



Sharing the Journey

"Sharing the Journey" is an hour long special celebrating Black History Month. Hosted by Brooke Hill, the show tells the story of the history of the African American community in Evansville, IN in a series of eight vignettes. These vignettes feature some of Evansville's most influential people. Lu Porter, Jonathan Weinzapfel, Maura Robinson, and many others talk about inclusion and diversity and how the past has led us on a path to our future.

Three independent segments created by guest host D'Angelo Coles showcase a local boxing champion.

Each vignette concludes with local singers, choirs, and musicians performing public domain or original gospel and jazz songs."

Sharing the Journey aired on WEHT Friday 2/27/15 at 7pm.

QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAMMING REPORT WEHT-TV

Henderson, KY / Evansville, IN

First Quarter (January 1 – March 31) 2015

ISSUE 1: Religious Freedom Restoration Act is signed into law in Indiana

Indiana Governor Mike Pence signed SEA 101, known as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The new law sparked debate and discussion in our area, across the state of Indiana, and across the country.

How is was treated: News Story

Date: March 26

Duration: 2:40

Reporter Dennis Ting spoke to Suzy Blesch, owner of the Nick Nackery in Evansville; Amy Ward, owner of Lamasco Bar; and Lizz Domminger, a student at the University of Evansville. The two business owners stated they were supportive of all people and they would not change their business practices because of the new law. Domminger said she was concerned about what this new law could do.

How it was treated: News Story

Date: March 26

Duration 1:32

Our news staff received recorded comments from Indiana State Representative Gail Riecken. She is a Democrat and represents parts of Evansville and Vanderburgh County. She voted against the bill when it was voted on in the Indiana House of Representatives. In her comments, she explained the reasoning for her vote and her concerns over the implications of this new law on Indiana.

How it was treated: News Story

Date: March 27

Duration: 2:45

Lewis Chaney is a local filmmaker. He is in the process of doing final editing on his latest movie project which included a scene which had a same-sex couple wedding. One day after the Religious Freedom Restoration Act was signed, he was notified by the production company he was working with had decided they would no longer work with him because of their religious objections to parts of his film. This was the first indication we were made aware of any loss of business because of the new law.

How it was treated: News Story

Date: March 29

Duration: 2:05

Reporter Katie Wisley reported on a protest against the Religious Freedom Restoration Act organized at the Four Freedoms Monument on the Evansville riverfront. She spoke to organizers and people who had come out to participate in the protest.

ISSUE 2: Union County Investigation and Questions

On December 30, 2014, the FBI seized approximately \$10,000 worth of equipment from Union County, Kentucky government. The equipment had been purchased by the county, but it was discovered that the equipment had been stolen.

How it was treated: News Story

Date: January 14

Duration: 1:07

Reporter Jordan Vandenberg did a follow-up story which was seized from Union County, Kentucky government officials.

How it was treated: Investigative Story

Title: Questions in Union County

Date: February 5

Duration: 10:00

In an investigative report, Jordan Vandenberg spoke to John Luecke, a businessman from St. Louis; Vanderburgh County Sheriff Dave Wedding; Jody Jenkins, Union County Judge Executive; and Brucie Moore, Union County attorney. Through a series of FOIA requests, we obtained the paperwork for the county's purchase of the equipment which was seized. The paperwork showed that the equipment was purchased at a cost far below its value. The paperwork we obtained also showed the equipment was purchased by a company owned and operated by one man. We spoke to Mr. Luecke, who was the victim of the equipment that was stolen. We also spoke to Sheriff Dave Wedding about the investigation. We spoke briefly to Judge Executive Jody Jenkins about this case and what our own investigation turned up, but efforts to get our questions answered were stopped by Union County attorney Brucie Moore.

How it was treated: Investigative Story

Title: More Questions in Union County

Date: February 24

Duration: 9:27

Jordan Vandenberg continues his investigation into actions by officials in Union County after \$10,000 worth of equipment was seized by the FBI. As more paperwork was obtained through additional FOIA requests, we discovered that Union County officials have filed a claim with their insurance carrier in an effort to recoup the money they lost from the seized equipment. Additional work caused more questions about the purchases, because some of the equipment had serial numbers that had been tampered with. Questions also arose about projects and purchases which were not bid out because it appeared the projects had been broken down into smaller projects. When we attempted to talk to Union County Judge Executive Jody Jenkins about our new findings, he declined comment.

ISSUE 3: African American History Month

As part of African American History Month, WEHT did a series of special reports

How it was treated: News Story

Date: February 4

Duration: 2:20

Reporter Joe Bird put together a story on the history of Lyles Station. Located in Gibson, County, Indiana, Lyles Station was a stop on the Underground Railroad during the Civil War era as African American were leaving the South to look for freedom in the North.

How it was treated: News Story

Date: February 11

Duration 2:14

Reporter Joe Bird traveled to an Evansville cinema, where a large group of students from multiple schools in the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation watched the movie Selma, which gave the history of the march from Selma to Birmingham, Alabama. We spoke to students following the movie about it.

How it was treated: News Story

Date: February 13

Duration: 51 seconds

Dr. Alveda King, the niece of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke at the Evansville African American Museum as a part of a program on African American History Month.

How it was treated: News Story

Date: February 18

Duration: 2:26

Reporter Kellie Cook from our sister station in Memphis, TN, put together a story on the National Civil Rights Museum located in Memphis.

ISSUE 4: Evansville looks to build a medical school

Evansville city officials, in conjunction with Indiana University, is looking to secure funding through the Indiana General Assembly for a new medical school to be located in downtown Evansville.

How it was treated: News Story

Date: January 9

Duration: 40 seconds

The city of Evansville, for the first time during the just-started legislative session, saw that money was being put into the budget for the proposed downtown medical school.

How it was treated: News Story

Date: January 14

Duration: 37 seconds

During a scheduled meeting, the Evansville Redevelopment Commission voted to exercise its option for property in the downtown area where a proposed medical school would be built. The option is at a cost of \$1 and is good for only one year.

How it was treated: News Story

Date: January 27

Duration: 1:17

Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke received updated information from local members of the Indiana General Assembly on the funding for the proposed medical school for downtown Evansville. Winnecke spoke to us with us and talked about the new information.

How it was treated: News Story

Date: March 3

Duration 1:30

Civic leaders and government officials from Evansville and Vanderburgh County spent the day at the Statehouse in Indianapolis. They had meetings with Governor Mike Pence and legislators

in both the Indiana House and Senate on the proposed medical school and other projects involving Evansville and Vanderburgh County.

ISSUE 5: A planned hotel development for downtown Evansville

For more than one year, Evansville city officials have been attempting to build a new downtown hotel near the Ford Center.

How it was treated: News Story

Date: February 18

Duration: 48 seconds

In an effort to save money, the Evansville Redevelopment Commission signed a new agreement with a local fence company for safety and security fencing around the proposed site for a downtown hotel. The new contract is for a lower rate than the previous agreement.

How it was treated: News Story

Date: March 5

Duration: 2:28

Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke, through social media, said that there were new plans for a scaled-down hotel and that these plans were within the budget set for the facility. Reporter Jordan Vandenberg spoke to Mayor Winnecke about the changes which had to be made to get the hotel within its budget.

How it was treated: News Story

Date: March 30

Duration: 2:50

Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke unveiled the new plans for a scaled down hotel in downtown Evansville to members of the Evansville City Council. During its regular meeting.

ISSUE 6: Thank You Tristate

Thank You Tristate is a series which feature ordinary people who are doing extraordinary things with little or no fanfare ... until we discovered their stories.

How it was treated: News Feature Story

Date: February 4

Duration: 4:43

Anchor / Reporter Shelley Kirk told the story of Pam and Lino Wiseman. They are retired school teachers from the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation who now help the school corporation by volunteering at Hangers, a clothing store to help students who are on in need. This "store" helps hundreds of students each year. But not only does the couple volunteer their time sorting and helping children find clothes in the store, they also spend weekends going to garage and rummage sales looking for clothes to buy and donate to the store.

How it was treated: News Feature Story

Date: February 11

Duration: 3:53

Anchor / Reporter Shelley Kirk tells the story of Bernie Gerberg. She is now 90 years old. She began her first career as a preacher when she was 15 years old, and spend a lot of time traveling around the country delivering sermons to hundreds of people. Later in life, she began working at a home for neglected and troubled children.

How it was treated: News Feature Story

Date: February 18

Duration: 4:43

Anchor / Reporter Shelley Kirk tells the story of two men who never met. Michael Wright was a former Marine and during a chance conversation with members of his family, he told them he would like to be buried in a dress Marine jacket. The jacket had been destroyed in a house fire years earlier. Only days after that conversation, Wright died unexpectedly. The family reached out to Sgt. Douglas Hall, who is a Marine recruiter based in Vincennes. Knowing that time would make it impossible to get a replacement uniform, Wright gave the family his own Marine dress blue jacket, shipping it to the family before the funeral. We were there when Hall met members of Wright's family for the first time.



PSA's

In addition to the above programming WEHT broadcast public service announcements related to the following issues:

Environment - Arbor Day

Children – Early Childhood Development, Learning & Attention Issues

Consumer Safety – Simple Safety Steps

Health – Blood Sugar, Basic Blood Pressure

These public service announcements were broadcast at various times throughout the day.