



Quarterly Issues/Program List
1st Quarter 2024
January 1 – March 31, 2024

Economy & Business – Education - Environment/Climate
Health/Healthcare – Housing & Homelessness
Government and Politics –Race, Identity, and Culture – Space

Economy & Business

Black Wealth Data Center looks at racial wealth disparities in Central Florida

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 [**Morning Edition**, 7:45 AM TRT = 4:00]

By: WMFE’s Talia Blake | Prosperity Now teamed up with Bloomberg Philanthropies to create the Black Wealth Data Center to learn more about the state of black wealth at the county level. Marisa Calderon, CEO and President of Prosperity Now, and Harsha Mallajosyula, Data Director at the Black Wealth Data Center, explain how Central Florida counties are faring when it comes to Black wealth.

Whether it’s March Madness or not, Women’s elite sports is slam dunk for Florida economy

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 [**Morning Edition**, 7:45 AM TRT = 4:00]

By: WMFE’s Talia Blake | Interest in women’s sports has been growing over recent years, with viewership up to 41% from 34% for the 2023 World Cup, according to Nielsen. Talia speaks with Randall Croom, an Associate Professor of Management at Stetson University, who said interest in women’s sports is growing in Central Florida as well.

How the ongoing air traffic controller shortage is affecting Florida’s airspace, and how to fix it

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 [**Morning Edition**, 7:45 AM TRT = 4:00]

By: WMFE’s Talia Blake | Travel season is underway with Spring Breakers packing airlines to get to the sunshine state. However, the Federal Aviation Administration reports an ongoing shortage in air traffic controllers, which could impact your ability to fly home. Although the FAA met its goal in 2023 of hiring 1,500 new air traffic controllers, there continues to be a shortage of controllers, according to Jim Gregory, Dean of the College of Engineering at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

FHSAA considers allowing high school athletes to profit off their Name, Image, and Likeness

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 [**Morning Edition**, 7:45 AM TRT = 4:00]

By: WMFE's Talia Blake | The Florida High School Athletic Association is considering a proposal that would allow high school athletes to be paid for their name, image and likeness. If approved, Florida will join more than 30 states that allow high school athletes to make money off their name, image, and likeness. Talia spoke with William Glass, CEO of Ostrich, a financial health app for college students with a primary focus on student athletes.

Credit Card Competition Act could have negative impact on Florida tourism

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 [**Morning Edition**, 7:45 AM TRT = 4:00]

By: WMFE's Talia Blake | A bill being debated in Congress could have major impacts to Central Florida's economy, especially tourism. Spring Break is a major part of the travel season for Florida. With the 2024 travel season getting underway with Spring Break this month, Randall Croom of Stetson University said the Credit Card Competition Act could change the way we travel.

Education

LGBTQ advocates have questions about Florida's chaplain bill

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 [**Morning Edition**, 6:45 AM & 8:45 AM TRT = 3:53]

By: WMFE's Danielle Prieur | A bill awaiting Governor Ron DeSantis' signature, would allow chaplains to act as school counselors in Florida K-12 schools. But some LGBTQ advocates have questions about whether having clergy act as counselors will do more harm than good.

Students and teachers in Florida can say gay again without fear of punishment in Florida

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 [**Morning Edition**, 5:19 AM TRT = 3:50]

By: NPR's Leila Fadel with WMFE's Danielle Prieur | Students and teachers in Florida can say the word gay again, at least in certain circumstances. A court settlement has gutted parts of what critics called the Don't Say Gay law, which Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law in 2022. Danielle Prieur, with member station WMFE in Orlando, has been listening to the reactions, and she's with us now.

Solutions to Florida's Teacher Shortage

Monday, March 4, 2024 [**NewsNight**, 6:30 PM TRT = 26:46]

By: WUCF's Steve Mort | The week on NewsNight, can policymakers and schools find ways to reduce Florida's teacher shortage? **Plus**, a look at a move to exempt more public sector workers from a Florida law banning the automatic deduction of union dues. **And**, the panel discusses the challenges schools face in funding critical maintenance projects.

Anti-Communism Curriculum in K-12 Classrooms

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 [**Engage**, 3:13 PM TRT = 9:38]

By: WMFE's Cheryn Stone | There are bills moving through both chambers of the Florida Statehouse that would require instruction. Rev. Rhonda Thomas, Executive Director of Faith in Florida, a coalition of area congregations and community organizations, says requiring instruction on the history of Communism is an attempt to indoctrinate children and a missed opportunity to teach Black history.

Scholastic Book Ban Update

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 [**Engage**, 3:00 PM TRT = 17:00]

By: WMFE's Cheryn Stone with WMFE's Danielle Prieur | While in Orlando, Governor Ron DeSantis called on Florida lawmakers to reform the state's book ban policies. Our education reporter Danielle Prieur was there for that announcement last Thursday. She joined Engage to go in-depth and explain the possible impact on classrooms and students.

Department of Education pulls the plug on principals of sociology course

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 [**Engage**, 3:29 PM TRT = 12:48]

By: WMFE's Cheryn Stone | Florida's state university system determined students in the state's public colleges and universities may no longer use sociology courses to fulfill core course requirements. The sociology courses will be replaced with what the Higher Ed Board of Governors refers to as "a factual history course." Michael Armato, Director of Undergraduate Sociology Studies at UCF, joined us in the studio to talk about the impact of the changing curriculum.

Florida has a chronic absenteeism problem. Here's how two districts are trying to fix it

Monday, January 22, 2024 [**Morning Edition**, 6:45 & 8:45 AM TRT = 4:04]

By: WMFE's Danielle Prieur | Florida ranks third in the country when it comes to kids being chronically absent from school. Two Central Florida school districts are looking to tackle this post-COVID problem by implementing two different approaches.

Elections, Politics and Government

What drives young people to vote

Thursday, March 21, 2024 [**Think** 8:00 PM TRT = 45:46]

By: Think's Krys Boyd | The election is set: President Joe Biden vs. Donald Trump Part II. Now eyes are on if two senior citizens can get young voters to even turn out. Sara Suzuki is a senior researcher at CIRCLE, a non-partisan, independent research organization focused on youth civic engagement in the United States at Tufts University. She joins host Krys Boyd to discuss the issues that are most important to young voters and how candidates can best reach them.

Florida Primary Voting

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 [**Engage** 3:00 PM TRT = 5:30]

By: WMFE's Cheryn Stone | Florida's presidential primary is today, but it's not the only race on the ballot in some areas like Orange County. WMFE reporter Joe Mario Pedersen joins Engage to share what he learned from voters at polling places in Winter Park.

Orange County Supervisor of Elections

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 [**Engage** 3:06 PM TRT = 12:56]

By WMFE's Cheryn Stone | Governor Ron DeSantis appointed Glen Gilzean as Orange County Supervisor of Elections to fill the rest of Bill Cowles term. Gilzean is administrator of the DeSantis appointed Central Florida Tourism Oversight District. It is the former Reedy Creek Improvement District that governed Disney. Gilzean joins Engage ahead of his first election as Supervisor.

Guaranteeing your right to vote

Friday, February 29, 2024 [**Think** 8:00 PM TRT = 45:34]

By: Think's Krys Boyd | As the Supreme Court has chipped away at the Voting Rights Act, renewed calls have been made for ways to protect all Americans' right to vote. Richard L. Hasen is professor of law and political science at UCLA and director of UCLA Law's Safeguarding Democracy Project. He joins host Krys Boyd to discuss why he feels we need a Constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to vote, and why leaving it to the courts to decide who can vote is a bad idea. His book is "A Real Right to Vote: How a Constitutional Amendment Can Safeguard American Democracy."

Environment/Climate

Coral reefs in the warming Atlantic

Friday, March 29, 2024 [**The Florida Roundup**, 12:00 PM & 8:00 PM TRT = 25:00]

By: WUSF's Matthew Peddie | Matthew Peddie talks with his panelists about warm waters in the Atlantic and what it means for coral reefs. Panelists: Brian McNoldy and Dalton Hesley with the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric and Earth Science and WLRN's environmental editor Jenny Staletovich

Scientists in the Florida Keys haven't had great success revitalizing coral reefs

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 [**All Things Considered**, 5:35 PM TRT = 8:24]

By: NPR's Ailsa Chang | NPR's Ailsa Chang speaks with Katey Lesneski, research coordinator for coral restoration at the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. She's been checking on restored corals, which struggled in 2023.

Volusia Council tosses moratorium, clearing path for controversial fuel farm

Thursday, February 8, 2024 [**Morning Edition**, 6:45 AM & 8:45 AM TRT = 3:43]

By: WMFE's Molly Duerig | Volusia County Council's 5-2 vote this week against a temporary pause on heavy industrial development clears the way for Belvedere Terminals to pursue its plans for a new bulk fuel storage and distribution terminal in Ormond Beach.

A more detailed hurricane forecast cone is coming soon

Monday, February 5, 2024 [**Morning Edition**, 6:31 AM & 8:31 AM TRT = 1:12]

By: WMFE's Molly Duerig | A new forecasting tool the National Hurricane Center (NHC) plans to launch in mid-August will update the existing forecast cone to provide a better sense of potential wind hazards for inland areas, according to the agency's recent social media post.

Health/Healthcare

Thousands of Florida kids lost Medicaid, now some have no coverage

Friday, March 22, 2024 [**Morning Edition** 6:45 AM & 8:45 AM TRT = 3:53]

By: WMFE's Joe Mario Pedersen | It's been nearly a year since Florida began reviewing Medicaid eligibility, and since then nearly half a million children have lost insurance. Many of them have fallen into a gap without coverage, including some with cancer.

Osceola County's mobile denture unit aims to put smiles on seniors' faces

Monday, February 12, 2024 [**Morning Edition** 6:45 AM & 8:45 AM TRT = 3:53]
By: WMFE's Joe Byrnes | Osceola County residents 55 and older will soon have a new low-cost and accessible way to get dental care and dentures if they need them. A mobile clinic will bring smiles to their faces and improve their chances of a long and healthy life.

Lung cancer screening guidelines not '1 size fits all'

Wednesday, January 31, 2024 [**Morning Edition** 6:45 AM & 8:45 AM TRT = 3:53]
By: WMFE's Joe Mario Pedersen | After new data showed younger case rates in lung cancer national screening guidelines changed Still, a noticeably large group of people developing cancer don't necessarily fit the guidelines. An Orlando doctor says more research is required to save more lives.

Ladapo's questions on DNA integration raise local experts' eyebrows

Monday, January 15, 2024 [**Morning Edition**, 7:45 AM TRT = 3:59]
By: WMFE's Joe Mario Pedersen | In the first week of the year, Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo released a letter to federal health leaders regarding concerns he had about the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine. Local experts are confused by his questions, saying they don't make much sense.

Housing & Homelessness

'There's no silver bullet': Orlando affordable housing forum seeks solutions

Friday, March 29, 2024 [**Morning Edition** 6:04 AM, 7:30AM and 9AM TRT = 1:03]
By: WMFE's Lillian Hernández Caraballo | The forum "Pathway of Hope: Breaking the Cycle of Poverty" was hosted by the nonprofit United Against Poverty Orlando at the UCF Downtown campus and provided a diverse panel of perspectives and expertise. The timely discussion focused on data, current efforts, and necessary next steps.

Florida Could Ban Sleeping or Camping in Public Places

Monday, February 19, 2024 [**NewsNight**, 6:30 PM TRT = 18:56]
By: WUCF's Steve Mort | Florida could require local governments in the state to ban homeless people from sleeping in public places. It comes after the Orlando City Council last month voted to make it illegal for people to block or obstruct sidewalks.

Race, Identity, and Culture

In spite of crime reputation, Pine Hills residents work to take community's name back
Monday, February 26, 2024 [**Morning Edition** 6:45 AM & 8:45 AM TRT = 3:59]

By: WMFE's Joe Mario Pedersen | Pine Hills has carried the stigma associated with crime in West Orlando. Residents feel that stigma is not only unfair but offensive. So they're taking their name back.

Spotlight: Puppet ministry and object performance in the Black church

Thursday, February 22, 2024 [**Spotlight**, 4:45 PM TRT = 4:00]

By: WMFE's Talia Blake | Storytelling through the art of puppetry has a long tradition in Africa and can be found in Black American spaces today. Paulette Richards is a puppet artist and the author of 'Object Performance in the Black Atlantic: The United States'. She recently spoke at the University of Central Florida about the role of Black puppetry and object performance in the Black Church.

Spotlight: Orange County Regional History Center's Honoring Black Heritage & Culture

Thursday, February 15, 2024 [**Spotlight**, 4:45 PM TRT = 4:00]

By: WMFE's Talia Blake | Central Floridians will have the opportunity to learn how Black Americans impacted the arts, music, and more at the Honoring Black Heritage & Culture event at the Orange County Regional History Center on Saturday, Feb. 17.

Space

Astronaut Winston Scott's journey to space

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 [**Are We There Yet?**, 6:30 PM TRT = 28:00]

By: WMFE's Brendan Byrne | Former NASA astronaut Winston Scott shared his academic journey that brought him to space and his hope for the future of space exploration.

Space science gets microscopic

Tuesday, February 8, 2024 [**Are We There Yet?**, 6:30 PM TRT = 28:00]

By: WMFE's Brendan Byrne | First, tiny creatures in our oceans are causing big problems. Plankton and staph bacteria are being studied in space to help keep humans and our oceans safe. Then, what happens if an astronaut gets sick in space or has an infection. Staph bacteria are being studied on the ISS to see what dangers might show up in the space environment.

The Latest Developments in the Space Industry

Monday, January 29, 2024 [**NewsNight**, 6:34 PM TRT = 26:46]

By: WUCF's Steve Mort | This week on NewsNight, an in-depth look at the latest developments in the space industry and how they affect our region. The panel including WMFE's Brendan Byrne discusses the latest Axiom crew launch to the International Space Station, and NASA's decision to delay its Artemis moon shot. Plus, what Central Florida scientists hope to learn from samples gathered on the asteroid Bennu.

Countdown continues for SpaceX mission headed to the International Space Station

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 [**Morning Edition**, 6:45 am TRT = 3:47]

By: NPR's Michel Martin with WMFE's Brendan Byrne | A privately chartered mission to the International Space Station is set to launch today from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. A SpaceX capsule will transport a four-member crew for a two-week mission. The crew has a packed schedule with dozens of science experiments. WMFE's Brendan Byrne explains how the work will help prepare for future private missions and commercial space stations.

