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Fourth Quarter Report 2012

Business

WJBC

**Business**

**Issue: Business**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Mitsubishi September**

**Date: 10.2.12**

**Time: 3p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

Mitsubishi's overall sales fell again last month, but the automaker reported record high sales of the Outlander Sport. Mitsubishi spokesman Dan Irvin says overall sales were down just over 17 percent in September, but Outlander Sport saw a 49 percent increase compared to last year. Irvin says overall sales declined because the numbers are being compared to last year, when Mitsubishi still produced the Galant, Eclipse and Endeavor.

**Issue: Business**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Litchfield 66 Museum**

**Date: 10.8.12**

**Time: 9a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

Sometime next year, Illinois will have a new Route 66 museum. This one will be in Litchfield, where there's historic Route 66 and an even older alignment called Old Route 66. Litchfield businessman Lonnie Bathurst (bath-erst) heads the museum's steering committee. The museum is built but fundraising is ongoing for fixtures to put the artifacts, which come primarily from the Litchfield area. There are already Route 66 museums in Joliet, Odell, Springfield and Pontiac.

**Issue: Business**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Farmland Values**

**Date: 11.14.12**

**Time: 8:30a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

Farmland values in most states today are higher than development value. That includes Illinois and Central Illinois, where just seven tenths of a percent of farmland has changed ownership in the past year. Murray Wise owns a real estate and farm management firm in Champaign. Wise knows of five cases where the land has brought more than 15-thousand dollars per acre. Wise's company is doing a farmland auction near Bellflower tomorrow and has had to change the venue twice for the number of people expected to show.

**Issue: Business**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: YWCA Interim**

**Date: 11.16.12**

**Time: 12p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

The YWCA McLean County has named an interim CEO. Bloomington native Ruth Ann Fraker will take over December 31st. Most recently, Fraker served as the interim director of Westminster Village. She has also served as the Bloomington Township Supervisor. Former CEO Jane Chamberlain resigned in September. The YWCA says the search for a permanent CEO will start next month.

**Issue: Business**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Country Survey**

**Date: 12.14.12**

**Time: 12p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

All the doom-and-gloom talk about the fiscal cliff hasn't deterred many Americans. Financial confidence is at a three-year high, according to the latest Country Financial Security Survey. The poll shows improvement in nearly all aspects of financial security. Senior Investment Officer Troy Frerichs says the survey shows Americans are focusing their top priorities on short-term concerns such as reducing their debt and boosting savings while delaying long-term goals such as retirement planning.

**Issue: Business**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Snowbird Open**

**Date: 12.23.12**

**Time: 12p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

The winter has arrived but that won't stop the 40th Annual Snowbird Open at Highland Park Golf Course. Superintendent of golf operations Jason Wingate says one thing that remains uncertain every year is the weather. The New Year's Day tournament begins with registration at 9am. All are welcome and the entry fee is two dollars.

**Crime****Issue: Crime****How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: NCHS Arrest****Date: 10.5.12****Time: 11:30a****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

Unit 5 superintendent Gary Niehaus is giving credit to a Normal Community High School student who reported alarming texts she got from a 22 year old former boyfriend. Niehaus says the man was arrested in the parking lot after sending the texts. Niehaus says Normal Police arrested the man, and officers say he had a folding knife in his front pocket. Unit 5 sent out a letter about the incident this week. im Thormann of Normal faces charged of intimidation, interference with a public institution on higher education and unlawful use of weapons.

**Issue: Business****How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Sex Offender TT****Date: 10.31.12****Time: 9a****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

Livingston County Sheriff Marty Meredith says Halloween is supposed to be fun, but some people take the spooky side of the holiday too far. He says his department will be keeping a close eye on area cemeteries tonight, simply because their grim atmosphere is too much for some people to resist. It's against the law, however, to be in a cemetery after dark, even when people aren't doing anything malicious. Meredith says concerned parents can bring candy to Pontiac's Law and Justice Center tonight from 4:30 to 8 for an x-ray examination. He and police chief Jim Woolford encourage residents to contact law enforcement with questions or concerns.

**Issue: Business****How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Bloomington Shooting Update****Date: 11.6.12****Time: 9a****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

Bloomington Police say there have been no arrests as they continue to investigate a shooting in which two people were injured. Police spokesman Dave White says two shooting victims, both men, told police they were approached from behind and did not see the shooters. Other witnesses told police a group of males ran up behind them and that is when the shooting started. It happened in the 1200 block of Orchard Road just east of

Veterans Parkway at about 4:15 yesterday afternoon. The two victims were taken to St. Joseph Hospital for injuries that were not considered life threatening. A juvenile was also taken to the hospital after injuries sustained in a battery near the shooting scene.

**Issue: Business**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Cyber Stalking**

**Date: 11.9.12**

**Time: 2:30p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

Normal Police have arrested a 24-year-old Streator man on a cyber stalking charge. Police say Alex S. Bulthuis allegedly stalked his victim online and asked for contact with the victim and the family after being warned by police that his actions were illegal. Bulthuis is currently being held in the McLean County Jail.

**Issue: Business**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Misook Tuesday**

**Date: 12.11.12**

**Time: 12p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

The trial of accused murderer Misook Wang started this morning with testimony from the victim's husband. Lawrence Tyda was the state's first witness against Misook Wang, who is accused of killing Wenlan Tyda in September of 2011 and then hiding the body. The trial's first day is scheduled to conclude with testimony from four Bloomington Policemen and a state police sergeant.

**Issue: Business**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: NCHS Shooter Plea**

**Date: 12.17.12**

**Time: 3:30p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

The boy charged with firing shots inside a Normal Community High School class in September pleaded guilty but mentally ill to eight charges this afternoon during a bench trial. Eight other charges were dropped. The boy has been examined by two psychologists. Defense attorney Art Feldman says the boy has a mental illness and is responding well to medication and counseling. The 14-year old will be sentenced in January. Feldman says he also plans to present information on the state's problems funding mental health facilities, closing facilities and the understaffing of many state homes.

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Government

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## Crime

**Issue: Government**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: McKibbin Co Bd**

**Date: 10.5.12**

**Time: 12p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**One of the incumbents for McLean County Board district four says the most challenging thing facing the county is a tight budget. Ed McKibbin says the board worked with department heads the past couple years during the recession to cut, but this year the assessed value is dropping. The Republican McKibbin works at Illinois State University. He's running against Democratic newcomers Sally Pyne and Steven Campbell and Republican incumbent William Caisley.**

**Issue: Government**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Voter Registration**

**Date: 10.9.12**

**Time: 5p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**McLean County Clerk Kathy Michael says about 200 people came into the office today to get registered for the November election. Michael says overall the clerk's office has added about 5-thousand new voters since 2008. Today was the deadline to register.**

**Issue: Business**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Bloomington Levy**

**Date: 11.14.12**

**Time: 12a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**The Bloomington City Council is not willing to increase its tax levy while times remain tough for taxpayers. The council voted unanimously in favor of a plan that would cut the 2012 levy by 1.7 percent while keeping the tax rate the same. Alderman Bernie Anderson says the council must look for other resources to cut. Mayor Steve Stockton warns of continuing on a level hold for too long. The vote went against the recommendation of the Finance Department and City Manager. The cut would mean the city would lose about \$400,000 in property tax revenue. The council will decide on the final levy on Dec. 10.**

**Issue: Government**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Pontiac's Old Courthouse**

**Date: 11.16.12**

**Time: 6:30a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**Pontiac's old courthouse is back open for business. County officials cut the ribbon on the city's centerpiece yesterday. The county restored architectural details that were covered by layers of paint or walled up. Board Chairman Bill Fairfield says it's been a challenge, but it also extremely gratifying. The Livingston County Board also met in the new meeting room for the first time last night. County offices will be fully moved in by early next year.**

**Issue: Government**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Koettters Appeal**

**Date: 12.14.12**

**Time: 7a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**Bloomington Ward 5 Alderman Jennifer McDade has officially filed her appeal of the Bloomington Election Commission's decision to remove her from the April ballot. McDade is appealing through the McLean County Circuit Court. Her opposition is Matthew Koettters. McDade had a case management hearing with the judge on Friday afternoon. She claims the election commission violated the Open Meetings Act by not allowing her to see deliberations on the decision or provide written records of the closed session.**

**Issue: Government**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Tamms**

**Date: 12.28.12**

**Time: 4p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

**The Illinois Department of Corrections says all inmates have been removed from Tamms Supermax Prison. The department says as of today (Friday), all inmates have been transferred from Tamms Prison and from halfway houses in Carbondale, Chicago and Decatur to other facilities. Laurie Jo Reynolds with the group Tamms Year Ten has been working to close the Supermax prison. The last day of operations for the facilities is Jan. 4, 2013.**

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Fourth Quarter Report 2012

Schools

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### Schools

**Issue: Schools**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: BHS Students on Election**

**Date: 10.24.12**

**Time: 5a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

The presidential election isn't just fodder for talking heads, it's a good civics lesson for students. Rich Baldwin's American Government class at Bloomington High School is starting to close out a unit on the presidential election. Students spent yesterday (Tuesday) recapping the debates and how President Obama and Mitt Romney did. Students watched clips of the past three presidential debates and made a scorecard of who won, in their opinions. They gave the first one to Romney and the last two to Obama.

**Issue: Schools**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Voter Registration**

**Date: 10.25.12**

**Time: 5a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

Unit 5 is going to see an increase in the tax levy. Superintendent Gary Niehaus says the school board will discuss falling property values that may result in a loss of 1-million dollars to the Education Fund. Niehaus says property revenue is a major source of income for Unit 5. The levy increase is projected at around 3 cents.

**Issue: Schools**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Schonauer Red Cross**

**Date: 11.8.12**

**Time: 9:30a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

The Normal Community teacher who subdued a gunman in his classroom doesn't believe the student wanted to harm anyone. Derrick Schonauer was given the public service award at the Red Cross Heroes breakfast. Schonauer says he had a special relationship with the student who brought a gun and other weapons to school and held a class hostage. Schonauer said he believes while the boy's mistake was bigger than most, he said he deserves a second chance and while he hasn't talk to him since that incident, he'd like to see how he's doing.

**Issue: Schools**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Pontiac Calendars**

**Date: 11.24.12**

**Time: 12p**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

Things should be getting easier for parents of school-age children in Pontiac. Superintendents Kevin Lipke and Jon Kilgore of Districts 429 and 90, respectively, have been working on something that hasn't previously existed for the Pontiac schools. During a recent conversation on WJEZ's Community Forum, Lipke explained. Lipke says the idea will not only help parents keep track of schedules, but will also help students who babysit. When district schedules don't match, it can lead to absenteeism and other problems. The administrators hope that a coordinated calendar will eliminate those concerns.

**Issue: Schools**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Unit 5 Radios**

**Date: 12.11.12**

**Time: 5a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

In the wake of the Normal Community High School shooting incident, the Unit 5 school board is focused on upgrading communication equipment. Along with more district evacuation practice continuing, the board will likely approve 270-thousand dollars to fund new two-way radios, says Superintendent Gary Niehaus. Niehaus says Unit 5 should've taken the need for more reliable equipment more seriously before danger presented itself, but this purchase secures a network that will cover the entire district.

**Issue: Schools**

**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

**Title: Replacing Bowman**

**Date: 12.15.12**

**Time: 5a**

**Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

**Description:**

Illinois State University is officially beginning down the road to finding a new president. The board of trustees met Saturday to discuss options for selecting a search firm. Trustee chair Mike McCuskey says this selection finds ISU at an all-time high. McCuskey says the board will set a special meeting in the near future with a goal to select a new top administrator by August.