



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

### **2nd Quarter 2023**

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. (simulcast)

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

Emergency Responders

Crime

Community Infrastructure

Education

Political Elections

Job Creation

## **LOCAL:**

### **ISSUE**

#### **Severe Weather**

Program Title: WTVA 9 News

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: The severe weather that ended the first quarter carried over into the current quarter with a tornado touching down in multiple counties locally. There were still effects from a major tornado that tore through one local community in March, and that dominated much of the weather coverage not tied to severe storms happening in the moment. The quarter ended with a string of days with intense heat.

4/1 An overnight tornado leaves behind a trail of damage in the College Hill area of Pontotoc County, in Tupelo in the area of the Cooper Tire plant and in northern Lee County.

4/3 The coroner in Pontotoc County identified the man who died in the weekend tornado as 55-year-old James Dean.

4/3 People in the Golden area of Tishomingo County are recovering from what appeared to be a tornado that touched down over the weekend.

4/3 State and federal emergency management have set up recovery centers in Amory to help victims from the March 23 tornado.

4/4 Governor Tate Reeves declared a state of emergency for Pontotoc, Tishomingo and Lee counties following Saturday's tornado.

4/4 The local non-profit organization Eight Days of Hope says it will extend its relief efforts in Monroe County beyond what was originally planned.

4/5 Amory aldermen adjust the curfew hours and the area where it will be enforced as progress is made in the recovery from last month's tornado.

4/6 Community leaders in Mooreville say they are looking for grant money to get larger storm shelters.

4/7 A disaster relief center will open Monday in Winona for those affected by last month's tornado.

4/10 Schools will reopen in Amory tomorrow after last month's tornado, but school buses will not run because of the damage to them caused by the twister.

4/13 People living at the Moore Manor Apartments in Amory are trying to find another place to live after last month's tornado caused too much damage for them to return.

4/13 St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Amory handed out more than 800 meals to storm survivors, first responders and other workers in the aftermath of last month's tornado.

4/19 Grenada County is getting eleven new tornado sirens—six for the county and five for the city.

4/19 Amory High School will hold its graduation ceremony at Itawamba Community College in Fulton because the March tornado severely damaged the football stadium.

4/20 Amory police announced it has lifted the citywide curfew that went into effect immediately after last month's tornado.

4/26 The Mississippi Department of Mental Health is offering free crisis counseling to storm survivors in several counties.

4/28 Cooper Tire says it expects to restart production by June after the April 1 tornado caused significant damage to the tire plant.

5/9 May 25 is the last day storm victims in Monroe County can apply for disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

5/12 Monroe County is asking storm victims to have their debris moved to the roadside by next Friday for a final pickup.

5/12 The Mississippi National Guard says it does plan to rebuild the armory in Amory that was damaged in the March tornado, but the process will take time.

5/29 Amory says the deadline for storm victims to get debris to the road for a final pickup is one week from today.

6/12 Severe storms on Sunday left behind damage to homes and trees in Tupelo as well as Itawamba and Chickasaw counties.

6/15 Farmers in Noxubee County are concerned after severe thunderstorms that produced large hail damaged their crops.

6/19 A judge set bond for two people in Monroe County who posed as storm victims and prevented real storm victims from getting government assistance.

6/23 Tupelo High School will host Amory High School for home football games since the Panthers lost their stadium in the March tornado.

6/26 People are without electricity in Tippah County after Sunday storms knocked down power lines.

6/29 The region starts the first of three days with excessive heat that is sending the heat index close to 110 degrees.

## **ISSUE**

### **Emergency responders**

Program Title: WTVA 9 News

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: Staffing issues with police and fire departments played a part in news coverage concerning this issue. Some are able to fill open slots. Others still struggle to find the right applicants. This comes as volunteer firefighters get a financial incentive through the state to stay on the job as a reward for years of service.

4/4 Calhoun City hires Yalobusha County Lieutenant Ralph Horton as its new chief of police.

4/18 Governor Tate Reeves signs a bill into law that allows volunteer firefighters to receive up to \$500 a year and \$10,000 after 20 years of service.

4/21 Columbus city leaders hire two guards to work at City Hall to keep employees safe.

5/3 Itawamba County Sheriff's Captain Josh Hill talks about the dangers of law enforcement after three officer-involved shootings in Mississippi over the past two days.

5/10 Okolona Fire Chief Terry Tucker is leaving his job to take a fire equipment sales job in Tupelo.

5/10 Police in West Point plan to hold a junior police academy with hopes that could help young people consider a career in law enforcement.

5/16 Union County Sheriff Jimmy Edwards says his department is now fully staffed but says recruitment is still difficult because agencies can't pay people like other agencies can.

5/18 Starkville Fire Chief Charles Yarbrough says he has ten spots to fill in his department and adds it is a problem with fire departments across America.

5/25 Police in West Point get a bulletproof and stab protective vest donated by a national law enforcement organization.

6/8 Three Booneville police officers are suspended with pay while an internal investigation is underway in connection with what happened to a homeless man.

6/13 Two police officers in West Point recently underwent training to better serve those with mental illness.

6/22 Mississippi State University announces that Kenneth Rogers will take over as chief for its police department.

## **ISSUE**

### **Crime**

Program Title: WTVA 9 News

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: Homicides highlight the coverage of crime during the second quarter with killings in Starkville, Columbus, Clay County and Lee County. Columbus dealt with a string of shootings that included a mass shooting at a sports bar. And Tupelo had a road rage incident at one of its busiest intersections -- a crime that is a rarity in this part of the country.

4/5 Police in Starkville arrest Tyshawn Henley of Columbus and charge him with capital murder in the city's first homicide of 2023.

4/7 A shooting in Hamilton leaves two women dead in an act of violence that may have been triggered by an argument between the two.

4/28 Lowndes County Sheriff Eddie Hawkins says his deputies recovered two pistols that have been altered to fire like automatic weapons.

5/3 Starkville is installing surveillance cameras hoping that will help curb violent crime in the city.

5/22 Aberdeen Police Chief Quinell Shumpert says he expects with summer's arrival that the number of crimes will go up, but he adds he hopes to address that with increased policing.

5/23 Tupelo police arrest a 19-year-old man accused of killing his teenage girlfriend in Chickasaw County and bringing the body to Tupelo in the trunk of his car.

5/26 Clay County Sheriff Eddie Scott says the suspect in the recent murder of his teenage girlfriend is going to Parchman to start serving a life sentence for armed robbery in an unrelated case.

- 5/27 Columbus police arrest a man accused of shooting five people at a sports bar the night before, killing one of them.
- 5/30 Lee County sheriff's investigators are looking into a homicide near Guntown that left 70-year-old Randy Price dead in his home.
- 5/31 Starkville police arrest 12 people officers say were involved in a massive gambling ring, the second such illegal gambling bust this month.
- 5/31 Police in Columbus create a new unit that will handle hot calls, which range from a shots fired call to an armed robbery.
- 6/1 A military veteran is arrested accused of killing his neighbor in Corinth.
- 6/2 Prayer in the Park was held in West Point where organizers ask people to pray against gun violence.
- 6/7 A man is in jail accused of threatening to kill Lowndes County Sheriff Eddie Hawkins.
- 6/9 The president of Pontotoc Electric Power Association was arrested on the Natchez Trace Parkway as part of a sting to stop public sex along the thoroughfare.
- 6/9 Shots were fired on Interstate 22 at Highway 45 in a rare case of road rage, which hampered traffic in the middle of the day and prompted a special report interrupting regular programming.
- 6/20 Lowndes County sheriff's investigators are trying to solve a homicide involving a woman whose body was found in her home near Caledonia.
- 6/22 Louisville police release the name of the man under arrest for a recent homicide in the city where someone was fatally wounded in a shooting.
- 6/23 Phillip House is charged with murder in the shooting death of his girlfriend this week at her home near Caledonia.
- 6/23 The federal government is providing \$10 million in projects aimed at preventing flooding in Calhoun City and Calhoun County.

## **ISSUE**

### **Community Infrastructure**

Program Title: WTVA 9 News

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: Progress is being made on road improvements, which include a new highway in Itawamba County that helps make the drive into Northwest Alabama much safer and quicker. One city tries again to get a tourism tax passed by voters. And city leaders in another community eventually reach agreement on how much to spend on improving one of its parks.

4/10 A new four-lane highway will open tomorrow in Itawamba County east of Fulton that will take traffic off of two-lane Highway 23 that leads to Red Bay, Alabama.

4/18 Aldermen in Starkville may raise sanitation bills by \$3.25 to cover the cost of operations.

4/19 The Mississippi Department of Transportation says it completed the replacement of two bridges on Highway 245 near Shannon.

5/1 State wildlife officers reopened the office at Elvis Presley Lake and plan to reopen the lake and campground to the public next year.

5/4 Saltillo plans to build a new two-story fire station with state money and a land donation from Lee County.

5/8 Fulton is receiving \$2.3 million from the state to improve the city's water and wastewater systems.

5/15 The mayor and city council in Columbus are struggling to reach agreement on how to make improvements at Propst Park as well as how much money should be spent.

5/16 Winona is getting a new wastewater treatment plant, an elevated water tank and a water well, which Mayor Aaron Dees says should help improve water pressure.

5/17 Columbus city leaders agree to borrow \$3 million to make improvements to Propst Park.

5/22 Fulton will try again next month to raise hotel and restaurant taxes to raise money for park improvements by holding a referendum.

5/24 Paving is completed in Fulton on a road that leads to Walmart — a road which was in desperate need of repair.

5/31 New Albany police have moved into a new home for the police department — a building that used to be a pharmacy.

6/7 The Mississippi Department of Transportation says paving work on Highway 45 Alternate between Shannon and West Point should be completed this fall.

6/13 Work is starting in Fulton on a nearly \$6.5 project on Highway 25 at Interstate 22 to add lanes and traffic signals to improve traffic flow going to the interchange.

## **ISSUE**

### **Education**

Program Title: WTVA 9 News

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: One major school district in the area found its new leader while a longtime special school that attracts students from across the Magnolia State goes public with the possibility of moving from one end of the Golden Triangle to the other.

4/11 Leaders of the Mississippi School for Math and Science are considering a move of the school from the Mississippi University for Women to Mississippi State University.

5/5 The Columbus school board selects Dr. Stanley Ellis, an assistant superintendent in Tunica County, as the new superintendent for the city schools.

## **ISSUE**

### **Political Elections**

Program Title: WTVA 9 News

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: A handful of communities held special elections to fill open seats, but the elections for some of the state's highest offices started to come into focus with visits by candidates for governor and lieutenant governor. There was also an unusual circumstance involving an alderwoman being arrested during a board meeting.

4/17 The four Republicans running for lieutenant governor appeared on a stage in West Point to make a case as to why voters should choose one of them.

4/18 Jay Hughes and Rosalind Key emerged from a group of seven candidates to advance to a runoff in Pontotoc Ward 1 that will decide who should fill an open seat on the Board of Aldermen.

4/24 Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann told local leaders in Tupelo the Legislature passed the largest infrastructure bill in the state's history, which includes \$20 million in water and sewer work.

5/2 Shea Cain won a special election on the Aberdeen Board of Aldermen to serve the remainder of John Allen's term representing Ward 5.

5/10 Chad King and Sandra Pope advanced to a May 23 runoff election for the open Ward 3 seat on the Bruce Board of Aldermen.



5/10 Governor Tate Reeves reports having more than \$9 million cash in hand for his reelection campaign while challenger Brandon Presley reports only having \$1.6 million on hand.

5/30 A judge ruled the Mississippi Democratic Party improperly removed Bob Hickingbottom from the race for governor in the August 8 primary.

5/31 Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann visited Booneville and said his track record exceeds the accomplishments of any of his opponents in his reelection bid.

6/19 Tippah County Circuit Clerk Randy Graves, the person who oversees administration of elections, passed away over the weekend.

6/21 Winona Alderwoman Sylvia Clark was arrested for refusing to leave last night's board meeting when ordered to by Mayor Aaron Dees.

6/21 Governor Tate Reeves is criticized for leaving the state for a GOP fundraiser during a week where tornadoes left behind damage in Jasper and Jackson counties.

## **ISSUE**

### **Job creation**

Program Title: WTVA 9 News

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: A couple of companies shared their plans to bring jobs to the region. By no means were they as significant as the one announced for the Golden Triangle months earlier labeled as the largest such economic development project in state history. Still, one of the two projects this quarter is bringing jobs to an area that is not usually seen as an obvious location for such projects.

6/7 Huber Engineered Woods plans to build a plant in Shuqualak that will produce wood to be used in building homes and will bring 150 jobs to the area.

6/13 Hush Aerospace will start manufacturing operations near Tupelo to help the domestic drone market and create 80 jobs in a nearly \$14 million investment.

### **Local Public Service Campaigns**

## **ISSUE**

Opioid Abuse

Program Title: "Stigma" Public Service Announcement

Date: 4/7/23 – 5/5/23

Time: ROS

Duration: :30s

Detailed Description: We ran 98 PSA spots to promote the Southwest Mississippi Opioid Abuse Response Program. This PSA spot describes the different ways that help is available to anyone that has suffered from issues surrounding Opioid Abuse. The spot was supplied by the Mississippi Association of Broadcasters.

## **ISSUE**

National Guard

Program Title: National Guard

Date: 4/1/23 – 6/25/23

Time: ROS

Duration: :30s

Detailed Description: We ran 182 PSA spots to promote the Mississippi National Guard. These PSA spots encourage those who would choose to serve the National Guard to register or go online for more information. The spot was supplied by the Mississippi Association of Broadcasters.

## **ISSUE**

Voter Rights

Program Title: Our Voice, Our Vote

Date: 4/1/23 – 6/25/23

Time: ROS

Duration: :15s & :30s

Detailed Description: We ran 181 PSA spots to promote Mississippi Votes and One Voice and their efforts to help people regain voting rights after past criminal convictions based on new legislature surrounding the topic. The spot was supplied by the Mississippi Association of Broadcasters.