

TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX-TV
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL
Quarter ending: December 31, 2017

ISSUE/description: 4. ENVIRONMENT. Maintaining the quality of life desired within our community; protecting wildlife and their natural habitat; maintaining the proper balance between development and protection of resources.

How Issue was treated (Program, PSA, etc.):

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time/Duration</u>	<u>Program type</u>	<u>Description</u>
1. The Right Side with Armstrong Williams	10/08/17	12:00PM/30 minutes	Public Affairs	*
* This week's topic was "The Storms of Life". Archbishop Stallings and Bruce Fein, Esq. discussed the higher global occurrence of natural disasters and its effect on human populations.				
2. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	10/30/17	09:00PM/4 minutes	News	**

** Channel 3 News looked into six months' worth of pollution violations in Escambia County. The Rolling Hills landfill was closed in 2015 for numerous violations with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). In May, DEP issued a warning letter to the company in charge of the Rolling Hills property, because demolition debris washed into a branch of Bayou Marcus Creek during a large rain event at the beginning of the year. Environmental expert Tim Day with Escambia County said anytime water is affected, it is a concern. In Cantonment, a consent order was sent by DEP to Airgas in April, where violations were found three months before a deadly explosion wiped out its site for manufacturing nitrous oxide. A spokesperson for DEP confirmed the violations they found were not related to the August 28, 2016, explosion. DEP said not only was polluted stormwater from the facility flowing into nearby bodies of water, but equipment and valves were not being maintained properly. It caused oil to spill all over the ground and it got into the storm drain. In June 2017, DEP issued a warning letter to the contractor doing construction on the City of Pensacola's Bill Gregory Park for a \$2.1 million stormwater treatment facility project to capture and treat runoff. When DEP inspectors went to the site, they noted the bayou was completely cloudy because of improper barrier installation. A spokesperson for DEP said they are preparing a consent order to address the compliance issues. In a second story, the Gulf Coast Energy Network hosted the Power Up Energy Expo on Wednesday, October 25. The annual conference brings industry leaders together to discuss green initiatives, and it's the largest international conference along the Gulf Coast. This year's Power Up event focused on energy resilience, especially within the military.

3. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	11/01/17	09:00PM/1-minute	News	***
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*** We reported that a \$2 million grant will be used to protect local waterways. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) selected a proposal by the Bay Area Resource Council and Escambia County to establish a new estuary program for Pensacola and Perdido Bays. Federal, state, and local agencies will work together to develop a program that will conserve the environment. The grant is funded through the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council as part of the Restore Act.

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4. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	11/02/17	09:00PM/1-minute	News	****

**** The City of Gulf Breeze started a beautification project this week to enhance the medians on Highway 98 from Daniel Drive to the light near Gulf Breeze Hospital, and on the Highway 399 medians near the Bob Sikes Bridge. Crews are replacing older trees and flower beds and planting new live oaks and plants. The \$300,000 project is partially funded by the estate of the late Jo Campbell Mix Nutt. The rest is being covered by funds from Escambia County commissioners.

5. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	11/07/17	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	*****
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***** Destin's city council took another step to ban new construction taller than 75 feet, which they believe would slow the growing traffic problem on the peninsula. Some elected officials believe the ordinance would reduce the quality of life issues, developers think otherwise. "The number one complaint in the city of Destin is 'can't drive, roads are clogged,'" Mayor Fischer said.

6. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	11/28/17	09:00PM/3 minutes	News	*****
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***** Escambia County is near the top of the list when it comes to counties in the country with the highest release of toxins into the environment. Forbes used data from the Environmental Protection Agency and found Escambia County was the 11th largest producer of toxins out of the country's nearly 3,000 counties. Ascend Performance Materials in Cantonment was responsible for 32 million pounds of it. According to Ascend, the Cantonment facility uses deep wells to send processed wastewater into the ground into what is known as the Lower Floridian Aquifer. For our foreseeable future there's no public health threat to the citizens of Escambia or surrounding areas because it's down 1,600 feet. International Paper Pensacola Mill was the second largest contributor to toxic releases in the county with nearly 1.5 million pounds reported. Gulf Power was third and released just over 260,000 pounds of toxic materials. Superfund sites are not included in the data, nor are airports and interstates which account for pollution into the air.

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7. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	11/30/17	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	*****

***** In order to preserve the historic Blackwater River for future generations, conservationists are acting now to record the history of the river, which can be traced back hundreds of years. The idea of the project - virtual visitors can take a tour from the air, from the water or even underwater to see shipwrecks which are hundreds of years old. Maps of the Blackwater River allow people to find their location and find out the water's place in history. From the beginning of its use in recorded history, the Blackwater River became a highway to move goods like timber downriver for the Spanish crown. On the surface of the water, Ryan Abrahamson coasts along the water. A tower with 360-degree cameras is taking pictures for the tour. He believes the online tour encourages people who can't make it out the river to protect it while giving them a history of the area. Covering the underwater portion are West Florida Marine Archaeology graduates and students, including local Kenyan Murell. The virtual tour project was made possible by grants from the Santa Rosa tourism development council, a state grant, and money from Florida Coastal Management.

8. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	12/09/17	09:00PM/1-minute	News	*****
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***** The Escambia County Department of Natural Resource Management teamed up with local environmental nonprofit Emerald Coastkeeper to host a volunteer cleanup at the headwaters of Carpenter Creek. On Saturday, Dec. 9th from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. volunteers met at 715 Olive Road. Pensacola City Councilwoman Sherri Myers and District 4 Commissioner Grover Robinson and other local elected officials attended the event. Carpenter Creek is the main freshwater tributary of Bayou Texar. Its watershed is approximately 6,760 acres, or 10.5 square miles. Emerald Coastkeeper has been working for over a year to restore Carpenter Creek through environmental awareness, initiation of code enforcement violations, and organized cleanups. In April, Escambia County purchased the 8.5-acre property located at 715 Olive Road, which is vital in the effort to restore the Carpenter Creek/Bayou Texas watershed.

9. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	12/26/17	09:00PM/1-minute	News	*****
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***** We reported that local sanitation services are encouraging residents who had live Christmas trees this year to "treecycle". We gave the locations of Escambia County's three designated sites for dropping off trees until January 15.