

QUARTERLY ISSUES/PROGRAMS LIST

Station WJBC-AM

Location: 236 Greenwood Avenue, Bloomington, Il. 61704

For quarter beginning:

_____	January 1, 2017
_____	April 1, 2017
<u> X </u>	July 1, 2017
_____	October 1, 2017

Attached hereto are descriptions of local issues addressed by the station and descriptions of how each issue was treated through the stations most significant issues-responsive programming or announcements during the report period.

ISSUE: CRIME

How Issue Was Resolved: News Story

Title: Police arrest Carlock woman for hit-and-run pedestrian crash in Normal

Date: 7/28/17

Time: 5 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

Normal Police have caught up with a motorist from Carlock they believe struck a pedestrian on N. Main Street two weeks ago, then fled the scene.

Detectives arrested Deja Olive, 21, in the 100-block of Travis in Carlock on Friday, and police said they recovered the car, a white-colored 2013 Chevrolet Caprice, in the parking lot of a business in west Normal.

Olive is accused of striking the man, 34, while driving just before 5 p.m. on July 14 in the 1600 block of N. Main Street in Normal.

Authorities said the man was treated at Advocate Bromenn Medical Center, but they provided no other details about the victim.

Police have booked Olive for leaving the scene of an accident that caused an injury, failing to provide information, and driving without insurance.

Police are asking anyone with information about the hit-and-run wreck to call Detective Gossmeier at 309-454-9614 or McLean County Crime Stoppers at 309-828-1111.

ISSUE: CRIME

How Issue Was Resolved: News Story

Title: Husband of key state witness allowed to testify at Zimmerman murder trial

Date: 8/03/17

Time: 5 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

BLOOMINGTON - A judge issued a ruling Thursday in a high profile McLean County murder case, deciding to allow statements from the husband of a key prosecution witness, who placed the suspect at the crime scene.

Kirk Zimmerman of Bloomington is awaiting trial for allegedly shooting his ex-wife, Pamela Zimmerman, multiple times at her office on E. Washington St. in November 2014.

Our news partner, WMBD-TV, reports Judge Scott Drazewski allowed prosecutors to present statements from Charles Legg. His wife, Maria, claims she was in the parking lot outside the office building about the time of the murder, and saw a white, professional-looking man with some gray hair, much like Kirk Zimmerman's appearance.

Maria Legg was able to identify Zimmerman after seeing his picture in the newspaper.

Charles and Maria Legg did not go to police with her story. Investigators came to her about a year-and-a-half later after receiving a tip.

The judge is barring testimony from another couple, the Gunthers, who claim Maria Legg told them she saw Zimmerman. The defendant's lawyer calls the identification bizarre and not reliable.

The judge has yet to set a trial date. The next pre-trial hearing is scheduled August 31.

ISSUE: CRIME

How Issue Was Resolved: News Story

Title: Bloomington man charged in Wednesday night carjacking, armed robbery

Date: 8/04/17

Time: 5 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

BLOOMINGTON - Bloomington Police have arrested a local man who's one of four suspects in a Wednesday night armed robbery and carjacking.

McLean County prosecutors have filed several charges against Wanya Sterling, 19, of Bloomington, including armed robbery with a firearm, aggravated robbery, aggravated vehicular highjacking with a firearm, and resisting police.

A 24-year old man told officers he drove to the 1100 of S. Main to give a ride to an acquaintance and another man. One of the men allegedly struck the victim in the head with a handgun and forced him to drive to a nearby location, where two other men entered the car.

They reportedly forced him to drive to several places, stole his wallet and phone, and forced him out of the car. The victim was said to have minor injuries and was treated at the scene.

Police said they arrested Sterling after a short foot chase. A judge on Friday set bond at \$50,000, meaning he has to post \$5,000 to be released from jail while he awaits trial.

Investigators are looking three other men. One of them is believed to be a black male in his 20's, about 6 feet tall, a thin build, and dreadlock hair. The other two were said to be black males, also in their 20's.

Anyone with information is asked to call Bloomington Police Det. Maas at 309-434-2434, or send an email to cmaas@cityblm.org.

Calls can also be made to McLean County Crime Stoppers at 309-828-1111.

ISSUE: CRIME

How Issue Was Resolved: News Story

Title: Police discover 'elaborate' marijuana lab in Woodford County

Date: 8/04/17

Time: 5 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

ROANOKE - Two men are in custody and police said there likely will be additional arrests after investigators said they uncovered an elaborate marijuana production lab in Woodford County.

The Woodford County Sheriff's Department posted on its Facebook page Friday some details of its raid in Roanoke seven days earlier.

Police claim to have seized more than 50 pounds of raw marijuana, marijuana candies, other edible marijuana-related items, and lotions at the residence at 504 N. State St. in Roanoke. Investigators said they also discovered an indoor marijuana growing facility and equipment to extract and process oil from the marijuana.

Police said these types of labs are a danger to the neighborhood because they are volatile and can cause explosions.

Mathew Scott, 47, and Reuben Rippon, 36, are each charged with possession of marijuana with intent to delivery. Bond for the two were set at \$500,000 bond, meaning each must come up with \$50,000 dollars to be released before trial.

ISSUE: CRIME

How Issue Was Resolved: News Story

Title: BPD arrest suspect of hit and run incident

Date: 8/15/17

Time: 9 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

BLOOMINGTON - Bloomington Police have arrested the suspect of a hit and run incident that happened last night.

Members BPD's Patrol, Criminal Investigation Division, and U.S. Marshals Task Force have arrested 32-year-old Steven J. Mccuen of Bloomington for Failure to Report an Accident with an Injury and Driving Under the Influence of Drugs/Alcohol. Mccuen struck a 16-year-old male who was riding his bike along the 1400 block of Six Points Road; the victim was riding his bicycle on Six Points Road between Morris Avenue and Alexander Road when he was struck by the suspect vehicle. Bloomington Police officers arrived on-scene around 8:40 p.m.

Witnesses reported seeing a white vehicle driving away from the scene. The victim was transported by Bloomington Fire Department to a local hospital for treatment and then Life Flighted to a hospital in Peoria. He is said to be in critical condition and the family requests privacy at this time.

The investigation is ongoing and no further information is available at this time. Anyone with information is asked to contact Bloomington Detective Dick at 309-434-2475 or mdick@cityblm.org. If you wish to remain anonymous, please call McLean County Crime Stoppers at 309-828-1111.

ISSUE: CRIME

How Issue Was Resolved: News Story

Title: Two arrests made in residential burglary

Date: 8/17/17

Time: 9 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

BLOOMINGTON - Two 18-year-old boys are in custody after they reportedly committed residential burglary in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Austin J. Lilley and Ian O'Neill of Bloomington were allegedly seen wearing backpacks and walking between houses around 1:30 a.m. Officers arrives on scene and reportedly encountered the two, who fled on foot. Officers gave chase before catching up to them and

placing them in custody. Officers also found several items which had been reported as stolen in the area.

Lilley and O'Neill were taken to the McLean County Jail for Residential Burglary.

ISSUE: CRIME

How Issue Was Resolved: News Story

Title: Bloomington arrests put dent in local illicit drug market

Date: 8/24/17

Time: 5 p.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

BLOOMINGTON - McLean County prosecutors say police have made a major dent in the local ecstasy market for three arrests this week.

Police said Wendal Durbin, 24, of Normal was caught red-handed with 331 grams of the drug in a hidden compartment in his car. McLean County Assistant State's Attorney Jeffrey Horve said Durbin is a major local supplier of ecstasy.

"Three-hundred 30 grams is a significant amount of ecstasy, over \$30,000 worth and a significant dent in the ecstasy trade in McLean County," Horve said. "Bloomington (Police) did an excellent job investigating this and taking care of getting a major source supplier."

Police also arrested two Bloomington men, Dennis Davis Jr., 23, and Michael LM Burton, 25, on felony drug charges

Police say they also seized two illegal guns, a bullet proof vest, ammunition and drug-packaging material.

All three men were taken to the McLean County Jail.

ISSUE: Schools

How Issue Was Resolved: News Story

Title: Eureka College removes 'interim' from leader's job title

Date: 7/11/17

Time: 9 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

Eureka College's 27th president is a woman's who's held the office on an interim basis for the past year.

Jamel Wright was introduced Tuesday as the choice to lead the 163 year old institution, which is the smallest college to graduate a future President of the United States, that being Ronald Reagan.

Wright is credited for introducing a program called the Uniquely Eureka Advantage, in which the university pledges to graduate incoming students in four years, freeze their tuition. and provide opportunities to study abroad.

"I can have the best ideas in the world. I can be the greatest leader in the world, but if there are not people who are open-minded, who come to the table prepared to go with the team, go with the vision of the institution, then we're going to fail every time," said Wright.

She is a St. Louis native, and received her doctorate and master's degrees from the University of Kansas in communication studies.

ISSUE: Schools

How Issue Was Resolved: News Story

Title: Unit 5 busses ready

Date: 8/10/17

Time: 9 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

NORMAL - The moment of truth approaches for Unit 5 and its busing contractor as the start of school is less than a week away, and memories of last year's transportation fiasco are fresh on parents' minds.

At Wednesday night's school board meeting, board member Mike Trask said he has "full confidence" in contractor First Student.

The first several weeks of the last school year were plagued by late and overcrowded buses and complicated routes.

Board member Joseph Cleary, who wanted the bus company's contract terminated last year, is cautiously optimistic and confident enough now for his two elementary school kids to ride the bus.

He said a lot is on the line for First Student.

"This is the last year of their contract, and so we're going to know very soon into the school year if they're going to be a viable candidate to be our vendor going forward, or if we get other bids and price this out, if it's going to be somebody else who's going to be in the forefront."

"I think they're aware of that, and I think they want our business," said Cleary.

First Student location manager Mark Bohl said routing this fall is similar to the much-smoother running system from the spring.

He has 146 drivers ready to go, compared to about 120 last year, to transport about 10,000 students to and from school each day.

Board President Jim Hayek urged patience when dealing with parents' questions. He said nerves are probably pretty raw from last year.

ISSUE: Schools

How Issue Was Resolved: News Story

Title: Unit 5 schools try to weather a 'perfect storm'

Date: 8/24/17

Time: 9 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

NORMAL - Unit 5 is starting the new school year uncertain about its finances as state lawmakers have yet to reach an agreement on a school funding formula.

The school board is considering a tentative budget with about a \$1.2 million structural deficit in the education fund.

State government still owes a payment from last year, which could help balance this year's budget, but Superintendent Mark Daniel said the district is dealing with the perfect storm.

Uncertain state funding, reduced revenue from property taxes and bonds that were issued means the board will have to make some tough decision, as Daniel told news partner WMBD-TV.

"From a structural deficit standpoint, we have to find a way to reduce expenses and increase revenue," said Daniel.

The public has a month to review the proposed budget. Unit 5 will hold a public hearing in September before the board votes on the \$162 million spending plan.

ISSUE: Schools

How Issue Was Resolved: News Story

Title: Unit 5 schools to take 'deep dive' into its finances to cut spending

Date: 9/27/17

Time: 5 p.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

NORMAL - Unit 5's budget is in the red, to the tune of one-point-two million dollars.

The 168-million dollar spending plan approved last night by the Unit 5 school board freezes administrators' salaries to cut spending.

"The administration is leading from the front with (a) pay freeze," said Board Member Joseph Cleary..

"That is just the beginning of the things we will have to look at," Cleary also said.

Cleary said the district will take a "deep dive" into Unit 5's finances to find other places to cut.

Unit 5 Business Manager Marty Hickman attributes the deficit to increases in salaries and benefits, higher costs for products and services, and unfunded state mandates.

ISSUE: Schools

How Issue Was Resolved: News Story

Title: Free speech rights safeguarded if Unit 5 kids protest U.S. flag at district sports events

Date: 9/27/17

Time: 5 p.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

NORMAL - Unit 5 administrators seek to protect the constitutional rights of free speech and expression for students should they stage peaceful demonstrations at school events when the national anthem is played or during the Pledge of Allegiance.

Normal Community High School's football team hosts Bradley-Bourbonnais and Normal West plays at Bloomington Friday evening in the first two major sports events since President Trump sparked a national debate with a profanity-laced tirade a week ago while calling for NFL owners to fire players who don't stand for the national anthem.

Kids will face no discipline for locking arms or taking a knee during the anthem, based on guidelines sent to Unit 5 principals, athletic directors, and coaches.

"There will be nothing done to prohibit them from doing that, and from exercising those free speech rights," said Unit 5 attorney Curt Richardson.

"There will be no adverse consequences afterwards for them choosing to do so," Richardson also said.

Richardson cited caselaw that says students don't shed their constitutional rights at the schoolhouse gates.

Any demonstration, according to Richardson, can not cause a substantial disruption, nor can they be lewd, vulgar, or obscene.

Richardson knows of no planned demonstrations. If they happen, Richardson requests fans show tolerance even if they disagree with what they're seeing.

District 87 Superintendent Barry Reilly has issued no directive, but he says people have a right to express their thoughts and opinions.

Reilly calls the current debate a "teachable moment" for students and educators.

ISSUE: Schools

How Issue Was Resolved: News Story

Title: rep. brady: schools to open on time despite funding impasse

Date: 8/8/17

Time: 9 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

BLOOMINGTON - STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAN BRADY OF BLOOMINGTON SAID THE SCHOOL FUNDING STALEMATE IN THE ILLINOIS SENATE WON'T STOP SCHOOLS FROM OPENING ON TIME.

SPEAKING WITH WJBC'S SAM WOOD, BRADY SAID HE RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM SUPERINTENDENTS DURING A MEETING IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE.

"MOSTLY THEY WERE CENTRAL ILLINOIS, DOWNSTATE (SUPERINTENDENTS). IF ANY DOORS AT SCHOOLS WERE NOT GOING TO OPEN BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION THAT'S GOING ON RIGHT NOW WITH EDUCATION FUNDING OR THE LACK THEREOF, I ASKED FOR A SHOW OF HANDS. NOT ONE HAND WENT UP," SAID BRADY.

GOV. BRUCE RAUNER USED HIS AMENDATORY VETO POWER TO ALTER SENATE BILL 1, REMOVING FUNDING TO PAY FOR CHICAGO SCHOOL PENSIONS.

EARLIER THIS SUMMER, UNIT 5 SUPERINTENDENT MARK DANIEL SAID HE MIGHT BE FORCED TO CLOSE SCHOOLS IF MONTHS FROM NOW THE FUNDING IMPASSE IS NOT RESOLVED.

ON ANOTHER TOPIC, REPRESENTATIVE BRADY INDICATED HE IS LIKELY TO SUPPORT THE LATEST ATTEMPT TO RATIFY THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT IN ILLINOIS BECAUSE ITS FOCUS IS ON EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE.

BRADY INITIALLY VOTED AGAINST THE MEASURE.

"IT'S REALLY BEEN NARROWED DOWN TO EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN WHEN IT COMES TO THE WORKPLACE. AND, SO IT'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MUCH MORE OPEN TO AND INTEND TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND," BRADY SAID.

HE SAID HE WANTS TO STUDY A FINAL DRAFT BEFORE MAKING A DECISION.

BRADY SAID LOCAL ERA BACKERS ARE EDUCATED, HELPFUL, AND VERY PERSISTENT.

THE LOCAL GROUP'S HONORARY CHAIR IS REPUBLICAN JOANNE MAITLAND, WIFE OF RETIRED STATE SENATOR JOHN MAITLAND.

ISSUE: Business

How Issue was resolved: News Story

Title: According to a new study, corn's economic value as food outweighs its value as biofuel.

Date: 7/5/17

Time: 5 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA - In the first study of its kind, Illinois researchers compared the cost of the entire life cycle of corn used as food to corn used as biofuel and found that it has more economic value as food.

Praveen Kumar, a University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign civil and environmental engineering professor, and graduate student Meredith Richardson led the research.

"The reason we undertook this study was to understand what are the long-term impacts and benefits in agricultural land," Kumar said.

The study, started three years ago, sought to put a dollar amount to each step in corn production and processing for food and biofuel use. The team assigned a monetary value to the economic and environmental impact of every resource used, including the soil.

Kumar said this study was unique because it considered the soil, the environment, social cost for producing biofuel, benefits and more as an integral part and put a dollar amount to those factors.

Richardson noted that environmental soil impacts from soil nutrient fluxes in the growing process accounted for 80 percent of the environmental impact, which was more than previously thought.

The researchers determined that in Illinois, corn used for food -- typically for livestock -- had a total net gain of \$1,492 per hectare, while corn used for biofuel had a net loss of about \$942 per hectare. A hectare equals nearly 2.5 acres.

"What this study does is basically contrast the values of the use of corn for food versus bio-energy and what are the net benefits being derived from that," Kumar said. "So this kind of analysis opens up a new way of assessing how we value our product."

Kumar emphasized that the study is not a judgment or commentary on the positives or negatives of biofuel but rather a way to assess a dollar amount to different uses of corn.

"It is more in terms of how that ethanol is valued in terms of both environmental cost and direct benefits profits to the ethanol companies, and how we as a society basically should put value on these things," Kumar said.

In 2016, Illinois farmers planted 11.6 million acres of corn, which accounts for more than half of the \$19 billion brought in annually by Illinois' agricultural commodities.

ISSUE: Business

How Issue was resolved: News Story

Title: Portillo's set for Aug. 15 opening in Normal

Date: 7/5/17

Time: 3 p.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

Portillo's Restaurant in Normal will be open for business Aug. 15, in time for the return of thousands of Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan University students for the fall semester.

Dignataries broke ground for the building in mid-April at 202 Landmark Dr. in Normal, and hiring is well underway for about 200 employees who will work there at the start.

Company spokesman Nick Scarpino said about half of the people they hire will work full-time.

The restaurant chain is interviewing job candidates at its temporary hiring center at Candlewood Suites, at 203 Susan Dr. in Normal, Monday through Friday, from nine a.m. to five p.m. through Aug. 12.

Portillo's has reached an iconic status in the Chicago area, and is known for its beef, burgers, salads, pasta, and chocolate cake.

However, Normal town government leaders faced some criticism for providing about \$1.8 million in sales tax rebates to the land's developer even though the recently-opened Champaign store received no financial assistance.

Mayor Chris Koos defended the incentives back in April, noting Portillo's is expected to generate up to \$400,000 in sales tax revenue each year. He said the Landmark Drive site currently produces up to \$40,000 per year.

ISSUE: Business

How Issue was resolved: News Story

Title: State Farm to hike rates

Date: 7/7/17

Time: 5 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

BLOOMINGTON - Bloomington's State Farm Insurance is again raising rates for Illinois auto owners to keep up with rising costs of insurance claims.

It's the third time in the past 1 1/2-years that Illinois' largest auto insurer is passing on higher costs to its customers.

Spokesman Missy Dundov said rates will rise by an average 2.2 percent, effective Sept. 4. That's on the heels of a 5.9 percent jump last October and a 2.7 percent increase in February of last year.

Dundov said it's more expensive to fix damaged cars, which perhaps used to require a new back bumper or body work now means replacing a camera or some other form of technology.

Also, Dundov said distracted drivers -- those who are texting, for example -- are causing more accidents.

Dundov said the rate increases can be partially offset for customers participating in State Farm's Drive Safe & Save program.

ISSUE: Business

How Issue was resolved: News Story

Title: Gas Prices Falling

Date: 7/17/17

Time: 5 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

Gasoline prices across the state have dropped during the past week according to a price-monitoring group.

GasBuddy reports prices dropped nearly three cents per gallon from one week ago in Illinois. The Illinois average is \$2.20 per gallon, compared to the national average price of \$2.24. The average price across the nation dropped 1.7 cents. The Illinois average one year ago was \$2.27.

GasBuddy analyst Patrick DeHaan says the industry will be watching a quickly-scheduled meeting of OPEC on July 27. DeHaan says what, if anything, the oil-producing group decides is a mystery but it's worth watching.

ISSUE: Business

How Issue was resolved: News Story

Title: Illinois still without driverless vehicles regulations

Date: 7/28/17

Time: 5 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

SPRINGFIELD - The push to allow testing of autonomous vehicles on Illinois roads has stalled for now, but the sponsor of the measure hopes to rev up talks again soon.

State Rep. Mike Zalewski, D-Riverside, said one speed bump that is slowing down the bill is liability.

“If we’re going to do this – we’re talking about robots driving cars for lack of a better way of saying it – we need to make sure we’re crystal clear who’s liable,” Zalewski said. “The manufacturers would tell you that, ‘Well, we’re willing to take full responsibility,’ but we haven’t really defined what responsibility is.”

Zalewski said he’s hoping to have conversations this summer with the interested parties.

“It’s important to know if we really do need laws so we’re looking for some legal clarity on whether we do need a law or not,” Zalewski said. “There’s some companies who don’t think we even need to touch this.”

The Consumer Technology Association said the growing patchwork of state regulations across the country is one of the biggest challenges facing the development and implementation of self-driving vehicle technologies.

CTA Policy Communications Specialist Bronwyn Flores wrote in a blog post earlier this month that, “While most states don’t have any restrictions on the book, 11 states have passed bills specific to driverless cars. Some states, such as Michigan, are opening their roads to innovation, while others, such as Tennessee, are making rules that could hinder driverless car testing and overall growth of the industry.”

Illinois has no law regulating self-driving cars.

In its 2017 Innovation Scorecard, CTA gave Illinois a C+ for open roads and skies, the category highlighting statewide laws regarding drones and self-driving vehicles.

Illinois is considered an Innovation Leader by CTA, the group's second tier underneath Innovation Champion. In other categories, Illinois received a C+ for entrepreneurial activity and a C for innovation-friendly sustainable policies.

Zalewski said Chicago is a big possible marketplace for autonomous vehicles and there needs to be testing defined by state law.

“It makes no sense when new technology comes onto the scene for the actors in those spaces to guess what the law is,” he said.

ISSUE: Business

How Issue was resolved: News Story

Title: **Giordano's delays Bloomington debut to October**

Date: 8/2/17

Time: 5 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

BLOOMINGTON - A change in plans means Bloomington-Normal restaurant-goers will have to wait a little longer before they dig into one of Chicago's favorite stuffed pizzas.

Giordano's was supposed to open this month at what used to be the Qdoba Mexican restaurant at 1505 N. Veterans Parkway, near GE Road. Owner Aaron Uftring is delaying the opening to early October.

Uftring said construction is well underway at the location, and he's beginning to hire employees. About 40 full-and-part-timers will be hired, and Uftring has scheduled a full-day of interviews -- no appointment needed -- on Aug. 28 at the McLean County Chamber of Commerce offices at 2203 E. Empire.

Uftring said the restaurant will have 70 seats, not including the patio.

Giordano's won't have to compete now with the much-anticipated opening of Portillo's on Landmark Drive in Normal. Portillo's is set to open Aug. 15, just in time for the return of Illinois State University students from their summer break.

ISSUE: Government

How Issue was resolved: News Story

Title: Sen. Brady: Budget bill a last-minute 'stunt'

Date: 7/1/17

Time: 5 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

SPRINGFIELD - As the spending plan and tax hike measures goes on to the Senate after being adopted in the Illinois House late Sunday, Republican Leader Bill Brady of Bloomington told WJBC's Patti Penn, the new spending bill is a stunt that Democrats tried to rush through before lawmakers had a chance to read it.

"That puts us all in a non-transparent position," Brady said. "I don't know yet. Our staff has been working overnight to try to figure out what's in that (budget)."

The tax increases got enough voted to override a veto from Gov. Rauner, but it's not clear if the 15 Republicans who voted for the tax hikes would vote the same way a second time.

"I don't know that we can get it done today that would be wonderful if we got everything done today," Brady said. "I don't think yesterday's actions helped us, but we will pick up the pieces and see what we can do."

Under the tax hike which the House passed in a 72-45 vote, the personal income tax rate would rise from 3.75 percent to 4.95 percent, while the corporate tax rate would go up from 5.25 percent to 7 percent.

ISSUE: Government

How Issue was resolved: News Story

Title: Senate Veto

Date: 7/4/17

Time: 5 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

SPRINGFIELD - The Illinois Senate has voted to override Gov. Bruce Rauner's veto of a \$36 billion budget that includes \$5 in increases to the income tax.

The 36-19 override vote Tuesday sends the measure back to the Illinois House which adjourned without taking any action.

Senate Republican Leader Bill Brady of Bloomington said the budget was incomplete.

"We need a comprehensive solution for this state," Brady said in a news release. "We've negotiated in good faith, but I regret to say, that we have not come to a conclusion on that solution."

Brady reiterated his call for a property tax freeze, one of the major reforms Rauner is seeking, along with workers compensation, government consolidation and education funding reform.

"I regret that I cannot support a comprehensive package today, but I hope, and trust, that we will be able to come together and complete our work soon," Brady said.

Illinois has entered a third consecutive budget year without a spending plan.

ISSUE: Government

How Issue was resolved: News Story

Title: Rauner urges House to not override veto of tax hike and to pass real reforms to grow economy

Date: 7/6/17

Time: 9 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

SPRINGFIELD - Gov. Bruce Rauner is urging lawmakers in the House to not override his veto, saying that without reforms the state will soon be back for more money from taxpayers. An override vote in the House is scheduled for Thursday.

Visiting the Chicago-area community of Hegewisch Wednesday, Rauner said the General Assembly should not raise taxes without substantial reforms to grow the economy.

"The economy has to grow faster than government spending. That is a fundamental truth. That is a fundamental fact," Rauner said, "And we've been ignoring that truth in Illinois for 35 years."

Rauner was asked about a possible credit downgrade if there's no budget.

"Speaker [Michael] Madigan and his subordinates should not be working for Wall Street credit agencies, they should be working for the people of Illinois," Rauner said.

The Senate overrode the governor's veto of the more than \$5 billion tax hike and \$36.5 billion budget on Independence Day. The House didn't have enough members to even conduct business, let alone override, both Tuesday and Wednesday.

State Rep. Allen Skillicorn, R-East Dundee, said those who supported the tax hike should've been in Springfield to back up their vote. He said the veto should be sustained so that meaningful reforms can come together.

"The only chance we're going to have of reforms is if the veto stays in place," Skillicorn said. "If it's overridden, we've already seen talks [on reforms] have stopped. ... There's no reason [not] to address the structural spending problems that Illinois has, that no one can deny that those exist. Unfortunately just throwing another \$5 billion at it does not solve these problems, it just kicks the can down the road for a couple more years."

Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago, said House Democrats have "always continued to work in good faith with the governor."

As to advice for families that would have to cut from their budget to pay for a possible increase in the state income tax, Harris, who voted for the tax increase, said he doesn't have much to offer.

"I can't speak to what every family's decision will be," he said. "As a person, I'm happy to pay what I'm going to be asked to pay so that our schools will be open, so that our emergency responders will have the funds they need, so that our road projects will be finished this summer. To me, that will be well worth it."

Speaker Michael Madigan said the House will vote for a veto override Thursday. That requires 71 votes. The tax hike initially received 72 votes, and it's uncertain if the vote tally will still be there. That number does not include two Democrats who changed their votes from "yes" to "no" once it became clear their votes were not needed to pass the bill.

Rauner said his administration is "doing everything we can to push to make sure my veto is not overridden."

ISSUE: Government

How Issue was resolved: News Story

Title: Moodys: Illinois still could be downgraded to junk status despite budget, tax hikes

Date: 7/6/17

Time: 3 p.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

SPRINGFIELD - Moody's Investors Services might still downgrade Illinois' credit rating to junk status even if a \$5 billion tax increase and budget is enacted Thursday.

"Moody's Investors Service has placed the general obligation rating of the State of Illinois, currently Baa3, under review for possible downgrade following the state's failure to fully enact a timely budget for the fiscal year that began July 1, and its failure to achieve broad political consensus on how to move toward balanced financial operations," a note from Moody's posted Wednesday says.

A downgrade to junk status would mean taxpayers pay much higher interest rates on borrowed money. The state has a backlog of bills totaling about \$15 billion. Borrowing to pay off some of that backlog is one of the options under consideration.

"The state anticipates addressing its approximately \$15 billion backlog of payments owed partly through a bond offering that probably will rank among the largest in the state's history," Moodys said. "This component of the state's broader fiscal plan leaves Illinois not only dependent on market access to ease liquidity pressures, but also facing a significant increase in its tax-supported debt burden," also noting that "the state's baseline tax collections declined in fiscal 2017, suggesting that any tax increase may yield less revenue than anticipated in coming months."

Illinois also has pension deficits of at least \$130 billion, and Moodys is questioning the state's ability to address that despite a tax increase.

"So far, the plan appears to lack concrete measures that will materially improve Illinois' long-term capacity to address its unfunded pension liabilities," it said. "A June 30 order from a federal judge that the state accelerate payments owed to Medicaid managed care organizations and service providers cast doubt on the state's immediate ability to keep up with its statutory pension contribution schedule while also meeting obligations for debt service, payroll and school funding."

The Illinois House has scheduled a vote Thursday afternoon on potential overrides of Gov. Bruce Rauner's vetoes of the tax increase and \$36.5 billion budget.

Rauner vetoed the measures because he said the General Assembly did not address the vital structural reforms, including cutting spending and pension reform, that he says are necessary to improve Illinois' fiscal condition and jumpstart its stagnant economy.

Under House Speaker Michael Madigan's tax increase plan, income taxes would go up by 32 percent and corporate taxes by 33 percent.

Fifteen Republicans voted in favor of the tax increases in the initial vote on Sunday. Several of them, as well as many Democrats, said they were voting for the budget and tax increase precisely to avoid a junk credit rating.

Rep. David McSweeney, R-Barrington Hills, was not among them. He said the warning from Moody's today is proof that the tax increases are a horrible idea.

"It's a junk budget and a junk tax increase," McSweeney said. "Moody's is telling us the Magidan tax increase is a sham."

Sen. Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet, said Moody's is making it "crystal clear that a tax increase alone won't solve our state's fiscal problems.

"I warned that this so-called budget doesn't address the backlog of unpaid bills and while it may be a budget for a fiscal year, it is not the earth-shaking reform necessary to put Illinois on a fiscally responsible trajectory to prosperity," Rose said.

Mark Glennon, founder of financial newsletter WirePoints and a venture capitalist, said Moody's understands Illinois' problems are far deeper than a short-term cash crisis.

"The budget deficit is two to three times larger than officially reported. Moody's surely recognizes that there are massive problems that remain unaddressed by the new budget and the tax increase," Glennon said. "Those two measures may or may not solve the very near term cash crunch, but they don't remotely come close to addressing the longer-term issues."

ISSUE: Government

How Issue was resolved: News Story

Title: Field of candidates seeking to challenge Rep. Davis keeps growing

Date: 7/6/17

Time: 5 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

SPRINGFIELD - A third candidate has joined the field of Democrats seeking to unseat three-term U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis in 2018.

Betsy Dirksen Londrigan, 46, of Springfield, joins Bloomington emergency room doctor David Gill and University High School English and theater teacher Benjamin Webb.

Londrigan, a mother of three and former fundraiser for U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, said she decided to run when she saw Davis backing the health care reform bill which passed the U.S. House in May.

"It didn't make sense to me," Londrigan said in a news release. "That bill had huge negative consequences to our area-from coverage loss to job loss. Healthcare-related services are big employers here in the 13th, so it's a one-two punch. Now, they want people to pay more for less, increase costs to folks over 50 and roll back protections for people with pre-existing conditions. No way. We deserve better."

Londrigan said the healthcare debate became personal for her in 2009, when her 12-year-old son Jack battled a rare, life-threatening illness resulting from a tick bite had left him in a medically-induced coma. He spent 24 days in the hospital.

"I am very grateful for the insurance and protections we have in place," Londrigan said. "No family should be put in danger of bankruptcy because of an unexpected medical emergency and people with pre-existing conditions need confidence they will be able to afford their healthcare

Gill ran for the Democratic nomination four times previously in 2004, 2006, 2010 and 2012. He tried unsuccessfully to get on the ballot as an independent in 2016.

Webb is a first-time candidate.

At least three others have expressed interest in running for the Democratic nomination, including State Rep. Carol Ammons of Champaign who spoke to voters in Normal at an event in May.

ISSUE: Government

How Issue was resolved: News Story

Title: Small, but nasty group seeks to sabotage his agenda

Date: 8/19/17

Time: 5 a.m.

Duration: Story Runs 12 Hours

BLOOMINGTON - Bloomington Mayor Tari Renner said the nastiness that infiltrated national politics has trickled down to the local level, even though he said his critics who triggered a police investigation against him represent a very small minority of people.

Last week, Renner acknowledged he had been informed that Illinois State Police were investigating the use of a city credit card used to book his girlfriend's airplane ticket so she could join him on an official visit to Bloomington-Normal's Japanese Sister City.

A city staffer used the credit card to book the flight for Renner's girlfriend, Margot Ehrlich, but the mayor said she reimbursed the city.

Renner said nastiness in local politics started long before Donald Trump ran for President, but he said he's given up trying to understand why his opponents are so angry at him.

The mayor claims civility can still be found at his every-other-week open houses in which residents are invited to voice their concerns. Almost everybody at those sessions, according to Renner, talks to others with respect and decency.

"What's most important is that we move forward and we grow our local economy, revitalize our older neighborhoods, the things we've been trying to do," the mayor said.

"That's what's most important, and there are people who are clearly trying to distract us from that goal," he added.

Renner said the accusations of impropriety are frivolous and he expects to be vindicated by the police investigation.

WJBC-AM

Order Number	Copy	Total Spots	Date Range	Rate
408036	EEO Employer 2017 WJBC AM	161	7/1/17 - 9/30/17	\$0.00
408187	PSA Rotator	211	7/1/17 - 9/30/17	\$0.00
409396	MC Strong Golf Classic	22	7/19/17 - 7/26/17	\$0.00
411206	Avanti's Blood Drive July	42	7/17/17 - 8/7/17	\$0.00
411407	Bruegala 2017	79	7/28/17 - 8/18/17	\$0.00
411718	Day of the Dozer 2017	18	8/14/17 - 8/25/17	\$0.00
411878	BN By the Numbers	38	8/26/17 - 9/24/17	\$0.00
412119	Oktoberfest 2017 PSA	14	9/6/17 - 9/18/17	\$0.00
412149	St. Jude Walk/Run 2017	4	9/11/17 - 9/18/17	\$0.00
412231	Florida Relief PSA	10	9/14/17 - 9/18/17	\$0.00

QTR 3 totals

599

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