



**QUARTERLY LIST OF PROGRAMMING  
PROVIDING THE MOST SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY  
ISSUES**

**2024 1Q**

**January 01, 2024 – March 31, 2024**

The following issues were identified as significant and were addressed by WTXL to serve the community and act in the public interest as set forth by the Federal Communications Commission.

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH** – Includes matters relating to issues important to or that affect children and teens.

**CONSUMER & PUBLIC SAFETY** - Includes matters relating to issues essential to support consumer and public safety, including recalls, scams, and dangerous situations in the viewing area.

**CRIME & MISSING PERSONS**– Includes stories and segments advising the public of all types of crime that occur within the viewing area, searches for suspects, searches for missing persons, outcomes of trials, etc.

**EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT**- Includes matters relating to educational and employment opportunities within the viewing area.

**HEALTH, SOCIAL SAFETY & THE ELDERLY** - Includes issues relating to healthcare education and assistance, wellness and fitness, and social assistance/programs that benefit low income/special needs families as well as the elderly.

**POLITICS & THE ECONOMY** - Includes issues related to local, state, and federal politics and economy that are of interest to members of the local viewing area.

**RECREATION, LOCAL EVENTS & THE ARTS** - Includes information on recreational and cultural events happening throughout the viewing area.

**TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION** - Includes stories and segments on issues that affect transportation and travel.

**WEATHER & ENVIRONMENT** - Includes issues relating to weather events and environmental issues occurring in the viewing area.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS PROVIDING  
MOST SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT OF  
COMMUNITY ISSUES**

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>
ABC 27 News at Sunrise/5am	Mon – Fri	5:00am-5:30am
ABC 27 News at Sunrise/5:30am	Mon – Fri	5:30am-6:00am
ABC 27 News at Sunrise/6am	Mon – Fri	6:00am-6:30am
ABC 27 News at Sunrise/6:30am	Mon – Fri	6:30am-7:00am
ABC 27 News at 12pm	Mon – Fri	12:00pm-12:30pm
ABC 27 News at 5pm	Mon – Fri	5:00pm-5:30pm
ABC 27 News at 5:30pm	Mon – Fri	5:30pm-6:00pm
ABC 27 News at 6pm	Mon – Fri	6:00pm-6:30pm
ABC 27 News at 11pm	Mon – Fri	11:00pm-11:35pm
ABC 27 News At Sunrise Weekends/6am	Sat	6:00am-7:00am
ABC 27 News At Sunrise Weekends/7am	Sat	7:00am-8:00am
ABC 27 News At Sunrise Weekends/7am	Sun	7:00am-8:00am
ABC 27 News At Sunrise Weekends/9am	Sun	9:00am-10:00am
ABC 27 Saturday News at 6:30pm	Sat	6:30pm-7:00pm
ABC 27 Sunday News at 6:30pm	Sun	6:30pm-7:00pm
ABC 27 Weekend News at 11pm	Sat & Sun	11:00pm-11:30pm

All the above programs are locally produced news programs presenting a mix of news, weather, sports and issue-related feature stories and segments. Issue-responsive program segments vary in duration.

## **ABC TELEVISION NETWORK PROGRAMS**

### **WORLD NEWS NOW**

*Monday thru Friday 2:00 - 4:30 AM*

In thirty-minute segments, ABC's WORLD NEWS NOW, with co-anchors Kenneth Moton and Mona Kosar Abdi offers up-to-date news coverage including a mixture of live and taped coverage of domestic and international news issues.

### **AMERICA THIS MORNING**

*Monday through Friday 4:30 - 5:00 AM*

Kenneth Moton and Mona Kosar Abdi co-anchor this news program which provides viewers with late-breaking national and international news, sports, weather, and financial reports. In separate and distinct fifteen-minute segments, overnight events are constantly updated.

### **GOOD MORNING AMERICA**

*Monday through Friday 7:00 - 9:00 AM ET*

George Stephanopoulos, Robin Roberts, and Michael Strahan provide viewers with timely news reports, informative features, weather, and up-to-the minute interviews with world leaders.

*Saturday 8:00-10:00 AM*

*Sunday 8:00 – 9:00 AM*

ABC News Correspondents Dan Harris, Eva Pilgrim and Whit Johnson will co-anchor providing viewers with timely reports, informative features, weather information, and up-to-the minute interviews with world leaders.

### **GMA3: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

*Monday through Friday 1:00 – 2:00 PM*

A one-hour program co-anchored by Amy Robach and TJ Holmes, also featuring other ABC News Correspondents including Dr. Jennifer Ashton, to address the widespread issues caused by the global pandemic and a mix of news, takeaways, and inspiration.

### **THE VIEW**

*Monday through Friday 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM*

A one-hour talk show hosted by Whoopi Goldberg, Joy Behar, Sunny Hostin, Meghan McCain, Ana Navarro and Sara Haines features the hottest topics, headline-making conversations, politics, pop culture, celebrity guests and newsmakers, broadcast live from New York.

### **ABC NEWS BRIEF**

*Monday through Friday approx. 2:58 - 3:00PM ET*

This two-minute news capsule updates important news events of the day.

### **ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT WITH DAVID MUIR**

*Monday through Friday 6:30 - 7:00PM*

ABC News Anchor David Muir keeps viewers informed about world news events in this half-hour news review

**20/20**

*Friday 9:01 - 11:00PM (on occasion, 20/20 will air on another night)*

Informational News magazine combines hard-hitting investigative reports, newsmaker interviews, compelling human interest, and feature stories, and offers viewers a chance to learn more about the world around them. ABC News Correspondents David Muir and Amy Robach anchor *20/20*.

**NIGHTLINE**

*Monday through Friday 12:37 - 1:06:30 AM*

Ju Chang and Byron Pitts co-anchor the program which provides in-depth discussion of current events.

**ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT WITH DAVID MUIR (Saturday)**

*Saturday 6:00 - 6:30PM*

**ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT SUNDAY**

*Sunday 6:00 - 6:30PM*

This half-hour news program reviews the day's major events from around the country and around the world on the weekend.

**THIS WEEK WITH GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS**

*Sunday 10:00 - 11:00AM*

ABC News Correspondents George Stephanopoulos and Martha Raddatz co-anchor this news/interview program which focuses on the latest news events. World leaders and policy makers participate in roundtable discussions.

## LOCAL PROGRAMS PROVIDING MOST SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES

### *CHILDREN AND YOUTH – Includes matters relating to issues important to or affecting children and teens.*

**PROGRAM:** 5pm News

**DATE:** 23 January 2024

**LENGTH:** 1:30

**SUMMARY:**

Florida's GOP supermajority is not breaking on this bill that would treat 16 and 17-year-olds more like adults when it comes to their work hours. That's despite wide opposition from Democrats who continued to denounce the legislation as dangerous and unnecessary. PKG That controversial plan weakening Florida's child labor laws now headed to the Florida House floor... after clearing its last lower chamber committee along party lines, Tuesday. It's now closer than ever to the governor's desk and a potential signature. "Our education is flexible now— we need to have our workforce flexible." Sponsor, Rep. Linda Chaney, continues to tout the law loosening as mimicking federal standards — still restricting dangerous work — and helping solve an employee shortage. She told this during a recent interview "We're not rounding children up and putting them on assembly lines. I've talked to some of the other States who have this bill in place. It's all positive feedback. I think this is a good step forward for the State of Florida, for our young people, for our small businesses." If signed into law — the current version of the bill focuses on 16 and 17-year-olds. They could work six days a week, for more than eight hours a day, and more than 30 hours a week— all while school is in session. A handful of minors who attended the meeting in support — said the change was a pathway to more income and experience... "It would just give me a lot of opportunity— and proof to my bosses that I can do stuff. There are a lot of restrictions that I cannot do at my job, you know?" ...That's as educators warned their kids will suffer— too exhausted to prioritize learning. "Our number one priority should always be the education of our students. Creating an educated population that will be a better workforce later." The House chamber is now expected to take up the bill in the coming weeks. That's as a version in the Senate gets watered down. Lawmakers there stripped out a provision allowing minors to work on top of roofs last week, bringing the two bills closer to alignment and further indicating this policy will make it across the finish line... and onto the governor's desk. Whether DeSantis will sign is another question. But plenty of other governors already have enacted these kinds of changes— including Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds — a DeSantis ally who has mimicked Florida legislation in recent years and vice versa.

**PROGRAM:** 5pm News

**DATE:** 14 February 2024

**LENGTH:** 1:30

**SUMMARY:**

Leon County School District is seeing an improvement in safety on campuses—but there's still work to be done. I'm SM your DNR. After the COVID-19 pandemic schools in our neighborhoods saw a steep climb in guns being brought on campus. Now our schools are seeing a major turning point. A new safety plan called Leon County School Safe Schools Initiative is seeing strong results. That's according to Leon County Schools Chief of Safety and Security Jimmy Williams. Jimmy Williams | Leon County Schools Chief of Safety and Security "This school year we've only taken one firearm off of our campus this time last year we had about seven total of 10 last year and about eight in the year previous to that." The safe school plan has two key components. One of them includes this pup you see right here. Leon County Schools is one of two that I'm aware of districts that currently own a firearms detection dog and have certified handlers. Tango, as you can see is a very happy two-year-old golden retriever. Tango has been in schools all over Leon County including in our downtown neighborhood schools. Gun detection devices are also in the plan. They're portable and only require minimal setup and take-down time. We've done it before school. We've done it during the PE classes. You see the gym there. We spend as little as possible as little time as possible. As schools double down on trying to reduce guns on campus so are community groups. Curtis Taylor | Tallahassee Urban League President and CEO Do not leave your guns in your unlocked cars, because these

guns are being stolen out of cars at night. And they are being used to shoot and kill us. The Tallahassee Urban League just started an initiative with the Tallahassee Police Department to remind people not to keep guns in their cars. Those guns sometimes end up in the hands of students. We don't think people are leaving their guns and in their cars. They just forget it's there, and they don't forget it don't lock the car, keys come along three or four o'clock knock at the door lock, within 10 seconds, they got their gun and go. Everyone's goals are to keep students focused, safe and in the classroom. The goal is to not incarcerate and young person with a firearm on campus at all. The goal is to not have guns on our campus at all. According to Everytown Research and Policy, an average of at least one gun is stolen from a car every 15 minutes. We've reached out to the Tallahassee Police Department to see how many guns were stolen from unlocked cars in our neighborhoods in the past year. We haven't heard back as of yet, but when we do well let you know the numbers. ABC 27's Kendall Brandt continues our team coverage on school safety in Northeast Tallahassee. Where a group of students there are remembering a tragic school shooting in Florida through advocacy.

**PROGRAM:** Sunrise News

**DATE:** 18 March 2024

**LENGTH:** 1:00

**SUMMARY:**

Right now in the southwest Tallahassee neighborhood. A push to make sure every student who wants to attend prom - has the chance to look their best. Staff of the Palmer Munroe Teen Center have been hard at work collecting dresses, men's attire and accessories for operation prom. More than 1,000 items have been donated so far... But the job isn't done. More donations are needed. Center Supervisor, Connie Williams SAYS this event is designed to help every teen look their best. "I think anybody that comes in will be able to find something. Especially if you don't want to bear the burden of the cost. There's something here for everybody." The Operation Prom FREE SHOPPING event is scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd. It will be held at the Palmer Munroe Center off Jackson Bluff Road. Dress donations can also be dropped off there throughout the week.

*CONSUMER & PUBLIC SAFETY - Includes matters relating to issues essential to support consumer and public safety, including recalls, scams, and dangerous situations in the viewing area.*

**PROGRAM:** Sunrise

**DATE:** 22 January 2024

**LENGTH:** 1:45

**SUMMARY:**

A deeper dive into our series addressing human trafficking in Leon County. I'm Maya Sargent in NW Tallahassee, looking at why finding the path to justice for the victims is so complex. Another step in our series looking into human trafficking in Leon County being difficult to define and having many different forms. This time we're focusing on the prosecution of these cases. I'm Maya Sargent in Northwest Tallahassee, experts share why the complex and clandestine nature of human trafficking and the people who it targets can make preparing these cases a challenge. Lorena Vollrath-Bueno, Vice President of education and engagement at the National District Attorney's Association, says many victims often don't want to come forward. A lot of victims love their trafficker, some of them don't want people to know especially people in their community what's happened, sometime the trafficker is a family member. She's running down a few obstacles that could prevent a victim from speaking up. She says inherent biases also play a role in the victim's decision. Think about the worst thing that's ever happened, or the worst thing you could have done, and imagine having someone put that out for the whole world to hear. Lorena says it's important the case is as strong as possible. I hopped on a call with Barbara Martinez down in Miami. She has experience in both the federal and private spheres. Barbara says she does think the prosecution rate is higher now. She says you need: A strategy for bringing out what's the most important evidence demonstrating pattern and corroboration a survivor's story. Barbara says you need to question the impact of any trauma. What trauma does to a survivor and how that actually comes out in various ways when they're testifying. Barbara says that's why she'll assign a team to a case with a strategy that's victim centered. Nicole Whitaker, former prosecutor and founder of non-profit Christians Against Trafficking says that makes a big difference. If you think about being questioned on a stand, in public, about the worst thing that's ever happened in your entire life, that's hard. And most survivors are not in a place where they can do that. Lorena says that's why it's crucial that every case stems from a strong foundation of trust. The very first person who makes contact with the victim, is the one that sets the scene for their entire experience. Building on the work that I've previously reported on regarding how County and City leaders and law enforcement are responding to human trafficking cases and resources for victims. I did some digging and found lawmakers in the Florida House and Senate have filed multiple bills this session seeking to help human trafficking victims. The Office of Attorney General Ashley Moody also sent me through a list of resources about how to remain vigilant of human trafficking. I'll leave links at my web story at WTXL.TV. IN NW TALLAHASSEE, Maya Sargent, ABC 27.

**PROGRAM:** 6pm News  
**DATE:** 01 February 2024  
**LENGTH:** 1:05  
**SUMMARY:**

One county project is improving pedestrian safety near schools and in neighborhoods. I'm Kendall Brandt your NR in NE Tallahassee on one of the 99 new sidewalks Leon County is adding to our region. I am speaking with parents who tell me this makes them feel better about dropping their kids off at school. Derrick Stubbs walks his daughter to Gilcrest Elementary School every day. "Because I work across the street at 100 percent chiropractic, it's easy for me to walk and pick my daughter up from school." An experience he says is "always safe because we have our great crossing guard Mr. Andy here. "He says it's also safe because of this sidewalk near the school. It's one of 24 the county is putting in near schools in the area as a part of the safe routes to school program. It's a part of a federal grant that gives money to local governments to add those paths near schools. "Safety is always the first priority when it comes to parents and their children so if we can have more sidewalks I think that's a great benefit for Tallahassee." The person leading the charge on those projects: county engineering director Charles Wu. "sidewalks provide separation for pedestrians from the vehicular traffic." He says it's something top of mind for county leaders. "That's always considered when we widen a road the sidewalks or the trail or bike lanes will be added in the project to enhance pedestrian safety, bicyclists, everybody." That's why the county is also adding 75 sidewalks in neighborhoods nearby. It's a plan that's been in the works since 2014 to add over 30 miles of walkable space for pedestrians. The county is working its way down the list, finishing nine of those projects so far. Something Stubbs says he is happy to see. "Anywhere you'd assume there needs to be some sidewalks, I think that's a good place to start." Once all of the safe routes to schools sidewalks are finished, the county will move on to the next group of sidewalks in neighborhoods across the area, like the one on Centerville Road. In NE Tallahassee, Kendall Brandt, ABC 27.

**PROGRAM:** Sunrise  
**DATE:** 12 March 2024  
**LENGTH:** 2:45  
**SUMMARY:**

The United States Postal Service is investing millions in our area as neighbors still see issues with their mail in Tallahassee. I'm Kendall Brandt your neighborhood reporter in Northeast Tallahassee. I'm looking into what USPS is going to do with the five million dollars going into an area office and how neighbors are feeling about the news. Neighbor Vicki Eddy has been relying on the United States postal service since she moved to Northeast Tallahassee in 1980. "Back in the 80s, you could actually leave money in your mailbox and they'd leave you stamps for you." But she no longer trusts putting money in the mailbox after she dropped a seven thousand dollar check off to this drop box at the Centerville Road Post Office. "I checked and the payee had been washed out, a young man had put his name in there and signed the back and ran it through his account." I met with her at Pimlico Park to not only discuss her stolen mail, but also the five million dollar investment USPS is making to improve mail sorting and delivery in Tallahassee. USPS announced last week that they will they'll be working to modernize the sorting facility on South Adams street. I've been following issues with missing mail for six months. A spokesperson told me in an email the investment will create quote "...streamlined package processing and distribution capabilities in the local market..." and that "delivery will be enhanced." It's news that Eddy says she was happy to hear. "I am glad they're doing that because our mail should be delivered, but now we need this handled." Commissioner Brian Welch agrees. "That doesn't really address the alleged criminal activities with stolen checks." After working on this issue for a year, he says this new investment is progress. "When you're dealing with the United State Postal Service, it's a big entity and I am glad we have been able to kick the shins of the giant and make a little bit of noise It's a step in the right direction." USPS did tell me last week in a statement quote "This type of alleged behavior within the Postal Service is not tolerated." I asked Eddy what she hopes happens next. "do you hope this issue gets resolved?" "If we don't investigate it, if we don't get cameras, if we don't try to resolve it, then the people who are doing this are going to say hmm, nobody cares." If you're having an issue you can't get solved, I want to help. Contact me at the information on your screen so I can hear from you. In Northeast Tallahassee, Kendall Brandt, ABC 27 .



*CRIME & MISSING PERSONS— Includes stories and segments advising the public of all types of crime that occur in the viewing area, searches for suspects, searches for missing persons, outcomes of trials, etc.*

**PROGRAM:** Sunrise News

**DATE:** 12 January 2024

**LENGTH:** 01:00

**SUMMARY:**

The Cairo Police Department and Georgia State Patrol are searching for a missing woman. Jennifer Lynnette McClinton Bennett was last heard from January 2nd. Cairo Police say G-S-P did an aerial search Thursday looking for Bennett's car, but they weren't able to find it. We just do, going through the normal routine when somebody's missing. Steps that we have to take to try to locate them. Social media, news outlets, and just talking with relatives and friends and other than that about done everything we possibly can. Bennett is believed to be driving a black 2016 Jeep Cherokee Sport with the tag R-V-D-6-8-4-9. Police say the tag has been entered into the tag reader system, so if it's run through a tag reader anywhere police will get a hit on it. If you have any information on Bennett's whereabouts, you're asked to call the Cairo Police Department at the numbers on your screen.

**PROGRAM:** 6pm News

**DATE:** 05 February 2024

**LENGTH:** 01:15

**SUMMARY:**

Neighbors are asking drivers to slow down and pay attention after a deadly crash. Brianna Williams, resident: "They are going too fast." I'm your neighborhood reporter AJ Douglas. A dangerous stretch of road in Bainbridge is renewing calls for change. Brianna Williams, resident: "I do think that it's unsafe." Brianna Williams has lived in Bainbridge since June. She tells me she works at the Dollar General that's nearby. Brianna Williams, resident: "I feel afraid of all the upcoming traffic and how fast it's going." fear that's being felt even more now with the death of a 64 year old. Janice Harrell WAS rear ended on highway 84 while waiting at A stoplight. Police say the driver simply failed to slow down. Nylah Dumas, patrol office and resident: "Speed limits are reasonable. Traffic lights are reasonable. I feel like the drivers just need to pay more close attention." Nylah Dumas is not only a local police officer but she lives minutes from where the deadly crash happened. She travels 84 east also known as Thomasville Highway daily. She says while safety measures in place should keep drivers safe... drivers can do more to keep each other safe. Nylah Dumas, patrol office and resident: "Pay attention to what you're doing and stay off cell phones." dumas and Williams are not alone with their concerns about safety. I talked to other people off camera. Who say they are concerned with the amount of traffic that will be increased in the area when the new middle school is complete this fall and with the new addition dumas says will come additional safety measures. Nylah Dumas, patrol office and resident: "Patrol officers will definitely be out patrolling more. On top of the school resource officers and the sheriff's office. We've already had conversations about how to [reduce] the amount of traffic." Since I've been reporting in Bainbridge, I've reported on another traffic crash and more calls for people to slow down along this stretch of highway. Williams hopes those safety changes don't stop just there. Brianna Williams, resident: "Georgia needs to do better" Dumas tells me that patrols are expected to increase after the new middle school is completed. In Bainbridge I'm AJ Douglas for ABC 27.

**PROGRAM:** 6pm News

**DATE:** 21 March 2024

**LENGTH:** 01:147

**SUMMARY:**

It's an upgrade that many neighbors say has been a long time coming. I'm Ashley Engle in the midway neighborhood. I'm taking a look at the plans for a new police station here, and what it means for the community. "we've been needing a new police department for a while now" a while? Try 35 years! That's how old the facility is that Kristi Cobb and her team works in. "right now, we're in a trailer, so its pretty old. It needs some updating." the city says right now, the facility lacks safety for officers. "it does not have the security necessary to be a police station." midway city manager dr. Grant says the city received \$750,000 for a new station. That money is from a consolidated appropriations act that was passed early march. "it's a great need" ok, here's the plan. Right now, the station is 1,500 sq ft. Leaders want to build a 2,500 sq ft building with a stronger structure. They want to add an interview room, conference room, bathrooms for the public and more. "it's a trailer. And everybody knows the style of a trailer and it being 35 years old, its an older trailer." out with the old, in with the new in a couple years so Kristi cobb can keep her team and neighbors protected. "I want them to be safe. And I want them to enjoy the things we are now getting as we move forward in 2024. It's going to take a while for us to get the building but we know its coming. So that's the excitement for us. Construction on the new police facility will not begin for another one to two years. But the excitement that a new facility is coming is contagious around this neighborhood. In midway, I'm Ashley Engle, ABC 27

**EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT-** *Includes matters relating to educational and employment opportunities within the viewing area.*

**PROGRAM:** 5pm News

**DATE:** 05 January 2024

**LENGTH:** 01:25

**SUMMARY:**

Special Education students face challenges in the real world after they leave high school. I'm Terry Gilliam your neighborhood reporter in Southwest Tallahassee. Now, I'm getting a closer look at tools that are designed to help right here in the Capital City. Check out these stats I found... In the U-S non-disabled population, about 65 percent of people are employed. For the disabled population...that number is less than half at 21 percent. I got these numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics... "We start those critical conversations much earlier with students with disabilities." Dr. Janae Duclos is working to close gap, right here in Tallahassee. Walking 2 shot: I caught up with Dr. Duclos in my neighborhood.... She's a Professor of Special Education at Florida State University, but also has a family member with autism... One solution? "We utilize conversation cue cards that provide not only cues but questions for the students, so the cues are for the students receive the information." Duclos says these cue cards are designed to be used in a relaxed setting that will help people with disabilities land competitive employment or higher learning in their future. It's part of her organization, C-3 for me. She says they promote Equity in Education, One Conversation at a Time. The Cue Cards have been designed specifically for K-12 districts and schools that serve these students, Dr. Duclos also tells me that the C3 For me organization will have future projects that are dedicated to empowering neurodiverse individuals. In Southwest Tallahassee, Terry Gilliam, ABC27.

**PROGRAM:** 6pm News

**DATE:** 12 February 2024

**LENGTH:** 02:10

**SUMMARY:**

Success for a child's learning starts at a young age and one program is designed to get them to that finish line quicker. I'm Ashley Engle in midway where I hung out with some students who are a part of Gadsden counties head start program. I spoke with a teacher here and she says, this can be helpful. Reading, writing and... some giggles that head start teacher Jerlin Landrum knows are the key to success. "parents should enroll their children in our head start program to give them a head start so they can be well prepared." being prepared in areas such as language, literacy, social and emotional development are taught to students for them to be ready for future grade levels. Head start programs provide a learning environment that support children's growth in education. "early learners, some of the things I see them struggle with is basic phonics skills." I checked the Florida department of education. In 2022-2023 state testing, when it comes to reading and language arts, 28% of students in Gadsden county are at grade level or above....and that's 14 percentage points more than what they scored in the beginning of the school year. "our main goal is to ensure that we are equipping our kids in head start Gadsden county. Equipping them with what is needed for them to be successful" Shannon Peat Brown, the family service coordinator for Gadsden county head start says this can benefit young kids as they enter k-12. She says this could improve the county's overall performance in the classroom and beyond. "and have a successful career not just college but trade school, military. Whatever they want to do." lots of learning and...lots of fun... for young minds to be the future, of Gadsden county's learning success. "seeing at the end of the year like the way that they grow from august all the way up until May." Gadsden county head start will be having registration from March 26th to 28th quincy. Your child must be 3 or 4 years old. The information is on your screen but I will also have this information on our website at wtx.1.tv. In midway, I'm Ashley Engle, ABC 27

**PROGRAM:** 6pm News

**DATE:** 13 March 2024

**LENGTH:** 02:36

**SUMMARY:**

Parents react after the Grady School Board voted to close one of the four elementary schools in the district. I'm your neighborhood reporter AJ Douglas in the Cairo neighborhood. What some are calling a resourceful decision has left parents in a state of uncertainty. Joel Rodriguez, parent: "Instead of trying to find ways to save the school the easy way out is just to shut the school down." Joel Rodriguez and Elizabeth Flores have two children attending Northside elementary school. The school board says it'll cost \$4.1 mil. to keep Northside elementary's doors open so superintendent Eric McFee recommended the school close its doors for good next year. Elizabeth Flores, parent "They're really getting used to being here. The school, the students, the teacher." Florez says she saw her kids become better students while attending Northside. Elizabeth Florez, parent "They're reading skills, the math... All these subjects we've noticed they're improving." The Grady county school board ultimately voted to approve the recommendation to close the school. McFee says these actions are purely financial. Eric Mcfee, superintendent of schools for Grady County Schools: "The decision started with financials and sticks with financials. Ultimately you have to look at how many seats are available in the district.. Can you house everybody and consolidate resources." McFee explains there are roughly 350 students and a estimated 35 teachers at Northside. Causing classroom sizes to dwindle down to 10- to 13 students per classroom. Eric Mcfee, superintendent of schools for Grady County Schools "While community schools are a great thing and having them in every neighborhood when the resources start getting thin when you start losing students." Parents like Silvia Salgado tell me members from the Latino and Hispanic community are worried their children may not feel welcome. Silvia Salgado, parent " Northside is a space where they see more representation of themselves." I took parents' concerns to the superintendent who says.. SOT: Eric Mcfee, superintendent of schools for Grady County Schools Eric McFee, superintendent of schools "I know every teacher in Grady County is a great teacher and loves every kid. I know every principal loves every kid." As for Northside teachers and staff? Eric McFee, superintendent of schools "I'm not firing anybody. Our teachers are keeping their positions." Florez and Rodriguz tell me they are considering moving their children outside of the district. SOT: Joel Rodriguez, parent "Sometimes you get pushed away from your town where you belong. That's kind of where we're at right now." Grady County schools has a website to view new school zone maps. I'll include a link to that with this story at wtxl.tv. In the Cairo neighborhood I'm AJ Douglas for ABC 27.

*HEALTH, SOCIAL SAFETY & THE ELDERLY - Includes issues relating to healthcare education and assistance, wellness and fitness, and social assistance/programs that benefit low income/special needs families as well as the elderly.*

**PROGRAM:** 6pm News

**DATE:** 04 January 2024

**LENGTH:** 02:10

**SUMMARY:**

Tracking affordable access to healthcare in South Georgia. "I was really stressed and worried about a lot of things." I'm your neighborhood reporter AJ Douglas. As we head into the last week of open enrollment for affordable healthcare, I'm investigating where those without health insurance can turn in my community. Markayla Wimberly, mother: "I wasn't expecting to go this long." That's Markayla Wimberly. She recently gave birth to the first baby born in Decatur County in 2024. That baby's name? "Mazari Marie." Wimberly tells me she went through a period of uncertainty before learning she will be covered under Medicaid for labor and delivery fees. "At first I didn't have insurance at all. So I was really stressed and worried about a lot of things." Open enrollment for affordable health care coverage is open right now. These are affordable care act plans. Despite the efforts to expand affordability, the Kaiser Family Foundation reports these plans are expected cost more in 2024. The median premium price is going up six percent. In Bainbridge, that's a tough pill to swallow. The U-S Census Bureau shows almost 20 percent of the community has no health coverage. So where can people go? Precious Wynn, site manager, Primary Care of Southwest Georgia: "Primary care of southwest Georgia is a primary care doctors office where we see patients anywhere from infants to geriatric." Precious Wynn is the site manager for the Bainbridge location. She explains how the services are of the same quality you would find at any other notable medical facility here in town. Precious Wynn, site manager, Primary Care of Southwest Georgia "We're able to give them the same care as those who have private insurance. By making [it] affordable for them." Places like Primary care of South West Georgia operate on a sliding scale when it comes time to pay for medical services. Clinics that allow patients to pay based on income serve the uninsured population. A for the first baby born in Decatur County this year mom says she and Mazari's father are ready to travel home as a new family. "I'm excited to start this journey." If your struggling with transportation, reach out to Primary Care of Southwest Georgia to find out if you qualify for a free ride. Open enrollment for affordable healthcare plans ends January 16th. In Bainbridge I'm AJ Douglas for ABC 27.

**PROGRAM:** 6pm News

**DATE:** 29 January 2024

**LENGTH:** 02:10

**SUMMARY:**

Dr. Sophia yen, child and maternal health physician, co-founder, pandiahealth.com. Elizabeth Gregory, director of women's gender & sexuality studies, university of Houston. Now to disturbing new findings on the real-life impact of the supreme court's landmark decision to overturn roe v. Wade. For the first time in 15 years, the birth rate among teens in Texas has increased...but it's not the only new data that shows the real-life impact of abortion restrictions that women and girls now face in the united states. Alexa Liacko has more. It's not just rising birth rates for women and teens...there's also data reporting tens of thousands of pregnancies after rapes...in states with abortion restrictions...I spoke with doctors to see what these new numbers mean...and what doctors hope to see in 2024. Dr. Sophia yen, child and maternal health physician, co-founder, pandiahealth.com. It is devastating to me as a mother that my two daughters have fewer rights than I grew up with, and that is just wrong. We should be moving forward. In her personal life, dr. Sophia yen takes care of her two daughters...and she channels that care in her professional life too... helping make birth control more accessible for women across the u-s. Dr. Sophia yen, child and maternal health physician, co-founder, pandiahealth.com: ever since, Dobbs reversed roe v wade, we saw a 3x, 3 times increase in demand for our birth control delivery services. And now, new data is emerging to show other real-life impacts of abortion restrictions across the country. According to a research letter published in the journal of American medical association, more than 64-thousand woman and girls became pregnant across 14 states from nearly 520,000 cases of rape in the months after newly laid abortion restrictions took place. Texas topping the list – with 45-percent of rape-related pregnancies. Dr. Sophia yen, child and maternal health physician, co-founder, pandiahealth.com: and that's very disheartening that women are having to carry pregnancies that they don't want, but it's also affecting their families because most people have children and significant others. And so it's not just in all by yourself in a

silos, it's with your entire family and it's being affected. Another new report out in January by the university of Houston's institute for research on women, gender & sexuality...found—after 15 years of decline, the birth rate for women ages 15-44 in Texas went up by about 2%. For teens, the birth rate increased by 0.4%...the highest increases were among Hispanic girls and women. Elizabeth Gregory, director of women's gender & sexuality studies, university of Houston: it's certainly cause for discussion-- because again, this affects individuals' lives in terms of what their long term opportunities might be..... If they have to step out of school or, take jobs to support their children in the near term. Dr. Sophia Yen, child and maternal health physician, co-founder, pandiahealth.com: [00:06:06] it is a total travesty to see all the years of decreasing teen pregnancy reversed because of decreased access to comprehensive sex ed, access to reproductive health services. Every teenage pregnancy was an opportunity where society failed that young woman. Gregory says a rise in birth rate for teen girls—may soon show a loss in success for girls....she says lower teen birth rates have been statistically linked to higher graduation rates and better paying jobs. Elizabeth Gregory, director of women's gender & sexuality studies, university of Houston: there are just a lot of ripple effects, that the community has to address, and again, it's not theoretical anymore. And that makes a different conversation. Gregory says even though her data focuses on Texas, it has national implications and both women hope this new data inspires people to ask bigger questions. Elizabeth Gregory, director of women's gender & sexuality studies, university of Houston: is this the way we want to go forward? Dr. Sophia Yen, child and maternal health physician, co-founder, pandiahealth.com: we knew this was coming. And having this data is important to show that it's not hypothetical, that you are actually hurting people with your laws and that we need to make healthcare not a political issue. Alexa Liacko Scripps news.

**PROGRAM:** 6pm News

**DATE:** 07 March 2024

**LENGTH:** 01:45

**SUMMARY:**

Helping those in our neighborhood on a fixed budget looking to keep learning. I'm Maya Sargent in Northwest Tallahassee, why one center is keeping learning accessible for seniors. Affordable learning opportunities in our neighborhood. Why one center is keeping costs low and learning gains high for seniors. Removing barriers to learning for seniors. As you age, you want to continue to learn something new every day if you can. And you can do that right here in our neighborhood. That's why Jodye Clark attends the Lifelong Learning Classes at the Tallahassee Senior Center. They host a variety of seminars, events, and outings at affordable prices for seniors... Like Marylyn Crank, They keep you thinking and growing. She tells me that's one of her priorities in retirement. As you get older, your processing slows down a bit, and then you get away from daily work. That's also a worry for Jodye - a large reason why she attends. Just to keep young. The National Institute on Aging reports that keeping your mind and body active can help offset changes in memory and mental abilities as you age. I checked with a recent CDC study where they found that "1 in 10 US adults ages 45 years and older reported worsening memory loss." Maureen Haberfeld who coordinates Lifelong Learning wants more seniors to get involved. U.S. Census Bureau Data shows almost 15% of Leon County's population are 65 or older. Our brains are like a muscle in a body, if we don't use them, they atrophy, they don't, you know develop, and they don't stay sharp. Maureen says classes are low-cost to help seniors on fixed incomes. We want them to still feel like they can do other things to enjoy themselves and learn things. For Jodye, the benefits of the classes are staying social and engaged. She hopes more seniors in our neighborhood will join her. Even though they're retired, they have a place to go to take classes and just meet some new people. The Tallahassee Senior Center hosts a variety of learning events here at their site and at spots in our community. I'll leave contact information for how to get involved with Lifelong Learning events at WTXL.TV. In NW Tallahassee, Maya Sargent, ABC 27.

**PROGRAM:** 6pm News

**DATE:** 29 March 2024

**LENGTH:** 02:15

**SUMMARY:**

A push to empower fathers in my community. I'm Maya Sargent your NW Tallahassee reporter. I'm in SE Tallahassee, finding out why efforts are focused on motivating fathers in my neighborhood and beyond, and why one organization is looking to reach more dads. Looking to expand the number involved fathers in my neighborhood and beyond. I'm Maya Sargent, your NW Tallahassee reporter, I'm in SE Tallahassee at TEAM DAD, finding out about their mission to provide more wrap around services for dads and their families, along with community partners. The role of a father is crucial in a dad's life. That's what TEAM DAD at Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition is promoting. Not only do we teach it, we live it. They offer a 12-session program for dads at no-cost. Kendrick Harris and Kenyatta Colvin run the program. I like to set number 7 which is discipline, that's a good one. They say being a good father takes time and support. Give that education piece and let dads know how important it is to have dads in the homes Almost half of the dads currently enrolled in the program live in our ZIP codes of 32303 and 32304. It's helping fathers like Dominic Rittman learn key lessons. How I can change, or how I can help my son grow and become strong... He's a senior at Godby High School in my neighborhood. It's been very helpful with balancing both my school life and my parent life. TEAM DAD partners with other organizations including the Teenage Parent Program for Leon County Schools. Director of the Teenage Parent Program Brooke Brunner says the partnership means they can offer tailored support and options for students. It really acts as a support system to our dads specifically, right, because the need of dads are going to be a little bit different to the needs our teenage moms have. Community outreach sits at the heart of TEAM DAD. Kenyatta Colvin says they also run book club a Leon County Detention Center helping incarcerated individuals. They're able to focus on their fatherhood, so their behavior change. Creating safe spaces of community and support throughout our neighborhoods. Don't allow your environment to dictate who you are. To show dad's the long-lasting impact of their role. TEAM DAD are looking to reach more fathers. Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition tell me they are in the works of meeting with Godby High Schools' administration to explore ways they can support more young fathers in education. I'll leave information about how you can get involved with TEAM DAD on my web story at WTXL.TV.

***POLITICS & THE ECONOMY - Includes issues related to local, state, and federal politics and economy that are of interest to members of the local viewing area.***

**PROGRAM:** Sunrise News

**DATE:** 19 January 2024

**LENGTH:** 01:40

**SUMMARY:**

If you drive along Thomasville Road every day like I do, you've probably noticed some changes. Changes that include the demolition of this bank near Maclay Road. I'm Kendall Brandt in Northeast Tallahassee. I'm digging into what's planned for this site and what the rest of 2024 looks like in this neighborhood. "Bannerman has just exploded." Robert Gelhardt has seen his hometown grow. "That used to be just a farm road." Working as an engineer with his firm FSM Engineering, development is something he keeps a close eye on. "Somebody that is coming in and tear down something that was coming in and blighting our neighborhoods and build a new facility makes an impact." One of those projects? The removal of this former bank here at Thomasville and Maclay Roads. Economic development records show a WaWa convenience store is in the works here. It's one of two planned for Northeast Tallahassee. The other is expected to go at the corner of Blair Stone and Miccosukee roads. "The fact that Wawa is coming here will bring more people off the interstate and it will bring commuter here who may have not come here otherwise." People may also be driving that development. I have been following economic development in our area for six months. In July, I spoke with Sleighton Murray, a commercial real estate advisor with NAI Talcor. "Most of the single family home growth that we are experiencing as a market is occurring actually from the Apalachee Parkway up to the northeast side of Tallahassee." I checked the records. 88 new businesses took advantage of that growth with building permits last year. That's according to the Leon County office of Economic vitality. That includes Jeri's Love on a Plate, Jeremiah's Ice Cream and Rae's Restaurant. In the year ahead, we'll be watching the development of Fazoli's, Don Melchor Mexican, a new orthodontist and Bradfordville Animal Resort Kingdom. Gelhardt says this shows a healthy economy and overall progress. "you're going to have new places to go, you're gonna have employment with the contractors. Those are necessary. Building is necessary to bring everyone economically out of a stagnant." City leaders also just gave the green light for a WaWa that's planned of Tallahassee International Airport. That project alone is expected to create 39 permanent jobs. In NE Tally, Kendall Brandt, ABC 27.

**PROGRAM:** 5pm News

**DATE:** 19 February 2024

**LENGTH:** 01:50

**SUMMARY:**

Here's what's happening in your neighborhood headlines: Florida's legislative session has just three weeks left. And some of the most controversial bills are looking less likely to make it to Governor DeSantis's desk. One of those bills is a plan to prevent removal of historical monuments in the state. That includes confederate statues. Other bills include A ban on flying pride flags over government buildings, Limits on personal pronoun requirements, And dropping the age to buy long guns back to 18. They've seen movement in the House and Republicans have listed them as goals. State Senate President Kathleen Passidomo (pass-ih-DOE-moe) says she's not interested. Democrats say they're opposed to all of those bills -- but they're not letting their guard down yet. (Rep. Fentrice Driskell, (D) FL House Minority Leader) "We know that there's a lot of horse trading that goes on back and forth between the House and Senate leadership. We know we've got a governor who is also in the mix — who continues to try and make himself relevant now that he's done running for president." Governor DeSantis may also miss out on a top 20-24 goal. In December, he promised to cut taxes for a year on property insurance premiums. As of last week, the House wasn't including it. Speaker Paul Renner said it could lead to more tax cuts down the line and too much lost revenue.



**PROGRAM:** 11pm News

**DATE:** 28 February 2024

**LENGTH:** 01:50

**SUMMARY:**

A new rule has passed in hopes of helping business owners but it has some wondering how it could impact others in our area. I'm Kendall Brandt your Neighborhood Reporter in NE Tallahassee. I'm looking into how this ordinance is impacting business owners and neighbors in our area. Unwanted visitors are something Malachi Poppell deals with on a daily basis. "It happens at least 2 to three times a day." Specifically, panhandling from people without homes to turn to living off of Capital Circle Northeast. Something he says can become dangerous. "One time a gentleman tried to get in one of my customers cars to ask for a ride home in the passenger seat." That's why he was happy to hear about a new Leon County ordinance passed last week. Commissioners voted last week to enforce no soliciting signage with a 500 dollar fine or jail. The ordinance says soliciting is defined as quote " the act of requesting something of value whether tangible or intangible." Those actions could include asking for donations for charity, selling products, asking people for their time for a survey or panhandling. The example of Girl Scouts selling cookies was even mentioned in the meeting. Commissioner Rick Minor did amend the ordinance to allow political canvassers the right to remain on the property. County Attorney Chasity Osteen says it would be dealt with on a case by case basis. "Enforcement is up to law enforcement. There is prosecutorial discretion." Enforcement that some like advocate Robert Lee worry will target Leon County's un-housed population. "Even though other people are going to be tied up in the issue, they are very likely in the position to afford a lawyer. Somebody who is unhoused cannot." He says this will make it hard for people with no place to turn to find safety. "It's just further pushing people out of the public eye where they won't be seen. If they're in a situation where it's very hot and they have a medical emergency, they're going to be out in the woods somewhere and it's going to lead to people dying." But Poppell says even though many panhandlers are not violent or causing issues, this new rule will allow him to ensure the safety of customers. "It's definitely needed at least in my location. And we're on the northeast side which is the more affluent area, so I can't imagine how it is needed in other parts of town." Business owners that want to put up a sign have to provide it themselves. It will work as long as it's in a clear spot and says no soliciting y see that Leon county ordinance. In NE Tallahassee, Kendall Brandt, ABC 27.

***RECREATION, LOCAL EVENTS & THE ARTS - Includes information on recreational and cultural events happening throughout the viewing area.***

**PROGRAM:** 6pm News

**DATE:** 08 January 2024

**LENGTH:** 01:10

**SUMMARY:**

Thanks Malia! What started as a way to honor MLK in a 2-mile walk has now turned into a Thomasville tradition. "We never thought it would grow to this magnitude." I'm Kandace Blake your Thomasville neighborhood reporter. Here's what you can expect for the 14th annual MLK Humanitarian Walk. Thomasville it's that time of year again! I'm talking about the annual MLK Humanitarian Walk. This involves an old heritage walk through Thomasville, a 5,000-dollar prize for a written essay, and over 200 plates given out to the community. I caught up with event organizer Corey King and he tells me this wouldn't be possible without the support of the community. Contributors such as the Jack Hadley Black History Museum, Gabriel Rising, and the local Food Lion has helped the event to grow over the years attracting hundreds of people to participate year to year. King tells me there's one thing he hopes everyone takes away. Corey King, MLK Humanitarian Walk Organizer "We want the people and youth to take away the spirit of unity and how we all can come together and make it happen!" The last day to enter the collegiate essay contest is Monday by 11:59pm. The fun will kick off January 11th with its virtual event 'voting matters.' Your Thomasville neighborhood reporter, Kandace Blake, ABC 27

**PROGRAM:** 11pm News

**DATE:** 04 February 2024

**LENGTH:** 01:00

**SUMMARY:**

"After they graduate high school they call that falling off the cliff, which means they don't have anything to do..." That was Founder of Inclusion Cafe Bill Shack. He was talking about the stigmas against those with intellectual disabilities. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the U.S. non-disabled population, about 65 percent of people are employed. For the disabled population, that number is less than half at 21 percent. A gap that Shack is trying to close. "We're going to change the restaurant industry... not only in Tallahassee but in the entire state of Florida. We're going to train and hire people with intellectual disabilities to run the entire restaurant." That's where the Tallahassee Highland Games comes in. The Tallahassee Highland Games was held at Apalachee Regional Park, with over 300 vendors, and over 5,000 spectators in attendance... but this year... it included the North Florida Facial Hair Society's Beard and Mustache competition. Inclusion Cafe, was the beneficiary to host the event. In a statement put out by Vice President of The North Florida Facial Hair Society, Leslie Phillips writes: "The Inclusion Cafe will be a huge asset to our community and will fill a very big need. The café will be employed door-to-door by adults with intellectual disability, such as down syndrome or autism." It's something President of the Highland Games, Ryan May, agrees with. "Inclusion Café, everybody that participated in that event, we're going to take the proceeds from their ticket... we're donating it to Inclusion Cafe and their non-profit mission. May also says: "We're all related and when you're with us you're family" Lending a helping hand for positive work in our neighborhoods it's what Shack tells me can be very beneficial. "It's community, it's really about community and that's what inclusion Cafe is"

**PROGRAM:** 5pm News

**DATE:** 27 March 2024

**LENGTH:** 01:15

**SUMMARY:**

A new meaning to comfort food. Christine Vancamp, owner/cook, Ono Kine Local Grindz: "Everybody always talks about good Ole southern cooking and comfort food.. I just want them to experience the comfort food that I grew up on." I'm AJ Douglas in Bainbridge. How these new restaurants are slowly reshaping the culture in my neighborhood. Revitalization through food? I'm your neighborhood reporter AJ Douglas in Bainbridge. I'm getting a taste of how neighbors are enjoying different parts of the world on a plate. Bainbridge neighbors are no strangers to southern cooking. But, a new Asian Fusion restaurant has people ready to explore something new. Christine Vancamp tells me her grandparents moved from Korea to Hawaii back in the 1920's. Vancamp grew up on— Now she's behind the grill alongside her husband who happens to be a Cairo native.... Ruralhome.org reports that rural and small town areas have traditionally not been as racially or ethnically diverse. Neighbors now have opportunities to experience food from around the world without having to leave their own neighborhood. Owner of Ono Kine Local Grindz located at the Bainbridge Marina reflects on the initial fears of bringing something new here. SOT: Christine Vancamp, owner/cook, Ono Kine Local Grindz: "Everybody always talks about good Ole southern cooking and comfort food.. I just want them to experience the comfort food that I grew up on." I found a study from scholarworks@BGSU-DOT-EDU reports smaller populations experiencing revitalization through food because of the links between heritage, uniqueness and progress to turn a town into a destination. In Bainbridge I'm AJ Douglas for ABC 27.

***TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION - Includes stories and segments on issues that affect transportation and travel.***

**PROGRAM:** 6pm News

**DATE:** 17 January 2024

**LENGTH:** 01:30

**SUMMARY:**

FDOT is planning on resurfacing U.S. 90 to make neighbors commute on the busy highway more efficient. I'm Ashley Engle your neighborhood reporter. One of the areas they will be improving is the Ben Bonstick road and U.S 90 intersection. I spoke to one business that told me this will help their customers, get to the restaurant, safer. "we need the light..." meet Roberto Francisco. "as soon as they can (laughs)..." manager of Laredo grill right off the U.S 90 and Ben Bonstick road intersection. "we need our customers to come safely to us." FDOT will be adding a stop light at the intersection and a right turning lane on Ben Bonstick road turning onto the highway. "we've been seeing a lot of accidents out there" I checked with the Quincy police department. Their data shows in 2022 there was one accident that happened at this specific intersection and 5 other accidents near the intersection. "so a study was done and it determined that this is a pretty busy intersection." Lindsey Harrell from FDOT tells me they're hoping this project will make a difference in traffic. The resurfacing project for U.S 90 is five miles long stretching from west of four lane to Duval street. "this rural highway is important for our daily drivers, and we wanted to make sure that the traffic could be safe moving in and out of here and that were able to have the flow be efficient for everyone." with construction set to begin in 2025, neighbors like Roberto believe the new road improvements have been a long time coming. "I appreciate them putting a light out there, it will help the community." FDOT will be having a public meeting about the resurfacing project Thursday, Jan. 18, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Gadsden county extension office. Neighbors are encouraged to go and share their thoughts. Now, let's see how when we'll get a break from the cold weather with first to know chief meteorologist, Casanova Nurse.

**PROGRAM:** Sunrise News

**DATE:** 20 February 2024

**LENGTH:** 01:30

**SUMMARY:**

After seeing talk online about speeding in our area, I decided to ask neighbors what they've noticed. I'm Kendall Brandt your Neighborhood Reporter in NE Tallahassee live off of Killarney way. Neighbors I spoke with tell me many drive fast near a community park in the heart of Killlearn Estates. Kelli Dillon says Killlearn is: "A great neighborhood. it's a wonderful place, love our neighbors." But she says there is one drawback to her home on Killarney Way. "Getting out of our driveway can be a bit treacherous." It's an area right off of Thomasville Road. Data from FDOT shows the area is a hotspot for crashes and traffic accidents. "Coming down that hill they get momentum." Dillon showed me one part of the road she says has caused some trouble for drivers. "We've seen a couple of wrecks outside of the park next door." Killarney park is where many neighbors like Weston Petkovsek take their kids. He says he notices speeding on this road often. "This is one of those roads that's a lot faster than it should be. Hardly anyone seems to do the speed limit." The speed limit here: 30 miles per hour. He says he doesn't live in Killlearn Estates, but sees similar issues near his home in Waverley Hills. "A lot of people cut through to Thomasville Road from Meridian and they go pretty quickly through there. Same issues, you gotta watch out." Dillon agrees that drivers need to be careful. "It only takes a second to go slower but it can also take a second to really cause some damage and you can't take that back if a child gets hurt." LCSO public information officer Angela Sherrod says neighbors can report streets with speeding issues to the sheriff's office on their website or mobile app. I have links to both of those on my web article at WTXL dot TV.

**PROGRAM:** 11pm News

**DATE:** 05 March 2024

**LENGTH:** 01:15

**SUMMARY:**

Changes are coming to some main roads in Wakulla County, I'm Kenzie Krueger in Crawfordville where a roundabout and a turn lane will be installed. "When it's done, it should help improve the traffic flow in the area." Contractor, Rusty Pigott owns of Pigott Asphalt. He's talking about a roundabout planned for the intersection of Songbird Avenue and Wakulla Arran Road. It's a new approach that he says will: "Make the intersection much safer for the modern public section much safer for the public." Plans show a right of way turn lane will also be installed northbound on Songbird Avenue leading onto Crawfordville Highway. It'll also help handle more traffic as more people move to the area. The U.S. Census shows Wakulla County's population has grown from about 30-thousand (30,776) in 2010...To more than 35-thousand (35,178) in 2022. I asked Somer Pell, the Administrator of Community Development for Wakulla County, why this project is needed. "Roundabouts at intersections, improve the safety of the traffic by slowing traffic down and prevent traffic from stopping at like red light traditional red lights do." Leaders with the project say it'll take 120 calendar days to complete. Neighbors will be notified if there are delays. Starting March 14th there will be road closures when construction begins. To help with traffic while the roads are closed, Pigott says they will have signs to help direct drivers. "There will also be detours on Wakulla Arran Road so there won't be any traffic stops the traffic will be able to keep flowing while we're working." For now, roads will remain the same until the construction begins. There will be a public information meeting where neighbors can discuss the project with county leaders Thursday at 6:30pm.

*WEATHER & ENVIRONMENT - Includes issues relating to weather events and environmental issues occurring in the viewing area.*

**PROGRAM:** 5pm News

**DATE:** 09 January 2024

**LENGTH:** 01:00

**SUMMARY:**

Clean up crews are making progress after powerful winds brought lots of trees down! I'm Kendall Brandt in NE Tallahassee off of Centerville road where crews are working to repair power lines and debris from winds of over 50 miles an hour. Damage is evident across Northeast Tallahassee, including here in Killearn Estates. Look at this tree that fell on these apartments off Donovan Drive. Another was uprooted less than a quarter of a mile away on Kilkierane drive. The homeowner tells me it happened around 9 Tuesday morning. To get a better idea of all of the damage in the capitol city, I spoke with Emergency Management Director Kevin Peters. "Once the winds had died down, they were able to get out into the community, begin surveying damage, looking for spots where we have trees on road ways partially blocking lanes." He told me that our county fared decent compared to others. If you see any damage that hasn't been taken care of yet, call the Emergency Operations Center at the number on your screen.

**PROGRAM:** Sunrise News

**DATE:** 22 January 2024

**LENGTH:** 01:00

**SUMMARY:**

We've been experiencing cold weather here in the Big Bend, and this could be dangerous for sea turtles here. I'm Kenzie Krueger in Panacea here's how Gulf Marine Specimen Lab is keeping them safe. "If they were left out in the cold and left on the beaches, they would basically freeze to death." That's what Hunter Eichler with the Gulf Specimen Marine Lab told me could happen to sea turtles from the cold water temperatures we're experiencing here in North Florida. "They just can't regulate their temperatures." This happens because turtles are cold blooded and their temperature is dependent on their environment. The water here can get cold enough to cold stun sea turtles which means the water becomes too cold for them to survive. Eichler tells me they're rescuing turtles showing signs of cold stunning and caring for them until they're back to normal. "When the temperature in the water gets around 53° the turtles can start cold stunning so they just get too cold to function and they can't swim very well. They can't breathe very well, so they just start washing up on the shore." The Gulf Specimen Marine Lab has been going to the shores in Wakulla County each morning to search for any cold stunned sea turtles. They haven't found any cold stunned turtles yet this year, but in 2018 they rescued 76 sea turtles. "If you ever see a sea turtle on the beach floating and you think it's dead and you don't think you need to call anyone, please call us." If you find a sea turtle you think may be experiencing cold stunning, contact the Gulf Specimen Marine Lab.

**PROGRAM:** 6pm News  
**DATE:** 27 February 2024  
**LENGTH:** 01:45  
**SUMMARY:**

Brush fire season has ignited a mix of emotions after a recent surge in fires in Decatur County. Samantha Heidt, co-owner of Skeeter CREEK AUTOMOTIVE: "It could have taken our homes everything." I'm your neighborhood reporter AJ Douglas in Bainbridge. Hearing how a Saturday afternoon spent with family transitioned to neighbors watching their business burn in flames. Samantha Heidt, co-owner of Skeeter CREEK AUTOMOTIVE: "We got a phone call from our neighbor that said a lady said our shop was exploding." That's Samantha Heidt, co-owner of Skeeter Creek Automotive. She's talking about how a brush fire quickly spread to her business where chemicals, gasoline and oxygen tanks were stored. Samantha Heidt, co-owner of Skeeter CREEK AUTOMOTIVE: "There were eight fire trucks.. There was forestry.. There were people.. It was just unreal.. It just went up in flames." The Decatur County Fire department was called to four incidents of brush fires throughout the county within a 24 window this past weekend. Fire department engineer Tyler Dalton explains that the drop in humidity paired with rises in gusty winds played a major factor. Tyler Dalton, engineer, Decatur County Fire Department: "That causes that fire to get pushed and spread very rapidly." If you plan on burning outdoors, Dalton says... You need a permit. Burn at least 50 feet away from a building and at least 100 feet away from a wooded area. Make sure you have a pressurized water source on standby. As for what happened here on Saturday? Tyler Dalton, engineer, Decatur County Fire Department: "It does appear that it started from a brush pile and then that high wind that we were having caused it to spread up and into the shop." Heidt tells me the biggest hit isn't just the loss of their shop but also a customer's newly refurbished 1973 charger was destroyed by the flames. Samantha Heidt, co-owner of Skeeter CREEK AUTOMOTIVE: "The shop upset him but the car.. That's really what's got to him." As Georgia's fire season runs February through May, Heidt is sending this message to everyone: SOT: Samantha Heidt, co-owner of Skeeter CREEK AUTOMOTIVE: "Make sure it's completely out because you can lose a lot more than just a shop." Heidt says she and her husband plan to pay their customer and friend for the cost of the car lost in the fire. Find tips while burning during brush fire season by going to GA-TREES-DOT-ORG In Bainbridge I'm AJ Douglas. Now, let's check in with First to Know Chief Meteorologist Casanova Nurse. Cas, how's the fire risk look in the days ahead here?