accused of stealing 73-thousand dollars from the Huntsville Eastern League. This initiative offers sports programs to kids. At one point, Spier was Chairwoman of the league, but is no longer listed on its website. We also know that Spier worked for the city with Huntsville's landscaping department. Huntsville also reportedly provides tax-payer funds to this league for operating expenses. We reached out to city leaders for a comment about this arrest. And a WAFF 48 employee caught up with Spier as she was leaving her home to see if she would answer our questions directly. And she had no comment. This is still a developing story- so stay with WAFF 48 for all the latest updates on the case,

And happening today- the Former Sheriff on Limestone County, Mike Blakely is heading to court for a parole hearing. Blakely has been serving time in the Franklin County jail after being convicted of theft and ethics violations. But last November, Blakely was spotted out in the community- in violation of his work-release agreement with the court. Now it's unclear if this will impact his parole chances, but we will update you throughout the day. Before his conviction, Blakely served as Sheriff for nearly 40-years.

3/8

We begin with an update to a story we brought you as breaking news last night. This morning, we are hearing from residents in Town Madison after a car drove straight into a Town Home. You can see First responders here along the neighborhood, on Town Madison Boulevard last night after reports of a car crashing into a town home. The driver of this car drove straight into that brick building. Don Webster with HEMSI says after the car crashed into the town home, it caught fire. The driver was pulled from the accident and managed to escape with non-life-threatening injuries. Now neighbors tell 48, this incident is not surprising, and due to the layout of the neighborhood, this scenario was bound to happen. We do know that one person inside the home was treated for smoke inhalation. But we will stay on top of this investigation throughout the day, so stay with 48 for the latest updates.

This morning- we are getting a look at the man accused of killing someone at a Harvest home. Madison County deputies say this man, 36-year-old Kyle Lewter is charged with the murder of 54-year-old Derek Walls. We first told you about the discovery of Walls' body yesterday. Walls was found at a home on Capshaw road in Harvest. Investigators believe Lewter and Walls knew each other, and got into a fight before Walls was killed. Right now deputies haven't released how Walls was killed. Lewter is now being held in the Madison County jail without bond. We are continuing to follow this case, and will bring you the latest both on air and online.

We are covering your community in Huntsville this morning- where we are getting a look at *when a massive project aimed at making the rocket city more walkable is set to start! The pedestrian and bike skybridge will overlook Memorial Parkway, connecting downtown to the Lowe Mill area. The 62-million dollar project is expected to provide more walking paths around the downtown area. City leaders say it's more than just a bridge project. It will also address major flooding issues across Pinhook Creek and landscaping. It's expected to be finished by 2027.

3/11

We begin in Huntsville this morning - where we are still waiting for more details surrounding a shooting at an Apartment Complex that sent one person to the hospital. Authorities say shots rang out at the Westlake Apartment complex around 6:30 yesterday afternoon. Neighbors in the area say that one person was shot, but was speaking to first responders before being taken to the hospital. Locals tell 48 they heard multiple

shots fired off during the incident. So far there is no word on any arrests. We are continuing to ask questions regarding this incident, and will be sure to keep you updated as we learn more.

Turning now to Central Alabama - where the Hoover woman accused of faking her own kidnapping will head to trial. Carlee Russell's trial is set to begin on March 18th. Russell garnered national attention last Summer after disappearing off a Jefferson County highway. This sparked a days-long state-wide search for her. Now- she's being charged with 2 misdemeanor charges for allegedly faking this abduction story. The Attorney General's office is recommending a year of jail time and 18-thousand dollars in restitution. She is expected to plead guilty.

The National weather service is now confirming that an E-F-1 tornado touched down in South Alabama. On Saturday, high winds and rain poured down in Dale County. The National weather service says those winds reached speeds up to 105 miles per hour. Thankfully, no serious injuries were reported. Crews are now working on cleaning up all the damage left behind.

Alabama Senator Katie Britt is responding after a group of fact-checkers came out- saying an intricate part of her GOP response speech Thursday was misleading to viewers. During the GOP response, Britt told a story of a woman who was trafficked by Mexican drug cartels when she was 12-years-old. Britt's speech heavily insinuated that Biden Administration border policies were to blame. However, fact checkers confirmed that the woman Britt was referring to was actually trafficked in Mexico, back in 2005. 15-years before Biden become President. Britt says the point of the story was to raise awareness surrounding drug-gang activities near the border.

3/12

Huntsville Police say a suspect tied to the shooting of a woman on Sparkman Drive is now behind bars. The Huntsville Police Violent Crimes Unit arrested 18-year-old Labron Jasper last night. He's now being charged with attempted murder. These charges stem from a Sunday-night shooting at the Westlake Apartments. One woman was shot multiple times in the incident, but is expected to recover. Investigators believe the shooting started with a fight between 2 women that ended with Jasper firing shots at the victim. He is now being held in the Madison County jail without bond.

A long-time Alabama State Representative is expected to plead guilty to wire fraud charges. John Rogers now says he will plead guilty to conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud... and conspiracy to obstruct justice. Prosecutors say over the past 4 years, Rogers funneled roughly 400-thousand dollars to a youth baseball league, run by former representative, Fred Plump Junior. Investigators say in turn, Plump sent half of that funding *back to Rogers and his assistant, Varrie Johnson Kindall. If convicted, Rogers could face up to 25-years in Prison. As part of his guilty plea, Rogers has also agreed to resign from the state House of representatives. He was elected to the Alabama House back in 19-82.

Alabama AARP leaders are now calling on State lawmakers to enact legislation to further protect Alabama senior citizens. One of the organizations' top priorities this year is to further support family caregivers. AARP leaders say caregivers provide more than 8-billion-dollars in unpaid care. And these people play key roles in helping seniors live a more independent life. Experts say oftentimes, these caregivers also have a job, leaving them stretched thin. Another key item AARP wants lawmakers to consider this year, is upgrading the adult guardianship system. AARP is looking for help creating a list of active guardianships and where they're located across the state. They say a centralized information base could also help to prevent abuse.

3/13

We start with a 48 News update this morning out of Lauderdale County. Community members are mourning the loss of a Pre-K teacher after deputies say her husband killed her. William Chapin is now facing murder charges- accused of killing his wife, Debra. Authorities say they were called to a home on County Road 10

yesterday morning for a wellness check. Deputies say the wife's co-workers called them after she didn't show up to work at Underwood Elementary School. William Chapin reportedly answered the door. When deputies asked him if Mrs. Chapin was okay, he responded "no", saying she was dead. Chapin then reportedly led deputies to the bedroom, where Debra Chapin was laying in a pool of blood. Authorities think the wound could have been caused by a shotgun. Chapin is now being held in the Lauderdale County Detention Center without bond.

This morning - we are hearing from Alabama trans and gay rights groups - that are defending the employment of a trans-gender counselor at Space Camp. This all comes after several parents reached out to 48 this week, saying they were pulling their kids out of space camp due to the transgender counselor. They say this sort of thinking is wrong and dangerous. Alabama Senator Tommy Tuberville and Representative Dale Strong then chimed in - with Strong calling for the person to be fired. The space and rocket center released a statement saying they always run a lengthy background-check for all counselors and abide by all state laws during their hiring process. And the employee in question - has not been accused of any wrongdoing. The Alabama Trans Rights Action Coalition has already started a petition, supporting that employee. So far, it has over 16-hundred signatures.

Turning now to Blount County, Alabama - where there's been an arrest after a missing child from Blountsville was found safe. Authorities say 57-year-old Johnny Chandler was arrested in this case. He's now being held in the Blount County jail- charged with interference with custody and rape. This comes after a 10-year-old girl was reported missing Sunday, and found yesterday morning at a home in Warrior. Police say more charges are expected.

3/14

We begin in Morgan County this morning - where authorities are offering a 1-thousand-dollar reward for anyone with information that can lead them to a copper thief. They say someone managed to steal the wiring off 26 utility poles in the Danville area. Morgan County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Mike Swafford says deputies were alerted to the incident Monday morning. Right now - it's unclear how many people could be involved. However, he says the copper-clad wiring used in the utility poles are not worth what the thieves may have assumed. Thankfully, no power outages were caused by the theft, but it's a massive setback for Joe Wheeler crews.

We are covering your community in the shoals this morning. Where the Saint Florian community says they were shocked to learn about a proposal for the city of Florence to annex 300 acres in and around the historic town while reading the newspaper. Mayor Matt Connolly says he came across the notice while reading the paper over-the-weekend. In that proposal, around 117 acres of his town would be annexed into Florence. Mayor Connolly says this move will impact several aspects of life for the area, from police jurisdiction to school districts. However, State Senator Tim Melson who's spearheading the bill says residents can have a say in this decision. Mayor Connolly says there's a long list of down sides.

The city of Decatur has been granted millions of dollars in funding to build a new bike trail Mayor Tab Bowling announced that more than 18-million dollars will go towards the Doctor Bill Sims Hike-Bike Way on the Singing River Trail, with the goal of connecting Decatur's Old Town neighborhood to local businesses and the riverfront area. This grant comes after the city also recently secured funds for an inland port facility at the CSX rail line and improvements to Pryor Field Airport.

3/15

Some area schools that are not on spring break could be closed or running on a delay today. Franklin County school leaders say due to severe damage, Vina High School will be closed today. And all remaining schools in the county will be opening 2-hours late. We will continue updating you both on air and online if more districts are added to that list.

Turning now to Limestone County - where a woman was killed while walking along the side of the road. Authorities say this happened at around 7:30 last night along Highway 99 near Sugar Way. The area roads were closed for a few hours while crews worked to clear debris. No word as to whether that driver who hit her stayed on the scene...or who that woman is.

In Huntsville, where people living in one high-end downtown apartment complex are sharing their frustrations after they say fire alarms have been going off day and night. A spokesperson with Huntsville Fire and rescue says in the last 6-months they've been called out to false fire alarms at the Eclipse Huntsville complex at least 9 times. Resident Paul Quarles say the alarms have been going off throughout the day to as late as 2 AM some nights. He says the constant false alarms, could cause people to ignore an actual fire. He and his neighbors are more upset that the apartment's management aren't hearing their concerns. Now 48 did reach out to Eclipse's parent company, Willow Bridge for comment. In a statement, they apologized for the incidents, saying "Our staff and vendors believe that we have identified issues with the current system and have ordered equipment that should resolve the issue"

3/18

Alabama lawmakers have some big items on the agenda to address as they return after their spring break. The education and general fund budgets have still not been finalized. Plus, there is a controversial bill still under consideration that would ban diversity, equity and inclusion efforts in state offices and universities. We are closely monitoring the developments with the gaming bills. The House passed a comprehensive bill that included the lottery, sports betting, and expanded casino gaming, but the Senate rejected it and passed a more limited bill focused solely on the lottery. We must see if the 2 sides can find common ground.

Alabama U.S. Senator Katie Britt will make two stops in North Alabama this week. This morning, she will speak at Singing River Live in Florence. And tomorrow, she will visit the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville. The visits come on the heels of Britt's controversial appearance giving the Republican response to the State of the Union address.

It's that time of year again....Get ready for Huntsville's *Panoply Arts Festival. Huntsville art leaders will hold a news conference this Thursday at 10 am with an update. If you are not familiar with this event, every year, the Panoply Arts Festival transforms Big Spring Park. This year, more than 30 bands will perform in addition to art activities and art for sale. Panoply will be April 26th through the 28th.

3/19

An update now on the shooting on the campus of Alabama A&M. We've learned the shootout stemmed between a student and a campus police officer, sending the student to the hospital. According to Campus Police Chief Montrez Payton, an officer heard gunshots when he was on the fifth floor of the Knight Complex. As he rushed down the stairs to respond, that officer came across a student with a gun. Shots were exchanged, and the injured student was taken to Huntsville Hospital for treatment. Many students say this is not how they envisioned their first day back to campus after spring break. This was the second shooting that's happened at the same location on campus during this school year. Alabama A&M officials later released a statement saying the incident brought "stress and uncertainty" to their community. We're told the investigation is being handled by the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, and their findings will be turned over to the Madison County D-A.

A Limestone County couple has been charged with sexual crimes that allegedly occurred over 4 years. Jerry Duhl and Sheralee Schneider are charged with sex crimes involving a minor. Court documents reveal the alleged abuse happened from March of 20-20 to March of this year. Duhl is set to appear in court tomorrow. He has not been granted a bond. Schneider is in the Limestone County jail with a 100-thousand-dollar bond.

After Friday's storms, a group of trustees from the Morgan County jail volunteered over the weekend to help clear the roads. Lieutenant Danny Kelso of the Morgan County Sheriff's Office says these trustees are

inmates with good reputations and can leave the jail for community work. He added that at the end of the day, this program benefits the community and helps the county save money. Friday's storms impacted a lot of community, including Morgan County, and Dekalb County, where a confirmed EF-0 tornado touched down snapping trees and power lines.

Crews will begin the process of adding traffic cameras along I-565 this week. In Huntsville and Madison, contractors will be putting up concrete poles over the next 3 days. This project will add 10 traffic cameras and 3 message systems to keep track of traffic and provide information to drivers. WAFF 48 will also be able to give you more updated traffic reports in the morning, and show you where the backups are happening. Expect lane closures and possible delays as crews work between 9 A-M and 3 P-M until Thursday.

3/20

Wednesday night service tonight at one Albertville church will look different after it went up in flames. At around 1:30 Tuesday afternoon, surrounding fire departments got a call of smoke coming from Mount Olive Baptist Church in Albertville. Guntersville Fire and Rescue assisted Pleasant Grove volunteer fire on the call. Fire Marshal Matt Lang says there was no fire hydrant close by, so crews had to bring in trucks carrying water tanks to help. The state fire marshal will take over the investigation, looking further into what caused this fire. No one was inside the church when the fire started.

Two major bills await Governor Kay Ivey's signature to be signed into law. Alabama lawmakers passed a bill criminalizing certain assistance on absentee voting, making it a misdemeanor to collect, fill out, or deliver an absentee ballot for someone else. The only exceptions are if it is a family member or if you work for the state or city government. The bill would also create a felony charge if payment is involved. Also on the Governor's desk...A bill that bans state funding being used for programs and offices that promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Institutions that maintain these programs would not receive any financial support from the state. Republicans claim that everyone, regardless of race or sexual orientation, is already considered equal. Opponents argue that this could impact college recruitment and censor important conversations.

3/21

We are following up on a 48 Investigation from a year ago that involves a plea deal, an arrest, and a jail sentence. 56-year-old Paige Crouch has been sentenced to one year in Limestone County jail for theft charges. This stems from her time as Secretary and Treasurer of the Limestone County Association of Volunteer Firefighters. Her arrest comes after a year-long investigation by the Attorney General's office. It uncovered the disappearance of over 180-thousand dollars from the association's funds between 2016 and January 2023. Association President Dion Duffey confirmed to WAFF that the crime was discovered after a he took over the board.

Now to a 48-news update out of Arab this morning. A Joppa man is waking up behind bars charged with kidnapping after police say he approached a woman and threatened her with a gun. Authorities say 35-year-old Christopher Gamel approached a woman during a jog along 2nd Avenue Sunday morning with a gun-demanding she get inside his car. Police Chief Shane Washburn says the victim ran off and called authorities to report the incident. Nearby surveillance video from NewLife Church in Arab helped lead police to Gamel's car. Police discovered that Gamel was out on bond for sexual assault charges in Cullman County. Gamel is now being held in the Marshall County jail.

It's been 3-days since shots rang out on the campus of Alabama A&M, and we are still waiting for answers! We first brought you this story Monday afternoon. Investigators say a university officer was patrolling the Knight Complex when he heard gunshots. The officer then confronted a suspect, in the stairwell of the complex- shooting them. We have contacted Police and University officials about the suspect's name and their condition. Investigators have declined to comment. Now this is the second shooting that has happened at the Knight Complex this school year. The first, happened just days into the fall semester, after 2 students got into an argument in the school's cafeteria.

3/22

We start off this morning in Huntsville, where a stabbing outside of a gas station has left one man in serious condition. According to police, this happened on Matic Road Thursday afternoon. As of right now, details are scarce though we do know the victim is in stable condition. We have reached out to police, asking if they've arrested a suspect. We will let you know once we learn of a suspect, or the victim's identity.

Staying in Madison county, a bus driver is off their route after the bus they were driving, ran off the road with students onboard. On Monday morning, a bus carrying 21 students from Owens Cross Roads and New Hope Elementary School was traveling along Cave Spring Road. The bus driver, ran off the road, and hit a ditch, throwing students from their seats. The employee's status is now pending review by the Madison County Board of Education.

In Decatur this morning- police are investigating fraudulent credit card use by 2 former Decatur City Employees!!! Our newspaper partners at Decatur Daily report that the district's financial department recently noticed irregular charges being made on the school system's gas account by 2 school maintenance workers. Decatur police say an investigation is now underway. However, School leaders say the discovery has led them to change their policy. Now, pin numbers are assigned to every employee, so district leaders can track gallons are used, mileage and car assignments closely

In five weeks, the 42nd annual Panoply Arts Festival will take place in downtown Huntsville. And we've learned more about what you can expect this year. Organizers revealed the new poster for the event and explained the continuing evolution of panoply. For years, the event largely showcased artist works like paintings, sculptures, and photography. But, live music has taken a bigger role in recent years, which isn't changing this year. A lot of buzz surrounds this year's new, interactive exhibit called "The Big Swim", which is a tunnel of art that gives you a kaleidoscope of colors as you walk through it. Panoply runs from April 26th - the 28th.

3/25

In Huntsville, police are continuing to search for a killer. On Saturday, police were called to Lake-view Drive. When they got there, they say they found a man, dead in the middle of the road. WAFF 48 News arrived at the scene shortly after to find witnesses who told us they heard gunshots before seeing the victim collapse in the street. Police have not confirmed the victim's identity, nor have any details about a potential suspect been released yet.

The election for the District 10 seat in the state house is tomorrow. We talked with both candidates to find out what sets them apart from one another. The district seat has been empty since David Cole stepped down and pled guilty to voter fraud last year. We got an opportunity to speak with both Teddy Powell and Marilyn Lands. Lands pointed to her familiarity with district, having lived here her whole life, while Powell pointed to Republican super-majority in the house. Powell says he's more focused on dealing with key issues of infrastructure, education, and economic growth, while Lands' campaign has focused on women's reproductive rights. District 10 includes all Triana and Redstone Arsenal and parts of Huntsville west of the parkway and south of Martin Road. The district also encompasses areas south of I-65 and east of County Line Road, along with a significant portion of south Madison city limits. To find out what district you are in, we have a link on our website WAFF dot com. The special election is set for tomorrow.

3/26

A tragic accident this weekend has left the community in Jackson County grieving the loss of two teenagers. They honored the lives lost last night during a balloon release and candlelight vigil at Section High School. On Sunday afternoon, 17-year-old Dalton Brown and 19-year-old Andrew Turner, were killed after their car ran off the road and struck a tree. Last night, hundreds of mourners gathered at the Section High School football field for a balloon release and candlelight vigil honoring Dalton Brown, who was a senior at

that school. Dalton's father, Billy Brown, addressed students at the vigil, urging them to drive safely in memory of the boys. He says Dalton's funeral will be held Friday at Scottsboro Funeral Home. You can hear more from Dalton's father right now on the 48 news app.

New this morning- a woman is recovering after crews worked to rescue her from a ravine after a car crash. According to our partners at the times daily, yesterday afternoon rescue crews were called to a ravine off Highway 43 in Littleville. Authorities say 2-cars collided, sending one woman into a ravine off the highway. Officials say it took over an hour to free the woman from the mangled car. Authorities say luckily, no one was killed. However, the conditions and names of the two drivers are unknown. We do know the woman was taken to the hospital, but we will update you if we learn more.

Happening today- voters across Madison County's district 10 will be making their way to the polls for a special election. Today's vote ultimately decide who will fill the vacant district 10 seat left open after David Cole stepped down. He gave up the seat after pleading guilty to voter fraud last year. Now- Republican candidate, Teddy Powell and Democratic Candidate, Marilyn Lands are vying for the title. Polls open at 7 this morning and close at 7 PM.

3/27

Huntsville- Police are asking for your help in tracking down a missing man. 75-year-old Lonnie Curtis Wade Junior was reported missing on March 11th, more than 2 weeks ago. He's around 5-9, 150-pounds and was last seen wearing a blue shirt and blue jeans. Authorities think Wade could be driving a black 2003 Lexus - L-S-4-30 with chrome rims. His family says he suffers from heart issues, diabetes, and dementia. If you spot him, you're urged to call Huntsville Police.

A North Carolina man pleaded guilty in federal court in Huntsville - to defrauding luxury retailers around the country. Court records show that 28-year-old Brian Buchanan pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud. This case all stems from an online Telegram channel called "Noir's Luxury Refunds". The channel advertises itself as an online resource used to help customers pretend to return a luxury item in exchange for a refund, while they keep the product. Customers would reportedly pay the group a percentage of the product's price in order for them to file the fake return. Ten others are allegedly being tied to this scheme. The maximum penalty comes with 20-years in prison along and a 250-thousand-dollar fine.

A Decatur city schools bus crashed. According to our news partners at the Decatur Daily, the crash involving the bus and multiple vehicles happened yesterday afternoon. Fortunately - no students were on board. The district released a statement saying in part "We are thankful nobody was hurt...The driver and aide on board the school bus are okay. The school bus will be out of commission until repairs are made." It is not yet known if any drivers of the other cars were injured.

3/28

We start off this morning in Decatur, where protests over the death of Steve Perkins are now once again happening - after the leak of police body camera video that paints a clearer picture of the night Decatur Police shot and killed him. The video shows the moments leading up to the shooting...when the shots were fired - and the subsequent actions of officers. Officer Mac Bailey Marquette - one of the officers on scene - has since been indicted for murder. 48 News is aware of the video posted online, but we are choosing not to show it out of respect for the Perkins family and fairness regarding the officer's upcoming trial. A Perkins' family friend, says the video confirms to him that it was an ambush. The person who leaked the footage to the conservative online news outlet is still unknown. Mac Bailey Marquette will have a trial on November 18th this year. There is a temporary gag order in place, preventing anyone involved from talking about the case publicly. A hearing to discuss the gag order will happen on April 8th.

One year ago today - a Huntsville Police officer was killed while responding to a domestic dispute. Officers Garrett Crumby and Albert Morin were both shot that day. Morin survived the attack. Crumby - died of his injuries. He was only 36 years old and worked with the Huntsville police department for 3 years. Crumby leaves behind a wife . His accused killer Juan Laws is awaiting trial. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

A homicide investigation is now underway in Decatur after a recent shooting. Police say the shooting happened yesterday afternoon near the farmer's co-op on 10th Avenue in Decatur. The victim, whose name has not been released, was rushed to the hospital but later died from his injuries. The circumstances leading up to the shooting remain unclear, and Decatur Police report that no arrests have been made at this time. We will provide further updates as more information becomes available.

3/29

New this morning out of the Shoals, a man is suing the Sheffield Police chief and four officers for 15 million dollars! According to our partners at the Times daily, this suit stems from an interaction between Alexander Sayas and police last October. During that encounter, Sayas says he was searching for his wife's phone near officer Kaegan Cook's squad car. While searching, Sayas claims officer Cook told him multiple times to step away from his car. However, when Sayas tried to show officers his phone tracking why he was in the area, he claims Officer Cook put him in handcuffs. The suit goes on to say Officer Cook then tased Sayas while other officers watched nearby. Sayas says he received several burns from the incident, and even went to the hospital for treatment.

An Arab woman is facing harassment charges this morning - accused of attacking an Alabama House candidate during their campaign. Michelle Bradshaw was arrested, accused of attacking House District-27 Republican candidate Billy Todd during a campaign stop inside a Walmart Tuesday. We spoke with Todd, who says this all started after he and Bradshaw got into a heated discussion over his policies. He says Brandshaw ended up scratching him after he tried to walk away. Brandshaw is now out of jail on bond.

The Guntersville Police Department is currently on the hunt for three suspects accused of robbing a jeweler at gunpoint. Their search took an unexpected turn when they found the getaway vehicle, with two kidnapped women inside. On Thursday morning, a robbery occurred at Griffin's Jewelry in Guntersville. A employee was held at gunpoint, but the manager fired his own gun at the suspects. The suspects fled in a white van, which was later discovered in a nearby Lowe's parking lot. Inside the van, authorities say there were two women who had been kidnapped from Birmingham. We will update you as soon as arrests have been made.

ENTERTAINMENT/SPORTS

1/2

The Rose Bowl has come to an end, and this morning Alabama fans are not celebrating. Alabama and Michigan faced off in Pasadena, California. In the first quarter, Michigan took an early lead. Alabama came back, but it went to overtime. In the end, Michigan won 27 to 20. Michigan will now go on to face the Washington Huskies, for the championship, next Monday. This marks Alabama's 3rd straight year without a national title. The longest in the Nick-Saban era.

1/11

Nick Saban's coaching reign has come to an end. His dominance over college football, however, will forever live on. Saban, who won seven national championships — more than any other major college football coach — and turned Alabama back into a national powerhouse with six of those titles in 17 seasons, announced his retirement Wednesday. He released a statement that reads in part quote..."The University of Alabama has been a very special place to Terry and me. We have enjoyed every minute of our 17 years being the head coach at Alabama as well as becoming a part of the Tuscaloosa community. -HE WENT ONTO SAY- "The goal was always to help players create more value for their future, be the best player they could be and be more successful in life because they were part of the program. Hopefully, we have done that, and we will always consider Alabama our home." Multiple political leaders and coaches released statements following the news of Saban's retirement: you can read much more, right now on the 48 news app, and on waff.com.

2/16

Many Alabama student Athletes are in Huntsville this week- as the State Wrestling Championships continues into tomorrow. One team to keep an eye on this season, our very own Huntsville High School Wrestling team. The Panthers have won this season's prestigious State "Duals" meets. And their goal is to bring home their first-ever state championship! The team includes two brother, who are both currently undefeated, both winning their matches yesterday. The tournament continues this weekend at the VBC Good luck to our local teams. You can catch full highlights this evening and all weekend- right here on WAFF 48.

3/18

The Auburn Tigers men's basketball team - waking up champs this morning. They just won the SEC Championship. The Tigers dominated the Florida Gators Sunday in Nashville. This is the second time the Tigers won the SEC championship for the second time under head coach Bruce Pearl...This is also Coach Pearl's 200th win with the Tigers. The number 4 Auburn Tigers will take on Number 13 Yale this Friday in the NCAA tournament.

3/20

A major music festival is making its debut in The Rocket City this September! Festival producer 'C3 Presents' announced plans for a two-day, multi-genre music festival at John Hunt Park. This was announced during last night's quarterly music meetup at Mars Music Hall. And the best part, it will happen ahead of schedule. The name of the event, lineups and ticket information will be released next month.

NATIONAL/WORLD NEWS (POLITICAL; AUTOMOTIVE/PRODUCT RECALLS; SPACE TRAVEL; CRIME OR NEWS OUTSIDE AL)

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS (LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS; LIVE EVENTS FOR CHARITY)

JANUARY

- Multiple New Year's Day events

FEBRUARY

- Scottsboro Sports Card Show at Goose Pond Civic Center features over 150 dealer tables with autographed memorabilia, vintage sports cards and more.
- Seasonable Sips: Cupcakes & Cocktails at The Orion Amphitheater, presented by The Distillery.
- Habitat for Humanity Raise the Roof benefit
- Several Valentine's Day events around the Valley

MARCH

- Seasonal Sips: Lucky Libations at The Orion Amphitheater – learn curated seasonal cocktail recipes and the history of St. Patrick's Day.
- Wrestling Night at the Huntsville Havoc
- Unapologetically Me with Life-Enhancer & Coach Maria Brito – for women who want to “level up” during International Women's Month
- Charity Gospel Concert featuring Adam Crabb to benefit the Jackson County Children's Advocacy Center
- Tickled Pink: Comedy for the Ladies at The Orion Amphitheater
- Huntsville St. Patrick's Day Parade

ABA RECORDED PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONTH	DESCRIPTION	# SPOTS	LENGTH
January	DHR	21	:30
	Alabama Dept of Tourism	21	:30
	AL Dept of Labor	17	:30
	Adult Protective Services	17	:30
	Veteran's Affairs	21	:30
February	DHR	37	:30
	Veterans Affairs	37	:30
	AL Dept of Labor	29	:30
	Adult Protective Services	29	:30
	AL Department of Tourism	37	:30
March	DHR	41	:30
	AL Dept of Labor	4	:30
	Adult Protective Services	31	:30
	AL Dept of Tourism	41	:30
	Veteran's Affairs	41	:30
	The Lovelady Center	27	:30

ISSUES IN ADVERTISING – State of Alabama

POLITICAL ADVERTISING - STATE OF ALABAMA (March 1, 2018 & forward)

Wes Kitchens – State Senator

POLITICAL ADVERTISING - NATIONAL (March 1, 2018 & forward)