

This is a recap of news stories covered in the first quarter of 2015 by radio station ~~WISN~~^{WISN}. The stories were reported from January first through March 31st, 2016. The stories were covered in newscasts of varying length through out the day, evening, and overnight.

The stories were covered in newscasts each hour around the clock. They were also covered in newscasts each half-hour from five-30 am to 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.

(Helton back in education) (Wednesday 1/6/16 ... tlz 6a)

Former Vincennes University president Richard Helton is back in education, less than a year after leaving V-U and moving to Ohio. Dr. Helton has been named as interim president of Wittenberg University, in the Dayton, Ohio suburb of Springfield. Helton stepped down from Vincennes University following an eleven-year term as University president, from 2004 to 2015.

Illinois Governor Declares Lawrence/Richland Counties State Disaster Areas
jds 1-6-16

Governor Bruce Rauner is declaring 11 more Illinois counties state disaster areas.

Among them are Lawrence and Richland Counties.
They bring the total number of state disaster areas to 23.

(Farm Profit Preview--preview) (Thursday 1/8/16 ... tlz 6a)
(dated-- kill after 2p)

The annual Farm Profit Preview is happening today at the Highland Woods Community Center. The preview is a chance for farmers and agri-businessmen to learn ways to be more profitable in the coming farm season.

(VPD-- new blood) (Thursday 1/7/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Police Department is hoping to bring a couple of new officers onto the force sometime early this year. Vincennes City Police Chief Dusty Luking says the Department needs a couple of officers to get back to full strength.

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(Salvation Army-- kettle wrap) (Friday 1/8/16 ... tlz 6a)

After a slow start, the Knox County Salvation Army reported a strong finish to exceed its goal in the kettle campaign. Knox County Salvation Army commander Curtis Lunnum credited a strong last two weeks before Christmas to reverse the slow beginning to the annual kettle campaign.

(Citco-- Errors corrected) (Monday 1/12/16 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council approved two separate ordinances last night to correct three salary ordinance errors. Council members unanimously suspended the rules, and passed the corrections on all three readings last night.

The first ordinance adds the part of the salary paid to both the Vincennes Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer's salaries from the City's Utility Services Board. The second ordinance adds the U-S-B amount to the salary of the City Engineer.

Wrong Way Driver Killed in Gibson Co. Accident

Jds 1-18-16

The Gibson County Sheriff's Department says a wrong-way driver was killed Saturday night on US 41 near Richland Creek Drive near Princeton.

82-year-old Marjorie Straw of Princeton was driving southbound in the northbound lanes when she hit an oncoming car.

Straw was killed in the crash.

(Shipman's second award) (Thursday, 1/21/16 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes-based "Helping His Hands" director Scott Shipman has been named as the Civitan "Citizen of the Year." The award is the second for Shipman this year; earlier this month, he was named the Phillip Shelton Humanitarian Award winner.

(Bicknell-- storm sewer work) (Monday, 1/24/16 ... tlz 6a)

The City of Bicknell plans to combine this season's paving schedule

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with scheduled sewer and stormwater line work. City officials plan both sewer and stormwater work

(KC Parks Board-- new trails) (Tuesday 1/26/16 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Parks Board has approved an engineering contract for a new half-mile trail for the Fox Ridge Nature Park. Engineer John Sprague will do the work with funds provided by a state conservation grant targeted for the new park's upkeep.

(V-U-- New program with Perry Meridian) (Thursday 1/28/16 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes University is joining the University of Indianapolis and Perry Meridian High School on a new joint education venture. The "One plus Three" program allows Early College students from Perry Meridian to graduate high school with a one-year general studies certificate from V-U. Those credits will give students a one-year head start toward a degree at the University of Indianapolis. The agreement was announced yesterday in a conference at Perry Meridian High School.

Indiana Students To Get Free FAFSA Filing Help At College Goal Sunday
jds 1-29-16-16

Financial aid professionals will be volunteering at 42 sites in Indiana to help college-bound students and their families open the door to financial aid during College Goal Sunday on February 21st. The free program assists Indiana students in filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA.

(GSH-- National Heart Month) (Monday 2/1/16 ... tlz 6a)

This is National Heart Month, and Good Samaritan Hospital is offering various services throughout the month.

The Hospital will provide free stroke and heart-related screenings. The next free stroke screening will happen tomorrow from nine a-m to three p-m in the Hospital's Eva Hill Auditorium.

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(Coco-- contested May election) (Monday 2/1/16 ... tlz 6a)

At least one Knox County election will be contested in the May primary, as Mike Thompson has filed for another term for Knox County Council At-Large. Thompson joins fellow incumbent Council Democrats Tim Crowley and Brian Downen, and challenger Tom Peters, in contesting the Democrat nomination for the three seats available in the May primary.

(Three arrested on Counterfeit charges) (Friday 2/5/16 ... tlz 6a)

An investigation has led to the arrest of three people late yesterday afternoon on fraud charges.

The investigation started with a counterfeiting complaint from a Bruceville business. A search warrant led authorities to a home in Bruceville, where they claim to have found evidence of counterfeiting. The arrest happened around five-30 yesterday afternoon.

(B'nell-- stormwater grant) (Tuesday 2/9/16 ... tlz 6a)

The Bicknell City Council has approved the use of 150-thousand dollars in match money for an 870-thousand dollar stormwater project. The project will allow a major stormwater drainage upgrade for the City of Bicknell. The grant is being administered by the Southern Indiana Development Corporation.

(Vectren-- gas line work) (Tuesday 2/9/16 ... tlz 6a)

Vectren gas crews have announced future plans to improve gas mains and service lines in several Vincennes locations. The projects will happen throughout the weeks and months to come.

Vectren officials will do the work on Main Street between Third and Sixth Streets; Old Wheatland Road from Sixth Street to Plumtree Drive; and Washington Avenue from the U-S 41 overpass to Forest Hills Drive. Also, work will happen on Bentley Road, Alexander Drive, and Pineview Drive. Finally, Vectren will replace the gas lines in an entire area bounded by Willow Street, Bayou Street, 13th Street, and 18th Street.

(CoCo-- Umbaugh long range plan) (Wednesday 2/10/16 .. tlz 6a)

The Knox County Council is considering a contract with Umbaugh and Associates to set up a long-range financial plan for Knox County. If

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Council approves the contract, Umbaugh will determine spending trends, and set the county up with projections for the coming three years.

(China Buffet Fire Cause Ruled as Undetermined) (Wednesday, 2/10/16 ... tlz 6a)

Investigators have officially ruled the cause of a fire at the China Buffet on Sixth Street in Vincennes as undetermined. Indiana State Fire Marshal's office officials say the fire is still under investigation..

The fire started in a utility room of the restaurant. The utility room contained electric panels, a water heater, and various bulk food containers.

(Charlton murder-- official charges filed) (Wednesday, 2/10/16 ... tlz 6a)

Knox County Prosecutor Dirk Carnahan has filed a probable cause information on 39 year-old Candice Charlton. Charlton is charged with murder in the Friday night stabbing death of 30 year-old Gerald Sturgeon. Sturgeon was stabbed in the back in what is being called a domestic dispute; he was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital, where he died around an hour later.

(Sturgeon homicide-- Morris reax) (Friday 2/12/16 ... tlz 6a)

Knox County Sheriff's deputies continue to investigate the February fifth death of Gerald Sturgeon at a Short Street home in Wheatland. Sturgeon died from a stab wound to his back; 30 year-old Candice Charlton is accused of murder in his death.

(L'ville Citco-- Grant denial) (Monday 2/15/16 ... tlz 6a)

The City of Lawrenceville has been turned down for an infrastructure grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce. The City wanted the grant to repair old water lines on both Eighth Street and Tenth Street.

(ISP-- Dugger man arrested) (Tuesday 2/16/16 ... tlz 6a)

Indiana State Police arrested a rural Dugger man yesterday after serving a search warrant on a residence on Sullivan County Road 200 South.

State Police served the warrant on a home occupied by 38 year-old Benjamin Willey. State Police started investigating Willey following a request earlier this month from the Sullivan County Department of Child Services.

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(Stolen vehicle chase-- arrest) (Tuesday 2/16/16 ... tlz 6a)

Five people were injured and one was arrested following an accident after a stolen truck chase in Knox and Daviess Counties.

The chase started with the theft of a Ford Ranger from Sixth Street and Old Wheatland Road. Police located the truck on U-S 50 west of Wheatland, and started chasing the truck. The chase reached speeds of nearly 100 miles an hour, when the vehicle crashed on U-S 50 at State Road 57 in Washington.

(Gregg Rotary speech) (Wednesday 2/17/16 ... tlz 6a)

Presumptive Indiana Democrat Governor's candidate John Gregg spoke in an afternoon session Tuesday before the Vincennes Rotary Club. The address took place in the Trailblazer Room at Vincennes University.

Gregg spoke about coming together for solutions to issues facing the state. Among the issues Gregg mentioned were jobs, education, road repairs, and crime prevention.

(VPD, VUPD--At least four arrested at VU) (Friday 2/19/16 ... tlz 6a)
(Updated copy)

Vincennes City and Vincennes University police arrested seven people this morning following a stop in the parking lot of Godare Hall.

The stop happened around one-45 a-m. Police found marijuana in the possession of 20 year-old Rodney Grubbs, of Indianapolis.

VCSC Building Plans Approved - for 2 23 16 - mrl

The Vincennes Community School Board has approved the renovation project for all four elementary schools. Bonds totaling up to \$40 Million will be sold in phases over the next three years. The first bids will be awarded this May. According to Superintendent Greg Parsley, taxes will not rise to pay for the project because other debt has been and will be repaid before the new bonds are all bought. The project will begin this summer with refurbishing at Riley Elementary and exterior work including improvements to traffic flow at all four buildings. Riley students and employees will be displaced for at least the first semester of next school year.

(KC Council-- preparing for future) (Thursday 2/25/16 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Council is looking at lowered revenues for the years to come. Property tax caps and other reductions in revenue have caused Council to seek a long-range financial plan to weather the difficulties.

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(Ellspermann's last day) (Thursday 3/3/16 ... NI/tlz 6a)

Yesterday ended the three-year term of Sue Ellspermann as Indiana's Lieutenant Governor. Ellspermann's resignation of the position became effective late yesterday afternoon. Ellspermann and Governor Pence announced last month she'd step down to focus on her application to be Ivy Tech's next president.

(Grabbe-Utley Scholarship) (Thursday 3/3/16 ... tlz 6a)

North Knox High School senior Molly Earhart has been named as one of the winners of Vincennes University's Grabbe-Utley scholarships. Earhart received her scholarship award last night in a ceremony at North Knox High School. The Bicknell native Earhart will study nursing at Vincennes University.

Arrest Made in Stabbing of Washington Man
Jds 3-7-16

Washington Police say a Washington man was stabbed multiple times during a fight Friday afternoon in an alley across from the Hydrant Bar and Grill on West Walnut Street. 21-year-old Jacob Bowling was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes where he is in serious, but stable condition.

(Sheriff-- Vigo inmates) (Wednesday, 3/9/16 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Jail has become a busier place recently, with the transfer of 51 Vigo County inmates into the general population. The Vigo County inmates are being held in Knox County due to overcrowding in the Vigo County Jail. Knox County Sheriff Mike Morris says the inmates are being held at a rate of 35 dollars per day. The extra Vigo County offenders mean the Knox County Jail is bringing in just under 18-hundred dollars extra per day.

(CoCo-- Public Defender changes) (Wednesday 3/9/16 ... tlz 6a)

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The Knox County Council is seeking ways to drastically reduce spending in the Knox County Public Defender program. The County's program has been flagged by the State of Indiana as one of the state's most inefficient.

The Public Defender program spent over a million dollars last year. Council president Bob Lechner says Council and the County's justice system has to reduce the cost of the County's public defender program.

UEA Board Meets - for 3 9 16 - mrl

The Vincennes Urban Enterprise Association Board approved one grant request, tabled one, and offered advice to a third person seeking help from the group. Judy Kratzner received One Thousand Dollars to help with repairs to the façade of her building at 418 Main. The money represents twenty percent of the cost of the project. John Chung (Chang) came before the board and asked for guidance about how to proceed toward getting an application ready to ask for the association's help with the former Morone's building at 2nd and Busseron.

(Bicknell meth arrest) (Friday 3/11/16 ... tlz 6a)

Bicknell City Police arrested a Bicknell woman this morning after following her to her residence on White River Avenue.

Officers tried to stop the vehicle operated by 37 year-old Jamie McKee. Police followed her to her White River Avenue home, where they found packaged methamphetamine in her possession.

(Villwock's reflections) (Monday 3/14/16 ... tlz 6a)

It has been around two months since Edwardsport's Don Villwock narrowly lost his bid to become president of the American Farm Bureau Federation. In that time, Villwock-- who resigned as Indiana Farm Bureau president in December-- has settled back to life on his Knox County farm.

(SK-- No Clerk of Works yet) (Tuesday 3/15/16 ... tlz 6a)

The South Knox School Board decided to take more time in naming a Clerk of the Works for a possible renovation project. The Board heard presentations March ninth from four groups wishing to be the Clerk of the Works for the potential school renovation project in 2018.

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(State of City-- successes) (Tuesday 3/15/16 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum painted a positive picture last night as part of his annual State of the City address. Yochum delivered the speech immediately following last night's Vincennes City Council session.

Mayor Yochum pointed out many accomplishments that benefited Vincennes in 2015.

(INDOT-- Knox letting) (Wednesday 3/16/16 ... tlz 6a)

The Indiana Department of Transportation has approved a just under one million dollar re-paving project on State Road 67. The project will take place on 67 a half-mile north of State Road 550 at Bruceville, northeastward to a quarter-mile south of State Road 159 at Bicknell.

(LAM house fire) (Wednesday 3/16/16 ... tlz 6a)

One of the Knox County Life After Meth transitional houses was destroyed this morning following a fire at 1131 Broadway. The fire was called in around three-30 this morning. The fire started in the attic of the two-story building. No official cause has been determined at this time; however, it is suspected to have been electrical in nature. The Vincennes City Fire Department has called in the Indiana State Fire Marshal to make a further investigation, and an official determination.

(LAM men-- donations) (Wednesday 3/16/16 ... tlz 4p)
(updated 3/17)

Donations are being accepted for the men affected by yesterday's fire at the Life After Meth transitional house. The fire left the house a total loss.

LAM director Peter Haskins is accepting inquiries about items to provide for the men affected. Haskins can be reached by calling 812-887-8374. Also, officials at First Baptist Church are accepting money and gift cards for the men affected in the fires. The church number is 812-882-3209.

(USB-- proposed rate increases) (Thursday 3/17/16 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Utility Services Board is supporting the City's first water and sewer rate increase on City consumers since 2002. Water and sewer rate consultant John Skomp, of Indianapolis-based Crowe-Horwath (HOR-vath), called for a nearly 50-percent increase in combined water and sewer

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rates.

The proposal would raise water rates by 65 percent, and sewer rates by 42 percent. The proposed increase would raise the average water rate for Vincennes residents from \$14.52 per month to \$23.95 per month. The average sewer rate would increase from \$33.56 to \$47.61 per month. Under the new water and sewer proposal, the combined Vincennes water and sewer bill would total \$71.56 a month-- up from the current average cost of \$48.07.

(RDC-- Beamon's request) (Thursday 3/17/16 ... tlz 12n)

The Vincennes Redevelopment Commission has approved up to 315-thousand dollars in funding for Vincennes' Four Lakes Park. City Parks Department superintendent Steve Beamon requested the funding for massive improvements to the park.

(Cross Walk on Good Friday) (Friday 3/18/16 ... tlz 6a)

A Good Friday tradition will be held again a week from today in downtown Vincennes, with the eighth annual Cross Walk. The event will begin at the Old Cathedral in downtown Vincennes at noon on Friday, March 25th.

The Way of the Cross Walk is a devotional prayer remembering the 14 stations along Jesus' journey from Pilate's condemnation to His burial.

Blackhawk Mining Sells Freelandville Operations
Jds 3-23-16

Hallador Energy Company announced Tuesday its wholly owned subsidiary, Sunrise Coal, LLC, has completed the purchase of certain underground coal reserves and a coal sales agreement associated with Triad Mining, LLC's Freelandville, Indiana mining complex. Triad is a wholly owned subsidiary of Blackhawk Mining, LLC based in Lexington, Kentucky.

Governor Pence Signs Road Funding Bill Into Law
Jds 3-24-16

Governor Mike Pence signed a couple of bills Wednesday that will provide slightly more than \$800 million

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in new road spending over the next two years.

Local governments receive \$576 million over two years and about \$100 million a year after that.

State roads and bridges receive about \$228 million in new funding over two years.

The measures - House Bill 1001 and Senate Bill 67 - also include \$42 million in funding for the governor's Regional Cities Initiative, \$10 million for scholarships for prospective educators and \$29 million to fund a 13th annual pension check for retired public employees.

(VPD-- Stolen auto chase) (Thursday 3/24/16 ... tlz 6a)

Knox County Sheriff's deputies arrested two people yesterday following a chase that ended near U-S 41 just south of Vincennes.

The chase began when Sheriff's officials tried to stop an orange Mustang reported stolen earlier in the day. The car's driver drove into a private field behind the Knox County Sheriff's Department, and got stuck on a fence near U-S 41.

(Lilly winners announced) (Friday 3/25/16 ... tlz 6a)

North Knox High School senior Bridget Brocksmith has been announced as the 2016 Lilly Scholarship award winner. Brocksmith is the daughter of William and Jo Anne Brocksmith of Oaktown.

Bridget plans to attend an un-named Indiana college to study agriculture and medicine. She plans to be agricultural economist and surgeon. Brocksmith was selected as the award winner from an original total of eleven Knox County Lilly Scholarship applications.

(Public hearing for rate increase) (Monday 3/28/16 ... tlz 6a)

An April Eleventh public hearing has been set for response to a proposed rate increase for Vincennes Utilities customers.

This evening, Vincennes City Council will hear a rate increase ordinance on first reading only. Council will NOT take public comments at this evening's session, but will hear from Vincennes Utilities general manager Kirk bouchie. Bouchie will lay out the reason behind the proposed increase, and answer questions from Council members.

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VCSC Moves Forward on School Work - for 3 29 16 - mrl

No one from the public spoke for or against renovations planned for the four Vincennes Elementary Schools at a public hearing last night. The board then approved papers allowing the borrowing of up to \$38 Million dollars over the next few years to work on the four elementary sites. School superintendent Greg Parsley says the project is needed and will not increase taxes for property owners within the school district.

(Rate increase introduction) (Tuesday 3/29/16 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes City Council passed a proposed water and sewer rate increase for Vincennes Utilities on first reading last night. The rate increase is needed for the purchase of over 19-million dollars in bonds for various water and sewer projects. Council also approved the water and sewer bond proposal last night on first reading.

(BPW-- Kimmel Title Sheet) (Wednesday 3/29/16 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Board of Works has signed the title sheet for the Kimmel Road extension project. Vincennes City Engineer John Sprague expects project bids to be opened at the second City Board of Works session in April. The bids would be advertised for two weeks prior to the bid opening.

GSH People - for 3 30 16 - mrl

Some things will stay the same and some will change at Good Samaritan Hospital. CEO Rob McLin received a one year extension on his contract at last night's Board meeting and long time Board member Maridell Sargent announced her retirement from the Board at the end of this June.

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