

Description of WLOV Programming Providing the most Significant Treatment of Community Issues.

4th Quarter 2016

WLOV airs local news programming each week live during the following times:

Monday through Sunday 9:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Both of the above programs are locally produced news programs presenting a mix of news, weather and sports and other related feature stories and segments that affect Northeast Mississippi.

The following is a list of the programs of significant treatment of Northeast Mississippi community issues. Local news stories were also posted on our website at <a href="https://www.com">wtva.com</a> as well as on Facebook and Twitter.

- -Violent Crime
- -Police Performance
- -Politics
- -Education
- -Economy

#### Local:

### TOPIC Violent Crime

Program Title: WLOV News Date: Various
Time: Various Duration: Various

Detailed Description: Safety is a concern for people across North Mississippi, and the fourth quarter of 2016 has had its share of violent crime. Below are some of the more high-profile cases we have covered on air and online:

- 10/15 An arrest is made in a Friday night homicide in Columbus that left one person dead. Eric Brewer of Columbus is accused of shooting and killing Kwesi Hill. There's no motive yet for the killing.
- 10/15 Marchers took to the streets in Columbus to remember one year since Ricky Ball was shot and killed in a confrontation with Columbus police.
- 10/16 The mother of Kwesi Hill talks about the shooting death of her son. Chavon Hill says she wants the black-on-black crime to stop.
- 10/18 A woman is charged with aggravated assault in Oxford after calling someone to the Taylor Bend Apartments who shot the woman's friend while the woman and her friend were arguing. A judge set bond for Jazzmonica Johnson at \$15,000.
- 10/18 A Starkville woman pleads guilty to being an accessory to capital murder in the 2013 shooting death of a man at a car wash. Charleka Brooks was arrested after Ellis Bishop was killed during a robbery police believe was drug related.

- 10/19-20 One person was hurt in a shooting at Cooper Tire in Tupelo, one of the city's largest employers. Police say two workers at the tire plant got into an argument in a "domestic situation," and one of them suffered multiple gunshot wounds during the dispute.
- 10/21 One person is shot three times in the chest across from the Key Station convenience store at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Waterworks Road in Columbus. Marris Lanier and Chris Rice are arrested for the crime. No motive is released.
- 10/21 Bond set at \$300,000 for Tyson Stewart, the suspect in the Cooper Tire shooting, who made an initial appearance in Lee County Justice Court in Tupelo.
- 11/2 A man and woman are being sought after a driver said he was shot when he stopped on Interstate 22 near Mooreville to help the two.
- Police say the shooting in the 11/2 incident was self inflicted, not an attempted robbery. Brian Edwards of Tupelo is now charged with filing a false police report and possession of a firearm by a felon.
- 11/6 A Mississippi State University student, Joseph Tillman, is shot and killed in Starkville's Cotton District during a robbery attempt. Four people are under arrest and are charged in connection with the crime.
- 11/7 An initial court appearance is made by the four suspects in the killing of MSU student Joseph Tillman in Starkville's Cotton District.
- 11/10 Charges are upgraded to capital murder for two of the suspects in the killing of MSU student Joseph Tillman.
- 11/14 Law enforcement respond to a shooting at a home in Winona at Highway 51 and Summit Street. Artis Jones was killed in the shooting. Tracy Garrett was flown to North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo.
- 11/15 Four people are under arrest in connection with the 11/14 shooting in Winona that left one person dead and sent another person to the hospital.
- 11/16 Columbus police are investigating a shooting at Military Road and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue where someone wearing a ski mask wounded a 21 year old victim in the shoulder. The injury is not believed to be life threatening.
- 11/22 Bond is lowered from \$500,000 to \$100,000 for Jamario Pippins, one of the people charged as an accessory in the shooting death of MSU student Joseph Tillman, who was killed during an attempted robbery in Starkville's Cotton District.
- 11/22 Five people are now charged in connection with the fatal 11/14 shooting death of Artis Jones in Winona. A judge set bonds for the five suspects in the case.
- 11/24 A woman, 21-year-old Dayah Saw, is killed in a shooting during a Money Bagg Yo rap concert at the Bryan Union Hall in West Point. Police are asking for any information that would lead to an arrest in the case.
- 11/28 Police in Columbus say 19-year-old D'Shawn Boyd was shot and killed and the body was found next to a burned vehicle. Boyd's mother says she believes the shooting death was in retaliation to a shooting death a couple of months ago.
- 12/12 Noxubee County sheriff's deputies arrest 35-year-old Cedric Carter for a shooting outside a bar that left one person dead and left another person wounded. It turns out the person killed was the owner of Cashey's Sports Bar and Grill on Gillespie Road near Prairie Point.
- 12/13 A judge sets bond at \$1 million for Cedric Carter in the shooting outside of Cashey's Sports Bar and Grill that left one person dead and wounded another.
- 12/14 The son of Columbus Mayor Robert Smith is shot and killed on Temple Cove just off of Highway 69. The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation is called upon to look into the death of 39-year-old Robert Smith Jr.
- 12/15 Law enforcement confirms that the shooting death of 39-year-old Robert Smith Jr. in Columbus is a homicide.
- 12/15 Police in Corinth are trying to figure out who is responsible for the shooting death of 49-year-old Paul Lavender, whose body was discovered by his fiance' in the bedroom of his Tate Street home.
- 12/16 The son of Robert Smith Jr. turns himself in to Columbus police and is now charged in the shooting death of his father.
- 12/22 Two people are wounded in a late afternoon shooting at Theron Nichols Park in Tupelo.
- 12/23 Tupelo police Chief Bart Aguirre releases more information about the Theron Nichols Park shooting. He says one victim is out of the hospital while the other is still being treated for gunshot

wounds to the lower back. He says lots of shots were fired during a basketball game and asks people to come forward to provide information that can lead to an arrest in the case.

12/26 Tupelo police say no one was hurt in a shooting that happened in the parking lot of the Walmart on West Main Street.

#### TOPIC

#### **Police** Performance

Program Title: WLOV News Date: Various Time: Various Duration: Various

Detailed Description: Some high profile cases have led to increased scrutiny of local police and how

officers perform. Coverage of the examples cited may carry over from the previous quarter:

- 10/3 Tupelo city leaders discuss what they took away from a recent trip to a police oversight conference in New Mexico. This comes on the heels of two police involved shootings in the city.
- 10/5 A change of venue hearing is expected next month for former Columbus police officer Canyon Boykin, who's charged with manslaughter in last year's shooting death of Ricky Ball.
- 10/10 The U.S. Department of Justice plans to make another visit to Tupelo to review steps the city has taken following two police involved shootings that have led some in the community to criticize the city's police department.
- 10/12 Reaction from some who attended a meeting in Tupelo by the U.S. Department of Justice that was held to see how the city responded to public outcry over the city's police department after two police involved shootings.
- 10/17 The Coalition of Concerned Pastors and Leaders says it is not happy with Tupelo's efforts to have working groups address issues following the fatal police shooting of Antwun Shumpert. CCPL says some members of the working groups don't live in the city and some members are city employees.
- 10/17 The father of Ricky Ball filed a wrongful death suit against the city of Columbus and former police officers involved in the shooting of Ball during a traffic stop last year. Ricky Martin accuses the city of failing to properly enforce police body camera policies.
- 10/18 A faith-based group met to discuss recommendations it plans to make to help the city recover from police involved shootings that have led to criticism of the city's police department. The ideas discussed range from a ministry registry to a unity festival.
- 10/24 A preview of the fifth meeting between the city of Tupelo and the U.S. Department of Justice following two police involved shootings that prompted community criticism of the police department. The DOJ representative will hear from four working groups formed after the shootings.
- 10/26 After a four-hour private meeting involving the U.S. Department of Justice, Tupelo city leaders and a couple of community groups emerge to say everyone is grateful for the DOJ's participation and all parties involved will continue to work together for a better city.
- 10/27 The family of Antwun Shumpert holds a news conference following that private meeting. The family attorney says it will press on with efforts to get answers about what happened the night Officer Tyler Cook shot and killed Shumpert following a traffic stop in Lee Acres.
- 11/9 An attorney for former Columbus police Officer Canyon Boykin says he will seek a change of venue for his client's manslaughter trial. Boykin is charged in the shooting death of Ricky Ball last year following a traffic stop.
- 11/18 Lowndes County Circuit Judge Lee Coleman has ruled that the Canyon Boykin manslaughter trial will be moved out of the county because there has been an inordinate amount of media coverage that could lead to an unfair trial. He's charged in the shooting death of Ricky Ball last year following a traffic stop.
- 12/13 Three of the defendants in the wrongful death lawsuit filed by the father of Ricky Ball say they did not violate Ball's constitutional rights the night he was shot and killed by Columbus police when he ran during a traffic stop.

### TOPIC Politics

Program Title: WLOV News Date: Various
Time: Various Duration: Various

Detailed Description: Although it's an off season for elections in Mississippi, there were some matters that brought people to the polls. There were also some issues that came up involving elected officials and voters:

- 10/3 Governor Phil Bryant tells a newspaper columnist that he would consider a lottery. Bryant previously was opposed to allowing the game of chance in the Magnolia State.
- 10/3 People in some local communities in Alabama will go to the polls tomorrow to settle municipal runoffs, including mayoral races in Red Bay, Bear Creek and Pickensville.
- 10/4 Some Lee County students participate in a mock election at Tupelo's BancorpSouth Arena. The November election will be the first one where Lee County will use electronic poll books instead of paper poll books.
- 10/4 The Pontotoc County circuit clerk went to North Pontotoc High School to give several students a chance to register to vote in the November election.
- 10/4 Voters in Red Bay, Alabama, elect the town's first ever female mayor, Charlene Fancher. We interview her live on our late newscast.
- 10/6 Mississippians have until October 8 to register to vote in the November general election, which includes the presidential and congressional races. Registration can be done at county circuit clerks offices on online through the website of Mississippi's secretary of state.
- 10/6 Mississippi Supreme Court candidate John Brady makes a campaign stop in Tupelo at the home of Mary Connor Adock. The attorney from Lowndes County is one of four candidates on the ballot for the seat on the state's highest court.
- 10/10 Absentee voting is taking place in Monroe County for the November general election. It is another county in the area that will use electronic poll books for the very first time instead of paper poll books.
- 10/14 The Mississippi Department of Transportation reminders candidates and their supporters that campaign signs are illegal on state right of ways. The state says illegally placed signs will be taken to a MDOT facility and kept for two weeks. Afterward, the signs can be retrieved without penalty.
- 10/14 A local non-profit has launched a website to help voters in Starkville and Oktibbeha County ahead of the November general election. Voterinitiative.org is providing sample ballots as well as information on polling places.
- 10/17 A check of Tupelo municipal buildings finds that the state flag does not fly at all of those properties. City attorney Ben Logan says the issue as to whether it should fly everywhere has never come up.
- 10/17 One poll in Mississippi shows GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump has a narrowing lead of 3.6% over Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.
- 10/20 Students at Heritage Academy in Columbus heard from members of the Democratic, Republican, Libertarian and Green parties ahead of the November general election. They also heard from a representative with the office of Mississippi's secretary of state.
- 10/21 Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann says he's taking every possible precaution to protect the state's election system from hacking or other security risks. He adds the state's roughly 7,000 voting machines are not connected to the Internet, which means they are not vulnerable to hacking.
- 10/25 Students at Heritage Academy in Columbus take part in a mock vote on the presidential election, which is part of a statewide effort to get young voters interested in voting named Promote the Vote.
- 10/27 Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant says the Electoral College is set up to favor larger states, allowing candidates to overlook states like Mississippi. He is supporting Donald Trump in the race for president.
- 10/28 The Mississippi Supreme Court rejects a challenge by the losing candidate in the 2015 Democratic primary for Clay County supervisor. Justices said Floyd McKee filed his challenge outside the timeline set by state law.
- 10/28 Calhoun County is moving the Vardaman voting precinct for the November general election from the fire department to the Masonic Hall.

- 10/31 Two people have qualified for the special election November 15 to fill an open seat on the Bruce Board of Aldermen. Jimmy Hubbard and Chad King are running to replace Danny Rodgers, who resigned.
- 11/1 Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann says the state's election process is not rigged compared to the national narrative being expressed by GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump. Hosemann says nearly 72,000 absentee ballots have been requested. He predicts a normal turnout.
- 11/1 Voters turned out in Ecru for a special mayoral election since Mark Baldwin resigned due to health reasons. Unofficial results have Jeff Smith defeating Glen Denton for the seat with the term running through June 2017.
- 11/2 Six people are running for an open seat on the Calhoun County Board of Supervisors. The winner will serve the remainder of J.B. Rogers' term. Rogers, who represented District 2, passed away last December. The vote is November 8.
- 11/3 Prentiss County has a special election for Justice Court Judge in the northern half of the county. There are 14 candidates running for the open seat. Circuit Clerk Mike Kelley says there's a good likelihood there will be a runoff to settle the special election.
- 11/4 Union County Circuit Clerk Phyllis Stanford explains how someone can vote absentee in the November 8 general election. Most can vote at the circuit clerk's office. Some can have an absentee ballot mailed to them.
- 11/4 It appears there are not as many political yard signs as there have been in previous elections. People in West Point speculate on why that is just a few days away from the general election.
- 11/7 A political science professor at Mississippi State University says voters generally decide who to vote for based on a dislike for the opposing party. One thing to watch on Election Day is what black voters do.
- 11/7 Representatives for the state Democratic and Republican parties give their take on what they expect to happen on Election Day.
- 11/8 Comprehensive coverage of Election Day in Mississippi includes live reports from polling places in Tupelo, Starkville and Louisville. Results come in on the presidential race, U.S. House races, a special election for Circuit Court judge in Winston, Attala, Choctaw, Grenada, Montgomery, Webster and Carroll counties, special elections for Calhoun County supervisor and Prentiss County Justice Court judge, election commissioners and school board members. We also covered the presidential vote in Alabama along with the U.S. Senate race and constitutional amendments, one of which would allow the current probate judge to run for re-election and serve until he's 75 years old. Right now, Alabama law only allows judges to serve until 70 years old.
- 11/9 Local voters and former Mississippi State Professor Marty Wiseman weigh in on the GOP winning the White House as well as Congress.
- 11/11 U.S. Senator Roger Wicker speaks to the Tupelo Kiwanis Club and shares his thoughts about the presidential election. He acknowledged he had not had much time to analyze the Donald Trump victory, but he does believe the pollsters were shocked by the outcome of the election.
- 11/14 Starkville Mayor Parker Wiseman reveals he will not run for re-election in the 2017 municipal elections, saying after two terms in office he needs to spend more time focusing on his family.
- 11/15 A Starkville teacher is in trouble for a Facebook post where she wrote the White House needs a good Clorox cleaning, obviously referring to President Obama. The school board met in executive session but took no action on the matter.
- 11/15 A special election was held for a seat on the Bruce Board of Aldermen. Jimmy Hubbard won the two-person race and will serve the remainder of Danny Rodgers' term.
- 11/23 We talk to some voters in Chickasaw County to get their view on why the county went for Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election when it went for Barack Obama in the 2012 presidential election.
- 11/23 We preview the runoff for Prentiss County Justice Court Judge North. The two candidates emerged from a field of 14 candidates in the November 8 election.
- 11/27 We preview the runoff for the soon-to-be open seat on the Mississippi Supreme Court representing the northern half of Mississippi. Columbus attorney John Brady is running against former state lawmaker Bobby Chamberlain of Hernando.
- 11/29 Coverage of the runoffs for the Mississippi Supreme Court, the Mississippi Court of Appeals and open seats on the Calhoun County Board of Supervisors as well as one of the Justice Court judgeships in Prentiss County.

- 11/30 The Starkville elementary school teacher who wrote a controversial Facebook post saying the White House needed a good Clorox scrubbing submitted her resignation, which was accepted by the district's school board.
- 12/13 The special election is set to replace Oktibbeha County Chancery Clerk Monica Banks, who died. The primary will be August 8. The general election will be November 7.
- 12/21 Oxford Mayor Pat Patterson says he will not run for re-election in 2017. He's the second mayor locally to express his intention he will not be running.

# TOPIC Education

Program Title: WLOC News Date: Various
Time: Various Duration: Various

Detailed Description: Improving education in the region is seen as a vital step by economic developers to make the area more attractive to prospective industries and to improve quality of life in the area.

Following are stories covered on air and online:

- 10/1 A special education teacher at Overstreet Elementary in Starkville started the Circle of Friends program. Its goal is to educate other students about special education and help them understand children dealing with autism or a learning disability.
- 10/3 We preview a career expo that will be held in Tupelo to give 8<sup>th</sup> graders an opportunity to see what career choices they can make when they graduate from high school.
- 10/5 The Career Expo Fair by the CREATE Foundation is in its second day, and teachers we spoke with say they believe this event will help their students when it comes to figuring out what to do in the future.
- 10/7 Mississippi State University dedicates a new residence hall in honor of the retired chairman and CEO of Eastman Chemical and his wife. Deavenport Hall will serve as home for more than 300 students.
- 10/11 Cooper Tire sends a team to Tupelo High School this week to help give students some insight into the manufacturing industry. Students rotated through different rooms to see the different stages of making a tire.
- 10/11 Famed former attorney Dickie Scruggs speaks to the Columbus Rotary Club about his efforts after serving time in prison to raise money for adult basic education. Second Chance Mississippi gives those adults job training skills and a GED.
- 10/11 The Starkville Foundation for Public Education induct a couple of people into the Starkville High School Hall of Famous: attorney Jay Perry and police Chief Frank Nichols.
- 10/12 Some state lawmakers say they want to rewrite Mississippi's public school funding formula so more money can go toward the classroom and less goes toward administrative expenses. House Speaker Philip Gunn wans the formula ready for the 2017 Legislature to consider.
- 10/13 Some education advocates are opposed to the New Jersey non-profit EdBuild being given the contract to review the funding formula for Mississippi's public schools. The Legislature is not required to follow the bid process that state agencies must follow.
- 10/13 The Chickasaw Inkana Foundation is teaming up with the Tupelo School District so 4<sup>th</sup> graders and teachers can take part in continuing education on the people, history, heritage and culture of the Chickasaw Indians, which had a presence in our area years ago.
- 10/19 A science education concert is held at Columbus Middle School to teach students about Newton's Law of Gravity and the three laws of motion. FMA Live is also performing at Armstrong Middle School in Starkville Friday.
- 10/20 The Mississippi Department of Education has released its letter grades for the state's public school districts as well as for individual schools.
- 10/22 The Mississippi University for Women has renamed the demonstration school building Turner Hall. Alma Turner is credited with making advancements in the field of education.
- 10/25 High school students from Chickasaw, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe and Pontotoc counties received 28 awards at Itawamba Community College as part of a visual arts competition. The students were also judged on their writing as well as their artwork.

- 10/26 Students at Nettleton Primary School took part in Move to Learn, a fitness initiative by the Mississippi Department of Education where the idea is when student health improves, so does academic performance.
- 10/26 Mississippi State University has received \$730,000 in grants that will go toward helping 500 low income students over five years open a saving account for educational purposes.
- 10/27 Mississippi State University President Mark Keenum spoke to juniors and seniors at Tupelo High School about preparing for the future and the place technology has in that future. His goal was to inspire the students to get as much education as possible.
- 10/27 The CEO of the non-profit firm that's reviewing the funding formula for Mississippi's public schools tells state lawmakers Mississippi needs to have a base cost per student and give more money to students with special needs, such as disabilities, gifted or English language learners.
- 10/27 Students at Saltillo Elementary School heard from people in a variety of jobs as part of the school's Career Day. Police officers, bankers and Congressman Trent Kelly were among those who spoke to the students about their jobs.
- 10/28 State education officials say Mississippi showed significant increases in 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade science scores on the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress. The state is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation for growth in those scores in both grades since 2009.
- 11/3 The president of Delta State University announces the school will no longer fly the state flag, becoming the last public university in Mississippi to make that move.
- 11/3 Alabama Governor Robert Bentley is not backing down from his statement that the state's educational system "sucks." He was criticized for making that statement during a speech to a civic group in Montgomery.
- 11/8 The Tupelo school board toured some construction projects underway in the district. Among them are a storm shelter at Thomas Street Elementary School additional classrooms at the Early Childhood Education Center and a new building at Tupelo Middle School.
- 11/10 The Alabama Board of Education decides to release report cards for schools, but the first report cards in December will not include letter grades. They will only have information on student achievement.
- 11/12 The superintendents of the Tupelo and Lee County school districts speak at the Community Development Foundation's monthly meeting. Both express concern about the Legislature not fully funding public schools as required through the Mississippi Adequate Education Program.
- 11/16 Northeast Mississippi Community College and Itawamba Community College hold a joint legislative luncheon where they make a pitch to state lawmakers for more funding for their schools.
- 11/28 A task force established by Governor Phil Bryant has come back with an action plan on how to improve reading achievement among Mississippi students. The call is to examine the methods that teachers currently use to teach reading and implement uniform policies for teaching that skill.
- 11/30 Northeast Mississippi Community College has signed an agreement with Blue Mountain College that allows NEMCC students in its technical programs to transfer up to 70 credit hours to Blue Mountain. The hope is this will help encourage those students to get a bachelor's degree.
- State education officials will visit the Booneville and Oxford school districts because they were given an A grade in the latest school accountability ratings by the Mississippi Department of Education.
- Smoke and water damage is found in the Humanities and Fine Arts Building following a fire at the Mayhew campus of East Mississippi Community College. It appears the fire is electrical. It comes prior to the week of final exams for the fall semester.
- 12/14 The Alcorn County School District is giving students a path to graduate in case they can't pass the state mandated tests. The students have to complete courses online independently, withdraw from the Alcorn County schools and enroll in New Learning Resources, which would award a diploma similar to what would be awarded by the county school district.
- 12/21 The Tupelo High School marching band has been invited to perform in the Inaugural Parade in Washington, DC, next month. The band must raise \$100,000 for the trip, however.
- 12/26 A report to the Mississippi Legislature says the three Chickasaw County school districts being forced to combine still don't have a consensus on how they should consolidate. One of the districts, Okolona, is appealing to the federal government in hopes of stopping the consolidation.

Program Title: Assignment Education Date: Various Time: Various Duration: Various

Detailed Description: A weekly segment featuring interesting programs/initiatives by local schools/programs. The segments we aired include:

- 10/13 An agricultural program at Baldwyn High School is giving students an opportunity to learn about agribusiness. Students in the agriculture and environmental science courses work in the school greenhouse, which has become a self-sustaining business selling plants to the public.
- 10/20 The Monroe County School District is taking part in a pilot program by the state of Mississippi aimed at improving test scores for math. Algebra Nation is a web-based resource that allows a student to learn at his or her own pace.
- 10/27 The Digital Dawg Byte Technology Competition brought hundreds of high school students to Mississippi State University which allowed them to show off their ideas for smartphone apps.
- 11/3 Educators at New Albany High School are using a unique program to prevent students from dropping out of school. Students who can't get their clothes washed can leave them anonymously, and teachers wash them. They're washing 10-15 loads a week.
- 11/10 Children in Tupelo elementary schools are being introduced to fresh fruits and vegetables through the Healthy Waves program. The thinking is that by introducing those children to healthy eating early, the state's obesity rates will go down in the long term.
- 11/17 New Albany High School has a mentoring program, Vision 2020, where 25 juniors and seniors mentor incoming freshmen. The purpose of the program is to make sure that those freshmen stay in school long enough to graduate.
- 12/1 The One to One Initiative at Anderson Elementary in Booneville puts technology in the hands of students as young as those in kindergarten. They upgrade from mini iPads to Chromebooks in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Backers of the program say this has helped the school district receive an A rating from the Mississippi Department of Education.
- 12/8 Mississippi's Art Education Teacher of the Year is Amanda Koonlaba of Lawhon Elementary in Tupelo. She says art helps students when learning other subjects like math and science.
- 12/15 Dorsey Attendance Center in Itawamba County is using a competition to build a stronger foundation for students when it comes to reading. Students in grades 3-8 are separated into teams where each student has to read 10 books before answering questions about those books as part of the competition.
- 12/22 Students at Sudduth Elementary School in Starkville traveled from classroom to classroom to learn about holiday celebrations around the world. Each student was given a passport that had to be stamped when looking at various cultures.

## TOPIC Economy

Program Title: WTVA 9 News Date: Various Time: Various Duration: Various

Detailed Description: How local communities are doing economically plays a big role in the quality of life for our area. Included are stories that touch on the overall economic climate or tax revenues:

- 10/4 The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved a \$2 million loan to support the ongoing rebuilding of Winston Medical Center in Louisville. The funding is expected to help the hospital keep its 226 employees and create 15 jobs in the city.
- Toyota Boshoku held a job fair, which attracted more than 300 applicants hoping to land a position with the automotive supplier in Itawamba County. The plant makes door panels and seats for Toyota vehicles, and company officials were impressed with the turnout.
- 10/4 Aldermen in Starkville rejected a tax break that would bring a Walmart Neighborhood Market to the east side of the city. The move comes just one day after the Oktibbeha County Board of Supervisors approved the tax break for the retailer.
- 10/6 Public Service Commissioner Brandon Presley announced \$16.7 million will be used to provide natural gas to the Golden Triangle Industrial Aerospace Park and the proposed Starkville Industrial Park. The hope is this will make it easier to attract new industry and create more jobs.

- 10/12 Valley Racks in Grenada, a steel fabrication company, says it will expand and create 10 new jobs. The company also provides water jet, laser and power coating services.
- 10/14 Baptist Memorial Health Services signs an agreement to start managing the hospital in Calhoun City for the next 30 years. Baptist promises to invest \$30 million in the hospital, nursing home and ambulance center.
- 10/21 The latest unemployment numbers show there are 75,900 people in Mississippi who are out of work. In Alabama, that number is 117, 125.
- 10/23 The Mississippi National Guard says it will close its armory in Nettleton. However, those who have jobs there will keep them, but they will be reassigned to nearby facilities.
- 10/25 Tupelo Chief Operating Officer Don Lewis says the city is trying to get the word out about open positions in the police department with the hope of getting more black applicants. Trying to get more minorities in city jobs has also been a focus of the city schools, which for years has been working to get more black teachers in the classroom.
- 10/26 The head of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership, the economic development agency for Starkville and Oktibbeha County, has resigned. No reason was given for Jennifer Gregory's departure.
- 10/27 MaxxSouth announces it's going to bring one gigabit of high speed Internet service to Oxford and Lafayette County. The hope is the improved Internet will help attract more jobs and help existing businesses grow.
- 10/28 The Mississippi Economic Council brought its statewide tour to Tupelo where it was seeking feedback from local business leaders on needs that need to be addressed. MEC sees improving transportation infrastructure and beefing up the skilled workforce as a couple of issues that need attention. But the leader of the Monroe County Chamber says improving the state's image also deserves attention.
- 11/15 Custom Engineered Wheels is relocating to the Southern Motion facility in Baldwyn after a fire destroyed the CEW plant in Tupelo. CEW also plans to spend \$13 million to expand, which will not only keep the company's 65 employees but add 20 jobs over the next couple of years.
- 11/15 Governor Phil Bryant is recommending the Legislature not renew tax credits that were created to encourage companies to shoot movies in the Magnolia State. He says the rebate program has cost the state \$25 million since 2011 and the state should stop subsidizing the motion picture industry.
- 11/17 The state is introducing a program to help former college students finish their coursework so they can get a degree. Governor Phil Bryant says he sees a need to do this because a more advanced workforce will bring higher paying, more advanced jobs to Mississippi. The goal is to increase the college graduation rate from 30 percent to 60 percent by 2025.
- 12/5 Mississippi's top economic developer says the Golden Triangle is getting national attention for its efforts to create jobs and build the economy. Mississippi Development Authority director Glenn McCullough made his comments before the Starkville Rotary Club.
- 12/7 The MEC tour mentioned on 10/28 comes to New Albany. The business group says it wants the state to set an extra \$375 million a year set aside for roads and bridges.
- 12/9 Ground is broken on a \$38 million facility called the Communiversity to be located in Lowndes County. The three story, 134,000 square foot building will be used by East Mississippi Community College to provide training in welding, machine tool technology, electronics and mechatronics. The hope is that this facility will make the workforce in the Golden Triangle more attractive to industry.
- The Cracker Barrel restaurant chain breaks ground on a location in New Albany. The restaurant, which is scheduled to open in May 2017, will create 175 full- and part-time jobs.
- 12/14 The Toyota manufacturing plant near Blue Springs is getting a new leader. Akitoshi Ichino will take over at the start of 2017 to be responsible for the plant's manufacturing and administrative operations.
- 12/15 Niagra Bottling is spending \$78 million to open a manufacturing plant in Marshall County. The move is expected to create 38 jobs. The company recently bought a building in the Chickasaw Trail Industrial Park. Production is expected to begin in early 2017.

#### National:

#### **TOPIC**

**Presidential Politics** 

Program Title: WTVA 9 News Date: Various
Time: Various Duration: Various

Detailed Description: With the major party nominees now selected, the focus was squarely on Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump to see who would serve as the next president of the United States. Our coverage of the presidential campaign included the following stories:

- 10/2 Donald Trump says he's the only presidential candidate who can fix the tax system. His comment is in response to a New York Times report that his 1995 returns show a loss of nearly \$1 billion and he may have avoided paying federal income taxes for years.
- 10/3 Green Party candidate Jill Stein visits Oxford for a student town hall meeting. She says the Green Party is gaining popularity as the election draws closer.
- 10/3 Ole Miss holds a forum on the presidential election with former NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw, former Republican Governor Haley Barbour and current Democratic Attorney General Jim Hood sharing their thoughts on the race for the White House.
- 10/4 The two vice presidential nominees met for their only debate. Tim Kaine and Mike Pence discussed a variety of issues, including the economy, Russia, immigration, police shootings and abortion. The 90-minute event was carried live on our stations with coverage provided by the various networks.
- 10/8 Crude comments made by Donald Trump years ago in a conversation with Billy Bush about women are released, prompting some Republicans to back away from the party's nominee. Local GOP supporters, however, remain strong in their support for the nominee.
- 10/9 The second presidential debate had several heated exchanges between the two candidates. Donald Trump said Hillary Clinton would be in jail if he was in the White House over her handling of private emails. Clinton said Trump was unfit for the presidency due to his sexual comments about women. The debate from Washington University in St. Louis was carried live on our stations with coverage provided by various networks.
- 10/10 Some political science students at Mississippi State University weighed in with their assessment of the second presidential debate.
- 10/13 Local supporters of Donald Trump held a rally in Tupelo's Fairpark with prominent politicians on hand to voice their support, including U.S. Senator Roger Wicker, state Senator Chad McMahan and Lee County Sheriff Jim Johnson.
- 10/18 One day before the final presidential debate, new accusations emerge that the Hillary Clinton campaign tried to manipulate the FBI probe of her emails and new charges are made by Donald Trump that the voting on November 8<sup>th</sup> will be rigged.
- 10/19 The third and final presidential debate featured the two candidates trading barbs on a variety of issues abortion, trade and the Supreme Court. The event from the University of Nevada Las Vegas was carried live on our stations with coverage provided by various networks.
- 10/19 Students and faculty at Ole Miss gathered at the Meel School of Journalism to watch the third and final presidential debate. Those in the audience had mixed reactions. Also giving some perspective on the debate and the campaign was Curtis Wilkie, a professor who covered presidential campaigns for years for the Boston Globe.
- 10/24 Florida is expected to play a key role in the outcome of the presidential election. Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are expected to spend plenty of time there in the 14 days before the election.
- 10/27 A leaked memo has surfaced about Bill Clinton got rich by interconnecting his for-profit and charity work while Hillary Clinton was secretary of state. Meanwhile, a new CNBC poll gives Clinton a 9 point lead nationally.
- 10/28 FBI director James Comey puts the Hillary Clinton controversy back in the spotlight, writing that his agency should investigate after learning of emails that may contain classified information.
- 11/1 Donald Trump is encouraging those who voted early and who can change their vote to do so if they have buyer's remorse.
- On the day before the election, both candidates are trying to hit as many states as possible. Donald Trump has a five-state swing. Hillary Clinton is only visiting three states.
- 11/8 Extensive coverage was provided on our stations from the various networks of the results from the election for president as well as Congress and local races. WTVA preempted local news at 6 pm on channel 9.2 to provide ABC News coverage. NBC News coverage began at 6:30 pm on channel 9.1. The only interruption of that coverage, which ran early into the next morning, was for local news at 10 pm.

- 11/9 Donald Trump claimed victory, and Hillary Clinton publicly conceded the election. President Obama pledged to cooperate with the incoming president as did House Speaker Paul Ryan, who promised the GOP Congress will help.
- 11/9 Mississippians react to the Donald Trump victory. Governor Phil Bryant, a Trump supporter, says he doesn't expect a call to serve in the Trump administration but wouldn't rule out serving if he receives a call. Meanwhile, some Democrats in Mississippi say they hope the governor's good relationship with the incoming president will benefit the state.
- 11/10 President-elect Donald Trump meets with President Obama at the White House, their first meeting since the election. Both had good things to say even though the two were critical of one another during the campaign.
- 11/14 Some of the first picks of the Trump cabinet are announced. There's praise for GOP chairman Reince Priebus being selected as White House chief of staff. However, there's criticism of Steve Bannon's selection as a top presidential advisor.
- 11/18 President-elect Trump meets with Japanese Prime Minister Abe, Trump's first in-person meeting with a foreign head of state since clinching the presidency. Trump has also selected Alabama U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions to be his attorney general.
- 11/19 President-elect Trump calls for an apology after the cast of the Broadcast hit "Hamilton" delivered a message to Vice President-elect Pence, saying the cast is "alarmed and anxious" about the incoming administration.
- 11/24 Vice President-elect Mike Pence is spending the Thanksgiving holiday in the Magnolia State. He's in Meridian where his son is undergoing Marine pilot training at Naval Air Station Meridian.
- 11/26 President Obama and President-elect Trump express stark differences in their reactions to the passing of Cuban leader Fidel Castro. Obama, in a statement, extended a hand of friendship to Cuba and did not mention any human rights abuses under Castro. Trump, on the other hand, referred to Castro as a brutal dictator.
- 12/19 The Electoral College makes Donald Trump's victory official even though there was a public effort to get some electors to not follow through with their commitment for the president-elect.
- 12/29 President Obama retaliated against Russia for hacking U.S. Computers to influence the presidential election. President-elect Trump dismissed the move by saying, "We need to get on with our lives."