TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WEAR-TV
Location: Pensacola, FL
Quarter ending: December 31, 2018

<u>ISSUE/description:</u> 3. HURRICANE MICHAEL. The category 4 storm came ashore near Panama

City on October 10th, devastating the area and causing damage to parts of

the WEAR-TV viewing area.

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

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	Time/Duration	Program type	<u>Description</u>
1 Channel 3 News at 10PM	10/05/18	10:00PM/1.2 minutes	News	*

^{*} As early as Friday, October 5th, WEAR meteorologists began watching and reporting on a possible tropical system forming in the western Caribbean. They would continue reporting on this system throughout all our newscast during the weekend, as it formed into Tropical Depression Fourteen on Sunday morning, then quickly strengthened into Tropical Storm Michael and headed into the Gulf of Mexico on Monday, projected to reach hurricane strength before reaching the Northwest Florida coast sometime on Wednesday, somewhere between the Florida/Alabama line and Apalachicola.

2. 3 in the Morning 10/08/18 06:00AM/1-minute News

** The Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections is announcing the closure of both offices in preparation for Hurricane Michael. Along with Okaloosa County offices, both the Shalimar and Crestview offices of the Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections will be closed at noon on Tuesday, October 9, 2018. This will affect the voter registration deadline that is also on this day. Any new Florida Voter Registration Applications must be submitted in person by the noon closing on Tuesday.

3. Channel 3 News Dayside 10/08/18 11:00AM/1.5 minutes News

*** As voluntary and mandatory evacuations are being issued across Northwest Florida, counties are opening shelters for residents seeking safety. Confirmed shelters in Northwest Florida: **ESCAMBIA COUNTY:** The Pensacola Bay Center will be opening at 1 p.m. as a general shelter and a special needs shelter; Molino Park Elementary will be opening at 1 p.m. as a pet shelter; The Escambia County Equestrian Center will be opening at 1 p.m. for large animal sheltering. All horses must have a current Coggins test certificate. **SANTA ROSA COUNTY:** The Milton Community Center will open at 1 p.m. on Tuesday for evacuees. This facility is pet-friendly and also equipped to accommodate those with special needs. Pet owners must stay with their pets. Those with special needs must come with their own caregiver. Pet owners and special needs residents should be registered with Santa Rosa County. **OKALOOSA COUNTY:** Davidson Middle School is now only opened for special needs evacuees. The shelter is open. Raider Arena at Northwest Florida State College is opened to all evacuees and is well under capacity. Baker Area Recreation Association will be accepting horses that need shelter. PAWS shelter is at full capacity at this time. Owners must now waive 24-hour rights when surrendering their pets, and PAWS takes immediate ownership of the animal(s). **WALTON COUNTY:** Freeport High School will open at 7 a.m. on Tuesday. It is a pet-friendly shelter and can accommodate those with special needs. Walton High School is now opened for the general population and special needs in DeFuniak Springs.

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4. Channel 3 News at 5PM	10/08/18	05:00PM/2 minutes	News	***

**** Walton County schools will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday. Double red flags are flying and the surf is definitely kicking up. The beach is relatively guiet, but just a few miles away at gas stations and grocery stores – it's pandemonium. Earlier on Monday, we started seeing lines of cars wrapped around gas stations. Around 1:30 p.m., gas was sold out at many gas stations from Panama City to Fort Walton Beach. The Walton County Emergency Operations Center, now activated at its highest level, is urging everyone stock up on their medications, water, and food.

5. Channel 3 News Special 05:26PM/21 minutes News 10/08/18 Report

***** We aired Governor Scott's press conference on Hurricane Michael live from the Escambia County **Emergency Operations Center.**

6. Channel 3 News at 10PM 10/08/18 10:00PM/2.3 minutes News *****

****** As Hurricane Michael approaches the Gulf Coast, businesses and homeowners are jumping to prepare for the storm. On Monday, William Curtis spent the day hanging up shutters on his Pensacola Beach home. He said he's not taking any chances when it comes to Hurricane Michael. Curtis and other homeowners made sure they were storm-ready, tying down patio furniture and bringing out their generators. Gas stations across the county were also busy. Drivers stocked up on gas while it was still available. Pensacola local Dwight Burns said storm supplies like water have been flying off the shelves. Businesses along the beach are also taking extra precautions. Beach vendors pulled hundreds of chairs and umbrellas off the sand and packed them for storage. All agree there's a price to pay to live on the Gulf Coast.

7. 3 in the Morning 10/09/18 05:00AM/2.5 minutes News

******* Evacuations have been ordered in Escambia County for Zone A starting at noon on Tuesday. Zone A includes Perdido Key and Pensacola Beach. According to BeReadyEscambia, if you live in a mobile home or have special needs, you should consider evacuation no matter the zone which you live in. The Pensacola Bay Center will be opening at 1 p.m. as a general shelter and a special needs shelter. Molino Park Elementary will be opening at 1 p.m. as a pet shelter. Escambia County Equestrian Center at 7750 Mobile Highway will open for horses. All horses must have a current Coggins test certificate. We told viewers what they would need to bring to shelters. This story will be updated with shelter locations as soon as they become available. Remember, if sustained winds reach 39 miles per hour or storm surge covers roadways, law enforcement, emergency medical services and fire departments may not be able to come to your aid.

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8. 3 in the Morning	10/09/18	05:30AM/3.5 minutes	News	*****

******** Gulf Power is sending line crews in from all over the U. S. to assist northwest Florida residents ahead of Hurricane Michael. When the hurricane slams into the Gulf Coast on Wednesday afternoon, Gulf Power officials say power is expected to be knocked out. More than 200 linemen have been dispatched to Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds on Tuesday from various states as far as Michigan. The Gulf Power crews will assist the Northwest Florida area in preparation for outages caused by the aftermath of the storm, and a Gulf Power spokesperson said they are prepared to assess the situation of Hurricane Michael after it makes landfall.

9. Channel 3 News Special 10/09/18 09:12AM/23 minutes News Report

******* We aired live from DeFuniak Springs Governor Scott's press conference on Hurricane Michael.

10. Channel 3 News Dayside 10/09/18 11:00AM/1.6 minutes News

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*11

- *10 Walton County residents are heeding to the evacuation warnings from emergency management officers and are heading out of town. Reporter Christina Leavenworth reported from the heavy traffic on Highway 331 in Walton County, as drivers make their way to Interstate 10 ahead of Hurricane Michael. If you do not have the means to evacuate out of the area, there is a shelter open in Walton County at Freeport High School.
- 11. Channel 3 News at 6PM 10/09/18 06:00PM/2.2 minutes News

*11 The U.S. Geological Service says Hurricane Michael will likely cause beach erosion along three-quarters of the Florida's Panhandle, wiping away sand right up to the dunes. The agency says erosion could be even worse in about a fourth of the Panhandle's white-sand beaches, particularly areas east of the eye, as a storm surge on top of high surf could see waves as high as 16 to 20 feet washing over the top of the protective dune line. The agency's research oceanographer Kara Doran says wave heights in the open Gulf of Mexico are expected to reach as high as 40 feet. As the storm approaches the coastline, she says this water will flow over a shallow sea bed and "overwhelm the dunes, which are relatively low and narrow." In the Gulf County beach town of Cape San Blas, contractors are pulling out equipment for a long-planned beach renourishment project. Gulf County's coordinator of the beach project, Warren Yeager, tells the Pensacola News Journal that roadways and sewer lines could wash away.

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12. 3 in the Morning	10/10/18	06:30AM/3 minutes	News	*12

*12 Flooding is already being a problem on the west end of Dauphin Island hours before Hurricane Michael makes landfall. Reporter Megan Gannon reported live from where Raphael Semmes Street and Bienville Boulevard intersect. There is debris and sand and water already covering the roadways this morning, between three and four feet of water on the west end. Authorities are only letting certain people past this street that live beyond this point and that have four-wheel drive vehicles because we are told that you're not going to be able to get past this point if you don't have a certain style vehicle because that's how deep the water is. The west end of this island was recovering from Tropical Storm Gordon with the flooding issues. We are hundreds of miles away from where the eye is going to be making landfall but still they are feeling the effects, like flooding, here on Dauphin Island, and it's only expected to get worse here on the west end of the island.

Channel 3 News Special 10/10/18 07:00AM/9 hours Report: Hurricane Michael sustaining coverage

News

*13

*13 We aired sustaining coverage of the approach and passing of the hurricane. WEAR had reporters stationed all along the coast from Dauphin Island, Alabama, through Gulf Shores, Pensacola Beach, Navarre Beach, Fort Walton Beach, Destin, and on to Panama City and inland to Tallahassee, all reporting live about what was happening in these areas, what residents and visitors needed to do to stay safe, and then showing the damage and assessing the recovery efforts. According to the National Hurricane Center, Major Hurricane Michael made landfall near Mexico Beach, dealing a devastating blow to the Florida Panhandle. Over the last 24 hours, Michael underwent rapid intensification, becoming a powerful Category 4 Hurricane before finally striking the northeastern Gulf Coast. As of 1:00 PM, Michael had maximum sustained winds of 155 miles per hour with gusts as high 173 mph, making it the strongest hurricane on record to make landfall in Florida panhandle. The massive hurricane is continuing to track to the north-northeast at around 14 mph. By this evening, Michael should exit Florida and begin to move through Alabama and Georgia. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 45 miles from the center and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 185 miles from the center. All in all, impacts can be felt well-away from the center of the storm, especially with a storm of this magnitude. A Hurricane Warning is in effect for Coastal Escambia, Coastal Santa Rosa, and Coastal and Inland Okaloosa, Walton, and areas eastward through the Tallahassee area. Hurricane-force winds (74+ m.p.h.) are expected in these areas. Tropical Storm Warnings are in effect for Coastal Mobile, Coastal Baldwin, and inland portions of the western Florida Panhandle (Inland Escambia, Inland Santa Rosa) and South-central Alabama. Tropicalstorm-force winds (39-73 m.p.h.) can be expected in these areas. Storm Surge Warning is in effect for coastal Walton County and eastward into the eastern Panhandle. Storm surge of 8' to 14' will be possible in these areas, mainly to the east of the center of where Michael tracks. A Coastal Flood Advisory is in effect for coastal Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa County in Florida and Mobile and Baldwin County in Alabama. 1.5 to 2.5' of inundation can be expected. A Flash Flood Watch is in effect for Okaloosa county and areas eastward into the Panhandle. Heavy rainfall can lead to flash flooding. High Surf Warning in effect until Thursday morning with waves of 10 to 15 feet likely. There is a high risk for rip currents will last for the rest of the week.

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14. Channel 3 News at 10PM	10/10/18	10:00PM/2.2 minutes	News	*14

*14 While Pensacola Beach was spared much of the damage from the outer bands of Hurricane Michael today, a number of people still dealt with heavy flooding in their neighborhoods. Crowds enjoyed the sights and sounds of Gulf waves crashing onto Pensacola Beach, but a number of residents watched rising waters pour over barriers along the Santa Rosa Sound and swamp their neighborhoods. Sally Chamberlin lives in the Ensenada Dos neighborhood. "I just wasn't anticipating this. This is kind of a surprise," said Chamberlin. Chamberlin put her outdoor belongings in the bottom stairwell of her home and hoped for the best. She remained positive despite the water reaching several feet deep around her property. Despite warnings from officials, some drivers tested the waters to sightsee, but most residents left their vehicles parked by the road. Ensenada Dos resident Scott Brown said they often see flooding from storms and have tried to get local officials to fix the problem. "I guess it's back to the drawing board," said Brown. Like Brown, Chamberlin is just glad it wasn't worse. Their thoughts are with those in the heart of the storm's path. Many residents also had stairs to the water destroyed in the heavy surf. The waters have gone down a little but based on past storms, residents say they think the flooding could last until next week.

15. 3 in the Morning

10/11/18

05:45AM/1.2 minutes News

*15

*15 The Okaloosa County Administrator says the water on Okaloosa Island is now safe to drink, however there is some damage in Destin. Boat ramps are damaged and destroyed and some docks are hanging on for dear life. There is debris scattered everywhere, parts of the docks scattered everywhere and dead fish. It could be weeks before some of these boat ramps will be able to be used again.

16. Channel 3 News at 5PM 10/11/18

05:00PM/3.1 minutes News

*16

*16 WEAR-TV, along with Cat Country 98.7, is holding an **Operation: Help Our Neighbor** drive to assist those in our area affected by Hurricane Michael. We'll be at Cordova Mall, near the Cost Plus World Market and Best Buy entrance on Friday, Oct. 12 from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. The mall is located at 5100 N. 9th Ave. in Pensacola. We're asking for monetary donations for the **Florida Disaster Fund.** All money collected goes directly to storm victims.

PENSACOLA, Fla. (WEAR) — UPDATE: As of Friday evening, you helped raise \$87,783 for our neighbors in need!

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17. 3 in the Morning 10/12/18 06:00AM/3.5 minutes News *17

*17 The storm surge that gutted Rex and Nancy Buzzett's home of 44 years scattered their belongings as far as two blocks. The Buzzetts returned home Thursday to find Hurricane Michael had sent about 9 feet of water smashing into their house and their neighbors' homes. Despite its monstrous wingspan — tropical storm-force winds reached out 175 miles and hurricane-force winds 45 miles from the center — Michael largely spared neighboring Apalachicola. Though just 20 miles farther from the storm's center, Apalachicola's historic 19th-century homes survived largely unscathed — though some businesses near the water flooded, tree limbs littered the streets and yards, and a few burly oak trees toppled. Even homes on neighboring St. George Island, which sits in the Gulf, separated from the mainland by a 3-mile causeway, stood up to Michael's fury. They largely stayed dry, mostly because they are on stilts. In Port St. Joe, boarded-up windows and sandbags didn't save their home, but after four decades of living on the waterfront, the Buzzetts don't plan to live anywhere else. "We'll rebuild on this spot" Rex Buzzett said. "We'll build up higher. But how high?"

18. Channel 3 News Dayside 10/12/18

11:00AM/1- minute

News

*18

*18 Local counties are sending teams to the hard-hit areas to help the agencies there. Escambia County Public Safety teams are situated in Bay County to cover emergency responses. Emergency calls from Gadsden County are also being routed to Escambia County Emergency Communications since their system is down. On Sunday, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office will send a team with supplies to Gulf County, including a fuel tanker, generators, and chainsaws. They'll also help control traffic and prevent burglaries.

19. Channel 3 News at 5PM 10/14/18 05:00PM/2.5 minutes News

*19

*19 Gov. Rick Scott on Sunday directed the state's top insurance regulator to freeze any potential propertyinsurance rate increases for 90 days as homeowners and businesspeople grapple with massive damage from Hurricane Michael. Scott also directed Insurance Commissioner David Altmaier to require rescinding for 90 days all policy non-renewals or cancellations that had been issued in the days leading up to Michael to give policyholders more time to find coverage. In another move, insurance policyholders will be given an extra 90 days to provide required information to insurers. State Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis pointed to the massive damage caused by Michael. "Entire communities have been wiped off the map," Patronis, a Panama City native, said in the statement. "The damage is catastrophic. As our neighbors and communities assess the damage and start recovering, the last thing they need to worry about is if their insurance coverage will be dropped for non-payment. The Property Casualty Insurers Association of America issued a preliminary estimate Thursday that said insured losses could total \$2 billion to \$4.5 billion. The state-backed Citizens Property Insurance Corp. has set up temporary centers in Panama City and Tallahassee to help policyholders with claims. Insurance claims will be part of the recovery from Michael that will take months to play out. Shorter term, state and local officials are focused on issues such as restoring electricity, with utility crews converging on Northwest Florida from various parts of the country. Gulf Power, which serves hard-hit areas including Bay County, released a schedule Sunday that showed gradual power restoration expected in its service territory over the next 10 days. Areas of Washington, Jackson and Holmes counties are gradually expected to be restored by Friday.

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20. Channel 3 News at 10	PM 10/14/18	10:00PM/2.2 minutes	News	*20

*20 Saturday afternoon, Reporter Mike Magnoli attached to a National Guard unit and went into Mexico Beach, ground zero in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael. Mexico Beach has a strictly enforced curfew in place. No one is allowed outside after sunset. Blanketed by the darkness, the piles of rubble are incredibly dangerous, and there's been looting in the area. The National Guard is helping local law enforcement keep people safe and keep order. On the road to Mexico Beach, you get a preview of what you're about to see in terms of the destruction of the buildings, because every tree you pass has also been destroyed. It's an ominous feeling, literally a waste-land in the woods, and then you come into the town to see houses, condos, hotels and inns full of gaping holes. The things that were inside of them on Wednesday morning are now in piles on the side of Highway 98. Hurricane Michael has shaken many families to the core. On the way out of Mexico Beach, on our tour with The Guard, the sun set on this battered part of what is lovingly called "The Forgotten Coast," for its laid-back vibe. But the Guard chaplain perfectly captures the mission of the Guard and how all of us in Florida are feeling right now ... we're thinking first of The Forgotten Coast. "I'd want somebody to come in and to help, to provide security, some relief and encouragement," Chaplain Jacob Williams said.

21. Channel 3 News Special 10/15/18 10:31AM/24 minutes News Report

*21

*21 We aired live from Eglin Air Force Base as President Trump landed to begin his tour of areas devastated by Hurricane Michael.

22. Channel 3 News Dayside 10/15/18

11:00AM/1.2 minutes News

*22

*22 NAS Pensacola is preparing to house military evacuees from Naval Support Activity Panama City. Base officials say they are expecting command employees, service members, and their families. Officials do not know how many people there will be, but they said they can guarantee the base will stand as a one stop shop for all of their needs. Ariel Raymond, an information and referral specialist, said her phone has been nonstop ringing. She's helping many evacuees find resources on board NAS Pensacola. "They come in and we kind of assess their needs. We have different resources available to them and then from there we kind of filter through what their needs are," said Raymond. Base officials said NAS Pensacola will act as an alternate worksite. It's a temporary home for military families. "We refer them to where they need to go. So, personal property, housing," said Raymond. She said they will provide resources for medical needs and information on school for children. But how many people are expected to come on base is still unknown. "Numbers are unclear, but NAS Pensacola, Fleet and Family, we're all here, USO, we're all gathering together to help all of these families," said Raymond. Officials said they have increased their counselors and that includes child counselors. They do not know how long they will be hosting these families.

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23. Channel 3 News at 5PM	10/15/18	05:00PM/2.3 minutes	News	*23

*23 As more and more families escape the misery across the Florida Panhandle after Hurricane Michael, many are relocating to communities across Northwest Florida. Hundreds of students enrolled in Northwest Florida schools after relocating from hurricane-ravaged areas hit by Michael. The Escambia County School District has enrolled four students from areas hit by Hurricane Michael. With the possibility of more children coming to the area, the school said there is no limit as to how many children they'll accept. Santa Rosa County schools have enrolled 11 students and Okaloosa County schools have enrolled 40 students, and the numbers are growing. "Our hearts go out to those families and certainly the school districts are trying to figure out how they can get their programs back up and running, so we know what it feels like," said Assistant Superintendent Curriculum and Instruction Steve Marciano. After Hurricane Maria, Gov. Rick Scott made getting students enrolled around the state a lot easier by waiving the mandate of immediately providing shot records and birth certificates. "We've told them get the students enrolled. We're going to work with them and make sure that kids can get in school and develop some sense of normalcy and then we will worry about the paperwork part as time permits and as parents are able to do that," Marciano said. Marciano said teachers and staff were already trained to respond to students struggling with the sudden move. "We certainly increased our mental health services with our mental health allocation this year, so we have counselors on our campuses and we will certainly serve those students as needed also," he explained. He said the district also has support for students learning English for the first time, too. The students' first day of school was Monday morning. The school district didn't say what schools they are attending.

24. Channel 3 News at 6PM 10/16/18 06:00PM/2.1 minutes News

*24 Now nearly 100 students displaced by Hurricane Michael are enrolled in public schools in Northwest Florida. Class sizes are growing in school districts and Families First Network is making sure parents and their children here and in areas hit hard by Michael get what they need to recover from the storm. Shawn Salamida, the president of Families First Network of Lakeview, has the big task of making sure children in foster care have a place to go. "We have 64 kids total that were placed in circuits two and 14, most of them were not directly in the path of the storm but a lot of them were," Salamida explained. Families First Network provide foster care, adoptions, and independent living options for abused children. Right now, Escambia County School District has enrolled 15 students since the storm, up from four students enrolled in schools there on Monday. Santa Rosa enrolled 11 students, no increase from Monday. In Okaloosa County, they have 56 new enrollments, up from 40 that were counted on Monday. Salamida said many parents are having to decide between waiting it out and enrolling their children in temporary schools. Channel 3 News spoke with school districts across Northwest Florida who say they were well prepared to support students and their families who have left their homes to start a new adventure here.

*24

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25. Channel 3 News at 6PM	10/16/18	06:00PM/2.4 minutes	News	*25

*25 The most visible destruction from Hurricane Michael was along the coast where the storm surge wiped out entire communities. However, the strong winds brought devastation to towns inland like Cottondale in Jackson County. The city is more than fifty miles north of Mexico Beach. Kimberly McRoy has lived in Cottondale her entire life. She was not prepared to see the damage Hurricane Michael did to her hometown and especially her childhood home. "The whole yard was full of water, the water damage was pretty bad, the back of the house was torn up, the house was torn in two. We need help." Downed trees, pieces of aluminum roof and debris surrounded her home. Monday the city's water was restored, but residents did not have power. McRoy has been walking miles each day to find the necessities to get by. "I've been going to foodbanks...asking relatives for help. I've been trying to get whatever I could get to help everybody out," she said. Police Chief William Watford said the storm has taken a toll on this small city. "You get to know people in the community and you see the hardship they're going through and you just can't think about the magnitude of what they're going through at the time." All are trying to stay positive and resilient during this long recovery process.

26. Channel 3 News at 10PM 10/18/18 10:00PM/2

10:00PM/2.1 minutes News

*26

*** Thursday, property appraisers checked out destruction from Hurricane Michael in Bay County. Yet, they were 140 miles away from the damage in an office in Milton. "For those areas we can denote and see from the aerial images received damage, then we'll denote those on the map," said Santa Rosa County Property Appraiser Greg Brown. "They won't have to go to those areas we can cover from a desktop." Brown's office is using a program to compare aerial images taken before and after the storm. That allows them to determine the extent of the home's damage. The technology provides homeowners with important information faster, which lets them apply for federal help sooner. It also saves money by cutting travel costs. "That's what we should be doing as elected officials is how do we do this quicker, faster better and at less expense to the taxpayer," said Brown. Brown said a number of counties are now working together to help damaged counties with the workload. "You know, people tried to help us through Ivan and we're trying to reciprocate," he said. Brown said the majority of the assessments will be done virtually from these remote inspections. However, some will have to be done in person.

27. 3 in the Morning

10/19/18

05:00AM/1- minute

News

*27

*27 Thousands of people in north Florida are out of work because of Hurricane Michael. Florida has activated two programs to help people get back on their feet. The first program is called the **Disaster Unemployment Assistance**. This program will individuals pay partial wages to replace lost income. Individuals who would like to apply to this program must file an application by November 14th. The second program is called **Storm-Related Unemployment**. This program offers assistance to help others with cleanup and recovery efforts. The Storm-Related Unemployment numbers will not be available until late November.

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28. 3 in the Morning	10/19/18	05:30AM/1.7 minutes	News	*28

*28 'Visit Pensacola' is helping our neighbors to the east recover after Hurricane Michael. The agency said they are also fighting a perception that all of Northwest Florida was hit. When people think of the 'panhandle,' for most, the white sand beaches of Pensacola come to mind. "People need to know this part of the panhandle wasn't affected," said Richard Abercrombie, manager at Crabs on the Beach. He said when Hurricane Michael slammed parts of the gulf coast, he was worried for his neighbors, but also his business. "We didn't get much damage at all," said Abercrombie. Nicole Stacey, with 'Visit Pensacola,' said her team is working with 'Visit Florida' to help relief efforts and spread that Pensacola is business as usual. A big concern is that many out-of-state visitors could be confused after watching national coverage. "I believe that there's a possibility that there's some people that are planning vacations that may have been watching the news and think that Pensacola has been affected but it hasn't really been and we want to encourage people to come on down."

29. Channel 3 News at 5PM 10/22/18

05:00PM/1.5 minutes News

*29 Hurricane Michael has created a ripple effect throughout the area. Supplies have flooded in as relief has come from throughout our region and beyond. However, a big challenge for evacuees, and those coming to help, is finding a place to stay. Summer is over and this is the off-season season, but you wouldn't know it looking at the numbers of people staying in Destin's motel and condos. "Probably about 50 percent of our product is filled right now with evacuees, adjustors, FEMA personnel, people effected by the storm," said Jeanee Dailey with Newman-Dailey Resort Properties. People from places like Panama City and Lynn Haven are now calling Destin home. Shane Moodey, CEO of the Destin Chamber of Commerce, said it's a situation that's not likely to change anytime soon. "People are looking for more permanent places because some of them may not be back home for a year or year and a half," Moodey said. It means innkeepers are doing a juggling act in trying to strike a balance between serving evacuees and tourists. "We are helping every way we can, moving reservations around to accommodate longer stays," Dailey said. While it's all good for business, those in local tourist industries are saddened by what brought them there and hearing the stories of evacuees who say they have no plans to rebuild.

*29