

***Alabama Public Radio Newsroom
Public File
July 3 through September 29, 2023***

TOPICS

**Artificial Intelligence
NASA
Alabama History
Alabama Entrepreneurship
Civil rights
Immigrants in Alabama
Music in Alabama
Environmental issues**

July 6, 2023

Alabama's key role in NASA's first space station

Supporters of the U.S. Space Program are celebrating an anniversary this year. 2023 marks fifty years since NASA launched its first space station. The U.S. Space and Rocket Center held an event last weekend to remember Skylab. Nine astronauts spent roughly six months aboard the orbiting outpost. APR's Pat Duggins reports. 6:47. (7:51, 4:51)

July 19, 2023

Rickwood Field's Tribute to Willie Mays and the Negro Leagues

Birmingham's Rickwood Field has been a working ballpark since 1910. This signifies it as the oldest professional ballpark in the United States. One of the highlights of its history is that the park was the home of the Birmingham Black Barons, a legendary team from the Negro leagues that hosted some of the best baseball players in American history. Major League Baseball is recognizing this history with a tribute to Willie Mays next year. (3:54) 7:45 am, 4:44 pm

July 20, 2023

The Psychology of spending money in Alabama

So, what did you buy during the 4th of July holiday? It might have been a vacation or stuff for the backyard barbecue. The latest U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis report confirms Americans are spending less on durable goods like cars and more on services like air travel and hotels. This, even while some grocery prices continue to be stubbornly high. So, what gives? APR goes takes us all the way back to Mardi Gras in the Mobile to explain the psychology behind spending money. APR's Cori Yonge reports. 4:04 (7:44, 4:44)

July 25, 2023

New online sustainable fashion business growing in Birmingham

There's a new start-up in Birmingham that aims to bring more sustainable fashion to the Magic City and across Alabama. APR student intern Andrea Tinker explores The Clothing Library. 6:41 (7:51, 4:51)

July 27, 2023

University professors in Alabama face growing reality of AI in the classroom

Phrases like Chat-GPT and artificial intelligence are both making headlines. Computer programs that generate pictures and fill out spreadsheets are one thing. But, what about college lecture halls? Questions are being asked how the impact of AI on how professors teach and how students do their homework. APR student reporter Alex Pfenenger spoke with professors at the University of Alabama. They gave their thoughts on changes that could be on the way for classrooms across the state. 6:42 (7:51, 4:51)

July 28, 2023

APR gets a behind-the-scenes look at immigrants' experiences in Alabama

President Joe Biden signed a proclamation earlier this year designating June as Immigrant Heritage Month. The American Immigration Council says about three percent of Alabama's population comes from other countries. And, that number is slowly growing. Data from the Migrant Policy Institute says the number of foreign-born people living in Alabama has doubled over the last twenty years. These residents have stories of what they left and what they're experiencing here in the U.S. We asked APR student reporter Valentina Mora to listen to what they had to say. She files this report. 7:05 (7:51, 4:51)

August 3, 2023

What's next for Alabama coal miners off the picket line and back on the job

March of this year marked the end of what's called the longest strike in Alabama history. Coal miners for the Warrior Met company in Brookwood put down their picket signs and resumed jobs that some had done for decades. However, these workers say they got something other than a victory at the bargaining table. APR student reporter Ben Smith has more on what the future looks like for these Warrior Met coal miners. 6:45 (7:51, 4:51)

August 10, 2023

"Should I Stay or Should I go?" Making businesswomen along the Gulf coast feel welcome

Alabama Public Radio has spent the last year looking at why skilled and educated workers are leaving the Gulf coast for other parts of the country. Our series is called "Should I stay, or should I go?" The Women's Business Enterprise National Council says close to forty percent of companies in the U.S. are female owned. That figure is reportedly a lot lower here in Alabama at less than four percent. APR's Pat Duggins reports. 6:38 (7:51, 4:51)

August 17, 2023

Volunteers work to rescue baby sea turtles along the Alabama coast

It's more than tourists flocking to Alabama's beaches during the summer. This is also prime time for endangered sea turtles are crawling ashore on the Gulf Coast and laying hundreds of eggs. Marine biologists say this is the same spot where many of these turtles hatched years ago. Lynn Oldshue reports 7:22 (7:51, 4:51)

August 24, 2023

Anniston and Monsanto: Twenty Years Later

This month is the twentieth anniversary of a legal settlement in the town of Anniston. Two companies agreed to pay over six hundred million dollars to thousands of residents in that community northeast of Birmingham. The issue was over health problems allegedly caused by chemicals called Polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs for short. Anniston residents complained of health problems ranging from cancer to neurological effects. They blamed PCBs produced at a local factory for these illnesses. (7:14) 7:51 am, 4:51pm

August 30, 2023

Monsanto, Anniston, Taylor

This month marks two decades since the Monsanto chemical company settled with residents of the town of Anniston. The payments were over health issues blamed on chemicals called PCBs that Monsanto started manufacturing back in the mid 1930's. People living in Anniston say cases of cancer and other medical problems were linked to PCB exposure. It was a situation that didn't harm just one generation, but many. Alabama Public Radio's Pat Duggins asked one longtime resident to explain what happened to her family and how it impacted the direction her life would take. 7:25 (7:51, 4:51)

August 31, 2023

Alabama Vietnam vets still dealing with Agent Orange

It was twenty years ago this month that the Monsanto chemical company settled a lawsuit with residents of Anniston. Illnesses ranging from cancer to birth defects were blamed on a group of chemicals called PCB's. But, this isn't the only example of Alabama residents allegedly being made sick by big industry. Another group all have something in common. They all served in Vietnam. We begin our story with a man APR listeners met last week. Pat Duggins reports 7:19 (7:51, 4:51)

September 6, 2023

Alabama seniors spearhead effort to protect Mobile Bay from toxic ash

A group of seniors in Mobile, Ala., wants coal ash from a power plant moved to a lined landfill. They worry the toxic ash could leak into Mobile Bay. (Story aired on ATC on Sept. 4, 2023.) 3:30 "D" block 4:44

September 7, 2023

Alabama Researchers to rescue oysters could have national impact

Oyster habitats are rapidly disappearing around the world. That doesn't just mean losing a delicacy. Oysters also play a major role in coastal environments. A team of scientists on Mobile Bay is working to turn that loss around. That effort may have national impact. APR's Guy Busby has more. 6:46 (7:51, 4:51)

September 12, 2023

Small town flair: Fyffe celebrates otherworldly history with premier summer festival

While the U.S. Congress continues its probe into unidentified aerial phenomena, one small town in Northeast Alabama welcomes the idea and wants to believe. APR's Josh LeBerte has more on the annual UFO festival that draws in thousands of visitors each August to the Yellowhammer State. 6:15 (7:51, 4:51)

September 14, 2023

The Determination of W.C. Handy

One of the first things that visitors to downtown Florence may notice is a statue at the entrance to Wilson Park. WC Handy welcomes visitors to the park holding his trumpet high. November marks the 150th anniversary of Handy's birth. He was a man whose determination pulled him up from homelessness to being recognized as the "Father of the Blues." (6:54) 7:51 am, 4:51pm