



WAAY-TV

Issue-Responsive Programming

April 1, 2022 - June 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

Sensory rooms in Athens schools- 04/15

- Family and friends helped Stacey Givens raise money to install a sensory room at FAME Academy at Brookhill Elementary School in Athens for her son Brooks, who was diagnosed with autism.
- The efforts led to the creation of “Make A Way,” a non-profit that helped install the rooms in several schools.
- Brooks, along with other students, visit the room multiple times a day based on their needs to help calm down and learn.
- We had a PKG in our 6 p.m. show as part of our “Connecting North Alabama” segment, which shines a light and connects local non-profit organizations.

Federal judge rules in favor of closing R.A. Hubbard High School - 04/26

- A federal judge ruled in favor of the Lawrence County School Board's decision to close R.A. Hubbard High School in Courtland.
- The superintendent told us shutting down the predominantly Black school with fewer than 200 students in grades 7-12 was for the best. He added keeping it in operation with that many grades and so few students is too costly and removing the school will help Lawrence County's financial standing.
- The president of the Lawrence County NAACP argued making students go to other schools only makes their lives harder.
- We had a PKG during our 6 p.m. show with continued coverage in the morning shows.

Facility dog helps students with anxiety and stress – 05/26

- Bernie, a facility dog that helps students deal with anxiety and stress, was introduced to Madison Elementary school.
- The dog training program cost \$8,000, with the State Department of Education footing the majority of the bill and students raising money for the remaining cost.
- We spoke to Bernie's handler who told us the dog has already made a difference. She's noticed more kids opening up to her.
- We had a PKG during our 4 p.m. show.

Decatur Fire & Rescue's 2022 Fire Cadet Camp - 06/08

- Kids 14 to 18 years old attended Decatur Fire & Rescue's 2-day Fire Cadet Camp.
- Cadets learned about fire, rescue and emergency medical services response groups. They also received hands-on experiences with fire demonstrations, radio communication, first aid, use of fire extinguishers and more.
- We had live VOSOTs and VOs during our evening shows.

Teen graduates college before high school - 06/10

- A North Alabama teen, Jake Grissom, graduated with an associate's degree from Northwest-Shoals Community College before he graduated Wilson High School.
- Allen Thornton Technical Center in Killen has a dual enrollment program with NWSCC. Grissom spent his regular school days at Wilson High School before heading to the center in the evening for welding courses.
- Grissom told us he decided he wanted to accomplish the goal since his sophomore year.
- We had a PKG during our 4 p.m. show as part of our "Alabama Original" segment.

Politics

Lawsuit to overturn transgender law - 04/21

- Parents of transgender teens, doctors, and a clergy member filed a lawsuit to try to stop a law that made it a felony for a doctor to prescribe puberty blockers or hormones to aid in gender transition.

- We spoke to Alabama Representative Scott Stadthagen who said giving teens that kind of treatment is child abuse, adding the decision should be made when the person turns 19 years old.
- The law was one of two gaining attention at the time. The other requires students to use bathrooms that align with their birth certificates and prohibits the discussion of gender identity and sexual orientation in grades K-5.
- We had a PKG in our 4 p.m. show with continued coverage in our 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. shows.

Confederate Memorial Day - 04/25

- Alabama celebrated Confederate Memorial Day, a controversial state holiday that's been celebrated since 1901.
- We spoke to people who both agreed and disagreed that the state should celebrate the holiday. Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina are the only states that do.
- Lawmakers who seek to do away with Confederate Memorial Day say they plan to try to pass a bill doing so during the next legislative session.
- We had a PKG during our 4 p.m. show.

Alabama Primary Elections – 05/24

- We had live team coverage staying on top of dozens of races in our state, including the Republican primary for U.S. Senate, the Republican and Democratic primaries for Governor, and the Republican primary for U.S. Congressional District No. 5.
- Our coverage included several hours of wall-to-wall coverage, including live hits from reporters at watch parties and expert analysis with an in-studio guest.
- Our anchor team used the latest technology and information to provide live, real-time updates as election results came in.
- Our coverage started with the morning shows pushing to polls getting ready to open, continued with live coverage from polling locations as people cast their ballots, and ended with hours of election coverage on our live stream leading into our 10 p.m. broadcast filled with acceptance and concession speeches.

\$300 payments to help with the cost of living - 06/06

- Huntsville City Council member Bill Kling wants to use an estimated \$1.4 million in anticipated surplus funds to pay all city employees a one-time \$300 payment to help with the surging cost of living.
- The city has more than 2,300 employees, meaning the idea would cost about \$690,000.
- We spoke to Kling and his fellow council member Frances Akridge, who told us the move is an election year ploy that won't make a difference.
- We had live VOSOTs in our 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. shows along with anchor reads at 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe V. Wade – 06/24

- The U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe V. Wade, leaving abortion laws up to individual states.
- Shortly after the high court's ruling, a judge allowed Alabama's Human Life Protection Act to fully take effect, making it illegal for anyone to perform an abortion unless the pregnant woman's health is at serious risk.
- We spoke to Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall, state representatives, and both pro-choice and pro-life supporters.
- We had live team coverage throughout the day that would continue into following mornings and days with different angles.

Crime & Public Safety

Sgt. Nick Risner Act signed into law - 04/13

- Governor Kay Ivey signed House Bill 143, also known as the Sgt. Nick Risner Act, into law months after the officer was murdered by a man previously convicted of manslaughter.
- The bill prevents convicts who used a deadly weapon to kill someone from being released early under Alabama's Good Time law, which takes time off a person's sentence for time they serve.
- Throughout our coverage of the bill in our state's capital, we spoke to Sgt. Risner's family and Rep. Phillip Pettus, who sponsored the bill.
- We had live reports throughout the day in all shows.

Vicky White helps Casey White escape – 04/29

- Vicky White, the assistant director of corrections at the Lauderdale Co. Detention Center, helped accused capital murder suspect Casey White escape by telling co-workers she was transporting him to the courthouse.
- Over the following week, multiple law enforcement agencies would search for the wanted suspects across several states.
- We had team coverage with updates from the Lauderdale Co. Sheriff, the FBI, and U.S. Marshals.
- Our coverage took us across the state line into Tennessee and eventually to Evansville, Indiana where the manhunt ended after a chase. Casey White was arrested and Vicky White took her own life.

Woman killed in dog attack – 05/02

- Jacqueline Beard, an Alabama Department of Public Health employee, died after being attacked by dogs in Franklin Co.
- Beard was going to a home to talk to the owner about her dogs after they attacked another woman the day before, sending her to the hospital.
- Brandy Dowdy, the owner of the dogs, was arrested and charged with manslaughter and a dangerous dog law, known as Emily's Law, which allows charges against owners of dogs who severely injure or kill someone.

- We had a live VOSOT during our 6 p.m. show and a PKG during our 10 p.m. show.

Four people critically injured in mass stabbing – 06/01

- Four people were critically injured after being stabbed in Huntsville.
- The suspect was later arrested near Redstone Arsenal after fleeing the scene.
- Our reporter was able to get video surveillance of one of the victims running to a nearby gas station calling for help before collapsing inside.
- We had live, breaking news updates throughout our evening shows with a PKG at 10 p.m. to wrap up the day's developments before we learned new information on the suspect later in the week.

Huntsville's homicide "clear" rate bucks the national trend – 06/29

- While police departments across the country struggle to close homicide cases and the national clear rate for cases is at an all-time low, Huntsville Police say they cleared all homicide cases in 2021 and are on track to do the same in 2022.
- Huntsville police credit the public's willingness to work with them by providing tips. With the extra time provided by a lack of new homicides, detectives are able to begin working alongside the cold case squad.
- Huntsville Police Deputy Chief Dewayne McCarver told us Huntsville's economy is doing well, leading to happy people and less crime.
- We had live coverage during our 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. shows.

Health

Madison City Schools hosts mental health summit – 04/04

- Madison City Schools started the conversation about kids' mental health after the COVID-19 pandemic with a mental health summit at Bob Jones High School.
- The goal was to raise awareness on how to deal with mental health and show the resources available.
- We spoke with guest speaker and former Bob Jones student Dustin Haraway, who suffered from depression, along with Madison City Schools' mental health services coordinator, Stephanie Allen.
- We had a VOSOT during our 4 p.m. show and a PKG during our 5 p.m. show.

"Bird Flu" poses threats for chickens - 04/18

- Alabama was one of more than 30 states with confirmed cases of the highly contagious avian influenza, or "bird flu."
- We spoke to the general manager at C.T. Garvin Feed & Seed who told us people should reconsider putting a bird feeder out, as it could attract wild birds that could infect backyard flocks.
- We had a PKG during our 10 p.m. show with continued coverage in the morning shows.

Medical helicopter improves response time - 05/12

- AirEvac LifeTeam expanded its emergency air medical transport services to improve service for patients in North Alabama, giving Athens-Limestone Hospital a helicopter close by for emergencies.
- We spoke with the president of Athens-Limestone Hospital along with helicopter pilot Chase Frederick, who told us having the aircraft is crucial for rural areas.
- The helicopter will cover a 70-mile radius, with other locations already in place.
- We had multiple hits from our reporter during our evening shows.

FDA authorizes Pfizer COVID-19 booster shot for kids – 05/17

- The FDA granted emergency use authorization for a booster dose of Pfizer/BioNTech's Covid-19 vaccine for children ages 5 to 11 at least five months after completion of the primary vaccine series.
- Pfizer requested this emergency use authorization at the end of April, citing company data that showed a third vaccine dose raised Omicron-fighting antibodies by 36 times in the age group.
- FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf issued a statement saying while COVID-19 tends to be less severe in children than adults, more kids were getting sick and being hospitalized due to the Omicron variant.
- We had live coverage in our 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. shows.

Supply chain issues cause tracheostomy tube shortage – 06/06

- As the U.S. dealt with supply chain issues, some families were left worrying about getting a specific tracheostomy tube for their loved ones.
- We spoke to Lauren Hyde, the mother of 4-year-old Colin Hyde, who was born with a rare disease known as Emmanuel Syndrome that affects his airways and caused a recessed jaw.
- Lauren told us she planned on cleaning and reusing the tubes she already had for her son to try to combat the shortage.
- We had a live PKG during our 5 p.m. show and a live VOSOT during our 6 p.m. show.

Business, Technology & Economic Development

Decatur focusing on residential growth in 2022 – 04/12

- During Decatur's State of the City forum, representatives focused on the importance of growing the community so all sectors can prosper. City Council President Jacob Ladner said, in the years to come, Decatur will be a place where more people will want to live and work.
- Decatur Mayor Tab Bowling told us to support the residential growth, the city is focusing on infrastructure.
- We had a live report during our 4 p.m. show.

Gov. Ivey announces deal to fund three major Huntsville road expansion projects – 04/14

- Gov. Kay Ivey announced a deal to fully fund three major Huntsville-area road improvement projects, including the \$11.7 million widening of Interstate 565.
- The agreement between the state and local government frees up funds to also pay \$50 million for widening Highway 72 and \$50 million to widen Highway 53.
- Alabama will contribute 60% in state funds for the infrastructure projects, which are part of round two of the Restore Our Roads plan. Huntsville and Madison, along with the Madison County Commission, will collectively provide a match of 40%.
- We spoke to Madison County Commission Chairman Dale Strong for our coverage during our 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. shows. He told us this is another example of how we can do big things when we work together as a region.

Toyota invests \$222 million in Huntsville facility – 04/19

- Toyota announced it will spend \$222 million on its Huntsville facility to create a new four-cylinder production line for combustion and hybrid electric engines.
- The Huntsville facility will grow by 114,000 square feet, the sixth expansion since 2003.
- Jason Puckett, the president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama told us Toyota is committed to electric long-term, but there is not a one-size-fits-all for our consumers now.
- We had live VOSOTs in our 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. shows.

Orion Amphitheater opening a major success – 05/13

- The First Waltz, the first big weekend event at the Orion Amphitheater, was a success with more than 7,000 concert-goers showing up.
- The city of Huntsville said traffic management plans worked well, despite some concerns about traffic flows around the MidCity District during the planning stages.
- We had live reports during our 4 p.m., 5 p.m., and 6 p.m. shows.

Meta announces expansion at Huntsville Data Center Campus – 06/09

- Meta, the parent company of Facebook, announced it's expanding its Huntsville Data Center campus.
- The two new buildings will put the entire facility at almost 3.5 million square feet and bring total employment to more than 300 jobs, while putting Meta's investment in the center to more than \$1.5 billion.
- Meta also announced two new grants amounting to a total of \$300,000 in support of local schools and STEM education.
- We had a live report during our 4 p.m. show with continued coverage throughout the night.