LOCAL ISSUES DATABASE WGBC-TV

DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE	PROGRAM/ SEGMENT	DATE	GENR AL ISSUE	DURATI ON	NARRATION OF TYPE AND DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SEGMENT
Citizens Voice Concern over Carver Middle School Closing	Morning Report	7-1-22	EDUCATION	1:15	The Carver Community Coalition is a group of concerned Meridian citizens trying to raise awareness among students, parents, and alumni of George Washington Carver Middle School. The coalition held a press conference on Thursday morning to ask Meridian Public School District (MPSD) why they chose to shut the school down. SOT MPSD Superintendent Dr. Amy Carter stated that Carver had 300 students attending, the lowest number of the three schools, and that's why Carver was chosen to be closed. SOT The next step is to discuss the \$34 million no-tax-increase bond that will be used to upgrade the district's campuses. The community will have the chance to voice their opinions on the bond during the community meetings held by the district. The next community meeting will be held on July 28th at MHS Multipurpose Building. The bond will be voted on by Meridian citizens on August 9, 2022, in a special election.

Reconciliation Celebration Week kicks off with Lemonade Day	Morning Report	7-5-22	COMMUNITY	1:15	The 15th Annual Reconciliation Week Celebration kicked off with their Lemonade Day and Press Conference. The Reconciliation Week Commemorates the 19th Anniversary of the 2003 Lockheed Tragedy. SOT For the 13th year, they will also be awarding Scholarships to two Lauderdale High Graduates who were present to read their winning essays and the Committee will have their Charity Spotlight Donation for a local charity. Recipient of the donation James Carter, Founder of the Carter Foundation had this to say SOT A former Lockheed Employee who was present during the tragedy recounts that day and what the Reconciliation celebration means to him. SOT The Reconciliation Celebration will continue for the remainder of this week with their Memorial Luncheon starting
Meridian Business Community Thriving	Morning Report	7-6-22	ECONO MY	1:15	tomorrow at Union Station at 11:45 AM. One of the latest businesses in Meridian is Elevate Nutrition, a loaded tea company looking to satisfy your caffeine needs but without the typical caffeine crash. SOT Meridian also has a new bakery located downtown. The owner of Bakery 900, Adie Fields, says they are hoping to meet the needs of everyone.

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					SOT
					The bakery bakes its goods fresh every morning. Fields say providing freshness was their goal, and it is also a way to control the number of preservatives you take in.
					The Queen city's business community continues to thrive by bringing new and unique companies to Meridian.
The Meridian Public Library's Summer Reading Program	Morning Report	7-8-22	EDUCAT ION	1:15	Summer is here and many are taking advantage of the nice summer weather we've been having. The Meridian Public Library's Summer Reading Program enjoyed books and sunshine today down at Bonita Lakes which is a change of scenery from reading books inside of the Library. SOT
					The theme for their Summer Reading Program is Oceans of Possibilities. Pigott said they have been reading all water and ocean-based book and thought reading at the Lake would make it a little more engaging. SOT
					One parent who is a regular participant in the Summer Reading Program says she missed the last reading at the Lake and made sure not to miss this one.
					SOT
					The Meridian Public Library's Summer Reading Program will continue for the remainder of the summer and each they with something different for all to enjoy.

The Salvation	Morning Report	7-11-22	COMMU	1:15	Changes are underway for The Salvation
Army's new Leader			NITY		Army as a new leader takes over. Lt. Roy Fisher gave us an insight into who he is, what he stands for, and the changes coming to The Salvation Army.
					SOT
					Being someone who has been a part of The Salvation Army for over 57 years, Fisher is more than knowledgeable about The Salvation Army and says he was born into it and shares his plans.
					SOT
					Some goals they are working towards are getting the Community Center open as soon as possible and getting more volunteers.
					SOT
Gas Prices Continue to Fluctuate	Morning Report	7-11-22	ECONO MY	1:15	Although most gas prices have dropped under \$4 in the past few weeks some say it is still not low enough. SOT
					Some people are deciding to just deal with the prices and have even switched to smaller cars t to combat the prices.
					SOT
					For others, Mississippi has been among the lowest-priced gas they have found.
					SOT
					Lee Cabe is driving from New York to Dallas and says he has had to fill up at least four times.
					SOT

The Community in the Aftermath of the Overturn of Roe vs Wade	Morning Report	7-12-22	HEALTH	1:15	It has now been a few weeks since the Supreme Court's Historic Decision to Overturn Row vs Wade. The decision has left many individuals feeling a lot of different emotions. Center for Pregnancy Choices says since the ruling there has been an increase in women reaching out for help. SOT The Overturn of Roe vs Wade has left many expecting mothers looking for a place that provides help and moral support. SOT With the influx of people coming in, Smith says that they have received an outpouring amount of support from the Community reaching out wanting to help. SOT Center for Pregnancy Choices says they soon plan to become a Pregnancy Clinic where Medical staff will be available to provide ultrasounds and nursing services.
Meridian Freedom Project to host first-ever Shoot Baskets not Bullets event	Morning Report	7-14-22	COMMU	1:15	Gun violence has been taking place throughout the city of Meridian. So the Meridian Freedom Project is hosting a Shoot Basket Not Bullets Event as a way to bring awareness to how violence affects the youth. SOT This will be the first-ever Shoot Baskets Not Bullets Event and the idea came from the students and interns trying to figure out ways how to stop the senseless violence and promote unity. SOT

					Registration begins at 4:45 pm at the Graham Gymnasium where the event will be held. The game will be an all-around-
					the-world style basketball game which will begin at 5 pm.
MCC Breaks Ground on Athletic Facilities	Morning Report	7-15-22	EDUCAT ION	1:15	MCC and Citizens National Bank have formed a relationship and partnered to begin this new project.
raciilles					SOT
					President of MCC, Dr. Thomas Huebner, believes that the new facilities will open doors to unique opportunities for MCC students.
					SOT
					The facilities will include a state-of-the- art softball field along with more than six tennis courts that will now allow MCC to host tennis matches on campus.
					SOT
					The two facilities will be named after Dr. Tommy McDonald and Wanda McPhail.
Meridian Phantom Jet Undertakes Restoration	Morning Report	7-18-22	COMMU NITY	1:15	The restoration process began today for Meridian's RF-4C Phantom II 67-438 jet. Over the next week, two brothers will be repainting the plane back to its original color.
					SOT
					Two brothers, Ethan Scott and Richard Westmoreland travel the world restoring jets like the Phantom.
					SOT
					Richard Westmoreland has been traveling non-stop for about two years restoring planes in states from Washington to Florida. Richard says this community has made this project even better.

					SOT
					Depending on the weather, the painters
					expect to finish the painting phase by the end of this week.
Northcrest Baptist Church kicks off the 10th Annual Love Out Loud	Morning Report	7-18-22	COMMU NITY	1:15	Northcrest Baptist Church has kicked off its 10th Annual Love Out Loud Event. About 20 to 25 churches come together and provide mission work throughout the community. Wade Phillips, Executive Pastor of Northcrest Baptist Church tells us more.
					SOT
					Church member and volunteer Lesia Scruggs have been a part of the event since the beginning and expressed her favorite part about Love Out Loud.
					SOT
					Mission work is done all around The Queen City from making care packages to pass out to doing multi-sports camps for the Boys and Girls Club and having block parties at local apartment complexes.
					SOT
					Phillips says anyone is welcome to come out and volunteer. All they have to do is show up at Northcrest Baptist Church in the morning and signup.

Great turnout for Touch-A-Truck Event	Morning Report	7-20-22	COMMU NIYT	1:15	As a continuation of their Love-Out-Loud event, Northcrest Baptist Church hosted a Touch A-Truck event for the community last night. The event allowed kids and adults to go inside many emergency vehicles such as fire trucks, ambulances, police cars, and helicopters. SOT Marcus Hayes who brought his family along from Houston Texas tells what brought him and his family to The Queen City. SOT
					Medics, Officers, and Firefighters all came out from the community to support the event. Jameka Moore who is a part of the Highway Patrol tells us what made him want to take part in the event. SOT
Local Women Take Action to Clean Meridian	Morning Report	7-20-22	COMMU NITY	1:15	Joyce Lane and two other women hope to inspire the community to take pride in how the city looks by getting out and cleaning the streets. SOT The women are hoping to cause a domino effect within the community. One of the women says seeing others cleaning inspired her to help. SOT For the past six days, the women have been cleaning downtown every morning as early as 7 A.M. SOT

Mississippi's First Cannabis Cultivation Site, Southern Crop, to Operate in Meridian	Morning Report	7-27-22	ECONO MY	1:15	The state's first cultivation site is set to begin full operations in October 2022. CEO of Southern Crop, Dr. Randy Mire says Meridian's business community is what sold him on the location.
					LeafSheets is an expert company that helps cultivation sites begin operations. Founder, Juliana Whitney, gave Twin States News more insight into the cultivation industry. SOT
					Mire says that medical cannabis will be treated as any other medication. He even hopes that it could act as a substitute for other medicines.
					The company expects to release the product to the public in December 2022.
LCSD Works to Cut the Cost of Fuel by Modifying Bus Routes	Morning Report	7-28-22	EDUCAT ION	1:15	As the price of gas continues to affect daily activity, Lauderdale County School District (LCSD) is working to curb those fuel costs by changing its' bus routes for the upcoming school year.
					explained Tim Moore, LCSD Transportation Director. The district wanted to ensure that taxpayers' money was being spent efficiently. Moore says the amount of money saved by this change depends on the fluctuation of gas prices.
					You can contact the child's school to find out if your child's bus route might be affected.

Lauderdale County School District's Teachers prepare for the school year	Morning Report	8-1-22	EDUCAT	1:15	Hundreds of teachers from the Lauderdale County School District gathered at the Riley Center for the first time since summer break to prepare for the new school year. Lauderdale County School District's Superintendent tells us more. SOT Teachers from schools all around the Lauderdale County School District gather each year before the new school year begins and discuss goals and changes for the upcoming year. SOT A Northeast Lauderdale High School Teacher shares her views on the Annual teacher meet-up. SOT Lauderdale County School District classes resume August 4th for students with the last name beginning with A-K and last names L-Z resumes August 5th.
Lauderdale County School District's Career & Technical Education Program Improvements	Morning Report	8-3-22	EDUCAT	1:15	Today at the Rotary Club The Superintendent of the Lauderdale County School District who was the Guest Speaker spoke on the improvements and changes of their CTE and Workforce Development Program improvements and their new center. SOT Lauderdale County School District's Career & Technical Education classes will soon have a new in-house hub for the classes, McCain says that the changes made will greatly benefit their students. SOT

ſ						CTE is aimed at directly preparing high
						school students for high-wage, high-demand careers after graduation. Covering many career fields, learning is both in the classroom and experiential hands-on. Smith said they are working to
						expand CTE in our area. Smith said they are excited about the possibility of expansion in the future and look forward to doing what's best for their students.
	MCM'S 2nd Annual Back-to- School Bash	Morning Report	8-4-22	COMMU NITY	1:15	As summer comes to an end and students begin trading in goggles for backpacks the Mississippi Children's Museum is ramping up for its Second Annual Backto-School Bash for students and parents.
						SOT
						Many different games, giveaways, and educational activities will be available as well as food trucks. Huff says with literacy being the main foundation for the Museum it was important for them to continue a back-to-school bash this year.
						SOT
						The Back-to-School Bash will be taking place at the Children's Museum this Saturday, August 6th from 9 am to 5 pm and they are inviting everyone from the community to come out to.

Greater Meridian Health Clinic kicks off National Health Center Week	Morning Report	8-8-22	HEALTH	1:15	National Health Centers week is an annual celebration to raise awareness of the accomplishments of American Health Centers. As part of the celebration, the clinic will be providing health screenings and care packages to those in need. SOT Today they are here at L.O.V.E.S Kitchen providing care packages and health screening to the homeless. Community Developer, Terrell Thompson shares the importance of having a clinic like greater meridian health available to the community.
					SOT A staff member from Greater meridian health clinic tells us what services they are providing here at L.O.V.E.S Kitchen and what they are giving out. SOT Be on the lookout this week for other health events hosted by the Greater Meridian Health Clinic.
\$34Million School Bond Gets Approved for the Meridian Public School District	Morning Report	8-10-22	EDUCATION	1:15	Meridian voters passed the \$34million bond issue for the Meridian Public School District. Faculty and Staff members are overjoyed with the improvements and changes that are underway for the District. We hear more from Superintendent Amy Carter. SOT With the Bond being approved for the District there will be many upgrades and improvements taking place with safety upgrades being the main priority. SOT

					Trussell, The Director of Athletics says this is a big win for the district and is excited to have a softball and soccer facility on campus. SOT
Rush Health Systems Merges with Ochsner Rush Health	Morning Report	8-12-22	HEALTH	1:15	Rush Health Systems has merged with Ochsner Rush Health (ORH) to serve its patients and community better. Twin States News spoke with the CEOs of Ochsner on the goals they hope to accomplish. One of the goals is to provide health care to patients on demand: SOT With a merger oftentimes comes change: SOT Rush Health System will be changing its'
Clarkdale	Morning Report	8-15-22	EDUCAT	1:15	name to Ochsner Rush Health. Classes have resumed for Lauderdale
Elementary Still affected by storm damages			ION		County Students, however damages that were caused by a tornado earlier this year still remain at Clarkdale Elementry. With the relocation of 6 classrooms due to construction taking place, teachers are having to find creative ways to continue teaching their students.
					SOT
					Behind their temporarily built walls are 6 classes they no longer have access to and 6 teachers have been relocated throughout the campus.
					SOT
					No longer being in a traditional classroom teachers are being innovative to make sure they are still creative in an

		1			environment where students can still
					learn.
					Later this year the affected classrooms
					will be moved into 12 modular structures
					on campus.
					gor.
					SOT
					Lee says through it all this shows the
					perseverance of her faculty and staff and
					that they will get the job done no matter
					what.
MSDH Expands	Morning Report	8-15-22	HEALTH	1:15	There have been eleven reported
Eligibility for					monkeypox cases in Mississippi. Many
Monkeypox					people aren't sure what to think about
Vaccine					Monkey Pox.
					SOT
					While still dealing with the pressures of
					the COVID pandemic and now adding
					Monkey Pox on top of that has added
					another level of stress for some:
					SOT
					According to the state's health
					department, very few vaccine doses have
					been received in Mississippi; the recent
					expansion allows those at a higher risk to
					receive the vaccine.
					The Monkey Pox vaccine is available by
					appointment only at your county's health
					department. To find out more about
					Monkey Pox, you can visit Monkeypox -
					Mississippi State Department of Health
					(ms.gov)

Meridian Architectural Trust Continuing Work to Preserve Historical buildings in Meridian	Morning Report	8-17-22	COMMU	1:15	The St. Joseph's Catholic Church is one of many buildings in Meridian that the trust is working to add to the historic register. SOT Many historic buildings have already been torn down, and the trust hopes that through these meetings, they can prevent the destruction of the other buildings. Tomlin believes that preserving historic buildings like St. Joseph's will essentially benefit the youth: SOT Meridian Architectural Trust will have
					more meetings to continue to work to preserve historic buildings in Meridian.
VFW 12124 Honors Public Service Agencies	Morning Report	8-23-22	COMMU	1:15	The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12124 held an Appreciation Award Ceremony for the Police Department, Fire Department, and Sheriff's department for their participation in helping bring home the F-4 Phantom Jet to the East MS Veterans Memorial Park. SOT The Fire Department, The Meridian Police Department, and The Lauderdale Sheriff's Department were honored with certificates of appreciation for their roles in escorting the f-4 phantom jet to its home. SOT This was only the first step for the Veteran's Memorial Park, Danny Smith shares what the next steps are for the

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Saving Temple Theater	Morning Report	8-24-22	COMMU NITY	1:15	The Temple Theater has sat on 8th street for almost 100 years, evolving with the times, the music, and the people. Manager of 12 years, Roger Smith, is hoping that with the community's help the theater can be around even longer. SOT The theater has never had a cosmetic upgrade in its years of hosting more than 2,000 shows. SOT The theater will be hosting a fundraiser showcase to help curve the cost of the repairs, which could be as much as \$500,000 or more To find out what you can do to help save the Temple Theater, you can reach out to Roger Smith or Shelly Whitehead.
Locals react to Student Loan Forgiveness Program	Morning Report	8-29-22	ECONO MY	1:15	Since President Joe Biden announced the Student Loan Forgiveness Program, it has gotten the attention of those who have student loans and those who do not. We hear from Meridian residents about their opinion on the program. SOT Some local residents agree that the program is a good thing and others believe it's not. I spoke with a local resident who doesn't agree with the program and says if you make a commitment to a loan, you should pay it back. SOT The Biden Administration stated that up to \$20,00 in Federal Debt will be canceled for Pell Grant borrowers and up to \$10,000 for people earning less than

					\$125k a year. A local resident who says he paid off all of his student loan debts, says he still believes the loan forgiveness is a good thing. In addition to the Student Loan Forgiveness Program, President Biden has also extended the pause on Federal Student Loan payments until the end of this year.
Anderson Regional Medical Center Operates with New Technology	Morning Report	9-1-22	MEDICA L	1:15	Interventional Cardiologist, Dr. Zaid Altheeb successfully operated with the new shock wave technology at the beginning of August: SOT The new lithotripsy technology could potentially decrease the chance of other surgeries for patients. With receiving the new Shockwave technology, Anderson's Cath lab is now on a more advanced level. SOT
VFW Post 12124 Continues to honor those who helped to bring home the F-4 Phantom jet	Morning Report	9-6-22	COMMU	1:15	The East Mississippi Veterans Memorial Park has been underway as the first installment has been made, which is the F-4 Phantom jet. The Meridian Chapter of Veterans of Foreign Wars continues to thank those who helped bring the jet to its final resting place. Today they held a short ceremony to thank the National Guard Fire Department for their participation. SOT The jet has been completed with final paint details and also features four names, two on each side of the jet Smith tells us what the names signify. SOT There will be a Ceremonial Grand Opening of the jet on September 27th that Smith says everyone is invited to attend.

Mississinni	Morning Report	9-8-22	COMMU	1:15	Today is a different day here at the
Mississippi Children's Museum Fall Fix-up	Morning Report	9-8-22	NITY	1:15	Today is a different day here at the Mississippi Children's Museum, instead of the sound of children laughing and playing the sound of power tool are heard. The museum has closed its doors for the fall fix-up as well as added some new additions for children to enjoy. SOT Raynwhicher said they have this annually due to kids being kids whinch means sometimes they like to test the limits of the equipment. Many different groups
					and individuals from Mississippi Power to NAS Meridian came out to help volunteer. SOT
					Along with making repairs and doing some deep cleaning the museum also had some construction for a new installation for the children to enjoy outside in the garden. The Children's Museum will reopen its doors tomorrow at 9 am.
First Responders Appreciation Day	Morning Report	9-9-22	COMMU NITY	1:15	Webb & Stephens Funeral Home held their Annual First Responder Appreciation day. They showed their appreciation to all first responders by providing a free lunch to thank them for all that they do. SOT Warner says this is their 7th year doing this and others share how it feels to give back to those who do so much for our community.
					SOT Greg Mangum an employee of Webb & Stephens Funeral home said, SOT

Southeast High School's Hand Tool Olympics	Morning Report	9-12-22	EDUCAT	1:15	Mississippi's Workforce and State Leaders are emphasizing Career & Technical Education significantly. With this in mind, Southeast High School sponsored a Hand Tool Olympics Competition today for their first-year construction students to prepare properly. SOT This isn't the first time for them to host this type of competition but due to covid, it prevented them from competing for a while. SOT Smith says that have around 15 first-year construction students and says by doing this competition helps students get a feel of how the real work situations will be in the construction field. Mississippi's Workforce and State Leaders have partnered with State Agencies and Community-Based Organizations and High schools across the state to provide
Oshner Rush Health looks to bring a new youth Mentorship Program to Meridian	Morning Report	9-14-22	COMMU	1:15	With so much crime and gun violence taking place, Oshner Rush Health has teamed up with the University of South Alabama to bring a new program to The Queen City that is geared toward the youth in the community in hopes of dropping the crime rate. Project Inspire has had such a positive effect in Mobile Alabama Oshner Rush Health hopes to replicate Project Inspire here in Meridian. SOT Project Inspire works in collaboration with the Juvenile Court System, which is specifically designed to curb gun violence. Project Inspire has radically

					improved the outcomes for the kids in the program. SOT The program focuses on confidence building, employment opportunities, health and literacy, and career-specific mentorship to name a few. Anything that will help young adolescents become the
					best version of themselves as possible. Oshner Rush Health hopes to shadow the ins and outs of the program to recreate it here in Meridian. The hope is to begin Project Unite as soon as this winter and Project Inspire will be sometime in the late fall of 2023.
Mississippi Blood Services host a Blood Drive at MCC	Morning Report	9-15-22	HEALTH	1:15	We've experienced supply shortages of almost everything since the start of the pandemic, and that includes blood donations. The Mississippi Blood Services are encouraging individuals to donate by hosting a two-day blood drive at Meridian Community College.
					Mississippi Blood Services provides all of the blood for Anderson Regional Health and is the only blood supplier for Children of Mississippi Hospital which is why hosting blood drives locally is so critical. SOT
					Book says blood donations are essential and the need for blood is constant and help can start with one person making a generous donation.

Local Bank Celebrates 50 years	Morning Report	9-15-22	COMMU NITY	1:15	First Mississippi Federal Credit Union celebrated its 50th anniversary today. Twin States News spoke with the Bank to find out how they have adapted over the years. Member service employee, Crystal Clarke, has watched the Bank grow and adapt to COVID and inflation: SOT The Bank showed appreciation to the community today with a free lunch, door prizes, and a chance to win money. SOT Board member of the Bank and member for over 40 years says the Bank has made it a point to be an institute for the entire community: SOT
					The Bank opened in 1972, later
The Preserve's Grand Opening	Morning Report	9-23-22	COMMU	1:15	branching out to Quitman, MS. SOT The preserve offers three levels of care to meet a variety of needs assisted living, independent living with individual cottages, and a memory care wing for Alzheimer's or Dementia patients. SOT The Preserves resort-style living offers large common areas, restaurant-style dining, game rooms, movie room, and even houses a chef, local residents who attended the grand opening were excited to get a full tour of the facilities. SOT Roderick says the main goal for the facility is to offer residents the same

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					freedoms and opportunities they had in their own homes by providing them with assistance and help they may need.
Storm Prep: Generator Safety Tips	Morning Report	9-26-22	WEATH ER	1:15	Hurricane season peaks in the month of September although Mississippi has been off to a great start that doesn't mean it's time to let your guard down. During a power outage, many families may use a generator to help maintain a sense of normalcy.
					SOT
					Proper maintenance of a generator is crucial so that it will be reliable during a time of need. Stephens says knowing about generators and how to safely use them is always important.
					SOT
					Stephens says that some of the most common mistakes many people make when using a generator are using them indoors, overloading it, and poor maintenance.
	M : D	0.27.22	EDUCAT	1.15	SOT
Local High School receives State Recognition	Morning Report	9-27-22	EDUCAT ION	1:15	West Lauderdale Principal, Shane Rodgers, shares what he believes sets the school apart from others:
ricoogiiitoii					SOT
					Graduation coach, April Luke, says the school begins to prep students for college as early as 9th grade.
					SOT
					Principal Rodgers believes in helping students find a career path and a passion.
					SOT

		West Lauderdale High School graduated roughly 140 students last year.
		Enterprise High School, Neshoba Central High School, and Northeast High School were also recognized with the College Success award by MDE.