

Quarterly Issues Report

WSMR

Florida Matters Public Affairs Show

University Beat

April 1 – June 30, 2012

Florida Matters Quarterly report April 1 – June 30, 2012

Time aired: Friday at 7 – 7:30 p.m. on WSMR 89.1 FM

Protesters Prepare for the Republican National Convention

June 19, 2012

Radio Description:

More than 15,000 protesters are expected to flood the city of Tampa in August for the Republican National Convention.

We asked three Tampa-area activists what they stand for and what they hope to accomplish.

1. They want to send a message to the Republican Party.

"The 99% are not happy with their goals and ideals," said Sky Smetzer, a member of Students for a Democratic Society in Gainesville.

Jared Hamil, a member of the same group, adds, "We'll be there to say no to the Republican Agenda and we'll be also demanding five things: good jobs, health care, affordable education, equality and peace."

2. They feel like the city of Tampa hasn't treated them fairly and is trying to stifle dissent.

"I think it's the city in general," Hamil said. "We had the Clean Zone and Event Zone. What it does, it not only limits things, it tries to control protesters in a way that is just undemocratic.

"Just these things all together, it's pretty atrocious."

3. They want to keep the momentum of the Occupy movement going.

"It created a whole new atmosphere for people," Hamil said. "People can see now there is a mass movement of people saying no to the 1 percent.

"Everybody is here together. We're all related and we're all here to say no to the corporate led government."

4. They're peaceful protesters, but don't expect them to try and influence anyone who isn't.

"Were going to abide by the Tampa Bay principles. They're basically a St. Paul principles that the coalition to march on the RNC in 2008 marched under," says Corey Uhl.

"The standards are, each group will respect each others events as far as what is planned. If they have a different way of expressing themselves, that they do it away from our event. We won't necessarily renounce it because these are tense times."

Tampa Police Chief Jane Castor on the GOP National Convention

June 12, 2012

Radio Description:

Tampa Police Chief Jane Castor says her department is prepared to deal with the tens of thousands of people who are expected to descend on Tampa for the upcoming Republican National Convention. WUSF's All Things Considered host Craig Kopp asks her what kind of unique challenges police will face - especially from thousands of protestors parading in the Florida heat.

While Castor says the majority of people who come to the convention will be peaceful, police are prepared for the minority whose intentions are anything but.

"The eyes of the world will be upon us," she says.

Political conventions usually need from 3,500 to 4,000 police officers to maintain order, she says. But Tampa has only 1,000 officers. The rest will be coming mostly from sheriff's offices in Hillsborough, Pinellas and Polk counties - although some will be coming from as far as Miami.

But just how thoroughly trained will these officers be?

"Everyone is going through lengthy and in-depth crowd management training, which is provided by the Department of Homeland Security," she says. "And we actually have sent a contingent of officers from the Tampa Police department and the sheriff's office to these different agencies to train them in crowd management, to insure that everyone understands the tactics necessary and everyone understands the need to prevent any issues from occurring."

She says those other officers will be supervised directly by either someone from Tampa P.D. or the Hillsborough Sheriff's Office. And outside of the area directly controlled by the Secret Service, Castor will be in charge of every officer.

"I just want this to be an event that showcases all that's great about the Tampa Bay area, and law enforcement in Tampa," she says.

Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn

June 5, 2012

Radio Description:

This week, Florida Matters brings you an exclusive interview with Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn. Host Carson Cooper traveled to Tampa City Hall to talk with the first-term mayor in March.

Buckhorn has been in office about a year. When he took over, the city was facing a \$34 million deficit and is looking at a \$30 million deficit for the coming fiscal year.

Yet, Buckhorn started his discussion about the budget with praise for his predecessor, Pam Iorio, who left the city with a \$120 million rainy day fund, compared to the \$20 million fund she inherited. Municipalities are highly dependent on property taxes for their main revenue and the recession and housing crisis have meant shrinking revenues and growing deficits.

“The property taxes and the value of our real estate has diminished so much that the amount of money that is coming into us has dropped 20 to 30 percent,” Buckhorn said.

Buckhorn plans to bolster the budget with revenues from the city’s new red-light cameras, but he told WUSF that money was not the reason for installing the system.

“Our rationale for putting those red-light cameras in is because red-light running in this city and this state is an epidemic and people are dying, dying as a result of people busting red lights,” Buckhorn said adding that he always counts to three after a light turns green before entering an intersection because he’s seen too many accidents.

During his tenure as mayor, Buckhorn has been vocal about the Tampa Bay Rays. He’s often said he won’t be the “boyfriend” who breaks up the marriage between the Rays and the City of St. Petersburg. However, he told WUSF, “I may be the pool guy though.”

Buckhorn stressed that he can’t interfere with the contract between St. Petersburg and the Rays. However, he also said that he other Tampa Bay leaders should be prepared if there was a split.

“I think we need to know what our options are,” Buckhorn said. “I think we need to know what Tampa, Tampa Bay could bring to the table financially.”

Speaking of finances, Buckhorn said the city will use a large portion of the \$50 million from congress to hire, house and feed additional law enforcement officers to cover security for the Republican National Convention in August. Between the City of Tampa and Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, Buckhorn estimates they can deploy about 1,000 law officers.

“We are having to hire 3,000 additional law enforcement personnel from all over the state to assist us with this,” Buckhorn said. He believes the convention will be a defining moment for the city.

“I want people to come downtown. I want people to enjoy this experience. I want young people to experience democracy at the street level,” Buckhorn said. “Fifteen thousand journalists will be here talking about something. I want them to talk about all that’s good about Tampa not talk about the inconveniences or not listen to whining. I want to hear Tampa tell the world what a great place this is to invest.”

This Florida Matters program is a conversation from March 2012.

American Graduate: Teachers Speak Out About the Dropout Crisis

May 29, 2012

Radio Description:

As part of the American Graduate: Let’s Make it Happen initiative, WUSF Public Media has produced this special Florida Matters on the dropout crisis in Florida.

We talk to a student who almost dropped out -- until his mother and a special school intervenes.

We talk to teachers at a special town hall meeting in Jacksonville about their problems, frustrations and possible solutions.

And we hear from one potential teacher about her reaction to hearing from these teachers.

“American Graduate” partner organizations and stations include FPBS, WLRN (Miami), WJCT (Jacksonville), WFSU (Tallahassee), WDSC (Daytona), WUSF (Tampa) and WEDU (Tampa).

The public media initiative, American Graduate: Let's Make It Happen is helping communities across America identify and implement solutions to address the high school dropout crisis. Made possible by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), the multi-year campaign is designed to raise awareness and dialogue through national and local multiplatform programming.

More than 600 partnerships have been formed locally through American Graduate and CPB is partnering with America's Promise Alliance and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Visit American Graduate on Facebook, Twitter or AmericanGraduate.org.

Florida Matters: The Military & Memorial Day

May 23, 2012

Radio Description:

Monday is Memorial Day – a time when civilians and military alike will take a moment to remember those killed while serving their country.

This week Florida Matters takes a look at the U.S. Military through the eyes of a base commander, a WWII veteran and a documentary producer.

Col. Lenny Richoux is commander for both the U.S. Air Force 6th Air Mobility Wing and MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. He arrived at MacDill in July 2010 and will leave for his next assignment, as a special assistant to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe Adm. James Stavridis, on July 27th.

During his two years running MacDill, Richoux has overseen many changes like the building of a new Central Command Headquarters and new base housing that's been privatized.

Col. Richoux also shares a commander's perspective on implementing major policy changes handed down from the Pentagon on increased suicide rates, the stigma of PTSD, post-traumatic stress disorder, and military sexual assault.

Sarah Pusateri co-produced a documentary on military sexual assault titled, Uniform Betrayal, the documentary premiered on WUSF-TV, Channel 16, and will be broadcast again on WEDU, Channel 3, on June 1st and 14th.

Less than 1 percent of the U.S. population serves in the military today, but during WWII virtually every family had someone in the fight.

Tampa native and retired Circuit Judge John P. “Jack” Griffin was no exception. He and his brother enlisted in WWII. Jack ended up in the Pacific as a Navy pharmacist mate – the only medical man aboard LSM 185.

Jack has shared many stories with his son, Tampa attorney Chris Griffin, and next month the two of them will travel on an “Honor Flight” to Washington D.C. to visit the WWII Memorial and others together. Before that trip, he shared some of what it was like when the whole country and world was at war.

For Memorial Day, Col. Richoux shared his favorite memorials that have meaning to him and his family.

He often takes his son to the Air Park at MacDill AFB which has three aircraft, flown by MacDill airmen, on display. In Washington D.C., the Korean Veterans memorial is meaningful because he father, a Marine, fought in that war.

“I’ve personally seen the healing,” Richoux said when his father visited the memorial. And he’s seen the same healing of Vietnam Veterans who have visited “the wall” – the nickname for the Vietnam Memorial.

St. Petersburg Mayor Bill Foster on the Rays, the Pier, and More

May 15, 2012

Radio Description:

The decisions made by St. Petersburg Mayor Bill Foster and the city council over the next year years will shape the city for decades to come.

Specifically, Foster is trying to keep ahold of the Tampa Bay Rays, and rebuild the city's iconic Pier.

Florida Matters' Carson Cooper interviewed Foster for our Newsmakers series.

He asks Foster about both of those issues -- as well as his plans for cutting the budget, his feelings about Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn, and his plans for the Republican National Convention.

Preparing for a Hurricane

May 7, 2012

Radio Description:

It's been so long since Florida's been hit...do you even feel like you need to be ready? Two emergency officials say that it's not a matter of if the big one will hit...but when.

Holley Wade from Hillsborough County Emergency Management and Pinellas County emergency spokesman Tom Iovino tell us what we need to do as families and communities to be prepared.

Florida Matters: Newsmaker Gov. Rick Scott

May 1, 2012

Radio Description:

On Florida Matters this week, Bobbie O'Brien talked with the state's 45th governor about Florida Polytechnic, the Republican National Convention, and whether Florida is the most veteran-friendly state.

Five things we learned from our interview with Governor Scott:

1. That Scott thinks a 12th University “makes sense”

The governor has several reasons why he thinks creating a new university is a good idea. The funding was already allotted for the current USF Poly campus, it focuses state resources on STEM degrees, the Board of Governors had already approved it and “sometimes there’s a benefit from starting something from scratch.”

2. That Scott is worried about universities competing against each other

Prior to 2000, there were only two medical schools in the public university system, now there are six. Scott said the Board of Governors must remember that “we’re building a system, we’re not building 12 competitors.” In 2006, the Board of Governors commissioned the Pappas Report which cautioned against “mission creep” among other concerns with the university framework.

3. That Scott wants to “do business” at Republican National Convention.

Scott believes his biggest job during the four day convention is to “welcome business people who might open up jobs here.” The governor plans on “showcasing our state.” He said the selling points are: no personal income tax and he will promise a responsive state government “if you think a fee is unfair ... if a regulation doesn’t make sense ... if a permit is taking too long.”

4. That Scott plans accountability for tax incentives

The governor said he reorganized the state’s economic development and tax incentive program last year. He promises that now “we measure every deal” – looking at how much is given in state tax dollars versus how much is returned in tax revenues.

Yet, he said he is willing to look at and learn from the recent Pew Center report: Evidence Counts that ranks Florida among the worse states in tracking tax incentives. Evidence Counts – Evaluating State Tax Incentives for Jobs and Growth finds that 25 states and Florida are trailing and not adequately tracking the tax money and promised jobs.

5. That Scott claims the title as most veteran friendly state

Scott meets with base commanders every 90 days to make sure Florida is the most military friendly state because it means jobs and he cares about the military, having served in the Navy and his dad served in the 82nd Airborne.

And as the military members retire most are staying in Florida the veteran population is 1,650,000 not including the 1 million military family members. “We want jobs in our state, we a great education system in our state and to have quality people. The people coming out of the military are really great people, I want them to be in Florida.”

Florida Wildlife Expedition Travels 1,000 Miles to Georgia

April 24, 2012

Radio Description:

The Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition crossed the finish line nearly 100 days after setting off in the Everglades on a 1,000-mile journey to the Georgia state line. Their goal - inspiring the creation of a permanent unbroken wildlife corridor.

Wildlife photographer Carlton Ward Jr., filmmaker Elam Stoltzfus, bear biologist Joe Guthrie and conservationist Mallory Lykes Dimmitt have wrapped up the *traveling* part of their Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition. Now, they have to make their vision a reality.

WUSF was one of the sponsors of the trip. Reporter Steve Newborn has been following the group since they left the tip of the Everglades. We chronicle the progress of the expedition, hear from the "Cowboy Poet" on a ranch in Central Florida, and talk with the members about the highlights of the trip - and its future - as they paddle up the Suwanee River, near their final destination in Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp.

Florida's Stand Your Ground Law Under Attack

April 17, 2012

Radio Description:

When George Zimmerman shot and killed Trayvon Martin, he invoked a "Stand Your Ground" defense. And now, supporters of the law are finding themselves on the defensive.

The shooting death of Trayvon Martin has led to a national debate about "Stand Your Ground." The law says you no longer have a duty to retreat if you feel threatened. Instead, you're allowed to defend yourself using force -- even deadly force.

Florida Matters host Carson Cooper breaks down what the Stand Your Ground law does and does not allow with two experts.

Stephen Romine is a Clearwater defense attorney who has successfully defended clients in several Stand Your Ground cases.

Robert Batey is a Stetson University Law School professor who has studied and written about Stand Your Ground.

We'd love to hear what you say about Stand Your Ground. Go to [facebook.com/WUSF](https://www.facebook.com/WUSF) and let us know.

And go to wusfnews.org for all our latest Trayvon Martin coverage.

Trayvon Martin, Race and the Media

April 10, 2012

Radio Description:

What has the media done right in its coverage of the death of Trayvon Martin? Where has it fallen short?

And what is the proper role of race in the coverage of Martin's death?

These are some of the very tough questions tackled by Eric Deggans, media critic for the Tampa Bay Times, on this Florida Matters.

Clouds Form Over Florida's Sunshine Laws

April 9, 2012

Radio Description:

It's known as the Sunshine State...and Florida's Sunshine law gives you the right to see what your government is doing. But a new report says clouds are forming over our sunshine law.

This special Florida Matters focuses on ethics in state government. Our friends at WLRN in Miami have teamed up with the Center for Public Integrity and Public Radio International on this State Integrity Investigation. The investigation graded each state on a variety of measures of corruption.

Overall, Florida was graded a C-. Florida ranked 18th in how susceptible it is to corruption.

But in some categories, Florida scored much worse. Florida has a national reputation for its Public Records Law and yet, one of the state's lowest scores was for "Public Access to Information."

There were 14 different sub-categories. By far, Florida did the best in "Redistricting." In fact, it led the entire country in that category with a 100% score.

Critics wonder how Florida could score a 100-percent, A++ for its redistricting process in a year when the state courts rejected the Senate's map.

On some things, Florida's ethics laws for government officials are very strict. Lawmakers can't accept a meal from a lobbyist...but as WLRN's Kenny Malone reports, it's perfectly OK for that lobbyist to donate tens of thousands of dollars to help that same lawmaker get elected.

Florida Matters: Best of 2012 Spring

April 2, 2012

Radio Description:

We're only three months into the year, yet 2012 is proving to be a momentous. This week Florida Matters revisits some of our top stories from a wild legislative session to a wildlife expedition trek.

Presidential politics dominated January 2012 because Republican leaders in Florida pushed up the state's Presidential Preference Primary drawing a national spotlight. Florida Matters asked a panel of experts to examine Florida's role in the GOP selection process.

In February, Florida Senate budget leader JD Alexander sent tremors through the Tampa Bay area when he proposed major funding cuts to the University of South Florida saying he had lost confidence in USF's willingness to convert its Lakeland campus into the 12th public university: Florida Polytechnic. USF President Judy Genshaft rallied business leaders and residents averting a budget crisis and bringing USF's budget cuts in line with those of other universities.

In turn, Sen. Alexander got what he wanted the 12th public university, but he and the governor failed to get their way when it came to the bill that would have privatized several state-run prisons in south Florida. Yet, several

prisons including Hillsborough Correctional Institution, the state's only all women's faith and character based prison.

Both the senate and house included money to repair buildings at Hillsborough Correctional so it could stay open. However, Sen. JD Alexander personally deleted that allocation from the final budget bill.

In addition to the top news stories so far, Florida Matters talked with top news maker Jeff Vinik owner of the Tampa Bay Lightning.

And we also hear from a scientist, a filmmaker and a photographer are trying to make some news of their own as they trek the length of Florida, 1000 miles, in 100 days on a Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition.

UNIVERSITY BEAT SECOND QUARTER 2012

University Beat reports run every Friday on WSMR 89.1 FM every Friday at about 7:30 pm. Each report is between two and a half minutes and three and a half minutes in length.

University Beat: China Architecture (week of April 2, 2012)

By Mark Schreiner

Architecture students from USF and a university in China travel to each other's homelands to learn about sustainable building in developed and undeveloped areas of both countries. (Education, Economy, Environment)

University Beat: Road to the White House (week of April 9, 2012)

By Mark Schreiner

Students in a USF St. Petersburg political science class learn the nuts and bolts of presidential campaigns by volunteering for them. (Politics, Education)

University Beat: Cancer Caregiver Symposium (week of April 16, 2012)

By Mark Schreiner

A preview of the April 28th "Caring for the Caregiver" symposium at the Moffitt Cancer Center. (Medicine, Age)

University Beat: ShelterBox (week of April 23, 2012)

By Mark Schreiner

A visit to the USF Sarasota-Manatee campus, where a group of students spent two nights in a "ShelterBox" tent to raise funds for the Bay area-based organization behind this worldwide life-saving effort. (Poverty, Refugee)

University Beat: Miles for Moffitt (week of April 30, 2012)

By Mark Schreiner

A preview of the annual fundraising walk/run event for Moffitt Cancer Center. (Medicine)

University Beat: Speed Dating Record (week of May 7, 2012)

By Mark Schreiner

Almost 300 USF students join a group of TV reality stars to help set a new Guinness World Record for world's largest speed dating event. (Education, Arts)

University Beat: Sun Dome Reopens (week of May 14, 2012)

By Mark Schreiner

The USF Sun Dome reopens after a 36 million dollar renovation project. (Education, Business)

University Beat: USF Pre-College (week of May 21, 2012)

By Mark Schreiner

A preview of USF's new Pre-College program, a collection of 13 different summer classes to prepare high school students for college. (Education, Children, Science, Environment)

University Beat: Wine-Alzheimer's Study (week of May 28, 2012)

By Mark Schreiner

A look at a USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute national study of a compound found in red wine that may help change the course of Alzheimer's disease development. (Medicine, Age)

University Beat: Marine Science-Social Media (week of June 4, 2012)

By Mark Schreiner

A look at two USF Marine Science programs that are using social media like Twitter, Skype and Facebook to communicate information about the latest research going on at sea. (Science, Education, Environment)

University Beat: Fungicide Safety (week of June 11, 2012)

By Mark Schreiner

A pair of USF biologists puts one of the world's most commonly used fungicides under the microscope to see what kind of risk it poses to freshwater ecosystems. (Science, Education, Environment)

University Beat: STEM Superheroes (week of June 18, 2012)

By Mark Schreiner

Three USF PhD students don superhero costumes to teach elementary school students science, technology, engineering and math, both in person and through an internet video series. (Science, Education, Children, Arts, Environment)

University Beat: Speed Dating Record RE-BROADCAST (week of June 25, 2012)

By Mark Schreiner

Almost 300 USF students join a group of TV reality stars to help set a new Guinness World Record for world's largest speed dating event. (Education, Arts) (ORIGINALLY RAN week of May 7, 2012)