

WIYC Programs and Issues

Fourth Quarter 2023 Report

October 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023

WIYC is a COZI TV affiliated television station licensed to Troy, Alabama and serves the Black Belt and River Region of Central Alabama, including Montgomery, Alabama.

WIYC is owned by Montgomery, TV License Company, LLC and is the sister station to WCOV and WALE (low power television station). The ownership transfer to Montgomery, TV License Company, LLC from Woods Communications Corporation was completed in 2nd quarter.

Improvement of operational facilities continues to be in process to serve viewers with better over the air reception of an excellent quality signal. Already, a more powerful transmitter, antenna and a back-up operations system have been installed to improve reach and ensure technical ability to broadcast. WIYC's viewers are served by the continued operational improvements to the technical facility.

Serving the needs of our viewers, WIYC participates in the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Improvement is planned to implement other non-weather-related news breaking notifications.

Issues that are addressed with programming include:

1. **Personal Development.** Information provided educates viewers about various science topics and the practical and commercial implementation of science. Information is provided to increase understanding of the global community. Individual inspirational stories and exposure to opportunities are addressed.
2. **Professional Development.** Exposure to career and lifestyle alternatives are provided to enable awareness of a broad selection of choices.
3. **Education.** Program material shared results in increased viewer knowledge in areas including science, technology, environmental stewardship, healthy cooking, physical fitness, civics, and a variety of other training material presented in an entertaining and engaging manner.
4. **Resources.** Services available to address physical, mental, and social needs are communicated.
5. **Safety.** Safety includes physical safety, as well as security of health and family.

The COZI TV network broadcasts an American programming block called “The More You Know.” This programming block meets federally mandated educational and informational programming guidelines. PSAs are also aired during these programs. Programs included are:

Earth Odyssey with Dylan Dreyer
One Team – The Power of Sports
Roots Less Traveled
Vets Saving Pets
Voyager with Josh Garcia
Wild Child

Cozi Program Summaries

Sunday from 8:00am to 11:00am

Earth Odyssey with Dylan Dreyer – E/I, K13-16 Earth Odyssey with Dylan Dreyer is a live action, half-hour television program designed to meet the educational and informational needs of children 13-16. This program will take viewers on an incredible journey to the wildest points on the globe, uncovering the connection between the environment, the wildlife, and human beings that surround them. Hosted by Meteorologist Dylan Dreyer, the program will reveal a new destination each week, ranging from Africa, Indochina, the Middle East, and many untamed islands around the world. Audiences will come face to face with fascinating native animals, some cute and some dangerous, while educating teen viewers with amazing facts about nature and wildlife. Earth Odyssey with Dylan Dreyer gives audiences a captivating look at the symbiosis between all living things in the larger-than-life places on Earth.

One Team: The Power of Sports – E/I, K13-16 “One Team: The Power of Sports” is a live action, half-hour television program designed to meet the educational and informational needs of children aged 13-16. This program features stories that focus on diversity, inclusion and how sports often bring people together for a common goal that goes beyond the playing field. Hosted by Corey Robinson, this series shines a light on people who have used sports to overcome obstacles or to help their community. Viewers will learn the value of acceptance, and how everyone deserves a fair shot in life. No matter the level of competition, “One Team: The Power of Sports” demonstrates the impact sports can have on people, regardless of their gender, background, or the color of their skin.

Roots Less Traveled – E/I, K13-16 - Two family members, often from different generations, gain a newfound understanding and respect for each other as they set out on a quest to learn more about their family history by solving a mystery in their family tree. The duos discover the truth behind the tales that have been passed down in their family, from rumors of a relative who sailed on the Titanic to stories of homesteaders forging a new path for future generations. On journeys to unique places around the globe, these family members grow closer as they gain wisdom not only about themselves, but also about how their past has helped shape their present.

Vets Saving Pets, - E/I, K13-16 Vets Saving Pets is a live action, half hour television program designed to meet the educational and informational needs of children aged 13-16. This program examines the interpersonal stories of veterinary professionals working to save the lives of animals in need of urgent medical care. Vests Saving pets takes place at the Emergency Veterinary Trauma Center in Toronto, one of the busiest veterinary facilities in Canada. Viewers are exposed to new emergency cases that will teach audiences about the wide array of specialties within veterinary medicine such as critical care, oncology, cardiology, neurology, anesthesiology, dermatology,

dentistry, and surgery. Audiences will witness first-hand the dedication and determination of these veterinary specialists as they work tirelessly to save their animal patients.

The Voyager with Josh Garcia - E/I, K13-16 with the world traveler as our guide, “The Voyager with Josh Garcia” takes audiences on an exciting and culturally rich voyage around the globe. Traveling by ocean, each episode brings audiences to the world’s most incredible destinations as we join Josh on a personal journey to discover, understand and immerse in the hidden beauty, diverse traditions and unique cuisine each port has to offer. As we meet local cultural experts, learn authentic regional stories, and taste indigenous dishes, Josh inspires us to celebrate and explore the people, places, and cultures of our world.

Wild Child - E/I, K13-16 Wild Child is a live-action, half hour television program designed to meet the educational needs of children aged 13-16. “Wild Child” will take viewers on an adventure to meet the cutest, most curious, most fascinating baby animals on the planet. Along the journey, audiences will witness the incredible bond that exists within the animal kingdom between parents and their children. Hosted by Sheinelle Jones, “Wild Child” will reveal how these untamed youngsters are born, how they play and how they learn to survive in the wild. Each week, viewers will witness a wide variety of wild animal children in their first years on Earth as they overcome environmental challenges and threats from predators.

We are currently working to add additional entertaining and informational programming on WIYC. The primary affiliation, COZI TV network, broadcasts America’s most beloved and iconic television series from the NBC / Universal library to provide an entertaining experience to WIYC viewers. MyNet, Hero’s and Icons, Court TV Mystery, TBD, Comet, and Charge! are current WIYC program offerings. Continued improvement of programming is in progress.

News at 9

**WIYC FOX NEWS AT NINE
MONDAY – FRIDAY 9:00PM TO 9:35PM**

WIYC Fox News at Nine delivers information regarding local community events, crime, weather, sports, business and economic updates, education, and political information.

10/1/2023 – Community Events

- It was a beautiful day to spend some time outside, and that's just what *many* people did at Hampstead’s food truck takeover. Hundreds of people gathered from noon to three at Hampstead’s town center. To choose the perfect meal from ten food trucks parked all around. The band "blackberry breeze" is from Dadeville. Kept everyone moving with their cool tunes and even

the dogs had a great time socializing. If you missed it today, don't worry, the next food truck takeover will be held next month on Sunday November 5th

- Our 9th annual Tickled Pink Fundraiser kicked off with excitement and expectation I enjoy events like this I come every year except the very first year they did it I have never been before and I was just curious as to what it's like to be among people who are supporting breast cancer and the things I've gone through Each year this even brings the community together in hopes to having fun, giving back and raising awareness I just always enjoy coming down here to the tickled pink and just the atmosphere here and the fact that it is for breast cancer awareness although breast cancer is widely known to affect women more than 2,000 men are diagnosed each year When I first learned that men can get breast cancer as well I was sort of startled. And so, yeah, I pay close attention to it. I find myself checking myself and I share it with male friends of mine so I think it's good awareness this event isn't just about cancer or just for cancer survivors it's about wellness, total healing and maintaining the body we're blessed with There's so much information that is available here you can get information on how to screen for the cancer and everything and on what you need to do and then you meet survivors and everything and people who are going through treatment and it's just, you can be a blessing to someone and they can be a blessing to you all at the same time.

10/2/2023 – Education and Development

- You only get one chance to build a new high school and we want to make sure that this is right because we want this high school to be something that we can use for the next 75 to 100 years. The town of Pike Road is growing and with that growth new educational steps are necessary. With the growth of Pike Road, it is important to me that where we land this school is in a spot where traffic, my kids can get on and off safely, I have sewer that is going to be there and the infrastructure surrounding it can absorb what that school needs to be now and what it needs to be in the future. Pike road residents passed a tax increase in 2021 to help assist the Board of Education in funding a new high school originally set to open fall 2025. What we realized with the Board of Education is that the original nineteen miles was not quite enough to cover what we were going to need to build the new high school. More than a year later residents are seeing those tax hikes take effect with some paying more than triple their yearly property taxes, but no new high school is in sight. With the original 19 mils we were looking at about 55 million dollars that the board of education could secure, between 55 and 60, again it was not enough and what we did through our partnership we were able to secure 98 million which we do feel will build the new high school. Although there have been bumps in the road the goal remains. We're close to announcing here's where we're going with the high school and then hopefully put some renderings out there within the next 30 to 45 days. That was Teresa Lawson reporting. Pike Road High School currently uses the old Georgia Washington Middle School building that it purchased from Montgomery Public Schools. More information about the new High's School's design and location will be announced during Pike road's State of the School address on October 19th.

10/3/2023 – Community Events

- The Alabama National Fair is just days away. and the community is gearing up to see what's new this year. Reporter Teresa Lawson has more. It's one of the most exciting times of the year for

people in the river region, I'm talking about the start of the Alabama national fair of course and with so much to do and see I can't be the only one looking forward to food and rides and prizes. Oh my! The Alabama National Fair is celebrating 70 years and boy has it grown. This year's fair is sure to be fun filled with 10 days of attractions, and competitions, special events and the new taste of the fair which allows you to taste all the fair has to offer while donating to the cancer wellness foundation. Taste of the fair is something we came up with. On Thursday night you can come out and buy tickets and then come back and taste everything that the fair has to offer. You get samples and it's a good way to see what you like and what you don't like. Before coming out this year here are a few things you should keep in mind. Everyone 17 years old and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Parking is \$5 for each vehicle for each night. You can only bring small clutch purses or clear bags into the fair Weapons are Prohibited It's going to be big fun here this Friday as the doors open to the public, whether you're young or young at heart there is something here for you! Reporting from The Alabama National Fair grounds for Action 8 News, Teresa Lawson. Back to you. The fair opens October 6th at 4:00 p.m. with \$1 admission after 5:00 PM. Just bring a non-perishable donation for the Food Bank

10/4/2023 – Public Safety, Education and Development

- Parents and preschool Students in Greenville got the chance to meet and greet community helpers today while learning the importance of wearing seat restraints. They also were taught what to do and who to call during emergencies. Reporter Teresa Lawson has more. Oh, you can see from their faces that they are vin aw they are so excited to meet our community helpers. Meeting our community helpers is a fun way to introduce children to those who create the safe areas we call home. This event is put on by healthy kids which is a non-profit we serve several counties in Alabama and our parents and teachers' program is the one that's hosting it so we're glad to have them in our community. Firemen, police, linemen, city workers all work to keep our neighborhoods safe parents must do the same to ensure our children's safety. Community events like this not only introduce children on who to call, and where to go if there is an emergency, it also lets parents know the threats and the benefits of keeping their children safe. According to the CDC Parents and caregivers can reduce the risk of serious injuries and death by 80% by simply buckling their children up in the correct car seat or booster seat whether the car ride is close to home or far off. Most car accidents happen within two miles from our homes and we're more comfortable during those times. That's more than a thousand children injured or killed per year. So, we want the children to be safe whether in the car or in the home and days like today bring awareness, so we have more of an informed mindset that number enough for law enforcement to demonstrate what happens whenever seat belts aren't in use. So, every time you get in a vehicle and especially every time Mom and Dad put a seatbelt on you keep it on you, but you can also be my little helper and make sure your little brother or sister or even a friend is buckled in, ok? Can we do that? Thank you. In Greenville for Action 8 News, Teresa Lawson. The Healthy Kids Foundation also gave away free car seats and booster seats to parents. to help ensure the children are safe while riding inside vehicles.

10/5/2023 – Civic Affairs. Civil Rights

- The judges stepped in after they said the Legislature failed to do its job to create a second majority-Black district, or something close to it. in order to comply with the Voting Rights Act.

The new map changes District 2, which includes Montgomery, and is represented by Republican Barry Moore. The number of Black voters in the district will jump from fewer than one-third to nearly half. This new map will be used for next year's elections

10/7/2023 – Community Events

- The Millbrook families got to enjoy a fun annual event today. The Millbrook police department held its 13-th annual cops and kids' day at village green park. The free event is geared toward young people to give them the opportunity to interact with local police officers, firefighters, and other public safety officials. All guests were able to see and get inside law enforcement and first responder vehicles to see how they work. The Millbrook police department strives to have a good relationship with the local community and show them a different side to law enforcement. "there's so much negativity, if you watch the news or some of the hard shows around today, they show what we do but that's just a part of what we do. There are so many other things that law enforcement does besides putting people in jail and writing tickets. We're actually here to help our community and days like today give the opportunity for them to see the other side and we want them to see, and we want to be transparent about what our jobs are and what we do." the event also had k-9 demonstrations along with fair food, games, and a lot of children activities.

10/8/2023 – Health Issues

- New research is shining a light on the importance of diagnosing depression and how effective screening can help *identify* people considering suicide. Mandy Gaither has a look at the study in today's health minute it's one of the leading causes of death in the u-s more people died from suicide last year than any other year on record -- according to provisional data craig Bryan, clinical psychologist, the Ohio state college of medicine/"one of the key aspects of preventing suicide is being able to identify individuals who are most vulnerable to attempting suicide." that's why craig Bryan and his colleagues at the Ohio state college of medicine and Wesleyan university started studying patient screening methods at primary care clinics the researchers believed traditional screening for suicidal thoughts would be most effective at identifying which patients were most likely to attempt suicide but that wasn't what they found. Craig Bryan, clinical psychologist, the Ohio state college of medicine/"the key finding was that the most effective way to identify patients who would eventually attempt suicide was to screen them for depression." the researchers found that screening for depression correctly identified more patients who would go on to attempt suicide than traditional suicide screening. Craig Bryan, clinical psychologist, the Ohio state college of medicine/"primary care healthcare providers should really be focusing on identifying patients who have depression and that might serve as a gateway for determining who might need additional treatment in intervention and prevent suicide." for health minute, I'm Mandy Gaither.

10/9/2023 – Economic Development

- Last Saturday marked 3 months since the opening of Montgomery Whitewater. Today, action 8 got an update with park officials to see how it's going as it gets colder. Whitewater has seen about 7500 rafters in their first season. Attendance has been increasing but has fallen off since schools

reopened. IN October there's a full list of activities and bands. All the events are free. Montgomery Whitewater ALSO started a 5K run club last Thursday evening that will meet on Thursdays at six. this winter, they're starting building phase 2, starting with a rope course and mountain bike trails. Once school got back in session we started cutting the water back we don't want to run the water quite as often will turn it off Monday Tuesday and Wednesday now a days and just want to Thursday through Sunday I suspect we will do the same thing through November and then once November is complete right around Thanksgiving or so we'll probably cut the water off minus weekends probably unless we have group sales that are booked you know we're basically holding the water in the lower pond so we can turn it on at any time so we are essentially going to run off of events and sales over the winter and then ramp up for next spring. For more information about Montgomery Whitewater. visit their website montgomerywhitewater.com.

10/10/2023 – Crime Prevention, Public Safety, Community Events

- Domestic violence is something that affects many people across the state. contrary to popular belief, domestic abuse or living in a toxic home environment isn't confined to physical abused, and it can happen to both men and women. Reporter Teresa Lawson explains. That's why highlighting the dangers of domestic violence during the month of October is so important. Especially for places like the One Place Family Justice Center-- Giving those in the river region a safe place of refuge. Offering a full range of services from medical care to food and clothing for those who find themselves in a home life environment that they may have had to leave their home with little more than the clothes on their backs, risking everything just to escape. So, this is our clothes closet where we have all of this whole area is where we have our replacement clothes and we have everything that someone might need, we have toiletries we have underwear we have shirts and pants diapers and onesies we have bags. Any item that someone might need. Typically, when someone comes to us, they come with just what they have on their backs, and we want to make sure they leave with everything that they need to get them through the next few weeks. One Place Family Justice Center offers clothing, food assistance, medical examinations, and temporary housing. in partnership with the family sunshine center.to help domestic abuse victims.

10/11/2023 – Volunteer Opportunities

- The Montgomery area council on aging has changed its name. The new name will be. Meals on wheels Montgomery Alabama metro area. The name change became official on October 1st. The mission is the same: providing homebound seniors with a nutritious meal and companionship. The organization currently provides meals for 631 seniors. Meals on wheels have been in Montgomery for over 50 years. delivering a hot nutritious meal to seniors. We feel that is the name will help our seniors who need our services find us as well as volunteers who would like to be a part of our mission to know who we are and what we do our main flagship program and then we are hoping to that businesses and individuals and clubs and organizations who want to be a part of serving seniors in our community we look up and there we are meals on wheels and they know what we do. Anyone wanting to have meals delivered, or to volunteer for the organization. Can call this numbers. it's 263-0532

10/12/2023 – Education and Development, Community Events

- Today Maxwell air force base had a visit from the 19th Air Force. plus, they hosted A school career expo. The 19th Air Force flew in, and a school career expo provided an opportunity for local high school students to get an idea of what it means. to be a part of the best flying force in the world. Students also had the opportunity to speak with the 19th Air Force aviators, AND to see the air frames. With the 19th Air Force they're going to have opportunities to speak with aviators maintainers see the air frames themselves but in addition to that they're going to have the opportunity to speak with airman as well as civilians who worked for the United States Air Force to get an understanding like I said a peek behind the curtain of what it looks like what are the career opportunities what if I wanted to join active duty service what if I want to do civilian service what does that look like what can I do. The first thing is its massive, it's huge, second is the planes, the airplanes are fascinating, they are cool and just seeing all the crewmembers the soldiers walking around it gives more of a better feeling more secure. 250 students from Eight schools attended the event.

10/13/2023 – Education and Development

- The Pike Road Schools Board has bought a 73-acre parcel of land for a new high school. the land is near the intersection of Wallahatchie Road and Pike Road. slightly across from the water tower. The closing is expected to happen on October 31ST, with the potential groundbreaking in early 2024. Details on the school's schematics, including parking facilities and comprehensive traffic plans will be revealed at the upcoming State of the Schools address on October 19th.

10/15/2023 – Public Safety, Crime Prevention

- On April 15, 2023, the unthinkable happened. 4 young people were killed, and 32 others injured when 89 shots were fired into the crowd celebrating a sweet sixteen birthday party at a dance studio in Dadeville. Now, it is up to District Attorney Mike Segrest and his ten assistant district attorneys to sift through the evidence and get ready to try the six defendants. D.A. Mike Segrest says, "There is such a voluminous amount of evidence in this case because of the number of victims, witnesses, forensic evidence, tens of thousands of pages of hospital records. Then the forensic evidence and reports on that." Segrest expects many pre-trial motions to be filed by defense attorneys including attempts to transfer the trial venue to another county and to separate the cases. D.A. Mike Segrest: "Right now as it stands, the first 5 defendants have been indicted together, so now they are co-defendants, so as it stands, it would be one trial and a motion to sever could be something we may have to face." Because jury terms are only held twice a year in Dadeville for two weeks at a time, if the 6 cases are tried separately, it could take three years to try all six cases. D.A. Mike Segrest says, " I believe justice delayed is justice denied and the accused need their day in court and the victims need closure and with a group of young people like this, they are going to be moving on with their lives going to college and the military this is unique because of the number of victims involved. " This case is close to Segrest's heart, and he recently invited LaTonya Allen-whose son Philstavious Dowdell was killed in the shooting, her daughter Alexis Dowdell, and Alexis's younger sister to see Drew Brees speak in Montgomery. D.A. Mike Segrest says, "This year they were recognizing victims of violent crime, and I was able to extend an invitation to all of the victims and their families and we had a great turnout." As it stands now, the District Attorney's office is AWAITING the final investigation report from ALEA. AND then they'll be able to put their trial plan together. Right now, because this is such a

complex case, they're still in the discovery phase. Each of the six defendants is charged with four counts of reckless murder and 25 counts of assault. Four of them have hearings scheduled for later this month

10/17/2023 – Health Issues

- The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, along with other state departments, has announced the Alabama Traumatic Brain Injury Summit. It's for professionals and others dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for patients. That includes service providers, social workers, caregivers, and brain injury survivors. We are right here at the end of registration we have I think it's about 30 spots remaining we certainly want all of the medical and service providers around the state who focus in this industry to attend to be part of this conversation and of course to take it back to their organizations and agencies and just better serve Alabamians we are really looking forward to having everybody to come in at Marriott in Birmingham on October 26th and just be present in that moment with the intentions of discussing TBI PTSD suicide and ways to better treat those who are experiencing those. The summit is October 26th at the Marriott in Birmingham. For more information, and to register, go to our website - w a k a dot com

10/19/2023 – Volunteer Opportunities, Resources

- The Salvation Army of Montgomery temporarily has a new home. The Salvation Army moved its administration offices and social services. from its previous location at the MAP Center. to a new building on Lomac Street. which is just off of Carmichael Road. The Army is leasing the facility until a permanent location can be determined. Officials with the organization say. the new location better serves the community and those needing assistance, like items from the food pantry. The food pantry is now equipped to allow clients to come in to *hand select* the things they need. "When you look through here the atmosphere just speaks for itself when you walk through the front door and the other piece of it. it's definitely one step to a long-term solution is finally starting you know after 10 months of being out of the other facility we're starting to see a little bit of light at the end of the tunnel now to go here is to work with the city and say hey let's take the next step so that we can continue to make impact upon people." Major Butch Frost said. since moving from the old location on Maxwell Boulevard, the Salvation Army has been able to house 200 individuals with 68 of those now settled in permanent housing during the last ten months. a new addition is coming soon to downtown Montgomery. the old colonial bank building on south perry street will now become an all-new luxury apartment home. called "The Banc." We reached out to the developer, but so far, no word on when it plans to open. stay with US for updates about the grand opening.

10/20/2023 – Education and Development

- Pike Road High School held their state of the school's address last night. And it addressed *more* than just how the schools are doing academically. The speech highlighted the progress

that students have made during the last few years. But the big thing that everyone wanted to know about. Was the update on the new pike road high school. It was officially decided that the new high school's location will be on Wallahatchie road. On 73 acres of land near the pike road water tower. The new school building will have a career tech center with stem labs, state of the art science labs, 2 gyms, and much more. The old high school building will be converted into a junior high school for grades six through eight. "In pike road, as long as we remain a solid school, matter of fact, a great school, we will continue to see growth. That's evident in what we're doing now and what we plan to do in the future. We know that with this high school, we're building it to grow into and then we will look as developers begin other developments in Pike Road, we'll look to add more elementary schools. We need those, but we're really excited about the new high school. This is going to be a game changer in this area." pike road superintendent dr. Keith Lankford hopes to see the start of construction. Sometime in March or April of 2024

10/21/2023 – Community Events, Public Safety, Education, Resources

- The Tenth annual Great Grits Cook off and festival was held today at the Bradford branch YMCA in Prattville. Hundreds of people young and old poured into the gates for the early morning event. The grits in the competition were judged on taste, presentation, and originality with prizes awarded in each category. In addition, a "People's Choice Award" was given to the team that received the most votes by attendees. All proceeds will benefit the Prattville YMCA's *Coach a Child* Scholarship Fund. There was also live music, bounce houses, arts, and crafts vendors, a Nitty Gritty 5k Race, and of course lots and lots of delicious grits. This is the 10th annual Gipson's tire pros Great grits cook off it's just a great day it's beautiful outside we've got 37 teams churches restaurants businesses nonprofits cooking grits to see who has the best grits in the River Region. It's so much fun just to come out and see people I mean grits is just a fun thing to do is something kind of different it's not like all of the other festivals that we have this time of the year I have my husband here he's the chef in the family so we just like to come out and support the Y and do all we can for our local community. I'm just ready to finish taste testing. I'm already full Brandon had so many different flavors that I really like. last year the Prattville YMCA distributed almost 330-thousand dollars in scholarships. benefiting more than three thousand individuals.

10/23/2023 – Community Events

- Bishop Parker furniture is celebrating 100 years of business in Montgomery. As Teresa Lawson shows us as times, and design styles have changed Bishop Parker has been a constant provider for families throughout the area. History is just kind of all-around you. The large picture to the gentleman on the left is my current business partner's grandfather. The gentleman on the right is my grandfather, they actually started it together in 1923. They worked together so well in the hardware business and decided to open a furniture store together. We were talking about the more things change the more they stay the same this gentleman here my grandfather this was his office and when he passed it was my father's office and when he passed it came down to me. So, there's been a Parker in this office since the early 70's. I think there would be a certain amount pride and a little bit of surprise because you do have to have a lot of family to keep a business going. The neat thing about this office is that everyone that I've known in the past 51 years that has worked for us has been in one of these offices around me. I've watched a lot of folks grow up they've watched me grow up and we've retired a lot pf folks in the last 100 years After A century of

business family is what descendants of Bishop Parker attributes to the secret sauce of success for Bishop Parker as times change and people change the more things change the more they remain the same Doing business for so long is call for honor, but what's the secret That was Teresa Lawson reporting. The company has two locations, on East South Boulevard and a Discount Warehouse on McGehee Road. Its downtown location is now a hotel, near the Alley.

10/25/2023 – Resources, Community Events, Economic Development

- Sturdivant Hall in Selma is getting ready to host its biggest annual fundraising event of the year. BBQ on the Green raises thousands of dollars each year to help with the operation and upkeep of one of the city's most historic sites. Organizers say it's also a fun way to promote and showcase the facility. The event is held on the property's scenic courtyard. Sturdivant Hall is a tourist attraction, a museum, and a venue for special occasions. Sturdivant Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was damaged during the January 12th tornado and this year's event will help with the repair efforts.

10/27/2023 – Economic Development

- The Montgomery Regional Airport is growing green. Airport officials broke ground today on an innovative new project to install new state-of-the-art BETA electric aircraft chargers at the airport. BETA chargers are designed to accommodate a wide range of electric aircraft. The technology rapidly charges batteries to help ensure quick turnarounds for flights while reducing the environmental impact. MGM is the first airport in Alabama to install charging facilities for electric aircraft. "Presently there are no electric aircraft in this region. It'll allow some to be based here, it'll allow transiting pilots. We're currently in discussions right now with an airline that is bringing on electric aircraft. So again, it opens up some unique opportunities here." Not only does it reflect groundbreaking changes for Montgomery Airport as it relates to sustainability and our vision for the future, but having the BETA technology here at this airport is something that will sustain us for years to come. Officials say the new infrastructure puts Montgomery Regional Airport. front and center in an emerging market.

10/28/2023 – Community Events

- If you were in downtown Montgomery, there were delicious smells coming from River Walk Stadium. That's because the Montgomery Lions Club's annual Chili Cook-off took place today. Restaurants and amateur teams from around the River Region competed for trophies and of course bragging rights about who has the best chili. Action 8 News was one of this year's sponsors, and We were up early this morning at Biscuit Stadium. preparing Chief Meteorologist Shane Butler's secret family chili recipe. for all to enjoy. There were winners in several categories. A girl scout troop, Central Restaurant, The Biscuits Culinary team, and "That's My Dog" Food Truck were just a few of the teams that won prizes or trophies today. Charlie Casmus Well, somebody gave me two free tickets and had to wake up early to get down here. I had to play last night. I play in a band, and we played at Jan's Beach House, so I'm recovering, this helps! We just came out today to get out of the house and have a good time enjoying the weather. I'd say Chili with beans is my favorite one just regular homestyle Chili. This was the 20th annual Chili cook-off. The proceeds will benefit outreach programs across Montgomery.

10/29/2023 – Resources, Volunteer Opportunity, Public Safety

- A Selma senior has a new home and a new lease on life thanks to the help of an organized group of good Samaritans. Reporter George McDonald has the story. Smiles and laughter filled the day as Selma tornado victim Lula Banks got a first look at her new home. I feel good, really good. And blessed. Banks had already been in the hospital for a week when the January 12th tornado tore up a third of the city. When she was released from the hospital two days later, she found out from her son that she didn't have a home to go back to. The tornado had ripped the roof off of her house, blown out all of the windows and scattered her belongings. I just cried when I got here, I just sat in the car and cried. I just saw a lot of devastation and I just started to. The only thing I could do was just cry. Banks' son later contacted Samaritan's Purse who just stepped in and went to work. We build homes to help people, you know, get back into a comfortable area. but we're doing this all in the name of Jesus Christ. It's a ministry for us. We get to do this because we have such good donors that believe in what Samaritan's Purse is doing. And what it's doing in addition to building and repairing homes is building relationships and repairing lives. But most of all it gives people hope in their time of need. And I just never thought that somebody would do such a thing. And knowing somebody has done that much, you really don't have the words. Samaritan's Purse has been in the Selma community helping homeowners recover from the tornado since January. From the WALE Newsroom, GM, Action 8 News. Samaritan's Purse has already started 23 of the 25 projects slated for the area. Ten are new home construction projects, 13 are home repairs and all the work is done at no cost to the homeowner.

10/30/2023 – Community Events

- The 4th annual Photographic Nights of Selma is part of a three-part international photography festival series. Organizers say the purpose of the event is to celebrate photography as an art form and to promote the city of Selma and its rich history. The event features photography exhibits, presentations, and screenings of over two dozen photographers. "That is at 7 pm Friday night and Saturday night. And it's going to be 15 different bodies of work presented on the big screen outside. And the work is actually set to music that's been composed for that body of work." The event is open and free to the public. A schedule of activities is available at photographic-nights-of-selma.com.

10/31/2023 – Public Safety

- When temperatures drop the number of house fires rises. The American Red Cross says house fires jump 37-percent in Alabama when the weather turns cold. If you use a space heater keep it at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn. Never leave it unattended. Plug it directly into an outlet never use an extension cord. Also never use an oven to heat your home. Don't leave a fire burning in a fireplace unattended. Get your fireplace, chimney and wood burning stoves cleaned and checked out. Firefighters remind you to change out the batteries in your smoke detectors when you change your clocks. Daylight saving time ends this weekend, but you might want to get a jump and change those batteries now. If you need a warm place to spend the night, the city of Montgomery has opened its warming center, at 3446 LeBron Road.

11/2/2023 – Health Issues, Resources, Civil Rights History

- Tuskegee's Veteran Hospital held its annual Veterans Day parade this morning, honoring those who have served our country. This year's event also celebrates the hospital's 100 years of service. Teresa Lawson has details. Tuskegee is historically known for its legacy and excellence. Today's celebration is just another reason to celebrate how much Tuskegee has had an impact on this state. The sights and sounds of joy filled the air as veterans' family and friends gather to celebrate with 100 years of service the veteran's affairs hospital in Tuskegee prides itself on resilience and service. To work at a place as historic as this VA here in Tuskegee we're really standing on hallowed ground because we were accepted here when we weren't accepted in other places. Prior to the abolishment of Jim Crow laws leading the way in African American care was no easy task. As coming up as a youngster in this community the veteran hospital was a main trigger of economic source for this community. All the major operations and everything was done here. You had all the surgeons, some of the best in the world here. And to do so for a century took unwavering faith and determination, an effort that's not lost to the veterans who have served our country. It's a great century and we hope that the next century can be greater than this past century. and for those who currently provide care for our veterans it will take the same faith and determination to reach another hundred years and just to be able to care for our veterans it's just truly a blessing for us and we enjoy it and celebrating 10 years of giving back of taking care of those who make sure that we could have what we needed when we needed it. And fighting against all odds the Veterans Hospital is still standing a hundred years later and I'm just here to tell you, today's celebration was reflective of what that means in this area reporting in Tuskegee for Action 8 News, Teresa Lawson. The Tuskegee VA Hospital was established in 1923. It offers services to both veterans and their families.

11/3/2023 – Health Issues

- Freedom isn't free. That's the overall theme established by the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce today, as they honored veterans who have paid the price of freedom with their lives. Reporter Teresa Lawson tells us more. Land of freedom and home to those who have bravely fought to protect those freedoms. That's why honoring our Veterans and those who serve is an action that is necessary not just for Veterans Day but for each Day. those who give their lives serving their country have made the ultimate sacrifice. they gave up their lives so that 300 plus million Americans can enjoy their freedoms one of 4 generations of soldiers Brig Gen Clay Freeman is no stranger to those sacrifices. Both my grandfathers served in WW2 my father a Cold War veteran flew F4's and help design the air campaign for the Gulf War And often wounds received in battle are go unseen We have so many that suffer from invisible wounds I myself taking care of so many know those wounds But for those whose calling is to serve, service comes in and out of uniform. I spent most of my life in mortuary affairs and had the honor of serving twice at the mortuary in Delaware. I have provided dignity honor and respect to over 2,000 fallen heroes Veterans Day is a time to say thanks for their sacrifices, for every milestone missed, every graduation unattended every first step, first word or family gathering unattended in their absence while deployed. Not only do service members sacrifice their time away from family but their families sacrifice as well. we leave behind essentially a single parent for weeks and months on end. please continue to thank a service member's spouse and if you don't have one nearby call or

email my wife This was the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce's 7th year honoring our veterans.

11/4/2023 – Education and Development, Community Events

- Hundreds of children came to Montgomery Academy's STEAMfest today. to learn about science and art in a fun way. The 8th annual STEAMfest was a free come-and-go event that was open to all members of the River Region community. STEAMfest is a pop-up children's museum that was designed to engage children pre-K to 6th grade with more than 40 hands-on activities. Activities included art projects, engineering and design challenges, and demonstrations from ALEA and Montgomery Whitewater. WAKA's Thunder Truck made an appearance and there were also wild animals their courtesy of the Alabama Wildlife Federation. "Kids at a young age are naturally very curious and they'll ask a lot of very good questions, so STEAMfest just allows them to come and explore at their own pace. They can experience different things they might now get to play with at home and we just invite them to play, ask questions, and learn." The program is funded by a grant from the *Support the Arts* license tag fund.

11/5/2023 – Volunteer Opportunities, Public Safety

- The Salvation Army of Montgomery needs your help this holiday season. The Red Kettle campaign will be kicking off soon. and they're seeking community groups and individuals who are willing to help. The money given in the red kettles helps fund services that provide food, shelter, utilities assistance, and much more. The salvation army will be holding volunteer meetings in the next few weeks. Meetings will be held on November 10th and 15th. With lunch and refreshments served. Contact Camille Gross for more information. That number is 265-0281.

11/6/2023 – Community Events, Education and Development

- Governor Ivey hosted the 75th Annual Turkey Pardoning at the Governor's Mansion. Through the weekend, the Alabama public had the opportunity to vote on the names of the two turkeys. Giblets and Putin which were provided by the Bates Turkey Farm, of Fort deposit. A tradition that started back in 1949. It's very humbling that we've been able to continue this, and I think the reason we are is because of the strength of my dad. He was just so committed to this, I mean he lived it, ate it breathe it you know 24 seven all his life. This is an experience right here being able to come to the governor's mansion and be able to sing and see the turkeys that's being Pardon she's never seen a turkey up close and in person so that's alive so definitely it's something special and to be able to meet the governor that certainly a special occasion. The governor was also joined by the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries Commissioner Rick Pate, Johnny Adams with the Alabama Egg & Poultry Association.

11/8/2023 – Civic Affairs

- A battle between the Mayor and City Council over which flags should be allowed to fly in Montgomery was finally decided last night. The city Council voted to override a mayoral veto. and *re-implement* a city-wide *ban* on all non-governmental flags. This "neutrality resolution"

will prevent the city from flying flags that would honor any causes. Five Council members voted for the flag ban and three voted against it. Council members say the ban ensures preferential treatment will not be shown to any specific groups or organizations. City Council President Charles Jinwright says his constituents urged him to vote for the ban. and he says that this will only affect flags, not the city's holiday decor. What we've done now, we've got a very selective situation. There's only the National, state, county and city flags and anything other than that can't be flown. Decorations are a whole different ball game. There is no intent on limiting that at all. The United States flag, the state flag of Alabama, the Montgomery County flag, and the city of Montgomery flag. are now the *only* four flags allowed to be flown on city property

11/9/2023 – Volunteer Opportunities, Resources

- November is National Adoption month. Many children Living in unsuitable situations. they need help from families to either foster or adopt. Reporter Teresa Lawson spoke with a South Alabama family about their journey to adoption. Becoming a foster and or adoptive family takes an act of the heart. We lived overseas for a while and worked in an orphanage, and I think that had a lot to do with it to see how kids are when they don't have family or don't have parents. Jennifer and Andy Brown have created a beautiful family with love through both private and state adoption. The biggest difference was the uncertainty in the process caused with Olivia, we adopted her as an infant from the hospital. And then Trinity was a month old and was only supposed to be here for a month old and Ty came from the hospital like Olivia, but he was in Foster Care when he came. You have to deal with the uncertainty but not let it affect how you treat them or love them or how you welcome them into your family. Across the country each state attempts to calculate how many children come in and out of the foster care system. But as the need persists that number changes hour by hour and being able to calculate how many children need help right now is like calculating how many leaves are falling from the trees behind me before every leaf hits the ground According to the Department of Health and Human Services about 391 thousand children in the U.S. are living in Foster Care a decrease from past years 407 thousand, of that 400 thousand approximately 117 are waiting to be adopted this decrease in number is in thanks partially to couples like Jennifer and Andy I kind of put myself in their position. What happens if I made a horrible choice and my kids got taken away from me? Would I want them to be with a loving family until they are back with me? I think for us it's the opportunity of God taking something that is broken and crafting it into something that is beautiful whether that's adoption or if they are reconciled with their family. If you're interested in learning more about foster care or adoption in Alabama. visit dhr.alabama.gov.

11/10/2023 – Civic Affairs

- The state qualifying deadline for candidates who want to run next year has ended. There are even more candidates who've jumped into the 2nd District Congressional race. The Republican race is up to seven candidates State Senator Greg Albritton of Atmore, former State Senator Dick Brewbaker of Montgomery, Caroleene Dobson, Karla DuPriest and Hampton Harris. The two newest candidates are Stacey Shepperson and Belinda Thomas. And there are now fourteen candidates on the Democratic side. James Averhart, Larry Simpson, State Representative Napoleon Bracy, Vimal Patel, State Senator Merika Coleman, and State Representative Jeremy Gray. Joining them are Phyllis Harvey Hall, State Rep. Juandalynn Givan, Rep. Anthony Daniels,

Darryl Sinkfield, Shomari Figures, Willie Lenard, and Brian Gary. The qualifying deadline was 5PM today.

11/12/2023 – Community Events

- Saturday was a great day for some young runners in our area. one hundred and sixty-five local third through eighth grade girls. crossed the finish line and accomplished a goal they set for themselves ten weeks ago. The Girls on the Run end of season celebratory 5k was held at Montgomery Whitewater, and hundreds of coaches, family members, and Officer Trainees from Maxwell. came to cheer the girls on. This fall season there were twelve Girls on the Run teams. from Montgomery, Pike Road, Prattville, and Selma. Despite the weather, it was a joyous occasion watching the young girls experience a sense of accomplishment in reaching their goal.as they crossed the finish line. congrats to all of them! The spring season for Girls on the Run begins in February of 2024. if you'd like more information, Visit [www dotgotrsouthcentralal.org](http://www.dotgotrsouthcentralal.org).

11/14/2023 – Civil Rights History, Civic Affairs

- Montgomery's first Black mayor has officially taken the oath to serve the citizens of this city for another term-- During today's Inauguration ceremony Mayor Reed spoke about how much it means for him to serve the communities of his hometown. Reed became the first African American mayor in Montgomery history in November 2019 with 67 percent of the popular vote. During his first term his administration made improvements in law enforcement, education, decreased unemployment numbers and improved community involvement. In today's remarks Mayor Reed says his platform for the next four years is much of the same focused on creating safe spaces within the city for all citizens. So, we all want safer streets, we all want better schools' better jobs better prospects for our city and certainly our neighborhoods and our residents. We all see that there can be better improvement. We want to see less blite we want to see fewer gun deaths fewer people injured by violent crime. But this vision of Montgomery has to be more than a dream. Four years ago, I stood upon this stage with an ambitious agenda and broad plans, but Covid had other ideas. Now because of the plans that we have made and the work that we have done, the support that you have given us, we can move forward with a better understanding of the needs of our city and the people who live here. But more than that, with this commission and this common loyalty to each other the plan is for every corner of this city, every neighborhood, every street to be a great place to live, learn and earn. Mayor Reed won this year's reelection with 22,830 votes which is roughly 50% of Montgomery's voting turn-out numbers. Back to You Mayor Reed took over the mayoral post from former Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange in 2019.

11/15/2023 – Education and Resources

- Trenholm State Community College opened its student food pantry this morning. The pantry is designed to provide food for students who may not otherwise have a meal. The pantry will also supply personal hygiene items. Trenholm officials believe the pantry will go a long way towards helping students achieve success. This is our first one and then we are expanding to the Patterson campus once we open a new student affair building over there so we're excited about that and then this will be our second location at Patterson so that way will feed into the river region not only

here on the west side but also on the east side as well. It takes all of us working together the food bank it takes education Trenholm partnering with us we literally feed people and they educate them, and the food bank provides food, and it takes all of this to make good happen. Education is more than inside the classroom, it is making sure that they have the basic needs and necessities to be successful and obtain their degrees by doing this food pantry that's one of our starts ensuring that they do that. The Heart of Alabama Food Bank - along with Pastor Ken Austin - teamed up with Trenholm state to help make the pantry possible.

11/16/2023 – Volunteer Opportunity, Community Events

- Covington County families who find common ground in loss are also finding hope while honoring their loved ones in a special way. reporter Teresa Lawson shares how. Two years ago, very suddenly we lost our 17-year-old grandson Losing a loved one can happen in the blink of an eye, so he was 17 and he was with his friends on a summer afternoon, and they were going to his house which was only three miles away. He called his Mom said we're on our way and we'll see you in a few minutes and that never happened of course, it was a car accident John David lost his life in 2021 a loss that will linger in her heart forever He had lived with us for 6 years with him, his mother and two brothers so he was more like a son and John David loved life he loved his friends he loved his family, and he would be so proud I know he knows what we're doing and that he's with us every step of the way. Hope to many is just a short four-letter word but to some hope has a big meaning. This Angel of Hope statue helps give peace to the troubled hearts of families who have lost children. Living here in the knowledge of knowing that they will see their child again. We often think of children as adolescents, but this statue is for anyone who has lost a child at any age. The Angel of Hope is a remembrance for a child that has passed away and when we say child, we aren't just talking about a baby we're talking about your child at any age with the sentiment that no parent, Grandparent or family should endure the pain of our living their child. There's so many people walking the same path that I am, my husband my daughter I pray for her every day every night to give her the strength to keep going she has two other boys, so parents who find themselves in this situation do have to find a way to grieve and to keep going. The group will host "A Day of Hope" fundraising event this Saturday with a 5k run from 9-3 at the Farmers' Market. Proceeds from this year's day will fund the second phase of the project.

11/19/2023 – Civic Affairs

- Former first lady Rosalynn Carter has died at her home in Plains, Georgia this afternoon at the age of 96. Plus, we have several product re-calls to tell you about in tonight's consumer news. and in Sports, we will hear Nick Saban and Hugh Freeze's thoughts on yesterday's College Football games. Good evening, I'm Estee Morrison. Thanks for watching WCOV news at nine. up front tonight. former first lady Rosalynn carter has died at the age of 96. the wife of president jimmy carter Rosalynn made her own mark on Washington while in the white house. and continued to help others. Well into her 90's, fox's Rebekah castor takes a look back at her life and legacy. It's tonight's big story. former first lady Rosalynn carter was born in the small town of Plains, Georgia in 1927. the same place as her husband, the 39th president of the United States, jimmy carter. carter says: "I've never doubted that he could be a great president." carter spent her time in the white house consulting with the president on both domestic and foreign affairs. she even attended cabinet meetings - sitting in any available seat. in 1977 she visited central and south America as

the president's personal representative. holding high level meetings with leaders on issues like human rights, beef exports and drug trafficking. but the first lady's lasting impact is the role she played as the 'honorary chair' of the president's commission on mental health. carter says: "That was the beginning of a lifelong crusade for me, to try to help make life better for people with mental illnesses." Mrs. carter's work resulted in the final report recommending the implementation of the largest reform of mental health legislation in close to three decades. she also established a new normal for all first ladies. a staff and office in the east wing of the white house. after leaving Washington she spent her time helping others. serving more than 20 years on the board of the carter center in Atlanta. and building houses for habitat for humanity with the former president. leaving a legacy. she was one of several female family members of past presidents honored by then-first lady Michelle Obama at a Mother's Day event at the white house in 2010. through it all, Rosalynn was by her husband's side during his cancer battle and recovery. carter says: "We've had an outpouring of support and prayers. And it's been really - in spite of all that's going on, it's been really kind of wonderful just to know we have that kind of support." The carters were married for more than 75 years. They built a family with four children and nearly two dozen grand and great-grandchildren. Rebekah castor, fox news.

11/20/2023 – Crime Prevention, Public Safety

- Selma Police are searching for an armed and dangerous suspect wanted in the city's 19th murder of the year. Reporter George McDonald has more. Police Chief Kenta Fulford says investigators have identified a suspect in the Queen City's latest homicide. We've discovered Mr. Tramaine Walter as a suspect. And we are looking for him at this time. Walter is accused in the shooting death of 32-year-old Jasmine Callens. The mother of five was shot on the 1500 block of Tremont Street on September 12th. Her children range in age from 14 to 5 years old. The young lady was shot in front of the children. We believe that she was shot inside of a vehicle and taken to the Vaughan Hospital. When officers arrived, they discovered that the young lady had succumbed to her injuries from the gunshot wound. Fulford says Walter is wanted on two counts of capital murder. He says Walter has a violent criminal history and is considered to be armed and dangerous. Fulford says U-S Marshals have been called in to help track Walter down, but he also wants the public to be on the lookout. If anyone has any information of his whereabouts, please contact the Selma Police Department. The number to call is 874-2125 or you can simply call 9-1-1. From the WAL Newsroom, GM, Action 8 News. Thanks George. People with information can also call Crime Stoppers at 215-STOP. Your anonymous tip could lead to a reward.

11/21/2023 – Economic Development

- Montgomery Regional airport is experiencing a 12% influx of travelers especially during the Thanksgiving and Holiday season. Reporter Teresa Lawson has more. Action 8's Teresa Lawson has details. The hustle and bustle of holiday travel can be chaotic even for the most prepared traveler. But MGM is making your holiday traveling. just a little easier, flying with Montgomery Regional Airport is the river region's best kept secret to some and a travel hack for others It's just more convenient and local. It's not a three-hour drive to Atlanta so that's. nice It's easier traveling with. two kids and being close to home so we love flying from. Montgomery! Choosing local

transportation for both national and international travel has never been easier. MGM offers non-stop services to Dallas, Atlanta, Charlotte and D.C. and we can connect you worldwide so there's endless opportunities as thousands travel nationwide during the Thanksgiving holiday MGM offers well, we walked right up. and walking through security and it's not a two hour wait while you're in the airport, so. we can get something to eat and we enjoy that and affordability with airlines offering deals comparable to combined travel costs of larger airports without the hassle The prices are generally very competitive, from MGM to Dallas is around \$400 and that's very competitive when you factor in gas and if you have to go to other places and par. So, MGM Offering a gateway to the world right in your own backyard Your minutes from the parking lot to the gate so why not choose to fly local. Statistics show that the boarding process at MGM takes approximately seven minutes. from the parking lot to T-S-A

11/23/2023 – Community Events

- the 99th edition of the turkey day classic parade kicked off this morning. it's one of the city's most anticipated holiday events. chief photographer bill gill takes us to the sights and sounds. Oh my God it means the world to them actually everybody's been up I've been up since 7 o'clock just to give a spot to be upfront to see the bands to see the cheerleaders to see everyone the mayor etc. it is huge. The love that we have between the two schools and the two universities regardless as to who wins who loses the love that we have in the history of it. It feels great, it's very exciting, especially with them throwing out like footballs and stuff like this oh it's very exciting. Y'all enjoy us and have a good Thanksgiving and remember to love the people that you are around and surround yourself with good people. Who are you going with... but you know what man may the best team win we all together up here may the best team win I come down just for the enjoyment I mean if Tuskegee wins fine if Alabama state wins fine but overall it's just a celebration and having a good time coming together I don't care who wins really it's entertainment as far as I'm concerned I'm all the way from North Carolina 519 miles from here I came down just to celebrate Alabama state's homecoming with Tuskegee. As for the game. The hornets won big over archrival Tuskegee 41 to 3. Sports director Lindsey Bonner will have the highlights. Later in sports

11/25/2023 – Community Events

- Both teams scored touchdowns in the first quarter, and we picked up in the 2nd quarter where Auburn was leading 14 to 10. but tide quarterback Jalen Milroe sends it through the air to Jermaine burton. who runs it 68 yards for the touchdown. The score is now 17 to 14 Alabama. then in the 3rd quarter. auburn quarterback Payton Thorne completes a pass to a wide open Ja'varrius Johnson. For a 27-yard touchdown and auburn is up once again. now to the 4th quarter and the last nerve-wracking 40 seconds of the game. Jalen Milroe throws it to Isaiah bond. who makes the fantastic catch for a 31-yard touchdown. 27 to 24 is how Alabama wins their 4 consecutive iron bowl in a row. around 90 thousand fans packed Jordan hare stadium for the game. And thousands more tailgated outside. sports director Lindsey Bonner spoke with fans about why this tradition is about more than just football. Thanksgiving is over and it is the final game of the college football regular season. so, you know what that means. Jessica Johns/ Auburn fan: It's one of the oldest rivalries in the country and unless you've been here you've experienced it. Lindsey: And with the game being back on the Plains this year, of course there's a plethora of Tiger fans, but several Alabama fans making the trip to cheer on the Tide to try and keep their

hopes of a playoff run alive. Jonathan Hamby/ Alabama Fans: So, All I can think about is the opportunity these young men have ahead of them. It's an awesome experience. We've seen lots of awesome people, lots of Auburn fans, lots of Alabama fans, everybody's been really nice."

Lindsey: And while the majority of the time the two fan bases try and keep it friendly. With a rivalry as old and as big as this one there's bound to be some grief being passed around. Jessica Johns/ Auburn fan: My significant other is an Alabama fan and so I heckle him on a regular basis Lindsey: "And while this fight to some on the outside looking in might seem a little bit like David vs. Goliath. It's the iron bowl. more specifically it's the Iron Bowl in Jordan-Hare on the 10th Anniversary of the kick six. Jessica Johns/ Auburn fan: It was something that you truly had to be here to experience, because it was, I mean even like when we were driving up here I was playing the broadcast on the radio because just to hear the announcers go crazy you know they go he's got the ball Chris Davis, he's at the 10th 15 he's going to win the football game and then the stadium exploded. Lindsey: But no matter the outcome of the game, it's the passion of both these fans bases that make the game so special Kids: War Eagles! Roll Tide! War Eagle, Hey

11/26/2023 - Public Safety

- 64-year-old Jennifer Works was last seen on November 22 in Montgomery. Works IS around 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighs approximately 120 pounds. She escaped from A mental rehab facility located on Beth Manor Drive around 4:45 a.m. Last Wednesday, AND was last seen wearing a blue jacket, pants with a flower pattern, and black shoes. Investigators say Works also suffers from schizophrenia. If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of Jennifer Works, please call the Police or Crimestoppers at 334-215-STOP

11/27/2023 – Economic Development

- This week, the state will start sending out tax rebate checks to people who qualify. The checks will start going out Friday. If you're single, head of family, or a married taxpayer who filed separately. you get 150 dollars. It's 300-dollars for married couples who filed jointly. To qualify for the rebates, you must have filed a *2021* tax return that the state received by October 17th of last year. You'll get your money based on how you got your 2021 refund by either direct deposit or paper check. Governor Ivey made it her priority to return this money to taxpayers after the state recorded a large budget surplus

11/28/2023 – Public Safety, Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention

- Sixteen-year-old Kylen Smith was shot and killed in Prattville back in August. He was gunned down on the 600 block of Covered Bridge Parkway in broad daylight. And more than three months later the police continued to investigate. And Smith's killer remains at large. Evidence collected by investigators have led us to believe that the suspect was on foot at the time of the shooting and not in a vehicle. We do not suspect this to be a random killing. But we do think the victim may have known or been associated with his shooter. We need your help. If you know something. If you think you know something. Call us. Because there are people that may know something that either felt like they didn't want to get involved or were afraid to. Authorities say

tipsters don't have to worry about anyone finding out who they are. And they're hoping the reward now being offered will provide investigators with the information they need -- to help them crack the case. Crime Stoppers has never had anyone to be identified. We're always anonymous. Please, contact us. We're offering a 3000-dollar reward for any information that leads to an arrest to be paid within 30 days. This is not a young man with a juvenile record, this is not a young man that had gang affiliation. This is a young man who is gone, who is gone way too soon. And the main thing that I'm asking is help us take a killer off the street. In Prattville, I'm GM, Action 8 News. If you have a tip call Crimestoppers right now at 215-STOP.

11/29/2023 – Civic Affairs

- Turning to other news. Rep. Terri Sewell is sponsoring a new bill that would make December 1st a federal holiday. December 1st is significant because on that day in 1955 A bill in Congress would honor Civil Rights Icon Rosa Parks with a federal holiday. Rosa Parks was arrested here in Montgomery for refusing to give up her seat on a public bus to a white passenger. This sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott and energized the Civil Rights Movement. Right now, the United States does not have a federal holiday that honors any women, black or white. This is the second time Representative Sewell has tried to get a Rosa Parks Day bill passed in the House. Rosa Parks is a true American hero. She was awarded the Presidential medal of freedom in 1996, the Congressional gold medal in 1999, and even became the first woman in America to lie in honor and state at the US capitol rotunda. Her lifelong work in the fight for justice and equality still resonates today and inspires our communities to fight for the advancement of justice and equality. Historically, bills establishing Federal Holidays have been difficult to get passed through Congress. In 20-21, Juneteenth became the latest Federal Holiday in the U.S., and it was the first to be approved since Martin Luther King Junior Day in 1983.almost 40 years earlier. Right now, Representative Sewell says she has more than 40 democrats signed on to support the bill. But she will need 218 votes to pass it in the House

11/30/2023 -Volunteer Opportunities, Community Events

- Some new homes are coming to the Selma area thanks to the efforts of a new disaster recovery partnership. The Selma Long Term Recovery Group has teamed up with Mennonite Disaster Services. and Disaster Aid Ohio to repair and rebuild homes. Crews poured the foundation for the first of five *from the ground up* home rebuilds. And they're also making much needed repairs.at approximately 30 houses. Volunteers are providing labor for the construction projects free of charge. And building materials for the projects are funded by local and national donations. The project is part of the ongoing effort to help people. Who are unable to recover from the tornado on their own. "We plan on having the five houses done by probably the end of March. And then, if funding comes along for more, we'll try to do more." you can learn how to help with the effort online at Selma-L-T-R-G dot com

12/1/2023 - Resources

- 'Tis the season for spreading joy and WCOV would like *your help* again this holiday season. as we partner with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. to collect toys for needy children throughout the county. This is an annual holiday tradition at WCOV. Here's a look at the toy drive

from last year. when so many of you opened up your hearts to help these precious children and their families have a Merry Christmas. Here's how you can help. Just drop by the Walmart on Chantilly Parkway in Montgomery tomorrow from 8 until Noon. and look for members of the sheriff's office. Any new, unwrapped toys will be accepted. and so will cash donations. and No toy is too big or too small. Toys for all age groups are welcome and Everyone at WCOV hopes to see *you* on Saturday!

12/2/2023 – Community Events

- Hey yall, it's Lindsey Bonner. And what a game here tonight in Mercedes Benz stadium. it was Alabama and top ranked Georgia in sort of a what was shaping up to be a winner take all scenario to get into the playoffs Georgia comes in on a 29 game win streak and looking to make it 30 and continue the run into the playoffs and Alabama looking to snap that streak and make a case for themselves to get in let's have a look back at how this game played out The crimson tide coming out a little bit slow tonight going three and out on their opening two drives As Georgia comes out making a statement as running back Kendal Milton takes it to the house for the 17 yard td to put the dawgs up early. But it doesn't take long after that for the tide to start rolling Alabama going to take the lead with this play. It's an 18-yard touchdown Jalen Milroe to Jamarion miller 10-7 Bama. And Georgia looking like they were going to tie it up to start the second quarter. But the 50-yard field goal attempt was no good. Alabama hangs on to the lead. Alabama though looking to extend their lead. Milroe to bond. And it's complete for the first down. Same drive a few plays later it's Milroe over the middle. This time to the Georgia transfer Jermaine burton. And tonight, he was showing his former team how it's done. 17-10 Alabama to the second half. Georgia ball deep in their own territory. And the ball comes lose and Alabama recovers. Alabama settles for the field goal though to make it 20-10 Now in the fourth quarter things get crazy as Georgia tries to rally back. Carson Beckon is the keeper right here and it's a three-point game. Alabama says oh no you do not Roydell Williams punches it in for Bama. And it is a ten-point game once again. Georgia continued to fight, and it was another Kendal Milton touchdown to bring it back to a three-point game. And Alabama would hang on and break Georgia's 29 game win streak. 27-24 Alabama and the tide is your 2023 sec champions "I couldn't be prouder of a bunch of guys the progress that we made the way we compete. You know Georgia has got an outstanding team, outstanding team. And I think out team wanted to prove all year , there were a lot of naysayers early in the year so we wanted to show people what we could accomplish and what we could do there wasn't a better stage to do it than to play the number one team in the county who had won 29 games in a row." Now both Jalen Milroe and nick Saban pleading their case tonight in the post-game press conference. Nick Saban saying, we beat the number one team tonight and if we needed to pass the eye test that contributed to tonight Saban also adding that they are not the same team from the beginning of the season Jalen Milroe's statement simple if you consider Georgia the number one team and we beat them. What do you consider us? Now we will find out the tide's fate tomorrow. In the selection show.

12/3/2023 – Economic Development

- One of the oldest family-owned businesses in Selma is closing its doors after doing business in the city for more than a century. Reporter George McDonald has more. Swift Drug Company in downtown Selma has been serving people in the community for 106 years. And in that time three

generations of the Swift family owned and operated the business. And it's been a, been a good run. And I think we've helped a lot of people along the way. That's the thing I'm most proud of. Seventy-two-year-old Buddy Swift has been running the business since 1972. You know I've been here 50 years. And it's just been a real pleasure getting to serve the community in this spot for this long. For a business-like Swift drugs to close in Selma, it is a loss. It will truly be felt throughout the entire community. Swift decided to close the business after doctors discovered a malignant tumor in his pancreas. And I will have surgery next Friday. And I'm going to be out at least two months. and that's what made me decide that I need to close at this point and time. People in the community stopped by the store Monday morning to comfort and encourage Swift. And to take advantage of some of the deep discounts now available at the store. SI just came to wish Buddy well. And look around because they do have some great bargains right now. They've been very supportive. And they're sad too. Because they're going' miss us. And we're gon' certainly miss them. Swift Drugs has been an integral part of the Selma community over the years. From the WAL Newsroom, GM, Alabama News Network. Thank you, George. Swift Drug Company will be open for about three more weeks. The business will close its doors for good on December 23rd.

12/6/2023 – Public Safety

- A surge of colder air has moved into the state, and you will feel the chill early Thursday morning. Most spots will start out in the low to mid 30s. It's one and done because we're approaching 60 Thursday afternoon and Friday morning won't be near as cold. We see a nice little warm up as temps' approach 70 degrees Saturday. It's a brief warm up before rain and storms move through ahead of a cold front. That front will usher in another surge of cold air and we're heading back towards the freezing mark early next week. In the meantime, high pressure will be over us Thursday and Friday. This will put us back into mainly sunny and dry conditions to close out the week. Temps will be running in the lower to mid-60s highs Thursday and overnight lows in the upper 30s to lower 40s. The area of high pressure will move eastward going into the weekend. We pick up a southeasterly wind flow on the west side of the high and that begins to warm us a bit. We're approaching the upper 60s going into Saturday. There will be some changes ahead of Saturday and Sunday. Another frontal system will advance eastward into the state. Moisture will be on the increase and we're expecting a round of showers and storms Saturday night into Sunday. This system will be monitored for the risk of strong to severe storms. Now, the risk is low, but I wouldn't be surprised to see a few strong storms pass through the area. We will keep you posted on it

12/7/2023 – Health Issues, Volunteer Opportunities

- for fifty years the council on substance abuse has been helping people in the river region and today they celebrated that milestone with a luncheon in downtown Montgomery. about 150 guests were present at the RSA activity center.to receive a message of compassion love and hope from guest speaker tommy Davidson and he encouraged them to stay true to their own recovery journey. Davidson is Best known as one of the stars of the hit television show *In Living Color* and the actor and comedian shared his personal story OF being *abandoned in the trash as an 18-

month-old baby. His testimony about HIS struggles with drug addiction inspired those attending to stay strong. Is important because as you know alcohol and substance misuse is an issue for our community and so this is one day to talk about that issue but in a good way to talk about the accomplishments of individuals to talk about our accomplishments and how much we've helped our community members from families two whole communities and so we're excited and so we are celebrating that today and I do know that there's a lot of people out there who feel that despair it's not something that a lot of people understand and People came along and help me understand what I was dealing with and love me to this point and the only thing that I have to do to keep a wonderful life is to pass that on. COSA helps those struggling with alcohol and substance misuse, HIV and AIDS, mental health, and provides recovery support programs and services across the state of Alabama.

12/8/2023 – Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention

- Prattville Police need your help after a pedestrian was hit by a vehicle. Officers were called to the 1600 block of East Main Street where the person was hit. They tell us the Victim was crossing East Main Street, in the crosswalk, when he was struck. The driver fled the scene and was last seen heading west bound on Main Street. The victim suffered non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to a local hospital. Investigators say this is the suspected vehicle. If you have a tip to help the police. call Crimestoppers at 215-STOP.

12/9/2023 – Law Enforcement and Public Safety

- A Montgomery police officer was SHOT during a *series of incidents* in the Ann Street area overnight. It all started around 12:20 this morning MPD received a report of a person shooting a gun and officers found a male suspect in the area of Poplar Street and Ann Street. Major Saba Coleman says the suspect fired at an officer and the officer fired back. After that, Coleman says the suspect then *shot a man* during a robbery attempt. She says as more police arrived, the suspect kept shooting at them and that's when one officer was shot and suffered a non-life-threatening gunshot wound. The man then *barricaded himself* inside a business. in the 1100 block of Ann Street, but officers were able to take him into custody. The suspect had a non-life-threatening gunshot wound and was taken to a hospital. Charges are pending against him. The injured officer and the man who was shot in the robbery attempt were also taken to a hospital and Both are expected to recover. The State Bureau of Investigation is handling the case, and the suspect's name has not been released.

12/10/2023 – Public Safety

- Firefighter Adarius Wesley was excited to walk back into Fire Station 12 on Norman Bridge Road. he's been recovering with the support of his family and friends during the past seven months and his fellow firefighters were very happy to welcome him back to his second home. Mayor Steven Reed commended the firefighters for courageously going into the flames to rescue the two victims who were trapped in the burning house on Gilmer Avenue that night. Montgomery Fire Rescue commended Wesley's sheer determination and grit throughout the recovery process. I have some mixed emotions. You know I'm excited but I'm also nervous but at the same time dumb with it being a physical job and mental job. I've been off for like 6 or 7

months, So you know like I'm excited to get back But then again, it's a challenge to get back into the motion of things. I miss those guys man that's the best part about the job Just to comradery That you get and the bombs that you built. So yeah, that's the most exciting part That I'm looking forward to. Montgomery Fire Rescue is also eagerly awaiting the return of the 2 other firefighters injured that night - Captain Donald Crenshaw and Firefighter Deandre Hartman.

12/11/2023 – Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- Six people are under arrest after federal officials conducted an investigation they call "Operation Selma." U-S Marshals conducted the sweep last week. arresting six people on charges. including capital murder, gun violations and drug offenses. Their operation focused on members of a gang. Two guns were recovered including an assault-style rifle. The investigation involved several agencies. Here's a list of the people charged. Jaaquon Wilson and Stephen Woods who are both charged with capital murder. Lashonda Carter, who's charged with Hindering Prosecution and drug possession. Trevon Lewis, for Failure to Appear. Khadijah Dillard charged with making False Statements and a gun violation. And Collin Barle for being a Felon with gun possession.

12/12/2023 – Education and Development

- Plantersville Elementary school will remain open after a special meeting of the Dallas County School Board last night. reporter George McDonald has more. At that meeting Superintendent Anthony Sampson recommended the closure of J-E Terry Elementary School. However, the school board did not act on the recommendation. If I was close by them, I'd shake all of their hands. People who live in the community where J-E Terry Elementary School is located are breathing a sigh of relief after the school dodges another bullet Monday night. They been talking 'bout closing it down man now the last five or six years. That's one of the schools that pop up that they are going shut down. I just love JE Terry. My kids went there. My mom works there. And it's just a lovely school. Fighting, different stuff going on, we don't have that up here. Residents say JE Terry is a big part of the community and they want it to stay that way. Superintendent Anthony Sampson says the recommendation to close the school came after a careful assessment and analysis of the data. We have a school, JE Terry, and there's 72 students. Wonderful people. Every community matters. But when we look at things from a fiscal perspective and we know that our funding is predicated upon student enrollment, if I consider that we have low and declining student enrollment it's my responsibility to share that information with the board. And make the appropriate recommendation for the board to consider. And the board took my recommendation into consideration, and they gave me an answer and we're now prepared to move forward to continue educating students in Dallas County Schools. In Plantersville, I'm GM, Action 8 News. The next closest elementary school in the Dallas County School District is about 12 miles away in Valley Grande.

12/14/2023 – Resources, Community Events

- The city of Millbrook has taken the next step forward on a huge new project. City leaders have broken ground for a new hotel at its "17 Springs" development. It will be a "TownePlace Suites" by Marriott, near Exit 179 off of Interstate 65. "17 Springs" is a new, 110-acre outdoor sports and recreation complex. with athletic fields, tennis courts, and pickleball courts. and a lot more on the

way. The hotel is designed for families attending sports tournaments. or even people moving into the area because they're stationed at Maxwell Air Force Base. This project I think is tremendous for the community over here when you think about it the impact not just an economical sense also creating the better sense of community right we are going to be employing individuals that will be staying in the community with us The dollar generations and everything like that and given the credibility that there's a first class hotel over here which will allow the other adjacency compliment businesses to kind of grow with us which is retail restaurants and stuff like that. This is another huge one it just keeps getting better and better and TownePlace suites is going to be a tremendous addition to our community we just can't wait to get it going Springhill suites has been a tremendous asset to our community these developers I've got trust in Millbrook, and we've got trust in them and there's more to come. They are scheduled to be open in 11 months. around Thanksgiving next year

12/15/2023 – Public Safety

- This morning in Elmore County, a teenager was killed when his SUV veered off the roadway and flipped over. The 17-year-old from Eclectic was driving a 2004 Chevrolet Avalanche. And no other vehicles were involved. According to ALEA, The teen was not using a seat belt at the time of the crash and died at the scene. The accident happened on Harrogate Springs Road, about one mile east of Wetumpka. No further information is available

12/16/2023 – Volunteer Opportunities, Programs and Efforts

- A Greenville Fraternity is teaming up with local businesses to give back to senior citizens in the area. Giving back is a core value for the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity not just during the holiday season but year-round and with the help of community leaders they're able to help in a big way. Operation Blue Hope is an event near and dear to the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma. Phi Beta Sigma is a national organization that has several programs that we do but social action is one serving our community. With donations from local individuals and businesses they can provide warm blankets to senior citizens in nursing homes. Blankets that will provide not only warmth but warm the hearts of senior citizens So they can keep their legs warm their arms shoulders or whatever, but we are a service organization, and we want to serve humanity which is a part of our motto focus for service and service for humanity. Being able to give back is the focus of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, a tradition that continues year to year Operation Blue hope, that's what we call it. We done bikes two years ago and we said let's do something for our elderly providing them a Thanksgiving meal and providing blankets because we wanted to do something for thanksgiving through Christmas, so we decided to do both. Blankets this year will be given to the senior citizens at Georgiana Health and Rehabilitation this Saturday.

12/18/2023 – Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- Montgomery police have launched a homicide investigation after A man was shot over the weekend. Officers were called to the 3700 block of Woodhill Road Sunday morning. That's in a neighborhood off Dalraida Road. 24-year-old Charvez Wilson of Montgomery was found with a fatal gunshot wound. If you have a tip to help investigators, call Crimestoppers at 215-STOP.

12/19/2023 - Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- The Mobile Police Department and the U-S Marshals Gulf Coast Regional Task Force are searching for the location of fugitive. Christopher Teague is currently wanted for multiple violent felony charges. He described as 5'7, weighing approximately 180 lbs. Teague goes by the nickname of Rico. Crimestoppers is offering a cash reward for information that leads to his current whereabouts and arrest. Give them a call at 215-STOP

12/20/2023 – Public Safety

- The case against an Alabama riverboat co-captain involved in a riverfront brawl over a dock parking spot has been dismissed. the fight made national headlines over the summer. the co-captain, Damien Pickett, is the African American man seen throwing his hat. we've learned the third-degree assault charge against him has been dismissed. some people believe the fight may have been racially motivated. Montgomery police said it started when Pickett tried to dock a cruise ship in its reserved spot but found a private boat docked there. Police say Pickett was attacked when he confronted the people there about moving. one of the defendants, Zachary shipman alleged Pickett assaulted him, he wasn't trying to fight, and he was just defending himself.

12/21/2023 - Volunteer Opportunities, Programs and Efforts

- ALEA troopers had a special gift to give to local children this morning. the Alabama law enforcement agency partnered with Baptist medical center east to deliver trooper bears. these trooper bears, which are teddy bears decked out in ALEA trooper attire, were delivered to child's patients at Baptist east. who may have to spend Christmas in the hospital this holiday season. This was a way to help cheer up the kids and bring some holiday joy while they are at the hospital. To be able to share a little bit of joy with a child that may be away from their family and away from home During this Christmas season. If it weren't for the hospitals and the Partnerships Them giving us the access and them giving us the ability to go and spend some time with the children. And then it really goes back to the parents. We are super grateful for the parents to just really let us come in and be able to spend that time with the children. The trooper bears were donated by the Alabama state trooper's association.

12/23/2023 – Health Issues

- there could be more viral upticks this holiday season. as families and friends get together, U-S health officials are watching for more outbreaks of the flu and covid-19. citing holiday gatherings and many unvaccinated people as factors for a potential rise in cases. officials also say a new covid-19 variant, j-n-dot-one, is also spreading quickly. The centers for disease control says the new variant was first detected in September. and could make up about 50 percent of covid cases in the next two weeks.

12/27/2023 – Public Safety

- Around 4:30 p.m., this afternoon, MPD and fire medics responded to the 2100 block of Rexford Road. That's where they found a 17-year-old male who had a life-threatening gunshot wound. He was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. Police ask anyone with any information related to this homicide investigation to contact Crimestoppers at 215-STOP.

12/28/2023 – Civic Affairs

- In Alabama the big political battle next year will be over the district 2 race for the U-S House. As you may remember, the federal courts *changed* Alabama's Congressional Districts, just in time for next year's elections. Here's a look at the new map. District 2 - which will now include all of Montgomery County - has the biggest change. That is because the courts say the state needs to give Black Alabamians a *greater shot* at representation. Right now, only one of the state's seven U.S. Representatives is a Black Democrat, and this re-districting will mean there's a higher chance at having a second. Action 8 Political Analyst Steve Flowers says. Republicans are *not* going to simply give up the seat, and next year's battle may be close. Steve Flowers/Action 8 News Political Analyst: "It will be one of the most important Congressional races in the country next year. You'll have a lot of national money spent here in Montgomery and in Mobile and throughout this area on this new Congressional seat by both parties. Republicans are not going to give this set up easily." That change has set up an interesting race in District 1. That's because District 2 Congressman Barry Moore is from Enterprise, which is no longer in District 2. He has decided to challenge fellow Republican Congressman Jerry Carl of Mobile for the District 1 seat, because Enterprise is now in that district. That means two incumbent Republican Congressmen will be battling for the same seat next year.

12/29/2023 – Economic Development

- Boating and fishing enthusiasts in Selma are getting a new and improved marina for Christmas compliments of the city. Reporter George McDonald tells us why. The Selma City Marina is getting a major upgrade. Crews closed off the marina then drained and dredged it. Take some of that silt out of the bottom there, clean all that out, so boats will have an easier ingress and egress into the river, in and out the river. Also, it's important that we try and maintain a 9-foot river channel between here and the port of Mobile. That's important for both commercial and residential traffic. In addition, the old boat dock has been pulled out and replaced with a heavy-duty upgrade. So, loading and unloading boats is going to be much easier. Places to park, a lot more. This is going to augment, help what they already have going on here with the Sand Bar. The marina project also includes some road improvements, landscaping and more. There are some more amenities we want to add to this facility. This is going to be a great asset for our community. Looking forward to bringing the bass tournaments back. Looking forward to doing some catfish rodeos and having some fun. In Selma, GM, Action 8 News. Thank you, George. Perkins says the city is using a *local contractor* for the marina project.

12/30/2023 – Public Safety

- Montgomery police have a warning about "celebratory gunfire" as we get closer to New Year's Eve. They're saying there will be a "zero tolerance" policy regarding *any* gunfire in the city and Police will be targeting "hot spots." Those arrested will face a one hundred dollar fine and seven

days in jail for the first offense, going up to 500-dollars in fines and six months in jail after that. Police say gunfire causes property damage. and can lead to injuries or deaths. It also alarms neighbors who hear the shots.

12/31/2023 – Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- This ***LATEST*** homicide means There have been 13 more murders this year in the Capitol City than there were last year, that's according to statistics released by the Montgomery Police Department. There have been 75 murders so far in 2023, which is more than the 62 murders that occurred in Montgomery in 2022, but it is less than in 2021 when there were 77 homicides. Police Chief Darryl Albert tells Action 8 News that the clearance rate this year is 68.7%. which is above the national average. Albert says the men and women of the Montgomery Police Department have made more than seven thousand arrests this year. and nearly a dozen federal indictments were imposed on gun charges. He says it is a testament to the hard work of Montgomery's police officers and the DA's office. which has implemented a no bond policy for people who commit violent crimes.

COZI Public Service Announcements

IF/THEN® seeks to further advance women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) by empowering current innovators and inspiring the next generation of pioneers. Rooted in a firm belief that there is no better time to highlight positive and successful female professional role models, IF/THEN® is designed to activate a culture shift among young girls to open their eyes to STEM careers by: (1) funding and elevating women in STEM as role models, (2) convening cross-sector partners in entertainment, fashion, sports, business and academia to illuminate the importance of STEM everywhere, and (3) inspiring girls with better portrayals of women in STEM through media and learning experiences to pique their interest in STEM careers.

PSA: If then #1

PSA: If then #2

Texting and Driving Prevention campaign PSAs address safety. Messaging while driving— whether sending a text, commenting on a photo, or connecting with friends via an app—is dangerous. But even though 94% of Americans recognize it's dangerous to send a text while driving, and 91% recognize it's dangerous to read one, many people still do it. To address the disconnect between awareness and behavior, our campaign addresses the fact that people are personally engaging in a behavior that they know is dangerous. The campaign reminds drivers from 16 to 34 that no one is special enough to message while driving. Sponsored by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

PSA: Phone Down

Discovering Nature campaign sponsored by U.S. Forest Service. Since 2009, the Ad Council and

USDA Forest Service's discover the Forest campaign has encouraged parents and caregivers to take their families out to the forest to experience and reconnect with nature. This PSA highlights the power of authentic storytelling to showcase the forest as a place where families can deepen their connection with each other and the outdoors, while making the forest a part of the story. Stories come to life at local parks and forests. They're places full of wonder, where imagination thrives, stories come to live, and memories are made.

PSA: Mountain Trail

PSA: Our Colors

Ending Hunger campaign sponsored by Feeding America. These are uncertain times for everyone, but for households facing hunger, the corona virus fallout—including school closures and job disruptions—can present an even greater threat. Millions of Americans, including children, will turn to food banks for much needed support. As the largest hunger-relief organization in the United States, The Feeding America network of food banks feeds millions of families each year, especially during times of disasters and national emergencies. Updated PSAs encourage audiences to donate to Feeding America's COVID-19 Response Fund to help families in this time of urgent need.

PSA: Jeanie Garth

PSA: Scarlett Johansson

The Fatherhood Involvement campaign PSAs highlight the diverse experiences of real dads who share a commitment to being there for their kids through parenting highlights and challenges. By acknowledging the hard-work they put forth in the face of hardships, the campaign seeks to provide all fathers with confidence to keep going in their efforts to be present for their children. U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources' Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

PSA: Fatherhood Involvement – Worm

First Domino Ad Council campaign sponsored by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, State Attorneys General. Messaging while driving – whether sending a text, commenting on a photo, or connecting with friends via an app – is dangerous. But even though 94% of Americans recognize it's dangerous to send a text while driving, and 91% recognize it is dangerous to read one, many people still do it. To address the disconnect between awareness and behavior, our campaign addresses the fact that people are personally engaging in a behavior they know is dangerous. The campaign reminds drivers from 16 to 34 that no one is special enough to message while driving.

PSA: Domino

Suicide Prevention campaign drives to SeizeTheAwkward.org, where visitors can explore resources and tools to help them start a conversation with a peer around mental health. Young adulthood is a critical time, when many people experience mental health issues and significant stress from life transitions like moving from home and beginning college or a career. Seize the Awkward empowers young adults to help friends who are struggling with mental health issues (and who may be at risk for

suicide) by encouraging them to consistently start and sustain conversations about mental health with their friends. The new iteration of the campaign, “Whatever Gets You Talking,” showcases the variety of ways young people can start and continue those conversations with their friends, whether that be through a GIF, emoji, call or text. Sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and The Jed Foundation.

PSA: Whatever Gets You Talking

WIYC broadcasts Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to inform and educate viewers. Raising public awareness of relevant issues is an important community service. Some of these PSAs are included in COZI programming. Other PSAs serving the local area are broadcast each day. Serving the community with reliable, relevant, and informational programming is an important goal and we are excited about the progress made so far!

ADPH Mpox: Mpox is a rare disease caused by infection with the Mpox virus. It is usually found in Central and West Africa and does not occur naturally in the United States. However, cases have recently been identified in the U.S. While the state of emergency for the 2022 outbreak has been declared over, people should continue to take measures to protect themselves, get vaccinated, and get tested when needed. Those in high-risk situations should talk to their healthcare provider about treatment. Knowledge of how the Mpox virus spreads continues to evolve. Data suggest that gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men make up the majority of cases in the current Mpox outbreak. However, anyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, who has been in close personal contact with someone who has Mpox is at risk. Take steps to prevent getting Mpox. If you have any symptoms of Mpox, talk to a healthcare provider.

PSA: Mpox Vaccine

Adult Protective Services: AL DHR is launching a brand-new campaign aimed at protecting the elderly population in our state. There are two :30 TV spots and one :30 radio spot that give examples of elderly persons being abused or abandoned by family or care givers. The spots provide a 1-800 number where people can report suspected abuse.

PSA: Elder Abuse

ALDHR: Many of us are familiar with foster care for children in Alabama. But how many of us realize that there are adults who need a foster home as well? Through hardships or circumstances beyond their control, quite a few adults find themselves in need of a “helping hand.” Some are elderly men and women whose families are unable or unavailable to care for them. Others may be elderly or disabled young adults living on their own and cannot care for themselves.

Are these adults any less deserving of our devotion and care simply because they are older? Absolutely not. Foster care for an elderly or young disabled adult not only warms their hearts and minds (as well as yours); it also allows them to remain a vital part of our community.

PSA: Adult Foster Care

ALDOT Alabama Department of Transportation has two spots rotating starting July 2020 until further notice. One spot focuses on Railway Safety... “Never try to beat and train. It is a deadly game.” The second spot focuses on making drivers aware of the consequences of littering along our roadways. The new PEP campaign is designed to make Alabama drivers aware that tossing trash out of your window can result in a \$500 fine. The second infraction will cost \$1,000.

PSA: ALDOT Trash Cost

PSA: Rail Safety

DHR These new spots, one :30 for radio and one :30 for TV, both feature University of Alabama Head Football Coach Nick Saban. Coach Saban and his wife Terry have their own foundation that serves children. So, it’s a natural fit that he would talk about the need for adoptive and/or foster parents. Because Alabama stations air DHR PEP spots, the agency receives more than 100 inquiries each year from families willing to “open their hearts and open their homes” to children in need. Thank you!

AL DHR has provided a new spot featuring Auburn University football Coach Gus Malzhan, one :30 for radio and one :30 for TV. Coach Malzhan talks about the need for adoptive and/or foster parents. Because Alabama stations air DHR PEP spots, the agency receives more than 100 inquiries each year from families willing to “open their hearts and open their homes” to children in need.

Department of Labor The Alabama Department of Labor is tasked with providing workers and employers with resources to help train and employ a skilled workforce. They also have resources to connect potential employees with employers across the state. In order to be assist people across the state, the DOL has opened Career Centers in numerous locations. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these centers have been closed to the public.

Veterans Affairs: Alabama has a strong military presence and military service often crosses many generations of our families. As a result, there are thousands and thousands of veterans living in the state. Data from 2018 indicated that 140 of those Alabamians committed suicide in that year. Nationally, the rate of Veteran suicides was an average of 17.6 per day. The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs is working to provide resources to veterans and their friends and families to reduce this tragic number.

The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs campaign is designed to encourage family and friends to be there for veterans suffering PTSD and depression, conditions which can lead to suicide. There is also messaging directed at veterans to encourage them to reach out for help.

PSA: Suicide Prevention

Alabama Tourism - The Alabama Tourism Department has returned to the PEP program after a long hiatus. We're glad they remember how great our stations are and the success the PEP program can bring to their projects! At the end of last week, Tourism announced a new statewide initiative called the "All In One ticket" (AIOT). Tourist attractions across the state are working together through the Tourism office to make their experiences more affordable. Purchase an "AOIT" through Tourism for a specific period of time and visit as many of the participating sites as you can during that time! You can get this special ticket through Tourism's new app and where tickets are sold online. Tourism is a huge economic driver for our beautiful state. We're fortunate have mountains, plains, rivers, forests, historical sites and the beach. It truly is "Alabama the Beautiful". Thank you for helping promote our home and contributing to our state's prosperity at the same time.

PSA: All in 1 Ticket

Local Public Service Announcements

WCOV Gives Back is a PSA series highlighting organizations in the community that address and serve community needs.

These public service announcements address resources available to the community for physical, mental, and social wellness. The following are local organizations included in this series.

Common Ground provides developmental programs, camps, and activities while connecting youth to resources and mentors.

Mercy House is a safe house in Montgomery within the Washington Park community and one of many tools to re-direct lives. Mercy House provides a number of services to the community such as a food pantry, clothes closet, supervised computer access and much more.

Other public serve announcements address state level resources available and / or programs relevant to the community and are sponsored by the Alabama Broadcaster's Association.

Allen Media Broadcast				
WIYC PSA Broadcast Totals Summary 4th Quarter 2023				
	October	November	December	Totals
Alabama Broadcasters Association/Adult Protective Services	58	59	39	156
Alabama Broadcasters Association/Alabama Tourism	145	138	96	379
Alabama Broadcasters Association/ALDHR	96	100	68	264
Alabama Broadcasters Association/ALDOT	101	98	68	267
Alabama Broadcasters Association/Department of Labor	95	102	69	266
Alabama Broadcasters Association/DHR	150	145	96	391
Alabama Broadcasters Association/MPOX	117	117	84	318
Alabama Broadcasters Association/Veterans Affairs	99	102	69	270
COZI - PHONE DOWN	7	7	9	23
COZI - WORMS	4	2	4	10
COZI - WHATEVER GETS YOU TALKING	1			1
DOMINO	5	5	5	15
IF THEN #1	8	6	8	22
IF THEN #2	9	8	9	26
MOUNTAIN TRAIL	5	4	5	14
Our Colors	1			1
PSA JENNIE GARTH	5	4	5	14
PSA SCARLETT JOHANSON	5	4	5	14
WCOV PSA/Mercy House	196	201	136	533
WCOV PSA/WCOV Gives Back Common Ground	87			87
Grand Totals	1194	1102	775	3071