

January 1 - March 30, 2016

TSE - The Sunshine Economy - Mondays at 9 am and 7 pm (1 hour show)

3/28 - Restoring Relations - 15 Months With Cuba

It's been 15 months since President Obama placed a phone call from the Oval Office in the White House to Havana, Cuba. He was calling Raul Castro. That conversation overturned more than a half century of American foreign policy as relations have moved from silent isolation to a presidential visit. TSE reports a lot of history has been made in those short 15 months.

3/21 - The Sunshine Economy in Cuba

Over the past 15 months, there have been five batches of administrative changes easing American travel, trade and financial restrictions. The latest set was announced last week, including allowing individual people-to-people travel by Americans and dropping the ban on U.S. banks opening accounts for Cubans. TSE reports from Cuba profiling Cubans that represent what President Obama hopes to accelerate with his visit to the island nation this week.

3/15 -Congress And Cuba: Three Voices Leading The Effort To Drop Restrictions

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz; Rep. Kathy Castor, D-Fla., and Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn. talk with TSE about why they support changing policies with Cuba from why they have an interest in Cuba to whether removing travel restrictions or dropping the embargo removes U.S. pressure on Cuba for change, including reparations.

3/7 - Finishing The Unfinished Business In The Florida Legislature

TSE addresses the status of the Governor's two top priorities as the final day of the regular session approaches this week. Republicans and Democrats in the legislature say the budgetary economics of the state changed after the governor made clear his priorities. The state revenue forecast was \$400 million less than the original estimates, leading to lawmakers now poised to disappoint the governor on his planned \$1 billion in tax cuts and \$250 million allocation for the state's economic development agency Enterprise Florida.

2/29 - The Sunshine Economy: Business and Politics

Elections are about a lot of things, but for voters, elections are about paychecks, jobs, and the economy. Sure, national security and terrorism rank high on the list of voter concerns this presidential election cycle, but the economy is identified by voters as their most important issue time and time again. With that in mind, the Sunshine Economy brought together a panel of business owners and operators from banking, technology, healthcare and construction to hear how politics impacts their businesses, and by extension the South Florida economy.

2/21 - Bugs and Money: Termites, Mosquitoes and Fruit Flies

The story of modern South Florida is a story of fighting bugs. TSE explores the status of termites (there's a new, superbug); mosquitoes (that carry the Zika virus); and fruit flies (that threaten citrus crops) - their spread and the cost of dealing with them.

2/14 - Presidents Day holiday programming

2/8 - The Fight for Florida: Presidential Politics in the Sunshine Economy

On March 15, registered Republicans and Democrats in Florida will make their preference known for president. The candidates, their campaigns and the political advertising are coming to Florida. We spoke with two party bosses -- Chair of the Democratic National Committee Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Republican Party of Florida Chairman Blaise Ingoglia -- about their candidates, the issues, the primary process and the debate over debates.

2/4 - Links to Latin America's Economic Troubles

If Latin America gets the economic flu, could South Florida catch a cold? The regional economy is closely linked to South America. Brazil is in the second year of an economic recession. Venezuela is in an economic depression and Colombia's economy has slowed down. Hear from four South American capitals about economic optimism despite the steep drop in copper prices in Chile and Peru, the hopefulness in Colombia after a few sluggish years and the deep depression in Venezuela.

1/24 - Trade Winds in the Sunshine Economy

The value of exports out of South Florida has been falling for three years now. There are lots of reasons why: a strong American dollar against international currencies makes *Made in the USA* products more expensive for foreign buyers; weaker foreign economies, especially in Latin America; and, for five months last year, the U.S. government agency that acts an insurance policy for U.S. companies selling to foreign buyers was essentially out of business. TSE looks at the impact on two South Florida businesses - one in the marine industry, the other manufacturing medical supplies.

1/11 - Will the commercial real estate boom continue?

When one thinks of real estate in South Florida, one probably thinks of the housing market. That wouldn't be wrong, but the other big slice of real estate -- and one with the cranes and big construction projects -- is coming off a big year. Last year South Florida saw more than a dozen commercial real estate deals of more than \$100 million dollars. Billions of dollars of office buildings, condo buildings, shopping malls and warehouses were bought and sold throughout the region. Can the boom continue?

TFR - The Florida Roundup - Fridays at noon and Saturdays at 6 am

Each week a panel of journalists from South Florida and around the state meet for an hour to discuss the week in news. Listeners can join the conversation by:

- Calling (800) 743-WLRN or (800) 743-9576

- email thefloridaroundup@wlrnnews.org
- post on our [Facebook page](#)
- tweet [@WLRN](#)

3/18 - Florida Roundup: President Obama's Historic Visit To Cuba

President Obama is going to Cuba this weekend and is Rubio going away for good? WLRN's Tom Hudson and Tim Padgett are in Havana awaiting Obama's visit. What is the mood there ahead of the historic trip? They're also looking at the changes that have occurred since the two nations started talking again.

Donald Trump looks like the Republican nominee in this presidential election, while Florida's Senator Marco Rubio is back in the halls of the senate, now that's he no longer running for president. But, what do we make of his claim that he won't return to politics after January?

3/4/16 Florida Roundup: Will Miami Beach get a Convention Center Hotel?

The fight for Florida's electoral delegates and a battle over building a big beach hotel when voters go to the polls next week. Hear the full conversation with Bill Talbert, CEO of the Greater Miami Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Daniel Ciraldo, preservation officer at Miami Design Preservation League and Joey Flechas, Miami Herald reporter covering Miami Beach.

2/19 - Florida Roundup: Obama's Plan To Visit Cuba

Today's TFR - an American president will head to Havana plus saving a science museum and a spectacular highway crash. This week, the White House announced President Obama and the First Lady will visit Cuba. The trip will include meetings with a Castro as well as with Cuban entrepreneurs. We discuss the history and controversy surrounding the trip.

2/12 - Florida Roundup: Unanimous Juries, Climate Solutions And Football

The Florida legislative session is at its midpoint. The death penalty remains on the agenda. The House and Senate are split over whether juries should agree unanimously in capital punishment cases. Gambling, illegal immigration and climate change - all are on the table today along with what did Miami miss out on with Super Bowl 50?

2/8 - Florida Roundup: Death Penalty, Fracking, Gambling And Guns

The Florida Roundup looks at the death penalty, heavy rains, fracking and more this week.

1/29 - Florida Roundup: South Florida Mayors Call On Senator Marco Rubio For Climate Change Support

Raising rising seas as a political issue. A mosquito is a growing health worry. And the troubles with 911 in Broward. All on today's TFR program.

1/22 - Florida Roundup: The Future Of Uber In Miami-Dade

The future of getting around in Miami with Uber and Lyft, budget decisions in Tallahassee, and immigration under scrutiny on today's TFR program.

1/15 - Florida Roundup: Supreme Court Rules Florida's Death Penalty Unconstitutional

Florida's death penalty in limbo, Cuban migrants take flight and making millions from drug tests - listen to The Florida Roundup

The U.S. Supreme Court says Florida's practice of deciding if someone gets the death penalty is unconstitutional. What does this mean for the almost 400 people on Florida's death row? Will the legislature try to change the process?

The first flight of Cuban migrants stuck in Costa Rica landed in El Salvador this week ... as they hope to come to the U.S.A. In Washington, Senator and Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio filed legislation to change the benefits Cuban immigrants get when they make it to the U.S.

Plus, drug testing and fraud in Florida. The Palm Beach Post investigation into a drug screening company and its founder and how they profited drug tests ... including what prosecutors say was a culture of greed and intimidation.

1/8/16 - Florida Roundup: Florida Politics In 2016

An election year like this year means Florida's politics will be on the national stage -- from our pivotal role in choosing the next president, to the balance of power in the United States Congress, to policy fights in the state Legislature. And all this political intrigue leads back to Florida voters. Listen to today's TFR.

1/4/16 - Florida Roundup: Police Behavior Scrutiny In 2015

Corey Jones, Lavall Hall, Tamir Rice and other people across the United States have died in police-involved shootings. How are dash, body and cellphone cameras playing a role in police-behavior scrutiny - and how are these cases handled in court? WLRN's Tom Hudson talks with Miami Herald senior crime and cops reporter Chuck Rabin and WLRN's Nadege Green about police-involved shootings and the public's growing skeptical view of the investigations.

Radio Newsroom Coverage

Cuba

WLRN sent two senior staffers to Havana prior to and through U.S. President Obama's meeting with Cuban Leader Raul Castro. WLRN's coverage addressed the mood there in Cuba; here in South Florida; and also in Congress leading up to the visit as more

announcements and policy changes emanated from the White House . In reverse order, here's a broad picture of WLRN's news stories related to restoring relations with Cuba.

Tom Hudson, WLRN's VP of News, and Tim Padgett, Americas Editor at WLRN provided on site, multi-platform, distinctive coverage from Cuba including a focus on small business, workers and their conditions, even videos of the Miramar neighborhood, rarely seen in media visuals that focus on cityscapes and crumbling infrastructure. The President's speech to the Cuban people also was broadcast on WLRN and also posted on the station's website for listeners convenience.

In his March 28th report [Googling Cuba: Is The Communist Island Ready To Join The World Wide Web?](#), Tim Padgett revealed only 5 percent of the island's 11 million people have full household access to the Web. That's one of the lowest –and slowest – Internet coverage rates in the world. And it made his reporting from Havana quite difficult and expensive. The previous week, Padgett discussed with Cubans whether [Reasoning In Havana Is More Effective Than Railing From Miami.](#) The answer is yes. Small business was the focus of a March 22nd story which reported many entrepreneurs' biggest client is the Cuban government. [Cuba's Communist State Is Now A Client Of Its Capitalist Entrepreneurs.](#) Additional stories March 20th covered training in the U.S. for young Cuban business owners and dissident arrests before and after President Obama's visit.

In mid-March, we shared the President's agenda while in Cuba and reported the White House announced [another set](#) of changes to American travel, trade and financial policies toward Cuba. Tom Hudson explored the views of three leading congressmen who expect a vote before the end of the year on removing either the travel ban or the 54-year-old trade embargo. March 11th, Padgett reported polls show most Cuban-Americans agree with President Obama's normalization of relations with Cuba but many are wary of the historic visit he's making, which is why a top White House official came to Miami to hear their concerns prior to the trip.

February 18th, Padgett shared local reactions to the White House announcement that the first family will visit the Communist country this spring. [From Capitol Hill To Little Havana, Cuban-Americans Split On President's Cuba Visit](#) while Hudson hosted the Florida Roundup addressing the announcement and our history with Cuba.

Earlier reporting included the fund-raising success of the New Cuba PAC, which supports President Obama's restoring relations with Cuba, and Key West's appointment of two ambassadors to Cuba, practicing their own form of island diplomacy.

Education

Spring Break was the focus of this March 28th report from Rowan Moore Gerety [For Working Parents, Spring Break Is No Vacation](#), which underscored how school policies are predicated on an outdated picture of employment and American families.

Gerety also reported Miami-Dade churches and community groups demanded public officials do more to reform discipline practices in local schools in the wake of data revealing racial differences in their application and extensive media coverage of horrors uncovered at juvenile holding facilities. [Community Groups Demand Action On School Discipline Reform](#) aired March 18th as did this report [Florida Ends Relationship With Juvenile Justice Contractor After Years Of Abuse Allegations](#).

New SAT tests launched in February and February 9th, intern Caitlin Granfield reported long-standing after-school programs in Florida that help thousands of at-risk kids with homework, mentoring and gang prevention could face significant changes in how state funding is distributed to them.

WLRN also reported teachers met in Tallahassee at the start of the legislative session to protest excessive testing, low wages and more - highlighting the considerable loss of teachers from the profession. January 14th, Lisann Ramos reported the Miami-Dade School Board is making plans for accommodating incoming child migrants who will eventually need to enroll in classes. Thousands are on their way.

January 11th, intern John Power noted Florida ranked 30th in the nation on education quality and was given an overall grade of C-, according to an Education Week national report. That's worse than last year, when the state came in No. 28.

Gun violence is a key topic this quarter as WLRN shares the impact of children and teens killed by guns in Miami-Dade County through the voices of some of the people who are most affected. Community Policing also was addressed in several stories this quarter.

Few Miamians are aware that more than 100 children in the county have been [killed by gun violence](#) over past three years. Sammy Mack reported March 30th, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez unveiled a new plan he hopes will prevent shooting deaths of children.

March 24th, Nadege Green remembered Sherdavia Jenkins on the 10th anniversary of her death by a stray bullet as the child played on her front porch and highlighted what has and hasn't changed since that summer day in 2006.

March 9th, Green had reported yet another Miami child was killed and how the community is rallying to address the problem. [After 6-Year Old King Carter's Death, Community Strategizes To End Gun Violence.](#) Only eight days prior, Green had reported yet another shooting death: [Reflecting The Day After A 15-Year-Old Is Killed: I Did The Best I Could.](#)

February 29th, Green shared the reality of Randall Robinson's parent in [Mother Of Killed Teen: Time Doesn't Heal This Wound.](#) Robinson was a 17-year-old student at Miami Northwestern High School who [was shot multiple times near his home in Little Haiti last year.](#)

Tawana Akins is a fourth grade teacher at Holmes Elementary School in Miami-Dade. As a teacher and in her own personal life, Akins has attended and planned funerals for school-aged children killed by gunfire in Miami-Dade County. February 28th, her statement to Green aired in the report, [Burying 6-Year Old King Carter: This Is Not Normal.](#)

Previously, Green had reported Miami-Dade Parents of Murdered Kids [held a protest outside of the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office](#) February 4th over murder cases that remain unsolved or cases that fall apart. They demanded State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle conduct stronger investigations and enforce longer sentences for violent criminals.

January 14th, Green introduced the parents and others pushing for changes to a "broken system" in [Why A Group Of Miami-Dade Parents Is Rallying Behind A 'Witness Protection' Bill.](#)

Politics - Legislative Session

January 12, 2016 reporter Sammy Mack previewed Florida's legislative session in [Smells Like Flowers, Sounds Like Protest: Welcome To Session 2016](#) Over the several weeks, WLRN focused on key issues relating to health care and the death penalty (see those categories). We wrapped up session coverage with a report March 25th by intern John Power of the 34 bills Gov. Scott signed into law, which included a restrictive set of requirements for Florida abortion clinics and body camera guidelines for police.

Politics - Presidential

On the presidential campaign front, GOP presidential candidate and hometown Senator Marco Rubio withdrew from the fray the day following his poor showing in his home state's primary. WLRN aired stories March 16th of how his announcement left some young supporters in tears as well as analysis of how the tide turned against this formerly rising star of the Republican Party and why he'll be back one day.

The Florida Primary on March 15th was a key focus nationally. The NPR show *Here and Now* broadcasted live from WLRN studios in anticipation of and during Florida's Primary Election. *Here and Now* is the NPR live midday news program, hosted by Robin Young and Jeremy Hobson, which reflects the fluid world of news as it's happening with timely, smart and in-depth reports, interviews and conversation. Throughout the day, WLRN reported from voting sites and also noted the weather/beach effect. As results came in, WLRN reporters were off-site with the candidates and their supporters to capture results, reactions and speeches - and share them with our audience throughout the evening.

In recognition of Florida's key role in national elections, both parties held debates in Miami on subsequent days March 10th and 11th. WLRN covered and compared the topics of both debates. [GOP Debate In Miami: Cuba, Sea-Level Rise and Foreign Worker Visas](#) and [Democrats Debate In South Florida: Immigration Tops Agenda](#). A unique perspective was provided in this report March 11th [Politically Speaking: Translating A Presidential Debate](#). Live translation of debates is "...not a science. This is an art," said Cesar Cardoza, a translator who played Bernie Sanders for Spanish speaking listeners of another network.

Prior to the debates on March 8th, Gina Jordan reported twenty-one mayors – most of from South Florida – [sent a letter](#) to the moderators for both debates. The mayors want the candidates to explain how they plan to deal with climate change and sea level rise.

And intern Kate Stein shared this national analysis of Latino voters February 26th: less than half of eligible Latino voters nationally will vote in the 2016 presidential elections, according to an analysis released this week by a nonpartisan Latino group. The [analysis](#), conducted by the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, nonetheless predicts a 17 percent increase in the number of Latinos who will vote in 2016.

Naturally, there were the usual stories reporting which candidate was ahead in the polls for both parties, early voting, and the progression and conclusion (in February) of former Florida Governor Jeb Bush's candidacy.

Florida's Death Penalty process is changing after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Florida's death sentencing process was unconstitutional because it gives judges, rather than juries, the power to condemn someone to death. But that ruling came just days too late for Oscar Bolin. As Wilson Sayre reported January 6th, Bolin was the 23rd person scheduled to be put to death during Gov. Rick Scott's administration, which has

overseen the most executions since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976. On January 8th, Oscar Bolin was declared dead by lethal injection at 10:16 p.m.

But that January 12th ruling was lucky for Cary Lambrix. As Christine Dimattei reported February 11th, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling spared Lambrix, who's been on Death Row for 31 years for murdering two people in Glades County. His Feb. 11, 2016 execution was blocked by the court.

But Florida's death penalty may rise again. February 25th, Wilson Sayre reported the death penalty might soon be back, even as the mother of a murder victim hopes the Legislature will consider making it harder for juries to impose the death penalty (a Feb. 24th story). Florida had to rewrite its procedures after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

March 3rd, Sayre detailed changes wrought in the legislative process and March 9th reported Gov. Rick Scott signed into law the new pathway to sentence someone to death. Sayre's reporting on the death penalty continues into the second quarter of 2016 after her return from a road trip visiting Lakeland, Starke and other Florida prison sites.

Healthcare Pricing is an issue attracting attention and legislation. While the Internet allows savvy consumers to comparison shop for big ticket items, medical procedures aren't included but that could be ending. Gina Jordan reported from the state capitol February 19th the Florida House was ready to consider a bill ([HB 1175](#)) that would enable consumers to see what hospitals around the state charge for similar surgeries and courses of treatment. February 16th, Sammy Mack reported [Surprise Billing Proposal One Step Closer To Becoming Law](#) - a bill that would ensure Out of Network charges would be identified and disclosed ahead of time. Price comparison for healthcare is a WLRN focus with an interactive tool launching in the second quarter of 2016 allowing the public to enter healthcare data for procedures.

Sammy Mack shared [Reports Say Thousands Of Jobs Will Be Lost When Health Care Funding Drops](#) on January 20th explaining funding for charity care—called [Low Income Pool or LIP funding](#)—is a match between state and federal money. And in Florida, that state contribution is funded by taxes from counties through a process known as intergovernmental transfers (IGTs). Two new reports now say *county not state* leaders are the ones who really need to be concerned.

Also in the healthcare arena, Wilson Sayre on January 14th reported [Sick And Waiting For Help In Miami, The Longest Line For Disability In The Country](#).

Arts, the environment, transportation, Haiti, Valentine's Day, real estate, Zika, FPL and other stories from Key West to Palm Beach reflecting life in these Florida counties continued to inform, educate and entertain our audience throughout the quarter which ended March 31st with this interview by WLRN anchor Luis Hernandez. He talked with Michelle Chen, who wrote for Slate about what life is like for housekeepers working the hotels of Miami Beach. It isn't pretty, fun or rewarding. [Michelle Chen opens the curtains to what's hidden behind all the sun and fun of spring break in Miami Beach.](#)