

IP report 1st quarter 2016

April 1, 2016

Per the FCC, this is a list of the most frequently cited issues of concern to the people in the WBHM/WSGN listening area during the last quarter. The list details the most significant programs addressing these issues. All of these programs were published at WBHM.ORG and broadcast on WBHM 90.3 FM and WSGN 91.5 FM between Jan 1, 2016 and March 31, 2016. The list includes the following issues:

Government

Join WBHM for State of the State Address

2016-02-02 09:20:21

WBHM in partnership with Alabama Public Television will broadcast Governor Robert Bentley's State of the State Address this evening. The governor is scheduled to speak at 6:30 p.m. in the Old House Chamber of the State Capitol. The governor will outline his agenda for the legislative session which starts today. WBHM will also carry the Democratic response from Rep. Darrio Melton of Selma.

Birmingham City Council Split Over I-20/59 Bridge Replacement Project

2016-02-02 18:18:19

Birmingham City Council President Jonathan Austin withdrew a resolution today expressing opposition to a plan from the state transportation department to rebuild and expand Interstate 20-59 through downtown Birmingham. Critics of the plan say it cuts off neighborhoods from the city center, blunts economic development and that alternatives should be explored.

Zeigler: Send Prisoners Away From Alabama to Ease Overcrowding

2016-02-03 16:15:17

Governor Robert Bentley isn't doing enough to save taxpayers money. That was the core message of state auditor Jim Zeigler's rebuttal of the governor's State of the State address. Zeigler offered a few ideas, including this one: instead of building "four-star prison hotels", ease overcrowding by letting prisoners volunteer to move at least two states away and get jobs.

Bentley's "Great State" Plan Lacks Funding Details

2016-02-03 17:23:28

Governor's Speech Creates Budget Confusion

2016-02-04 07:30:44

Montgomery is buzzing now that the Alabama legislature is back in session. Governor Robert Bentley entered the fray Tuesday night with his State of the State Address. The governor offered a long list of proposals including tearing down and building new prisons, free community college tuition for low-income students, increased broadband access and incentives to improve healthcare for rural areas. The question of how to pay for all of this is mostly unanswered. Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald says this just creates confusion around the state's budget.

Birmingham Becomes First City in Alabama to Ban the Box

2016-02-04 16:10:42

Hoover Schools Unveil New Zoning Plan, Schedule Meetings For Parent Feedback

2016-02-05 08:16:15

Parents will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed plan at four smaller meetings throughout the district this month.

State Legislature Focuses on Budget, Common Core in First Week of Session

2016-02-05 10:48:12

The 2016 Alabama legislative session began Tuesday with bleak budget projections and an ambitious State of the State address from Governor Robert Bentley. Here to catch us up on all this week's action from Montgomery is Don Dailey, host of Alabama Public Television's Capitol Journal. Dailey told WBHM's Rachel Lindley that tensions at the statehouse weren't as high as expected.

Governor Talks Poverty Reduction, Prisons in Birmingham Speech

2016-02-05 15:13:27

Governor Robert Bentley spoke about reducing poverty, improving rural healthcare and consolidating prisons in a speech Friday afternoon in Birmingham at the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama's annual meeting. The remarks were largely a recap of his State of the State Address on Tuesday.

New Law Could Simplify Restoring Voting Rights for Felons

2016-02-08 12:13:17

For millions of Americans, past criminal convictions mean they can no longer vote. Getting back that right in many states is straightforward: serve your time, do probation, and have your voting rights restored. But in Alabama, those with felony convictions face enormous struggles —especially when they've committed certain crimes. We're talking about crimes of moral turpitude. If you're confused, you're not alone.

Black Lives Matter Co-Founder Visits UAB for Black History Month

2016-02-09 14:36:05

UAB Hosted a discussion with one of the founders of the social justice movement Black Lives Matter Monday evening. While the event was scheduled around Black History Month, the conversation was focused in the present.

Alabama IRS Employee Pleads Guilty to Stealing Taxpayers Identities

2016-02-09 16:48:51

An Alabama woman has pleaded guilty to identity theft and fraud in a tax scheme.

Keeping up with South Carolina and a Political "What if"

2016-02-11 07:35:56

Whether it's grades in school or keeping up with the Joneses, it's hard not to compare yourself to others. States aren't immune from that tendency either. For years, Alabama found itself ahead of South Carolina on measures such as jobs and population. That's no longer the case. We talk about what to take away from the comparison with Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald. He also talks about a political "what if" that happened 50 years ago this week.

Community Leaders Meet to Discuss Plans for Green Space Under I-20/59

2016-02-11 11:51:32

Last week, representatives from REV Birmingham and consultants Barge Waggoner and Cannon met with community leaders to discuss possibilities for the 6,600 foot stretch of land under I-20/59. The consultants presented a plan for creating usable public green space under the interstate. For more on this, we talk to Nick Patterson, editor of the weekly newspaper WELD. Patterson says people at the public meeting were divided on what to use the space for, some calling for public space, and others calling for more parking.

Birmingham-Area Schools Account for One-Third of State's "Failing" List

2016-02-11 17:09:56

"These assessments are not the only indicator of success for a school. If you look at schools, I'm sure you'll see what some are doing to make it better," Malissa Valdes-Hubert, Alabama State Department of Education spokesperson.

This Week in Montgomery: Minimum Wage, Lottery and Common Core Repeal

2016-02-12 09:56:09

From the lottery to minimum wage to Common Core, it was a busy past few days for the Alabama Legislature. Here to catch us up on all this week's action from Montgomery is Don Dailey, host of Alabama Public Television's Capitol Journal. To start, Dailey told WBHM's Rachel Lindley about a bill aimed at blocking Alabama cities from raising their minimum wage.

Barbershop Forum Aims to Boost Support for Hillary Clinton

2016-02-16 11:27:43

What happens when a handful of people gather in a barbershop to talk politics? People tend to speak their minds. That was the idea behind an event Monday evening at Moore Styles Barbershop in Birmingham's Civil Rights District.

Infamous West End Property Set for Demolition

2016-02-16 16:33:51

Protesters Rally Against Bill Blocking Local Minimum Wage

2016-02-17 10:07:04

State lawmakers passed a bill out of the House Tuesday evening that would block cities in Alabama from establishing a local minimum wage. As the debate grew contentious in Montgomery, about 50 protesters gathered in Mountain Brook to protest the bill, proposed by a legislator from that city, and to show support for the Birmingham City Council's decision to raise that city's minimum wage.

2015 Saw Rise in Hate Groups and Extremists in U.S.

2016-02-17 17:38:11

The Southern Poverty Law Center released today its annual count of hate groups and extremists in the U.S.

Reveals in Case of Speaker Mike Hubbard Could Mean Trouble for Prosecutors

2016-02-17 17:58:35

Hoover Could Use Zoning to Block Apartments

2016-02-18 07:36:01

Zoning hearings can often be the white noise of local government, but zoning decisions do have a great effect on how cities develop. The Hoover Planning and Zoning Commission made a recommendation last week to rezone 273 acres along Interstate 459 from apartment use to commercial. The Hoover City Council could consider the change next month. It's a change that represents more than a simple government reclassification. Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald talks about the Hoover situation and about perceptions of rising crime around Birmingham.

This Week in Montgomery: Minimum Wage, Guns in Cars and Earmarks

2016-02-19 07:04:31

With the third week of the Alabama legislative session through, lawmakers have managed to pass some high-profile bills out of either the House or Senate. It's a key step if these measures are to become law. But the legislative progress doesn't debate wasn't heated. To help review the week's action is Don Dailey. He's host of Capitol Journal on Alabama Public Television. He tells WBHM's Andrew Yeager about a bill that passed the House which would prevent cities from setting their own minimum wages, a bill allowing those with concealed carry permits to keep loaded guns in the cars and a bill to un-earmark millions in state revenue.

Tea Party Senate Debate Featuring Shelby Opponents Halted

2016-02-19 07:38:39

A debate featuring Alabama candidates for U.S. Senate was shut down Thursday evening and attendees suddenly asked to leave. The event was to showcase Republican opponents to incumbent Senator Richard Shelby.

Tea Party Group Angered After Gun Store Owner Calls Off Senate Debate

2016-02-20 10:42:58

An event featuring candidates for U.S. Senate took a bizarre turn Thursday evening. The Rainy Day Patriot had organized a debate for all five republican candidates at Hoover Tactical Firearms. But when Senator Richard Shelby didn't attend, things quickly began to unravel.

Voter ID Law Creates Hurdles for Homebound Man

2016-02-22 07:58:44

When Alabama primary voters go to the polls on March 1, they'll have to show a government-issued photo ID. The law has been in place since 2014 and most people use their driver's license. But for those who can get to a driver's license office, the law creates difficulties. Samuel Stayer is one voter who ran into problems

Alabama Judge Nomination Sparks Tension

2016-02-22 11:31:28

Several prominent lawyers, judges, and U.S. Representative Terri Sewell held a press conference on Saturday in downtown Birmingham, in support of Judge Abdul Kallon's nomination to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Birmingham City Council Strikes Back Over Minimum Wage Bill

2016-02-22 18:13:00

Birmingham City Council Ups the Minimum Wage

2016-02-23 17:41:31

Elections Could Change the Face of the Judiciary in Jefferson County

2016-02-23 21:06:50

When Alabamians vote in the primaries next week, there's a lot more on the line than who might be the presidential nominees. Judicial races at the county level arguably have a greater impact on resident's lives, but receive less attention. In Jefferson County, judicial retirements have cleared the way for a new generation of Judges.

A Look Ahead to the "SEC Primary"

2016-02-24 17:28:45

The SEC Primary, also known as Super Tuesday is next week. A look ahead at what we can expect to see when Alabamians go to the polls, and an update on the ethics trial of House Speaker Mike Hubbard. State Legislators are now getting involved. Hear the latest from Kyle Whitmire the state political columnist for The Birmingham News and AL dot com.

Showdown Over Birmingham's Minimum Wage

2016-02-25 07:25:36

The Birmingham City Council and the state legislature are in a showdown over the minimum wage. The Birmingham City Council passed an ordinance on Tuesday to raise the city's minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour and make it effective Wednesday. It was an attempt to get ahead of a bill in the legislature which would prevent local governments from setting their own minimum wages. That bill has passed the House and is being considered by the Senate Thursday. We talk about the situation with Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald. He also remembers To Kill a Mocking Bird author Harper Lee, who died last week at age 89

Multi-Million Dollar Contract Awarded for Phase Two of I-20/59 Project

2016-02-25 15:42:48

Shelby County Residents to Vote on Sunday Alcohol Sales

2016-02-26 09:40:00

During Tuesday's primaries residents of Shelby County will vote on whether to allow alcohol to be sold on Sundays.

Bentley Signs Bill Blocking Minimum Wage Hikes, Senate Approves Lean General Fund Budget

2016-02-26 10:29:06

The fourth week of the Alabama legislative session ended with a bang. Governor Robert Bentley has signed a bill blocking local governments from setting their own minimum wage. The governor signed the bill yesterday afternoon just after the Alabama Senate approved the bill 23 to 10, largely along party lines. Republican legislators supported the bill to push back against the Birmingham City Council, which voted to raise their city's minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour.

Clinton, Cruz and Trump to Visit Birmingham and Huntsville this Weekend

2016-02-27 09:16:37

Presidential hopefuls Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Senator Marco Rubio will each make a final push campaigning in Alabama this Saturday, just days before Tuesday's SEC Primary. They will campaign separately in Birmingham. Republican front-runner Donald Trump will hold a rally in Madison on Sunday.

Clinton, Rubio Among Presidential Hopefuls Pushing Through Birmingham

2016-02-29 04:40:54

It was a politics-heavy weekend in the state as presidential candidates swept through in the days leading up to Super Tuesday. The Clintons, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, Ben Carson, and Donald Trump all held events throughout Alabama.

Alabama Democrats Trying to Get Their Groove Back

2016-02-29 11:30:07

US Senator Richard Shelby Spends Big in Alabama Primary

2016-02-29 18:15:55

What does \$5 buy you in Chilton County? All the chili you could eat, line dancing, and door prizes galore. Oh, and a chance to meet Senator Richard Shelby, who spent a recent Saturday campaigning at the Chilton County Chili Cookoff.

Dr. Tommy Bice, State Schools Chief, Announces Retirement

2016-03-01 11:58:48

Dr. Tommy Bice, Superintendent of the Alabama State Department of Education, today announced his retirement, set to go into effect at the end of this month.

What to Watch on Super Tuesday

2016-03-01 12:46:20

The SEC Primary. Super Tuesday. Call it what you will, but today's the day Alabamians vote for everything from local judicial races to presidential nominees. Dr. Angela Lewis, director of UAB's political science program, tells WBHM's Rachel Osier Lindley what's at stake in Alabama.

Election Results

2016-03-01 23:00:23

Results of Tuesday's Alabama Primary

Alabama Clinton Supporters Look to November After Super Tuesday Win

2016-03-02 10:12:20

Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton stormed through Alabama and much of the South on Super Tuesday, clinching victories. Clinton claimed a commanding primary victory over Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders with 78 percent of the vote in the Alabama Democratic primary. Clinton was propelled by heavy support from African-American voters. Nine in 10 black Democrats supported Clinton.

Senator Richard Shelby Avoids Runoff, Wins Primary Bid for a Sixth Term

2016-03-02 12:04:30

Alabama's top Republican on Capitol Hill came through the primary unscathed. Senator Richard Shelby fought off four challengers to claim a win in his primary bid for a sixth term. He told supporters at an election night event in Tuscaloosa that his long tenure is a good thing.

Storms Couldn't Keep Alabamians Away From Polls

2016-03-02 12:13:39

Alabamians hit the polls yesterday for what's been dubbed the "SEC Primary" and voter turnout was high

despite severe weather.

Looking Forward to the General Election

2016-03-02 17:26:51

Super Tuesday has come and gone in Alabama. What was surprising and what to expect come November? Analysis of the primary elections. And House Speaker Mike Hubbard is back in court tomorrow - Thursday, March 3. A look at what's happening in that trial taking place in Lee County.

Simple Investigation or Attempt to stop Speaker's Ethics Trial?

2016-03-03 07:37:16

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency is conducting an internal investigation into suspected wrongdoing. Details are few but the admission comes two weeks after Governor Robert Bentley placed ALEA Secretary Spencer Collier on medical leave. At the same time, Collier signed an affidavit related to the ethics trial of House Speaker Mike Hubbard, something the governor didn't want Collier to do. Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald talks about the situation and why he suspects the investigation is part of an attempt by the governor to stop the Hubbard trial.

Protesters Hold Memorial for Deceased Former Etowah County Detainee

2016-03-03 13:14:41

The Etowah County Detention Center has been under increasing scrutiny in recent months after complaints about poor inmate health care and a detainee hunger strike. The center is used by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to hold unlawful immigrants. Over the weekend, protesters held a memorial service for Teka Gulema, a former inmate who died shortly after being released.

Judge in Jefferson County Rules Alabama's Death Penalty Statute Unconstitutional

2016-03-03 21:26:15

In January, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Hurst v. Florida* that Florida's death penalty statute was unconstitutional. Alabama and Delaware are the only other states with similar statutes that require a judge - not a jury - to make the final decision about life or death in a capital case. Attorney General Luther Strange has held that the Supreme Court ruling does not apply to Alabama. But today one judge in Jefferson County disagreed. Ruling that the death can't currently be imposed in Alabama.

Analysis Shows Great Voting Divide in Jefferson County, A Win for Ben Carson

2016-03-04 10:03:38

Less than half of Jefferson County's 411,838 registered voters went to the polls on Tuesday. A total of 82,928 voted in the Democratic Primary and 93,985 voted in the Republican Primary.

This Week in Montgomery: PREP Act, Bentley's Bond for Building New Prisons and More

2016-03-04 14:23:03

This week in the Alabama Legislature, senator Del Marsh's introduced the PREP Act. If it becomes law, Alabama teachers would be evaluated by student test scores and have to work longer before they get tenure.

Alabama Lawmakers Could Consider "Ban the Box" Bill

2016-03-08 06:13:55

Research shows a key factor in preventing a felon from reoffending is having a job. But studies also show half of employers are unwilling to consider an applicant with a criminal background. So-called “ban the box” policies try to close that gap and Alabama legislators could consider such a proposal this session.

Does ALDOT Just Do What They Want?

2016-03-09 05:37:44

As a federal judge considers a lawsuit seeking to block a planned rebuilding and expansion of Interstate 20/59 through downtown Birmingham, opponents of road projects often contend state transportation leader ignore local concerns. They say the Alabama Department of Transportation does what it wants or that ALDOT doesn't listen.

Payday Loan Bill Alive, But For How Long?

2016-03-09 18:02:09

Birmingham Mayor/Council Power Struggle Reaches State Level

2016-03-10 07:24:38

A war of words and political posturing is escalating between the Birmingham City Council and Mayor William Bell. The mayor vetoed two ordinances last week, one of which would have granted the city council access city equipment and facilities when the want it. The other would force the mayor to present budgets on time. Now the fight is rising to the state level with two bills that could be introduced in the legislature. We talk about the situation with Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald.

What is the Mayor-Council Act of 1955?

2016-03-10 13:57:01

The power struggle between Birmingham Mayor William Bell and the Birmingham City Council is escalating. Last week, Bell suggested changes to the Mayor-Council Act to state legislators. But what exactly is The Mayor Council act of 1955, and how did the city council and the mayor get to this point? Nick Patterson, editor of the weekly newspaper WELD, says it's a long battle that precedes this mayor and this council. Patterson told WBHM's Rachel Lindley about the history behind the conflict.

The Rising Cost of Helping the Homeless in Alabama

2016-03-11 10:53:52

Medicaid Funding Struggles Could Send Alabama Legislature into Special Session

2016-03-11 13:41:47

Alabama is once again heading for a budget standoff. This week, the house committee approved a General Fund budget. The state's Medicaid commissioner says it would cause severe cuts to the program. The \$1.8 billion budget steers an additional \$15 million to Medicaid, but that's short of the \$100 million the agency says is needed to maintain services. Governor Robert Bentley's already threatened a veto, and state lawmakers are talking about a special session. Don Dailey, host of Alabama Public Television's Capitol Journal, told WBHM's Rachel Osier Lindley more about the budget and the rest of this week's news from Montgomery.

Senate Committee Approves Prison Consolidation Plan

2016-03-17 05:40:03

Prison Uprising Puts Governor's Prison Plan in the Spotlight

2016-03-17 07:52:44

Alabama lawmakers are considering a plan from Governor Robert Bentley to overhaul Alabama's prison system. It would use an \$800 million bond issue to build four new prisons while closing most others. The proposal takes on renewed importance after two violent uprisings at the Holman Correctional Facility in south Alabama on Friday and Monday. In remarks after touring the facility, the governor says he can't guarantee the same thing won't happen again. We talk about the situation with Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald.

Former Mayor, Birmingham Officials on City's Power Struggle

2016-03-17 13:10:46

Tensions between the Birmingham City Council and Mayor William Bell have escalated over the past several months. There's also a move in the state legislature designed to change Birmingham's Mayor-Council Act of 1955, which has determined the division of power in the city for decades. A few weeks ago, draft legislation circulated that would transfer some powers from the city council to the mayor. Thursday evening at 6 pm, the Birmingham City Council holds an open meeting about these possible changes. We talk with Nick Patterson, editor of the weekly newspaper WELD, about what former Birmingham officials think of the current battle in Birmingham government. Patterson also discusses the growth of small business in the Magic City, and what help entrepreneurs want from the city.

Birmingham Residents Speak on Potential Changes to Mayor-Council Act

2016-03-18 06:23:54

This Week in Montgomery: Alabamians to Vote on Right-to-Work Amendment

2016-03-18 07:01:08

Thursday the Alabama Senate passed legislation designed to enshrine Alabama's position as a "right-to-work" state in its constitution. Now, Alabama voters will vote on the amendment in November. We hear more from Don Dailey, host of Alabama Public Television's Capitol Journal. Also this week, a bill allowing Alabama to borrow \$800 million to build four new prisons moved forward, passing a Senate Committee less than a week after two violent uprisings at Holman Correctional Facility in south Alabama. Dailey told WBHM's Rach Lindley about how the recent prison violence moved legislators.

New Bill Would Make Birmingham Civil Rights District a National Park

2016-03-22 18:42:03

Federal and state leaders from Alabama announced a bill that would designate Birmingham's Historic Civil Rights District as a National Park.

Bentley Removes Collier as Law Enforcement Chief

2016-03-22 20:43:12

Alabama Governor Robert Bentley has announced that he is terminating Spencer Collier as the head of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency.

Alabama's Former Top Cop Says Governor Had Affair

2016-03-23 15:21:41

One day after being fired, Alabama's top law enforcement official says Governor Robert Bentley has been

having an affair with his a top advisor. Spencer Collier made the remarks at a press conference Wednesday afternoon in Montgomery. Spencer is the first person to publicly confirm the rumored affair, which was fueled last year by Bentley's divorce from his wife of 50 years, Diane Bentley.

Governor Apologizes for Inappropriate Remarks, Denies Physical Relationship with Advisor

2016-03-23 16:37:35

Governor Robert Bentley says he did not have a physical relationship with a top advisor and allegations of an affair are not true or accurate. But the governor says he did make inappropriate comments which was a mistake.

Scandal Erupts Between Alabama's Governor and Former Top Cop

2016-03-23 17:37:30

What's Next After Allegations of an Affair by Governor?

2016-03-24 07:45:27

Governor Robert Bentley says he did not have a physical relationship with a top advisor and that allegation of an affair are not true. But he says he did make inappropriate comments and that was a mistake. The remarks come after former Alabama Law Enforcement Agency director Spencer Collier detailed what he knew of the alleged affair in a press conference Wednesday afternoon. Rumors of an affair have been swirling, fueled by the governor's divorce last year from his wife of 50 years. Alabama Media Group column John Archibald talks about the situation and says he doesn't see how Bentley can now lead.

Inside the Financial Crisis in Fairfield

2016-03-24 11:29:53

When the Walmart closed in Fairfield, the city lost one of its largest sources of sales tax revenue. The small Birmingham neighbor now faces a looming \$8 million dollar deficit after years of alleged financial mismanagement. For more on Fairfield's money crisis, and the city council's recent vote to terminate the police department, we turn to Nick Patterson, editor of the weekly newspaper WELD. Patterson talks about WELD's cover story on Fairfield's financial crisis. He tells WBHM's Rachel Osier Lindley about Fairfield's history, and how it got to this breaking point.

ALEA Audit Shows No Discrepancies, Report Says

2016-03-24 14:41:23

WBRC recently obtained a copy of an audit of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency released last month. The 17-page document, published to their website on Wednesday morning, "did not disclose any significant instances of noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations."

Governor to Veto General Fund Budget

2016-03-25 10:30:06

Governor Robert Bentley announced Thursday he'd veto the General Fund Budget passed by the Legislature, saying it would make the state's Medicaid system unsustainable. "The General Fund Budget is unacceptable because it lacks adequate funding for essential government services," Bentley said in a statement. "The proposed appropriation falls short of what the Medicaid Agency will require to provide services for the over one million Alabamians, most of them children, covered by Medicaid."

Fairfield Considers Cutting Police Department to Save Money

2016-03-25 11:28:57

The Fairfield City Council recently made an unconventional move: they voted to get rid of their police department in an effort to save money. But some city leaders say it's a shortsighted response to a big budget problem.

Some Doubt Gov. Robert Bentley's Prison Reform Plan

2016-03-28 06:04:53

Critics call them five-star prison hotels. Fact is, Alabama's prisons are among the most overcrowded in the nation. The state's correctional facilities, designed to hold 13,000 inmates, instead house almost double that. State prisons are also chronically understaffed, a factor thought to have contributed to two recent inmate riots at Holman Correctional Facility and a fatal inmate stabbing at Elmore Correctional Facility. A Senate budget committee approved Governor Robert Bentley's proposed solution to the problem. But there's uncertainty as to whether that's indeed the way out.

New Precedent Overrules Antiquated Method for Valuing Currency in Theft of Property Offense

2016-03-29 18:01:42

Attorney General Luther Strange says the Alabama Supreme Court recently issued a precedent-setting decision regarding theft of property offenses.

Calls for Governor Bentley's Resignation Continue to Grow

2016-03-29 18:58:16

It's just under a week since scandal rocked Montgomery. Last Wednesday, Alabama's former top cop told the media about an affair between Governor Robert Bentley and his top advisor and a phone sex tape surfaced online. While Bentley continues to deny any "physical affair" with Senior Political Advisor Rebekah Caldwell Mason, calls for his resignation have only gotten louder among state leaders.

Senior Advisor at Center of Bentley Affair Scandal Resigns

2016-03-30 16:00:46

Governor Bentley's Senior Political Advisor Rebekah Caldwell Mason has resigned. Mason was in the spotlight last week after former ALEA head Spencer Collier publicly described her alleged affair with the governor, calling her "the de facto governor," a reference for the extreme power people close to Bentley said she wields.

Scandal Uncovers Bentley's Involvement in Trial of Speaker Mike Hubbard

2016-03-30 17:27:45

Pressure Mounting on Bentley to Resign

2016-03-31 07:29:27

Governor Robert Bentley's senior advisor, Rebekah Mason, has resigned. This comes one week after the governor faced accusations from the former head of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency of having an affair with her. Both Mason and Bentley denied the affair but Bentley says he did make inappropriate comments to her. Meanwhile calls persist for Bentley to resign. We talk about the situation with Alabama Media Group columnist John Archibald.

One of Birmingham's Oldest Homeless Shelters Has Big Plans

2016-03-31 15:07:14

Leaders say the City of Birmingham needs more services to help the local homeless population. The operators of one of Birmingham's oldest standing homeless shelters want to move and rebuild, creating a larger, more welcoming building in a more suitable location. And the change couldn't come soon enough.

Alabama Legislators Talk of Possible Impeachment, Recall of Governor Bentley

2016-04-01 09:26:38

The firestorm continues a week after allegations that Alabama Governor Robert Bentley had an affair with top advisor Rebekah Mason, who resigned Wednesday. While Bentley and Mason deny an affair, he did admit to making inappropriate comments to her.

Meeting Over Changes to Mayor-Council Act Incites More Debate

2016-04-05 08:12:56

At a public meeting Monday night, more than a hundred people huddled into a tight room in the Jefferson County courthouse. Residents poured out into the hallway. They gathered to discuss proposed changes to the Mayor Council Act, legislation that divides powers between the mayor and city council.

Alabama Legislator to Start Impeachment Process Against Governor Bentley

2016-04-05 18:20:43

An Alabama legislator says he'll introduce articles of impeachment against Governor Robert Bentley.

Evoking the "Goat Hill" Committee of the Alabama Legislature

2016-04-06 19:04:36

A small delegation of Alabama lawmakers - led by a Republican Representative from Hartselle - announced plans to impeach Governor Robert Bentley, the Legislature overrides Bentley's budget veto and the role the Legislature's infamous "Goat Hill" committee will play in all of this. The latest from AL.dom's Kyle Whitmire.

Is The BP Oil Spill Settlement Money Being Well-Spent?

2016-02-22 18:12:39

Gulf states are starting to spend the first of billions from BP's settlements and fines for the worst environmental disaster in U.S. history — but not all the money is being used for restoration.

Alabama Fast-Food Workers Rally To Defend City's Wage Hike

2016-02-23 21:02:31

The Birmingham City Council approved a minimum wage of \$10.10 an hour, but some state legislators want to block it. A coalition representing low-wage workers is trying to defend the Birmingham bill.

Alabama Lawmakers Fight Minimum Wage Increase In Birmingham

2016-02-24 09:59:22

In Alabama, the city of Birmingham voted to increase its minimum wage to \$10.10. Lawmakers in the state legislature said "not so fast." Now there's a battle underway as the Republican-controlled legislature tries to stop the state's largest city from increasing its hourly wages.

Labor Secretary Thomas Perez on the Movement to Raise Minimum Wages

2016-02-24 10:31:11

White Police Officer In Alabama Charged With Black Man's Death

2016-03-03 11:24:29

Tensions are high in Montgomery, Ala., where authorities have arrested a white police officer for murder in the fatal shooting of a black man. Local officials are calling for a federal investigation.

In Alabama, Teachers School Lawmakers

2016-03-15 18:58:07

The 2016 Teacher of the Year in that state decided it was about time the people who write the laws that affect schools actually see the inside of a classroom.

Alabama Governor Faces Calls To Resign Amid Affair Allegations

2016-04-01 07:11:46

Bill Would Stop Removal of Confederate, Historic Markers

2016-02-08 21:02:09

As some cities make the decision to shed Confederate monuments, some Alabama lawmakers want to prohibit those removals unless legislators say it is OK. The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee on Tuesday will hold a public hearing on the bill titled the "Alabama Heritage Protection Act."

Federal Officials OK Change to Alabama Medicaid Program

2016-02-09 13:30:52

Federal officials have approved Alabama's plan to switch its Medicaid program to managed care. Governor Robert Bentley made the announcement in a Tuesday press conference. The waiver approval comes after three years of planning and negotiation with federal officials over the proposed change.

High Court Voids Alabama Ruling Against Lesbian Adoption

2016-03-07 10:01:24

The Supreme Court ruled Monday that Alabama's top court went too far when it tried to upend a lesbian mother's adoption of her partner's children. The justices threw out a ruling by the Alabama Supreme Court a dispute between two women whose long-term relationship ended bitterly.

Special Coverage: Election 2016

2016-04-05 16:00:43

Employment

Birmingham Becomes First City in Alabama to Ban the Box

2016-02-04 16:10:42

The Rising Cost of Helping the Homeless in Alabama

2016-03-11 10:53:52

UAB Minimum Wage Increase Goes Into Effect This Weekend

2016-03-17 10:01:49

Alabama's largest employer is increasing its minimum wage to \$11 an hour, officials say. The decision was made before a contentious minimum wage fight between city and state lawmakers.

Education

Hoover Schools Unveil New Zoning Plan, Schedule Meetings For Parent Feedback

2016-02-05 08:16:15

Parents will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed plan at four smaller meetings throughout the district this month.

Birmingham-Area Schools Account for One-Third of State's "Failing" List

2016-02-11 17:09:56

"These assessments are not the only indicator of success for a school. If you look at schools, I'm sure you'll see what some are doing to make it better," Malissa Valdes-Hubert, Alabama State Department of Education spokesperson.

Dr. Tommy Bice, State Schools Chief, Announces Retirement

2016-03-01 11:58:48

Dr. Tommy Bice, Superintendent of the Alabama State Department of Education, today announced his retirement, set to go into effect at the end of this month.

Fairfield Considers Cutting Police Department to Save Money

2016-03-25 11:28:57

The Fairfield City Council recently made an unconventional move: they voted to get rid of their police department in an effort to save money. But some city leaders say it's a shortsighted response to a big budget problem.

In Alabama, Teachers School Lawmakers

2016-03-15 18:58:07

The 2016 Teacher of the Year in that state decided it was about time the people who write the laws that affect schools actually see the inside of a classroom.

Priming the Pipeline for STEM in the South: Student Incentives in Alabama

2016-02-24 22:39:16

Given thousands of related job openings but only hundreds of computer science college graduates, Alabama is trying to ramp up its computer science education. That includes a new policy allowing those classes to count toward core math graduation requirements. WBHM's Dan Carsen concludes the Southern Education Desk series "Priming the Pipeline for STEM in the South" with a visit to a Birmingham-area class that's leading the way.

Report: Mountain Brook, Ramsay Highs Send 92, 93 Percent of Students to Higher Ed

2016-02-09 11:56:10

Mountain Brook High School and Birmingham's Ramsay High School send the largest percentages of graduates on to higher education in the Birmingham-metro area, according to data presented recently by the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama.

Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr. Tells Students to "Use That Vote as a Weapon"

2016-02-10 18:23:48

The Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr., visited Birmingham this morning to talk to local community leaders and

students about empowerment and the importance of being civic minded. Jackson was keynote speaker at Wenonah High School's 13th Annual Unity Breakfast. He urged the crowd to follow the political process and register to vote.

Priming the Pipeline for STEM in the South: A Look Across the Region

2016-02-23 06:15:49

Over the next ten years, the number of jobs in science, technology, engineering and math fields are expected to outpace other industries by about five to ten percent. That's according to the group Change the Equation, an organization that pushes for greater STEM education in schools. Yet, throughout the South, particularly in rural and high poverty communities, administrators have trouble attracting educators qualified to teach STEM.

Priming the Pipeline for STEM in the South: Coding as a Foreign Language Credit

2016-02-24 06:30:24

Computer coders have found a champion in Florida Senator Jeremy Ring. Ring, a former Yahoo! executive who helped build the company, believes coding and technology is an art, rather than a science. He wants to attract more students to STEM studies. As part of the Southern Education Desk series, Priming the Pipeline for STEM in the South, Lynn Hatter of WFSU reports on Ring's proposal to allow Florida students to choose coding in order to fulfill a foreign language requirement for college.

Grading Teachers on Student Test Scores? Trisha Crain on "PREP Act"

2016-03-01 23:20:26

Hoover School Board Could Approve Rezoning Proposal Monday Evening

2016-03-07 13:25:34

On Monday, March 7, the Hoover School Board will vote on a rezoning plan that redistributes about 2,200 Hoover students to different schools. WBHM's Sherrel Wheeler Stewart talked to Hoover Sun reporter Jon Anderson about the rezoning proposal, submitted by Superintendent Kathy Murphy.

Hoover School Board Approves Rezoning Plan

2016-03-09 08:46:09

The Hoover City Schools has been trying for more than two years to come up with a rezoning plan that addresses growth and changing demographics while also passing muster with federal authorities. The school board approved the plan Monday night and hopes it makes the grade.

Three Vestavia Hills High School Students Electrically Shocked

2016-03-09 17:40:31

Crime in Greater Birmingham: Literacy as Long-Term Prevention?

2016-03-16 21:14:36

Police and prosecutors try to fight crime in the streets and in the courts every day. But how do you fight the long-term root causes of crime? Some people think you do it in small school rooms, one lesson at a time.

Schools Close Early Because of Severe Weather

2016-03-24 10:45:26

A number of Birmingham area schools have announced early dismissals or schedule changes because of

anticipated severe weather.

Taking on Tests: The Stakes Are High

2016-03-30 07:01:03

It's testing season in schools across the South and around the country. Students are flipping open booklets or logging onto computers to answer math and reading questions. For over a decade, annual standardized testing has been the law of the land. But it's not without controversy or pushback – and some states and school districts are rethinking their approach.

Taking on Tests: Opting Out in Florida

2016-03-31 07:06:00

Millions of Florida's public school students, from third grade through 12th, are preparing to take the Florida Standards Assessment. The test has drawn scorn from parents, teachers, school administrators, and even lawmakers—yet it remains the main measure of how schools and districts are graded, kids promoted, and teachers evaluated. Lynn Hatter of WFSU reports about how some parents and children are protesting -- choosing a form of civil disobedience by opting out.

Education Superintendent Tommy Bice Ends 39-Year Public Education Career

2016-04-01 11:21:44

Bice isn't leaving the education field. He's the new education director for Birmingham based Goodrich Foundation.

Reborn UAB Has Something to Celebrate This Signing Day

2016-02-03 08:14:12

The UAB Blazers will have just as much to celebrate on Wednesday as all the programs collecting five-star recruits and gaudy national rankings. The Blazers are back in the recruiting business, and in a big way. UA which had eliminated football, might end up with a class of up to 45 players by the end of the annual signing day. Coach Bill Clark and his staff are rebuilding almost from scratch.

Wintry Weather Delays Schools

2016-02-09 04:52:01

Due to the potential of snow and icy conditions across northern portions of Alabama, a number of school districts have delayed starts on Tuesday, February 9

Family

Hoover Schools Unveil New Zoning Plan, Schedule Meetings For Parent Feedback

2016-02-05 08:16:15

Parents will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed plan at four smaller meetings throughout the district this month.

Economy

Infamous West End Property Set for Demolition

2016-02-16 16:33:51

Birmingham City Council Strikes Back Over Minimum Wage Bill

2016-02-22 18:13:00

Shelby County Residents to Vote on Sunday Alcohol Sales

2016-02-26 09:40:00

During Tuesday's primaries residents of Shelby County will vote on whether to allow alcohol to be sold on Sundays.

Analysis Shows Great Voting Divide in Jefferson County, A Win for Ben Carson

2016-03-04 10:03:38

Less than half of Jefferson County's 411,838 registered voters went to the polls on Tuesday. A total of 82,928 voted in the Democratic Primary and 93,985 voted in the Republican Primary.

Alabama in Need of Road Repairs to Spur Economic Development

2016-02-12 07:37:38

A report out this week from a Washington think tank outlines the top transportation maintenance projects it says are needed to improve economic growth in Alabama.

Why this Coal Industry Downturn may be Different

2016-02-15 05:00:39

Alabama's coal industry has faced its ups and downs through the decades. It's clearly down now. Walter Energy, for instance, is embroiled in bankruptcy. While the industry has bounced back before, this time may be different. That's where we start this week's Magic City Marketplace.

Business Community Watching Bills in the Alabama Legislature

2016-02-22 05:00:10

With the Alabama legislative session in full swing, the business community has a number of bills they're watching closely. These bills could have a significant effect on companies around Birmingham. We highlight a few of them in this week's Magic City Marketplace.

Priming the Pipeline for STEM in the South: Student Incentives in Alabama

2016-02-24 22:39:16

Given thousands of related job openings but only hundreds of computer science college graduates, Alabama is trying to ramp up its computer science education. That includes a new policy allowing those classes to count toward core math graduation requirements. WBHM's Dan Carsen concludes the Southern Education Desk series "Priming the Pipeline for STEM in the South" with a visit to a Birmingham-area class that's leading the way.

Metro Birmingham's Growth Hotspots

2016-02-29 05:00:00

The Birmingham metro area has seen steady, albeit modest population growth since the great recession. However, that growth though isn't even with some communities seeing growth rates far higher. We talk about this week's Magic City Marketplace.

UAB -- Going More Dense and Vertical

2016-03-07 05:00:24

UAB has been jokingly referred to as the university that ate Birmingham because of the steady growth its campus has seen through the decades. It's an anchor of the region's economy and a new master plan outlines where university leaders want to take Birmingham's largest employer. We talk about it in this week's Magic City Marketplace. Birmingham Business Journal editor Ty West also discusses plans for development around Birmingham's CrossPlex and why lower oil prices are bad news for banks.

Community Banks Increase Lending to Small Business

2016-03-14 05:00:58

We sort of know the broad outlines of starting a business. You have an idea, find an investor or lender for funding, then go at it. Around Birmingham community banks are increasingly getting in on that small business lending action. That's where we start the conversation in this week's Magic City Marketplace.

UAB Minimum Wage Increase Goes Into Effect This Weekend

2016-03-17 10:01:49

Alabama's largest employer is increasing its minimum wage to \$11 an hour, officials say. The decision was made before a contentious minimum wage fight between city and state lawmakers.

Birmingham Rolls Out its Land Bank

2016-03-21 05:00:50

The abundance of dilapidated and abandoned properties around Birmingham is something city leaders have struggled to deal with. A new tool to attack the problem is getting off the ground. It's called a land bank. We talk about it in this week's Magic City Marketplace.

Fiber Internet Coming to Birmingham

2016-03-28 05:00:08

For many workplaces having a fast Internet connection is critical. That's why a recent announcement that fiber Internet would be coming to the Birmingham area has economic development leaders excited. We talk about it in this week's Magic City Marketplace.

Outlook on Alabama's Economy Splits from National Picture

2016-04-04 06:28:05

The U.S. economy has been growing for almost seven years and analysts are debating when it will inevitably return to recession. One report from the bank BBVA Compass says it probably won't happen in 2016, but its prediction about Alabama's economy is less upbeat. We explain in this week's Magic City Marketplace.

First U.S. Factory OK'd For Cuba Aims To Plow A Path Into 21st Century

2016-02-22 18:37:43

Two businessmen — one of whom was born in Cuba — have been granted permission to build the first U.S. factory on the island nation since 1960. They plan to produce small tractors for Cuban farmers.

Terrorism

2015 Saw Rise in Hate Groups and Extremists in U.S.

2016-02-17 17:38:11

The Southern Poverty Law Center released today its annual count of hate groups and extremists in the U.S.

Arts and Culture

New Bill Would Make Birmingham Civil Rights District a National Park

2016-03-22 18:42:03

Federal and state leaders from Alabama announced a bill that would designate Birmingham's Historic Civil Rights District as a National Park.

Alabama Actress Keeps Fannie Lou Hamer's "Little Light" Shining

2016-02-04 10:11:20

Andrew Glaze, Alabama's 95-Year-Old Poet Laureate, Has Died

2016-02-08 14:15:56

According to his family, poet and playwright Andrew Glaze died Sunday February 7, 2016. Glaze has been called "an essential poet for more than sixty years." The novelist, playwright and poet was currently serving as Poet Laureate of Alabama.

100 Year-Old Mural in Bessemer Gets a Makeover

2016-02-10 11:38:16

When the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel was restored in the 1980s and 90s, people were awe struck by the transformation. Vibrant colors and details that had been hidden for centuries could be seen once again. At the Bright Star in Bessemer, which bills itself as the oldest continuously operating restaurant in Alabama, the staff is experiencing similar feelings as the eatery's more than 100 year-old mural slowly gets a makeover.

Newgrass Mandolin Master Sam Bush Returns to Birmingham

2016-02-11 21:44:27

Sam Bush, considered by many to be the father of newgrass, the more progressive form of bluegrass music, brings his band to the Lyric Theatre Saturday night, February 13. Like the founding father of bluegrass, Bill Monroe, Bush grew up on a farm in Kentucky surrounded by a family of musicians. Both fell in love with the mandolin and with traditional music. There the comparison ends. Monroe grew up in the 1920s, while Sam Bush came of age in the era of television that brought the stars of country music right into his home.

Dennis Covington and Revelation: The Search for Faith in a Violent Religious World

2016-02-16 17:05:27

"Faith, as St. Paul said in his letter to the Galatians, is a fruit of the spirit, and a fruit is something tangible, life sustaining, a gift." Dennis Covington.

Birmingham's Place in Historic Preservation Efforts

2016-02-18 11:36:01

The National Trust for Historic Preservation recently declared Birmingham's A.G. Gaston Motel a National Treasure. It also declared the landmark one of America's eleven most endangered historic sites. Marita Rivero chairs the trust's board and is Executive Director of the Museum of African American History in Boston. She'll give the keynote address Thursday evening for the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute's Black History Month celebration. Rivero spoke with WBHM's Rachel Lindley about Birmingham's importance in the national conversation on historic preservation and the significance of the A.G. Gaston Motel.

The Compassion Experience: A Virtual Exhibit on Global Poverty

2016-02-19 06:26:18

Global poverty can seem pretty abstract to the average American. The Compassion Experience aims to change that. This traveling exhibit immerses people in the lives and cultures of children living in poverty around the world. It's on tour across the South and returns to Alabama next week. WBHM's Amy Sedlis saw the exhibit on its last Birmingham stop, and has this preview:

Black History Month Specials on WBHM

2016-02-23 22:00:52

Arc Stories: February 2016 Edition

2016-02-25 13:43:56

Barons Adding to Protective Netting Behind Home Plate

2016-03-04 17:28:19

TEDx Birmingham 2016: Pure Imagination

2016-03-14 11:56:09

Hear Highlights from "Issues & Ales: Crime in the Greater Birmingham Area"

2016-03-17 15:08:35

There's a perception that crime is on the rise in and around Birmingham. What's really happening? Is fear changing our behavior and affecting relationships in our communities? How can Birmingham and surrounding communities work to reduce violent crime? On Thursday, March 10 Local law enforcement officials and community members met to discuss crime and brainstorm solutions for WBHM's "Issues and Ales: Crime in the Greater Birmingham Area."

The Junction: Stories From Ensley, Alabama. Episode 1

2016-03-21 08:36:21

WBHM is one of 15 stations chosen for Localore: Finding America – a national initiative to expand public media. Over the next several months, WBHM will bring you "The Junction: Stories from Ensley, Alabama" – a project created by independent producer Mary Quintas.

Mother Angelica, EWTN Founder, Passed Away Easter Sunday

2016-03-28 13:00:30

Arc Stories: March 2016 Edition

2016-03-31 14:48:20

Sensory-Friendly Performances Open Theater World to People with Autism

2016-04-05 10:20:16

People with autism often get uncomfortable in situations like live theater. Sudden loud noises and bright lights can cause distress. With one in 68 children being diagnosed with the condition, lots of Alabama families don't see musicals or plays. One theater in Birmingham wants to change that by offering one of Alabama's first "sensory-friendly" performances.

For Mardi Gras, Les Bon Temps Rouler In Mobile, Ala., Too

2016-02-08 12:56:54

Most people think of New Orleans on Mardi Gras. But the pre-Lenten celebration has roots in another Gulf Coast city. Mobile, Ala., proudly bills itself as the "mother of mystics."

Birmingham Chefs Test Appetite For New Flavors With Supper Clubs

2016-02-09 19:13:48

Pop-up dining experiences are cropping up across the country. While diners savor an exclusive meal, chefs get to try out recipes and gauge the local market for their food before opening a restaurant.

Harper Lee, Author Of 'To Kill A Mockingbird,' Dies At Age 89

2016-02-19 11:00:00

The Pulitzer Prize-winning writer died in her hometown of Monroeville, Ala. Published in 1960, *To Kill a Mockingbird* has sold tens of millions of copies and been translated into dozens of languages.

WBHM Launches New Series Exploring Birmingham's Ensley Community

2016-03-22 10:13:36

Crime

New Precedent Overrules Antiquated Method for Valuing Currency in Theft of Property Offense

2016-03-29 18:01:42

Attorney General Luther Strange says the Alabama Supreme Court recently issued a precedent-setting decision regarding theft of property offenses.

Crime in Greater Birmingham: Literacy as Long-Term Prevention?

2016-03-16 21:14:36

Police and prosecutors try to fight crime in the streets and in the courts every day. But how do you fight the long-term root causes of crime? Some people think you do it in small school rooms, one lesson at a time.

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Man Charged With Stealing Nearly \$200,000 in Quarters

2016-03-07 17:39:58

A Harpersville man is being charged with stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars in quarters while he worked for an armored truck company.

Crime in Greater Birmingham: An Increase or Perception?

2016-03-14 05:33:22

Birmingham finished 2015 with an increase in homicides. That's a reversal from the last several years when those numbers dropped to levels not seen in a generation. With that rise and the headlines that come with crime is pushing back to the forefront of community conversation. This week, we'll explore crime in the

greater Birmingham area. WBHM's Andrew Yeager kicks off our series.

Crime in Greater Birmingham: Targeting the Violence

2016-03-14 21:35:24

There was a spike in homicide last year and Birmingham is on pace to hit a new high this year. Studies show much of this violence isn't random. According to data from the University of Cincinnati's Policing Institute, less than one percent of a city's population contribute to more than 73 percent of violent crime. Other cities have instituted programs to cut down on homicide, by targeting the groups and people most likely to be involved. Birmingham started its own initiative last year.

U.S. Marshal Talks Crime, Collaboration and Change

2016-03-15 17:32:55

You probably remember westerns where with U.S. Marshals ride into town and take on criminals. Well in real life in North Central Alabama, it's U.S. Marshal Marty Keely who leads the team capturing federal criminals and works through a regional task force to fight crime.

Crime in Greater Birmingham: Impact of Social Media

2016-03-16 07:58:07

Elizabeth Sanfelippo is an energy consultant who lives in Birmingham's upscale Highland Park neighborhood. She grew up outside of Birmingham, and lived in Vermont and New York before coming back to her beloved hometown. When she wants to know what's happening in the area, she picks up her smartphone and presses a green icon with a white house on it, opening the Nextdoor app.

A Day in the Life of a Birmingham Walking Beat Cop

2016-03-18 10:03:37

Homicide rates are on the rise across the country. In Birmingham, the city finished 2015 with a dramatic 55 percent increase. In response, law enforcement is stepping up efforts to combat violent crime. One key element is to add more face-to-face engagement between police and the community through old fashioned walking beats.

Woman Pleads Guilty to Tax Fraud, Files More False Refunds While Awaiting Sentencing

2016-03-31 18:11:12

Issues & Ales: Crime in the Greater Birmingham Area

2016-03-03 16:59:07

Join us on Thursday, March 10 for "Issues and Ales: Crime in the Greater Birmingham Area." Local law enforcement officials and community members will discuss crime and brainstorm solutions.

Health Care

Federal Officials OK Change to Alabama Medicaid Program

2016-02-09 13:30:52

Federal officials have approved Alabama's plan to switch its Medicaid program to managed care. Governor Robert Bentley made the announcement in a Tuesday press conference. The waiver approval comes after three years of planning and negotiation with federal officials over the proposed change.

Zika: UAB Epidemiologists Recommend Pregnant Alabamians Not Travel to South American

2016-02-12 16:38:22

UAB epidemiologists are telling Alabamians there is low risk of a Zika outbreak developing in the state. The virus, which has flu-like symptoms, is currently spreading through parts of South and Central America. It's also been associated with a rise in a rare birth defect. Dr. David Freeman of UAB is one of 12 members of the World Health Organization's Emergency Committee on Zika. He says that Alabama will likely see more travel-related cases, but not home-grown.

In 2015, Prescription Opioid Overdoses Increased by 131 Percent

2016-02-25 11:30:47

In Jefferson County, the number of people killed by prescription opioids more than doubled last year. That's according to the Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner's Office 2014 annual drug report, released Wednesday.

Commentary: When it Comes to Opioids, Doctors Need to Focus on People, Not Pills

2016-03-22 16:07:41

Opioids include pills like hydrocodone and morphine are often prescribed for pain. They also include drugs of abuse such as heroin. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that more than 18,000 people died from opioid overdoses in 2014. Public initiatives from the CDC and the White House have focused on how doctors prescribe opioid pills for pain. Last week the CDC released a guideline urging doctors to show greater care and caution when prescribing opioids.

Science and Technology

Priming the Pipeline for STEM in the South: Student Incentives in Alabama

2016-02-24 22:39:16

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