

WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

January, February, March 2015

Key: The following issues were addressed during WGLT Newscasts at 6:45 and 8:45 AM (during *MORNING EDITION*) AND 3:45 PM (during *ALL THINGS CONSIDERED*.)

Date Length Summary

ARTS & CULTURE

1/5 3:00 Illinois State's football team is making final preparations for Saturday's national championship game in Texas.

1/6 12:00 The Rock Restaurant in Uptown Normal has completed its remodeling and expansion. Culvers on Hershey in Bloomington has closed till tomorrow for a refresh and remodel. A new pub and grill called Dr. mackay's has opened on Hershey in the old Entourage location. Poblabo Burritos will open in the former La Bamba spot in downtown Bloomington. These are among the many updates you'll read about in the Bloomington Normal Restaurant Scene on Facebook.

1/12 9:00 To understand U.S. opportunities in Cuba, there is one defining moment to consider...the collapse of the Soviet Union.

1/13 23:00 It is not often audiences in central Illinois get to hear a violin that is older than the United States of America.

1/27 22:00 Former Federal Judge Michael McCuskey retired from his job, moved back to his hometown of Lacon, and...went back to work this year. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on a very unusual non-retirement...

1/27 3:00 The Red Cross Evening of Stars spotlight this year falls on country artist Kellie Pickler

2/3 10:00 The Guinness Book of World Records named "Magic the Gathering" the world's most popular trading card game in 2011, with millions of players worldwide.

2/10 11:00 2,500 students from across the Midwest will gather at Illinois State University this weekend for the Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference.

2/13 16:00 Illinois Wesleyan University Sociologist Meghan Burke studies the way people talk and think about race.

2/20 3:00 Families in the area are attending an event to help raise money and awareness for cyclists.

2/25 8:00 The Town of Normal has issued a building permit for a \$522,000 build out of the Buffalo Wild Wings slated for Main Street in Normal.

3/3 3:00 McLean County is about to have its first ever judge who has a Latino background. Circuit Judges have chosen Pablo Eves (eeves) as an Associate Judge.

3/16 3:00 Peoria's do it yourself bicycle repair club is a year old. Member Mark Beiser (BUY-zuhr) says the bicycle co-op is not a bike shop, but it does have volunteer staff to teach....

3/18 15:00 We cannot define an American Identity according to historian Andrew Hartman of ISU.

3/30 17:00 The terrorist killings at the office of the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo aroused France and prompted an outpouring of sympathy here in the U.S. Franco Vietnamese cartoonist Clement Baloup (CLEH-ment BAH-loo) and French Art historian Justin Wadlow had

worked extensively with several of the victims in the extremist killings.

3/30 0:30 Heartland Theatre Company in Normal has announced the appointment of a new artistic director.

BUSINESS, ECONOMY & LABOR

1/1 1:00 Starting this year, home sellers in Illinois need to provide more information to potential buyers.

1/8 1:00 Caterpillar is announcing the layoff of about 200 full-time production employees at its East Peoria and Decatur facilities.

1/12 14:00 To understand U.S. opportunities in Cuba, there is one defining moment to consider...the collapse of the Soviet Union.

1/15 1:00 Mapleton wins and Joliet loses jobs in the latest consolidation by Peoria-based Caterpillar.

1/15 5:00 When the North American Auto Show opened this week in Detroit, there was a renewed emphasis on electric vehicles.

1/21 0:30 Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner's state-government hiring freeze apparently began the month before he took office, under his predecessor Democrat Pat Quinn.

1/26 3:00 Teachers and Bloomington District 87 will engage in federally mediated contract talks this Thursday.

2/3 3:00 FedEx celebrated the opening of its new facility at the Central Illinois Regional Airport.

2/5 1:00 Despite opposition from Republicans, a Democrat-controlled state Senate committee passed a minimum wage hike Wednesday.

2/9 3:00 The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation says a recent state report on the economic impact of the nuclear industry shows policy changes are in order to prevent shutdowns of nuclear plants like Exelon's Clinton Power Station.

2/12 2:00 Governor Bruce Rauner was the keynote speaker at the Sangamon County Republican Party's Lincoln Day Dinner last night in Springfield - the home of many state employees.

2/16 16:00 Illinois Wesleyan University Sociologist Meghan Burke studies the way people talk and think about race.

2/25 8:00 The Town of Normal has issued a building permit for a \$522,000 build out of the Buffalo Wild Wings slated for Main Street in Normal.

2/27 3:00 State Farm Insurance lost money in underwriting last year but turned a sizeable profit on its investments.

3/2 1:00 Governor Bruce Rauner says he wants to clear up his stance about government unions.

3/12 5:00 There is a big push among educators who are backing a funding plan called Vision 2020.

3/16 1:00 Union members and state employees can expect another pension battle ahead ... regardless of what the state Supreme Court says about Illinois' landmark 20-13 law.

3/19 3:00 Illinois State University President Larry Dietz has painted worst case budget cut possibilities for State Senators considering higher education appropriations in Springfield.

3/20 3:00 Democratic State Senators used higher education appropriation hearings last week to highlight adverse effects on public universities of the Governor's proposed budget cuts.

3/31 3:00 February unemployment in Bloomington Normal edged down to nearly the same

rate it was in 2008. The jobless rate is a state low 5%.

CHILDREN & FAMILY/EDUCATION

1/6 3:00 The Normal Town Council approved an agreement with Illinois State University so that the Normal Theater can be used for classes.

1/12 2:00 The Cuban people are amazingly resourceful adaptive, and innovative.

1/13 13:00 It is not often audiences in central Illinois get to hear a violin that is older than the United States of America.

1/30 0:30 The Illinois State Board of Education is looking for school districts, local government entities and nonprofits to host the federally-funded Summer Food Service Program this year.

2/3 3:00 Illinois law is pretty straightforward: one child, per seat, each with his or her own seat belt.

2/5 3:00 Illinois' program that provides subsidized daycare for low-income families is out of cash.

2/10 11:00 2,500 students from across the Midwest will gather at Illinois State University this weekend for the Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference.

2/13 3:00 More than 98% of McLean County school children have up to date immunizations for diseases such as measles, polio, rubella, mumps, diphtheria, and whooping cough.

2/13 0:30 Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner has selected a Florida Democrat to lead Illinois' troubled Department of Children and Family Services.

2/20 3:00 The swath of cuts Governor Bruce Rauner proposed this week are aimed at next year's budget.

2/26 1:00 The newly retired head of campus dining services at Illinois State University says food service has changed and changed again over the last several decades.

3/9 5:00 More than a million Illinois students are scheduled to take new standardized tests starting today, despite concerns about the test.

3/16 14:00 Latina girls tend to have higher than average rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

3/23 3:00 State Senator Bill Brady has filed a bill that would ask Public Universities to plan to be privatized over the next six years.

3/31 0:30 Illinois school districts have been working to update policies after a new state law on cyberbullying took effect in January.

ENVIRONMENT

1/5 2:00 Snake and reptile aficionados say Illinois' guidelines on owning the creatures had been vague, contradictory or outdated.

1/16 3:00 The Humane Society and other animal rights groups celebrated when --- in one of his final acts as governor -- Pat Quinn vetoed a proposal to reintroduce bobcat hunting in Illinois.

2/6 8:00 Agribusiness giant Monsanto is inching closer to releasing new genetically engineered soybean and cotton seeds.

2/9 3:00 The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation says a recent state report on the economic impact of the nuclear industry shows policy changes are in order to prevent shutdowns of nuclear plants like Exelon's Clinton Power Station.

2/19 3:00 Legislation introduced in Springfield calls for stricter statewide energy efficiency

and renewable energy standards.

2/23 0:30 An Illinois nature photographer is set to stand trial for a second time on charges that he took two baby eagles.

2/26 3:00 Bloomington's surface water supply will eventually have sedimentation issues.

3/2 2:00 A bill aimed at protecting the Mahomet Aquifer from hazardous chemicals has been introduced in the Illinois House.

3/9 3:00 Farmers switching from GMO crops to organic ones are getting some help at a seminar in Champaign.

3/12 0:30 The National Institutes of Health has awarded a \$425,000 grant to a pair of Illinois State University researchers studying a chemical found in many food containers and other plastics.

3/24 2:00 Bloomington will join Champaign, Normal, and several other communities in opposing plans to store P-C-B-s in a landfill that sits on the Mahomet Aquifer.

3/27 0:30 Conservation officials hope the mate of a female eagle that was fatally shot in McLean County will continue to take care of its offspring.

3/31 0:30 Ameren Illinois says it will spend \$35 million to clean a more than century-old contamination of tar and ash in Belleville.

HEALTH & MEDICINE

1/5 1:00 More food passes through Illinois annually than any other state, according to a report from the University of Illinois.

1/6 3:00 McLean County residents are living longer, according to new data from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

1/8 3:00 The group charged with helping people sign up for insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act in Illinois enrolled more people in the first month of the sign up period this year than they did in the first three months last year.

1/22 3:00 The McLean County Health Department is urging people to get a flu shot, if not for themselves, then for the people around them.

2/3 1:00 Governor Bruce Rauner's office yesterday (MONDAY) granted licenses to marijuana growers and dispensaries ... a month after those licenses were initially promised.

2/10 3:00 Supporters of the Affordable Care Act are concerned about upcoming oral arguments before the Supreme Court over state run health exchanges.

2/13 3:00 More than 98% of McLean County school children have up to date immunizations for diseases such as measles, polio, rubella, mumps, diphtheria, and whooping cough.

2/23 2:00 An F-B-I agent is on tap to brief legislators about mass shooting trends today.

3/5 3:00 There has been a lot of publicity about Governor Bruce Rauner's proposed cuts to Higher Education, social services, transportation, and other categories in his effort to close a 6 billion dollar structural deficit in the state budget.

3/13 2:00 The Crisis Writing Committee has finalized a report dealing with people who experience mental health crises in McLean County.

3/19 2:00 Illinois state Representative Rob Martwick wants to require locking caps on bottles of prescription pain pills.

3/30 3:00 The outbreak of measles at a Palatine preschool has lawmakers wanting to protect children.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS

- 1/2 1:00 New statistics show Chicago homicides dropped in 2014 compared to the previous year - even though shootings were up.
- 1/7 2:00 The University of Illinois is addressing an issue at many campuses... sexual assault.
- 1/13 2:00 Advocates say Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner's first couple decisions signal a change in the criminal justice system.
- 1/13 9:00 Same-sex marriage took effect in Illinois last year. While the STATE has joined the ranks of others that offer an increased amount of rights and protections to the LGBT community, CITIES differ in laws and policies that promote equality.
- 1/19 15:00 Some in the Bloomington-Normal community are upset a Bloomington police sergeant did not receive more discipline after saying he hoped an African American stabbing victim bled to death.
- 1/23 3:00 Citizens of Bloomington are asking for a public apology from police sergeant Ed Shumaker, who was recently given a verbal reprimand for a comment made in two thousand thirteen.
- 1/27 5:00 No sitting justice on the Illinois Supreme Court has ever lost a retention election. But in November, Justice Lloyd Karmeier (CAR-my-uhr) came close.
- 2/8 3:00 Chanting "justice now", a crowd of more than 40 people marched out side the McLean County Law And Justice Center hoping to convince the State's Attorney to reconsider a decision not to file charges in the traffic death of a man , a toddler, and a small dog.
- 2/11 3:00 Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner is doubling down on his pledge to cut the state's prison population by 25 percent.
- 2/19 3:00 A Bloomington police sergeant captured on tape calling African Americans "animals" and saying he hoped a black stabbing victim bled to death is refusing to publicly apologize for those remarks, according to police officials.
- 2/23 2:00 An F-B-I agent is on tap to brief legislators about mass shooting trends today.
- 2/24 3:00 The Illinois State Medical Society wants the Illinois legislature to make it harder for patients to misuse prescription pain medication.
- 2/27 11:00 The crime rate in the city of Bloomington dropped 13.3% last year for Uniform Crime Reporting categories.
- 3/2 3:00 Bloomington Police Chief Brendan Heffner says the investigation into the Pamela Zimmerman killing continues.
- 3/3 3:00 Lawmakers on a state task force heard stories from coroners about people who died of heroin overdoses ... parents whose children were addicted to the drug ... and experts about what to do about it.
- 3/13 3:00 The Crisis Writing Committee has finalized a report dealing with people who experience mental health crises in McLean County.
- 3/17 3:00 Governor Bruce Rauner says he hopes and believes Congressman Aaron Schock is doing the right thing for the people of the 18th district and the state of Illinois by resigning.
- 3/19 1:00 Proposals in the Illinois House would reduce sentences for inmates convicted when they were minors.
- 3/26 1:00 Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner's prison reform commission has its very first meeting today.
- 3/30 1:00 State Senator Darin LaHood has taken his Congressional campaign to Bloomington Normal.

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

- 1/1 1:00 The start of 2015 means more money in your pocket. As of today (THURSDAY), Illinois' income tax rate has dropped.
- 1/5 2:00 Snake and reptile aficionados say Illinois' guidelines on owning the creatures had been vague, contradictory or outdated.
- 1/12 14:00 To understand U.S. opportunities in Cuba, there is one defining moment to consider...the collapse of the Soviet Union.
- 1/19 15:00 Some in the Bloomington-Normal community are upset a Bloomington police sergeant did not receive more discipline after saying he hoped an African American stabbing victim bled to death.
- 1/27 3:00 The Mayor of Bloomington says the city is losing millions per year in sales tax revenue to on-line retailers.
- 2/3 3:00 FedEx celebrated the opening of its new facility at the Central Illinois Regional Airport.
- 2/5 1:00 While he says budget details will be more telling, Bloomington Republican State Representative Dan Brady says Governor Rauner painted an accurate picture of the state's financial picture during his State of the State address.
- 2/11 2:00 Since his election, Governor Bruce Rauner has expressed surprise about what he says he's "discovering" in the state's budget.
- 2/16 16:00 Illinois Wesleyan University Sociologist Meghan Burke studies the way people talk and think about race.
- 2/17 2:00 The manger of the Normal Theatre is leaving that position after only 6 months on the job.
- 2/18 3:00 The Mayor of Normal says to start development of more than 900 projected housing units in the Uptown area, someone will have to provide a proof of concept.
- 2/24 2:00 The conversation of the 2016 budget is moving forward in Bloomington.
- 2/26 3:00 Bloomington's surface water supply will eventually have sedimentation issues.
- 3/2 1:00 The first piece of legislation has been sent to Governor Bruce Rauner for action.
- 3/3 3:00 The Mayor of Normal says he disagrees with the Governor's proposed funding cut to Amtrak.
- 3/3 3:00 McLean County is about to have its first ever judge who has a Latino background.
- 3/9 15:00 More than a million Illinois students are scheduled to take new standardized tests starting today, despite concerns about the test.
- 3/10 3:00 The Bloomington City Council tabled a recommendation to begin charging a fifty dollar flat fee for each bucket of bulk waste and brush.
- 3/11 3:00 Candidates for the Town of Normal shared their opinions on cooperation with Bloomington and McLean County, a location for the Normal Public Library, and uptown development.
- 3/16 2:00 An Illinois lawmaker wants to ticket people possessing marijuana instead of charging them with a misdemeanor that could trigger jail time.
- 3/18 2:00 The new director of Illinois' child welfare system is having a hard time defending Governor Bruce Rauner's proposed budget cuts.
- 3/19 3:00 Illinois State University President Larry Dietz has painted worst case budget cut possibilities for State Senators considering higher education appropriations in Springfield.
- 3/31 2:00 This year's place holder budget in the city of Bloomington sets up a summer debate over next year's spending plan long before the City Council has to discuss it next

February and March.

RACE, EQUALITY & RIGHTS

- 1/1 3:00 A recent proposal from the Food and Drug Administration would allow gay and bisexual men to donate blood, with some limitations.
- 1/7 3:00 The Mayor of Bloomington is highlighting the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- 1/13 9:00 Same-sex marriage took effect in Illinois last year. While the STATE has joined the ranks of others that offer an increased amount of rights and protections to the LGBT community, CITIES differ in laws and policies that promote equality.
- 1/14 3:00 The Mayor of Bloomington says there is no excuse for the incident in which a police officer called a group of African Americans animals and another officer said he hoped a stabbing victim bled to death.
- 1/19 15:00 Some in the Bloomington-Normal community are upset a Bloomington police sergeant did not receive more discipline after saying he hoped an African American stabbing victim bled to death.
- 1/23 3:00 Citizens of Bloomington are asking for a public apology from police sergeant Ed Shumaker, who was recently given a verbal reprimand for a comment made in two thousand thirteen.
- 1/30 1:00 University of Illinois Urbana campus Chancellor Phyllis Wise says the school will fight a lawsuit from Steven Salaita.
- 2/9 2:00 Chanting "justice now", a crowd of more than 40 people marched outside the McLean County Law And Justice Center hoping to convince the State's Attorney to reconsider a decision not to file charges in the traffic death of a man, a toddler, and a small dog.
- 2/10 11:00 2,500 students from across the Midwest will gather at Illinois State University this weekend for the Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference.
- 2/12 10:00 Last year, more than 80 transgender people were killed worldwide as a result of suspected hate crimes.
- 2/19 3:00 A Bloomington police sergeant captured on tape calling African Americans "animals" and saying he hoped a black stabbing victim bled to death is refusing to publicly apologize for those remarks, according to police officials.
- 3/3 1:00 Federal housing officials have earmarked more than \$6.4 million to provide rental assistance to extremely low-income Illinois residents with disabilities.
- 3/5 3:00 A group of high school students is conducting a social media campaign hoping others will join them in refusing to take the latest standard achievement test offering.
- 3/12 2:00 Two St. Louis-area police officers were shot and injured early this morning while monitoring protests at the Ferguson police department.
- 3/16 3:00 A sociologist who studies the emerging sexuality of Latina girls says the reality is far more complex than the stereotypes of religiously bound virtue that exist about the culture.
- 3/20 1:00 An Illinois prisoner says he was physically and sexually abused by guards at a state prison. And his attorneys say he's not alone.
- 3/27 17:00 The terrorist killings at the office of the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo aroused France and prompted an outpouring of sympathy here in the U.S. Franco Vietnamese cartoonist Clement Baloup (CLEH-ment BAH-loo) and French Art historian Justin Wadlow had worked extensively with several of the victims in the extremist killings.
- 3/30 1:00 Several states, including Illinois, and the federal government have religious

freedom acts on the books.

SOCIAL SERVICE & PROGRAMS

- 1/7 1:00 Illinois' child welfare system will have a new director under Governor-elect Bruce Rauner.
- 1/8 2:00 A new software widget will help people decide on what health insurance policy fits them under the plans offered in Illinois through the federal Affordable Care Act.
- 1/20 2:00 The new head of the McLean County Nursing home started in the elder care industry as an activity aide 21 years ago and worked her way up the ranks.
- 1/27 3:00 Former Federal Judge Michael McCuskey says he wanted to go back to circuit court to practice a little justice in his remaining years.
- 1/29 3:00 Bloomington and Normal are making plans to cooperate for a better value on the taxpayer dollar.
- 2/5 2:00 Illinois' program that provides subsidized daycare for low-income families is out of cash. Lawmakers are trying to come to the rescue.
- 2/6 2:00 Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner wants to create a new commission aimed at trimming more than 12 thousand prisoners from state rolls in the next 10 years.
- 2/13 16:00 Illinois Wesleyan University Sociologist Meghan Burke studies the way people talk and think about race.
- 2/18 1:00 Illinois' child welfare agency leaves kids languishing behind bars for weeks or even months after a judge has ordered their release.
- 2/25 3:00 Hospitals would be hurt by Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner's proposal to cut Medicaid reimbursement to hospitals by 13%.
- 2/26 1:00 The Chief Financial Officer for a fast growing food chain that emphasizes social responsibility says the fast food industry must reform itself.
- 2/27 11:00 The crime rate in the city of Bloomington dropped 13.3% last year for Uniform Crime Reporting categories.
- 3/5 5:00 The Justice Department says it won't prosecute former Ferguson, Missouri, police officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of an unarmed black 18-year-old that led to weeks of protests.
- 3/16 3:00 A sociologist who studies the emerging sexuality of Latina girls says the reality is far more complex than the stereotypes of religiously bound virtue that exist about the culture.
- 3/19 3:00 Bad weather in Washington D.C. got in the way of some members of the recent One Voice lobbying trip from Bloomington Normal.
- 3/25 3:00 Woodford County is the healthiest of all the counties in Illinois.

TECHNOLOGY

- 1/12 14:00 To understand U.S. opportunities in Cuba, there is one defining moment to consider...the collapse of the Soviet Union.
- 1/15 5:00 When the North American Auto Show opened this week in Detroit, there was a renewed emphasis on electric vehicles.
- 1/20 0:30 Although Illinois State University's sun-powered car finished near the bottom in the Abu-Dahbi Solar Challenge, but the big news is it finished in the desert race.
- 2/3 1:00 The man who designed the roundabout in Uptown Normal says looking back over the last fifteen years he might have made a mistake in creating the traffic circle without a drop off lane for the multi modal transportation center.

2/6 8:00 Agribusiness giant Monsanto is inching closer to releasing new genetically engineered soybean and cotton seeds.

2/9 3:00 The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation says a recent state report on the economic impact of the nuclear industry shows policy changes are in order to prevent shutdowns of nuclear plants like Exelon's Clinton Power Station.

2/19 1:00 Caterpillar cut the ribbon on a new data analysis lab at the University of Illinois Research Park in Champaign.

2/26 3:00 Illinois lawmakers are considering clean-energy legislation backed by Exelon Corp. to keep three unprofitable nuclear plants afloat.

3/2 0:30 Scientists with the University of Illinois say soil temperatures across the state have been near normal on average so far this winter.

3/31 0:30 Illinois school districts have been working to update policies after a new state law on cyberbullying took effect in January.

TRANSPORTATION

1/2 3:00 As the new year begins, a central Illinois lawmaker says he's optimistic that Congress will address transportation infrastructure spending for the first time in a decade.

1/5 2:00 A new study found that more of the nation's food moves through Illinois than any other state.

1/5 3:00 Mitsubishi Motors finished its sales year on a strong note. December marked the tenth straight month of increases. Full year figures show a nearly 25% increase over 2013.

1/15 5:00 When the North American Auto Show opened this week in Detroit, there was a renewed emphasis on electric vehicles.

1/20 3:00 For all that he is an elected official of long service, you might think from this next comment that McLean County Board member Jim Soeldner has no idea how to attract votes....

1/26 3:00 Rail advocates are concerned Governor Bruce Rauner's executive order that puts a hold on non-essential state spending could be the end of the line for two projects that have been chugging along.

2/2 3:00 As the transportation industry changes, Amtrak officials say they are poised for more growth. Steve Kaulm is a spokesman for the nation's passenger rail service.

2/16 3:00 The ridesharing service Uber is now operating in Bloomington-Normal It's one of the four metro areas announced yesterday as part of the company's continued expansion in Illinois outside of Chicago.

2/19 2:00 Families in the area are attending an event to help raise money and awareness for cyclists.

2/23 2:00 Motor Fuel Tax money from the state has fallen so far short of what is needed to maintain existing roads, McLean County's Highway chief says some replacement schedules may double.

3/9 1:00 Clean-up of an oil train derailment continues in Illinois' far northwestern corner.

3/16 3:00 Peoria's do it yourself bicycle repair club is a year old. Member Mark Beiser (BUY-zuhr) says the bicycle co-op is not a bike shop, but it does have volunteer staff to teach....

3/17 1:00 Ride-sharing services like Uber may soon be allowed to operate legally within Bloomington.

3/23 1:00 The Federal Aviation Administration says if an airport is built in the far southern suburbs, it would not interfere with flights at O'hare or Midway, but the proposal has yet to receive the blessing of Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner.

3/27 3:00 Most people living in Peoria say accommodations for bicyclists are not up to snuff.