

TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WEAR-TV
Location: Pensacola, FL
Quarter ending: June 30, 2019

ISSUE/description: 2. EDUCATION: Local availability of higher education; teacher salaries and benefits; crime and violence in schools; curriculum matters; method of handling poorly performing schools and teachers; school vouchers; costs; minority concerns.

How Issue was treated (Program, PSA, etc.):

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time/Duration</u>	<u>Program type</u>	<u>Description</u>
1. Channel 3 News Dayside	04/01/19	11:00AM/30-seconds	News	*

* The Escambia County School Board is taking steps to hire its first appointed superintendent. The board voted to unanimously contract the Florida School Board's Association to help with the process. The association is a nonprofit corporation representing elected school boards. In 2018, Escambia County voters passed a referendum to change from an elected superintendent to an appointed one. The switch takes effect next school year when current Superintendent Malcolm Thomas retires.

2. Channel 3 News First at 4	04/05/19	04:00PM/1 minute	News	**
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** A University of West Florida (UWF) junior had an idea to help homeless students, and now students in emergency situations have a new assistance program. Zenani Johnson never imagined there were homeless college students, until a friend said he was living in his car. Suddenly, she saw a new purpose for the empty rooms in her dorm. She pitched the idea to University President Dr. Martha Saunders and leadership jumped on it. After a year of development, UWF's Emergency Assistance Program now temporarily places students in empty dorm rooms. It also connects them to resources like financial aid and the food pantry. The program relies on donations to keep going and Johnson hopes it will expand to other schools in Florida. Working with university leaders to create this program isn't Johnson's only accomplishment at UWF. She's also the new president of the Student Government Association and the first female African American president in the organization's history.

3. Channel 3 News at 10PM	05/09/19	10:00PM/4 minutes	News	***
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*** A nationwide nurse shortage projects the need for over 200,000 new RNs each year through 2026 to fill positions and to replace retiring nurses. A couple of years ago, Misti Mattox, Operating Room manager at Sacred Heart Hospital, felt the shortage's impact in the OR first-hand. "25% of the positions that I had were open." She knew she had to come up with a solution on ways to train and retain nurses. Mattox partnered with Pensacola State College to bring a dormant nursing program back to life. Her rigorous course prepares nurses for the operating room. Misti's program is one of several nursing programs at PSC. Dusti Sluder is the dean of the Warrington campus, where the courses take place. The campus is complete with simulation rooms and modern technology for students to learn the skills necessary. Their two-year program costs just under \$7,000. She said the average salary of a registered nurse in Northwest Florida is around \$54,000. Sluder said 94% of their nursing students graduate debt free, and there is a 100% employment rate after graduation, with local hospitals recruiting student nurses while they are still in the program.

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4. Channel 3 News at 10PM	05/15/19	10:00PM/3 minutes	News	****

**** The need for more schools in Santa Rosa County has the school district looking for more money. They're asking county commissioners to approve an impact fee on new construction. Santa Rosa County Schools Superintendent Tim Wryosdick said the number of students is outgrowing the schools in the district, and such rapid growth in the county is forcing the issue. Wryosdick said the county will need to build three new schools within the next ten years to prevent overcrowding. However, right now the school district cannot afford it. School district officials said they aren't getting enough money from sources, like the half-cent sales tax, and the district isn't getting enough funding from the state. Now they want the county to impose an impact fee. An impact fee would be a one-time tax on new residential homes in the county. Wryosdick said it would be \$5,000 for single family homes. For multi-family homes, it would be \$3,000 on the north end of the county and \$1,500 on the south end. "Right now I can't support it," said Commissioner Bob Cole, who wants to see if there are other sources of funding. Some local builders and contractors don't like the idea. They think it will drive new construction away from the county. Some community members think the fee is necessary to keep up the quality of our schools. "If there's not something done you're going to reach over capacity and it's going to start hurting the kids," said community member Eric Hyche. No decisions were made at Wednesday night's county commission meeting. Wryosdick said the school district needs the county to approve the impact fee to move forward. That will be decided at a county commission meeting next month.

5. Channel 3 News First at 4	05/17/19	04:00PM/1-minute	News	*****
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***** A recently passed voucher plan may drain nearly \$1 billion from Florida's public schools over the next five years. This comes as a result of the Legislature's actions in the last session to vastly expand vouchers for private and religious schools, researchers at the Florida Education Association reported today. "The state legislators who backed vouchers and our governor need to learn some addition. It appears that the only mathematical concepts they understand are subtraction and division," said Fred Ingram, a former Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year who is president of the Florida Education Association. "Subtracting money from local public school budgets and creating division in communities by failing to support the schools attended by 90 percent of Florida's students does not serve the best interests of this state's families." Escambia County schools could lose up to \$16.9 million over the next five years due to new voucher law, according to officials. The Florida Education Association Action Center says the best predictor of future behavior is past behavior, and they have every expectation that the current cap on the empowerment voucher will increase through future legislation.

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6. Channel 3 News at 6PM	05/22/19	06:00PM/2.3 minutes	News	*****

***** The Escambia County School Board approved a new mobile app that would allow employees to quickly place a lockdown in the case of an emergency. Within the employee app, run by the company Volo, employees will have an alert button that will connect them to 911. The app will also alert all staff within the building that they are on lockdown. Superintendent Malcolm Thomas said this is an effort to improve communication between law enforcement and schools during a crisis like an active shooter situation. The app will also allow employees to communicate with each other during the lockdown. Superintendent Thomas stated that the app will be fully implemented by next fall. Employees will receive training over the summer on how best to use it.

7. Channel 3 News First at 4	05/28/19	04:00PM/1-minute	News	*****
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***** More than 60 local children had an outer space experience on Tuesday without ever having to leave the Panhandle. The West Florida Public Library System hosted a space educational program geared toward youth. The event included several scientific experiments and gave the kids a rare opportunity to touch a meteorite and a moon rock. "A big drive in promoting STEAM programs is promoting science - and the lunar program fit in with this year's theme Universal Stories, so we choose to get on board with NASA," said senior librarian Kim Ball. The space program will travel to each of the West Florida Library branches.

8. Channel 3 News First at 4	06/03/19	04:00PM/1.2 minutes	News	*****
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***** Northwest Florida State (NWF) College has been named the safest college campus in the state of Florida by YourLocalSecurity.com. All public and private colleges with 5,000 students or more were considered for the title. Four main crimes were used to narrow down campus safety. They were: Hate crimes per enrolled students; Violence against women per enrolled females; Property crime per population; and Violent crime per population. NWF State College has a mass notification system and many programs to keep the campus safe such as training for basic life support, stop the bleed and responses to active shooting situations. "I am proud Northwest Florida State College's campus safety is being recognized on the national level," said Dr. Devin Stephenson, president of NWF State College. Additionally, NWF State College joins Governor Ron DeSantis in celebrating the news that Florida ranks No. 1 in the nation in higher education according to U.S. News and World Report. This is the third consecutive year that Florida - home to 28 state colleges - has been the top state for higher education by the study. The rankings for the U.S. News and World Report were determined by considering the number of citizens in each state that hold a college degree as well as how much time it takes them to complete the degree's programs. It also included the cost of in-state tuition and burden of debt that college graduates carry.

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9. Channel 3 News Dayside	06/04/19	11:00AM/1.5 minutes	News	*****

***** Seven Northwest Florida students are heading to Maryland for National History Day. They progressed through local and state competitions for their chance to compete at the national level. According to the Florida Department of State, 55,000 Florida students participated in Florida History Day this year. The National History Day organization set the theme for this year's projects as "Triumph & Tragedy in History." Pensacola High School student Max Mateer has made the trip to National History Day before. In 2017 and 2018, he brought home first place wins in the individual performance category. He'll compete in the same category this year, with a presentation called "Swallowing the Lion's Pride: A Requiem in Recompense." Another Pensacola High student, Ashley Wu, is advancing with her historical paper, "The Publication of the Pentagon Papers: Triumphs of the Free Press vs. Tragedy of Casualties and Distrust." Gulf Breeze Middle School student Whitney Bouk is competing in the individual website category. Her project is titled "WW II's Forgotten Fighters: Women Airforce Service Pilots." She won first place in her category at the county competition and second place at the state level. These students will compete against some 3,000 others during the National History Day event, June 9-13, at the University of Maryland.

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