



Description of WLOV programming providing the most significant treatment of community issues.

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2020

WLOV airs local news programming each week live during the following times on WLOV 27.1 (FOX).

Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. (simulcast with WTVA 9.1 (NBC) and WTVA 9.2 (ABC))

Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Monday through Friday 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday 9 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

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

The following is a list of some of the community issues in Northeast Mississippi and Northwest Alabama that received treatment. Local news stories were also posted on our website at [wtva.com](http://wtva.com), on the WTVA 9 News app, on Facebook and on Twitter.

-Coronavirus

-Minority Concerns

-Weather

-Elections

-Education

-Economy

**Local:**

## TOPIC

### Coronavirus

Program Title: WTVA 9 News on WLOV (This program is produced for WLOV by WTVA under a JSSA)

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: The coronavirus pandemic continued from the first quarter to dramatically disrupt everyday life for people across the area. That included orders from state government to restrict going out in public, which were later eased. Still, multiple issues developed because of the impact of the virus. Here are some of the stories that we aired:

4/1 Gov. Tate Reeves signed an executive stay-at-home order for the entire state of Mississippi.

4/1 Monroe County gets its first coronavirus death, according to the coroner – a 90-year-old woman.

4/2 Columbus Mayor Robert Smith ordered the Lowe's store closed after a worker there tested positive for the coronavirus.

4/4 Tupelo Mayor Jason Shelton said several adults could face fines or jail time for gathering at Ballard Park Thursday night.

4/6 Aberdeen Police Chief Henry Randle said anyone who violates the coronavirus curfew that went into effect last week could be fined at least \$100.

4/6 President Trump declared Mississippi a major disaster area because of the coronavirus, and that declaration will clear the way for federal money to help the state deal with economic issues caused by the virus.

4/8 Oktibbeha County sheriff's deputies arrested a man for violating the county's coronavirus curfew when he said he was going to work but could not provide the name of the business.

4/9 North Mississippi Health Services announced it would furlough employees and have senior management take a pay cut since the coronavirus cut into the hospital system's revenue.

4/10 Tupelo plans to open its storm shelters when severe weather threatens on Sunday, but the city wants those who show up to wear a mask and gloves and to socially distance, if possible.

4/10 The pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Lafayette County said he will hold a drive-in service on Sunday even though the sheriff asked him not to because county supervisors banned outdoor gatherings because of the coronavirus.

4/13 Public transit in Tupelo is running again after the coronavirus shut it down when one of its drivers tested positive.

4/16 The city of Oxford furloughed more than 100 fulltime employees and will not hire 150 seasonal workers because of the coronavirus.

4/17 Gov. Tate Reeves announced he would extend the state's shelter-in-place order for another week but nonessential businesses can provide drive-thru, curbside and delivery service.

4/22 The Tupelo Elvis Festival will only hold a virtual event this year because of the coronavirus.

4/23 Bruce City Hall is closed, and workers, including Mayor Rudy Pope, are under quarantine after one worker tested positive for the coronavirus.

4/24 Gov. Tate Reeves announced that a new Safer at Home order will take effect Monday, allowing more retail businesses to reopen with restrictions.

4/24 Gov. Tate Reeves suspended the expiration dates on all licenses and permits issued through the Mississippi Department of Public Safety.

4/27 Starkville aldermen voted to require business employees and customers to wear a mask to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

4/28 Aldermen in Oxford voted to allow some businesses to reopen, but employees and customers are required to wear a face covering.

5/1 State Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs made a public plea for the First Monday Flea Market in Tippah County not to reopen out of concerns the coronavirus could spread.

5/1 The Legislature will return to Jackson next week to decide how to spend \$1.25 billion in federal coronavirus money even though Gov. Tate Reeves said it is his authority alone to decide how the aid should be spent.

5/6 Starkville aldermen decided to exempt dine-in customers at restaurants from the city's requirement for people to wear face coverings.

5/6 Magnolia Regional Health Center in Corinth started the process of reintroducing select elective surgeries and procedures after being prohibited weeks ago from having such surgeries.

5/8 Gov. Tate Reeves extends the Safer at Home order until May 25 but eases restrictions on barber shops, salons and gyms.

5/9 Aldermen in Starkville ease the requirement for businesses to compel employees or customers to wear a mask, but they strongly encourage them to do so.

5/19 Starkville is bringing its parks employees back to a full 40-hour week now that the city reopened its parks.

5/19 Gov. Tate Reeves announced guidelines to help churches and other places of worship safely conduct in-person services during the coronavirus pandemic.

5/19 Tupelo police officers are wearing masks and gloves and spraying down their vehicles, but they add that will not stop them from doing their job of fighting crime.

5/20 Mississippi is getting \$91 million from the federal government to expand testing for the coronavirus.

5/22 Gov. Tate Reeves issued an executive order that showed guidelines for outdoor recreational areas like playgrounds and sports complexes reopening.

5/27 The city of Columbus lifted the curfew implemented on March 21 because of the coronavirus.

5/27 Organizers of Corinth's Slugburger Festival announced the event will not happen as planned on July 10-11 but did not rule out trying to hold it later this year.

5/28 The state said at least 20 of the more than 100 people who attended a May 17 funeral in Baldwyn tested positive for the coronavirus.

6/1 The Lee County Courthouse is closed after an employee tested positive for the coronavirus.

6/1 Gov. Tate Reeves' new Safe Return Order took effect with updated social distancing guidelines for people, businesses and health care professionals.

6/3 The state will reopen driver license stations on Monday, but there will be restrictions on whom can show up on which day.

6/8 The Lee County Courthouse reopened after the county administrator shut it down last week because someone working there tested positive for the coronavirus.

6/8 Organizers of the Jacinto Festival, a tradition on the Fourth of July, have canceled the event for this year because of the coronavirus.

6/15 State Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs said there are coronavirus outbreaks in churches and he is starting to see outbreaks from summer sports teams at all levels.

6/24 The coronavirus is being blamed for a shortage of coins across the United States, but a local banker does not expect the shortage to last long.

6/26 Tupelo Mayor Jason Shelton signed an executive order requiring people to wear masks while inside businesses in hopes of curtailing coronavirus spread.

6/29 Tupelo Mayor Jason Shelton said it will be up to the businesses to enforce the city's face mask requirement.

## **TOPIC**

### **Minority concerns**

Program Title: WTVA 9 News on WLOV (This program is produced for WLOV by WTVA under a JSSA)

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: There was a surprise decision in a fatal shooting where a white officer killed a Black man. Also, the death of a Black man at the hands of Minneapolis police prompted protests here

and around the country. It also triggered another call to change the Mississippi flag and move Confederate statues. Here are some of the stories that we aired:

5/29 Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch said a manslaughter charge will be dropped against Canyon Boykin, a white former Columbus police officer, in the October 2015 shooting death of Ricky Ball, a Black man, because her office reviewed the case and concluded the officer acted in self-defense.

5/30 Protests were held in Tupelo, Columbus and Oxford in response to a white Minneapolis police officer killing George Floyd, who was Black.

6/5 Unity events will take place in Tupelo this weekend in response to George Floyd's death — a march Saturday and a prayer event Sunday — joining similar events in Columbus, Booneville and New Albany.

6/6 People turned out for peaceful protests in Starkville, Tupelo and Oxford to take a stand against police brutality and racial inequality.

6/11 The Lee County NAACP met with the Tupelo police chief and other officers to get an understanding about police procedures when dealing with bad officers.

6/11 The NAACP in the Golden Triangle hopes lawmakers in Jackson will hear their pleas to get the Confederate emblem off the state flag.

6/12 Organizers plan to hold peaceful protests Saturday in West Point, Amory and Houston in response to the death of George Floyd.

6/15 District Attorney Scott Colom released on his website evidence files in the case of a white officer who fatally shot a black man during a 2015 traffic stop in Columbus — files received after Mississippi's attorney general decided the officer acted in self-defense.

6/17 Lowndes County Supervisor Harry Sanders is under fire for telling a reporter Black people are dependent to this day because they were once slaves.

6/18 The state College Board voted to relocate the Confederate statue on campus to a less prominent location — the Confederate cemetery next to Tad Smith Coliseum.

6/19 The NCAA announced it would no longer hold any championship events in Mississippi because of the Confederate emblem on the state flag, which has concerns in Oxford and Starkville due to possibly losing the right to host baseball and women's basketball playoff events.

6/20 Protesters in Aberdeen marched and rallied for change during a peaceful unity event.

6/22 A group of former student body presidents at Mississippi's universities called for a change to the state flag.

6/22 Gov. Tate Reeves revealed he does not support having two state flags to represent the state.

6/23 The board that oversees Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi came out in support of changing the state flag to eliminate the Confederate battle emblem.

6/25 Athletic directors and coaches from the state's eight public universities came to the State Capitol to ask that the Confederate emblem be removed from the state flag.

6/27 The Mississippi Legislature voted to clear the way for getting the Confederate emblem off the state flag, setting up a vote Sunday on a bill that lays out the process for doing just that.

6/29 The city of Tupelo took down the state flag after the Legislature voted over the weekend to replace the banner that carried the Confederate emblem.

6/30 Gov. Tate Reeves signed into law the bill that gets rid of the old state flag and creates a commission to come up with a new flag design that must be approved by voters in November.

## **TOPIC**

### **Weather**

Program Title: WTVA 9 News on WLOV (This program is produced for WLOV by WTVA under a JSSA)

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: The region is prone to severe weather, especially tornadoes, and the WTVA Severe Weather Authority regularly interrupts programming to provide life-saving information. Here are some of the stories that we aired:

4/10 Tupelo Mayor Jason Shelton said the city will open its public shelters Sunday but ask that people who show up will practice social distancing and wear a mask.

4/11 With the threat of tornadoes, Oktibbeha County is asking people coming to the Safe Room to socially distance and be expected to clean their hands and shoes before entering.

4/12 A tornado touched down in the Brooksville area of Noxubee County knocking down trees, taking out power and flipping over a mobile home. The WTVA Severe Weather Authority provided live coverage of the storms moving through the area.

4/24 Attala, Grenada and Clay counties are among eleven counties in Mississippi placed under a federal disaster declaration from severe weather in February, which should free up federal money for local governments to pay for repairs.

## **TOPIC**

### **Elections**

Program Title: WTVA 9 News on WLOV (This program is produced for WLOV by WTVA under a JSSA)

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: One municipality held its election for city offices in what is an off-year for elections in Mississippi. One congressional primary runoff was resolved after the coronavirus delayed it. And there was a surprising turn in a challenge of a police chief's race. Here are some of the stories that we aired:

4/22 Aldermen in Aberdeen decided to push back the city's primary elections to June 2, the runoff to June 16 and the general election on July 7 because of the coronavirus.

4/29 Special Judge Barry Ford ordered a special election in Okolona to decide who should be city marshal following a challenge by William Randle Junior, who lost the 2017 election to Tommy Ivy Senior.

5/21 The special election in Okolona for city marshal will be held July 21, with Rahn Giddens appointed to serve in the job until a winner is declared.

5/30 Aberdeen city workers started offering early voting to limit the crowds that may show up June 2 to vote in the party primaries for city offices.

6/3 Aberdeen Police Chief Henry Randle must face Tony Tillman in a runoff after Tuesday's party primaries for city offices while many aldermen races were settled in the primary.

6/23 Brian Flowers won a congressional Republican primary runoff in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District and will face Democratic Rep. Bennie Thompson in November.

## **TOPIC**

### **Education**

Program Title: WTVA 9 News on WLOV (This program is produced for WLOV by WTVA under a JSSA)

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: Schools and universities faced some difficult decisions with the coronavirus pandemic. All of them shut down, then had to decide how to reopen in the fall. Even without classes, some tried to continue serving students. Here are some of the stories that we aired:

4/2 Mississippi State University is closing down all of its buildings on campus even though there are some students still living on campus.

4/6 Students are still being fed meals they would normally get at school through the Lee County School District's Grab and Go Meal Program.

4/8 Gov. Tate Reeves said he was committed to provide clear guidance by no later than Tuesday of next week on how the state's public schools would proceed after the coronavirus closed them.

4/9 Teachers and principals in Okolona teamed up with a local food pantry to provide food to children since the schools are closed because of the coronavirus.

4/10 The school board in Union County hired West Union principal Russell Taylor to become the new superintendent of the county schools to replace the retiring Ken Basil.

4/13 Itawamba Community College President Jay Allen said two buildings on the Fulton campus could be used for recovering coronavirus patients if the hospitals in the area run out of beds.

4/14 Gov. Tate Reeves announced the coronavirus forced him to cancel the remainder of the school year for public school students.

5/6 High school seniors in Tupelo walked the stage at Milam Junior High to get their diplomas with students and their families being spaced out throughout the day to keep everyone safe.

5/6 Pontotoc County schools decided to postpone high school graduations originally scheduled to take place a week from next Saturday.

5/8 School districts like Pontotoc County are sending surveys to parents asking about internet quality, which could serve as a guide to how classes resume in the fall.

5/15 Seniors at West Point High School graduated in a virtual ceremony by walking across the stage in the auditorium with a small number of parents and families on hand.

5/19 The Mississippi Department of Education is waiving ACT or SAT requirements or the PRAXIS exam for potential educators applying to enter the teacher education program at Mississippi State University.

5/20 Eligible students at Mississippi community colleges will soon get federal relief money to cover their expenses caused by the coronavirus shutting down campus operations.

5/22 Gov. Tate Reeves issued an executive order allowing schools to reopen weight rooms and training facilities as long as they follow the guidelines laid out for fitness centers.

5/26 Many of the graduate programs are waiving standardized admissions tests and extending application deadlines in response to the coronavirus.

6/11 The Mississippi Department of Education still needs input from school districts concerning its \$250 million plan for online education in the fall, such as internet connectivity.

6/15 Itawamba Community College plans to start in-person and online fall classes on August 17, but look for final exams to be completed on the Friday before the Thanksgiving break.

6/16 Houston schools will use a scanner for the new school year to see if anyone who comes on campus has a fever – one of the symptoms of the coronavirus.

6/19 State Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs said Ole Miss fraternity parties contributed to a recent spike in coronavirus cases in Lafayette County.

6/24 Water Valley schools will bring students back August 5<sup>th</sup>, but it will offer online classes to students not comfortable in returning to campus.



6/26 The Tupelo public schools laid out its plan for resuming classes in the fall, which include social distancing and options for online classes.

6/29 People attending graduation at Saltillo High School over the weekend packed into the bleachers at the football field and appeared to have not done much social distancing.

## **TOPIC**

### **Economy**

Program Title: WTVA 9 News on WLOV (This program is produced for WLOV by WTVA under a JSSA)

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Detailed Description: The nation's economy was brought to a standstill because of the coronavirus, and our area did not avoid the fallout from that. Businesses closed temporarily with some not reopening and others continuing to do business but making adjustments. Here are some of the stories that we aired:

4/3 Realtors locally said they are still selling houses, but they have had to change their routines because of concerns about the coronavirus.

4/3 People in Mississippi are having trouble filing for unemployment, and the state blamed that on so many people filing at the same time.

4/6 Winston Plywood and Veneer in Louisville announced in a statement it will temporarily furlough employees since the demand for plywood and other wood products dropped drastically in the past month.

4/7 An employee at International Paper in Houston tested positive for the coronavirus, and employees who may have been in close contact are in self-quarantine.

4/7 Huddle House is dealing with the drop in business because of the coronavirus by selling groceries, and some managers at the local restaurants said the move is a success.

4/8 Toyota announced it would further extend its production suspension at its automotive plant near Blue Springs through May 1 and restart operations on May 4.

4/10 State Farm is giving its auto insurance customers a credit of 25 percent since the coronavirus forced many people to not use their cars until the shelter-in-place orders are lifted.

4/13 Yokohama announced its tire plant near West Point, shut down already for more than three weeks, will remain closed until further notice because of the coronavirus pandemic.

4/15 Reed's Department Store, an anchor in Downtown Tupelo, temporarily closed its doors due to the coronavirus after first trying curbside sales, then just selling apparel online.

4/20 Raybern Foods in Lee County immediately closed its plant after a temporary worker tested positive for the coronavirus.

4/23 Cooper Tire, Lee County's second largest employer, will reopen its Tupelo plant next week with increased cleaning, physical barriers and visitor restrictions aimed at preventing spread of the coronavirus.

5/1 The First Monday Flea Market reopened in Tippah County with vendors and the venue encouraging social distancing and face coverings as well as offering hand sanitizer.

5/4 The Mall at Barnes Crossing announced on social media it would reopen tomorrow by taking steps to make sure shoppers have a safe environment.

5/12 Some local cities allowed tattoo parlors to reopen under the impression the governor's latest order allowed them to reopen, but the governor's office said he didn't reopen but that may happen soon.

5/14 Gov. Tate Reeves said he will sign a bill from the Legislature that would make \$300 million of the federal coronavirus relief money available to small local businesses to help them cover expenses.

5/15 Some leasing directors at apartments in Starkville are concerned about not having as many college students moving back to the city in the fall.

5/19 It appears business is booming at local nurseries since people are spending more time in the garden because of concerns with being in public because of the coronavirus.

5/26 State economist Darren Webb told legislators the state's economy probably will not recover from the recession caused by the coronavirus until 2023.

5/27 Two restaurants and a Dollar General in Aberdeen closed temporarily out of concerns about employees possibly having the coronavirus.

6/15 The Malco Theater in Tupelo reopened, and the chain's theaters in Columbus, Corinth and Oxford are expected to reopen by the middle of July.

6/18 Starkville aldermen approved a measure that would allow people at downtown restaurants to dine in outdoor parking spaces.

## **SPECIAL REPORTS (Local and National)**

### **National**

George Floyd Memorial Service

Date: June 4

Time: 1:07pm - 3:11pm CT

Duration: 2 hours, 4 minutes

George Floyd Funeral Service

Date: June 9

Time: 11:53am - 3:30pm CT

Duration: 3 hours, 37 minutes

**Local**

Governor Reeves Coronavirus Briefing

Date: April 1

Time: 3:32pm – 4:45pm CT

Duration: 1 hour, 13 minutes

Governor Reeves Coronavirus Briefing

Date: April 4

Time: 3:30pm - 4:33pm CT

Duration: 1 hour, 3 minutes

Severe Weather Coverage

Date: April 12

Time: 5:23pm - 5:35pm CT

Duration: 12 minutes

Governor Reeves Coronavirus Briefing

Date: April 17

Time: 9:04am - 10:01am CT

Duration: 57 minutes