

**FIRST QUARTER ISSUES PROGRAMS LIST FOR  
TROY UNIVERSITY PUBLIC RADIO  
January 1 – March 31, 2022  
Placed in the Public File April 6, 2022**

**Section I. Issues.**

The station has identified the following issues as significant issues facing our community this quarter:

- A. Societal Issues:** Covid-19 and the Omicron variant; Alabama's Civil Rights Trail; Illegal cockfighting in Alabama; Investment scams; Alabama Sports and Adventure Hall of Fame and physical fitness; Tax changes for individuals; Inflation's impact on consumers; Bringing theater back to live audiences; Alabama broadband expansion; "Leave No Trace" camping principles; Wintering hummingbirds in our radio coverage area; Romance scams on the Internet; Montgomery Symphony Orchestra's educational outreach; Tax changes for business owners; Troy Public Radio's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary; U.S. domestic energy production; Russia invasion of Ukraine and impact on financial markets; Opera Birmingham's Helen Keller opera and accessibility; Gasoline taxes on consumers during inflation; Grocery taxes on consumers during inflation; Gasoline costs to rural commuters and nondrivers who must hire rides for medical appointments.
- B. Historical Issues:** A family story of survival of Russia and China revolutions; a Native American family story of fighting to avoid the Creek Indian Trail of Tears; Rosenwald Schools still standing in Alabama; Finding the route of Hernando DeSoto in Alabama and the site of the Battle of Mabila; The Funeral for Rosa Parks; Post-Cold War Slovakia; Montgomery's Dale's Penthouse Fire; George Washington Carver's method of improving race relations; World War II U.S. Army African American amphibious truck companies; "A Storm Came Up" novel and play about the Jim Crow South; Women's History Month interviews; F.Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald's ties to Montgomery locations.

**Section II: Responsive Programs.**

The station has broadcast programming dealing with each of the above-referenced issues. Programming on *In Focus*, with host-producer Carolyn Hutcheson, dealt with each issue in a 9-minute segment, beginning at 12:40 p.m. Central time Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. On Mondays *The Exchange* was reinstated, due to the retirement of Alabama Public Television's Don Dailey, who reported on state government for *The Newswrap* and *The Buzzword*.

**Special Notes:** *In Focus* continues its podcasts, following its broadcast segments. The “History in Your Hands” series continues, with recent archaeological discoveries about Spanish Conquistador Hernando DeSoto’s route through Alabama in the 1500s and the Battle of Mabila; a three-part series was presented about Mahatma Gandhi, who influenced the American Civil Rights Movement; and several programs dealt with Women’s History Month.

## **A. Societal Issues**

-Broadcast on January 12 and 13:

A two-part discussion with guest Dr. Scott Harris, Alabama’s State Health Officer, about the status of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Omicron variant. The program was presented as a possible New Year’s Resolution – Kick Covid!, with ways to stay protected in 2022. .

-Broadcast on January 17: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

A discussion with guest Darley Newman, travel journalist, about her experiences along Alabama’s Civil Rights Trail, especially in Selma and Montgomery. Her PBS Special, “Travels with Darley Along Alabama Civil Rights Trail” is to be featured Jan. 22, 29, and Feb. 19 on APTV.

-Broadcast on January 20:

A discussion with guest Mobile native Marty Irby, executive director of Animal Wellness Action nonprofit in Washington, D.C., about illegal cockfighting, which still occurs in Alabama. The birds can carry diseases that transmit to humans, and cockfighting rings are operating in our radio coverage area. Irby advocates strengthening state laws to combat this illegal activity.

-Broadcast on January 24:

A discussion with guest Joseph Borg, director of the Alabama Securities Commission, about investment scams during the pandemic. Borg kicks off *The Exchange*, reinstated on Mondays following the retirement of APTV’s Don Dailey.

-Broadcast on January 25:

A discussion with guest Mike Schmitz, former mayor of Dothan and chairman of the new Alabama Sports and Adventure Hall of Fame, about the organization’s mission of honoring the achievements of Alabamians and encouraging citizens to get active outdoors, to improve physical fitness during the pandemic and beyond.

-Broadcast on January 31:

A discussion on *The Exchange* with guest CPA and tax supervisor Jeffrey Kintz of Mobile’s Wilkins Miller Business Advisory Firm, about tax changes and information for individuals.

-Broadcast on February 7:

A discussion on *The Exchange* with guest Judson Edwards, dean of the Troy University Sorrell College of Business, about inflation and its impact on consumer purchasing power.

-Broadcast on February 8:

A discussion with guests Tori Lee Averett, chair of the Troy University Department of Theatre and Dance, and Layne Holley, director of marketing and communications at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, about bringing live theater performances back to audiences as the pandemic subsides.

-Broadcast on February 14:

A discussion on *The Exchange* with guest Judson Edwards, dean of the Troy University Sorrell College of Business, about broadband expansion in Alabama. Many rural areas remain underserved, hampering educational efforts and economic development.

-Broadcast on February 15:

A discussion with guest Renee Raney, environmental educator and district manager at Cheaha State Park, about the "leave no trace" camping principles that will be taught at the upcoming Bigfoot weekend.

-Broadcast on February 16:

A discussion with guest Lisa Keith-Hughes, volunteer archivist at the Carrabelle, Florida, Camp Gordon Johnston Museum, about the quest to identify the stories of African American U.S. Army soldiers in the 818<sup>th</sup> and 476<sup>th</sup> amphibious truck companies in World War II.

-Broadcast on February 17:

A discussion with guest Fred Bassett, master bird bander with the nonprofit Hummingbird Research.net organization about the numbers of wintering hummingbirds in our radio coverage area since fall of 2021. The numbers have declined, possibly due to the mild winter. Numbers fluctuate from year to year.

-Broadcast on February 21:

A discussion on *The Exchange* with guest Joseph Borg, director of the Alabama Securities Commission, about sweetheart, or romance, scams that are perpetrated on victims through the Internet. He also gave precautionary advice.

-Broadcast on February 23:

A discussion with guest Jamie Reeves, interim music director and conductor of the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, about the symphony's return to performing before live audiences as the pandemic subsides. He also talked about the orchestra's music instruction outreach to schools as one of its most important educational missions.

-Broadcast on February 28:

A discussion on *The Exchange* with guest CPA and tax supervisor Jeffrey Kinz, with Mobile's Wilkins Miller Business Advisory Firm, about several complex tax changes for business owners.

-Broadcast on March 1:

A discussion with guests Kyle Gassiott, operations manager, and Ann Kenda, morning host for Troy Public Radio, about the station's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary and its plans for the future.

-Broadcast on March 3 and 9:

A two-part discussion about factors driving energy costs and inflation with guest Scott Angele, former Lt. Governor of Louisiana, and previously the longest serving director of the U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. He founded the USA Energy Workers organization.

-Broadcast on March 7:

A discussion on *The Exchange* with guest Joseph Borg, director of the Alabama Securities Commission, about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the impact on financial markets.

-Broadcast on March 14:

A discussion on *The Exchange* with guest Judson Edwards, dean of the Troy University Sorrell College of Business, about gasoline taxes and inflation hitting consumers during inflation.

-Broadcast on March 16:

A discussion with guests Carla Lucero, composer and co-librettist, and Keith Wolfe Hughes, general director of Opera Birmingham, about Opera Birmingham's groundbreaking opera, *Touch*, about Alabama deaf-blind activist Helen Keller. The opera, under development, will include accessibility for audience members with disabilities.

-Broadcast on March 21:

A discussion on *The Exchange* with guest Judson Edwards, dean of the Troy University Sorrell College of Business, about state taxes on groceries and the impact on consumers during inflation.

-Broadcast on March 25:

A discussion with guest Gulf States Newsroom reporter Stephan Bisaha about the high costs of gasoline to rural west Alabama commuters and nondrivers, who must hire rides to cities for medical and other appointments.

## **A. Historical Issues**

-Broadcast on January 18:

A discussion with guest Troy University professor Michael Slobodchikoff about his family's story of surviving revolutions in Russia and China. This is Part 2 of a two-part story.

-Broadcast on January 19:

An on-location discussion in Troy with guest historian Dale Cox at the "Thunder on the Three Notch" re-enactment of the last battle of the Creek Indian Wars in 1837 at Hobdy's Bridge. Cox is descended from Uchee ancestors, two of whom were hanged at Phenix City for their part in fighting to avoid being sent to Oklahoma on the Creek Indian Trail of Tears.

-Broadcast on January 26:

A discussion with guests Gorham Bird and Junshan Liu, professors of architecture and building science at Auburn University, about the Rosenwald Schools still standing in Alabama. In the early 1900s, Sears philanthropist Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington of Tuskegee Institute teamed up to build schools across the South for African American children. Out of some 5000 schools, few are left, and the professors are cataloguing them in Alabama.

-Broadcast on January 27:

A discussion with guest Ashley Dumas, associate professor of anthropology at the University of West Alabama, about recent archaeological finds that point to the route of Spanish Conquistador Hernando DeSoto in the 1500s through west Alabama. Archaeologists are closing in on the site of the Battle of Mabila, one of the great historical mysteries in the U.S.

-Broadcast on February 1 for Black History Month:

A discussion with guest Reverend Joseph Rembert, who presided at Rosa Parks' funeral Oct. 19, 2005, at St. Paul AME Church in Montgomery. He shared memories of her funeral. The retired minister is now a tour guide at the Troy University Rosa Parks Museum.

-Broadcast on February 2:

A discussion with guest Christopher Shaffer, dean of the Troy University Library Services, about his experience teaching English in post-Cold War Slovakia several years after the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall. He signed up for two different stints teaching English for the Education in Democracy organization and recently wrote the book, *Moon Over Sasova, One American's Experience Teaching in Post-Cold War Slovakia*.

-Broadcast on February 3:

A discussion with guest archaeologist Teresa Paglione for a "History in Your Hands" segment about the broader context of Spanish Conquistador Hernando DeSoto's march through the southern United States in his failed quest to find gold. Artifacts are being unearthed, and there are livestock today that are descended from those he brought on Spanish ships.

-Broadcast on February 7:

A discussion with Troy Public Radio operations manager and guest Kyle Gassiott about his project to uncover the circumstances surrounding Montgomery's Dale's Penthouse Restaurant fire 55 years ago today. The fire killed 25 people, whose stories he is tracing, as well as stories of the heroes who saved lives. The program is destined to become a podcast series.

-Broadcast on February 10:

A discussion with guest John H. Pickle, Jr., about his father's relationship with George Washington Carver. Carver, a famous scientist and educator, had a unique way of improving race relations by mentoring his white students and following their success as adults. Pickle's book is *One of His Boys, The Letters of Johnnie Pickle and His Mentor, George W. Carver*.

-Broadcast on February 22:

A discussion with guests Kristy Meanor, artistic director of the Wetumpka Depot Players, and author Doug Segrest, about adapting his novel about the Jim Crow South, *A Storm Came Up*, to the stage. The guests talked about how they collaborated to shape the novel into a two-act play.

-Broadcast on March 2 and 31

A two-part discussion with guest artist Laura Murray, author of the DAR-commissioned coloring book for adults and children, *Our Patriots, The Men and Women Who Achieved American Independence*, about women who advanced the cause of American Independence. Included in the discussions were George Washington's wife and mother, Abigail Adams, African American Hannah Till, and Cherokee Nancy Ward.

-Broadcast on March 8, 15, and 29:

A three-part series with guest Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi, who inspired the liberation of India from British colonial rule, about Gandhi's philosophical influence on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s use of civil disobedience and nonviolence to achieve Civil Rights. Plans are to create a one-hour special broadcast about Gandhi for summer of 2022.

-Broadcast on March 10 and 17:

A two-part discussion with guest researcher and author Maire Martello, whose book, *Stepping Out with Scott and Zelda, Touring the Fitzgeralds' Montgomery*, documents the locations associated with Montgomery native Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald and her husband, writer F. Scott Fitzgerald.

-Broadcast on March 30:

A discussion with guest Laura Hill, communications editor for the Encyclopedia of Alabama, about women who distinguished themselves as writers, suffragists, and Civil Rights workers in Alabama's history.