

WLRN News July 1 - Sept. 30, 2017

WLRN News

Two dozen times each weekday, our news team reports on the stories that affect all of us here in South Florida. This multiple award winning team is led by Vice President of News Tom Hudson, News Director Terence Shepherd, Editorial Director Alicia Zuckerman and Digital Director Teresa Frontado. WLRN continues to partner with the Miami Herald news organization.

The Florida News Exchange

Founded and managed by WLRN, this cloud-based exchange platform continues to serve as a nexus for Florida news as partner public radio stations across the state share their coverage with each other broadening listener's knowledge and awareness.

ONGOING WLRN PROGRAMS

The Florida Roundup -

Each week a panel of journalists and occasionally newsmakers from South Florida and around the state discuss the week in news. Broadcast Fridays at 12 noon and rebroadcast Saturday mornings, the hour-long program is hosted by Tom Hudson, Vice President of News at WLRN and former host of the Nightly Business Report. Listeners can join the conversation by telephone, email, posting to our Facebook page or tweeting @WLRN.

Jul 2 - School Grades, Confusion In Venezuela, And Fears of Losing The NOAA Fisheries 50:36

Jul 7 - A Litigious Week For The Sunshine State 51:43

Jul 20 - Rapid Transit, Solar Panels And Opioids On The Florida Roundup 51:01

Jul 28 - Voter Fraud, Flood Management And Venezuela 50:53

Jul 31 - Evidence Of Voter Fraud Is Found In Palm Beach County But No Suspect 50:53

Aug 4 - Flooding, Venezuela's Impact On South Florida And Last Call On Ocean Drive 50:50

Aug 20 - Hate Groups, Free Speech, And Immigration Enforcement 52:03

Aug 27 - Haitians Flee, Andrew's Lessons, And Pedestrian Targets 50:21

Sep 24 - Recovery After Irma On The Florida Roundup 51:36

Sep 29 - Lingering Debris & Crisis In Puerto Rico On The Florida Roundup 50:45

The Sunshine Economy

Each week, host Tom Hudson explores businesses, large and small, public and private, which operate in and serve our South Florida community. Business owners, public

officials and others weigh in as the program digs far below the headlines to explore our vibrant and unique economy. The Sunshine Economy is on hiatus over the summer months and resumes in September, although it was delayed this year due to Hurricane Irma. This hour long program airs Mondays at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm on WLRN.

9/25 - Hurricane Irma Shows Who Built Smarter And Stronger In The Keys 47:25

- In Hard-Hit Keys, Power Was Restored Within Days After Hurricane Irma. Why? 4:02

The Latin America Report

Brazilian investors buy Miami real estate. Haitian earthquake survivors attend South Florida schools. It's clear what happens in Latin America and the Caribbean has a profound effect on South Florida.

WLRN's coverage of the region is headed by Americas editor [Tim Padgett](#), a 23-year veteran of TIME and Newsweek magazines. He joins a team of reporters and editors at the Miami Herald, El Nuevo Herald and NPR to cover a region whose cultural wealth, environmental complexity, vast agricultural output and massive oil reserves offer no shortage of important and fascinating stories to tell. The Latin America Report airs each Tuesday on WLRN.

7/4 - How Not To Do Cuba Like The Kardashians: Try Something Real With Your Rum 4:35

7/10 - Extradited Pilot Could Blow The Lid Off Venezuelan Military's Drug Cartel 4:45

7/17 - Sunday's Venezuela Vote Was Huge Symbolism. But Can It Prevent A Dictatorship? 4:41

7/24 - Miami Beach Hosts World Classic Of 'Badass' Beach Sport: Footvolley 4:45

8/7 - FIU Expert: Venezuelan Military Likely To Keep Fracturing Under Dictatorship 4:45

8/14 - Venezuelan Regime Hunts Down Opposition Figures; More Expected In Exile Here 4:45

8/21 - Pence Visited Latin America – But Did He Forget To Pack A Latin America Policy? 4:44

8/28 - South Florida Cyber-Sleuth: Latin America Is The New Hacker Frontier (Ask Bill Gates) 4:41

9/4 - Papal Peace? Francis Visits Post-Civil War Colombia – Now A Political Minefield 4:45

9/12 - Caribbean 'Wondering If The World Is Noticing' Its Own Irma Destruction 4:54

9/19 - Hurricane Bonding: Did Irma Finally Make Us Care About The Caribbean? 4:40

9//26 - Hurricane-Ravaged Puerto Rico Cut Off From The World – And Puerto Ricans Here 4:42

Special Coverage - Hurricane Irma

As the strongest Atlantic hurricane on record approached, battered the Keys, brushed the rest of South Florida, and departed the area; WLRN responded to meet the challenge of serving our storm shaken community.

Broadcasting on FM 91.5 in the Keys, 91.3 in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, and 101.9 in the Palm Beaches, WLRN-WKWM began continuous coverage of Hurricane Irma Saturday, September 9th at 6 a.m. and didn't stop until Sunday night, Sept 10th at 7 p.m.

From studios in Key West, Miami, Tallahassee and the journalism school in Columbia, Missouri, WLRN's radio staff provided continuous information and support on both broadcast and digital platforms. Reporters also were embedded in the emergency operation centers (EOC) of Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties as well as in public shelters and the EOC in the state's capitol. Our partnership with the Miami Herald provided additional resources adding depth and breadth to this essential communication with our community.

Preliminary reports included the hurricane's track, resident preparations, supplies and shelter locations and availability, school closings, evacuation orders, traffic and much more. One local story highlighted the plight of impoverished residents without the financial resources to stock up on much of anything, let alone the recommended 3 days of emergency food, water and medicine.

With our reporters in shelters and throughout the region, the station avoided the standard hurricane tropes, giving a greater, more nuanced picture of what was happening throughout our extended region and its residents. Coverage revealed life in one county's well-stocked family shelter was dramatically different from another county's shelter in a disadvantaged neighborhood where medical needs were unsupported and a suicide attempt occurred. Reports from Missouri and Tallahassee of federal and state responses and resources, and of emergency responders massing for the recovery effort added a brighter note. Meanwhile, our Americas editor reported on Irma's devastation throughout the Caribbean and efforts to support those communities.

Listener calls were encouraged, welcomed and responded to on air creating a more personalized response and providing a greater sense of community.

As part of the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network (FPREN), WLRN-WKWM had prepared for storm season with the meteorologists and were able to access the expertise of that meteorological staff, expanding on the regular National Hurricane Center staff availability and advisories.

Nationally, NPR and both Boston public radio stations picked up our broadcast as Hurricane Irma whipped through the major metropolitan areas Sunday afternoon. Irma knocked both WLRN and WKWM off air Sunday, though we continued broadcasting digitally and WLRN was back on the airwaves within 2 hours. WKWM remained off air until engineers were able to get to the tower in the lower Keys Tuesday.

Monday after Irma's South Florida departure dawned bright and sunny on an exhausted crew and an altered community. Irma specific coverage was supplied by NPR and WLRN's radio hosts as the radio news crew attempted to assess damage to their neighborhoods and their properties and catch up on sleep, when possible. With power out to the majority of South Florida, and roads blocked by felled trees and water, this wasn't a return to normalcy.

Tuesday morning, WLRN began providing extended support and reporting in the wake of the winds and waters destruction. Regular programming was suspended daily at 9:00 a.m. for several hours, gradually decreasing each day. By Friday recovery was well underway and regular programming and newscasts resumed after only an hour of post-Irma broadcasts.

One listener wrote to Friends of WLRN asking that her remarks be shared with the newsroom:

"Kudos to the studio for all the post-Irma coverage - I was glued, as were thousands...when Tom Hudson and the rest of the crew took phone calls from locals. What a heartwarming, helpful, and connective experience. What compassion for all of us, to understand...we did not need politics, other news, sports, etc. We needed a friend. WLRN carried the Brian Norcross torch..."

Norcross, a television broadcaster, was hailed as a hero for his work, including talking with residents throughout the region's last massive and devastating storm, Hurricane Andrew in August of 1992.

General Reporting

Local News

Environment & Transportation -

Climate change was the focus of a gathering to draw voters' attention to the officials who they say are doing a good job on climate issues. Reporter Kate Stein covered that event and reported action starts at the local level. Meanwhile, our weekly #FridayReads list in late September was compiled around books about climate change.

Coral reefs are dying from causes including hotter temperatures, pollution, boating accidents and development. In the Florida Keys a team of scientists is working to help one coral species reproduce more successfully and concerned citizens in Miami will have to return to court in an attempt to prevent spraying of a controversial pesticide after a public meeting was cancelled.

On the transit front, Miami-Dade county's plan could be delayed based on the start-up plans of a new regional express train.

[Are Your Florida Officials 'Climate-Conscious'? Come To This Party To Find Out 8/22](#)
['I Want The Earth To Shine': At Miami Celebration, Action On Climate Change Starts Locally 8/24](#)

[Creating Coral: Keys Team Aims To Save One Species At Risk By Mixing Eggs And Sperm In Buckets 8/28](#)

[Meeting Over Controversial Pesticide Is Cancelled, So Concerned Citizens Say It's Back To Court 8/28](#)

[Timing Of Express Train Launch Could Delay Portion Of Miami-Dade's Transit Plan 9/4](#)

Education -

Over the summer, most public schools were closed though internships and other activities were available to students. One WLRN college intern covered a program that aimed to match up students with employers in fields that interest them. Meanwhile, school administrators adjusted hours around the first total **solar eclipse** visible from coast to coast across the United States in 99 years to help protect students. WLRN's new education reporter arrived on the job in Sept. in time to help cover Hurricane Irma.

[Summer Youth Internship Program Aims To Connect Students With The Best Suited Employers 8/17](#)

[Concerned About Student Safety, South Florida Schools Adjust Schedules For Monday's Solar Eclipse 8/18](#)

Crime and Punishment -

Florida has resumed executing prisoners. WLRN's Wilson Sayre covered that process as well as the difficulties sex offenders have finding housing that meets their needs as well as legal requirements.

[Sex Offenders Sent To Homeless Encampment Told To Find Housing, But Where? 8/22](#)

[Florida Set To Have First Execution In 20 Months 8/23](#)

[While Florida Prepares To Execute One Inmate, 150 Others Seek To Overturn Death Sentence 8/23](#)

[Florida Uses New Drug To Execute First Inmate In More Than A Year 8/24](#)

[Thoughts From Man Set To Be Executed Next In Florida 9/4](#)

Politics:

Wasserman Schultz Plans Fixes To Affordable Care Act, Speaks Out On Firing Of IT Staffer 8/22

In Doral, Pence Pledges 'Full Weight' Of U.S. Pressure On Venezuela. But No Specifics 8/23

Envoy To Haitian TPS Holders: Leaving U.S. For Canada Not A Good Idea 8/24

Women's Fund Of Miami-Dade Wants To Create Structural Change Around Pay Equity 8/29

Miami Non-Profit Trains Residents How To Advocate At Miami-Dade Budget Hearings
8/30

Wasserman Schultz, Broward Agencies, Discuss Lessons Learned During Fort Lauderdale Airport Shooting 8/30

South Floridians Talk Issues At Congressman Deutch Town Hall in Boca Raton 8/31

Confederate Street Names In Hollywood To Come Down 8/31

Monroe County Moving Dog Park That May Be Above African Burial Ground 8/30

Part-Time Professors Push To Unionize At Broward, MDC 9/4

Study Shows Florida Unemployment Numbers Are Down, But Workers Aren't Benefitting 9/4

South Florida Leaders Respond To Possible Repeal Of DACA Program For Young Immigrants
9/4

Healthcare - Opioids

Advocates To March For Overdose Awareness Thursday At FAU 8/30

Broward County M.E. Sees Rise In People Dying From Mix Of Drugs 8/24

Gunshot Wounds Are Expensive, And We're All Paying For Them 8/30

Miami Pediatrician Now Taking Care Of 4 Million Kids 8/30

Advocates, Officials Talk Solutions On International Overdose Awareness Day 9/1

Awards -

WLRN took home 12 awards at the Sunshine State Awards Ceremony on July 22, including first places in investigative reporting and news website. The Sunshine State Awards are presented by the Florida branch of the Society of Professional Journalists.

WLRN was awarded the following prizes:

- Investigative Reporting, First Place: [*School Suspensions Continue In Spite Of Miami-Dade's No-Suspension Policy*](#), by Rowan Moore-Gerety
- News Website, First Place: [*WLRN.org*](#), Digital Director - Teresa Frontado
- Journalist of the Year, Second Place: Sammy Mack
- Public Affairs, Second Place: [*Is Your Vote Safe?*](#), with WJCT and Decision Florida
- Online Breaking News, Second Place: *Fidel Dies*, WLRN News Staff
- First Amendment Foundation Freedom of Information Award, Third Place: [*Say My Name, School Suspensions*](#) and [*Pulse 911 Records*](#), by Rowan Moore-Gerety
- Anchor of the Year, Third Place: Christine DiMattei
- Best Newscast, Third Place: *Is Zika Here? WLRN Reports*, by WLRN News Staff
- Government and Politics Reporting, Third Place: [*Zika in South Florida*](#), WLRN News Staff
- Feature Reporting, Third Place: [*Norland Middle Drama Teacher Is The 'Real Star' To Young Moonlight Actors*](#), by Nadege Green
- News Web Site, Third Place: [*Health News Florida*](#), with WUSF and WMFE
- Social Media Package, Third Place: *Public Transit Day*, WLRN News Staff