

This is a recap of news stories covered in the first quarter of 2015 by radio station WZDM. The stories were reported from January first through March 31st, 2015. The stories were covered in newscasts of varying length through out the day, evening, and overnight.

The stories were covered in newscasts around the clock at different times, depending on the program on the air at the time. They were also covered in full newscasts at 5 am, 6 am, 6:30 am, 7 am, 7:30 am, 8 am, 8:30 am, 9 am, 12 noon, 4 pm, and 5 pm.

A list of pertinent stories covered on the newscasts is featured below. The list is by no means comprehensive.

(Final swearing-in) (Friday 1/2/15 ... tlz 6a)

Knox Superior Court Two Judge Ryan Johanningsmeier was sworn into office yesterday at the Knox County Courthouse Annex. Johanningsmeier was the final of three new judicial officers to be sworn into office. The other two-- Knox County Prosecutor Dirk Carnahan and Knox Superior Court One Judge Gara Lee-- took their oaths in December.

(SK-- Officer election) (Tuesday 1/13/15 ... tlz 6a)

The South Knox School Board elected new officers at last night's re-organization session. Alicia Houchin will serve as South Knox's board president, with Eric Carter as vice-president. The two will replace Dennis Carnahan as president, and Don Page as vice-president.

(Bicknell seeks federal grant) (Tuesday 1/13/15 ... am 6a)

The City of Bicknell is seeking \$500,000 in federal funds to improve the city's storm water drainage system. Bicknell Mayor Jon Flickinger says the aging system is holding up progress on the city streets; also, City backfill from residential runoff has clogged parts of the nearly 50-year-old system.

(Carlisle-- federal fraud sentence) (Wednesday 1/14/15 ... tlz 6a)

A Carlisle couple was convicted of wire fraud charges yesterday in federal district court in Indianapolis.

53 year-old Frank Majeau, and his wife-- 49 year-old Antoinette Mejeau-- were convicted of stealing just under 125-thousand dollars from Sullivan County's Jefferson Township. Frank Majeau will serve six months in federal prison, while his wife Antoinette will serve three years' federal probation.

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VCSC - Legislature Predictions - for 1/13/15

For Governor Mike Pence's State of the State speech last night, Education was one of the buzz words. Pence says he's asking for more money for education - both for public schools and an increase in state funding for private schools. Vincennes Community School Superintendent Greg Parsley is happy that education was included in the speech, but cautious about how proposals if passed will actually affecting local school funding.

(Pence-- State of State review) (Wednesday 1/14/15 ... tlz 6a)

Indiana Governor Mike Pence painted a positive picture of the state's future last night as part of his annual State of the State address. Pence gave the annual speech last night to the Indiana General Assembly at the Statehouse.

Pence pointed to a falling unemployment rate as one sign the state is on the right track.

(BPW-- Banner rules) (Thursday, 1/15/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Board of Works has approved a resolution to limit the time groups may make requests for banners over City streets. The new rule requires the banner request to be made no more than three months before the event. It also limits the banner's hang time to a maximum of two weeks.

(State of State-- Bobe) (Thursday, 1/15/15 ... tlz 6a)'

North Knox Superintendent Darrell Bobe has raised doubts about Governor Mike Pence's numbers in Tuesday's State of the State address. Bobe raised his concerns during yesterday's North Knox School Board session.

Governor Pence laid out a plan to increase spending for public schools, as well as for private and charter schools. Bobe says on the surface, the numbers look good-- but in his view, close scrutiny shows traditional public schools are getting short-changed

(RDC-- no 2019 call) (Thursday 1/15/15 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 1/16)

The Vincennes Redevelopment Commission learned that INDOT will not do

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a 2019 state call for projects. Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum broke the news to the R-D-C at their meeting at City Hall.

(Grouseland on "Parks and Recreation") (Monday, 1/19/14 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes historic mansion "Grouseland" will get national exposure tomorrow night. The territorial home of William Henry Harrison will be featured in tomorrow night's episode of "Parks and Recreation." The NBC comedy series features a parks and rec department in the fictional Indiana town of Pawnee.

(KC Salvation Army reaches goal) (Monday, 1/19/14 ... tlz 6a)

After a slow start, the Knox County Salvation Army Christmas kettle campaign finished strong to exceed its fund-raising goal. Knox County Salvation Army commander Curtis Lunnum was a little worried at first, but was glad to see the kettles come through in the end.

VCSC Drug Testing - for 1 20 15 - mrl
Students randomly tested at Lincoln High School for drug use will face a more comprehensive test thanks to a grant from the Local Coordinating Council for a Drug Free Knox County. Testing will now including screening for synthetic marijuana called K-2.

(USB-- Mantle Ditch engineering) (Thursday, 1/22/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Utility Services Board has approved a 30-thousand dollar payout for engineering on Mantle Ditch. The ditch project is among a list of projects Vincennes Utilities officials hope to start in 2015.

Banning Engineering will do a comprehensive ditch improvement plan. The plan will consider details on surveying, utility and landowner coordination, hydrology, permitting, and specifications. The improvements will be done in phases, due to the length of the ditch.

(KC Chamber-- Job Fair) (Monday 1/26/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Chamber of Commerce will join other groups to hold a coming job fair in Bicknell. The event will be held February seventh from ten a-m to two p-m at the Wilson Center at Bicknell's Tilly

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Estates. Tilly Estates is located just off Bruceville Avenue in Bicknell.

(The Y Mobile App) (Monday 1/26/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes YMCA is featuring a new mobile app to keep patrons up on what is happening at the facility. The new Vincennes YMCA Mobile App will feature schedules for various YMCA events, along with program information.

(Icy conditions in area) (Tuesday 1/27/15 ... tlz 6a)

A layer of precipitation that fell yesterday evening in the area caused several slide-off accidents, especially near bridges and overpasses.

The ice affected traffic on U-S 41, U-S 50, and State Road 67. It also caused the closing of the tri-level overpass for a time yesterday evening, due to several accidents caused by icy conditions.

(Trash issue-- delay) (Tuesday 1/27/15 ... tlz 6a)

Both the Vincennes City Services Committee, and the Vincennes Budget and Finance Committee, have recommended a delay in considering any changes in the City trash ordinance. At last night's Committee session, both committees reported recent numbers showed sticker revenue has been in line with City trash collection costs.

(Hill-- Bicentennial Celebration) (Wednesday 1/28/15 ... tlz 6a)

The City of Vincennes is putting events together for the coming Indiana Bicentennial Celebration. Bicentennial 2016 officials are planning for the celebration this year, with events scheduled all next year.

(Tax help returns) (Thursday 1/29/15 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes University will offer tax help to the public again starting on Tuesday, February third. The tax assistance will be offered each Tuesday and Thursday from February third to March third. It will also be offered on two Saturdays-- February 14th and February 21st.

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(UEZ forms-- Ravellette) (Thursday 1/29/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Urban Enterprise Association reminds businesses in the Urban Enterprise Zone to file their 2014 U-E-A documents.

The forms include the EZB-R form. U-E-A director Dan Ravellette reminds businesses is required-- and also an enhancement of local business.

(Riverwalk Project start) (Tuesday 3/3/15 ... tlz 6a)

The City of Vincennes has received INDOT's go-ahead on starting the long-awaited Riverwalk project later this year. The project was expected to start in two years, but INDOT officials have given the City the mandate to begin work later this year.

(Budget Cmte-- Budget reduction) (Tuesday 3/3/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council Budget and Finance Committee recommended a hiring freeze as part of a budget cutting move. The City of Vincennes is required to cut 200-thousand dollars from its budget by the end of the year. The hiring freeze will also allow a projected three percent raise for City employees to stay in place.

(Budget Cmte.-- VFD Ambulance service) (Wednesday 3/4/15 ... tlz 6a)

City Council officials plan to move slowly on a proposed Vincennes City Fire Department ambulance service request. Council's Budget and Finance Committee made no recommendation on the V-F-D request at this time.

Both fireman Justin Lowe and Knox County E-M-S owners Steve and Christy McClure spoke before the Committee. Lowe feels the ambulance service can raise revenue for the City.

(VPD-- Child molesting warrant) (Wednesday 3/6/15 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes City Police arrested a Vincennes man overnight following service of a child molesting warrant.

Authorities located 48 year-old Donnie Sandlin at a City residence, and arrested him on the warrant.

(Winter advisory) (Wednesday 3/6/15 ... tlz 6a)

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The National Weather Service has issued a winter weather advisory for today across Knox County. Colder temperatures across the area are expected to change rain into sleet and then snow this afternoon and evening. The snow is expected to end by early tomorrow morning.

(Ritz schedule) (Thursday 3/5/15 ... tlz 6a)

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz will deliver her "State of the Classroom" speech at 12-15 tomorrow afternoon at Lincoln High School. Ritz will make the speech in the Family and Consumer Science area, in room 108.

Ritz will meet and greet with attenders from noon to twelve-15, before making the speech at 12-15 p-m. The speech will be 30 minutes, and be followed by a question and answer session. The "State of the Classroom" speech will touch on the Career and Technical Education program, and the STEM program.

(Bicknell Citco-- Water Rate Increase Proposal) (Tuesday 3/10/15 ... am 6a)

A water rate increase may be coming for citizens in the City of Bicknell. The city is faced with an immediate need to improve the storm water drainage system and a quickly deteriorating infrastructure and is looking for funding to finance the upgrades.

(Citco-- Raises stay in place) (Tuesday 3/10/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council has finalized a set of cuts to remove around 200-thousand dollars from the 2015 budget. The reductions will bring the City into line with a 2015 state budget mandate, and help with a potential million dollar plus reduction in 2016.

(CoCo-- Procedural changes) (Wednesday 3/11/15 ... tlz/am 6a)

The Knox County Council is changing the way departments bring money matters before the Council. The change involves review of financial submissions by the Council's Ways and Means Committee.

(Citco-- Fire Department appearance) (Wednesday 3/11/15 ... tlz 6a)

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The Vincennes City Council received information on a proposed Vincennes City Fire Department ambulance service.

City Fire Department representative Justin Lowe spoke to his view of the economic feasibility of a City ambulance service. He also believes the service could make rates similar to fire departments of similar size across Indiana.

(Citco-- Westport Auto abatement) (Wednesday 3/11/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council passed on second and third reading an ordinance to designate Westport Auto as an Economic Revitalization Area. Westport Auto owner Paul Yochum is seeking the designation, and a tax abatement, to help build his new business location just off Hart Street near Bierhaus Boulevard.

City officials in Bicknell have started a \$415,000 blight elimination project, after acquiring the first four properties last week off a county tax sale. City attorney Michael Edwards says once all the hurdles are passed, the city's community partner, the Bicknell Bulldogs, will take ownership of the property and together the dilapidated will be razed.

(Ag Day's field trip) (Thursday 3/12/15 ... tlz 4p)
(updated 3/13)

Fifth grade students from across Knox County came to the Vincennes University P-E Complex on an Ag Day-related field trip. The fifth grade visit to V-U is a long-standing part of the county's Ag Day activities.

(Flooding-- Wabash turn) (Monday 3/16/15 ... tlz 6a)

Minor to moderate flooding is forecast for this week on the Wabash River at both Vincennes and Mount Carmel.

At Vincennes, the Wabash is around a foot above flood stage. As of last night, the Wabash River stood at 17 feet. The minor flooding will remain in place through early afternoon Thursday.

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(Vincennes-- Blight fighters) (Tuesday 3/17/15 ... tlz 6a)

The City of Vincennes is continuing its fight to eliminated blighted homes. City officials are looking to tear down 30 blighted homes to improve the view and livability of Vincennes residences.

(NK-- Bobe on funding) (Tuesday 3/17/15 ... tlz 6a)

North Knox Schools Superintendent Darrell Bobe has come out against the latest State Legislative school funding formula. The new formula gives an average three percent increase to Indiana schools; however, it can cut money to rural districts.

USB-- bid openings) (Thursday 3/19/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Utility Services Board took two bids under advisement for upcoming projects on the Vincennes City Levee.

The first project is an overall list of needed repairs on the Vincennes City Levee. The list of repairs were bid out as one package, under projects covered by the state's OCRA grant. Wabash Utilities was the low bidder, at just over 194-thousand dollars; other bidders were Blankenberger Brothers, and Graves Plumbing.

(Clark's Crossing Grand Opening) (Wednesday 3/18/15 ... tlz 4p)
(updated 3/19)

The public got its first official look at Clark's Crossing yesterday, with a public viewing of the new senior apartment complex. Clark's Crossing is located at 300 North Sixth Street; it is the final product of a renovation of the former Vincennes Administrative Building.

(Pinkstaff next in line) (Thursday 3/19/15 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum has named Battalion Chief Sonny Pinkstaff to be the next in line to replace current Chief Gordon Becher. Becher is retiring as City Fire Chief on May first. Pinkstaff will train under Becher for the position from now through May first, and take over Becher's spot upon Becher's retirement.

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(Arson on State Street fire) (Tuesday 3/24/15 ... tlz 6a)

Local and state crews say a weekend fire on State Street was intentionally set. The fire was the third of four this month to be considered suspicious.

Sonny Pinkstaff, of the Vincennes City Fire Department, says both city and state investigators just determined the fire was an arson.

(Courthouse-- Bomb Threat) (Monday 3/23/14 ... am 4p)
(updated 3/24)

The Knox County Sheriff's Department is investigating a bomb threat yesterday afternoon at the Knox County Courthouse. A caller initially reported a double stabbing and a bomb to the courthouse around 1:45 p-m Monday.

Senator Dan Coats Won't Seek Re-Election jds 3-25-15

Indiana Senator Dan Coats says he isn't running for re-election next year. He made the announcement yesterday, calling the decision a difficult one.

(GSH-- Beacon opening) (Wednesday 3/25/15 ... tlz 6a)

Good Samaritan Hospital continues with a June 30th completion date for the Gibault Memorial Tower. The five-story tower is the focal point of the Hospital's ongoing BEACON project.

John Manning is Good Samaritan Hospital's BEACON project coordinator. Manning credits the project's contractors and subcontractors for keeping the BEACON project on time.

(KC Sheriff-- federal inmates) (Friday 3/27/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Sheriff's Department is one step closer to its goal of housing federal inmates. Sheriff's officials are in negotiations with federal authorities; the step is one of the final strides toward an agreement to take in federal prisoners.

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(YMCA Daycare Closing) (Tuesday 3/31/15 ... tlz 6a)

After 23 years, the Vincennes YMCA's Emma Allen Daycare will close for good on June 30th. The YMCA Board of Directors made the move in a meeting yesterday.

Vincennes YMCA president Rob LaRoy says the decision came from a study of the Center's finances throughout 2015.

(KCDC-- Industrial Park expansion) (Thursday 4/2/15 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 4/3)

Negotiations continues for the Knox County Development Corporation to add 50 more acres to the U-S 41 Industrial Park. K-C-D-C director Kent Utt told the Corporation board that negotiations continue to close the purchase on the Worland property.

VCSC Elementary Meeting - for 4/3/15 - mrl

The first of five meetings to take about the future of elementary schools within the Vincennes Community Schools took place last night at Franklin Elementary. Superintendent Greg Parsley laid out a basic plan to reduce the number of elementary schools and improve the three that would be left.