

**ISSUE: Government****How Issue was treated: News story****Title: Outside of Chicago suburbs, state's job market to be rough in early 2017****Date: 1/03/17****Time: 9 a.m.****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

**SPRINGFIELD - Depending on where you live in Illinois, getting a job in the next three months can range from difficult to nearly impossible.**

**Employment company Manpower asks employers across Illinois about their intentions to hire more people every quarter. A report on their answers said hiring statewide will be mostly flat and a little better than last year's first quarter, but Manpower Regional Vice President Anne Edmunds said it depends on where you are in the state -- the Chicagoland area or downstate.**

**"(The Chicago suburbs) is a highly competitive area to attract skilled workers, where downstate, you don't have as many opportunities, and you don't have as many companies moving into that downstate area," she said. "The state, especially southern Illinois, is tied heavily to manufacturing, and there just aren't as many opportunities."**

**Edmunds said the vast majority of those businesses doing the hiring are in the Chicago suburbs - so much so that they are beginning to raise wages to attract enough talent.**

**"Areas like Joliet and even the Kankakee area have been raising pay rates pretty aggressively."**

**ISSUE: Government****How Issue was treated: News story****Date: 1/03/17****Title: Normal Town Council approves contract with Rowe Construction****Time: 9 p.m.****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

**NORMAL - The Normal Town Council approved several items at its meeting last night, including the contract with Rowe Construction to repair the Division Street underpass.**

**The town is looking to repair the underpass so it will be less of a thorn in the side of the residents who live near it. City Manager Mark Peterson explained by the end of the project, it will be an improvement for that area.**

"We'll be correcting some long-standing drainage problems that have caused some of the road deterioration, as well as we'll bring the road surface up to a new standard and the sidewalk," said Peterson. "It'll be a nice improvement for that neighborhood, no doubt."

Regarding Rowe Construction, Peterson said the town has a long history with the company. Peterson expressed confidence that Rowe Construction is the company to get the job done right.

"Getting one bidder on a project like this is not unusual, now fortunately Rowe is a very good contractor. We have a long relationship with the company, they're very reputable," said Peterson. "They'll do a good job on this project."

Peterson said the project will likely be started in late April or early May and will be completed by June.

Other agenda items that were approved at the meeting were a resolution to purchase various pieces of golf course maintenance equipment, the purchase and installation of office furnishings in the Children's Discovery Museum, and the purchase of outdoor furnishings for the South Boarding Platform Project.

**ISSUE: Government**

How Issue was treated: News story

Date: 2/02/17

Title: Indivisible IL-18 gives letter to Darin LaHood about President Trump

Time: 9 a.m.

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**Description:**

**BLOOMINGTON** - Bloomington residents and members of the political activist group Indivisible IL-18 met outside Congressman's Darin LaHood's local office to deliver a letter to his staff.

Indivisible IL-18, an organization from the IL 18th Congressional District, has been attempting to meet with LaHood since President Trump's inauguration. Indivisible IL-18 member Kay Moss explained they have tried to meet with LaHood and discuss their concerns about Trump several times, but to no avail.

"We've tried to set up meetings. The staffers are wonderful, they're very cordial, they'll talk to you as long as you want, and they don't try to defend Mr. LaHood's positions," said Moss. "But we want to speak with him."

The letter, written by Moss, outlines the group's frustrations of how Trump is passing executive orders. Moss says while they don't agree with the recent immigration ban, how it was actually passed shouldn't be overlooked.

"My issue is the process by which the president came to that decision," said Moss. "When you take counsel with Steve Bannon rather than with your Homeland Security, you are going to be making decisions that are harmful."

Moss, a member of a military family, said she doesn't want to see her loved ones fight in a potential war caused by bad decisions.

**ISSUE: Government**

**How Issue was treated: News story**

**Date: 2/02/17**

**Title: Normal looks at pedestrian crossing options**

**Time: 9 a.m.**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**NORMAL - Normal Mayor Chris Koos said a project that's been in the works for years and is likely still a few years away from starting will never happen unless the state and federal government come through with significant transportation funding.**

**Koos said there are misperceptions about the pedestrian crossing at Uptown Station.**

**"I want to be very clear that this project will be approached very similar to the way Uptown Station was approached in that without significant federal or state funding, and likely federal funding, this project will not happen," Koos said. "It will go on the shelf."**

**The pedestrian crossing which could take one of five forms - would cost in the millions of dollars. An engineering firm will present findings of a \$1.4 million study of all the options in May.**

**Koos added he hopes the federal government will fund project as it did Uptown Station, citing President Trump's call to significantly boost infrastructure funding.**

**"President Trump himself has stated as a top priority transportation infrastructure is a high priority for him and he'd like to see Congress extend federal dollars from the federal budget to do that," Koos said.**

**The town three years ago backed of a plan for an overpass to further explore the underpass concept.**

**ISSUE: Government****How Issue was treated: News story****Date: 3/01/17****Title: Renner "shocked" by Metro-Zone dispute****Time: 9 a.m.****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

**BLOOMINGTON - "Shocked and disappointed" was Bloomington Mayor Tari Renner's reaction to the statement sent Wednesday afternoon by the Town of Normal.**

**Normal said it's reviewing all intergovernmental agreements with Bloomington, adding Bloomington's move to terminate the Metro Zone deal was "unethical and self serving."**

**"Issuing a statement like that is bad for the entire community," said Renner. "Frankly, it's hard for me to believe that a difference of opinion on a single issue might threaten everything that we've achieved together."**

**Normal Mayor Chris Koos said backing out of the Metro Zone was the latest in a series of actions Bloomington has taken to avoid working with Normal, including pulling out of MetCom. Renner said it's "absurd" Normal would point to that issue as evidence the city doesn't want to work together.**

**"That was three mayors ago," said Renner. "And the other thing is, I was on the County Board at that time and i supported Koos' position. I thought it was a bad decision for the City of Bloomington to do."**

**Renner said he can't remember seeing a statement like this in his 30 years of experience in local government. But, he added the city will need to continue working with Normal. He explained Bloomington and Normal make up one community, despite the fact they are two different municipalities.**

**ISSUE: Government****How Issue was treated: News story****Date: 3/22/17****Title: Normal, Bloomington see increase in FOIA****Time: 9 a.m.****Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**BLOOMINGTON - The City of Bloomington and Town of Normal processed a combined 2,676 Freedom of Information Act requests in 2016.**

**That's 1,368 for Bloomington and 1,306 for Normal.**

**Normal fully denied 161 requests they received, which Town Clerk Wendy Briggs explained was usually because the town didn't have a report for the information.**

**"That means the town has nothing at all on that item," said Briggs. "If it's an accident report, the accident did not occur in Normal or if it's a police report it may have occurred somewhere else."**

**Briggs added most of the reports Normal hands out have information redacted.**

**"Personal information, birthdays, phone numbers, statements of other people involved in something," said Briggs. "If you and I had a report against each other, I could get my statements, but I couldn't get your statements; you could get yours, but you couldn't get mine."**

**Bloomington Records and Information Manager Renee Gooderham said about 90 percent of the reports Bloomington answers have some information redacted, mainly because an investigation is still ongoing.**

**Gooderham added the city doesn't track the number of requests which are completely denied.**

**"The way the tracking goes is that you're supposed to track by the section that you are denied for, like private information," said Gooderham. "So you could have one that's partially been given to an individual, but have private information redacted."**

**Both Bloomington and Normal said the most common requests they receive are for police reports.**

Issue: Business

How issue was treated: News story

Title: **County Chamber of Commerce recognizes 2016 Business Excellence Award Winners**

Date: 1/30/17

Time: 12 PM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**By Eric Stock and Patrick Baron**

**BLOOMINGTON - The McLean County Chamber of Commerce recognized several local businesses and community leaders last night at the chamber's annual gala.**

**The Business Excellence Awards are given to individuals and businesses who help better the communities around them. The 2016 Business Excellence Awards were given to various organizations, celebrating their successes.**

**Jerome Maddox was presented the Legacy of Excellence Award.**

**"I actually was almost to tears just thinking about everybody else thought about me," Maddox quipped. "It was very humbling and I'm still excited and happy that I'm making this kind of impact on the community."**

**Working at State Farm, Maddox has helped the business build stronger relationships with the communities they serve. Maddox has also partnered with Home Sweet Home Ministries and the Community Health Care Clinic to create the Mobile Health Clinic, which provides wider access to healthcare in the community.**

**Faith in Action won the Nonprofit Excellence Award. Faith in Action has volunteers serve hundreds of seniors within the community by providing transportation to medical appointments, the grocery store, general errands, and help with light-in home maintenance all at no charge.**

**Henson Disposal and Recycling received the Green Excellence Award. Henson Disposal and Recycling provides residential and commercial refuse and recycling services to Bloomington-Normal, as well as several rural communities throughout Central Illinois.**

**Specs Around Town was presented with the Micro Business Excellence Award. Specs Around Town is community-focused and work to give back to the community on a wide variety of fundraising efforts for local organizations, sponsoring local events, and speaking to students.**

**"I do think we are somewhat of a destination," Kubsch said. "We draw people from Champaign-Urbana, Peoria and local people. So once they come downtown hopefully they are going to explore and find the other great things we have."**

**First Farmers State Bank won the Small Business Excellence Award. First Farmers State Bank has been working in the area for over 150 years. They are known for their relationship-driven banking style and for taking the time with local entrepreneurs to listen, learn, and help drive their financial success.**

**McDonald's Restaurants received the Large Business Excellence Award. Owned by Bob and Julie Dobski, McDonald's has been involved with fundraising for numerous events for organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, Toys for Tots, McLean County Relay for Life, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.**

**"It's nice being recognized by all the efforts of our employees, not just us but everybody in the organization who works 24 hours a day, seven days a week to give to the community," Bob Dobski said.**

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Issue: Business

How issue was treated: News story

Title: Support for minority business women

Date: 1/26/17

Time: 8 AM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**SPRINGFIELD - Gov. Bruce Rauner said he wants to do more than 'pay lip service' to supporting minority- and women-owned businesses in the state, so his office is targeting new IT consulting contracts for the state to these groups and to communities that haven't seen many state contracts.**

**Rauner said recently that Illinois has talked for years about directing state contracts to businesses owned by women or minorities.**

**"We in Illinois have paid a lot of lip service to equal opportunity," Rauner said. "We haven't really done much about it."**

**Rauner said that when his administration finally looked at the actual number of contracts going to minority- and women-owned firms, he was shocked.**

**"We're nowhere near our goals, and we never talk about it," Rauner said. "We have capable, available, high-quality entrepreneurial businesses owned by disadvantaged individuals, and we don't contract with them."**

**Rauner's office is getting ready to open up applications for IT contracts with the state, and he said he wants to target the jobs not only toward minority- and women-owned firms, but also wants to ensure that the jobs are in neighborhoods that need them the most.**

Issue: Business

How issue was treated: News story

Title: Business helping school funding grow

Date: 2/30/17

Time: 12 PM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**SPRINGFIELD - A commission that has created a framework to change Illinois' school funding formula has produced its final report.**

**State Sen. Jason Barickman told WJBC's Scott Laughlin and Patti Penn it's now up to lawmakers to make sure the work of the group's 25 members doesn't end up on a shelf.**

**PODCAST: Listen to Scott and Patti's interview with Barickman on WJBC.**

**"I think we've (made) great progress on this," Barickman said. "I hope to be able to work with my colleagues across the aisle on this and advance the ball on this immediately."**

**The Bloomington Republican served on the School Funding Reform Commission which held a series of meetings over six months. He said the formula would help many downstate schools, especially those with higher percentages of students in poverty.**

**"This formula is designed to make sure that new money gets to our poorest districts and those that need the money the most," Barickman said. "A lot of those districts are downstate or are in rural communities."**

**The funding model would cost up to \$6 billion more per year, but the panel doesn't address how that would be financed.**

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Issue: Business

How issue was treated: News story

Title: State of Illinois running behind on business

Date: 2/18/17

Time: 11 PM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**NORMAL - The State of Illinois is six months behind on special education and transportation payments to Unit 5.**

**The district said Wednesday night during its Board of Education meeting those missed payments equal about \$6 million. Superintendent Mark Daniel said this creates uncertainty through the rest of the fiscal year because the district isn't sure if any payments will come through.**

**"They're absolutely critical. The result is if we don't get it, we'll have to dip into working cash even deeper," said Daniel. "That line gets thinner and thinner."**

**Unit 5 received a payment from the state in December, but that was a makeup payment which had been due in June.**

**"It's important for the community to know, I believe, we are doing the best with the dollars that we are being supplied," Daniel said.**

**Daniel added the district has been receiving its general state aid funding, which is a positive as that money goes towards the education fund.**

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Issue: Business

How issue was treated: News story

Title: School framework has changed

Date: 02/02/17

Time: 10 AM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

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Issue: Business

How issue was treated: News story

Title: Federal Budget cuts proposed

Date: 03/22/17

Time: 6 AM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

There's worry that cuts in the Trump administration's proposed federal budget could affect many groups and organizations, but at least one local group isn't worried. Peace Meal senior nutrition program's regional supervisor Emilia Suess (cease) says their sponsor, Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System, has already said it'll be supportive no matter what.

Suess says Peace Meal provides meals to citizens over 60 in 14 counties in Illinois. Suess says her office in Bloomington delivers meals to 200 seniors just in Bloomington-Normal. "What the officer did was explain to the person about it's your right to protest or rally, you've got to do it peacefully," said Heffner. "But also, try to pass on some information about you've got to be aware sometimes when people have rallies and other things that sometimes people involved can break the law."

**Heffner explained the officers were able to determine no one had been defacing property. He said the people at the rally had been placing post-it notes on LaHood's office sign.**

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Issue: Business

How issue was treated: News story

Title: President says they are close to a budget

Date: 03/30/2017

Time: 7 AM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**The president at the University of Illinois thinks the school is close to a special budget arrangement that will guarantee the university nearly three-quarters-of a billion dollars a year.**

**U of I leaders are hoping to push through their special budget arrangement by promising to enroll more Illinois students at the University of Illinois.**

**The school's Barb Wilson says about half the students in the state leave Illinois to attend college.**

**The U of I is proposing to offer more financial aid for Illinois students.**

**But state Rep. Kathleen Willis says that doesn't do anything to tuition, room and board, and fees at the U of I which can cost an Illinois student 35-thousand dollars a year.**

**Illinois students can go to Indiana or Mizzou for almost 10-thousand dollars less.**

Issue: Schools

How issue was treated: News story

Title: **District 87 examines school calendar draft, receives award nomination**

Date: 1/11/17

Time: 6 AM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - District 87 examined the first draft of the 2017-2018 school year calendar at last night's meeting.

The calendar, drafted by board member Dr. Herschel Hannah, provided a general outline for when school will start, what dates are scheduled for parent-teacher conferences, as well as days students have off and days scheduled for school improvements. District 87 Superintendent Barry Reilly explained the calendar draft will be brought to administration members and parents for feedback.

"Dr. Hannah will take that feedback into consideration, we'll get back together, and we'll make some adjustments based on that," said Reilly. "That doesn't mean we'll take everything that's suggested, but sometimes it does make sense."

Reilly explained the calendars generally receive little public feedback. Reilly pointed out the calendar doesn't see huge changes every year, which may play a part in public feedback.

"The calendar is one of those items that tends to remain pretty stable from year to year, it doesn't change a whole lot other than a few minor tweaks," said Reilly. "For example, spring break is something we try to coordinate with Unit 5 and Olympia in particular."

At the meeting, Reilly also announced the board's nomination for the Business Excellence Award. He explained the McLean County Board of Commerce nominates local businesses that show outstanding performance, quality service, and business distinctiveness.

"The Chamber of Commerce does an annual gala where they recognize different types of small business all the way to large business organizations for the work that they do," said Reilly. "And we were nominated this year. We are one of five large business organizations to be recognized."

Reilly said being nominated for the award is a tremendous honor for the board. He asserted the nomination belongs to past board members as well, who laid the groundwork for where the current board is at.

Issue: Schools

How issue was treated: News story

Title: **Could Sandy Hook happen here?**

Date: 1/8/17

Time: 10 AM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**SPRINGFIELD - Could Sandy Hook happen here? Of course.**

**With that and other school shootings in mind, the state created a School Security and Standards Task Force, which has put together a preliminary report.**

**"There are already programs to have a set number of drills," said State Rep. Carol Sente (D-Vernon Hills). "We didn't want to increase the number of drills, but we wanted to make sure that one of the drills would be unannounced."**

**And Sente said task force members want to be together beyond this summer's scheduled expiration.**

**"What if, the minute this report comes out, there's new information? It kind of becomes, in a way, obsolete the day it's published."**

Issue: Schools

How issue was treated: News story

Title: **Rauner appoints ISU Board of Trustees members**

Date: 2/7/17

Time: 9 AM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**NORMAL - Governor Bruce Rauner has filled three positions on the Illinois State Board of Trustees.**

**Rauner has appointed Julie Jones, Sharon Rossmark, and John Rauschenberger to fill the positions left by Jay D. Bergman, Anne Davis, and Betty Kinser. The terms for Bergman, Davis, and Kinser expired last week, and all chose to not return to the board.**

**All three of the new appointees are graduates of ISU, similar to their predecessors. The term for a board member lasts six years.**

Issue: Schools

How issue was treated: News story

Title: **Heartland to increase tuition**

Date: 2/21/17

Time: 9 AM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**Heartland Community College's board of trustees voted unanimously Tuesday night to increase the schools tuition and fees by 2.8 percent.**

**The increase means students will pay 148 dollars per credit hour.**

**The increase was called for in part because the school is not certain what type of state funding it will be receiving. Finance Director Doug Minter said Heartland actually had to return some MAP grant money to the state not too long ago.**

**"Because, not having had it appropriated until the year had come and gone, it was not possible to adhere to the grant guidelines that applied to that money," said Minter. "Simply not knowing is a very difficult situation."**

**President Rob Widmer explained they don't take tuition increases lightly.**

**"Affordability has been one of the hallmarks of community colleges relative to other higher education," said Widmer. "So we can be very concerned about what the cost is for students. It is, indeed, a very unfortunate situation we find ourselves in with state funding."**

**Besides uncertainty in state funding, the school's current full time faculty contract calls for a 2.5 percent salary bump in the next fiscal year, which contributed to the need for an increase.**

Issue: Schools

How issue was treated: News story

Title: **Restoration of home in Normal**

Date: 03/01/17

Time: 1 PM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**NORMAL - The Town of Normal is seeking proposals for the restoration of the recently purchased single family residence at 614 N. School St.**

**The property is located in the Old North Normal Historic District. Director of Inspections Greg Troemel said it's possibly one of the oldest homes in Normal.**

**"What we're hoping for is to find, maybe, the right person or developer to come along and take a stab at redeveloping this property, and restore it to some semblance of, maybe, its original construction," said Troemel. "Then, ultimately, try to get an occupancy situation where it's either family occupied or owner occupied."**

**Normal bought the property in November. Troemel explained the town isn't listing a minimum purchase price and doesn't expect to get all of its money back.**

**"We would rather see private reinvestment in the property and then, in turn, we're going to take a lower amount of money for the property," he said.**

**Normal is holding open houses at the property on March 8 from 4 - 6:30 p.m. and March 10 from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Proposals are due to the town by April 29.**

**The full Request for Proposal document can be viewed at [www.normal.org/rfp](http://www.normal.org/rfp).**

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Issue: Schools

How issue was treated: News story

Title: Lexington Property owners asked to pass local tax

Date: 03/06/17

Time: 1 PM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**LEXINGTON - Lexington Community Unit School District No. 7 is asking March primary voters to pass a property tax increase.**

**The amount Lexington property owners pay to the school district would increase by 14.7 percent to a rate of 3.9 percent under the proposal. The tax rate would fall back down to its current level of 3.4 percent in four years. The increase is expected to generate \$362,597 in new tax revenue for the district next year.**

**"I know there's been a fear out there in the community and the area that the school, Lexington, was going to close this year or next year," district superintendent Dwight Stricklin said. "We want to run this referendum to assure people that Lexington isn't going anywhere, that we're going to be here."**

**Stricklin said the district can't cut anymore than it has.**

**"We don't have what we call, 'fluff.' We don't have extra staff members," Stricklin said.  
"We're pretty much down to everyone that we need."**

**Stricklin said two teachers have retired recently - a home economics teacher and a business teacher - and the district has been unable to replace them.**

**Stricklin said the district would have to start looking at cutting programs or even consolidating some of the schools within the district if the referendum were to fail. He said the district is expecting to run a budget deficit of \$151,000 next year, which is down from a high-point of \$851,000 in the 2013-14 school year.**

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Issue: Crime

How issue was treated: News story

Title: **Crime Down in City**

Date: 1/12/17

Time: 12 PM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**BLOOMINGTON - Overall crime was down again in Bloomington in 2015.**

That's according to Police Chief Brendan Heffner. He told WJBC's Susan Saunders a combined effort between his officers and residents which helped bring crime down.

"We appreciate citizen's help. I, obviously, appreciate the hard work of the officers," said Heffner. "And you always have to have a little luck."

Heffner added the number of car thefts was up during the year. Heffner explained residents leaving their cars unlocked definitely enabled many of those thefts.

"Honestly, we recovered a majority of them because that was not necessarily the intent when the vehicles were entered," he said.

Heffner encouraged residents to make sure their cars are locked with any valuable items out of sight.

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Issue: Crime

How issue was treated: News story

Title: **State Police warn of phone scam**

Date: 1/23/17

Time: 10 AM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**SPRINGFIELD - Illinois State Police is warning about a new phone scam.**

**The call appears to come from the state police, and features an automated message saying the person who answered is under criminal investigation and needs to send six hundred dollars.**

**Master Sergeant Jason Bradley said it's bogus.**

**"Illinois State Police will never call to solicit money on behalf of the department or ask you to send any money for any reason, nor would we notify you that you are under investigation by an automated message," Bradley said.**

**Bradley said so far the calls have mostly been in the Chicagoland area.**

**"All of the calls have been received as an automated message, and the and the voice on the automated message appears to be a male with a foreign accent," Bradley said.**

Issue: Crime

How issue was treated: News story

Title: **Police partners are often mans best friend**

Date: 2/30/17

Time: 12 PM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**SPRINGFIELD - Canines have the reputation of being man's best friend, but to a police officer, a canine can be a partner as well.**

**However, State Representative Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) explained canine officers are viewed as "equipment" on budgets, meaning when they retire, they're considered property like old hats and old equipment.**

**"Imagine if all of a sudden that dog retires, and you have to go home and tell the kids 'oh by the way, our family member is still alive, they just sold her off. We just sold a family member'," said Cullerton.**

**New laws that take effect on January 1 will offer retired canine officers a more fulfilling retirement. Cullerton explained the canines can be raised as a member of its partner's family.**

**"The officer we were with the other day had an 11 year old and a seven year old, the dog is three and a half or four, so the dog has been growing up with these kids," said Cullerton.**

**The new laws will also allow police officers to be the first option of adopting the canine when retirement day comes. If the officer chooses not to adopt, the dogs will be placed into no kill shelters.**

Issue: Crime

How issue was treated: News story

Title: **New Substation to calm neighbors**

Date: 2/21/17

Time: 9 AM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**BLOOMINGTON - Bloomington police are planning to lease a building from Mid Central Community Action on West Jefferson Street to create a police substation.**

**Police Chief Brenden Heffner said it's a way to be out in the community more than officers already are.**

**"Officers can not only stop by there for breaks, to do work, or just engage citizens," said Heffner. "They can also go over there, park, be able to walk around in the area."**

**The city plans to lease the building for \$12 per year.**

**"I've heard that there are neighbors in that community, or citizens, that are really looking forward to us being over there and we're glad," Heffner said.**

**The City Council will vote Monday on approving the deal.**

**Adam Studzinski can be reached at [adam.studzinski@cumulus.com](mailto:adam.studzinski@cumulus.com).**

Issue: Crime

How issue was treated: News story

Title:

Date: 03/02/17

Time: 10 AM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**Federal law enforcement officials were at a number of Caterpillar facilities in Peoria Thursday, including the company's world headquarters.**

**News partner WMBD reports the officials are executing a search warrant. The federal warrant allows law enforcement to seize any documents related to Caterpillar's business in Switzerland. Law enforcement were also outside Caterpillar locations in East Peoria and Morton.**

**A statement from Cat says it's cooperating with the investigation. Caterpillar says it believes that a search warrant executed by federal authorities yesterday at its facilities concerns "export filings" related to its Switzerland subsidiary CSARL. In a statement yesterday after federal agents appeared at its Peoria headquarters and other facilities, Caterpillar says the issue it concerns was first disclosed in a 2015 filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. At that time, the Caterpillar said the SEC had notified the manufacturer that it was conducting an informal investigation relating to the Swiss subsidiary, and asked the company to preserve relevant documents. Caterpillar spokeswoman Corrie Heck Scott said in an email that the company is cooperating with law enforcement.**

Issue: Crime

How issue was treated: News story

Title: Police calm rally

Date: 03/08/17

Time: 1 PM

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

**BLOOMINGTON - A group of women who held a rally outside U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood's office in Bloomington Tuesday night said they're upset with the way they were treated by a Bloomington Police officer.**

**Melle Hany explained one of her friends was approached by the officer as the rally was ending. Her friends said she was threatened and that the officer had run her license plates.**

**"(She) said he was repeatedly saying 'Tell me who's organizing this protest' and 'I need names' and she's going to be brought up on inciting a riot," said Hany. "Just being extremely harassing, and intimidating and threatening."**

**Police Chief Brendan Heffner said his officers had been called to the area for a report of criminal damage to property.**

**"What the officer did was explain to the person about it's your right to protest or rally, you've got to do it peacefully," said Heffner. "But also, try to pass on some information about you've got to be aware sometimes when people have rallies and other things that sometimes people involved can break the law."**

**Heffner explained the officers were able to determine no one had been defacing property. He said the people at the rally had been placing post-it notes on LaHood's office sign.**

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