



WAAY-TV

Issue-Responsive Programming

July 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022

Community Issues Identified

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

Regularly scheduled programs on WAAY-TV:

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| • 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
- 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

Teachers return to the classroom- 07/25

- Huntsville City Schools teachers returned to the classroom one week before the start of the new school year.
- We spoke to teachers and the principal at Lee High School who told us they were grateful they were able to get the time to organize their classrooms, meet colleagues and refamiliarize themselves with the building before hundreds of kids packed the halls.
- The main focus of the week was professional development and various training sessions. The school district placed an extra emphasis on safety training after the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.
- We had a live VOSOT during our 4 p.m. show.

Substitute teacher training- 08/03

- Morgan County Schools hired and trained substitute teachers ahead of the new school year.
- The district's director of human resources told us the school system hired a good number of substitute teachers ahead of the academic year, but is looking to hire even more since as many as 75 to 80 could be needed on certain days.
- We spoke to a teacher who told us how important it is for someone who is reliable, willing to follow plans, and able to take care of her students be available when she calls out sick.
- We had a PKG during our 4 p.m. show with continued coverage throughout the evening.

Vending machine for books – 08/09

- Madison Cross Roads Elementary became the first school in the Madison County Schools District to have a book vending machine.
- Students earn a gold token when they review books and complete reports and other assignments. Those tokens are then exchanged for a book at the vending machine.
- We spoke to a second-grade student who was excited about the machine and the school's library and media specialist who told us how much she enjoyed seeing the students incentivized to read.
- We had a live VOSOT during our 5 p.m. show and VOs during later shows.

Launch of the Modern Manufacturing Program - 08/17

- Four school districts are part of the pilot "Modern Manufacturing Program."
- The program allows students to get hands-on experience with local companies on different aspects of manufacturing.
- Some students are able to graduate high school with several certifications.
- We had an anchor VO during our 6 p.m. show.

ASCTE ribbon-cutting - 09/23

- A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the Alabama School of Cybertechnology and Engineering.
- The school is the first of its kind, being the only high school in the nation focused on integrating cybertechnology and engineering in all classes.
- We spoke to a member of the school's board, the school's president, and a student who all told us how excited they were for the educational opportunity.
- We had a live PKG during our 4 p.m. show.

Politics

Decatur vote to expand the city limits - 07/18

- The Decatur City Council approved the annexation of nearly 15 acres of land to build high-end apartments.
- The vote came after months of consideration and hearings from residents in the area.

- Decatur Mayor Tab Bowling told us the new apartments are crucial for the city as it expands, especially for younger residents who can't afford to buy a house. But, multiple families who live near the building site told us they were concerned about how the new apartments will impact their land, especially those with farms.
- We had a live VOSOT during our 5 p.m. show and a live PKG during our 6 p.m. show.

Lawrence County GOP chairman controversy - 08/18

- The Lawrence County chapter of the NAACP demanded Shanon Terry, who is an elected school board member and the chair of the county's GOP, resign from office.
- Terry admitted he posted an image that contained both the GOP elephant mascot and Ku Klux Klan imagery on the county's GOP Facebook page, claiming it was an accident.
- We spoke to the Lawrence County NAACP and had a statement from Shanon Terry.
- We had a PKG during our 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. shows.

Huntsville municipal elections – 08/23

- We covered the Huntsville municipal elections, which consisted of multiple City Council and Board of Education seats, leading up to voting and through a September runoff.
- We had profiles of the candidates for weeks during our 10 p.m. shows leading up to election day.
- We had live coverage at a polling station on election day and broadcasted live results throughout the night.

Pay raise for Huntsville city employees – 09/08

- The Huntsville City Council proposed and later passed a 5% cost of living adjustment for city workers, the largest cost of living adjustment in years.
- With more than 2,100 employees, the move costs the city about \$7.5 million.
- Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle said it's important the city takes care of its employees the way it takes care of its citizens, adding the city needs to help fight inflation.
- We had live coverage of the proposal during our 10 p.m. show after the City Council meeting and continued our coverage after the vote on the budget in later weeks.

Captive Alabamians freed – 09/21

- Andy Huynh and Alex Druke were freed from Russian captivity after being held for more than 100 days after going to Ukraine and fighting in the war.
- The men were taken to the U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia after HRH Prince Mohammad bin Salman Al Saud successfully mediated the release of 10 prisoners from 5 countries as part of an exchange of prisoners of war between Russia and Ukraine.
- We covered the men's journeys as they prepared to head to Ukraine to fight, throughout their captivity, until their return home.
- We had live coverage throughout the day with the latest updates and response from elected officials.

Crime & Public Safety

Huntsville Police ACT - 07/06

- We took a closer look at Huntsville Police Department's Anti-Crime Team.
- In 2021, the five-member team took 73 weapons off the streets, seized more than \$275,000 worth of drugs and \$112,000 in cash, and had 157 felony arrests.
- We talked to the team's leader about what it's like dealing with some of the most dangerous individuals in the city on a daily basis.
- We had a live VOSOT during our 4 p.m. show and a PKG during our 6 p.m. show.

Madison County Schools new alert system – 08/02

- Teachers across the Madison County Schools District have a new alert system to improve safety.
- Behind faculty's school badges, there is a little button that can be pushed if they need to alert the school of a serious situation.
- We talked to the school system's superintendent and parents who told us it's scary the extra security measure could be needed, but they're more comfortable with it.
- We had coverage in our 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. shows with continued coverage in the morning.

Suspect charged with attempted murder of a police officer – 08/17

- Gregory Hill is charged with attempted murder, accused of trying to run over a Decatur police officer.
- Police say Hill showed up at the officer's home before hitting another car, a mailbox, and a tree while trying to hit the officer.
- We were able to obtain video of the attack from a doorbell camera.
- We had live coverage throughout the day with new developments as we learned them.

Falkville man arrested for role in Capitol riot – 08/24

- Bobby Russell was arrested for his role in the January 6th Capitol riot. Court documents showed he was pepper-sprayed while trying to remove a barricade outside the Capitol. He's also accused of pulling on one officer's jacket, causing the officer to fall down steps.
- We were at Russell's home while FBI agents took evidence bags out of it.
- We were at Russell's home when he returned home. He told us his attorneys told him not to answer any questions and he believed he was a good man and not a violent criminal.
- We had live coverage throughout our evening shows, with continued coverage that night and the next morning.

Mason Sisk capital murder trial – 09/12

- The trial for accused teen mass murderer Mason Sisk finally began. He's accused of killing 5 of his family members.
- Only a few days into the trial, a judge declared a mistrial over the handling of evidence in the case. Sisk is now set to return to the courtroom for a second trial in February of 2023.
- We spoke to jurors about the case and which way they were leaning if a verdict needed to be reached.
- We've covered this story since the murders happened. We had live updates each day with the latest developments from the trial. We also had live previews each morning.

Health

Colbert County autism database – 07/11

- A new database in Colbert County populates with people with autism from across the country after their loved ones fill out a form.
- When a 911 call is placed and the operator enters an address that appears in the database, information regarding the individual with autism will appear on the operator's screen.
- The 911 operator can give critical information to first responders, such as how to communicate with the individual as well as any safe spaces in the home where the individual may be hiding.
- We had live VOSOTs throughout our evening shows.

Monkeypox identified in Alabama - 07/15

- The state's first case of monkeypox was identified in Mobile County. A second case followed in Jefferson County a few days later.
- The Alabama Department of Public Health told us officials were planning for cases and a number of mechanisms were in place.
- We spoke to the health department about its contact tracing efforts and vaccination plans.

Huntsville Hospital blood drive - 08/09

- Huntsville Hospital came close to experiencing a critical blood shortage, so it teamed up with LifeSouth for an emergency blood drive.
- We spoke to the Clinical Lab Director who told us fewer people were donating blood due to summer vacations and repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The blood drive was the first time Huntsville Hospital was able to have LifeSouth back on its campus since the start of the pandemic.
- We had coverage in our morning show previewing the blood drive with live coverage in our 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. shows.

FDA ruling on over-the-counter hearing aids – 08/17

- The FDA finalized a rule to allow access to over-the-counter hearing aids.

- The FDA said the hearing aids will be more accessible and affordable, but people should still see a specialist if they're experiencing hearing loss.
- We spoke to a board-certified hearing instrument specialist and someone who uses hearing aids about the importance of the ruling.
- We had live coverage in our 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. shows with continued coverage at night and the following morning.

Huntsville Hospital ER overwhelmed – 09/21

- The emergency room at Huntsville Hospital was seeing high numbers, without the staff to keep up with the volume.
- Even as patients wait for a bed, ER staff members checked patients' vital signs and ran tests.
- We spoke to a woman who told us her husband waited five hours with a broken back before getting a bed. We also spoke to the ER director who said her staff does everything they can to treat patients when they come in.
- We had a live PKG during our 5 p.m. show.

Business, Technology & Economic Development

Luxury apartments signal growth in Athens – 07/07

- Officials in Athens and Limestone County hope new luxury apartments coming to the area are the continuation of expansion in the state's fastest-growing county.
- A groundbreaking was held for Gateway Village at Swan Creek Luxury Apartments, a 256-unit complex that will take about 2 years to build.
- The new luxury apartment complex will boast a gated entrance, saltwater pool, splash decks and bar, fitness facility, dog park and pet spa. Rent is expected to range from about \$1,000 a month for one-bedroom units to about \$2,000 a month for three-bedroom apartments.
- We had live VOSOTs throughout our evening shows with sound from the president of the Athens-Limestone County Chamber of Commerce and continued coverage in the morning.

Back-to-school shopping more expensive due to rising inflation – 07/13

- Back-to-school shopping was a lot more expensive this year due in part to inflation soaring to 9.1%, the highest it's been since 1981.
- We spoke to a member of the Challenger Elementary School PTA board who has helped organize programs to save families money, including discounted school supply kits in the spring.
- The Alabama sales tax holiday also gave parents a good opportunity to buy supplies along with a much-needed tax break.
- We had live VOSOTs throughout our evening shows and previews of the sales tax holiday throughout all shows.

Professional soccer coming to Huntsville – 07/14

- Professional soccer will be kicking off at Joe Davis Stadium as soon as next May. The Huntsville City Council voted to lease the stadium to a professional league based out of Nashville.
- Joe Davis Stadium will be operated by a new Division III soccer team affiliated with the Nashville Soccer Club. They will lease the stadium from the city for the next 10 years, maintaining and operating the facility as well.
- We spoke to the tournament director for the North Alabama Soccer Coalition who told us having the new team will elevate the game in the area.
- We had live coverage as the meeting and vote were happening along with continued coverage throughout the night and following morning.

Boeing lands Missile Defense Agency contract – 08/31

- The Missile Defense Agency awarded Boeing a \$5 billion contract for the system integration, test and readiness (SITR) of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system.
- Boeing manages the GMD program out of Huntsville for the Department of Defense. The company has led the industry team since the inception of the program in 1998, with engineers and experts who work in Alabama.
- Under this new contract, Boeing is responsible for the overall engineering; integration of the GMD Element and components and of GMD with the Missile Defense System; and testing to verify compliance with system requirements.
- We had a VOSOT during our 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. shows, a PKG during our 5 p.m. show, and continued coverage at 10 p.m. and the following morning.

Huntsville Fire & Rescue adds 19 new positions – 09/27

- As Huntsville grows, so does the need for more first responders. The city council approved 19 new fire and rescue positions for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Adding the new positions gives the fire department a chance to get people prepared and trained. From the time a position is posted to when someone is actually hired takes about 6 months, with many written and physical tests involved.
- We spoke to the department's chief about the importance of having the new positions to continue to provide the best first response time.