

TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX-TV
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL
Quarter ending: June 30, 2005

Issue/description: 3. THE ECONOMY. Unemployment; a high level of dependency on the Navy and Tourism; development of new industry; lack of career opportunities for young people; and the effect of Hurricane Ivan 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. 3 in the Morning (airs tape-delayed to 8AM on WFGX)	04/11/05	09:03AM/2 minutes	News	*

* Since the mid-1990s, state and local governments in Florida have given hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks, cash and other incentives to companies that promise to create jobs here. But a newspaper says the benefits to workers can be short-lived or hard to track. The St. Petersburg Times says that this fiscal year, Florida's economic development efforts could cost state government more than 900 million dollars. That money could pay for nearly 11-thousand new teachers and next year's tuition increase for more than 250-thousand university students. Governor Jeb Bush's office says incentives are needed to overcome bids from other states and countries that spend even more than Florida. Officials say incentives generate tens of thousands of high-wage jobs, billions of dollars in state investment, a business-friendly image and a higher living standard for Floridians.

2. Channel 3 News at 6PM (airs tape-delayed to 7PM on WFGX)	04/12/05	07:03PM/2 minutes	News	**
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** Efforts to establish a research and technology park to bring high-paying jobs to Okaloosa County are gaining ground. The head of the Economic Development Council spelled out the game plan to some hi-tech business leaders today. An eleven member committee with public and private sector representatives will lay the foundation for the technology campus. The nucleus will be the University of Florida's Graduate Engineering and Research Center -- or GERC -- just outside Eglin's west gate. It offers upper level degrees in aerospace and other engineering fields. The park's goal is to aid Eglin's mission by developing government, education, and industry research partnerships. Larry Sassano of the Okaloosa Economic Development Council said the tenants will be environmentally friendly, high-technology firms that focus on research and development, design engineering, prototyping and testing. Advocates say the pay-offs would benefit Eglin, the regional economy, local colleges and universities. There's already 118 acres of land around the GERC to support the technology campus, and several private companies are already expressing an interest. The hope is to break ground sometime this year.

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3. Channel 3 News at 6PM (airs tape-delayed to 7PM on WFGX)	05/13/05	07:00PM/9 minutes	News	***

*** A major portion of tonight's newscast dealt with the release of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's list of bases recommended for cuts or closure, and the effects on our local bases. The possible loss of over 15 hundred jobs at NAS Pensacola is causing some uneasiness on and off the base. Local members of the Governor's BRAC Advisory Council say the base was spared the worst, and they may still be able to save some of the targeted jobs. While the specifics aren't defined yet, Susan Story and Admiral Jack Fetterman say it appears the areas most affected by the cuts will be the Officer Training Command, Officer Candidate School, the Naval Education Technical Center, and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. The base is also slated to lose its only three-star Admiral. The panelists say it could be worse; there could still be additions and subtractions. NAS Whiting Field is not on the list at all, and that's a big relief after speculation that the base's mission could be moved from Milton to another facility.

The Pentagon's BRAC list held mixed results for two Okaloosa County bases, but the recommendations overall were positive. If the BRAC recommendations stick, Eglin Air Force Base would see a net gain of more than 2200 people, mainly military, between 2007 and 2009. 1400 Army Rangers from the 7th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina would relocate to Eglin for joint training with Hurlburt Field's Special Operations Airmen. Add another 800 jobs from a half dozen Air Force, Navy, and Marine installations for establishment of the Joint Strike Fighter training center at Eglin. Some of those positions - which range from instructor pilots to technicians - would come from Pensacola NAS. Also in Eglin's plus column - two small research and development outfits. Hurlburt Field stands to lose 54 jobs to a mobility logistics and supply center in Illinois. The ripple effect will be felt on housing, where there's already an affordable housing crisis - area roads, schools, and much more.

4. Channel 3 News at 10PM (airs tape-delayed to 11PM on WFGX)	05/26/05	11:02PM/2 minutes	News	****
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**** Governor Jeb Bush has signed a record-setting 64.7 billion dollar budget. Lawmakers had six billion "extra" dollars to spend this year, partly because of Florida's booming economy spurred by last year's hurricanes. But, that extra money won't be going to hundreds of projects that the Florida Taxwatch group called "turkeys." Here are the cuts in Northwest Florida: 300-thousand dollars for hurricane relief for Hospice; the Escambia Sheriff's Office won't get 210-thousand dollars for generators or a 125-thousand dollar firing range; 50-thousand for the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition; 225-thousand for U.W.F. archeology; and 50-thousand for a training tower and burn building in Okaloosa County. The requests that were approved are: 2.5 million for the new Andrews Orthopedic Institute in Gulf Breeze; 4.9 million dollars to remove wastewater from Pensacola Bay; to repair hurricane damage U.W.F. will get 4 million dollars; and the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition gets almost a million. The money saved by the vetoes will go into the state's rainy day fund.

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5. In Focus	06/05/05	11:30AM/30 minutes	Public Affairs	*****

***** Florida voters last November approved an increase in the minimum wage. It was heralded as a way to help Florida's working poor, and it was widely thought at the time that it would hurt business owners. Few thought that it would have an adverse effect on the lowest of wage earners. But now, six months later, it seems the law has created a gray area, one that has cost dozens of mentally handicapped workers their jobs. This week's guests, Ann Smith of ARC Santa Rosa, and Susan Williamson, and ARC client, discussed the negative effect the law has had on developmentally disabled workers.

6. Channel 3 News at 6PM (airs tape-delayed to 7PM on WFGX)	06/25/05	07:08PM/3 minutes	News	*****
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***** An amendment approved in the U.S. Senate could bring 65 million dollars to Alabama over four years for coastal conservation, public works and other needs. The money is part of the federal revenues from oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean. Alabama and up to five other states would split 250 million dollars annually between fiscal 2007 and 2010 for "coastal impact assistance" purposes. U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions, an Alabama Republican who co-sponsored the amendment, says each state's share would be based on a formula linked to energy production in the Outer Continental Shelf. The House-passed version of the energy bill has a similar provision.