

1st Quarter 2015

Issues and Programs for WJTC

Issues addressed:

Public Safety
Consumer Awareness
Public Health
Education
Crime

Regularly Scheduled Programs:

Facing Florida – Saturdays at 8am
Weekly issues program discussing the pressing
issues facing Northwest Florida's community.

Local 15 News on WJTC – Daily local news programs

WJTC's daily newscasts give considerable time to issues that concern the communities of the South Alabama and Western Florida areas.

6:30 –7pm	WJTC News at 6:30	M-F
9pm –9:30	WJTC News at 9:00	M-F

Facing Florida

Jan 3rd

Pete Dunbar, former Chief of Staff to Governor Bob Martinez and Screven Watson, former Executive Director for the Florida Democratic Party are here to discuss what they think will be the surprise issues of the coming years and why.

Jan 10th

Rick Scott took the oath of office on Tuesday. This Rick Scott was far different than the man who said "So help me God" four years ago. He was less strident, more conciliatory, had a more focused agenda, and seemed much more comfortable about the role he will play for the next four years. Judge for yourself on this weeks Facing Florida.

Jan 17th

Repeat of Jan 10th.

Jan 24th

Kids' Health Care, Smart Justice, and Medical Marijuana on the front burner: It took more than ten years, but Florida's kids won a victory in federal court when a judge ruled that kids were being shortchanged. Dr. Louis St Petery is interviewed to let us know what is next. Smart Justice held its fourth summit and has lots of ideas for lawmakers to save money on prisons. Organizer Barney Bishop will tell us what they are and how much they might save. Pot is on the front burner again: lawmakers are talking about it and so are the yes and no sides from this past fall's amendment battle. You'll hear from a former cop who says it should be legal.

Jan 31st

Bailey-Gate, Water, and Medical Marijuana: Pete Dunbar, Screven Watson – A spirited discussion of whether Cabinet aides talking with one another violates the spirit or letter of the Open Meetings Law. We'll also hit on Amendment One funding, which may spark some backlash from environmentalists now that Rick Scott has released his budget recommendations, and we'll hit on Medical Marijuana legislation which goes a lot further than Charlotte's Web.

Feb 7th

Rerun of episode from Jan 31st.

Feb 14th

One on One with Speaker Steve Cristifulli: This week we go one on one with House Speaker Steve Cristifulli. We know water is his top priority. Hear what he hopes to accomplish and what else is on his to do list, how he will govern, and what his ambitions are.

Feb 21st

Repeat from Feb 14th.

Feb 28th

Week one of the legislative session begins Tuesday, Visit Florida on Equestrian tourism, and the Florida House. Pete Dunbar, Screven Watson. What to expect in the first weeks of session. Visit Florida's Paul Phipps and Gail Loveless. Can horse enthusiasts be part of our tourism economy? Bart Hudson, President of Florida House in Washington DC.

March 7th

Testing, Testing and a new book. JoAnn McCall from the Florida Education Association urging the Florida Student Assessment test be delayed. Education Commissioner Pam Stewart defends the test. Also: Reggie Garcia on getting out of prison early.

March 14th

I've often said that a legislative session takes on the personalities of the two leaders. With that in mind, Facing Florida introduces you to the 2nd most powerful man in Florida: Senate President Andy Gardiner. *Mike Vasilinda*

March 21st

I first met Ken Plante on one of my first forays into the Capitol in the spring of 1974. He proved to be a go-to guy who could tell you what was going on with just about every issue and he never pulled any punches. Ken died March 1, 2015 at the age of 75. He's been a Tallahassee fixture since he quit the legislature in 1978 after refusing to disclose his person finances. I remember him once saying that it was nobodys business how much he spent on a couch. Ken lost the battle over financial disclosure and the battle for his life. But his legacy lives on. Join us for this retrospective even if you didn't know "Kenny".

Mardi Gras Coverage

Feb 5th Polka Dots

Feb 6th Incas

Feb 9th Order of Venus

Feb 10th LaShe's

Feb 12th Stripers

Feb 13th Crewe of Columbus

Feb 14th Mystics of Time

Feb 16th Infant Mystics

Feb 17th Mardi Gras Day coverage

WJTC aired coverage of Mobile's Mardi Gras through Feb 17th, enabling those without the ability to attend the parades to enjoy this yearly tradition. Airing the parades has also allowed family members who cannot travel to enjoy watching this Mobile tradition and to watch family members and loved ones in the parade.

Local 15 News on WJTC

Public Safety

2/2/2015 Local 15 News 9PM (WJTC) trt :51

Prichard residents are terrified to leave their homes after dark on Maudine Avenue because there are no street lights and vacant unkept properties. City leaders say they are working to clear blight in areas that affect the most people.

3/5/2015 Local 15 News 9PM (WJTC) trt 1:31

There is an increase in police and lifeguard presence on the beaches for Spring Break to keep everyone safe. Extra safety precautions are in place in response to the nearly half a dozen pedestrians killed on the Gulf Coast last year.

3/18/2015 Local 15 News 630PM (WJTC) trt1:33

School officials are working to make Phillips Prep safer after a student was hit and pinned under a car on campus. They've posted signs around the campus lawn stating cars are not allowed onto the grass.

Consumer Awareness

2/24/2015 Local 15 News 630PM (WJTC) trt 2:04

Employees are upset after Lap's Grill was sold to restaurant chain Ralph and Kacoos. Restaurateur Don Davis says employees will keep their jobs.

2/19/2015 Local 15 News 9PM (WJTC) trt :47

Fire officials want you to be careful when using space heaters. They caused two fires in our area.

Public Health

1/23/2015 Local 15 News 630PM (WJTC) trt :25

New Orleans has passed a ban to prevent smoking in bars in gambling halls. Officials say it's a move to protect the health of musicians and workers.

2/24/2015 Local 15 News 9PM (WJTC) trt 1:35

After reports of pets sold in unhealthy conditions, the city council voted to approve the sale of animals at the flea market only if vendors microchip their dogs. Pet stores and individuals selling more than 10 dogs a year must follow the same regulations.

3/2/2015 Local 15 News 9PM (WJTC) trt 1:40

Two Satsuma schools have shut down for two days for sanitation and public safety after a highly contagious virus got more than 100 students and staff sick. According to the Mobile County Health Department, the symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, headache, fever and lethargy.

Education

1/14/2015 Local 15 News 9PM (WJTC) trt :13

The graduation rate for Mobile County is 82 percent. The system's new goal is to meet 90 percent over the next two years.

2/19/2015 Local 15 News 630PM (WJTC) trt :20

The state is receiving national honors for its quality Pre-K program. Studies show those who attend Pre-K are more likely to excel as an adult.

2/23/2015 Local 15 News 9PM (WJTC) trt 1:27

First responders can better handle active shooter situations and ensure school safety with Virtual Alabama. Technology would put every emergency drill in an app where educators can access it easily.

Crime

3/3/2015 Local 15 News 630 (WJTC) trt 1:17

A Foley High School student is being charged as an adult for allegedly raping a fellow classmate. He will be monitored at all times and was ordered to have no contact with the victim or her family.