

WFSU/WFSG-TV, Tallahassee/Panama City, FL
QUARTERLY PROGRAM TOPIC REPORT
LOCAL PROGRAMMING

4/1/23 to 6/30/23

(Please see CHILDREN'S REPORT for the
Educational and Informational needs of children)

CAPITOL UPDATE – Sundays at 10:30am

Capitol Update is a weekly half-hour program that explains the most significant developments in Florida's Legislative, Judicial, and Executive branches – in everyday terms. Through in-depth reporting, regularly occurring segments – such as “Budget Watch” and “Bill Track” – and live interviews, Capitol Update provides viewers across the state with a clear, concise and balanced view of state government in action. *Please note that the 2023 Legislative Session will begin on March 7 and runs through May 5.*

4/2 - #202320 Topics this week include: The Governor signed into law an affordable housing package and the bill making state-funded private school vouchers available to all students. The full Senate approved the bill allowing Floridians to carry concealed firearms without a permit, sending it to the House. House and Senate Appropriations Committees approved their respective budgets.

4/9 - #202325 Topics this week include: New bills on elections reform and insurance reform dropped this week. The full House and Senate approved their respective budgets. The Governor signed the bill allowing Floridians to carry a concealed weapon without a permit.

4/16 - #202330 Topics this week include: The Governor signed the bill banning abortion after 6 weeks, only a few hours after the House passed it. Bills opposed by the LGBTQ community advanced through House and Senate committees, despite marches and protests against them. Senate President Kathleen Passidomo celebrated the Governor's signature on one of her top priorities – the bill expanding Florida's Trail Network.

4/23 - #202335 Topics this week include: The Senate President and House Speaker said budget conference is about to get underway. Election reform bills are now ready to go before the full House and Senate. Governor Ron DeSantis signed the bill that does away with the requirement that juries must be unanimous on imposing the death penalty.

4/30 - #202340 Topics this week include: The Legislature passed a hate crimes bill that the Governor signed into law on a trip to Israel. An election reform bill was approved by the Legislature, amended to make it clear that the Governor can stay in office if and when he runs for President. Disney sued the Governor and other state officials, claiming they're waging a campaign of retaliation against the company for disagreeing on gender education policy.

CAPITOL UPDATE continued

5/7 - #202345 Topics this week include: The 2023 Legislative session adjourned “sine die” after passing a \$117 billion budget. The Governor joined the Senate President and House Speaker to celebrate achieving almost all of the Legislative agenda he asked for. On the day session ended, the Governor signed one of the bills aimed at Disney, designed to nullify contracts the Reedy Creek special district board signed before they were replaced.

5/14 - #2610 Topics this week include: The Governor signing five education bills including the use of cellphones in classrooms. The Nestle permit case involving environmentalists fighting the companies use of a north Florida spring. The Florida Wildlife Commission’s discussion over how to fight invasive species in Florida.

5/21 - #2611 Topics this week include: The Governor signing several bills aimed at human trafficking and human trafficking victims. A discussion from a panel on Florida’s healthcare workforce shortage. The Governor making national headlines after signing legislation the defunds diversity, equity and inclusion programs at the state colleges and universities.

5/28 - #2612 Topics this week include: The Governor signed a \$1.3 billion tax relief package. Several lawsuits were filed against the elections reform bill also signed this week. The Governor and Cabinet approved conservation easements for more than 39,000 acres in the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

6/4 - #2613 Topics this week include: The Governor signed new laws, including a bill that eliminates Enterprise Florida and bills aimed at catching drivers who speed in school zones and zip around school buses loading kids. The Florida Highway Patrol explained why the 100 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day are the most dangerous for teen drivers. Supporters of a constitutional amendment that would legalize recreational marijuana in Florida gathered enough signatures to make the 2024 ballot, if the Supreme Court approves.

6/11 - #2614 Topics this week include: Affordable housing funds started flowing from the 2023 “Live Local Act.” The Office of Insurance Regulation quizzed Citizens Property Insurance executives about a 13.3% average rate hike request. Visit Florida announced that tourism is now exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

6/18 - #2615 Topics this week include: The Governor signed the \$116.5 billion state budget, vetoing almost \$511 million in local projects and state programs. The Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission activated a response plan after Chronic Wasting Disease – lethal to deer -- was detected in Florida for the first time. The Historic Capitol Museum opened an exhibit featuring unique, rarely seen objects from state government history, including a tire tread dress and a samurai helmet.

CAPITOL UPDATE continued

6/25 - #2616 Topics this week include: The Governor signed more bills into law including one that creates a sickle cell disease registry and another that expands eligibility for KidCare. The University System Board of Governors named Florida International University #1 in the state, based on graduation rates, student retention, costs and more. Visitors are welcome once again to visit the House Chamber in person and get a tour of the murals representing Florida history and culture.

FLORIDA CROSSROADS – Thursdays at 8:30pm / Repeats Sundays at 11am

Florida Crossroads is a weekly program produced by the Florida Channel that highlights some of the unique stories of the lives of Floridians.

4/6 & 4/9 - #3540 Florida State Parks: Springs of the Panhandle

Produced by Shane Marshall

Florida is home to more than 700 springs, more than anywhere else on earth. On this ongoing Florida Crossroads series, we take a look at some of our springs located in Florida State Parks. This edition focuses on four springs around the Florida panhandle. How these springs function, what types of wildlife make these springs their home and how the springs can be protected are included in this northwest Florida edition.

4/13 & 4/16 - #3541 Preserving the Natural Florida

Produced by Rebecca Baer

Many people have heard of the state's current land conservation program, Florida Forever. While it was launched in 2001, efforts to preserve environmentally sensitive land go back much further. In this episode of *Florida Crossroads*, we'll review the history of land conservation in Florida, explore how these programs typically work and highlight some of the environmental reassures that have been saved from development.

4/20 & 4/23 - #3542 Surf's Up

Produced by Rebecca Baer

What state has the most world surfing championship titles? You might guess California or Hawaii, but you'd be wrong. With four champs, Florida leads the pack. "Surf's Up!" in this episode of *Florida Crossroads*, as we ride the East Coast waves and explore the history and culture of surfing in Florida, which is considered the "Small Wave Capital" of the world.

FLORIDA CROSSROADS continued

4/27 & 4/30 - #3543 Under the Sea

Produced by Krysta Brown

For hundreds of years, explorers have sailed Florida waters looking for treasure, staking their claim and encountering Native Americans who called Florida home first. Some of those ships never made it to shore. While their past may be mentioned in history books, their remains are still evident underwater. Krysta Brown takes us on a journey of some of those shipwrecks fortunate enough to have been chosen as a Florida underwater archaeological preserve.

5/4 & 5/7 - #3544 Take a Hike: Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail

Produced by Rebecca Baer

Florida is home to more than 500 species of birds and some of the best birdwatching sites in the country. Rebecca Baer travels the state to share some of the sights and sounds from several of those parks and preserves – all a part of the state’s renowned Great Florida Birding Trail.

5/11 & 5/14 - #3545 Off the Beaten Path: Veteran Art, Marshland, Outlaws, and Megabats

Produced by Shane Marshall and Josh Eaton

In our continuing series, we look at four unique places considered “Off the Beaten Path.” Ormond Memorial Art Museum & Gardens is a museum dedicated to veterans with a permanent collection from Malcolm Fraser, a veteran himself. Orlando Wetlands Park offers a plethora of hiking trails and an expansive boardwalk that gives you an up-close wildlife viewing experience. Bradford-Ma Barker House is a preserved home where notorious gangsters Ma and Fred Barker hid from the authorities. Lube Bat Conservancy, situated in North Gainesville, focuses on the research and conservation of bats, particularly Megabats.

5/18 & 5/21 - #3546 The Grove: Digging Up History

Produced by Shane Marshall

Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976, The Grove’s mission is to preserve the surrounding acreage and engage the public in a dialogue about civil rights and American history. People connected with this site have figured prominently in the moments that shaped Florida history. Senior archaeologist Brandon Ackermann takes an audience through the history of The Grove and discusses ground-penetrating radar testing on the site and findings from his research.

5/25 & 5/28 - #3547 Sunshine State Suds

Produced by Rebecca Baer

Fans of craft beer are willing to travel far and wide to try new brews. Increasingly, they’re coming to Florida, where the number of breweries has increased from less than ten a few years ago to a few hundred today. “Sunshine State Suds” provides a behind the scenes look inside breweries – both large and small – and explores how beer drinkers’ tastes evolved to make the craft brewing business a rising industry in Florida.

FLORIDA CROSSROADS continued

6/1 & 6/4 - #3548 Covering Your Bases: Tyndall Air Force Base

Produced by Destiney Burt

Florida has the third largest population of military veterans in the nation, with over 1.5 million veterans and thousands of active duty personnel. We explore the history of Tyndall Air Force Base, looking at their mission and how they used destruction from a category 5 hurricane to build the installation of the future.

6/8 & 6/11 - #3549 Florida State Parks: Springs Edition

Produced by Shane Marshall

Florida's springs attract locals and visitors with more than one million out-of-state visitors annually. On this Florida Crossroads, we explore Florida springs located in state parks and see how humans interact with different springs across the state.

6/15 & 6/18 - #3550 It's a Law 2023, Part I

Produced by the Florida Channel Team

Lawmakers filed 1,873 bills for the 2023 Legislative Session, passing 356 of them. In this first part of "It's a Law 2023", we explore some of the most significant changes in Florida law and examine key arguments for and against each bill.

6/22 & 6/25 - #3551 It's a Law 2023, Part II

Produced by the Florida Channel Team

Florida lawmakers passed 356 measures during the regular Legislative Session, many of which have been signed by the Governor into law. In this second part of "It's a Law 2023", we take a look at new laws passed involving higher education.

6/29 & 7/2 - #3552 It's a Law 2023, Part III

Produced by the Florida Channel Team

The House Speaker called the 2023 Legislative Session the most consequential in Florida history. Opponents called it the most divisive. In the third part of "It's a Law 2023", we explore some of the new laws that got impassioned debate on their path to the Governor's desk and delve into several bills affecting communities around Florida.

LOCAL ROUTES – A look at the people, places, things and events that make the Big Bend area unique. LOCAL ROUTES airs in limited runs throughout the year, Thursday nights at 8pm, repeating Sunday mornings at 10am. (*Local Routes is on hiatus during this reporting period.*)