

COMMUNITY ISSUES & PROGRAMMING

4TH QUARTER 2023



WCPZ – FM 102.7
BAS Broadcasting, Inc.
1640 Cleveland Road
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Friday, January 5, 2024

Stephen L. Shoffner

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Director of News Operations

OVERVIEW OF NEWS OPERATIONS

LOCAL / REGIONAL COVERAGE

The news department of BAS Broadcasting, Inc. provides WLEC, WCPZ and WMJK with full service local news coverage. The news staff attends Erie County Commission and Sandusky City Commission meetings whenever possible or as needed, and also attends hundreds of other community meetings or special events throughout each year. All of our local / regional news is written, produced and directed locally and focuses on Erie, Huron, Ottawa, Sandusky and Seneca counties.

WLEC offers nine (9) different local / regional newscasts each weekday (Monday – Friday) with additional news headlines airing throughout each day.

WCPZ and WMJK offer seven (7) different local / regional newscasts each weekday (Monday – Friday).

All three stations provide coverage of live, breaking news events as needed.

STATE COVERAGE

The news department has teamed up with the Ohio News Network (ONN) as the exclusive state news provider for each of our stations. Reports produced by ONN are broadcast thirteen (13) different times each weekday on WLEC and on WCPZ and WMJK as needed. Six (6) Saturday morning ONN newscasts also air on WLEC.

NATIONAL COVERAGE

WLEC, WCPZ and WMJK are all affiliates of the ABC News radio network based out of New York City, New York. ABC News reports can be heard at the top of every hour seven days a week on WLEC. WCPZ and WMJK provide hourly updates during each weekday morning and again each weekday at noon.

LOCAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMING

“North Coast Journal” is a public affairs program that varies in length depending on the show and its content, but at times has lasted up to thirty (30) minutes. The show airs Sunday mornings at 6 AM on WLEC, and at 7 AM on WCPZ and WMJK. The show is produced locally.

KEY ISSUES

During the fourth quarter of 2023, the news department was able to broadcast a number of reports and various public affairs programming that dealt specifically with a number of key issues that were identified as important to the community. The staff at BAS Broadcasting, Inc. received feedback from community leaders and the general public during their decision making process.

The following listing includes a brief description of each issue and the times, dates and duration of each broadcast.

The length of each news story will be considered to be between thirty seconds (:30) and one (1) minute in length.

The length of each public affairs (long form) interview will be considered to be between five (5) and fifteen (15) minutes in length.

GOVERNMENT BUDGETING / PLANNING FOR 2024

Various Coverage

The news department was able to follow various political sub-divisions in our listening area as they worked their way through the 2024 budgeting process.

Various discussions occurred regarding priorities, goals and targets for spending as 2023 ended and 2024 plans began to emerge. Each political sub-division had their own timelines and or processes in place to deal with their formal budgeting legislation.

Many governments began hosting public hearings and or discussions about specific funding requests in September so that a formal budget for 2024 could be adopted in December.

The news department followed the various political entities through their discussion, debate and approval process during most of the 4th quarter of 2023.

NEWS COVERAGE

(All 3 stations) 6 AM / 7 AM / 8 AM / 9 AM / 12 PM / 5 PM

10/10	10/12	10/18
10/23	11/14	11/15
11/17	11/22	11/29
12/11	12/13	12/18
12/20	12/22	12/28

NORTH COAST JOURNAL

There were no dedicated long form interviews on the subject of the government budgeting or planning for 2024.

CHILD CARE STUDY / OPTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Various Coverage

The news department followed closely a child care study that was commissioned by the Firelands Forward group. That regional organization was created specifically to deal with workforce development issues in north central Ohio and the study helped to show the current status of child care in the region.

The news department was able to interview not only Firelands Forward officials, but also the private company hired to conduct the study. Once the final results were shared with stakeholders in the region, the news department was able to share those results with our listeners.

The news department was also able to take questions and concerns from a wide range of residents and political leaders to the authors of the study for further discussion and explanation. Their comments were shared with our listeners throughout the 4th quarter of 2023 as communities began to plan out their future involvement in securing new child care options for their residents.

NEWS COVERAGE

(All 3 stations) 6 AM / 7 AM / 8 AM / 9 AM / 12 PM / 5 PM

10/16	10/17	10/18
10/26	10/27	11/13
11/16	11/22	12/11
12/12	12/13	

NORTH COAST JOURNAL

There were no dedicated long form interviews on the subject of various economic development projects in Erie county.

SANDUSKY STATE THEATRE

Various Coverage

The news department was able to provide information and updates on the status of the reconstruction of the historic Sandusky State Theatre.

The theatre was nearly destroyed by a severe storm several years ago and the news department has been able to keep the public informed about efforts to save the theatre from the wrecking ball. That coverage included information about fund raising efforts as well as information about the facilities re-design.

The theatre is now in the final stages of its rebirth as reconstruction efforts are in full swing throughout the facility. The updates and upgrades are well underway and should be completed by sometime in late 2024.

The news department was invited to take part in planning updates for the theatre including upcoming fund raising efforts. A kickoff event for the next phase of improvements and fund raising occurred on November 30th. The news department will continue to share updates on the construction status and eventually the upcoming show schedule for 2024 and beyond.

NEWS COVERAGE

(All 3 stations) 6 AM / 7 AM / 8 AM / 9 AM / 12 PM / 5 PM

10/17	10/26	11/13
11/17	11/20	11/27
11/27	11/29	11/30
12/01	12/14	12/20

NORTH COAST JOURNAL

There were no dedicated long form interviews on the subject of the Sandusky State Theatre.

SANDUSKY TRANSIT SYSTEM – REGIONAL OPTIONS

Various Coverage

The news department was involved in covering a regional transportation study that was commissioned by the city of Sandusky. The news department shared information with the study and then reported on the results of the study once they were released.

The city of Sandusky currently has operational control of the only public transit system located in Erie County, but they have been trying to secure additional support for the system since it covers many areas outside of the city’s corporation limits.

The news department shared the details of the study, which explained the need for a more regional system to be created if the county wanted to be competitive with other regions in the state in regards to workforce transportation and general residential transportation options.

The discussions regarding regional transportation will continue into 2024 and the news department will be utilizing its contacts to share any planning or information sharing that occurs.

NEWS COVERAGE

(All 3 stations) 6 AM / 7 AM / 8 AM / 9 AM / 12 PM / 5 PM

10/02	10/03	10/04
10/05	10/19	10/27
11/13	11/28	12/06
12/11	12/18	

NORTH COAST JOURNAL

There were no dedicated long form interviews on the subject tourism and its benefits to the local economy, however there were a number of short interviews conducted by morning show hosts where talking points were wide ranging and non targeted, but none the less shared information about the tourism industry in a more broad and unscripted sense.



IN ADDITION TO THE ITEMS LISTED IN THE ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT, BAS SANDUSKY STATIONS ALSO PROVIDED THESE COMMUNITY SERVICES:

CHARITY: UNITED WAY. Interview with Erie County United Way executive director Sara Godfrey about the annual campaign.

LENGTH: 3:57

AIRED-WCPZ Tuesday 9/26/23 at 7:16am and Monday 10/2/23 at 8:30am.

ISSUE-ECONOMY: MANUFACTURING MONTH. Lorain Co Chamber of Commerce's Tony Gallo discussed the impact of the manufacturing industry in northern Ohio's economy.

LENGTH: 5:31

AIRED-WCPZ Wednesday 10/4/23 at 8:32am.

ISSUE-ECONOMY/ CHARITY-GOODWILL. Interview with John Duesenberry and Libby Boros of Goodwill of Erie, Huron, Sandusky and Ottawa County about their hiring program for individuals with disabilities, and about Halloween shopping at Goodwill.

LENGTH: 4:35

AIRED-WCPZ Monday 10/9/23 at 8:32am.

CHARITY: HELP FOR THOSE IN NEED. Promoted one-day Coats For Caring warm clothing drive on 11/4/23. Promoted 10x/a day on WCPZ, WLEC & WMJK 10/2-11/3. Events raises coats and warm clothing that is distributed by Jobs and Family Services in Erie and Huron Counties.

Interview with Heather Gilchrist about the importance of this event.

LENGTH: 4:21

AIRED-WCPZ Wednesday 11/1/23 at 8:32am

ECONOMY: BUSINESS EXPO. Lorain Co Chamber of Commerce's Tony Gallo discussed the Business Expo networking event.

LENGTH: 4:25

AIRED-WCPZ Tuesday 10/31/23 at 8:17am





ISSUE-ECONOMY/ CHARITY-GOODWILL. Interview with John Duesenberry, Sue Stout and Sarah Baker of Goodwill of Erie, Huron, Sandusky and Ottawa County about their donation drive, holiday events and hiring at their retail stores.

LENGTH: 4:56

AIRED-WCPZ Monday 11/6/23 at 8:31am.

CHARITY: HELP FOR THOSE IN NEED. Interview with Heather Gilchrist of VacationLand Federal Credit Union about their Gifts For Kids toy drive.

LENGTH: 3:55

AIRED- WCPZ Tuesday 11/7/23 at 8:07am and Tuesday 11/28/23 at 7:10am.

LENGTH: 7:29

AIRED- WLEC Thursday 11/2/22 at 8:08am

CHARITY: HOLLY RUN. Interview with Troy Haslinger, organizer of the run in honor of Milan's Holly Sneider, who died of colon cancer 12 years ago. Run supports Fisher-Titus Cancer Center.

LENGTH: 3:14

AIRED- WCPZ Wednesday 11/8/23 at 8:32am.

ISSUE: ECONOMY. Interview with Chris Haynes from the Buckeye Sportscenter about their Grand Opening.

LENGTH: 6:31

AIRED-WLEC 10/20/23 at 7:08am

CHARITY: HELP FOR THOSE IN NEED. Interview with Michelle Schultz and Jamie Bellamy with Erie County Jobs & Family Services about their Holiday Gifts For Kids program.

LENGTH: 7:31

AIRED-WLEC 10/27 at 7:08am

ISSUE SAFETY, LAW ENFORCEMENT. Interview with Erie Co Sheriff Paul Sigsworth on School Bus Safety tips.

LENGTH: 10:09

AIRED-WLEC 11/28/23 at 7:08am

