

WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

January, February, March 2014

Key: The following issues were addressed during WGLT Newscasts at 6:33 and 8:33 AM (during *MORNING EDITION*) AND 4:30 PM (during *ALL THINGS CONSIDERED*.)

Date Length Summary

ARTS & CULTURE

1/6 1:00 A museum in Peoria plans to let residents chronicle their experiences during the deadly tornadoes last November. The Peoria Riverfront Museum will let those who experienced the tornado offer oral histories on Jan. 27th.

1/15 12:00 More than 11-thousand people submitted applications for concealed carry permits on the FIRST day possible in Illinois. To be eligible to put in the application those people must complete a 16 hour class. Instructors have been teaching those courses for months now. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker went to a class in McLean County to find out what they have been learning...

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1/22 6:00 During this week of Martin Luther King holiday events we welcome to the show a noted civil rights activist who will be speaking at ISU Friday night. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with Lani Guinier, a law professor, activist, and author of six books.

1/23 1:00 Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel says he wants the city to submit a unified bid for President Barack Obama's presidential library. Emanuel, who is Obama's former chief of staff, says he hopes there's a single proposal from the city. The University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago State University, and the University of Chicago have all expressed interest in being home to the library.

1/29 12:00 Hope is sometimes hard to find or hold onto when a person is dealing with cancer. The Community Cancer Center in Bloomington is formally unveiling a wall of hope consisting of paintings created by those going through treatment. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with the Chaplain of the center.

2/4 12:00 To some extent, we can have control over the manner in which we face our own death. Compassion and Choices is a national organization that helps people make end of life decisions, so they can die with dignity. Jana Edge is a nurse and the local representative of Compassion and Choices. She says people have a hard time facing the fact of their own death, but that it's never too soon to begin planning for the end.

2/4 22:00 Americans take longer to live and longer to die than in past generations. This is creating a new social landscape. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with the author of a new book about this terrain...

2/5 13:00 From "He said-She said" to identifying a national culture of argument and confrontation, Linguist Deborah Tannen has been in the forefront of analyzing communication in America for several decades now. Tannen speaks with GLT's Charlie Schlenker in advance of her appearance tonight at Illinois State University.//

2/7 11:00 It's not easy doing local opera in this day and age. But, a new group in the Peoria area is mounting its third production in an effort to keep the art form alive in central Illinois. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more about the group and the performance on Sunday....

2/14 2:00 A new movie on the efforts to preserve artwork stolen during World War 2 is helping to highlight the work of a former University of Illinois art history professor. The papers of Edwin Carter Rae, including his diary and photo album, are now in the care of the university

archives. He was one of the 'Monuments Men,' more than 300 men and women who devoted their time in the mid-40's rescuing artifacts stolen by the Nazis.

2/21 9:00 From French impressionism to a neoclassical version of Shakespeare to an aggressively modern percussion piece, the Illinois Symphony Orchestra shimmers this evening in Bloomington. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has a concert preview.

2/21 6:00 CNN anchor Don Lemon is appearing at Illinois State University next week. Lemon anchors the weekend edition of CNN Newsroom. As well known as he is for reporting the news, Lemon is also gaining a reputation for commenting on the news, as well, utilizing Twitter to remark on current events. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more...

2/20 1:00 Bradley University says it will unveil its new gargoyle mascot Saturday during the men's basketball game against Loyola-Chicago in Peoria. Bradley Athletics Director Michael Cross says the unveiling before the game will involve pyrotechnics, smoke, lights and loud sounds.

3/3 1:00 The McLean County Clerk says same sex couples can start booking marriage license appointments now. Kathy Michael says the rationale of a Cook County case applies to the rest of Illinois as well...

3/6 14:00 The Multi-Cultural leadership program in McLean County is a training program. It's a networking program. It's a service program. And it's an economic development healthcare child service you name it program. The annual effort to build tomorrow's leaders is set to report on this year's projects and WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on one of them....

3/10 12:00 Any large trauma to a society grinds deeply into the culture. It can be war. It can be poverty and starvation. It can be disease. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with an Illinois State University Professor whose new book examines the 1918 flu and its impact on the culture of Spain.

3/10 1:00 Historians believe they've unraveled the mystery of a cryptic note Abraham Lincoln penned that doesn't identify the recipient by name and has a section clipped out.

3/13 1:00 For the fourth year in a row a rare goat has given birth at Miller Park Zoo. One of the zoo's six San Clemente Island Goats has produced a pair of kids, both female. "Dorothy," and "Jenny" are now in the Children's Zoo Area.

3/21 1:00 The village of Stanford is honoring a U.S. Marine killed during a fighter jet crash. Thirty-two-year-old Capt. Reid Nannen of Hopedale died March 1 when his jet crashed during a training exercise in Nevada, where he was a student at the U.S. Navy's "Top Gun" school.

3/27 1:00 If you ever stole anything from Chicago's Drake Hotel, you can give it back with no questions asked. Officials at the Drake say countless items have been stolen since the hotel opened in 1920, and not just towels.

BUSINESS, ECONOMY & LABOR

1/1 1:00 71,000 people in nine central Illinois Counties were without health insurance earlier this year according to recently released census data.

1/2 16:00 2013 was a good year for housing sales in Illinois, with nearly 20% more dwellings changing hands last year compared to 2012. Low prices, and historic low interest rates are two main reasons. However, mortgage interest rates are slowly edging up. They went up half a percentage point during the third quarter of the year, and again this week.

1/2 15:00 Another group of retired Illinois workers has filed a lawsuit challenging a new plan to eliminate the state's \$100 billion public pension shortfall. The Illinois State Employees Association Retirees sued this afternoon in Sangamon County Circuit Court.

1/7 1:00 Passengers have arrived in Chicago after hundreds of travelers spent the night onboard three snowbound Amtrak trains stuck on the tracks in Illinois. Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari says

about 500 passengers were stranded overnight near Mendota and Galesburg after their trains got stuck in blowing and drifting snow and ice.

1/7 16:00 Firearms dealers are welcoming a judge's ruling calling Chicago's ban on gun sales unconstitutional. Barry Soskin owns a suburban gun shop named Article II Range. He calls the potential for Chicago sales "a business opportunity in a great city."

1/9 16:00 An Illinois State Senator says she's going to try yet again to pass a bill that would raise the minimum wage in Illinois. That comes as the topic has been at the center of a heated debate among the candidates running for governor. IPR's Tony Arnold reports.

1/9 16:00 The Federal Emergency Management Agency has denied a request for aid to local governments in Illinois after deadly tornadoes swept the state in November. FEMA sent a letter today to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency saying that damage after the storms wasn't severe enough to warrant federal help. The storms left at least 7 people dead statewide and destroyed hundreds of homes and businesses.

1/15 12:00 More than 11-thousand people submitted applications for concealed carry permits on the FIRST day possible in Illinois. To be eligible to put in the application those people must complete a 16 hour class. Instructors have been teaching those courses for months now. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker went to a class in McLean County to find out what they have been learning...

1/15 2:00 State Farm Insurance is getting out of Canada. The Bloomington-based insurance giant is selling its Canadian unit to Desjardins (deh-jzhar-deen) Group, Canada's largest credit union.

1/16 1:00 Peoria is launching a pilot program to stop youth from joining gangs. The state-funded "Don't Start" program includes two schools in Peoria District 150 and runs through the summer: The anti-violence project pays for weekly gang-prevention talks, home visits for at-risk students, and G-E-D classes for parents. Renee Andrews is principal at gang-plagued Trewyn School.

1/20 1:00 New federal rules aimed at offering students healthier food options could mean Illinois schools won't be able to sell some types of the state's official snack food.

1/21 1:00 State funding for colleges and universities appears to be rebounding across the nation. Illinois State University Professor Jim Palmer says his annual survey shows legislatures nationwide spent nearly 6% more on higher education last year. Palmer says these funding swings tend to track recessions and the economy fairly closely...

1/23 1:00 The lawmaker seeking approval for expanded gambling in Illinois will conduct several hearings to get public input. Representative Bob Rita is a Blue Island Democrat who took over the expansion plan last spring after Gov. Pat Quinn vetoed past attempts for lacking ethical and legal safeguards.

1/24 1:00 The city of Clinton is looking into lifting its long-time ban on Sunday liquor sales at certain establishments.

1/28 1:00 Farm-state lawmakers are pushing for final House passage of the massive, five-year farm bill, member by member, vote by vote.

2/3 1:00 Home sales figures in the US show a considerable amount of purchases in December were for cash. This suggests holding companies and non-traditional buyers are jumping in, gobbling up lower priced homes, many off the foreclosure market.

2/5 13:00 From "He said-She said" to identifying a national culture oof argument and confrontation, Linguist Deborah Tannen has been in the forefront of analyzing communication in America for several decades now. Tannen speaks with GLT's Charlie Schlenker in advance of her appearance tonight at Illinois State University.//

2/5 6:00 From "He said-She said" to identifying a national culture oof argument and confrontation, Linguist Deborah Tannen has been in the forefront of analyzing communication in America for several decades now. Tannen speaks with GLT's Charlie Schlenker in advance of her appearance tonight at Illinois State University.

2/10 1:00 An error at northern Illinois gas station caused pumps to sell fuel for a penny a gallon. A Shell station in Woodstock wound up mistakenly selling the nearly-free fuel for about two hours Sunday night.

2/12 1:00 As veterans return to civilian life in Illinois, the state offers loans to some having trouble affording a home. Governor Quinn is touting that program in Springfield. Navy veteran Jonas Harger welcomed Quinn into his home.

2/14 1:00

A top administrator at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has resigned because the agency

says he violated rules by participating in professional fishing tournaments while on sick leave last summer.

2/21 1:00 Gov. Pat Quinn is applauding Gap's decision to raise the minimum wage for its U.S. workers. In a statement, the Chicago Democrat says Gap's decision shows the retailer understands increases wages ``makes good business sense."

2/21 1:00 It will take six million dollars to tear down old residence halls at Illinois State University. The Board of Trustees has approved spending that much on the decommissioning and demolition of the South Campus Residence Hall Complex.

2/25 7:00 It will take six million dollars to tear down old residence halls at Illinois State University. The Board of Trustees has approved spending that much on the decommissioning and demolition of the South Campus Residence Hall Complex.

2/28 2:00 Filling the hole in Uptown Normal will cost taxpayers an extra \$550,000 above the original development agreement approved in December of 2012. A revised agreement is due to go to the Town Council on Monday with \$7.85 million in public support.

3/3 2:00 In addition to last week's overall record financial results for State Farm Insurance, the Bloomington-based company is reporting strong numbers in lesser lines of business. Spokesman Dick Luedke says State Farm Bank also did well in 2013...

3/4 3:00 A report from the Civic Federation says Illinois is losing about \$2 billion by not taxing retirement income, like the federal government does. The Federation's President, Lawrence Msall, says that's money Illinois needs, as its fiscal crisis continues to loom.

3/5 2:00 Washington Mayor Gary Manier says \$45 million in state funding announced by Governor Pat Quinn will allow the community to pay the tornado recovery bills they have been covering out of the city's reserve funds.

3/6 1:00 The Illinois Department of Transportation is asking lawmakers for another \$47 million to cover the costs of the especially harsh winter. Tony Small is the agency's director of finance and administration.

3/6 1:00 The Unit Five School Board is promising to cut property taxes by \$3 million a year if the sales tax referendum passes on March 18th. The reduction would last at least five years. The owner of a \$200,000 home would save about \$90 a year or \$450 for the period.

3/10 2:00 A deadly virus that's plagued US hog farms for almost a year has triggered record-high prices for pork heading to market this spring and summer.

3/12 24:00 Here are the Pros and Cons of the sales tax referendum proposed for Mclean County. We start with a supporter of the measure, a local businessman who is part of the "Say Yes To Schools" campaign. GLT's Charlie Schlenker has this interview and the one following with an opponent of the measure that could result in 18 million new dollars a year for school facilities...

3/17 13:00 Last October GLT reported during Sound Ideas that the poverty rate for Mclean County rose six tenths of a point from 2011 to 2012 to 15.7%. The Social Impact Research Center at Heartland Alliance has now unpacked more of the census data used to generate its report on poverty in Illinois. GLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with the Center's Jennifer Clary, an author of the report.

3/18 12:00 A new report out highlights racial inequality of opportunity in Illinois. The Social Impact Research Center at Heartland Alliance and the Illinois Asset Building Group finds a stark difference in credit scores and related economic opportunity in predominantly white versus predominantly minority communities in Illinois. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more...

3/18 5:00 The new SCOPE, or Statistical Composite Of Peoria Economy, report shows job growth in the Greater Peoria Metropolitan Area. WGLT's Jim Browne talks with the man behind that report about what the future holds for the region:

3/19 1:00 Even though the Bloomington ward restructuring referendum failed, a supporter says he is happy there was at least a vote on the question. And Alderman Rob Fazzini says perhaps another point has been made...

3/21 3:00 The Bolingbrook Police Pension Board will hold a hearing on whether convicted killer Drew Peterson's pension payments should end. The board made the decision during a Thursday meeting in which no evidence was presented on why Peterson's \$79,000 annual pension should be revoked.

3/24 1:00 Gov. Pat Quinn has picked up a major labor endorsement for his re-election during a campaign that's already focused on union influence.

3/26 2:00 Illinois Governor Pat Quinn wants to balance next year's state budget by keeping income tax rates where they are - instead of letting them go down in 20-15.

3/27 1:00 A tax on millionaires is advancing through the General Assembly at the expense of a progressive income tax. IPR's Hannah Meisel has more.

CHILDREN & FAMILY/EDUCATION

1/8 1:00 The Archdiocese of Chicago plans to release files detailing the sexual abuse of children by Catholic priests as part of a court settlement.

1/13 1:00 More Illinois children are dying from abuse or neglect. And today, Illinois state senators once again asked the state's child welfare agency what's being done about it. IPR's Tony Arnold reports.

1/14 1:00 The Illinois Lottery will begin broadcasting Amber Alerts through its retailers. The agency will use advertising monitors in more than 8,200 retailers to notify customers about abducted children.

1/15 1:00 The Archdiocese of Chicago is apologizing to the victims of sexual abuse by priests. Bishop Francis Kane offered the apology during a news conference Wednesday to discuss church files on sex abuse cases that are being released.

1/20 1:00 A new report from the watchdog of Illinois' child welfare system is making public how many children have died from abuse or neglect. WBEZ and the Chicago Sun-Times partnered to analyze how the children died. IPR's Tony Arnold explains what they found....

1/23 1:00 An Illinois lawmaker has introduced legislation that'd make it illegal to smoke in a car while a child is present. Chicago Democratic Sen. Ira Silverstein is sponsoring the measure.

2/5 1:00 An advocacy group says an Illinois youth center may be violating the constitutional rights of juveniles. The John Howard Association, a nonpartisan correctional-system watchdog says the Illinois Youth Center in Saint Charles is understaffed.

2/14 1:00 A McLean County Judge has invalidated an arbitrator's ruling that a Bloomington police officer should be reinstated after being fired for an incident involving a student at a grade school.

2/19 2:00 A proposal advancing in the Illinois General Assembly would make police notify parents before questioning kids at school. Backers say parents should be kept informed. Greg Sullivan, with the Illinois Sheriffs' Association, says this could make it hard for school police officers to do even the most basic elements of their jobs.

2/19 1:00 Illinois lawmakers are forming a task force to study what they say is an "epidemic" heroin problem. DuPage County -- among the wealthiest in Illinois -- last year had a record 46 deaths related to the drug.

2/27 16:00 The death of a 10-year-old suburban Chicago boy in a tubing accident has spurred legislation in Springfield. Republican state Rep. JoAnn Osmond of Antioch has proposed the plan.

2/28 13:00 Jesus People USA is a religious community in Chicago where families live together and offer services to the poor and marginalized. But a host of former Jesus People residents who lived there as children are now coming forward with stories that allege this community has a dark and previously hidden past.

3/3 1:00 County clerks in western Illinois say they'll wait until June 1 to start issuing same-sex marriage licenses, even though two other Illinois counties have started issuing them.

3/4 8:00 Think back to the last time you were 'the new kid.' Maybe it was freshman year of college, or when you started a new job or even joined a book club.

3/4 16:00 Children in the central Illinois community of Washington heard tornado sirens today for the first time since twisters crossed the state in November, killing seven people and destroying hundreds of homes.

3/17 1:00 The Archdiocese of Chicago says it plans to release more internal documents by the end of the year detailing the church's handling of child sexual abuse cases involving dozens

of priests.

3/24 2:00 About 125,000 Illinois public school students will be taking practice exams beginning this week to prepare for the new set of learning standards the state is set to adopt next year.

3/25 1:00 A study says requiring juveniles to register as sex offenders impairs rehabilitation efforts for a crime that very few of them ever commit again.

3/25 1:00 Legislation that would allow minors and those with epilepsy to use medical cannabis in Illinois is one step closer to law.

ENVIRONMENT

1/1 2:00 Governor Pat Quinn signed legislation yesterday that clears the way for nearly six million dollars in state funding to cover the state's shared obligations with FEMA for the Flooding last spring.

1/2 16:00 A National Weather Service meteorologist based in central Illinois says the region should get ready for "some of the coldest air" it's seen in a long time.

1/3 1:00 It's the final day to submit public comment on proposed rules for high-volume oil and gas drilling in Illinois. Environmentalists say thousands of comments have been submitted about the process known as hydraulic fracturing.

1/6 1:00 A man injured in the November 17th tornado that tore through the community of Washington has died. Tazewell County Coroner James Jeff Baldi says 84-year-old Charles Koonce died late last week in East Peoria.

1/6 1:00 Parking bans continue in both Bloomington and Normal as workers attempt to clear the last few streets of snow. Normal Public Works Director Wayne Aldrich says his crew makes a strong effort to clear the snow off all streets within the first few hours after it stops.

1/7 1:00 Passengers have arrived in Chicago after hundreds of travelers spent the night onboard three snowbound Amtrak trains stuck on the tracks in Illinois.

1/10 1:00 Forecasters say rain and melting snow could cause flooding and ice jams beginning this weekend. The National Weather Service says rivers and streams are expected to rise in the region after as much as three-quarters of an inch of rain falls.

1/13 1:00 The Washington Illinois library is trying to piece together its collection of books, DVDs and other material that were damaged or destroyed during November's tornadoes.

1/16 1:00 Members of Illinois' congressional delegation wants the Army Corps of Engineers to use some of the funding included in a spending bill to fix portions of a Mississippi River levee.

1/22 1:00 Cold winter weather along with a wet fall is putting a pinch on propane distribution in Illinois. Propane distributors have traveled as far as Mississippi and Kansas to keep up with demand.

1/24 1:00 The Illinois Supreme Court says a southern Illinois school district can't sue an architectural firm for building a school over an underground coal mine that later collapsed, forcing the school to be torn down.

1/27 1:00 People aren't the only ones who stay home when the weather gets brutally cold _ raccoons, squirrels and other wildlife are staying put as well. Brandon Kulosa is one of the founders of Animal Trackers Wildlife Company in suburban Chicago.

2/5 2:00 Bloomington and Normal and McLean County Emergency Management Agency leaders say bad weather sirens will be going off more often than they used to.

2/10 1:00 Illinois American Water says water service has been restored to most of the roughly 10,000 homes and businesses in Peoria that lost service when a water main broke.

2/12 1:00 This winter's bitter cold temperatures in the Midwest have covered a stunning 79 percent of the Great Lakes in ice. That's not a record, but it's well above the long-term average of about 51 percent. Lake Michigan is about 63 percent frozen.

2/17 1:00 Winter isn't done yet with Illinois. The National Weather Service says parts of the state could get blanketed with up to half a foot of new snow Monday.

2/19 2:00 Tim Norman, the head of the S-T-L business group says the proposal is pro-business. Norman says he recruits I-T workers and most of them ask about school quality before agreeing to live in the Bloomington Normal area.

2/25 1:00 Illinois regulators have given the FutureGen Alliance the go-ahead for a 30-mile carbon dioxide pipeline. The pipeline would be buried at least four feet underground in northeast Morgan County.

2/27 1:00 The Illinois Pollution Control Board is holding public hearings on a proposal to tighten rules for dozens of coal-ash ponds.

3/4 1:00 Some Illinois communities recovering from last November's devastating tornadoes say FEMA failed them in helping pay for cleanup efforts.

3/7 1:00 Illinois leads the nation when it comes to switching to renewable energy. That's according to a new report by national and state environmental groups, including the World Wildlife Fund and the Chicago-based Environmental Law & Policy Center.

3/10 1:00 Illinois officials have put a hold on plans to require permits for most all-terrain vehicles. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources won't require off-highway vehicle owners to buy the permits until further notice.

3/13 1:00 For the fourth year in a row a rare goat has given birth at Miller Park Zoo. One of the zoo's six San Clemente Island Goats has produced a pair of kids, both female. "Dorothy," and "Jenny" are now in the Children's Zoo Area.

3/19 1:00 A 600-mile pipeline extending from Illinois to Oklahoma could be ready by this summer. The pipeline belonging to Enbridge Inc. of Calgary, Alberta will carry tar sands from Flanagan, Ill. near Pontiac to Enbridge's terminal in Cushing, Okla. It also travels through Missouri and Kansas.

3/21 1:00 A new survey by an Illinois-based nonprofit group finds Illinois has more than 96,000 people working in clean-energy jobs, and the number should top 100,000 this year.

3/28 1:00 Students at Western Illinois University have been helping with tornado recovery in the central Illinois city of Washington. WIU emergency management students are working on an economic-recovery data-gathering project.

HEALTH & MEDICINE

1/2 1:00 The new year is bringing relief to some Illinoisans newly insured under the nation's health care law. Others still aren't sure whether they're covered.

1/6 1:00 A man injured in the November 17th tornado that tore through the community of Washington has died. Tazewell County Coroner James Jeff Baldi says 84-year-old Charles Koonce died late last week in East Peoria.

1/9 1:00 Flu activity in Illinois is considered widespread. That means it's appeared in more than half of the state. So far, the Illinois Public Health Department says there have been more than one hundred twenty intensive care hospitalizations and six flu-related deaths this season.

1/13 2:00 Consumers who missed the first big deadline to get insurance through the Affordable Care Act have another chance to get coverage soon. Anyone signed up by tomorrow, that's January 15th, will be covered starting the first of next month.

1/13 1:00 Illinois is creating a statewide system to regulate access to firearms by people who have mental health problems.

1/17 1:00 A second McLean County resident has died of Influenza. The McLean County Health Department says earlier this month a man in his mid 30s passed away in intensive care at an area hospital.

1/21 1:00 Benefits experts say the Affordable Care Act is already starting to affect workers who already have insurance through their jobs as well as those who were uninsured before the law took effect.

1/23 1:00 An Illinois lawmaker has introduced legislation that'd make it illegal to smoke in a car while a child is present. Chicago Democratic Sen. Ira Silverstein is sponsoring the measure.

1/28 1:00 Cancer Treatment Centers of America says it plans to move its corporate headquarters from suburban Chicago to Florida.

1/31 1:00 Officials in central Illinois have euthanized three dogs involved in a 4-year-old girl's death. The girl, Kara Hartrich of Bloomington, died Jan. 17 at a Normal hospital shortly after the pit bull attack.

2/5 1:00 Guns and marijuana don't mix, according to federal authorities, even if the gun is

a legally held firearm and the drug is recommended by a doctor.

2/7 1:00 Republicans are calling for a review of the state's management of Affordable Care Act navigators. State Representative Darlene Senger wants the state's insurance department to audit the navigator program.

2/11 1:00 U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin is among eight senators urging more drugstore chains to follow the example of CVS Caremark by ending the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products.

2/13 1:00 Two lawmakers from Illinois are among 18 members of Congress who've sent a bipartisan letter to President Barack Obama supporting the removal of marijuana from Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act.

2/18 1:00 An Illinois lawmaker wants to make it illegal for motorists to smoke in cars with children. State Sen. Ira Silverstein says second-hand smoke in confined areas is dangerous for children.

2/20 1:00 The University of Illinois recently sent parents a letter asking them to help efforts to control the annual Unofficial St. Patrick's Day celebration. But one parent who is particularly close to the issue of young people drinking wants the university to do more.

2/25 1:00 Government security experts working on the rollout of President Barack Obama's health care law are worried that state computer systems--including the one in Illinois--could become a back door for hackers.

2/27 1:00 Legislation proposed by a state senator would require anyone with a cold to get a doctor's prescription to buy certain medicine.

3/6 14:00 The Multi-Cultural leadership program in McLean County is a training program. It's a networking program. It's a service program. And it's an economic development healthcare child service you name it program. The annual effort to build tomorrow's leaders is set to report on this year's projects and WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on one of them....

3/7 2:00 The Illinois heart and Lung Foundation is putting 43 Automatic heart shockers in Bloomington Normal Police squad cars. the \$70,000 donation will put the Automatic External Defibrillators where they can be used quickly according to Cardiologist Jim McCriskin...

3/10 1:00 Nurses at a psychiatric hospital in suburban Chicago are on strike to call attention to what they say are delaying tactics from management during contract negotiations.

3/24 1:00 The Community Cancer Center in Bloomington-Normal has unveiled a new \$4 million radiation device that doctors say will improve patient treatment by increasing precision and speed and reducing radiation doses. The Center Medical Director is Doctor Shermian (SHER-me-uhn) Woodhouse. She says it is unusual to find a TruBeam STX System outside of a major teaching hospital.

3/25 1:00 With one week left to sign up for the Affordable Care Act, Illinois' enrollment numbers are on track to meet their goals.

3/26 1:00 A bill banning so-called conversion therapy aimed at changing the sexual orientation of gay young people is advancing in the Illinois Legislature.

3/31 1:00 Illinois officials have announced new rules about release, transportation and harvest of feral swine. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources says the new rules will deter people from bringing feral swine into Illinois to promote hunting them.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS

1/1 1:00 A state law taking effect today limits the use of free on-street parking by the disabled. Now, only motorists whose impairments prevent them from being able to pay a meter can park for free in those spots.

1/2 2:00 Chicago ended 2013 with fewer homicides than any year since 1965 and the lowest overall crime rate since 1972. In a news release, the police department says there was a drop in several crime categories, ranging from robbery and aggravated battery to criminal sexual assault and burglary.

1/3 1:00 A 24-year-old western Illinois man is facing a series of charges after authorities say he led police on a drunken chase while driving a stolen salt truck.

1/7 1:00 State officials say they've received more than 11,000 applications for concealed carry permits. The online application system to apply for permits was officially launched in Illinois on Sunday.

1/7 1:00 A federal judge has potentially opened a new market in Chicago to gun dealers. U.S. District Judge Edmond E. Chang says Chicago ordinances banning the sale of firearms within city limits are unconstitutional.

1/8 1:00 The Archdiocese of Chicago plans to release files detailing the sexual abuse of children by Catholic priests as part of a court settlement.

1/8 1:00 A Republican candidate for governor is calling on Gov. Pat Quinn to remove the state prisons director for hiring an official who has been arrested up to two dozen times and was apparently once affiliated with a street gang.

1/10 2:00 The new northern district of Illinois federal prosecutor says he didn't have to cash in political favors to be appointed to his position. IPR's Robert Wildeboer reports:

1/15 12:00 More than 11-thousand people submitted applications for concealed carry permits on the FIRST day possible in Illinois. To be eligible to put in the application those people must complete a 16 hour class. Instructors have been teaching those courses for months now. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker went to a class in McLean County to find out what they have been learning...

1/15 20:00 "If we find you are not capable in some manner and we feel you do not meet the requirements to get a certificate, we will not give you one.

1/16 1:00 Attorneys convene for one of the final status hearings for state Representative Derrick Smith before his bribery trial is set to start.

1/16 1:00 An elderly woman convicted in a notorious murder case is asking the governor to let her out of prison. At a hearing, family and friends of the victim are uniformly opposed. Shirley Skinner is just a few years into her 55-year sentence.

1/17 1:00 An expert for former Dallas Cowboys defensive tackle Josh Brent's attorneys won't be allowed to testify about potential contamination of the blood tests used against him.

1/21 1:00 Bloomington Police have made a second arrest in a shooting case that injured a 39-year old woman. The U.S. Marshall's service has arrested 26-year old Deantre Jefferson of Bloomington in Chicago.

1/23 1:00 A witness from former Gov. Rod Blagojevich's trial has testified at the sentencing hearing of a Chicago-area businessman convicted of bribing doctors for referrals to surgery centers.

1/27 5:00 It's not easy getting caught up in criminal culture, then going to prison, then trying to get back on your feet once you are paroled or complete your sentence.

1/28 1:00 Governor Pat Quinn has reappointed a Bloomington Police Officer to a statewide panel overseeing sex offenders in the court system.

2/4 1:00 One man has died from injuries suffered in a car-pick-up truck mishap in Chenoa late last week. The McLean County Coroner's office says 48-year old David Sauter of Tonica died from injuries he suffered after being ejected from the truck he was driving on Route 24 at the intersection of 2480 East Road.

2/5 1:00 Guns and marijuana don't mix, according to federal authorities, even if the gun is a legally held firearm and the drug is recommended by a doctor.

2/10 1:00 A former employee in Illinois Treasurer Dan Rutherford's (ROOTH'-ur-furdz) office has filed a lawsuit alleging sexual harassment and that the Republican gubernatorial candidate made him do political work on state time.

2/11 1:00 A father and son from northeast Illinois will be sentenced May 16 after pleading guilty to defrauding a federal business loan program of \$1.7 million.

2/12 1:00 Illinois lawmakers are considering amending the state's new concealed carry legislation. A series of changes are already being introduced in Springfield, even though the first concealed carry permits haven't been issued.

2/14 6:00 One of the three Democrats running for Congress in the 13th district wants to upend the current structure of the nation's economy. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker explores the positions of David Green, one of the people hoping to take on the Republican nominee in the General election this fall....

2/18 2:00 Illinois State University's Academic Senate has approved a new concealed carry policy. A task force spent most of the fall studying issues raised by the new law. ISU Spokesman Eric Home says the institution is mindful that some pretty nasty incidents have happened on college campuses in the U.S. involving guns....

2/19 1:00 Illinois lawmakers are considering what steps police should have to take before questioning kids at school. The legislation would basically make police read kids their Miranda rights -- that they can remain silent, and anything they say can be used against them in court.

2/21 2:00 A court case decided in Arizona could have implications for Illinois' ongoing legal battle over pensions. The Arizona Supreme Court struck down an attempt to reduce Arizona officials' retirement benefits. IPR's Brian Mackey has more.

2/25 1:00 The Illinois Senate is considering limits on the ways law enforcement can use electronic tracking information. As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, both privacy advocates and police are in favor of the change:

2/26 2:00 While a second Illinois county has begun issuing same-sex marriage licenses ahead of a new state law that takes effect June 1, it'll be a little while before it happens in McLean County.

2/27 1:00 Legislation proposed by a state senator would require anyone with a cold to get a doctor's prescription to buy certain medicine.

2/28 1:00 Illinois State University Police are investigating an allegation of assault at the official residence of University President Timothy Flanagan.

2/28 1:00 Illinois gun owners can soon carry their weapons in public. Illinois State Police officials say they are mailing out the first concealed carry permits to gun owners who applied.

3/3 2:00 A group of lawmakers is challenging the broad powers enjoyed by Illinois' conservation police officers. At issue is whether the officers can operate on private land without a warrant.

3/3 2:00 The McLean County Clerk says same sex couples can start booking marriage license appointments now. Kathy Michael says the rationale of a Cook County case applies to the rest of Illinois as well...

3/10 1:00 A Peoria man was sentenced to five years in prison after he pleaded guilty to stealing pricy equipment from Caterpillar Incorporated.

3/14 1:00 A Peoria man who spent nearly 20 years in prison for the alleged 1994 rape of a 16-year-old girl is now a free man. Christopher Coleman walked out of Peoria County Circuit Judge Steve Kouri's courtroom yesterday after State's Attorney Jerry Brady dropped all charges against him.

3/17 1:00 The director of the Illinois Department of Corrections says the state may need a new prison soon. DOC Director Salvador Godinez appeared before the Illinois Senate's Executive Appointments committee. His position is up for renewal and the committee voted 7 to 2 to recommend approval.

3/20 1:00 Illinois State University has called a special meeting of the Board of Trustees for Saturday. The meeting notice indicates there will be an executive session of the board concerning personnel matters.

3/25 2:00 The McLean County State's Attorney's office has filed a charge of disorderly conduct against former Illinois State University President Tim Flanagan. The case stems from an early December incident involving Flanagan and the then head of grounds over a lawn aeration job at the official university residence.

3/28 1:00 The head of state parks in Illinois will repay \$7,200 in improper travel reimbursement mostly in the past two years. The Department of Natural Resources acknowledged it was in error after inquiries from The Associated Press.

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

1/2 1:00 An Illinois state representative is hoping some smart on crime legislation allows him to also pass some tough on crime legislation. IPR's Robert Wildeboer reports.

1/3 5:00 Opponents of the proposal to change the structure of the Bloomington City Council allege it is discriminatory and would draw court challenges. One Council member is promoting the change as a way to improve the tone of debate and the working relationships on the council. Another says it would produce an east side bias on the council. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker asks Bloomington Mayor Tari Renner which way he bounces on the question....

1/6 5:00 Another night in the deep freeze in central Illinois. Unit Five, District 87, ISU Lab Schools, Central Catholic High School, and Catholic Elementary and Junior High buildings, the Olympia District, and other twin cities schools have all said they are closed tomorrow (Tuesday).

1/15 12:00

More than 11-thousand people submitted applications for concealed carry permits on the FIRST day possible in Illinois. To be eligible to put in the application those people must complete a 16 hour class.

Instructors have been teaching those courses for months now. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker went to a class in McLean County to find out what they have been learning...

1/20 12:00 During this week of Martin Luther King holiday events we welcome to the show a noted civil rights activist who will be speaking at ISU Friday night. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with Lani Guinier, a law professor, activist, and author of six books.

1/27 1:00 Gov. Pat Quinn has declared a propane supply emergency in Illinois. Wet fall weather and recent cold spells have combined to put a pinch on Illinois' propane supplies, causing distribution problems across the state.

2/3 2:00 A highway safety advocacy group awarded Illinois its highest ranking. But the state still lost points. The new report card by Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety gave Illinois' collection of traffic laws a very high grade with just one caveat, Illinois does not require motorcycle riders to wear a helmet:

2/4 1:00 No clear consensus has emerged among members of the McLean County League of Women Voters as to whether Bloomington should change from a ward system to one in which three of its eight council members are elected at large.

2/5 1:00 Republican members of the Illinois House are trying to head off a post-election tradition... taking up on controversial legislation when it's too late for voters to do anything about it.

2/12 6:00 Video gaming has been underway for more than a year in Illinois. IPR's Jenna Dooley looks at how communities are benefiting from the law...and how they are managing a growing demand for new machines...

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2/17 1:00 State Rep. Robert Rita has postponed a public hearing on expanding gambling in Illinois because of severe winter weather.

2/20 2:00 A pro-sales tax referendum community group has kicked off its public education campaign at the century old Washington Elementary school in Bloomington. The setting is supposed to highlight the need for new facilities.

2/21 22:00 A new advisory group in Mclean County charged with examining mental health service delivery in the area also has a public communication function that could build a case for greater local support of such services. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with the head of the McLean County Board who has named the panel.

2/21 11:00 A new side of the debate over changing Bloomington's City Council Ward Structure has entered the debate. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports as unpopular as the proposal is with Conservatives, Liberals are also slow to embrace the notion.

2/24 11:00 After losing a thousand jobs from the Bloomington Normal labor market from December 02 2012 to the same month last year, there is some bright news. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on a business expansion...

2/25 21:00 Including Sergeants in policy meetings, expanding the jurisdiction of rural police forces to the township level, and putting GPS in squad cars are among the proposals of one of the GOP Candidates for McLean County Sheriff. WGLT's Mike McCurdy talks with Jon Sandage.

2/26 1:00 Illinois State Police say they're getting ready to issue the state's first concealed carry permits in the coming days. Police spokesman Monique Bond says the first licenses could be issued next week.

2/27 5:00 This week, Governor Pat Quinn gave a keynote speech at a forum in Washington, D.C. on natural disasters. The governor says Illinois has suffered a record-number of incidents in recent years.

2/28 16:00 Illinois Wesleyan University President Richard Wilson urges caution about President Obama's proposed federal education ranking system. Wilson speaks with GLT's Mike McCurdy during Sound Ideas. He also says IWU is pleased to meet a challenge that has resulted in twenty new endowed professorships for the Bloomington campus.

3/3 2:00 A group of lawmakers is challenging the broad powers enjoyed by Illinois' conservation police officers. At issue is whether the officers can operate on private land without a warrant.

3/5 1:00 Gun rights activists are demanding lawmakers ease restrictions on Illinois' new concealed carry law. The state has just begun issuing the licenses that allow qualified individuals to carry guns in public.

3/7 2:00 A delegation of 37 McLean County business, government, and educational leaders have

spent two days in Washington talking to administration officials and members of Congress and their staffs on how to improve mental health amenities in the County. WGLT's Hanna Gutmann reports from Washington:

3/12 23:00 Here are the Pros and Cons of the sales tax referendum proposed for Mclean County. We start with a supporter of the measure, a local businessman who is part of the "Say Yes To Schools" campaign. GLT's Charlie Schlenker has this interview and the one following with an opponent of the measure that could result in 18 million new dollars a year for school facilities...

3/17 13:00 Last October GLT reported during Sound Ideas that the poverty rate for Mclean County rose six tenths of a point from 2011 to 2012 to 15.7%. The Social Impact Research Center at Heartland Alliance has now unpacked more of the census data used to generate its report on poverty in Illinois. GLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with the Center's Jennifer Clary, an author of the report...

3/18 12:00 A new report out highlights racial inequality of opportunity in Illinois. The Social Impact Research Center at Heartland Alliance and the Illinois Asset Building Group finds a stark difference in credit scores and related economic opportunity in predominantly white versus predominantly minority communities in Illinois. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more...

3/19 4:00 Voters in Bloomington rejected the proposal to change the ward structure to include at large Aldermen. the referendum would also have eliminated a council seat and made the remaining wards larger. Opponent Mike Matejka, a former alderman, says there was an inadequate case made for change....

3/21 1:00 Illinois education officials say districts could be forced to lay off thousands of teachers and borrow money to stay afloat if proposed budget cuts take effect next year.

3/25 1:00 With one week left to sign up for the Affordable Care Act, Illinois' enrollment numbers are on track to meet their goals.

3/26 16:00 Illinois residents would continue paying a 5-percent income tax rate under the much-anticipated budget proposal Governor Pat Quinn has presented.

3/31 22:00 The City of Bloomington is facing a huge budget crunch. And there is no consensus yet on how to deal with it. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks to the Mayor of Bloomington about the options and the Mayor's opinion on where to find a big chunk of change to make ends meet. ...

RACE, EQUALITY & RIGHTS

1/2 1:00 Illinois residents can soon start applying to carry concealed weapons. IPR's Tony Arnold reports on the process.

1/7 1:00 Firearms dealers are welcoming a judge's ruling calling Chicago's ban on gun sales unconstitutional. Barry Soskin owns a suburban gun shop named Article II Range.

1/15 20:00 More than 11-thousand people submitted applications for concealed carry permits on the FIRST day possible in Illinois. To be eligible to put in the application those people must complete a 16 hour class.

1/20 12:00 During this week of Martin Luther King holiday events we welcome to the show a noted civil rights activist who will be speaking at ISU Friday night. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with Lani Guinier, a law professor, activist, and author of six books.

1/24 12:00 As State police grapple with the roughly thousand applications a day they are receiving for concealed carry permits, local law enforcement agencies are also trying to get ready for the fast approaching day guns will appear legally on Illinois streets.

2/4 12:00 To some extent, we can have control over the manner in which we face our own death. Compassion and Choices is a national organization that helps people make end of life decisions, so they can die with dignity. Jana Edge is a nurse and the local representative of Compassion and Choices. She says people have a hard time facing the fact of their own death, but that it's never too soon to begin planning for the end.

2/5 1:00 Guns and marijuana don't mix, according to federal authorities, even if the gun is a legally held firearm and the drug is recommended by a doctor.

2/18 9:00 This weekend the college student who could become the first openly gay football player in the National Football League will display his skills for prospective teams at the NFL

Combine. Michael Sam will have to wait till April to see how he fares in the draft and whether his coming out will affect his market value. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with with an activist on LGBT issues in McLean County on jock culture and what it will take for Sam to succeed...

3/3 1:00 The McLean County Clerk says same sex couples can start booking marriage license appointments now. Kathy Michael says the rationale of a Cook County case applies to the rest of Illinois as well...

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3/20 2:00 In 2012 a racist man killed ten people at a Sikh Temple in the Milwaukee suburb of Oak Creek....

3/26 1:00 A bill banning so-called conversion therapy aimed at changing the sexual orientation of gay young people is advancing in the Illinois Legislature.

SOCIAL SERVICE & PROGRAMS

1/7 1:00 Firearms dealers are welcoming a judge's ruling calling Chicago's ban on gun sales unconstitutional. Barry Soskin owns a suburban gun shop named Article II Range.

1/9 6:00 In her youth, Dorothy Day had an abortion, bore a child out of wedlock, and wrote for the Communist Party newspaper.

1/14 1:00 Democratic U.S. Senator Dick Durbin is turning up the heat on the opposition party in the debate over extending emergency unemployment benefits.

1/20 1:00 A new report from the watchdog of Illinois' child welfare system is making public how many children have died from abuse or neglect. WBEZ and the Chicago Sun-Times partnered to analyze how the children died. IPR's Tony Arnold explains what they found....

1/28 6:00 Mental Health services in McLean County are hampered by a complete lack of coordination among care providers. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the preliminary findings of a new study by the McLean County League of Women Voters. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more....

1/29 6:00 Hope is sometimes hard to find or hold onto when a person is dealing with cancer. The Community Cancer Center in Bloomington is formally unveiling a wall of hope consisting of paintings created by those going through treatment. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more the the Chaplain of the center...

2/4 22:00 Americans take longer to live and longer to die than in past generations. This is creating a new social landscape. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with the author of a new book about this terrain...

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decisions, so they can die with dignity. Jana Edge is a nurse and the local representative of Compassion and Choices. She says people have a hard time facing the fact of their own death, but that it's never too soon to begin planning for the end.

2/5 6:00 From "He said-She said" to identifying a national culture of argument and confrontation, Linguist Deborah Tannen has been in the forefront of analyzing communication in America for several decades now. Tannen speaks with GLT's Charlie Schlenker in advance of her appearance tonight at Illinois State University.

2/12 6:00 Video gaming has been underway for more than a year in Illinois. IPR's Jenna Dooley looks at how communities are benefiting from the law...and how they are managing a growing demand for new machines...

2/25 12:00 You might think the Affordable Care Act would reduce the need for institutions in McLean County such as the Community Healthcare Clinic that serve the uninsured. So far that's not the case and it may NEVER happen. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more...

3/6 14:00 The Multi-Cultural leadership program in McLean County is a training program. It is a networking program. It's a service program. And it's an economic development healthcare child service you name it program.

3/17 13:00 Last October GLT reported during Sound Ideas that the poverty rate for Mclean County rose six tenths of a point from 2011 to 2012 to 15.7%. The Social Impact Research Center at Heartland Alliance has now unpacked more of the census data used to generate its report on poverty in Illinois. GLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with the Center's Jennifer Clary, an author of the report...

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3/21 14:00 The United Way of Mclean County has named new leadership. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with the new President who is moving to the position after 17 years with State Farm and eight of those in leadership...

3/26 6:00 Illinois residents would continue paying a 5-percent income tax rate under the much-anticipated budget proposal Governor Pat Quinn has presented.

TECHNOLOGY

1/13 6:00 Drones have been in the news a lot lately. You're hearing more and more about military clashes involving these remotely-controlled aircraft.

1/15 2:00 By the spring, the Illinois Department of Corrections hopes to roll out the option of video visits at some of its correctional centers.

1/28 1:00 The state of Illinois will provide a \$2.5 million grant to help open a center for medical technology startups in downtown Chicago.

2/5 6:00 From "He said-She said" to identifying a national culture of argument and confrontation, Linguist Deborah Tannen has been in the forefront of analyzing communication in America for several decades now. Tannen speaks with GLT's Charlie Schlenker in advance of her appearance tonight at Illinois State University.

2/5 7:00 From "He said-She said" to identifying a national culture of argument and confrontation, Linguist Deborah Tannen has been in the forefront of analyzing communication in America for several decades now. Tannen speaks with GLT's Charlie Schlenker in advance of her appearance tonight at Illinois State University.

2/18 1:00 The Bloomington Water Department says the cold weather has already caused a record number of water main breaks for February.

2/21 1:00 The Illinois auditor general's office says the number of computers lost by state agencies

in the past two years is nearing the 500 mark.

2/24 11:00 After losing a thousand jobs from the Bloomington Normal labor market from December 02 2012 to the same month last year, there is some bright news. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on a business expansion...

2/25 1:00 Illinois regulators have given the FutureGen Alliance the go-ahead for a 30-mile carbon dioxide pipeline. The pipeline would be buried at least four feet underground in northeast Morgan County.

2/27 21:00 Cloud based technology, investigations targeting the heroin trade, and pushing administrative chores to higher levels are among the ideas of one of the GOP candidates for McLean County Sheriff. WGLT's Mike McCurdy talks with Jeff Elston for Sound Ideas in the second interview of Sheriff's candidates.

3/7 1:00 An Illinois congressman wants to extend a measure that currently prevents state and local governments from taxing Internet services.

3/7 1:00 The Illinois heart and Lung Foundation is putting 43 Automatic heart shockers in Bloomington Normal Police squad cars. the \$70,000 donation will put the Automatic External Defibrillators where they can be used quickly according to Cardiologist Jim McCriskin...

3/19 1:00 A 600-mile pipeline extending from Illinois to Oklahoma could be ready by this summer. The pipeline belonging to Enbridge Inc. of Calgary, Alberta will carry tar sands from Flanagan, Ill. near Pontiac to Enbridge's terminal in Cushing, Okla.

3/21 1:00 A University of Illinois alumnus says tensions with Russia didn't interfere with his recent mission to space. NASA shut down its Space Shuttle program to focus on deep space exploration, but its astronauts can still get to orbit on Russian rockets.

3/25 4:00 Tech-savvy farmers have been waiting for years for the government to make up its mind about the commercial use of unmanned aerial vehicles. Will 2014 be the year farmers get their hands on drones?

TRANSPORTATION

1/1 1:00 A state law taking effect today limits the use of free on-street parking by the disabled. Now, only motorists whose impairments prevent them from being able to pay a meter can park for free in those spots.

1/3 1:00 Mitsubishi Motors North America finished the sales year strongly with a 56% increase for December. That's well above the 4% average industry increase for the month. The company with an assembly plant in Normal says it was the best December result in seven years thanks to new model Outlander and Mirage sales.

1/7 1:00 Illinoisans are coping with a second day of dangerously cold temperatures while road crews dig out of a weekend storm that dumped up to a foot of snow across much of the state.

1/17 1:00 The Central Illinois Regional Airport had a challenging year without AirTran. Passenger traffic dropped 11.7% from 2012. More than 428,000 passengers went through the Bloomington facility.

1/22 1:00 Authorities in Madison County in southern Illinois say a bomb found along rural railroad tracks has been deactivated without injury.

1/23 1:00 An Illinois lawmaker has introduced legislation that'd make it illegal to smoke in a car while a child is present. Chicago Democratic Sen. Ira Silverstein is sponsoring the measure.

1/27 2:00 Central Illinois Mayors attending the US Conference of Mayors meeting in Washington DC began thinking about federal support and funding for a regional connector to the high speed rail running through Normal. WGLT's Hanna Gutmann reports....

1/28 1:00 The governor is ordering flags to be lowered to half-staff after an Illinois Tollway maintenance worker died in a crash on Interstate 88 in Aurora.

2/3 1:00 Municipalities and County Highway Departments throughout central Illinois are running low on road salt because of the repeated snowfalls. Wayne Aldrich, the Public Works Director for the Town of Normal says Normal has enough salt left for two or three more snow events...

2/6 1:00 Ice continues to make highways in central Illinois dangerous. Police blamed icy interstates for one fatal accident and others that involved injuries.

2/10 2:00 The City of Bloomington is ramping up efforts to get public input on bicycle policy. Public Works Director Jim Karch says a survey will go out in water department bills next month and residents can also fill out the questionnaire on line if they prefer.

2/18 1:00 Former U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has joined the board of director of a bus manufacturer. The Illinois native has joined Proterra Inc. LaHood represented central Illinois in Congress for seven terms before President Barack Obama chose him to be transportation secretary.

2/20 1:00 Bloomington Normal Airport Authority Board Chair Paul Harmon is stepping down. Harmon has spent 17 years on the Authority and nine as Chair. Mayor Chris Koos of Normal will choose a replacement to fill a new five year term starting in April.

2/26 17:00 Passenger Traffic through the Central Illinois Regional Airport was down close to 12% last year, largely because of the departure of AirTran Airways. The Airport in Bloomington made up part of the AirTran loss through the addition of Allegiant routes to Orlando and Frontier carriage westward. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with the Airport Director about what the New Year is bringing. So far that has been very bad flying weather...

2/27 2:00 With the federal government fund that provides money for road building, repairs and transportation projects set to run dry by September, sympathetic member of Congress held a panel discussion to highlight the importance of transportation funding. WGLT's Washington Correspondent, Hanna Gutmann reports Normal's Mayor was a key speaker.

3/5 1:00 Illinois lawmakers have mixed thoughts on a proposal that would allow communities around the state to install speed cameras, which are only allowed in Chicago. The measure by Collinsville Democrat Rep. Jay Hoffman is generating discussion among legislators.

3/10 1:00 Illinois officials have put a hold on plans to require permits for most all-terrain vehicles. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources won't require off-highway vehicle owners to buy the permits until further notice.

3/19 1:00 Siemens will build 32 diesel-electric locomotives for high-speed rail projects in the Midwest and on the West Coast. The company won a \$225 million contract and will deliver the first of the cleaner-burning, faster locomotives by 2016.

3/20 1:00 International travelers at Chicago's Midway International Airport could find the U.S. Customs process a little easier.

3/25 1:00 State lawmakers want to regulate a growing transportation industry they say presents a safety threat to Illinois residents. State Rep. Michael Zalewski and other lawmakers are introducing a measure to regulate rideshare services.

3/26 1:00 A former Illinois state trooper who lost his driving privileges after causing a southwestern Illinois freeway crash that killed two sisters is asking for a fifth time to get his license reinstated.