

TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX-TV
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL
Quarter ending: June 30, 2014

ISSUE/description: 1. 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	04/02/14	09:04PM/2 minutes	News	*

* City of Pensacola leaders heard more about the potential impact of a proposed fish hatchery downtown. Dr. Will Patterson from the Dauphin Island Sea Lab gave a presentation to the Environmental Advisory Board. The hatchery has been pitched as a way to grow more game fish, like the popular red snapper. And Patterson says the population is going to need help even after bumper years in 2005 and 2006. He said we've had some years with lower recruitment, which means the number of babies joining the population is lower. Since the BP Oil Spill we have evidence that recruitment has been even lower. Patterson said the success of the hatchery will depend on more factors than just increasing stock. He says potential benefits include new jobs, development of the land, and education and outreach programs.

2. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	04/08/14	09:01PM /2 minutes	News	**
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** Old concrete targets from Eglin Air Force Base will soon become giant fish habitats in the gulf. An artificial reef project in Okaloosa County has now been approved by the Department of Environmental Protection. There will be four sites, about three miles offshore from Fort Walton Beach. In the center of each site, a pile of rubble will rise thirty feet from the floor of the gulf creating habitats for a large variety of fish. The 160,000 dollar cost will be half-paid by a state grant, with the remaining \$80,000 coming from bed taxes. Work on the reef project should begin this summer.

3. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	04/11/14	09:06PM /1 minute	News	***
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*** A workshop is being held in Escambia County on Monday in hopes of combating the Lionfish problem. Lionfish are an invasive, non-native species that negatively impact Florida's Reef and Wildlife. Escambia Reef and Marine experts are holding a workshop for fishermen and divers wanting to lend a helping hand. There will be information on the ecological impact of the species and collecting techniques. The workshop will be at 5:30PM at the Escambia County Central Office Complex on West Park Place.

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4. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	04/18/14	09:16PM/2 minutes	News	****

**** We cautioned viewers about buying pets for Easter. Many of these wind up in shelters or released into the wild once the novelty of owning the animals wears off. That can cause problems for the native eco-system. Jamie Feddersen of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission's Waterfowl Management said that's a problem for the animal and environment. Pet Mallard's breed with native ducks and could literally breed the native Florida Mottle duck out of existence. And releasing a bunny into the wild could have severe consequences for an animal used to living in a cage...they will probably die. The FWC recommends you visit their website, myfwc.com, for more information.

We also reported that next Tuesday is Earth Day, but the celebration started early today in Pensacola with a festival at Bayview Park. The "Earth Day Pensacola" event included live music, a sustainable art show, food vendors, children's activities, and lectures about environmental issues and green living. There were also stations for free recycling of old cell phones, mp3 players, and other electronic devices.

5. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	04/28/14	09:01PM/2 minutes	News	*****
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***** Last week, we told viewers that West Florida Recycling had temporarily stopped its operations. Santa Rosa County and the City of Pensacola now have nowhere to take items to be recycled. Santa Rosa County is looking at new ways to recycle. Hunter Walker, County Administrator, said the county is trying to hold as much of it as we can and the other part goes to the landfill until we can figure out some other kind of way around that. Emerald Coast Utilities Authority is taking their recyclables to a recycling processing plant in Georgia, but the Santa Rosa County Administrator says they don't have the staff or the equipment to do that. They have the requests and the proposals out and are going through the process of making sure they can establish a program. .

6. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	05/21/14	09:01PM/2 minutes	News	*****
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***** Finding a permanent solution to recycling in Northwest Florida has become a major issue since West Florida Recycling shut down. The company had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy with the intent to restructure, but the recent flood destroyed all of their equipment, leaving the company to file for chapter 7 bankruptcy and go out of business. Since that closure, recyclables collected in the city of Pensacola and Santa Rosa County have been going to a landfill. E-C-U-A has hauled its recyclables off to Georgia where it has been sorted and processed. Now both the City of Pensacola and E-C-U-A are taking a serious look at a new recycling facility in Montgomery, Alabama. That facility will be closer than Georgia, and in the case of ECUA more manageable. Local officials are expected to tour the facility next week to see if it will meet our local recycling needs. In the case of Santa Rosa County, it has a request for proposals out to contract recycling services. Waste Management and ECUA both have expressed interest, but the county hasn't yet made a decision.

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7. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	05/29/14	09:03PM/2 minutes	News	*****
***** There are new storm water runoff plans for the city of Pensacola. The city plans to reconstruct the way the water flows in the Scenic Heights area. The Department of Environment Protection committed approximately 1.8 million dollars to help fund the project. The city is matching the grant with almost 1.25 million dollars. This is part of a statewide plan to reduce pollution drained into valuable bodies of water, like Pensacola Bay. Residents we interviewed in this area said they support the plan. The city says the water flowing into the swamp will improve its quality before going into the bay. The plans also include a new retention pond off Spanish Trail. The city of Pensacola says this is a five year project, with construction on the new pond starting in two years.				
8. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	06/12/14	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	*****
***** A project is in the works to help with stormwater flow on West Government Street to prevent future flooding. A stormwater retention pond will be built at Corinne Jones Park. The \$2.1 million project will be paid for by BP funds and has been in the works since November. The project would not only improve water quality for Pensacola Bay, but also alleviate flooding issues. The Government Street regional stormwater pond at Corinne Jones Park would capture and treat stormwater runoff from 40 acres in downtown Pensacola. The project is not only for fixing stormwater issues, but is also part of a plan to beautify the west side of downtown. It would spruce up the park by adding things like walking trails for runners and improve the overall landscape of the park. The city hasn't set a date yet for when they'll start the project, but say it will be very soon.				
9. Facing Florida	06/15/14	11:30AM/10 minutes	Public Affairs	*****
***** This week we looked at how the Lovel brothers are pioneering a method of "growing" oysters that could possibly save the oyster industry in Florida, which has been in rapid decline due to the decreasing flow of fresh water into Apalachicola Bay.				
10. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	06/20/14	09:02PM/2 minutes	News	*10
*10 The city of Fort Walton Beach is looking into a recycling program with curb-side pickup. They cancelled curb-side pick-up of recycling in 2007, citing a lack of participation. Now the city is looking into a six month long pilot program with curbside recycling pick-up in two areas of the city. The "single stream" method will be used, meaning that all recyclables can be thrown into one container. City officials hope the areas will cut down on the amount of garbage enough to have only one trash, and one recycling, pick up per week, to help save the city money overall. If the program works, they may reinstate recycling curb-side pick up throughout the entire city.				

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11. Facing Florida	06/22/14	11:30AM /10 minutes	Public Affairs	*11

*11 We interviewed an expert in solar energy who explained that putting solar on an equal footing with equal support as conventional electrical power generation would make new power plants completely obsolete.

12. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	06/27/14	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	*12
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*12 Okaloosa County reporter Laura Hussey reported that after a battle over jet noise that divided a community, the Air Force has issued its final decision on F35 Joint Strike Fighter operations affecting the city of Valparaiso. The environmental impact of the F35 has now been studied for eight years. Today's Record of Decision was described by the Deputy Secretary of the Air Force for Installations as a win-win, for the Air Force and the community. Before the jets arrived at Eglin Air Force Base, concerns about noise led Valparaiso to sue the Air Force, saying property values would plummet and the city might have to dissolve. But many in the county were more worried about keeping the Air Force mission and its economic benefit. In 2009, the Air Force decided to limit takeoffs and landings over Valparaiso, while doing an additional study on the noise impact. The study recommended lifting the limits on takeoffs and landings, allowing the F35s free use of the runway that affects Valparaiso. But the Air Force announced Friday it's keeping the limits in place, in their words demonstrating a commitment to being a good neighbor. There are now 49 F35s at Eglin and another nine are expected to arrive before next spring.