

## TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WEAR-TV  
Location: Pensacola, FL  
Quarter ending: September 30, 2018

ISSUE/description: 4. ENVIRONMENT. Maintaining the quality of life desired within our community; protecting wildlife and their natural habitat; maintaining the proper balance between development and protection of resources.

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

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time/Duration</u>	<u>Program type</u>	<u>Description</u>
1. 3 in the Morning	07/26/18	06:00AM/1-minute	News	*

\* Santa Rosa County has been awarded a \$12,000 grant from the Florida Beverage Association (FBA) for the county's community-based Green Infrastructure Stormwater Outreach and Education Program. "This funding will allow the county to present a program for property owners to use green infrastructure technology to reduce impacts from wet-weather events," said Shelley Alexander, environmental programs coordinator. The program will demonstrate the use of green infrastructure such as rain gardens, rain barrels, porous pavement, green roofs, trees and tree boxes, and rainwater harvesting for landscape irrigation.

2. Channel 3 News at 10PM	07/31/18	10:00PM/2.2 minutes	News	**
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\*\* Multiple species of sea turtles, from Loggerheads to the endangered Kemps Ridley, live in the Gulf. Alex Fox with the Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center said plastic is now being found in 90-percent of sea life. Statistics like these have sparked movements like the "Skip The Straw" Project. The project encourages businesses and consumers to swap plastic straws, for paper. Biologists said the paper straws are biodegradable and better for the environment. Max Murphy is the general manager of Crab's Restaurant on Pensacola Beach. He said his restaurant has already made the switch. "Converting to paper straws is just going to help the fisheries here, which in turn helps us. It's being responsible. We're trying to get as many eco-friendly products as possible," said Murphy. Biologists said they're excited about those efforts. "The thought also is, come twenty or thirty years from now and thinking of the sense, like your kids may not be able to see this particular animal because of pollution and trash. It's kind of heartbreaking," said Fox.

3. Channel 3 News First at 4	08/02/18	04:00PM/1-minute	News	***
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\*\*\* Two Eagle Scouts came up with an idea to help keep plastic litter off the beach - "Borrowed Bins." They're filled with beach toys for everyone to enjoy. Take what you want to play with, then put it back. The scouts worked with "Ocean Hour" organization to build and stock the bins. They were placed at Casino Beach, Quietwater Beach and the Holiday Inn Express.

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4. Channel 3 News at 6PM	08/03/18	06:00PM/1.5 minutes	News	****

\*\*\*\* A massive restoration project at an Okaloosa County recreation area is making progress. The operation will restore the ecosystem of the lake and once again make it a prime spot for fishing. One year ago, when Channel 3 News visited the Karrick Lake near Baker it was being drained. A view from our Skyview Drone showed the bottom of the man-made reservoir was choked with debris. Bi-annual sampling of the fish population revealed the problems. "A very unbalanced fish population, which means basically there are a lot of small fish in the population. They tend to eat up all the resources in the lake and don't let fish grow past a certain size," said biologist Neil Branson. Branson said about 30 percent of the 65-acre lake bed has been cleared. What lies ahead is restoring the fish habitat. When construction is done, campers will be able to return replacing the water. Getting fishermen back on the lake will take much longer. Once it's restocked we will need at least a year for the fish to become re-established," Branson said.

5. Channel 3 News at 5PM	08/06/18	05:00PM/1.5 minutes	News	*****
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\*\*\*\*\* Some people in Mary Esther are fighting plans to widen Highway 98 through their city. They believe it would spoil the area's beauty and waste taxpayer dollars. It's part of a state plan to widen a 24-and-a-half-mile stretch of 98 from Mary Esther to nearly the Garcon Point Bridge in Santa Rosa County. David Arrowsmith is one of the opponents of the plan. "It will destroy a part of the city. We think it the most beautiful part of the median in the trees and the trees on both sides of the highway - these will all be removed. It will end up looking like Eglin Parkway does," he said. Opponents say aside from the loss of the trees, the project also bottleneck traffic when it goes from six to four lanes in Fort Walton Beach. Arrowsmith has circulated petitions asking the Mary Esther City Council to pass a resolution opposing the plan for six lanes.

6. Channel 3 News First at 4	08/17/18	04:00PM/1.5 minutes	News	*****
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\*\*\*\*\* Escambia County collected and disposed of more than 44 tons of debris during the Wednesday Brownsville/ Englewood neighborhood clean-up efforts. As part of the county's ongoing effort to help keep local neighborhoods and communities clean and safe, residents throughout Escambia County came together to clean-up those areas. The event allowed residents to leave items at the curb to be disposed of free of charge by the county and partnering agencies. Since 2016, more than 1,693 tons of debris were collected and disposed of through the Community Redevelopment Agency's Safe Neighborhood Program.

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7. Channel 3 News First at 4	08/30/18	04:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	*****

\*\*\*\*\* Major changes are possible at the Gulf Islands National Sea Shore. "There are consequences for insisting on having a road in a place where nature tells us it probably doesn't make sense to have a road," said GINSS Superintendent, Dan Brown. Since Fort Pickens Road and Highway 399 were built, Brown says the federal government has spent more than \$50 million repairing them, each time a storm blows through. "It's tough to have a hardened structure on a substrate that is nothing but sand," said Brown. That's why Brown says the next time the road is destroyed by a storm, the decision could be made not to repair it - which would mean no more vehicle access to the area. To clarify, there would still be camping - just not in RVs. Campgrounds would be accessible by ferry, where Brown says visitors could stay in cabins. Without a road, the \$800,000 that the park retains from annual entrance and camping fees would be drastically reduced, but Brown says rebuilding the road is not up to park staff, but either at the regional or Washington level, or by federal highways or maybe by Congress. There is no timeline on when - or if - the road will be closed.

8. Channel 3 News at 10PM	08/30/18	10:00PM/2 minutes	News	*****
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\*\*\*\*\* Gulf Breeze residents are seeing bears roaming around their neighborhoods on an almost daily basis now. The city council wants to introduce a new service to combat the problem. "This time of year our bears are active. We do know that there is an established protected bear population in the Holley-Navarre area," said Samantha Abell, Gulf Breeze City Manager. She said city council is considering offering bear-proof trash cans. They come with a special mechanism that keeps bears from getting into the trash inside. She said the service will cost ten dollars a month. If people don't want to pay, she said the best way to keep bears away is to bring trash inside at night.

9. Channel 3 News Dayside	09/11/18	11:00AM/30 seconds	News	*****
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\*\*\*\*\* Several new artificial reefs are now in place off Navarre Beach with more on the way. Santa Rosa County is placing more than 500 concrete and steel structures about a mile offshore. They'll attract fish, which will in turn draw divers and anglers to the area. The county is spending \$1.2 million from oil spill funds to pay for the reefs.

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10. 3 in the Morning	09/14/18	06:00AM/2 minutes	News	*10

\*10 Stinging eyes and frequent coughing may greet beachgoers in the Florida Panhandle. For the first time this year, red tide has been detected in Northwest Florida. The Florida red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, was observed in Gulf of Mexico waters in Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, and Bay counties as beachgoers report difficulty breathing and irritated eyes. Scores of dead fish and other marine life have begun to wash ashore in Walton and Bay counties. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC), swimming is safe for most people during red tide. Some people may experience itchy skin, burning eyes, and respiratory irritation. Typically, any symptoms people feel while in the area of a red tide bloom will subside shortly after leaving the affected coastal environment.

11. Channel 3 News at 5PM	09/14/18	05:00PM/1-minute	News	*11
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\*11 The Blackwater River State Forest provides a buffer zone for Whiting Field and now it's getting bigger. The Florida Forest Service acquired Wolfe Creek Forest, which covers 800 acres. The state says the land is home to several rare and endangered species. Blackwater River State Forest is the state's largest state forest, spanning 211,000 acres.