

The following is a summary of issues filed for the radio station WZDM for the period between April first and June 30th, 2013. The issues were covered in full newscasts every half-hour between five and nine a-m, as well as at 12 noon, 4 p-m, and five p-m, and in updates airing each evening and overnight. Further, the issues were covered in a series of Community News updates, rotated around the clock seven days a week, as well as with the Around the Town program.

(Yochum-- Citco proclamation) (Monday 4/8/13 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum is scheduled to proclaim April as "Month of the Military Child" as part of tonight's Vincennes City Council session.

Mayor Yochum encourages everyone to help acknowledge the contributions of military families, and honor military children, as part of this month's remembrance.

(Prevent Child Abuse Knox County) (Mon. 4-8-13...JT 6a)

With April being Child Abuse Awareness month, Prevent Child Abuse Knox County is doing their part to inform the public.

The third annual "Stop, look Prevent Child Abuse" event takes place Saturday. The event will be community wide and will take place at Gregg Park. The safe day at the park will feature a wide variety of activities, shows and games for the whole family to enjoy. During the event there will be information booths from local agencies set up.

PCA is committed to preventing child abuse and neglect and making Knox County better and safer for children.

Franklin Elementary Celebrates 100 Years

Franklin Elementary School students and the public celebrated yesterday the one hundred years of service of the building. Hundreds of current and former students, teachers, and community members wandered through the buildings visited with friends and neighbors, and looked through memorabilia of the school.

(Bicknell City Council Catch all) (4-9-13...JT 6a.)

The Bicknell City Council voted to borrow 12 thousand dollars more at Monday's meeting.

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Bicknell Clerk Treasurer Becky McGlone had to ask for the money since after the first payroll payout in May, the city would be in the hole just over 11 thousand dollars.

The council voted to borrow 12 thousand from the city's Industry Clinic fund. Those funds will get the city through the first pay period in May. After that, the city will likely need to borrow more money to get through to June's tax draw.

(Vincennes YMCA's successful campaign) (Tuesday 4/9/13 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes YMCA has reported the raising of over 68-thousand, 400 dollars in its Annual Support Campaign. The contribution will be used to help the Y help those in need throughout Vincennes and Knox County. The just-completed campaign ran from Valentine's Day through early April. A total of 361 people donated during the recent fund-raising campaign. The funding will be spread through various Vincennes YMCA services-- including the Y's afterschool kids program, VanGo transportation service, and its family support programs.

(Dugger man identified) (Wednesday 4/10/13 ... tlz 6a)

Indiana State Police have positively identified a missing Dugger man as the man found dead along the Wabash River near Patton, Illinois. The body of 36 year-old Shane Porter was discovered on Monday, April first.

Porter's official identity was confirmed through dental records and a formal autopsy conducted by Dr. James Jacoby. Wabash County Illinois Coroner Larry Hodgson confirmed the cause of death as drowning. Family members were notified of Porter' positive identification yesterday.

(Boston Marathon explosion-- Rawles) (Tuesday 4/16/13 ... tlz 6a)

Sandborn's Zach Rawles escaped injury yesterday, as explosions rocked the finish line of the Boston Marathon. Rawles was one of the participants involved in yesterday's Boston Marathon; however, he was nowhere near the finish line when the bombs exploded. The explosions left at least three people dead, and over 140 injured.

Rawles says he dropped out of the race with just under a quarter of the 26-plus mile event to go.

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(New T-H principal) (Tuesday 4/16/13 ... tlz 6a)

Clark Middle School assistant principal Jono Connor has accepted a position as the new principal at Tecumseh-Harrison Elementary. Connor will replace the retiring Melissa Gurchiek (GURR-check) as Tecumseh-Harrison principal.

Connor says he is ready for the challenges that await at Tecumseh-Harrison. Connor also says becoming the principal at Tecumseh-Harrison fulfills his destiny in returning to Vincennes.

Connor has served as assistant principal at Clark Middle School for the last six years. Previously, he served as an educator in the Indianapolis metropolitan area.

(NK-- Gym approval) (Thursday 4/18/13 ... tlz 6a)

Signers for a new North Knox auxiliary gym won out over those against the project. In figures released last night, those for the project defeated those against it by 283 signatures-- with 1,051 signatures for the gym, and 768 against it. All the signers were verified as North Knox district landholders.

(NK-- Audit numbers) (Thursday 4/18/13 ... tlz 6a)

North Knox Schools Superintendent Darrell Bobe told the North Knox School Board the results of an audit conducted by the Indiana State Board of Accounts. The audit was conducted between November of last year, and January of this year. A couple of audience members commented on a money discrepancy in the audit that was later rectified. Bobe spoke about the discrepancy; he said he found the problem, and reported it himself to the Indiana State Board of Accounts.

(BOW - Insurance) (4-18-13...JT 4p)
(updated 4/19)

At a special meeting of the Vincennes Board of Works Thursday afternoon, the Board went with a new city Property and Casualty Policy from Chubb Insurance, through Burkhardt Insurance. The new policy offers flood and earthquake coverage, as well as essential municipality coverage for vehicles, buildings and general liability.

(Flooding-- week ahead) (Monday 4/22/13 ... tlz 6a)

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Municipalities and residents alike are dealing with continued flooding along area rivers.

In Vincennes, the Wabash River is expected to continue rising from now through Saturday. The National Weather Service forecasts the river at Vincennes will crest at 27 feet on Saturday evening. The amount is eleven feet above the river's 16-foot flood stage. Weather Service officials say the flood will be similar to floods that hit the area in 2005 and 2008. Knox County Emergency Management Agency Director John Streeter says emergency sand bags will be available as needed for locations along the Wabash needing the sand bags.

The 27-foot river is expected to cause the City to install its floodgates at various locations. The locations near the Wabash that could get floodgates installed are Old Terre Haute Road, Red Skelton Boulevard, Main Street, and Willow Street. The first floodgates would be installed when the river reaches 23 feet. Currently, the Wabash is near 19 feet and rising.

(VFD-- Security conference) (Monday 4/21/13 ... tlz 6a)

Area first responders believe they are ready in case a Boston-style bombing happens in this area. The tragedy a week ago has led many emergency agencies to review their own security plans in case of a similar emergency.

Area responders were part of a training session with a Texas group a few weeks before the Boston Marathon bombing incident. Vincennes City Fire Chief Gordon Becher was part of the training exercise; he says several area groups actively participated in the training exercise.

(Flooding update) (Friday 4/26/13 ... tlz 6a)

The National Weather Service has edged the crest level of the Wabash River at Vincennes upward toward its crest tomorrow afternoon. The latest numbers show the Wabash cresting at 27 and a half feet-- eleven and a half above flood stage.

Crews on both sides of the Wabash are watching the river and their levees. At this time, levees on both sides of the Wabash are holding. The river level will hit its highest level since June of 2008. Lawrence County Illinois officials believe their levees are in good shape to hold up against the rising Wabash River.

(Flood waters falling) (Monday 4/29/13 ... tlz 6a)

Flood waters on the Wabash River at Vincennes are now falling back, after cresting over the weekend. The river stands just above 27 feet today; it will fall slowly the first two days, before starting a more rapid fall late in the

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week. By Friday, the river is forecast around 23 and a half feet-- still over seven above flood stage.

The White River at Edwardsport is forecast to fall back within its banks by Wednesday. It is currently at 20 feet-- but rapidly falling. Downriver, the White at Petersburg is expected to be below flood stage by Thursday, and at Hazleton by Friday. Both Petersburg and Hazleton are projected to see rapid drops along the White River as the week goes on.

(Wilbur Street incident-- prelim) (Tuesday 4/30/13 ... tlz 6a)

A Vincennes man has died following a standoff with police on Wilbur Street. The incident with police started around 10 p-m, when 42 year-old Ross Darkis got into a standoff with officers. Darkis was intoxicated, and possessed a handgun on his front porch at 217 Wilbur Street. Police tried to get Darkis to give up his gun, but he refused. Officers then Tasered him and hit him with one shot from a beanbag gun, but both methods were un-successful in subduing Darkis. Police report Darkis then raised his weapon at police, who then shot him in self-defense. Darkis was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital's emergency room, where he died shortly after ten-30 last night.

Friends on the scene told officers that Darkis had been arguing with his girlfriend earlier in the evening, and had become very upset.

(VPD-- Chase arrest) (Tuesday 5/7/13 ... tlz 6a)

An overnight chase led to a Vincennes man's arrest in Lawrence County Illinois.

Vincennes City Police attempted to stop a vehicle driven by 25 year-old Mark Allen Marshall. Marshall fled from police, and entered Lawrence County, Illinois. Both Lawrence County and Lawrenceville City police were notified of Marshall's entrance into Illinois.

Lawrence County officials used stop sticks to halt Marshall's vehicle. Marshall was charged in Vincennes with felony resisting law enforcement, speeding, and disregarding three traffic control devices. Marshall will also face Lawrence County charges as well.

(Appellate Court upholds V-U) (Tuesday 5/7/13 ... tlz 6a)

The Indiana Court of Appeals has sided with Vincennes University in a wrongful-termination case against former University coach Dan Sparks. Sparks sued the University for 230-thousand dollars for what he considered a wrongful

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firing in 2005. The termination ended a 26-year coaching career for Sparks at the University. Sparks is currently the coach for Wabash Valley College in Mount Carmel, Illinois.

The termination surrounded an admitted incident involving a player Sparks had recruited in 2003. In an earlier appellate court hearing, attorneys for Sparks argued that he should have kept his job, since he agreed to a loss of tenure and a zero-tolerance agreement. University attorneys argued the University had the right to let Sparks go, if they decided to do so.

(Committee of Whole-- trash) (Tuesday 5/7/13 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes City Council members have decided as a group to recommend scrapping the City's current trash sticker system. The consensus came during a Committee of the Whole session last night at City Hall.

The Committee also requested that the Vincennes Board of Works gather flat fee cost proposals from private trash collection providers. The final Committee consensus was to provide the trash collection for all Vincennes Water Utilities customers, and to place the fee on the customer's water bill. The proposed move came after a report showed the City was losing over 300-thousand dollars a year with the current system.

(Pool bond-- overwhelming pass) (Wednesday 5/8/13 ... tlz 6a)

The City of Vincennes will be constructing a new Rainbow Beach. Over 84 percent of Vincennes' voters voted "yes" to construction of a new aquatic center at Gregg Park. The final vote tally was 1,281 for the pool bond issue, with 241 against it.

The vote ended a seven-month campaign to sell the idea to Vincennes city voters.

(L'ville Citco-- Mayor's first action) (Thursday 5/9/13 ... tlz 6a)

Mayor-elect Don Wagner is scheduled to be sworn in tonight as the new Mayor of Lawrenceville. Wagner will officially make the move from Clerk-Treasurer to Mayor with tonight's ceremony. Wagner defeated outgoing Mayor Brian Straub in a three-way race in April.

After the swearing-in, Wagner is scheduled to deliver his first report as the new Mayor of Lawrenceville. Tonight's session starts at seven p-m Central time; the public is invited to attend.

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(VPD-- officers back to duty) (Tuesday 5/8/13 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 5/9)

The Vincennes City Police officers involved in the self-defense shooting of a Vincennes man have now returned to full duty. The officers returned to duty on Wednesday, after being cleared by a blue-ribbon Police Action Review Board. In its deliberations, the Board found the officers' actions in the incident were justified.

The officers shot in self defense in an April 29th incident on Wilbur Street. The incident occurred during a standoff with 42 year-old Ross Darkis. Officers had been determined to have shot in self-defense after Darkis pointed a weapon at them during the standoff.

The matter is considered closed. The officers involved will face no disciplinary action from the incident.

(Benton, IL) -- Federal prosecutors say the mayor of Bridgeport has pled guilty to three counts of mail fraud and one count of obstruction of justice. 56-year-old Max Schauf was indicted back in November on the charges. Prosecutors say Schauf turned in false invoices, contracts and bills for equipment from July of 2008 and March of 2011. He also had Paul Kramer give the FBI misleading information while they were investigating. Kramer has also pled guilty and is facing up to five years behind bars. When Schauf is sentenced on August 8th, he could face up to 20 years in prison on each charge.

Exec Inn bond hearing) (Friday 5/10/13 ... tlz 6a)

The two sides in the Vincennes Executive Inn case yesterday argued over a security bond issue for Executive Inn owner Mark Valdes. The issue is part of a debate over a court order mandating demolition of the vacant Vincennes hotel. Knox Circuit Court judge Sherri Gilmore earlier sided with the City in its efforts to demolish the facility, but Valdes' attorney Robert Rock has appealed the decision in the Indiana Court of Appeals. That appeal is still pending.

(Closing Cannonball Bridge) (Monday 5/13/13 ... tlz 6a)

The Cannonball Bridge connecting Saint Francisville, Illinois and southern Knox County will be closed during daylight hours this week for repairs. The

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bridge will shut down each day from seven a-m to three-30 p-m.

The planned repairs will start this morning. Weather permitting, the Cannonball Bridge will completely re-open on Friday afternoon.

(Knox farmer-- Supreme Court) (Monday 5/13/13 ... tlz 4p)
(updated 5/14)

A Sandborn-area farmer has lost his fight over a patent in the U-S Supreme Court. The Supreme Court unanimously ruled soybean farmer Vernon Bowman violated a patent in his planting of a grain using Monsanto-technology without company permission. Monsanto attorneys argued the action violated one of their patents. Writing for the court, Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan stated the view that any farmer who purchases patented seeds must have the patent holder's permission to use them.

(BPW-- RFP approval) (Tuesday 5/14/13 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Board of Public Works has officially approved issuing a request for proposals for a possible privatization of trash collection in Vincennes. The proposals were requested eight days ago as part of a Committee of the Whole session at City Hall. The proposals will help City Council make a direction decision on a planned overhaul of the City's trash collection system.

(Bicknell Borrowing Money ... Again) (5-14-13...JT 6a.)

The Bicknell City Council voted once again to borrow money internally to make payroll.

Clerk-Treasurer Becky McGlone gave the city's financial report, and concluded by saying the city would be almost 27 thousand dollars in the hole after paying all of its bills and making payroll for the month of May. To make payroll, the city would have to borrow 30-thousand dollars, since May has three pay days.

Local Group Wins Wildwood Fight

Jds 5-16-13

The Indiana Supreme Court is upholding a Knox County Circuit Court ruling granting control of Camp Wildwood in Vincennes to Vincennes Girls, Incorporated. Vincennes Attorney Brent Stuckey says the court confirmed a state statute used against Vincennes Girls, Incorporated was applied unconstitutionally.

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(Commissioners - Hillcrest Building) (5-21-13... JT 6a.)

With demolition of the Hillcrest Building an approved issue, the Knox County Commissioners began the process to make it happen.

At Monday's meeting, the commissioners received quotes to tear down the structure. The quotes ranged from 38 thousand dollars up to just under 400 thousand dollars. Six different companies submitted quotes. The criteria for the project required a base price to tear the building down and alternate prices for foundation and dirt removal.

(VHA-- Director extension) (Tuesday 5/21/13 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Housing Authority Board has extended the contract of its Director Linda Fredrick. The extension happened yesterday afternoon at the Authority's monthly session in Vincennes.

Fredrick received a four year extension, and will continue to run the Authority and its various housing projects throughout the City. Frederick's salary will remain the same, due to a current salary freeze on all V-H-A employees.

(June closing for SR 61 set) (Wednesday 5/23/13 ... tlz 6a)

The Indiana Department of Transportation has set June tenth as its official closing date to allow repair of two sections of State Road 61. The highway's official closing will happen from Bierhaus Boulevard in Vincennes to the junction of State Road 61 at State Road 241. The official detour will use Bierhaus Boulevard, Hart Street, U-S 41, U-S 50, and State Road 241.

The actual northern closing will start on State Road 61 at Lemon Road. Among the improvements will be intersections at Lemon Road, Lower Indiana Road, and County Road 300 South. The actual southern closing will be on State Road 61 at Mount Zion Road. The one and a half million dollar northern repair area was awarded to Dave O'Mara Construction, while the nearly 780-thousand dollar southern repair area was awarded to Bicknell's Kerns Excavating.

(Skelton-- ONB Foundation donation) (Thursday 5/23/13 ... tlz 6a)

The Red Skelton Foundation has received another 65-thousand dollar funding boost for the coming Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy. The 65-thousand dollar cash injection pushes the current O-N-B Foundation museum funding total

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to 100-thousand dollars.

The Skelton Foundation Museum Board has awarded Old National Bank naming rights to one of its exhibit rooms, in honor of its donation.

(Flaget fire) (Thursday 5/30/13 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes City fire crews responded to Flaget Elementary last night to put out a fire in an air conditioner unit. The school is located at the corner of Eighth and Vigo Streets.

E-M-S paramedic B-J Dunham spotted the fire in the second-floor unit just after seven-30 last night, and alerted firemen to the blaze. Dunham was already knocking down flames with a fire extinguisher when firefighters arrived at the school.

(Storm and aftermath) (Friday 5/31/13 ... tlz 6a)

A line of strong storms struck the area last night, leaving downed trees and power outages in its wake. The storm brought high winds, dangerous lightning, and pea-size hail in some places; it struck Vincennes around six p-m. Vincennes City firemen say the storm downed trees that caused some damage in parts of the city. The storm caused a large tree to fall near the intersection of Fifth and Hart Streets; crews report the tree fell on three cars near the intersection. Two of the cars were reported as totaled; a third suffered significant damage. Also, a treefall near Fourth and Shelby caused some damage to a nearby residence. Finally, the storm caused a utility line to fall on a garage in the 800 block of North Eleventh; fire crews say that residence did not suffer any damage.

(Decker-- Town Inspector) (Tuesday 6/4/13 ... tlz 6a)

Decker Town Council member Chris Ritchie has proposed a plan to become a Town Housing Inspector. Council members will consider naming Ritchie as town housing Inspector, if he can become certified to take the position.

(Yochum-- Wheel tax) (Wednesday 6/5/13 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum is siding with the Knox County Council in its opinion on considering a county wheel tax. The tax is available to help fund local road and street projects in the affected counties.

Yochum wants to see how increased state funding affects Vincennes street repairs before making an opinion on a wheel tax.

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(UEA Board-- Pocket park update) (Wednesday 6/5/13 ... tlz 6a)

The City of Vincennes is still awaiting state approval to continue with a new pocket park in the 400-block of Main Street. The City's Urban Enterprise Association Board is working with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to approve a soil sample as part of the park's construction.

U-E-A Board member Shirley Rose told the Board IDEM was supposed to send its approval around Memorial Day.

(Disaster donations-- Red Cross) (Thursday 6/6/13 ... tlz 6a)

The American Red Cross is seeking cash donations to help victims in Oklahoma. The Red Cross is working with victims of two devastating tornadoes-- one in late May near Moore, and one earlier this month in El Reno. Both affected areas are part of the Oklahoma City suburbs.

(SR 61-- closing preparation) (Monday 6/10/13 ... tlz 6a)

Two portions of State Road 61 between Vincennes and Monroe City will be closed starting today for repairs.

The northern repair zone for State Road 61 will extend from Lemon Road southward through the S-curves, to just south of Lower Indiana Road. The northern zone work involves straightening the curves, and lowering a hill near Lower Indiana Presbyterian Church. The southern zone is located on State Road 61 near Mount Zion Road and Mount Zion Cemetery. Hill reduction will be the main work in the southern repair area.

(Pool-- TRC review) (Tuesday 6/11/13 ... tlz 6a)

The three firms selected to bid on construction of a new Rainbow Beach will lay out their plans in an interview session this afternoon. Indianapolis' RenoSys Construction, and two Evansville companies-- Peyronnin (PAIR-row-nin) Construction and Arc Construction-- will interview with the Technical Review Committee beginning at four p-m at City Hall. Each firm will have one hour to lay out its plan for the project.

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(State Trooper Shot in Daviess County) (6-18-13...JT 6a.)

An Indiana State Trooper has been released from an Evansville hospital after being shot in the line of duty.

Around 1:30 Monday afternoon, Trooper Jarrod Lents responded to Black Oak Arms Gun Shop in Montgomery. Preliminary investigations show that an armed robbery was in progress; the robbery suspect was identified as 60 year-old James Jones, of Shoals. Upon arrival, Trooper Lents encountered Jones, and the two fired on each other. Lents was struck twice in the shoulder, but managed to fire back, killing Jones. The Daviess County Coroner pronounced Jones dead at the scene.

(Comm-- Wheel Tax) (Tuesday 6/18/13 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Commissioners have approved a resolution calling for a 25-dollar wheel tax for all Knox County vehicle owners. The resolution also calls for a five-dollar tax on all semi-truck trailers. The extra funds would go toward repairing County roads, and helping replace various County bridges in need of replacement.

(NK-- School gym's forward progress) (Wednesday 6/19/13 ... tlz 6a)

The North Knox School Board has approved a contract to continue the process to construct the new North Knox auxiliary gym adjacent to North Knox Junior-Senior High School. The contract re-approval was with gym designer Myszak and Associates; it was needed, since the project was delayed earlier this year by a petition-remonstrance signature campaign.

(UEA-- Pocket Park startup) (Thursday 6/20/13 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Urban Enterprise Association Board has approved Phases One and Two of a new downtown pocket park. The park will be located next to the Pantheon Theater in the 400-block of Main Street.

Architect Larry Donovan told the U-E-A Board the first two phases include installing restrooms and paving the area, and concreting the area from the front to the back of the lot. Two future phases are also planned; the future parts involve landscaping the area, and placing a reflecting pool and fountain at the facility. The first two phases would cost around 43-thousand dollars; the complete project would cost between 90 and 108-thousand dollars.

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(Trash overhaul-- Citco) (Tuesday 6/25/13 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council narrowly passed, on first reading only, a proposed ordinance to privatize the City's trash collection. The passage was on a 4-3 vote-- with Tim Salters, TJ Brink, Pat Clark, and Chuck Sebring voting for the ordinance. Duane Chattin, Scott Brown, and Shirley Rose voted against it. Council members, and community members, took over an hour to discuss the issues during last night's Council session at City Hall.

(GSH - AHA Nova Award) (6-26-13...JT 6a)

Good Samaritan Hospital is being recognized nationally for helping improve community health.

The American Hospital Association has awarded GSH with the 2013 NOVA Award. The award recognizes hospitals and health systems for collaborative efforts to improve community health.

CEO Rob McLin said in a release that the hospital has "spent considerable time focusing on the small, rural communities" in Knox and surrounding counties. GSH is one of five hospitals being recognized with the award.

(Storms-- road effects- Knox County) (Thursday 6/27/13 ... tlz 6a)

A line of severe storms affected various parts of Knox County from four to eight p-m yesterday afternoon and evening. The first storm hit the North Knox area around four p-m, with later storms slamming Vincennes and the South Knox area around eight p-m.

The storms left power outages, downed tree limbs, and a lot of water in their wake. The storm caused a culvert to wash out, closing State Road 58 near Freelandville yesterday afternoon. Knox County Emergency Management officials say the road is now re-opened for traffic.

(VU- Helton extension)(Wednesday 6/26/13 ... tlz 4p)

(updated 6/27)

The Vincennes University Board of Trustees has extended the contract of University president Richard Helton for another year. The contract will now employ Dr. Helton through the year 2016.

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In announcing the contract extension yesterday, Board members praised Helton for meeting Board goals, and providing leadership for the University, over the last ten years. Board members also pointed to his experience as a former K-12 Superintendent as part of his success in recruiting students to Vincennes University.

(VU-- record budget approval)(Wednesday 6/26/13 ... tlz 4p)
(updated 6/27)

The Vincennes University Board of Trustees approved a record 157 and a half million dollar budget at its session yesterday. The new budget includes a tuition and fee rise of four-dollars 60 cents per credit hour for the coming school year, and a five-15 raise in tuition and fees for the 2014-15 school year. Just under half the budget-- 76-point-eight million dollars-- will be placed in the University's General Fund. The rest will go into restricted funds, auxiliary funds, and general debt service. The budget will pay just under 52 million dollars this year in faculty and staff compensation. The budget includes 38 million dollars in State Legislative funding this coming school year, and 39 million in 2015.