

KRCG QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT

4th Quarter 2008

October 1st through December 31st

Top Issues Covered

1. Election 2008
2. Economy
3. Consumer Education
4. Analog to DTV Transition

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October 1 – October 31

10.1.08 10pm The U.S. Senate passed a \$700 billion bailout for the financial industry aimed at preventing the economy from plunging into a recession. KRCG talked with local banking executives who told our viewers that mid-Missouri has pretty much been sheltered from the current credit crisis. The bailout bill also increased the FDIC protection limit from \$100,000 to \$250,000. KRCG explained to viewers how to make sure all their money is insured by the FDIC.

10.2.08 6pm The Pulaski County Sheriff J.B. King told KRCG's Mallory McGowin that he has run out of money to run the county jail. Commissioners there have no prospects for a tax increase, and face the need to borrow money to make ends meet. The sheriff said things would be better if the state reimbursed him the full amount for state prisoners that are being housed at the Pulaski County Jail. Missouri statute chapter 221, section 105 says the state can reimburse a county up to \$37.50 per inmate per day. KRCG checked and discovered the state is only paying around \$20 per day per prisoner. State officials say the General Assembly has not appropriated the higher amount.

10.5.08 10pm A Jefferson City woman and her children were evicted this Sunday from their apartment. Police assisted the landlord in the eviction by removing the woman and her possessions from the apartment. KRCG looked into eviction law and questioned the involvement of the Jefferson City Police. We asked for proof of a court order for the eviction. Turns-out no court order existed. Jefferson City Police admitted it was a mistake and apologized to the woman and offered to help her move back in. The police department says the whole situation was a mix up and that there was miscommunication from the landlord and city inspectors.

10.8.08 10pm Today was the last day to register to vote in the November election. And much like eight years ago, allegations of voter registration fraud have begun to surface. Kansas City elections officials have received hundreds of questionable and even fraudulent voter registration cards. They're coming mostly from groups paying workers to register new voters. KRCG talked with the Secretary of State's office who says they are working to clean up voter rolls.

10.11.08 6pm KRCG continues to follow the change in ambulance service in Cole County. The previous provider, Capital Region Medical Center, informed the county it wants to end its service by the end of the year. Jefferson City officials hope to start a municipal ambulance program. KRCG reported that the city won't be able to acquire the needed ambulances by the end of the year. The city administrator tells KRCG the money is in next year's budget.

10.12.08 10 pm While the talk in Washington focuses on a new stimulus package. Time is running out for people to take advantage of the original stimulus bill. Those who didn't file a tax return in April have until Wednesday, October 15th to do so in order to receive up to \$600 per adult and \$300 per child. KRCG checked with the IRS and discovered that over 80,000 Missourians who didn't file are still eligible. KRCG also reported that there is no penalty for those who are only filing in order to get the stimulus check.

10.21.08 10pm KRCG reported on a disturbing and cruel scam that preys on the kindness of Missouri grandparents. Law enforcement authorities call it "the grandparent scam" because someone who claims to be an elderly person's grandchild calls and asks for money. The scammer usually tells the person on the other end of the line that they are in trouble and need money fast. The Attorney General's office says trust is a big part of this scam, which is why the grandparents don't usually call to verify before sending the money. KRCG shared the story of a Miller County resident who wired \$6,000 to someone in Canada he thought was his grandson. We shared tips on how people can avoid being scammed.

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November 1 – November 30

11.3.08 12pm Nearly 20,000 mid-Missourians waited in line for hours to hear Republican Vice Presidential Candidate Sarah Palin speak this afternoon at the capitol. Today's speech was a last minute opportunity to address voters in Missouri. A number of Missouri republicans addressed the crowd prior to her remarks. That list included: Governor Matt Blunt, Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder, Gubernatorial Candidate Kenny Hulshof, and Blaine Luetkemeyer. KRCG was live at noon for a portion of Palin's speech, and the entire speech was carried live and available for rebroadcast on our website. KRCG also got reaction from the democrats, including Missouri Senator Claire McCaskill who questioned the size of the crowd.

11.4.08 10pm General Election Day. KRCG was live at various locations throughout mid-Missouri. Our coverage was ongoing throughout the evening with 7 live updates during primetime. KRCG's reporters interviewed the candidates and reported from the various watch parties. As the results came into our newsroom we shared with our viewers insight and commentary from conservative commentator Fred Parry and MU Political Science Professor Marvin Overby.

11.11.08 6pm As part of our weeklong special focus on the mid-Missouri job market, KRCG's Mallory McGowin covered a special job fair for hundreds of mid-Missouri veterans. 30 employers were at the job fair, which also provided a special workshop for military spouses. McGowin talked about the challenges and opportunities our veterans face as they try to reenter the job market. KRCG also explained the Military Spouse Corporate Career Network, which does not charge military spouses for their services which include job placement opportunities as well as coaching on interview skills and resume building.

11.15.08 10pm KRCG discovered that one business is booming in the troubled economy, online stores selling fake diplomas. They're called "diploma mills" and they are causing major concerns in the education and corporate worlds. KRCG's Matt Grant showed viewers how some mid-Missouri educators are trying to stop these knock offs. Grant discovered that a government accounting office survey four years ago found that 463 federal employees had purchased diplomas, some at government expense, from diploma mills. We showed people to how to contact the Missouri Department of Higher Education to make sure that an on-line school is properly accredited.

11.17.08 10pm KRCG continues to report on the local and state economy. University of Missouri System President Gary Forsee said two weeks ago that a hiring freeze would not be necessary. Today he changed his mind and announced a system-wide hiring freeze. KRCG reported the details of the change, including the fact that the freeze goes into effect immediately and applies to all administrative, staff and faculty positions. We talked with Forsee who said the freeze is the result of economic struggles seen across the country. KRCG wanted to know why the hiring freeze was needed after the Columbia Campus just announced that they had raised one billion dollars through the "For All We Call Mizzou" fundraising campaign. The university said most of those dollars are already spoken for.

11.18.08 10pm As part of KRCG's coverage of the local economy, reporter Matt Grant followed the 11-day strike of workers at Centralia's Hubbell Power System's plant. Union workers walked out in protest over a contract proposal that would have eliminated health insurance benefits for retirees. After 16 straight hours of negotiations the strike ended today. Under the new 3-year contract employees can't strike for three years. Health benefits for retired workers won't be eliminated right away but in one year giving older workers time to decide if they want to retire before the benefits go away. Also, each employee will get an \$800 bonus for signing the new contract. We checked with company officials who said the 11-day strike cost them millions of dollars in lost revenue.

KRCG QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT

4th Quarter, 2008

December 1 – November 31

12.2.08 6pm KRCG covered the retrial of former Columbia Police Officer Steven Rios who's accused of murder. Prosecutors say Rios killed University of Missouri-Columbia student Jesse Valencia four years ago to keep him from exposing their gay love affair. Three years ago, a jury convicted Rios of first-degree murder, but the state court of appeals overturned that conviction because of hearsay testimony used during the first trial. KRCG's Mark Slavit attended court each day of the retrial and brought viewers updates throughout the day both online and on our newscast.

12.3.08 10 pm A couple of viewers contacted KRCG to investigate a postcard they got in the mail. The postcard looks like an advisory from the postal service saying that there is a package waiting for them. The card instructs the person to call an 800 number and pay \$6.95 for a "storage release fee." We contacted the company to find out more, but no one would give us a definite answer. The operator told us he was based in Missouri, but the Better Business Bureau says the company is located in southern Florida. The company also said the fee could only be paid by debit or credit card. Missouri's Attorney General's office said it sounds like an identity theft scam but that the office has not received any complaints about the company.

12.10.08 6pm KRCG news learned that the largest employer in the city of Eldon will be closing. The closing of the FASCO plant leaves over 400 people without a job. And in a city of just over 4,900 residents it's a major blow to the city. KRCG talked with the company to get the details on when the factory will be closing its doors for good and what type of severance the employees will receive. KRCG also talked with Eldon city leaders to get reaction and to see what they will be doing to help FASCO employees find new employment.

12.22.08 10pm While people are out shopping for the holidays, KRCG reminded viewers what to look out for when buying TV's as the switch to digital approaches. KRCG went to a local electronics store to demonstrate how to use the government-issued coupons for digital-to-analog converter boxes. Many don't realize that the coupons have expiration dates and expire 90 days after you get them. We checked with the Federal Government and discovered that people cannot have new cards reissued to them once theirs expire. Nationwide more than 12 million government coupons have already expired.

12.26.08 10pm The city of Hallsville has a population a little over five thousand. There's a restaurant, two banks, and three gas stations, but no place to go if you're sick. Now the community is pulling together to re-open a health clinic. The group plans to have the clinic open from 9am until 6 pm taking appointments in the morning and walk-ins after 3 pm. It will be staffed with a nurse practitioner three days a week and a doctor on two. KRCG shared this story of a community taking matters into their own hands. We shared with viewers how they could donate money to help with the clinic.

12.31.08 6pm A Callaway County man was shot by a reserve Cole County Sheriff's Deputy during a domestic dispute. KRCG followed the story and let viewers know both sides of the story. We informed viewers about the law and talked with the prosecuting attorney about the case. In the end, in no criminal charges were filed against the deputy.