

WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

January, February, March 2016

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

1/4 0:30 The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield is exploring history through music. The museum has placed song books, sheet music and other resources online.

There are more than 740 song sheets, song books and pieces of sheet music on the www.ChroniclingIllinois.org website. The music is divided into three collections: Civil War Song Sheets, Lincoln Sheet Music and Illinois Sheet Music and Song Books.

1/6 0:30 Starved Rock State Park in north-central Illinois had a record nearly 2.5 million visitors last year.

1/11 12:00 You might think there is not a lot in common with being a high level university administrator and a classical music artist. That's not necessarily the case as a concert tomorrow evening at Illinois Wesleyan University demonstrates.

1/18 6:00 It is not often audiences in central Illinois get to hear a violin that is older than the United States of America.

1/25 5:00 Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel have been arguing through the press recently. And their arguments have serious implications for every state resident. Disagreements between the two actually started the first time they met.

1/26 1:00 As the city of Bloomington considers potential cuts to its Center For the Performing Arts, economic analysis suggests a community impact of more than two million dollars per year from the BCPA.

1/28 13:00 30 years ago the space shuttle Challenger blew up as it was reaching for the sky, killing its crew. Charlie Schlenker talks with Stacey Shrewsbury, the Director of the Challenger Learning Center at Heartland Community College, and Libby Norcross, the Flight Director at the center about the anniversary.

2/1 1:00 The Illinois Symphony Orchestra has narrowed the field for its new Music Director search to four. Executive Director Trevor Orthman says those people will conduct the Symphony in Bloomington and Springfield in the coming fall and winter....

2/5 13:00 When one thinks of the 1960s...'68 pops up as the year of tumult. 50 years ago in 1966...not so much. McLean County Museum of History Director Greg Koos tells Charlie Schlenker what it was like in Bloomington Normal when WGLT went on the air. Koso says it was a year on the cusp of many things...

2/12 0:30 The organization leading efforts to renovation the Illinois governor's mansion says it received \$1 million in donations last year. The mansion has fallen into disrepair in recent years with a flooded basement, leaky roof and peeling paint.

2/15 0:30 Philanthropist David Rubenstein, who has already donated tens of millions of dollars to refurbish the Washington Monument and other national icons, is giving \$18 million to fix up the Lincoln Memorial.

2/19 0:30 In addition to the 70 jobs the new Destihl Brewery could create, CEO Matt Potts says there is another piece of economic development the expansion could bring.

2/24 0:30 The nominee to be the next Librarian of Congress has ties to President Barack Obama dating to her tenure with the Chicago Public Library more than two decades ago. Obama has nominated Baltimore library chief Carla Hayden to be the first woman and first African-American to lead the Library of Congress.

2/26 0:30 The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library saw its 4 millionth visitor today (FRI)-- Elise Arnold (uh-LEES-uh). Arnold, her husband and three kids stopped to visit the museum in Springfield during their move from Florence, Oregon to a new home in Kentucky.

2/29 16:00 The Western Avenue Community Center in Bloomington is 90 years old. As part of the anniversary celebration, Charlie Schlenker talks with Development Director Whitney Fryer and Executive Director Amy Cottone (koh-TOH-nee) about the past, present, and future of the organization.

3/3 1:00 When a biology major also has a major in art puts on an exhibit, it looks at the interplay of life and death in graphic beauty.

3/7 21:00 For a half century, U.S. Presidents have received daily briefings on national security threats and opportunities. The daily book has shifted in content and emphasis with each Chief Executive. Now, there is a history of this document, a new book titled...The President's Book of Secrets.

3/11 4:00 Children learn poorly when stressed or traumatized. And that traumatic response can last lifelong unless something happens to turn around the damage. The Unit Five Education Association is screening the movie Paper Tigers during American Education Week.

3/18 14:30 The Illinois Symphony Orchestra is going to the Proms. This has nothing to do with fancy dresses, corsages, and the annual high school ritual. Alastair Willis talks with us about tonight's concert which comes from a very different tradition, the promenade concert series in London.

3/21 4:30 Unit Five Schools last week changed the bus system and school start times in an effort to save money. Next up is considering other cost cuts including using charter services for transportation for extracurricular activities, taking out a working cash fund bond to buy buses instead of renting them, and raising fees for extras.

3/24 0:30 The annual Roger Ebert Film Festival in Champaign has announced six more films completing in this year's lineup.

3/31 11:00 He's worked with Woody Allen, Oliver Stone on Nixon, and Michael Bay on the Transformer movies. Kevin Dunn is a veteran character actor, and an Illinois Wesleyan University graduate who will visit the twin cities tomorrow.

BUSINESS, ECONOMY & LABOR

1/4 1:00 State Senator Jason Barickman says he has not been a big fan of term limits, but he also says the public is demanding structural reform. The Bloomington Normal Republican says non partisan remapping of house and senate boundaries could help confidence in government...

1/7 3:00 US Senator Dick Durbin announced a 25-million-dollar federal grant for the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center in Peoria today (Thursday.)
IPR's Cass Herrington reports the money aims to help local manufacturers compete in a rapidly

changing industry.

1/11 2:00 McLean County Board Chair Matt Sorensen will wait a couple more days for his first court appearance on federal wire fraud charges. He faces five counts related to an alleged false billing scheme to defraud State Farm Insurance.

1/13 1:00 One social service agency in Bloomington Normal has been able to put off closing one of its programs in spite of the state budget deadlock. PATH, or Providing Access to Help runs a state mandated unit that investigates elder abuse and neglect. Except the state hasn't been paying on its contract.

1/15 1:00 An Illinois State University labor expert says a case before the US Supreme Court over union dues paid by non-union employees would not directly affect private sector unions. The case is being pursued by some California teachers who say they shouldn't be forced to pony up dues when they disagree with the union.

1/25 1:00 In spite of more than half a year of budget deadlock, State Senator Bill Brady says he feels Governor Bruce Rauner is making significant change to Illinois government.

1/29 1:30 Next month, President Barack Obama will return to the place where his political career began --- Springfield, Illinois --- to address state legislators. IPR's Amanda Vinicky has more.

2/1 0:30 The Chicago Teachers Union says it has rejected a Board of Education contract proposal because it does not address school conditions, lack of services to some students and the district's long-term fiscal crisis.

2/5 1:00 Illinois Republican congressman Rodney Davis is pushing a bill that he says will provide a more open market for things like corrective lenses. During a tour of Identity Optical in Normal, Davis says the bill would allow companies like Identity Optical compete in markets where health care industries limit patient choice.

2/10 1:00 Bloomington Police say they have uncovered evidence in a 31-year old cold case murder, though the suspect has died. In late February of 1984 the body of 37-year old Gary Sheppleman was found in what was then Schenk's Tavern on Morrissey Drive in Bloomington.

2/12 0:30 Officials at Southern Illinois University say its Small Business Development Center will have to close next month because the state doesn't have a budget. The center uses grant money from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to help about 600 southern Illinois small businesses a year.

2/16 2:00 Gov. Bruce Rauner says Illinoisans are "sick and tired" of lawmakers passing bills they know the first-term Republican governor will veto. Rauner delivered his second budget address. He calls considering such bills a waste of time and says Illinois residents want the Democrat-controlled Legislature and Republican governor to work together on real reform...

2/22 1:00 City of Bloomington consideration of nearly \$2.6 million in sales tax rebates for Kroger to relocate and expand its grocery store raises the question how much should a city government be willing to pay to help move a business within a metro area?

2/29 1:00 The U-S Supreme Court has declined to reinstate the city of Springfield's anti-panhandling law. But city lawyer Steve Rahn (RON) says the legal fight will continue.

3/1 0:30 The Par-A-Dice Casino in East Peoria is reducing its late night hours. Last month the casino laid off 40 workers. Boyd Gaming says the move comes in the face of increased competition from video-gaming in the Peoria area.

3/4 0:30 The Kankakee plant that once bustled with 3,000 workers building gas and electric stoves is coming down. A Chicago company has obtained a demolition permit to raze the 810,000-square-foot Kankakee Roper building on 35 acres on the city's west side.

3/7 1:00 The company that manages downtown Bloomington's US Cellular Coliseum says it is severing ties with the city. Central Illinois Arena Management says in a statement it is opting out of the deal to manage the 7,000 seat indoor arena.

3/14 1:00 A man facing federal firearms charges in Iowa who attempted to escape prosecution by fleeing to Cuba has entered plea agreements with U.S. prosecutors. Court records say Shawn Michael Wegmann signed plea agreements last week for failure to appear and for four firearms counts. He faces up to 45 years in prison.

3/18 1:00 Heartland Community College is planning to Lay off five people and cut mostly vacant 23 positions over three years.

3/23 0:30 A federal court transcript says that an alleged sex abuse victim could testify next month at former U.S. Speaker Dennis Hastert's sentencing in a hush-money case. It's the first time the court has referenced sex abuse in the case.

3/28 1:00 The Illinois Attorney General isn't yet saying whether she believes a recent state Supreme Court decision could lead to missed paychecks for state employees.

CHILDREN & FAMILY/EDUCATION

1/6 0:30 Officials studying safety in Illinois schools say local authorities should adopt sound existing guidelines for securing the schoolhouse, build trust in students to come forward with their suspicions, and consult regularly with local police.

1/13 0:30 State officials say the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services lost out on millions of dollars in federal money in recent years because it failed to process paperwork. Agency Acting Director George Sheldon estimates the agency likely missed out on about \$40 million in federal funds in just the past two years.

1/15 0:30 A Chicago area transgender student whose fight to use a girls' locker room sparked a national debate is now allowed access. The move follows a long battle with federal authorities and public meetings. Palatine-based Township High School District 211 entered an agreement with federal officials last month after the student filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

1/18 17:30 Big changes will be coming in the way thousands of Bloomington Normal School children get to school. The Unit Five School district in McLean and neighboring Counties needs to cut a million dollars from its transportation line item to make next year's budget survivable.

1/21 0:30 Two people have died in a house fire in Homer. Homer Fire Chief Don Happ says the early-morning fire also injured two others. Happ says the two survivors ran from the home screaming ``Get my family out of the house."`

1/28 13:00 30 years ago the space shuttle Challenger blew up as it was reaching for the sky, killing its crew. Charlie Schlenker talks with Stacey Shrewsbury, the Director of the Challenger Learning Center at Heartland Community College, and Libby Norcross, the Flight Director at the center about the anniversary.

2/2 1:00 Heartland Heart Start says even though it is largely federally funded, the uncertain state financial situation has eroded its budget too. At a recent "Hidden McLean County" forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters, program manager Jaylene Taubert said they have lost about 5% of their budget and have had to cut some support staff.

2/9 1:00 During a hearing on proposals to implement changes in the state Department of Human Services, child care provider are making sure their voices are being heard. A contingent of providers from Chicago came to hearings in Bloomington pushing for a "fair" wage of \$15 an hour. Norma Jones is a child care provider from Chicago who's also used the service herself.

2/12 1:00 Two hundred jobs will soon be lost in Kewanee. Today the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice announced the closing of the youth correctional facility by July first, saying the closing will save money, improve rehabilitation for young offenders, and improve community safety.

2/18 0:30 Governor Bruce Rauner has created a special cabinet to streamline education and issues regarding young people across Illinois.

2/25 1:00 When Judith Geithner (GETH-nuhr) addresses the McLean County Chamber of Commerce (tomorrow/today), she wants the audience to think of human services providers as small businesses. The head of Illinois Partners for Human Services says that means the same kind of headaches as any other business.

2/29 1:00 Governor Bruce Rauner this week is continuing a tour of school districts to talk about school funding. A lawmaker proposing changes to the way Illinois funds schools questions the governor's rhetoric. Leaders in both parties have accused each other of trying to use state funds to bail out financially-troubled Chicago Public Schools.

3/4 0:30 A Bloomington human services provider is cutting back because of the states nine month long budget stalemate. LIFE-Center for Independent Living will no longer be open on Friday's, beginning today.

3/11 4:30 Children learn poorly when stressed or traumatized. And that traumatic response can last lifelong unless something happens to turn around the damage. The Unit Five Education Association is screening the movie Paper Tigers during American Education Week.

3/21 1:00 Unit 5 parents and children begin this week knowing school will begin at different times in the fall and buses will run different schedules. But, there are more cost cutting measures coming, according to Superintendent Mark Daniel including charging more for activities and sports....

3/24 10:30 A little more than a month ago a group of children from around the world met with Pope Francis. This came about from a book project originated by the Jesuit order In Illinois. The children wrote letters asking a question of the Pope and he answered.

ENVIRONMENT

1/4 2:00 Governor Bruce Rauner says state government has help for flood-damaged counties --- but not in the form of money to cover flood-related expenses. Rauner visited the Douglas County town of Villa Grove yesterday, part of a three-day tour of flooded counties that have been declared state disaster areas.

1/8 0:30 Flood waters are continuing to recede across Illinois as residents begin the recovery process after dealing with more than a week of high waters.

1/11 2:00 The Illinois Sustainable Farmer of the Year says he sees organic farming as a potential remedy to rural population loss. Experts have been worried about the hollowing of small town areas for decades. Harold Wilken of Iroquois County says organic farming requires non farm jobs to market and distribute products in a regional fashion. Because the scale of production is small, Wilken says it has to be kept local...

1/14 1:00 People who use the Lincoln Leisure Center in Bloomington will have to go elsewhere, at least for a while. Asbestos was discovered this week in the building on South Lee Street. The material was only found in a Boiler room that dates to 1913.

1/18 0:30 Ongoing state budget troubles could cause a problem in the quality of education for an entire generation of Illinois school children. That's according to Unit Five Superintendent Mark Daniel....

1/22 0:30 A bobcat kitten that was struck by a car will soon head back to Indiana following treatment at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine. The wildcat was hit by a car in November as she crossed a southern Indiana road with her mother and a sibling.

1/25 1:00 The McLean County Health Department is now offering restaurant inspection results online. Environmental Health Division Director Tom Anderson explains the department is not out to get people. Anderson says the department is trying to protect the public. Not all violations are critical or unsafe.

1/29 0:30 Exelon officials say the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved licenses for the Braidwood Generating Station southwest of Chicago for another 20 years. The plants, Unit 1 and Unit 2, have been operating since the late 1980s.

2/1 0:30 Greentop Grocery has to raise \$600,000 this month to keep moving forward on its Washington Street location in Bloomington. The Co-Op says it has already raised more than \$900,000 toward construction, but needs to raise the rest by the spring to retain the lease.

2/3 0:30 The wild temperature swings felt in Illinois this January canceled each other out, averaging to 26.7 degrees, just a fraction of a degree above average. Climatologist Jim Angel calls the temperature swings impressive, but also typical of winter in Illinois.

2/9 1:00 Mayor Tari Renner of Bloomington says the city council vote to table yet another solid waste disposal fee structure was embarrassing. Renner says council indecision has lasted five years, two before he was Mayor and nearly three in his term.

2/12 1:00 It's the annual, "Eagle Days" at Havana, along with other sites on the Illinois River. ISU professor of Biology Angelo Caparella says Bald Eagles reuse their nests, unless a competing bird takes it over. While not especially social, Bald Eagles are like in-laws, they tolerate each other as long as there's plenty to eat.

2/19 0:30 Illinois State University has once again secured a national honor for its tree friendliness. It's been designated as a Tree Campus USA. That's a title bestowed by the Arbor Day Foundation for colleges that promote healthy management of their campus forests. Among other things, ISU has a campus tree advisory committee and a campus tree-care plan.

2/23 0:30 Both Bloomington and Normal water departments have been getting questions related to the lead crisis in Flint, Michigan. Water Directors for the two cities say their departments use chemicals to prevent corrosion.

2/26 0:30 Green Top Grocery's owner loan campaign is at 75% with just a few days remaining. If the start-up co-op can raise about \$360,000 by Monday evening, it will have the equity it needs to secure a loan from National Cooperative bank and proceed with a spring ground-breaking.

HEALTH & MEDICINE

1/4 1:00 Last November Chris Predmore, an 18-year-old Illinois State University student, committed suicide. His parents in Bartonville were not aware of the seriousness of his mental health issues. He was seeing a psychologist at school. But privacy laws kept the doctor from sharing the information with Predmore's parents.

1/8 0:30 Gov. Bruce Rauner's administration has named an insurance company executive to lead Get Covered Illinois, the state's health insurance marketplace. The Illinois Department of Insurance says Karen Woods will fill the post. Woods previously worked as executive director of Blue Cross Blue Shield's retail claim operation. She succeeds Karin Zosel who left in early August to return to MacMurray College in Jacksonville where she worked before the Republican appointed her.

1/11 3:00 Hospital exemptions from property taxes are in question after an Illinois appellate court ruling last week found a 2012 state law setting tax exemptions for charitable care to be unconstitutional. If Carle appeals this ruling, the next stop for this case would be the Illinois Supreme Court. Tax Law Professor John Colombo is with the University of Illinois. Colombo says without the state law, there is another case that revoked a hospital's exemption, though it is not much help...

1/14 1:00 The city of Bloomington does not know when the Lincoln Leisure Center will be available again, after the discovery of asbestos there this week. Abatement will likely begin next week, according to Facilities Manager Russ Waller.

1/19 5:00 The US is currently in the grips of a heroin epidemic and your doctor may be to blame. Heroin is made from the opium poppy, and opioid drugs make life bearable for those having dental work, surgery, or suffering from chronic pain.

1/22 0:30 The asbestos that was discovered in Bloomington's Lincoln Leisure Center a week ago has been taken out of the building. The city says Ideal Environmental took the material from near the building's furnace. A full evaluation of the building will also be presented to the city.

1/25 1:00 For the first time, the public in Bloomington Normal can easily look at health department inspection reports for restaurants. They are on the McLean County Health Department web site. Environmental Health Division Director Tom Anderson says occasionally restaurants have bad days, though they are generally safe.

1/29 1:00 A renewed push is underway to add Post Traumatic Stress Disorder to the conditions eligible for medical marijuana. Lon Hodge is a Vietnam veteran. He suffers from PTSD, and experiences panic attacks and suicidal thoughts.

2/1 0:30 A market research company is growing pessimistic about Illinois medical marijuana, telling investors that retail sales could reach just \$15.6 million in 2016. California-based ArcView Market Research released its projections Monday.

2/5 1:00 During a visit to Identity Optical on West College in Normal, 13th District Congressman Rodney Davis made a push for a bill that could increase the company's sales. Davis says currently some insurance providers require doctors to use plans specifying the manufacturer.

2/16 0:30 The City of Bloomington says its Lincoln Leisure center on the near west side will reopen tomorrow/this evening. The center housing a variety of community and recreational programs was closed last month for asbestos abatement when friable asbestos was found in the furnace room.

2/19 1:00 The legal age to smoke in Illinois would increase from 18 to 21 under legislation introduced in Springfield. Ginnie Flynn -- with the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians -- doesn't smoke now.

2/23 1:00 Twin cities water workers are reassuring the public the lead contamination that happened to Flint, Michigan is unlikely in central Illinois.

2/29 0:30 The parents of a Memphis 2-year-old say they can now think about their daughter's future after she underwent a liver transplant that at one point was threatened by a snowstorm.

3/1 0:30 Illinois medical marijuana shops had their best month yet in February with nearly \$1.5 million in sales, bringing total retail sales to more than \$4.4 million since the program began Nov. 9.

3/4 0:30 The central Illinois heroin and opioid (OH-pee-oyd) epidemic has reached the

point Congressman Darin LaHood is asking the Obama administration to schedule a federal community forum in the 18th district.

3/9 1:00 This week is the "No More-a Week of Action" assault on violence in the home. The Bloomington-based Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence seeks to end domestic violence and sexual assault through what it calls " a movement centered on a powerful new symbol that brings together all people who want to end domestic violence and sexual assault."

3/15 1:00 Laurie Wollrab says she's pleased to return to the McLean County Board. She received the appointment to the vacancy created by Paul Finch's resignation. Reporters asked Wollrab whether there are improvements that can be made in how the Health Department views the mental health initiatives advocated by the County Board.

3/21 0:30 A faulty furnace is being blamed for a weekend incident that nearly killed two people. Both victims were reportedly experiencing seizures, and had high levels of Carbon Monoxide in their bodies when rescue workers found them in the building's bedroom Saturday.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS

1/4 0:30 Governor Bruce Rauner says he would sign legislation allowing voters to recall the mayor of Chicago, but he says the law wouldn't apply to Rahm Emanuel. Rauner says he hasn't studied the measure introduced by Democratic state Representative LaShawn Ford, but says based on what he's been told "I would sign that bill."

1/6 2:00 Though McLean County Board members have cautioned they are not ready to call for the resignation of Board Chair Matt Sorensen, they could not if they wanted to. Federal prosecutors unsealed a five count fraud indictment against Sorensen this week alleging a false billing scheme victimizing State Farm Insurance. McLean County State's Attorney Jason Chambers says short of a conviction the county board has no recall ability for a chair by statute or by board rules....

1/11 3:00 Hospital exemptions from property taxes are in question after an Illinois appellate court ruling last week found a 2012 state law setting tax exemptions for charitable care to be unconstitutional. If Carle appeals this ruling, the next stop for this case would be the Illinois Supreme Court. Tax Law Professor John Colombo is with the University of Illinois. Columbo says without the state law, there is another case that revoked a hospital's exemption, though it is not much help...

1/13 3:00 Officials in a northwestern Illinois community say a federal prison's hiring bump is coinciding with increased interest from real estate developers who want to know about available land. Thomson Village President Vicky Trager says inquiries about development are up. She says there's also more traffic from new workers and their families. Trager says it's been a smooth process.

1/19 5:00 The US is currently in the grips of a heroin epidemic and your doctor may be to blame. Heroin is made from the opium poppy, and opiod drugs make life bearable for those having dental work, surgery, or suffering from chronic pain.

1/21 0:30 A Bloomington armed robbery resulted in one shooting injury, and one arrest. Police say they have booked 18-year old Richard Sims for Aggravated Battery with a Firearm. Sims arrest follows a reported armed robbery yesterday/Wednesday afternoon at Jackson and Lang's Alley near downtown Bloomington.

1/29 0:30 Governor Bruce Rauner's Administration has dashed the hopes of Veterans and other groups who wanted Medical Marijuana eligibility expanded to those with post traumatic stress syndrome and seven other condicions.

2/1 0:30 Numbers from Illinois State Police show the agency granted far fewer concealed carry permits statewide in 2015 than in 2014. About 55,500 permits were granted statewide during 2015, compared to about 95,500 in 2014, the first year of the program.

2/4 0:30 For the first time since 1997, the Bloomington Police Department is reporting no homicides last year. There were three in 2014. Those statistics are contained in the new Uniform Crime Report for the city.

2/10 1:00 Bloomington Police say they have uncovered evidence in a 31-year old cold case murder, though the suspect has died. In late February of 1984 the body of 37-year old Gary Sheppleman was found in what was then Schenk's Tavern on Morrissey Drive in Bloomington.

2/18 0:30 A federal judge has dismissed racketeering claims that one-time Illinois gubernatorial candidate Dan Rutherford (ROOTH'-ur-ferd) ran the state treasurer's office like a campaign operation.

2/22 1:00 The extent to which Donald Trump remains the front runner depends on how long John Kasich stays in the GOP Presidential primary race.

2/26 0:30 A police chase in Normal ended when the man being chased died after apparently shooting himself. The incident began as an apparent hostage situation when Normal police were called to a residence on Normal Avenue by a woman claiming the man was holding her against her will.

2/29 0:30 A man has been arrested in connection with a pipe bomb that exploded under a bridge over the Illinois River in central Illinois. Pekin Police say they arrested 26-year-old Marc A. McCulley of Pekin early Sunday after police received a tip on the department's Facebook page.

3/2 1:00 Even as Governor Bruce Rauner announced his first steps toward criminal justice reform today (Wednesday) ... a police group says the lack of a state budget is making Illinois a more dangerous place to live.

3/4 1:00 The central Illinois heroin and opioid (OH-pee-oyd) epidemic has reached the point Congressman Darin LaHood is asking the Obama administration to schedule a federal community forum in the 18th district.

3/9 1:00 Illinois lawmakers are considering a proposal that would decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana. Instead, people caught with 10 grams or less of cannabis would pay a maximum fine of 200 dollars.

3/14 0:30 A man facing federal firearms charges in Iowa who attempted to escape prosecution by fleeing to Cuba has entered plea agreements with U.S. prosecutors. Court records say Shawn Michael Wegmann signed plea agreements last week for failure to appear and for four firearms counts. He faces up to 45 years in prison.

3/18 0:30 Illinois basketball player Kendrick Nunn's attorney says the junior has pleaded not guilty to two counts of domestic battery. Nunn's attorney, Evan Bruno, said Friday that his client has a pretrial hearing set for April 20. Nunn is free on bond.

3/23 0:30 A judge has sentenced an animal rights activist to a year in a halfway house and on house arrest for vandalizing an Illinois fur farm and releasing more than 2,000 mink from cages. U.S. District Judge Amy St. Eve has also sentenced 27-year-old Tyler Lang of Los Angeles to three months' time already served and ordered him to pay \$200,000 to the couple that operated the farm in Morris.

3/30 1:00 Superintendent of LeRoy schools Gary Tipsord chairs a committee that's looking at ways to more equitably fund education in Illinois. Tipsord says while something has to change when it comes to state-wide school funding, LeRoy's not as bad off as other rural Illinois

districts.

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

1/1 0:30 Gov. Bruce Rauner has ordered Illinois National Guard soldiers to active duty to help with flood recovery efforts in the state.

1/4 2:00 A prominent central Illinois organic farmer says proper crop rotation can confuse pests. Harold Wilken of Danforth in Iroquois County is this year's Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Award winner. He says it takes more marketing and business work to farm organic and find outlets for his crops, but it's also less expensive to produce the raw crop than it is for conventional farmers...

1/11 1:00 The federal government says Illinois residents can breathe easier when using airports...for a couple more years. The state has yet to adopt a more secure drivers license form. The Department of Homeland Security had threatened to require Illinois residents to use passports to gain access to secure arease of airports unless the state makes the transition. Now, Homeland Security has issued a repreive until 2018. Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White says his office will work with the legislature and the feds on the issue.

1/13 0:30 The scramble for the seat of McLean County Board member Matt Sorensen has already begun. Two Republicans have filed as write in candidates for the March Primary. County Clerk Kathy Michael says the deadline for that is tomorrow/today. The two are: Scott Murphy and Mike Sumner.

1/19 1:00 Should Illinois' predominantly minority colleges be funded despite the budget impasse? Chicago State University won't have money to make payroll on March first. State Representative Andre Thapedi (ta-ped -eee), says schools with minority enrollments of 75% or more should be funded despite the deadlock.

1/25 1:00 Illinois State Senator Bill Brady is defending the first year of Governor Bruce Rauner's administration. The Bloomington Republican says Rauner has shaken up Springfield. Brady says things in the state of Illinois had to get worse before they can any better.

2/1 1:00 Illinois' Senate President is encouraging Governor Bruce Rauner to rethink his priorities on student aid legislation ... but the governor was quick to repeat his promise of a veto.

2/5 1:00 Illinois Republican congressman Rodney Davis is pushing a bill that he says will provide a more open market for things like corrective lenses. During a tour of Identity Optical in Normal, Davis says the bill would allow companies like Identity Optical compete in markets where health. Mayor Tari Renner of Bloomington says the city council vote to table yet another solid waste disposal fee structure was embarrassing.

2/15 1:00 A tight contest for the Presidential nomination and competitive races for seats in the General Assembly could make for a gripping primary in Illinois next month. Deadlines loom if you plan to be a part of it.

2/19 0:30 In addition to the 70 jobs the new Destihl Brewery could create, CEO Matt Potts says there is another piece of economic development the expansion could bring. Destihl announced a 14 million dollar new facility is planned north of Menards in Normal.

2/22 0:30 A federal judge is easing travel restrictions during Jesse Jackson Jr.'s supervised release so the ex-congressman can take his children to visit his imprisoned wife more often and see the children's grandparents in Chicago.

2/29 1:00 Governor Bruce Rauner this week is continuing a tour of school districts to talk about school funding. A lawmaker proposing changes to the way Illinois funds schools questions the governor's rhetoric.

3/1 0:30 A judge has dismissed a claim that Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz isn't eligible for the Illinois ballot because he was born in Canada.

3/4 1:00 The central Illinois heroin and opioid (OH-pee-oyd) epidemic has reached the point Congressman Darin LaHood is asking the Obama administration to schedule a federal community forum in the 18th district.

3/8 1:00 Nine months into a stalemate that's left Illinois without a budget ... Governor Bruce Rauner today (TUES) let loose on House Speaker Michael Madigan.

3/15 1:00 While GOP Presidential Candidate Donald Trump was addressing more than 2,000 people at a hangar at the Central Illinois Regional Airport, a small group of Illinois State University faculty and students were watching the Trump rally in Bloomington go viral.

3/21 1:00 Illinois is home to more governmental units than any other state, and the McLean County League of Women Voters is embarking on a study to gauge how well the ones in this area work. Long-time league member Sally Rudolph says it's the first step in what could be changes in McLean County government.

3/22 0:30 Illinois U-S Representative Robin Kelly says the American envoy is getting a warm welcome in Cuba. Kelly talked about her impressions of the island nation during her visit to Cuba with President Barack Obama.

3/25 0:30 Gov. Bruce Rauner says an overhaul of Illinois' outdated school funding formula can be done over time. Rauner supports a rewrite but says the formula is complex, broken and changing it will take time. Speaking in Paxton, the Republican says he doesn't want to hold up the budget and funding schools if it takes longer than August.

3/31 1:00 The Town of Normal is pulling back on its TIGR grant application for a year. The \$14 million plus request would have funded a pedestrian underpass below the train tracks in Uptown.

RACE, EQUALITY & RIGHTS

1/6 0:30 The professor of a suburban Chicago Christian college who asserted Christians and Muslims worship the same God is disputing the university's account of interactions with administrators who've initiated steps to fire her.

1/14 18:00 Hundreds of middle class jobs exited the Bloomington Normal community with the end of production at the Mitsubishi plant in Normal and in announced Caterpillar layoffs. That could be expected to become apparent in student enrollment, the rate at which students switch schools, and even the number of free and reduced lunch applications.

1/15 0:30 A Chicago area transgender student whose fight to use a girls' locker room sparked a national debate is now allowed access. The move follows a long battle with federal authorities and public meetings. Palatine-based Township High School District 211 entered an agreement with federal officials last month after the student filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

1/19 1:00 Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner is announcing a new program to help minority entrepreneurs.

1/25 12:00 A busy political week with some mixed signals between Senate Democrats and Republican Governor Bruce Rauner.

1/26 0:30 Bloomington's Mayor says he is not alone in emphasizing community policing strategies. Speaking on GLT's Sound Ideas, Tari Renner said his recent trip to the U.S. Mayor's Conference in Washington showed many Mayors are talking about the practice as a way to increase communication with residents.

2/1 0:30 Numbers from Illinois State Police show the agency granted far fewer concealed carry permits statewide in 2015 than in 2014. About 55,500 permits were granted statewide during 2015, compared to about 95,500 in 2014, the first year of the program. But while those numbers are down, the number of objections to applications that were made by law enforcement more than doubled.

2/4 5:00 Black Lives Matter is both an organization and a philosophy. It's gained attention for efforts to combat police brutality in the wake of highly publicized police shootings, including in Chicago and Ferguson, Missouri.

2/9 0:30 A 9-foot-tall menorah at a University of Illinois Jewish student center has been damaged for a third time in less than a year. The center's rabbi believes school leaders haven't taken a strong enough stand against the vandalism. Campus police say one arm of the menorah was broken early Sunday.

2/12 8:00 In Springfield there has been remarkably little movement on a state budget. But, there has at least been rhetorical agreement on the need for change in another arena...the often difficult to deal with idea of criminal justice and prison reform.

2/16 0:30 Governor Bruce Rauner has spent more than a year promoting his business-friendly, anti-union Turnaround Agenda. Now a group of community organizations and labor unions are offering a counterproposal. They call it the People's Agenda.

2/19 1:00 Republican Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner has followed through on his pledge to reject funding for MAP grants --- which help low-income students pay college tuition.

2/29 0:30 The U-S Supreme Court has declined to reinstate the city of Springfield's anti-panhandling law. But city lawyer Steve Rahn (RON) says the legal fight will continue.

3/8 0:30 The former music director of a suburban Chicago Catholic parish who was fired after becoming engaged to his same-sex partner is suing the parish and the Archdiocese of Chicago.

3/16 1:00 The Not In Our Town Movement in Mclean County has concerns that the coarse language and insults used by Republican Presidential Candidate Donald Trump will empower others to talk about people that way too.

3/21 1:00 Some minority students at University High School in Normal recently held a daylong observance of the Black Lives Matter movement.

3/22 16:30 A sizeable percentage of students at University High School in Normal recently dressed all in black for a day to mark the Black Lives Matter movement. There was some contention as other students dressed all in white as part of an All Lives Matter response.

3/23 0:30 Illinois' U-S Senators are divided over the future of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba ... as President Barack Obama's administration seeks to close the facility.

3/25 1:00 75 years ago this month, the Tuskegee Airmen got their start, not at Tuskegee Alabama, but in Champaign County Illinois. That's the nation's first African-American fighter pilot group, who fought in World War Two.

SOCIAL SERVICE & PROGRAMS

1/13 3:00 The social service agency PATH in Bloomington Normal will be able to keep its doors open for a few months in spite of the ongoing budget stalemate. PATH Director Karen Zangerle had been worried about making payroll this month.

1/14 18:00 Hundreds of middle class jobs exited the Bloomington Normal community with the end of production at the Mitsubishi plant in Normal and in announced Caterpillar layoffs. That could be expected to become apparent in student enrollment, the rate at which students

switch schools, and even the number of free and reduced lunch applications.

1/25 1:00 The coordinator of customized training at Heartland Community College says she is surprised only about a hundred former Mitsubishi workers have so far taken advantage of free workshops. Lindsay Thompson says she would have thought more of the thousand workers laid off so far would have enrolled in resume writing, interviewing, computer courses and other offerings.

1/26 15:00 Mitsubishi Workers have not been taking great advantage of education workshops on workforce issues since the layoffs of about a thousand workers at the plant in Normal last year. But, Charlie Schlenker finds out there is a lot still being offered.

1/29 0:30 Gov. Bruce Rauner says he looks forward to welcoming President Barack Obama back to the Illinois Capitol. Obama is scheduled to address the Illinois General Assembly on Feb. 10 in Springfield, the city where Chicago Democrat and former state senator announced nine years ago that he was entering the 2008 presidential race.

2/9 1:00 During a hearing on proposals to implement changes in the state Department of Human Services, child care providers are making sure their voices are being heard. A contingent of providers from Chicago came to hearings in Bloomington pushing for a "fair" wage of \$15 an hour.

2/12 8:00 In Springfield there has been remarkably little movement on a state budget. But, there has at least been rhetorical agreement on the need for change in another arena...the often difficult to deal with idea of criminal justice and prison reform.

2/16 0:30 Advocates for more spending on education and human services are urging Gov. Bruce Rauner to embrace higher taxes and a balanced state budget on the eve of his annual budget presentation. The Responsible Budget Coalition held a state Capitol news conference a day before the conservative governor is scheduled to present a budget plan for the year that begins next July 1.

2/25 1:00 State Farm Insurance is giving four million dollars to help stabilize the financial situations of poor people in under-resourced neighborhoods. Ed Woods is State Farm's Director of Philanthropy. He says they are giving the money to the Local Initiatives Support Corporation or LISC.

2/26 14:00 The Bloomington Public Library faces a number of challenges and opportunities, most of which will wait until a new director is found. Terry Lindberg is the interim director. He talks with Charlie Schlenker about the search process. Search firm John Keister and Associates has met with area leaders about the culture and needs of the institution.

2/29 16:00 The Western Avenue Community Center in Bloomington is 90 years old. As part of the anniversary celebration, Charlie Schlenker talks with Development Director Whitney Fryer and Executive Director Amy Cottone (koh-TOH-nee) about the past, present, and future of the organization.

3/2 1:00 Last year Mitsubishi Motors in Normal ended production, leaving about a thousand workers unemployed. Dena Weth is the Assistant Director of Career Link, an Illinois Worknet Center, says most of their contacts concern education and not other immediate jobs.

3/9 1:00 Domestic violence victims can surreptitiously communicate with police through codespeak. It's a practice that grew out of a public service campaign developed in Bloomington.

3/11 4:30 Children learn poorly when stressed or traumatized. And that traumatic response can last lifelong unless something happens to turn around the damage. The Unit Five Education Association is screening the movie Paper Tigers during American Education Week.

3/15 1:00 Laurie Wollrab says she's pleased to return to the McLean County Board. She

received the appointment to the vacancy created by Paul Finch's resignation. Reporters asked Wollrab whether there are improvements that can be made in how the Health Department views the mental health initiatives advocated by the County Board.

3/24 10:30 A little more than a month ago a group of children from around the world met with Pope Francis. This came about from a book project originated by the Jesuit order In Illinois. The children wrote letters asking a question of the Pope and he answered.

TECHNOLOGY

1/7 2:00 Faster internet service is planned for Bloomington-Normal. MetroNet is installing fiber optic to home systems capable of speed up to one GigaBitPerSecond, or a "Gig."

1/12 0:30 The University of Illinois' flagship campus has broadened its ban on hoverboards to cover all of its buildings and other campus facilities. The university last week told students the two-wheeled scooters were prohibited in campus housing but widened that restriction Tuesday.

1/25 1:00 Illinois doesn't have a centralized I-T infrastructure. It's a patchwork of old systems. Today (MON) Governor Bruce Rauner announced the creation of a new state agency to deal with information technology.

1/26 4:30 Mitsubishi Workers have not been taking great advantage of education workshops on workforce issues since the layoffs of about a thousand workers at the plant in Normal last year.

1/28 13:00 30 years ago the space shuttle Challenger blew up as it was reaching for the sky, killing its crew. Charlie Schlenker talks with Stacey Shrewsbury, the Director of the Challenger Learning Center at Heartland Community College, and Libby Norcross, the Flight Director at the center about the anniversary.

2/8 0:30 An Illinois lawmaker wants to make it a crime to record a fight in order to post the video online. Rep. Terri Bryant says she was disturbed by a video of an altercation between two boys from her hometown of Murphysboro that was posted to Facebook.

2/11 15:30 The Police Chief of Bloomington hopes to have body cams for his officers in place this time next year. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with Brendan Heffner about body cams and reasons for a dip in the crime rate.

2/15 0:30 Illinois lawmakers are seeking ways to penalize the use of drones to deliver drugs, cellphones, and other contraband to prison yards after seeing such cases in Ohio, Maryland and Oklahoma.

2/18 0:30 Galesburg has agreed to purchase two hybrid mass-transit buses, but they won't hit the streets for a few years. The city council has approved using \$1.2 million in state Transportation Department funding to buy the diesel-electric machines.

2/23 0:30 Apple says it's challenging government efforts to overcome encryption on at least 14 devices nationwide in addition to the phone of a San Bernardino, California, shooter.

3/14 1:00 Bloomington-Normal may have been ground-zero for the political social media world during Donald Trump's campaign stop. Nate Carpenter heads up Illinois State University's School of Communication Social Media Analytics and Command Center.

3/18 13:30 The west african food crisis of 2008 had various causes. Drought, the flooding, political unrest dislocating some populations,, overfishing by European nations off the coast of Africa, and globalization and economic dependence on western countries.

3/23 0:35 The Normal Police Department has launched a new mobile app. Chief Rick Bleichner says the app allows users to file police reports, view daily crime logs, and get

information about community alerts.

3/30 1:00 Innovation is not easy according to a prominent Illinois State University graduate. Christopher Chapman is on campus in Normal as part of Communication Week. He's the Global Creativity and Innovation Director for the Disney Corporation.

TRANSPORTATION

1/5 0:30 The Illinois Secretary of State's Office says fewer motorists renewed their license plate stickers in November and December, after the office announced it would stop mailing out reminders. The office said in September it could save \$450,000 a month by not mailing the reminders, as the state operates without a budget.

1/8 1:00 Bicycles have been at the center of at least a couple big changes in American culture. That's according to Chris Sweet, a librarian and historian at Illinois Wesleyan University. He is researching bike history as part of a sabbatical. Speaking on GLT's Sound Ideas, Sweet said modern transportation infrastructure came about in part because of the first big bicycle boom in the 1890s...

1/14 1:00 The Central Illinois Regional Airport in Bloomington lost eight percent of its passenger traffic over the last year. Spokeswoman Fran Strebing (StrEE-Bing) says fewer flights and typically result in fewer passengers. With the discontinuation of Frontier Airline's Denver and Florida flights, Strebing says Frontier Airline was the largest source of the decrease.

1/18 0:30 American Airlines is stepping up service to the airport in Bloomington-Normal. The airline is adding an additional daily flight to Dallas-Fort Worth.

1/21 1:00 The nation's Mayor's meeting in Washington are getting a look at the new transportation bill and what's in it for them. WGLT's Hanna Gutmann reports Normal Mayor Chris Koos says the biggest problem is the new bill still has an old funding mechanism and priorities.

1/26 15:00 Mitsubishi Workers have not been taking great advantage of education workshops on workforce issues since the layoffs of about a thousand workers at the plant in Normal last year. But, Charlie Schlenker finds out there is a lot still being offered.

1/29 1:00 Cash, transfer ticket, or prepaid pass are the only ways to get on a Connect Transit bus, but that will change in May. Bloomington-Normal's bus system is switching over to an electronic fare collection system. Customers will be able to buy and download passes on their mobile phone or use a magnetic strip card.

2/1 1:00 Connect Transit wants to find out what people think of the route changes that have now taken effect after months of planning and advertising.

2/4 17:00 Ralph Timan (tee-muhn) spent 27 years at Mitsubishi. Even before the plant shut down, he started planning. And since the plant ended production a couple months ago...he says it has been a pretty quick period.

2/8 0:30 The Mclean County Coroner has identified the man struck and killed by a train early Monday morning. Coroner Kathy Davis says 37-year old George denison of Bloomington died from blunt force injuries caused by the train.

2/12 0:30 Illinois transportation planners are awaiting details of how they could use a potential multi-million windfall for the state. A spending bill approved by Congress in late 2015 contains a clause allowing unused transportation earmarks to be dispensed to states for related work.

2/18 0:30 Galesburg has agreed to purchase two hybrid mass-transit buses, but they won't hit the streets for a few years. The city council has approved using \$1.2 million in state

Transportation Department funding to buy the diesel-electric machines.

2/24 0:30 Not a good day to drive on the interstate, or travel at all for that matter. State Police say I 74 between Bloomington and Champaign is blocked with a jackknifed semi. Troopers are also on scene of multiple semis stuck in the roadway on IL Route 47 between US Route 136 and Champaign County Road 2600 North.

3/1 15:00 Many laid off Mitsubishi workers are still searching for new directions after the plant ended production last year. State and local officials are offering help with that. Dena Weth is the Assistant Director for Careerlink, the agency assisting Mitsubishi Associates re-entering the job market.

3/9 1:00 Another section of brick streets in Bloomington is about to bite the dust. The city is repaving a section of West Chestnut street near Mason because of deterioration. Public Works Director Jim Karch says his department developed a plan to preserve brick streets in 2009, but the city council never acted on it.

3/15 1:00 A bicycle lawyer is addressing the Bike BloNo meeting Wednesday March 16th. Brendan Kevenides (kev-in-NIDE-ess) is partner in a Chicago firm that specializes in the legal needs of cyclists.

3/21 16:00 Unit Five Schools last week made a major change in the school bus routes and times and in start times for students...7:45 for elementary children and 8:30 for high school and middle school and perhaps as late as 8:45.

3/31 0:30 Traffic into Peoria's airport was backed up onto the Interstate after security personal say they found baggage appeared to contain tubes of explosive material, a timing device and vials of liquid. A woman is being questioned about the baggage, according to Peoria County Sheriff Mike McCoy.