

TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX-TV
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL
Quarter ending: March 31, 2019

ISSUE/description: 4. PUBLIC SAFETY. Informing the public about hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, forest fires, or other life-threatening or property-threatening conditions. Government regulations providing personal safety protection.

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. Full Measure with Sharyl Attkisson	01/06/19	12:30PM/10 min.	Public Affairs	*
* Full Measure is a broadcast focusing on investigative, original and accountability reporting. The show format includes a major investigative piece each week on topics ranging from immigration issues at home and abroad, government waste, national security concerns and vulnerabilities, whistleblower reports on government abuse and misdeeds. This week, we presented a report on a former researcher's statements on the connection between vaccines and Autism.				
2. Full Measure with Sharyl Attkisson	01/20/19	12:30PM/10 min.	Public Affairs	**
** Today we reported on a whistleblower account of asbestos in Veterans Affairs centers.				
3. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	02/11/19	09:00PM/2.1 minutes	News	***
*** Medical professionals in Northwest Florida say the flu season is here and it has come on strong in the past few weeks. Nurse practitioners at the Santa Rosa County Medical Group said this is the busiest their clinic has been this flu season. Casey Schneider said most of the cases coming in are children with the flu. Schneider said it is important to remind kids to wash their hands, send them to school with hand sanitizer, and keep them home if they are sick. It is also not too late for the flu shot and Schneider is encouraging it. She wants to bust the myth about the vaccination. "You may have a little bit of a low-grade fever, but that's your body's immune response to the shot, building up antibodies. Usually that only lasts for 24 hours if you get it at all, but you cannot get the flu from the flu shot," she said. Pharmacist Steve Burklow says things are picking up at Pace Pharmacy. He says people are picking up Tamiflu and visiting the medicine aisle to stop the flu symptoms. If you're interested in getting the flu vaccination, the Santa Rosa County Medical Group, Family Practice clinic in Pace is offering the shot for just \$20. CVS Pharmacy and Walgreens also offers the flu shot.				
4. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	02/12/19	09:00PM/1-minute	News	****
**** The U.S. Navy is testing groundwater in our area for a chemical linked to birth defects and cancer. They're looking for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), chemicals found in a firefighting foam once used at NAS Pensacola. PFAS are man-made chemicals persistent in the environment that are not absorbed well in soil and could migrate to groundwater. The Navy is testing private water wells on base, at Corry Station, and at Saufley Field. They're aware of 24 wells in those areas and have sent nearly 3,500 letters notifying residents. "If there are any detections above the lifetime health advisory, within 24 hours of that sampling result, we're going to provide bottled water until we can find a permanent solution," explained Navy spokesperson Sarah Reed. Anyone who's been contacted by the Navy should sign up to have their water wells tested.				

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5. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	02/13/19	09:00PM/1.2 minutes	News	*****

***** Governor Ron DeSantis made a major announcement in Broward County today to address school safety concerns in Florida. The Governor instructed statewide law enforcement to develop a threat-assessment strategy for potential mass shooters, and he demanded efforts be sped up to develop social media monitoring for threats. DeSantis also extended the deadline to allow sheriffs to tap into more than \$50 million in unused funds for armed school guards, according to the Sun Sentinel. DeSantis said his goal was for Florida to become a national leader in intelligence-led policing with the establishment of this new strategy.

6. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	03/01/19	09:00PM/1.6 minutes	News	*****
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***** Being prepared for hurricanes is a message anyone who lives on the Gulf Coast should take to heart. The impacts of Hurricane Michael had led many Northwest Florida communities to reevaluate their emergency operations. Fort Walton Beach has seen its share of hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and other disasters. "We've reached out to some officials affected by Hurricane Michael and took their advice and are incorporating what we are doing over here," explained Fort Walton Beach Fire Department Emergency Management Chief Perkins. An issue that has come up is the location of the city's command operations during those emergencies. Right now, a training room inside the police department is used. "It doesn't hold enough staffing, doesn't allow us to put technology like GSI satellite and radio technology, so we are looking for a better solution," Chief Perkins said. One solution could be to move the operation center to the newly built recreation center on Jet Drive. It's large enough to house staff during and after a disaster. Upgrades to things like windows and doors that are impact-resistant would be needed – as well as fortifying the roof and adding hurricane shutters. "We've asked the state for \$350,000 and the city would match it \$150,000 from the county half cents sales tax," explained City Manager Michael Beedie. If the state approves the funding, the work could be completed by April 2020.

7. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	03/07/19	09:00PM/2.3 minutes	News	*****
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***** Pensacola's 17th Ave train trestle, known as the Graffiti Bridge, is iconic for its bright colors and being a landscape for creativity, but it also has a reputation for being a dangerous obstacle for large vehicles. The bridge has a low clearance of 10 feet and eight inches for traffic. It's clearly posted on both sides of the bridge but police say many drivers are not following the warnings. In 2018 the Pensacola Police Department reported 56 collisions involving the Graffiti Bridge. Police spokesperson Officer Mike Wood said most of the drivers involved are from out of town. "They are following their GPS, it tells them to come this way to take them out to the beach," Officer Wood said. The bridge is operated by CSX Transportation, who tell Channel 3 News they inspect the bridge after every collision. Officer Mike Wood said there are several potential options to alert drivers, such as bars like those found at fast food drive-throughs or more advanced laser technology. So far there are no firm plans in place to prevent the issues. CSX tells Channel 3 News the company is committed to working with the City of Pensacola to help ensure the safety of its employees and the public.

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8. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	03/07/19	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	*****

***** "Friends, Head-Shop, Tobacco and Hookah Lounge," reads the sign of the Pensacola Hookah Lounge in Escambia County. It's that sign and the store it represents that have some parents and teachers concerned. The business is about a quarter of a mile away from Ferry Pass Middle School. "My biggest concern is the innuendo of friends tied with the image of using drugs ... marijuana in particular" said Ferry Pass Middle School teacher Christopher Langham. Langham said dozens of students pass by the store every day. We talked to parents and grandparents of students, many unaware of the head shop. Parent Stephen Wood said he didn't know they could put something so close to a school. "It seems obvious to me that they're targeting grammar school kids because why else would it be so close to the boundary," said grandparent Richard Bone. "Why not a mile away, why not two miles away?" The shop's owner said that he does not sell his products to anyone under the age of 18. County officials said the shop is allowed in its current location. They state the business is more than 1,400 feet away from the school.

9. Channel 3 News at 09PM on WFGX	03/12/19	09:00PM/1-minute	News	*****
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***** People living near the Navy Point shoreline say efforts to stave off erosion are putting their safety at risk. Oyster reefs and other materials are being used to create "living shorelines" in areas seeing erosion. Residents around Navy Point claim sand used for the project was contaminated with things like carpet, sharp objects, glass, and shingles. "We need to do things right the first time. Just because something is cheap or free doesn't mean it's right for the application. Now, it's costing us a lot more money," said concerned local Timothy Smith. The county said the sand was collected from Big Lagoon and may look darker because it was submerged for years. As that organic material decomposes, the sand will lighten. Still, crews will be out weekly to make sure the sand is clean and help that process along.

10. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	03/15/19	09:00PM/1-minute	News	*10
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*10 Escambia County Commissioners are joining their emergency management director with concerns about staffing in hurricane shelters this year. Emergency Management Director John Dosh told the commissioners the Red Cross will be unable to staff all 11 shelters as they have in the past. Almost all the shelters are in schools, and state law requires the school district to provide staffing when schools are used for that purpose. Escambia County Commissioner Doug Underhill says despite that there are many unanswered questions. "Who is going to be responsible? ...The school district realizes this is a legal responsibility and that they have teachers recognize that it's part of their contract." A joint meeting with the Red Cross, the school district and other providers will be scheduled. The commissioners want training to start next month, so shelter staffing plans are finalized by the start of hurricane season.

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11. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	03/17/19	09:00PM/1.7 minutes	News	*11

*11 Construction on the new Escambia County Jail is ongoing, and many living near the site say the work is creating some unwelcome consequences. As the largest public works project in the history of Escambia County, it's generated a lot of noise and dust. Deonta'e Averheart lives across the street from the construction: "With them digging up all this dirt, it shoots up," he said. Concerns for the health of safety of residents is a priority for Commissioner Lumon May who serves the district. Terms of the project include using water to keep the dust down. Averheart said he hasn't witnessed that. That's why Commissioner May said the county must keep tabs on the work. A county spokesperson said the contractor is within contract perimeters and is meeting permit requirements regarding dust. County staff will be doing air quality samples weekly. Construction is expected to be complete by spring 2020.

12. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	03/20/19	09:00PM/1-minute	News	*12
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*12 People are concerned about road safety along Highway 98 near Navarre Park in Santa Rosa County. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) held a public hearing on the suggested Highway projects on Tuesday. FDOT says the proposed improvements focus on closing some medians and adding turning lanes at problematic locations. Bobby Benaquis, who owns a restaurant on Highway 98, believes that a fly-over from Ortega to Andor would play a major role in the flow of traffic, because this area does halt traffic. FDOT says projects to modify medians would begin in 2024.

13. Opioids: A National Crisis	03/30/19	07:00PM/1 hour	Public Affairs	*13
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*13 This important Opioid Town Hall was an hour-long discussion of the Opioid Crisis affecting all Americans, including our local community. It was hosted by Sinclair Broadcast Group's Eric Bolling. Eric and his wife Adrienne lost their son to an accidental opioid overdose. Since then, Eric has been on the front lines, battling the Opioid Crisis in America. This Town Hall continues our commitment to help local communities stop the growth of this epidemic. Our goal is to not only raise awareness but focus on finding solutions to this epidemic, and hold accountable those who bear responsibility for the epidemic. Our guests included Florida Senator Marco Rubio, Liberty University alumnus Rick Amato, States Attorney Dave Aronberg, and former addict Jim Wahlberg. Channel 3 anchors reported on the impact of the opioid epidemic on foster care across Florida, and the impact on local families.