

**Quarterly Issues Report**  
**WLFI-TV**  
**First Quarter, 2010**

## **Agriculture and Business**

A local business that's been in operation for three decades is the 2009 Small Business of the Year. WLFI covered the announcement and reaction from Stanley Steamer. A groundbreaking Lafayette businesswoman has passed away. Leeta Myers was the owner and operator of The Debonair for over 50 years. WLFI talked to people whose lives were touched by Myers, including West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis.

With a struggling economy, money issues are on the minds of business owners across the country. That's just one reason why the government in Benton County is increasing efforts to boost business there. WLFI highlighted efforts being made by the county to raise awareness, and money, for the area.

## **January 20th, 2010**

A local business that's been in operation for three decades is the 2009 Small Business of the Year.

Greater Lafayette Commerce is naming Stanley Steamer "small business of the year" for its support of local non-profit organizations, and United Way's Week of Caring.

Owner Shirley Pence was also cited for encouraging her employees to become involved in charity work.

## **February 19th, 2010**

A groundbreaking Lafayette businesswoman has passed away. Leeta Myers was the owner and operator of The Debonair for over 50 years. She passed away Tuesday morning from heart disease, at the age of 73.

Her family members say her salon not only made a lasting impact on the Lafayette business community but also on those who sat in her chair.

## **February 22nd, 2010**

With a struggling economy, money issues are on the minds of business owners across the country.

That's just one reason why the government in Benton County is increasing efforts to boost business there.

The county hired its first full-time economic development director last month.

The goal is to encourage businesses to come to Benton County, and to help strengthen the ones that are already there.

## **March 8th, 2010**

More than two-dozen people from Lafayette will travel to Washington, DC, this week to lobby for a variety of local projects.

This is the 30th year for Greater Lafayette Commerce's trip to the capital. They'll present Indiana Congressmen and Senators position papers on six topics.

The topics are Business and Industry, Agriculture and Rural Development, Education, Healthcare, Transportation, and Wabash River Development.

Wabash River Enhancement Corporation director Stan Lambert says the Lafayette area will request and Army Corps of Engineers project while it's in Washington.

## **March 15th, 2010**

A program designed to put Americans back to work is doing exactly that.

Joe LePage shows us how this plan is coming to the aide of area farmers.

## **March 19th, 2010**

March Madness is becoming big business for local bars. Ava Wilhite is live outside Chumley's Bar in Downtown Lafayette.

Ava what does the tournament mean for restaurants?

### **March 21st, 2010**

One local builder is helping the environment by building green homes.  
Kristin Maiorano shows us what makes a home green.

### **March 21st, 2010**

Area farmers now have the chance to give their input on the 20-12 Farm bill.  
Ava Wilhite reports on where local farmers stand and their uncertain future.

### **March 23rd, 2010**

Good news for job seekers ---- one business in White County is looking for hundreds of potential employees.  
Indiana Beach plans to hire more than 800 temporary employees for the summer season that starts on May first.

General Manager John Collins says the hiring process has already begun, but Indiana Beach is still accepting applications.

Most jobs start at minimum wage--that's seven dollars and 25 cents per hour.  
Collins says there are a variety of jobs available.

### **March 24th, 2010**

Purdue University Provost Randy Woodson says goodbye to colleagues at Purdue.

The university held a reception Wednesday afternoon honoring the provost who has been at Purdue for 25 years.

Woodson is leaving Purdue to take over as Chancellor at North Carolina State University.

Woodson served as the Dean of Agriculture before becoming Provost at Purdue in 2008. His work in plant science has been published in over 100 journal articles and book chapters. Woodson says he will miss being a Boilermaker.

Woodson's last day at Purdue will be March 31st.

### **March 31st, 2010**

A local business wins a charity competition on Facebook and is donating the winnings to an area school district. Guaranteed Transmission Service and Auto Care took part in a Facebook competition with other auto businesses around the country. The goal was to see who could get the most fans. As Tiffanie Dismore shows us, Guaranteed Transmission Service won and now the winnings will be donated to the Tippecanoe School Corporation.

## **CRIME**

In January, a Purdue student was arrested for possessing and dealing drugs in the campus's new luxury residence hall. 19-year-old engineering sophomore Douglas B. Vaisnoras was charged with possession of more than 30 grams of marijuana and dealing.

In February, WLFI covered the trial of a Lafayette man, found guilty of murdering his childhood friend with a baseball bat. 26-year-old Jeremy Knoy was charged with murder after he told police he hit 26-year Derek Liphard.

In late March WLFI covered a school and a city rocked by scandal. Twin Lakes teacher and former coach Mark Hay was arrested, then released on bond. Hay was charged with child seduction and later resigned.

## **January 5th, 2010**

53-year old Michael Bracken of Covington faces three felony charges after police say they found a meth lab during a house fire.

Bracken is charged with Dealing Methamphetamine, Possession of precursors, and being a Habitual Offender.

Court documents say Bracken's house on country road 840 South burned on December 30th.

Deputy Dana Jeffries says it appeared the fire started on the back porch where he found evidence of a meth lab.

He says a search of a nearby barn found other items used to make the drug.

Court records show Bracken has previous convictions for dealing cocaine, Operating while Intoxicated, and Possession of Marijuana.

## **January 14th, 2010**

A Purdue student is arrested on charges of possessing and dealing drugs in the campus's new luxury residence hall.

According to a report, police were called around 10:30 Tuesday night because several people were seen going to a second-floor room at First Street Towers.

Purdue police K-9 "Nicky" was brought in and indicated the possible presence of drugs in the room.

Police say they found about 113 grams of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

19-year-old engineering sophomore Douglas B. (VICE-norris)Vaisnoras was charged with possession of more than 30 grams of marijuana and dealing -- Both Class D felonies.

## **January 14th, 2010**

A Lafayette man has been charged in a year-old murder case. 29-year-old Wesley Kelly was charged today with murder and battery in the death of Steve Lee Smith. Kelly told investigators that he'd beaten Smith, in December of 2008, and then hit him with a padlock tied to a rope while the two were standing on the railroad bridge over the Wabash River. Court papers filed in the case today say Kelly told investigators he watched Smith go under the water, but never saw him return to the surface. Smith's body has not been found.

## **January 25th, 2010**

A former Purdue University student pleads guilty to his role in the fatal shooting of his friend.

23-year-old Cory Lynch, of Carmel, admitted that he fired a handgun, as a prank, killing 22-year-old Landon Siela of Fort Wayne.

The shooting happened on August 22nd at 204 Wiggins Street in West Lafayette.

Lynch was emotional as his attorney, James Bell, described the events of the night. Bell said Lynch had been drinking both beer and liquor throughout the day. And, he says the men were playing pranks on each other.

Lynch was charged with reckless homicide, and could spend up to eight years in prison.

### **February 4th, 2010**

A Lafayette man has been found guilty of murdering his childhood friend with a baseball bat.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington says 26-year-old Jeremy Knoy faces 45 to 65 years in prison when he is sentenced next month. Harrington says a Superior Court jury deliberated for about three-and-a-half hours this afternoon before finding Knoy guilty.

Knoy was charged with murder after he told police he hit 26-year Derek Liphard (LIP-herd) with a bat in December of 2008 at a house at 23-12 North 19th Street.

### **March 12th, 2010**

Indiana State Police released the names of the people taken into custody in yesterday's drug raid at Soul Conviction Tattoo Shop in Frankfort.

Jeremey Roberts and Christopher Genrich are both charged with possession of Meth, a controlled substance, and drug paraphernalia. They're also charged with manufacturing methamphetamine.

Genrich faces an additional charge of resisting law enforcement. Members of the Indiana State Police Department tell us the investigation is on-going in this case.

### **March 29th, 2010**

Twin Lakes teacher and former coach Mark Hay was arrested today, then released on bond.

Tiffanie Dismore has more on the situation.

## **DIVERSITY**

In early January WLFI told residents how they ask local police chief's questions. A forum gave residents the chance to hear what local police departments are doing about diversity recruitment and training.

In late February WLFI showed viewers the story of a professor at Purdue, dedicated to helping people both on and off campus is one of YWCA's Salute to Women winners. Toni Mungia's goal is simple empower women and minorities to have a voice and get involved while they are in school.

In March WLFI highlighted the findings of an area survey. It showed Tippecanoe County is relatively diverse. The survey revealed the diversity climate improved or stayed the same over the last decade for working women and people of color.

## **January 11th, 2010**

You have the chance to ask local police chiefs questions.

The Law Enforcement Town Hall forum will provide an opportunity to hear what local police departments are doing about diversity recruitment and training.

The forum will be held on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Lilly Rooms in Ivy Hall at Ivy Tech Community College on Creasy Lane in Lafayette.

## **January 14th, 2010**

The Diversity Roundtable is set to announce the results of a recent climate survey.

The group plans to announce the results next Monday, January 18th, at the Tippecanoe County Public Library, at 627 South Street and ten o'clock.

The leaders of the Diversity Roundtable will respond to the survey with suggestions for action steps.

JoAnn Miller, associate dean for interdisciplinary studies and engagement and interim head of the sociology department at Purdue University, analyzed the results of the ten year study.

The Diversity Roundtable is a volunteer community organization that promotes diversity in the community.

## **February 24th, 2010**

A professor at Purdue, dedicated to helping people both on and off campus is one of YWCA's Salute to Women winners.

Toni Mungia is a professor and heads up the diversity program in the College of Technology. Her goal is simple, empower women and minorities to have a voice and get involved while they're in school.

Her added responsibilities sometimes lead to some late nights on campus, but she doesn't mind, because she knows she's making a difference.

## **March 3rd, 2010**

A survey concludes Tippecanoe County is relatively diverse.

A phone survey was conducted in the fall of 2009 and the results were presented at the Diversity Roundtable meeting this afternoon. The survey revealed the diversity climate improved or stayed the same over the last decade for working women and people of color. Co-facilitator of the Diversity Roundtable, Barbara Clark, wants to develop focus groups on how to make people feel more comfortable by using the findings from the survey.

## **EDUCATION**

In late January WLFI showed how Purdue University made changes to employee benefits to help deal with a budget deficit. Reducing the university's contribution to employee's retirement and health care were ways the university cut back.

February came with the sobering news that up to 150 teachers could lose their jobs. WLFI gave viewers a look at methods taken to save money.

In March some good news for local schools. Local school boards found out how legislation from the state house will affect education. A new law letting school districts transfer money one time between funds.

## **January 20th, 2010**

Budget reductions are on every school board member's mind as they try to find ways to keep programs and staff.

Tiffanie Dismore was at West Lafayette Community School Corporation's work session where budget cuts and funding was the topic tonight. Tiffanie, how is the district going to tackle these reductions?

## **January 21st, 2010**

Purdue University is making changes to employee benefits to help deal with a budget deficit.

In a press release Purdue treasurer Al Diaz says two changes in benefits are absolutely required. That's reducing the university's contribution to employee's retirement and health care.

Ava Wilhite explains why.

## **January 22nd, 2010**

A program that has helped 10-thousand Lafayette-area kids celebrates its 15th year. This morning at Oakland Elementary, 50 fifth-graders got their diplomas and were congratulated as graduates of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program. Each student wrote an essay telling why it's important to be drug-free, what they learned, and what their life goals were. The nationally recognized program was started locally in 1995, by current Lafayette Mayor and former L-P-D officer Tony Roswarski.

## **January 26th, 2010**

The Lafayette School Corporation discussed budget cuts last night.

But as Niccole Caan explains, the district has decided that one item will remain.

## **February 10th, 2010**

Up to 150 teachers could lose their jobs. Tiffanie Dismore was at the school board meeting at Harrison High School tonight.

Tiffanie, looks like savings will be found in many different places.

## **February 16th, 2010**

M-S-D of Warren County faces a budget shortfall of almost 750-thousand dollars.

Tiffany Dismore reports Superintendent Ralph Shrader talked to parents of students in Pine Village last night.

He says the grade school will remain open for the next year, but after that, he's not sure.

## **February 17th, 2010**

West Lafayette Community School Corporation will continue what it has been doing to cut costs.

Superintendent Rocky Killion presented his ideas on how the school corporation can deal with its budget shortfall.

Tiffanie Dismore has the story.

## **February 17th, 2010**

The union discussed options a McCutcheon High School.

The teacher's group says it wants the district to look closely at other budget cuts before educators are laid off.

The Teachers Education Association or T-E-A says the administration gave the union a bargaining request yesterday.

## **March 15th, 2010**

School superintendents in Tippecanoe County are sharing their thoughts on a new bill that passed that would give them more options for funding. Kristin Maiorano joins us now.

## **March 19th, 2010**

Local school boards find out how legislation from the state house will affect education.

The state school board association held a meeting at The Trails in West Lafayette last night.

The topic of discussion was the new law letting school districts transfer money one time between funds.

Indiana School Boards Association Executive Director Frank Bush says the option allows for some financial relief, after all districts were saddled with a four and half percent funding cut.

Still, school boards will have to make tough decisions

## **March 30th, 2010**

Purdue University successfully cut more than 45-million dollars from its budget.

With state revenues coming in far below projections, Governor Mitch Daniels told public universities in Indiana to return 150-million dollars to the state by 2011.

Purdue was asked to cut 45-point-5 million from the West Lafayette campus as well as regional campuses and engagement programs.

The university says it reached its goal by deferring hiring, budget cuts to operations and facility maintenance, and energy conservation.

University President France Cordova says the cuts weren't easy, but they were made without affecting student education or Purdue's research enterprise.

## HEALTHCARE

The first quarter was highlighted by area residents speaking out, both for and against healthcare reform. WLFI highlighted rallies, some, in near freezing temperatures.

In February Purdue was been chosen by the federal government to help medical offices move into the 21st century. Thanks to the American Recovery and Re-investment Act from the federal government, Purdue University got 12 million dollars to help medical offices make the transition from paper records to electronic.

In March WLFI brought viewers the story of a woman meeting a need. While visiting her parents at their retirement home, she knew she was needed in other ways.

## **January 13th 2010**

H1N1 isn't grabbing the headlines as much as it used to, but plenty of people are still getting vaccinated.

Students and staff at Lafayette Jeff High School protected themselves against the virus this morning.

Jeff High School Assistant Principal Roger Francis says the number of people taking advantage of these clinics is down...but that doesn't mean the need is dwindling.

## **January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Cold temperatures and snowy weather didn't stop people from joining together for something they are passionate about.

People gathered on the courthouse square in Lafayette to rally for healthcare reform.

Aaron Leedy was there.

## **February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**

A local doctor traded retirement, for helping others.

He spent one year off, before deciding to go back to work,...for free. Gina Quattrocchi joins us with the story of a doctor who is paying it forward in tonight's special report, Heroes Among Us.

## **February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Purdue has been chosen by the federal government to help medical offices move into the 21st century.

Thanks to the American Recovery and Re-investment Act from the federal government, Purdue University has 12 million dollars to assist medical offices in making the shift from paper records to electronic.

Healthcare technical assistance program director Mary Anne Sloan says the project could create up to 40 jobs.

## **March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010**

While visiting her parents at their retirement home, a Lafayette woman knew she was needed in other ways. Now she's turning time spent with her family, into helping others. Gina Quattrocchi joins us with her story, in tonight's Heroes Among Us.

## **ROADS and TRANSPORTATION**

A collision on snowy roads left one man dead and several students injured in January. WLFI was there after a car crashed into a Delphi Community School Corporation bus on U.S. 421 just after 7:30 am.

In February, drivers on Cumberland Avenue, had to find a new route. Cumberland Avenue from US 52 to the Salem Courthouse apartment complex was closed on March 1<sup>st</sup>. WLFI talked to the city engineer to get the latest detour information.

In late March heard the collective cry of area viewers. People who use County Road 600 North say the road is in desperate need of repair and they were not getting answers from county leaders.

## **January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

A collision on snowy roads left one man dead and several students injured yesterday.

A car crashed into a Delphi Community School Corporation bus on U.S. 421 just after 7-30 am. Joe LePage was there.

## **January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

West Lafayette residents voice what they would like to see in the city's future.

Tiffanie Dismore was at Strategic Plan meeting tonight. Tiffanie, what were some of the ideas residents suggested?

Niccole, the discussion is centered on five themes: neighborhood vitality, community infrastructure like roads, trails and parks, economic development, institutional development like schools, healthcare and community facilities and community relations.

## **February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Plans are being developed to widen Yeager Road from Northwestern Avenue to Sagamore West in West Lafayette.

The public had a chance to voice their opinions on the project at last night's open house.

## **February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010**

If you travel on Cumberland Avenue, you will need to find a new route. Starting on March 1st, Cumberland Avenue from U-S 52 to the Salem Courthouse apartment complex will be closed for construction.

City Engineer Dave Buck says signs will direct drivers to take a detour down either Yeager Road or Win Hentschel Boulevard.

## **February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

This morning patients will be leaving St.Elizabeth Central and Home Hospitals for good.

Patients are all being moved, one-at-a-time, by ambulance. Patient Move Coordinator Jody Mathew says the transport teams will start at St. Elizabeth Central, then patients will be transported from Home Hospital to the new campus.

Transportation will stop if roads become too slick for the move.

## **March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

A road in northern Tippecanoe County is creating problems for drivers.

And, people who use County Road 600 North say they aren't getting answers from county leaders.

As Julie Krizen reports, neighbors say County Road 600 North is in desperate need of repair.