

## TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX  
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL  
Quarter ending: March 31, 2019

ISSUE/description: 1. THE ECONOMY. The continuing effects of the recent recession; unemployment; a high level of dependency on the Navy and Tourism; development of new industry; and the effect of hurricanes on our local economy.

### 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. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	02/08/19	09:00PM/2.6 minutes	News	*

\* In Florida, 46 percent of households could not afford basic needs, such as housing and food, in 2016, according to the 2018 'ALICE' report compiled by the United Way. 'ALICE' stands for asset, limited, income, constrained, and employed. The report states that nearly 120,000 households struggle to get by in Escambia County. Pensacola resident Tykiren Willingham knows ... for years, he has worked two jobs, lived paycheck to paycheck, and fought to stay afloat financially. "I live below the poverty line ... I see it every day," said Willingham. Laura Gilliam, President and CEO of the United Way of Escambia County, said that almost one-third of the households in the area are employed, but are still struggling. Gilliam believes a major factor is their cost of living has increased, but their wages have not. The latest 'ALICE' report states the cost of the family budget in Florida has increased by 15 percent from 2010 to 2016. It also adds nearly 70 percent of jobs pay less than \$20 an hour. Gilliam said a family of four would need a total household income of about \$53,000 to pay for basics, like healthcare, food, and housing. "That's the reality. When you add up the housing, childcare for families that have children, food, transportation, taxes - I mean the bare minimum of what it takes to survive," she said. Gilliam said the 'ALICE' report sheds light on the needs in our community. "I think it just makes us more adamant about trying to find solutions," she said.

2. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	02/11/19	09:00PM/3.7 minutes	News	**
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\*\* Santa Rosa County will be asking Triumph Gulf Coast for support with an incentive deal to draw in a large distribution center to the region. During Monday's meeting, County Commissioners approved a measure directing staff to submit a proposal to Triumph Gulf Coast to pay \$3.5 million to cover the incoming company's property taxes for 10 years. The new business would be in Bob Cole's district, at the Northwest Florida Industrial Park on Highway 87 near Interstate 10. It is projected to bring in upwards of 400 jobs to the area, with an average salary of \$46,000 per year. "All the jobs we can attract to the county are beneficial to the residents as they grow up here and not having to move out of the area to find work," Cole explained. In a second story, we reported that Destin FWB Airport officials are making a big announcement to residents in Okaloosa County. New upgrades are coming to the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport (VPS). A Silver Airways spokesperson announced during the meeting that their airline will start flying into the Destin-Fort Walton Airport. The airline stated they have interline ticketing partnerships with United, American, and Delta Airlines. Allegiant and VPS worked on the terms of agreement to invest \$7 million for a new concord at the airport. The design planning will begin in May if the county commissioners approve of the agreement.

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<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time/Duration</u>	<u>Program type</u>	<u>Description</u>
3. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	03/01/19	09:00PM/1.1 minutes	News	***

\*\*\* The Pensacola Bridge Project is well underway, but the businesses on the opposite side of the construction say it's hurting their business. Owner of Bay Breeze Dive Center in Gulf Breeze, Carlos Faught, says the \$400 million project is draining his business. He said the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) did give them some impact money, but it's just not enough. He said this should be the busiest time of the year for them as spring break approaches, but the construction has made his shop invisible. Ian Satter with FDOT said during big construction projects like this one they work to give money to businesses based on the project's intrusion on business property. FDOT also provides additional signage within the work zone to improve business visibility.

4. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	03/02/19	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	****
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\*\*\*\* Right now, in our area the average price for regular gas is about \$2.27 a gallon. But in many other parts of the state that number stands at \$2.50. Mark Jenkins, AAA spokesman said, "A lot of the rise is due to refineries conducting seasonal maintenance and switching over to a summer blend gasoline, which is more expensive to produce but is required by the EPA." When those gas prices rise though, Dandrea Nobles and her family stay put. Nobles says, "Basically it cuts my trips down. And I hate that because I love to travel." Gas prices are right on target, according to AAA. "Unfortunately, this is probably a hint of what's to come. AAA is forecasting that gas prices will peak at around \$ 2.75 a gallon by Memorial Day," says Jenkins.

5. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	03/05/19	09:00PM/2.4 minutes	News	*****
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\*\*\*\*\* This past weekend the streets of downtown Pensacola were flooded with partygoers for the Mardi Gras celebrations. Organizer Danny Zimmern said the Grand Mardi Gras Parade was their largest yet. "Friday night, I think there were 40,000 - 50,000 people downtown and Saturday was probably the biggest parade ever. Who knows, maybe 70,000 or 80,000," said Zimmer. Zimmern said there were 6,000 participants on about 150 floats Saturday. The festivities are not only about the beads, floats, and fun. They also boost the local economy. "Everyone who parades here spends about \$300 just to get here. When you think about costumes, meetings, food and gas," said Zimmern. Seville Quarter spokesperson Buck Mitchell said his bar sees a 25-percent increase in business over the holiday weekend. "We've been doing Mardi Gras for over 50 years and it has grown like crazy. It not only fills downtown Pensacola, it also fills Pensacola Beach and the surrounding areas," said Mitchell. The events here in Pensacola are continuing to expand. A 'pop-up parade' with about a dozen floats was held on Fat Tuesday in downtown Pensacola for the first time.