

WYZZ QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT [October - December 2011]

WYZZ'S programs, news reports and public services announcements provided significant treatment of the following issues that were important to the community in the 4th quarter of 2012:

October 2011

Random Selection

Government

10/25 Taxpayers may have more say on their energy bills in the city of Peoria in the future. After a long debate, the city council approved a contract with Good Energy consultants at its meeting tonight. The New York company will be able to put out bids to electric suppliers for Peoria residents in an "opt-out" program if it's approved by voters in March.

10/23 "Occupy Blo-No" will be protesting at Bloomington City Hall tonight. The city council is considering an ordinance that would "cap" payday loan interest rates at thirty six-percent. Right now some places charge you upwards of four hundred-percent. Supporters argue the cap is needed to protect people who are struggling financially.

10/18 You could be paying more to take out your trash in Peoria. The city manager rolled out his plan last night to city council. It hikes the garbage fee from six dollars to fourteen. He says it could bring in an extra three million dollars.

Environment

10/18 The city of Peoria will soon have new recycling bins along downtown sidewalks to help people take action for the environment. Starting next week - central Illinoisans eating outside in the downtown area will be able to dispose of their trash in recycling containers. There will be bins for plastic, glass bottles, and aluminum cans.

10/7 As the investigation into last week's Bureau County train derailment continues, the state is seeking legal help. The Illinois EPA is asking the state attorney general to take action against Iowa Interstate Railroad, asking the company to conduct an environmental assessment of the crash site and to help pay for the clean-up. The train derailment last Friday resulted in several ethanol tankers catching fire and the evacuation of the entire village of Tiskilwa.

10/7 An interactive classroom is teaching kids about the importance of clean water. Chad Pregracke, founder of Living Lands and Waters, says the organization's new floating classroom helps kids learn about the environment. The barge brings classes on board to learn about recycling, river clean up and water navigation.

Economy

10/31 This morning, the Morton Economic Development Council unveiled three new financing programs aimed at growing local small businesses and attracting new ones. The programs provide things like low interest loans and facade improvement grants to businesses that qualify. These new initiatives are mostly paid for by a sales tax increase that was enacted last year.

10/21 "Wickedness" is trickling down to local businesses. Restaurants in the River City say their business is booming thanks to 'Wicked' fans. The Broadway musical flew into town last

week. Eateries, like the Rhythm Kitchen on the riverfront, say they get big crowds before and after all performances, and even some cast members have made an appearance.

10/14 Customers looking for Mexican food will have one less option to choose from in Bloomington- Normal. Chevy's Fresh Mex will close its doors this Saturday. The owners say the rising costs of food, and labor coupled with a slow economy is the reason the restaurant is shutting down.

Health

10/26 A new study finds eating disorders affect men and women equally. But the number of men who get treatment is far below the estimated number of sufferers. Researchers at Wesleyan University in Connecticut say there is concern that men may be reluctant to seek treatment or that doctors may be less likely to detect a disorder in men because most see it as a female problem.

10/25 A hormone-like gel is the current treatment of choice to induce labor in overdue pregnancies, but a new study shows using a Foley Catheter is just as successful and comes with fewer side effects. The Foley Catheter is usually used to drain a patient's bladder. But during labor - doctors can insert one to put pressure on the cervix.

10/21 A new study finds no link between cell phone use and tumors. Danish researchers looked at more than 350,000 cell phone users over 18 years. They found that cell phone use did not increase the risk of cancer or central nervous system tumors.

Education

10/28 Concordia Lutheran students are getting a big head start when it comes to foreign language. The school is launching the gateway to technology center and Rosetta Stone language computer lab. Parents got a first-hand look at the new center tonight. Concordia Lutheran says it's a state of the art experience and it will give students there a choice between ten foreign languages, such as Spanish and Chinese.

10/27 Peoria's District 150 isn't the only district dealing with bus problems. Unit 5 in the Twin Cities is negotiating contracts to bring in up to 40 temporary drivers. A lot of drivers are calling in absent to work. The contract is capped at \$500,000 and will only last for 90 days.

10/27 A lofty campaign by Bradley University ended Thursday after raising more money than ever before in the school's history. Bradley announced it surpassed the \$150 million goal in its renaissance campaign, launched in 2008. The university raised more \$161 million. It's the largest fundraising campaign ever at Bradley.

Social Justice

10/25 A settlement between eight District 150 employees and the school district appears to have been reached. In 2009, eight district 150 employees filed a lawsuit against the district for racial discrimination and retaliation. All eight had worked at Trewyn Middle School. They say they were criticized, scolded and poorly treated because they were white.

10/26 Rod Blagojevich will be back in court, just not as a lawyer any time soon. The Illinois State Supreme Court today suspends the law license of the disgraced ex-governor. Blagojevich has been an attorney in Illinois since 1984, although he hasn't practiced law since before he joined congress in 1997.

10/25 A Peoria man, accused of killing an acquaintance last month was indicted Tuesday. Forty- two year old Justin Cervantes is facing two counts of murder for the October sixth

stabbing death of Sven Mundt. The coroner says Mundt, the city's 12th homicide victim of the year, died of multiple stab wounds including defensive wounds to his arms.

November2011 *Random Selection*

Government

11/29 Huge news for the city of East Peoria. The city council is giving the go ahead to plans for a Target and a Costco. It's a project that will create around 500 jobs. The two anchor stores will be on opposite sides of Washington Street. As part of the agreement, target requires about 19 acres of land – along with its massive chain store so there's room for more development.

11/28 The city of Bloomington is talking money. Tonight the city manager delivered his annual financial report to the council. Council members also got the chance to see the results of an independent audit. The report shows the city is doing much better now than four years ago when its reserves were in the red.

11/28 Congressman Barney Frank won't be running for re-election next year. The Massachusetts Democrat announced Monday he'll retire at the end of his current term after more than thirty years in the house. Frank co-authored the overhaul of financial regulations and was the first openly gay member of congress.

Environment

11/15 Students at Northmoor Primary school are honored today for taking action for the environment. In a contest between public and private schools, kids competed to see who could produce the most signups for recycling containers. Those who signed up got the 50 dollar fee for the container waived. The contest has made an impact. So far over four hundred people have signed up for recycling containers through the schools.

11/17 Earth science students at Pontiac Township High School are using the history of past generations to learn about the future of their environment. Students measured marble tombstones in Pontiac's Southside Cemetery to see how "acid rain" erodes the rock over time. Their work is part of a national program that's using the data to see how the atmosphere is changing.

11/1 There's still no decision on the future of the Springdale Savanna. A special committee met at Springdale Cemetery in Peoria this morning. It's debating whether or not to get rid of the 15-acre savanna in order make room for more burial plots. It's something the cemetery believes it has the right to do, but environmentalists say an agreement with the state prohibits it.

Economy

11/28 Plans by Caterpillar to expand facilities in East Peoria and Decatur could dump \$260 million into the local economy. Big Yellow made the announcement in September, saying the investment would add more than 300 jobs to the region. But on top of that, the economic development council of central Illinois expects the trickle-down effect to create more than 200 additional jobs by the end of 2012.

11/26 U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood showed his support for small business Saturday this weekend. He and his wife Kathy visited the Peoria Camera Shop in the Metro Centre and they were paying customers. The LaHoods needed to pick up family photos they

ordered for Christmas. The shop has been open for 75 years. LaHood says it's a prime example of a small business that's had to adapt to changing times.

11/12 The latest Lundberg survey shows the average price for a gallon of regular gas has dipped nearly five-cents over the past two weeks. That brings it down to \$3.38.

Health:

11/28 A new study says women should stick to getting a mammogram every year after they turn forty. Doctors in New York studied the data from more than a thousand patients and found that women in their forties who had no family history of breast cancer were just as likely to develop invasive breast cancer as women with a family history. Researchers say the findings indicate women in this age group would benefit from annual mammogram screenings.

11/28 Hitting a soccer-ball over and over with your head may damage your brain. Doctors at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York used MRIs to study the brains of amateur soccer players. They found that players who head the ball most frequently showed symptoms that are similar to traumatic brain injury.

11/27 Researchers in New York may have found a way to help identify children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Doctors used MRIs to see how the brain in children with ADHD reacted during certain tests. Results showed regions of the brain involved in processing visual attention information didn't function normally in children with ADHD. It's one of the most common childhood disorders and can cause impulsive behavior.

Education

11/29 A Twin Cities band is playing its way towards a huge honor. The group from Parkside Junior High has been chosen to play in front of music directors from all over the world. They're traveling to Chicago in December for the Midwest clinic music conference. The band is the only one in the area ever chosen for the presentation.

11/29 Central Illinois schools got to take in the sounds of the Heartland Festival Orchestra today. It's all part of a musical caravan that toured charter oak primary school and Quest Charter Academy. Instead of students taking a field trip to see the HFO, the orchestra brought its notes and instruments to the schools instead. It's a way for students to interact with the orchestra.

11/26 It's championship day for Richwoods High School. The Knights are trying to bring home a football state title for the first time since 1988. They're the first Peoria school in 23 years to be playing on the final day of the season.

Social Justice

11/2 Peoria's District 150 is paying \$450 thousand to settle a lawsuit filed by a group of teachers. The seven teachers sued the district claiming they'd been discriminated against when working at Trewyn School. The white teachers say they were discriminated against by African American District 150 administrators, including former superintendent Ken Hinton.

11/22 The teens were arrested last night after a gun was discovered in a school bathroom. They appeared in Peoria county court this afternoon. The fourteen year old student has also been charged with unlawful use of a weapon at school, and unlawful possession of a stolen firearm. Police say the gun was stolen on September 30th during a burglary in Peoria.

11/18 A suspected local spree killer is going to spend the rest of his life behind bars. A Knox County judge today sentenced Nicholas Sheley to life in prison without parole for the murder in 2008 of Ronald Randall of Galesburg. Randall's friends and family released balloons outside the

courthouse after Sheley's sentencing. Sheley is still awaiting trial for five murders in Whiteside County and two more in Missouri.

December 2011
Random Selection

Government

12/5 Disgraced former Governor Rod Blagojevich will find out his fate tomorrow.

Blagojevich's lawyer says he thinks the sentencing will take two days. Prosecutors are requesting a sentence of 15 to 20 years in prison for convictions on charges that the 54-year-old Blagojevich tried to trade or sell the U.S. Senate seat vacated by president Obama.

12/08 A major decision was passed down by the Peoria County Board tonight concerning a Limestone Farmland property. The Tietjen Farm property in Limestone will not be turned into sixteen home residential area. An unanimous ruling came down at tonight's Peoria County Board meeting.

12/12 The City of Pekin votes in favor of a "special use" permit to allow a church to move into a former electronics store that now sits vacant. Bridgeway Community Church has been holding its worship services at Tremont High School. The lead pastor says more than four hundred people have joined his church in the last five years and it's time for its own building.

Environment

12/6 A new house could be yours for 25 dollars. It sounds too good to be true. But it's possible if you enter an upcoming raffle. The Steel United Environmental Corps is a non-profit group in the Twin Cities. It makes affordable, "green" homes out of recycled materials. The group is getting a donation from Pemco, which works on gas pumps. Several old pumps are going to be broken down. Then the steel will be used for the frame of a new, mortgage free house.

12/13 A report released today says a Pekin power plant could be contaminating the water supply. The report says wells tested downstream from the Powerton generating station in Pekin had Arsenic and lead levels that exceeded federal drinking water standards. The testing was done last year by a nonprofit environmental group.

12/6 The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is taking action to ensure a potential coal mine in north canton meets clean water standards. The EPA has drafted two permits for public comment. The first focuses on water pollution. Water coming in contact with elements from the mine must be regularly monitored. The second permit deals with aquatic life.

Economy

12/13 East Peoria is one step closer tonight to welcoming a new Costco store. As we told you last month, the city has plans for a target store and a Costco store. The city council tonight approved a one and a half million dollar property purchasing agreement with the wholesale chain. Mayor Mingus tells WMBD 31 News more specifics need to be ironed out with Costco before construction begins.

12/27 The Peoria chiefs baseball team is losing money. Audits show the Chicago Cubs affiliate has lost hundreds of thousands of dollars over the last several seasons. Chiefs President Rocky Vonachen admits the last few years have been frustrating.

12/28 Sears Holdings says it will close up to 120 Sears and K-Mart stores next year. The company isn't yet saying which stores it will close. Sears says sales this holiday season were

worse than expected and they blame a weak economy and says it's selling less apparel and electronics. There are Sears stores in Peoria and Bloomington. There are K-Mart stores in Peoria, Pekin, Morton, Canton and Bloomington.

Health:

12/27/2012 is just around the corner. So, it's time to roll out those New Year's resolutions. Landmark Fitness Center in Peoria expects to get a lot busier come next week with people trying to shake off those extra pounds. Trainers say finding a partner and keeping a good pace are two ways to help make the resolution stick.

12/28 There's more evidence that eating fruits, vegetables and fish can keep your brain healthy. Oregon researchers found people who ate foods rich in vitamins and omega 3 fatty acids - were less likely to develop brain shrinkage - which can lead to Alzheimer's disease. People who had a poor diet with lots of food containing trans fats did not do as well on mental tests and were more likely to have brain shrinkage.

12/30 Eating lots of red meat may increase the risk of kidney cancer. Researchers in Texas found people who ate a lot of red meat were 19 percent more likely to be diagnosed with the disease. Previous studies have found that chemicals released when red meat is grilled or barbecued can increase the cancer risk.

Education

12/30 The search is on for a new leader at Peoria Academy. The head of the private school will not be returning next year. The institution decided to part ways with Brendan Sheerin last week. Board members say the school and Sheerin had differences of opinion. The board hopes to find someone to fill the vacancy long term. The head of school serves as both principal and superintendent for Peoria Academy.

12/23 It has been a good year for college sports. ISU's Tim Glover won the NCAA javelin championship in June. Bradley's Mary Goldkamp made it to the NCAA west regional in the 1500-meter. And for the first time in school history, the Bradley soccer program secured consecutive NCAA tournament berths. Nationally-ranked for much of the season, the Braves beat Loyola in the first round of the tourney before losing in overtime at Louisville in the second round.

12/26 Some kids might hate to hear this - but it turns out school can make you smarter. Norwegian researchers found that adolescents who lived in areas where they received more schooling - had a higher I.Q. Doctors say extra schooling appears to have the biggest effect on I.Q. when kids are around 16 years old.

Social Justice

12/21 A Peoria man, convicted today in connection with a double shooting in mid August, could face up to life in prison when he's sentenced in February. Twenty four year old Robert Lawson was convicted of attempted murder, aggravated battery and unlawful use of a weapon. He and twenty year old Timothy Shumate were arrested in connection with an August fifteenth shooting. Two people were wounded in the parking lot of the South Metro Market on Starr Street.

12/23 Lawsuits involving McLean County Unit Five school district and convicted child molester and former teacher, Jon White, are on their way to the Illinois Supreme Court. The lawsuits, filed on behalf of two Urbana students, say unit five should have warned the Urbana school district that white had been found with pornography at school and had complaints lodged

against him by parents. The Urbana school district says it didn't know White's history when it hired him. White is currently serving 60 years in prison for molesting multiple girls in both Unit Five and the Urbana school district.

12/24 A man is recovering after being shot in his Peoria apartment early Saturday morning. Police responded to shots fired on the IOa-block of village green court around four o'clock. They found a 33-year-old man was shot in the neck inside his apartment building. But the shooter had already fled the scene. The victim was taken to OSF Saint Francis Medical Center. Police say his injuries do not appear to be life threatening.

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.

PSAs

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

Operation Santa - WYZZ/WMBD created PSAs for this program to benefit a non-profit group, Citizen SAM (Citizens Support America's Military). The goal: To raise funds and items to stuff stockings that will be shipped to all branches of the military in Iraq and Afghanistan over the holidays. Funds were also raised for shipping.

Junior Achievement - We produced and currently air Junior Achievement Money Minute segments. These on air pieces give financial advice in 60 seconds.

Stuff-A-Bus: WYZZ/WMBD created a PSA featuring on air talent to encourage viewers to donate food items to Stuff-a-Bus for the non-profit organization, Neighborhood House. This year's campaign raised more than 40,000 meals for people in Central Illinois

Toys/or Tots: WYZZ/WMBD created PSAs to encourage viewers to donate to the US Marine's Toys for Tots campaign. The station also became a drop-off location and the viewers answered the call for action and filled our studio with toys.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing: The Salvation Army called on WYZZ/WMBD to take action for their cause. WYZZ/WMBD News anchors set up outside local grocery stores in Peoria and McLean County all day ringing bells to collect donations. We produced promos encouraging viewers to come out and we broadcast live during the noon, 3pm and 6pm newscasts.

Project Roadblock - WYZZ/WMBD participated in the Ad Council's Project Roadblock. We ran PSA between Christmas and New Year's Day about drunk driving prevention and that "Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving."

Santa Parade - WYZZ/WMBD produced and aired the longest continuously running Santa Parade in the nation on Friday November 25th. The parade is held in downtown Peoria.

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