

WYZZ QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT [July – September 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 3rd quarter of 2012:

July 2011

Random Selection

Government:

7/2/11 State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka says if congress doesn't raise the debt ceiling, it could cost Illinois. Topinka says the federal government spends about \$70 million per day in Illinois, so if a deal isn't made, the state's economy could suffer a major blow. Topinka worries failure to act could stall important state construction projects.

7/29/11 The UAW is endorsing State Senator Dave Koehler for congress. Koehler plans to seek the 17th district seat currently held by Bobby Schilling of Moline. Koehler, a democrat, says he will work for middle class families represented by the UAW if elected.

7/28/11 Several Republican congressmen are suing over the newly redrawn Illinois legislative map. The lawsuit claims the new map, drawn by democrats, is an attempt to overturn gains made by the GOP last November.

Environment

7/28 The USDA is awarding a \$99,000 grant to encourage growth along the Illinois River. The grant covers ten counties and 291 miles of riverfront. The money will help startups wanting to develop the scenic byway.

7/22 Peoria's OSF St. Francis Medical Center is taking environmental action. Several billboards that were used in an ad campaign have been recycled into handbags. The bags are already selling well, and each one includes a photo of the billboard that was used to make it.

Economy

7/28 Caterpillar is using environmentally friendly techniques to build its new visitor center. It's using native plants to reduce irrigation and installing energy efficient lighting. The center will also have solar panels on its parking deck.

7/27 Peoria's warehouse district is getting a boost. The governor signed a law making it part of the River's Edge Development Zone. That provides a 25% tax credit to private investors for expenses related to rehabbing historic properties.

7/22 Alwan's Pharmacy is opening a Morton location. The owners say the store has been successful in a tough economy because it focuses on customer services. Alwan's Pharmacy has been in business for 25 years.

7/13 Illinois treasurer Dan Rutherford wants to make changes to the state pension plan. Right now, some companies use a defined benefit plan. Rutherford says people should choose their own plans. He says if changes aren't made, it could cost Illinois a lot of money.

Health:

7/11 Bloomington's OSF St. Joseph Medical Center is opening a new birthing center. It's a 29,000 square foot facility with a dozen private rooms and a 15 bed nursery and all the latest technology. Moms and their little ones will no longer have to bounce around between departments.

7/27 Peoria's Methodist Medical Center is trying to get its employees to exercise more. Employees gets points for participating in fitness activities. Eventually, they turn the points in to cash. There's even an on-site gym to help keep workers on track.

7/27 Illinois is helping school provide healthier lunches. It's giving school district \$4.5 million to help districts buy fresh fruits and vegetables. It also helps schools expand their curriculums to include lessons about smart eating habits.

Education

7/25 Peoria's Trewyn Middle School is starting a new program aimed at decreasing violence. It's a three year program that will cost \$192,000. The District 150 school board says the costs will be worth it. Carl Cannon from the Elite program is in charge of the three year trial.

7/21 The Illini Bluffs school board is struggling to reach a contract agreement with it teachers' union. The board wants teachers to participate in a random drug testing program, but teachers think the program will cost too much. Both sides are hoping to reach a deal before school starts.

7/20 Illinois is awarding \$270 million to help public school district pay for preschool, but Peoria's District 150 is still cutting back. The district was hoping for \$1.5 million from the state, but it only got \$1.4 million. Superintendent Dr. Grenita Lathan says if the district hadn't planned well, the news could be much worse.

Social Justice

7/20 Carpet Weavers is suing Brady Homes for failure to pay its bills. Carpet Weavers says the homebuilding company - co-owned by State Senator Bill Brady - owes it thousands for materials and service. Brady homes says the economy has taken a big toll on its business.

7/15 Fired District 150 comptroller Pam Schau is suing the district. Schau says the district didn't tell her she wasn't meeting its expectations. She wants her job back, complete with \$125,000 salary and benefits. Schau was fired in executive session last August.

7/13 A new reports says Illinois State Police troopers are targeting minorities. The ACLU report says minorities are more likely to be pulled over. Governor Quinn is calling for an internal investigation.

August 2011

Random Selection

Government

8/29 U.S. Senator Dick Durbin was in Peoria pushing for the Main Street Fairness Act. It's a proposed law that would require online retailers to charge sales tax. Durbin says the law would help cash-strapped Illinois. Durbin says the idea is to level the playing field between brick and mortar and online retailers.

8/17 The mayor of Alpha says it was an honor to have the president visit his town. However, the mayor says he wished Mr. Obama would have answered more questions about the debt ceiling and the nation's deficit. The president visited Alpha as part of his Midwest tour.

8/16 It's day one for Peoria County's new administrator Lori Curtis Luther. She's replacing Patrick Urich who left to become Peoria city administrator. Luther has 15 years of experience. She says she plans to focus on economic development and the county budget.

Environment

8/24 Governor Quinn signs legislation today that was sparked by a high school science class. The prescription drug disposal program will make it easier for local police departments to pay for prescription drug disposal. The program was started by a Pontiac high school teacher after his class studied the impact medications have on our water systems after they're flushed down the toilet.

Economy

8/19 A Mason County project is creating a stink. Officials are draining Lake Chataqua. It's killing hundreds of Asian carp who had invaded the lake. Neighbors aren't happy about the odor. Wildlife officials say the drain is necessary to create a better environment for wildlife.

8/11 A controversy is brewing in Livingston County over a proposed hog confinement. A local farmer wants to build two barns - each housing up to 4,500 hogs. But some neighbors say that will ruin their way of life and environment. Dozens of concerned people went to a public hearing to speak out.

8/30 A new Sonic drive-in is open in Normal. It's the first one in the Twin Cities. The owner says it has always been his dream to open the restaurant, which provides curbside service. Sonic is creating 120 new jobs, and another location is in the works.

8/22 Governor Quinn hopes his new Women's Economic Advisory Council will help revive the economy in Illinois. One Bloomington business owner is excited about it. She lost her job at the height of the recession and started her own business. She says she recently created a job and hopes to hire more people.

8/23 Tens of thousands of Verizon workers are expected to return to work this morning after a two-week strike. The employees agreed to go back to work while they continue negotiating their new contract with company. The workers are employed in Verizon's landline division in nine states from Massachusetts to Virginia

Health:

8/29 People trying to lose their guts might want to consider jogging. A new study compared aerobic exercise with strength training. It found people burned 67% more calories when running or walking compared with lifting weights.

8/29 A new study shows women who smoke when pregnant could hurt their baby's brain. A new study found pregnant women who smoke are more likely to have children who end up needing antidepressants and drugs to treat addictions.

8/29 A new study shows chocolate could be good for your heart. Researchers found people who ate more chocolate were a third less likely to develop heart disease. The study included all types of chocolate. But doctors warn to eat it in moderation because it is high in calories.

Education

8/29 Illinois' capital bill is sending about \$1 million to McLean County Schools. The Unit 5 school district is splitting up the money between five grade schools. District 87 is using the money to fix a road at Washington Elementary. University High school is using some of the money for a new locker room.

8/24 A shaky economy could be contributing to a drop in private school enrollment. Bloomington's Blooming Grove Academy says its numbers have hit record lows. The school averages about 80 students. This year it's down more than half. The academy isn't alone. Epiphany Catholic School says its numbers are down ten percent this year.

8/22 Peoria's District 150 is looking at quite a different financial picture for fiscal year 2012 compared to years past. When you combine the last two fiscal years, the district was twelve million dollars in the red. But this year, a preview of the 20-12 budget shows the district with a deficit just under two million dollars.

Social Justice

8/24 A Springfield judge will decide tomorrow whether to order the governor to pay the regional superintendents around the state who have worked without pay since July. A judge today says he's concerned about the hardships created by the governor when he decided to cancel salaries as a way to save the state money. However, the judge also indicated he is reluctant to interfere with the executive branch.

8/24 The families of a couple killed by an alleged drunk driver filed a civil lawsuit in Peoria circuit court Tuesday. The parents of 40-year-old Michael Korenchuk and 30-year-old Rachel Korenchuk are suing Jeff Kallister for wrongful death and pain and suffering. Police say the Korenchuks were killed when they were hit by Kallister's vehicle when they were coming home from a wedding earlier this month. The two were riding on a motorcycle.

8/24 A class action lawsuit has been filed against the State of Indiana on behalf of everyone who was at the Sugarland concert at the Indiana state fair. Seven people were killed when the stage collapsed in a storm. Attorney Richard Shevitz says someone doesn't need physical injuries to qualify to join the suit. The lawsuit seeks the maximum \$5 million compensation total for all victims.

September 2011

Random Selection

Government

9/23 Today President Obama announces changes to the no child left behind program. And it could help Peoria schools. No child left behind is meant to make all students test at their grade level by 2014. Right now, if a school does not meet standards six years in a row, the government requires the district to restructure the school. There are five Peoria area schools that have already surpassed that mark. The president's changes would allow states to apply for a waiver that would give them more control over how they deal with troubled schools.

9/23 The economy is being brutal to many businesses. But eight local mayors are trying to help. They came together at the National Association of Women Business owners luncheon today at the Peoria Country Club. It's a way for local small and large business owners to hear just what's available in surrounding communities, like financing programs or other partnerships. Peoria mayor Jim Ardis says while governments are having their own troubles, there are other resources to help businesses grow.

9/27 Peoria city manager Patrick Urich announced the city's two largest departments won't be facing layoffs next year. Thanks to federal grants, no police or firefighters will be given pink slips – something that has been happening the past few years. The only catch to the federal assistance, any open positions at the departments must be filled within six months of receiving the grants.

Environment

9/14 Bloomington's Country Financial is composting waste from employee lunches. In a few years, the Mclean County landfill will be at capacity. To make a difference, County is having compostable items picked up once a week. The hope is programs like this one will extend the landfill's life.

9/6 A controversial hog farm won't be coming to Livingston county if any decision makers listen to the Ag and Zoning committee. A farmer wants expand his business, building two new operations near Saunemin, housing up to 4,500 hogs. The committee met tonight. It's recommending the farm not be approved because of concerns with water quality and supply.

9/7 The town of Normal has been nationally recognized by the Huffington Post for it's efforts to "go green." The website applauds mayor Chris Koos for making his community a greener place to live. Koos says the plan started in 2001 when the Uptown Normal Redevelopment project began. The "new" Normal features a fountain that purifies rainwater, buildings constructed with energy efficient materials, and a plan to receive one thousand electric vehicles by 2014. Koos says going green is part of normal's culture.

Economy

9/23 The rattled economy is showing its effect on big yellow. Friday Caterpillar's stock dropped below \$74. That's the lowest it's been in a year. And stocks are currently more than \$40 a share lower than May when it hit its yearly high of nearly one hundred sixteen dollars a share.

9/20 The sluggish economy is forcing many small businesses to tighten their belts, but one says it can't any longer. Peoria's German Foods is closing its doors. It has been open for nearly two decades. The owner says it can no longer compete against big box stores.

9/21 Surrounding businesses are benefiting from the new Bass Pro Shops. It's known as a destination store. Neighboring businesses say traffic is definitely heavier since the mega store opened its doors. Land next to Bass Pro is going for \$10 to \$15 per square foot.

Health:

9/30 There's a new type of flu shot available this year. It's still a shot, but the needle involved is significantly thinner than standard needles. Doctors hope the smaller needle encourages more people to be vaccinated.

9/27 A new survey shows a lot of American doctors believe their own patients are receiving too much care. Nearly half of the physicians polled felt that way and twenty eight percent admitted they practiced more aggressively than they would like. The main reason is concern over lawsuits. Many doctors feel malpractice reform and having more time to spend with patients, could reduce the pressure to do more tests than they feel are needed.

9/30 Doctors at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia have uncovered new genes associated with type one diabetes. Researchers say the discovery could help unlock the origin of the disease and lead to new treatments. Type one diabetes affects 200 million people worldwide

Education

9/30 The Peoria District 150 school board approves its tentative 2012 budget. It has a deficit of just under \$2 million. That's a step in the right direction compared to the last two fiscal years combined, which left District 150 \$12 million in the red. The education fund is getting a large portion of the 2012 spending plan. The budget will be amended later in the year.

9/30 Some people are upset with Bloomington High School. Tomorrow the booster club is selling this statue of an Indian Raider. It was donated by the class of 1989. Right now the statue is located inside the school library. But that area is getting renovated and the principal says there's no more room for the statue. So now it's headed to the auction block. One member of the class of '89 doesn't agree with the plan. Now she's hoping she's the highest bidder.

9/28 The Unit Five School District in McLean County says state funding cuts and flat property values are contributing to a shrinking school budget. The school board met tonight to finalize its yearly expenses. It turns out the district is not in the red despite a twenty percent loss in state revenue. Unit five says it plans to spend its \$137 million on improving student literacy, managing classroom sizes, and teacher training.

Social Justice

9/30 A mother, who accused two District 150 employees of abusing her child, says she plans to sue the district. Hillary Spencer says her nine-year-old son underwent surgery for a sprained right hand. Spencer alleges he sustained the injury at the hands of two adult male behavior attendants at Trewyn Day Treatment center on Monday. District 150 says behavior attendants are trained in physical restraint but they are not teachers. It is investigating the incident. Both parties plan to meet about the child's future at the school. Spencer says she wants her son relocated.

9/30 The city of Pekin is calling an end to a make-shift homeless shelter. Nearly 20 people will be back on the street after the city says it plans to shut down this building in the 600 block of Prince Street. The facility is a former assisted living center. Owner Roger Greer now uses it to provide housing for nearly 20 homeless and disabled people. However the city says the building violates multiple fire protection codes.

9/29 A local family contacted WMBD 31 fed up over their wet apartment. The resident says she's called property management numerous times, but maintenance workers only temporarily patch the leak. She says the water isn't only causing a headache; it's growing mold, mushrooms, and causing a fire hazard. The property management company didn't return our calls.

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 5pm and 6pm 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.

Operation Santa - The goal is to raise funds and items to stuff stockings that will be shipped to all branches of the military in Iraq and Afghanistan. Operation Santa kicked off its efforts in June this year. We began promoting the efforts in newscasts and online.

MDA Labor Day Telethon – WYZZ/WMBD 31 once again partnered with the MDA and broadcasted the annual Jerry Lewis Labor Day telethon. WYZZ/WMBD 31 News anchors and reporters once again took up the challenge of making the phones ring and collecting pledges. Throughout the year the MDA has other various fundraising events and WYZZ/WMBD 31 is always on hand to help out, whether it's providing News anchors to emcee, promoting the event on the air, or providing News coverage to help bring awareness to Central Illinois of the good works the MDA is doing.

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

