

WJCT News 89.9

Quarterly Issues Report

2023 Quarter 1

Jan. 1 - March 31, 2023

At least nine times each weekday, WJCT News 89.9 airs local newscasts with news affecting Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia, produced by the WJCT News team and radio partners across the state.

WJCT News 89.9 also produces and airs three hour-long talk shows: *First Coast Connect with Melissa Ross* (our live call-in show that airs weekdays at 9 a.m., 7 p.m. and 4 a.m.), *Florida Roundup* (a live call-in show on Fridays at noon), and *What's Health Got to Do With It?* (a pre-produced talk show that airs Saturdays at 4 p.m.)

***First Coast Connect with Melissa Ross* - First Coast Connect with Melissa Ross is an hour-long call-in program that features local newsmakers, civic and community leaders, artists and people planning a variety of events across Northeast Florida, along with a roundtable of local media personalities and civic leaders each Friday.**

Friday Media Roundtable; a flock of flamingos lands at the Cummer Museum
March 31, 2023

Locals are worried about another attempt to sell JEA; Jacksonville gives up on fighting new political maps; the USS Orleck is on the move again; and a flock of flamingos flaps its way into the Cummer Museum.

Locals sue state over transgender rules; new book about Ida B. Wells; Jaguars art; 'The Move'
March 30, 2023

Local families are suing the state over new rules that ban doctors from providing gender-affirming care to kids; a new book for middle schoolers about Ida B. Wells is getting rave reviews; six artists have been picked to create public art for a new Jacksonville Jaguars facility; and we take a look at what's happening in town this weekend.

Florida Legislature

Permitless carry; residents fight Pumpkin Hill Preserve development; 'ShakesBeer'; What's Good Wednesday

March 29, 2023

Gun reform advocates speak out against Florida's permitless carry bill; some residents are fighting a development near an environmental preserve in Northeast Jacksonville;

“ShakesBeer”: part Shakespeare, part interactive storytelling and part brewery tour; and What’s Good Wednesday.

Fears about JEA sale; help for troubled girls; Vincent Van Gogh's birthday

March 28, 2023

Concern about the potential sale of JEA has reemerged due to legislation in Tallahassee; the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center reaches 10 years; Van Gogh exhibit celebrates the artist's birthday.

Congress takes up Duval Schools’ book debate; transgender custody issues; death sentence for child rapists; local filmmakers head to Cannes

March 27, 2023

The Duval Schools’ book debate makes its way to the floor of Congress; how divorcing parents handle custody issues with a transgender child; state lawmakers debate whether child rapists should be sentenced to death; and a local filmmaking team is headed to the Cannes Film Festival.

Friday Media Roundtable; iconic music photographer Mark Weiss comes to Jax

March 24, 2023

A May runoff is set for several local elections including the Jacksonville’s mayor’s race; a local lawmaker pushes a bill to crack down on drag shows; bills that would significantly expand school vouchers and help protect businesses and insurance companies from lawsuits are awaiting the governor’s signature; and iconic music photographer Mark Weiss comes to Jacksonville.

Global warming; ‘Nurse Unseen’; National Agriculture Week; flower show; San Marco Beer Fest
March 23, 2023

Governments haven’t done nearly enough to deal with climate change, according to a major new report; the new documentary “Nurse Unseen” explores how Filipino nurses are the backbone of the health care system; it’s National Agriculture Week; the Late Bloomers Garden Club is putting on a free public flower show; and the second annual San Marco Beer Fest is coming up.

A recap of election night; Hug-a-Farmer Spring Market; What’s Good Wednesday

March 22, 2023

The mayoral race and several City Council races will be decided in May runoffs; Hug-a-Farmer Spring Market ; and What’s Good Wednesday.

Extremism at home; women in the FBI; Great St. Johns River Cleanup; Jumbo Shrimp

March 21, 2023

Journalist Graeme Wood discusses extremism; women rising at the FBI; the Great St. Johns River Cleanup runs through April 22; the Jumbo Shrimp prepare for a new season.

DEI at UNF; student loans; City Council races; Vegan Chef Challenge

March 20, 2023

UNF students talk about the elimination of diversity, equity and inclusion programs; the Supreme Court considers student loan forgiveness; Election Day is Tuesday; the inaugural Jacksonville Vegan Chef Challenge is April 1.

Friday media roundtable; City Council candidate Rahman Johnson; 'JME DJ Session'

March 17, 2023

Early voting ends Sunday, and Election Day is Tuesday; Duval County Public Schools pushes back against the governor over book bans; a bill that would ban gender-affirming care for minors is making its way through the Florida Legislature; the city approves \$50 million in taxpayer funds for a new UF campus; City Council candidate Rahman Johnson; and a "JME DJ Session."

UF campus funds approved; Jacksonville's unsung history; Lenny's Lawn; 'The Move'

March 16, 2023

Jacksonville moves ahead with \$20 million in taxpayer money on a new UF campus downtown; Jacksonville's unsung history explored in new podcast; a look at the past and future of the site where the Jacksonville Landing once stood; and what's going on around town this month.

Banning gender-affirming care; catching up with Ulysses Owens Jr.; Generation W; Seeding Jacksonville; What's Good Wednesday

March 15, 2023

Legislative proposals target transgender people; Ulysses Owens Jr. and his third grammy; the Generation W women's leadership conference; the future of Jacksonville's Arboretum & Botanical Gardens; What's Good Wednesday.

Bank bailout; rebranding Florida's Democratic Party; Equal Pay Day; ThinkBold Festival

March 14, 2023

Analysts follow the collapses of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank; Florida's Democratic Party rebrands; it's Equal Pay Day; the ThinkBold Festival is coming.

New UNF poll; City Council candidate Joshua Hicks; Celebrity Chefs; The Players

March 13, 2023

Florida Republicans prefer Ron DeSantis over Donald Trump, according to a new University of North Florida poll; a conversation with City Council candidate Joshua Hicks; the 37th annual Celebrity Chefs Tasting and Silent Auction; and a recap of The Players Championship.

Mayoral debate; City Council drama; book bans; DeSantis over Trump in new poll; New 5 & Dime show

March 10, 2023

A look back at the mayoral debate; more drama in the City Council races; Gov. Ron DeSantis says book bans are a "hoax"; and Florida Republicans favor DeSantis over Donald Trump, according to a new poll.

Jacksonville mayor debate; OneJax parts ways with UNF; Surrogacy; Players Championship

March 9, 2023

Preachers on the Green; 'Our Planet'; planting trees on the Westside; What's Good Wednesday
March 8, 2023

A religious group known as "Preachers on the Green" is raising concerns at the University of North Florida. Also, The Florida Theatre will present "Our Planet Live in Concert," and Greenscape Jacksonville plans to plant more trees on the Westside.

2023 legislative preview; autism symposium; March Madness for music lovers
March 7, 2023

First Coast Connect looks at some of the high-profile measures that will be considered during this year's legislative session. Also: The University of North Florida hosts the 13th Annual Autism Symposium, and the Florida Times-Union presents a March Madness-type bracket for local musical acts.

Early Voting; tracking COVID-19 trends; City Council candidate; sports update
March 6, 2023

The campaign for Jacksonville mayor has been ugly and expensive. Also; COVID-19 risks continue; we interview a District 11 City Council candidate; and the Players Championship is about to begin.

Deegan leads in recent poll; Jax a major 'boomtown'; the battle over books; JEA approves rate changes; The Amelia
March 3, 2023

Election day is fast approaching and a new poll has Democrat Donna Deegan ahead of her competitors in the mayoral race, Jacksonville is one of the biggest "boomtowns" in the country, the latest in the battle over books in Florida, JEA has approved new rate changes and The Amelia comes to the Ritz-Carlton.

The Moving Florida Forward Plan; help for Turkey; 'Untold Stories'; best Jax events
March 2, 2023

A bill in the Florida Legislature would allocate millions to Florida's State Transportation Work Program. Also, a food festival this weekend will help earthquake victims in Turkey; WJCT broadcasts "Untold Stories"; and THE MOVE lists the best events in town.

New poll ahead of election; voting challenges in Georgia; 'The Eyes of Cosa'; What's Good Wednesday
March 1, 2023

Democrat Donna Deegan leads in another poll of likely voters ahead of the Jacksonville mayoral election; a look at voting challenges in Georgia; a Jacksonville marketing executive has written a science fiction novel; the Jacksonville Science Festival; and What's Good Wednesday.

Nat Glover; Tiny Desk Contest; booming logistics; new Italian hot spot
February 28, 2023

Community leader Nat Glover talks about his memoir, "Striving for Justice: A Black Sheriff in the Deep South"; NPR's Tiny Desk Contest is back; logistics expert Herbert Kotzab outlines new courses at UNF; and the hot new Italian restaurant in Atlantic Beach: Salumeria 104.

Far-right extremism on the rise; funding future female leaders; new Cummer exhibit; sports
February 27, 2023

A closer look at the tactics of young far-right activists in Florida and why extremist experts are sounding the alarm; the Female Founders Forum Shark Tank; a new immersive exhibit at the Cummer Museum of Arts & Gardens; and a sports update.

Drama in mayoral and City Council races; millions being spent to bring UF to Jax; Monster Jam
February 24, 2023

More drama in the Jacksonville mayor's race, and City Council races are heating up as well; millions of dollars are being spent to bring a UF campus to Jacksonville; and a preview of Monster Jam.

Another delay at plant Vogtle; New Jacksonville history podcast; Jax PBS Kids Writers Contest
February 23, 2023

A nuclear power plant in Georgia delays expansion; "Bygone Jax: Our Unsung History," a new podcast from WJCT Public Media; and the Jax PBS Kids Writers Contest.

The Riverfront Parks Conservancy; Babes Who Hustle rebranding; THE PLAYERS; 'What's Good Wednesday'

February 22, 2023

A new nonprofit has been formed to help shape the future of Jacksonville's downtown riverfront; a popular local company rebrands for a new era; a preview of THE PLAYERS Championship; and "What's Good Wednesday."

Fiona Hill at World Affairs Council; fired substitute teacher; City Council candidate Jennifer Casey

February 21, 2023

Fiona Hill speaks at the World Affairs Council of Jacksonville; substitute teacher Brian Covey discusses his firing; Jennifer Casey campaigns for City Council.

Environmentalists concerned about Northwest Jax development; Jax Area Legal Aid; Explore Jax Core; Daytona 500

February 20, 2023

Environmentalists are worried about the effect a new development could have on wetlands; threats to your home you may not know about and how Jax Area Legal Aid is there to help; learn more about Jacksonville's Black heritage with Explore Jax Core; and a recap of the Daytona 500.

Mayor's race poll; reviewing school books; panhandling ban; Pumpkin Hill Preserve; Winterland
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February 17, 2023

Democrat Donna Deegan leads in a new Jacksonville mayor's race poll; Duval schools looks for help as it reviews books; and the city bans panhandling. We talk about these stories and more in this week's Friday media roundtable.

A rally in Tally; Jax's murder trial of the century; reducing barriers to health care; TEACH Conference; what's happening in Jax

February 16, 2023

Local activists join a rally in Tallahassee over the state's education policies; the murder trial that rocked Jacksonville a century ago; increasing health equity; why some Florida kids could lose Medicaid coverage; the TEACH Conference; and what's happening around town.

War in Ukraine; fighting Christian nationalism; High School Heritage Classic; 'What's Good Wednesday'

February 15, 2023

A live report from Kyiv on the Russian invasion of Ukraine; local faith leaders are pushing back against Christian nationalism; a preview of the big showdown between Raines and Ribault at the High School Heritage Classic; and "What's Good Wednesday."

Unaffordable Florida; JAXPORT's net-zero goal; City Council candidate Alberta Hipps; artists in residence program

February 14, 2023

A report says Florida has become one of America's most expensive states; City Council candidate Alberta Hipps; getting JAXPORT to net-zero emissions; and new artists in residence programs.

Youth Risk Behavioral Study; Bravo star to demolish building Downtown; Florida Theatre member lounge; Super Bowl LVII

February 13, 2023

A survey asking local students about everything from sex to suicide is being shut down; why Bravo star Capt. Sandy Yawn of "Below Deck" is demolishing a Downtown building; a preview of the new member lounge opening tonight at the Florida Theatre; and Super Bowl LVII.

Drama in the mayor's race; panhandling; youth depression; fee-free pet adoptions

February 10, 2023

More drama in the Jacksonville mayor's race; a new plan to crack down on panhandling in the city; too many children in Duval County are depressed and thinking about suicide; and a special pet adoption event taking place this weekend.

Jax poised to crack down on panhandling; green amendments; mental health; 'little free diverse libraries'

February 9, 2023

Panhandling in the public right of way could soon be illegal in Jacksonville; the effort to get states to pass green amendments; the push to reform Florida's mental health care system; and "little free diverse libraries."

Hiding classroom libraries; civil rights icon uninvited from local school; drive electric; "What's Good Wednesday"

February 8, 2023

Sweeping new rules have left many Florida classroom libraries with few books; a Jacksonville civil rights icon says he was uninvited from speaking at a local school during Black History Month; Drive Electric North Florida will host its inaugural event; and "What's Good Wednesday."

Jacksonville mayoral race; 'Good Day Sunshine State'; Ready4Work; book club

February 7, 2023

New ads and accusations in Jacksonville's mayoral race; a flashback to 1964 when the Beatles integrated the Gator Bowl; new resources for people leaving incarceration on the First Coast; and the First Coast Connect book club.

Downtown development; food insecurity; WJCT's TEACH Conference; sports update

February 6, 2023

Jacksonville's riverfront could be on the verge of a major transformation; many Floridians are experiencing symptoms of food insecurity; WJCT's annual TEACH Conference is coming up; and a sports update.

Media roundtable; JME DJ Sessions

February 3, 2023

A WJCT media panel looks at the week's top stories.

Concealed carry; Talkable Communities; mayoral town hall; Lucero

February 2, 2023

Florida could become the 26th state to allow people to carry concealed, loaded guns without permits. And the first week of February is National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

Black firefighter lawsuit; Jax Film Festival; surviving on another planet; 'What's Good Wednesday'

February 1, 2023

Jacksonville firefighters lose a lawsuit over how they groom themselves on the job; the 2023 Jacksonville Film Festival; a new MOSH exhibit; and "What's Good Wednesday."

Rental housing crisis; World Economic Forum; poet Francis Poole; L.O.V.E. Culture

January 31, 2023

A new report out this week finds that nearly half of Jacksonville's renters are cost-burdened.

Local reaction to killing of Tyre Nichols; Jax mayoral race; psychedelic drugs; Cathedral Arts Project; sports

January 30, 2023

The local reaction to the killing of Tyre Nichols; two of the top candidates for Jacksonville mayor accuse each other of being untrustworthy when it comes to JEA; the growth of psychedelic drugs to treat a range of ailments; the Cathedral Arts Project celebrates 30 years; and a sports update.

Media roundtable; PBS' Samantha Brown visits St. Augustine

January 27, 2023

A local church faces public backlash after making a controversial move; the City Council targets hate speech; and it's back to the drawing board for a proposed development on the Southbank.

AP African-American History banned; photographer Doug Eng; City Council candidate Kim Stephens Perry; DONNA Marathon

January 26, 2023

Outrage is growing over the governor's move to ban an AP class in African-American studies; local photographer Doug Eng's upcoming exhibit at the Jessie; a chat with City Council candidate Kim Stephens Perry; and the DONNA Marathon returns.

Classroom libraries targeted; real estate trends; City Council candidate Jimmy Peluso; 'What's Good Wednesday'

January 25, 2023

Florida teachers are being told to get rid of their classroom libraries or face felony prosecution; a new report highlights the trends shaping the state's real estate industry; a conversation with City Council candidate Jimmy Peluso; and "What's Good Wednesday."

Climate change; Florida's natural resources; International Holocaust Remembrance Day; eating in Jax

January 24, 2023

Jacksonville's chief resilience officer, Anne Coglianese, discusses the threat of climate change on the community and what the city is doing about it.

Mudslinging mayoral candidates; Jacobs Jewelers closes; measuring the region's unhoused; the Jags' run ends

January 23, 2023

The mudslinging and attack ads are already underway as the city's candidates for mayor take to the airwaves. Also, a Downtown business that's been around for more than a century is closing at the end of the month.

City Council takes on hate speech; mayor's race heats up; investigating the 'sheriff's circle'; JME DJ session

January 20, 2023

The Jacksonville City Council addresses antisemitism and hate speech; the March mayor's race heats up; a look at the 'sheriff's circle'; excitement builds for the Jaguars' playoff game on Saturday; and a look at new local music.

Driven out of business; the changing workplace; redistricting; best Jax events

January 19, 2023

Skyrocketing rent increases are killing businesses like Southern Roots Filling Station.

Fighting hate speech; 'Traces, Voices of the Second Generation'; childhood obesity; What's Good Wednesday

January 18, 2023

Preventing hate speech in Jacksonville; a new film gives voice to the children of Holocaust survivors; new guidance issued for treating children with obesity; and some good news from around town to start out your Wednesday.

Father Erik Pohlmeier; end-of-life doulas; "The Book of Lost Magic"; those amazing Jags

January 17, 2023

The Most Rev. Bishop Erik Pohlmeier leads the Diocese of St. Augustine; end-of-life doulas growing popular.

Media roundtable; record heat

January 13, 2023

The media roundtable discusses Jacksonville redistricting, the controversy over "Indecent" and the Jaguars playoff hopes.

Four Seasons; struggling veterans; Jax culinary scene; National Anthem sensation

January 12, 2023

The ins and outs of the Four Seasons deal; guitar sensation Paul Wane performs in studio.

Human trafficking; candidate John Phillips; 'The Diary of Anne Frank'; What's Good Wednesday

January 11, 2023

Florida is a hotbed of human trafficking. What's being done locally? Plus: Attorney John Phillips is running for City Council.

Confederate monuments; distressed bees; book club

January 10, 2023

Community activist Ben Frazier says he'll press City Council again to remove Confederate monuments from public property.

Always the Jags; diversity efforts; human trafficking; 'An American Story'

January 9, 2023

The Jacksonville Jaguars head to the playoffs; Gov. Ron DeSantis scrutinizes universities.

Friday Media Roundtable; JME DJ Session

January 6, 2023

The battle over redistricting continues, with another ruling imminent; more details about the books "banned" by Duval schools have come to light and the Jacksonville Jaguars aim for a playoff spot in a primetime game.

China and the US; Dry January; ChatGPT; best Jax events

January 5, 2023

The World Affairs Council of Jax is sponsoring a talk about Chinese issues and the implications for Americans.

Medical marijuana; St. Johns County transgender ruling; Rick Steves; 'What's Good

Wednesday'

January 4, 2023

Florida's booming medical cannabis business is about to get even bigger; a federal appeals court rules against a transgender student from St. Johns County; Rick Steves on what's hot in travel; and "What's Good Wednesday."

Fallen NFL player; redistricting; right whales; sports; author Michael Wiley

January 3, 2023

Florida Roundup - Each week, hosts Melissa Ross of WJCT and Danny Rivero of WLRN in Miami, along with a panel of journalists from around the state, discuss the week in Florida news

Florida lawmakers look to ease gun regulations while restricting abortion rights

March 31, 2023

A bill to allow gun owners to carry without permits heads to Gov. Ron DeSantis. Meanwhile, Florida's six-week abortion ban nears a final vote.

Restricting 'period talk' in schools; new trend in foreclosures; what to know about Candida auris

March 24, 2023

Florida lawmakers consider a bill to restrict "period talk" in schools; foreclosures as code enforcement; Candida auris, a drug-resistant fungus spreading in Florida.

Free speech in Florida

March 17, 2023

A new rule clamps down on who can demonstrate at the Florida Capitol — and what they can say. Plus: The "Live Local Act" is getting bipartisan support in Tallahassee, and spring breakers are smiling despite red tide.

Legislators consider 6-week abortion ban; both parties have new leaders

March 10, 2023

Florida's 2023 legislative session kicked off this week, and the first measures include bills to further restrict the state's abortion ban from 15 weeks after pregnancy to 6. We also talked with the new Democratic and Republican party chairs.

Can the Democratic Party regain strength in Florida?

March 3, 2023

This is the first time in over a century there's not a single Democrat in statewide elected office. Also: the 2023 legislative session is coming, and the state may preempt local control over water quality, pollution and wetlands.

Students walk out over diversity and inclusion; also, Florida executes a killer

February 24, 2023

Students protested the loss of diversity, equity and inclusion programs until the policies of Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Black leaders rally in Tallahassee; remaking New College; what is ESG and why does the governor want to ban it?

February 17, 2023

Hundreds of Black leaders rallied in the state capital this week to denounce Gov. Ron DeSantis. New College's interim President Richard Corcoran gets a pay bump of nearly \$400,000 over his predecessor. What is ESG investing and why does the governor want to ban it?

FHSAA drops menstrual question; Legislature returns to Tallahassee

February 10, 2023

After outrage from angry parents, the Florida High School Athletic Association this week voted to remove some controversial questions from a physical evaluation form for student athletes. Also, the Florida Legislature returned to special session.

Concealed carry; diversity, equity and inclusion

February 3, 2023

Florida could soon allow people to carry concealed guns without permits or training. Also, Gov. Ron DeSantis has proposed changes to Florida's university system that could shake up diversity, equity and inclusion programs.

DeSantis' 'war on woke' faces pushback; teachers cover classroom libraries fearing felony charges

January 27, 2023

High school students threaten to sue the governor after the state rejected an African American studies course as teachers cover up their classroom libraries, fearing they'll run afoul of new state standards on what books students have access to.

Gov. DeSantis looks to ban COVID-19 mandates; What's Florida doing to protect natural resources?

January 20, 2023

Gov. Ron DeSantis pushes to solidify Florida's bans on COVID-19 mandates and a look at what the state's doing to protect its natural resources.

Jair Bolsonaro; New College of Florida; Democratic strategy

January 13, 2023

The former president of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, is hanging out in Orlando these days. And some — including members of Congress — say he shouldn't be allowed to. Meanwhile, Gov. Ron DeSantis says he'll take the traditionally progressive New College of Florida in a more conservative direction.

Florida: 'Where woke goes to die'; transgender bathroom ruling; remembering Rosewood

January 6, 2023

Gov. Ron DeSantis says Florida is "where woke goes to die," but what does that mean for professors — and students — on the receiving end of the governor's policies?

***What's Health Got to Do with It?* - a weekly talk program that examines the intersection of healthcare and daily life. It helps guide listeners through an increasingly convoluted medical bureaucracy.**

Our favorite medical books for spring 2023

March 25, 2023

The "What's Health Got to Do With It" team shares their favorite medical books for spring 2023.

Hair and health: How they're related

March 18, 2023

Dr. Rohina Gandhi-Hoffman and Dr. Shilpi Khetarpal discuss hair, health and where they intersect.

The medical argument against daylight saving time

March 11, 2023

Also, "What's Health Got to Do with It" discusses a rare connective tissue genetic condition known as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.

How health care providers help victims of human trafficking

March 4, 2023

"What's Health Got to Do with It" talks with experts from Arizona State University and Rethreaded, a Jacksonville nonprofit that helps trafficking victims.

Health care headlines; new pediatric obesity guidelines

February 25, 2023

The month's top health care headlines and a look at new pediatric obesity guidelines.

Microbiomes and cancer; helping people who don't have medical insurance

February 18, 2023

Microbiomes and how they affect cancer risk. Plus a look at an agency helping people without health insurance.

Cardiovascular health; safer sex after 60

February 11, 2023

Heart health and safe sex practices for people 60 and older.

Using brain waves to manage conditions

February 4, 2023

On this week's program, we discussed how brain waves can be used to help manage two common conditions: tremors and depression.

The week's health care headlines; plus, Dr. Michael Rucker

January 28, 2023

Our Medical Roundtable discusses the biggest news in the world of health care.

Getting the most out of an ER visit; 'Taking Care of You: The Empowered Woman's Guide to Better Health'

January 21, 2023

A closer look at emergency rooms and how to get the most out of them.

How to keep your brain healthy

January 14, 2023

Our medical roundtable takes a closer look at how to keep your brain healthy — and your memory sharp

Pandemic emergency laws; defeating a deadly virus

January 7, 2023

When will pandemic emergency laws come to an end — and what might that mean for both patients and health care providers?