



**SATURDAY**  
**September 10**  
**2011**

# The Pantagraph

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Bloomington-Normal

## Jobs plan raises hope, doubts

Local businesses react to Obama's proposal

**By Steve Hoffman and Roger Miller**  
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President Barack Obama wants his \$450 billion jobs plan to spur businesses like Graue to hire more employees, but the Lincoln car

dealership's general manager remained hesitant Friday.

"It would certainly help, but whether it would be enough to add up to new jobs remains to be seen," said Chris Graue of the business, which employs 35.

Looking to jump-start the economy and put people back to work, the president wants to put more money in the pockets of average Americans while offering hiring incentives to employers that have remained cautious about adding to

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their payroll.

Under a plan outlined Thursday, employees who received a Social Security

payroll tax cut this year could see that drop further. The drop could put \$1,500 in the pocket of a worker earning \$50,000 annually. Businesses could also get a payroll tax break under the president's proposal and would be eligible for added incentives if they hire a jobless person, put a veteran to

work or give current employees raises.

At least one smaller company would jump at the chance to convert lower payroll taxes into more employees.

"If the tax rate went down and freed up additional dollars, we would absolutely

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## SCHOOLS SAY CHEESE



The Pantagraph/STEVE SMEDLEY

Bloomington High School sophomore Ethan Cassio smiles as he bites into a cheese curd served by Ropp Jersey Cheese at the school cafeteria on Thursday. Ken Ropp and his mother, Carol, let students sample three types of cheese curds.

Local dairy farm partnering with junior highs to provide snacks

**By Phyllis Coulter**  
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Some like it hot, especially when it comes to cheese. "They (teenagers) want spice, the older they get," said Ken Ropp of Ropp Jersey Cheese. He knows because he served samples of cheese curds to students at

the five public Twin City junior high schools over the past two weeks to see what they like. At all of them, tomato-basil-garlic-flavored cheese was the clear favorite, he said.

"It was a surprise to me that all schools had the same results," Ropp said. "The question will be how spicy?"

Now that the Ropps know what students like, they will start providing about 200 pounds of cheese a week to Bloomington District 87 and McLean County Unit 5 junior high schools next week.

Ropp Jersey Cheese, a dairy farm and cheese processor west of Normal, is teaming up with the food

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## Prison closure hits first obstacle

**By Kurt Erickson**  
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SPRINGFIELD — One of the same factors that helped derail a plan to close Pontiac Correctional Center in 2008 could be in play in Gov. Pat Quinn's decision to close Logan Correctional Center.

In order to move inmates out of the medium-security lockup in Lincoln, prison officials may have to reclassify inmates to higher or lower security designations.

During former Gov. Rod Blagojevich's attempts to close Pontiac, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union argued that reclassifying maximum-security inmates in order to place them at medium-security facilities created a dangerous workplace for prison guards.

"We were saying it was a threat to employees to reclassify inmates to a lower security level," said AFSCME spokesman Anders Lindall.

That argument helped the union put up legal roadblocks to Pontiac's closure, which Quinn called off after he took office in 2009.

Logan is among six prisons classified by the Illinois Department of Corrections as medium security, but two of them are all-female facilities and one is a special facility for inmates undergoing drug rehabilitation. That leaves just two remaining medium-security facilities — Centralia and Graham — to take

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**SEPT. 11: 10 YEARS LATER**

## City dwellers undaunted by new threat

Extra security ahead of anniversary doesn't faze New York, Washington

**By Eileen Sullivan and Lolita C. Baldor**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Undaunted by talk of a new terror threat, New Yorkers and Washingtonians wove among police armed with assault rifles and waited with varying degrees of patience at security checkpoints Friday while intelligence officials scrambled to nail down information on a possible al-Qaida strike timed to coincide with the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

Counterterrorism officials have

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► **Threat stirs memories for pilot**

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► **America still building tall**

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► **N.Y. company continues to rebuild**

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been working around the clock to determine whether the threat is accurate, and extra security was put in place to protect the people in the two

cities that took the brunt of the jetliner attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon a decade ago. It was the worst terror assault in the nation's history, and al-Qaida has long dreamed of striking again to mark the anniversary. But it could be weeks before the intelligence community can say whether this particular threat is real.

Security worker Eric Martinez wore a pin depicting the twin towers on his lapel as he headed to work in lower Manhattan on Friday where he

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### To our readers

The Pantagraph will publish a special section with Sunday's edition to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of 9/11.

The section includes numerous stories, photographs and graphics that reflect how that day changed the lives of people who live in Central Illinois. It also will contain a series of observations from people from all walks of life about where they were that day and the impact it had on them — then and now. On the back page is a salute to all Illinois service members who have lost their lives fighting in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that resulted from what happened on Sept. 11, 2001. Visit Pantagraph.com/911 starting at 7:40 a.m. Sunday for live video of 9/11 ceremonies in New York and elsewhere, and for regular updates throughout the day of related events taking place in the Twin City area.



### INSIDE

#### In the spotlight

A film crew will be in Normal next week to shoot footage that could be used in a Mitsubishi commercial.

**Local, A3**

#### Mass grave

Libyan residents have uncovered the remains of 35 detainees.

**Nation/World, A7**



#### Shrinky Dinks

Shrinky Dinks have found new life in crafting circles.

**Life, D1**

#### Football frenzy

The end of the NFL lockout not only saved this year's football season — it also saved the yearly boost to the economy the games bring.

**Money, D6**

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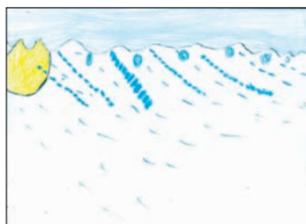
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### Showers possible

Hi **74** Low **58**



Today's weather symbol was drawn by Myeshia Perry, Sugar Creek Elementary School, Normal.

### Friday lottery

**Pick 3** 2-6-1 5-9-2 **Pick 4** 6-7-6-0 7-8-7-4 **Little Lotto** 15-18-21-22-26 **Mega Millions** 7-12-19-23-31 (45) **JACKPOTS** **Lotto** \$2 million **Mega Millions** \$44 million