

This is a recap of news stories covered in the first quarter of ~~2015~~²⁰¹⁷ by radio station WZDM. The stories were reported from January first through March 31st, 2017. The stories were covered in newscasts every half hour from five a-m to nine a-m, as well as at 12 noon, 4 pm, and 5 pm.

The stories were covered in newscasts each hour throughout the day and evening.. 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.

(CoCo-- Hiring Ben Rager) (Wednesday 1/11/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Council has approved a move to hire Carmel financial consultant Ben Rager (RAY-grr) to help them with the County's financial projections. Rager will work on a case-by-case basis as needed by County officials, with a fee cap of 45-thousand dollars for this year.

Rager was considered for the assistance following a report late last year of a two-million dollar deficit that turned into a nearly one and a half million dollar surplus-- a surplus that Rager confirmed at yesterday's Council meeting.

(State A-F rankings) (Thursday 1/12/17 ... tlz 6a)

All three Knox County public school corporations received a "B" grade in the latest Indiana Department of Education Corporation survey. The grade was put in place for North Knox, South Knox, and Vincennes Community schools.

(Second/Niblack-- more delays) (Tuesday 1/17/17 ... tlz 6a)

Problems with moving utilities at a coming closing at Second and Niblack will delay that closing a bit longer. The intersection at Second and Niblack could have closed as early as yesterday, but Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum now expects the closing to take at least another week.

(B'nell construction work) (Tuesday 1/17/17 ... tlz 6a)

The City of Bicknell has announced work has started on its first stormwater project of this year.

The first City stormwater project is at Third and Mary Streets. The crossing at Third and Mary will be closed until further notice.

Other parts of Bicknell will also be affected as crews work on the various projects throughout the months to come.

(Holcomb-- State of the State) (Wednesday 1/18/17 ... tlz 6a)

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(Story "A")

Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb laid out his priorities last night in his first State of the State speech. The Governor spoke to both houses of the General Assembly last night at the Indiana Statehouse.

Governor Holcomb touched on a need for more funding to improve roads across Indiana.

(KC Lib Bd-- New Board Attorney) (Tuesday 1/18/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Library Board has hired Andrew Kopatich to be its attorney for the next year. Kopatich is a lawyer with the Vincennes firm of Kirchoff and Jewel.

Library Board president Yvette Kirchoff says the move to name Kopatich as Board attorney is a positive step.

(VFD-- Fire Truck replacement) (Thursday 1/19/17 ... tlz 6a)

Bids are expected in for a new Vincennes City Fire truck next week. The Vincennes City Fire Department is getting the new truck for Fire Station Two.

Unsafe building Ordinance - for 1 19 17 - mrl

After years of complaints and discussion, the new Knox County Commissioners say they have fast tracked an ordinance addressing unsafe buildings. The new ordinance will allow removal and cleanup of unsafe buildings in the county and allow for similar projects such as the Vincennes and Bicknell city blight elimination programs.

(RDC-- Liquor License clearance) (Thursday 1/19/17 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 1/20)

The Vincennes Redevelopment Commission has agreed to become an overseer of up to ten liquor licenses in downtown Vincennes. The licenses would be issued by the City inside its Riverfront Development District. The district runs from Third to Seventh Streets between Vigo and Busseron, and on Second Street from Vigo to Shelby.

(Villwock on new Ag Secretary) (Monday 1/23/17 ... tlz 6a)

Former Indiana Farm Bureau president Don Villwock is positive about the choice of former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue as the new federal Agriculture Secretary. President Trump named Perdue to the position on Thursday of last week.

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(VU--Purdue agreement) (Wednesday 1/25/17 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes University and Purdue University have agreed to a seamless transition program for V-U engineering students to Purdue. The agreement takes effect with the fall semester of this year.

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(TMMI expansion) (Wednesday 1/25/17 ... tlz 6a)

Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana has announced a 600-million dollar expansion of its Princeton facility. The expansion will both modernize the plant, and meet growing demand for its Highlander mid-size S-U-V. The move will add another 40-thousand Highlanders to Toyota's inventory, and add another 400 jobs at the Princeton plant. The expansion will begin in the fall of 2019.

(Wayne Ader passing) (Monday 1/30/17 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 1/31)

Vincennes Community Schools officials, and many in the Corporation, are mourning the loss of former longtime Superintendent Wayne Ader. Ader passed away Friday in Vincennes at the age of 93.

The current Superintendent, Greg Parsley, praised Ader for his 21 years as Superintendent of the Vincennes Community School Corporation. He headed the V-C-S-C from 1968 to May of 1989.

(6th and Minneapolis) (Tuesday 1/31/17 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes City crews are hoping to restore the stoplight at Sixth and Minneapolis to full functioning status. The intersection has been on a two-way caution light, since the current stoplight system's failure.

(Bicknell-- Blight Elimination Awards) (Wednesday 2/1/17 ... tlz 6a)

The City of Bicknell has received another quarter of a million dollars for further blight elimination. The announcement was made by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Association.

The City of Bicknell will use the funds to tear down more blighted structures across its city. The work will be the latest in an enhanced

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effort to beautify the City of Bicknell.

(GSH-- Final BEACON phase) (Tuesday 1/31/17 ... tlz 12n)
(dated-- update from 8 am on)

The final part of the Good Samaritan Hospital BEACON project starts today with the demolition of three Hospital buildings. Work will begin at eight this morning to tear down the LaSalle, Willis, and Memorial buildings at G-S-H.

(VU-- Bierhaus Doorway Scholarship) (Wednesday 2/1/17 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes University is seeking nominations for the 2017-18 William Bierhaus Doorway Scholarship. The scholarship is for a Vincennes Lincoln or Vincennes Rivet senior who could enroll as a college freshman this fall. The scholarship is for students who otherwise could not afford college.

(KC United Way-- Giving the donations) (Monday 2/6/17 ... tlz 6a)

The United Way of Knox County is preparing to give money to groups they fund. The group gives the donations to various charitable organizations, to assist their community efforts. The money is designated for the non-profit groups by the United Way of Knox County's Community Impact Committee.

(Good budget return) (Tuesday 2/7/17 ... tlz 6a)

The City of Vincennes got a good budget report from the State of Indiana-- meaning their budget will stay intact for 2017.

Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum says that means raises for City employees will stay in place.

(Foncannon-- Shelton Award) (Wednesday 2/8/17 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes community leader Hoss Foncannon will receive the Shelton Humanitarian Award in a ceremony this Sunday at Good Samaritan Hospital. The event starts at two p-m at Eva Hill Auditorium.

Foncannon is being honored for over five decades of service to various Knox County groups.

(NK-- Grant updates) (Wednesday 2/8/17 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 2/9)

The North Knox School Board approved an application for an Indiana Early Intervention Literacy Grant. North Knox Primary School principal

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Brad Case presented the grant application; if successful, he wants to use the 63-hundred dollar award for diagnostic reading testing. Case wants to bring testing to North Knox Primary that is similar to the testing at North Knox Intermediate School.

(Opioid/Heroin discussion) (Friday 2/10/17 ... tlz 6a)

Problems with heroin and opioids were the topic of a community discussion last night at the Vincennes Fortnightly Club. The discussion brought out a number of community leaders, along with panelists, to discuss the problems caused by the illegal drug.

(City-- Police window bids) (Wednesday 2/15/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Board of Works has received bids for window and exterior work at Vincennes City Police headquarters. Two bidders came forward with bids for the work-- one for masonry work, and the other for the windows.

Knox County Shorted on Tax Dollars - for 2/15/17 - mrl

If all stands as is, Knox County will receive Three Hundred Thousand Dollars less this year from the state than originally budgeted. The Department of Local Government Finance cut the county's funds based on what they say is a new state formula. But local officials, their financial consultant, and the association of counties all say the DLGF is wrong.

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(Police shooting-- more info) (Wednesday 2/15/17 ... tlz 4p)
(updated 2/16)

The names of the policemen involved in Tuesday night's police action shooting have been released.

The three Indiana State Police involved include 25-year master trooper Shaun Hannum, 9-year veteran trooper Korey Mauck (MOCK), and 9 year veteran trooper Justin Bean.

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(Comm-- Highway Department Contract delayed) (Thursday 2/23/17 ... mrl 6a)

The Commissioners discussed a possible contract between engineering firm RQAW and Knox County for the supply of a county highway superintendent last night. At times the meeting was civil and at other times loud and emotional even with citizens being escorted from the Circuit Court Room where the meeting was moved because of a large crowd.

Money awarded for Housing Options - for 2 24 17 - mrl

The State of Indiana has awarded \$19.7 Million dollars in rental housing tax credits for 16 affordable housing developments around the state. While there were no Vincennes projects include in this round of funding, a local firm did receive credits for a project in Southeastern Indiana. Advantantix Development Corporation and Vincennes based Myszak and Palmer received over \$1.7 Million dollars in credits for their planned project in Corydon. The Corydon School Senior Lofts will cost just \$11 Million Dollars to complete in a similar fashion as the refurbishing of the Clark School building into Clark's Crossing in Vincennes.

(Quiz Bowl-- recap) (Monday 2/27/17 ... tlz 6a)

Fourteen quiz teams got together over the weekend to raise funds for adult learners across Knox County. The teams competed in the annual Cargill Literacy Bowl at Shircliff Auditorium at Vincennes University.

Reward In Delphi Investigation Up To \$96,000
jds 2-28-17

A 96-thousand-dollar reward is now available for information leading to an arrest for the murders of Abigail Williams and Liberty German in Delphi, Indiana.

Indiana State Police credit the increase to donations made by the public and businesses.

Donations to the reward fund can be made through the Indiana State Police Alliance.

Police also announced yesterday that they've received close to ten-thousand tips in the case.

(Tecumseh-Harrison renovation) (Tuesday 2/28/17

It's a busy week for folks connected with the Vincennes Community Schools. This Thursday bids will be opened for the continued refurbishing of Tecumseh-Harrison School.

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(State of City-- recap) (Monday 2/28/17 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum recapped a very successful 2016 during last night's State of the City address. Yochum made the annual speech immediately following the City Council session at City Hall.

(Citco-- State of City-- new programs) (Tuesday 2/28/17 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum unveiled proposals for two new programs, and hopes for progress on another, during his annual State of the City address. The Mayor made the speech last night at City Hall.

The Mayor laid out a fitness program for possible future use,

(Fires investigation) (Wednesday 3/1/17 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes City Fire Department officials are seeking the public's help in solving three fires determined to be intentionally set. The fires were allegedly set on Monday; they involved two vehicles and one house.

(Severe Weather Overnight) (Wednesday 3/1/17 ... djf 6a)

Severe Thunderstorms moved thru the area through the night in front of a cold front set to strike the area today. Temperatures are forecast to fall to around 51 by 5 this afternoon; the temperature rose as high as 66 overnight.

VCSC - Bids Opened for Tecumseh-Harrison Work - for 3 3 17 - mrl

Thirteen different companies bid on 4 of the five areas of the coming Tecumseh-Harrison Elementary School renovation. General contracting base bids turned into the Vincennes School Corporation ranged from \$3.9 Million dollars to over \$4.7 Million Dollars with CDI contractors the lowest. Fire protection bids were between \$213 Thousand Dollars and nearly \$297 Thousand Dollars with Tri-State Fire Protection the lowest.

Work to Begin March 13th on 2nd Street/Niblack Blvd. Project in Vincennes
Jds 3-7-17

Work is scheduled to begin a week from today-- Monday, March 13th-- on Vincennes' 2nd Street/Niblack Boulevard intersection reconstruction project.

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The intersection will be closed for up to one year for the reconstruction of the intersection, railroad crossing, bridge, and floodwall.

(Second/Niblack-- final prep) (Tuesday 3/7/17 ... tlz 6a)

Final preparations are coming in place for Monday's closing of the intersection at Second Street and Niblack Boulevard. The closing will stay in place at least through the end of the year.

(KCDC Banquet-- Schellinger/Helmling) (Thursday 3/9/17 ... tlz 6a)

Business leaders and others from across Knox County attended yesterday's Knox County Development Corporation annual banquet. The session was held at Vincennes University's Green Activities Center.

City of Vincennes Receives USDA Rural Development Funding
Jds/tlz 3-9-17 12n (updated 3/10)

USDA Rural Development has awarded the City of Vincennes a \$77,000 Rural Business Development Grant.

The announcement is one part of the US Department of Agriculture's efforts to strengthen the rural economy.

(Probation Dept-- fire investigation) (Monday 3/13/17 ... tlz 6a)

The investigation continues into an arson at the Knox County Probation Department. The fire was determined to be intentionally caused in a Probation Department office early in the morning of Wednesday, March first.

(ISP-- Residential entry arrest) (Tuesday 3/14/17 ... tlz 6a)

Indiana State Police arrested a Newburgh man yesterday after an illegal entry into a northern Daviess County home.

27 year-old Nicholas Whetstine was found in the home of a woman and eight children on Daviess County Road 1675 North.

(Buffalo Wild Wings fire) (Tuesday 3/14/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes location of Buffalo Wild Wings was evacuated for a time due to a fire that hit the Knox Plaza restaurant last night. City firemen were called after a fire was found in a deep-fryer at the restaurant.

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(KC Council-- New Highway Superintendent) (Wednesday 3/15/17 tlz 6a)

Knox County Commissioners' president Kellie Streeter has announced Benji Boyd is expected to be named as the next Knox County Highway Superintendent. Streeter made the announcement at yesterday's Knox County Council session. Streeter said Boyd would also serve as Knox County Engineer, along with his Highway Superintendent duties. The move is pending the Knox County Commissioners' approval Monday night; Streeter reported to Council members the Commissioners are all on board with the move.

(Comm-- Boyd officially hired) (Tuesday 3/21/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Commissioners have unanimously hired Sullivan County's Benji Boyd as their new County Highway Superintendent. The Commissioners made the move official last night; Commissioners' president Kellie Streeter announced last week that Boyd was the one selected to fill the open position.

(Knox fatal accident) (Wednesday 3/22/17 ... tlz 6a)

A Monroe City man was killed yesterday afternoon in a one-vehicle accident on Main Street near Felt King Road.

The accident happened when the vehicle driven by 32 year-old Larry Gibson, Junior ran off the road and struck a tree.

(U-S 41 lane restrictions) (Thursday 3/23/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Indiana Department of Transportation has announced lane restrictions are coming again for U-S 41 just north of Vincennes. The work is scheduled to begin on Monday, April third.

The closure will be in two phases. First, the right lane for both northbound and southbound traffic will be closed; that will happen from April third to the end of July. The first lane closure will also decrease lane width to eleven feet.

Grouseland Dinner - for 3/24/17 - mrl

The annual Grouseland Foundation dinner took place last night at VU. The local group is focused on promoting the memory of the 9th President of the United State - William Henry Harrison and maintaining his Vincennes home.

(GSH Board-- McLin renewal) (Wednesday 3/28/17 ... tlz 6a)

The Good Samaritan Hospital Board of Governors has unanimously agreed

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to renew the contract of Hospital president Rob McLin. The contract allows McLin to serve as Hospital Chief Executive Officer through at least March 31st of next year.

(VCSC-- School moving preparation) (Thursday 3/30/17 ... tlz 6a)

Students at Tecumseh-Harrison Elementary are preparing to be moved from their building for the next school year. The one school-year move will allow for interior work to be done at the Second Street school.

The interior work at Tecumseh-Harrison Tecumseh-Harrison will begin at the end of this school year.

(Scary bus accident)

One child was injured in what is being described as a scary accident this afternoon on US 41 at State Road 550 near Emison.

A school bus was crossing the southbound lane of US 41 heading toward Emison when it collided with a propane truck. The truck was southbound on US 41 when the accident happened. The impact caused the propane truck to roll over. The truck was 60 percent full of propane when the accident happened.

(Civitan Radio Auction) (Tuesday 4/4/17 ... tlz 6a)

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the annual Civitan Radio Auction. This year's auction continues nightly from tonight through Thursday night from 7 to 9:30 pm on 92.1 WZDM.

(Sixth Street work coming) (Tuesday 4/4/17 ... tlz 6a)

Work crews are preparing to do some repairs on Sixth Street within the next week. The repairs will cause some traffic restrictions.

Vincennes City Engineer John Sprague urges drivers to watch for the repairs-- and the repair crews.