

This is a recap of news stories covered in the second quarter of 2015 by radio station WZDM. The stories were reported from April first through June 30th, 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. They were also covered in full newscasts at 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.

(Stroll Activities moved) (Wednesady 4/8/15 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 4/9)

The annual Vincennes Christmas Stroll has been moved from before Thanksgiving to the first weekend of December. The Stroll will move to a two-day event this year, with the Stroll Parade of Lights to be held on Friday, December fourth. The giant Christmas tree to be erected at Gimbel Corner will also be part of this year's parade.

(School session-- Clark) (Thursday 4/9/15 ... tlz 6a)

The third of five elementary school information sessions was held before a small crowd last night at Clark Middle School. Last night's session was the only one not held at one of the affected elementaries.

The sessions are public information meetings about a potential plan to close Riley as an elementary school, and renovate the three remaining elementaries-- Tecumseh-Harrison, Franklin, and Vigo. Under the current proposal, Riley would remain in the Vincennes Community School Corporation-- but used for a different purpose.

(VU Partnership announcement) (Thursday 4/9/15 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 4/10)

W-G-U Indiana-- the state's official online university-- is offering a tuition break to Vincennes University graduates and staff. W-G-U has announced a partnership with V-U to offer a five percent break in student tuition for W-G-U's Masters' degree programs.

(Midwest Food Bank-- Helping His Hands) (Monday 4/13/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes-based group "Helping His Hands" has agreed to

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become the hub of a major food-distribution system. Helping His Hands is partnering with the Indianapolis-based Midwest Food Bank as its Southwest Indiana distribution location.

(State of City) (Tuesday 4/14/15 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum voiced optimism last night as part of his "State of the City" address. The Mayor gave the annual speech immediately following last night's Vincennes City Council session at City Hall.

(State of City-- Yochum) (Wednesday 4/15/15 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum is confident of a solution to the re-certification of the Vincennes Levee. Mayor Yochum brought the levee up as part of Monday's State of the City address.

5th VCSC School Meeting - for 4/15/15 mrl

It would be three to five years before any big changes would take place at Riley Elementary even if the Vincennes Community Schools consolidates to three elementary schools at Franklin, Tecumseh-Harrison, and Vigo. About fifty people listened to Superintendent Greg Parsley explain options for improving elementary buildings. Almost all include repurposing Riley from an elementary to a specialized educational facility.

(Chamber Banquet) (Thursday 4/16/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Chamber of Commerce is preparing for its annual Chamber Banquet this year. The banquet will be held on May 20th at the Green Activities Center at Vincennes University.

(Annexation Public Forum) (Tuesday 4/21/15 ... ah 6a)

Knox County residents interested in a proposed annexation plan have set a public forum to discuss the City's plan. The session will happen at six p-m Thursday in the South Knox Middle-High School Auditorium. The interested residents represent seven separate parcels being considered for annexation into Vincennes. The meeting is sponsored by the group Citizens Against Forced Annexation.

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(Annex Makeover) (Tuesday 4/21/15 ... am 6a)

Knox Superior Court Two inside the County Courthouse Annex is getting a make-over this spring. Work to improve the Court's function and safety has been underway all year, with new Knox Superior Court Two Judge Ryan Johanningsmeier creatively funding the project.

(City Parks-- Early cleaning) (Wednesday 4/22/15 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes City Parks officials will start season preparations for Rainbow Beach Family Aquatic Center in the next couple of weeks. This is the first full season for the Center; the new pool opened in mid-season last summer.

(Flood warning) (Monday 6/22/15 ... tlz 6a)
(dated copy-- change after 9a)

The National Weather Service has issued a flood warning for central Knox County and southern Daviess County until nine this morning. A slow-moving thunderstorm has dumped around three inches of rain in those areas since one this morning.

(VU-- Future projects) (Thursday 4/23/15 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes University officials believe its future is taking shape with various University projects.

Dr. Richard Helton believes the University is on track to receive Legislative funding for both a new building on campus, and new tech centers off it.

(Annexation Public Forum) (Thursday 4/23/15 ... ah/tlz 6a)

Knox County residents interested in a proposed annexation plan will meet tonight to discuss the City's plan. The session will happen at six p-m in the South Knox Middle-High School Auditorium. The interested residents represent seven separate parcels being considered for annexation into Vincennes. The meeting is sponsored by the group Citizens Against Forced Annexation.

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(GRC-- Tourism benefits) (Friday 4/24/15 ... tlz 6a)

A report shows tourists visiting George Rogers Clark National Park provided eight and a half million dollars in economic benefits. The recent survey was completed by U-S Geological Survey economists Catherine Thomas and Christopher Huber.

(CAFA Session) (Friday 4/24/15 ... tlz 6a)

A crowd estimated around 300 people came out to South Knox Middle School last night to vent their opinions on the City of Vincennes' plans for potential annexation. The City is considering annexation of seven separate adjoining parcels into the City.

(May ribbon cutting) (Tuesday 4/28/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Board of Works has approved closing part of Main Street May 29th as part of a dual ribbon-cutting. That day will mark the grand opening of both the new Pioneer Oil headquarters, and the Vincennes Pocket Park.

(Death investigation-- Luking) (Tuesday 4/28/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Police Department is asking for the public's help in investigating the death of Christopher Melton. The 55 year-old Melton was found dead Saturday morning at his residence at 810 North Sixth Street. City Police labeled the death as a homicide, after an autopsy found Melton died of a gunshot wound to his head.

(Citco-- Local Budget planning) (Tuesday 4/28/15 ... tlz 6a)

A new forecast has shown the City of Vincennes has reversed a one-point-six million dollar previously projected deficit for 2016. A new forecast by C-P-A Ben Roeger shows the City will now have a 200-thousand dollar surplus for 2016.

(GSH-- BEACON update) (Wednesday 4/29/15 ... tlz 6a)

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Final preparations continue for the opening of Good Samaritan Hospital's new Gibault Memorial Tower. The five-story in-patient facility is set for substantial completion on June 30th. Hospital officials expect patients to be moved into the Gibault Tower by late July; complete patient transfer is expected by early September.

(Annexation delay-- Yochum) (Wednesday 4/29/15 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 4/30)

Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum is still calling for patience in Vincennes annexation. Mayor Yochum is calling for patience in the possible addition of seven parcels of land into the City.

Mayor Yochum made the request shortly after an announced reversal of a one-point-six million dollar City deficit for 2016.

(Education budget-- Parsley reax) (Thursday 4/30/15 ... tlz 12n)

The Indiana Legislature has approved a new budget providing more overall funding for education in the next two years. However, the new budget provides more money for growing suburban school districts-- in part, at the expense of some area schools.

(Education bill reax-- County) (Friday 5/1/15 ... tlz 6a)

Leaders at both North Knox and South Knox Schools are still reviewing the impact of the state budget on their corporations. The Indiana Legislature approved an increase in education funding-- but weighted it toward growing school corporations, especially in suburban Indianapolis.

(Mayor-- Non-election savings) (Monday 5/4/15 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 5/5)

A lack of a municipal primary election has saved the City of Vincennes the expense of running the election. Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum says the City's savings reaches into the tens of thousands of dollars.

(Bicknell primary-- absentee) (Tuesday 5/5/15 ... tlz 6a)

A total of 68 voters cast early ballots in today's Bicknell Mayor's primary. Early voting ended yesterday at noon at the Knox County Clerk's

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office.

Knox County Clerk Terri Allen reports 51 of the 68 were mail-in ballots, with 17 more voting in the Clerk's office. The four Bicknell precincts will be open from now through six p-m for that city's residents to vote on their party's selection for Mayor.

(GSH'S new CFO) (Wednesday 5/6/15 ... tlz 6a)

Good Samaritan Hospital has named Jerry Paule (PAUL-ee) as its new Chief Financial Officer.

Paule is a certified public accountant with 30 years financial experience in the non-profit healthcare industry. He has most recently served as C-F-O for the Kennewick Public Hospital District in Kennewick, Washington.

(Helping His Hands Distribution Day) (Thursday 5/7/15 ... tlz 6a)

"Helping His Hands" officials will offer a free Distribution Day for the community on Saturday, May 16th. The distribution will be from nine to eleven-30 that morning at the YMCA Arts and Crafts Building on College Avenue.

(VCSC-- Summer Food Service Program) (Thursday 5/7/15 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Community Schools, along with Sodexo, is once again providing the Summer Food Service Program. The free meal program is available for all those 18 and under, and persons over 18 who are physically or mentally disabled.

(One Way Second Street) (Friday 5/8/15 ... tlz 6a)

Part of Second Street has now been changed to a temporary one-way street as part of its ongoing renovation. The one way traffic will travel southbound on Second from Buntin Street to Main Street. Northbound traffic will be detoured down Patrick Henry Drive to First Street to bypass the construction.

(Davis Citation Award) (Friday 5/8/15 ... tlz 6a)

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Vincennes volunteer John Lyons has been named as the 2015 Davis Memorial Citation winner. Lyons is a 1950 Vincennes University graduate known for his teaching and volunteer work in Knox County. Lyons served as a long-time Social Studies teacher-- first at Monroe City High School, and later at South Knox High School. After his retirement, Lyons volunteered over six-thousand hours in Generations' Kids' Read program; he also volunteered in the Marketing Department at Good Samaritan Hospital.

(Levee repairs-- making progress) (Monday 5/11/15 ... tlz 6a)

Work continues on the Vincennes Levee, as Vincennes Water Utilities officials continue repairs mandated by a report from the U-S Army Corps of Engineers. The repairs are needed for the City Levee to keep its certified status.

Knox Co. Woman Seriously Injured in Daviess Co. ATV Accident
Jds 5-11-15

A Knox County woman was seriously injured Saturday evening in an ATV accident in Daviess County.

Indiana Conservation Officers say 22-year-old Carrie Scott of Monroe City was turning onto County Road 200 West from County Road 150 North when her ATV flipped and landed on top of her.

(BPW-- Indiana's Watermelon Drop) (Tuesday 5/12/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Board of Works has approved the use of downtown for the National Watermelon Drop on New Year's Eve.

This year's Watermelon Drop will also be the kickoff event for Indiana's bicentennial celebration.

(Citco-- Becher's honor) (Wednesday 5/13/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council honored former City Fire Chief Gordon Becher at Monday's session at City Hall. Becher praised for his 27 years of service on the City Fire Department-- the last three as City Fire Chief. Becher stepped down as Chief upon his retirement on May first.

(Melton Murder-- initial hearings) (Tuesday 5/12/15 ... tlz 12n)

September 29th trial dates have been set for all three men accused in

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the murder of Christopher Melton. Melton was found shot to death at his Vincennes home on April 25th. Robert Malone of Vincennes, Robert Hutchinson of Lawrenceville, and Jack Harris of Oblong all have September 29th trial dates in Knox Circuit Court.

(Moving Relay) (Wednesday 5/13/15 ... tlz 6a)

This year Knox County Relay for Life has been moved indoors this Saturday and Sunday. A chance for thunderstorms has caused the event to move from Gregg Park to Alice Arena at Lincoln High School.

Relay organizer Stacy Lee reminds everyone despite the move, the Relay will continue as a 24 hour event. Many Relay activities will remain in place, despite the move-- including the Opening Ceremony at ten a-m Saturday, the Luminary Ceremony at nine p-m Saturday, and the Fight Back closing ceremony at nine a-m Sunday.

(PACE-- Blythe as "Emerging Leader") (Thursday 5/14/15 ... tlz 6a)

PACE Community Action Agency associate director Tai (TIE) Blythe has been named as a nationwide Emerging Leader in childhood education. The honor appeared in the latest edition of "Exchange" magazine.

(Bicentennial Torch Relay) (Monday 5/18/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay Committee is seeking nominations for Knox County torchbearers. The nominees must be current or former Indiana residents, or be nominated in honor of a current or former resident. Nominees can be of any age, and must have the physical ability to carry the torch for a minimum of a quarter mile. Torchbearers may be posthumously nominated, with a substitute torchbearer carrying the torch in their honor.

(Case named principal at NK Primary) (Tuesday 5/19/15 ... tlz 6a)

The North Knox School Board approved the naming of Brad Case principal of North Knox Primary school on Monday. Case's naming follows the resignation of Cory Parsons.

(Annexation hearing-- reax) (Tuesday 5/19/15 ... tlz 6a)

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An overflow crowd came out to City Hall last night to speak against, and in a couple cases for, annexation. Members of Vincennes City Council heard the remarks of concerned citizens in both the current, and former, areas targeted for annexation.

(Comm-- Dog Park approval) (Tuesday 5/19/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Commissioners decided last night to move forward with the development of a local dog park. The Commissioners signed an interlocal agreement to allow the County Parks Department to use and maintain the vacant parcel at the former site of the Hillcrest building.

KC Chamber Annual Meeting - for 5/21/15 - mrl

Members and guests of the Knox County Chamber of Commerce met last night at Green Activities Center to present awards and hear a moving speech from Major General Richard Stevens, Deputy Chief of Engineers and Deputy Commanding General of the Army Corps of Engineers. The 1978 Lincoln grad says Vincennes was very important to nurturing his public service.

(RDC-- Paving work) (Friday 5/22/15 ... tlz 6a)

Bids for the City of Vincennes summer paving work are being accepted. The project was advertised earlier this month. City Engineer John Sprague expects two bids back-- from E and B Paving, and from Milestone Contractors.

(Murder case-- gag order) (Friday 5/22/15 ... tlz 6a)

Participants in the ongoing Christopher Melton murder case will not be allowed to discuss the case. Knox Circuit Court judge Sherri Gilmore issued a gag order yesterday in the cases of the three men accused of the murder-- 39 year-old Robert Malone of Vincennes, 36 year-old Robert Hutchinson of Lawrenceville, Illinois, and 55 year-old Jack Harris of Oblong, Illinois. The three men's trials are currently set for September 29th. A pre-trial conference will be held earlier in September for all three men.

(Pool opening) (Tuesday 5/26/15 ... ah 6a)

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Officials with Vincennes Parks are preparing to open Rainbow Beach Family Aquatic Center for its first full season this week. The pool is scheduled to open tomorrow.

(Second Street shifting) (Tuesday 5/26/15 ... tlz 6a)

Drivers are reminded to use extra time and caution working around ongoing Second Street repairs. Work crews will start back today to improve Second Street from Main to Hart Streets.

(RDC-- Westport reschedule) (Tuesday 5/26/15 ... tlz 6a)

Groundbreaking for the new location of Westport Auto has been rescheduled for Thursday, June fourth at ten a-m. The new Westport location will be on the Ford Road extension just off Hart Street.

(Citco-- Annexation-- Council reaction) (Monday 5/27/15 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes City Council members decided to strike a pending annexation ordinance from consideration at last night's Council meeting. The vote to take the ordinance from the table was unanimous. The vote came after many people in the annexed areas voiced opposition to annexation into the City without their consent.

Children Playing With Matches Blamed on Fire
Jds 6-1-15

Vincennes fire investigators say children playing with matches touched off a Friday morning fire that damaged two apartments.

Firefighters were called to the second floor of an apartment house at 711 North 6th Street around 10:30 Friday morning.

(Mayor-- Clock repairs) (Tuesday 6/2/15 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes City leaders are considering repairs to the old clock structure on the City Hall property at the corner of Second and Vigo. The

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historic clock was installed by a Goodyear tire retailer that owned the lot over 90 years ago.

(Franklin Well Drilling Expansion-- Gov. Pence) (Wednesday 6/3/15)

Indiana Governor Mike Pence made a stop in Vincennes Tuesday as executives from Franklin Well Services announced they're moving their corporate headquarters to the city's historic Main Street. Franklin Well Services is a subsidiary of Pioneer Oil. The move will bring around 90 new, high-wage positions to Knox County.

Governor Pence says the move shows the pro-business culture Indiana has created. ..

(RLF-- New Application form) (Wednesday 6/3/15 ... tlz 6a)

Members of the Vincennes Revolving Loan Fund Board are considering a new application process for potential applicants. The process would ensure businesses borrowing from the Fund meet the program's requirements and goals.

(YMCA Tools for School) (Monday 6/8/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes YMCA'S Van Go program is accepting "Tools for School" both this month and next month. The group is collecting various school supplies on Tuesdays and Thursdays, in exchange for free Van Go rides. The donations must be of equal or greater value than ride fares; also, the supplies must be new, and in their original packaging.

(Skelton Festival) (Monday 6/8/15 ... tlz 6a)

The 10th annual Red Skelton Festival will start in Vincennes this Thursday, with activities continuing through Sunday. The activities start with a Skelton-themed pool party at Rainbow Beach on Thursday evening, with activities in downtown Vincennes both Friday evening and all day Saturday. The Festival will end with a performance by the Peru, Indiana amateur circus on Sunday.

(BPW-- Summer Paving bids) (Tuesday 6/9/15 ... tlz 6a)

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The Vincennes Board of Works is reviewing two bids submitted yesterday for the City's summer paving project. The lower of the two bids was submitted by Milestone Contractors; Milestone's bid was just under one million, 170 thousand dollars. The other bid was for just over one million, 400 thousand dollars; it was submitted by A and B Paving.

(Fiscal Transparency Portal 's Summer Debut) (Wednesday 6/10/15 ... am 6a)

A transparency portal tracking the county's financial history is expected to go online this summer. Council members hired Mount Carmel-based Web designers Brushfire Creative to handle the work

Councilwoman Nichole Like says the development of a user-friendly platform is the basis for the portal.

(Contestants-- Miss Indiana pageant) (Thursday 6/11/15 ... tlz 6a)

Seven young ladies from this area will arrive in Zionsville this Sunday for both the Miss Indiana, and the Miss Indiana's Outstanding Teen contests. Two Vincennes contestants have qualified for the Miss Indiana pageant-- 19 year-old Kearston Anderson is Miss Vincennes University, while 21 ysar-old Hannah Swan of Vincennes is Miss Ohio Valley.

(INDOT-- Earthquake simulator) (Thursday 6/11/15 ... tlz 6a)

INDOT's Southwest Indiana workers were at the epicenter of a shake-out yesterday as part of an effort to improve safety procedures and disaster relief. INDOT spokesman Jason Tiller says the Indiana Department of Transportation is responsible for clearing roads for emergency crews.

(Duke-- Edwardsport repairs) (Monday 6/15/15 ... tlz/AP 6a)

Critics are blasting Duke Energy after the company announced its intent to charge consumers for repairs at its Edwardsport plant. The Indianapolis Star reports that Duke critics believe the company started the Edwardsport plant too early. Further, the critics believe the move was to get around a 2012 cap on ratepayer charges.

(Hawkins-- New VU Student Director) (Wednesday 6/17/15 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes University has added Barry Hawkins as the University's new

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Director of Student Activities. Hawkins comes to V-U after serving as an assistant director in the Office of Student Life at Ball State University in Muncie.

(Grabbe-Utley Award Winners) (Wednesday 6/17/15 ... tlz 6a)

Six Knox County residents have been named as winners of the annual Vincennes University Grabbe-Utley Scholarship. The winners include Autumn Asdell, Laura Cooper, and Molly Smith of Vincennes; Katie Hill of Bruceville, Brett Ridgway of Bicknell, and Guy Myers of Monroe City.

The scholarships ensure the recipients coverage of college tuition, fees, and books for two years at Vincennes University.

(RDC-- Levee bids) (Friday 6/19/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Redevelopment Commission has approved two sets of bids for City Levee repairs in the R-D-C's area. The first bid will be for an enclosure on the south side of Willow Street near Pearl Drive. The other project will be the Main Street enclosure. The enclosure will be placed on Main Street near Culbertson Drive.

(NWS-- Bill's remnants) (Friday 6/19/15 ... tlz 6a)

The National Weather Service says the remnants of Tropical Storm Bill will hit the area starting early tomorrow morning. The tropical storm is moving east-northeastward from southern Missouri, and will cross Missouri and southern Illinois today.

(Villwock announces retirement) (Monday 6/22/15 ... tlz 6a)

Indiana Farm Bureau president-- and Edwardsport area farmer-- Don Villwock will step down as president of the Indiana Farm Bureau. Villwock served as Indiana Farm Bureau's president since his election to the post in 2002.

(Citco-- VPD Lateral Hiring) (Tuesday 6/23/15 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council heard a lateral hiring request from City

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Police Chief Dusty Luking. Luking is seeking the authority to take on officers from other departments, with incentives to get them to work for the City Police Department.

(Rainbow business booming) (Thursday 6/25/15 ... tlz 6a)

Business continues to be good at Vincennes' Rainbow Beach Family Aquatic Center. The reconfigured pool complex at Gregg Park is in its first full season of operation this year.

(Co-op-- Fueling Freedom) (Thursday 6/25/15 ... tlz 6a)

Some area Countrymark Co-Op fueling stations will join together tomorrow to for "Fueling Freedom" Day. Tomorrow between noon and five p-m, 50 cents of every gallon of gasoline sold, and a dollar of every lubricant sold, will be donated to National Guard Readiness groups. The local readiness group will benefit from donations from products sold at Countrymark locations in Vincennes and Oaktown. Other area Countrymark stations involved are located in Loogootee, Lyons, Evansville, Elberfeld, and Terre Haute.

(GSH-- Operating loss) (Thursday 6/25/15 ... tlz 6a)

Good Samaritan Hospital officials have reported an operating loss so far this year. Revenue statistics released at Tuesday night's Good Samaritan Hospital Board meeting show the Hospital operating with a loss of one-point-three percent. G-S-H president Rob McLin says a very strong 2014 helped lead to the operating loss so far this year.

(CoCo-- Saturday's caucus) (Friday 6/26/15 ... tlz 6a)

Tomorrow, Knox County Democrats will fill the County Council position vacated by the death of Steve Thais. Thais died in a brush-clearing accident at his home on May 26th.

(Fireworks-- future provider) (Monday 6/29/15 ... tlz 6a)

The group behind the annual Fourth of July Fireworks may make a move to a local group for the 2016 show. The Vincennes American Legion is behind the 45-minute show at dusk on the Fourth; this year's fireworks are

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being provided by a group out of Kentucky.

(CoCo-- Crowley's priorities) (Monday 6/29/15 ... tlz 6a)

Newly appointed Knox County Councilman Tim Crowley is ready to take his place next month on Council. Crowley was appointed to replace Steve Thais as a Councilman at-large.

Thais died in a brush-clearing accident on May 26th. Crowley says Thais' death was what pushed him to declare to fill the seat.

(GSH-- Greatest Community Hospital) (Tuesday 6/30/15 ... tlz 6a)

Good Samaritan Hospital has been named one of the nation's 100 Greatest Community Hospitals. The recognition was published in the trade magazine "Becker's Hospital Review."