

Business**Issue: Business****How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Wind Farms****Date: 01.09.13****Time: 1p****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

Wind farm operators are struggling with a paradox that's causing their business to drift. If wind is a permanent source of energy why are developers struggling to secure long-term contracts to sell their energy commodity? That's the snag that has caused some developments such as an expansion of the Twin Groves wind farm in McLean County to be put on hold. Developers have been seeking to expand north of Route 9 for several years. Brian Dunneback, Development Project Manager for EDP Renewables, said the energy producer needs financial assurances. Jim Monk with the Illinois Energy Association says the industry has suffered because of the cost of wind energy, and the state now longer has to buy its power in state.

Issue: Business**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: CIRA Airbus****Date: 01.16.13****Time: 8a****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

Central Illinois Regional Airport will soon be better suited to meet demand for travel to the Southeast. Starting in May, CIRA will debut a new airbus 319 plans will have nearly double the number of seats. Spokeswoman Fran Streibing says the new Delta flights will offer first-class seating. Streibing says travel at CIRA was down last year - not because of demand - but fewer available seats, caused by the Air Tran's departure.

Issue: Business**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: OSF 911****Date: 02.01.13****Time: 8a****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

A major Central Illinois healthcare provider has a simple message - don't try to drive yourself to the hospital, call an ambulance. Steve Baron, the Emergency Response Coordinator at OSF St. James-John W. Albrecht medical center in Pontiac, says people often let fear push them into a poor decision. Baron says when people are faced with a crisis like a heart attack or stroke, a sense of denial prompts them to try to drive to the hospital instead of calling for an ambulance. Baron says personal safety and the safety of

others should be the key consideration. He adds that when a 9-1-1 center is called, they can provide information that might save a patient's life.

Issue: Business

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Plunge Expands

Date: 02.15.13

Time: 5:30p

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

The Special Olympics' Polar Plunge is expanding because of this year's big turnout. The Plunge's four largest teams - Central Catholic High School Students, Prairie Central High School Penguins, Tri Valley Middle School Blue Ribbon Belly Floppers and Epsilon Sigma Alpha of Illinois State University will now plunge at 10-30 and the rest of the teams will plunge at noon as scheduled. This year's event has over 700 people registered. To sign up or donate, click on Polar Plunge 2013 under the events tab on WJBC.com.

Issue: Business

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Feb Housing

Date: 03.13.13

Time: 5:30p

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

The Bloomington-Normal housing market is remaining on a positive track heading into the spring months. Bloomington-Normal Association of Realtors President Thom Jones says the upward trend from late 2012 is continuing. 132 homes were sold in February, down 18 units from January. However, the average price rose to 178-thousand last month from 160-thousand dollars in January. Jones says total units sold are up 17-point-five percent from this time last year.

Issue: Business

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Connect Update

Date: 03.18.13

Time: 1:30p

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

After taking community feedback, Connect Transit is going back to the drawing board on route restructuring. General Manager Andrew Johnson says they'll be taking a more "cautious" approach to restructuring the second time around. Johnson hopes to have the Connect Board of Trustees vote on a new plan by late June and have it implemented by July.

Crime**Issue: Crime****How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Pontiac Stabbing****Date: 01.09.13****Time: 3:30p****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

Normal Police have arrested two men on residential burglary charges. Patrol officers responded early Wednesday to a suspected break in the 1700 block of Johnson Drive. With the help of the Illinois State Police, officers apprehended 19-year old Major A. Blackmon and 22-year old Benahniah A. Labrockington leaving the residence. Both men are being held in the McLean County Jail in lieu of bond.

Issue: Crime**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Kroger Robbery****Date: 01.29.13****Time: 12:30p****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

The Normal Police Department is investigating an armed robbery this morning at the Kroger on College Avenue. Police say the robbery happened just before 5. The suspect is described as a white man around 30 years old wearing blue jeans and a gray zip sweatshirt. Police say no one was injured in the robbery but police aren't sure whether the suspect got away with anything. Police do not have a suspect in custody.

Issue: Crime**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Prank Call Investigation****Date: 02.02.13****Time: 1:30p****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

Police are investigating a prank that forced the evacuation of several trailers at the Hilltop Mobile Home park this morning. Police weren't able to share many details, but officials told WJBC a call came in that referenced a life-threatening situation. When police arrived on the scene, they found no evidence of a crime but evacuated the mobile homes as a safety precaution. Calling in a false report to police is a felony in Illinois. Hilltop Mobile Home Park is located south of town between South Main Street and Bunn Street.

Issue: Crime**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

Title: Jackson Jr. Charges

Date: 02.15.13

Time: 4:30p

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

An attorney for former Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr.'s wife says the couple has supported each other through the legal ordeal that led to federal charges. Jackson Jr. was charged today (Friday) with conspiring to spend campaign money on personal expenses. His wife -- former Chicago alderman Sandi Jackson -- is charged with filing false joint tax returns. Her lawyer tells the Associated Press that she agreed to plead guilty to one count of tax fraud. It carries a maximum 3-year prison term. A mink cashmere cape, Bruce Lee memorabilia, a Michael Jackson fedora and an Eddie Van Halen guitar are among property listed in a federal criminal complaint filed Friday against Jackson Jr. He was charged with spending \$750,000 in campaign money on personal expenses.

Issue: Crime

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: NCHS Shooter Sentencing

Date: 03.5.13

Time: 4p

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

The Normal Community High School shooter has been sentenced to juvenile prison. McLean County Chief Judge Elizabeth Robb sentenced the teenager during a hearing today. Defense attorney Art Feldman says the boy could stay in a juvenile facility until his 21st birthday. The boy pleaded guilty but mentally ill in December to eight charges related to holding an NCHS classroom hostage in September.

Issue: Crime

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Pontiac Stabbing

Date: 03.13.13

Time: 5p

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

Pontiac Police continue to investigate a stabbing incident that occurred early yesterday morning. Details of the incident haven't been released, but police say that a call for medical aid called police officers to 303 W. North Street. A 76-year-old woman needed assistance for a stab wound to her neck. Also in the home was a 52-year-old woman who was in a nearby bathroom and unresponsive. Both women were taken to OSF St. James-John W. Albrecht medical center for treatment. Because the identities of the two women haven't been released, information isn't available on their current condition. When initially admitted, however, the older woman was reported in stable condition, while the younger was reportedly in much more serious condition and admitted to intensive care. There are reports that one of the women was later transferred to a Bloomington hospital, but, again, specifics aren't currently available. Major Dan Davis of the Pontiac police department says more information will be provided after the women have been interviewed by police.

Government**Issue: Government****How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Madigan Reelected****Date: 01.09.13****Time: 1:30p****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

Michael Madigan has been easily re-elected to another term as speaker of the Illinois House. The newest Illinois House was sworn into office Wednesday. House lawmakers held their ceremony at the University of Illinois at Springfield. The Senate held its ceremony at the Capitol. Madigan is a Chicago Democrat who has held the position of House speaker almost continuously since 1983. The exception was a two-year period in the 1990s when Republicans had control of the House. Madigan is arguably the most powerful Democrat in Illinois. He also serves as chairman of the Illinois Democratic Party. He is also a senior partner at a law firm in Chicago. One of his daughters is Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, who was at Wednesday's ceremony. Republican Tom Cross was re-elected minority leader.

Issue: Government**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Crime Lab****Date: 01.18.13****Time: 5a****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

The Livingston County Board last night approved the county's membership in the Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Lab, and that has important implications for investigations through the Sheriff's department. The Livingston County Board last night approved an intergovernmental agreement that was the last step in making the county a member of the Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Lab. The agreement will cost the county just over 23-thousand dollars, and there was concern that the primary reason for joining the lab was the 30-year-old Edwards murder case. Sheriff Marty Meredith explained that evidence from that case will be sent to the new lab, but he emphasized that access to the lab will provide a continuous benefit to investigators. In spite of some lengthy discussion, the board overwhelmingly approved the agreement, which will give the county unlimited access to the lab until early 2014.

Issue: Government**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Pensions Study****Date: 02.12.13****Time: 2p****Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

Description:

A new pension study of local government employees points at big payouts when trying to find a start to reforms. Jim Tobin, president of the group Taxpayers United of America, says Bloomington, Normal, and McLean County government and school employees retire at the average age of 58. Area taxpayers have an average income of 59-thousand dollars and have to work 10 to 12 years longer to cover the pension gap.

Issue: Government

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: House Fracking Bill

Date: 02.20.13

Time: 7a

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

A bill regulating high-volume oil and gas drilling in Illinois is expected to be introduced this week in the state House _ two weeks after a Senate bill called for a 2-year moratorium on the practice. Supporters of hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," believe they have a good shot because the regulatory bill is being negotiated by officials from industry and agriculture, environmentalists, lawmakers and Attorney General Lisa Madigan. Fracking uses high-pressure mixtures of water, sand or gravel and chemicals to crack rock formations and release oil and gas. The industry is eyeing southern Illinois' New Albany shale deposits. Negotiators say the regulatory bill addresses chemical disclosure, air and water pollution, and setbacks from homes. But critics say the state needs more time to study safety issues and evaluate best practices.

Issue: Government

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Fracking Seminar

Date: 03.04.13

Time: 4p

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

Six members of the McLean County Board were in Springfield today for an informational session on hydraulic fracturing. Board member George Gordon says he's still concerned that the proposed fracking bill would let state authority preempt local authority. Fracking is currently governed through the county's special use process where permits are approved on a case-by-case basis.

Issue: Government

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Bloomington Aggregation

Date: 03.08.13

Time: 8a

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

Voters in Bloomington and rural McLean County will be considering municipal aggregation next month. Bloomington voters denied the request last year but the city is

trying again. If voters approve, the county and city would join with other communities to present themselves as a group to an electricity supplier in hopes of getting a cheaper price. Philip Carr with consultant Good Energy says Bloomington would be part of round three of purchasing. At first, voters in Normal turned down the program but approved of the referendum in the fall.

Schools**Issue: Schools****How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: District 87 Reduction Plan****Date: 01.10.13****Time: 12a****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

The District 87 school board has an idea of how much needs to be cut from each school or department in order for the district to start pulling out of a two-point-seven million dollar deficit. Superintendent Barry Reilly has presented the deficit reduction plan for the next two years, which includes making up three million dollars through a combination of more revenues, pulling tort funds and cutting expenses. He says he plans to use tort funding- or money typically used on the safety of students- to pay for hall monitors and lunchroom supervisors. Details on what will be cut at individual schools, programs and other expenses will be released at the January 23rd meeting.

Issue: Schools**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Unit 5 Money****Date: 01.24.13****Time: 12a****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

Bills, bonds, and budgets are the mind of the Unit 5 school board and will soon be on the mind of its taxpayers. The district is looking to rebuild its site and construction fund after last year's emergency asbestos removal at Chiddix Junior High. Superintendent Gary Niehaus says the recommendation of issuing 3-point-75-million dollars in working cash bonds over five years is ambitious but better in the long term. The repayment scenario means the owner of a 150-thousand dollar home will pay 17 dollars more in taxes this year. However, the district will only accumulate about a quarter of the interest it would over a 10-year repayment.

Issue: Schools**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Search Committee Done****Date: 02.12.13****Time: 8a****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

The search committee helping to find a new Illinois State University president has been finalized. President Bowman announced his retirement in December. The 21 member committee includes the board of trustees, representatives from the foundation board, alumni association, deans, athletics, students, civil service and different colleges. Board

Chairman Mike McCuskey says the full team will meet soon with a goal of having finalists for the position before the end of the spring semester. The board of trustees meets in a special session tomorrow morning.

Issue: Schools

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Deficit Reduction Feedback

Date: 02.14.13

Time: 12a

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

District 87 Superintendent Barry Reilly says a new teacher evaluation system is affecting the deficit reduction plan. The new teacher evaluations, mandated by law, took effect this year at the same time the school board is trying to cut a 2.7 million dollar budget deficit over two years. Reilly says teachers will now be weighed on evaluations, experience and certifications instead of just seniority. RIF list is reduction in force, or teacher cuts made at the end of each year. Reilly says teacher evaluations are due no later than March first and the RIFs will be done in mid-March.

Issue: Schools

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Pontiac High School Video

Date: 03.10.13

Time: 7a

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

A teacher and her students at Pontiac Township High School have produced a video that they hope will help eliminate the "r-word." The "r-word" is retard or retarded, and the new video production was supervised by Pontiac Life Skills teacher Laura Baumgardner with students in her peers-in-action club. She says the video is designed to help students understand how hurtful the word can be to those with disabilities. The video is called "You Abuse the Word" and Baumgardner's students are featured. The production is part of a larger campaign sponsored by Special Olympics called "Spread the Word to End the Word." To see the video, go to YouTube and search for PTHS.

Issue: Schools

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Unit 5 Decision

Date: 03.13.13

Time: 12a

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

Around 100 students and parents were in attendance at the Unit 5 school board meeting at Kingsley Junior High as the board voted unanimously to accept the most recent redistricting proposal presented. Concerned parents, including Benjamin Elementary dad Zach Perschall says more public involvement would have been best. Fellow Benjamin parent Sam Bridger echoed the sentiment. Superintendent Gary Niehaus says the necessity

for the current plan is based around explosive expansion to the southeast portion of Bloomington and needed changes to open attendance policies.