



## WAAY-TV

Issue-Responsive Programming

January 1, 2022 - March 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
- 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**

### **Brewing partnership to eliminate training for new employees - 01/20**

- Fractal Brewing Project in Huntsville spearheaded a new apprenticeship in partnership with Calhoun Community College.
- The brewery offered a 12-week class to provide people with a new skillset, making them ready to work in any craft beer environment.
- We spoke to the brewmaster at Fractal Brewing Project and the head of business development at Calhoun Community College, who told us the apprenticeship is one-of-a-kind and gives people in North Alabama access to greater opportunities.
- We had a PKG in our 5 p.m. show.

### Complaints of Critical Race Theory in schools - 02/13

- Alabama officials received complaints Critical Race Theory was taught in schools during Black History Month, but the officials said that was not the case.
- The state superintendent told us Critical Race Theory isn't in the state's curriculum, textbooks, or standards.
- We also spoke to the president of the Alabama NAACP who told us he was concerned teachers felt like they would be fired discussing Black History Month.
- We had a PKG during our 6 p.m. show with continued coverage in our morning shows.

### Alabama Senate passes bill to delay Alabama Literacy Act – 03/04

- The Alabama Senate passed a bill to delay the Alabama Literacy Act until the 2023/2024 school year.
- The bill calls on 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to pass a reading test to move onto the next grade level. If the students don't pass the test, they will be held back.
- The state superintendent told us he's excited for the bill, adding it will bring professional development to teachers and strengthen classrooms across the state.
- We had a PKG during our 5 p.m. show and a VO during our 10 p.m. show.

### Demolition of Annie Merts building approved - 03/14

- The Huntsville Historic Commission approved the partial demolition of the Annie Merts building.
- The building was most recently used as an administrative building for different departments within Huntsville City Schools.
- We spoke to a lifelong Huntsville resident who told us she didn't want the vote to go through, turning the original Huntsville High School into condos.
- We had a preview of the vote during our 4 p.m. show with continued coverage throughout the night after the results were announced.

### LPN Launch program - 03/21

- Huntsville Hospital and Drake State Community and Technical College announced the LPN Launch program.
- Students admitted into the program receive financial assistance from Huntsville Hospital for up to \$15,000 for tuition, fees, books, and more.
- In exchange for the assistance, students commit to work for 3 years as an LPN at Huntsville Hospital.
- We had an anchor VOSOT during our 4 p.m. show.

## **Politics**

### City of Florence unveils new city logo- 01/26

- The city of Florence unveiled a new logo and slogan, but residents weren't happy with either of them.

- This story spread over weeks, with us learning the city used a design company outside of Florence, paying the company thousands of dollars.
- During our coverage, we spoke to residents, city council members and more.
- We had a series of PKGs, VOSOTs and live reports over weeks of reporting on this story.

#### GOP push to remove Dale Strong from the ballot - 02/07

- The Republican party looked to remove Madison County Commission Chairman from the May primary ballot.
- Some GOP leaders wanted him out of the race for Alabama's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District due to his role in the removal of the confederate monument outside the Madison County courthouse.
- Strong issued a statement saying the move didn't break Alabama's Memorial Preservation Act, adding the monument was placed in a place of honor when it was moved to a confederate cemetery.
- We had a PKG during our 4 p.m. show and a VOSOT during our 5 p.m. show.

#### Sen. Tuberville calls for action over war in Ukraine - 02/22

- Senator Tommy Tuberville discussed Russia's invasion of Ukraine while visiting the Von Braun Center in Huntsville.
- Tuberville said President Biden's sanctions against Russia came too late, adding the U.S. should help Ukraine by providing emergency equipment and weapons, which Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville plays a major role in.
- Tuberville called on other senators to make sure Russia pays "a heavy price for Putin's aggression."
- We had live VOSOTs in our evening shows to go along with the latest information on the war overseas.

#### Permitless Carry bill signed into law - 03/14

- Governor Kay Ivey signed the Permitless Carry bill into law, removing legal penalties for carrying a concealed weapon without a permit.
- Alabama became the 22<sup>nd</sup> state to allow permitless carry.
- We talked to the owner of Larry's Pistol and Pawn who told us he's happy the bill passed because it strengthens the Second Amendment.
- We had a PKG during our 10 p.m. show with continued coverage in the morning shows.

#### Brooks loses Trump's endorsement- 03/23

- Alabama GOP Senate candidate responded to losing the endorsement of former President Donald Trump.
- Trump said the move was due to Brooks's struggles in recent polls and Brooks telling people to put the 2020 election behind them during a rally.
- Brooks responded to the lost endorsement by saying it was disappointing, adding Trump let Mitch McConnell manipulate him.
- We had live VOSOTs during our 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. shows.

## **Crime & Public Safety**

### **Huntsville Police officer charged with murder - 01/10**

- Huntsville Police officer David McCoy was arrested and charged with murder.
- McCoy is accused of shooting Courtney Spraggins, who was pregnant when she was killed.
- Our coverage started the moment we learned about the incident, bringing it to viewers as breaking news and spreading over weeks with detailed coverage of the case, the relationship between the suspect and victim, McCoy's lawyer and more.

### **Mother, boyfriend charged with toddler's murder – 01/26**

- A mother and her boyfriend were charged with murdering a 15-month-old in Lawrence Co.
- Both were also charged with chemical endangerment of a child after an autopsy showed marijuana in the toddler's system.
- We spoke to the Lawrence Co. Sheriff's Office about how difficult of a situation one like this is to respond to.
- We had a PKG during our 4 p.m. show and a VOSOT during our 5 p.m. show.

### **New storm shelter to be built – 02/16**

- The Madison County Commission unanimously voted to build a new storm shelter at the Monrovia Volunteer Fire Department.
- The current storm shelter in the area was a small room underground, with a cracked roof, no electricity, and could only fit about 30 people.
- We talked to a local pastor who told us the new shelter, which will hold about 100 people, will put a lot of minds at ease.
- We had a PKG during our 4 p.m. show and a VOSOT during our 5 p.m. show.

### **Student injured in shooting at Huntsville school – 02/25**

- A 4<sup>th</sup> grade student was taken to the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries after accidentally shooting themselves inside a classroom at Hereford Elementary School.
- Authorities asked parents to check bookbags before sending their kids off to school.
- Our coverage of this event went on for days, getting reactions from parents, school officials, and working to learn more about security changes across the school system.
- We broke this story live on-air with continued coverage across shows for days.

### **First Response stops operations in Decatur – 03/15**

- First Response Ambulance stopped operations in Decatur, leaving Decatur Morgan Hospital's ambulance service as the only service for the city.
- It comes after First Response Ambulance filed a lawsuit against the City of Huntsville for running calls in Decatur.

- We talked to the Decatur Fire chief and Decatur residents about their concerns.
- We had a PKG during our 5 p.m. show and a VOSOT during our 6 p.m. show.

## **Health**

### **Flurona reported in Alabama – 01/05**

- Huntsville Hospital confirmed it treated people with Flurona, a dual infection of COVID-19 and the flu.
- We spoke to an infectious disease specialist at the hospital who told us those infected with both had multiple risk factors.
- We also spoke to the district medical officer with the Alabama Department of Public Health who said the low levels we saw last flu season caused many people to forget about it and not take as many precautions to prevent it.
- We had a PKG during our 5 p.m. show and an anchor VOSOT during our 6 p.m. show.

### **Pig kidneys transplanted into humans - 01/20**

- Surgeons at the University of Alabama at Birmingham successfully transplanted a pair of pig kidneys into a brain-dead man from Huntsville.
- Jim Parsons was declared brain-dead after an accident in September, 2021.
- We spoke to Parsons's ex-wife, as well as the director of the Comprehensive Transplant Institute in UAB's Department of Surgery and lead investigator for the study.
- We had a VOSOT during our 4 p.m. show and a PKG during our 6 p.m. show.

### **New COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatment - 02/21**

- Many clinics and hospitals across North Alabama received Evusheld, a new COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatment.
- The FDA granted the new treatment, which could prevent COVID-19 for high-risk populations, Emergency Use Authorization in December.
- We spoke to both Huntsville Hospital and Crestwood Medical Center about the recent shipments and the efficacy of the treatment.
- We had a VOSOT during our 4 p.m. show and a PKG during our 6 p.m. show.

### **UAH transports medical supplies to rural areas using drones – 02/22**

- The University of Alabama in Huntsville completed its first simulation project that uses drones to transport life-saving medical supplies to rural areas.
- The supply chain issues and labor shortage made it difficult to get supplies to the rural areas.
- We talked to the nursing professor at UAH who came up with the idea.
- We had a package during our 4 p.m. show.

### **Lawrence Co. Schools to install vape monitors– 03/21**

- Lawrence County Schools is looking into getting vape monitors for bathrooms to help fight against teens vaping.
- The school district told us officials confiscate vape pens, but they're hard to find sometimes.
- We spoke to the Lawrence County Schools safety coordinator about the challenge and the need for monitors.
- We had a PKG during our 5 p.m. show and a VOSOT during our 6 p.m. show.

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

### **Groundbreaking for multimillion-dollar development in Muscle Shoals – 01/13**

- Officials broke ground on a multimillion-dollar development set to bring a new residential area, businesses and more to Muscle Shoals.
- A local developer started working on the project in December of 2020.
- We talked to the developer and someone who lives in Muscle Shoals who said they were excited for the new businesses.
- We had a PKG during both our 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. shows.

### **Huntsville population boom leads to need for housing – 01/26**

- Despite recently being named the biggest city in Alabama, Huntsville is still the state's fastest growing city.
- The latest Huntsville Development Review showed the city approved more building permits in 2021 than any other year. Those permits were for homes, businesses and restaurants.
- We talked to Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle about the recent growth and a woman that visits from Nashville often about the changes she noticed.
- We had a PKG during our 5 p.m. show and a VOSOT during our 6 p.m. show, which continued coverage in our morning shows.

### **Mazda Toyota job fair – 02/18**

- Mazda Toyota Manufacturing held a job fair, looking to fill 2,000 jobs.
- 1,200 of the jobs were with Mazda Toyota Manufacturing, while 800 were with service providers, all in an effort to build the new Toyota Corolla Cross and Mazda CX-50.
- The company also announced it increased starting wages.
- We had live coverage in both our 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. shows.

### **Breeze Airways announced non-stop service to Las Vegas – 03/08**

- Breeze Airways announced non-stop service from Huntsville International Airport to Las Vegas year-round.
- Las Vegas marked the 14<sup>th</sup> non-stop destination out of Huntsville and the 4<sup>th</sup> location for Breeze Airways.

- We spoke to the Chairman of the Board of Directors at Huntsville International Airport who told us Breeze Airways is a valuable asset to the airport.
- We had a VOSOT during our 4 p.m. show and a PKG during our 5 p.m. show with continued coverage later that night.

#### Alabama A&M creates roadmap to electrify buses – 03/09

- With the Department of Transportation offering \$1.5 billion in grants for local governments to electrify their public transit systems, Huntsville looked at Alabama A&M as a case study to see how it would work.
- The school switched its fleet to electric vehicles in 2019, currently operating with 6 electric buses with multiple charging stations.
- We talked to the Department of Transportation Director at Alabama A&M to learn more about the impacts of the electric buses.
- We had a VOSOT during our 4 p.m. show with a PKG during our 6 p.m. show.