

College of Journalism and Communications
Division of Multimedia Properties
WUFT-TV/DT; WRUF-TV
WUFT-FM; WJUF-FM
WRUF-FM; WRUF-AM

Weimer Hall
PO Box 118405
Gainesville, Florida 32611-8405
352-392-5551
352-392-5741 Fax

To: Governor Ron DeSantis' Office and the Florida Department of Education
From: Randy Wright, Executive Director, UF Division of Media Properties
Re: WUFT-TV and WUFT-FM/WJUF-FM and Florida Public Radio Emergency
Network Fourth Quarter FY 2024-25
Date: July 10, 2025

WUFT-TV, WUFT/WJUF-FM and the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network (FPREN) continue to operate in the public interest with a focus on local news, information, educational, weather and entertainment programming.

FY24-25 Fourth Quarter Activity Report – WUFT-TV:

WUFT-TV is a million-watt, full-service broadcast television station, serving the north Florida region over the air, on cable and satellite, online and via the WUFT Media App. The WUFT-TV channel lineup also provides the following HD and standard subchannels which are included on cable in the Gainesville-Ocala area: WUFT-DT1: PBS HD, WUFT-DT2: PBS Create and WUFT-DT3: The Florida Channel. WUFT-TV's programming in the fourth quarter included PBS Kids shows, information and entertainment programming from PBS, APT and NETA as well as local productions and local news produced by the WUFT Innovation News Center (INC).

WUFT-TV Local Productions:

"WUFT's Greater Good" is a local half-hour program showcasing non-profit organizations in North Central Florida. The program is promoted on television, radio and across all WUFT media social platforms. "Greater Good" encore episodes included Smathers Libraries, United Way of Marion County, SKY Campus Happiness at UF, North Florida Foundation for Research and Education, Center for Nonprofit Excellence, The Jesus Infusion and the Alachua County Youth Orchestra. The program was broadcast 107 times during the fourth quarter. All episodes are archived and viewable at <https://www.wuft.org/greatergood>



WUFT's

GREATER GOOD

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“Artistry in Motion” celebrates the local arts community in modules showcasing an individual artist’s story in engaging 45-second audio and one-minute video vignettes that are broadcast at various times. Segments featured Seth Benzel, Perry Homkohl, Ellen Hosafros, Noel Smith, Eric Lewis, Cindy Brandt, Malkum Gibson, Kendra Brazzel, Kim Tuttle, Ari Uberti, Sheila Carr, Gregorio Rivera, Sara Nussel, Wendy Low, Lisa Maria Mercer, Tara Bolling, Vincent Granela, Sonya Leonore Stahl, Derek Wohlust, Charlita Whitehead, and Nancy Gildersleeve. <https://www.wuft.org/artistryinmotion>

“WUFT News First at Five” is produced and anchored by student journalists in the UF College of Journalism and Communications and features news, weather, sports, and entertainment Monday through Friday at 5 p.m. The 30-minute broadcast aired 47 times during the fourth quarter. WUFT News staff and students were the recipients of Region 13 RTDNA Edward R. Murrow Awards, Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Awards and Public Media Journalists Association National Awards.

“Knight Talks” features UF students interviewing media industry leaders and college alumni. Guests included Meredith Reis, Steve Orlando, Trimmel Gomes, Cindi Avila, John Cox, Brian Marsh, Robyn Seron, Mike Goldrick, Caitlin Ostroff and Steve Weinstein. The 30-minute television episodes were broadcast 16 times during the fourth quarter. <https://www.wuft.org/knighttalks>

“WUFT Amplified” features performances by local musical groups recorded in the WUFT Studio. Encore presentations were broadcast 16 times during the fourth quarter.
<https://www.wuft.org/shows/wuft-amplified>

GNV on the Move” is a monthly, half-hour television program featuring segments about current City of Gainesville initiatives, events and staff. <https://www.gainesvillefl.gov/News-articles/New-Gainesville-TV-program-%E2%80%9CGNV-On-The-Move%E2%80%9D>

“CommuniGator Podcast” The 30-60-minute monthly podcast episodes featured UF Prof. James Babanikos, UF Prof. Tim Sorel and WUFT News Manager Alicia Coleman.
<https://www.wuft.org/podcast/communigator-podcast>

“Echoes in the Dark,” a student-produced project, uncovers the impact of an unsuspecting yet wildly rejected creature: bats. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2IHmGXZ-jU>

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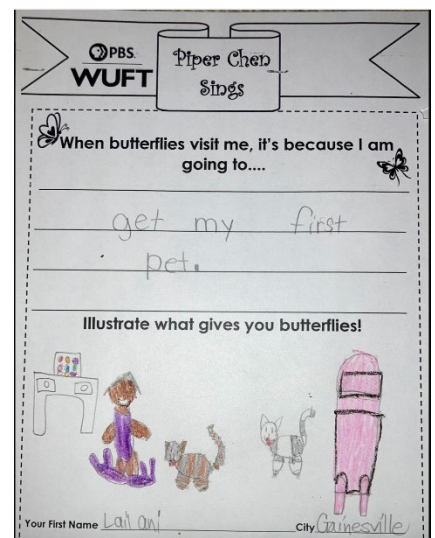
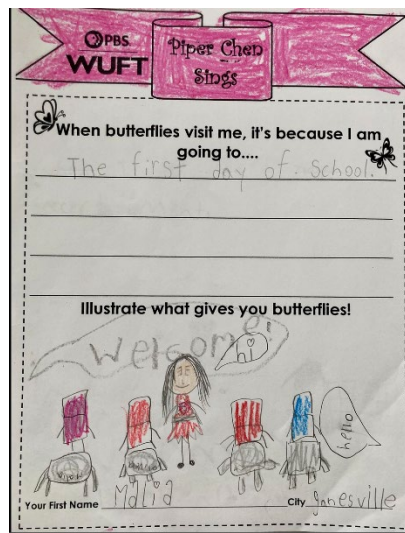
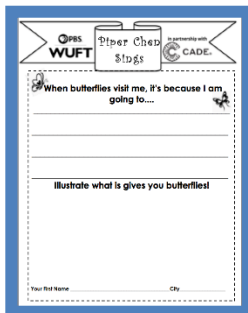
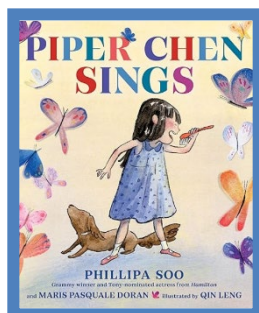
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WUFT-TV Educational Outreach:

The coordinator participated in all FPBS conference calls and shared education outreach posts on the WUFT Facebook page. The posts are sourced through PBS Kids and station initiatives targeting families and educators. Another project featuring planning for the launch of Weather Word Wednesday in collaboration with WUFT and Florida Public Radio Emergency Network meteorologists. The goal is to create a weather-based curriculum that will include:

- A weekly introduction to a “Weather Word” during Wednesday’s weather report.
- Weather words would be presented thematically with related words (for example, types of clouds).
- Definitions and visuals
- Words and visuals would be available on WUFT website for review.
- A “Weather Word” Journal frame will be available for viewers to download and record each week’s Weather Word to create an illustration.

In addition, “Read for the Record” coverage continued with a coordinated first grade classroom reading activity with follow up shared on WUFT’s Facebook page.



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FY24-25 Fourth Quarter Activity – WUFT-/WJUF-FM:

WUFT-FM is a 100,000-watt station and WJUF-FM simulcasts WUFT-FM via a 21,000-watt signal. The non-commercial stations broadcast a news/talk format from studios in the UF College of Journalism and Communications. WUFT/WJUF features live, local news/talk content as well as news and information programming from statewide public media partners and national programming services. Locally produced programs and modules include “Tell Me About It,” “Animal Airwaves Live,” “Tiny Tech” and “Health in a Heartbeat.” WUFT-FM currently provides three different programming streams: a news/talk format on 89.1-HD1/90.1-HD1; “WUFT Classic” on 89.1- HD2/90.1-HD2 featuring a 24-hour-a-day classical music radio signal also broadcast on 102.7 FM in the Gainesville and 88.5 FM in Archer; and “GHQ,” on 89.1-HD3/90.1-HD3 featuring the student-run, millennial-focused contemporary music station that is also rebroadcast on 95.3 FM in Gainesville. “GHQ” is an innovative project that provides the ideal platform for broadcast radio’s mobile app technology as it relates to engaging young listeners.

Gainesville-Ocala Market:

WUFT-FM (HD1): News/Talk-Community Information
WUFT-FM (HD2): WUFT Classic (Music/Arts)
WUFT-FM (HD3): “GHQ”-Millennial-Targeted Contemporary Music

Nature Coast/The Villages Markets:

WJUF-FM (HD1): News/Talk-Community Information
WJUF-FM (HD2): WUFT Classic (Music/Arts)

FY24-25 Fourth Quarter Activity – WUFT Digital, Radio and Television News Highlights

Digital/WUFT.org:

WUFT.org focused on stories of public interest including the arrest of a [University of Florida student by immigration officials](#), an in-depth examination of the [history and challenges of air conditioning](#) in the Sunshine State, the [difficulties that overtourism pose in Costa Rica](#) and Florida alike, a [controversial turnpike expansion](#) plan, whether [geoengineering offers promise or peril](#) and a look at the ways in which [people living on the street express themselves](#).

WUFT-TV Television Highlights:

Hurricanes (recovery from last season, preps for new season): April 1,2,3,10,18,22; May 29,30; June 2,4,5,6,9,12,18,20

- University of Florida presidency (search, selection, rejection): May 27; June 2,3,4,5,6
- Impact of new immigration enforcement on UF students (arrests, deportations, protests): April 8,9,11,14,15,16

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- Changes to Gainesville's Regional Transit System: April 10, May 30, June 6,17

WUFT-FM Radio Highlights:

- A circuit judge's ruling that the Gainesville ballot referendum was null.
- An unexpected link between diet and lung cancer has just been discovered.
- The Gainesville Regional Transit System could be cutting down on routes over the summer.
- With only 4 weeks left in the spring semester [April 28th], some Santa Fe students have yet to receive their financial aid.
- Teachers in Alachua County reached an agreement with the district over salary increases.
- For the second time, a Gainesville middle school is celebrating a big win.
- The Marion County School Board unanimously approved the names of two of its new elementary schools. Bradford High School is hosting a job fair to fill open positions throughout the Bradford County school system.
- A search committee for the University of Florida's next president has announced its sole finalist.

WUFT-FM Local Radio Programs:

"Tell Me About It" is a weekly audio storytelling series focusing on events, organizations and research projects by those that helped create them and those that have benefitted. Episodes featured Keep Alachua County Beautiful, Teens Work Alachua, GFAA Artist Studio Tour, UF College of Nursing Elevate 2029, 2025 Hurricane Season Forecast, Center for Nonprofit Excellence, Region 13 RTDNA Edward R. Murrow Award winners, Doug Jones from Florida Museum of Natural History and WUFT's FANFARES & FIREWORKS. <https://www.wuft.org/podcast/tell-me-about-it>

"Animal Airwaves Live" is a live weekly one-hour, call-in program in collaboration with veterinarians from the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. Episodes included managing care for elderly pets, helping Florida's marine animals, leprosy and armadillos, what to consider before bringing a pet home, glaucoma in dogs, vehicular trauma in dogs, open heart surgery for dogs, safe animal exercise, canine and feline pregnancies and what to do before applying to veterinary school.

<https://podcasts.ufhealth.org/category/animal-airwaves/live/>

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“**Tiny Tech**” is a series of radio modules focusing on the science and engineering of the very small. Each module presents an aspect of nanoscale objects, ranging from the effects of size on chemical and physical properties to new technological applications in fields as diverse as electronic devices and medicine. <https://cnem.chem.ufl.edu/index.html>

“**Health in a Heartbeat**” is a credible source of health information that inspires and informs listeners and satisfies their growing appetite for news they can use. For more than 20 years, “Health in a Heartbeat” has offered a daily dose of medical wisdom. The program is produced in partnership with UF Health. The two-minute modules air weekdays locally and on public radio stations across the country.

<https://www.wuft.org/health-in-a-heartbeat>



FY24-25 Fourth Quarter Activity – Florida Public Radio Emergency Network (FPREN)

The staff of the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network (FPREN) includes Chief Meteorologist Tim Miller, Senior Meteorologist Megan Borowski and Meteorologist William Maxham. Along with weather forecasts and predictions they train UF students on forecasting and on-air presentation. The following list represents content that was produced for radio and social media audiences of partner stations throughout Florida and South Carolina.

April:

- Beryl and Milton retired from the rotating list of tropical cyclone names in the Atlantic Basin
- 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook- Researchers at the Colorado State University predict an above average season
- Severe storm and flash flood risk over the Panhandle for the first weekend of April
- Extreme drought develops over parts of South Florida
- Easter outlook: Rip currents and elevated wildfire risk.

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May:

- Strong thunderstorms to begin the month of May
- Atlantic Hurricane season preparedness guide
- Heavy rainfall and flood risk across the Panhandle and northern Florida peninsula (May 9-14)
- Heavy rain leads to some improvement in drought conditions
- NHC begins issuing tropical weather outlooks (May 15)
- Record heat + severe thunderstorm risk (May 20 -24)
- Memorial Day outlook: Staying safe at the beach
- Stalling front and flood risk (May 30)

June:

- Hurricane season begins
- Saharan dust plume arrives (June 5)
- Tropical humidity and thunderstorms keep flash flood risk elevated (June 8)
- Understanding heat alerts
- Rainy season has improved drought conditions across the state (June 20)
- Factors that influence the Atlantic hurricane season: MJO
- Lightning safety
- Andrea becomes first Tropical Storm of the 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season (June 24)
- Tropical Depression Two/Tropical Storm Barry develops and moves near Mexico
- Monitoring the northern Gulf and Southeast coast for potential tropical development