



WAAY-TV

Issue-Responsive Programming

April 1, 2017-June 30, 2017

Significant Community Issues Identified

- Education
- Political
- Public Safety
- Terrorism
- Health and Medical
- Business, Technology & Economic Development

Regularly scheduled community 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-4:30pm

- WAAY31 Local News M-F 5:00-5:30pm
- WAAY31 Local News M-F 10:00-10:35pm
- WAAY31 Local News M-F 12:05am-12:35am
- WAAY31 Local News S/S 5:00-5:30pm
- WAAY31 Local News Sat. 6:00-6:30pm
- WAAY31 Local News Sat. 10:35-11:05pm
- 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.
- Law Line 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 Local News on waaytv.com M-F 6:00-6:30pm
- WAAY31 Local News on 31.2 M-F 7:00-7:30pm

The 6:00 pm news airs online only. This newscast is re-aired on digital channel 31.2 at 7:00 pm. It is an assortment of news stories from the 5pm newscast, as well as weather and new content.

- 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 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***

Problems at Huntsville City Schools

Multiple teachers at a Huntsville city elementary school claimed student violence against teachers was an ongoing problem. These teachers are represented by the Alabama education association and filed a complaint with Huntsville city schools. WAAY 31 uncovered pictures and medical records of one teacher's injuries that sent her to an emergency clinic. After WAAY investigation Huntsville city schools agreed to increase security in the 5th and 6th grade hallways, and give teachers more behavioral training. These investigations aired at the beginning of the year. Now, WAAY 31 learned the school in question has a new principal that will start next school year.

AIR TIMES:

- June 12, 2017- New principal named to Rolling Hills Elementary School

Decatur City Schools Teachers Upset over Summer Pay

Several Decatur City Schools teachers spoke out at school board meetings about not being paid for two summer training sessions. The Alabama Education Association said Decatur City Schools refuses to pay the teachers for two out of the four days. Teachers demanded \$125 a day for the training days.

AIR TIMES:

- May 4, 2017- Teachers Not Getting Paid for Training
- May 8, 2017- Decatur City Schools Discusses Training Payment

Jackson County Schools Proposes Closure of Paint Rock Valley High School

The Jackson County School System proposed closing Paint Rock Valley High School due to lack of students, and costs to maintain the building. According to the School system, only 76 Students attend the school which houses kindergarten through 12th grade. The School board said it would cost nearly \$300,000 to update the facility. Several community members spoke out about its closure. The School board voted to keep the school open.

AIR TIMES:

- April 4, 2017- Jackson City School Board proposes Closure
- April 18, 2017- School Board Meets with Community about Closure
- April 25, 2017- Community Members Speak Out about Closure
- April 27, 2017- School Board Votes to Keep School Open

• **Political**

Former State Supreme Court Head Justice Announced Senate Run

The former Supreme Court Head Justice Roy Moore declared his run for the Senate. He was removed from the bench twice, once for refusing the Supreme Court's order to legalize gay marriage. He was on paid leave when he announced his run for Senate, effectively announcing his resignation from the state supreme court.

AIR TIMES:

- April 26, 2017 Roy Moore announces his run for Senate in Montgomery

Huntsville Mayor Announced run for Governor

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle has hinted for several weeks a run for Governor would be in his future. He finally made the announcement early one morning. Since then he has been very media friendly.

AIR TIMES:

- April 26, 2017 Huntsville Mayor announced run for Alabama Governor

Alabama Governor Robert Bentley Resigns

Alabama Governor Robert Bentley resigned from office after the Alabama House Judiciary Committee begins hearing on impeachment. The Alabama Ethics Commission found probable cause that Bentley violated ethics and campaign finance laws. Governor Bentley previously admitted to having an affair with his Senior Advisor Rebekah Mason.

AIR TIMES:

- April 5, 2017- Ethics Commission Reviews Complaints Against Bentley
- April 9, 2017- 100 Page Report Released Detailing Misuse of Funds
- April 10, 2017- Governor Bentley Announces he will resign, pleads guilty to two misdemeanor charges

• **Public Safety**

Facebook Imposter Warning

WAAY 31's learned from Lauderdale Co. officials that a man was arrested for sexual misconduct, possession of obscene material and other things. Sheriff's deputies said the 20 year old man posed on Facebook as a woman and got underage boys to send nude photos to him. Still posing as a woman, Sheriff's deputies said the man then blackmailed the boys and said if they didn't perform sexual acts with him, he would post their nude pictures to social media. Sheriff's deputies said at least one boy did perform sexual acts with him while another boy reported the man to officials.

AIR TIMES:

- April 13, 2017- Man arrested for posing on Facebook as woman to lure boys into sexual acts

Deadly Church Bus Crash

A church bus from Huntsville crashed in Atlanta, GA on the way to the airport. The group is from Mt. Zion Baptist Church. They were on their way to Africa for a mission trip. The crash happened as the driver of one of the church busses went to change lanes from the slow lane to the fast lane. A car was already traveling in the fast lane. The bus hit that car; the driver lost control, went into the median and flipped, then hit another car traveling in the opposite direction as the bus flipped. That crash killed a 17 year old girl from Huntsville. Charges are pending right now.

AIR TIMES:

- June 8, 2017- WAAY 31 went wall to wall with live pictures of the crash during the 5pm show
- June 9, 2017- We aired a special 4pm show with multiple reporters in the 4, 5 and 6pm shows. We had reporters in Atlanta and Huntsville covering different angles of the crash
- June 10, 2017- Updates on the number of people still in the hospital and interviews with victims
- June 11, 2017- Live report from a community vigil in Huntsville to remember the girl killed
- June 12, 2017- Live report from Mt. Zion Baptist Church where the funeral for the teen killed was taking place

Shoals Girl Drowns

A girl visiting her grandparents with her family from Tennessee drowned after being stuck in a culvert. Officials had to use the jaws of life to get her out. This happened at TVA Rockpile, which is a popular spot for hikers. We talked to hikers about how the area is not safe for people to swim in the in the river near the waterfall. We also talked exclusively with the girl's grandfather about who the girl was and what happened. She was airlifted to a local hospital where she died.

AIR TIMES:

- June 7, 2017- Breaking news airs of the girl drowning at TVA Rockpile and we talk with hikers about the safety of the area
- June 8, 2017- Exclusive interview airs with girls grandfather

● ***Terrorism***

Terrorism Arrest in Huntsville

Huntsville Police say a citizen tip lead to an arrest of a 22-year-old man who faces a terrorism charge. Police charged Aziz Sayyed with soliciting or providing support for an act of terrorism. WAAY 31 investigated this story and found out deputies found bomb making material in his Huntsville apartment. Sayyed is currently being held without bond in the Madison County Jail. WAAY 31 found out this charge is a class C felony, and could face anywhere from one year and a day to 10 years in prison.

AIR TIMES:

- June 16, 2017- Investigators announce charges against Aziz Sayyed
- June 22, 2017- WAAY 31 uncovers officials found bomb making material in apartment
- June 25, 2017- Huntsville Islamic Center Speaks Out about arrest
- June 29, 2017- Documents show Sayyed admitted to having explosives

Lockdown at Redstone Arsenal

Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville's biggest employer, is placed on lockdown for a possible active shooter situation. No one is allowed on or off the arsenal for hours as Federal, State and Local authorities swarm the area looking for a possible gunman or gunmen. Traffic at the massive complex builds as people try to figure out what is going on. WAAY 31 went live on air moments after the initial report at 10:00am and stayed on the air until the all clear was given by investigators. As rumors and speculation swirled, WAAY 31 only reported confirmed facts to help ease a tense situation. The whole situation turned out to be a false alarm

AIR TIMES:

- June 27, 2017- Redstone Arsenal placed on lockdown for hours and if there was a terror link
- June 28, 2017- WAAY 31 continues investigating what did and didn't happen
- June 29, 2017- WAAY 31 presses to see what changes, if any, Redstone is making because of the false report
- June 30, 2017- WAAY 31 sends a Freedom of Information Request for the 911 calls that prompted the scare

● **Health**

Cystic Fibrosis Walk

WAAY 31 was the sponsor of this year's Cystic Fibrosis Walk in Huntsville. One of our reporter/anchors has cystic fibrosis did a report detailing her story, outlining the treatments needed and she talked with another person who had cystic fibrosis. The age expectancy of someone with CF is 38 years old and people who have CF are not allowed to be around one another. The walk was held to raise money for the foundation to come up with new treatments.

AIR TIMES:

- May 8, 2017- Story outlining Cystic Fibrosis and what the disease is airs
- May 13, 2017- Story about the Cystic Fibrosis walk happening
- May 15, 2017- Story with updated totals from the walk

Every night at 5pm, WAAY 31 also ran a report on health breakthroughs and innovations to help keep people healthy.

● **Business, Technology & Economic Development**

Joe Davis Stadium Revamp

Huntsville City Council approved a plan that would cost \$48,000 to explore to the possibility of transforming the stadium into an outdoor amphitheater for concerts. The Huntsville Stars used to play there. Their last game was 2015 and MLB officials said baseball want be played again at the stadium.

AIR TIMES:

- April 13, 2017 Huntsville City Council approves the plan to transform the stadium

Lowe Mill Rezoning

Huntsville City Officials released plans to bring new development to a part of town that is being gentrified. The new plans include apartments, houses, condos, retail space and restaurants located across the street from a building known as Lowe Mill that was an old mill turned into retail space, park and restaurants.

AIR TIMES:

- April 26, 2017- Huntsville City Officials and developers release plans for Lowe Mill rezoning

Blue Origin Announces Plans to Open in Huntsville

Amazon founder and dotcom billionaire Jeff Bezos' rocket company Blue Origin announces it's opening in Huntsville. The company plans on building a 400,000 square foot, state-of-the-art engine factory to manufacture its BE-4 Engine. The company says this will create 350 jobs and a \$2000 million investment into area. Factory details will not be finalized until Blue Origin wins a contract with United Launch Alliance and meetings with state and local government officials happen in July. WAAY 31 also investigated the incentives package given to Blue Origin if it does move to North Alabama.

AIR TIMES:

- June 26, 2017- Blue Origin announces plans to come to Huntsville
- June 28, 2017- Economic Impact of Blue Origin coming to HSV