



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

4th Quarter 2020

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

Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. (simulcast with WTVA 9.1 (NBC) and WTVA 9.2 (ABC))

Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Monday through Friday 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday 9:00 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 the programs of significant treatment of Northeast Mississippi and Northwest Alabama community issues. Local news stories were also posted on our website at wtva.com, on the WTVA 9 News app, on Facebook and on Twitter.

Coronavirus

Coronavirus and Education

Community Improvements

Violent Crime

State Flag/Confederate Monuments

Politics

Law Enforcement

Economic Development

Severe Weather

Missing Persons

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

Description: The pandemic in the final three months of the year continued to dominate the news and dominate the daily lives of people across the area. The following is a sampling of news stories on the subject:

10/1 A research group is looking for local people who have had the coronavirus to take part in a clinical trial.

10/1 West Point will keep its mask mandate in effect even though the state mask mandate expired.

10/1 State lawmakers are meeting at the Capitol in Jackson to discuss how to spend more than \$1 billion in federal coronavirus relief money.

10/2 Aberdeen joined the growing list of cities keeping a mask mandate even though the state lifted its mandate.

10/2 The non-profit Elkin Theatre in Aberdeen remains closed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

10/2 Tombigbee EPA started signing up people for its new fiber internet service brought on by the pandemic.

10/5 Some restaurant owners in Tupelo said during the pandemic they have had a tough time finding workers.

10/5 Oktibbeha County supervisors extended the county's overnight curfew for another two weeks in hopes of limiting large gatherings.

10/6 A woman in Chickasaw County is thankful to be alive after suffering multiple complications from the coronavirus.

10/6 Houston's economic development director said the city saw a jump in sales tax revenue since the pandemic started.

10/7 A bar and deli in Downtown Tupelo shared how the state order to close earlier than normal is affecting business.

10/7 The mayor of Vernon, Alabama, said business is booming for his community in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic.

10/7 The library in Amory is reopening but is taking precautions because of the coronavirus.

10/7 Tupelo's BancorpSouth Arena is only holding small events since the state is restricting audience size to no more than 25 percent of capacity.

10/8 LIFT Incorporated is giving coronavirus kits to the homebound elderly that include hand sanitizer, masks and gloves.

10/12 The United Way of Northeast Mississippi is having a tough year financially because of the pandemic, and it is forced to only raise money online instead of in person.

10/13 The state health officer labeled Lee County as a hotspot for the coronavirus, but the only mask mandate is for those who enter county buildings.

10/13 A nursing home in Bruce recently allowed visitation for its residents on the front porch of the facility but had to stop those visits because an employee tested positive for the coronavirus.

10/14 The Family Resource Center in Tupelo canceled its weekly food giveaway this week because it ran out of food to give.

10/14 Monroe County EPA will start signing up customers tomorrow in the Bigbee and Nettleton areas for its new fiber internet service.

10/14 The Salvation Army in Tupelo said the pandemic is forcing the non-profit agency to change its annual Thanksgiving meal from an in-person event to curbside or carryout.

10/14 A dental practice in Tupelo donated personal protective equipment to local schools in the fight against the coronavirus.

10/16 Chickasaw County supervisors are encouraging residents to wear masks even though the state lifted its mask mandate.

10/16 Atmos Energy donated \$5,000 to the FAITH Food Pantry in Nettleton, which is trying to help fill the need for food during the pandemic.

10/19 Governor Tate Reeves issued a mask mandate for Lee, Itawamba and Chickasaw counties just a couple of weeks after lifting his statewide mask mandate.

10/21 Okolona's holiday open house will still take place for downtown businesses during the pandemic with a few adjustments.

10/22 The coronavirus forced Houlika to cancel its annual Halloween trunk or treat event.

10/23 A bridal store in Columbus is complaining because the city cited it for not following the municipal mask mandate.

10/26 Governor Tate Reeves added Benton and Marshall counties to the list of local counties under a mask mandate.

10/28 A nursing home in Tupelo is allowing indoor visitations for its residents, but there can be no touching out of coronavirus concerns.

10/29 North Mississippi Health Services has upgraded its technology at all of its hospitals thanks to federal coronavirus money to help do a better job of treating patients.

10/30 The United Way in Starkville is launching a campaign to get food donations that can help area food pantries.

11/9 Some Tupelo restaurants are getting ready for winter during the pandemic by moving some of their tables inside while others plan to use heaters to keep dining going outside.

11/10 Governor Tate Reeves removed Chickasaw and Itawamba counties from his mask mandate but added Yalobusha County to the list of local counties under it.

11/12 Houston Municipal Court shut down because a family member of Judge Garry Turner tested positive for the coronavirus.

11/16 The state health officer revealed Mississippi hospitals will possibly get a drug next week that can be used on high-risk people with the coronavirus to prevent them from getting so sick they end up in the hospital.

11/16 Governor Tate Reeves added Pontotoc, Winston, Montgomery and Itawamba counties to the group of local counties under a state mask mandate.

11/17 The annual Christmas parade in Tupelo will not happen this year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

11/17 State health leaders discouraged large family gatherings for the holidays out of concern they could lead to a significant spike in coronavirus cases.

11/18 North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo said it can accept the Pfizer vaccine even though it requires refrigeration that is much colder than regular freezers.

11/18 Nettleton said it will still hold its annual Christmas parade even though other communities are canceling or changing their holiday parades.

11/24 State Senator Chad McMahan complained in a recent legislative committee meeting some local nursing homes are not allowing visits even though they legally can.

12/1 Governor Tate Reeves added Noxubee, Oktibbeha and Monroe counties to his mask mandate, putting the tally of local counties under it at 21.

12/1 Columbus city leaders confirmed it will not open a warming shelter this winter because of the coronavirus.

12/2 Mississippi reached its highest single-day record for coronavirus cases, and leaders at the University of Mississippi Medical Center are concerned about what could be ahead.

12/2 Aberdeen Police Chief Henry Randle said his department will enforce the governor's new mask mandate for Monroe County.

12/3 Episcopal churches across Mississippi canceled in-person services at the recommendation of State Health Officer Doctor Thomas Dobbs over concerns about a rise in coronavirus cases.

12/4 The chief medical officer at the hospital in Tupelo said he is seeing an alarming rise in coronavirus cases and encouraged the public not to gather for the holidays.

12/8 North Mississippi Health Services CEO Shane Spees said it spent thousands of dollars in federal coronavirus money on monitors that allow nurses to monitor coronavirus patients without having to go into their rooms.

12/8 State Representative Randy Boyd of Itawamba County announced on Facebook he and his wife have the coronavirus.

12/9 Governor Tate Reeves put all but one local county, Benton County, under his mask mandate to fight the coronavirus.

12/10 OCH Regional Medical Center said it will get 110 doses of a coronavirus vaccine before year's end that will go to employees.

12/10 The Amory Food Pantry said it will only operate two out of four Tuesdays this month and next month to try to prevent volunteers from being exposed to the coronavirus.

12/11 Three Rivers Planning and Development will distribute Chromebooks to local nursing homes so patients can remotely visit with loved ones during the pandemic.

12/11 The state next week will restrict hospitals from elective surgeries that require hospitalization.

12/14 State Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs publicly got the first dose of a coronavirus vaccine to encourage others to get it as well.

12/14 The Tupelo Economic Recovery Task Force has launched a public campaign encouraging people to wear their masks while in public.

12/15 The National Guard delivered 1,930 doses of the coronavirus vaccine to the hospital in Tupelo where employees will get another line of defense against the virus.

12/15 The federal government recently awarded \$495 million to entities in Mississippi to provide high-speed internet to rural parts of the state during the pandemic.

12/17 More than 120 employees at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo got the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine.

12/17 Employees at OCH Regional Medical Center in Starkville will get their coronavirus vaccine sometime next week.

12/18 The Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau dropped off more than 150 self-care kits to frontline hospital workers.

12/18 The state health officer warned Mississippians to be ready for a January surge of coronavirus cases.

12/21 U.S. Senator Roger Wicker said the latest coronavirus relief bill passed by Congress will give \$600 to almost every person in the medium-income range.

12/21 The owner of multiple McDonald's restaurants closed the lobbies after he suffered with the coronavirus and saw an increase in cases locally.

12/22 Governor Tate Reeves put Benton County back under a mask mandate locally and all but four counties statewide under it.

12/22 Mississippi set a new one-day record for coronavirus deaths with 79, and the state health officer said the state's health care system has been exhausted.

12/22 Monroe County EPA hooked up its first customer to its new fiber internet service.

12/23 Magnolia Regional Health Center in Corinth Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle in Columbus administered its first doses of the coronavirus vaccine to some of its employees.

12/25 State Health Officer Doctor Thomas Dobbs said this week the state is activating crisis standards of care because of severe shortages of health care resources.

12/29 A local nurse practitioner recommends those who are home isolating because of the coronavirus to stay active and stay hydrated.

12/29 Former state lawmaker Nolan Mettetal, who represented a part of Lafayette County, died from the coronavirus.

12/30 Mississippi set a one-day record for cases at more than 3,000, and the state reported more than 80 new coronavirus deaths yesterday.

12/30 The state health department will start next week offering free drive-thru coronavirus vaccinations for health care workers in Tupelo, Columbus, Starkville and Oxford.

12/30 Bars on New Year's Eve will not be able to serve alcohol after 11 p.m. because of the governor's executive order aimed at curbing the coronavirus.

12/31 Derma Mayor Dock Gabbert, the state's longest serving mayor, died in Columbus from coronavirus complications.

TOPIC

Coronavirus and 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

Description: Schools and universities continued to be affected by the coronavirus, ranging from students being forced out of the classroom to athletes being forced off the field. Here is a list of some of the stories that aired in our newscasts concerning this area:

10/1 Calhoun County schools are requiring all students in extracurricular activities to attend classes in person instead of virtually.

10/1 A student in the Okolona schools tested positive for the coronavirus putting some other students in quarantine.

10/5 Tupelo High School must find a new football opponent since Southaven had to cancel because a player had the coronavirus.

10/6 Several Noxubee County football players tested positive for the coronavirus forcing the school to cancel its game against Corinth.

10/6 Many Mississippi universities will forgo spring break so the spring semester can end in April.

10/6 The CREATE Foundation kicked off its annual career expo for students, but the coronavirus forced the event to move from in-person to virtual.

10/7 Amory High School will have several days of virtual learning after multiple coronavirus cases turned up among teachers and students.

10/7 The Mississippi University for Women announced its spring semester classes will mainly be virtual and the semester will be shortened because of the coronavirus.

10/9 East Union School will hold virtual classes next week after some students and teachers tested positive for the coronavirus.

10/16 The Southeastern Conference reportedly fined Ole Miss \$100,000 because of lax mask wearing on the sideline of a recently football game.

10/16 Students at Calhoun City and Vardaman high schools tested positive for the coronavirus.

10/19 Tupelo, Nettleton, Okolona and Webster County are among the local school districts who will receive computers and other technology thanks to coronavirus money from the state aimed at making online learning easier.

10/19 Itawamba Community College announced it will offer some classes via Zoom during the spring semester.

10/20 Pontotoc County schools will require all students learning virtually to earn at least a C in each course or else will be forced to return to in-person learning.

10/22 Choctaw County High School announced its students will spend the following week learning virtually with plans for in-person learning to resume the week after that.

10/28 Starkville High School will hold its homecoming at a community pep rally since it had to be postponed the previous week because the football team got put into coronavirus quarantine.

10/29 Northeast Mississippi Community College said it will return to full in-person classes for the spring semester but still offer online learning.

11/2 The Golden Triangle Regional Airport is turning over some of its terminal to students who need space and internet access for virtual learning.

11/4 Enrollment at Mississippi's public universities during the pandemic only declined one percent from the same time last year.

11/4 Students in the Houston public schools got new Chromebooks that they can use the remainder of the school year.

11/6 Twelve students in the Tupelo schools are out with the coronavirus, and more than 340 students are in quarantine because of the virus.

11/9 Mississippi State announced it has postponed its upcoming football game against Auburn because of positive coronavirus cases in the Bulldogs program.

11/11 Ole Miss holds a fan event previewing the upcoming basketball season, which will include a limited number of spectators at The Pavillion.

11/13 Winona Christian canceled in-person classes until the end of the month because of an increase in coronavirus cases in the community.

11/17 Hundreds of staff and students at Tupelo High School, including the boys' and girls' basketball teams, are in quarantine because of a coronavirus outbreak.

11/17 Ole Miss head basketball coach Kermit Davis tested positive for the coronavirus.

11/18 Middle school students in Starkville got Chromebooks today purchased with state money set aside to make virtual learning much easier.

11/19 State health leaders are discouraging people from attending indoor athletic events, but Okolona High School is still holding them and taking precautions to try to keep fans safe.

11/20 Mississippi State still plans to play its football game Saturday against Georgia even though it does not have enough healthy players and could opt out of playing.

11/20 Tupelo High School announced crowds of no more than 10 percent at indoor athletic events to make it safer for people during the pandemic.

11/23 The Ole Miss men's basketball team will miss its first four games because of coronavirus cases in the program.

11/25 Mississippi State University held its first in-person commencement ceremony since the coronavirus pandemic started.

12/14 The Tupelo schools said 300 students are in quarantine after 31 students and 5 teachers came down with the coronavirus.

12/16 The leaders of the Corinth schools are meeting with focus groups to get feedback on how to make the schools safer during the coronavirus pandemic.

12/30 Because of an increase in coronavirus cases, the North Tippah schools will start the new year with students on a hybrid schedule.

TOPIC

Community improvements

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

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Description: Sometimes it is through the generosity of businesses or non-profit organizations; sometimes it is through action by government leaders. What follows are a couple of examples showcasing moves made to improve the lives of people locally:

11/5 North Mississippi Medical Center donated five defibrillators that Tupelo Parks and Recreation will make available at various locations.

11/27 Chickasaw County supervisors recently voted to switch ambulance providers in hopes it will provide a better emergency response.

TOPIC

Violent Crime

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

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Description: Violent crime plays a significant role in the quality of life for people in a particular area, and these examples give a glimpse at some of the stories we covered involving this important subject:

10/7 A late-night shooting at a car wash in Verona left two people injured, and police are trying to find the person who pulled the trigger.

10/12 Police in West Point said they are investigating three shootings that happened in one day.

10/12 Louisville police said a fatal shooting originally believed to be robbery actually happened when someone struggled to get a gun away from someone with suicidal thoughts.

10/13 Police in Louisville arrested a husband and wife in connection with the shooting mentioned on the 10/12 entry.

10/14 In response to the shootings mentioned on the 10/12 entry, selectmen in West Point voted to implement an overnight curfew for 30 days.

10/16 A judge gave Darius Deen a life sentence after he pleaded guilty to the killing of a businessman on the front porch of his home in Corinth.

10/21 Lee County sheriff's deputies arrested a student at Nettleton and charged him with first degree murder following the shooting death in Palmetto of a man awaiting trial for a 2018 murder in Verona.

10/27 Police in Houston are trying to figure out who shot and killed a man from Tallahatchie County who showed up with his stepdaughter hoping to buy a car.

11/9 Columbus police said the driver of a Jeep shot and killed a man whose body was found on the front porch of a home, and officers are trying to find that driver.

11/12 Aberdeen police arrested an 18-year-old woman and charged her with manslaughter following an accidental shooting at the Southview Apartments that left a man dead.

11/13 Prentiss County sheriff's deputies arrested a woman in Wheeler accused of killing her mother at the home the two of them shared.

11/26 Law enforcement arrested three people in connection with the murder of a convenience store clerk in Calhoun City.

12/8 Five adults and a teenager are under arrest by Oxford police after a man from Grenada was shot and killed.

12/22 Three people in Monroe County are charged in connection with the death of Jack Cowan, whose body was found in a burned-out vehicle.

TOPIC

State flag/Confederate monuments

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

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Description: In our part of the world, changing the state flag and removing Confederate monuments are sensitive subjects regardless of whether one supports or opposes such moves. There was not as much activity in this area compared to the previous quarter, but there are some instances we reported:

10/20 Oxford is flying the proposed new state flag now so people can get an idea what they will vote on when the flag referendum goes before voters in the November 3 election.

11/2 A state board approved a permit allowing a Confederate statue outside the Lowndes County Courthouse to be moved to a cemetery.

TOPIC

Politics

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

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Description: The nation was focused on the presidential election, but our area and our state had more races and subjects to tackle besides that. Not only was there coverage of elections and their processes during the current quarter, there was coverage of elections set for 2021:

10/12 There is more interest in absentee voting because of the coronavirus, and the circuit clerk in Tishomingo County explained how it works and who can vote absentee.

10/13 Starkville businessman Bart Williams and former Lowndes County Superintendent of Education Lynn Wright won special elections to fill open seats in the state Senate.

10/13 Itawamba County said it received personal protective equipment from the state for election day including masks.

10/20 Mississippi is setting up a process where voters can correct minor discrepancies with signatures on absentee ballots.

10/20 Eupora voters approved allowing restaurants and convenience stores to sell beer and other alcoholic beverages.

10/21 Mississippi is expanding the use of curbside voting, allowing those who are elderly or those who may be suffering with the coronavirus to vote from their car.

10/23 The Anchor voting precinct got moved to Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church to provide more room for social distancing during voting.

10/26 Monroe County said it will have more than enough personal protective equipment for poll workers and voters for the November 3 election.

10/29 U.S. Senate candidate Mike Espy made a campaign stop at a Tupelo church in his bid to unseat Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith in next week's election.

10/30 U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith said campaigning is tough during a pandemic, but her low-profile campaign did include a stop at a recent business expansion in Grenada.

11/2 Mississippi's secretary of state said masks are not required at polling places on Election Day but he encourages people to wear them when they vote.

11/3 Voters re-elected U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith and approved referendums to change the state flag, legalize medical marijuana and do away with the electoral college requirement on state races.

11/5 Governor Tate Reeves said he would veto any bill that tried to expand mail-in voting or no-excuse early voting.

11/18 Tupelo Chief Operations Officer Don Lewis dropped out of the mayor's race just weeks after announcing he would run for the city's top elected position.

11/23 Tupelo Councilman Markel Whittington announced he will run for mayor in the 2021 municipal election.

11/24 Chickasaw and Noxubee counties are holding runoff elections for supervisor seats while Tishomingo County will hold a runoff for a judicial race.

12/8 Margaret Futral said she looks forward to working with her colleagues after her election last month as the first woman to serve on the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors.

12/29 The final day to register to vote in Tupelo's latest Major Thoroughfare Program referendum is January 2. The vote is February 2.

TOPIC

Law enforcement

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

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Description: Beyond the normal day-to-day crimes that officers deal with are efforts internally and externally to serve the community.

10/1 West Point police are giving out yard signs showing support for law enforcement in hopes the gesture will bring the community together.

10/7 Amory police invited people to have a cup of coffee with some officers at a park downtown in hopes of improving community relations.

10/28 The Mississippi Highway Patrol will accept applications for its latest cadet class until this Saturday.

12/10 Oxford police released bodycam video from an officer showing what led to a standoff and a fatal shooting of a man at the Mark condominiums.

12/25 Police in West Point teamed up with a local catering business to feed the homeless, the elderly or anyone else who needed a meal on Christmas.

12/25 A non-profit donated new equipment to the Webster County Sheriff's Department that will allow its law enforcement canines to escape from a hot patrol car.

12/30 The Mississippi Highway Patrol will start its New Year's enforcement period tomorrow putting extra resources on the road to stop drunk drivers and keep the highways safe.

TOPIC

Economic development

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

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Description: Local communities are always striving to boost the economy and celebrate when new jobs can be added. Here is a handful of examples that aired during our newscasts:

10/30 ADP, a maker of air conditioning coils in Grenada, cut the ribbon on a 288,000 square foot expansion brought on by booming business during the pandemic.

11/9 Chickasaw County supervisors hired an economic development group with ties to North Carolina and with Ole Miss aimed at boosting the county's economy.

11/17 VIP Luxury Seating announced it will reopen operations in New Albany after shutting down in March because the coronavirus cut into its business of making seats for movie theaters.

TOPIC

Severe 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

Description: The area in its history has seen its share of severe storms, but people locally also provide assistance at home and elsewhere during and after these events. The following are examples of news coverage concerning these topics:

10/8 Governor Tate Reeves issued a statewide emergency declaration prior to the arrival of Hurricane Delta, and Ole Miss pushed back the kickoff time for its game against Alabama because of the hurricane.

10/9 The Salvation Army in Tupelo will remain in the city but move out to help others if Hurricane Delta does not cause any major problems locally.

10/9 The Natchez Trace Parkway is closing many of its campgrounds as well as the visitor center in Tupelo in advance of Hurricane Delta.

10/28 Governor Tate Reeves issued a statewide emergency declaration prior to the arrival of Hurricane Zeta, and some Tupelo firefighters will go to Hancock County in case they are needed for swift water rescues.

TOPIC

Missing persons

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

Date: Various

Time: Various

Duration: Various

Description: From time to time, law enforcement reaches out to the public seeking assistance in solving missing person reports. Below are some of the stories aired that helped with those efforts:

10/27 Grenada police announced Dora Lee Jackson, the subject of a Silver Alert by the state because she has been missing since last Thursday, has been found and is okay.

11/6 The state issued a Silver Alert for James Unger of West Point who was seen last Tuesday morning and may be in a Ford Escape.

11/6 Macon police asked for the public's help in finding 14-year-old Malachi Lindsey, who was last seen leaving home Tuesday afternoon.

11/13 The state canceled the Silver Alert for James Unger of West Point after he was found alive in Selmer, Tennessee.

11/18 Tupelo police ask for the public's help in finding David Johnson of Belden, who was last seen two weeks ago walking along Interstate 22.

11/25 West Point police and family members again make a public appeal to help find Rahman Hernandez, who disappeared more than two years ago.

12/30 Police in Booneville want people's help in finding 17-year-old Shelby Baswell, who last was seen on the east side of the city Christmas night.

National:

TOPIC

Severe weather coverage

Date: 10/28

Time: WLOV 6:06 pm

Duration: 41 minutes

TOPIC

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris address the nation after their victory

Date: 11/7

Time: WLOV 7 pm

Duration: 1 hour