

WJCT News 89.9

Quarterly Issues Report

2023 Quarter 2

April 1 - June 30, 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* - 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.**

“Live Local Act; over-the-counter hearing aids; extreme heat bill; sports update” April 3, 2023  
A bill recently signed into law will pump \$711 million into affordable housing, but critics say it won't do enough to help Floridians struggling to pay rent; what you need to know about over-the-counter hearing aids; the Florida Legislature is ignoring a bill that would help protect outdoor workers from extreme heat; and a sports update with analyst Josh Torres.

“Plant Vogtle on verge of providing power; local doctors in Ukraine; Trump arraignment; Book Club” April 4, 2023

A nuclear plant in Georgia is on deck to add power to our local grid; local doctors are on the front lines in Ukraine giving life-saving medical training; former President Donald Trump is expected to be arraigned today; and our First Coast Connect Book Club pick for April.

“6-week abortion ban; renewable natural gas; Jax River Jams; What's Good Wednesday” April 5, 2023

A bill limiting abortion to six weeks of pregnancy is on its way to becoming law in Florida; state legislators want to expand the use of renewable natural gas; Jax River Jams; and What's Good Wednesday.

“Mother's Day 5K 'Permitgate'; 'Buffalo Girl'; supporting local journalism; Sleeping Giant festival” April 6, 2023

The city of Jacksonville is asking the Donna Foundation to postpone its annual Mother's Day 5K until after the election to avoid the "appearance of improper election influence"; a look at the new poetry book "Buffalo Girl"; Florida Times-Union NewsGuild members continue their fight for local journalism; and the Sleeping Giant festival returns to Sun-Ray Cinema.

"Friday Media Roundtable; Jacksonville Music Experience Showcase Series" April 7, 2023

The city asks the Donna Foundation to postpone its annual Mother's Day 5K; Plant Vogtle is on the verge of providing nuclear power to Jacksonville; Jaguars owner Shad Khan becomes one of the richest owners in the NFL; the Jacksonville Music Experience brings four local artists to the Blue Jay Listening Room.

"Protecting beach life; Medicaid losses; Interfaith observance; health topics" April 10, 2023

New political action movement forms at the Beaches; post-pandemic cuts come to Medicaid; Interfaith Center and Jacksonville Jewish Center host program; health care discussion set at WJCT Studios.

"IamJax; summer camp; Rebel Readers; scooter tours" April 11, 2023

A new community campaign targets hate speech; it's time to set up summer camp; two teachers share banned books; scooter tours spotlight Downtown development.

"ICARE; Black blood donors; 'Frozen' in Jax; What's Good Wednesday" April 12, 2023

The ICARE interfaith coalition plans its annual Nehemiah Assembly; blood donations are needed for patients with sickle cell disease; the FSCJ Artist Series includes "Frozen"; What's Good Wednesday.

"Voter turnout; Indigo Girls; Author Jon Heymann; Cre8Jax" April 13, 2023

Elections Supervisor Mike Hogan talks about increasing voter turnout; the Indigo Girls will perform with the Jacksonville Symphony; author Jon Heymann discusses his new book; Cre8Jax reveals its entertainment picks.

"Friday Media Roundtable; Woofstock" April 14, 2023

Our media panel discusses the Jacksonville mayor's race, drag shows, pride parades and Downtown living. Plus a live performance in our studios from Future Joy.

"Mayor's race poll; ChatGPT; child abuse prevention; Tour with a Twist" April 17, 2023

UNF has a new poll on the Jacksonville mayor's race; ChatGPT is upending most professions; April is Child Abuse Prevention Month; Tour with a Twist celebrates Earth Day.

"Champions of Higher Education; men's summit; The Players; Root Ball" April 18, 2023

Pen America has started an initiative to fight for free expression on college campuses; Operation Fix Florida sponsors a men's summit this weekend; Lee Smith is named executive director of The Players Championship; Root Ball combines links the Kentucky Derby with going green.

“Duval Schools restroom policy; Holocaust Remembrance Day; Drug Take Back Day; What's Good Wednesday” April 19, 2023

Duval Schools has reversed its trans restroom policy; April 17-18 is Holocaust Remembrance Day; dispose of unwanted prescription drugs on Drug Take Back Day; What's Good Wednesday lists the week's good news.

“Gun laws; JME Music Discovery Series; public notices; Historic Springfield” April 20, 2023

The Giffords group is ramping up its work in Florida; Tuareg musician Mdou Moctar will visit Intuition Ale Works; Jacksonville City Council may stop printing public notices; the annual tour of Historic Springfield is approaching.

“Friday Media Roundtable; Farmery in Springfield” April 21, 2023

Our panel discusses the mayoral debate and Duval Schools. Plus: A bakery and bodega opens in Springfield.

“Abortion pill; First Coast Success; mayoral election; NFL draft” April 24, 2023

The U.S. Supreme Court maintained access to the abortion pill; Michael Balanky discusses his company Chase Properties; we preview non-mayoral races on the May ballot; the NFL draft is Thursday.

“Duval Schools turmoil; infertility; the quiet epidemic; North Florida TPO” April 25, 2023

Duval Schools wrestles with controversy at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts; this is National Infertility Awareness Week; a new documentary looks at the toll of Lyme disease; the North Florida TPO completes a bike and pedestrian master plan.

“Immigration; National Library Week; TEDx Jacksonville; What's Good Wednesday” April 26, 2023

A backlash is growing against an immigration bill in the Florida Legislature; National Library Week is more important than ever; a TEDx event is planned Downtown; we look at the good news on the First Coast.

“Clean energy; Chinese American concerns; Jacksonville Symphony; best Jax events” April 27, 2023

JEA wants 35% of its electricity to come from clean energy; Chinese Americans are protesting legislation they consider discriminatory; opera returns to the Jacksonville Symphony; Cre8Jax lists the hottest events in town.

“Friday Media Roundtable; 'Beyond King Tut' April 28, 2023

Our panel discussed Douglas Anderson, the mayoral election, Shipyards West Park and the NFL Draft. We also spoke with the producer of "Beyond King Tut: The Immersive Experience."

“Voting; Phoenix Arts District; Public Media Day; NFL draft” May 1, 2023

The Florida Legislature makes it harder for some people to vote; changes are coming to Historic Springfield; public media takes the spotlight; the Jags add to their roster.

"Blue Zones Project; Asian hate; book club; Taverna Oceana" May 2, 2023

The Blue Zones Projects helps Jax get healthy; Asian hate is rising; we pick a new book for book club; Taverna Oceana opens in San Marco Square.

"Diana Greene's resignation; risk to historic buildings; STEM; What's Good Wednesday" May 3, 2023

Duval Schools Superintendent Diana Greene has decided to retire; legislation could put more historic buildings at risk; careers in STEM are expanding; plus a roundup of good news this week on the First Coast.

"Medicaid cancellations; election worker abuse; solar tax credits; music history" May 4, 2023

Floridians face the loss of Medicaid; election workers seek support; how to use solar tax credits; our new show, "This Week in Music History."

"Friday media roundtable; Sing Out Loud Festival" May 5, 2023

Our media panel discusses the biggest stories of the week, including the retirement of Duval School Superintendent Diana Greene and the Jacksonville mayoral race.

"Confederate monuments; environmental justice; mental health awareness; the Flip Side of Florida" May 8, 2023

The Legislature fails to act on Confederate monuments; President Biden signs an order on environmental justice; it's Mental Health Awareness Month; Jax tourism is rising.

"Mayoral election; Sisisky-Kleppinger lecture; Groundwork Jax; Mixed Fillings" May 9, 2023

Mayoral candidate Donna Deegan explains her platform; Sisisky-Kleppinger lecture for women's health is May 10; Groundwork Jacksonville wins grants for Hogans and McCoys creeks; Mixed Fillings Pie Shop is back.

"Pink Salt's move; Maternal Mental Health Month; new MOSH exhibit; What's Good Wednesday" May 10, 2023

Pink Salt restaurant is fleeing the flooding in San Marco; Maternal Mental Health Month puts the focus on moms; MOSH has a new dinosaur exhibit; and all the good news on the First Coast.

"Struggling households; DeSantis campaign; Community Foundation; Best Jax events" May 11, 2023

Nearly 40% of households in North Florida are struggling to make ends meet; Ron DeSantis pushes culture wars; the Community Foundation has a new president; Cre8Jax wraps up weekend events.

"Friday media roundtable; Be My Neighbor Day; Psychedelic Furs" May 12, 2023

Our media panel discusses the Jacksonville mayor's race, immigration reform, the Jaguars playing in a different stadium and more.

"Artificial intelligence; Flamingo Magazine; Norman Studios; Jacksonville Jaguars" May 15, 2023

AI poses risks for voters; Flamingo Magazine is a must-read; Norman Studios plans a special screening; the Jags' schedule is out.

"Climate solutions; Operation New Hope; Election Day; Cummer topiaries" May 16, 2023  
Jacksonville University is sponsoring Shark Tank-type competition for climate solutions; the Hope Starts Here 5K is set for Saturday; Jacksonville voters will pick a new mayor today; the Cummer Museum is demonstrating topiary sculpting.

"Donna Deegan's victory; United Soccer League" May 17, 2023  
Donna Deegan talks about her election victory and her vision for Jacksonville; JAXUSL is bringing women's professional soccer to the First Coast.

"Joyce Morgan; veterans benefits; Jacksonville Emancipation Celebration; Mental Health Awareness Month" May 18, 2023  
Joyce Morgan is Duval's next property appraiser; PACT Act expands veterans' health care; The Emancipation Celebration is this weekend; Mental Health Awareness Week brings a concert and conversation.

"Friday media roundtable; JME DJ Sessions" May 19, 2023  
Our media panel discusses the election, including the choice of Donna Deegan as mayor, as well as the JEA case and the search for a new Duval Schools superintendent.

"Banned books; proposed liquor store; Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month" May 22, 2023  
A lawsuit challenges books removed from school shelves; Brentwood residents fight a proposed liquor store; this is a good time to try Filipino cuisine.

"DeSantis candidacy; ADAPT and JEA; 'Seen'; Jazz Festival 2023" May 23, 2023  
Gov. Ron DeSantis is expected to announce his presidential campaign; hear JEA's plans for the energy mix for Northeast Florida; Julie Delegal discusses her book "Seen"; The Jacksonville Jazz Festival is next weekend.

"Transgender health care; Florida's Hispanic vote; 'Pioneers in Brain Therapy'; What's Good Wednesday; Dave Eggar" May 24, 2023  
Florida restricts care for transgender adults; Hispanics will be a force in election; filmmaker explores dementia; Jazz Fest and more this weekend.

"DeSantis campaign glitches; K9s for Warriors; Memorial Day weekend" May 25, 2023  
Gov. Ron DeSantis had technical issues while announcing his presidential campaign on Twitter; a news story raises questions about K9s for Warriors; Cre8Jax scopes out Memorial Day weekend.

"Friday media roundtable; new exhibition at MOCA" May 26, 2023

Our media panel discussed Donna Deegan's transition team, Ron DeSantis' presidential campaign, the Duval Schools temporary superintendent and more.

“Saving historic buildings; woman in business; author showcase; sports updates” May 30, 2023  
City Councilman Matt Carlucci has a new proposal to save historic buildings; Karen Brune Mathis shares her secrets to success; the Author Showcase and Book Festival is next weekend; the Jags have finished their first offseason workouts.

“Inmate death; Chick-fil-A DEI program; hurricane season; What's Good Wednesday” May 31, 2023

A Duval jail inmate dies after failing to get medication; Chick Fil A is criticized for its diversity, equity and inclusion program; hurricane season starts Thursday; we wrap up good news from the First Coast.

“Gun violence; Mark Garwood Foundation; Feed the Future; Women's Wednesday” June 1, 2023

Nine are wounded in another mass shooting in Florida; a foundation for opioid addiction comes to Jax; Lutheran Social Services has a summer food drive; the Women's Wednesday networking event is scheduled next week.

“Friday media roundtable; author Susan Orlean” June 2, 2023

Our media panel discusses a Times-Union strike, an immigration protest, Pride Month and more. TRT: 56:04

“TIAA Bank Field; Supreme Court ethics; recreational marijuana; Duval Comic and Zine Fest” June 5, 2023

There are no easy fixes for renovating Jaguars stadium; Supreme Court approval is at historic low; recreational marijuana moves toward ballot; Duval Comic and Zine Fest is next weekend. TRT: 53:04

“Discarded schoolbooks; solar power; Black Founders Forum; Untold Stories” June 6, 2023

Duval Schools doesn't know what to do with discarded books; solar power could help during a hurricane; Black Founders Forum will bring together entrepreneurs and investors; a new round of Untold Stories is set for this week. TRT: 53:04

“Stadium of the Future; PGA Tour merger; PACT Act; gender-affirming care; What's Good Wednesday” June 7, 2023

The Jacksonville Jaguars unveil designs for a stadium renovation; the PGA Tour signs an agreement with LIV Golf; the PACT Act brings new benefits for veterans; a judge assails Florida over gender-affirming care; the Art Center of Jacksonville has a new show. TRT: 53:04

“Jail death; LGBTQ+ alert; Kenny Gilbert; best Jax events” June 8, 2023

WJCT speaks with the attorney for the family of Dexter Barry; the Human Rights Campaign declares a national state of emergency for the LGBTQ+ community; Chef Kenny Gilbert releases a cookbook; Cre8Jax lists weekend events. TRT: 53:04

“Friday Media Roundtable; PlacemakingJax” June 9, 2023

Our media panel discusses the Jacksonville Jaguars' "Stadium of the Future," a death in the Duval jail and questions about rejected schoolbooks. TRT: 56:04

“Trump in court; Blue Star families; loneliness epidemic; summer reading” June 12, 2023

Former President Donald Trump will appear in federal court in Miami; Blue Star Families is surveying veterans in Jacksonville; loneliness is a risk to mental and physical health; it's time for summer reading. TRT: 53:04

“Nazis at Disney; mental health; affordable housing; RAW Talks” June 13, 2023

About 15 people with Nazi flags greeted visitors at the Magic Kingdom; concerns growing about the harm of social media on children; a new affordable housing community is planned in St. Johns County; expect the unexpected at RAW Talks. TRT: 53:04

“Trump arraignment; JEA water meters; Pride Month; What's Good Wednesday” June 14, 2023  
TRT: 53:04

“Melissa Ross; Stay Woke Rolling Voterade; Black Travel Alliance; Jacksonville Historical Society; Apex Theatre Studio” June 15, 2023

Melissa Ross is leaving WJCT; the Stay Woke Rolling Voterade pushes back on Gov. Ron DeSantis; the Black Travel Alliance highlights North Jacksonville; the Jacksonville Historical Society is in the news; Apex Theatre Studio presents its summer theater series. TRT: 53:04

“Friday media roundtable; Jacksonville Gospel Choir” June 16, 2023

Our media panel discussed a health care controversy at the Duval County jail and appointments by Mayor-elect Donna Deegan. Also, we previewed a performance Saturday by the Jacksonville Gospel Choir. TRT: 56:04

“Angie Nixon; hurricane season; World Sea Turtle Day; WildCrafters” June 20, 2023

State Rep. Angie Nixon discusses topics of the day; prepare for hurricane season frugally; protect the beach for sea turtles; WildCrafters is opening a second location. TRT: 53:04

“New Jacksonville leaders; Ocearch; The Great Race; What's Good Wednesday” June 21, 2023

The new mayor and City Council will be sworn in starting tomorrow; Ocearch gets state money; The Great Race begins in St. Augustine; join us to say goodbye to Melissa Ross. TRT: 53:04

“Mayor Lenny Curry; Build Up Downtown; best Jax events” June 22, 2023

Mayor Lenny Curry discusses his future; Build Up Downtown looks for help; CRE8JAX lists the best local events. TRT: 53:04

“Friday media roundtable; Melissa Ross' farewell” June 23, 2023

Our media panel discussed unaffordable housing, the Jacksonville Journey, the new City Council and Jaguars' stadium renovations. Also, Melissa Ross appeared to say goodbye to WJCT. TRT: 56:04

“Ben Frazier's death; new Jacksonville City Council; 'In the Footsteps of St. Francis'; Jaguars stadium” June 26, 2023

Civil rights activist Ben Frazier died Saturday; a new Jacksonville City Council has taken office; UNF offers an experiential tourism trip; TIAA Bank Field may become EverBank again. TRT: 53:04

“City Council president; food insecurity; MOSH; new jaguar cub” June 27, 2023

Previous City Council President Terrance Freeman discusses his accomplishments and challenges; Feeding Northeast Florida merges with Bread of the Mighty; the Museum of Science & History begins sensory-friendly hours; the new Jaguar at the zoo still needs a name. TRT: 53:04

“Help for former prisoners; Thunderbird Motor Hotel and Dinner Theatre; What's Good Wednesday” June 28, 2023

Operation New Hope helps prisoners reintegrate to their communities; the Thunderbird Motor Hotel and Dinner Theatre had a rich history; Sun-Ray Cinema was the fifth-highest grossing movie theater in Florida. TRT: 53:04

“Recreational marijuana; mosquito-borne illness; rip currents; fireworks” June 29, 2023

Attorney General Ashley Moody lobbies to stop recreational marijuana; mosquito-borne illnesses confirmed; how to stay safe from rip currents; Jacksonville's Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration is back. TRT: 53:04

“Friday media roundtable: Donna Deegan and Ben Frazier” June 30, 2023

Our media panel discussed Donna Deegan's inauguration, Ben Frazier's death and the search for a Duval Schools superintendent. TRT: 56:04

***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 Dems Chair Nikki Fried; Reshaping K-12 schools; Florida's troubled insurance market” April 7, 2023

A conversation with Nikki Fried, chair of the Florida Democratic Party, on abortion rights and free speech following her arrest during a protest; A look at legislation that would reshape Florida's K-12 schools; Lawmakers consider a new approach to address state's troubled insurance market TRT: 49:26

“Legislative measures target drag shows, renter protections and THC” April 14, 2023



Legislation working its way through the Florida Legislature could affect pride parades, protections for people who rent and hemp-related businesses. TRT: 49:20

“Florida’s tug of war with Disney; ban on gender identity instruction; major reforms to higher education” April 21, 2023

The state is trying to take back control of the special taxing district that covers Disney World. Meanwhile, the State Board of Education has extended a ban on gender identity instruction through 12th grade, and lawmakers are considering major reforms to higher education. TRT: 52:20

“Immigration bill; authoritarianism; hate speech” April 28, 2023

Immigration bill sparks pushback from medical professionals; is Florida tilting towards authoritarianism?; combating hate speech with Volusia Sheriff Michael Chitwood. TRT: 52:20

“Foreign-owned property; threatened historic buildings; digital bill of rights” May 5, 2023

A bill restricts people with ties to the Chinese government from owning land in Florida; a threat to historic buildings is averted for now; a bill aimed at boosting online data privacy clears the Legislature. TRT: 49:25

“New laws on immigration and unions” May 12, 2023

The Florida Roundup discusses bills signed into law this week, including new immigration requirements on businesses and restrictions on public-employee unions. TRT: 52:23

“Jacksonville’s first female mayor; Florida’s response to the end of Title 42; Florida’s amazing sports teams” May 19, 2023

Donna Deegan was the first woman elected mayor in Jacksonville and the first Democrat to win in years — despite Gov. Ron DeSantis backing her opponent. TRT: 52:14

“DeSantis presidential campaign; NAACP travel advisory; Florida’s new immigration law Bridget O’Brien” May 26, 2023

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis kicks off his 2024 presidential campaign; the NAACP issues a Florida travel advisory; is Florida’s new immigration law prompting some to leave the state? TRT: 52:15

“Ban on gender-affirming care; Florida’s culture wars” June 2, 2023

Florida’s ban on gender-affirming care for minors also creates obstacles for adults to access treatment; former Congressman David Jolly weighs in on Florida’s culture wars TRT: 52:17

“Migrant flights; insurers leaving Florida” June 9, 2023

Florida transported more migrants across the country, this time from Texas to California; and why are more property insurers leaving the state? TRT: 52:15

“Street scenes during Trump’s arraignment; push for abortion access; sea turtle threats” June 16, 2023

Hundreds gathered outside the Miami courthouse during Donald Trump's arraignment; Florida's crisis pregnancy centers are pushing to get abortion access on the ballot; microplastics and warming sands threaten sea turtles. TRT: 52:10

"Medicaid in Florida; support for gender-affirming care; Florida's wildlife corridors" June 23, 2023  
Hundreds of thousands of Floridians have lost their Medicaid coverage; a federal court blocks Florida's ban on Medicaid coverage for gender-affirming care; how Florida plans to protect its environmentally sensitive lands. TRT: 52:28

"New Florida laws on July 1; extreme heat and mosquito-borne illnesses" June 30, 2023  
The Florida Roundup discusses a few key laws that will go into effect Saturday, including immigration reform, permitless carry and parental rights. Plus, what are local officials doing to mitigate the risks of rising temperatures? TRT: 52:28

***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.***

"The latest health care headlines" April 1, 2023  
This week's "What's Health Got to Do with It" panel includes a neurologist, an internist and a neurosurgeon — plus Lynn Cullen, author of "The Woman with the Cure." TRT: 53:00

"Xenotransplantation; FASTEST brain bleeding treatment trial" April 8, 2023  
On this week's episode, we discussed xenotransplantation, which could change how organ transplants are performed, with Dr. Joseph Tector, a transplant surgeon at the Miami Transplant Institute and the founder of Makana Therapeutics. TRT: 53:00

"Early detection of head, neck and oral cancers" April 15, 2023  
Also, "What's Health Got to Do with It" takes a closer look at Medicare Advantage plans. TRT: 53:00

"Strokes: How to prevent them, how to treat them" April 22, 2023  
We devoted this week's episode of "What's Health Got to Do with It" to strokes — what causes them, how to prevent them, how to treat them and more. TRT: 53:00

"The top health care headlines, including the latest on COVID-19 vaccines" April 29, 2023  
Our Medical Roundtable panelists joined us in front of a live studio audience. TRT: 53:00

"Living with cystic fibrosis" May 6, 2023  
"What's Health Got to Do with It" talks with medical experts and a cystic fibrosis patient. TRT: 53:00

"Demystifying menopause" May 13, 2023

"What's Health Got to Do with It" discusses menopause with two experts at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona. TRT: 53:00

"The health care of addiction" May 20, 2023

This week, we devoted the program to a conversation with Dr. Nancy Diazgranados, deputy clinical director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. TRT: 53:00

"Dermatology in skins of color; Blue Zones Project" May 27, 2023

On this week's episode, we talk about the factors that increase the risk of skin cancer in people with darker skin tones, the importance of early detection and strategies for prevention. TRT: 53:00

"Monthly medical roundtable: An end to the COVID-19 public health emergency" June 3, 2023

Our monthly medical roundtable discussed the top stories in the world of health care, including President Biden's announcement about COVID-19.

"Mindfulness and spirituality in health care" June 10, 2023

We speak with Catherine Duncan, author of *Everyday Awakening: Five Practices for Living Fully, Feeling Deeply, and Coming into Your Heart and Soul*.

"For Father's Day: Mental health care for men" June 17, 2023

In honor of Father's Day, our panel discusses the pressures on men and how it affects their mental health.

"Living with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease" June 24, 2023

With inhaler prices soaring, patients find themselves grappling with a heartbreaking choice: compromised respiratory health or financial strain.