

## TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX-TV  
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL  
Quarter ending: June 30, 2015

ISSUE/description: 8. 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. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	04/14/15	09:00PM/1 minute	News	*

\* Hunting bears in Florida may soon be legal. Bears have been showing up in several local communities lately, usually foraging for food. Florida Fish and Wildlife will meet Wednesday to decide whether to begin allowing bear hunting after twenty one years of being illegal. New rules include one week of hunting time that would be between October 24th and October 30th, during daytime hours only and allowing each hunter to bag one bear per season. If commissioners approve the proposed rules, a final vote will be at their June meeting.

2. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	04/14/15	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	**
-------------------------------------	----------	---------------------	------	----

\*\* The owner of the Rolling Hills Landfill faces daily fines of \$200 per violation, each day until the violations are fixed. During Tuesday's inspection of the area surrounding Rolling Hills, Escambia County Code Enforcement found the landfill was in violation in two areas:

- 1) Offensive odor from the landfill was noticeable outside the landfill's property line
- 2) The landfill's mound was clearly visible to those outside of the landfill's fence

Managing partner Scott Miller promised to get the mounds down to code. But as far as the smells, he firmly believes it isn't coming from his landfill. He points to sewers nearby. In the past, County Commissioner Wilson Robertson expressed concern that if the Rolling Hills landfill were shut down. It could become another Saufley landfill. Owners abandoned that landfill and it became a huge issue for people living in the area. At the end, the county had to take it over costing nearly \$7-million to shut it down and clean it up. Miller expressed no plans to shut down Rolling Hills, though he doesn't know how to address the odor issue. He expects to get the pile heights up to code by the end of the year. Meanwhile, the county can stop the flow of truck traffic into the landfill if the violations aren't fixed by May 14.

3. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	04/16/15	09:00PM/1 minute	News	***
-------------------------------------	----------	------------------	------	-----

\*\*\* Gulf Power is partnering with the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force to build solar energy farms across Northwest Florida. The Florida Public Service Commission approved the request Thursday. Purchase agreements include construction of a facility at NAS Pensacola's Saufley Field, a plant at NAS Whiting Field's Holley Field, and a plant at Eglin Air Force base. The combined output will be enough to power 18,000 homes. The solar facilities are expected to be operational by 2016.

ISSUE/description: 8. 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>
4. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	04/30/15	09:00PM/3 minutes	News	****

\*\*\*\* We reported on a new report by the American Lung Association that reveals the air quality statuses of areas around the country. Researchers studied multiple counties, assigning grades from "A" to "F" based on the amount of air and ozone pollution each one possessed. Here in Florida, our local counties were evaluated. The average pollution concentration was recorded for eight days. Escambia County received a "B" in Ozone pollution. That means pollution concentrations never reached the "unhealthy" state, but could be better. The particle pollution concentration in Escambia County received an A, with very low pollution levels. As for Okaloosa County, it also received a B in ozone pollution levels, but information for particle pollution and overall grades were not collected. Santa Rosa County received a "D" for ozone pollution, in the "unhealthy" category.

5. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	05/19/15	09:00PM/3 minutes	News	*****
-------------------------------------	----------	-------------------	------	-------

\*\*\*\*\* Meg McNamara brought a Special Report from Pensacola Beach. It's a day many along the Gulf Coast will not forget. A gas leak on the Deepwater Horizon sparks a massive explosion killing eleven people and injuring seventeen others. For 87 days, more than three million barrels of oil spewed into the ocean. Five years later they test to find what danger still lingers in the Gulf. Oil washed up on Pensacola Beach and the summer of 2010 was over before it began. The beach looks like it's back to normal, but just because we can't see it doesn't mean it's not there. Are there traces of oil left beyond what we can detect with the human eye? A team of scientists from UWF took three samples from three different places along Pensacola Beach ... the UWF property, the pier, and Park West. Professor Wade Jeffery and his team have been testing water, sand and fish off the coast of Florida since May of 2010. For the first three months after the spill, "We could detect hydrocarbons in the parts per million level." Scientifically speaking, not a concerning amount. "Right now we'll be lucky if we find it in the parts per billion." A thousand-fold less five years later. They got the results 24 hours later. "We couldn't find any indication that there was a problem." But some scientist says it may be soon to tell. "We've heard talk about large oil mats off shore so I wonder if we get a hurricane or tropical storm, even just a large thunderstorm, will those tar mats break up and will we see more oil on the beaches," said Kara Lankford, associate director of Gulf restoration program. "Even though, you may just be talking about a small patch of sand in Pensacola, it's important to remember that we are connected to this large body of water to the south of us in the form of seafood that we eat, where we get our seafood from restaurants is usually far removed from the coastline, it's usually more of the offshore environment." Lankford also says five years out from a natural disaster is still early. She says we'll know much more in ten and twenty years.

6. Facing Florida	06/07/15	11:30AM/10 minutes	Public Affairs	*****
-------------------	----------	--------------------	----------------	-------

\*\*\*\*\* Guest Bill Wargo of the Florida Sea Turtle Patrol took us to the beach to explain their concern over the dangers posed by excess lighting to the survival of sea turtle hatchlings.

ISSUE/description:

8. 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>
7. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	06/30/15	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	*****

\*\*\*\*\* Kalie Desimone reported from Pensacola Beach about the problem of trash left on the beach. "It's not the locals it's the visitors" said Buck Lee, the Executive Director of the Santa Rosa Island Authority. Thousands of people flock to our beaches during the summer season and they come with a lot of equipment. "Tents, chairs, umbrellas, coolers, whatever you got out there that makes our beach look trashy it's going" said Lee. Using beach items during the day isn't the problem, it's when the stuff is left on the beach overnight. "I've finally gotten fed up with it what they're doing to and destroying our beach. I'm going to the board next Wednesday asking them to please vote for the County commissioners to please form an ordinance that says anything left after 7 o'clock, our maintenance people will pick it up and throw it away" said Lee. But abandoned items or equipment that are left to 'save a spot' on the beach are more than a cosmetic problem. "The turtle season is through here and it lasts about five months. And we need to make sure that they can get to shore, get up in the dune line and lay their eggs" said Lee.