



WAAY-TV

Issue-Responsive Programming

October 1, 2019-December 31, 2019

Community Issues Identified

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

Regularly scheduled programs on WAAY-TV:

- WAAY31 Local News M-F 4:30-5:00am
- WAAY31 Local News M-F 5:00-6:00am
- WAAY31 Local News M-F 6:00am-7:00am
- WAAY31 Local News M-F 11:00am-12:00noon
- WAAY31 Local News M-F 4:00pm-5:00pm
- WAAY31 Local News M-F 5:00-5:30pm
- WAAY31 Local News M-F 6:00-6:30pm

- WAAY31 Local News M-F 10:00-10:35pm
- WAAY31 Local News Saturday 6-7 AM
- WAAY31 Local News Saturday 8-9 AM
- WAAY31 Local News S/S 5:00-5:30pm
- WAAY31 Local News Saturday 6:00-6:30pm
- WAAY31 Local News S/S 10:00-10:35pm

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

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

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

- WAAY 31 News Extra Sa 10:35-11:05pm

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

- Good Morning America M-F 7:00am-9:00am
- GMA3: Strahan, Sara & Kiki M-F 12:00pm-1:00pm
- World News Tonight M-F 5:30pm-6:00pm
- ABC News Nightline M-F 11:35pm-12:05pm
- Good Morning America S/S 7:00am-8:00am
- This Week Su 8:00am-9:00am
- World News Tonight S/S 5:30pm-6:00pm

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

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

Education

Madison Co. Schools Superintendent Starts – 11/04

- Madison Co. School Board selects Allen Perkins as the new superintendent after a month-long search process.
- Perkins previously worked as a teacher in the school district for 17 years before moving into supervising.
- He will hold the position as superintendent until at least 2022. After that, he can decide to run for election or leave the position.
- Package aired as a live package in the 5 PM show.

Failing Lawrence Co. School – 11/19

- Superintendent held community meetings for parents to plan their next steps after a report that a local high school is failing.
- RA Hubbard was ranked in the bottom 6% of schools in the state according to the Alabama Accountability Act.
- School could close because of low enrollment numbers.
- Package explaining the school ranking, why it could close, and when parents can expect to be informed on what comes next aired in the 4 PM show.

AAMU Black Teacher Recruitment – 11/22

- Alabama A&M University created a new program called the MALE initiative.
- “Males For Alabama Education” offers tuition assistance for African-American men who go into teaching.
- African-American males make up 20% of the student population in the district, but African-American men make up less than 1% of the teaching staff.
- Reporter did a live PKG on new program in the 5 PM show.

Mazda Toyota Impact On School District – 11/13

- Limestone County school district conducted a growth study about how much they can expect to grow because of the Mazda Toyota plant opening in 2021.
- The plant will bring 4,000 jobs.
- The study showed fewer students are coming to the district than was initially expected, but the superintendent told us they have a plan in place in case of growth.
- Live PKG on study aired in 10 PM newscast.

Hartselle Schools Add SROs– 12/04

- Hartselle City Schools added 2 school resource officers.
- The additional staff was enough to have an officer at every school.
- School board found money in the budget to add additional staff.
- PKG aired in the 4 PM show.

Politics

State Representatives Discuss Body Camera Laws – 11/07

- Public called for body camera video to be released after Madison Police shot and killed a man while responding to a call.
- Spoke with a lawmaker who's represented the area since 1993.
- She said she will support and co-sponsor a bill that calls for more transparency when it comes to releasing police body-worn cameras.
- Story aired as a live PKG in the 6 PM show.

Animal Cruelty Law Passes – 11/26

- New law allows authorities to charge people with federal crimes in some animal cruelty cases.
- We spoke with the Madison County animal control department, who said they don't expect the new law to change the way they do business.
- Humane Society told us they support the law and are excited to see the change.
- Report did a PKG for the 4 PM show.

Jeff Sessions Comments On Impeachment – 12/19

- WAAY 31 spoke with former US Attorney General Jeff Sessions and US Senator about the impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump.
- Sessions said he still supports the president, and thinks the inquiry sets a "hostile precedent."
- Anchor sit down interview aired in weekend shows, and VO/SOTs aired through the week.

Alabamians Respond To Impeachment – 12/13

- Reporter went to a local barber shop, where the barbers said most of their customers were talking about the impeachment and news of the day.
- Heard perspectives from people on both sides of the aisle.
- PKG aired in the 4 PM show.

Republican Candidates For Senate Visit Huntsville – 11/16

- 3 Republican candidates for Senate visited Huntsville – Jeff Sessions, Roy Moore, and Arnold Mooney.
- Reporters spoke with candidates, and people at the event who said they wanted to learn more about who's on the ballot.
- PKG aired in the 10 PM show.

Crime & Public Safety

Federal Drug Charge Round-up – 10/09

- Local law enforcement worked with FBI and Drug Enforcement Agency to arrest nearly 40 people with drug warrants.
- Suspects were taken to the Morgan Co. jail since it's the only facility that can house federal inmates.
- We spoke with people who saw the arrests happen and said they're glad to hear drugs are being taken off the street.
- We had team coverage throughout the evening at 4, 5, and 6.

Decatur Homicide -10/25

- Decatur Police responded to a "disturbance" call at an apartment complex.
- Inside they found 16-year-old Tania Rico, who had been stabbed to death.
- Her boyfriend was charged with her murder. Police in Knoxville arrested him and he was extradited to Decatur.
- Ran the story as breaking news live hits – and did a follow-up PKG talking with her friends and classmates.

Madison Police Shooting – 10/28

- Madison Police responded to a call saying a man and woman were taking videos and making employees uncomfortable at the Planet Smoothie business on Highway 72.
- When they arrived, they approached the van in the parking lot where the caller said the man and his wife were sitting.
- Police said the man became combative when they tried to speak to him, and pointed a gun at officers.
- He was shot and killed in the parking lot. Multiple officers fired their guns.
- We covered this story extensively when it happened and as we learned more about the case through multiple reporter PKGs and live VO's.

Falkville Shooting 12/2

- Falkville police responded to a call about a domestic situation in a home on Cedar Creek Road.
- Investigators said she shot him multiple times after a fight.
- He was airlifted to Huntsville Hospital in critical conditions.
- We spoke with neighbors who live nearby – they said it was extremely rare for something like this to happen in the small town.
- Reporter did breaking news updates in the early shows and then a PKG for the 10 PM show.

Huntsville Officer Killed While Responding To Call – 12/6

- Huntsville Police STAC Agent Billy Clardy III was shot during a drug operation on Levert Street.
- The police chief said Clardy was wearing a bulletproof vest – but the shot hit him “outside the scope” of the vest.
- Surgeons tried to save him for more than an hour before he died.
- LaJeromey Brown is charged with capital murder in his death.
- We had multiple reporters on breaking news as soon as police confirmed he was shot. We carried the news conference from police live on TV, and had several reporters on different angles at 10.

Health

First Vaping Death In AL – 10/2

- Alabama reported its first death from the vaping-related illness.
- Department of Public Health said a man from East Alabama died.
- Department also confirmed 19 people in the state had confirmed cases.
- We did a PKG talking with doctors and vape shops in the 5 PM show.

Vaping and The Flu – 10/8

- Auburn professor released a study saying that people who vape could be more susceptible to the flu virus this year.
- She said the thick mucus on the lungs makes it harder for the body to fight infections from viruses and bacteria.
- We spoke with her & a man who said he’s quitting vaping because of all the health issues people are having.
- Reporter did a PKG in the 6 PM show.

Depression and the Holidays – 11/26

- Health professionals said people are more at risk of developing depression during the holidays.
- Doctors said it could be because of stress or dealing with grief.
- We spoke with a counselor who told us warning signs to look out for in yourself and family.
- We did a reporter PKG in the 4 PM show.

Flu Shot Clinic in Madison Co. – 10/16

- Madison Co. offered flu shots to those with and without insurance at city hall.
- Nurse told us it's the first year they're able to offer the vaccine to children as young as 6 months old.
- County announced plans to hold more flu shot clinics.
- Reporter did a PKG in the 4 PM show.

Limestone Co. Mental Health Program – 10/15

- Mental Health Center of North Central Alabama announced it could expand its "Stepping Up Program."
- The goal is to reduce the number of inmates with mental illness in jail by giving them resources and places to go for help.
- Organizers said it cuts down on the number of inmates who re-offend.
- Reporter did a PKG in the 5 PM show. We did a VO update a few weeks later when the county commission voted to approve the plan.

Business, Technology & Economic Development

Lauderdale Co. Road Expansion – 11/7

- Lauderdale Co. received a \$15 million grant to expand a portion of Highway 72.
- County commissioners said the road needs to be able to handle more traffic because of the 170 acre, \$45 million agricultural center that's under construction.
- The highway will become 6 lanes, but people in the area said the expansion was needed regardless of the ag center.
- Reporter did a live PKG in the 4 PM show.

Trash Pandas Announce Field Name – 10/15

- Trash Pandas organization announces the field at its \$46 million stadium will be named "Toyota Field."
- Team owner said he wouldn't release the price of the deal because it's a "private deal" between the city, team and company.
- Team said the city will pay at least \$1 million to the city for the next 30 years.

- We spoke with the team owner and people who are concerned the team may not be around that long.
- Reporter did a live PKG in the 6 PM.

Orion Test at Redstone Arsenal – 10/16

- NASA and contractors working on the Orion launch abort system tested the jettison motor on Redstone Arsenal.
- The test only lasted 1.2 seconds, but NASA confirmed it was successful.
- It was the last time the motor will be fired up on Earth. Next time it's used will be in space.
- Reporter did a PKG for the 4 PM show.

Starliner Launch - 12/20

- Boeing launched Starliner spacecraft from Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- It was launched by an Atlas V rocket. Parts of that rocket are built by United Launch Alliance in Decatur.
- Students at an elementary school watched the launch in class.
- We took the launch live during the morning shows, and then had a PKG on the test and the students in the 4 PM show.

Huntsville Confirms Site Of Cybertech School – 10/11

- City of Huntsville confirmed it will spend \$1.6 million dollars for 23 acres of land in Cummings Research Park for a cyber technology school.
- Until construction is complete – the school will be hosted at Oakwood University.
- Officials with the school announced an administration team is in place for the school.
- School is set to open in August of 2020.
- Reporter did a story in the 6 PM show.