

QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAMMING REPORT

WTVW-TV

Henderson, KY / Evansville, IN

First Quarter (Jan. 1 - Mar. 31) 2017

ISSUE ONE: CRIME/LAW ENFORCEMENT

Aleah Beckerle, the severely disabled 19-year-old was found dead inside an Evansville home eight months after she was reported missing. Closure finally seems to be coming to the case as a young man that was once close to the Beckerle family now faces charges in the crime.

How the issue was treated: Live reports and In-Depth coverage.

1. 20th Birthday Celebration Held for Aleah Beckerle

Jan. 14, 2017

TRT: 3:00

Synopsis: It has been more than six months since Aleah Beckerle went missing from her Evansville home. Today, a birthday celebration was held for her at St. Lucas Church

2. Aleah Beckerle Missing for Seven Months

Feb. 19, 2017

TRT: 2:00

Synopsis: It's been seven months since Evansville teen Aleah Beckerle went missing, and police are still unsure of the disabled teens whereabouts. Aleah was reported missing July 17th, 2016 after she was apparently abducted from her home.

3. Beckerle Family Calls for Increased Search Efforts, Detective: EPD Doing its Job

Feb. 21, 2017

TRT: 03:00

Synopsis: Aleah Beckerle was reported missing by her family on July 17th. After countless searches for clues in the case, there's still no sign of the now 20-year-old missing woman.

4. Arrest Made in Connection with Aleah Beckerle Case

Mar. 31, 2017

TRT: 2:00

Synopsis: Eight months after Aleah Beckerle was allegedly taken in the night, Vanderburgh County Prosecutors and Evansville Police said an arrest has been made on the man they believe killed Aleah Beckerle.

5. Stepfather of Man Arrested in Aleah Beckerle Case: Terrence Had Mental Issues

Mar. 31, 2017

TRT: 3:30

Synopsis: Eyewitness News spoke with the stepfather of Terrence Roach, Glen Eastwood, shortly after the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office and the Evansville

Police Department announced that Roach had been arrested in connection with the Aleah Beckerle case.

6. Brad Byrd In-Depth: Guy Minnis Reacts to Arrest in Aleah Beckerle Case

Mar. 31, 2017

TRT: 7:00

Synopsis: An arrest was made on Friday in the death of 20-year-old Aleah Beckerle. Evansville Police say her body was found on Monday night at a vacant home on S. Bedford Ave. Brad Byrd sits down with retired Evansville Police Detective Guy Minnis to discuss the arrest in this case.

Four EPD officers were suspended after body camera video is released by the chief of police, highlighting how the officers handled an arrest that left one officer exposed to a syringe containing meth. A police merit board heard the case on three of the four officers who remain on the force.

How the issue was treated: News packages and live reports.

1. Merit Board Votes to Grant Continuance for Officer Suspended Following Controversial October Arrest

Feb. 21, 2017

TRT: 2:00

Synopsis: The Merit Board Commission voted 3-0 not to hold a hearing for Officer Marcus Craig on Thursday -- granting a motion for continuance. Officer Craig is one of three Evansville police officers facing possible termination for their roles in the controversial arrest of Mark Healy. Officers Nick Henderson and Mark DeCamps also face possible termination. Their supervisor, Kyle Kassel, faces possible demotion. All four officers were suspended for 21 days without pay.

2. Merit Commission Votes Not to Fire, Demote EPD Officers

Feb. 23, 2017

TRT: 4:00

Synopsis: The Evansville Police Merit Commission decided on Thursday night not to terminate two police officers and demote a sergeant after a nearly 13-hour hearing. Chief Billy Bolin had recommended that Officers Nick Henderson and Mark DeCamps, along with Officer Marcus Craig, be fired and Sgt. Kyle Kassel be demoted stemming from the October 29 arrest of Mark Healy.

ISSUE TWO: ECONOMY

After years of planning and development, the downtown hotel opens in Evansville with the hope of drawing conventions to the river city. This marks continual progress for economic prospects in the city.

How the issue was covered: live reports and news packages.

1. Downtown Hotel Ready for Ribbon Cutting

Feb. 13, 2017

TRT: 1:30

Synopsis: After seven years, two mayors and some setbacks, Evansville's downtown hotel is set to open its doors Tuesday. City officials will host a ribbon cutting for the \$60 million, 241-room Hilton DoubleTree Hotel.

2. Sparkling New DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Opens in Downtown Evansville

Feb. 14, 2017

TRT: 3:00

Synopsis: After years of starting and stopping, discussing and planning, designing and negotiating, officials cut the ribbon on the Hilton DoubleTree convention hotel in downtown Evansville. The ceremonial ribbon cutting closes the chapter to a nearly seven-year endeavor to re-capture convention and other tourism business. In that time, several developers were involved in the project only to fizzle out. The hotel design itself has also undergone major changes.

While Evansville's downtown development seems to be moving at a snail's pace compared to Owensboro's, the western Kentucky city is left in the red. As some cities in the Tri-State may have been initially envious Owensboro's new additions, no one will be envious of the leftover tab.

How the issue was covered: news packages and in-depth reports.

1. Owensboro Closer to Major Tax Increases

Mar. 15, 2017

TRT: 2:15

Synopsis: As Owensboro grows in development, the debt grows deeper too. City leaders say the building boom over the last decade has helped create a \$40 million hole in the budget. The city could make a dent with cuts, but some believe the biggest difference comes from your wallet.

2. Brad Byrd In-Depth: Mayor Tom Watson Addresses Owensboro Budget Shortfall

Mar. 23, 2017

TRT: 8:30

Synopsis: The past few years for the city of Owensboro, Kentucky, have been filled with news of major projects sprouting up on the city skyline. But now, Owensboro officials say the city faces a budget shortfall of about \$40 million. Now, the city could face some future cuts. Brad Byrd sits down with Owensboro Mayor Tom Watson to discuss how the city got into this financial situation, and where does it go from here.

ISSUE THREE: HOUSING

Blight has marked many long-standing neighborhoods within the City of Evansville. From illegal dumping to a promised date from the wrecking ball, Eyewitness News highlights a troubling housing problems our community.

How the issue was covered: news packages.

1. Danks: "I have nothing to do with property" facing demolition

Mar. 17, 2017

TRT: 2:00

Synopsis: During a code enforcement administrative hearing Thursday afternoon, a hearing officer affirmed the Building Commission's request to seek demolition bids in order to tear down a blighted, vacant home on Evansville's south side. The property at 613 Jefferson Ave. is owned by a company whose registered agent is prominent attorney Scott Danks, according to public records. Danks, however, said he is not involved in the authority, ownership or operation of the company

2. Problem Pair of Properties to be Demolished

Mar. 21, 2017

TRT: 2:00

Synopsis: A pair of chronically vacant and blighted homes plaguing a neighborhood near Evansville's west side will soon be demolished, thanks to the diligence of concerned neighbors and constant monitoring by the Building Commission

3. Angered by Illegal Dumping, Homeowner Doesn't Mince Words

Mar. 24, 2017

TRT: 2:15

Synopsis: A pile of dirty, dingy and waterlogged mattresses; a foot spa and a sectional sofa: these are just some of the things that litter an alley on Evansville southside. Jerry Campbell, a nearby homeowner, said the illegal dumping in his neighborhood has gotten worse in recent weeks, leaving him beyond frustrated.

ISSUE FOUR: ENVIRONMENT

Mother nature ripped through rural parts of Illinois and Indiana. Some of the hardest hit areas were Crossville, Illinois and Poseyville, Indiana. Eyewitness News was there when crews surveyed the damage and began to put the pieces back together.

How the issue was covered: live reports and news packages.

1. Gov. Rauner Visits Crossville to Survey Tornado Damage

Mar. 2, 2017

TRT: 2:00

Synopsis: White County, Illinois was one of the areas hit hardest by Tuesday night's storms. The National Weather Service says it was at least an EF-3 twister that hit near the community of Crossville. Thursday, Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner is visiting the community to survey the damage and thank first responders.

2. Tragedy to Triumph: Crossville Comes Closer to Normal

Mar. 3, 2017

TRT: 2:15

Synopsis: Tragedy to triumph is the lesson in Small Town, USA. A long road to recovery is well underway, but the path is made easier thanks to the helping hand of neighbors.

Days after tornadoes devastated towns and cities across the Tri-State, communities now try to get back to normal.

The mild winter and early spring is confusing plants while some blooms are beginning to show. Eyewitness News catches up with a local orchard to see if they are concerned about potential freezes after their trees are budding.

How the issue was covered: news package.

1. Latest Cold Weather a Threat to Owensboro Peach Crop

Mar. 15, 2017

TRT: 2:15

Synopsis: If you love fresh fruit, Reid's Orchard is one of the coolest places to be in the Tri-State, but lately, it's been a little too cool for the owner's liking

ISSUE FIVE: COMMUNITY

Henderson County volunteer fire departments are the ones calling for help as they say they need revenue to repair trucks, buy new gear, and pay for other necessities to potentially save a life.

1. Not Forgotten: Henderson Trying to Help Vol. Fire

Feb. 7, 2017

TRT: 2:30

Synopsis: Ten Henderson County volunteer fire departments are strapped for cash. Like a knot in their hose, the funding flow isn't as strong as it once was and budget cuts over the years have only fanned the flames.

2. Insurance Agents Showing Support for Volunteer Firefighters

Mar. 16, 2017

TRT: 2:00

Synopsis: A Henderson organization is making it clear that they support volunteer firefighters. Earlier Thursday, the Independent Insurance Agents of Henderson gathered at the public library to endorse a proposed addition fee supporting volunteer fire departments.

3. Henderson County Property Tax Proposal Fails

Mar. 21, 2017

TRT: 2:00

Synopsis: It's back to square one for a countywide property tax proposal in Henderson. The proposal did not pass the first reading at Tuesday's Fiscal Court meeting. Part of the proposal included a volunteer fire department fee.

Several reasons have been the talk of Jacob Murphy's ousting as Burdette Park's Executive Director, a decision that came down from the county commission. Now, there are questions surrounding who will take Murphy's place, including a second round from Murphy himself. All the while, two county commission members are mum on the matter.

How the issue was treated: live reports and news packages.

1. Burdette Park Executive Director Fired

Mar. 14, 2017

TRT: 2:00

Synopsis: The executive director of Burdette Park has been fired and one Vanderburgh County official said it was done without cause. County Councilman Joe Kiefer confirms Jacob Murphy has been let go after holding the position since January 2015. Kiefer said that Murphy's termination appears to be a political maneuver.

2. County at Odds over Burdette Park Personnel

Mar. 22, 2017

TRT: 2:24

Synopsis: A story that has taken on a life of its own, Burdette Park looking for a new leader. The sudden firing of its former director has sent shockwaves through Vanderburgh County government. Wednesday, County Council showcased its sharp criticism for two people behind the decision.

ISSUE SIX: CULTURE/MINORITY

"Hidden History is a ½ hour special on Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday Monday, January 16th. The pre-recorded specials are fronted by our Eyewitness News anchor team from the Evansville African American Museum.

1. Hidden History: Southern Indiana's Role in the Underground Railroad

Jan. 16, 2017

TRT: 5:15

Synopsis: Most of us have heard of the Underground Railroad, the organized, highly secretive network that worked to bring slaves out of the south to freedom in Canada. What you may not know is that southwestern Indiana was deeply rooted in that effort. Thousands of former slaves made their way through this area to escape bondage – thanks to the bravery and sacrifice of strangers from Warrick and Gibson Counties.

2. Hidden History: Rev. Gerald Arnold

Jan. 16, 2017

TRT: 4:08

Synopsis: Evansville has a rich civil rights history, but many right here at home struggled with oppression. The reality of segregation and hate were all real and embedded in our country. One man overcame all of that to help those in need. In the end, he called Evansville home after growing up in the Deep South.

ISSUE SEVEN: YOUTH/CHILDREN

Eyewitness News travelled to Disney World with 48 underprivileged kids from three Evansville elementary schools and members of the Evansville Police Department. It's part of EPD's "911 Gives Hope" program. The first trip was last year (2016) and this year (2017) we were invited to take what, for many of these kids, is the trip of a lifetime and for what is proving to be a life-changing experience.

1. Cops Connecting with Kids head to Disney World

Jan. 18, 2017

TRT: 2:00

Synopsis: For months Eyewitness News has been covering the Evansville Police Department's "Cops Connecting with Kids" Program.

2. EVSC Students Visiting Disney World as Part of 'Cops Connecting with Kids Program'

Jan. 20, 2017

TRT: 2:00

Synopsis: Four dozen EVSC students and local law enforcement are getting to experience the magic of Disney.

3. Special Report: Cops, Kids & Disney

Feb. 02, 2017

TRT: 5:15

Synopsis: For four days last month, four dozen EVSC students and members of the Evansville Police Department and Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office made memories at Disney World in Orlando, Florida as part of the Cops Connecting with Kids program. In an Eyewitness News special report, we document the group's journey and the relationships that were formed between police, educators and students.