

Business**Issue: Business****How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: BLM-CIRBN****Date: 07.5.13****Time: 2p****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

A new broadband intranet project to connect businesses and municipalities is up and running. The City of Bloomington will vote to approve member management and a customer service agreement for the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network on Monday. The growing network of 241 businesses and government entities joins 6 counties and 19 communities. Illinois State University won a \$17.6 million grant to construct the network for high performance, low cost internet. ISU, the Town of Normal, and Heartland Community College are the other management members of CIRBN. The new network will cost Bloomington nearly \$31,000 a year, a significant savings over its currently slower and less efficient service.

Issue: Business**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Cancer Center****Date: 07.10.13****Time: 2p****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

Employees and physicians at the Community Cancer Center broke out shovels to celebrate the 35,000 square foot expansion. The facility that opened 15 years ago is expanding to meet the growing need of cancer treatment in Central Illinois. The expansion will include a new building to the south of the current facility as well as renovations to the existing treatment center. Interim Executive Director Roger Hunt said the project was designed under very careful eyes. The center currently serves over 200 patients every day, and that number is expected to grow. It provides not only treatment, but prevention and early detection services and support for survivors. Illinois Wesleyan Women's Basketball Coach and Cancer survivor Mia Smith used the groundbreaking ceremony to reflect on her treatment at the center. The project is expected to take 18 months, and it is designed and developed almost completely locally. The \$9.7 million expansion has already been half-funded by donations from the community. Medical Director Dr. Shermian Woodhouse said the expansion will help the facility continue its mission to deliver high-quality, comprehensive cancer care.

Issue: Business**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: B-NOPOLY****Date: 08.06.13**

Time: 4p

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

The McLean County Child Protection Network is "passing GO" with the production of Bloomington-Normal-opoly. Executive Director Judy Brucker said the umbrella organization for child advocacy is working with an Ohio company to establish a localized board game featuring businesses around the Twin Cities. You can own State Farm or get yourself out of the McLean County Law and Justice Center thanks to the upcoming local version of the ageless board game. The organization has already sold over 200 games with a goal of 1,500. The play on the board game is structured like the original and Walter said it's been fun to work with community partners. Bloomington-Normal-opoly will cost \$25 dollars and will benefit the Children's Advocacy Center and CASA.

Issue: Business

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Threshermens Reunion

Date: 08.23.13

Time: 7a

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

In just a few days, an annual event in Livingston County will draw thousands of people to the Pontiac area. The Threshermen's Reunion is in its 65th year, and it promises another gathering of vintage farm equipment, demonstrations of lost farming arts, modern-day tractor pulls, and more. Larry Hassinger is one of the organizers of the event. He said it usually features demonstrations of vintage machines picking crops, but this year Mother Nature wouldn't cooperate. Several tractor pulls will be the featured nighttime entertainment, and Saturday night there's a new pull scheduled featuring a class of tractors called "Too Hot to Farm." Hassinger said they're machines that bridge the gap between working tractors and the mega-machines on the professional pulling circuit. Another attraction is the reunion parade, set for 1:15 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 1 in downtown Pontiac. The 65th annual Threshermen's Reunion starts Thurs., Aug. 29 at Threshermen's Park, about four miles north of Pontiac on Illinois Route 23.

Issue: Business

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Rust State Farm Moves

Date: 09.12.13

Time: 5a

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

State Farm CEO Ed Rust has said he isn't sure if jobs will be lost as the company follows through with a plan to sell office space it owns in 18 locations across the nation. The sale and lease-back includes 23 buildings in 18 locations that are being marketed to a single buyer. The offer includes more than 6.2 million square feet. The operation centers include more than 21,000 employees in process systems, staffing and training. The list does not include any buildings in Bloomington-Normal or Illinois. Rust said the sale, lease-back gives the company more flexibility to manage the office footprint over the next 15 years or

more. State Farm is looking to sign leases of five to 15 years with renewal options.

Issue: Business

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Hancock Dedication

Date: 09.19.13

Time: 12a

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

The long-awaited opening of the new Hancock Stadium at Illinois State University has arrived. Hancock is celebrating a 50th anniversary and a complete rebirth at the same time, and the Redbirds can't stop beaming over a \$26 million renovation that features a suite level, luxury press box, and state-of-the-art services that make ISU the envy of the Football Championship Subdivision. The university officially dedicated the 13,391-seat facility on Wednesday with over 400 donors, community partners, and supporters on hand. President Tim Flanagan said the stadium rolls out the red carpet in saying "Welcome to Illinois State". ISU Director of Athletics Larry Lyons said the collaborative effort was impressive in getting the job done on time. The Redbirds debut the new state-of-the-art east side on Saturday evening against Abilene Christian. Head Coach Brock Spack said recent success has brought major rewards to the university and his football program but now his young squad must produce. Despite early setbacks due to weather and supply delays, the stadium - first opened in 1963 - is ready except for a few minor decorative projects left to complete.

Schools**Issue: Schools****How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Back2School****Date: 07.19.13****Time: 5a****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

It's back to school time and that means the Back 2 School Alliance is making sure students get the supplies they need. The Alliance held its annual Back to School party at U.S. Cellular Coliseum on Thursday, where backpacks filled with school supplies were handed out to hundreds of students. Any low-income family or family that has a child on free or reduced lunch was eligible for a backpack. Last year, Back 2 School handed out about 1,700 backpacks. This year, Fundraising and Communications Chair Taunia Leffler said they were expecting even more. Donations were taken at 59 different locations throughout the community, including at the WJBC studios. Financial donations were also accepted through the website. Leffler said roughly 200 volunteers spent the last month stuffing backpacks.

Issue: Schools**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Brigham****Date: 07.26.13****Time: 5a****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

Brigham Elementary School is back and better than ever. The school, which first opened in 1956, underwent a full-scale renovation over the summer in preparation for 150 kindergartners from Cedar Ridge Elementary in the fall. Unit 5 Director of Operations Joe Adelman said the renovations will be complete by Wednesday and the teachers will have a little over two weeks to set up their new classrooms. A new playground and parking lot have also been put in in preparation for the school year. Both gyms and the kitchen will see improvements and even the bathrooms are changed. The sinks and toilets are now at kindergartener height. The 57-year old building on the south end of Bloomington comes with an upgrade cost of \$480,000, which blends a classic design with modern technology and will allow for interaction with the community.

Issue: Schools**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: IWU State Farm Hall****Date: 08.05.13****Time: 10a****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

The new classroom building at Illinois Wesleyan University is ahead of schedule for completion in time for the school year. State Farm Hall will serve as a multi-purpose facility for the liberal arts college, says Associate Provost of Academic Planning and Standards Frank Boyd. Boyd said the 19-classroom, 48,700 square foot structure will be dedicated in October. Getting the new State Farm Hall done ahead of schedule has allowed for many adjustments to be made in post-construction. Boyd said getting everything in the building from furniture to technical equipment gives the staff about two weeks to make sure all outlets and amenities are in their desired locations. The new classroom building will house a wide variety of departmental courses. Classes in Shaw Hall, which has been in use since 1954, will be moved into the new space.

Issue: Schools

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: District 87 Zoning

Date: 08.28.13

Time: 12a

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

Financial hardships and cuts in teachers led to a higher number of student zone transfers in District 87 over the school year's first week. Superintendent Barry Reilly says 84 students so far have been re-zoned to different elementary schools to avoid overcrowded classrooms. Reilly says the usual number is no more than 30 transfers. The zone movement takes students from their attendance area and places them somewhere else to help even the class sizes across the district's six elementary schools.

Issue: Schools

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: 911 Education

Date: 09.11.13

Time: 2p

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

On the 12th anniversary of the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and United Flight 93 that crashed in a Pennsylvania field, one Bloomington High School teacher is keeping the memories alive for her students. American History teacher Megan Bozarth said the inspiration for her lesson came from conversations with her classes. Bozarth's class discussed perspectives and the importance of oral history as more students move out of the ages of direct remembrance. Students were assigned to go home and interview someone who remembered the attacks and what can be learned from such a moment in history.

Issue: Schools

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: District 90 Budget

Date: 09.13.13

Time: 12a

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

Pontiac Township High School District 90 has approved a balanced Fiscal Year 2014 budget. This didn't appear possible last month when the Board of Education was looking at a tentative budget that showed a deficit of nearly \$280,000. Superintendent Jon Kilgore said they worked diligently over the past month to tighten up. As a result, the budget now shows a surplus of \$6,445. Kilgore said the three months of sales tax will result in roughly \$90,000 of revenue. Once the next fiscal year begins in July, the district will shift the sales tax and put it towards roofing repairs. According to Kilgore, District 90 also received a new maintenance grant. The total budget is just over \$11.4 million. Kilgore said now the trick will be to manage the budget and hope there aren't any surprises along the way.

Issue: Crime**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: BPD Denny's Incident****Date: 07.09.13****Time: 11a****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

An incident at the Denny's Restaurant on S. Eldorado Rd. is getting a deeper look following allegations of police brutality. A statement by the Bloomington Police Department said a crowd of several hundred people gathered in the parking lot at about 1 a.m. on June 30 as several subjects were fighting inside the restaurant. One person, 18-year old Gabriella Calhoun, was arrested on charges of aggravated battery to a peace officer and obstructing/resisting arrest. The stories head separate ways when an internet site posted that Calhoun was unwarrantedly beaten with a night stick and choked by an officer. Photos show Calhoun with several chipped teeth. Bloomington Police said Calhoun allegedly pushed and punched an officer as they were trying to clear out the restaurant. Officers used pepper spray while dispersing what they call an aggressive crowd. Two officers suffered minor injuries. Calhoun was the only person arrested during the incident. One man was stabbed but didn't press charges. BPD spokesmen said the department reviews all allegations of misconduct seriously. An investigation is underway regarding the incident.

Issue: Crime**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Sprint robbery****Date: 07.19.13****Time: 3p****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

The Normal Police Department has identified two men believed to be responsible for an armed robbery that took place at the Sprint Store along Veteran's Parkway last month. Detectives said two men entered the Sprint Store on June 14 at 5:30 p.m. They allegedly flashed handguns and fled the store through the back door with an undisclosed amount of money and property. Detectives said Dejean Thompkins, 18 of Chicago and Dontell Black, 23 of Chicago, were arrested on outstanding warrants. Thompkins was arrested by the Lafayette, Ind. Police Department and is being held in the McLean County Jail. Black was arrested by the U.S. Marshall Service in Chicago. He is being held in the Cook County Jail awaiting extradition to McLean County.

Issue: Crime**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Secor murders****Date: 08.08.13****Time: 2p****Duration: Story runs 12 hours**

Description:

A former Bloomington couple has been arrested in connection with the presumed death of an elderly man whose remains were found in the Mackinaw River and at his home in rural Secor. Police in Indianapolis arrested RayShawn Johnson, 23, and ViShawn Mills, 24, on Wednesday. According to Indianapolis Police, Johnson shot 74-year-old Oakley Mitchell multiple times and then set his body on fire to cover up the crime scene. Johnson is in the Woodford County Jail awaiting court appearance tomorrow. He faces one first-degree murder charge with a bond of \$1 million. Woodford County State's Attorney Greg Minger said more charges will likely be filed as the investigation continues. Mills has been booked in McLean County on a charge of concealing a homicide. Mills has been identified as Mitchell's home health caregiver. Mills is being held on a \$250,000 bond with an appearance in court Wednesday afternoon. A torso was discovered in the Mackinaw River on Saturday and other human remains were found at Mitchell's home in rural Secor on Tuesday. McLean County Coroner Beth Kimmerling had ruled the death as a homicide. She said a positive identification likely won't come for several more days.

Issue: Crime**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Lockmiller anniversary****Date: 08.22.13****Time: 5a****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

It's been 20 years since Jennifer Lockmiller was found stabbed and strangled in her apartment in Normal. Lockmiller, a 22 year old Illinois State University student from Decatur, Ill., was found in her apartment by a friend on Aug. 28, 1993. Then-McLean County Coroner Dan Brady said Lockmiller could have been dead for two to four days. A man was convicted of the murder, but the conviction was overturned and just this year, a court officially declared him innocent of the crime. The Normal Police Department got the investigation back in 2009.

Normal Police Chief Rick Bleichner said the investigation is still active. There have been two recent rounds of DNA testing in the Lockmiller investigation. The first round found the DNA of two unidentified males on Lockmiller's body. The second round of testing, requested by police, was conducted on additional DNA and an alarm clock cord. Bleichner said there are no suspects. Officers have done additional interviews with people from the original 1993 case. Bleichner said it is always possible that someone might remember something from 20 years ago that may have seemed insignificant.

Issue: Crime**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Farmer City murder****Date: 09.07.13****Time: 3p****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

A body found in Farmer City on Saturday has led to a preliminary arrest. Blayne Benefield, 21, of rural Farmer City was found dead in an alley in the 200 block of South

Main Street at around 7:15 a.m. Authorities arrested a suspect at about 11 a.m. during the Heritage Days festival. Farmer City Police, the DeWitt County Sheriff's office, Illinois State Police, and the DeWitt County Coroner's office are working together in the investigation. The preliminary cause of death has been declared a homicide. Police are not releasing the identity of the suspect.

Issue: Crime

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: Farmer City murder

Date: 09.07.13

Time: 630a

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

A suspect is in custody in the August double homicide at Pontiac's Palamar Motel. 27-year-old Cody Hetherington of Pontiac is in custody for allegedly killing his mother and brother. Police were called to the Palamar August 20th when Jean Corrice failed to arrive at work. At the Palamar, Hetherington was found severely injured, while Corrice and Tyler Friant were pronounced dead at the scene. Hetherington has been recuperating in a Springfield hospital, and was arrested by Pontiac Police after his release from care yesterday afternoon. Livingston County State's Attorney Seth Uphoff says extensive details of the case aren't currently being released because of a judge's order. Hetherington faces four counts of first degree murder and is currently being held in lieu of 300-thousand dollar bail.

Government**Issue: Government****How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Normal Retreat****Date: 07.19.13****Time: 7a****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

The Normal Town Council is meeting in a retreat Tuesday and Wednesday this week. City Manager Mark Peterson says a variety of topics will be discussed, starting with the future of the fire department. The council is considering several options for the department's aging buildings including renovation, adding a station, sharing a station with Bloomington or moving all stations. Peterson says the council will also go over pensions, Uptown Normal, and the proposed community center and soccer fields.

Issue: Government**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Dillard****Date: 07.24.13****Time: 5p****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

State Senator Kirk Dillard says you'd have to be crazy to want to run for governor in Illinois, but he's doing it because he knows what the state needs. Dillard says Illinois should be a destination economy for jobs, bringing a mix of high-tech, distribution, and agribusiness back to life. Dillard faces State Treasurer Dan Rutherford, State Sen. Bill Brady, and venture capitalist Bruce Rauner in the GOP primary.

Issue: Government**How Issue Was Treated: News story****Title: Immigration Schock****Date: 08.05.13****Time: 6p****Duration: Story runs 12 hours****Description:**

Congressman Aaron Schock started his 63-stop, two week long bus tour around the 18th District by taking on immigration in a town hall meeting in Heyworth. Schock says he doesn't want to see the same mistakes with immigration laws that befell the Affordable Healthcare Act. Schock says a series of House bills on solving border security, employment verification, guest worker programs, high-tech visas, and low-skill ag jobs will all be part of the discussion when Congress returns to session in October.

Issue: Government**How Issue Was Treated: News story**

Title: Elizabeth Home Denied

Date: 08.16.13

Time: 7a

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

Pontiac city officials recently blocked a plan to create a residential facility for pregnant young women, but the woman behind the project says the work is going to move forward in spite of the setback. Darleta Gramm is the Executive Director of Pontiac's Caring Pregnancy Center. She said the group has been working for years to establish Elizabeth Home, a residential care facility for expectant young women. Earlier this year, Bank of Pontiac donated property on Vermilion Street to the cause, but now the Pontiac planning and zoning board is refusing to grant a special use permit because of concerns from area residents. Gramm said that decision brings this phase of the planning to an end. Some of the concerns that swayed the board dealt with the neighborhood around the house.

Issue: Government

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title: McLean County Budget

Date: 09.17.13

Time: 330p

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

The McLean County Board has proposed an 80-point-nine million dollar budget for 2014, that's a two percent increase from last year. McLean County Administrator Bill Wasson says the budget prevents the county from growing any programs. The proposed budget includes a one-half percent raise in the tax levy, bringing the levy to 32-point-eight million dollars. Various committees will study the proposal before it goes to the full board in November for a vote.

Issue: Government

How Issue Was Treated: News story

Title:

Date: 09.23.13

Time: 12a

Duration: Story runs 12 hours

Description:

Bloomington has officially banned the consumption of alcohol on vehicles-for-hire, or "party buses." The city council voted 6-2 Monday to approve the ordinance. It was one recommendation that came out of the recent Downtown Nightlife Revitalization workshop. Mayor Tari Renner said the ordinance sends a resounding message about Bloomington's downtown. The ordinance does not affect vehicles such as limousines, which have a dividing partition between the driver and passengers. It only affects vehicles which lack that partition.