

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

3/1/21 to 6/30/21

**(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. Note: *During the Legislative Session, CAPITOL UPDATE airs Monday through Friday at 5:30pm and 11pm. The weekly roundup from Friday airs on Sunday morning as well. Session began March 1, 2021 and ended April 30, 2021.*

4/4 - #202125 Topics this week include: The Florida House and Senate committees make progress on the budget, passing “lean and mean” proposals in a difficult COVID economy; The House approved several bills this week including the parents’ bill of rights bill; The House Commerce Committee voted unanimously to advance a bill supported by Republican leaders to require internet retailers to collect sales tax at the point of sale.

4/11 - #202130 Topics this week include: Two weeks after the full House approved a controversial anti-riot bill, the Senate passed it out of its first and only committee hearing; House lawmakers approved legislation to change Florida’s election law, which opponents call restrictive; The Governor announced a lawsuit he filed against the Biden administration, demanding cruise ships be allowed to set sail immediately.

4/18 - #202135 Topics this week include: The controversial House Bill 1, aimed at cracking down on violent protests, lands on the Governor’s desk; A bill that would prevent transgender female athletes from participating on a girls team also sparks passionate debate; The Senate considers an increase in unemployment benefits while new figures show the jobless rate leveling off.

4/25 - #202140 Topics this week include: Legislative leaders say they’re on pace to complete the state budget on time, while they share news of a special session to consider a newly signed gaming compact; HB 1 is already facing legal challenges, the same week the Governor signed it into law; The Senate sent the House a unanimously supported weekly unemployment benefits increase, even though the Speaker rejects the idea.

5/2 - #202145 Topics this week include: The last day of session saw passage of the highest budget in state history, more than \$100 billion; The final bill to pass at the end of session was property insurance reform; In spite of emotional opposition, the bill banning transgender athletes from playing on girls’ teams was added to another bill and passed.

CAPITOL UPDATE continued

5/9 - #2410 Topics this week include: Changes are coming to Florida's elections after the Governor signed a bill tightening access to mail-in ballots and drop boxes; Lawmakers are preparing for a special session on gambling after receiving the official call from legislative leaders; The University of Florida hosted makeup graduation ceremonies for its 2020 graduates who could not have an in-person commencement ceremony due to COVID-19 precautions.

5/16 - #2411 Topics this week include: As one of the nation's largest fuel pipelines recovers from a cyberattack, leaders are pushing new policies to prevent future and present gas shortages; Fully vaccinated people can resume most indoor activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing as state and local leaders work to boost vaccination rates in Black communities; The Governor signed several bills into law, including two bills addressing sea level rise and coastal resilience.

5/23 - #2412 Topics this week include: Meeting in special session, the Legislature approved a series of gaming bills including ratification of a new gaming compact with the Seminole Tribe; Governor Ron DeSantis signed the tax package bill which includes sales tax holidays for school supplies, emergency supplies and recreational activities; A third lawsuit was filed challenging Florida's new election law and the Republican National Committee asked to intervene in the first two cases in support of the law.

5/30 - #2413 Topics this week include: With over 10 million Floridians receiving the COVID-19 vaccine and hospitalizations declining, changes are coming to testing and vaccine sites statewide; In an effort to get Floridians to return to work, the Department of Economic Opportunity will soon stop accepting federal pandemic unemployment assistance; A "first of its kind" legislative policy placing rules on social media companies faced its first legal challenge days after the Governor signed it into law.

6/6 - #2414 Topics this week include: Governor Ron DeSantis signed a \$100 billion state budget, the largest in state history; The Governor vetoed \$1.5 billion appropriated by the Legislature, including \$900,000 in programs for the LGBTQ community; The Governor signed several bills into law, including one that bans transgender girls from playing on girls' public school sports teams.

6/13 - #2415 Topics this week include: The State Board of Education voted to ban an academic theory and specific document that exam the impact of race from being taught in classrooms- critics of the new rule are concerned racism won't be addressed; Governor Ron DeSantis signs SB 76 into law addressing property insurance and litigation claims; The Florida Department of Transportation ordered the Jacksonville Transit Authority to remove the Pride Week rainbow-colored lights on the Acosta Bridge but then reversed course.

CAPITOL UPDATE continued

6/20 - #2416 Topics this week include: The Cabinet approved rules to allow local police funding disputes to be decided by them – despite objections from the state’s only statewide elected Democrat; Even though Florida shut down its COVID-19 dashboard, some stress the importance of collecting the data, especially for nursing homes and long-term care facilities; Even with a new elections law in court and uncertainty on some of the measures, supervisors of elections are forging ahead with its implementation.

6/27 - #2417 Topics this week include: Governor DeSantis and President Biden declared a state of emergency and rushed resources to Surfside after the collapse of a 12-story condominium; The Governor signed a bill requiring surveys of intellectual diversity on college campuses; The Blue-Green Algae Task Force met for the first time in months, with citizens asking what’s being done about algae blooms already causing problems around the state this year.

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.

4/1 & 4/4 - #3339 Tour of Lights: Atlantic Region

Produced by The Florida Channel Team

In the 1800’s, there were only 24 lighthouses and lightship stations in the United States, but that number grew to roughly 850 by the 1900’s. In fact, Florida’s maritime growth resulted in lighthouses eventually stationed every 60 miles along the shoreline. In this segment of Florida Crossroads, we take viewers on a Tour of Lights along Florida’s Atlantic Coast.

4/8 & 4/11 - #3340 Tour of Lights: Southern Region

Produced by The Florida Channel Team

Western expansion during the 19th century prompted the construction of Florida’s lighthouses as both trade and travel utilized a key resource of the coastal state- the sea. While each lighthouse has its own picturesque look, the structural design and light visibility fulfilled different needs. The Florida lighthouses constructed along a reef tract stretching from St. Lucie Inlet to the Dry Tortugas are featured in this segment of our Tour of Lights series.

4/18 - #3341 (pre-empted on 4/15) Tour of Lights: Southwest Region

Produced by The Florida Channel Team

Florida’s growth turned many small towns along the Gulf Coast into major ports, and the large ships that utilized the many harbors, inlets and bays in the region generated the need for more lighthouses. In this segment, we feature those lighthouses that still dot Florida’s Gulf Coast today.

FLORIDA CROSSROADS continued

4/25 - #3342 (pre-empted on 4/22) Tour of Lights: Northwest Region

Produced by The Florida Channel Team

The Lighthouses along Florida's Northern Gulf Coast were essential to ships trying to maneuver around the area's shoals and barrier islands. Many of the lighthouses fell victim to poor construction, rising tides and hurricanes. Join us as we explore the unusual locations, history and improvements made to lighthouses along the shores of Florida's Northwest Region.

4/29 & 5/2 - #3343 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 though 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 archeological preserve.

5/6 & 5/9 - #3344 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 treasures that have been saved from development.

5/13 & 5/16 - #3345 Florida Memory

Produced by Melissa Klingzing

A building two blocks from the Capitol in Tallahassee houses millions of state records and other items that belong to the people of the State of Florida. But you don't have to visit Tallahassee to explore those resources. This edition of Florida Crossroads takes you inside the vast holdings of the State Archives and Library through an online portal everyone can enter: Florida Memory. We'll explore the strange, beautiful Spanish Land Grant maps that are still legal documents after more than two centuries; photographs, films and videos everyone can enjoy; and reveal some little-known records of special interest to African-Americans researching family histories..

5/20 & 5/23 - #3346 Take a Hike: The Great Florida Birding Trail

Produced by Rebecca Baer

Florida is home to more than 500 species of birds and some of the best bird watching 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 part of the state's renowned Great Florida Birding Trail.

FLORIDA CROSSROADS continued

5/27 & 5/30 - #3347 Journey to the Hall of Fame

Produced by Brittany Beigle

Since 1987, hundreds of artists have been nominated, reviewed and vetted for a chance to be included in the Florida Artists Hall of Fame. Only the few though have been actually chosen to receive the honor, and in this segment program we cast a spotlight into the world of some of those artists and their journey into the Hall of Fame.

6/3 & 6/6 - #3348 Resoring the Grove

Produced by Rebecca Baer

Steps away from the Governor's Mansion in Tallahassee is a home that has seen its share of state leaders too. The Grove – first built in 1840 by territorial Governor Richard Keith Call – has served as a private residence, an impromptu Governor's Mansion in the 1950s and now a museum, preserved for visitors and maintained by Florida's Division of Historical Resources.

6/13 - #3349 (pre-empted 6/10 due to pledge)

Coastal Dune Lakes: In Between Paved Paradise

Produced by Shane Marshall

Many tourists frequent the Emerald Coast along Florida's Panhandle, bathing in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico or tanning on the pristine beaches. They also visit to experience a rarity: a string of 15 coastal dune lakes found in only a few other places around the world. Coastal Dune Lakes: In Between Paved Paradise explores the characteristics of these dune lakes, how they form, the dynamic ecosystems that exist within them and how they are being protected now and in the future.

6/20 - #3350 (pre-empted 6/17 due to pledge)

Tour of Lights: Atlantic Region

Produced by The Florida Channel Team

In the 1800's, there were only 24 lighthouses and lightship stations in the United States, but that number grew to roughly 850 by the 1900's. In fact, Florida's maritime growth resulted in lighthouses eventually stationed every 60 miles along the shoreline. In this segment of Florida Crossroads, we take viewers on a Tour of Lights along Florida's Atlantic Coast.

6/24 & 6/27 - #3351 Tour of Lights: Southern Region

Produced by The Florida Channel Team

Western expansion during the 19th century prompted the construction of Florida's lighthouses as both trade and travel utilized a key resource of the coastal state- the sea. While each lighthouse has its own picturesque look, the structural design and light visibility fulfilled different needs. The Florida lighthouses constructed along a reef tract stretching from St. Lucie Inlet to the Dry Tortugas are featured in this segment of our Tour of Lights series.

LOCAL ROUTES – Third Thursday at 8pm / Repeats Sunday at 10am

Local Routes is a half-hour television program that takes viewers on a monthly journey to explore authentic northwest Florida and south Georgia. From history, to the environment, to the fascinating and often hidden gems that make up our culture, *Local Routes* looks at where we've been, where we're going, and the interesting people, places, and things along the way.

Note: LOCAL ROUTES went on summer hiatus in June.

4/8 & 4/11 - #607 Brain, Body & Spirit

WFSU explores Tallahassee's connections between the brain, the body, and the human spirit. We look at the research happening at FSU College of Medicine's Center for Brain Repair, learn about the the mind-body connection important to a doctor at Capital Regional Medical Center, and meet a local ER Doctor who's early life in a refugee camp influenced his decision to become a physician.

5/20 & 5/23 - #608 The Routes of History

Join us for a journey into history. First, we see how the stone cottages at Lake Eilla ended up at that location. Then, we turn back time to when WFSU-TV was still young and experimenting with something called "educational tv" and created one of the first children's programs in Florida called Miss Nancy's Store. Plus, the Apalachicola River Basin & Smarter by Nature.

FSU HEADLINES – Second Friday at 7:30pm each month / Repeats Sunday at 11:30am

FSU Headlines highlights events and items of interest taking place at Florida State University.

4/16 & 4/18 - #2104 FSU Day at the Capitol 2021 and more stories, including College of Medicine Match Day, and much more.

5/20 & 5/23 - #2105 A look back at Spring 2021 in-person Commencement ceremonies and more stories, including a huge honor for the MagLab Director.

6/18 & 6/20 - #2106 A special edition of FSU Headlines - we sit down with Florida State President John Thrasher. As he nears retirement we have a chance to reflect on his time leading the university and talk about his hopes for the future of FSU.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

Tallahassee Town Hall 2021

Thursday, April 15 @ 8pm

The ACC Inventure Prize

Thursday, 4/22 @ 7pm

Invisible History: Middle Florida's Hidden Roots

Thursday, 5/20 @ 8pm; Monday, 5/24 @ 10pm; Saturday, 6/19 @ 11am

WFSU SUMMER CHALLENGE

Aired Saturday 6/5 @ 10:30am/11:30am

WFSU's Summer Challenge is back and kicking off with a rocking good time! This year's challenge is all about Mountains, Hills, and Mounds: Where did these land forms come from? Why are they special to our region? Join WFSU's Education team for an adventure through Tallahassee to learn more about north Florida's long ago history through our rocks, fossils, and land forms.