

PM

Fourth Quarter Report 2016

GOVERNMENT

WJBC – AM

Issue: Government

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Normal votes on future underpass project

Date: 10-1-2016

Time: 9 a.m.

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

NORMAL - Normal's Town Council will vote Monday on a \$1.4 million contract with WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff for the first phase of engineering services for a future underpass at Uptown Station. Deputy City Manager Pamela Reece explained the council had already approved the group to do this work, but had not ironed out an official contract yet.

"It would include environmental studies, all the appropriate surveying, and then conceptual drawings for an underpass project," said Reece. "It will take about two years for all this work to get done for the initial planning, but after that we should be prepared for construction documents. That phase should move faster."

Reece added it's still not guaranteed this project will become reality. Whether or not the underpass is ever built will depend largely on what type of funding the town can secure

Issue: Government

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Brady says GOP needs one seat to eliminate supermajority

Date: 10-26-2016

Time: 11 a.m.

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

BLOOMINGTON - Gov. Bruce Rauner has poured millions of dollars into state legislative races in hopes of eliminating the Democrats supermajority.

State Rep. Dan Brady, R-Bloomington, who has been campaigning in his role as assistant minority leader, told WJBC's Scott Laughlin the GOP needs to take just one seat held by Democrats to eliminate that supermajority in the House.

"We've got at least three if not four tier one (House) races we are focusing in on," Brady said.

The only Republican legislator in the Chicago area, House veteran Michael McAuliffe, is trying to hold on to his seat and the GOP has spent nearly \$2 million in advertising to try to save that seat.

Like many Illinois legislators, Brady is running unopposed. Only 48 of the 118 Illinois House seats will be contested on Nov. 8.

Issue: Government  
How Issue Was Treated: News story  
Title: County approves guidelines for wind farms  
Date: 11-15-2016  
Time: 11 a.m.  
Duration: Story runs 12 hours  
Description:

BLOOMINGTON - Some see them as a financial windfall, some who live near them consider them a nuisance.

The McLean County Board on Tuesday approved new guidelines for wind farms.

County Board member Catherine Metsker, R-Carlock, said she never envisioned living near industrial wind turbines when she moved to White Oak Township three decades ago. She said the new policy should put in more financial safeguards when these turbines go offline.

"The townships in our county will require significant financial resources to decommission these structures," Metsker said.

County Board member Jim Soeldner, R-Ellsworth, said his township got a big financial boost from wind energy.

"The assessed valuation in Dawson Township went from \$13 million to \$24 million because of the wind farm, so that's help the taxpayers in our township and overall in the county," Soeldner said.

The new guidelines require wind turbines be at least 1,500 feet from a home and be no taller than 550 feet and wildlife study must show minimal impact.

The county held two public hearings on the regulations which the McLean County Farm Bureau had requested. The county held the hearings after Metsker said that little notice was given to residents. Two wind energy companies are looking to apply for a permit for a new wind farm in northeastern McLean County.

Issue: Government  
How Issue Was Treated: News story  
Title: Durbin doesn't see presidential recount  
Date: 11-29-2016  
Time: 11 a.m.  
Duration: Story runs 12 hours  
Description:

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin said its 'highly likely' a recount of the presidential election will change the outcome, but if Green Party candidate Jill Stein is willing to put up the money, where's the harm? Durbin said he'd like to know the full extent of Russian involvement in the election, after WikiLeaks published hacked Democratic Party emails in the days and weeks before the election.

"I don't care whether you are Democrat or Republican, I don't want any country messing with American's elections," Durbin said. "If there's any evidence of that let's get it out. If there's not, let's clear up any conspiracy rumors about it."

Stein is seeking recounts in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan, even though she says there's no evidence of voter fraud.

Issue: Government

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: McIntyre remains as McLean County chairman

Date: 12-5-2016

Time: 11 a.m.

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

BLOOMINGTON - The McLean County Board has voted to keep John McIntyre as chairman of the board after serving on an interim basis over the last year.

McIntyre was unanimously named to the seat in January after Matt Sorensen resigned due to a fraud case related to his private consulting work. McIntyre expressed satisfaction in the work that the board has done.

"Along with the Mental Health Action Plan and all else that we've had going on here, I've been pretty much wearing two hats at times," said McIntyre. "But I've been pretty gratified in what we've been able to accomplish."

McIntyre was not the only board member who will serve another term - Jim Soeldner was also reappointed to as vice chairman. McIntyre explained how the board's experience will be an important factor in ensuring that work is accomplished.

"I think we have a good range of experience on our board, and we need that because our board is the largest downstate county in terms of size," said McIntyre. "We also have almost 900 employees."

McIntyre says implementing the county's mental health action plan is a top priority in the coming years.

Issue: Government

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Normal council approves property tax increase

Date: 12-19-2016

Time: 11 a.m.

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

NORMAL - The Normal Town Council on Monday unanimously approved a 1.98 percent property tax rate increase.

The increase means the owner of a \$165,000 home will pay about \$13 more next year.

Councilwoman Cheryl Gaines said they do not make these types of decisions flippantly.

"We do do this based on facts and figures," said Gaines. "And we do know the facts and figures. We do look at the numbers."

The new revenue will be put towards funding police and fire pensions. Councilman Jeff Fritzen said the town chooses to fund its pensions through property taxes for a reason.

"We're protective of other revenue sources because that's how we operate," Fritzen said.

Additionally on Monday, the council gave its approval to refinancing a \$23.5 million bond, which is likely to save about \$2.2 million.

PM

Fourth Quarter Report 201<sup>6</sup>

BUSINESS

WJBC - AM

Issue: Business

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Midwest Food Bank to relocate

Date: 10-5-16

Time: 2 p.m.

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

BLOOMINGTON - Midwest Food Bank has announced plan to relocate its office and distribution center at 1703 S Veterans Parkway, Bloomington.

The non-profit is purchasing an office and warehouse at 2031 Warehouse Drive, Normal, President and CEO David Kieser announced on Wednesday. The new location formerly housed the Bloomington-Normal Seating Company, which had been a supplier for the-now closed Mitsubishi Motors plant in Normal.

"The last five years has seen an increase of over 130 percent increase in the value of food distributed from Midwest Food Bank," said Kieser. "The new location will allow us to accept more food and increase the number of agencies we serve."

The Normal location has nearly 100,000 square feet of warehouse space, more than triple the current 28,000 square foot warehouse. There are five additional semi trailer loading docks and increased parking space for agencies and volunteers.

Issue: Business

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: State Farm head says company staying

Date: 10-25-16

Time: 2 p.m.

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

BLOOMINGTON - State Farm has changed its leadership in the last year, but the company is not changing where its corporate headquarters is located.

Speaking at the annual Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council Community Leaders dinner Tuesday night, new State Farm CEO Michael Tipsord said the company has no plans to leave Bloomington.

"If you were in my chair, would you be looking to leave? I think everybody would step back, when you look at the facts and circumstances, you'd step back and say 'no.' This presence will exist." he said.

Tipsord added State Farm is growing its presence at its hubs in Dallas, Phoenix and Atlanta.

"The decision that I made is we weren't going to increase our concentration here (Bloomington)," said Tipsord. "Then we step back and we said how should we think about our physical presence? Where does it matter and what are the functions where it matters?"

However, at 15,000 workers, Tipsord said Bloomington remains the largest hub for the company.

Issue: Business

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Cab company offering free rides to polls

Date: 11-7-2016

Time: 2 p.m.

Description:

BLOOMINGTON - A lack of transportation shouldn't keep voters from going to the polls in Bloomington-Normal on Election Day.

Checker Cab is offering free rides to anyone who is going to vote.

"I've heard the lines for early voting have been busy, so I'm hoping we'll still have people to take to the polls tomorrow," owner Aaron Halliday said.

Halliday told WJBC's Scott Laughlin there's no party or campaign affiliation for the service. He referenced a comment on Facebook that they were afraid the taxi drivers would try to influence their vote.

"Somebody commented if you go to cab drivers for your political knowledge and your decision on who to vote for, you probably shouldn't be voting," Halliday quipped.

Halliday said about 200 voters took advantage of the service during the last presidential cycle in 2012.

To schedule an appointment, call (309) 828-0123. When calling to schedule, they must mention

"Taxi2Vote."

Issue: Business

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Brady says bill to help Exelon stay in tact

Date: 11-23-2016

Time: 2 p.m.

Description:

BLOOMINGTON - State Representative Dan Brady says a bill that passed a House committee to help Exelon keep its nuclear power plants in Clinton and the Quad Cities open is not in its final form, but the company is optimistic enough to put its closing plans on hold.

"The companies have said if they can get something they would extend the period in which they said they would close those two plants," Brady told WJBC's Patti Penn. "They're holding and waiting for the Illinois General Assembly and hopefully there are positive results for everybody involved that we can come up with."

Exelon agreed to eliminate its request for demand-based rates to help refine the bill to something that will benefit the company as well as protect consumers from large rate increases.

Brady said the bill to help Exelon keep its nuclear power plants open had become bloated.

"It's something that blossomed into about a 400-page bill when we're trying to have a measure that deals solely with giving help to the companies that's needed," Brady said.

Brady said the current bill that passed out of committee was pared down enough to focus on what it might take to keep the plants open.

Issue: Business

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Normal approves tax rebate for Portillo's

Date: 12-5-16

Time: 2 p.m.

Description:

NORMAL - The Normal Town Council on Monday unanimously approved about \$1.8 million in tax rebates for Portillo's.

The rebates will come in the form of food and beverage and sales taxes in a 5 to 7 year period to help make the 8 million dollar redevelopment at 202 Landmark Drive possible. City Manager Mark Peterson explained this is not the first time Normal has offered incentives for a business on Veterans Parkway.

"Most of the development that's occurred in the past 15 to 20 years has have had some public benefit in terms of some form of tax incentive," he said.

Councilman R.C. McBride said he went back and forth on the issue.

"What this comes down to for me is would this deal happen without the incentive? And the answer from everything I understand is probably no," said McBride. "And there are some other questions that need to be asked. Would it happen elsewhere if we don't do it? Maybe."

Councilman Scott Preston agreed with the rest of the council in saying he thinks this is a good deal.

"It's something that in the long run will bring in revenue to the Town of Normal from people outside of this community," said Preston. "I don't think there's any doubt, especially being the first, that we will have a regional appeal with that Portillo's."

Portillo's estimates their annual sales will be more than \$8 million a year. Their goal is to open by August 2017.

Issue: Business

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Shoppers taking advantage of post-holiday sales

Date: 12-26-2016

Time: 2 p.m.

Description:

BLOOMINGTON - Customers have finished buying gifts for family and friends, but are now taking advantage of post holiday sales to buy items they want.

Stores in Eastland Mall are offering various sales ranging from 20 percent to 80 percent off, depending on the store. Customers explained they have returns they need to make, but want to see what the stores have on sale while they're there.

"Well I'm looking for some bargains, some boots, and exchanging some things," one customer said.

However, others are using the sales to prepare for next Christmas. While it may seem like a long way off, customers are looking to have peace of mind and not have to worry about gifts too late in the game.

"I'm here just to see who's got what, and pick up some things maybe for next Christmas as presents," one customer explained.

Whatever their reasons, customers are taking advantage of the post holiday sales to get their purchases and returns knocked out before the new year.



Issue: Crime  
How Issue Was Treated: News story  
Title: Police investigation two shooting incidents  
Date: 11-17-2016  
Time: 9 a.m.  
Duration: Story runs 12 hours  
Description:

Bloomington Police are investigating two incidents involving gunfire in the last two nights on the city's west side. A 20-year-old Bloomington man has been taken into custody in the second incident which was reported in the area of Locust and Mason streets at about 6-30 last night. Pllice say a house and fence were damaged but no one was hurt. Police don't know if there's a connection between that incident and one the night before in which a vehivle was hit by bullets in the 600 block of West Locust Street. No one was injured in that incident either.

Bloomington Police recommend calling their department if you have information. If you'd like to remain anonymous, they suggest calling McLean County Crime Stoppers.

Issue: Crime  
How Issue Was Treated: News story  
Title: Bloomington police investigate drive-by shooting  
Date: 11-24-2016  
Time: 9 a.m.  
Duration: Story runs 12 hours  
Description:

BLOOMINGTON - Police are investigating a reported drive-by shooting outside a south Bloomington convenience store.

Bloomington Police were called at Main Street Convenience, 1919 S. Main St., at 7:09 p.m. Thursday following a report of multiple shots fired. Police say there was evidence that a vehicle in the parking lot had been hit by several gunshots.

No injuries were reported.

Police have been interviewing witnesses and don't have any information on a suspect or suspect vehicle. Anyone with information is asked to call Bloomington Police at (309) 820-8888 or McLean County Crime Stoppers at (309) 828-1111.



Issue: Crime  
How Issue Was Treated: News story  
Title: Walgreens site of attempted robbery  
Date: 12-22-16  
Time: 9 a.m.  
Duration: Story runs 12 hours  
Description:

BLOOMINGTON - A local Walgreens was the site of an attempted armed robbery. Bloomington Police responded to the call of the crime at 909 South Main Street. Bloomington Police spokeswoman Sara Mayer explained the Police Department's report. "It was reported a male entered the store, implied he was armed, and demanded items from the employee," said Mayer. "The suspect then fled the scene on foot. No injuries were reported from the incident." Mayer said the suspect was described as a black man wearing a black hoodie and jeans.

Issue: Crime  
How Issue Was Treated: News story  
Title: Theft tops claims at Sate Farm  
Date: 12-28-2016  
Time: 9 a.m.  
Duration: Story runs 12 hours  
Description:

BLOOMINGTON - December was the top month for theft claims handled by State Farm in 2015. January wasn't far behind in 2nd. State Farm Spokeswoman Missy Dundov explained this time of year tends to bring more thefts as people are getting new, sometimes expensive items, during the holidays. She said common sense can go a long way in preventing theft. "Don't leave things out in plain view that someone could look in a window and see," said Dundov. "If you get, let's say, a really big ticket item and you have a box don't put it out on the curb multiple days before your trash day."

Dundov added talking to your neighbors if you're going to be out of town can also help. "It's really important that you work as a community in your neighborhood because you don't want your house broken into; you're neighbors don't want your house broken into cause they could be next," she said. The non-profit is purchasing an office and warehouse at 2031 Warehouse Drive, Normal, President and State Farm received 5,517 theft claims in Illinois during December last year, which ranked 4th in the nation. But Dundov said the number of theft claims in the nation has gone down each year since 2011.

Issue: Business  
How Issue Was Treated: News story  
Title: Midwest Food Bank to relocate  
Date: 10-5-16  
Time: 2 p.m.  
Duration: Story runs 12 hours  
Description:

PM

*Fourth*

Third Quarter Report 2016

SCHOOL

WJBC – AM

Issue: School

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Barickman joins school funding group

Date: 10-6-16

Time: 3 p.m.

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

BLOOMINGTON - A Bloomington state senator has joined the newly formed Illinois School Funding Reform Commission.

The commission has been tasked with finding a bipartisan solution to reforming Illinois' school funding formula. State Sen. Jason Barickman (R-Bloomington) told WJBC's Dan Swaney the formula hasn't been changed in 20 years.

"The experience that a child has in a classroom is fundamentally different today than it was 20 years ago," said Barickman. "Kids are connected to the internet and to the world while they're sitting in a classroom."

Barickman said although the commission is bipartisan, this won't be an easy task.

"At the end of the day, we're talking about billions of state dollars. Our taxpayer moneys that are going to Springfield today are routed to school districts," he said.

Issue: School

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Unit 5 gives extension to First Student

Date: 10-26-16

Time: 11 a.m.

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

NORMAL - Unit 5's school board has voted to give transportation provider First Student a bit more time to resolve the district's busing problems.

The company has until Nov. 1 to reach a deal with the district some expectations moving forward, such as having a 20 percent surplus of drivers by Nov. 22. Board member Michael Trask said he's been encouraged by the progress made in the last month, but wants to see more.

"As I didn't support terminating you tonight, Nov. 1 is the day," said Trask. "If you guys can't work it out with this group here it's a done deal; and we move on, and we move out and we move forward."

Board member Jim Hayek said he's seen progress as well.

"There's hope. There certainly has not been a sustentative meeting of and of the contract provisions so far, but there's hope that there will be," Hayek said.

If the agreement is not kept, Unit 5 will end the contract with First Student at the end of the school year. The district has already begun drawing up a request for proposals in the event they do seek a new transportation provider.

Issue: School

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Unit 5, First Student reach deal

Date: 11-2-16

Time: 11 a.m.

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

NORMAL - Unit 5 Superintendent Mark Daniel is not quite ready to relax after drawing up a deal to continue the contract with transportation provider First Student.

The two sides have struck a deal which includes First Student meeting certain requirements by Nov. 22.

"I will sigh a relief when Nov. 22 is here and we've reached (the point) where we have zero substitution issues with drivers and all routes are being filled by our drivers," Daniel said.

Daniel explained not having enough back up drivers has contributed to the number of late buses throughout the school year.

"We've told them we need to be ensured of a percentage of drivers that are substitute drivers," said Daniel. "And that means they're constantly in the recruiting phase."

The deal also includes First Student paying Unit 5 \$30,000 for violating the terms of the original contract.

The contract currently goes through June 2018.

Issue: School

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Dee-Mack hopes voters approve tax referendum

Date: 11-6-16

Time: 11 a.m.

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

Deer Creek-Mackinaw school district voters are being asked to approve a \$6 million project that would include the first improvements to the football field in decades and installation of the school's first track--and at no net tax increase.

Dee-Mack superintendent Scott Dearman said voters are being asked to approve a 30-cent increase in the education fund rate to \$3.15, but the bond rate for the project would drop by the same amount to 77 cents.

Dearman said the football field has not been updated in decades and has inadequate restrooms, concession areas, press box and lighting, plus the light poles are too close to the field. The superintendent also said the school would finally have a track.

"We have state champion track athletes, but we don't have a track," Dearman said. "They run in our school hallways or they run out in the streets, or they go up to a cemetery that's nearby mainly out of necessity for safety reasons as a place they can go and run and not worry too much about traffic."

Dearman says the field and track would be constructed at an angle at the current location to accommodate the new facility's size, and have a more durable surface.

"When we do that, we also eat up our practice field which we use for band, physical education, football and other activities," Dearman said. "That necessitates the need to put in synthetic turf, something that can be used on a daily basis and not show the wear that a natural grass field would."

The field would be a synthetic surface since the new stadium footprint would eliminate a practice area. Dearman says if weather cooperates, the work would be completed by next August.

Issue: School

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Ag program's purpose to educate about food

Date: 12-5-16

Time: 11 a.m.

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

SPRINGFIELD - Illinois won't be lacking in agriculture education if the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program succeeds in its goals of nurturing agricultural knowledge.

Kevin Daugherty, education director for the AITC, said the program's purpose is to educate students about the origins of their food and raise awareness on how agriculture affects the world by providing support and training for teachers to integrate agriculture into their math, science, social studies and language curricula.

Daugherty emphasized that AITC is not about teaching agriculture.

"One of our main goals is that we don't teach agriculture; we want to show students what agriculture does for the world around them," Daugherty said.

The program has given hundreds of thousands of dollars to further this cause.

"We have a program in every county in the state," Daugherty said. "In all 102 counties, there is a local contact. Several of our counties receive grants from us, and this year, we awarded over \$600,000 in grants to 80 county coalitions."

The other counties that did not receive grants were provided with support materials, including teacher lesson plans and AITC's award-winning Ag Mag, a four-page weekly-reader type publication about various agricultural products.

Issue: School

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Boys, Girls Club joins forces with BJHS

Date: 12-22-16

Time: 11 a.m.

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

BLOOMINGTON - The Boys and Girls Club is working with Bloomington Junior High to assist students with an after school program.

Working with various age groups in the area, the club helps hundreds of students with homework, providing them with food, and being an emotional leg the students can lean on. Bloomington Junior High Principal Sherry Thomas explained she was incredibly enthusiastic about the school partnering up with the program.

"The school has always had a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club. We have several students who benefit from their programs," said Thomas. "So when we had the opportunity to possibly bring it into the school, it was like 'absolutely, yeah, let's do this'."

The club is primarily funded through private donations and various grants. Club Development Director Alicia Whitworth explained the club operates as a caretaker for the students until they are picked up by their parents.

"They have all this energy, they have all of these things they need to do. They have homework from school, they have things that have happened at school, and we are that first stop for our kids," he said.

# WJBC - AM

Order Number	Copy	Total Spots	Date Range	Rate
405957	Heart Walk 2016 PSA	3	10/1/16-10/1/16	\$0.00
406443	October Community Leaders Dinner	60	10/1/16-10/17/16	\$0.00
402899	Adoption PSA for all of 2016	22	10/1/16-10/4/16	\$0.00
401453	PSA 1-12	543	10/1/16-12/31/16	\$0.00
402141	EEO Employer WJBCAM	210	10/1/16-12/31/16	\$0.00
406720	YWCA Trivia Night	34	10/10/16-10/21/16	\$0.00
406833	Taste of Something Special PSA	30	10/17/16-10/31/16	\$0.00
405892	Homes of Hope PSA	33	10/24/16-11/4/16	\$0.00
407006	Red Cross Heroes Breakfast-PSA	39	10/24/16-11/4/16	\$0.00
406530	Entrepreneur of the Year Gala PSA	32	10/3/16-10/14/16	\$0.00
407156	Festival of Trees 2016 PSA	48	11/7/16-11/19/16	\$0.00
407599	December BN by the Numbers	29	12/5/16-12/12/16	\$0.00

**QTR 4 totals**

**1083**