

ZD

First Quarter Report 2014

Crime

WJBC - AM

**Crime**

**Issue: Crime**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: BPD Grooming**

**Date: 1.14.14**

**Time: 10a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

Bloomington Police are issuing a reminder about online safety after a Bloomington man was arrested for 'grooming.' Police say 26-year-old Lucas Mariani was arrested last week for allegedly sending a sexually explicit video of himself electronically to someone he believed was a minor and asked them to send lewd photos of themselves to him. That person was actually an undercover police officer. Bloomington Police spokesman Sara Mayer says parents should talk to their kids about online safety and make sure they understand privacy settings.

**Issue: Crime**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: White Powder**

**Date: 1.29.14**

**Time: 3p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

The Bloomington Fire Department responded to a hazardous materials call at the McLean County Health Department this morning after a resident received a letter with an unknown white powder. Captain Brad McCollum says the resident received the letter last night. This morning, she brought it to the health department, seeking help identifying the powder...that's when the fire department was called in. McCollum says the letter was never taken inside the health department and no one was ever in danger. He adds anyone who gets a letter with a suspicious item should call 9-1-1 immediately.

**Issue: Crime**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Pontiac-Limestone-Death**

**Date: 2.20.14**

**Time: 6a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

A death at the Limestone area rest stop south of Pontiac is being called an isolated incident by state police. A 61-year-old man was discovered with an alleged self-inflicted gunshot wound at the rest stop around 3:15pm yesterday afternoon. Identification of the male is

being withheld until family is notified. The northbound rest stop on I-55 is currently closed while police continue to investigate. An autopsy has been ordered by the Livingston County Coroner.

**Issue: Crime**  
**How Issue Was Treated: News story**  
**Title: Normal-Apartment-Shooting**  
**Date: 2.27.14**  
**Time: 3p**  
**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**  
**Description:**

Police in Normal and the McLean County Coroner's office continue to investigate the incident at 1511 Woods Avenue. Chief Rick Bleichner says police were called to the scene around 1pm after receiving a 9-1-1 call about a male with a handgun making suicidal comments. Bleichner says police found the male unresponsive with no signs of life. The identity of the male and/or cause of death will be released by the coroner's officer at a later time.

**Issue: Crime**  
**How Issue Was Treated: News story**  
**Title: AttackNAN**  
**Date: 3.17.14**  
**Time: 11a**  
**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**  
**Description:**

Police in Normal are searching for two suspects who reportedly beat up two women during a fight outside an Uptown restaurant early yesterday. Assistant Chief Eric Klingele (KLING-il) says two men picked a fight with a group of people inside LaBamba's at about 2-50 in the morning - and the fight moved outside where one female victim was cut on the face and another suffered a bruise on her back. Klingele said both victims were taken to the hospital with minor injuries. There are limited descriptions of the suspects. One is a Hispanic male in his early 20s about 5 feet 9, the other is a white male also in his early 20s. Police aren't sure what provoked the attack.

**Issue: Crime**  
**How Issue Was Treated: News story**  
**Title: MobArrests**  
**Date: 3.25.14**  
**Time: 5a**  
**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**  
**Description:**

Bloomington police are searching for a man in connection with a large fight that has already led to five arrests. Bloomington police - with help from the U-S Marshals Task Force - have arrested five males between the ages of 16 and 21, following the fight that

**broke out in the 12-hundred block of West Market Street last Tuesday afternoon. One person suffered a severe facial injury in the attack that involved bricks, pipes and bats. Police are asking for the public's help in tracking down 21-year-old Marcus Winslow, who police say played a role in the incident.**

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Government

WJBC - AM

**Government**

**Issue: Government**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: BWW Approved**

**Date: 1.7.14**

**Time: 12a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

The Buffalo Wild Wings development on Main Street has the greenlight from the Normal Town Council. Town staff approved of some waivers for the development, but the council was asked to take a look at landscaping in the parking lot. Staff wanted 48 parking spaces with landscaped islands, but the developer, Jeff Tinervin wanted 51 spaces and to waive the landscape requirement. The council agreed with Tinervin and allowed the 51 spaces. The development will also include 27 student apartments upstairs and 67 parking spaces for those residents across the street.

**Issue: Government**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: WashLocalFEMA**

**Date: 1.9.14**

**Time: 12a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has shot down request for aid to local government's after November's tornadoes. In hard-hit Washington, city Administrator Tim Gleason says he wasn't exactly surprised by the denial. He says the 6 million dollars in costs to local governments state-wide as a result of the storms was extremely preliminary. Mayor Gary Manier says in Tazwell County alone, they could be looking at around 23 million dollars in costs to local governments. Governor Quinn says he will appeal FEMA's decision.

**Issue: Government**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Pontiac-911**

**Date: 2.8.14**

**Time: 7a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

Funding is dwindling for 9-1-1 services in Livingston County, so action is under way to make sure the system stays solvent. Livingston County's central dispatch service, Liv-Comm, has traditionally relied on landline phone taxes to provide significant funding.

Those funds are disappearing, and Liv-Comm officials project a budget shortfall in 2015. Livingston County communities are voting on a new agreement that's designed to replace those revenues. Pontiac is a participating municipality, and Mayor Bob Russell says he's hopeful that consensus can be achieved. Each taxing body could provide its own 9-1-1 service, but Russell says that would be costly and cumbersome.

**Issue: Government**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: RutherfordReport**

**Date: 2.18.14**

**Time: 730a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

State Treasurer and Republican candidate for governor Dan Rutherford says he hasn't seen the report that an independent investigator has filed over misconduct allegations against him. A former employee last week accused Rutherford in a federal lawsuit of sexual harassment and forcing campaign work on state time. Rutherford tells WJBC's Scott Laughlin, he is following his attorney's advice. Rutherford did say he's learned the report does NOT substantiate claims made in the lawsuit which came about five weeks before the primary.

**Issue: Government**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: BradyCivicFed**

**Date: 3.3.14**

**Time: 8a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

The non-partisan Civic Federation says extending the state's temporary income tax increase by a year and for taxing retirement income will help plug the state's budget shortfall. State Senator Bill Brady says higher taxes is not the way to go. The federation's plan also includes capping spending to help the state pay off its more than 5 billion dollar backlog of unpaid bills over the next five years and building a "rainy day" fund to help state budgeters cope with future economic downturns.

**Issue: Government**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: BloomingtonBudgetWar**

**Date: 3.24.14**

**Time: 12a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

Bloomington Mayor Tari Renner is not happy with the city's Fiscal Year 2015 budget as it is right now. Renner says the city council failed to do its job this weekend, when it met to

**discuss the budget. He says if the council were to vote on the budget as it currently is, he'd veto it. Renner says he cannot support the budget without two key factors being involved: a way to fund the aggressive pension policy, and adding 3 firemen positions requested by Fire Chief Mike Kimmerling. The city has until April 30 to approve a budget.**

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Schools

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**Schools**

**Issue: Schools**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: HCC-Trustee**

**Date: 1.10.14**

**Time: 2p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

Heartland Community College is searching for a new Board of Trustee member. Trustee Terry Baggett has resigned from the board, effective immediately, saying he intends to move out of Community College District 540. The board will appoint a person to fill the vacancy until a successor is elected in the next regular election in April 2015. The college will accept letters of interest from community members through the end of January. Applicants must have lived in Heartland's district for at least one year. The district covers parts of DeWitt, Ford, Livingston, Logan, McLean and Tazewell counties.

**Issue: Schools**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: D87-Principal-Leadership**

**Date: 1.22.14**

**Time: 12p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

District 87 is one of three school districts in the state participating in a future principals training program. Superintendent Barry Reilly says a new position called Director of Principal Leadership is being created and current Oakland Elementary Principal Mary Kay Scharf is being recommended for the job. The project is made possible through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to Illinois State University. Reilly says the recommendation will be made for a vote at Feb. 12's board meeting.

**Issue: Schools**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: MCN-Pass-Rate**

**Date: 2.16.14**

**Time: 7a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

As state and national standards continue to climb for medical professionals, the newest crop of nurses from Illinois State University is outpacing the field. The Mennonite College of Nursing boasts a 97 percent pass rate for 2013's national licensure examination. Dean of the college Janet Krejci says the excellent performance is especially exciting due to an

increase in the passing standards for everyone taking the test. The national average fell to 83 percent passage and Illinois dropped to 85. Krejci says other institutions have increased the number of students in their programs to offset numbers but the MCN strives to produce a quality, trusted nursing population.

**Issue: Schools**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Pontiac-SuperSearch**

**Date: 2.22.13**

**Time: 7a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

Pontiac's District 429 is looking for a new superintendent, and the board of education got some good news about the search at its last meeting. The Illinois Association of School Boards will spearhead the search for the new superintendent for Pontiac's Elementary and Jr. High schools, and they'll do it at no charge. IASB Consultant Tom Leahy told board members at their last meeting that the decision was driven by the short tenure of Kevin Lipke, who was brought to the district through an IASB search. Lipke stepped down recently after less than a year on the job. Interim Superintendent Jim Davis the slightly surprising decision was an example of excellent customer service. The board accepted the offer, and the hope is to have a new superintendent selected by April or May.

**Issue: Schools**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: EPG fails**

**Date: 3.19.14**

**Time: 9a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

A split vote ultimately led to defeat for El Paso Gridley schools. The district's voters in McLean County overwhelmingly supported an 18 million dollar bond issue to aid the district facility renovation plans, but Woodford County voters were heavily opposed. Superintendent Mike Lindy says the district had planned to use the money for a series of health and safety improvements as part of its long-term facility plan. Lindy would not rule out bringing the proposal back to the voters at a later date. The proposal would not have increased the tax rate.

**Issue: Schools**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Unit5PARCC**

**Date: 3.24.14**

**Time: 4p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**



**Unit 5 schools are among the roughly 18-hundred schools taking practice exams as Illinois prepares for a new standardized test. Next year students will be taking the PARCC test as a replacement for the ISAT and Prairie State Achievement Exam. Unit 5's Assistant Superintendant of Curriculum and Instruction Sandy Wilson says PARCC is a two part assessment.**

**Wilson says they wanted to be sure and pilot the new test, especially since the goal is to have PARCC taken exclusively online. She says a select group of students in Uni 5's middle schools and high schools will participate in the trial run.**