

This is a recap of issues covered in the fourth quarter of 2017. The stories were reported from October first through December 31st, 2017.

The stories were covered in newscasts ^{twice} each hour between 5 am and 9 am. They were also covered in full newscasts at 12 noon and 5 pm..

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

(School accountability grades) (Wednesday 10/4/17 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 10/5)

All but two Knox County schools has received A, B, or C grades in the 2017 Indiana schools assessment. The assessment numbers were released yesterday by the Indiana Department of Education. The two remaining schools got D grades; no county school received an F.

(Days of Caring) (Thursday 10/5/17 ... tlz 6a)

The annual United Way of Knox County "Days of Caring" will run today and tomorrow across the county. The first day is focused primarily on collecting non-perishable food items for the County's food pantries.

(ONB-- Tools for Schools) (Friday 10/6/17 ... tlz 6a)

South Knox Elementary School was selected as the Old National Bank Vincennes District's winner for "Tools for Schools." The honor means South Knox Elementary will receive a one-thousand dollar grant for getting the most votes in the Vincennes region.

(Day of Caring-- Friday) (Friday 10/6/17 ... tlz 6a)

Today is the second and final scheduled day for the United Way of Knox County Days of Caring. Volunteers from all across the county will roll up their sleeves and pitch in to help agencies supported by United Way funding.

(KASEY program at VU) (Monday 10/9/17 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 10/10)

A well-known fire safety expert brought his message of fire prevention to Vincennes University earlier today. Jeff Owens, of the KASEY program, appeared at Vincennes University's Red Skelton Performing Arts Center.

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County Council and the Pantheon Business Theatre - mrl - for 10/11/17

The Knox County Council has passed a non-binding resolution supporting the proposed Pantheon Business Theatre project. The multimillion dollar repurposing of the Pantheon building at 5th and Main in Vincennes will become a business incubator under the plan. There are 39 such business places in Indiana, but very few in the southern portion of the state. While the resolution passed unanimously, public support for the project was not.

(Citco-- Gimbel Corner Fund) (Wednesday 10/11/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council has approved on first reading an account for a Gimbel Corner Improvement fund. Plans are for the open corner to be turned into public gathering place.

(FIA-- 15-year celebration) (Thursday 10/12/17 ... tlz 6a)

Community leaders will gather on Friday, October 20th to honor F-I-A's 15th year in Knox County. The late-morning celebration that day will be at the F-I-A plant in the U-S 41 Industrial Park.

(Knox man to Washington DC) (Monday 10/17/17 ... tlz 6a)

A northern Knox County man will be sworn in tomorrow to a position in the Trump Administration.

Ed Elliott will take a position as a Senior Advisor concerning the Administration's policy on mining.

Ten Years Brings 30% Fewer Teen Driving Fatalities in Indiana
Jds 10-17-17

This week marks the tenth anniversary of National Teen Driver Safety Week.

And things look much different than they did ten years ago.

In Indiana, the number of teens involved in fatal car crashes has gone down by 30%, 166 in 2005 compared to 117 in 2015.

In the United States the numbers have decreased nearly 43 percent in the past decade.

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In 2015, 4,308 teens were involved in fatal crashes compared to 7,500 in 2005.

Studies from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety attribute reductions in crash deaths to strong Graduated Driver Licensing programs.

(KC Prosecutor-- Domestic Violence Month) (Wednesday 10/18/17 ... tlz 6a)

Knox County Prosecutor Dirk Carnahan reminds everyone that October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence can happen in various forms, and with people of all backgrounds and education levels.

(Lost Stellar for Vincennes) (Wednesday 10/17/17 ... tlz 4p)
(updated 10/18)

The City of Vincennes was not selected by the State of Indiana as a Stellar Community this year. The Stellar Committee has selected Madison as this year's Stellar Community for Division One. Vincennes and Greensburg were the other finalists for the Division One Stellar initiative.

(LC Board-- Tax levy) (Thursday 10/19/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Lawrence County Board has tentatively approved the County's planned 2018 budget. The County's budget for the next calendar year will total just over two-point-seven three million dollars. Lawrence County Clerk Will Gibson also told the Board the budget will have an 85-thousand, 165 dollar surplus.

(RDC-- Housing plan) (Thursday 10/19/17 ... tlz 12n)

The Vincennes Redevelopment Commission has approved developer Andy Myszak's second try for state funding for housing improvements. The improvements include blight elimination on eleven sites across Vincennes, along with a re-purposing of the old Robinson Grain site.

(Facility drug sweep) (Friday 10/20/17 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes City, Knox County, and Daviess County officials were involved in an un-announced drug sweep last night at a Knox County

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correctional facility.

(Citco-- Pantheon support) (Tuesday 10/24/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council approved a resolution last night to support a planned future use of the Pantheon Theater. The resolution goes back to a mid-July speech about turning the building into a business incubator known as the "Pantheon Business Theater."

(GSH-- 2018 budget projection) (Wednesday 10/25/17 ... tlz 6a)

Good Samaritan Hospital will seek to cut its costs next year, after suffering a one and a half million dollar loss so far this year in its bottom line. At last night's session, Hospital Chief Financial Officer Thom Cook reported an increase in gross revenue growth of nine percent over last year, but knows different factors have led to the bottom line loss.

(Baldwin case delayed) (Wednesday 10/25/17 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 10/26)

The Robert Baldwin murder trial originally set for this week has been delayed due to a request for a change of venue. Baldwin is accused of the early-April murder of his five year-old son Gabriel at their home in Vincennes.

(United Way of KC-- Chili competition funds) (Friday 10/27/17 ... tlz 6a)

Twenty celebrity chili chefs from across Knox County joined together last night to raise funds for the United Way of Knox County. The cooks were at Vincennes Brewing Company for the first United Way of Knox County Chili Cook-Off fund-raiser.

Knox Co. Man Killed in Single Vehicle Accident
Jds 10-28-17

The Knox County Sheriff's Department is investigating a single vehicle accident which claimed the life of a 46-year-old Knox County man. Deputies were dispatched to State Road 67 and McCormick Road late Friday night following a report of a pick-up truck that ran off the highway and struck a tree.

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(Heating assistance coming) (Wednesday 10/31/17 ... tlz 6a)

Tomorrow is the start date for the Low-Income Heating Energy Assistance Program. The program is sponsored by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. PACE Community Action Agency is the group in charge of the heating assistance in Knox, Daviess, Greene, and Sullivan counties. All those receiving assistance must meet eligibility requirements. Anyone applying must include the proper identification forms to be accepted.

(Grouseland-- Best Historic Place) (Tuesday 10/31/17 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 11/1)

A national magazine has named Grouseland as its readers' favorite historic place in Indiana. The decision was published in Early American Life magazine.

(Property taxes-- Knox/Daviess) (Thursday 11/2/17 ... tlz 6a)

Taxpayers in Indiana are reminded the fall installment of property tax payments is due by the end of the day Monday, November 13th. The date was moved to Monday the 13th, since the office will be closed on November tenth to celebrate Veterans' Day.

(Comm-- Handbook update) (Wednesday 11/8/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Commissioners have approved language changes for the updated Knox County employee handbook. The Commissioners made their approval at yesterday's Commissioners' session.

Knox County Attorney Yvette Kirchoff pointed to several changes in the new handbook. Among the most significant changes is added vacation days for 20 years and 25 years of work.

(PCA room fire) (Wednesday 11/8/17 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes firefighters put out a fire yesterday afternoon at the Packaging Corporation of America plant on Saint Clair Street.

The fire was called in just after two-30 in the compactor room at the center of the plant. The fire damaged two cardboard chip compactors. Firefighters contained the blaze to the two machines and the cardboard

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inside them.

(DLGF-- CCD hearing) (Wednesday 11/8/17 ... tlz 4p)
(updated 11/8)

Around 50 people attended a public hearing yesterday concerning a proposed Knox County Cumulative Capital Development Fund. The hearing was set after a group of Knox County property owners disputed the Knox County Commissioners' passage of the fund.

(Vin Utilities-- New Water Plant) (Thursday 11/8/17 ... tlz 6a)

A drinking water plant decades in the planning is now up and running for Vincennes water users. The plant was completed earlier this year, and has been slowly coming online to provide service to the community.

(Oaktown fatal fire) (Monday 11/13/17 ... tlz 6a)

An Oaktown woman died in a house fire yesterday at her home in the 300-block of Raymond Street.

The fire was called in around eight-20 a-m from the house occupied by 70 year-old Jeanette Rickard.

(KCARC-- 1972 Center opening) (Monday 11/13/17 ... tlz 6a)

The KCARC held a ribbon cutting and open house yesterday for its brand-new 1972 Center. The Center is located in the former KCARC manufacturing location at 711 Old Wheatland Road. The ribbon cutting and open house happened yesterday; today marks its first operating day for the public.

(Bicknell-- power outage delay) (Wednesday 11/15/17 ... tlz 6a)

A planned weekend outage for the City of Bicknell is being delayed to the spring of next year. The outage was planned overnight on Saturday. Duke officials wanted to move the work 24 hours, to overnight Sunday, but possible bad weather caused them to delay it until the spring.

(USB-- Washington Avenue project) (Thursday 11/16/17 ... tlz 6a)

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The Vincennes Utility Services Board is in favor of an of a proposed improvement of Washington Avenue. The City of Vincennes is proposing six-million dollars in repairs to Washington Avenue from Emison Avenue to Belle Crossing.

(Marley pleads to murder) (Tuesday 11/21/17 ... tlz 6a)

A Vincennes man has pled guilty in relation to the murder of his girlfriend at a home in Princeton.

Lance Marley is accused of stabbing his girlfriend, Lindsey Fleck, to death in October of last year. The guilty plea came six days before his trial was to begin in Gibson County; it also came after examiners found Marley competent to stand trial.

Arson Cause of Bicknell House Fire
Jds 11-23-17

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office says arson is to blame for a fire that destroyed a vacant house in Bicknell Tuesday night.

(Citco-- Merit Commission discussion) (Tuesday 11/28/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council heard from a City fireman last night asking for assurance that a December 22nd Merit commission ratification vote will happen.

(VPD-- Armed robbery arrest) (Wednesday 11/29/17 ... tlz 6a)

A Vincennes man wanted for questioning in an armed robbery late Monday night at Rally's has been arrested.

Vincennes Police arrested 25 year-old Zachary Garner overnight on charges of armed robbery and failure to return to lawful detention. Garner was arrested overnight in Vincennes.

(Knox sobriety checkpoint) (Friday 12/1/17 ... tlz 6a)

Indiana State Police troopers will set up a sobriety checkpoint somewhere in Knox County tonight into tomorrow morning. The exact time and location of the checkpoint will not be released.

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(VPD-- Burglary charges) (Friday 12/1/17 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Police arrested a Vincennes man after an investigation found him allegedly involved in five summertime burglaries.

Officers questioned 19 year-old Antonio C. Hernandez in connection to the June incidents. After questioning, Hernandez was charged with the five burglary counts.

(VU-- Johnson's Chinese visit) (Wednesday 12/6/17 ... tlz 12n)

The Vincennes University Board heard from V-U president Chuck Johnson about two new agreements with a Chinese delegation. Johnson signed the licensing agreements with a high school and technical college in Xuji (shoo-YEE) County in China.

(Sal Army-- Battle of the Badges) (Friday 12/8/17 ... tlz 6a)

The second annual "Battle of the Badges" bell-ringing effort returns today to the Vincennes Wal-Mart. The battle between Vincennes Police and Fire units will run from ten this morning to eight tonight. The two groups raised four-thousand dollars last year, and hope to double that donation this year.

(City-- Fire in the red) (Friday 12/8/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council is expecting to transfer more funding to help balance funds for the Vincennes Fire Department.

Murder Trial of Vincennes Man Delayed Again Jds/TL 12-8-17

A change of venue hearing in the Robert Baldwin murder case has now been re-set for one-30 p-m, Thursday, January fourth. The 53 year-old Baldwin, of Vincennes, was originally set to appear in court this week. Baldwin is accused of killing his five-year-old son Gabriel Baldwin back in April.

The change of venue hearing is being requested by Baldwin's defense team.

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(Sal Army-- kettles underfunded) (Monday 12/11/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Salvation Army is reporting it is well under its kettle campaign goal for this year. As of this weekend, Salvation Army officials report being short of their 75-thousand dollar goal by over 50-thousand dollars.

(Kaffenberger's Lilly Scholarship) (Tuesday 12/12/17 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Lincoln High School's Nate Kaffenberger is the latest Knox County student to win the Lilly Scholarship. Kaffenberger was selected from a group of finalists for the prestigious honor.

(Memorial Bridge-- short shutdown) (Tuesday 12/12/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Memorial Bridge will shut down again-- but this time, for a matter of hours instead of months.

(VCSC-- Underfunded budget) (Tuesday 12/12/17 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Community Schools will once again this year receive less than 80 percent of the funding it expected for the coming year. At last night's Vincennes School Board meeting, Superintendent Greg Parsley reported the budget shortfall to the Board and those in attendance.

(CoCo-- Pantheon application) (Wednesday 12/14/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Council has approved downtown Vincennes development group InVin's request to apply for a state grant. InVin will apply for the grant for renovation of the Pantheon Theater. The application is for a State Historic Preservation grant to turn the structure into the Pantheon Business Theater.

(Sal Army-- distribution) (Tuesday 12/19/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Salvation Army will give out its Angel Tree gifts today and tomorrow at its location near Second and Minneapolis. The gift-giving is a big part of the group's Christmas season efforts.

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(City-- Ratification vote preview) (Thursday 12/21/17 ... tlz 6a)

A ratification vote on a City Fire Merit Commission is set for tomorrow at ten a-m. The vote will happen at Vincennes City Hall.

(City-- fireman's vote) (Friday 12/22/17 ... tlz 12n)

Vincennes City firefighters have turned down a plan to form a Vincennes Fire Department Merit Commission at this time. In a close vote, Twenty firemen voted against the current Commission proposal, with 18 voting for it.