



WAAY-TV

Issue-Responsive Programming

January 1, 2021-March 31, 2021

Community Issues Identified

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

Regularly scheduled programs on WAAY-TV:

- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 4:30-5:00am
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 5:00-6:00am
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 6:00am-7:00am
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 11:00am-12:00noon
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 4:00pm-5:00pm
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 5:00-5:30pm
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 6:00-6:30pm

- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 10:00-10:35pm
- WAAY 31 Local News M-F 12:05am-12:35am
- WAAY 31 Local News S/S 5:00-5:30pm
- WAAY 31 Local News Sat 6:00-6:30pm
- WAAY 31 Local News S/S 10:00-10:35pm

Each of the above programs represents locally-produced news which includes issues-related news stories and segments on issues of local importance. Issue-responsive program segments are typically 1:00-3:00 segments.

- WAAY 31 LawCall Sun 10:35-11:05pm

WAAY 31 LawCall is a locally-produced legal hotline where viewers are able to call and ask legal questions on a variety of topics.

- Good Morning America M-F 7:00am-9:00am
- World News Tonight M-F 5:30pm-6:00pm
- ABC News Nightline M-F 11:35pm-12:05pm
- Good Morning America S/S 7:00am-8:00am
- This Week Sun 8:00am-9:00am
- World News Tonight S/S 5:30pm-6:00pm

The above programs are produced by ABC network news discussing issues-related stories and segments of national importance.

The following is a list of some of the more significant community issues addressed by this/these station(s) for the quarter specified. This listing is by no means complete, nor is the order in which these issues appear, intended to imply any degree of priority or significance of the issues.

Education

Colbert Co. extracurricular activities resume – 01/04

- After pausing extracurricular activities like indoor sports and club meetings, the Colbert Co. school district made the decision to resume them during the first week of the year.
- The new superintendent told us crowds were limited to 20% so that anyone who does go can stay safe.
- He added that having a virtual day on Wednesday of every week allows the school district to deep clean buildings and facilities where there are crowds or groups of students.
- We did a live PKG on the plans to keep students safe at 5 PM.

ACSTE donation – 01/28

- The newly formed Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering received a \$150,000 donation.
- The money will be used to develop and build classroom and dorm facilities for the school.
- The school said those type of donations are key to constructing a new campus.
- The story aired in dayside shows as a VO and we had a sound bite from a school representative at 10 PM.

Teachers getting vaccinated - 02/04

- The Limestone Co. school district became one of the first in the region to vaccinate its school staff.
- Teachers told us they signed up to get the shot in order to protect themselves, their students, and their families.
- We had a story talking with teachers and those who helped organize the clinic that aired in our 5 PM show.

Albertville school schedule change – 03/04

- The Albertville City School district shared plans to potentially change its schedule in order to combat the “learning gap” from covid-19 and hybrid learning.
- It would start school earlier in the year, and lengthen some breaks during the year so that the district could operate literacy camps for students who fell behind.
- The superintendent said students missed more than 40 days of class, and this kind of system would allow them to catch up from that impact.
- We have live reports with parents’ opinions on the possible change and a PKG at 10 with the new developments from the school board meeting.

State superintendent addresses learning gap – 03/15

- The state superintendent said that the state plans to conduct additional assessments over the summer and fall to figure out how significant the learning gap is across the state.

- He said school districts are also working on their own plans to combat the learning gap, and must have that plan submitted by June 1st
- We ran 2 PKGs about the developments and the impacts on local school districts in our dayside shows.

Politics

Alabama reacts to Capitol Riot – started 01/06, continued through Q1

- Following the riot at the Capitol, we interviewed people who were in Washington, DC when it happened including former Alabama lawmakers, Alabamians in DC, and current representatives and senators.
- In the coming weeks and months, we also ran several breaking news updates about Alabama men charged in the riot.
- Ran PKGs, VO/SOTs and VO scripts as developments happened.

Ivey Extends Mask Order – 01/21

- Governor Kay Ivey announced that the state-wide mask order would remain in effect until March 5th.
- We carried the governor & state health officer's news conference live on TV in full.
- We had a reporter speak with local leaders and health officials about the updated health order.
- Reporter had live hits in dayside shows. Producers also aired important information using anchor VO or graphic reads.

Medical marijuana legislation – 02/05

- We spoke with the Alabama state senator who sponsored a bill that would allow medical marijuana in some cases.
- He explained how the bill would establish an oversight committee, growing registry, and specific criteria for who would qualify.
- PKG aired in a dayside show.

Aniah's Law advances in state legislature - 02/23

- The Alabama House of Representatives unanimously passed Aniah's Law, which would put restrictions on bond for repeat, violent offenders.
- We spoke with Aniah's mother about why she feels the legislation is so important and could have saved her daughter's life.
- We also talked to the Madison Co. District Attorney about his feelings on the potential law.
- We ran a PKG in the 5 PM news, and also included updates on voting progress throughout the evening.

Rep. Mo Brooks announces senate run – 03/22

- Rep. Mo Brooks announced that he would be running for the senate seat that will come open when Sen. Richard Shelby retires.
- He made the announcement in Huntsville.
- We carried his announcement live, and had updates on what that means for the senate race and North Alabama throughout the evening shows.

Crime & Public Safety

Reward for info in synagogue vandalism - 01/21

- Huntsville Police announced a reward for any information leading to an arrest in a vandalism case at a local synagogue.
- The available reward money was up to \$18,000 after multiple groups donated.
- Story aired as an anchor VO/SOT in every dayside show.

Scottsboro Murder-Suicide – 02/10

- Scottsboro Police responded to a call saying that 2 people were shot in a car.
- When officers arrived, they found that the woman who had been shot was 8 months pregnant and still alive.
- They were able to get her to a hospital, where doctors delivered her baby. The baby survived, but she died from her injuries.
- We had live reports throughout the day and at 10 PM that night.

DeKalb Co. Animals Killed – 02/22

- The DeKalb Co. sheriff's office started an investigation after 2 animals were killed with a crossbow.
- They said it happened early in the morning, so there were no witnesses in the case. People who lived there said nothing like this has happened before.
- We had a PKG in a dayside show.

Athens/Limestone Co. Schools indictment – 02/23

- The former superintendents of Athens city and Limestone Co. schools were named in a federal indictment along with 5 others.
- Federal investigators said they were involved in a scheme to defraud state and federal education funds by falsifying records of student enrollment.
- It's estimated that they stole millions of dollars from the funds.
- We had live updates on the indictment and reaction to it in every dayside ad 10 PM show.

High schooler killed in drive-by shooting – 03/13

- A Mae Jemison High School student was shot and killed in a Huntsville apartment.
- Police said he was taken to the hospital, where he died of his injuries.
- We spoke with his mom and his basketball coach.
- Covered the story extensively when it happened and in the days following, with updates in almost every show.

Health

4 generations vaccinated for covid-19 – 01/01

- 4 generations of a Tennessee family got their covid-19 vaccines on the same day.
- They 4 women were nursing home residents and frontline healthcare workers.
- We had live VO/SOTs in all dayside shows with multiple angles on the vaccine rollout and this family's story.

Nursing home mass vaccinations – 01/05

- One of the largest nursing homes in the Shoals was among the first to do a large-scale vaccination event for their residents and staff.
- We were there and spoke with healthcare staff about what went into organizing the event.
- We also talked with families who told us this was the first sign of the light at the end of the tunnel.
- We had coverage of the operation in multiple dayside shows.

Smokers eligible for vaccine – 01/29

- After a viewer question, we got answers from the Dept. of Public Health about which health conditions would be prioritized in the vaccine rollout.
- We confirmed that smokers qualified to get the shot before people with asthma and other respiratory health concerns.
- We asked why that was the case, and got reaction from people who were upset with the decision.
- Story aired as a PKG in the 5 PM news.

Vaccine supply frustrations – 02/24

- In Northwest Alabama, vaccine supply was extremely limited during the first phase of the vaccine rollout.
- The president of the largest hospital in the area said that there was only one location offering initial vaccine appointments.
- We had a PKG in the 5 PM show about his hopes for the area as more doses become available.

Infectious disease specialist interview – every Thursday

- Every Thursday, we interview the area's top infectious disease specialist about the latest covid-19 developments.
- He breaks down the more technical headlines, and explains how they apply to Alabama.
- He also shares updates on the hospital situation in North Alabama.
- We run a PKG using information and sound bites from those interviews at 10 PM every Thursday.

Business, Technology & Economic Development

Madison ramp impacting business - 01/25

- The owner of the Rocket City Trash Pandas said an exit ramp off of I-565 wasn't allowed to open because of a hold-up with the Department of Transportation.
- He said the delayed opening was beginning to impact events at the stadium since the road can't handle all of the drivers.
- We spoke with him, local government officials, and the Department of Transportation about the situation.
- Story aired as a reporter PKG at 5 PM on 1/25. We did another update story once the ramp cleared the next hurdle to open.

Fundraising to save EarlyWorks – 01/27

- The EarlyWorks Children's Museum in downtown Huntsville began a fundraising effort to try and stay open.
- They told us they were hurt by the shutdown and fewer visitors because of the pandemic.
- We did a PKG on their efforts to save the museum in a dayside show.

Restaurant makes changes to stay alive – 02/01

- The owner of a local restaurant said he would have to begin allowing indoor dining in order to stay in business.
- Phuket Thai Restaurant only allowed outdoor dining during the pandemic in order to ensure employee and customer safety.
- The owner said the limited capacity and takeout sales weren't making enough money to stay in business.
- Reporter did a PKG on his decision for the 5 PM show.

New agriculture center on track – 03/02

- Despite the pandemic, construction on a massive agriculture center in Florence remained on schedule.
- The facility will have a concert arena, hotels, and other businesses.
- We spoke with the state senator who helped secure funding for the project about what it means for the area.
- Story aired as a PKG in the 5 PM news.

VBC Concert Series – 03/08

- The Von Braun Center in Huntsville announced plans for a concert series in the spring of 2021.
- They plan to set up an outdoor stage in the downtown area to make sure people are outside and spread out as much as possible.
- We spoke with them about their other safety plans for the concert series.
- Story aired as a reporter PKG in the 6 PM news.