

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

Third Quarter (July 1 – September 30) 2015

ISSUE ONE: Race for the Cure

- Live Broadcast; one hour in length 9/27/15

Each year, the Susan G. Komen Evansville chapter puts on the annual Race for the Cure. This year's event took place in the parking lot at Eastland Mall in Evansville.

This year, WTVW televised the opening ceremonies on a taped delayed basis from 8-9 p.m. Our coverage included ceremonies leading up to the start of the 5K Run/Walk.

WTVW morning news co-anchor Shelley Kirk, who is a breast cancer survivor, was the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

In addition to our live coverage, WTVW did the following preview stories, telling the story of three breast cancer survivors.

- Becky Alvey (story length 3:02) – Becky has seen breast cancer in her family. She lost a sister and a cousin to breast cancer, and in 2014 she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She says keeping a positive mental attitude has helped her in the process as she battles the disease
- Andrea Hoffman (story length 3:10) – Andrea's life may have been save by her son, who saw a billboard advertising free mammograms and suggested she get one. It turned out that she did have the disease. He had been told she was cancer free, but discovered the cancer had returned two weeks before this year's race.
- Sheila Seiler (story length 3:49) – Sheila has been a breast cancer survivor for more than 20 years. Years after her battle, Susan G. Komen formed a chapter in Evansville and she got involved in the fight. She worked up way up through the ranks, and is now the Executive Director of the Evansville chapter.

ISSUE TWO: Contract negotiations between the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation and the Teamsters Union

A contract between the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation and the local Teamsters Union representing approximately 600 employees which include school bus drivers, cafeteria and janitorial workers, and others. The contract between the two expired on June 30.

How issue was treated:

News Story / July 1 / :58 -- Our story indicated that no agreement was reached between the two sides before the midnight deadline. The head of the local Teamsters, Chuck Whobrey, tells us that workers will continue to work without a contract.

In-Depth Interview / July 1 / 10:00 -- EVSC Superintendent Dr. David Smith Explains the EVSC's Side in Teamsters Contract Dispute

Almost 700 EVSC employees who are members of Teamsters Local 215 are working without a contract. That comes after both sides were unable to agree on a new contract before the midnight deadline. Dr. David Smith says the EVSC did not try to bust the Teamsters union. He says they went to an Evansville attorney who said they didn't want to get involved. He says Susan Traynor-Chastain is an acknowledge expert on education law. He says school board members wanted to have smooth negotiations, so they turned to a professional. Dr. Smith says EVSC could be vulnerable to some legal exposure. He says the school board are in charge with putting employees and adults around students and feel they need the final say in that. Dr. Smith says the school board has been met with "no". He says they disagree on the union forcing members to pay a fee. He apologizes for employees being the middle and doesn't want them to worry about the jobs, their wages, and their benefits. Dr. Smith says he's disappointed with how the last few negotiations went. He says the EVSC has invested \$200 million into the community through taxes. He says employees are dedicated to the students.

News story / July 6 / :40 -- Our story showed that the EVSC Board was meeting in executive session, and the Teamsters were meeting across the street in their union headquarters talking about contract negotiations before a scheduled public meeting the EVSC School Board meeting.

News story / July 13 / :25 -- Our story reported that there was still no contract and no negotiations between the two sides were scheduled.

News story / July 27 / :56 -- our story reported that talks between the two sides would resume on August 14.

Live interview / July 28 / 4:00 -- Teamsters President Chuck Whobrey joined us for a live interview at 4 p.m. to talk about the impasse with the EVSC. He talked to us about the tone of the negotiations between the two sides and the two main issues which are union dues and who should deal with employee grievances.

News story / August 14 / :27 -- our story talked about the resumption of negotiations between the EVSC and the Teamsters.

News story / August 30 / :32 -- our story reported that another round of negotiations between the EVSC and the Teamsters.

News story / September 18 / :27 -- our story reported that another round of negotiations between the EVSC and the Teamsters were resuming. Negotiations were going to take place over two days.

ISSUE THREE: Municipal Elections

This is a municipal election year in Indiana, and we are following races locally and statewide.

How Issue was treated:

News Story / July 9 / :20 – Henrietta Jenkins formally announces that she will seek a seat on the Evansville City Council. She will run as an independent for the 4th Ward seat against incumbent Connie Robinson.

News Story / August 7 / :37 – Glenda Ritz, who is the Indiana State Superintendent of Public Instruction, announces that she will abandon her campaign to seek the Democratic nomination for Governor and will seek re-election to the post she currently has.

News Story / August 10 / :37 – Gail Riecken, the Democratic candidate for mayor of Evansville, says she would like to see a series of debates between herself and Republican incumbent Lloyd Winnecke. She proposes three debates.

News Story / August 11 / :57 – Democratic candidate for mayor Gail Riecken calls for more transparency in the city's budget process. She claims that the current administration has mismanaged the city's finances.

In-Depth Interview / August 13 / 14:19 -- Evansville Democrat Mayoral Candidate Gail Riecken Discusses Several Evansville Issues

Gail Riecken says she decided to run for mayor last year when she saw conflicts between the mayor and the city council in the exit conferences on the audit. She says they really need to do something on the lack of transparency in the city. She introduced a bill to expand membership in an exit conference, so everyone can be there from the city council. She says there were issues the people really need to be aware of. Gail Riecken says everything she has heard about the hotel makes her believe there was not enough vetting between the developers. She says she felt there should have been an opportunity to look at having the hotel built in a couple of phases. She says the entire project will add up to \$37 million. Gail Riecken says the median household income in Evansville is almost \$12,000 less than the state of Indiana. She says they need to concentrate on getting a living wage in Evansville. She says the evaluation for the hotel by Standard and Poor is a downgrade from what the last bond was given for Ford Center. She says it will cost the taxpayers more. Riecken says there is a heavy burden on taxpayers and an acknowledgement that the city's finances are not in the best of shape. Riecken says she felt they need to go back to GAAP to give the revenue expenses and liability on the city's budget. She says there was about \$4 million cash balance when Mayor Winnecke came into office. She says in 2014 it plummeted to about \$750,000 to start the year and down to \$300,000 to start 2015. Riecken says she believes there are people today who would understand the GAAP process. She says the GAAP accounting gives you the total picture. She says Evansville is the only city to not use GAAP accounting.

News story / August 18 / [1:24 / :59] – The town of Chandler, Indiana, chose to hold a one day convention to fill slots for the upcoming November elections. These were four hour conventions for each party. We reported live from Town Hall before the conventions began, and reported the results of the conventions in our late newscasts

News story / September 3 / 3:53 – Democrat candidate for mayor Gail Riecken in a news conference discusses the new downtown hotel project where construction has just begun. She is critical of the scaled-down version of the project and says it will be a blight on the downtown. Mayor Lloyd Winnecke responds to her comments.

News story / September 10 / 1:40 – The first forum between Mayor Lloyd Winnecke and challenger Gail Riecken is held. We hear comments from both made during the forum.

In- Depth Interview / September 22 / 9:07 – Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke Talks City Budget, Election

On Monday, the Evansville City Council will vote on transferring \$8 million in rainy day and riverboat funds to help pay for city funds. Mayor Lloyd Winnecke says the city is trying to manage cash flow. He says the city gets its revenue twice a year. He says his administration has been transferring funds between accounts for years. Mayor Winnecke says state statute prevents the fire and police pensions from being touched. He says he doesn't walk around town writing checks for projects. He says he spends what the council approves his administration to spend. He says many cities in the state face the same dilemma. Mayor Winnecke says Gail Riecken calling the hotel project a "blight on the downtown" was an insult to so many people. He says the fact it is 5 stories instead of 10 is irrelevant. He says he believes there will be some changes in the relationship between the mayor's office and the city council after the election. He says there are plenty of good relationships between the two.

ISSUE FOUR: Newburgh Town Politics

Earlier this year, the Newburgh Town Council voted to allow a Walmart Neighborhood Store to be built on the west edge of the community. This was a very controversial decision as the vote of the council went against the recommendation of the town's Plan Commission. All members of the commission resigned as a result of the council's vote.

How the Issue was treated:

News Story / July 1 / 1:00 – two independent candidates announce they will file to run for seats on the town council, citing the Walmart decision as the reason to run.

News story / July 10 / :25 – in a regular meeting, the Newburgh Town Council appoints six new members to the Newburgh Plan Commission. This move fills all open seats on the commission.

News story / July 23 / :27 – Newburgh Town Manager Lori Buehlman submits her resignation to the Town Council. Her resignation is not immediately accepted by the council.

News story / July 24 / :24 – following an executive session with the Newburgh Town Council, the resignation of Town Manager Lori Buehlman is accepted and it is decided that today would be her last day.

News story / July 25 / 2:30 – Melinda Mitchell announces that she will run as a Libertarian for a seat on the Newburgh Town Council

News story / July 25 / :59 – We went to Newburgh to reaction to all that has been going with the Town Council and the resignation of Town Manager Lori Buehlman.

News story / August 28 / 1:27 – We update the search for a new Newburgh Town Manager. During a Town Council meeting, it is announced that 67 people have applied for the position.

News story / September 8 / :22 – A search committee has narrowed the field of candidates for Newburgh Town Council to 12 and interviews will begin.

News story / September 25 / :27 – the Newburgh Town Council votes to appoint Christy Powell as the new Newburgh Town Manager.

ISSUE FIVE: Warrick County Trash

The Warrick County Waste Management District voted to start a countywide trash pickup and curbside recycling program. The program would run by one company which would cover the entire county.

How issue was treated:

News story / July 30 / 2:18 – as the bid process continues, we spoke to one trash company owner who is against the plan. He says it will remove competition and could drive up prices for customers.

News story / August 13 / :32 – Renewable Resources was selected from among five companies who bid to be the company to handle the trash collection and curbside recycling program for Warrick County.

News story / August 20 / 2:56 – we did a story with reaction from people across Warrick County to the new trash and recycling plan

News story / August 26 / 2:48 – the county holds its first public meeting to talk about the new trash collection and recycling program. The residents in attendance voice their displeasure with the program and the plan.

News story / August 27 / :27 – the Newburgh Town Council votes to opt out of the Warrick County trash plan and will take bids on its own trash collection program. The council cites unanswered questions about the program for its reason to opt out.

News story / September 14 / 2:37 – the Warrick County Commissioners vote to support the countywide trash collection and curbside recycling program, despite opposition expressed by residents at the meeting.

News story / September 23 / :25 – the deadline is approaching for bids to be accepted for the Newburgh trash program.