

TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WEAR-TV
Location: Pensacola, FL
Quarter ending: December 31, 2005

ISSUE/description: 1. HURRICANE Recovery. Recovery efforts from destruction caused by the storms of the past two seasons, including Ivan, Dennis and Katrina, all of which had direct landfall on our viewing area.

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 at 6PM	10/01/05	06:13PM/6 minutes	News	*

* Following Hurricane Katrina, and then Hurricane Rita, the recovery effort from these storms and the continuing recovery locally from Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis dominated all our News coverage. Tonight's 6PM newscast was a typical example, with several individual stories related to the recovery efforts. Our first report concerned the thousands of homeless who are trying to get back to their jobs and homes to rebuild the Gulf Coast communities devastated by the storms. We profiled a high school guidance counselor from Moss Point, MS, who joined other evacuees aboard the FEMA-leased "Holiday" cruise ship anchored at Mobile. The number of evacuees on the ship rose to nearly a thousand this week as a second wave of storm victims arrived from areas hit by Rita. Ken Simonson, chief economist at The Associated General Contractors of America, said the devastation from the nation's most destructive hurricane in history will affect construction markets for many years. He expects a permanent relocation of many residents and businesses, which will add to demand for homes, offices, stores and other construction outside the hurricane zone.

In a second report, Tourism promoters have a ticklish job in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina: Scooping up business from flooded-out New Orleans and the storm-ravaged Mississippi coast without seeming too crass. The storm tossed casino barges ashore like toy boats in the Mississippi towns of Biloxi and Gulfport, all but wiping out their gaming industry. Other travel destinations are eagerly filling the void created by the storm, but they're being careful about how they do it. The goal is to avoid seeming opportunistic after a tragedy that displaced as many as one million people and killed more than a thousand. Within days of Katrina, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians was advertising that its casino resort in Choctaw, Mississippi, was still open and taking bets -- unlike the casinos on the coast. After Katrina, a total of 286 hotels in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama with almost 46-thousand rooms were forced to quit accepting reservations because of damage or utility outages.

2. Channel 3 News at 6PM	10/03/05	06:00PM/5 minutes	News	**
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** A shelter with more than 70 Hurricane Katrina evacuees may have to close its doors by the end of the week, but the church that runs it is battling neighbors to stay open. For dozens forced from their homes by Katrina ... this shelter is a temporary salvation. But last Friday...Escambia County Code Enforcement gave "Hearts of Love" Ministry seven days notice to close this shelter down because the 72nd street building is zoned as residential, not commercial. Pastor Dan Livingston of the Ministry has a letter from Governor Bush saying that in a state of emergency he can use the facility as a shelter for up to 60 days. That letter requires the signature of either County Administrator George Touart or County Commission Chairman Bill Dickson, but neither has signed it. County Attorney Janet Lander is the only one authorized to answer as to why they haven't, but she was unavailable for comment this afternoon. While the evacuees are praying the shelter doesn't close down, every neighbor we talked to says they hope it does, complaining of the traffic problem, the vandalism, and the garbage left on the road.

In a second story, we reported on the state of various charities in our area since Katrina. All have reported that donations are at normal levels or slightly up, but the demand for their services far outstrips the supply.

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3. Channel 3 News at 6PM	10/04/05	06:00PM/7 minutes	News	***

*** Our first story concerned the American Red Cross's announcement that it will be shutting down the evacuee shelter in Molino, a big surprise to the 36 Katrina evacuees living there. They will be transitioned to a local hotel where they can stay for up to 44 days.

Next was a report that the American Red Cross is closing its Pensacola service center and moving to Mobile, which will consolidate regional resources for Katrina and Rita victims.

Then, a report that low-income hurricane victims in Santa Rosa County could soon be in for some help in getting things back to normal, as a County Commission advisory committee today made several recommendations on where to send about three million tax dollars up for grabs for any organization ready to help low-income families. We aired a report on the Florida Cabinet trying to take a more "hands-on" role in overseeing Citizens Property Insurance Company, which was set up by the state for homeowners who can't find coverage in the private market.

Other reports included profiling a Santa Rosa County woman who was evicted from her FEMA trailer due to not properly following the re-certification process; and an update from the Mississippi Gulf Coast where Governor Haley Barbour said he'd sign a bill this week allowing casinos to move a short distance onto the shore, thus helping the 14,000 worker industry to get back into business.

4. Channel 3 News at 6PM	10/05/05	06:00PM/6 minutes	News	****
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**** Our first report was about former President Bill Clinton's visit to the hardest hit areas of Alabama today. At Bayou La Batre, Clinton said funds from the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund would be used to help the largest possible number of people, while not duplicating federal money. Possible uses of the Fund would be to provide fuel for the commercial fishing fleet and restoration of barrier islands.

Next we reported that the major hurricanes, increasing fuel costs, and red tide are all taking a toll on the Gulf seafood industry. Representatives expect it to be years before production is back to normal, with higher prices for at least another year.

A third report was about Escambia County's first Agricultural Tour in more than 50 years, taking place today with two charter buses and a line of cars making 10 stops at farms and ranches in the county highlighting the county's production from 9,000 acres of peanuts, \$3.2 million from catfish "farms", and the 60% of the county covered in forest. Hurricane Ivan alone cost \$130 million in damage to the county's agriculture.

Next we reported on how the Pensacola area Marine Corps League is helping other Marines who suffered loss in southern Mississippi. So far, they've helped more than 20 Marine families and 40 civilians in the Gulfport area. Word of their efforts has spread, and they're now taking donations from across the country, and are already collecting furniture for when the families finally get a permanent residence.

We then reported that local businessman Ray Russenberger today donated \$50,000 to "Rebuild Northwest Florida" for their continuing efforts to repair hurricane-damaged homes of needy individuals in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

And finally, we reported the first numbers released by the nation's insurers as to how much Hurricane Katrina will cost in losses...they expect at least \$34.4 billion in personal and commercial property loss claims, making Katrina the most costly natural disaster in U. S. history.

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5. Channel 3 News at 6PM	10/07/05	06:00PM/6 minutes	News	*****

***** The affordable housing market just got tighter. The government is now giving Hurricane Katrina evacuees top priority to move into some apartment complexes. That could leave some local families homeless. Misty Lindsay, a full time student and mother of three, has been on a waiting list at the Oakwood Apartment Complex in Milton for months, but days away from moving in, she learned her slot was given to a victim of Hurricane Katrina. Oakwood manager Ken Smith says he's been forced to turn local people away because of a memorandum last month from the USDA. It says people displaced by Hurricane Katrina must receive priority over any other applicant. Smith says he hates to tell this person that was displaced a month ago that they have priority over a person displaced 11 months ago...it's really not fair.

And in a second story...it's been a local tradition for more than forty years...but, like many other events, it too has fallen victim to an active hurricane season. St. Anne Catholic Church off Saufley Field Road in Pensacola will not be hosting its annual Christmas lighting festival this year. The festival started as a thank you to the community for supporting the St. Anne Round-Up, and it grew into a fundraiser for the church that attracted hundred of thousands of people. But, Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis damaged more than two hundred trees and several structures. The church's pastor, Father Jack Gray says it's too unsafe to have visitors on the property. "It's just another one of these things from Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis that's really impacted the community." Gray adds that it would cost the church more than 60-thousand dollars to bring the buildings up to current safety standards.

Next, we reported that Images of thousands of people stranded with no food or water after Hurricane Katrina pushed Okaloosa County into action. The county is devising a plan to get all residents that have no transportation out of harms way. Dino Villani/Okaloosa Co. Public Safety Director said the goal to survey some of the residents throughout the winter and see if we have enough resources available to meet the need. Villani says the current plan is to use school and public transportation buses to take the evacuees from staging areas, such as Kenwood Elementary and Fort Walton Beach High School, to shelters in the north end of the county. Some think the county should have a plan so there is not a repeat of the New Orleans tragedy. This is a retirement state and city, with a lot of elders who aren't capable and able to leave the area. The county hopes to learn from New Orleans, so it's better prepared in the future.

And finally, we reported on thousands of used vehicles, declared total losses for insurance purposes due to damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, that are showing up on local used car lots, where some unscrupulous dealers will try to sell them without informing consumers about hidden water damage. We offered a list of measures for potential buyers to take in order to tell if a vehicle has been in a flood.

6. Channel 3 News - eXtra	10/07/05	10:37PM/23 minutes	Public Affairs	*****
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***** Escambia county commissioners have refused to permit a shelter housing 70 Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Pensacola to continue operating. About 50 neighbors of the "Hearts of Love" ministry told commissioners last night they don't want the shelter in their neighborhood because of the traffic, trash and other problems. The ministry is in a residential zone, and now faces fines or liens if it continues operating. The pastor says the evacuees just need another few weeks of help, and he'll continue until the Governor tells him to stop. Tonight's topic of discussion: Should the "Hearts of Love" shelter be forced to close? As usual, we took e-mail questions and comments and discussed the issue on-the-air with viewers who phoned in.

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7. 3 In the Morning	10/11/05	06:00AM/7 minutes	News	*****

***** Florida's hurricane experts say the federal government is short-changing funding for critical research and equipment. An investigation found outdated technology, staffing shortages and a lack of investment in research at the nation's main hurricane forecasting facility in Miami. The funding crunch could be compromising public safety. Residents along Florida's eastern panhandle were unprepared for the 12-foot storm surge that accompanied Hurricane Dennis. Florida State University meteorology professor Jim O'Brien blames outdated equipment and a lack of investment in critical research by the federal government. But there have been only minimal increases in the hurricane research budget at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration over the past 20 years. Former employees say old computers and staffing shortages are keeping life-saving research just out of reach. It's critical to have the most accurate forecasts possible at the state Emergency Operations Center, where evacuation plans for the entire state are coordinated. Director Craig Fugate says hurricane track forecasting has improved, but our ability to forecast storms that rapidly intensify and grow in size as well as those that may weaken before they hit could mean the difference between not moving people soon enough or far enough in a major threat. F.S.U. professor Jay Baker says a relatively small investment in new technology could save lives and millions, even billions of dollars. Hurricane experts hope Congress is listening.

Next we reported on President Bush on the Gulf Coast for a two-day visit focused on housing the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Lastly, we reported that more than a month after Katrina disrupted gasoline supplies, some stations are still having trouble keeping a full range of fuels on hand, especially with the increased population from Katrina evacuees and all the hurricane aid workers staged in our area.

8. Channel 3 News at 6PM	10/11/05	06:00PM/6 minutes	News	*****
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***** Our first report tonight focused on the group "Rebuild Northwest Florida", and gave an accounting of the donations received by the group and their expenditures in helping repair homes damaged by Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis, for victims who can't afford the repairs on their own.

Next, a report on a local fort with historic significance that is losing the battle with Mother Nature and state legislators. Fort Morgan in Baldwin County played a major role in the Civil War, where the Battle of Mobile Bay forever changed the way all naval battles were fought, and has been a prominent tourist site. The state has cut employees, and hasn't repaired hurricane damage to century-old homes. Local groups are now trying to get the fort transferred to the National Park Service.

Next, Education Reporter Cynthia Reeves told the story of "When the Hurricane Blew", a book written and illustrated by Shelley Mann's 4th grade class in Gulf Breeze Elementary School. It has a story, tips and games, written by hurricane kids for hurricane kids. It tells of the frantic rush to evacuate, and the frightening return back to unrecognizable homes. It ends with a lesson learned...about the strength of community and hope.

9. Channel 3 News at 10PM	10/13/05	10:00PM/3 minutes	News	*****
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***** Our primary report tonight was on FEMA's long term recovery plans for our area following Hurricane Ivan, and how the projects outlined are moving forward. FEMA stressed the projects will take 3 to 5 years or longer.

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10. Channel 3 News at 5PM	10/17/05	05:01PM/4 minutes	News	*****
***** First we reported that Tropical Storm Wilma had formed in the western Caribbean today, tying the record for most named storms in one season. Next, we reported that the booming business of moving mobile homes in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas due to the recent storms is causing weeks and even months of delay for anyone in our area needing a mobile home moved. For some people still living in moldy, damaged mobile homes or standard homes, they now have other usable mobile homes available, but no way of getting them moved into place. Our third report was on Perdido Key...now over a year after Hurricane Ivan and still only about 80% back to normal. There are still many ongoing reconstruction projects, for both homes and businesses.				
11. ABC News Nightline	10/18/05	12:36AM/30 minutes	News/Public Affairs	*****
***** Tonight's report focused on the destruction left in Katrina's wake, and current efforts at recovery.				
12. Channel 3 News at 10PM	10/19/05	10:00PM/5 minutes	News	*****
***** First we gave an update on Hurricane Wilma, now expected to make landfall in South Florida this weekend. Next we reported on gas stations that took advantage of customers during Hurricane Katrina by raising prices dramatically, and now these stations are being fined for price gouging by the Florida Agriculture Commissioner. Then we profiled the armies of church volunteers from the Pensacola area that are traveling to Mississippi and Louisiana to help storm victims. Another report dealt with a new, state-of-the-art law enforcement command center vehicle assigned to Gulf Shores, AL, capable of integrating the radio frequencies of several agencies, allowing for better communication in disaster situations such as hurricanes. And finally, we reported on Okaloosa Island residents demanding of Okaloosa County Commissioners that they get repairs done on properties damaged by the hurricanes. They complained that some homes still have damage from Hurricane Opal, 10 years ago. Okaloosa officials noted the problem existed county-wide, and that they're dealing with it, but must abide by private property rights.				
13. Channel 3 News at 6PM	10/25/05	06:00PM/4 minutes	News	*****
***** The Fund Administrator for the Florida Hurricane Relief Fund said relief money for Hurricane Wilma victims may be scarce, due to the tremendous amounts already spent helping victims of last year's four storms, plus the fact that many donators have already given most of their money this year to Katrina victims. Second, we reported on the crisis in the Florida property insurance market. This year's insurance damages will likely be in the \$20 billion range, and last year was \$22 billion, and now every homeowner in the state is facing increases in their coverage costs to offset losses by the government-run Citizens Insurance Company.				

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14. ABC News Nightline Town Meeting: "Ready or Not: Lessons learned from the Storms"	10/28/05	12:36AM/90 minutes	News/Public Affairs	*****

***** Tonight's town hall discussion concerned the physical destruction caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; the devastating flooding of New Orleans following Katrina; and the lack of adequate response by government at all levels.

15. Channel 3 News at 10PM	10/30/05	10:00PM/3 minutes	News	*****
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***** We presented an in-depth report on the Bush administrations proposal to provide an additional \$55 million this year for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to fund Hurricane forecasting and research improvements, including a new "hurricane hunter" aircraft. U. S. Representative Mark Foley of Florida said the money is essential in the aftermath of a record-setting hurricane season including such killer storms as Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

16. Channel 3 News at 6PM	11/07/05	06:00PM/3 minutes	News	*****
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***** Florida Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher oversees the office of insurance regulation, and he's pushing a major reform effort aimed at keeping insurance available and affordable. His proposals would help keep insurers from leaving the state and increasing rates. He's also pledging to work with the federal government to create tax-free catastrophe savings accounts to pay insurance deductibles and other storm-related costs.

17. Channel 3 News at 6PM	11/18/05	06:00PM/2 minutes	News	*****
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***** Two members of Florida's delegation to the U. S. House of Representatives today introduced legislation to form a national insurance catastrophe fund based on Florida's version. The fund is intended to cut homeowner insurance costs and ensure insurance market liquidity, and would cover hurricanes, earthquakes, tornados, volcanic eruptions and other natural disasters. Also, Citizen's Insurance, Florida's insurer of last resort, has applied with the state for a 15% rate increase to take effect in February to recover from the past two hurricane seasons. The increase would affect every homeowner in the state, regardless of which company insures them.

18. ABC News Nightline	11/18/05	11:34PM/30 minutes	News/Public Affairs	*****
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***** Tonight's report focused on the long road to recovery from Katrina's destruction, and gave an in-depth analysis of the proposed Federal Hurricane Earthquake Protection Fund.

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19. Channel 3 News at 10PM	11/29/05	10:00PM/2 minutes	News	*****
***** We reported on the celebration of the end of the 2005 Hurricane Season by the city of Gulf Breeze, with hundreds of people turning out for free food, fun and fireworks, as the Interfaith Disaster Resources group sponsored the festival to bid farewell to the record-setting season.				
20. Channel 3 News - eXtra	11/30/05	10:37PM/23 minutes	Public Affairs	*****
***** Today marked the official end of the 2005 Hurricane Season. Records fell for the number of named storms, the number of hurricanes, the number of category five storms, and the highest number of major hurricanes to hit the United States (four). Scientists are split on the cause; some argue it's part of a naturally occurring cycle, while others believe the increase in tropical cyclone strength is linked to global warming. Tonight we asked for viewer opinions on why we are seeing more and stronger tropical activity. We took e-mail questions and discussed the issue on-the-air with viewers who phoned in.				
21. Channel 3 News - eXtra	12/15/05	10:37PM/23 minutes	Public Affairs	*****
***** Gray Line New Orleans, a tour bus company, will soon begin a "Hurricane Katrina" bus tour, taking visitors through some of the city's hardest-hit areas. Three dollars of the 35-dollar ticket will go to a non-profit group directly affected by the storm. But some city residents say the company is exploiting a tragedy. Company spokesmen say people won't fully understand the scope of the damage until they see it for themselves. Tonight we invited viewer comments on whether such a "disaster tour" of New Orleans is a good or bad idea, and discussed the issue on-air.				
22. 20/20	12/16/05	09:00PM/30 minutes	Public Affairs	*****
***** ABC's Elizabeth Vargas returned to the now-closed Charity Hospital in New Orleans to chronicle the heroic efforts of doctors and staff to keep patients alive after Hurricane Katrina's devastation. The report featured never-before-seen footage taken by the staff of the hospital during the tragedy.				
23. Channel 3 News at 10PM	12/20/05	10:00PM/4 minutes	News	*****
***** We reported that Florida received an \$800 million sales tax windfall from hurricane reconstruction last year, but Governor Bush is against using any public dollars to bail out the state-created insurer of last resort, Citizens Property Insurance Corp. Instead, Citizens assessed all homeowners, including those covered by other companies, a 6.8% premium this year to cover a loss of \$500 million from the four major hurricanes that struck the state in 2004. Another, larger assessment is expected in 2006 due to this year's losses. State CFO Tom Gallagher wants to use part of the hurricane-related tax revenue to cover those losses.				

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24. ABC News Nightline	12/21/05	11:04PM/30 minutes	News/Public Affairs	***** ***** One segment of tonight's program dealt with the return to New Orleans by the evacuees, and their reactions to experiencing the aftermath of the flooding. Additional segments about the recovery efforts in New Orleans were aired in this program on 12/22/05, 12/26/05, 12/27/05, 12/29/05 and 12/30/05.
25. Channel 3 News - eXtra	12/22/05	10:37PM/23 minutes	Public Affairs	***** ***** Louisiana's Attorney General is investigating claims that some medical professionals at New Orleans' Memorial Hospital euthanized patients in the days after Katrina. Four days after the hurricane, the hospital was surrounded by floodwater; power and running water were out, food was running low, and in the stifling heat, nurses were forced to fan patients by hand. Some sources told CNN that some doctors and administrators began discussing putting patients out of their misery. Tonight we asked the question of our viewers: "If doctors euthanized some patients after Hurricane Katrina, should they face charges? We took comments and questions via e-mail, and discussed the issue on-air with callers.
26. Channel 3 News at 6PM	12/23/05	06:00PM/3 minutes	News	***** ***** Now that one of the Biloxi casinos has opened and another is set to re-open on Monday, thousands of people are flocking to the Gulf Coast, and one local company is hoping to bank on the casinos' return. Good Time Tours in Pensacola spent 50% of their business on hauling customers to the Biloxi casinos before Katrina. Since the storm, they've helped with Rita evacuations and been chartered to bus Katrina evacuees back home, but it's been really slow without the Casinos, and now they're optimistic that business will be back heavier than ever.
27. Channel 3 News at 6PM	12/30/05	06:00PM/2 minutes	News	***** ***** What a fitting ending to the year. Tonight we reported that Tropical Storm Zeta had formed today in the eastern Atlantic, the 27 th named storm of the season which has broken all the records. Forecasters are predicting that hurricane seasons are going to be more active than usual for at least the next decade, and possibly as long as the next 50 years.