

TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX-TV
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL
Quarter ending: June 30, 2018

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	04/02/17	09:00PM/3 minutes	News	*

* In Florida, teachers are not allowed to walk off the job, but the presidents of the Escambia Education Association and Santa Rosa Professional Educators say the educators they represent support teachers in the union. Donna Harper represents Escambia County School District teachers. She said teachers in our area face huge class sizes and low pay. According to the National Education Association, in 2016 Florida ranked 34th among states in average teacher pay. The president of Santa Rosa Professional Educators said all this explains why many teachers are determined to see a change. "I know teachers that have several jobs ... at least 50 percent of them have an extra job." According to Florida statutes, striking teachers can be fined between \$50 to \$100 for each day they skip class. "We've got to figure out a way to do this even if our state and if our national government doesn't find a way," said Harper. The Escambia County board will meet Monday night at their office to discuss the walk outs that are happening across the country.

2. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	04/13/18	09:00PM/1.5 minutes	News	**
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** The Florida Department of Education awarded Crestview High School algebra teachers Miranda Delpozo and Kelly Donofro for having the biggest impact on her students. They were recognized for the highest learning gains in the state of Florida. Both teachers believe their team effort is the reason their program is so successful. " We found something that works for our students and we've tweaked it the past three years," Delpozo explained. "I form relationships with my students and I just try to be positive and respect them and expect the same back," added Donofro. A website called Niche ranks schools in the state by their grades. According to their list of the Top 25 Schools in Florida, Okaloosa came in second and Santa Rosa in 20th. Escambia County did not rank.

3. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	04/20/18	09:00PM/1-minute	News	***
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*** The University of West Florida held a grand opening ceremony for their new university park center. The State of the Art Multi-Use Facility will house UWF athletics, College of Health, and the Florida State University College of Medicine.

Also, The Tin Cow shut down twice in January after being cited for a number of health violations. Owner Joe Abston has done major cleaning and renovations since the closures. A group of students from the University of West Florida's hospitality club, along with some Pensacola State College students, have been conducting a case study on how the restaurant was able to recover from the violations. Abston told students the recovery process was about more than the restaurant's physical appearance ... it's about employee training and guest interactions as well.

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4. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	04/20/18	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	****

**** Getting kids to eat veggies can be a challenge. But for some families, simply buying fresh produce is a challenge in itself. Until now, browsing a fresh produce stand wasn't an option for many families around C.A. Weis Elementary. Giving them access to healthy, affordable food has been a priority for planners at this community school. Students now tend their own garden. It's part of a strategy to teach them where food comes from, and what it does for your body. Assistant Principal Shannon Cross said, "Not only have they learned about the science of botany and growing plants and life cycles, but they've eaten fruits and vegetables that they've never tasted before." Community Partnership School Director John Sherman said, "If they grow the food, taste the food, eat the food, they tend to really push it, not only for themselves, but even for their parents." Zane George agrees. He said "It's all about teaching your kids, setting them up for successes in life and getting them on the right track, getting them away from all the junk food. The community school program is a partnership between the Escambia County School District, the University of West Florida, Children's Home Society of Florida, and Community Health of Northwest Florida.

5. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	04/26/18	09:00PM/1-minute	News	*****
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***** A celebration for a special group of students took place Thursday morning. The students who participated in Navy Federal's Big Brothers, Big Sisters pilot program graduated. During their time at Navy Federal, littles mentored with employees to learn financial literacy and life skills, such as building a resume and managing stress. Students say the program has helped them prepare for the next steps in their lives.

6. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	04/27/18	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	*****
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***** The group overseeing the distribution of \$1.5 billion from the BP oil spill fines announced its first grant approvals on Friday. They announced a total of \$19 million for a number of Gulf Coast projects. The Escambia County School District is getting a big chunk. The Triumph Gulf Coast's board of directors signed off on a \$3 million proposal to go toward career-technical education. "Michelle Taylor is the director of workforce education and she did a marvelous job of working through all the bureaucracies and nuances of preparing an application," Superintendent Malcolm Thomas said. That application includes expansion into aviation maintenance at Washington High School and George Stone Technical School. There will also be expansion of manufacturing automation and production at Pensacola and Northview High schools. The proposal includes cybersecurity courses at two more high schools. Right now it is only offered at Pine Forest High School. The district worked with area colleges on the grant. Dr. Deborah Douma with Pensacola State College said they are getting part of the grant to begin a commercial truck driving program. Douma said there are not many options in the area for people to get their CDL license. The Triumph Project in Escambia County is projected to result in over a thousand high school and college students obtaining industry certifications by 2024. Thomas said the hope is to keep the talent here. "If they dream in those areas we just discussed, those are areas that our region is really focused on attracting businesses," Thomas said.

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7. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	04/30/18	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	*****

***** Hundreds of students are in Pensacola for a competition - one that could shape their futures. It's a competition where winning is only part of the goal. The bigger picture is choosing and learning a job skill. The Pensacola Bay Center has been transformed into a job-training-job-fair mecca. SkillsUSA brought together 1,500 of the state's most enthusiastic students, the people who teach them, and employers who could hire them. "All of the students are in career and tech fields. All career and tech businesses have partnered, so they can find additional help in their workplace," said Jennifer Ponson with SkillsUSA. Over the two-day event, students will compete, get practical experience, and learn things like how to market themselves. "They go through a job interview, present a resume, all in a uniform presentation," Ponson said. Students from throughout Florida have come with hopes of moving on to the national conference. SkillsUSA is also helping teachers learn how to fine tune their curriculum. The economic impact of the event has filled 900 motel rooms.

8. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	05/11/18	09:00PM/3.5 minutes	News	*****
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***** As high school honors go, few match the prestige of the Presidential Scholars Program. Out of the millions of high school students in the U.S., just 161 are selected. Tamim Kawakibi is one of them. He's a student in Pensacola High School (PHS)'s International Baccalaureate Program and will soon be visiting the White House to represent himself and Northwest Florida. Just over six years ago, Tamim and his family were surrounded by war in Syria. Like so many other Syrians, they fled the country looking for a better, safer life. They found it here in Northwest Florida. Tamim did much more than just settle here. He thrived. Tamim said, "It means a lot as an immigrant. It means a lot as we came to the United States and I'm forever grateful for my parents who offered more than they could afford and displayed power in powerless moments so me and my siblings can have a decent life and actually experience these moments." Tamim entered American schools in 7th grade barely speaking English. But within 18 months, he had the language down, crushed the dreaded FCAT standardized exams, and earned "Student of the Year" at his school. He said, "I'm grateful for my community, my teachers, my friends who warmly welcomed me into their classrooms, lives and community." Presidential Scholars are chosen based on their academic success, artistic excellence, essays, school evaluations, community service, and leadership.

9. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	05/15/18	09:00PM/1 minute	News	*****
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***** The Escambia County School District has announced that Escambia Charter School will be closing at the end of the 2017-2018 school year. The county said over the last six years, student enrollment has been low and it has been a struggle financially for the school. Due to this, the county says it is not fiscally responsible to keep the school open. The Escambia County School District's Department of Alternative Education will help in the placement of current students enrolled in Escambia Charter, to be determined on grade level, GPA, and age. Escambia Charter has been a bridge for students who needed to improve their grade point average. The school has a lower student to teacher ratio.