

Blanchard River Broadcasting Company  
WFIN-AM  
Findlay, OH

Issues/Program Report for Q3 2022

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.

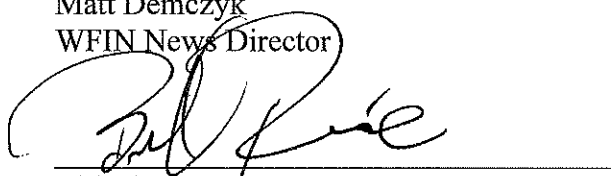
WFIN News Director Matt Demczyk has noted the following as significant issues during the July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022 time period:

- The man convicted of shooting a state trooper in Findlay was sentenced
- Findlay High School fell victim to an active shooter hoax
- Health officials warned of a spike in overdoses in Hancock County
- Findlay City Schools BOE voted to install an active shooter protection system
- Properties were cleared for a downtown recreation area in Findlay

This letter with the attached documentation was placed in the WFIN Online Public Inspection File on October 7, 2022.



Matt Demczyk  
WFIN News Director



Bill Rice  
WFIN Program Director



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:** Active Shooter Hoax

News Broadcasts: 9/23

Police officers rushed to Findlay High School to investigate after somebody called in a report of an active shooter at the high school. The call came in to the police department at around 1:20 Friday afternoon and police had the high school and Millstream Career Center checked and cleared in about 45 minutes. We talked with Captain James Mathias outside the school after it was checked. He said the call was a hoax and no shots were fired and no one was injured. The captain said similar active shooter hoax calls happened in other cities in Ohio as well as around the country on Friday.

**Subject:** Trooper Shooter Sentenced

News Broadcasts: 7/13

The man convicted in June of shooting and wounding a state trooper alongside Interstate 75 in Findlay last fall has been sentenced to prison. Robert Hathorn was sentenced to 26-31 years behind bars - 24 years of which will be mandatory. We spoke with Hancock County Prosecutor Phil Riegle after the sentence was handed down. Judge Reginald Routson cited Hathorn's likeliness to reoffend and previous violence against law enforcement as a few of the factors that went into the sentence.

**Subject:** Shots Fired/Suspect Sought

News Broadcasts: 9/15

The Hancock County Sheriff's Office is investigating after a man fired a handgun at a person at a residence on the southern end of the county and then fled the scene. The sheriff's office says it happened at 7400 County Road 304 at around 12:42 Thursday afternoon. Deputies responded to the area and were unable to locate the suspect, identified as Austin Wickman, 28, of Findlay.

**Subject:** Bill Ruse Dies

News Broadcasts: 8/31

Bill Ruse, former President and CEO of Blanchard Valley Hospital has passed away. Ruse led the local hospital system for decades before retiring in 2001. Scott Malaney replaced Ruse as CEO and says Bill was very gracious in the transition and afterwards. "Bill was absolutely exemplary in terms of how he dealt with leaving after so long and helping me," Malaney told WFIN.

**Subject:** Argyle Lot Bought

News Broadcasts: 7/31

The long-vacant Argyle lot in downtown Findlay will be home to a new residential building. Tim Mayle, director of Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development, says Trivium Development has purchased the lot. He says the company has plans to build a 36 room apartment building on the site, and the first floor will include 4,000 square feet of commercial/retail space. The Argyle building was torn down after being severely damaged in a fire in February of 2012.

**Subject:** Carey Shooting

News Broadcasts: 7/10

The mayor of the Village of Carey says there was one victim in a shooting incident in the village on Sunday morning and one person was arrested. Mayor Jennifer Rathburn says village police responded to the area of Newhard Street and North Vance Street at 7:53 Sunday morning on the report of a male subject who had fired multiple shots at homes in the area and was also holding a knife. The mayor says there was one victim in the shooting, and they were transported to Blanchard Valley Hospital where they died.

**Subject:** Hancock High COVID Again

News Broadcasts: 7/29

Hancock County has jumped up to the 'high' level of community transmission of COVID-19 as determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Last week the county went down to the 'low' level after being at the 'medium' level a week before that. Hancock Public Health is reporting 148 new cases and six new hospital admissions over the last week.

**Subject:** \$1 Million Ticket  
News Broadcasts: 8/24

The Ohio Lottery says a \$1 million Mega Millions lottery ticket was sold in Findlay. The ticket for the Tuesday night drawing was sold at the Eastside Party Mart in the Shell gas station at 2451 Tiffin Avenue. The ticket matches five numbers, only missing the jackpot by not having the correct Mega Ball. The numbers are 3, 5, 47, 67 and the Mega Ball is 7. The Ohio Lottery posted to its social media on Wednesday asking "is it yours?"

**Subject:** Overdose Spike  
News Broadcasts: 9/19

Hancock County health officials say there's been a recent spike in suspected overdoses. Hancock Public Health says, since September 13th, there have been eight suspected drug overdoses in Findlay and Hancock County, which is an unusually high number. The Hancock County Quick Response Team (QRT) will be following up with overdose survivors to offer assistance. The QRT is a service that works with law enforcement to help survivors of non-fatal overdoses get into treatment. (details below)

**Subject:** Shooter System FCS  
News Broadcasts: 8/16

At the Findlay City Schools Board of Education meeting Monday night, the board voted to install an immediate active shooter notification system called SafeDefend in their schools. SafeDefend utilizes multiple ways of communication in the event of an active shooter situation as well as provides staff with crisis management options and training, including but not limited to defensive force and first aid. Each classroom and large common spaces throughout the district will be equipped with a safety box in classrooms and activation modules for hallways.

**Subject:** Senior Towers Possible Shooter  
News Broadcasts: 7/17

One person was taken into custody after police responded to Findlay Senior Tower Apartments on the report of possible gunfire from an apartment and were engaged in a standoff with a person. The situation began at around 5 p.m. Saturday at Senior Towers, which is located at 806 Bright Road in Findlay. Officers responded to the scene and attempted to make contact at the apartment door with the person inside.

**Subject:** Water Safe To Drink  
News Broadcasts: 9/29

The City of Findlay says the city's water is safe to drink. The city says, due to a sudden increase in nonhazardous algae, the city's water has an earthy taste and odor. The city says the water is safe to drink and will not cause any adverse health effects. City officials says the issue is being resolved and taste and odor should normalize next week as the treatments take effect.

**Subject:** Former Priest Trial Date Set  
News Broadcasts: 8/19

A trial date has been set for a former Findlay priest accused of child sex trafficking and other offenses. Michael Zacharias' trial is set to begin on February 6th in U.S. District Court in Toledo. Zacharias, 55, 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 charges he's facing include a total of five counts; two counts of sex trafficking of a minor by force, fraud, or coercion; two counts of sex trafficking an adult by force, fraud, or coercion and one count of sex trafficking of a minor.

## WFIN COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Business**

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**Programming as Follows:**

**Subject:** Argyle Lot Bought  
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**Subject:** Wilson's Dining Room Open  
News Broadcasts: 8/17

Wilson's has reopened its dining room. The Findlay landmark made the announcement on Facebook recently, to the delight of their many customers. "Great news! We were getting worried about you losing business because of the dining room

closure! Of course, we also noticed the drive thru hasn't slowed down any!! That's good too!" said Sharon Redick-Like.

**Subject:** Marathon Petroleum Q2 Results

News Broadcasts: 8/2

Marathon Petroleum reported its second-quarter numbers on Tuesday.

The company says its net income for Q2 was \$5.9 billion, which compares with a net income of \$8.5 billion for the second quarter of 2021. The company's adjusted earnings for the second quarter was \$9.1 billion, compared with \$2.2 billion for the second quarter of 2021.

President and CEO Michael Hennigan says they accomplished a lot in the second quarter.

**Subject:** Goodyear Blimp in Findlay

News Broadcasts: 8/31

The Goodyear Blimp could be seen in the skies of Findlay on Wednesday afternoon.

The blimp circled over Cooper Tire a few times and then circled over the Hancock County Fairgrounds as well. On their social media, the blimp said Findlay is family now and they were saying hello to their legacy Cooper Tire associates and the Findlay and Hancock County communities ahead of the opening night of the Hancock County Fair.

In 2021, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company completed its purchase of Cooper Tire & Rubber Company in Findlay.

**Subject:** Jost Leaving Alliance

News Broadcasts: 7/21

The Findlay-Hancock County Alliance board of directors, led by GSW Manufacturing's Annette Edgington, has announced that Glenn Jost, President and CEO, will step down effective September 16, 2022. He and his wife will be relocating to Texas to be closer to family. Jost has served as President and CEO of the Findlay-Hancock County Alliance since last November.

**Subject:** Kalmbach Testing Lab

News Broadcasts: 9/13

The feed industry will soon have another option for laboratory testing services. Groundbreaking for Veritas Agrilabs™ was held in Carey. The lab will focus on testing animal feed ingredients, finished feed, and forages for customers across the United States. The name Veritas, which means, truth, in Latin, was chosen for the name because it represents the values to which the laboratory organization aspires.

**Subject:** New Event Space

News Broadcasts: 8/18

There will be a grand opening celebration for the new event space at Hillcrest Golf Club in Findlay. Everyone's welcome to come out Saturday for the grand opening of The Crest Event Center at 800 West Bigelow Avenue. We spoke with Jeff Seery of Clouse House Golf about how the project came about. As Jeff mentioned in the audio above, The Crest is a brand new 25,000-square-foot event space is perfectly suited for music events, sports leagues, corporate meetings and seminars, and wedding receptions.

**Subject:** McDonald's Rezoning Request

News Broadcasts: 9/28

A property owner wants to put a McDonald's in place of the Fifth Third Bank at the northwest corner of South Main Street and Sixth Street/Lake Cascades Parkway in Findlay. To make the plan work, they would have to get a house on West McPherson Avenue that's behind the bank rezoned to commercial and also get an alley vacated. The Findlay City Planning Commission will vote on the rezoning request and alley vacation at their October 13th meeting and make their recommendation to city council which will ultimately make the decision.

## WFIN COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Education**

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

**Programming as Follows:**

**Subject:** FCS Teachers Guns

News Broadcasts: 8/16

With the new school year about to begin the Findlay City Schools Board of Education has not had any discussions about the new Ohio law making it easier for teachers to be armed.

In June, Governor DeWine signed House Bill 99 into law that drastically reduces the training hours required for teachers and other school staff to carry guns at school.

An Ohio Supreme Court decision last year required school staff to have peace officer level training to carry a weapon – that's more than 700 hours. The new law says they'll only need up to 24.

Schools are not required to allow staff to be armed and some have already said they won't do it.

Findlay City Schools Board of Education President Matt Cooper said the school district has been taking steps to ensure students and staff are safe and secure - such as the implementation of the new SafeDefend Active Shooter Protection System - and the board has no plans to discuss teachers carrying guns at this time.

**Subject:** FCS Back to School Bash

News Broadcasts: 8/3

Findlay City Schools will be holding a Community Day - Back to School Bash on Friday.

The community event will be held on Friday, August 5th from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Donnell Stadium. Admission is free.

The event will include kids activities, food vendors and more.

All events and vendors will open at 11 a.m.

**Subject:** FCS New Teachers

News Broadcasts: 8/12

Findlay City Schools welcomed 45 new teachers to the district on Tuesday during New Trojan Orientation. New staff members received a warm Trojan welcome and information on goals and expectations. "We are excited to welcome our new team members to Findlay City Schools!" said Katie Abbott, Director of Whole Child and Secondary Instruction.



**Subject:** FCS New Signage  
News Broadcasts: 8/22

Findlay City Schools is updating the signage at schools across the district. Interim Superintendent Krista Crates-Miller says the signage is being updated to reflect some changes in their buildings and some are being updated because they're weathered. She says the new signs align with their logos and current branding. "We're very excited to welcome back our students on August, 23rd. Go Trojans!"

**Subject:** UF Arch Ceremony  
News Broadcasts: 8/15

Hundreds of new University of Findlay students completed the traditional Arch Ceremony as they embark on their journey at UF. Legend has it that if they walk back through the Arch before commencement they won't graduate. Move-in day at the University of Findlay was held on Thursday. New students, along with the help of family, faculty, staff, returning students and other volunteers, made the move into their campus housing.

**Subject:** Active Shooter Hoax  
News Broadcasts: 9/23

Police officers rushed to Findlay High School to investigate after somebody called in a report of an active shooter at the high school. The call came in to the police department at around 1:20 Friday afternoon and police had the high school and Millstream Career Center checked and cleared in about 45 minutes. We talked with Captian James Mathias outside the school after it was checked. He said the call was a hoax and no shots were fired and no one was injured. The captain said similiar active shooter hoax calls happened in other cities in Ohio as well as around the country on Friday.

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**Subject:** FFE Garage Sale  
News Broadcasts: 7/14

Findlay High School's award-winning show choir, Findlay First Edition, will be holding its annual garage sale the week of July 11th. The garage sale is the group's biggest fundraiser of the year and proceeds go towards the purchase of costumes, competition fees and other items needed throughout the season. The garage sale begins Thursday, July 14th at the Findlay High School cafeteria with an early bird sale in which people can pay \$5 to be among the first to check out the items for sale.

**Subject:** First Lady At Library  
News Broadcasts: 9/28

Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine stopped by the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library to read to kids and promote Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The First Lady read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to youngsters during her visit and encouraged people to sign up their kids in the program. Children enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library receive a monthly book delivery until their 5th birthday.

**Subject:** Golden Apple Semifinalists  
News Broadcasts: 9/9

The Findlay Rotary Club has announced its nine semifinalists for the 2022 Golden Apple Awards. Annually, Rotary chooses three teachers from the elementary level, three teachers from the middle school level and three teachers from the high school level to compete for the award. At the elementary level, the three semifinalists are: Sarah Cleary, Second Grade teacher at Jefferson Primary; Mandy Tiech, Speech Pathologist at Jefferson Primary; and Tonya Thorbahn, Gifted Intervention teacher at Chamberlin Hill Elementary.

**Subject:** ONU Ranking  
News Broadcasts: 9/12

Ohio has a number of highly ranked schools on a newly released list from U.S. News and World Report. The publication's 2022-2023 Best Colleges Rankings place Ohio Northern University in Ada at number 4 on the list of Best Regional Colleges in the Midwest. ONU points out that the university was also ranked the 2nd Best Value among regional colleges, highlighting how its student career outcomes make it a strong, investment-worthy endeavor. "We're so pleased to be consistently recognized as one of the best schools in the nation," said President Melissa J. Baumann.

**Subject:** School Zone Explainer  
News Broadcasts: 8/22

The Findlay Police Department is reminding drivers to pay attention in school zones and to obey school bus laws as the new school year gets underway. Findlay Police Officer Brian White says the department has received a lot of questions regarding the speed limit in school zones.

**Subject:** UF Food Robots  
News Broadcasts: 8/15

University of Findlay students returning to campus for the new academic year will notice upgrades to dining facilities and new food delivery robots. Henderson Dining Hall, which serves as the primary dining location on campus, underwent a much-needed renovation that includes a new brick pizza oven, a 24/7 Simply To Go area with new meal customization options, updated build-your-own burger station, international cuisine station and more.

## WFIN COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Flood Mitigation**

**Programming as Follows:**

**Subject:** Properties Torn Down  
News Broadcasts: 9/29

The City of Findlay recently had some properties it purchased on Taylor Street that it says were in rough shape torn down. The removal of the properties will make room for parking for the planned Downtown Recreation Area that's part of the Phase 2 Benching project that will be happening east of North Main Street. "I'm super excited, really this is just step one of the work that will be put into this downtown area," said Findlay Mayor Christina Muryn. "I think over the next year or so people are gonna really see it being transformed."

The city wanted to ensure that the benching area east of North Main Street not only serves its primary purpose of flood mitigation but also provides a broader community benefit as a recreation and gathering area.

**Subject:** Flood Mitigation Project Timelines  
News Broadcasts: 9/30

Findlay Mayor Christina Muryn says the project to replace the Norfolk Southern railroad bridge and eliminate a choke point on the river, and the Phase 2 Benching project east of North Main Street will go out to bid in 2023. We spoke with the mayor about the downtown recreation area that will be part of Phase 2 benching. The city wanted to ensure that the benching area east of North Main Street not only serves its primary purpose of flood mitigation but also provides a broader community benefit as a recreation and gathering area.

## WFIN COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Government**

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

**Programming as Follows:**

**Subject:** Planning Commission Approves Building  
News Broadcasts: 9/8

The Findlay City Planning Commission has approved the site plan for a spec building on the northeast side of Findlay. The 100,000 square foot building is planned for a site just north the new Amazon facility and west of ZF Active Safety. Access to the development will be off of Production Drive. Tim Mayle, director of Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development, says in 2017 Jerry Robinson began working with Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development to develop a spec building.

**Subject:** McDonald's Rezoning Request  
News Broadcasts: 9/28

A property owner wants to put a McDonald's in place of the Fifth Third Bank at the northwest corner of South Main Street and Sixth Street/Lake Cascades Parkway in Findlay. To make the plan work, they would have to get a house on West McPherson Avenue that's behind the bank rezoned to commercial and also get an alley vacated. The Findlay City Planning Commission will vote on the rezoning request and alley vacation at their October 13th meeting and make their recommendation to city council which will ultimately make the decision.

**Subject:** Food and Resource Fair  
News Broadcasts: 9/12

Several community agencies and nonprofits will gather on Thursday, September 15th at the Hancock County Fairgrounds to provide resources and information to community members. Resources will range from physical and mental health to workforce development and individual and family needs. Attendees will receive nutritional education, easy-to-make recipes, and other key resources for whole person wellness.

**Subject:** New Fostoria Police Chief  
News Broadcasts: 7/10

The Fostoria Police Division has a new police chief. Gabe Wedge was sworn in on Tuesday, which was the last day on the job for retiring Police Chief Keith Lorenzo. Chief Wedge says Chief Lorenzo implemented a lot of good things in his time as chief and that he has no big changes planned. The 45-year-old Wedge was born and raised in Fostoria and has been a police officer for 20 years, the last 17 in Fostoria.

**Subject:** Job and Family Closure  
News Broadcasts: 9/21

Hancock County Job and Family Services has announced that they will be closed to the public on Friday, September 23rd. The agency said it apologizes for any inconvenience caused by the one-day closure. Through its partnerships with community organizations and state and federal government agencies, Hancock County Job & Family Services provides a number of services to families and individuals in need of assistance. The services range from food stamps, cash assistance, and child care subsidies to child support enforcement, job training, and access to medical care.

**Subject:** Park and Rec Board  
News Broadcasts: 8/3

The City of Findlay is looking for people interested in serving on the City of Findlay Parks and Recreation Board. The city says people interested in being on the board should email Mayor Christina Muryn at [cmuryn@findlayohio.com](mailto:cmuryn@findlayohio.com) with their address, contact information, and reason they are interested. Interested individuals would have to live in Findlay. The deadline is Wednesday, August 10th.

**Subject:** Tiffin Mayor Situation  
News Broadcasts: 7/13

The City of Tiffin needs a new mayor, less than 24 hours after one was appointed. According to the city's website, Zach Perkins, who was just appointed mayor, said he will not accept the position and immediately resigned his council position. Former mayor Aaron Montz stepped down in June to accept a position at the non-profit Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership. City council is set to meet Thursday to discuss the next steps.

**Subject:** Tiffin New Mayor  
News Broadcasts: 7/19

The City of Tiffin has its first female mayor. Tiffin City Council voted 4-1 to make 3rd ward councilmember Dawn Iannantuono the next mayor for the city of 18,000 in Seneca County. "I am humbled, honored and excited to sit before you as the next Mayor of the City of Tiffin," Iannantuono said. "I look forward to working with all of you to move our community forward."

## WFIN COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Health & Safety**

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

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**Subject:** Carey Shooting

News Broadcasts: 7/10

The mayor of the Village of Carey says there was one victim in a shooting incident in the village on Sunday morning and one person was arrested. Mayor Jennifer Rathburn says village police responded to the area of Newhard Street and North Vance Street at 7:53 Sunday morning on the report of a male subject who had fired multiple shots at homes in the area and was also holding a knife. The mayor says there was one victim in the shooting, and they were transported to Blanchard Valley Hospital where they died.

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**Subject:** ADAMHS Feedback

News Broadcasts: 9/7

The Hancock County Opioid & Addictions Task Force is hosting two opportunities for the public to share how addiction is affecting them and the people they love.

As the Task Force works on revising its strategic plan it wants to know what is and isn't working to bring help, hope, and healing to people affected by addiction.

We spoke with Zach Thomas of ADAMHS about the meetings. meetings can still give their feedback online by clicking [here](#).

**Subject:** COVID Vaccine Boosters

News Broadcasts: 9/16

Hancock Public Health says, effective Monday, September 19th, they'll be offering COVID vaccines for 1st and 2nd doses, as well as booster shots (including the updated COVID-19 booster) every Monday and Friday from 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. while supplies last. The updated COVID-19 booster helps protect against the original COVID-19 strain and the omicron variant.

**Subject:** Glucose Project

News Broadcasts: 8/15

Hancock Public Health along with its partners, Blanchard Valley Health System and the University of Findlay, College of Pharmacy, have come together to collect data on the effectiveness of real time blood sugar monitoring and continuous feedback to Type 2 diabetic patients on managing the disease. This study promotes the use of the Dexcom Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM), thus eliminating the need to use finger stick blood sugar testing.

**Subject:** Mental Health Grants

News Broadcasts: 8/28

The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation Board of Trustees recently approved grants in the mental health field totaling \$23,584. The grants will go to four local organizations for various projects in the field.

- Cancer Patient Services was awarded \$5,000 for telehealth counseling.
- Family Resource Center was awarded \$5,000 for a public safety response program.
- Findlay City Schools was awarded \$7,584 for an employee assistance program and wellness day.

**Subject: Overdose Awareness Event**

News Broadcasts: 8/23

An Overdose Awareness event will be held in Findlay.

The educational event will be held on Friday, August 26th from 2 to 5 in the atrium of the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts at 200 West Main Cross Street in Findlay.

A panel of experts will speak that includes survivors of overdose, family members and harm reduction providers. Narcan will be available at the event.

**Subject: OVI Checkpoint Findlay**

News Broadcasts: 7/17

The Ohio State Highway Patrol says 565 vehicles drove through the OVI checkpoint in front of the University of Findlay on Friday night. Two of the vehicles were diverted for further investigation. One driver was arrested for OVI and the other charged with possession of marijuana. Following the checkpoint officers and troopers worked a saturation patrol in and around the city of Findlay and during the saturation patrol 15 traffic stops were made and one person was arrested for OVI.

**Subject:** Quality of Life Survey

News Broadcasts: 9/12

Hancock Public Health is inviting community member to take the 2022 Hancock County Quality of Life Survey. The health department is seeking feedback on questions regarding whether Hancock County is a good place to raise children and to grow old, among other things.

**Subject:** Raise the Bar Funding

News Broadcasts: 8/8

Raise the Bar Hancock County is in line to receive up to \$930,000 over the next three years as part of The Ohio Manufacturers' Association's (OMA) \$23,492,808 award from the Economic Development Administration's American Rescue Plan Act "Good Jobs Challenge" program. OMA is the lead applicant and system lead entity for one of the 32 projects throughout the country to receive a portion of \$500 million in federal funds. The federal initiative aims to get Americans back to work by strengthening workforce partnerships that lead to good-paying jobs.

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News Broadcasts: 7/17

One person was taken into custody after police responded to Findlay Senior Tower Apartments on the report of possible gunfire from an apartment and were engaged in a standoff with a person. The situation began at around 5 p.m. Saturday at Senior Towers, which is located at 806 Bright Road in Findlay. Officers responded to the scene and attempted to make contact at the apartment door with the person inside.

**Subject:** Shots Fired/Suspect Sought  
News Broadcasts: 9/15

The Hancock County Sheriff's Office is investigating after a man fired a handgun at a person at a residence on the southern end of the county and then fled the scene. The sheriff's office says it happened at 7400 County Road 304 at around 12:42 Thursday afternoon. Deputies responded to the area and were unable to locate the suspect, identified as Austin Wickman, 28, of Findlay.

**Subject:** Former Priest Trial Date Set  
News Broadcasts: 8/19

A trial date has been set for a former Findlay priest accused of child sex trafficking and other offenses. Michael Zacharias' trial is set to begin on February 6th in U.S. District Court in Toledo. Zacharias, 55, 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 charges he's facing include a total of five counts; two counts of sex trafficking of a minor by force, fraud, or coercion; two counts of sex trafficking an adult by force, fraud, or coercion and one count of sex trafficking of a minor.

**Subject:** Trooper Shooter Sentenced  
News Broadcasts: 7/13

The man convicted in June of shooting and wounding a state trooper alongside Interstate 75 in Findlay last fall has been sentenced to prison. Robert Hathorn was sentenced to 26-31 years behind bars - 24 years of which will be mandatory. We spoke with Hancock County Prosecutor Phil Riegle after the sentence was handed down. Judge Reginald Routson cited Hathorn's likeliness to reoffend and previous violence against law enforcement as a few of the factors that went into the sentence.

**Subject:** Seneca County Standoff

News Broadcasts: 9/13

A standoff in Seneca County ended peacefully on Monday when police arrested a Dayton man who was wanted for shooting a woman and stealing his car earlier in the day near Xenia. Police put out a 'be on the lookout' for LaDashiaun Brown and a few hours later Seneca County sheriff's deputies found the stolen car next to a trailer near the town of Republic. Neighbors were evacuated for their safety when police tried to talk to Brown. When Brown gave himself up, he was placed under arrest for stealing a vehicle and felonious assault.

**Subject:** Shots Fired Into Vehicle

News Broadcasts: 9/27

The Findlay Police Department says officers arrested a woman on Monday who earlier in the day fired shots into a vehicle while driving. The police department says officers were dispatched to the area of Howard Street and Broad Avenue around 4:15 Monday afternoon to investigate a report of shots being fired. Police learned that a verbal argument began between several people at 1100 West Trenton Avenue and then continued onto Howard Street coming into the city. Police say an ex of one of the subjects began following the other in a vehicle.

**Subject:** Tate Pleads Guilty

News Broadcasts: 7/6

One of three men arrested in connection with a deadly pursuit that took the life of Bluffton police officer Dominic Francis pleaded guilty to the charges he was facing. Dante Tate pleaded guilty to the charges of failure to comply and receiving stolen property in Medina County Common Pleas Court. He previously pleaded not guilty following his March 31st arrest. Tate will be sentenced next month.

## WFIN COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Politics**

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

**Programming as Follows:**

**Subject:** State Rep. Candidate Forum

News Broadcasts: 9/29

The two people vying to be state representative in the 83rd House District participated in a candidate forum. The candidate forum between incumbent Republican State Rep. Jon Cross, of Kenton, and Democrat challenger Claire Osborne, of Findlay, was held at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday and aired on WFIN. You can watch the forum below. The deadline to register to vote in the fall midterm election is October 11th. Election Day is on Tuesday, November 8th.

**Subject:** Osborne Eligibility Question

News Broadcasts: 8/9

The Ohio House Republican Alliance is asking elections officials to review a local Democrat's qualifications to determine if she's eligible to run for office, given her criminal history. Findlay's Claire Osborne won the Democratic primary for the 83rd District seat in the Ohio House of Representatives in the second Ohio primary on August 2nd. Osborne, if permitted to remain on the ballot, will go up against Republican State Representative Jon Cross in the fall, who ran unopposed in the primary. Osborne says she was convicted of two drug felonies in 2014 and 2015. The Ohio House Republican Alliance, citing state law, says the felony convictions disqualify her from office and is asking elections officials to review the situation.

**Subject:** Second Primary Coming Up

News Broadcasts: 8/1

The Ohio Secretary of State's office is planning to spend nearly \$245,000 extra to promote public awareness of the August 2nd special primary election. Cleveland.com reports that's three times as much as the state spent to promote a similar campaign for the May primary election.

State officials are concerned about low voter turnout in August.

Voters will pick Republican and Democratic candidates for state legislative races and State Central Committee races.

**Subject:** Second Primary Results

News Broadcasts: 8/2

Findlay's Claire Osborn won the Democratic primary for 83rd District state representative in the second Ohio primary on Tuesday. Unofficial results from the Ohio Secretary of State website show Osborn defeating Melissa Kritzell. Claire says Ohioans are resilient and she'll work toward creating an Ohio in which everyone thrives. Osborne will go up against Republican State Representative Jon Cross in the fall, who ran unopposed in the Tuesday primary.

**Subject:** Supreme Court Justice In Town

News Broadcasts: 9/9

Ohio Supreme Court Justice Sharon Kennedy and State Senator Rob McColley were in Findlay to speak at the Hancock County GOP's First Friday Luncheon. Kennedy is running for Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, a position that's being vacated by current Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor due to term limits. Kennedy's opponent in the race is fellow Ohio Supreme Court Justice Jennifer Brunner. Learn more about Kennedy by [clicking here](#), and learn more about Brunner by [clicking here](#). Election Day is Tuesday, November 8th.