Florida Matters Quarterly report April 1- June 30, 2021

Time aired: Tuesdays at 6:30 – 7 p.m. and Sundays at 7:30 – 8 a.m. on WUSF 89.7 FM; Monday at 10 – 10:30 p.m. on WSMR 89.1 FM

Florida Matters Gets An Update On Florida Panthers  
(June 29, 2021)  
We check back in with WUSF reporter Steve Newborn about recent developments in panther protections. His feature story about a National Geographic cover story highlighting the endangered species first aired in April. (Environment, government, transportation, history)

Algae Blooms Are Affecting Both Florida Coasts — Beachgoers, Manatees Are Paying The Price  
(June 22, 2021)  
While red tide remains a nuisance for Tampa Bay's beaches, manatees are dying on Florida's east coast due to algae blooms. (Environment, business, government)

Florida Matters Reflects On LGBTQ Life in Florida  
(June 15, 2021)  
June 1st was the beginning of Pride Month. (Minorities, Non-binary people, government, culture)

The Rays' Future In Tampa Bay Remains Murky After Recent Drama Among St. Petersburg Officials  
(June 8, 2021)
Late May brought a whole new round of tense discussions about the team's future here. Only this time, it mostly involved St. Pete's mayor and the City Council. (Sports, government)

A Year Ago, Protests About George Floyd Erupted On Tampa Bay's Streets
(June 1, 2021)
One year on, what has changed for racial equity? (Minorities, law and order, government)

New Gaming Deal Expands Gambling In Florida. But First, It Heads To Federal Officials For Approval
(May 25, 2021)
A 30-year gaming compact between the state and the Seminole Tribe of Florida would allow gambling options akin to those available in Las Vegas. It would also legalize sports betting. (Gambling, Indian affairs, government)

What Might This Year's Hurricane Season Look Like?
(May 19, 2021)
This upcoming season is shaping up to be an above-average one — but not as busy as last year. Forecasters still warn that it only takes one destructive storm to make it a bad hurricane season. (Hurricanes, weather, government, public safety)

As Vaccinations Start To Lag, Vaccine Education and Incentives Ramp Up
(May 11, 2021)
We get an update on Florida's vaccination efforts from WUSF and Health News Florida reporter Stephanie Colombini. You'll also hear from an expert who's working on vaccine education amid the decreasing number of people getting their shots. (Health, COVID-19, vaccinations, government)

We Recap Florida's 2021 Legislative Session
(May 4, 2021)
Host Steve Newborn and Zac Anderson of the Sarasota Herald-Tribune recap what happened over the two-month session. (Government, politics education, transportation, health, environment)

Florida Matters Hears Three Floridians' Perspectives On The Derek Chauvin Verdict
(April 27, 2021)
Host Bradley George asks them how a year of activism has or hasn’t changed policing. (Law and order, public safety, government)

Florida Panther Featured In National Geographic's April Issue
(April 20, 2021)
On this week’s Florida Matters, WUSF reporter Steve Newborn has a conversation with two Floridians profiled in the piece. (Environment, government, transportation, history)

As Piney Point's Future Becomes Clearer, Florida Matters Looks At Its Potential, Long-Term Impacts
(April 13, 2021)
Gov. Ron DeSantis announced Tuesday that the state will come up with a plan to close the former phosphate plant for good after another leak late last month. (Environment, public safety, government, agriculture)

Halfway Through The 2021 Legislative Session, What's The Status of Bills In Progress? (April 6, 2021)
In the next six weeks, state legislators will have to agree on a budget and also debate a host of other issues. (Politics, government, health, education, transportation)