

**BUSINESS**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Mitsubishi sales up**

**Date: 04.01.14**

**Time: 11a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**Mitsubishi Spokesman Dan Irvin says sales were up 70 percent in March compared to a year ago. He says it's the best single month of sales for Mitsubishi since August 2008. Irvin says the company is starting the new fiscal year this month with more exposure.**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: CIRA lands FedEx hub**

**Date: 04.08.14**

**Time: 8a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**BLOOMINGTON - A new development at Central Illinois Regional Airport will have a large impact on the community.**

**FedEx Express will soon be setting up a hub at the airport. CIRA Executive Director Carl Olson said the new agreement, which was approved by the Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority on Thursday, will mean many things for the local economy.**

**Olson said this partnership, which has been in discussion since 2011, might also create opportunity for future air-cargo agreements at CIRA.**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Clinton nuclear plant rumored on closure list**

**Date: 05.08.14**

**Time: 8a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**Three Illinois nuclear plants could be in jeopardy of shutting down next year if the current financial climate doesn't improve.**

**According to a recent report from Crain's Chicago Business, Exelon Corp. is beginning talks with state legislators about what can be done to improve the current market environment.**

**The plants rumored to be on the block include Clinton, the Quad Cities (Cordova), and Byron. Exelon isn't commenting specifically on the talks but said in a statement that the company is "working to identify market-based solutions that would enable the company to continue operating all of its nuclear plants."**

**The Clinton plant employs 652 workers with an annual payroll of \$54 million.**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Normal approves enterprise zone expansion**

**Date: 05.27.14**

**Time: 10a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**NORMAL - The expansion of the Bloomington-Normal Enterprise Zone now has the backing of the Normal Town Council**

**The council voted in favor of the expansion at their Monday night meeting. The proposal will expand the enterprise zone surrounding Central Illinois Regional Airport. The Economic Development Council is pushing the expansion in an attempt to bring businesses to that area. The push seems to be working, FedEx has expressed interest in the DHL Express facilities in the zone. FedEx has a hub near Peoria International Airport. EDC Vice President Ken Springer said shifting the operations to CIRA will benefit that company.**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Heartland College expanding Pontiac site**

**Date: 06.20.14**

**Time: 10a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**NORMAL - Heartland Community College will soon have a larger presence in Pontiac. The Board of Trustees approved an agreement which will expand the college's Pontiac facility, located in the Pontiac Public Library, into an additional 4,300 square feet on the second floor of the library. Heartland already leases 7,000 square feet at the library. Heartland currently pays \$60,000 per year to rent the facility. Under the new, ten year agreement the school will pay no more than \$125,000 per year.**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Syngenta expands sit near Wapella**

**Date: 06.27.14**

**Time: 1 pm**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**State and local officials have toured a 12 million dollar expansion of Syngenta's research and development site near Wapella.**

**The available talent is one reason the company stayed committed to the location, says North America head of research and development infrastructure Ramtin Ahmadi.**

**The expansion adds eight full-time positions and also increases seasonal workers by 50 percent. The site is now the largest Syngenta corn and soybean trialing location in North America.**

**SCHOOLS**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Unit 5 Board vacancy**

**Date: 4-1-14**

**Time: 11a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

Unit 5 is looking for a new school board member. Todd Ferguson, who in November announced his plan to leave the board, officially resigned March 25. Board member Meta Mickens-Baker says the district is accepting applications from residents interested in taking Ferguson's place.

Mickens-Baker says letters of interest can be sent to Donna Evans, the Clerk of the Board, at the district office through April 16th. The chosen person will serve on the board until the April 2015 election when someone will be elected to serve the remainder of Ferguson's term, which ends in April 2017.

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: IHSA being probed**

**Date: 04-7-14**

**Time: 4p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

The Illinois House has narrowly approved legislative hearings looking into how the Illinois High School Association operates.

The House on Monday approved legislation 55-51 from state Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia. The non-profit association organizes high school sports championships statewide. IHSA Executive Director Marty Hickman said in a statement that the association will cooperate. He says the IHSA has been a "model of transparency" and the measure has unfairly cast the association in a "negative light."

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Pontiac possible site for high school Hall of Fame**

**Date: 5-15-14**

**Time: 8a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

The Illinois Basketball Coach's Hall of Fame Museum has selected Pontiac as its potential home. The announcement was made official earlier this morning by IBCA President Bruce Firschau.

Firschau says bringing the project to a successful conclusion will depend on forming relationships with the local community and its businesses. Money is the key consideration at this point, and Firschau says the success or failure of fundraising efforts will determine what happens next.

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: ISU president pre-trial hearing**

**Date: 05-28-14**

**Time: 11a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**Former Illinois State University President Timothy Flanagan's latest return to Bloomington-Normal was brief as a continuance in pre-trial proceedings was issued during his appearance in McLean County Court on Wednesday. Flanagan attorney Steve Skelton says the judge also granted a waiver of presence, meaning the former president will only have to return in the case of a trial.**

**Flanagan stands accused of disorderly conduct stemming from a Dec. 5 incident at the presidential residence involving former groundskeeper R. Patrick Murphy. Murphy has since been re-hired in a different position by the university.**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: ISU to increase tuition**

**Date: 6-2-14**

**Time: 4:30p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**Illinois State University's Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting Friday to consider a moderate tuition increase. Spokesman Eric Jome says this is something the trustees usually take action on in May, but they wanted to wait and see how things worked out with the state budget.**

**Jome says the trustees will look at about a 2.05 percent tuition increase for in-state students, and 2.03 percent for out-of-state students. That will only effect this year's incoming freshman.**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Heartland approves fiscal year budget**

**Date: 6-17-14**

**Time: 4p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**The Heartland Community College Board of Trustees approved a tentative Fiscal Year 2015 budget on Tuesday.**

**The total budget is \$62 million, which is an 8.4 percent decrease from the FY '14 budget. It does show a small surplus, despite some anticipated revenue decreases. One of those, according to President Rob Widmer, comes from an anticipated three percent drop in enrollment.**

**Widmer said Heartland is also expecting a five percent decrease in state funding. That's despite the fact Illinois' budget did allow for level funding to community colleges. Widmer said just because the college system as a whole received level funding does not mean each school will get the same allocation.**

**CRIMES**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Beaman files lawsuit**

**Date: 4-17-14**

**Time: 3p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**A man once convicted of murdering his girlfriend has filed a lawsuit against three former officers with the Normal Police Department. Alan Beaman was found guilty of the 1993 slaying of Jennifer Lockmiller, but had that conviction overturned by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2008.**

**Beaman's lawsuit, which also includes the Town of Normal, accuses former officers Tim Freesmeyer, Dave Warner and Frank Zayas of unfairly targeting him as the killer and therefore allowing Lockmiller's true killer to remain on the streets.**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Former comptroller won't seek appeals**

**Date: 4-21-14**

**Time: 6:30a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**A former bookkeeper who stole almost \$54 million from a northern Illinois community has accepted she won't be able to reduce her nearly 20-year prison term. That's according to Rita Crundwell's lawyer. He says the imprisoned former Dixon comptroller decided not to pursue other appeals options.**

**Sauk Valley Media cites her attorney, Paul Gaziano, as saying he won't push for the full U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals or the U.S. Supreme Court to hear her case.**

**A three-judge 7th Circuit panel upheld Crundwell's sentence in November. She'd argued a lower-court judge abused his discretion by giving her more time than recommended under federal guidelines.**

**Crundwell used the money she stole over more than two decades to live lavishly and build a nationally-renowned horse-breeding operation.**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Man arrested on stabbing charges**

**Date: 5-8-14**

**Time: 8a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

Police have arrested a Bloomington man on charges stemming from a stabbing last night. Bloomington Police say 21-year-old Jahquan Howard was taken into custody on a preliminary charge of aggravated battery.

Police were called to a home in the 800 block of West Washington Street shortly after 9 o'clock. Police say a 29-year-old man was taken to the hospital with stab wounds to his back. His injuries weren't considered life threatening.

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Public warned about scam**

**Date: 5-15-14**

**Time: 4:30p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

The Hudson Police Department is warning the public about what could be a scam company calling its way around the Towanda area. Chief Dale Sparks says the calls from a contracting company calling itself Consolidated Construction started after this weekend's hail storms.

Sparks isn't saying Consolidated Construction is a "bad company" and at this time no one has fallen victim to any sort of scam, but Sparks wants to prevent that from ever happening.

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Medal Honor for fallen Pontiac policeman**

**Date: 6-14-14**

**Time: 1p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

Most of us have jobs in which we are pretty certain we can go home after our respective shifts. State Trooper James Sauter and Pontiac police officer Casey Kohlmeier did not.

They were presented posthumously the Medal of Honor by the Illinois State Police. In all today (Friday), sixteen officers from seven departments around the state were honored for heroism.

Sauter lost his life in March 2013, when a semi-tractor trailer - whose driver had allegedly fallen asleep - plowed into the rear of his parked car on an interstate shoulder. In October of that year, Kohlmeier was killed while parked in an interstate median. His vehicle was broadsided by an alleged drunk driver.

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Beaman wants change of venue**

**Date: 6-17-14**

**Time: 2p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**Alan Beaman, who was cleared for the 1993 murder of his girlfriend, wants his lawsuit against the Town of Normal and three police officers moved to a different district.**

**Beaman's attorney claims there could be a potential conflict of interest if a judge in the 11th Judicial Circuit, hears the case.**

**Beaman claims the town and three cops conspired against him as they investigated the death of Jennifer Lockmiller. He was released from jail in 2008 after the Illinois Supreme Court threw out his conviction.**

## **GOVERNMENT**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Town of Normal fails transparency test**

**Date: 4-9-14**

**Time: 2p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

The Town of Normal's website has received a failing grade from the Illinois Policy Institute. The Institute gave Normal a 50 out of a possible 100 points, based on its 10-Point Transparency Checklist which looks at items such as information on elected officials, meeting times, and budgets. Director of government reform Brian Costin says the town used to have a higher score.

The institute last graded Normal's website in 2012 and gave it a 75. Recently, Bloomington's website received a score of 89, which resulted in the city being awarded the Institute's Sunshine Award.

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Town of Normal hears sustainability plan**

**Date: 4-21-14**

**Time: 5a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

The Normal Town Council will hear an update on its sustainability plan tonight (Monday). The town adopted the plan in February 2011 and City Manager Mark Peterson says the progress has covered many areas.

Some highlights include continued implementation of Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, collaboration with the City of Bloomington, McLean County, and the Ecology Action Center for a Household Hazardous Waste Collection, and taking a leading role in the fight to save the Mahomet Aquifer.

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Bloomington mayor wants budget changes**

**Date: 5-3-14**

**Time: 2p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

After a budget saga that took Bloomington up to the edge of the fiscal year, Mayor Tari Renner is already looking at how the situation can be avoided next year.

Renner says passing the Fiscal Year 2015 budget was a nine month process, and it seems like a lot of aldermen didn't really get involved until the last month or so.

**Renner says the 2015 budget was difficult because the city was caught off guard by a 4-million dollar increase in labor costs, that coincided with the increased pension payments. While the pension payment will increase again next year, Renner says those labor costs won't be as steep.**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: City of Pontiac to back IBCA Hall of Fame**

**Date: 5-13-14**

**Time: 5p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**The Illinois Basketball Coach's Hall of Fame Museum has selected Pontiac as its potential home and the town government is backing the move. The announcement was made official earlier this morning by Bruce Firschau, the president of the organization behind the museum.**

**Firschau says nothing is definite yet except the selection of Pontiac as the preferred community and town officials have pledged to help make it happen. The forming of a super-committee is next on the agenda to set a fundraising strategy.**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Mental health shortcomings affect business**

**Date: 6-27-14**

**Time: 2p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**Bloomington-Normal's shortcomings in mental health care could affect businesses. That was the case presented to the McLean County Chamber of Commerce at their monthly breakfast meeting on Friday. Alan Sender of Chestnut Health System made the presentation, he says Bloomington-Normal has fallen behind in healthcare.**

**"Usually we think of ourselves as a very pro-active, creative, progressive community. A paragon in downstate Illinois, a place where everyone wants to be," Sender said. "This is one issue where we have fallen behind the times, and I think the community has wound up suffering for it."**

**County Board Chairman Matt Sorensen also made that case. He said the short comings will stall growth.**

**"If we don't get better in McLean County at managing our mental health and behavioral health delivery processes and our ability to manage this locally, it has the ability to be a detriment to our ability to grow our economy," Sorensen said.**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Bloomington Planning Commission rewrites code**

**Date: 6-11-14**

**Time: 2p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**Bloomington is looking to ensure its ready for the potential of a medical marijuana facility coming to the area. The Bloomington Planning Commission is in the process of rewriting the code to ensure a facility would be properly regulated. Commissioner Rob Wills says the commission doesn't want to appear exclusionary.**

**The commission is seeking to fill in the gray areas in the state's regulation, they will hold a public hearing on June 25 for more input.**

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First Quarter Report 2014

Business

WJBC - AM

**Business**

**Issue: Business**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Pontiac-MentalHealth**

**Date: 1.12.14**

**Time: 7a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

Americans are becoming more aware of mental health issues, and less afraid of seeking help. That's prompted some changes at an agency in Pontiac. Pontiac's Institute for Human Resources has always provided a variety of counseling and mental health services. Now they're focusing on getting patients into their initial appointments faster. I-H-R Executive Director Joe Vaughan says people who call and then face a long wait for an appointment often don't get the help they need. A new scheduling system, however, helps that situation by creating more appointment times. The scheduling system has been in place for several weeks, and Vaughan says it's going well, with appointments filling up quickly, and patients seeing counselors within days of making their initial phone call.

**Issue: Business**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: CIRARidership**

**Date: 1.15.14**

**Time: 8a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

2013 was the first full year since Central Illinois Regional Airport lost AirTran's daily flights to Atlanta and that loss is felt in the airport's ridership numbers. CIRA had close to 12 percent fewer passengers last year, but airport officials say ridership has started to stabilize. Spokeswoman Fran Strebing says the airport's existing carriers are doing well. Prior to AirTran's exit, CIRA has increased ridership 9 out of 10 years.

**Issue: Business**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Snow-Blow-Low**

**Date: 2.7.14**

**Time: 12p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

A run on snow blowers is leaving Central Illinois in a late winter jam. Several stores, including Home Depot, Menards, and Lowe's either ran out or down to two or three blowers in stock this week as consumers rushed to buy equipment for another snowstorm.

**Doug Nord, owner of Nord Outdoor Power in Bloomington, says after two straight years of light snow totals manufacturers are light on supply. Nord says he currently has fewer than 15 units on site. He says it can be difficult to attain equipment during a rush because distributors look at Chicago and the East Coast first when trying to offload their product.**

**Issue: Business**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: StateFarmYear**

**Date: 2.28.14**

**Time: 1030a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**State Farm is reporting a record net worth to close out 2013. Spokesman Dick Luedke says the insurer saw a 230 million underwriting gain last year as there were few major catastrophies last year. State Farm's net worth grew 16 percent to nearly 76 billion dollars. CEO Ed Rust's compensation rose to more than 11-and-a-half million dollars, that's based largely on bonuses and incentives.**

**Issue: Business**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: AmerenCostSave**

**Date: 3.8.14**

**Time: 7a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**Ameren Illinois bought natural gas when prices were low and customers were supposed to pay five percent less than last year, but because it has been so cold, usage is up 20 percent compared to a year go. Ameren Spokeswoman Stacey Shangraw says that's why Ameren is offering cost saving ideas for customers. Right now, energy audits are being conducted at a reduced rate of 25-dollars. Shangraw says Ameren also has budget billing to even out energy bills during the year. And, she says anyone who may need financial assistance can try Warm Neighbors Cool Friends.**

**Issue: Business**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: BNAR-Feb**

**Date: 3.11.14**

**Time: 3p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**Twin Cities home sales remained dormant through the wintry weather of February. Bloomington-Normal Association of Realtors President Chuck Montgomerie says 122 units were sold during the shortest month of the year, down 16 percent from a year ago. The average price of total sales jumped to 157-thousand dollars last month, which is still an**

**eight and a half percent drop over Feb. 2013. Motgomerie expects trends to rebound once spring arrives.**