



## WAAY-TV

Issue-Responsive Programming

October 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

Community Issues Identified

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

### Regularly scheduled programs on WAAY-TV:

- |                      |     |                   |
|----------------------|-----|-------------------|
| • WAAY 31 Local News | M-F | 4:30-5:00am       |
| • WAAY 31 Local News | M-F | 5:00-6:00am       |
| • WAAY 31 Local News | M-F | 6:00am-7:00am     |
| • WAAY 31 Local News | M-F | 11:00am-12:00noon |
| • WAAY 31 Local News | M-F | 4:00pm-5:00pm     |
| • WAAY 31 Local News | M-F | 5:00-5:30pm       |
| • WAAY 31 Local News | M-F | 6:00-6:30pm       |
| • WAAY 31 Local News | M-F | 10:00-10:35pm     |
| • WAAY 31 Local News | M-F | 12:05am-12:35am   |
| • WAAY 31 Local News | Sat | 6:00am-7:00am     |
| • WAAY 31 Local News | Sat | 8:00am-9:00am     |
| • WAAY 31 Local News | S/S | 5:00-5:30pm       |
| • WAAY 31 Local News | Sat | 6:00-6:30pm       |

- WAAY 31 Local News            S/S    10:00-10:35pm

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

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

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

- Good Morning America        M-F    7:00am-9:00am
- World News Tonight            M-F    5:30pm-6:00pm
- ABC News Nightline            M-F    11:35pm-12:05pm
- Good Morning America        S/S    7:00am-8:00am
- Good Morning America        Sat    9:00am-10:00am
- This Week                        Sun    8:00am-9:00am
- World News Tonight            S/S    5:30pm-6:00pm

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

**The following is a list of some of the more significant community issues addressed by this station 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**

### **UNA surpasses student enrollment milestone - 10/10**

- The University of North Alabama announced it surpassed 10,000 enrolled students for the first time ever.
- UNA now has students from 47 states and more than 60 countries.
- We spoke to students and school officials about the factors attracting students to the school.
- We had coverage throughout our evening shows.

### **Alabama moves up on the 'Nation's Report Card' - 10/24**

- According to new data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), while many states fell behind in math and reading during the pandemic, Alabama managed to stay on track.

- NAEP scores were released for the first time since 2019. Back then, Alabama was the lowest-ranked state for fourth-grade math scores. Now, the state is ranked 40th, the highest fourth-grade math ranking the state has ever received.
- State Superintendent Eric Mackey said Alabama's commitment to in-person education throughout the pandemic helped strengthen Alabama's education while other states fell behind.
- We had a live VOSOT during our 5 p.m. show and a live PKG during our 6 p.m. show.

#### Austin High senior gives back to the Morgan Co. community – 11/14

- One Austin High School student made it her mission to help support elementary school kids by providing much-needed reading materials.
- Camille Woodruff started her own candle business earlier this year, using the money she earned to help provide 200 books for Austinville Elementary School kids. Some of the books were incorporated into the curriculum.
- Woodruff said she plans on becoming an elementary school teacher once she graduates college.
- We had a reporter PKG during our 6 p.m. show.

#### School district hosts job fair to combat staff shortage - 11/16

- Decatur City Schools hosted a job fair to bring in new teachers, bus drivers and more for the second half of the school year.
- We spoke to a third grade teacher at Walker Jackson Elementary about the importance of having enough teachers to be able to give students the attention they need.
- We had a live PKG during our 6 p.m. show with continued coverage leading up to the job fair.

#### New Hope Public Library reopens - 12/05

- The new library opened in the heart of downtown New Hope.
- The library offers Flawless Delivery, a customer service training program designed for frontline workers, housekeeping, front desk personnel and sales coordinators, incorporates a foundation of empathy, communication and engagement in order to highlight the quality of service necessary to retain guests in today's competitive environment.
- We had coverage of the ribbon cutting during our morning shows leading up to it and in our evening shows displaying the new library.

## **Politics**

#### Supreme Court hears arguments in redistricting case - 10/04

- The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in an Alabama redistricting case.
- A lawsuit seeks to force Alabama to create a second majority-Black congressional district. Currently, Black residents make up 27% of the state's total population but only form a majority in just one of Alabama's seven congressional districts.

- We covered reactions from the NAACP and multiple politicians.
- Legal experts don't expect a ruling from the country's top court until sometime this year.

#### Voter ID controversy - 10/05

- Clyde Martin claimed he was fired as a poll worker and inspector over an identification card.
- Despite not being comfortable with the ID belonging to Alabama GOP Chairman John Wahl, Martin allowed him to vote in 2020, but warned him he would need a different ID this year.
- Martin said Wahl contacted Limestone County Probate Judge Charles Woodroof before he was fired. The Secretary of State's Office said the ID, which Wahl said showed his position as press secretary for the State Auditor's Office, was not a valid voter ID.
- We had a live PKG during our 10 p.m. show.

#### Election day - 11/08

- Our reporters were spread across Alabama following multiple races, including Katie Britt's push for the U.S. Senate and Kay Ivey's pursuit for re-election as Governor.
- We spoke with candidates of both parties leading up to election day.
- We had live reports in the morning before polls opened, at polling stations, and at watch parties. We also had live updates with the latest results and acceptance or concession speeches, all leading up to our team coverage during our 10 p.m. show. We continued our election coverage during our morning shows the next day with sound from the winners of the night.

#### Huntsville City Council approves new police chief – 12/01

- Huntsville City Council members approved Mayor Tommy Battle's appointment of Kirk Giles as the new police chief.
- Giles has been serving as the interim police chief since March, when the former chief, Mark McMurray, retired.
- During his 45 years with the Huntsville Police Department, Giles served as officer, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, deputy chief and executive officer.
- Mayor Battle said Giles was an obvious choice, pointing to his experience and leadership that will help the department grow an even stronger relationship with residents.

#### Decatur City Council approves medical marijuana ordinance – 12/06

- Decatur City Council members approved a medical marijuana ordinance.
- The original ordinance was amended, with restrictions now including being at least 500 feet away from certain residential areas and at least 1,000 feet away from daycares, churches and schools.
- We heard from Mayor Tab Bowling, city council members and residents about their support or opposition to the ordinance.
- We had a live PKG during our 10 p.m. show.

## **Crime & Public Safety**

### **Jimmy Spencer found guilty of murder - 10/19**

- A Marshall County jury found Jimmy Spencer guilty of murdering Martha Reliford, Marie Martin and Martin's great-grandson, 7-year-old Colton Lee in Guntersville back in 2018.
- Spencer was out on parole after only serving 28 years of two separate life sentences at the time of the murders.
- Spencer would later be sentenced to death for his crimes.
- We had live coverage throughout the trial and sentencing.

### **First responders participate in active shooter drill – 11/03**

- First responders in the Shoals spent hours taking part in a massive active shooter drill at Northwest-Shoals Community College.
- More than a hundred students took part in the drill to make it seem more realistic, with first responders even taking some to the hospital via helicopter.
- We spoke to the university, students and police about the importance of the drill.
- We had a PKG during our 4 p.m. show.

### **Former teacher marries student – 11/22**

- Thomas Tucker's defense attorney said Tucker didn't violate his bond when he married the student he was charged with having sex with.
- When Tucker was arrested in September, part of his bond was the condition he could not have contact with the student. But, records show the two got married a few weeks later.
- Tucker resigned from East Limestone High School after his arrest and a judge later ruled he could have contact with the student since they were now married.
- We had live coverage staying on top of Tucker's arrest and hearings.

### **200 years for Huntsville Fire & Rescue – 12/08**

- Huntsville Fire & Rescue celebrated 200 years of service, established in 1822.
- The department is adding 19 new firefighter positions, 22 new firetrucks and starting work on a brand-new station.
- We spoke to Chief Howard McFarland who discussed the need for the department to expand as the city grows in order to keep families safe.
- We had a live VOSOT during our 5 p.m. show and a live PKG during our 6 p.m. show

### **Authorities respond to reports of active shooter at schools – 12/13**

- Authorities in multiple counties responded to reports of active shooters at several schools.
- The reports all turned out to be a hoax, with the districts being targets of "swatting."
- We spoke to authorities about the seriousness of the calls and their response, as well as concerned parents.
- We had live coverage at multiple different schools as police responded followed by reaction later in the day.

## **Health**

### **Sheffield names new mental health officer – 10/12**

- Sgt. Rodney Rippey was named the City of Sheffield's mental health officer.
- Sgt. Rippey spent 40 hours of training at the Riverbend Mental Health Facility, as well as eight to 12 hours of ride-alongs with nurses and social workers.
- We spoke to Sgt. Rippey who told us he was excited for the opportunity to help people in the city and other officers who don't have the specific training he has to handle certain situations.
- We had a live PKG during our 4 p.m. show.

### **Hearing aids made available over-the-counter - 10/17**

- The FDA made the decision to allow over-the-counter, prescription-free hearing aids.
- We spoke to a member of the Alabama Hearing Associates who told us the decision is noble, but still urges anyone suffering from hearing loss to consult with a doctor, since some medical conditions can be missed without looking in the ear.
- We had a live VOSOT during our 4 p.m. show and a live PKG during our 6 p.m. show.

### **Expanding mental health services in North Alabama schools - 11/03**

- The federal government moved to improve mental health among American youth, designating \$1 billion to increase the number of school-based health professionals and ramping up mental health services and personnel in schools.
- We spoke to Stephanie Allen, a mental health coordinator for Madison City Schools, who said local, state and federal money is imperative in expanding mental health resources.
- She said the money helps bring in more programs, school counselors and social workers.
- We had a live PKG during our 5 p.m. show.

### **Huntsville daycare steps up safety measures as the flu spreads – 12/01**

- The Alabama Department of Public Health confirmed a third child in Alabama died of the flu, bringing the state's death toll to 13 people.
- We spoke to the owner of Granny's Daycare in Huntsville who told us she only allows fewer than ten kids in her care at a time to lower the risk of an outbreak.
- We had live coverage in our 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. shows with more coverage in the morning.

### **Parents struggle to find painkillers amid nationwide shortage – 12/07**

- The severe RSV and flu season led to a nationwide shortage in over-the-counter medicine for kids.
- The FDA said medications used to treat children's ear infections, sore throats, influenza and common upper respiratory illnesses were hard to find.
- We spoke to parents who were frustrated they couldn't find the medicine needed to treat their sick children.

- Doctors advised parents to contact them if the pharmacies in their area did not have the medicine they needed so the doctors could figure out alternatives, like chewable or crushable tablets, or other medications.

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

### **Football at Toyota Field – 10/15**

- For the first time, Toyota Field hosted a football game between the University of North Alabama Lions and the Jacksonville State Gamecocks.
- The city of Madison expected a crowd of 10,000 and an economic impact of \$1 million.
- We spoke to fans who told us they were excited to cheer on their teams at the special venue.
- We had a live PKG during our 10 p.m. show.

### **ULA expansion in North Alabama – 10/26**

- Leaders at United Launch Alliance, along with state and local officials, broke ground on a new 250,000-square-foot facility located next to the current ULA factory.
- The facility will be home to a new factory for Beyond Gravity, which supplies ULA with the fairings at the top of the rocket, keeping the payload safe during liftoff. The building will also serve as a warehouse for ULA to store its rockets.
- Construction on the new facility should be complete by 2024 and it's expected to bring hundreds of jobs to North Alabama.
- We spoke to the Morgan County Commission Chairman and the CEO's of ULA and Beyond Gravity.

### **Launch of NASA's Artemis I mission – 11/16**

- Our team traveled to Kennedy Space Center in Florida for the launch of NASA's Artemis I mission, taking the next step to sending humans back to the moon and eventually Mars.
- We spent months working on a special presentation that aired in place of our 4 p.m. show, highlighting the impact Marshall Space Flight Center had on the mission, including the development of the SLS rocket, the most powerful rocket ever built, right here in Huntsville.
- We broke into programming for live coverage of the launch, had multiple live reports during our morning shows following it and continued our coverage throughout the day.

### **Buc-ee's opens for business – 11/21**

- Dozens of excited customers lined up early for the opening of Buc-ee's in Athens.
- Buc-ee's hired 250 workers to open the store, which is the first location in North Alabama. A bulk of the workers were on the clock for the store's first day.
- The football field-sized convenience store and gas station has it all, from the signature brisket to sweets and home goods.

- We had live coverage in our morning shows leading up to the doors opening at 6 a.m. followed by live coverage from inside the store, all including live interviews with customers and employees.

#### Rocket City Marathon draws a big crowd – 12/10

- The Rocket City Marathon, one of Huntsville's longest-running sporting events, made its return after event organizers were forced to cancel the past two years due to COVID-19 and severe weather, respectively.
- This year, along with the full and half-marathons, there were also a marathon relay, a 5K, a 10K and the kids' marathon.
- We spoke to one of the co-directors of the marathon who told us about 3,000 people signed up to participate in this year's events, coming from all over the country. The Huntsville Sports Commission told us the event's popularity helps boost the area's economy.
- We had a live VOSOT during our 5 p.m. show and a PKG during our 10 p.m. show.