

WOUB Radio FM Network
Issues/Programs List January to March 2024

This quarter, news and events were dominated by primary election issues, statehouse legislative moves, and national politics. In addition to our daily news reports and special features, the WOUB FM network broadcast news stories focused on actions of the Ohio state legislature, state news of Kentucky and West Virginia, and energy security. Regional news is also accessed through the Ohio Valley Resource, a network of stations throughout the Ohio River/Appalachian region funded by the stations and CPB.

We continue to provide an international perspective with programming from the BBC from 9-10am on our FM network. Public affairs and news programming from NPR continue to be the prime focus of our weekday FM programming. The daytime format consists of Morning Edition, 1A, Fresh Air, Here and Now, On Point, and All Things Considered from NPR; and the BBC Newshour. NPR News is used hourly (except midnight to 5am).

This quarter, we continued our series “Spectrum” where Tom Hodson interviewed guests on a wide variety of topics from politics to culture to education. These interviews were featured in half hour programs on our AM service, with five minute features used during Morning Edition and All Things Considered. We base our programming and production decision on a number of factors, including news stories and events in the region, letters and phone calls from listeners and efforts to find local angles to important national or international stories.

Rusty Smith
April 10, 2024

Ascertainment Report WOUB First Quarter 2024

Story: Sports Betting

Description: This week marks the first anniversary of legal sports betting in Ohio. In that first year, Ohioans wagered some \$6 billion (dollars). One billion dollars were bet in the first month alone. From public radio member station WOSU, Allie Vugrincic looks at where the industry stands.

Date: 01/03/2024

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 0845 1630 1730

Length: 4:38

Story: DeWine on Trans Kids

Description: When Gov. Mike DeWine vetoed a bill Friday that would have banned trans kids from receiving some medical treatments or playing on girls' sports teams, he also said he wants administrative rules drawn to ban gender reassignment surgeries on children under 18.

And as Statehouse correspondent Jo Ingles reports, he called for a couple more actions.

Date: 01/03/2024

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0745 1630

Length: 4:51

Story: Glouster Improvement Plans

Description: The state plans to provide \$2.8 million in funding for a community development and revitalization project in the Athens County village of Glouster. Plans include reclamation and improvements to two downtown buildings, improvements to Glouster Memorial Park, construction of three duplexes and a daycare facility, and operation of a workforce development program.

The funding is through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program.

The project is part of the Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program's New Leaf Justice Enterprises initiative to address social determinants of health.

Work is expected to begin this spring with an anticipated completion date of spring 2027.

Date: 01/05/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0733

Length: 1:00

Story: OPWC Funding

Description: The state plans to provide \$2.8 million in funding for a community development and revitalization project in the Athens County village of Glouster. Plans include reclamation and improvements to two downtown buildings, improvements to Glouster Memorial Park, construction of three duplexes and a daycare facility, and operation of a workforce development program.

The funding is through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program.

The project is part of the Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program's New Leaf Justice Enterprises initiative to address social determinants of health.

Work is expected to begin this spring with an anticipated completion date of spring 2027.

Date: 01/05/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0604 0704 0804

Length: 1:00

Story: Spectrum Andy Alexander

Description: The decline of local news and what might save it

Date: 01/08/2024

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 0845 1630 1730

Length: 5:18

Story: Solich to the Hall of Fame

Description: Former Ohio University Head Football Coach Frank Solich is going into the college football hall of fame.

Solich was among 3 coaches and 19 players in the College Football Hall of Fame class announced Monday

Solich compiled an overall record of 173 wins and 101 losses during his time at Nebraska and Ohio University, including 115 wins as the head coach at OU.

He retired just before the 2021 season to address a health issue.

The class will be inducted during the National Football Foundation's awards dinner in Las Vegas in December.

Date: 01/10/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0604 0704

Length: 1:00

Story: Bank Robber Sentenced

Description: A bank robber was sentenced in U.S. District Court Thursday for armed robberies in Athens and Marietta in 2020.

68-year-old William Johnson of Lancaster was sentenced to 13-and-a-half years in prison and will pay more than \$50,000 in restitution.

On Aug. 17, 2020, Johnson brandished a firearm at Hocking Valley Bank on East State Street in Athens.

Johnson ordered employees to the floor and emptied several drawers of cash totalling \$25,000. He then tied the employees' hands with zip ties and fled in the manager's stolen car.

On Oct. 22, 2020, Johnson robbed the Citizens Bank on North Second Street in Marietta, stealing \$11,390.

Law enforcement officers spotted Johnson driving in West Virginia that evening and placed him under arrest.

Date: 01/12/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0604 0732 0804

Length: 1:00

Story: PFAS

Description: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, virtually every adult in America has measurable amounts of synthetic chemicals in their blood.

They're called PFAS

They've been used for decades in everything from nonstick cookware to firefighting foams.

A new report shows that nearly half of U.S. water systems contain PFAS.

Ideastream's Jeff St.Clair asked leading experts how worried we should be about these 'forever chemicals'.

Date: 01/17/2024

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 0845 1630 1730

Length: 4:43

Story: HB68 Reaction

Description: Later this month the Ohio Senate could override Governor DeWine's veto and ban some healthcare for transgender children.

That would leave families with trans kids with one fewer state where gender affirming care is legal.

One family that moved to Ohio after their last home state banned medical care for their daughter is watching as a similar bill takes root here.

Renee Fox reports.

Date: 01/17/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0745

Length: 4:15

Story: Glouster murder Suicide

Description: Athens County law enforcement is investigating the deaths of a married couple in Glouster in what appears to be a murder-suicide.

Athens County Sheriff's deputies were called to the home of Amy and Jack Smathers Monday afternoon by a family member concerned about their well-being.

The couple was found dead in an upstairs bedroom.

There was no sign of forced entry.

Evidence suggests the husband died from a suicide by drug overdose.

Injuries to the wife have not yet been disclosed pending autopsy and toxicology reports.

Her death is being treated as a homicide with her husband as the sole suspect.

Date: 01/18/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0642 0804

Length: 1:00

Story: Power Grids in Winter

Description: A severe Winter Storm in late December 2022 caused power outages across the east coast. That raised questions around the resilience of our electric power grid in times of extreme weather. As public radio member station WYSO's Adriana Martinez-Smiley reports, a few Ohio utilities say they're trying to play their part in reducing outage risk.

Date: 01/18/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0645 0845

Length: 1:26

Story: Ohio Breweries

Description: A severe Winter Storm in late December 2022 caused power outages across the east coast.

That raised questions around the resilience of our electric power grid in times of extreme weather.

As public radio member station WYSO's Adriana Martinez-Smiley reports, a few Ohio utilities say they're trying to play their part in reducing outage risk.

Date: 01/22/2024

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 0845 1630 1730

Length: 4:22

Story: Spectrum Dr. Michael Bugeja

Description: Media Ethics

Date: 01/24/2024

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 0845 1630 1730

Length: 5:25

Story: PFAS Investigator

Description: Experts say nearly every American has some amount of PFAS (PEE-fass) in their blood - also known as poly-and perfluoroakyl (per-FLOOR-oh-Al-keel) substances, or 'forever chemicals'.

They come in hundreds of varieties, in products like nonstick cookware and stain resistant fabrics, firefighting foams, cosmetics, food wrappers and many other products.

They're also in the water, wildlife, and our bodies.

Scientists don't know all of the health effects of these chemicals, but what is known is in large part due to the work of a lawyer from Cincinnati.

Ideastream's Jeff St.Clair has the story of Robert Bilott [Notes: bil-LOTT] and his effort to find the truth

Date: 01/24/2024

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0745 1630

Length: 5:14

Story: Trans Kid Profile

Description: The Ohio Senate overrode Gov. Mike DeWine's veto of House Bill 68 yesterday, banning transgender youth from receiving gender-affirming medical treatments or playing on girls' sports teams.

Earlier this week Ideastream Public Media's Stephen Langel met with a Cleveland Heights family to talk about how the legislative wrangling was affecting them and their transgender child, Astrid (AS-strid).

Date: 01/25/2024

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 0845 1630 1730

Length: 4:41

Story: King Coal Documentary

Description: "King Coal" is a documentary that delves into the Appalachian coal industry and its cultural impact.

It focuses on the lives of Lanie Marsh and Gabrielle Wilson, two pre-teen girls growing up in modern day Appalachia.

Director and native West Virginian Elaine McMillion Sheldon says this was essential to make the film also about coal country's future.

Sheldon will introduce "King Coal" at the Athena Cinema in Athens February 8. It's part of the theater's "From the Hills and Hollers: Appalachian Film Series."

Date: 01/26/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0633 0733 0833

Length: 1:00

Story: Billy Joel Cleveland Show

Description: Officials with the city of Cleveland announced Thursday that Billy Joel and Rod Stewart will play Browns Stadium on September 13. The Rock Hall inductees found fame in the 1970s alongside Elton John, Genesis, KISS and several other acts which have launched farewell tours in recent years.

But Barry Gabel, with Live Nation, says there will be no shortage of people who can sell out stadiums in the future. Billy Joel was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1999. Stewart has been inducted both as a member of the Faces and for his solo work.

Date: 01/27/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0733 0833

Length: 1:00

Story: Hocking County Food Distribution

Description: Hocking County residents who qualify can get food assistance at the Hocking County Fairgrounds Tuesday.

The Southeast Ohio Foodbank will distribute fresh produce and other food from 10 to 12.

Attendees must show valid ID, proof of residence, and have an income below 200% of federal poverty guidelines.

Pre-registration is not required.

Residents who wish to pre-register can do so at fresh-traks-dot-com. That's "traks" without a "c."

Date: 01/27/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0604 0732 0804

Length: 1:00

Story: Nita Strauss

Description: Hard rock guitarist Nita Strauss is celebrated for her impressive skills. She showcases these skills on her solo records and as the touring guitarist for Alice Cooper and Demi Lovato.

Strauss says her approach to practice is deceptively simple.

Nita Strauss performs later this year in Columbus at the Sonic Temple music festival.

Find WOUB's full interview with Strauss at woub.org/culture.

Date: 01/30/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0632 0832 0832

Length: 1:00

Story: Heroes in Color

Description: The Athena Cinema's "Heroes in Color" series celebrates people of color in film with five screenings happening next month.

The series is organized by Brandon Thompson and Dr. Gordon Briggs...and. It features titles like Blade, Black Panther, and Everything Everywhere All At Once. Briggs says the selections provide examples of representation that contrast with what was widely available in his youth.

Each Heroes in Color screening features extra content like trivia, special introductions, and themed cocktails.

Date: 01/31/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0632 0732 0832

Length: 1:00

Story: Free Meal Program

Description: A group of free meal providers in Athens is teaming up to address worsening hunger and social isolation.

WOUB's Theo Peck-Suzuki reports.

Date: 02/01/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0745

Length: 1:30

Story: Amesville COG Forum

Description: Amesville residents weighed in on a proposal to partner with other communities to provide trash and recycling services

The Athens county village hosted a community forum tuesday night to discuss the idea of a council of governments -- and whether they should join...

mayor gary goosman says of those attending -- a majority voiced their approval of the cog and hope the move will keep the service local...

Goosman says he and the village council wanted to hear from residents before a resolution was put forward at their next council meeting on february twelfth...

Date: 02/01/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0604 0732 0832

Length: 1:00

Story: Spectrum Amy Nordrum
Description: Top 10 breakthrough technologies of 2024
Date: 02/06/2024
Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered
Time: 0645 0845 1630 1730
Length: 5:22

Story: Free Man of Color
Description: 2024 marks 200 years since John Newton Templeton became the first Black Ohio University student in 1824.
Ohio University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Playwriting Charles Smith wrote a play about Templeton titled "Free Man of Color".
Ohio University professor emerita Shelley Delaney played Jane Wilson, wife of Ohio University President Robert Wilson, in the 2004 premiere of the play in Chicago.
She says the role made her aware of her privilege and the responsibility of using it for positive change.
Date: 02/06/2024
Program: Morning Edition
Time: 0632 0732 0732
Length: 1:00

Story: WIC Funding
Description: Budget debates in Washington could lead to low-income families losing access to baby formula.
WOUB's Theo Peck-Suzuki reports the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children - or WIC - ensures moms and babies have the nutrients to stay healthy.
Date: 02/06/2024
Program: Morning Edition
Time: 0604 0745
Length: 1:15

Story: HB 2 Passes

Description: Ohio House lawmakers from both parties voted to pass a nearly \$2 billion package of appropriations for a slew of regional and local projects Wednesday—less than 24 hours after the proposal was first made publicly available. Statehouse correspondent Sarah Donaldson has more on the bill, which got 19 'no' votes from majority Republicans, most of whom opposed the election of Jason Stephens as house speaker.

Date: 02/08/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0645 0845

Length: 3:52

Story: Ohio University Food Insecurity Numbers

Description: Surveys show one-fifth to one-third of university students in the US face food insecurity.

WOUB's Theo Peck-Suzuki reports on efforts to help Ohio University students.

Date: 02/08/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0645 0845

Length: 1:30

Story: Cypress Hill Interview

Description: Cypress Hill is one of the most influential groups in the history of hip-hop...known for blending rap and rock on songs like "Insane in the Brain, How I Could Just Kill a Man and The Funky Feel One"...

Last year the band performed its landmark Black Sunday album with symphonies around the country.

Percussionist Eric "Bobo" Correa says this enhanced the emotional intensity of the music.

Cypress Hill plays the Sonic Temple music festival in Columbus this spring.

Hear the full interview with Bobo at woub.org/culture.

Date: 02/12/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0632 0732 0832

Length: 1:00

Story: East Palestine Testing

Description: It's been a year since the Norfolk Southern train derailed in East Palestine, Ohio, releasing chemicals and resulting in the burning of vinyl chloride. Some residents are still worried about chemicals inside their homes.

But as The Allegheny Front's Reid Frazier reports, the EPA won't do indoor testing.

Date: 02/13/2024

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 0845 1630 1730

Length: 4:30

Story: Athens Ceasefire Resolution

Description: ATHENS HAS JOINED THE LIST OF CITIES IN OHIO BEING ASKED TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A CEASE FIRE IN GAZA BETWEEN HAMAS AND ISRAEL.....

WOUB's JACK GREENE HAS MORE ON THE DISCUSSION SURROUNDING THE RESOLUTION FROM LAST NIGHT'S (MONDAY) CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 02/13/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0745 0845

Length: 1:30

Story: HB6 Update

Description: Two former FirstEnergy executives and the former head of the state's utility regulator have been indicted on state charges in what's been called the largest corruption scandal in Ohio history.

Statehouse correspondent Karen Kasler reports on the latest charges in the alleged scheme that's already sent the former House speaker and former state Republican party chair to prison.

Date: 02/13/2024

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 0845 1630 1730

Length: 4:35

Story: Twin Sculptors

Description: Sculptors and twin brothers Kyle and Kelly Phelps learned their craft in art school AND the auto factory.

Date: 02/13/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0745

Length: 4:42

Story: East Palestine Indoor Testing

Description: It's been a year since the Norfolk Southern train derailed in East Palestine, Ohio, releasing chemicals and resulting in the burning of vinyl chloride. Some residents are still worried about chemicals inside their homes. But as The Allegheny Front's Reid Frazier reports, the EPA won't do indoor testing.

Date: 02/14/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0745

Length: 4:30

Story: Ukraine Film

Description: Athens residents and Ukrainian activists came together last (Tuesday) night for a screening of the Ukrainian film "Carol of the Bells."

WOUB's Theo Peck-Suzuki reports on the event ahead of the two year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Date: 02/15/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0704 0832

Length: 1:06

Story: Fort Frye Senior Prom

Description: Fort Frye High School in Washington County has a creative way to connect old and young for Valentine's Day.

WOUB's Theo Peck-Suzuki reports on the school's annual Senior Citizens Prom Friday.

Date: 02/20/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0642 0732 0842

Length: 1:00

Story: Spectrum Chief Justice Sharon Kennedy

Description: A NEW RURAL PRACTICE INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO CLOSE THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE GAP THAT AFFECTS 56 PERCENT OF OHIO'S POPULATION.

Date: 02/21/2024

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 0845 1630 1730

Length: 5:24

Story: Meals on Wheels Funding Boost

Description: New meals for isolated Athens County seniors are on the ballot March 19th.

WOUB's Theo Peck-Suzuki reports on a levy that could give the Athens Meals on Wheels program a big funding boost.

Date: 02/27/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0604 0732 0804

Length: 1:00

Story: Meigs Company Expanding

Description: A pipe fabricator in Meigs County has announced a commitment to invest over \$1.9 million dollars to expand its operations, creating 45 new jobs.

Founded in 2015, DPC Pipe Fabrication makes custom welded and fabricated pipe for multiple industries.

In order to scale up production to fill increased orders, the company will expand and lease two additional buildings in the East Meigs Industrial Park in Tappers Plains.

The project was supported by a \$100,000 JobsOhio Grant and a Job Creation Tax Credit from the Ohio Tax Credit Authority.

Date:02/27/24

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0604 0704

Length: :30

Story: L7

Description: L7 is an all-female rock band known for their socially charged lyrics and hits like Pretend We're Dead.

In 2014, L7 ended an indefinite hiatus lasting over a decade.

Vocalist and guitarist Donita Sparks says the growth of the Internet helped create renewed interest in L7.

L7 plays the Sonic Temple festival in Columbus this spring.

Find the whole interview with Sparks at woub.org/culture.

Date: 02/28/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0632 0732 0832

Length: 1:00

Story: Alexander Levy

Description: The Alexander local schools levy is on the ballot again after failing to pass last fall.

WOUB's Theo Peck-Suzuki reports the stakes for that Athens County district are higher than ever.

Date: 02/28/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0645 0845

Length: 1:30

Story: Hopewell Economic Growth

Description: Eight Hopewell earthworks in central and southern Ohio earned UNESCO World Heritage Status in September. But those involved in securing the designation say World Heritage doesn't come with an instant influx of money and resources. Still, the sites have the potential to drive economic growth in their surrounding communities. WOSU's Allie Vugrincic (Voo-grin-sick) has the details.

Date: 03/08/2024

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 0845 1630 1730

Length: 4:15

Story: Spectrum Dr. Stephen Goldman

Description: HOW UNION VETERANS KNEW AFTER THE CIVIL WAR THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM IN AMERICA WAS NOT OVER AND THAT THERE WAS UNFINISHED WORK TO DO.

Date: 03/11/2024

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 0845 1630 1730

Length: 4:42

Story: International Students and Food Insecurity

Description: Ohio University's international students face high levels of food insecurity in Athens.

WOUB's Theo Peck-Suzuki reports work limits and a lack of public transit make the problem worse.

Date: 03/11/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0604 0804

Length: 1:15

Story: House Races

Description: Some Republican voters in Ohio will be choosing between their incumbent House representative or another GOP candidate in this month's primary. As Statehouse correspondent Jo Ingles reports, what they decide might have a big impact on all Ohioans.

Date: 03/11/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0745

Length: 4:16

Story: Alexander Ballot Error

Description: The Athens County Board of Elections is scrambling to inform voters after discovering a major inaccuracy in the ballot language for the Alexander school levy.

WOUB's Theo Peck-Suzuki reports the mistake comes at a bad time for the school district.

Date: 03/12/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0604 0704 0804

Length: 1:00

Story: Anne Harris

Description: Blues-infused Americana group Halo Rider plays the River City Blues Festival this weekend in Marietta.

Halo Rider features classically trained violinist Anne Harris. Harris says she's always been open-minded about blending genres.

Halo Rider plays the River City Blues Festival this weekend.

Find the whole interview with Harris at woub.org/culture.

Date: 03/12/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0632 0732 0832

Length: 1:00

Story: Senate Primary Preview

Description: Next Tuesday's primary election features a trio of men running for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate.

The winner goes on to the fall ballot to face Democrat Sherrod Brown, who's been in the Senate since defeating now-governor Mike DeWine, then the Republican incumbent, in 2006.

Statehouse correspondent Karen Kasler sat down with the three candidates to ask them questions about the issues, about former president Trump – who won Ohio in the last two elections – and about why they think they can win.

Date: 03/12/2024

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 0845 1630 1730

Length: 4:58

Story: Ukraine Fundraiser

Description: Ukrainian Olympic skeleton racers came to Athens this weekend to thank volunteers who donated supplies to Ukraine after Russia invaded in 2022.

WOUB's Theo Peck-Suzuki reports.

Date: 03/13/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0645 0804 0845

Length: 1:24

Story: Tom Holland

Description: Veteran blues group Tom Holland and the Shuffle Kings play the River City Blues Festival this weekend in Marietta.

Tom Holland says the blues are definitely an American artform, even if Americans don't always appreciate it the same way listeners in other countries do.

Find the whole interview with Holland at woub.org/culture.

Date: 03/14/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0632

Length: 1:00

Story: Spectrum Judge Gayle Williams-Beyers

Description: Breaking down legal language for the layman

Date: 03/19/2024

Program: Morning Edition/All Things Considered

Time: 0645 0845 1630 1730

Length: 5:03

Story: Alexander Autopsy

Description: Voters turned down the Alexander local schools operating levy again last (Tuesday) night.

WOUB's Theo Peck-Suzuki reports the district is facing a major budget shortfall.

Date: 03/20/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0604 0704

Length: 1:00

Story: High School E-sports

Description: Morgan high school is the statewide champion in the popular esports League of Legends after an underdog tournament run.

WOUB's Theo Peck-Suzuki speaks with the team about its victory and the growing popularity of competitive video games.

Date: 03/21/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0642 0742 0842

Length: 1:30

Story: Global Ed Fair

Description: Athens celebrated its international community for the second year at Athens High School.

WOUB's Theo Peck-Suzuki reports.

Date: 03/25/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0645 0845

Length: 1:10

Story: DeWine Health Visit

Description: A new initiative plans to improve health outcomes for children in Appalachian Ohio.

WOUB's Theo Peck-Suzuki reports Governor Mike DeWine visited Athens High School today <yesterday/Monday> to promote the program.

Date: 03/26/2024

Program: Morning Edition

Time: 0604 0745 0804

Length: 1:02