

WYZZ QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

[April - June 2012]

WYZZ'S programs, news reports and public services announcements provided significant treatment of the following issues that were important to the community in the 2nd quarter of 2012:

April 2012

(Random Selection)

Government

4/13 The Peoria County Board is looking at ways to cut costs ahead of a projected \$1.7 million deficit next year. The board is considering eliminating its county auditor and recorder of deeds. Some members say if the positions are consolidated...it could save the county \$1 million over four years. If it gathers enough support from local lawmakers, the issue could be placed on the November ballot.

4/13 Area residents will soon have the option to choose a different electric supplier. Last month, residents voted to approve electrical aggregation. Now city leaders are working to send out bids to other suppliers. They're looking for the company with the best price. Currently, most customers use Ameren, which costs about 6.6 cents per kilowatt hour. In the meantime, leaders recommend people should not switch to a cheaper supplier until an agreement is reached.

4/12 The bonds are finally sold for Peoria's long delayed downtown hotel project. Peoria city manager Patrick Urich says the money from all parties is exchanging hands and execution of the project is finally kicking off. That means construction to transform the Pere Marquette into a full service Marriott should begin on May 1st. The developer will receive \$29 million from the bonds. He says favorable interests rates will help the city save nearly \$7 million.

Environment

4/27 A mackinaw man says he's promoting a straw that would make drinking Illinois River water safe. He calls it the "life straw." Jesse Munk says it's a personal water filter that will allow people to drink water from contaminated sources. He says it removes more than 99% of the bacteria and parasites. He says it's a practical invention in case of an emergency.

4/27 Members of Peoria's South-West Kiwanis Club are taking action to beautify the river city. In honor of Arbor Day, the group planted a gingko tree at Luthy Botanical Garden. Members started the planting ceremony twenty six years ago, placing trees near city parks and schools. They say the tradition is rooted in helping children appreciate nature by playing in it.

4/15 People across the middle part of the united states are cleaning up from a weekend of deadly storms. There were reports of at least 120 tornados from Texas to Iowa. Five people died when a twister struck Woodward, Oklahoma. Officials in the small town say more than 80 homes were destroyed.

Economy

4/27 Graduation is just around the corner and that means the class of 2012 is anxiously looking for employment. A new survey points to some brighter spots in the job market. Career Builder surveyed more than 2,000 hiring managers. 54 % said they plan to hire recent college graduates

this year, up from 46 % last year. The areas where they're most likely to recruit new grads include information technology, customer service, sales, finance and accounting, and marketing. And college grads shouldn't underestimate the value of their social networking skills.

4/13 Prom season is sweeping through central Illinois. The fancy dress, the tux, the limo: it all adds up. And this year, families are shelling out big bucks to make prom perfect. According to a new survey from Visa, families with prom-bound teens will spend an average of almost \$1,100. That's up more than 30% from last year. Some experts blame it all on the crazy spending on popular celebrity and reality shows-- and the growth of social media. They encourage parents to set a budget before heading to the store, and to stick to it.

4/12 300 Peoria area workers are losing their jobs. Peoria's Afni location is closing. Afni employees say they came to work Thursday and found out they'd be losing their jobs. This operation could close as soon as June 12th. Most people here work as customer service representatives. Afni is an in-bound call center for several companies like Verizon wireless. Lately, you'd see or hear about "hiring" happening here at Afni. But company officials says one of the reason it's closing is because it's getting fewer calls. Some of the workers have only been working here a few months, others for years. They say now, they're forced to start the job hunt.

Education

4/28 It's never too early to get a head start on managing your money, and what better time to do so during Money Smart Week. That's what preschoolers at the Hult Center for Health Education in Peoria were doing Saturday. The Success by Six event is put on by Heart of Illinois United Way. Kids were able to create fake money, and learn how to spend it wisely at different shops.

4/27 Students at Dunlap Grade School are leaving the classroom behind today. The school celebrated Explore More Day. It gives kids the chance to try things like hip hop dancing, firefighting and jewelry making. All of the activities are educational.

4/13 Some students are receiving some hands on training in construction careers. Students in the Illinois Central College's construction careers training program toured the Peoria County highway department today. They were able to speak to professionals about road maintenance, and they did a mock inspection of a county bridge.

Health

4/29 Mothers who are under stress are more likely to overfeed their infants, according to a new study in the journal Pediatrics. Researchers found 24% of low income mothers added cereal to their infants' bottles -- to help their babies sleep longer or stay full longer. But the practice may lead to childhood obesity. Researchers found single mothers, mothers who were depressed and parents of temperamental babies were all significantly more likely to add the cereal.

4/28 People in Peoria are taking steps to improve the health of babies. Sunday, supporters of the March of Dimes held a fundraiser at Lower Bradley Park. Every year, the River City sees nearly 15% of all babies born prematurely. Many of them develop long-term disabilities or defects. The march of dimes helps provide support and medical research so the babies can lead a healthy life. Some moms say their kids wouldn't be alive without the organization.

4/15 New statistics show chin augmentations are one of the fastest growing plastic surgery procedures. Chin implants increased last year at a higher rate than breast augmentation, Botox and liposuction combined. Researchers say the surgery's popularity may be due in part to the increased use of video chatting and an aging baby boomer population.

Social Justice

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4/29 They are ordinary people who found themselves in extraordinary situations. But because of how they handled it, the Central Illinois Red Cross is naming them this year's Heartland Heroes. Eight people were recognized at the Heartland Heroes dinner at the Paradise Hotel Saturday night. The heroes range from people who have done good deeds around the community to life savers. They were nominated by people who believe they are heroes - but they feel they are just regular people.

4/28 A lot of people use Saturdays to fix up their house. But for one Peoria woman that wasn't an option until volunteers stepped in. Saturday, a group of volunteers got together to repair the home of Peggy Ewing and her dog, Max. Ewing's Peoria Heights home was in bad shape and needed repairs. The group is part of "Rebuilding Together-Peoria." It's a non-profit that helps low income and elderly homeowners. Volunteers repaired her plumbing, roof and landscaping for free. Ewing says it's a gift she could never repay.

May 2012

Government

5/31 Lawmakers are trying to figure out how to fix the state's pension crisis. They have to come up with a plan by midnight. But as our capitol newsroom reports, some teachers are hoping nothing is done. A teacher we talked to says none of the options out there right now are very appealing. She argues there are other ways to go about fixing the pension crisis. Lawmakers are working to reform the system because its debt has grown out of control. It has an unfunded liability of about \$85 billion. Teacher Angie Meneghetti says the state should consider introducing a graduated income tax. She says it would close tax loopholes for big corporations and that money could then be used to pay down the debt.

5/30 As the last week of session draws to a close, state lawmakers are working to hammer out a deal to reform Illinois' public pension system. Tuesday, house speaker Michael Madigan introduced a pension reform bill that would keep the retirement age at 65. But it would give workers a choice: they could take smaller cost of living increases with guaranteed healthcare or they could give up healthcare to keep their current benefits. The most controversial portion of the legislation would shift money from local property taxes to pay for teacher pensions. The timing of the introduction of the nearly three hundred page bill had one lawmaker very upset.

5/30 The village of Dwight clears another hurdle in the fight to keep its women's prison from being closed by the state. Earlier today house republican and democratic committees voted on their budget proposals. Both parties have opted to include funding for Dwight prison. Last month, a government committee also voted to keep the prison open. Governor Pat Quinn slated it for closure earlier this year to help mend the state's nine billion dollar budget gap. Dwight's mayor says the recent votes are a relief but the fight isn't over yet. The senate also has to weigh in on the matter. Governor Quinn will then have the final say.

Environment

5/30 Chicago's Shedd aquarium is excited to announce it has a new resident. Its new baby pacific white sided dolphin enjoys swimming with mom. The calf was born on Memorial Day at three feet long and 25 pounds. The sex of the dolphin will remain a mystery until handlers can get a closer look. Officials at Shedd say mom and baby are doing great so far. The public won't get to meet the little one for a few months.

5/30 The death toll from Tuesday's earthquake in Italy is now up to 17. About 350 people are injured and 14,000 people are now homeless. Rescue crews searching for survivors pulled a woman out of the rubble last night. She had spent 12 hours trapped under her home. The 5.8 magnitude quake was the second to hit Italy's industrial region in just nine days, dealing a blow to the country's struggling economy. Experts say cluster quakes are hitting the region, and even stronger tremors could be on the way.

5/29 The city of Bloomington is taking action to go green. Tonight, the council discussed a new single stream recycling program. Leaders have looked into buying 19,000 black totes. The cost is \$1 million. Carts would come in two different sizes; 65 and 95 gallons. Bloomington public works director Jim Karch says giving residents more space to store re-usable items will keep more products out of the trash. Turns out the city can get \$35 for each ton it recycles. So it hopes more people take part in the program.

Economy

5/29 the Peoria area is a big contributor to U.S. exports. Thanks to companies like Caterpillar, the international trade administration says greater Peoria exported the most merchandise per capita in 2010. Exports grew by forty two percent between 2009 and 2010. The information comes from the 2010 census. 2011 numbers are expected sometime this fall.

5/26 Illinois lawmakers are closer to making it more expensive for people to smoke. A bill passed the house Friday that would double the state's cigarette tax. It's now headed to the senate. The earliest it could get a vote is sometime this week. Governor Pat Quinn is a strong proponent of the measure. He says the higher tax will help fill the state's nearly \$3 billion Medicaid shortfall.

5/27 Swimming pools and fountains aren't the only places that stayed busy this weekend. What would Memorial Day be without something to throw on the grill? At HyVee in Peoria, registers were busy with people buying all sorts of meat. The butcher's shop says it's having to restock its supply twice as fast compared to a regular day. And one customer says it wouldn't be a holiday weekend without the chance to cook out.

Education

5/25 Dressing up is one thing, but the outfits we found at this particular fashion show had a different quality about it. Students at Kellar Primary School are combining recycling and marketing to host their 17th annual "Trashin' Fashion Show." Students created their own custom look, designing outfits made from recycled trash. Not only are the students using their creative side to invent a new fashion look, they're learning an important life lesson.

5/24 The senate has rejected two different bills which would keep student loan rates low. If congress doesn't pass a bill by July first, then the interest rates on federal student loans will double. The senate appears to be deadlocked in a partisan battle. Lawmakers rejected dueling democratic and republican plans with votes coming mostly along party lines.

5/24 a local superintendent is saying goodbye after half a century with his school district. Roger Bergia has been working in the Peoria Heights school district for fifty-two years. He's been the superintendent for nearly forty years. Bergia went to Peoria heights schools as a child, and spent his entire career in the district. We asked him what he'll miss most about the job.

Health

5/24 Vitamin D may help lower the risk of stroke. Researchers at the University of Hawaii followed more than 7,000 Japanese-American men and found those who consumed the least amount of Vitamin D had a 22% higher risk of stroke. Sunlight is a good source of vitamin d. It can also be found in supplements, fortified milk, fatty fish and eggs.

5/23 Harvard researchers say C-Section babies may be twice as likely to become obese by the age of three. Experts believe C-Section babies do not receive certain nutrients from the mother which may raise the risk of obesity. Cesarean deliveries make up about one-third of U.S. births. Studies show those children may also have a higher risk of asthma and allergies.

5/23 A new study finds calcium supplements may increase the risk of heart attack by 86%. Doctors in Switzerland say the risk increased only with supplements, not with food rich in calcium. Researchers say calcium supplements need to be taken with caution - but experts warn that patients should talk to their doctor before stopping or starting any kind of medication.

Social Justice

5/21 The Sigma Pi fraternity no longer exists at Illinois Wesleyan University. The fraternity's parent organization voted to revoke the chapter until at least 2015. That means there can be no social events or meetings. All members are also being placed on alumni status. As for the house, Wesleyan owns it and will use it for other students. This punishment follows a member's death at an unregistered party in March where several others were busted for drinking.

5/22 Two Peorians police say are responsible for an amber alert earlier this month, are indicted today on child abduction charges. Police say nineteen-year-old Nyway Abbaa, the non custodial parent, grabbed her children, one year old Moriah Milan and two month old Audermare Peterson from a counseling and family service facility in Peoria and fled to Minneapolis. An officer there spotted Nyway's car and apprehended her and took the children into protective custody. Twenty-five-year-old King Peterson, the father of the youngest child turned himself into police. Both are being held on two million dollar bond pending a court appearance Thursday.

5/23 The head of the secret service is headed to capitol hill to defend his agents. In prepared testimony, director Mark Sullivan will tell a senate committee that the prostitution scandal did not result in a breach of national security. He also says that conduct of the agents involved in the scandal do not reflect the values of the majority of people who work for the agency.

June 2012

Government

6/26 Schools could see more classes related to math. Governor Quinn signed a new law tackling the subject head on. The new law now puts the state board of education in charge of creating a math curriculum, one that will cater to the needs of school districts around the state. We're told part of it will include requiring four years of math in high school instead of just three. Wyndy Williams used to be a math teacher at Lanphier High School in Springfield. She supports the initiative and says anything that will help students do better is worth considering.

6/25 Critics are poking holes in our state's proposed budget. They want to know why lawmakers are planning to give out special grants worth millions of dollars. They're used for all kinds of different projects and programs. For example, one grant is going to a religious school in Chicago. Agudath Israel of Illinois is getting more than a million dollars. Money for it was taken out of the state's general revenue fund. Lawmakers approved the move when they passed the budget.

Critics argue that's way too much cash considering our finances. But, senator Larry Bomke says it happens more than you think. He says that's because these types of grants often tucked away.

6/25 They've been at the center of a fight in Springfield to save money. And now some regional superintendents will lose their jobs after all. Governor Quinn signed a law Monday that will streamline those offices. The law will cut nine of the state's 44 regional superintendents.

Governor Quinn says the move will ultimately save money. It's been quite a rollercoaster for regional superintendents. They, along with their assistants, worked without pay last summer. Lawmakers eventually restored their salaries. How the remaining offices will divide up the state is unclear. A plan must be in place by this time next year.

Environment

6/21 Gas prices are on the decline, but some Twin Cities travelers are boycotting the pump all together. Instead of driving cars, more people are climbing aboard city buses. That's because Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System is offering free rides. The generosity is part of its annual "dump the pump day." the initiative began seven years ago to show people the money they can save by taking the bus.

6/20 In a rare partnership, the Citizens Utility Board and the environmental law and policy center are taking action together. They want people to save energy during the hot summer months. One of the big power drains is air conditioning. Ameren is offering a range of rebates to help people save energy and money including a \$25 rebate on programmable air conditioning. They say people leave the air on all day so it's not hot when they get home, but that adds up on the electric bill and puts more coal and gas into the environment. They say that doing small things will keep your bills from skyrocketing, even when the temperatures do.

6/6 People in Peoria cruised around the River City Wednesday evening as they learned about the Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway. The ride took place aboard the spirit of Peoria. Guests helped themselves to refreshments and were able to listen to music as they cruised down the river. The trip was also a bit of a history lesson for people to learn about the byway.

Economy

6/20 The federal reserve says it was too optimistic in the early stages of the nation's economic recovery. The fed says the labor market is sluggish, the housing market is depressed and economic growth is slower than expected. To keep the recovery from stalling out completely, the central bank will sell short term treasury bills and use the proceeds to buy longer term bonds. The idea is to drive interest rates lower to spur more borrowing and add fuel to the economy.

6/19 The federal reserve began a two day policy meeting Tuesday. Fed chairman Ben Bernanke will address the press today. Investors are hopeful he'll announce that policymakers are considering new steps to stimulate the economy.

6/14 New statistics show car sales are helping boost retail in the Twin Cities. Car dealer Dan O'Brien says a rebounding economy and low interest rates are encouraging customers to buy cars. The news comes at a time when he's gearing up to open his new Extreme Hyundai store in

Normal. O'Brien says after months of talks between Bloomington and Normal, he's happy he decided to move into the old Saturn building on the town's north side.

Education

6/26 Roanoke residents are angry about their school board's suggestion to rebuild. The high-school was built 93 years ago. Asbestos, fire and electrical upgrades are overdue. The school board says they could either renovate the existing building or build a new one. Either way they'd have to get a loan which would be paid back through tax dollars, about \$240 per resident per year for twenty years. Residents are mad because they feel like they should have a say. More than five hundred have signed a petition asking the school board to let them vote on what action to take.

6/26 Roger Kilpatrick is finishing out his last week as Morton's superintendent. After eight years, he says he's sad to say goodbye but is proud of the progress that's been made. The district is starting a \$3.2 million construction project this summer. Kilpatrick was able to plan for it without raising taxes. Since he's been there, standardized test scores have greatly increased. Kilpatrick says that he'll miss his work, But he says it's who he's worked with, that's really what counts.

6/25 The Peoria Public School Foundation held its annual golf outing today at the Peoria Country Club. The games started with a putting contest, and will end tonight with a dinner for all the participants. Money raised by the event goes towards the classroom and school grants program. The golf outing is the program's main fundraiser of the year.

Health

6/27 Health regulators are taking a closer look at metal hip replacements. Doctors have used the implants on half a million americans. In about 6% of patients, the implants had to be replaced in less than five years, even though they're supposed to last for at least ten. Today the food and drug administration starts a two day meeting to investigate the problem.

6/26 Adults on Medicaid aren't smiling about changes to their dental coverage. Right now the state pays for routine procedures like fillings and X-Rays. But starting July 1st, it's only going to pay for emergency extractions. It's all because of a bill in the new budget called the "smart act." McLean County's health department says the bill creates a huge unfunded liability. So it has no choice to temporarily close its adult dental clinic.

6/25 A new study shows healthy adults exposed to ozone for two hours developed changes associated with cardiovascular problems. The ailments included vascular inflammation, a reduced ability to dissolve blood clots and changes in the nervous system. Ozone is created when pollutants react with sunlight. The world health organization estimates two million people die every year because of exposure to air pollution.

Social Justice

6/26 Two Peoria men, arrested in New Mexico in connection with an East Peoria homicide, made their first court appearance in New Mexico Monday afternoon. James Johnson, 22, and Carlton Neely, 20, are accused of killing Justin Siebenthal of East Peoria and wounding a second man. Johnson and Neely were arrested at a truck stop outside of Tucumcari over the weekend. Court officials say both men will appear for a preliminary hearing and extradition hearing July 11th.

6/22 An eighteen-year old from Morton is being held in Tazewell County Jail, charged with causing the deaths of two other young people. Daughton Calvin was charged with two counts of drug induced homicide and unlawful delivery of a controlled substance. The charges stem from the deaths of nineteen-year old Cody Schillinger of Morton and twenty-two-year old Travis Whiteman of Pekin. The Tazewell county coroner says both men died after taking methadone, a drug often prescribed as a pain killer. So far this year, six people from Tazewell County have died from using methadone. Calvin is expected to make his next court appearance on July 12th.

6/21 A dedication ceremony was held in Uptown Normal earlier this evening. The ceremony took place in the new courtyard next to Emack and Bolios and featured a string trio from the Illinois Symphony. The courtyard has an amateur stage, lots of seating and some unique statues created by Herb Eaton. Area developer Harry Fuller says the space is for the community.

Local:

Program	Day	Time
FOX News at 9	Monday- Friday	9:00pm-10:00pm

The above program is locally produced, live news programs that present a mix of News, weather, sports and issue related stories. The issues responsive program segments are usually between one and one half to two minutes in duration, unless otherwise noted.

PSA's

- Ad Council – Play
- Illinois National Guard
- Junior Achievement
- American Heart Association
- Crime Stoppers
- Ad Council - Obesity Prevention
- Foundation for A Better Life
- American Diabetes Association PSAs
- American Dental Association
- Marines
- Ad Council – Financial Literacy
- Clean Hands Awareness
- Junior Diabetes Research Foundation
- Make A Wish Foundation
- MS Society
- Ad Council Inspire Inventions
- Arbor Day Foundation Explore Nature
- Drunk Driving Prevention
- Big Brothers
- Ad Council Live United
- Social Security Administration
- Ad Council Arthritis Prevention

Heartland Salutes – The WYZZ/WMBD news department took the show on the road. Beginning in June, certain parts of the Newscasts were live from smaller towns in the viewing area. Viewers were invited to come out and join the news team and special reports about the town were produced.

Weather Education Day: This past May, WYZZ/WMBD 31 News presented two 20-minute weather presentations at O’Brien Field as part of the Peoria Chief’s “Education Day” at the ballpark. WYZZ/WMBD’s team of Meteorologist is available to make appearances at schools as a group or individually to talk about weather. It’s a great way to integrate weather professionals into the classroom setting.

Big Brothers Big Sisters: WYZZ/WMBD 31 promoted the Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl For Kids Sake event in Peoria and Bloomington. Big Brothers Big Sisters provides children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

These public service announcements were broadcast at various times throughout the day.