



Description of WTVVA programming providing the most significant treatment of community issues.

2nd Quarter 2021

WTVVA airs local news programming each week live during the following times on WTVVA 9.1 (NBC) and also simulcast most of these newscasts live during the times noted below on WTVVA 9.2 (ABC).

Monday through Friday 4:30 a.m. to 5 a.m. (NBC)

Monday through Friday 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. (simulcast)

Monday through Friday Noon to 12:30 p.m. (NBC)

Monday through Friday 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. (NBC)

Monday through Friday 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (simulcast)

Monday through Friday 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (NBC)

Monday through Friday 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. (ABC)

Monday through Friday 10 p.m. to 10:35 p.m. (simulcast)

Saturday and Sunday 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. (NBC)

Saturday and Sunday 10 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. (simulcast)

Saturday 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (simulcast)

Sunday 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (NBC)

All the above are locally produced news programs presenting a mix of news, weather and sports and other related feature stories and segments that affect Northeast Mississippi and parts of Northwest Alabama.

List of Issues for This Quarter

Severe Weather

Education

Coronavirus

Law Enforcement

Missing Persons

Economy

President Biden on gun violence

ISSUE

Severe Weather

Program Title: WTVA 9 News

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: The WTVA Severe Weather Authority instantly updates viewers about any life-threatening storms by sharing watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service, either through on-screen text or by interrupting regular programming. We also sometimes look at the recovery from those severe weather events, even years after they happened.

4/8 Severe weather coverage on WTVA, ABC WTVA and WLOV from 4:13 am to 4:50 am because of an urban and small stream flood advisory for Calhoun, Chickasaw, Lee, Northwestern Monroe and Pontotoc counties.

4/9 Severe weather coverage on WTVA from 6:44 pm to 8 pm and from 8:10 pm to 9:38 pm. Severe weather coverage on ABC WTVA from 6:45 pm to 7:51 pm and from 9 pm to 9:38 pm. Severe weather coverage on WLOV from 6:45 pm to 7:51 pm and from 8:37 pm to 9:38 pm. This included tornado warnings for Union, Pontotoc and Tippah counties and severe thunderstorm warnings for Pontotoc, Union and Lee counties.

4/25 Sunday was an emotional day for people in Smithville. The community remembered the 16 people who died in the tornado that struck on April 27, 2011. The memorial started at Smithville High School where the mayor, former mayor, and WTVA's Matt Laubhan remembered the day. From there the remembrance service continued in the Smithville Memorial Park.

5/2 Severe weather coverage on WTVA, ABC WTVA and WLOV from 4:02 pm to 4:15 pm and from 4:57 pm to 5:22 pm; on WTVA from 6:44 pm to 11:42 pm; on WLOV from 9 pm to 11:42 pm and on ABC

WTVA from 10 pm to 11:42 pm. This happened as parts of the viewing area were under a tornado watch.

5/2 A tornado left behind significant damage in Tupelo, Pontotoc County and Calhoun City. One area that took a hit from the twister was the Park Hill neighborhood in Tupelo. People could easily see damaged homes, uprooted trees and downed power lines. Damage could also be found on Green Street to the west and on Ranch Road to the east where the tornado ripped the roof off a home and tossed a car. Severe damage to several homes on Elvis Presley Drive.

5/3 The City of Tupelo may review its storm shelter policy after severe storms swept through the city Sunday night. Chief Operations Officer Don Lewis said the city normally opens its public shelters when a tornado watch is issued for Lee County. However, he said the National Weather Service did not issue a tornado watch Sunday night when severe storms hit the city. Parks and Recreation Director Alex Farned said some individuals were waiting outside the shelters at Joyner School and Theron Nichols Park when someone arrived to unlock the shelters. Both men said school personnel unlocked the shelters located at schools.

5/4 Severe weather coverage on WTVA, ABC WTVA and WLOV from 10:14 am to 10:20 am; on WTVA from 1:57 pm to 2:03 pm and from 2:24 pm to 4 pm and on ABC WTVA and WLOV from 2:26 pm to 2:55 pm. This included a severe thunderstorm warning for Alcorn, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Itawamba, Lafayette, Lee, Tippah and Monroe counties and an urban and small stream flood advisory for central Lee County and eastern Yalobusha County.

5/9 Severe weather coverage on WTVA from 6:45 pm to 8:22 pm and on ABC WTVA and WLOV from 6:45 pm until 7:59 pm. This came about because of a severe thunderstorm watch issued for most of the area during the evening. Severe thunderstorm warnings were issued for Lafayette, Union and Pontotoc counties.

5/9 Heavy rainfall Tuesday and Wednesday led to significant flooding in parts of north Mississippi. In Yalobusha County, rain swept away a section of County Road 224 east of Water Valley. A truck crashed into the hole and crews rescued the occupant. The North MS Herald captured several images of the scene. Flooding forced evacuations Wednesday in the Willow Creek subdivision in Saltillo. The weather may have caused a large crack to appear on County Road 1310 in Lee County. As a result of the damage, the county road department shut down the roadway.

5/27 A community center destroyed by a tornado once is again ready to serve the city of Columbus. The tornado in February of 2019 completely wiped out the building at Sim Scott Park. The old Sim Scott building was about 6,500 square feet. The new community center is 9,000 square feet. The new building has classrooms, a full kitchen and its very own senior room.

6/2 Wednesday marked one month since an [EF-1 tornado swept through Calhoun City](#). And the cleanup continues. Members of the community and churches have provided food to storm victims and those cleaning up debris. Some victims were without power for almost a week. But the community is thankful for everyone who provided aid following the storm.

6/8 Severe weather coverage on WTVA, ABC WTVA and WLOV from 2:27 pm to 3:02 pm for a tornado warning issued for Lee and Itawamba counties, on WTVA and WLOV from 6:15 pm to 6:45 pm and on ABC WTVA from 6:15 pm to 7 pm for a tornado warning issued for Pontotoc and Lee counties.

6/9 Flooding caused problems for people in Yalobusha County Tuesday. EMA Director Dalton Coleman said he's worried that more rain will cause bigger problems for some areas. County leaders helped several families grab their things and evacuate their homes on Tuesday. The water was so high that it nearly covered vehicles in the area along CR 436. Water even got into some homes. The Crawford Sports Complex in Water Valley was another problem spot because of flooding.

6/9 The Lafayette County Fire Department is now telling people asked to evacuate their homes because of concerns about the Lake Tara Dam they can now go home. Just a few hours earlier, they asked people near Lake Tara Dam to leave their homes as a precaution. The heavy rains created pressure on the dam, and a break would have affected College Hill Road.

6/10 The effect of the heavy rain is still causing problems across North Mississippi. In Pontotoc, one road is closed for the safety of the traveling public. Off Highway 41 coming off Highway 15, the shoulder on the road fell two to three feet. Since Thursday afternoon, cars detoured around the area to get to their location. The road is a main road in Pontotoc that people use. Some travelers will need a different route for the next few days.

ISSUE

Education

Program Title: WTVA 9 News

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: Schools and universities survived the coronavirus pandemic and finished the year. Even though the pandemic was the main concern at the beginning of the year, there were still issues that surfaced with no connection whatsoever to the virus.

4/29 The Starkville Oktibbeha School District has the potential to save millions of dollars, according to a recent audit. In collaboration with the state auditor's office, the school district reviewed its expenses to determine if any money-saving changes could be made. The state auditor partnered with the advanced data firm Glimpse K12. Auditors found the potential to save between \$3.5 million and \$5.3 million by eliminating some spending. One such example is the elimination of underutilized software. This change could save up to \$170,000.

5/21 A former Mooreville High School soccer coach facing child sex crimes in Lee County also faces similar charges in Meridian. Meridian Detective James LaGoy confirmed investigators charged Luke Mason with sexual battery and enticement of a child for sexual purposes. LaGoy said the charges stem from a January incident in the city. Mason is free on a \$100,000 bond. Lee County deputies arrested Mason on March 19 for alleged inappropriate conduct.

5/28 West Point High School finished the school year with two valedictorians and two salutatorians when there had been one each. The school originally named one each based on quality point average.

However, parents complained saying the honors, according to the student handbook, would be determined by grade point average. Superintendent Burnell McDonald agreed and said before graduation the district took full responsibility for the error.

5/28 The Mississippi attorney general's office is seeking information in support of an open investigation into Toshemie Wilson, who taught at Amory High School for 20 years. Law enforcement arrested the teacher late last year and charged him with child exploitation. The AG's office made the appeal in hopes of other potential victims coming forward.

6/3 Baldwin Schools superintendent Jason McKay is retiring effective June 30. In a May 28 letter, McKay informed the school board of his decision. When asked about the reasoning behind his decision, McKay said retiring at this time allows him to look to new challenges in the future. McKay assumed the role during the 2014-2015 school year.

6/3 The Starkville-Oktibbeha School District is looking to partner with Starkville city leaders to provide jobs from folks in the community. Aldermen approved collaborating with the school district to provide local government jobs for people getting started or re-entering the workforce. The project, Project PEACE, will provide opportunities to work in the court system filing paperwork or in the clerk's office doing administration.

6/30 Seven inmates of the Clay County Detention Center received certificates during graduation ceremonies at the East Mississippi Community College location in West Point. The graduates enrolled in the newly created construction skills program with the hope the training will land them a good paying job when they are released from custody.

ISSUE

Coronavirus

Program Title: WTVA 9 News

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: Vaccination efforts against the coronavirus led to states and communities easing restrictions that were imposed when the virus showed up last year. That cleared the way for things to get somewhat back to normal, which included the resumption of events canceled the previous year.

4/2 People 16 years old and older are now eligible to receive the coronavirus vaccine in Alabama. The Pfizer vaccine is available to individuals 16 and up, and the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are both available to individuals 18 years of age and older. 1.7 million doses have been administered in Alabama so far.

4/9 Itawamba Community College (ICC) will hold four in-person graduation ceremonies in mid-May. The ceremonies will take place on May 13-14 at the Davis Event Center on the Fulton campus. Approximately, 650 graduates will receive their diplomas. 2020 graduates, who were not able to attend

their graduations due to the pandemic, have been invited to participate in the upcoming ceremonies. Each student will receive a maximum of 10 tickets and masks will be required.

4/20 A city in the Golden Triangle is looking to discuss losing its mask mandate in Tuesday night's Board of Aldermen meeting. Starkville Mayor Lynn Spruill said it's time to get rid of the mandate. The mandate has been in effect since July of last year. With alterations over the past few months, the mandate currently requires folks to wear a mask when in a store and until seated in a restaurant.

4/22 Kermit's Outlaw Kitchen on West Main Street is one of the many restaurants that can operate at 100% capacity again. General manager Stacy Cheney said she can't even express how relieved she is to see more people inside the restaurant. Cheney said Kermit's took a hit when Governor Tate Reeves limited the number of people allowed to dine inside. The governor originally put restrictions on restaurants to help slow down the spread of the coronavirus. Tupelo city leaders decided to follow his recent decision to let restaurants operate at 100 percent capacity again.

4/22 The wait is almost over for Montgomery County residents to finally get their coronavirus vaccine right in their own county. The state will operate a drive-through vaccination site starting May 11 at the coliseum in Winona. Prior to that, people had to drive to Grenada or Greenwood to get the vaccine. The new vaccination site will allow volunteers to administer 200 vaccines every Tuesday for 8 weeks. Mayor Jerry Flowers said they will have transportation services available for people to get to the coliseum.

4/23 Folks in Starkville prepared their boilers as the Main Street Association hosted its first major event since the pandemic began with its annual King Cotton Crawfish Boil. The contest reached new heights selling out completely with 500 tickets sold and all 20 team spots filled. There were sanitization stations, and all tents were spaced out to keep social distancing.

4/29 Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi held their first in-person commencement ceremonies since the pandemic started. Restrictions were in place for those in attendance. For example, everyone at Humphrey Coliseum and The Pavilion had to wear a mask. There were also limits on how many people each graduate could invite.

4/30 Masks will still be required in schools through the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. That's according to Gov. Tate Reeves' latest executive order. This order goes into effect at 5 p.m. Friday, April 30. Mississippians are still encouraged to follow guidelines from the CDC and the Mississippi State Department of Health.

5/11 Mississippi will stop accepting supplemental unemployment benefits from the federal government next month, Republican Gov. Tate Reeves said Monday. Reeves said the weekly supplement of \$300 per person was intended to help people "who are unemployed through no fault of their own" because of the coronavirus pandemic. Alabama, Arkansas, Montana and South Carolina are also planning to stop accepting the \$300 federal supplement.

6/15 Governor Tate Reeves announced Mississippi's state of emergency concerning the coronavirus will end August 15. The National Guard's involvement concerning the coronavirus will end July 15.

5/29 Calhoun City's Chamber of Commerce brought energy to the city with its 50th annual Square Fest. Last year's event was canceled because of the coronavirus. The festival featured roughly 30 vendors from all over Mississippi. It also included music for festivalgoers and jumpers for the kids.

5/30 Hospital workers across Mississippi are seeing patients skip their appointments for the second dose of coronavirus vaccines. Amy Loggins works at the OCH Regional Medical Center helping administer coronavirus vaccines to patients at its weekly clinic. However, workers noticed some patients skipping their second dose appointments. Loggins said the first vaccine introduces the antibodies to your body. It's the second dose that gives immunity to the virus.

5/30 Starkville and Oxford found out they would host college baseball regionals, bringing a financial boost to communities that lost cash because of coronavirus restrictions. The NCAA canceled the baseball postseason last year due to the pandemic. This year, the success of Mississippi State and Ole Miss on the baseball diamond will bring visiting teams and fans to those communities.

6/11 Due to lagging demand for shots, Mississippi has transferred well over three-quarters of a million doses from its federal coronavirus vaccine allocation to other states, officials say. In recent months, the state has transferred 871,950 vaccine doses to Rhode Island, Maine and a nationwide vaccine pool, said Liz Sharlot, spokesperson for the Mississippi Department of Health. Maine is among the states in the U.S. with the highest vaccination rates.

6/11 Elvis fans from all over the country are in Tupelo for the annual Elvis Festival. The coronavirus dramatically changed the event last year making it a virtual-only event. The festival kicked off on Wednesday. On Friday, people competed in a competition designed for the best representation of Elvis. One fan drove from Tennessee to participate in what he described was an incredible event.

ISSUE

Law Enforcement

Program Title: WTVA 9 News

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: Police departments and sheriff's departments are charged with protecting and serving their communities. The internal workings of those departments can play a role in the quality of the service that is provided.

4/2 Tupelo Police Chief Bart Aguirre will retire at the end of June, he confirmed Friday afternoon. He told WTVA he's known for some time he planned to retire. With two deputy chiefs in place, he's confident they'll be able to manage the police department until a new chief is named. Mayor Jason Shelton is not seeking re-election, and the general election in June will determine his successor. The new mayor will then be able to appoint a new chief. Aguirre joined the Tupelo Police Department in 1985.

5/17 Aberdeen residents are remembering the life and service of police chief Henry Randle following his death on Sunday. The 50-year-old had been battling cancer. He was in his fourth term as Aberdeen's police chief, beginning in 2008. As for the future of the police department, Mayor Charles Scott said the city will hold a special election to fill the role on a permanent basis.

5/18 Saltillo Police Chief Grant Bailey is leaving the job at the end of the month. Bailey told WTVA 9 News he submitted his resignation on Monday. The reason? Bailey said he's taking a break from law enforcement. His resignation is effective May 31. City leaders selected Bill Roberts to serve as the interim chief.

6/3 The police chief at Ole Miss announced his retirement after 24 years with the campus police department. Ray Hawkins will retire on June 30, the university announced. He joined the University Police Department as a patrolman in 1996 and became chief in 2018.

6/9 Actor Morgan Freeman and a criminal justice professor at the University of Mississippi are donating \$1 million to the university to establish a Center for Evidence-Based Policing and Reform. The university's Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies says the center eventually will train police from Mississippi and around the country. It will include training on how police can better engage the community in crime prevention.

6/23 Two more names will appear on the July 6 ballot to fill the police chief vacancy. Qualifying for the election ended on June 16, and election commissioners initially qualified candidates, [Christopher Dobbins and Quinell Shumpert](#). Commissioners disqualified candidates Tony Tillman and Lee Johnson. However, a hearing held Wednesday morning changed that initial ruling. Aberdeen City Clerk Melissa Moore said Tillman and Johnson will appear on the ballot.

6/23 On Monday, the Saltillo Board of Aldermen approved the appointment of Daniel McKinney as chief of police. The board also approved Jeff Brown as assistant chief of police. McKinney fills the vacancy previously held by Grant Bailey who resigned in May.

6/28 The Mississippi Highway Patrol is putting dozens of new troopers on the road this week. Cadet Class 65 will graduate Wednesday from the training academy. The graduation followed 22 weeks of intense law enforcement training. These new troopers will undergo an additional 12 weeks of riding with a field training officer before patrolling alone.

ISSUE

Missing Persons

Program Title: WTVA 9 News

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: Law enforcement calls upon us from time to time to share information in hopes of finding a missing person. Sometimes, that sharing of information can be successful. Other times, the search ends with family and friends getting an unwelcome outcome.

4/29 Gordo police are asking for help locating a missing toddler. Khilan Bell, 3, was last seen on Thursday, April 29 in the area of Sixth Street NW at 12:45 p.m. in [Gordo](#). He may be traveling in a gray 2012 Nissan Altima with a Georgia license plate - QFJ8959. Anyone with information about his whereabouts is asked to call the Gordo Police Department at 205-367-9373 or call 911. Bell was found safe in neighboring Georgia.

5/26 The Tupelo mayor's office requested help from social media to find a missing 85-year-old man. Through a post on Facebook, the City of Tupelo - Mayor's Office said William Jumper was last seen Tuesday afternoon around 3. He was heading west from I-22 and Veterans Blvd. in a four-door, gray 2009 Chevrolet truck with a Prentiss County tag. He was wearing a blue-buttoned down shirt with white squares and khaki pants. The Verona police chief found him the next day on Highway 45 in Baldwin okay.

5/27 The Oktibbeha County sheriff said deputies found the body of a missing man. Sheriff Steve Gladney said searchers found the body of Darryl Harvey, 39, Wednesday afternoon. Firefighters, deputies, EMA personnel and OCH Regional Medical Center Employees searched an area off Brown Road in the county. Law enforcement reported Harvey missing on Tuesday morning after a landowner spotted his truck late Monday evening.

6/4 Grenada police investigators are trying to determine what happened to Jacqueline Gardner, 58, whose family has not seen her since May 29. According to Police Chief George Douglas, the woman left Tupelo on May 27 for Grenada. A family member claimed Gardner was supposedly with two men in an unknown vehicle. Grenada police later found her vehicle on June 3 at a convenience store at the corner of Fairfield Avenue and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

6/15 Corinth police are asking the public for help locating Michelle Lynn Flake. Someone last saw the 49-year-old on April 29 at the Southern Motel in Corinth. Anyone with information about her whereabouts is asked to call the Corinth Police Department at 662-286-3377. Police reported the next day she was safe and okay.

NATIONAL

ISSUE

Economy

Program Title: WTVA 9 News

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: The pandemic put a dent in the economy, but it started picking up with the easing of coronavirus restrictions. At least one company announced an expansion in the Magnolia state as well

as a new plant. One local company was an example of businesses big and small, however, in that it had jobs to fill but had a tough time filling them.

4/20 Power tools manufacturer Milwaukee Tool is bringing 1,200 new jobs to Mississippi. Eight hundred of these jobs will be in a new facility in Grenada, and the remaining 400 will be across the company's existing locations in Mississippi. Milwaukee Tool has operations in Greenwood, Jackson and Olive Branch. In Grenada, the company will build a 500,000-square-foot facility in Grenada County's I-55 Business and Technology Park.

5/24 The Franklin Corporation wants to provide jobs to 102 people. Human Resource Manager John Atkinson said he has many positions to fill, especially in upholstery. Atkinson said people don't need to meet any educational requirements in order to apply. Administrators will teach them what they need to know and help them advance in the company.

ISSUE

President Biden on gun violence

Date: 4/8

Time: 11 am on WTVA

Duration: 26 minutes

Detailed Description: President [Joe Biden announced limited steps](#), using his executive power to address gun violence Thursday -- three weeks after three mass shootings and [under pressure to act](#). Biden announced six actions, including asking the Department of Justice to issue a proposed rule to regulate the sale of so-called "ghost guns" within 30 days. Those firearms are assembled from kits of parts purchased online and don't have serial numbers, making them difficult to track.

Public Service Campaigns

Program Title: N/A

Date: N/A

Time: N/A

Duration: N/A

Detailed Description: N/A