



## WAAY-TV

Issue-Responsive Programming

July 1, 2018-September 30, 2018

Community Issues Identified

- Education
- Politics
- Crime & Public Safety
- Health
- Business, Technology & Economic Development

### Regularly scheduled programs on WAAY-TV:

- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 4:30-5:00am
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 5:00-6:00am
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 6:00am-7:00am
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 11:00am-12:00noon
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 4:00pm-5:00pm
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 5:00-5:30pm
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 6:00-6:30pm

- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 10:00-10:35pm
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 12:05am-12:35am
- WAAY 31 Local News S/S 5:00-5:30pm
- WAAY 31 Local News Sat 6:00-6:30pm
- WAAY 31 Local News S/S 10:00-10:35pm

Each of the above programs represents locally-produced news which includes issues-related news stories and segments on issues of local importance. Issue-responsive program segments are typically 1:00-3:00 segments.

- WAAY 31 LawCall Sun 10:35-11:05pm

WAAY 31 LawCall is a locally-produced legal hotline where viewers are able to call and ask legal questions on a variety of topics.

- WAAY 31 News Extra Sa 6:00-6:30am & 10:35-11:05am

WAAY 31 News Extra is a conglomeration of news stories and issues that were big throughout the week.

- Good Morning America M-F 7:00am-9:00am
- World News Tonight M-F 5:30pm-6:00pm
- ABC News Nightline M-F 11:35pm-12:05pm
- Good Morning America S/S 7:00am-8:00am
- This Week Sun 8:00am-9:00am
- World News Tonight S/S 5:30pm-6:00pm

The above programs are produced by ABC network news discussing issues-related stories and segments of national importance.

**The following is a list of some of the more significant community issues addressed by this/these station(s) for the quarter specified. This listing is by no means complete, nor is the order in which these issues appear, intended to imply any degree of priority or significance of the issues.**

## **Education**

### **Hazel Green Principal Resigns**

- Hazel Green High Principal Darrell Long resigned one week after school started in early August.
- The Madison County Board of Education reports it was because of family and personal reasons.
- Reporter did a live story in the morning news and at 5pm.

### **Lawyers Send Letter to Madison Co. BOE Members on behalf of former principal**

- After the principal of Hazel Green High suddenly resigned, a local law office sent a letter to the board members stating Darrell Long plans to resend his resignation.
- The letter alleged criminal conduct was claimed by the superintendent about the principal.
- The former principal wants one of three things to happen including getting his job back.
- Reporter did a live hit in the morning show.

### **Huntsville City Schools New Buses**

- It was announced some time over summer that Huntsville BOE members would not renew the contract with the current bus system and went with Apple Bus Company.
- The company pledged over 100 brand new buses for the district in July.
- All the buses are equipped with wifi, air conditioning, cameras, and have a tracker app for parents.
- Reporter did an in-depth report in July on the new buses at the 6.

### **Austin & Decatur High School New Schools**

- Kids at Austin and Decatur high started in a brand new building at the start of the school year.
- Both buildings cost millions of dollars and now have their own football fields, they shared before.
- Reporter did a live story for the 5 & 6 on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Athens City Schools Starts Back**

- Athens City Schools got a late start this year on August 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The new Athens High School was supposed to be finished in time for the new school year and was ahead of schedule, and then a stretch of rain put them behind.
- Reporter did live hits in the morning show.

## **Politics**

### **City of Huntsville Municipal Elections**

- Municipal elections were held on August 28<sup>th</sup>.
- There were several city council positions and one school board position up for grabs.
- One race will go into a runoff.
- Reporter did a live story at 4, 5 & 6.

### **Statewide Runoff Elections**

- Alabama state wide runoff elections were held on July 17th.
- We had two races in the Tennessee Valley we were paying close attention to.
- Aired results live on the 10 pm newscast.
- Reporter did a live shot from a victory party in Guntersville.

### **Doug Jones in Huntsville**

- Senator Doug Jones was in Huntsville August 17th.
- He met with the chamber of commerce and local business owners to update them on critical business issues, NASA and the military that are pending in congress.
- Anchors read a VoSot on the event during the 5pm news.

### **Huntsville Candidate Election Recount**

- A Huntsville City Council District 2 candidate received 49 percent of the vote but needed 50 to win.
- The election was in July, but in September the candidate said she did not want a recount to save taxpayers money.
- Reporter did a live report in the 5.

### **Fort Payne City Council Public Cameras**

- The city Council wanted to add cameras to public parks outside bathrooms after people were vandalizing them.
- The council said as soon as the cameras went up they saw a drop in vandalism.
- Reporter did a story in the 10pm show.

## **Crime & Public Safety**

### **Huntsville Police Officer Charged with Murder**

- A Huntsville Police officer was charged with murder in the beginning of August.
- It's a story WAAY 31 has followed over the last several months.
- The murder charged stemmed from a call in May to reports of a suicidal man when Officer Darby shot him. The department had cleared him of wrong doing.
- Trial is expected to begin in October.
- Live reporter at 4,5 & 6.

### **Decatur Officer Charged with Assault**

- A Decatur Police officer is on desk duty after charges were filed against him for assault.
- Court documents show he's accused of slapping a high school student during football practice and throwing him to the ground.
- Court documents also show this isn't the first time something like this has happened.
- Reporter did a live report in the 10.

### **Guntersville Triple Homicide**

- Happened in July.
- A man released on parole a month earlier is accused of killing three people on one street, including a grandmother and grandson.
- WAAY 31 has done multiple stories on Jimmy Spencer and the parole board and how he was supposed to be serving a life sentence for a previous crime.
- Reporters have done live hits in every show.

### **Jail Overcrowding**

- The Lauderdale County Sheriff is asking the county commission to raise taxes so they can build a new jail.
- He made the request at a September County Commission meeting.
- The jail is slated to hold 250 people but it's currently housing 350.
- Reporter did a live hit in the 4.

### **Body Found in Guntersville**

- A body was found in the woods in September.
- The Marshall Co. Sheriff's Office is investigating but is not releasing any information.
- The body has been sent off to the medical examiners officers to be identified.
- Reporter did a live report in the 6 & 10.

## **Health**

### **Sexual Assault Calls**

- We did a story in September about there being a 200% increase in calls to the national sexual assault hotline.
- It happened the same day as the Christie Ford and Brett Kavanaugh hearings.
- Our reporter talked with a local crisis center who said they always see a spike in calls when sexual assault is in the news.
- Reporter did a live story in the 6pm show.

### **Frozen Chicken Recall**

- A local plant in Decatur issued a nationwide recall of chicken in September.
- Wayne Farms recalled over 400,000 pounds of various types of chicken.
- Our breaking news desk anchor did a report on it during the morning show.

### **Mold Found in Local Fire House**

- Mold was discovered in a fire house in Florence in September.
- It was found when crews went to replace the air conditioning unit.
- The firemen were all moved to a different location.
- Reporter did a live story in our 5pm show.

### **Herbicide Found in Popcorn**

- A local store in Muscle Shoals was investigating after herbicide was found in popcorn in a local store.
- Public health officials said 30-40 people may have gotten sick.
- It happened in August.
- Reporter did a live shot in the 4pm show.

### **Flu Vaccine Treatment**

- We did a story in September about a new potential vaccine to prevent the flu.
- Our reporter talked with a mother and doctor about the potential new universal vaccine.
- Doctors said it could be 10 years before it was finished and would come in the form of a gun.
- Reporter did a live story in the 5pm show.

## **Business, Technology & Economic Development**

### **Blue Origin Coming to Huntsville**

- United Launch Alliance announced in September it had awarded a contract to Blue Origin.
- The company announced it would build in Huntsville and bring over 400 jobs with it.
- Reporter did a live story in both the 5 & 6 pm shows.

### **Huntsville Airport Grant**

- Huntsville International Airport was awarded a \$29.1 million grant.
- They made the announcement in late September.
- They will use the grant to build a new taxiway and a new gate.
- Live reporter story at 6.

### **Bellefonte Nuclear Plant**

- In late July, officials announced they were picking back up construction with the Bellefonte Nuclear plant in Jackson County.
- Announced it would take five years to complete and would bring thousands in construction jobs and hundreds of jobs for the plant.
- Reporter did a live hit in the Midday and 5 pm shows.

### **Muscle Shoals Train Traffic Study**

- Sheffield officials are working with the Colbert County commission to come up to a solution for the city's train problem.
- Train's often get stuck or stalled on the tracks cutting off access to the city.
- Officials said a feasibility study is the best way to go.
- Reporter did live story in the 5.

### **Huntsville Utilities Rate Increase**

- Huntsville Utilities is considering a rate hike.
- They announced in September it's due to the cost of materials.
- For right now the hike would only apply to those with a fixed rate.
- Reporter did a story that aired in the 10 pm show.