

Blanchard River Broadcasting Company  
WFIN-AM  
Findlay, OH

Issues/Program Report for Q1 2023

WFIN makes an ongoing effort to serve the community of Findlay and the surrounding area. As part of this effort, WFIN has identified the most significant needs, problems and interests for our coverage area. This quarterly report documents the programming provided by WFIN in response to these identified community issues. Key areas and the issues addressed during this period are verified in the attached documentation. This list is not inclusive, but does represent primary focal areas.

WFIN News Director Matt Demczyk has noted the following as significant issues during the January 1, 2023 through March 31, 2023 time period:

- Three men involved in the death of a local police officer were sentenced
- A suspect in several bank robberies in the region was arrested
- Findlay again was named the country's top micropolitan community
- Findlay City Schools selected its new superintendent
- Findlay City Schools announced it will be installing multi-use turf athletic fields

This letter with the attached documentation was placed in the WFIN Public Inspection File on April 7, 2023.



Matt Demczyk  
WFIN News Director



Bill Rice  
WFIN Brand Manager



J. Michael Holman  
WFIN General Manager

## WFIN COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Breaking News**

**Stories run an average of 30 seconds.**

**Programming as Follows:**

**Subject: Officer Death Suspect Sentenced**

News Broadcasts: 3/21

The man who was driving the stolen vehicle that struck and killed Officer Dominic Francis in March of 2022 changed his plea to guilty and was sentenced. Emin Johnson pleaded guilty to six charges, including tampering with evidence and involuntary manslaughter, in Hancock County Common Pleas Court on Tuesday afternoon. Johnson, 21, was sentenced to 21 to 26 ½ years in prison. Two passengers in the vehicle, Dante Tate and Zachary Love, previously pleaded guilty and were sentenced.

**Subject: Body found in pond**

News Broadcasts: 1/19

The Findlay Police Department confirmed a body was discovered floating in a pond behind the Trenton Avenue Walmart in Findlay on Thursday afternoon. Access to the pond is off Howard Street and the road was shut down while police investigated. The Findlay Fire Department recovered the body from the water. Lt. Hendren with the Findlay Police Department says the body is that of an adult white male and is under investigation. The body was sent to the Lucas County Coroner's Office for an autopsy and to determine cause of death.

**Subject: Clerk Murdered**

News Broadcasts: 1/2

Police in Upper Sandusky say they arrested a man who killed a store clerk with a machete. Police responded to the Dollar Tree on East Wyandot Avenue at 4:25 p.m. on Sunday on the report of a man waving a machete inside the store and that he had struck an employee. Before police arrived on the scene, the suspect had left the store. Police say they arrived at the store to find cashier Keris Riebel, 22, deceased. A second police officer was searching for the suspect and located him in the 100 block of South Fifth Street. The suspect was identified by police as Bethel M. Bekele, 27.

**Subject: Bank Robbery Suspect Arrested**

News Broadcasts: 2/28

A suspect in several bank robberies in northwest Ohio, including one in Hancock County, has been arrested. The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced that said Gage Daniel Shafer Haws was apprehended at a Findlay residence by a Findlay Police Department SWAT Team. The 28-year-old Haws is suspected in bank robberies in Hancock, Putnam, Wyandot, Seneca and Fulton Counties.

**Subject: Bob Montgomery Dies**

News Broadcasts: 1/30

Longtime color commentator for WFIN's Findlay Trojans broadcasts Bob Montgomery has passed away. Bob "Monk" Montgomery is in the University of Findlay Athletics Hall of Fame and was a teacher at Findlay High School and coached at the high school and college level. Bob was the grandfather of former Trojan football player and current Ohio State Buckeye Luke Montgomery and current Trojans quarterback Ryan Montgomery. Bob was 79-years-old.

**Subject: Drive-by shooting arrest**

News Broadcasts: 1/26

Police in Fostoria say a Findlay man was arrested in connection with a drive-by shooting. The Fostoria Police Division says officers responded to the 400 block of West Tiffin Street on Wednesday afternoon on the report of a drive-by shooting and found numerous bullet holes in the residence along with several spent shell casings along the street. No injuries were reported in the shooting. Police say the driver, Kcaleeb Gonzales, 25, of Findlay, was detained based off of items found during the traffic stop and the information from witnesses.

**Subject: Road Alert Increased**

News Broadcasts: 1/26

The Hancock County Sheriff's Office upped the county to a Level 2 Road Alert late Thursday night as winds made roads very icy. A Level 2 Road Alert means roadways are extremely hazardous with blowing and drifting snow and/or flooding. Only those who feel it is necessary to travel should be on the roadways. A Level 3 Road Alert means most roadways are closed and extremely hazardous/flooded. Employees should comply with workplace policies or contact their employer. Violators may be cited.

**Subject: Scout Troop Instructor Not Guilty**

News Broadcasts: 1/24

A jury found a former scouting troop instructor not guilty of sex charges involving minors. The jury returned its verdict in the case of Dale E. Lingo, 26, of Columbus, on Friday afternoon in Hancock County Common Pleas Court. Lingo was previously indicted on one count of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, a 4th-degree felony, and three counts of sexual battery, a 3rd-degree felony. The indictment alleged that the offenses occurred in Eagle Township, Hancock County in the summer of 2017.

**Subject: Coffee Shop Closing**

News Broadcasts: 1/12

A coffee shop that's been serving the Findlay community since 1993 will no longer be operating at its current location. George House Coffee & Tea took to social media to let their loyal customers know that their lease at 1041 North Main Street was not renewed. "It seems that our previous landlords wish to start a coffee and food service business of their own from that location," the post said.

**Subject: Findlay Micropolitan Award Again**

News Broadcasts: 3/1

Findlay has been ranked as the top Micropolitan community in the country for a ninth year in a row. The award, by Site Selection magazine, is based on job creation, new construction and capital investment. A micropolitan area is defined as having a population between 10,000 and 50,000. Over the past nine years, Findlay's industrial sector has expanded significantly, contributing to nine consecutive Top Micropolitan wins.

**Subject: Overpass Projects Planned**

News Broadcasts: 1/6

Two overpass projects along State Route 15 are scheduled to be completed in 2023. One of the projects will construct an overpass on County Road 180 over State Route 15 near Findlay and the other will be at County Road 169 and State Route 15 near Vanlue. The projects are designed to improve safety and reduce crashes at the intersections. Hancock County Engineer Doug Cade says a study was conducted looking at the number of crashes along State Route 15 in Hancock and Wyandot Counties.

**Subject:** Former Pries New Trial Date

News Broadcasts: 1/5

A new trial date has been set in the case of Michael Zacharias, the former Findlay priest accused of sex trafficking and other offenses. His trial was set to begin on February 6<sup>th</sup> in U.S. District Court in Toledo but has now been moved back to May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Zacharias, the former pastor at St. Michael The Archangel Parish in Findlay, was arrested in August of 2020 and indicted in October of that year. The offenses Zacharias has been charged with allegedly involve boys from Catholic schools in Toledo.

**Subject:** Findlay Schools Turf Fields

News Broadcasts: 3/19

The Findlay City Schools Board of Education has approved plans for the installation of multi-use turf fields at their Outside Athletic and Activities Complex. The fields will be used for a variety of different sports including football, baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer and more. Interim Superintendent Krista Miller says their current dirt fields are often muddy and unusable, resulting in canceled or relocated games and events.

**Subject:** Overdose Spike Alert

News Broadcasts: 3/18

Hancock County health officials have issued an overdose spike alert. Hancock Public Health issued the alert on Monday saying that Hancock County has experienced one fatal overdose and six non-fatal overdoses in the past six days. Hancock Public Health reminds people that they have the overdose-reversing medication Narcan available through Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) as a way to combat the opioid overdose epidemic.

**Subject:** Titans State Runner-up Again

News Broadcasts: 3/19

For the second season in a row, the Ottawa-Glandorf boys basketball team is the state runner-up. The Titans lost to Lutheran East in the Division III state final on Sunday. The final score was 67 to 61. That loss ended the Titans' 15 game winning streak. Congratulations to the Titans on another tremendous season. They finish the season with a record of 25-4 and undefeated in the WBL.

**Subject:** Officer Death Suspect Pleads  
News Broadcasts: 3/16

One of the three men involved in the death of Bluffton police officer Dominic Francis in March of 2022 agreed to a plea deal with the Hancock County Prosecutor's Office. Zachary Love changed his plea to guilty on three felony counts in the indictment and two other counts were dismissed. The 22-year-old pleaded guilty to tampering with evidence, having a weapon under disability, and improper handling of a firearm in a vehicle. He faces a maximum of 7 ½ years in prison. His sentencing hearing has been set for May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Subject:** Gaming Parlor Raided  
News Broadcasts: 3/12

A task force executed a search warrant at a Findlay business after receiving numerous complaints about it, authorities said. The Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force along with the Findlay Police Department, Hancock County Sheriff's Office, Ohio Investigative Unit and Findlay Street Department executed a search warrant at Lucky Dragon Internet Café at 1107 Tiffin Avenue. The task force said the search stemmed from an ongoing investigation into several citizen complaints about the business.

**Subject:** Missing Kid Found  
News Broadcasts: 3/9

There was a happy end to the search for a missing child in the Bluffton area. The Hancock County Sheriff's Office and other agencies responded to a residence on County Road 33 a little after 6 p.m. Thursday to search for the missing 2-year-old girl. It was believed the girl had exited the residence and multiple agencies helped search as well as people in the community. An Ohio State Highway Patrol

helicopter also responded to the area. About an hour after the search began the girl was located inside the residence, unharmed and asleep underneath a bed.

**Subject:** Cliff Browne Award

News Broadcasts: 3/8

Findlay High School Assistant Hockey Coach Cliff Browne will be receiving the 2023 OHSAA Ethics and Integrity Award. Cliff will receive the award at the first intermission of the State Hockey Championship game at Nationwide Arena in Columbus on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. The OHSAA Ethics and Integrity Award is presented annually to an Ohioan who has displayed outstanding traits of ethical behavior and integrity in the performance of duties and responsibilities and is a role model for others.

**Subject:** Bill Reineke Sr. Dies

News Broadcasts: 3/7

A man who started one of the best-known auto dealerships in the region has passed away. Bill Reineke Sr., of Fostoria, died on Monday. According to Bill's obituary from Hoening Family Funeral Homes, Bill started his career selling cars in Toledo in 1955. He then purchased Oliver Pore Buick Oldsmobile in Fostoria in 1960 and moved his family, starting Reineke Ford and the first store in the Reineke Family Dealership chain. Bill had a storied career in the business and often chronicled his life by the year and make of the car he drove, his obit read.

**Subject:** No Active Shooter

News Broadcasts: 3/6

The Findlay Police Department says someone mistook a slamming door as a gunshot, resulting in an active shooter report. The police department says officers responded to Eyes on Main on South Main Street in downtown Findlay a little after 4 o'clock Monday afternoon after receiving a call about shots fired at the business. Police arrived at the store within moments of receiving the call and there was no emergency. The police department said there had been an encounter between two customers which resulted in the front door being slammed, and that sound was mistaken to be a gunshot.

**Subject:** House Will Be Torn Down

News Broadcasts: 2/22

It turns out that a Findlay house severely damaged in a fire last May will be torn down after all. Last November, the City of Findlay said the owners of 824 South Main Street told the city they planned to repair the damage, and that structural engineers determined the house would be able to be fixed up. Now, the owners have decided to have the house torn down, with the demolition to be facilitated by the

city. The city says the money for the demolition will come from the homeowners' insurance escrow account.

**Subject: Fostoria Sex Offender Operation**

News Broadcasts: 2/20

The Fostoria Police Department has been conducting special covert operations as part of the national program Internet Crimes Against Children, also known as ICAC, over the last 10 months.

Fostoria Police Officer Kyle Reinbolt, who has led all of the investigations, has arrested and charged 15 different suspects during the operations. The investigations led to numerous charges of Attempted Sexual Conduct with a Minor, Importuning, and Disseminating Harmful Material to a Juvenile.

During the operations, Officer Reinbolt had contact with the suspects online and through texting - posing as a child - and was sought out by the suspects to engage in sexual conduct.

**Subject: Officer Death Suspect Plea/Sentence**

News Broadcasts: 2/21

One of the three men arrested in connection with the death of Bluffton police officer Dominic Francis in March of 2022 agreed to a plea deal with the Hancock County Prosecutor's Office. Dante Tate pleaded guilty to two felony counts of receiving stolen property, while counts of grand theft of a motor vehicle and improper handling of a firearm in a vehicle were dismissed. Tate, 19, was sentenced to 2 ½ years in prison on the two felony charges.

**Subject: Solar Projects Approved**

News Broadcasts: 2/16

The Ohio Power Siting Board has approved two solar projects planned for Hancock County. The board issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility to South Branch Solar and Border Basin for the construction, operation and maintenance of their solar-powered electric generation facilities in Hancock County. The South Branch Solar website shows that the project will be located on about 700 acres north of Arcadia. The Border Basin website says their project will be located near Cass Township on about 1,000 acres spanning both the Arcadia and Van Buren school districts.

**Subject: FCS New Superintendent**

News Broadcasts: 2/13

The Findlay City Schools Board of Education has selected the school district's next superintendent after an exhaustive search. Dr. Andy Hatton, Associate Superintendent for Upper Arlington City Schools, will become Findlay's superintendent effective August 1, 2023. The Board of Education said Dr. Hatton surfaced as the top candidate for the job based on his strong understanding of instructional practice,



ability to effectively communicate with a wide array of stakeholders, and his clear passion for serving the students, staff, and Findlay community.

**Subject:** Carey Shooting Victim/Suspect

News Broadcasts: 2/13

The Carey Police Department has released the names of the people involved in a fatal shooting from over the weekend. The police department says it received a call about a shooting at 104 Lindenwood Place at 11:31 Saturday night. The arriving officer discovered a man's body in the street at the intersection of Lindenwood Place and Pine Tree Drive that had suffered multiple gunshot wounds. The deceased was identified as Nathan A. Stroub, 42, of Carey. A few minutes later, police say a suspect arrived at the police department and was detained. The suspect was identified as Samuel W. Seabert, 43, of Carey.

**Subject:** Garner Trucking Hall of Fame

News Broadcasts: 2/3

Garner Trucking of Findlay has announced that they'll be inducted into the Best Fleets To Drive For Hall of Fame. The Truckload Carriers Association (TCA) and CarriersEdge recently announced the Hall of Fame recognition to Garner Trucking. This marks the 7th year that Garner has been named a Best Fleet to Drive For, and the first year in the Hall of Fame. Garner will be recognized on stage at the TCA's 2023 Annual Convention in Orlando in March.

**Subject:** Putnam County Bank Robbery

News Broadcasts: 2/12

Authorities in Putnam County are investigating a bank robbery. The Kalida Police Department says a man robbed the Union Bank Company at 110 East North Street in Kalida on Saturday at 11 a.m. Investigators say the individual approached the teller with a black handgun and made threatening demands for money. The teller complied and the suspect exited the bank walking west on East North Street.

**Subject:** Putnam County Award

News Broadcasts: 2/20

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) showed its appreciation for exceptional leadership and commitment to conservation by honoring the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Sunrise Cooperative, and Ed Crawford of the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

The awards were presented by ODA Director Brian Baldrige at the 2023 Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Partnership Meeting. The H2Ohio Lifetime Conservation Advocate Award recognizes those who exhibit exceptional leadership and commitment to water quality through H2Ohio.

## WFIN COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Business**

**Stories run an average of 30 seconds.**

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**Subject: Marathon 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Numbers**

News Broadcasts: 1/30

Marathon Petroleum Corporation on Tuesday reported net income of \$3.3 billion for the fourth quarter of 2022, compared with net income of \$774 million for the fourth quarter of 2021. Adjusted net income was \$3.1 billion for the fourth quarter of 2022, which compares to adjusted net income of \$794 million for the fourth quarter of 2021. For the full year 2022, net income attributable to MPC was \$14.5 billion, compared with net income of \$9.7 billion for the full year of 2021.

**Subject: Coffee Shop Closing**

News Broadcasts: 1/12

A coffee shop that's been serving the Findlay community since 1993 will no longer be operating at its current location. George House Coffee & Tea took to social media to let their loyal customers know that their lease at 1041 North Main Street was not renewed. "It seems that our previous landlords wish to start a coffee and food service business of their own from that location," the post said.

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**Subject:** Raise the Bar Adult Workforce  
News Broadcasts: 1/25

Raise the Bar Hancock County has launched an Adult Workforce Exploration and Readiness Program. Hancock County ranked the highest in wages among all 88 Ohio counties for the 2nd Quarter 2022 (Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages). Raise the Bar wants people to access and be prepared for these well-paying jobs and to keep the local economy thriving. One step in this workforce development strategy involves helping people find the right job with the right employer

**Subject:** Reineke Acquires Genthe  
News Broadcasts: 3/25

Reineke Family Dealerships has announced the acquisition of Genthe Honda and Genthe Honda Powersports, of Southgate, Michigan, from the Genthe family. The stores will be renamed Southgate

Honda and Southgate Honda Powersports. "We are looking forward to serving customers in Southgate and throughout Michigan," said Alex Reineke, Vice President of Reineke Family Dealerships.

**Subject:** Warner Automotive Sold  
News Broadcasts: 3/3

A Findlay auto dealership is in new hands for the first time in decades. Larry Warner tells WFIN that he has sold Warner Automotive, located at 1060 Bright Road, to Spitzer Autoworld in Elyria. "It's been a great ride. I had a birthday at the end of January - 79-years-old - so I just determined a little bit ago that it's time to step down and step aside and let somebody continue with the great dealership we built."

**Subject:** Seneca Chamber 500 Members  
News Broadcasts: 3/2

The Seneca Regional Chamber of Commerce has surpassed 500 members from Seneca County and surrounding communities, a new record for membership in the organization's history. Kellie Hartsel, long-time Chamber Ambassador, and now a travel advisor with Magical Moments Vacations, was the 500th member to join the chamber. "I've been a dedicated volunteer for the Chamber for more than ten years and I've seen firsthand the work that they do that directly impacts small businesses and organizations here in our community," Hartsel said.

**Subject:** Findlay Micropolitan Award Again  
News Broadcasts: 3/1

Findlay has been ranked as the top Micropolitan community in the country for a ninth year in a row. The award, by Site Selection magazine, is based on job creation, new construction and capital investment. A micropolitan area is defined as having a population between 10,000 and 50,000. Over the past nine years, Findlay's industrial sector has expanded significantly, contributing to nine consecutive Top Micropolitan wins.

**Subject:** Restaurant Week  
News Broadcasts: 2/16

Greater Findlay Restaurant Week is returning for the sixth year in Findlay and Hancock County. Visit Findlay says around 20 local restaurants are offering three-course meals on a prix-fixe menu at different price points. Diners are encouraged to try something new or support their favorite restaurants during this special week. This year Restaurant Week will be held February 20 – 26.

## WFIN COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Education**

**Stories run an average of 30 seconds.**

**Programming as Follows:**

**Subject:** Findlay Schools Turf Fields  
News Broadcasts: 3/19

The Findlay City Schools Board of Education has approved plans for the installation of multi-use turf fields at their Outside Athletic and Activities Complex. The fields will be used for a variety of different sports including football, baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer and more. Interim Superintendent Krista Miller says their current dirt fields are often muddy and unusable, resulting in canceled or relocated games and events.

**Subject:** Findlay City Schools Active Shooter System Training  
News Broadcasts: 1/13

Findlay City Schools staff on Friday received training on the SafeDefend active shooter protection system that was recently installed in school district buildings. Interim Superintendent Krista Crates-Miller says the system will help keep students and staff safer during an emergency situation such as an active shooter by providing instant information. "SafeDefend will provide instant texts to say where the threat is, what exits to avoid, and then you can make a decision based on your location whether you run, you hide or fight."

**Subject:** Cliff Browne Award  
News Broadcasts: 3/8

Findlay High School Assistant Hockey Coach Cliff Browne will be receiving the 2023 OHSAA Ethics and Integrity Award. Cliff will receive the award at the first intermission of the State Hockey Championship game at Nationwide Arena in Columbus on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. The OHSAA Ethics and Integrity Award is presented annually to an Ohioan who has displayed outstanding traits of ethical behavior and integrity in the performance of duties and responsibilities and is a role model for others.

**Subject:** FCS New Superintendent  
News Broadcasts: 2/13

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**Subject:** New FCS Superintendent Message  
News Broadcasts: 2/15

The newly-selected superintendent of Findlay City Schools released a video message to the community. In the message, Dr. Andy Hatton thanked Trojan Country for this opportunity to serve as the school district's next superintendent. "I cannot wait to begin collaborating with this amazing team in Findlay City Schools." Hatton, who comes to Findlay from Upper Arlington, said he's already received a very warm welcome from many members of the community and he hopes to start meeting members of the community in person over the next few months ahead of his official start date of August, 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Subject: Library Story Contest**

News Broadcasts: 1/24

Children of Hancock County with a passion for literature have an opportunity to express their creative side in Findlay-Hancock County Public Library's Tell-a-Tale Short Story Contest. Beginning February 1, 2023, young scribes from kindergarten through 5th grade who live in Hancock County or attend a Hancock County School may submit an original story that is no more than 350 words in length. Stories must be submitted to the library with a signed entry form before February 28, 2023..

**Subject: Raise the Bar Adult Workforce**

News Broadcasts: 1/25

Raise the Bar Hancock County has launched an Adult Workforce Exploration and Readiness Program. Hancock County ranked the highest in wages among all 88 Ohio counties for the 2nd Quarter 2022 (Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages). Raise the Bar wants people to access and be prepared for these well-paying jobs and to keep the local economy thriving. One step in this workforce development strategy involves helping people find the right job with the right employer

**Subject: Childrens Mentoring Open House**

News Broadcasts: 1/24

Children's Mentoring Connection of Hancock County held an open house and ribbon cutting to celebrate their new location in Findlay as well as National Mentoring Month. Children's Mentoring Connection is now located in The Family Center at 1800 North Blanchard Street, Suite 126. The Hancock County Chamber of Commerce did an official ribbon cutting and Mayor Christina Muryn issued a proclamation declaring January as National Mentoring Month in Findlay.

**Subject: School Board Recognition Month**

News Broadcasts: 1/10

Findlay City Schools is saluting its school board members as January is School Board Recognition Month. Mayor Muryn presented a proclamation declaring January 2023 as "School Board Recognition Month" in honor and appreciation of the Findlay City School Board. Preschoolers presented each board member with a handmade thank you with the help of Principal Nelson.

**Subject: Drive to Succeed Program**

News Broadcasts: 3/26

Hancock Public Health has been awarded a \$15,000 grant through Governor DeWine's Youthful Driver Safety Fund to implement the "Drive to Succeed Scholarship Program." The grant will pay for approximately 40 young people to receive driving instruction. The structure of the application involved partnerships with all high schools and driving schools in Hancock County and Findlay to focus on serving those lower-income residents of Hancock County to assist in paying for the students' driving instruction.

**Subject:** Latta Retiring from UF  
News Broadcasts: 3/21

The University of Findlay has announced that Marcia Sloan Latta, Ed.D., vice president for University Advancement, will retire from the university in May 2023. Latta joined UF in 2013 to provide leadership for fundraising, alumni and parent relations, and the Mazza Museum. During her time, she has led teams that set records for revenue raised, number of endowments created, and number of donors engaged.

**Subject:** University of Findlay Campaign  
News Broadcasts: 1/21

The University of Findlay is two-thirds of the way to its goal of raising \$75 million to foster scholarships and improve campus facilities, transforming the lives of students and investing in the future. Gifts to the "Together We Will" campaign from more than 8,670 donors have topped the \$50 million mark as of late December, according to UF President Katherine Fell, Ph.D. "As we begin the new year, we are excited about the new opportunities for students that these donations will bring to fruition," Dr. Fell said.

**Subject:** Camp 911 Registration  
News Broadcasts: 2/21

Camp 911 is an interactive safety camp is for kids entering kindergarten and helps them learn basic safety. The free camp presents important safety lessons such as stranger danger, drug safety and pedestrian safety through a combination of demonstrations, videos, and activities.

**Subject:** UF Mother Language Day  
News Broadcasts: 2/15

The University of Findlay celebrated International Mother Language Day on Tuesday. Several UF students shared songs, poems and dances in their native tongue during the event that celebrates linguistic and cultural diversity. In the video below, a student from Taiwan sings a song in Mandarin and a student from India dances during the International Mother Language Day celebration at UF.



**Subject:** Hancock Youth Leadership Applications  
News Broadcasts: 2/11

Applications are being accepted for the 2023-2024 Hancock Youth Leadership (HYL) program. Affiliated with the Findlay-Hancock County Chamber of Commerce, HYL is an investment in the future of Findlay and Hancock County. Its purpose is to enhance knowledge and develop leadership skills in a select group of high school students, motivating them to become positive role models, active and committed to their civic responsibilities.

## WFIN COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Flood Mitigation**

**Programming as Follows:**

**Subject:** Downtown Recreation Area/Benching Project  
News Broadcasts: 2/9

Findlay Mayor Christina Muryn describes the proposed Downtown Recreation Area as potentially transformational. "It is a significant investment in a large area of our downtown, creating a new hub for people to have recreational opportunities." Muryn added that investing in the new recreation area is wise and will pay dividends in the future. The proposed recreation area will be part of the Phase 2 benching project north of the Blanchard River and east of Main Street. The Downtown Recreation Area will be from Main Street east to the railroad tracks, and from the river north to Clinton Court. There will also be a triangle-shaped area west of Main Street over to North Cory Street. Mayor Muryn said the cost estimate from their consultant for the recreation area is \$10 to \$40 million.

## WFIN COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

**SUBJECT: Government**  
**Stories run an average of 30 seconds.**  
**Programming as Follows:**

**Subject: Mayoral Forum Held**  
News Broadcasts: 3/29

A Mayoral Forum featuring Findlay Mayor Christina Muryn and primary challenger Haydee Sadler was held on WFIN Wednesday night. The hour-long candidate forum was held at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts and moderated by WFIN's Chris Oaks. The two Republicans spoke on a variety of issues ranging from how to best utilize state and federal grant funds, to concerns about the strategic planning process, how to address the opioid crisis, historic preservation and much more.

**Subject: Downtown Recreation Area/Benching Project**  
News Broadcasts: 2/9

Findlay Mayor Christina Muryn describes the proposed Downtown Recreation Area as potentially transformational. "It is a significant investment in a large area of our downtown, creating a new hub for people to have recreational opportunities." Muryn added that investing in the new recreation area is wise and will pay dividends in the future. The proposed recreation area will be part of the Phase 2 benching project north of the Blanchard River and east of Main Street. The Downtown Recreation Area will be from Main Street east to the railroad tracks, and from the river north to Clinton Court. There will also be a triangle-shaped area west of Main Street over to North Cory Street. Mayor Muryn said the cost estimate from their consultant for the recreation area is \$10 to \$40 million.

**Subject: Community Health Plan**  
News Broadcasts: 1/9

The Be Healthy Now Hancock County coalition completed its Community Health Improvement Plan based on results from the 2021 Hancock County Community Health Assessment that was released in June 2022. A community health improvement plan (CHIP) is a community-driven, long-term, systematic plan to address issues identified in a community health assessment (CHA). The purpose of a CHIP is to describe how hospitals, health departments, and other community stakeholders will work to improve the health of the county.

**Subject:** Findlay Income tax

News Broadcasts: 1/15

The Findlay Income Tax Department is in the process of distributing the annual income tax filing reminders for the 2022 tax year. The 2022 income tax return filing deadline is Tuesday, April 19, 2023. All individuals and businesses that are subject to the City of Findlay income tax, as well as the Village of Arlington, Mount Cory, Vanlue, Carey, Mount Blanchard or Jenera income tax will receive a postcard in the mail in the coming days as a reminder to file their 2022 municipal income tax return.

**Subject:** Police Chief Retiring

News Broadcasts: 3/23

The Chief of Police for the City of Findlay is retiring. Chief Robert Ring's last day as chief will be in late April. Captain James Mathias will serve as interim chief and a new police chief could be named in May. The city says Mathias, and three lieutenants in the police department are all eligible to seek the chief's position. During his tenure with the Findlay Police Department Chief Ring served in a variety of positions and earned a multitude of commendations during his progression through the ranks.

**Subject:** 911 Meeting In Findlay

News Broadcasts: 3/21

Public safety officials gathered in Findlay to discuss the future of 911 in the state as well as the MARCS (Multi-Agency Radio Communications System) radio system. Kathleen Madden, Director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, says the state's migration to next generation 911 is a necessary upgrade to the existing 911 system to adapt to how people communicate today.

**Subject:** Annexation Meeting Held

News Broadcasts: 2/17

The City of Findlay held a public meeting about the annexation plan it announced in January. If you didn't have a chance to attend the meeting or would like to go over it again, the video of the meeting is below. Mayor Christina Muryn invites anyone with questions to contact Hancock Regional Planning at [annex@findlayohio.gov](mailto:annex@findlayohio.gov) or by calling 419-424-7094. The City of Findlay has been contacting the owners of approximately 400 parcels that have been identified for annexation into the City of Findlay corporation limits.

**Subject:** Findlay Annexation Update/Clarification  
News Broadcasts: 3/23

The City of Findlay sent letters out in January 2023 to approximately 400 properties to gauge their interest in annexing into the City of Findlay. The city says the original mailing caused some confusion for the residents. In order to help clarify the process, the City of Findlay is sending out a second mailing. The mailing includes a letter and map for clarification.

## WFIN COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

**SUBJECT: Health & Safety**  
**Stories run an average of 30 seconds.**  
**Programming as Follows:**

**Subject:** 911 Meeting In Findlay  
News Broadcasts: 3/21

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**Subject:** Downtown Recreation Area/Benching Project  
News Broadcasts: 2/9

Findlay Mayor Christina Muryn describes the proposed Downtown Recreation Area as potentially transformational. "It is a significant investment in a large area of our downtown, creating a new hub for people to have recreational opportunities." Muryn added that investing in the new recreation area is wise and will pay dividends in the future. The proposed recreation area will be part of the Phase 2 benching project north of the Blanchard River and east of Main Street. The Downtown Recreation Area will be from Main Street east to the railroad tracks, and from the river north to Clinton Court. There will also be a triangle-shaped area west of Main Street over to North Cory Street. Mayor Muryn said the cost estimate from their consultant for the recreation area is \$10 to \$40 million.

**Subject: Police Chief Retiring**  
News Broadcasts: 3/23

The Chief of Police for the City of Findlay is retiring. Chief Robert Ring's last day as chief will be in late April. Captain James Mathias will serve as interim chief and a new police chief could be named in May. The city says Mathias, and three lieutenants in the police department are all eligible to seek the chief's position. During his tenure with the Findlay Police Department Chief Ring served in a variety of positions and earned a multitude of commendations during his progression through the ranks.

**Subject: Annexation Meeting Held**  
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**Subject: Overpass Projects Planned**  
News Broadcasts: 1/6

Two overpass projects along State Route 15 are scheduled to be completed in 2023. One of the projects will construct an overpass on County Road 180 over State Route 15 near Findlay and the other will be at County Road 169 and State Route 15 near Vanlue. The projects are designed to improve safety and reduce crashes at the intersections. Hancock County Engineer Doug Cade says a study was conducted looking at the number of crashes along State Route 15 in Hancock and Wyandot Counties.

**Subject: Road Alert Increased**  
News Broadcasts: 1/26

The Hancock County Sheriff's Office upped the county to a Level 2 Road Alert late Thursday night as winds made roads very icy. A Level 2 Road Alert means roadways are extremely hazardous with blowing and drifting snow and/or flooding. Only those who feel it is necessary to travel should be on the roadways. A Level 3 Road Alert means most roadways are closed and extremely hazardous/flooded. Employees should comply with workplace policies or contact their employer. Violators may be cited.

**Subject:** Overdose Spike Alert  
News Broadcasts: 3/18

Hancock County health officials have issued an overdose spike alert. Hancock Public Health issued the alert on Monday saying that Hancock County has experienced one fatal overdose and six non-fatal overdoses in the past six days. Hancock Public Health reminds people that they have the overdose-reversing medication Narcan available through Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) as a way to combat the opioid overdose epidemic.

## WFIN COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Major Crime**

**Stories run an average of 30 seconds.**

**Programming as Follows:**

**Subject:** Officer Death Suspect Sentenced  
News Broadcasts: 3/21

The man who was driving the stolen vehicle that struck and killed Officer Dominic Francis in March of 2022 changed his plea to guilty and was sentenced. Emin Johnson pleaded guilty to six charges, including tampering with evidence and involuntary manslaughter, in Hancock County Common Pleas Court on Tuesday afternoon. Johnson, 21, was sentenced to 21 to 26 ½ years in prison. Two passengers in the vehicle, Dante Tate and Zachary Love, previously pleaded guilty and were sentenced.

**Subject:** Body found in pond  
News Broadcasts: 1/19

The Findlay Police Department confirmed a body was discovered floating in a pond behind the Trenton Avenue Walmart in Findlay on Thursday afternoon. Access to the pond is off Howard Street and the road was shut down while police investigated. The Findlay Fire Department recovered the body from the water. Lt. Hendren with the Findlay Police Department says the body is that of an adult white male and

is under investigation. The body was sent to the Lucas County Coroner's Office for an autopsy and to determine cause of death.

**Subject:** Clerk Murdered  
News Broadcasts: 1/2

Police in Upper Sandusky say they arrested a man who killed a store clerk with a machete. Police responded to the Dollar Tree on East Wyandot Avenue at 4:25 p.m. on Sunday on the report of a man waving a machete inside the store and that he had struck an employee. Before police arrived on the scene, the suspect had left the store. Police say they arrived at the store to find cashier Keris Riebel, 22, deceased. A second police officer was searching for the suspect and located him in the 100 block of South Fifth Street. The suspect was identified by police as Bethel M. Bekele, 27.

**Subject:** Bank Robbery Suspect Arrested  
News Broadcasts: 2/28

A suspect in several bank robberies in northwest Ohio, including one in Hancock County, has been arrested. The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced that said Gage Daniel Shafer Haws was apprehended at a Findlay residence by a Findlay Police Department SWAT Team. The 28-year-old Haws is suspected in bank robberies in Hancock, Putnam, Wyandot, Seneca and Fulton Counties.

**Subject:** Drive-by shooting arrest  
News Broadcasts: 1/26

Police in Fostoria say a Findlay man was arrested in connection with a drive-by shooting. The Fostoria Police Division says officers responded to the 400 block of West Tiffin Street on Wednesday afternoon on the report of a drive-by shooting and found numerous bullet holes in the residence along with several spent shell casings along the street. No injuries were reported in the shooting. Police say the driver, Kcaleeb Gonzales, 25, of Findlay, was detained based off of items found during the traffic stop and the information from witnesses.

**Subject:** Former Pries New Trial Date  
News Broadcasts: 1/5

A new trial date has been set in the case of Michael Zacharias, the former Findlay priest accused of sex trafficking and other offenses. His trial was set to begin on February 6<sup>th</sup> in U.S. District Court in Toledo but has now been moved back to May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Zacharias, the former pastor at St. Michael The Archangel Parish in Findlay, was arrested in August of 2020 and indicted in October of that year. The offenses Zacharias has been charged with allegedly involve boys from Catholic schools in Toledo.

**Subject: Officer Death Suspect Pleads**  
News Broadcasts: 3/16

One of the three men involved in the death of Bluffton police officer Dominic Francis in March of 2022 agreed to a plea deal with the Hancock County Prosecutor's Office. Zachary Love changed his plea to guilty on three felony counts in the indictment and two other counts were dismissed. The 22-year-old pleaded guilty to tampering with evidence, having a weapon under disability, and improper handling of a firearm in a vehicle. He faces a maximum of 7 ½ years in prison. His sentencing hearing has been set for May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Subject: Gaming Parlor Raided**  
News Broadcasts: 3/12

A task force executed a search warrant at a Findlay business after receiving numerous complaints about it, authorities said. The Hancock County METRICH Drug Task Force along with the Findlay Police Department, Hancock County Sheriff's Office, Ohio Investigative Unit and Findlay Street Department executed a search warrant at Lucky Dragon Internet Café at 1107 Tiffin Avenue. The task force said the search stemmed from an ongoing investigation into several citizen complaints about the business.

**Subject: Fostoria Sex Offender Operation**  
News Broadcasts: 2/20

The Fostoria Police Department has been conducting special covert operations as part of the national program Internet Crimes Against Children, also known as ICAC, over the last 10 months. Fostoria Police Officer Kyle Reinbolt, who has led all of the investigations, has arrested and charged 15 different suspects during the operations. The investigations led to numerous charges of Attempted Sexual Conduct with a Minor, Importuning, and Disseminating Harmful Material to a Juvenile. During the operations, Officer Reinbolt had contact with the suspects online and through texting - posing as a child - and was sought out by the suspects to engage in sexual conduct.

**Subject: Officer Death Suspect Plea/Sentence**  
News Broadcasts: 2/21

One of the three men arrested in connection with the death of Bluffton police officer Dominic Francis in March of 2022 agreed to a plea deal with the Hancock County Prosecutor's Office. Dante Tate pleaded guilty to two felony counts of receiving stolen property, while counts of grand theft of a motor vehicle and improper handling of a firearm in a vehicle were dismissed. Tate, 19, was sentenced to 2 ½ years in prison on the two felony charges.

**Subject: Carey Shooting Victim/Suspect**  
News Broadcasts: 2/13



The Carey Police Department has released the names of the people involved in a fatal shooting from over the weekend. The police department says it received a call about a shooting at 104 Lindenwood Place at 11:31 Saturday night. The arriving officer discovered a man's body in the street at the intersection of Lindenwood Place and Pine Tree Drive that had suffered multiple gunshot wounds. The deceased was identified as Nathan A. Stroub, 42, of Carey. A few minutes later, police say a suspect arrived at the police department and was detained. The suspect was identified as Samuel W. Seabert, 43, of Carey.

**Subject:** Putnam County Bank Robbery  
News Broadcasts: 2/12

Authorities in Putnam County are investigating a bank robbery. The Kalida Police Department says a man robbed the Union Bank Company at 110 East North Street in Kalida on Saturday at 11 a.m. Investigators say the individual approached the teller with a black handgun and made threatening demands for money. The teller complied and the suspect exited the bank walking west on East North Street.

## WFIN COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Politics**

**Stories run an average of 30 seconds.**

**Programming as Follows:**

**Subject:** Mayoral Forum Held  
News Broadcasts: 3/29

A Mayoral Forum featuring Findlay Mayor Christina Muryn and primary challenger Haydee Sadler was held on WFIN Wednesday night. The hour-long candidate forum was held at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts and moderated by WFIN's Chris Oaks. The two Republicans spoke on a variety of issues ranging from how to best utilize state and federal grant funds, to concerns about the strategic planning process, how to address the opioid crisis, historic preservation and much more.

**Subject:** Primary Filing Deadline  
News Broadcasts: 2/1

The filing deadline for the May 2<sup>nd</sup> primary election was Wednesday. According to the Hancock County Board of Elections, Findlay Mayor Christina Muryn will have a challenger in the Republican primary as Haydee Sadler filed to run. No Democrats had filed to run for mayor as of the deadline.

In other races, incumbent Findlay City Council member Dennis Hellman, who represents the Second Ward, is being challenged by Michael Gentry in the Republican primary. In the Third Ward, incumbent Beth Warnecke is being challenged by fellow Republican Kraig Kutschbach in the primary, and Democrat Shawn Mason also filed to run. Among the issues that were filed to be on the May 2<sup>nd</sup> primary ballot were a renewal income tax for Cory Rawson Local School District and a renewal tax levy for Van Buren Local Schools. There are no countywide issues. All of this is unofficial until certified by the Hancock County Board of Elections by checking signatures and making sure petitions were filled out correctly.