

## TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX-TV  
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL  
Quarter ending: December 31, 2016

ISSUE/description: 2. EDUCATION: Local availability of higher education; teacher salaries and benefits; crime and violence in schools; curriculum matters; method of handling poorly performing schools and teachers; school vouchers; costs; minority concerns.

### 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	10/10/16	09:00PM/2:20 minutes	News	*

\* Plans are in the works to bring the first private Christian school to South Santa Rosa County. "I am big on school choice and I just feel like public schools shouldn't be the only choice parents have," said Joanna Johannes, founder of Lighthouse Private Christian Academy. The academy includes elementary schools in Gulf Breeze and Pensacola and a high school in Pensacola. Now they are expanding again. The academy has paid just over \$500 million on the old Waterfront Rescue Mission in Midway for the new campus. Right now Lighthouse has about 350 students ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade. School leaders anticipate another 150 students will attend the new high school. If all goes according to plan, classes could begin January 2017.

2. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	10/26/16	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	**
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\*\* Students at Woodham Middle School are preparing for a big robotics competition this weekend. These kids are incredibly smart. Even though they're just in middle school many are thinking about becoming engineers when they grow up. They believe the skills they're learning today can help them outside the classroom in the future. They're days away from competing in the Best Robotics competition at the University of West Florida against other middle schools and high schools in Northwest Florida. The winner will advance to the regional competition at Auburn University.

3. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	11/02/16	09:00PM/3 minutes	News	***
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\*\*\* Christina Leavenworth reported on a new movement gaining traction across the country and in Escambia County. It's the flexible seating movement in schools. Traditional classrooms with desks and chairs are being replaced by something entirely different: sofas, bouncy balls, and dry erase tables. The kids have the choice of sitting on a bouncy ball or standing at a desk. It helps in keeping kids engaged ... they are standing, expelling energy that may go into something else that would be undesirable; it helps keep kids focused. At Workman Middle School, technology teacher Dean Hunt replaced all the desks with computer pods. Monitors sprout out from each pole. Hunt said, "Each pole takes the place of four desks, four chairs and all the problems in the space that they take up ... in the real world, if they go to work at Apple, Google, they will be standing up working and moving as they work. They won't be sitting at a cubicle." Flexible seating has been heavily studied across the country and research shows that grades improve, students are more engaged, and the seating provides an overall better environment for learning.

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4. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	11/14/16	09:00PM/1 minute	News	****

\*\*\*\* The University of West Florida's Cyber Club won the Cyber Defense Challenge at the Florida Center for Cybersecurity's first ever cybersecurity competition. UWF students competed in this invite-only competition that featured live cyber-attack challenges teams from top Florida universities, including the University of Florida, the University of South Florida and the University of Central Florida. John Barlow is a senior at UWF studying in the cybersecurity program. He said this was an opportunity to put into practice what he and his classmates learn at school. The Florida Center for Cybersecurity is a shared resource for cybersecurity research, education and outreach across the state and beyond. Their mission is to make Florida a national leader in cybersecurity.

5. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	11/16/16	09:00PM/1 minute	News	*****
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\*\*\*\*\* A new program at West Florida Public Libraries is helping people receive their high school diploma. The Career Online High School offers people ages 19 and older a chance to finish their education. All you need is a current library card and access to a computer. Then, just sign up and take the online assessment. So far, twenty Pensacola residents have taken advantage of the program. After students finish the course they will not only earn their high school diploma but also a career certificate in their desired field, ranging from child care to homeland security. The program is accredited so graduates can then go on to attend college.

6. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	11/16/16	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	*****
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\*\*\*\*\* Christopher Saul reported on a school in Fort Walton Beach for special needs children that just won a six figure, life-changing grant from Impact 100 Northwest Florida. Silver Sands School plans to use that grant to build a greenhouse to help grow relationships between the community and students. The school wants to teach children life skills that can help them get jobs in fields related to landscaping and agriculture, and bring in volunteers to help the children socialize, another big component of learning. The greenhouse will make it easy for students to grow, move and install grass native to the Choctawhatchee Bay which will protect the natural landmark from erosion. This project also gives volunteers a place to organize and make Fort Walton Beach a better place to live. Once the greenhouse is built on this plot of land, the school will be able to apply for even more grants from the department of agriculture, which makes this grant a gift that keeps on giving for more than 140 students in Okaloosa County.

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7. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	11/16/16	09:00PM/3:10 minutes	News	*****

\*\*\*\*\* Laura Hussey reported that a quarter of American teachers are "chronically absent" from the classroom. That was the headline from the U.S. Department of Education report showing 25 percent of teachers missed more than 10 days in a school year. Locally, the absentee rate is similar. In Santa Rosa County, 27 percent of teachers missed more than 10 days. In Okaloosa, 25 percent. In Escambia, it was 28 percent. But leaders and teachers in those three Northwest Florida districts insist it's not nearly as simple as a catchy headline. We went to Santa Rosa County Assistant Superintendent Conni Carnley to dig deeper into the statistics. She minced no words, saying, "I think it's very subjective. Florida teachers have a 196 day work year, and they're given ten days of leave. That's mandated by the state. Teachers can hold on to their days, and get a payout when they retire or end their employment. So there's an incentive not to use them lightly.

8. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	12/16/16	09:00PM/3 minutes	News	*****
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\*\*\*\*\* Students can show off their 3D printing skills in a statewide contest this month. It's sponsored by the University of West Florida Innovation Institute and a group called FloridaShines. Channel 3's Laura Hussey met some local high schoolers who are already mastering the technology. At Washington High School a 3D printer precisely dispenses plastic through a narrow nozzle. The object slowly emerging, layer by layer, is a Christmas ornament shaped like a magic wand. The students were assigned to design their own ornaments. Innovation Specialist Alisha Wilson assigned ornaments because she felt students wouldn't be intimidated by designing them. Wilson explained. "What I really wanted to move them to was learning the design process and showing them they can do it." At Escambia High School's Honors Engineering Academy, students have been immersed in the technology for three years already. Instructor Tim Deloge said the 3D printers fast-track students into the design process. Their yearlong senior project is a NASA rover, which they will enter in the National Rover Challenge competing against college level engineers. The scope of the project is huge, but the students will remember the accomplishment.