

**Issue: Business****How issue was treated: News Story****Date: 04.01.13****Title: Business immigration Reform****Time: 1:30pm****Duration: Runs 12 Hours****Description:**

A new group of business leaders wants to recruit 300 CEOs and 1,000 small businesses in Illinois to push for "common sense" bipartisan immigration reform.

The Illinois Business Immigration Coalition includes leaders from Peoria-based Caterpillar Inc. as well as Motorola Solutions Inc., the University of Illinois, trade groups and immigration-rights advocates. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel backs the coalition.

Caterpillar CEO Doug Oberhelman spoke at a kickoff event Monday in Chicago. He says the manufacturer has trouble filling both high- and lower-skill jobs and immigration reform could help.

The coalition is forming as lawmakers in Washington get ready to hammer out details of a potential immigration law overhaul. Business and labor leaders last week agreed on broad outline.

Emanuel says it's "a huge opportunity" that shouldn't be squandered "because of politics."

**Issue: Business****How issue was treated: News Story****Date: 04.12.13****Title: Pontiac Job Training****Time: 6a****Duration: Runs 12 Hours****Description:**

A unique job training opportunity is available in Livingston County, but not for long. Registration is still going on for a program that prepares workers for positions in modern manufacturing. The Greater Livingston County Economic Development Council helped create the program with Heartland Community College and local manufacturers. Council CEO Adam Dontz says the program was custom made by Heartland administrators to meet the needs of area business.

The program is accepting applications until May 3rd, with classes running from May 13th to Mid-June at locations in Pontiac and Normal. The Manpower office in Pontiac is handling the registration process at 815-844-5091. I'm Todd Wineburner, WJBC and WJBC-dot-com.

**Issue: Business**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 05.14.13**

**Title: Bridgestone Expansion**

**Time: 3:30pm**

**Duration: Runs 12 Hours**

**Description**

Neighbors of the Bridgestone Firestone plant in north Normal have been hearing quite a bit of noise recently, including a large metal-on-metal pounding.

Bridgestone Firestone officials say it's all part of the plant's expansion and contractors are working daily on adding onto the building and adding new machinery.

The plant is undergoing two expansions, the first is a nearly 20 million dollar project that will go online this month. Another building is being added with new presser stations.

The second phase of the expansion, at 27 million dollars, will add another tire building machine and should be done in about a year.

The plant in Normal makes off road tires, mostly for construction machines.

**Issue: Business**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 05.25.13**

**Title: Darnall Grand Opening**

**Time: 8:30am**

**Duration: Runs 12 Hours**

**Description**

Darnall's Gun Works and Ranges in Bloomington is hosting a free grand opening today of it's newly designated Olympic Certified Training Center.

Central Illinois Precision Shooting, or CIPS (chips) built the facility which includes a 16 lane indoor range, classrooms, office and equipment storage. Officials say the range was designed and built specifically for air rifle, air gun and 22 caliber equipment. The center has been designated as an Olympic Certified Training Center by USA shooting, the US Olympic Shooting Team, making it one of two in the country.

CIPS (chips) Director Joe Miller says the group is now able to offer more classes and host competitive shooting events

The event runs from 11-30 to six today at the facility on East 1175 North Road.

**Issue: Business**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 06.14.13**

**Title: Lydia's Place**

**Time: 8:30am**

**Duration: Runs 12 Hours**

**Description:**

**Clients of one Bloomington hair stylist are getting more than just a new 'do' they are getting a renewed sense of self.**

**Donna Baker styles hair for domestic violence victims. She comes to the shelter, where each are staying, bringing with her salon supplies and a sense of understanding.**

**Baker is looking to open a salon where abuse victims from all local shelters can go - and help support each other. It's at Mount Moriah Christian Church. The non-profit Lydia's Place is seeking donated supplies from the business community and the public to open.**

**Issue: Business**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 06.25.13**

**Title: Economic Outlook 2**

**Time: 6am**

**Duration: Runs 12 Hours**

**Description**

**Busey Bank Vice Chairman Ed Scharlau says economic indicators show McLean County is strong and is headed in the right direction. Scharlau is presenting the economic outlook of McLean County today. He says retail sales are up ten percent on the year.**

**Scharlau says agricultural output last year totaled 529 million dollars, down a little from the year previous because of the drought, and new home construction is picking up.**

**Issue: Crime****How issue was treated: News Story****Date: 04.12.13****Title: Cleary Case****Time: 5am****Duration: Runs 12 Hours****Description:**

Gridley man has pleaded guilty to animal cruelty and assault charges just as his trial was set to begin. Police were called to Curtis Cleary's home in November following a domestic incident and found more than 60 dogs and cats had starved to death on his property. Police say Cleary also fired shots at his girlfriend. He faces sentencing June 4th.

**Issue: Crime****How issue was treated: News Story****Date: 04.16.13****Title: Child Pornography****Time: 6am****Duration: Runs 12 Hours****Description:**

A 26-year-old Lincoln woman has been sentenced to more than 21 years in prison for producing child pornography.

The U.S. Justice Department announced that Laura Sigler of Lincoln was sentenced in federal court in Springfield to 21 years and 10 months in federal prison. She pleaded guilty to producing in November 2011 pornographic images using a 5-year-old child. She sold the images for rent money. She will be on supervised release for life following her release from prison.

The Justice Department says a co-defendant was sentenced in January to 19 years and seven months in prison. Anthony L. Ferguson pleaded guilty to the same charges.

The two are accused of working together to defraud Towanda Grain Co., Printz's creditors and others.

Both have pleaded not guilty.

The state Department of Agriculture took the grain company over in 2010 after it was notified of financial irregularities. Another company later bought the assets.

**Issue: Crime****How issue was treated: News Story****Date: 05.06.13****Title: Beason Jury Selected****Time: 4p****Duration: Runs 12 Hours**

**Description:**

Attorneys have agreed on the 12 people who will hear the trial of a man accused of beating to death a central Illinois couple and three of their children.

The last of the dozen jurors in the trial of Christopher Harris were seated Monday afternoon. It came after almost four full days of interviews.

Now attorneys have to agree on four alternates. It isn't clear yet when testimony will begin.

Harris pleaded not guilty to the 2009 murders of 46-year-old Raymond "Rick" Gee and 39-year-old Ruth Gee. Sixteen-year-old Justina Constant, 14-year-old Dillen Constant and 11-year-old Austin Gee were the young victims.

Prosecutors say Harris and his brother, Jason Harris, broke into the home intending to sexually assault Justina Constant and rob the family. Jason Harris' trial hasn't been scheduled.

**Issue: Crime**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 05.08.13**

**Title: Prewitt Sex Assault**

**Time:9:30am**

**Duration: Runs 12 hours**

**Description**

Bloomington Police say a Bloomington man has been arrested in connection with a sex assault investigation.

They say 70-year-old Roy Prewitt is facing preliminary charges of predatory criminal sexual assault of a victim under 18.

They say officers continue to investigation additional charges that may be filed against Prewitt.

**Issue: Crime**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 06.07.13**

**Title: Kingsley Robbery**

**Time: 5p**

**Duration: Runs 12 hours**

**Description**

Normal Police are continuing to investigate an armed robbery Friday afternoon. The robbery took place at the Class Act Realty offices at 402 Kingsley Street.

According to police, a male walked into the office around 4pm and demanded money. The suspect was allegedly carrying a handgun at the time, and left the scene with an undisclosed amount of cash.

**Issue: Crime**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 06.17.13**

**Title: Gun Found**

**Time: 5a**

**Duration: Runs 12 hours**

**Description**

**Officials say they've found a gun inside the walls at Pontiac Correctional Center. The unloaded gun was reportedly smuggled into the prison about 17 years ago. A DOC Spokesman says they got a tip back in 1996 and have been looking for the weapon in several remote areas since then. It was another tip that led investigators to look inside the walls last Friday. The gun was discovered in an area that isn't accessible to inmates and apparently, the gun didn't compromise the safety of anyone inside the facility.**

**Issue: Government**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 04.05.13**

**Title: Livingston County Mental Health Court not supported by State's Atty**

**Time: 6am**

**Duration: Runs 12 Hours**

**Description:**

**PONTIAC - Mental health courts, subsets of the judicial system with special networks created to provide necessary services to those facing court action and mental illness, are designed to help keep people from returning to the judicial system by dealing with the root of their behaviors rather than the behaviors themselves.**

**Livingston County State's Attorney Seth Uphoff has no problem with the concept of a mental health court. Uphoff, in fact, thinks they're a good idea.**

**He doesn't think they're a good idea in Livingston County, however.**

**Several judicial and government officials in Livingston County have been working toward a fully implemented mental health court for months, but by state law Uphoff has to sign off on the idea, and he's not sure it's right for Livingston county because of the area's relatively small population.**

**"The concern is that we want to make sure that there's sufficient need in Livingston County to have a full-fledged court program," Uphoff said.**

**Uphoff stresses that he fully supports the idea of a mental health court, and that he understands the need for it and the sensitivities that have to be respected in dealing with the mentally ill. He added, however, that he's also an elected official who has an obligation to guard against unnecessary expense, and he believes that a fully-realized mental health court won't be cost effective in Livingston County because of the small number of cases that will actually qualify for special consideration.**

**Uphoff pointed to programs in Peoria and McLean Counties and said they're a good investment because the larger populations of those areas create more need. Uphoff stressed, too, that a mental health court environment isn't necessary for people to receive mental health services through the courts. In fact, he said as far as individual defendants are concerned, they have access now to the same services they'd have in a mental health court environment.**

**Issue: Government**  
**How issue was treated: News Story**  
**Date: 04.08.13**  
**Title: Online Sales tax**  
**Time: 8:30am**  
**Duration: Runs 12 Hours**  
**Description:**

An Illinois congressman says it'll be hard to pass a bill to require online retailers to collect sales tax the way in-person retailers must do. Congressman Peter Roskam says it won't pass the House as a stand-alone bill. He says it would have to be part of an overall tax reform package. But, Senator Dick Durbin, who is pushing the measure, says it can't be part of a federal tax reform package because this has nothing to do with federal tax.

Durbin says the issue is not only a matter of revenue for states and cities but also one of fairness for physical stores that must collect sales tax.

**Issue: Government**  
**How issue was treated: News Story**  
**Date: 05.09.13**  
**Title: Quinn on Madigan Pension Plan**  
**Time: 1pm**  
**Duration: Runs 12 Hours**  
**Description:**

Gov. Pat Quinn says House Speaker Michael Madigan's pension-reform plan deserves a Senate vote.

The Democratic governor said the proposal is comprehensive.

Illinois has nearly \$100 billion in pension debt because of years of state underfunding.

Senate President John Cullerton has a different idea he plans to call for a vote Thursday afternoon. Public employee unions back that proposal.

The House approved the Madigan bill last week. It would require employees to pay 2 percent more toward retirement benefits. It would reduce annual cost-of-living increases for retirees and raise the retirement age for workers under 45.

Cullerton's proposal would offer employees a choice between health insurance or cost-of-living increases. He says it would survive a court challenge.

The Cullerton bill is SB2404. The Madigan bill is SB1.



**Issue: Government**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 05.19.13**

**Title: State Worker Pensions**

**Time: 10:30am**

**Duration: Run 12 hrs**

**Description:**

**Anxiety and anger are growing among state employees and retirees who wonder what will happen to their pocketbooks if lawmakers make expected changes to the state's pension systems.**

**Workers spent their careers paying into their pension funds what the law told them to pay. But the state for decades skipped or shorted its required payments.**

**Now lawmakers are scrambling to fix a multibillion shortfall in the money needed to cover promised payouts to current and former employees who belong to five state pension systems.**

**Paul Morton is an office assistant for the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. He calls some of the legislature's proposed changes legalized robbery.**

**He says he won't be able to afford his health care costs upon retirement if his pension benefits are diminished.**

**Issue: Government**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 06.09.13**

**Title: Durbin Student Loans**

**Time: 7am**

**Duration: Run 12 hrs**

**Description:**

**Senator Dick Durbin says Congress must act to stop interest rates on some student loans from doubling.**

**The rate hike is scheduled to occur July 1st on federally subsidized Stafford loans. Durbin says that could mean more than 365,000 Illinois students with Stafford loans would have to pay almost \$1,000 more in interest over the life of their loan.**

**The interest rate is set to increase from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent.**

**Durbin supports a Senate proposal to keep the interest rate level for two years while Congress works on a long-term plan for the federal student loan program. That legislation stalled this week after a Republican filibuster.**

**A Republican proposal also failed.**

**The Illinois Democrat says lawmakers must ensure education is affordable for students from working and middle-income families.**

**Issue: Government**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 06.13.13**

**Title: Illinois Budget –Roads**

**Time: 5am**

**Duration: Run 12 hrs**

**Description:**

**Illinois transit advocates are proposing a plan to fix the state's deteriorating roads through a new tax that would raise the price at the gas pump.**

**The Transportation for Illinois Coalition says the \$800-million-dollar-a-year plan is necessary to get a toehold on needed repairs to roads, bridges and rails.**

**The influential group is pushing legislation to replace the current 19-cents-a-gallon motor fuel tax with a 9.5 percent wholesale tax. It would add about 14 cents to today's price of a gallon of gas.**

**Coalition co-chairman Doug Whitley (WIHT'-lee) laid out the plan for the AP in advance of making it public.**

**The proposal would also increase vehicle licensing fees. Bill Fleishli (FLYSH'-lee) of the Illinois Petroleum Marketers Association says the fuel tax would hurt business.**

**Issue: Schools**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 04.04.13**

**Title: ISU President Search**

**Time: 9a**

**Duration: Runs 12 Hours**

**Description:**

Illinois State University's presidential search committee is scheduled to meet in Normal.

The panel, which is looking for a replacement for ISU President Al Bowman, is expected to meet Thursday and is set to quickly move into a closed, executive session.

University officials have said they hope to release a list of finalists and bring them to campus this month and hope to have a new president in place by the fall.

Bowman said late last year that he was retiring because of health issues.

**Issue: Schools**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 04.06.13**

**Title: U of I Strike**

**Time: 7a**

**Duration: Runs 12 Hours**

**Description:**

Members of the Service Employees International Union have overwhelmingly voted to ratify a contract with the University of Illinois that ended a strike by building and food service workers.

The four-year contract is now in place retroactively from July 2012 through July 2016. It includes guaranteed wage increases in each year of the contract as well as a signing bonus.

Union officials said Friday the ratification vote came after a three-day strike where 97 percent of the nearly 800 workers did not cross the picket line.

The union had been in negotiations with university officials since last spring, with the sticking point being over wages and other issues.

**Issue: Schools**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 05.22.13**

**Title: Unit 5 Communication**

**Time: Overnight**

**Duration: Runs 12 Hours**

**Description:**

Richardson says the project has been in the works for nearly three years. He says the universal reporting of information will make the communication process simpler and more accurate. A final document could be available in July.

**Issue: Schools**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 05.23.13**

**Title: Pontiac School Evac.**

**Time: 11am**

**Duration: Runs 12 Hours**

**Description:**

Central Elementary School in Pontiac was evacuated briefly this morning. When staff arrived for work, an odor was noticed in the kitchen area, so students were moved to nearby St. Mary's School as a precaution. Pontiac Fire Chief Scott Runyon says the building staff suspected a natural gas leak, but the situation wasn't that serious. Runyon says the exhaust fans in the area were turned off, and that accounted for the smell. When NICOR officials arrived on the scene they conducted an inspection of the facility and discovered some minor issues that needed correction, but students were never in any danger. Classes were back in session by 9 o'clock this morning.

**Issue: Schools**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 06.13.13**

**Title: School Police Agreement 2**

**Time: 3pm**

**Duration: Runs 12 Hours**

**Description:**

This year, school districts through out McLean County will be considering a reciprocal reporting agreement with police to keep in contact on student criminal activities. Regional Superintendent of Schools Mark Jontry says it's a state mandate for all police agencies and school districts, but says Sheriff Mike Emery decided to create one agreement for everyone in the county.

Jontry says school districts are weighing in on the proposal now and school boards will be considering it for adoption soon.

**Issue: Schools**

**How issue was treated: News Story**

**Date: 06.27.13**

**Title: Dist. 87 Abatement and Insurance 2**

**Time: Overnight**

**Duration: Runs 12 Hours**

**Description:**

**The District 87 school board has approved of a tax abatement for 115 East Monroe Street for five years.**

**Bloomington City Manager David Hales explained to the school board that developers want a break on property taxes for five years in order to invest one-point-six million dollars to renovate the building with apartments and retail space. Board President Pro Tem Steve Perry says the amount of revenue the district was getting is rock bottom for a building with commercial value.**

**Hales says the school district is getting 24-hundred dollars from the property now, but when the project is done, it could increase to 20-thousand dollars in an annual basis for the district.**