

TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX-TV
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL
Quarter ending: March 31, 2005

ISSUE/description: 6. 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 10PM (airs tape-delayed to 11PM on WFGX-TV)	02/23/05	11:03PM/2 minutes	News	*
* Pensacola residents affected by a toxic waste site are weighing in on how the site should be cleaned up. The Environmental Protection Agency held two informational meetings at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church on North Palafox on Wednesday. They were there to get feedback on how to clean up the Escambia Wood Treating site, also known as Mt. Dioxin. They also answered questions about health risks related to the site. Pensacola residents are concerned about the Brownsville school area near the superfund site, because of the kids that went there. The EPA says it should have a report ready by April listing several options for cleaning up the site.				
2. 3 in the Morning (airs tape-delayed to 8AM on WFGX-TV)	03/03/05	09:03AM/2 minutes	News	**
** Eleven-hundred-fifty acres around Whiting Field north of Milton in Santa Rosa County have been endorsed by Florida's Department of Environmental protection to be set aside from development. The plan by Santa Rosa Commissioners to protect N-A-S Whiting Field's flight training from encroachment around the base is to buy land and use it for recreational trails and preserves. The land is a portion of five-thousand acres the commissioners want to purchase, thus encircling the base with nature, biking and horseback trails. Governor Bush has to approve the land purchase plan, which has the support of the Navy and environmentalists.				
3. 3 in the Morning (airs tape-delayed to 8AM on WFGX-TV)	03/07/05	08:34AM/2 minutes	News	***

*** Dangerous and hazardous debris is sitting in some of Gulf Breeze's wetlands due to Hurricane Ivan. City officials want it removed, but say they want to make sure FEMA will help cover the expensive task, before they go to work. Officials say the once pristine area has now been deemed a health and safety hazard as well as a fire risk. Cleaning the 100-acre debris field that covers a few miles of Gulf Breeze's shoreline will cost several million dollars. About 90-percent of the wetlands are on public property, the rest is on private land.

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4. Channel 3 News at 6PM (airs tape-delayed to 7PM on WFGX-TV)	03/04/05	07:06PM/3 minutes	News	****

**** The University of West Florida will plant approximately 200 new trees at its main campus in Pensacola to help restore areas severely damaged during Hurricane Ivan. UWF lost close to 3,000 trees during the storm that made landfall last September. The replanting process will take place in late March and early April. Facilities Services in collaboration with the Campus Environmental Conservation and Beautification Committee determined the areas that needed restoration and developed the plan. The five areas that will be replanted include the Archaeology Institute pond, Oak Grove, 30-mile curve, the Northwest sides of Crosby Hall and the College of Arts and Sciences Offices and the areas surrounding the Physical Sciences buildings. Beth Bolles of the University of Florida, Escambia County Extension Service assisted in developing the list of trees that are suited for this project with a variety of native trees that are weather-resistant including canopy trees and understory trees. In order to avoid damage in the event of future hurricanes, they won't plant larger trees next to buildings. The replanting project will cost \$75,000 to \$80,000, and will be funded through the campus beautification budget.

5. Channel 3 News at 6PM (airs tape-delayed to 7PM on WFGX-TV)	03/29/05	07:06PM/3 minutes	News	*****
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***** Santa Rosa County is going green. Officials want to start using *bio-diesel* to fuel county trucks, large machinery and school buses. Bio-diesel is an alternative fuel made from renewable resources such as cotton seed, soybeans, peanuts and even restaurant grease. County officials say using the fuel could save money, make the air overwhelmingly cleaner, keep local farmers in business and reduce dependence on foreign oil. Large machines, trucks, even school buses could soon run on bio-diesel. Santa Rosa Commissioner Bob Cole is spearheading the bio-diesel effort. The life-long mechanic says any diesel machine could run on bio-diesel fuel without having to change the engine. He says bio-diesel reduces power slightly, but its not noticeable. The alternative fuel costs 2 cents to a dollar more a gallon, but it could save thousands on maintenance because it burns cleaner. There are a few details that still need to be worked out, but the county has identified a local bio-diesel supplier and hopes to start pumping the new fuel soon. And if all goes as planned, their goal is to use bio-diesel in the county's estimated 500 diesel vehicles and machines. Commissioner Cole hopes one day the fuel will become so popular local gas stations will start carrying it, so residents with diesel trucks or cars can also fill-up.

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6. Channel 3 News at 6PM (airs tape-delayed to 7PM on WFGX-TV)	03/10/05	07:06PM/5 minutes	News	*****

***** For years, plans to widen Highway 90 through downtown Milton have been at a standstill. Yet this week, local leaders agreed to re-convene a Highway 90 committee. They hope to take advantage of new funding opportunities created by Hurricane Ivan. But a new controversy over some historic buildings may be brewing. Despite its quaint, historic charm a majority of residents at a recent long term recovery meeting said they support losing some of the historical buildings to reduce congestion.

For some, the findings were flabbergasting. John Reble, president of Santa Rosa's Historical Society, fears residents may have said something they didn't mean. "Some of our best, well preserved and most representative buildings would probably be involved," said Reble. Buildings like the Exchange Hotel, the Imogene Theater and the Old Drug store. After surviving the past 100 years, Reble worries they could soon be on the chopping block. But there are options. At least two Highway 90 alternatives are on the table. The southern route goes south of Highway 90 and parallels the railroad track; the northern option is actually an extension or continuation of Berryhill Road. Santa Rosa Commissioner Don Salter supports the Berryhill Road option, but ultimately it will be up to the new Highway 90 committee to make a recommendation. Either way, Reble says he'll be fighting to keep the historic buildings around for the long haul.

We then reported on the efforts of volunteers to help restore some sand dunes along the Alabama Gulf Coast...the dunes had been destroyed by Hurricane Ivan. Since then, Gulf State Park officials have worked to clean the beach and prepare for the restoration of the dunes. Thursday afternoon about 100 volunteers teamed with the park and US Fish & Wildlife officials to put the dunes back in place. Kelly Reetz of Gulf State Park said: "Now we have to wait on the wind to blow the sand and the fences will trap the sand and over time the dunes will build back up." Reetz says the process of rebuilding the dunes will take about two years.

Another report concerned Alabama's Attorney General questioning a new plan for cleaning up paper mill pollution streaming into Perdido Bay. The 61 million-dollar project would send effluent from the International Paper Company mill to a new municipal sewage plant for treatment. More than 37 million gallons of treated wastewater then would be piped daily into a 15-hundred-acre wetland. The wetland would act as a natural filter as it flows toward the bay on the Florida-Alabama state line. Alabama Attorney General Troy King expressed his reservations in a letter to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.