

# **WIYC Programs and Issues**

## **First Quarter 2024 Report**

### **January 1, 2024, to March 31, 2024**

WIYC is a COZI TV affiliated television station licensed to Troy, Alabama and serves the Black Belt and River Region of Central Alabama, including Montgomery, Alabama.

WIYC is owned by Montgomery, TV License Company, LLC and is the sister station to WCOV and WALE (low power television station). The ownership transfer to Montgomery, TV License Company, LLC from Woods Communications Corporation was completed in 2nd quarter.

Improvement of operational facilities continues to be in process to serve viewers with better over the air reception of an excellent quality signal. Already, a more powerful transmitter, antenna and a back-up operations system have been installed to improve reach and ensure technical ability to broadcast. WIYC's viewers are served by the continued operational improvements to the technical facility.

Serving the needs of our viewers, WIYC participates in the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Improvement is planned to implement other non-weather-related news breaking notifications.

Issues that are addressed with programming include:

- 1. Personal Development.** Information provided educates viewers about various science topics and the practical and commercial implementation of science. Information is provided to increase understanding of the global community. Individual inspirational stories and exposure to opportunities are addressed.
- 2. Professional Development.** Exposure to career and lifestyle alternatives are provided to enable awareness of a broad selection of choices.
- 3. Education.** Program material shared results in increased viewer knowledge in areas including science, technology, environmental stewardship, healthy cooking, physical fitness, civics, and a variety of other training material presented in an entertaining and engaging manner.
- 4. Resources.** Services available to address physical, mental, and social needs are communicated.
- 5. Safety.** Safety includes physical safety, as well as security of health and family.

The COZI TV network broadcasts an American programming block called “The More You Know.” This programming block meets federally mandated educational and informational programming guidelines. PSAs are also aired during these programs. Programs included are:

Earth Odyssey with Dylan Dreyer  
One Team – The Power of Sports  
Roots Less Traveled  
Vets Saving Pets  
Voyager with Josh Garcia  
Wild Child

## **Cozi Program Summaries**

### **Sunday from 8:00am to 11:00am**

**Earth Odyssey with Dylan Dreyer – E/I, K13-16** Earth Odyssey with Dylan Dreyer is a live action, half-hour television program designed to meet the educational and informational needs of children 13-16. This program will take viewers on an incredible journey to the wildest points on the globe, uncovering the connection between the environment, the wildlife, and human beings that surround them. Hosted by Meteorologist Dylan Dreyer, the program will reveal a new destination each week, ranging from Africa, Indochina, the Middle East, and many untamed islands around the world. Audiences will come face to face with fascinating native animals, some cute and some dangerous, while educating teen viewers with amazing facts about nature and wildlife. Earth Odyssey with Dylan Dreyer gives audiences a captivating look at the symbiosis between all living things in the larger-than-life places on Earth.

**One Team: The Power of Sports – E/I, K13-16** “One Team: The Power of Sports” is a live action, half-hour television program designed to meet the educational and informational needs of children aged 13-16. This program features stories that focus on diversity, inclusion and how sports often bring people together for a common goal that goes beyond the playing field. Hosted by Corey Robinson, this series shines a light on people who have used sports to overcome obstacles or to help their community. Viewers will learn the value of acceptance, and how everyone deserves a fair shot in life. No matter the level of competition, “One Team: The Power of Sports” demonstrates the impact sports can have on people, regardless of their gender, background, or the color of their skin.

**Roots Less Traveled – E/I, K13-16** - Two family members, often from different generations, gain a newfound understanding and respect for each other as they set out on a quest to learn more about their family history by solving a mystery in their family tree. The duos discover the truth behind the tales that have been passed down in their family, from rumors of a relative who sailed on the Titanic to stories of homesteaders forging a new path for future generations. On journeys to unique places around the globe, these family members grow closer as they gain wisdom not only about themselves, but also about how their past has helped shape their present.

**Vets Saving Pets, - E/I, K13-16** Vets Saving Pets is a live action, half hour television program designed to meet the educational and informational needs of children aged 13-16. This program examines the interpersonal stories of veterinary professionals working to save the lives of animals in need of urgent medical care. Vests Saving pets takes place at the Emergency Veterinary Trauma Center in Toronto, one of the busiest veterinary facilities in Canada. Viewers are exposed to new emergency cases that will teach audiences about the wide array of specialties within veterinary medicine such as critical care, oncology, cardiology, neurology, anesthesiology, dermatology,

dentistry, and surgery. Audiences will witness first-hand the dedication and determination of these veterinary specialists as they work tirelessly to save their animal patients.

**The Voyager with Josh Garcia - E/I, K13-16** with the world traveler as our guide, “The Voyager with Josh Garcia” takes audiences on an exciting and culturally rich voyage around the globe. Traveling by ocean, each episode brings audiences to the world’s most incredible destinations as we join Josh on a personal journey to discover, understand and immerse in the hidden beauty, diverse traditions and unique cruise each port has to offer. As we meet local cultural experts, learn authentic regional stories, and taste indigenous dishes, Josh inspires us to celebrate and explore the people, places, and cultures of our world.

**Wild Child - E/I, K13-16** Wild Child is a live-action, half hour television program designed to meet the educational needs of children aged 13-16. “Wild Child” will take viewers on an adventure to meet the cutest, most curious, most fascinating baby animals on the planet. Along the journey, audiences will witness the incredible bond that exists within the animal kingdom between parents and their children. Hosted by Sheinelle Jones, “Wild Child” will reveal how these untamed youngsters are born, how they play and how they learn to survive in the wild. Each week, viewers will witness a wide variety of wild animal children in their first years on Earth as they overcome environmental challenges and threats from predators.

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We are currently working to add additional entertaining and informational programming on WIYC. The primary affiliation, COZI TV network, broadcasts America’s most beloved and iconic television series from the NBC / Universal library to provide an entertaining experience to WIYC viewers. MyNet, Hero’s and Icons, Court TV Mystery, TBD, Comet, and Charge! are current WIYC program offerings. Continued improvement of programming is in progress.

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## **News at 9**

**WIYC FOX NEWS AT NINE  
MONDAY – FRIDAY 9:00PM TO 9:35PM**

WIYC Fox News at Nine delivers information regarding local community events, crime, weather, sports, business and economic updates, education, and political information.

1/2/2024 - Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- The Prattville Police Department is investigating a felony theft. it needs your help with identifying the suspect. Investigators released a photo of an unknown Black female suspect. The offense occurred on December 14TH at Hibbett Sports. Investigators say the woman entered the business, stole an assortment of Nike clothing, and the left without paying. The suspect was seen

leaving the property in a grey colored Honda. The stolen items were valued at \$665.00. If you have any information on her. Call Crimestoppers at 215-STOP

### 1/3/2024 - Volunteer Opportunities, Programs, and Efforts

- Homelessness is a growing problem in cities across the country. Now there's a new homeless shelter in Selma to try and help address the issue there. Reporter George McDonald has more. Members of the Selma faith-based community are now helping to provide food and shelter to the city's homeless population. There hasn't been a homeless shelter in Selma for as long as anyone can remember and maybe ever until now. The Dr. Winston A. Williams Shelter for the Homeless opened in Queen City November 22, 2023. The regular hours are 7 PM at night to 7 AM in the morning. And when they come in, we want them for any kind of weapons. The shelter is located on the corner of Broad Street and 2nd Avenue. It was used as a temporary shelter during inclement weather -- before recently transitioning into a permanent overnight shelter. We give them a hot cup of coffee time they walk in the door if they desire one. We give a hot bowl of soup or something to eat when they come in as well. The shelter is operated by volunteers from churches throughout the community. Shelter volunteer Chris Edwards is passionate about the work that's being done at I know how it feels not to have nowhere to stay. No hot meal. Or not even a bed to lay in. Toting bags. Sometime having to go into a restaurant and lock up bathrooms, sit in there and bathe. Sleep in abandoned cars, houses. Edwards isn't homeless anymore. And he enjoys the opportunity to show love to people who are often neglected and ignored. Sometimes you have to go through some trials and tribulations in life but it's just something that you have to face. You have to do something. You know, humans help humans. That's what you do. And the moral thing to do if you have the capacity to do it. In Selma, I'm GM, Action 8 News. Thank you, George. For more information about the shelter call 334-431-50-51.

### 1/5/2024 - Resources

- The chief commander of the Alabama National Guard retired today. and a new leader has officially taken over. Major General Sheryl Gordon retired following a 40-year military career. She has spent the last six years as The Adjutant General. Major General Gordon has overseen the transition from the F-16 Fighting Falcon. to the F-35 Lightning 2. Governor Ivey presided over today's Change of Command Ceremony. and welcomed Brigadier General David Pritchett. Who is a Jefferson County native and Auburn University alum. "today's a very exciting day for the Alabama national guard. We're getting a fantastic new leader to take over the helm of what I have been privileged to run for the past 6 and a half years. So, it's a great day for us as individuals, but also to our guard family and the state of Alabama. You know it's a very humble opportunity and a fact that we were selected too. Being from Alabama but we were not living in Alabama, as a lot of people know we were working for the agent general in Wyoming. So, it's very humbling to come back home. We knew that we would come back to Alabama one day. General Pritchett received his military start in 1988 in the United States Marine Corps Reserve in Bessemer.

## 1/6/2024 – Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- Montgomery police tell Action 8 News that 23-year-old Jaden Waters, and 19-year-old Myeesha Townsend, who are both from Montgomery are charged with Capital Murder for the shooting death of 21-year-old Larry Wright, Jr., also from Montgomery. Officers and fire medics were called just before 3:00 p.m. Thursday to the Juicy Crab restaurant on Eastchase Parkway. when they arrived, they found Wright dead from a gunshot wound in the parking lot. Police say one of the suspected shooters - now identified as Waters - also suffered a non-life-threatening gunshot wound. He was \*found\* at a local hospital and taken into custody. Townsend was taken into custody on Friday. Investigators believe a domestic dispute was the motive for the shooting. According to court documents obtained by our newsroom, Myeesha Townsend was out on bond for a 1st degree burglary charge from June of 20-23 on Southmont Drive in Montgomery. This is Montgomery's first homicide of the year.

## 1/7/2024 – Public Safety

- If you were driving in Midtown Montgomery tonight, you might have seen a very \*unusual wreck\* that made you look twice. An 18-wheeler and a white Chevrolet Equinox collided at the curve in the road where Ann Street turns into Zelda Road. It happened around 7pm tonight. in front of Cookout restaurant. The 18-wheeler and the SUV hit each other when they were merging. Fortunately, neither driver appeared to be injured.

## 1/8/2024 – Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- The Autauga County Sheriff's Office is asking for your help in finding two missing women. 78-year-old Patricia Gardner Dennis and 59-year-old Teresa Lynne Fisher were last seen around 5:30 p.m. on Saturday in the area of Highway 31 in Deatsville. Authorities say both women may be living with a condition that impairs their judgment. Dennis is described as 5'2" and weighs 145 lbs. She has blonde or strawberry-colored hair and green eyes. Her clothing is unknown, but always wears a gold ring with a pink ice diamond. Fisher is described as 5'7" and weighs 150 lbs. She has blonde or strawberry colored hair and blue eyes. She was last seen wearing a green hoodie and black leggings with multicolored sugar skulls on them. If you see them -- call 9-1-1

## 1/9/2024 – Public Safety

- Flooding was a problem in our area today after the storms. Prattville firefighters rescued 13 people and six animals from various homes in the Candlestick Park neighborhood. EMA Director David Bagley says heavy rain and wind Started around 2 AM. He says around 700 residents were without power in the northern portion of the county. Most of them have since had their power restored. 15 to 20 homes in Candlestick park WERE completely surrounded by the flooding waters. and that's where THE rescues OCCURED. Bagley says The more water they can get down the river, the better off they will be when the next storm hits. Last time we had this I think it was back in 2010 I didn't know it was going to flood because it was raining but we've never had it this bad and it just... I guess Pine Creek down the other end just overflowed and it started gushing. Right now we're doing initial damage assessments and so we would like folks to stay out of the area until we can get that done and let folks kind of figure out figure out what they've got in

the way of damage if you do have damage if you could call us at the office at 334-361-3758 let us know what damage you have and we'll come out and do an assessment of that and that'll just help us if in case we do get some assistance from FEMA for this storm that you will be on the list for that. EMA Director David Bagley says other affected areas were near Autaugaville County Road 9. The Autauga County rescue squad building in Prattville's historic district also had extensive flood damage.

#### 1/10/2024 – Public Safety

- Selma mayor James Perkins gave an update on Selma city waterworks today. Those affected by a water leak live on the northeast side of Highlands Avenue. to highway 219. superintendent for Selma waterworks Robert Bridges. wanted to let the public know that the water is not contaminated. but as a safety precaution, residents in the affected area were asked to boil their water. In the meantime, Residents can pick up the water at the Selma Convention Center. between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM. Monday through Friday. Be ready to show identification or proof that you were affected by the leaks. It is a false rumor to state or to say that the water is contaminated that is not the case. We are following federal and state guidelines that say that we need to ensure that is not contaminated and that's what this is about. We've got the leaks' repaired water is going back into the tanks at a slow and steady rate we will be we've already collected The required Bacterial logic samples today and hopefully we will get positive good results from those tomorrow and at that point possibly lift the boil water notice. EMA Director Toya Styles Crusoe says she called around to several agencies and organizations within the county for water.

#### 1/11/2024 – Civil Rights History

- The Montgomery interpretive Center at Alabama State University had a program to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. today. The national center is observing what would be Dr. King's 95th birthday this coming Monday. The civil rights leader was born January 15th, 1929. The center is observing the celebration with the theme of, "The making of Martin Luther King JR.", focusing on his life from 1954 to 1960. when he when he was minister of the Dexter Ave. Baptist Church. Many of the civil rights movement events of the 1950s and 60s took place. or were headquartered on the campus of Alabama State University. There's no doubt in King coming to Montgomery I know he came to Montgomery with certain qualifications and characteristics, but something happened in this city and the boycott it reshaped him in a major way to becoming again the most significant civil rights leader in the nation's past. The large number of ASU employees and Alumni that served as major leaders in the civil rights movement. is a reason that many maintain that ASU. is a place where history was made. here's a look at some of the events for martin Luther king junior day weekend: on January 12th The Sanctuary is hosting a Jazz and Lyric Celebration at 7 o'clock P.M. then on the M-L-K holiday: Hands On River Region is having MLK Day of Service and Remembrance at Various Locations. the Cleveland Avenue YMCA is also holding a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service starting at 9 AM. and the Equal Justice Initiative is offering free admission to the Legacy Sites. which will be open during normal business hours. then at 10 a-m is the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in Downtown Montgomery, and there will be a MLK Birthday Bash at 300 Jackson Street. starting at 12:30 PM. on Tuesday the 16th, A-U-M will have a Reflections Breakfast at 9:00 A-M in the Taylor Center.

## 1/12/2024 – Volunteer Opportunities, Programs and Efforts

- Acting U-S Secretary of Labor Julie Su took part in a day of service event with Meals on Wheels Montgomery. SHE helped prepare frozen meals that will be given to homebound seniors throughout the Meals on Wheels coverage area. Acting Secretary Su ALSO took time to visit the Equal Justice Initiative. and some other historical sites. She spoke at the AFL-CIO's Dr. Martin Luther King Junior Civil and Human Rights Conference. I'm in Montgomery primarily for the AFL-CIO's Martin Luther King's civil and human rights conference and it's exciting to be here at the moment in which you know President Biden's America we are truly reimagining what is possible for working people and I'm happy to be here this morning at meals on wheels to volunteer in the spirit of Dr. King. I'm looking forward to it. I did this a couple years ago up in DC and it's just wonderful to be here in what is the birthplace of our nation's civil rights movement to roll up my sleeves. It's a great honor, a great honor because there are many wonderful nonprofits in the city of Montgomery, and we were just very pleased that we were selected. The theme of the 2024 conference is "Our Voice, Our Ballot, Our Future,". which honors Dr. King's vision for collective action at the voting booth, in the community and in the workplace.

## 1/13/2024 – Education and Development

- As the state prepares for freezing temperatures next week, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management is asking water customers to consider installing insulated covers on outdoor faucets. instead of leaving them \*dripping\* during a hard freeze. ADEM says water utilities will face increased consumer demand from dripping faucets and leaks from frozen pipes as they thaw. Insulated outdoor faucet covers are inexpensive, easy to install, and available at home improvement centers and hardware stores. As pipes thaw, the public can help by checking for leaks inside and outside of their homes or businesses.

## 1/15/2024 – Civil Rights History

- The Theme for This year's annual program was "transforming the culture climate. through the study and practice of DR. king's Philosophy of nonviolence". the Lanier high school choir performed during the program. and the Guest speaker was Rev Dr. Derwin Perry pastor of Goodship missionary Baptist Church in Millbrook. Words cannot describe tears of joy very humble ecstatic I would never think in my tenure that I will be able to step into the home of the great late Martin Luther King Jr. and then share this moment in tenure where is Legacy still lives on and we have so much more work to do. Educate and educate and then we still have to educate some more we have to teach them we have to train them and to walk with them to make sure that they understand the principles of what it means to be a leader in conflict resolution so they'll put the guns down and they will be able to pick the voting ballot up. Dr. King first served full-time AS A pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church back in 1954.

## 1/16/2024 – Volunteer Opportunities, Programs and Efforts

- Because of the freezing temperatures. Montgomery's Warming Center in the Cloverdale area let people in early tonight. The center is open from 8pm to 8 am to individuals, families, and anyone

who needs a warm place to stay. when the weather drops below 35 degrees. Pets are allowed too. They have four rooms filled with cots and blankets and pillows for people to sleep in, and they serve a warm meal and coffee and snacks. The center has had as many as 67 people stay there in the past, and last night they had 40 people spend the night. EMA Director Christina Thornton tells us they have plenty of blankets right now, but they do need people to donate snacks, like granola bars and pop tarts. They also need clothing items like hats and scarves and gloves. You can drop off donations from 4pm to 8am at 3446 LeBron Road. Which is in back of the old Floyd school.

1/17/2024 – Public Safety

- We talked to Pike Road Fire Chief Matt Missildine on how to remain safe while using space and propane heaters. in and around your home. As winter weather grips much of the country. the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is warning consumers about deadly hazards from home heating equipment, including space heaters, furnaces, and fireplaces. Pike Road Fire Chief Matt Missildine says that Space heaters. are the leading cause of death when it comes to heating equipment fires. Two hazards of special concern are fires and carbon monoxide poisoning...IF you're using a propane heater. make sure you have a carbon monoxide detector. and to use the heater as instructed. which could include ventilator. Space heaters is definitely that time of year where people are going to be breaking them out they are one of the leading cause of death when it comes to any kind of heating equipment fire for People need to understand that they can be very safe with them and use them as they are instructed they need to keep them 3 feet away from anything that can catch on fire that's going to be clothes any kind of flammable furniture anything like that. they need to plug them directly into the wall they don't need to use extension cords with them the power of these things pull Will cause that extension cord to melt if they are not the exact proper kind just plug them into the wall that's the way they are supposed to be done. If you have problems with your heat reach out get that fixed be proactive, get it fixed before all this cold weather gets here but make sure you call a professional whoever that may be. Missildine says people that don't have the ability to get warmed up should use the Warming shelters.

1/18/2024 – Public Safety

- The use of ATV vehicles on public roadways has historically been banned in Crenshaw County now, following an increase of ATV related incidents that law is being reiterated. Action 8's Teresa Lawson has more on how the county Is cracking down on those who illegally ride their ATV'S within county lines We've had several incidents and ATV accidents where they've collided with motor vehicles on public roads. ATV accidents are on the rise across the river region with many life-threatening incidents involving teenagers and young adults. Back in March of last year we had a 16-year-old who was critically injured when he hit a vehicle and a couple of weeks ago, we had two juveniles get life flighted out and it just keeps growing. As ATV sales increase illegal use and injury increases. especially in rural areas where residents could face criminal charges for illegal use. It's not just accidents that we have to deal with, we get people going out on dirt roads, which are classified as public roads doing donuts tearing up the roads and slinging. them messing up causing the highway department. to go out there and fix them so technically you could a criminal charge for criminal mischief. ATVs are off-road vehicles and should only be enjoyed on private property or at ATV parks to decrease the chance of bodily harm. We're actually trying to. be proactive to prevent any other injuries or deaths. even, God forbid. We're. not out there to



prevent folks from having a good time we want you to have a good time. We want you to do it in a safe manner. ATV'S should never be used on public roads. including dirt roads to prevent injury, fines, or jail time.

#### 1/19/2024 – Public Safety

- On nights like tonight plenty of people depend on the Montgomery Warming Center for help. Now the center is getting some help of its own. The warming center is receiving donations of blankets, hygiene products, fruit, and other food items. The help is coming from Mercy House, Pastor Ken Austin, District 7 Montgomery City Councilman Andrew Szymanski. and the group called "Citizens Who Care." They wanted to do something to keep people warm, nourished, and safe. The Montgomery Warming Center opens at 4PM on nights when the temperatures drop to around freezing. Tonight, and tomorrow night, it's going to be much colder than that. It is located at 3446 LeBron Road

#### 1/20/2024 – Public Safety

- Because of the freezing temperatures, Elmore County opened 8 warming stations tonight. They opened at 6 tonight. for anyone who is having problems with a heater, or just needs a warm place to stay tonight. The Elmore County Historic Courthouse and Tallassee City Hall are the only two warming centers that allow pets, but they must be in crates. The Deatsville Volunteer Fire Station, Millbrook Baptist Church, Adullum House Christian Academy, First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka, First Baptist Church in Eclectic, and the City of Prattville's Public Safety Bldg. on Gin Shop Road, are all Handicap accessible but they do not allow pets. All the warming centers are open until 8 am tomorrow morning. The Montgomery county warming center at 3446 LeBron Road will also be open tonight from 8pm to 8 am.

#### 1/21/2024 – Education and Development

- After two nights of competition in Montgomery, A high school senior from Mobile has won the title of Alabama's Distinguished Young Woman. The class of 20-24 program started Friday night at Frazer church and wrapped up Saturday evening. After contestants displayed their \*unique talents and performances. This year's winner is DeAsia Jones from Mobile County. Jones was one of 42 contestants from around the state to compete for the title this year. Jones also took home preliminary awards. in fitness, talent, and interview. the young women have been participating in various activities in the capitol city since last weekend. Been preparing for this moment for the last 7 months now so whenever they called my name it was just like a sigh of leave type of thing, I was just like this is about to happen. And also, just to get involved, Get involved in the community, involved in school Keep your grades up just do the things we're told to do, and you can flourish in high school and outside of school as well. Just stay focused, Dream big, Put in the work so that you can achieve all your goals. I am living proof of that. I just want to reach everybody out there that thinks they can't do it and if they've been told there is no time in their life that you truly can do it if you put the work in. DeAsia Jones is planning to study medicine at UAB. and will now go on to represent Alabama. in the \*national competition\* that takes place in Mobile in June

## 1/22/2024 – Education and Development

- The Saint James School community in Montgomery is mourning the loss of student who died over the weekend. School officials tell us that senior Carter Carroll died in an unfortunate accident. They are asking for prayers for the Carroll family. and the entire Saint James community. Head of School Dr. Larry McLemore released this statement to us saying., “Carter was a kind, funny, and engaging young man who lit up every room he was in and built up everyone around him. He was a person of strong character and a great student and athlete who loved his classmates and teammates immensely. While we are heartbroken, we can be uplifted by the outpouring of love and support, which is a true testament to the positive impact Carter made in his life." St. James says it will have grief counselors at the school for students and faculty. The cause of death has not been released.

## 1/23/2024 – Education and Development

- Well, Troy has grown in population and industry in the past few years and now the Troy Police Department has a way that \*citizens\*. can help keep their city safe. Reporter Teresa Lawson has more. Protecting and serving is a motto taken seriously by the Troy Police Department and they say that they are looking for people in this community who want to continue that motto We're looking for people with courage and honor and integrity the city of Troy is definitely growing and with that growth the police department. is looking for people like you to come on board and help protect this community to do this job it. takes courage because sometimes you go to tough calls and are put into tough situations but at the same time, we are looking for people with honor and integrity. We say we want you to treat our citizens just like you would want people to treat your mom, dad brother or sister that's how we want them to be treated and they are looking for people like you-- more brothers and sisters who take that motto seriously as well we have officers who are interested in tactical side, in working in the schools because they have passions for children, officers who are in investigations because they want to help victims of crimes and sometimes they have. been victims themselves so they have a passion for that. If you'd like more information about becoming a Troy Police officer. you can visit their website. or tour the department in person. at 300 East Elm Street IN Troy.

## 1/24/2024 – Volunteer Opportunities, Programs, and Efforts

- The Alabama Hospital Association held an emergency need blood drive downtown today. Life South has recently issued an Emergency Appeal for all blood types, noting it has less than one day's supply of several blood types. The majority of Alabama's hospitals rely on LIFE South for their blood supply needs and it is the exclusive blood supplier for every single hospital in the greater Montgomery area. All blood types are needed, but blood type O. which are universal donors. can help the most people. This impacts the care of our patients in hospitals it is an easy way to get back to your community one donation can save up to three lives and it is an important time here in the River region but also across the state. I think you know being in a critical need and the state needs it we've just got to come out there was so much that was lost during Covid and I think we've got to get back into a lot of the giving whether it be blood or other places that we can help our community We're available we just need people to come out and find us and come

help dig us out of that shortage so that we can continue help save the lives of our friends and neighbors. You can find out more information on mobile sites and locations by visiting their website at [lifesouth.org](http://lifesouth.org).

#### 1/25/2024 – Community Events

- The Millbrook Mardi Gras Festival and Parade was supposed to take place on Saturday. Has been \*postponed\* due to this weekend's inclement weather. Officials with the Millbrook Revelers tell Action 8 New. that the festivities will \*now\* take place Saturday, February 3. Village Green Park will open to the public at 9 a.m. with the festival starting at 10 a.m. The parade will get underway at noon. The parade is the \*largest\* Mardi Gras celebration north of Mobile. with over 15 thousand attendees each year.

#### 1/26/2024 – Education and Development

- A Selma non-profit teamed up with one of the biggest employers in Dallas County. to make sure \*hundreds\* of area school kids have a nutritious breakfast over the weekend. Reporter George McDonald tells us more. The Edmundite Missions and the International Paper Riverdale Mill hand out well over a thousand weekend breakfasts to children at three Selma elementary schools each week. It's a program that aims to make sure kids don't miss out on the most important meal of the day when they're not at school. We started the program after having conversations with some of the teachers, when they cited that the kids were coming in on Monday, they hadn't eaten. Nutrition and food insecurity in Selma is an issue that the Edmundites have identified. Of course, they're a strong organization working here in the community. And we wanted to be able to partner with them to help aid in that. The International Paper Foundation provides a grant to help fund and support the program while the Mission prepares the breakfast bags and distributes them to the children. The foundation is focused on several signature causes. One of which is child nutrition and hunger. So, this mission fell right in line with our values and what we want to support. we believe children can't learn if they're hungry and the teachers have seen a marked improvement with the kids now that they're eating more regularly over the weekend when they may not have food. Nutrition has been part of the DNA of the Edmundite Missions since its founding in 1937. It's just vital to the growth, health, and wellness of the entire community here. The Edmundite Missions has been handing out the weekly breakfast bags for about 5 years. In Selma, GM, Action 8 News. And International Paper provides about \$10,000 in grants each year to help support non-profits and schools.in the areas of education, literacy, and child nutrition.

#### 1/27/2024 – Community Events

- Back here in Alabama. Today was the official grand re-opening of the WA Gayle Planetarium. It's been two years since it was last open. The opening day event included a meeting and greeted and multiple presentations of planets. Participants also had an opportunity to view the Sun through specialized equipment thanks to the Auburn Astro-nom-ical Society. If we can kind of bring back the wonder of space, the wonder of science, the wonder of exploration and as you can also tell a sense of community. Bring out the family, you have a good time and even in bad weather like we have today. As the new Planetarium Coordinator, Tinker will be responsible for leading educational programming and managing day to day operations

#### 1/28/2024 – Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- Here in Montgomery, firefighters are investigating the cause of a BLAZE that damaged four businesses early this morning. Montgomery Fire/Rescue says the fire started just before 3AM at a building in the 3300 block of Norman Bridge Road, near the intersection of Edgemont Avenue. When the fire crews arrived, they were met with heavy smoke and flames. It took aerial ladders and large hand lines to put out the 2-alarm fire. There were no injuries in the fire. The cause is not yet known.

#### 1/29/2024 – Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- Friends and family members are desperately searching for a Montgomery teenager who has been missing since Thursday. Montgomery Police say 16-year-old Michael Cole, Junior, was originally considered a runaway, but is now listed as a missing person. "Mike Junior" as he is known to friends has been missing since Thursday night. He has pierced ears and tattoos with writing on both arms. He was last seen in the Ridgecrest area near Southmont Drive with another person. He was wearing a black sweater with the word "Tulones" in white on it, black skinny jeans, and black and white Jordan 11's. If you know where he can be found, call CrimeStoppers at 215-STOP.

#### 1/30/2024 – Education and Development, Civic Affairs

- Leaders of Montgomery Public Schools and Pike Road Schools are asking voters to renew a school tax that will be on the primary ballot in March. the 3.5 county millage tax has been on the books for 40 years. But it takes voters to keep it going. School leaders say it is not a tax increase. They say the money it brings in goes toward operational expenses, extra curriculars and transportation. The biggest piece of that it's a joint tax renewal for us and Pike Road schools for us it's about \$11 million of our budget is about \$1.2 million for theirs For various things because we've been using it for 40 years obviously its spread across our budgets operationally if this isn't successful, we're going to have to make some hard decisions about what takes place in some of our programming and things of that nature. Well for a pike road schools its vital because we utilize the funds from this to pay for our portion of the 10 mil Match where to participate in the state foundation program which provides salaries benefits to all of our teachers principles counselor and librarians and so paying this small portion to get a larger portion from the state that's why it's vital and especially in Pike Road for us to continue to have our school system and to be able to be a great school system this tax is very important

#### 1/31/2024 – Civil Rights History

- The life of a civil rights foot soldier in Selma is being remembered on Capitol Hill in Washington. Alabama Congresswoman Terri Sewell spoke on the floor of the U.S. House about George Sallie the man in the middle of the photo next to her. Sallie died earlier this month at the age of 94. He was one of the people beaten on Bloody Sunday in Selma in 1965. while fighting for voting rights. This is video of him from last year when Action 8 interviewed him about walking across the bridge with President Biden. during the Bridge Crossing Jubilee. Sewell wants to make sure Sallie is never forgotten. "Mr. Sallie's life stands as a testament to the power of ordinary Americans to achieve extraordinary social change. He never missed a bridge crossing

commemoration, and I was honored to stand alongside him and President Biden last year as he marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge for one last time." Sallie was the son of sharecroppers who served in the Korean War. Sewell wants him remembered. as she calls on Congress to pass the "John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act."

#### 2/1/2024 – Resources

- Imagine coming home and finding out you have no water. You can't shower, you can't cook or even use the toilet. That's uncalled for. I mean, they could have easily put that .26 cent on my next month. Sarah Pugh says the town of Pine Hill doesn't care about the people who live there. It's the conclusion she's come to after the town shut off her water over a meager .26 cents. They cut me off for .26 cents. A quarter and a penny. It's not right. And it's done happened to more than just me up here. A fact confirmed by one of the clerks at the town hall. The clerk did not want to speak with Action 8 News on camera. But did provide a copy of the policy workers use regarding water bills. It reads all bills must be paid in full by the 10th of the month. A service charge will be added on the 11th. Then the service will be disconnected if the bill is not paid by the 24th. I said it can't be off because I pay my water bill every 1st of the month. Pugh had paid \$72 dollars, but the bill was \$72 dollars and 26 cents. She says she found the disconnection notice in her mailbox after her water was cut off, making her a day late and less than a dollar short. They spent more on postage than my bill was. I don't see why I should have gotten cut off over .26 cents. I just think that's ridiculous. On top of that Pugh had to pay a \$75 dollars reconnection fee to have her water turned back on. From the WAL Newsroom, GM, Action 8 News. Thank you, George. We're told the Pine Hill town council makes and approves the water department policy.

#### 2/2/2024 – Community Events

- They are remembering Carter Carroll who was a senior. He played Baseball, football and participated in other sports for St. James. Head of School Dr. Larry McLemore said Carter was a great student and athlete who loved his classmates and teammates. and had strong faith, character, and wisdom. "Carter was a really outstanding man of character he began here in sixth grade and he was a gentleman he was a guy that had his priorities right and one thing that really stands out about Carter is that he really treated everybody with kindness what are they were close friends or someone he had just met and whether it was on the field with teammates or a competitor or just around campus or wherever he was that kind of character he brought with him everywhere." the funeral for Carter Carroll was held last Friday in Troy.

#### 2/3/2024 – Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- A Millbrook Man has been arrested for Possession of Child Pornography. On January 29, the Millbrook Police Department received multiple cyber tips regarding Child Sex Abuse Material from an internet service provider. Their investigation led them to an address located in the 90 block of the Supreme Court in Millbrook. On February 2, they executed a search warrant and seized multiple electronic devices containing images depicting child pornography. 55-year-old James C. Mengel from Millbrook admitted to detectives that he had downloaded and possessed child pornography. Shortly thereafter, Mengel was arrested & charged with 5 counts of

Possession of Child Pornography. Mengel was taken to the Elmore County Jail. and remains under a 75-thousand-dollar bond.

#### 2/4/2024 – Public Safety

- A man collapsed and died near the AUM campus yesterday afternoon in Montgomery. Auburn University at Montgomery posted the news on their Facebook page saying. "AUM Police received a report of a motorist exiting their vehicle and collapsing on the side of Taylor Road, just outside the entrance to the university. AUM Police and medics promptly responded to the location. The motorist, a 73-year-old male, was pronounced dead at the scene of the \*incident\*. and his family members were notified." No further information has been released at this time.

#### 2/5/2024 – Education and Development

- MPS and state representative Phil Ensler have announced A Pilot Conflict Resolution Program. at Dr. Percy Julian High School. Superintendent Melvin Brown says the new program Will allow them to help their students to learn new and different ways to help resolve conflicts in a positive way. it will feature communication skill workshops, peer support groups, and classroom integration to discuss ways to apply the lessons in the classrooms and at home. State representative Phil Ensler said 12 years ago he was a teacher at the school. now he's a lawmaker. and now wants to secure funding from the state budget. Here at Percy Julian, there is amazing faculty printable Lee is great so to have it start here and the hope again is to expand it to all of our schools eventually that takes funding, but we are going to show that it's working here and then hope that we can have it in other schools. We want to be proactive about conflict resolution and just helping students to have just small nuggets just different tips or even go as intensive as restorative circles and just different things of options of being able to provide access for our students. they're also advocating to get parents involved in their child's Academic day. In order to connect the whole community with the faculty at Percy Julian

#### 2/6/2024 – Civic Affairs

- Governor Kay Ivey covered several hot button topics in her 32-minute-long speech tonight. She started by talking about her support for a bill that would prevent \*ballot harvesting\* - the bill would make it a crime to \*help a person\* who is not a family member vote by absentee ballot. The Governor also expressed her support for Gambling legislation and establishing a statewide lottery. She spoke about building two new prisons, investing 2 billion dollars to expand broadband across the state, increasing starting pay for teachers, and building a state-of-the-art School of healthcare sciences in Demopolis to help train healthcare workers. But she said her number one priority is passing an education savings account bill that works for all families. Here are some of the highlights from her speech. We would put a stop to any manipulation of our elections by closing loopholes that allow unaccountable paid political operatives to pressure folks through the absentee voting process. This year, when Alabamians make their way to the ballot box, I hope they will be voting on another issue: gaming. I believe the current proposal being contemplated by the Legislature is good for Alabama, and I will carefully watch it move through the process. It will crack down on illegal gambling, and it will responsibly regulate limited forms of legal gaming, including a statewide lottery. Our next step is to provide our parents, beginning

with those most in need, with education savings accounts, which will further us on our journey to become the most school-choice friendly state in the nation. Ivey says if the legislation is passed this session, the education savings account program would begin in the 2025-2026 school year, and for its first two years, it would \*only\* help families who might not otherwise be able to afford to send their children to a private school. In the third year of the program, \*all\* families would be eligible to receive the \$7,000. But some Democratic Representatives say this CHOOSE Act will \*not help\* poorer parents who live in rural areas and are just trying to put food on the table. Ivey says \*she believes\* the Choose Act will help put Alabama in the top 30 states nationally. when it comes to student outcomes. Now as far as the gambling bill and lottery, we will learn more details about how it will work tomorrow. Legislators who support the bill plan to hold a press conference tomorrow & we will be there. Darryl? Governor Ivey also expressed her support for The Sound of Freedom Act. it would mandate life in prison for people convicted of trafficking minors.

#### 2/7/2024 – Public Safety

- Troy University Police are launching a new program aimed at helping students make the right call. when it comes to drinking and driving. The "Choose Your Ride" program will allow students. who may be impaired. to call a University police officer for a free ride home. rather than taking a chance on getting behind the wheel. One of the main factors behind the decision to offer rides. is a lack of cab services in Troy after 5 p.m. and there are no Uber, Lyft or other ride-share services in the city. There are some rules students will have to follow. They must be 21 and show a valid student ID, and the pick-up location, and the student's residence both have to be within a four-mile radius of Troy's city limits. Plus, there can be \*no\* stops along the way. We came up with this plan the car behind us is just kind of an advertisement for the program so our students are a little bit more aware of it but in a nutshell if a student finds himself in a position where they can't drive and there within a 4 mile radius of The city of Troy they can give a call to our dispatch center we will send an officer we will pick them up and we will give them a safe ride home. For me personally being a student on campus that's probably one of the number one things. if I was a parent and my child was going to the school, I would like for my school to have that because I know numerous amounts of times that I've had friends that have to call me in the middle of my sleep, and I had to get up and go get them myself so that's like that's amazing. T.U.P.D will also pick up students under 21. those students will face disciplinary actions from the University. but they will have criminal charges deferred.

#### 2/8/2024 – Public Safety

- A new construction project for West Fairview Avenue was announced today. over the next 18 months the construction project, on West Fairview Avenue. between the i-65 interchange and south court street, will decrease the number of travel lanes along the corridor from 4 lanes to 3. improve drainage, construct sidewalks on both sides of Fairview Avenue, replace old traffic lights, and much more. the project is a key part of the city's broader revitalization efforts in West Montgomery. which include construction of a new fire station, development of the freedom village housing complex, and renovations to the Fairview farmer's market. "we're also adding landscaping, we want to beautify the area. Reducing those lane widths, as the mayor talked about, will definitely not only calm the traffic patterns a little bit, but we also hope that it improves it. We're putting dedicated left turn lanes which we don't have at this time so hopefully at those

signal lights intersections it allows the traffic to maneuver a lot better." the Fairview project is expected to cost 9 million dollars.

#### 2/9/2024 – Economic Development

- It's been a long time coming. The F35 fighter jets are finally here carrying with them a tradition of excellence for a new generation. BV "Man, this bird is amazing. It can do things no other airplane can do. the technology leap that it is truly a generational leap. so, a lot of times we compare the old F16 that was phenomenal airplane, still very combat capable today to the old flip phones we used to carry around in our pockets with what we have on this ramp today is an iPhone 15." There will be a total of 20 airplanes, with 1400 members of the wing that support the airplanes. along with 40 pilots. Bringing a greater economic impact to the river region. Col Brian Vaughn 187th fighter wing "what an operation unit like this means, it means jobs, it means an economic impact to the Montgomery region that is almost unheard of. these are high tech high paying jobs we have here at the guard and also our government contractors, and a lot of subcontractors that will be coming to support the airplane." The red tails painted on the F35s are a historic tribute to the Tuskegee Red Tails, the famed WWII squadron, which lives on as the 100th Fighter Squadron within the wing. Gov "ITs a clear reminder that our state is at the forefront of defending freedom, not just for ourselves but future generations" NATS speaker "Now charged with supporting the most advanced aircraft mission in the world, the 187th fighter wing is prepared, motivated, and honored to accept this charge and continue a legacy of strength, perseverance, professionalism and excellence that comes with being a part of being a part of that elite red tail history, applause" In Montgomery, EE, WAKA Action 8 news. WCOV news at nine Right now there are five F-35 jets at Dannelly field, with more to come this summer.

#### 2/10/2024 – Public Safety

- An 18-wheeler crashed on Interstate 85 earlier today. bringing traffic to a standstill and causing one lane to close for hours. at 9:35 this morning, a commercial vehicle crashed on interstate 85 near the 32-mile marker in Macon county. the driver of the 18-wheeler was trapped inside the vehicle. and had to be rescued by first responders. the outside lane is still blocked until they can finish cleaning the scene. ALEA is currently investigating, and we will keep you updated as soon as more information is released.

#### 2/11/2024 – Educations and Development

- Selma City Schools officially broke ground to begin the construction of its new magnet school for the arts. The \$17.8 million dollar project will transform the School of Discovery into a state of the art performing arts magnet academy. The school will focus on 2D and 3D art. In addition to music and theater, Pickard Auditorium will be getting a major renovation. The school will include computer, music, and science labs. As well as art and dance studios and classrooms. "The School of Discovery will be a place where our children will have the tools to realize their dreams and potential. And the focus will be on enhancing STEAM education through rich content in innovative hands on and minds-on experiences." The school district is building the new arts magnet academy debt-free using funds provided by local, state, and federal government.



## 2/12/2024 – Public Safety

- Just before 4pm today, A suspicious subject was reported in the 3800 block of East South Boulevard. When officers arrived, the suspect fled, and a foot pursuit ensued. During the chase the suspect shot at the officer, but the officer did not return fire. Additional officers responded to the area and the suspect was caught around the Eastern Boulevard Service Road near Richard Road. Charges are pending. There were no injuries to the officer nor the suspect.

## 2/13/2024 – Civic Affairs

- The governor mentioned the healthcare high school and the city of Demopolis during her State of the State Address for a second year in a row. Governor Kay Ivey told members of the state legislature that the healthcare high school project was one of her top priorities and she called on lawmakers to make it a reality. She also announced that the results of the feasibility study the legislature requested last year when she first proposed the new school showed that Demopolis is the best location for it. Certainly, we wanted to be named the city of choice, but it was not a surprise because we're ready. The Governor has bought on top this. We've burst on to this, we've stepped up where we've been asked to step up. Now we're just asking our state officials to help us out. The statewide residential high school would offer a STEM curriculum with every subject related to healthcare in addition to getting hands-on clinical training and experience at Whitfield Regional Hospital. When you're at a big campus, it's very hard to understand how it all comes together to deliver healthcare. Here, you can follow patients from ED to surgery to ICU. You can see how the lab interacts, the lab and radiology interact with these different departments and really begin to understand healthcare. And that's what makes it such a special place. So special in fact that Bloomberg Philanthropies has pledged \$26.4 million dollars to help fund the project in the Demopolis if it is approved by the legislature. It has really started a wave of momentum for this project. Whitfield CEO Douglas Brewer says the proposed school would have a positive impact on healthcare in the state by providing workers to help address shortages in the healthcare field -- especially in rural areas. Studies show if we train students in rural areas, they tend to want to work in rural areas. And we need more healthcare workers in rural areas. A big reason why Governor Ivey wants to build a healthcare high school and wants to build it in Demopolis. From the WAL Newsroom, I'm GM, Action 8 News. Thanks George. It would be the state's 4th STEM school and the 1st one located in a rural area of the state. Alabama Cyber School is in Huntsville the School of Math and Science is in Mobile and the School for the Arts is in Birmingham

## 2/14/2024 – Civil Rights History

- A New Statue honoring civil rights legend Rosa Parks has been Unveiled in Legacy Plaza. The sculpture of Mrs. Parks is the first of \*three\* statues that will be erected in the coming months. The Equal Justice Initiative plans to create a major statue honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and another to honor U.S Representative John Lewis. The Rosa Parks statue was created by the acclaimed Atlanta-based sculptor. Basil Watson. who recently created a statue of Dr. King for the city of Atlanta. near the Mercedes-Benz stadium. Having this sculpture along with all of the other development all of the other projects that the equal Justice initiative is doing it's forcing all of us to reconcile our history in our presence and I want us to understand that that many of the things that Brian and so many of the folks with the equal Justice initiative talk about and you do every

day it resonates across this country. Today we unveiled the first statue honoring Mrs. Parks. We are really proud of it being made by an Atlanta sculptor named Basil Washington, it's Mrs. Parks both in action and in her position that created so much Fame. sitting which of course she did on the bus here in Montgomery that sparked the civil rights movement. Before the unveiling of the statue. Stephenson acknowledged and honored three colleagues and fellow advocates.

#### 2/15/2024 – Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- Prattville police say a Montgomery man faces six counts of falsely reporting incidents. 23-year-old Christopher Sanspree, Jr., made several phone calls to Autauga County E911 to report the false incidents, also known as "swatting." Chief Mark Thompson says Sanspree is employed by the Montgomery Police Department. and was on duty at the time of the incidents. Thompson says Sanspree was arrested in Montgomery. The bond for each warrant was set at \$1,000 cash-only. Sanspree has been released on bond.

#### 2/16/2024 – Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- A Selma woman and several juveniles have been arrested in Dallas County following a big brawl at a local high school. Reporter News Reporter George McDonald has more on this. We have a volatile situation that could have led to several people being killed. Sheriff Mike Granthum says deputies were called out to Southside High School at around 11:35 Tuesday morning when a fight involving several students broke out near the school cafeteria. Granthum says when deputies arrived at the school, they found 20-year-old Aniyah Lewis in the school parking lot with two loaded pistols. And when officers began questioning her, she tried to run away. Lewis was arrested along with about seven juveniles who were involved in the brawl. And one of her guns had a drum. I mean she was, she, I mean she had it in her waistband. I mean, it was fully loaded. And then she had one on her leg. So, I mean, it's just not going to be tolerated. You're not going to come to the school grounds and disrupt class. You're not going to be a student in our schools and disrupt the learning process, you're not going to do it. Deputies are searching for 18-year-old Michael Hunter. Hunter is a Southside student wanted in connection with the campus melee. He was involved in it. And he's an adult. We have assault 3rd charges on him. So, if anybody knows the whereabouts of Michael Hunter, we ask that you call us. The number to call if you have information that could help investigators -- is 334-874-2530. Or Crime Stoppers at 215-STOP. From the WAL Newsroom, I'm GM, Action 8 News. Thank you, George. Lewis is free tonight on a \$750,000 dollar bond.

#### 2/17/2024 – Public Safety

- Tragedy struck early this morning. When two people died in a house fire in Montgomery. it happened around 1am. Five Montgomery Fire/Rescue units responded to the 1200 Block of Avondale Road. When they arrived. they saw a one-story home with heavy smoke and flames. When firefighters searched the house, they found 2 victims and pulled them out. Advanced Life Support measures were implemented on both patients. A man was transported to the Jackson Hospital ER. and a woman was transported to Baptist South's ER. Unfortunately, both patients were pronounced dead. None of the firefighters were injured and the Cause of the fire is being investigated

## 2/18/2024 – Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- Gun violence has been a growing issue locally and nationwide. Young people from around Montgomery met and had an \*open conversation\* today. about gun violence. About 50 to 75 middle school and high school students from nine different Montgomery Public Schools came together at Heritage Barber Shop on Carter Hill Road. A panel of 15 or so students talked about why \*they\* believe gun violence is happening so much in Montgomery. Students said social media, trying to get respect, and girls were three major reasons teens start shooting. Conflict resolution was also discussed. City Councilman Oronde Mitchell says he organized this event because he wanted to hear directly from the young people who are affected the most by gun violence. It's important for the parents to get involved because the parents are one of the key structures to a great kid. If parents make sure they have support on the kid and influence the kid to do right and make sure they stay on the right track and that's important for the kid to be successful. They don't see enough positive role models they do have role models but sometimes those role models are not positive. So, we are trying to do everything we can with the Montgomery public school system and also with the city to make sure that we are putting positive role models in these students' lives. Councilman Mitchell is hoping to make this Barber Shop Talk a monthly series

## 2/19/2024 – Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- Montgomery Police continue to investigate a murder. It's asking for the public's help in identifying the suspect. They say on Tuesday, January 3, 2023. MPD responded to a local hospital about a person shot. 18-year-old Willie Grant sustained a fatal gunshot. in the 3800 block of Chatwood Street. Two juvenile victims were also located. they both sustained non-life-threatening gunshot wounds. The investigation has been ongoing for over a year. police ask anyone who may know something to call Crimestoppers at 215-STOP.

## 2/20/2024 – Community Events

- Governor Ivey along with the Alabama urban forestry association. held its Arbor Day Poster Contest Award ceremony. and three plans on the Capitol grounds. This year's theme is. "Trees Are terrific in cities and towns." Arbor Day is over a century old. it's an old Alabama tradition that allows us to reflect the natural beauty that surrounds us from the natural forest of the Appalachian mountains. There were over 2300 submissions for the poster contest. Today is the annual celebration of arbor day to recognizing the importance of our timber and forest and our great state and I appreciate all these young people entering the poster contest 2300 submissions so Alabama and good hands when it comes to protecting our trees. I do the picture inside of a circle to make it look like I was capturing it through a lens or use watercolors markers and acrylic paints to capture the different textures of trees and buildings planting trees especially in cities and towns it's a simple way to take care of our planet and together we can all make a difference. Each one of the winners assists Governor Ivey with the planting by putting dirt on the tree. They received an autograph shovel by Gov Ivey.

## 2/22/2024 - Public Safety

- Montgomery Police were called to the scene at around 3PM yesterday. The boy was pulled from the pond and taken to a LOCAL hospital. The boy's name and age have not been released. Montgomery Fire/Rescue Assistant Chief Stanley Cooper said that maintenance workers pulled the boy from the water. Cooper said the boy's father was at the scene. MPD says the circumstances remain under investigation.

#### 2/24/2024 – Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- Montgomery County Sheriff's deputies responded to a 911 call from Circuit Judge Johnny Hardwick's home around 1pm. Upon arrival, deputies learned that Judge Hardwick had been assaulted, shot, and seriously injured by his son, Khalfani A. Hardwick. Deputies immediately searched the area and located his abandoned vehicle on Trotman Road. A short time later, deputies found Khalfani on U.S Highway 231, and he was taken into custody. Khalfani Hardwick has been charged with Domestic Violence in the First Degree and with Certain Persons Forbidden to Possess a Firearm. He is currently being held at the Montgomery County Detention Facility without bond. Judge Hardwick was taken to a local hospital with injuries that were described as serious. Montgomery County Commission Chairman Doug Singleton issued a statement saying, "Our thoughts and prayers are with Judge Johnny Hardwick during this difficult time. The entire Montgomery County Commission wishes him a full recovery. We'd also like to thank the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office on their quick response." Mayor Steven Reed also reacted saying, "Tamika and I are saddened by the news that Judge Johnny Hardwick has been shot. He has honorably served our community on the Circuit Court for decades, helping spearhead numerous reforms to make the court system more equitable and fairer. Most recently, he worked to eliminate bond requirements for more non-violent offenses. We are praying for his recovery."

#### 2/25/2024 – Civil Rights History

- The Historic Dexter Avenue King Memorial church celebrated Black History and the Arts with a special service this morning. As you just heard, the program featured music as well as spoken art and interpretive dancing. The young people of the church were in charge of every aspect of the service. The guest speaker was artist and social advocate Michelle Browder, who is a native of Denver with Montgomery roots. She is also the founder and director of "I AM MORE THAN", which is a youth empowerment initiative. Browder encouraged the youth to create change in their community and use their voices through art and music.

#### 2/27/2024 – Economic Development

- A multi-million-dollar project to bring easy access internet to all corners of Alabama. is in its final stages of completion An accomplishment that stands to change the lives of many people across the state. Many of us use the internet on a daily basis, in fact the use of our smart devices and computer systems have become so commonplace that if we lost access to the internet, it would disrupt our lives, but for many living in Alabama access to the internet isn't even a possibility. Governor Kay Ivey is using internet access to bridge the gap in education and quality of life for Alabamians She knows that there is a void between rural Alabama and metropolitan urban Alabama. She is closing that gap; she is creating parity she is making sure that our children are able to get the same educational opportunities as all other children. to date, approximately 352

million dollars combined has been devoted to the task-- funding 16 internet service providers whose job is to expand high-speed internet availability in 48 counties In 2021 Alabama ranked near the bottom in broadband connectivity at number 47 by last year we had risen 23 steps to be at the top 24 states in broadband readiness, according to broadband now annual rankings. Now the project is in its final stretch, a feat that wouldn't be possible without foresight and collaboration. The thing that is neat about what we are doing here is a great example of Alabama working together you've got the private sector the government you've got different industries people in the north and south everybody collaborating on what's gone be great for Alabama's future. Once completed the last mile project will give 54,000 homes, businesses, and other institutions such as hospitals, schools and libraries access to high-speed internet from almost anywhere. Many of us use the internet on a daily basis, in fact the use of our smart devices and computer systems have become so commonplace that if we lost access to the internet, it would disrupt our lives, but for many living in Alabama access to the internet isn't even a possibility. Governor Kay Ivey is using internet access to bridge the gap in education and quality of life for Alabamians to date, approximately 352 million dollars combined has been devoted to the task-- funding 16 internet service providers who are tasked to expand high-speed internet availability in 48 counties Now the project is in its final stretch a feat that wouldn't be possible without foresight and collaboration. Once completed the last mile project will give 54,000 homes, businesses, and other institutions such as hospitals, schools and libraries access to high-speed internet from almost anywhere. 1.4 billion dollars has been dedicated to completing the final stretch of the broadband project. with 5,000 miles of broadband. This 150-million dollars in broadband grant money is going to 48 counties. including some in our area. Here's a look at who's getting what. The Central Alabama Electric Co-op is getting nearly 22 million for service, including in Autauga, Dallas, and Elmore counties. Pine Belt Telephone is getting 3 million for Marengo and Clarke Counties. Spectrum is getting nearly 45 million for 25 counties. In our area, they include Bulter, Elmore, Montgomery, and Tallapoosa counties. And Yellowhammer Networks will get more than 5 million for broadband in eight counties. including Dallas, Lowndes, Marengo, and Perry counties.

2/28/2024 – Civic Affairs

- Hundreds rallied at the Alabama State House today to urge lawmakers to make sure in-vitro fertilization services are restored. Three IVF providers in Alabama paused services when the state Supreme Court ruled that frozen embryos were considered "extra-uterine children". under the state wrongful death law. earlier this month. Families, doctors, and in vitro fertilization advocates stood outside the Alabama State House and spoke passionately about the need for legislation that would allow IVF services to continue. The ruling, treating an embryo the same as a child or gestating fetus under the wrongful death statute, raised concerns about civil liabilities for clinics. Patients have been left in limbo as lawmakers scrambled to see what they could do to restore IVF in the state. We spoke with 29-year-old Hannah Miles at the rally, and she says the only way she can hope to have a family is though IVF. There are at least five bills that are being proposed in the legislature right now. And the bills vary in what they would accomplish. Some protect IVF providers from liability, some will make sure "any fertilized human egg or human embryo that exists \*outside\* of a human uterus is not considered an unborn child or human being. The bills are in varying stages of the legislative process, so in the next few weeks, the nation and the world will be watching what happens here in Montgomery. and many of the doctors and families who attended the rally stayed to hear lawmakers discuss their next steps regarding some proposed IVF

legislation. A senate healthcare committee meeting was packed with people who wanted to weigh in on two bills. and the committee approved both bills. which would protect fertility clinics. so that they can return to their normal operations. UAB hospital in Birmingham is one of three medical facilities that paused treatments because of concerns about liability issues regarding embryos. The next step is for the bills to go to the full Senate. But one state senator says she's worried the legislation doesn't go far enough to protect families. In going through the process with embryos I would be worried because you don't know, and doctors really still don't know again this does not take them off the hook not really even though you say you can't be sued A good lawyer is going to find a loophole and there's always one so that's my fear. The patients need to have the same protection as the doctors and the providers and that's what we're trying to do and also, we want to reserve their rights for recourse if they have something that's not the standard let's say for example if they have some procedure done and if it's not done correctly then there should be some recourse. Montgomery Mayor Steven reed has signed an executive order. that will be a big help to many residents. starting in April, the executive order will eliminate fines and fees owed to the city of Montgomery. that have been unpaid for more than 10 years. only fines and fees for incidents that happened before January 2014 are eligible for relief. city officials estimate the unpaid debt adds up to about 40 million dollars. here's what mayor reed had to say about the order. Now we are offering a fresh start breaking down barriers for those willing to put the past behind them and contribute positively to our community this award applies specifically to minor offenses such as non-DUI traffic cases misdemeanor marijuana offenses those that occurred more than 10 years ago debt incurred from January 1 of 2014 that's owed to the city of Montgomery from these offenses is now forgiven. It's amazing this \$40 million dollars...\$40 million that would have never been paid that folks were just living up under this burden just a criminal you know are now going to be set free it's amazing and that's why I'm emotional because not just for myself and my family members but for so many other folks I know. The average Alabama resident with court debt. owes about 2-thousand dollars.

### 3/1/2024 – Community Events

- On Sunday, the community will come together at Providence Baptist Church to remember the 23 precious lives that were lost on March 3, 2019. Possessions collected over a lifetime were destroyed and scattered in a matter of minutes when an EF4 tornado hit the Beauregard Community. "Nobody could understand why our house was still here and theirs was gone & we had no answer except God." Jackie Robertson's house was spared during the tornado but her son Ben and his wife and five-year-old son's home just down the road took a direct hit. She frantically called to check on them. "He finally answered, and it didn't even sound like him & I said "y'all ok?" & he said, "no mama, we're hurt badly." The roads were blocked with downed trees & storm debris so they couldn't get through, so they went to the local hospital and waited. "The hospital was like something you would see in a movie. You would never dream it would happen here. There were so many people there in the ER and people trying to find their loved ones." "My daughter-in-law when she woke up, he said she was tangled up in some trees & he didn't know if she was dead or not. When she came to, she had broken pelvis, fractures, thought her back was broken." Providence Baptist Church served as a community center in the aftermath of the storm. Church secretary Jennifer Hughes has preserved dozens of cards and letters sent by people from around the country and world. "And this is just a small amount. The emails came in by the thousands. And the families probably just don't even know what is all here." The kindness of

strangers wanting to help & send in even a small amount like a dollar and twenty-six cents. Dr. Rusty Sowell says "We've got a ways to go but there's healing. People came from everywhere, generosity, compassion, the giving of themselves & what they had or what they could do. Maybe it was just a touch on the shoulder or a hug. We're very thankful for the generosity & compassion & for the folks who care." In Beauregard, Estee Morrison, Action 8 News. Former President Trump visited the site of the tornado in 2019. A red caboose will be converted into a children's library soon to honor the 4 children killed in the tornado.

### 3/2/2024 – Community Events

- The Jubilee Street Festival started downtown at 11 this morning. on Water Avenue at the Foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Selma residents and visitors walked around and shopped. at some of the dozens of vendor and food booths. While listening to performances by Sly, Slick and Wicked, Mr. Smoke, and other music groups. The Bridge Crossing weekend is the largest annual civil rights gathering in the nation. There are a variety of things, plenty of good food, good music, gospel singers and they're selling clothes and just a variety of things. The bridge crossing on Sundays we have a Vice President she's coming down and last year the President came down and we enjoyed him. This year we have our Vice President along with the US Attorney General and he's supposed to be a town too this weekend. There was also a parade this morning and a Battle of the Bands as well

### 3/3/2024 – Civic Affairs

- Dozens of Bridge Crossing Jubilee events have taken place over the past several days. Vice President Kamala Harris and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff arrived this afternoon at Maxwell Airforce Base in Montgomery. As they stepped off the plane, they were warmly greeted by Mayor Steven Reed. and then they travelled by helicopter to Selma. Where Congresswoman Terri Sewell and Selma Mayor James Perkins Junior welcomed them. Vice President Harris then delivered her remarks at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. She told the crowd that she and President Biden will "continue to demand that the US Congress pass the Freedom to Vote act." She also commented on women's rights, saying "the government should not be telling a woman what to do with her body." Finally, she talked about gun safety, saying that "extremists stand by and refuse to pass reasonable gun safety laws." Vice President Harris, Attorney General Merrick Garland, Al Sharpton, and foot soldier Annie Pearl Avery led thousands of marchers - who came from around the country and the world to commemorate Bloody Sunday. They chanted and sang the freedom song "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round". as they walked arm in arm across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The violence of "Bloody Sunday" in 1965 resulted in a national outcry, and the march drew national and international attention to the civil rights movement.

### 3/4/2024 – Civic Affairs

- Alabama is one of 16 states holding primaries on Super Tuesday. You'll have the chance to vote in either the Democratic or Republican primaries BUT you can't vote in both. We asked Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen whether he can predict what turnout might be, especially when it appears that the presidential nominees have been decided in both parties. Wes Allen/ Alabama Secretary of State: "Back in 2026, if you just look back at past presidential primaries, it was 41%

in 2016, about 33% in 2020, so we'll see what happens. It's hard to predict. I'm not going to put a number on it, but I just want to encourage folks to get out and go vote."

### 3/6/2024 – Community Events

- The YMCA of Greater Montgomery has two reasons to celebrate. Today the organization held its annual campaign. The luncheon showcases the multi-million-dollar fundraising efforts of YMCA facilities across the region. in partnership with donors and potential volunteers. Organizers say every dime will benefit children in the community. 100% of these funds are going to go help children and families attend YMCA programs. So, the results of the monies we're going to see children learn to swim for the first time, children in pre-k, going to summer camp, learning a new sport. So, families that can't afford to be members get healthier. To date the YMCA has raised nearly 3 million dollars that have helped provide community events across the River Region. Following today's luncheon Cleveland Avenue. The YMCA held a ribbon cutting ceremony. marking the official opening of the new Cleveland Avenue Field. The New field is created on a previously blighted area of the neighborhood which is now ready for events, celebrations, and play. Giving children and families a beautiful area for games and events. Before this was urban blight kids can not only play on these fields but can have community block parties church events and the like This is the first stage of the Cleveland Avenue Field; the second stage will include concession stands, event areas and bathrooms.

### 3/7/2024 – Civic Affairs

- Governor Kay Ivey has also signed the CHOOSE Act into law. The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday. The CHOOSE Act would give parents up to \$7,000 in their tax money for them to pursue what they feel is the best education option for their children. including private or church school or homeschool. the money would be in an Education Savings Account. With the CHOOSE Act, Alabama will now be able to be a leader when it comes to school choice and I am hopeful this will make a difference in Alabama families. Let me also be clear that my commitment to public education remains unrelenting. At the end of the day, we all want every Alabama student, no matter the zip code, to receive a quality education. The Alabama Department of Revenue will be in charge of operating the program.

### 3/8/2024 – Civic Affairs

- The Alabama Legislature has reached the halfway point of this year's regular session. We want to update you on the status of several bills. The gambling bill has passed both the House and Senate. but the versions are different, so a compromise will have to be approved before it gets on the ballot for you to decide. Bills to stop "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" programs at colleges and state agencies. and limiting giving people help with absentee ballots are also still being debated. Soon, lawmakers will start having to focus on the General Fund and Education Trust Fund budgets, those are the only issues they are required to pass. But lawmakers have addressed two key issues just this week. They passed bills on school choice and in vitro fertilization. Governor Kay Ivey has signed both.



### 3/9/2024 – Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- Montgomery police are investigating a shooting near downtown that left a woman injured. Around 4:30AM yesterday, Police they and fire medics were called to the 900 block of South Union Street, which is just south of Interstate 85. They say they found the woman, who was taken to a hospital with what are believed to be non-life-threatening injuries. Police have released no other information.

### 3/10/2024 – Community Events

- Around the Capitol City, people were out and about with their families, feeding ducks, exercising, and enjoying the beautiful weather. We spoke to some who were hanging out at Blount Cultural Park and the dog park to find out how they are dealing with one less hour of sleep today. here's what they had to say. Just kind of looking forward to much more daylight, I think. Being out here and it's going to be lighter later. So, I'm looking forward to that. And of course, my dog eating the hours are still the same, so he doesn't quite get the Memo on that one. My workout routine is just going to push to a little bit later at night. And then we're coming here today, actually an hour later than we normally come. I think it's good to keep it. I do kind of like how it was whenever we fall back, and it gets darker earlier. I'm OK to go to bed just a little bit earlier if need be and wake up in the morning ready to go. LATER This year, Clocks will fall back on Sunday, Nov. 3.

### 3/11/2024 – Civic Affairs

- A small group of people around Alabama is making important decisions that affect everyone in the state. And you might be surprised to find out just who they are. Reporter George McDonald has more. This powerful group of people is not the super-rich "Elites" or the shadowy "Illuminati." It's the small portion of registered voters who actually go out and vote. We have fought too hard for the right to vote to not use it in every election. On the heels of celebrating the right the power and importance of the vote at the annual Bridge Crossing Jubilee voter turnout in Dallas County was 23-percent. That's 23-percent of registered voters picking the potential leaders of the county for everyone else. That's not sending a good message out to the world. This is where we marched across the bridge, this is where many people fought, this is where people lost their lives, this where people got brutally beaten, so we can have the right to vote. And we are not taking advantage of that. Voter turnout statewide was even lower with only around 20-percent of all registered voters actually going to the polls to vote. And 80 percent of voters opted to stay at home. Our government is not there for us anymore. They're there for themselves, they're there for the money, they're there for whatever they can get for themselves. Stacy Hegge is one of the many tourist who visit Selma for its voting rights history. She says the country is headed in the wrong direction and how we do politics nowadays is proof. We have learned to hate more. We have learned to be angry at each other. There are a lot of factors there. And I don't think that's because people value the vote less. Sanders says your vote is your voice so let it be heard. In Selma, I'm GM, Action 8 News Thanks George. Voter apathy is fueled by a lack of political trust limited choices and feelings of powerlessness

### 3/12/2024 – Economic Development

- The Montgomery regional airport has enhanced passenger experience with a new app. The airport has adopted 'fly my airport'. Which is a new 'search to book' platform. That integrates with airport websites. It allows passengers to book flights, destination packages, vacation deals, car rentals, and more. To and from Montgomery airport. It will also help you save money by helping you find the cheapest. And the best flights offered at the airport. "this is going to be a great research tool for those that are looking for the best flights, the cheapest deals, and the best deals because you're going to get an average flight of about 149 dollars. I mean you can't beat that going somewhere else and we're powering that search engine directly through the Montgomery regional airport so we're inviting people to come to our airport website, search where you want to go, the 300 plus destinations, and it shows you the opportunities are endless when you fly locally with us." 'fly my airport' is now up and running on the Montgomery airport website. just go to 'flymgm.com'. and there will be a banner link to help you get started.

### 3/13/2024 – Community Events

- We want to help you live a healthier life. We want to invite you to our annual "River Region Healthy Living Expo" which is coming up Thursday, March 28th. It'll be held inside Eastdale Mall from 10 until 2. You can get information from doctors, hospitals, pharmacies and health and wellness experts. They can answer your questions about diet, exercise, and medication. We hope to see you for the "River Region Healthy Living Expo!"

### 3/14/2024 – Community Events

- Montgomery Whitewater kicks off their Spring Season Saturday with some special St. Patrick's Day events. Rafting and paddling will start at the park at 11:30 AM, followed by two races at 4pm. The floatie race allows people to bring a pool float from home and race down the competition channel while the Ducky race allows single and tandem inflatable kayaks to join in a free-for-all race down the course. Both are hilarious and full of fun to watch even if you aren't racing. The First \*concert\* of the spring \*Get Down\* series starts at 5:30. featuring Clemanzo and Rohan Solo. And there's also a free River Explorers Class for younger kids. that teaches about safety and basic kayaking skills on land. Organizers say it will be fun for the whole family. We have made an exception for this one-time event to kick off our season and bring your own floatie. The most creative is usually the best. Bring the floatie blown up already were going to have you be able to float - if you can stay on the float down our channel here behind me. The age limit is eleven and up, but this is a spectator sport. The \*Get Down Concert Series\* will take place every Saturday at 5:00 p.m. through May 4.

### 3/15/2024 – Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement

- From the west Alabama newsroom. The verdict is in in the trial against a Selma man accused of killing a toddler. A jury convicted Tristan Dial of manslaughter in the case after deliberating for less than an hour. Dial had been charged with murder in the death of the 23-month-old-child of a woman he was dating. The child died back in 20-17. from injuries caused by blunt force trauma. "the reckless manslaughter conviction that was returned in this case on today resulted from the

jury, after listening to the evidence, they reached a conclusion that the defendant's reckless conduct contributed to the death of the minor and it caused his death." Dial will be sentenced by Circuit Judge Marvin Wiggins at a later date.

### 3/16/2024 – Community Events

- Easter came a little early for dozens of children as they were invited to celebrate at the house where thirteen of Alabama's Governors have lived. Governor Kay Ivey hosted the Magic Moments Easter Egg Roll and children from around the state came to play games and hunt for eggs at the Alabama Governor's Mansion. They also got to spend time with some of their favorite Disney characters, and of course, the Easter Bunny. Magic Moments, founded in 1984, provides Alabama children who are diagnosed with chronic, life-threatening illnesses the ability to experience non-medical magic moments. Governor Kay Ivey/ Governor of Alabama. The message of triumph over death is at the heart of Easter reminding us of the profound love and sacrifice of our savior Jesus Christ so today let's remember the blessings he provides us while of course Having a little fun along the way. Coming here I love to see the kids getting to Easter egg hunt. I love people. They are very nice and very sweet and it's just nice to come out and get fresh air and just have a good time. Coming out for about 4 years I love telling the kids the different characters they have out here just loves seeing, just loves seeing everything. This is the governor's fifth annual Magic Moments Easter Egg Roll.

### 3/17/2024 – Public Safety

- Montgomery Fire Rescue battled a fire on the grounds of Garrett Coliseum last night. Around 10pm, Five units responded to the call and found a large barn with the hay bales inside it on fire. The barn contained equipment and ATVs. There were no livestock at the structure. The W-3 fire was extinguished, and There were no reports of any injuries to animals, civilians or firefighters. Fortunately, the SLE Rodeo at Garrett Coliseum still continued for the third and final day today. The Dizzy Bat Diamond Dash was one just one of the highlights at the rodeo today. Tallassee Jewelers donated a diamond necklace as the prize for the winner. And Cowgirls and Cowboys from across the NATION have been competing since Friday for cash and prizes in various roping and riding events. Various local music acts have performed, and children have had a chance to learn to rope and wrangle some pretend cows and horses. Youth from all over Alabama also showed off the cows, pigs and other animals they raised at the Junior Livestock Expo. Liz Laurie Bogie / Member of Southeastern Livestock Exposition. We put on SLE rodeo every year so that we can give kids the opportunity here in the city to experience the farm here in the city. We love giving them educational opportunities. I'm getting them up close and personal with the animals that livestock and get to learn more about Alabama's number one industry. This year has been such an amazing year, and we could not have done it without the support of our community and our sponsors and our leadership. I'm really excited to see what next year holds and see if we can make it even bigger and better next year. Proceeds from the rodeo go to support scholarships, the FFA Foundation, Alabama 4-H. and the Children's Miracle Network.

### 3/18/2024 – Civil Rights History

- An opening date has been set for the new Freedom Monument Sculpture Park in Montgomery. The Equal Justice Initiative tells Action 8 the sculpture park will open on Wednesday, March 27. EJI says IT seeks to address the lack of education. and also seeks to honor the millions of people who endured the brutality of slavery. and created a more hopeful future for this country. action 8 will have a sneak peek of the park early next week.

### 3/19/2024 – Community Events

- The Alabama Department of Agriculture is launching a campaign to deliver hay to cattle producers in Texas. who have been devastated by recent wildfires. One fire destroyed more than a million acres. and was the largest in Texas history. Up to 10-thousand head of cattle were killed. Alabama Agriculture Commissioner Rick Pate says he wants to do something to help. The Alabama Cattlemen's Association and the Alabama Trucking Association have also joined the effort. In our area -- hay can be dropped off at "Alabama Livestock Auction" in Uniontown. or the "Frisco City Stockyard" in Frisco City. The Alabama Trucking Association will take the hay to Texas. For more information, go to "Bama Beef dot-org". and look for the link under the "about" tab.

### 3/20/2024 – Economic Development

- Today marks the start of the "buy Alabama's best campaign." Governor Ivey along with the department of agriculture. and the Alabama grocers association all came together today to kick off the annual event. WHICH puts the state's best products on display. "buy Alabama's best" has grown to over 35 companies since it got started back in 2006. The state's food product sales have a 2-billion-dollar impact on the economy. We also wanted to incorporate a charity into what we do so we also support Children's of Alabama and finding a cure for cancer so today we have given over \$855000 to the hospital in order to fight cancer so knowing you're buying a product and know when you see the logo that you're not just supporting Alabama products but you're also supporting the children of Alabama and you're supporting that fight for cancer. We've spent a lot of money and resources trying to promote Alabama food Alabama farms getting into the Alabama school systems and Alabama restaurants And it just ties in like a marriage with what we're doing. The buy Alabama's best campaign has raised more 800-thousand dollars for the children of Alabama charity.

### 3/22/2024 – Public Safety

- The woman convicted of setting fire to the historic first Baptist church in downtown Montgomery has been sentenced. Xiaoqin Yan has been sentenced to 102 months in prison after being found guilty last year of arson. That's the equivalent of 8 and-a-half years. you may remember the fire back in September 2021. firefighters were able to put out the fire inside the church but it was heavily damaged. Yan was also charged with possession of a firearm by an illegal immigrant.

### 3/23/2024 – Civic Affairs

- Alabama's two Republican senators were split on the spending package. While Senator Katie Britt voted in favor of it, Senator Tommy Tuberville voted no and has released a statement on why he did it. He says, "This 1,000-page, \$1.2 trillion bill was delivered without adequate time to review and is packed with wasteful spending and budget gimmicks that try to hide the true cost. Our nation is nearly \$35 trillion in debt. We've got to get a handle on our spending, and this bill is all talk and no action. This bill fails to take any meaningful steps to address the most pressing crisis our country is facing – the invasion of illegal immigrants and drugs at the southern border." Tuberville says the bill paves the way for America's continued decline.

### 3/24/2024 – Community Events

- Christians here in Central Alabama and across the world gathered to worship and celebrate Palm Sunday today. Thousands of Christian worshippers celebrated Palm Sunday in Jerusalem on the first day of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday. Its name originates from the palm branches waved by the crowd to greet and honor Jesus Christ as he entered the city of Jerusalem days before he was betrayed, put on trial, and executed by crucifixion. Hundreds attended the traditional procession on the Mount of Olives with palm fronds and olive branches. The palm branches are sometimes woven into crosses. "So, I am here for Palm Sunday, and it is a pilgrimage that I am walking, and I fell with everything that is taking place, this is something that is joyful and shares the glory of God, and not the difficulties of war." Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulcher also held a service on Sunday.

### 3/25/2024 – Community Events

- Far too many children are facing hunger and food insecurity. The heart of Alabama food bank is partnering with some local restaurants to end child hunger this month. Action 8's Carrington Cole has the details on how you can help them in their cause by dining at your favorite restaurants. "we have populations choosing between food and prescriptions. We have children's programs that are not going to be funded this summer due to legislation and I think it's really important that people know that it is a need that is significant." The state of Alabama recently rejected the summer EBT program which helps feed children from low-income families during the summer months. Combine this with the continuing food inflation, and you have more children going hungry in your area. "we really are that safety net in the communities. If people don't have the food at their food pantry or the nonprofits that we serve, people will go without." The heart of Alabama food bank decided to ask local restaurants to help them out in a day of giving. "the day of giving where all the restaurants in our 12-county coverage area are going to be participating. They can give whatever percentage of their receipts that day to us and we will also be pushing business to those restaurants so you can eat in a place that you know is for a good cause." "we're very excited to be partnering with the Alabama food bank this year. With being a family-owned business since 2016, it makes sense to not only help this community but help out the state." not only are local restaurants helping the food bank, but you can too by just eating at your favorite participating restaurant and knowing that you are making a difference in the fight against child hunger. This is a much-needed effort as the food bank serves 12 surrounding counties full of low income and food insecure families. "we have a large footprint in Alabama, so we need a lot of help. A lot of those counties are more rural and have far more food insecurity, so this effort and initiative really does help." Make a difference this Thursday and go out to eat in a place that you know is for a

good cause. "I hope to encourage other businesses, corporate, and especially locals to jump in and follow the lead that way we can make sure that all of Alabama is taken care of." "Look out for the list that'll be on our website: HAFB.org to find the list of restaurants. We really want people to go and eat and make their choices that day and know that it's for a good cause." Local restaurants can still sign up for the day of giving by calling the heart of Alabama food bank. 'The day of giving' will be all day March 28th. So, you can dine out at whatever time is convenient for you to help fight child hunger.

### 3/26/2024 – Education and Development

- Action 8 got the chance to interact with students at Lowndes Middle School. as they explore their future interests with a career fair. Teresa Lawson has more on how the school is encouraging students to start working now. to accomplish their future goals. As the old saying goes, if you can see it, you can be it. That's why Lowndes Middle school is giving students the opportunity to see many different career paths to further their education. with the motto exceeding expectations every day, Lowndes Middle School strives to build character in students. Regardless of where you're from you can be anything you want to be local companies, organizations, universities as well as state and federal programs spoke with students about their future choices. To expose the children on different avenues of careers we work from holland's theories and he has 6 different types and we chose one from each type that we could get students learn and follow Holland's 6 Theories of vocational choice which states that in choosing a career, people prefer jobs where they can be around others who are like them to have those people come in and share their stories, their experiences is really good for our kids but the things I want them to be able to do is ask those questions that will help guide their paths reminding students that there are opportunities both near and far. so, we're here today to endorse the opportunity for learning that there is a lot of opportunity here in Montgomery but with our company there is a lot of opportunity internationally as well 8th grade students also received information about scholarships, grants and dual enrollment options.

### 3/27/2024 – Community Events

- You have the chance to help the "Heart of the Alabama Food Bank" and all you have to do is eat out! Tomorrow is the "Day of Giving." Participating restaurants from throughout the area will donate a portion of their receipts to help the food bank. Go to our partner station WAKA.com and look for a list of those restaurants. The Heart of Alabama Food Bank is based in Montgomery. and serves more than half of Alabama's 67 counties.

### 3/29/2024 – Educations and Development

- From the west Alabama newsroom. A former Selma High student is giving back to the school and trying to motivate the next generation of entrepreneurs. Alkaline Lyfe CEO Malcolm Crittenden donated a pallet of bottled natural spring alkaline water to the school this afternoon. The 2005 Selma High graduate founded the Atlanta-based company in 2017. Crittenden says the goal of the donation is to promote a healthy lifestyle and to inspire students to work hard and dream big. Reach for the dreams. Dream big. Don't be scared. If your dreams don't scare you then you're not dreaming big enough." "Seeing someone coming out of Selma being something they want to do,

achieving their goals from Selma High. It's something you can do if you put your mind to it, your heart to it, like, you can achieve it." "That's always wonderful for them to see different people able to succeed in life by doing different things that they're not used to seeing, especially when they came through these halls at Selma High School." Alkaline water has a higher pH level than tap water and may be one of the healthiest kinds of water to consume.

### 3/30/2024 – Community Events

- Here in the Capitol City. Hundreds of children hopped over to Blount Cultural Park today for an \*egg-citing\* Easter Eggstravaganza. The fun-filled day included activities for the whole family, including a DJ playing music, lots of bounce houses, and yard games. like giant Legos and connect four. There were also picture-perfect moments with the Easter bunny, delicious food trucks, and of course egg hunts. Thousands of eggs were scattered across the park for kiddos to scoop up, and some even found special gold eggs with unique prizes inside. Organizers say it was a chance to bring the community together in a happy way. I'm a mom so I know how exciting Easter can be just to see all the kids out here with their baskets lining up outside in the grass ready to just go full force and hunt some eggs-- There is no greater feeling. For us to have these types of events for kids because a lot of people think Montgomery is a city where not much happens so to be able to create those experiences for them and for them to have something to do to be able to get out of the house have fun and good fun safe fun it's super important. The Eggstravaganza was sponsored by the City of Montgomery

### 3/31/2024 – Community Events

- The egg hunting fun continued out at AUM.as The Montgomery County Sherriff's Office hosted \*their\* Easter Egg Hunt Saturday afternoon. Dozens of children waited patiently until they heard go and then they grabbed their baskets and ran to collect as many eggs as they could. This annual tradition has been a favorite for kids in Montgomery County. There were also special prizes of big, pre-made Easter baskets and even bikes were given away. The Easter bunny also hopped in to take pictures with people of all ages. There were more than 25 hundred eggs hidden for the hunt. There were more than 25 hundred eggs hidden for the hunt.

## **COZI Public Service Announcements**

**IF/THEN®** seeks to further advance women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) by empowering current innovators and inspiring the next generation of pioneers. Rooted in a firm belief that there is no better time to highlight positive and successful female professional role models, IF/THEN® is designed to activate a culture shift among young girls to open their eyes to STEM careers by: (1) funding and elevating women in STEM as role models, (2) convening cross-sector partners in entertainment, fashion, sports, business and academia to illuminate the importance of STEM everywhere, and (3) inspiring girls with better portrayals of women in STEM through media and learning experiences to pique their interest in STEM careers.

PSA: If then #1

PSA: If then #2

**Texting and Driving Prevention** campaign PSAs address safety. Messaging while driving— whether sending a text, commenting on a photo, or connecting with friends via an app—is dangerous. But even though 94% of Americans recognize it’s dangerous to send a text while driving, and 91% recognize it’s dangerous to read one, many people still do it. To address the disconnect between awareness and behavior, our campaign addresses the fact that people are personally engaging in a behavior that they know is dangerous. The campaign reminds drivers from 16 to 34 that no one is special enough to message while driving. Sponsored by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

PSA: Phone Down

**Suicide Prevention** campaign drives to SeizeTheAwkward.org, where visitors can explore resources and tools to help them start a conversation with a peer around mental health. Young adulthood is a critical time, when many people experience mental health issues and significant stress from life transitions like moving from home and beginning college or a career. Seize the Awkward empowers young adults to help friends who are struggling with mental health issues (and who may be at risk for suicide) by encouraging them to consistently start and sustain conversations about mental health with their friends. The new iteration of the campaign, “Whatever Gets You Talking,” showcases the variety of ways young people can start and continue those conversations with their friends, whether that be through a GIF, emoji, call or text. Sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and The Jed Foundation.

PSA: We can talk about it

PSA: Check on your friends

**NHTSA – Distracted Driving:** Distracted driving is one of the fastest growing safety issues on the roads today. Distracted drivers aren’t just a threat to themselves: they’re a danger to everyone else on the road. The national distracted driving effort focuses on ways to change the behavior of drivers through legislation, enforcement, public awareness, and education.

PSA: The Drive

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WIYC broadcasts Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to inform and educate viewers. Raising public awareness of relevant issues is an important community service. Some of these PSAs are included in COZI programming. Other PSAs serving the local area are broadcast each day. Serving the community with reliable, relevant, and informational programming is an important goal and we are excited about the progress made so far!



**Adult Protective Services:** AL DHR is launching a brand-new campaign aimed at protecting the elderly population in our state. There are two :30 TV spots and one :30 radio spot that give examples of elderly persons being abused or abandoned by family or care givers. The spots provide a 1-800 number where people can report suspected abuse.

PSA: Elder Abuse

**ALDHR:** Many of us are familiar with foster care for children in Alabama. But how many of us realize that there are adults who need a foster home as well? Through hardships or circumstances beyond their control, quite a few adults find themselves in need of a “helping hand.” Some are elderly men and women whose families are unable or unavailable to care for them. Others may be elderly or disabled young adults living on their own and cannot care for themselves.

Are these adults any less deserving of our devotion and care simply because they are older? Absolutely not. Foster care for an elderly or young disabled adult not only warms their hearts and minds (as well as yours); it also allows them to remain a vital part of our community.

PSA: Adult Foster Care

**ALDOT** Alabama Department of Transportation has two spots rotating starting July 2020 until further notice. One spot focuses on Railway Safety... “Never try to beat and train. It is a deadly game.” The second spot focuses on making drivers aware of the consequences of littering along our roadways. The new PEP campaign is designed to make Alabama drivers aware that tossing trash out of your window can result in a \$500 fine. The second infraction will cost \$1,000.

PSA: ALDOT Trash Cost

PSA: Rail Safety

**Veterans Affairs:** Alabama has a strong military presence and military service often crosses many generations of our families. As a result, there are thousands and thousands of veterans living in the state. Data from 2018 indicated that 140 of those Alabamians committed suicide in that year. Nationally, the rate of Veteran suicides was an average of 17.6 per day. The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs is working to provide resources to veterans and their friends and families to reduce this tragic number.

The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs campaign is designed to encourage family and friends to be there for veterans suffering PTSD and depression, conditions which can lead to suicide. There is also messaging directed at veterans to encourage them to reach out for help.

## PSA: Suicide Prevention

**Alabama Tourism:** The Alabama Tourism Department has returned to the PEP program after a long hiatus. We're glad they remember how great our stations are and the success the PEP program can bring to their projects! At the end of last week, Tourism announced a new statewide initiative called the "All In One ticket" (AIOT). Tourist attractions across the state are working together through the Tourism office to make their experiences more affordable. Purchase an "AOIT" through Tourism for a specific period of time and visit as many of the participating sites as you can during that time! You can get this special ticket through Tourism's new app and where tickets are sold online. Tourism is a huge economic drive for our beautiful state. We're fortunate to have mountains, plains, rivers, forests, historical sites and the beach. It truly is "Alabama the Beautiful". Thank you for helping promote our home and contributing to our state's prosperity at the same time.

## PSA: All in 1 Ticket

**ABA/ABURN UNIVERSITY AT WORK:** Auburn University is launching their campaign with a set of spots titled, "Auburn Works". This set of spot announcements inform Alabamians about the many ways Auburn contributes to the work force and the economy across the state. In mid-December, they are substituting in a brief campaign titled, "Auburn Value." These spots remind Alabamians of the value of a college degree from Auburn University and of the overall value they contribute to the state.

**ABA/ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION:** The Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) regulates the securities industry in Alabama. The Commission is committed to protect investors against securities fraud and provides aggressive enforcement actions against any firm or individual who has violated the Alabama Securities Act or other state and federal statutes to the detriment of Alabama investors. The Alabama Securities Act provides for the licensing and regulation of securities broker-dealers, agents, investment advisers and investment adviser representatives, and financial planners. The Commission regulates individual securities through registration. All of the above entities must be registered with the ASC to conduct business in Alabama unless subject to a statutory exemption from registration. In addition, the Commission promotes financial literacy to all citizens and students in Alabama by providing presentations, free information, and access to curricula for financial literacy education.

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## Local Public Service Announcements

**WCOV Gives Back is a PSA series highlighting organizations in the community that address and serve community needs.**

These public service announcements address resources available to the community for physical, mental, and social wellness. The following are local organizations included in this series.

**Mercy House** is a safe house in Montgomery within the Washington Park community and one of many tools to re-direct lives. Mercy House provides a number of services to the community such as a food pantry, clothes closet, supervised computer access and much more.

Other public serve announcements address state level resources available and / or programs relevant to the community and are sponsored by the Alabama Broadcaster’s Association.

**Allen Media Broadcast**

**WIYC PSA Broadcast Totals Summary 1st Quarter 2024**

Alabama Broadcasters Association/AL DEPT OF LABOR	88	159	178	425
Alabama Broadcasters Association/AL SECURITIES COMMISSION	36	63	67	166
Alabama Broadcasters Association/AL TOURISM	66	125	127	318
Alabama Broadcasters Association/ALDHR	38	60	69	167
Alabama Broadcasters Association/ALDHR ADULT PROTECTIVE	36	60	67	163
Alabama Broadcasters Association/ALDHR FAMILY SERVICES	36	61	66	163
Alabama Broadcasters Association/ALDOT	36	60	70	166
Alabama Broadcasters Association/AUBURN UNIVERSITY AT WORK	58	101	104	263
Alabama Broadcasters Association/VETERANS AFFAIRS	65	114	122	301
COZI - TV--COZI TV - PSA Distracted Driving Prevention	10	11	13	34
COZI - TV--COZI TV - PSA STA - Check In On Your Friends Alt	4	4	5	13
COZI - TV--COZI TV - PSA STA - We Can Talk About It	4	4	5	13
COZI - TV--COZI TV - PSA Texting & Driving Prevention - Winni	4	4	5	13
IF THEN #1	8	8	10	26
IF THEN #2	10	9	12	31
WCOV PSA/Mercy House	71	132	142	345
WCOV PSA/WCOV CHARITY	73	125	134	332
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>1196</b>	<b>2939</b>