

**QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAMMING REPORT**  
**WEHT-TV**  
**Henderson, KY / Evansville, IN**

**Second Quarter (April 1 – June 30) 2015**

**ISSUE #1: Funding needs for Easter Seals in southwest Indiana**

Date: April 12, 2015

Duration: 6 hours

Each year WEHT works with Easter Seals of Southwestern Indiana to produce a telethon to help raise money for Easter Seals and the programs it is involved with. The Easter Seals provides services to children and their families who have physical and mental disabilities. As part of our commitment to this effort, WEHT donates six hours of time on-air, the use of our staff both on-air and behind the scenes. During this year's telethon, a total of \$1,040,240 was raised for Easter Seals.

**ISSUE #2: Elections**

Date: May 5, 2015 (Indiana)

May 19, 2015 (Kentucky)

Treated as: News Stories

Both Indiana and Kentucky were involved in primary elections this spring.

On Tuesday, May 5, 2015, residents in Indiana cities and towns went to the polls for municipal elections, with cities and towns voting for mayors, members of the city / town councils and clerk-treasurers.

On May 19, 2015, Kentucky residents were voting on statewide officeholders, which would include Governor, Secretary of State, and other offices.

On Primary Election night, WEHT provided results from communities in Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Posey, Pike, Spencer and Dubois counties in Indiana. On WEHT News at 10, we spoke to winners and losers from the Evansville municipal elections

On Primary Election night in Kentucky, WEHT provided results from across the commonwealth for all statewide races. On WEHT News at 10, we heard from winners and losers on the races. We followed results for several days for the Democrat nomination for governor. The winner of that races won by a margin of less than 1,000 votes.

**ISSUE #3: Habitat for Humanity**

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville continues its efforts to help qualified people obtain affordable housing. In addition to our coverage of the work Habitat for Humanity does, WEHT sponsored a Habitat Home build this year.

Treated as: News Stories

April 8 -- The Roots of Habitat for Humanity of Evansville

Time: 3:13

Interviewed Jim Perigo about the beginnings of Habitat for Humanity in Evansville.

April 15 -- The Housing Blitz of 1992 Makes History in Evansville

Time: 2:27

Interviewed Jim Perigo and Shelley Kirk about the record setting Housing Blitz in Evansville in 1992. Over 20 houses were built in a short period of time.

April 22 -- Eyewitness News Helps Paint Habitat House

Time: 2:03

Interviewed Brent Butler and Shannon Thurby (both employees of Eyewitness News) who, along with other Eyewitness News employees, spent the day painting the walls of the Habitat House that Eyewitness News sponsored.

April 29 -- Being a Volunteer is a Gift that Keeps on Giving

Time: 2:33

Interviewed Habitat Volunteer Coordinator, Andrea Ward, about how to become a volunteer with Habitat and how its beneficial for the community.

May 6 -- It's All About Sweat Equity

Time: 1:56

This story featured Eyewitness News anchor Greg Parker doing a bunch of "Sweat Equity" chores. Greg hammered nails, swept a floor, stuffed envelopes, and answered phones at the front desk of the Habitat office.

May 13 -- Core Crew Members Lead Volunteers Through the Build

Time: 2:01

Interviewed longtime Core Crew Member, James Studwell, about being a "constant" volunteer at the Habitat build sites. Also interviewed Wayne Griffith who just joined the Core Crew team.

May 20 -- Benefits of Owning a Habitat Home

Time: 2:05

Interviewed Habitat Media Coordinator, Lee Jerstad, about the benefits of owning a home. Statistics show homeowners have children who will most likely go to college, bills are lower, and there's more peace-of-mind.

May 27 -- Applying for a Habitat Home

Time: 2:25

Interviewed Habitat Media Coordinator, Lee Jerstad, and Office Coordinator Jeanne Mesker,

about the process of applying for a Habitat home.

June 3 -- Sweat Equity and How it Affects Habitat Homeowners

Time: 2:30

Interviewed three people, Randi Finn, Anique Thomas, and Aireal Hall, who are all individuals working for their Sweat Equity hours. They talk about juggling their personal life with their Habitat life.

June 10 -- Furnishing Your Home with the Habitat Restore

Time: 1:49

Interviewed Michelle Welles who is the manager of the Habitat Restore in Henderson, KY. We talked about the items the store offers and how people can donate some of their items to the store.

June 17 -- Donating a Car Could Help Habitat Build Homes

Time: 1:11

Interviewed Habitat Media Coordinator, Lee Jerstad, about how donating a car will to Habitat will create cash to build Habitat homes.

June 24 -- The Pope Francis House

Time: 2:19

Interviewed Memorial Football Coach John Hurley, Mater Dei Football Player Kyle Dennis, Habitat Director Beth Folz, and future habitat homeowner Stephen Ralph. We talked about how two football rivals are coming together to raise the walls of a new habitat home all in honor of Pope Francis.

#### **ISSUE #4: Land-based casino gaming in Indiana**

During the 2015 legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly considered a measure to allow land-based casino gaming in Indiana. One of the properties which could be impacted is Tropicana Evansville, the state's oldest riverboat casino.

How the issue was treated: News Stories

1) April 3 -- Length: :31

We gave an update on House Bill 1540. An Indiana Senate committee today approve the bill with some changes from the House version. This would allow it to be considered by the full Senate.

2) April 9 -- Length: :35

We reported that the Indiana Senate voted to approve the measure with its changes. The measure will be sent to a House-Senate Conference committee to iron out the differences and must again be approved by both bodies.



3) April 22 – Length: :35

We reported that an Indiana House-Senate Conference Committee met earlier in the day to begin work to iron out differences between the two for final legislative approval.

4) April 29 – Length :31

We reported a compromise bill had been worked out and in the last moments of the session, it was approved by both the House and Senate. It will now move to Governor Mike Pence's office for consideration.

5) April 30 – Length: 3:00

We did a live interview with Jason Gregoric, General Manager of Tropicana Evansville, for his reaction to the bill passing through the legislature and heading to the governor for consideration.

6) May 8 – Length: :41

We reported that Indiana Governor Mike Pence had decided to allow the land-based casino measure to become law without his signature.

## **ISSUE #5 – Proposed downtown Evansville Medical School**

During the 2015 session of the Indiana General Assembly, lawmakers were tasked with putting together a two-year state budget. Among the project being considered for the budget included a new medical school for downtown Evansville. The proposed school would be a cooperative effort with Indiana University, the University of Southern Indiana, Ivy Tech Community College, and the University of Evansville.

How it was treated: News stories

1) April 9

We reported early in the day that the Indiana Senate passed its version of the state budget, which included \$19.2 million for the downtown medical school. This was a cut from the house version of \$25 million. In related stories, we spoke to Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke for reaction to the Senate budget and got written comments from Indiana State Rep. Gail Riecken, a Democrat from Evansville.

2) April 10

We had two separate stories with more reaction to the story. The first was with University of Southern Indiana Vice President Cindy Brinker and a second story was Ivy Tech Southwest

Chancellor Jonathan Weiznapfel. A more detailed look at the Senate plans eliminated all of Ivy Tech's funding for the medical school from the budget.

3) April 22

During a visit to Evansville to speak to the Chamber of Commerce, Indiana Speaker of the House Brian Bosma spoke about ongoing talks on the state budget and the funding for the downtown medical school

4) April 29 – Length: :30

We received a late update on the compromise budget which had been passed by legislators, and were able to include that funding for the downtown medical school was included in the budget.

5) April 30

We did three separate stories on the state budget and the downtown medical school. The first story had the final number for the medical school, which came in at \$19.2, which was the amount the Senate had approved. Later in the day, we got separate stories with comments from Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke and with Ivy Tech Southwest Chancellor Jonathan Weiznapfel.

## **ISSUE #6: Thank You Tristate**

Anchor Shelley Kirk will feature people who are making a difference in the tristate. Here are some of her stories:

April 29 - Metal of Honor: Mills Body Shop offer free body work on cars of nominated veterans. We showcased WWII veteran Charles York, the first veteran to participate and showed the program in action. TRT 4:18

May 6 - North Junior High School: a middle school math teacher turns a math lesson into a real life lesson on helping others. Kids create suncatchers from a lesson on slope. The suncatchers are given to Chemo Buddies who present them with other good wishes from the students to cancer patients. TRT 4:07

May 13 - Mr. Cary: local man has volunteered, free, for 8 hours a day for 6 years at Sharon Elementary helping kids in various subjects, becoming a teacher, mentor, friend and confidant of students. TRT 3:17

May 20 - Green Team - Washington Middle School kids surprise their teacher of an after school "green" program with a tree planting in honor of her retirement. TRT 3:47

May 27 - iCan Bike - camp to help kids with disabilities learn to ride a bike. Focused on child who went through program. TRT 2:58