

Blanchard River Broadcasting Company  
WKXA-FM  
Findlay, OH

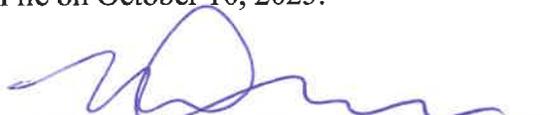
Issues/Program Report for Q3 2023

WKXA makes an ongoing effort to serve the community of Findlay and the surrounding area. As part of this effort, WKXA has identified the most significant needs, problems and interests for our coverage area. This quarterly report documents the programming provided by WKXA 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.

WKXA News Director Matt Demczyk has noted the following as significant issues during the July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023 time period:

- Sheetz announced it would be opening a Findlay facility, creating many jobs
- Several police pursuits made their way through the area
- The University of Findlay Athletic Department was hit with NCAA violations
- Hancock County earned the Best Counties Award from Site Selection Magazine
- Sheriff Heldman announced he would be retiring after serving 7 terms as sheriff

This letter with the attached documentation was placed in the WKXA Online Public Inspection File on October 10, 2023.



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Matt Demczyk  
WKXA News Director



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Rex Bibler  
WKXA Program Director



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J. Michael Holman  
WKXA General Manager

## WKXA COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Breaking News**

Stories run an average of 30 seconds.

Programming as Follows:

**Subject:** Man pleads guilty to killing wife

News Broadcasts: 9/14

A Hancock County man pleaded guilty to a murder charge a few days before his trial was to begin. Brian L. Ziessler, 67, was set to go on trial on September 18<sup>th</sup> in connection with his wife's shooting death in 2021. Deputies arrived at 16777 Township Road 205, east of Findlay near the reservoirs, on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to find Sherri Ziessler, 59, dead of multiple gunshot wounds. On Wednesday, Ziessler pleaded guilty to murder in Hancock County Common Pleas Court.

**Subject:** Circle K robbed

News Broadcasts: 7/8

A Findlay gas station was robbed early Saturday morning. The Findlay Police Department says it happened at the Circle K at 100 Crystal Avenue at 6:07 Saturday morning. Police say the male individual you can see in the surveillance photo walked up to the clerk and said he needed money and that he didn't want to shoot anyone. The suspect got away with an undisclosed amount of cash.

**Subject:** Fatal accident

News Broadcasts: 7/3

The Findlay Police Department said a man died after getting knocked over by a vehicle. It happened in the 900 block of Sherwood Drive at 10:25 Monday night, according to police. Police said James Firth, 66, of Findlay, was walking westbound along the south side of the 900 block of Sherwood Drive when a vehicle that was accidentally put in reverse rolled at idle and knocked him down. Firth was taken to Blanchard Valley Hospital with a head injury and died at the hospital.

**Subject:** Kidnapper charged with murder  
News Broadcasts: 7/13

The man police say kidnapped a baby from North Baltimore and then crashed into a house in Tiffin has been charged with aggravated murder in the baby's death. Authorities say the 7-month-old baby was killed when Jonathan Baker, 23, crashed into a house in Tiffin while fleeing police on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Officers broke out a back window of the vehicle and retrieved the baby who was bleeding and had shallow breathing and the baby was rushed to a hospital but passed away.

**Subject:** Person accidentally shot  
News Broadcasts: 7/3

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**Subject:** Pursuit in Findlay  
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The Findlay Police Department says a woman led them on a nearly ten mile pursuit when they responded to investigate a harassment complaint. Police responded to the 10000 block of Township Road 89 on Tuesday afternoon on the report of a woman swinging a shovel at people in the area. When officers arrived on the scene, police say Jessica Onan, of Findlay, fled in a vehicle heading westbound on Township Road 89. Officers pursued Onan southbound on County Road 140 and on other streets.

**Subject:** Murder suspects shoot at troopers  
News Broadcasts: 9/2

The Ohio State Highway Patrol says two murder suspects from Michigan shot at law enforcement during a pursuit in Wood and Hancock Counties. The Highway Patrol says, at 7:40 Saturday night, troopers with the Bowling Green Post along with deputies from the Wood County Sheriff's Office located a vehicle and suspects wanted in connection with a carjacking and homicide that occurred earlier in the day in Monroe, Michigan. As troopers and deputies approached the vehicle at a rest area near Bowling Green, the suspects fled southbound on Interstate 75 and a pursuit ensued.

**Subject:** Police chase cornfield

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The Findlay Police Department said a driver led officers on a pursuit before taking his vehicle off the road and into a cornfield. Police say an officer attempted to pull over Jaden Thomas, 29, in the 400 block of East Sandusky Street on Sunday night for driving on a suspended license and he also had a warrant for his arrest but he failed to stop and led the officer on a pursuit.

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**Subject:** Best counties award

News Broadcasts: 7/4

Hancock County has been named the #1 County in Site Selection magazine's inaugural edition of America's Best Counties. This achievement recognizes Hancock County's outstanding success with business facility location and expansion projects on a per capita basis. For almost 70 years, Site Selection magazine has been a leading authority in assessing economic development efforts of states, metros, and micropolitan areas. The rankings provide insights for companies and site selection consultants into the effectiveness of communities in fostering economic growth and opportunities for business. Site Selection editors had never looked at project data through a county lens — until now.

**Subject:** Cooper tire fire  
News Broadcasts: 7/7

The Findlay Fire Department responded to Cooper Tire on Friday night for a fire on the roof. Fire crews learned that the fire was in an air handling unit, or dust collectors on the roof, and in the duct work connecting them to some production lines. Fire Chief Josh Eberle said it was a little tricky to access the dust collectors because once they got on the roof there were some obstacles in reaching them, and they had to stretch hose lines rather far. He said they were dispatched to the fire at 7:08 p.m. and it was determined to be under control at 8:55 p.m.

**Subject:** New apartment building  
News Broadcasts: 7/17

A new apartment building could be coming to Findlay. The Findlay City Planning Commission approved plans for a three-story, 24-unit apartment building on West McPherson Avenue. The building would be located on the south side of McPherson Avenue a little east of Hurd Avenue. The planning commission approved the plans with conditions.

**Subject:** Commissioner Bateson absent  
News Broadcasts: 7/19

Hancock County Commissioner William Bateson has been absent from the office since suffering a medical condition in the middle of June. "We wish him the best and look forward to his return when he's able," said fellow Hancock County Commissioner Tim Bechtol. Bechtol and Mike Pepple are the other two commissioners. Bechtol said, according to the Ohio Revised Code, after 90 days of being absent the office would be labeled as vacant. But, a communication from Bateson's doctor would afford another 30 days until the office is labeled as vacant.

**Subject:** Person stabbed  
News Broadcasts: 7/21

The Findlay Police Department is investigating a stabbing that sent a person to the hospital. It happened in the 200 block of North Main Street at approximately 10:50 Saturday night. Police say they responded

to the area on the report that a male had been stabbed. Upon arriving at the scene, officers were made aware that the victim was taken to Blanchard Valley Hospital by private vehicle. Officers spoke with witnesses who described a fight between multiple people in the area, but none had witnessed the victim being stabbed.

**Subject:** Police pursuit  
News Broadcasts: 8/29

The Findlay Police Department says a motorcyclist led an officer on a pursuit when the officer attempted to pull him over for a speeding violation. The officer attempted to stop the Harley Davidson in the 2300 block of South Main Street at around 1 a.m. Thursday. Police say the driver, Joshua Miller, 26, refused to stop and led the officer on a high-speed pursuit south on Main Street to the edge of the city. The pursuit, which reached 100 miles per hour at times, continued south on State Route 68 and then west on County Road 40 where Miller stopped.

**Subject:** LB school grand opening  
News Broadcasts: 8/29

A lot of people attended the grand opening celebration and ribbon-cutting for Liberty-Benton's new Elementary/Middle School. "It is indeed a great day to be an Eagle," said Superintendent Bruce Otley. "To see so many familiar faces coming in today enjoying this space that they helped us create." Bruce said the entire building is beautifully made and some of the notable features are the 800 seat performing arts center and the use of natural lighting throughout the building.

**Subject:** Sheetz coming to Findlay  
News Broadcasts: 8/25

Sheetz has announced that it will be constructing a new \$150 million facility in Findlay that will house additional food preparation and distribution functions as they expand their footprint into new markets. The project is expected to create 750 jobs over five years. The facility will be located on a 73 acre site on the east side of Lowes Distribution Center, bordered by Township Road 99 on the north and County Road 212 on the south. The company has been working closely with Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development, the Regional Growth Partnership, and JobsOhio on this project.

**Subject:** Drug dealer busted  
News Broadcasts: 9/28

A drug task force arrested a woman during a narcotics buy/bust operation in Findlay. Authorities say Stacy M. Cieply, 30, of Toledo, was stopped and arrested in the parking lot of Casey's on North Main Street in Findlay. She's accused of bringing down large amounts of methamphetamine from Toledo. Authorities say Cieply transported meth three times during the drug investigation. She was booked at the Hancock County Jail on a charge of drug trafficking.

**Subject:** Ballreich's acquired by Grippo's  
**News Broadcasts:** 9/22

Ballreich Snack Foods in Tiffin has announced that it was acquired by Cincinnati snack food manufacturer Grippo's. Ballreich's says the deal will add capacity to the Ballreich plant and jobs to Seneca County while enabling Grippo's to enhance its productivity, brand portfolio and market reach. "This is an exciting new chapter for all of us associated with Ballreich's," said President Tom Miller.

**Subject:** Sheriff not seeking reelection  
**News Broadcasts:** 9/18

Hancock County Sheriff Michael Heldman will not be seeking re-election in 2024. "Since 1997, it has been my distinct privilege to serve as the elected Sheriff of Hancock County. After careful consideration, I have decided not to seek an eighth term in the March 2024 primary election," Heldman said in a letter to the Hancock County Board of Elections. Heldman began his career with the Hancock County Sheriff's Office in 1972.

## WKXA COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

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**Subject:** Taylor Hyundai concert  
News Broadcasts: 7/25

The Taylor Automotive Family, together with Taylor Hyundai and Taylor Kia of Findlay, is thrilled to announce an extraordinary free concert event that will captivate music lovers of all ages. This spectacular evening of entertainment, combined with family-oriented activities, will take place at the newly constructed Taylor Hyundai of Findlay and Taylor Kia of Findlay dealerships, promising an unforgettable experience for the community. As an exciting highlight, attendees will have the opportunity to enter a giveaway for a chance to win a Free 2022 Hyundai Venue.

**Subject:** Manufacturing roundtable  
News Broadcasts: 8/21

Industry leaders from Northwest Ohio, along with the presidents from Bowling Green State University, University of Findlay, and Owens Community College welcomed several legislators on Tuesday for a manufacturing roundtable highlighting the Center for Advanced Manufacturing.

The Center for Advanced Manufacturing was created through a partnership between BGSU, UF, and Owens Community College. Its purpose is to serve as the crucial conduit between regional industry, higher education, and economic development.

**Subject:** Garner's president into hall of honor  
News Broadcasts: 9/26

Garner Trucking and Findlay native Sherri Garner Brumbaugh was recently named to the Ohio Trucking Association's Hall of Honor. The association proudly inscribed the name of Garner Brumbaugh of Garner Trucking, Inc. as a member of the 'Hall of Honor in recognition of distinguished service to the trucking industry'. Garner Brumbaugh has served in several leadership roles in various state and national trucking organizations.

**Subject:** Millstream Speedway Sold  
News Broadcasts: 9/25

The dirt track located on Township Road 95 a little northwest of Findlay has been purchased by Matt and Beth Cogley, which they confirmed in a post on Facebook. "First, we want to thank Greg and Mary Beth Roe for trusting us with this jewel! Secondly, we want to thank all of you who have posted your hopes for this track over the last few days. It's great to know that we have a strong base of interest out there!"

## WKXA COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Education**

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**Programming as Follows:**

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**Subject:** FCS teacher award

News Broadcasts: 7/21

Findlay City Schools has announced that preschool teacher Alyson Geise was selected as the winner of a nationwide "Blippi in my Classroom" contest. Ms. Geise won the opportunity to record an episode with Blippi alongside eight of her lucky students. Blippi has millions of viewers worldwide for his high-quality and free educational videos, with episodes receiving 500,000 views within days. Blippi's engaging and informative content has become a valuable resource for parents and educators alike, supporting early childhood education in a fun and interactive way.

**Subject:** Carey Schools grants

News Broadcasts: 7/20

The state has awarded more than \$9.8 million for projects to improve safety for students walking and biking to school. Among the area schools receiving grant funding are the Carey Exempted Village School District and Columbus Grove Local Schools. The Carey Exempted Village School District will be receiving \$347,325 for partial funding to extend a walk south of Memorial Park Boulevard for future extension to a nearby residential area, and to add a walk along the north side of Crabapple Drive from the crossing at the intersection with Yule Tree Drive to the High Street sidewalk.

**Subject:** FFE garage sale

News Broadcasts: 7/15

Findlay High School's award-winning show choir, Findlay First Edition, will be holding its annual Garage Sale at the Findlay High School cafeteria. FFE Director Kevin Manley, on with WFIN's Chris Oaks, says 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.

**Subject:** UF athletics violations

News Broadcasts: 9/14

The NCAA says the University of Findlay improperly certified eligibility for 82 student-athletes in 11 sports over three academic years. "The school and enforcement staff agreed that the violations occurred when the former director of compliance at the school — who felt overwhelmed by his responsibilities, particularly amid the COVID-19 pandemic and related virtual work conditions — did not complete required eligibility checklists or check for initial eligibility and amateurism certification, as required by NCAA rules. As a result, the school did not correctly certify 82 student-athletes across 11 sports. In total, 90 violations of NCAA rules occurred, and those student-athletes competed while ineligible in 136 contests and received actual/necessary expenses while ineligible or not properly certified," the NCAA said.

**Subject:** School bus reminder

News Broadcasts: 8/20

It's back-to-school time and safety officials are reminding drivers to start watching out for school buses and schoolkids and to follow all state laws. Parents are also urged to talk with their kids about how to act around school buses as drivers are reminded to keep their eyes peeled for children getting on and off of buses. The Findlay Police Department says drivers also need to remember to slow down in school zones when children are present.

**Subject:** Trojan country kickoff

News Broadcasts: 8/11

A lot of people came out to Donnell Stadium for the Trojan Country Kickoff celebration on Thursday afternoon to kick off the upcoming school year. The event included activities for the kids and the introduction of the sports teams and a scrimmage by the football team. New Findlay City Schools Superintendent Dr. Andy Hatton was blown away by the number of people that came out for the event.

**Subject:** UF move-in and arch ceremony

News Broadcasts: 8/10

There was a lot of activity on the University of Findlay campus on Thursday. It was move-in day, as new and returning students moved into their housing for the new school year. More than 600 first-time

freshman moved into their dorms on move-in day including Korah, from Kansas. (pictured above in the orange top) We asked Korah what brought her all the way to Findlay, Ohio for college. "They have a good Physical Therapy program and I'm playing softball here."

**Subject:** Veterans story walk  
News Broadcasts: 9/27

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at Findlay's Riverside Park to dedicate the new Heritage Trail Veterans Story Walk. "Our Hancock County Veterans have blazed a trail in many of our great conflicts and wars. We have a rich tradition of Veteran contribution to keeping peace," said Ed Newton, Resiliency Operations Manager for the Hancock County Veterans Service Office. The Heritage Trail begins at Litzenberg Memorial Woods on the county's west side and ends at Van Horn Cemetery on the county's east side.

**Subject:** UF career day  
News Broadcasts: 9/25

The University of Findlay will hold its first ever Career Exploration Day on Friday, September 29 from 9:30-11:25 a.m. The college of business is partnering with Marathon Petroleum and UF's College Credit Plus (CCP) office to help students research careers in business. College Credit Plus students who are in business classes at Perkins and New Riegel High Schools have been invited to network with Marathon representatives, take part in a team-building activities, and tour campus.

**Subject:** FCS homecoming court  
News Broadcasts: 9/15

The Findlay High School Homecoming Court has been announced.

Top Row (L-R): Matthew Guthrie, Will Cordonnier, Baret Helms, Jeremiah Spiceland, Jackson Zinna.

Seated (L-R): Lauren Gayhart, Corinne Seager, Molly Crates, Adelyn Metzger, Jenna Moyer.

The Homecoming Dance will be Saturday night at the high school. The Homecoming Parade will take place beginning at 5:30 p.m. Friday along South Main Street, ending at Donnell Stadium where the King and Queen will be crowned ahead of the football game against Springfield.

**Subject:** FCS report card grade  
News Broadcasts: 9/13

The most recent Ohio School Report Card was just released, and we are proud to announce that Findlay City Schools has earned 4.5 of 5 possible stars. Within the star system, 3 stars indicates a district is

meeting the state expectations. A rating of 4.5 stars indicates that a district exceeded state standards. There are five components that result in a district's overall star rating, and while 4.5 stars exceeds state standards, 4.5 stars does not exceed FCS standards. Where there is room for improvement and growth, there is important work to be done.

**Subject:** Coffee with superintendent  
News Broadcasts: 9/12

Findlay City Schools will be holding a new event so people can get to know the new superintendent and he can hear from people about what they expect from the school district. It's called The Morning Brew, Coffee and Conversation with Dr. Hatton. The first one will be held at Coffee Amici on the morning of Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7 a.m. Community members are invited to stop by and have a conversation with the school district's new superintendent, Dr. Andy Hatton.

**Subject:** LB schools first day  
News Broadcasts: 9/3

Students in Liberty-Benton Local Schools head back to class on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> as the new school year begins. The school district recently held a grand opening celebration for its new elementary/middle school which is located just south of the high school along County Road 9. "It is indeed a great day to be an Eagle," said Superintendent Bruce Otley.

## WKXA COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Flood Mitigation**

#### **Programming as Follows:**

**Subject:** Flood mitigation projects coming up  
News Broadcasts: 7/2

A handful of anticipated flood mitigation projects in Findlay should be happening over the next few years. We spoke with Findlay Mayor Christina Muryn about the projects, which she says will lower 100-year storm event flood levels in downtown Findlay by 3 feet. The Phase 2 Benching project will take place along the north side of the Blanchard River in downtown Findlay from North Cory Street to the CSX railroad. As part of the Phase 2 Benching project the city wants to put in a Downtown Recreation Area, and you can click [here](#) for more details on that.

## WKXA COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Government**

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**Subject:** Findlay homeless and businesses  
News Broadcasts: 7/18

Findlay Service-Safety Director Rob Martin addressed city council and community partners about the efforts being undertaken in response to the increased presence of homeless people. Martin says both he and Mayor Muryn recognize that it is a frustrating and complex issue that did not show up overnight and won't be solved overnight. He says the city will work tirelessly to help the individuals in need while also addressing the community concerns arising from an increase in homeless people in the downtown area.

**Subject:** Move with the mayor event  
News Broadcasts: 7/17

There's an event coming up offering people a chance to get outside and get active and possibly also make a connection with a shelter dog. Dogs from the Humane Society and SPCA of Hancock County who are longing for their 'forever' home will be part of the Wags and Walks event at Emory Adams Park. The event coming up on Wednesday, July 26 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. is part of Findlay Mayor Christina Muryn's Move with the Mayor campaign.

**Subject:** Findlay road projects  
News Broadcasts: 7/14

The City of Findlay updating residents on the several construction projects that are ongoing throughout the city. Listed below are some of the projects and the restrictions that result from the ongoing projects. The restrictions are ongoing through July 14<sup>th</sup>. The status of some of the projects is weather and contractor schedule permitting.

**Subject:** Best counties award  
News Broadcasts: 7/4

Hancock County has been named the #1 County in Site Selection magazine's inaugural edition of America's Best Counties. This achievement recognizes Hancock County's outstanding success with business facility location and expansion projects on a per capita basis. For almost 70 years, Site Selection magazine has been a leading authority in assessing economic development efforts of states, metros, and micropolitan areas. The rankings provide insights for companies and site selection consultants into the effectiveness of communities in fostering economic growth and opportunities for business. Site Selection editors had never looked at project data through a county lens – until now.

**Subject:** State rep moving to Findlay  
News Broadcasts: 8/21

State Representative Jon Cross and his family are moving to Findlay. Cross' Kenton home was destroyed in a fire on August 5<sup>th</sup> and Cross released a statement thanking people for their support and announcing his family's move to Findlay. The Cross Family statement can be read below.

**Subject:** Findlay habitat deal  
News Broadcasts: 9/16

In August, Habitat for Humanity of Hancock County reached out to Mayor Muryn interested in an opportunity to develop approximately 26 acres of City owned property located on Carlin Street. Following a Committee of the Whole meeting of Findlay City Council on August 9, 2023, an Ad Hoc Committee of Council was established to further discuss this proposal. The committee's first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 4pm in the third floor conference room. Below is an outline of how a decision related to this may go

**Subject:** Bateson returns  
News Broadcasts: 9/18

Hancock County Commissioner William Bateson attended the September 14<sup>th</sup> commissioner's meeting. Bateson had been absent from office since suffering a medical emergency in the middle of June. He did inform Tim Bechtol and Mike Pepple, the other two commissioners, that he may miss some more meetings as he undergoes rehabilitation. Bateson was elected to the Hancock County Board of Commissioners in November of 2020 and his term runs through the end of 2024.

## WKXA COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

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

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**Programming as Follows:**

**Subject:** City says water is safe

News Broadcasts: 9/20

The City of Findlay Water Treatment Plant has had reports of a Taste and Odor event in which you may experience an earthy taste to the water. Please be aware that the water is not harmful and no water quality parameters have been exceeded. Additional treatment has begun to mitigate the taste and the Treatment Plant will continue to monitor and adjust the treatment to minimize the overall effects to the system.

**Subject:** UF holding health fair

News Broadcasts: 9/19

The University of Findlay will host a Health and Wellness Fair on Thursday, September 21st. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Koehler Fitness and Recreation Center. University resources will be joined by community organizations to offer health information, screenings, and free flu shots for UF students. Hancock Public Health will be on hand to offer Tetanus, Hepatitis A, flu, and Meningitis vaccines.

**Subject:** Vaccine clinics announced

News Broadcasts: 9/23

Hancock Public Health is pleased to announce the Fall 2023 Community Flu and Covid Clinics. Times and locations of clinics are listed below. The public is encouraged to have a conversation with their medical provider prior to receiving any vaccination. All minors, persons under the age 18, must be accompanied by a parent/guardian to receive any vaccine. The Nursing Department at Hancock Public Health will also be accepting individual appointments via telephone.

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News Broadcasts: 7/8

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**Subject:** Person stabbed

News Broadcasts: 7/21

The Findlay Police Department is investigating a stabbing that sent a person to the hospital. It happened in the 200 block of North Main Street at approximately 10:50 Saturday night. Police say they responded to the area on the report that a male had been stabbed. Upon arriving at the scene, officers were made aware that the victim was taken to Blanchard Valley Hospital by private vehicle. Officers spoke with witnesses who described a fight between multiple people in the area, but none had witnessed the victim being stabbed.

**Subject:** Police pursuit

News Broadcasts: 8/29

The Findlay Police Department says a motorcyclist led an officer on a pursuit when the officer attempted to pull him over for a speeding violation. The officer attempted to stop the Harley Davidson in the 2300 block of South Main Street at around 1 a.m. Thursday. Police say the driver, Joshua Miller, 26, refused to stop and led the officer on a high-speed pursuit south on Main Street to the edge of the city. The pursuit, which reached 100 miles per hour at times, continued south on State Route 68 and then west on County Road 40 where Miller stopped.

**Subject:** Drug dealer busted

News Broadcasts: 9/28

A drug task force arrested a woman during a narcotics buy/bust operation in Findlay. Authorities say Stacy M. Cieply, 30, of Toledo, was stopped and arrested in the parking lot of Casey's on North Main Street in Findlay. She's accused of bringing down large amounts of methamphetamine from Toledo. Authorities say Cieply transported meth three times during the drug investigation. She was booked at the Hancock County Jail on a charge of drug trafficking.

**Subject:** Sheriff not seeking reelection  
News Broadcasts: 9/18

Hancock County Sheriff Michael Heldman will not be seeking re-election in 2024. "Since 1997, it has been my distinct privilege to serve as the elected Sheriff of Hancock County. After careful consideration, I have decided not to seek an eighth term in the March 2024 primary election," Heldman said in a letter to the Hancock County Board of Elections. Heldman began his career with the Hancock County Sheriff's Office in 1972.

## WKXA COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Major Crime**

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

**Programming as Follows:**

**Subject:** Kidnapper charged with murder  
News Broadcasts: 7/13

The man police say kidnapped a baby from North Baltimore and then crashed into a house in Tiffin has been charged with aggravated murder in the baby's death. Authorities say the 7-month-old baby was killed when Jonathan Baker, 23, crashed into a house in Tiffin while fleeing police on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Officers broke out a back window of the vehicle and retrieved the baby who was bleeding and had shallow breathing and the baby was rushed to a hospital but passed away.

**Subject:** Man pleads guilty to killing wife

News Broadcasts: 9/14

A Hancock County man pleaded guilty to a murder charge a few days before his trial was to begin. Brian L. Ziessler, 67, was set to go on trial on September 18<sup>th</sup> in connection with his wife's shooting death in 2021. Deputies arrived at 16777 Township Road 205, east of Findlay near the reservoirs, on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to find Sherri Ziessler, 59, dead of multiple gunshot wounds. On Wednesday, Ziessler pleaded guilty to murder in Hancock County Common Pleas Court.

**Subject:** Circle K robbed

News Broadcasts: 7/8

A Findlay gas station was robbed early Saturday morning. The Findlay Police Department says it happened at the Circle K at 100 Crystal Avenue at 6:07 Saturday morning. Police say the male individual you can see in the surveillance photo walked up to the clerk and said he needed money and that he didn't want to shoot anyone. The suspect got away with an undisclosed amount of cash.

**Subject:** Person accidentally shot

News Broadcasts: 7/3

The Findlay Police Department says a person was accidentally shot as a man was cleaning a gun. The incident happened at 1472 Timberwood Drive on Monday afternoon, according to police. Police say Robert Sipe, 45, was cleaning a rifle that had not been cleared, and as the trigger was pulled back during the cleaning process a single round was discharged. The round struck a woman who was helping clean the rifle, and she was taken to Blanchard Valley Hospital for the wound to her abdomen.

**Subject:** Pursuit in Findlay

News Broadcasts: 9/13

The Findlay Police Department says a woman led them on a nearly ten mile pursuit when they responded to investigate a harassment complaint. Police responded to the 10000 block of Township Road 89 on Tuesday afternoon on the report of a woman swinging a shovel at people in the area. When officers arrived on the scene, police say Jessica Onan, of Findlay, fled in a vehicle heading westbound on Township Road 89. Officers pursued Onan southbound on County Road 140 and on other streets.

**Subject:** Murder suspects shoot at troopers

News Broadcasts: 9/2

The Ohio State Highway Patrol says two murder suspects from Michigan shot at law enforcement during a pursuit in Wood and Hancock Counties. The Highway Patrol says, at 7:40 Saturday night, troopers with the Bowling Green Post along with deputies from the Wood County Sheriff's Office located a vehicle and suspects wanted in connection with a carjacking and homicide that occurred earlier in the day in Monroe, Michigan. As troopers and deputies approached the vehicle at a rest area near Bowling Green, the suspects fled southbound on Interstate 75 and a pursuit ensued.

**Subject:** Police chase cornfield

News Broadcasts: 9/15

The Findlay Police Department said a driver led officers on a pursuit before taking his vehicle off the road and into a cornfield. Police say an officer attempted to pull over Jaden Thomas, 29, in the 400 block of East Sandusky Street on Sunday night for driving on a suspended license and he also had a warrant for his arrest but he failed to stop and led the officer on a pursuit.

**Subject:** Person stabbed

News Broadcasts: 7/21

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## WKXA COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

### **SUBJECT: Politics**

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

**Programming as Follows:**

**Subject:** Ohio special election  
News Broadcasts: 8/8

Voters are heading to the polls in Ohio on Tuesday for a special election to decide the fate of Issue 1. Issue 1, if passed, would increase the voter approval threshold for constitutional amendments from a simple majority up to 60 percent. Supporters say voting yes on Issue 1 will strengthen the Ohio Constitution by protecting it from out of state interests. Critics of Issue 1 say, if approved, it would destroy citizen-driven ballot initiatives and take power away from the people.

**Subject:** Lawmakers discuss special election  
News Broadcasts: 8/3

State Senator Rob McColley and State Representative Jim Hoops stopped by WFIN to discuss the one issue voters will decide on in the special election in Ohio on Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Issue 1, if passed, would increase the voter approval threshold for constitutional amendments from a simple majority up to 60 percent. McColley says Issue 1 would ensure that future proposed constitutional amendments

have broader, bipartisan support because when they become a constitutional amendment there's no changing it.

**Subject:** State rep's house destroyed in fire  
News Broadcasts: 8/7

The Kenton home of State Representative Jon Cross was destroyed in a fire. The Kenton Fire Department responded to the report of a garage fire on Maureen Drive Saturday night. When firefighters arrived on the scene the garage and house were engulfed in flames. Cross and his family safely made it out of the house, and Cross posted the following on his Facebook page.

**Subject:** State rep moving to Findlay  
News Broadcasts: 8/21

State Representative Jon Cross and his family are moving to Findlay. Cross' Kenton home was destroyed in a fire on August 5<sup>th</sup> and Cross released a statement thanking people for their support and announcing his family's move to Findlay. The Cross Family statement can be read below.

**Subject:** Sheriff not seeking reelection  
News Broadcasts: 9/18

Hancock County Sheriff Michael Heldman will not be seeking re-election in 2024. "Since 1997, it has been my distinct privilege to serve as the elected Sheriff of Hancock County. After careful consideration, I have decided not to seek an eighth term in the March 2024 primary election," Heldman said in a letter to the Hancock County Board of Elections. Heldman began his career with the Hancock County Sheriff's Office in 1972.

**Subject:** Commissioner Bateson absent  
News Broadcasts: 7/19

Hancock County Commissioner William Bateson has been absent from the office since suffering a medical condition in the middle of June. "We wish him the best and look forward to his return when he's able," said fellow Hancock County Commissioner Tim Bechtol. Bechtol and Mike Peple are the other two commissioners.

**Subject:** Bateson returns

News Broadcasts: 9/18

Hancock County Commissioner William Bateson attended the September 14<sup>th</sup> commissioner's meeting. Bateson had been absent from office since suffering a medical emergency in the middle of June. He did inform Tim Bechtol and Mike Peple, the other two commissioners, that he may miss some more meetings as he undergoes rehabilitation. Bateson was elected to the Hancock County Board of Commissioners in November of 2020 and his term runs through the end of 2024