

# **WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS**

## **April, May, June 2011**

**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

- 04/12 5:30 Some twin city residents are hoping to bring a fowl presence into Bloomington-Normal, and they want the community to change current ordinances to allow it:
- 04/20 5:30 A prominent wildlife conservationist and award winning television host thinks we're missing the forest for one or two particular trees. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with Jeff Corwin about mass extinction and other issues...
- 05/03 7:00 Friday night, the Titanic is set to sink yet again. And it will almost a dozen times more during the run of the musical "Titanic" at Community Players in Bloomington.
- 05/12 6:00 The McLean County Museum of History in Bloomington is currently featuring an exhibit that showcases the talent of a prominent central Illinois architect. WGLT's Laura Kennedy visits the exhibit and finds that for A.L. Pillsbury, variety was the spice of life, but schools were the sweetest...
- 05/26 5:00 June First marks the first day in Illinois in which couples can apply for a civil union. As IPR's Jenna Dooley reports, that means same sex couples can enjoy many of the rights of marriage. But it also means there are plenty of details to work out.
- 05/31 3:00 Neglect and bad policy are doing little to help American cities survive, according to an Illinois State University history professor. Roger Biles new book, "The Fate of Cities," is highly critical of our nation's approach to its cities. Biles says a number of factors like poor government decisions, ineptitude, and neglect undermined the viability of some cities.
- 06/08 3:00 The Ecology Action Center has growing concerns that hydraulic fracturing could be used to find Natural Gas deposits in central Illinois after an Iowa based company requested to drill in the area earlier this year. The process, also known as "fracking," pushes millions of gallons of water and chemicals into a deep well which allows gas to flow to the surface. Michael Brown, Executive Director of the Ecology Action Center, says fracking can release hazardous chemicals into the air and the water supply...
- 06/14 5:00 Traveling along Route 150, you've got to obey the rules of the road, but at one popular hangout in Farmer City, those same rules don't apply. IPR's Sean Powers took a trip there for the wild and fast world of dirt late model racing.
- 06/17 6:30 In 1884, Hall of Fame pitcher and Bloomington native Charles "Old Hoss" Radbourn racked up 59 wins, a record that no one expects will ever be broken. Author Ed Achorn's new book Fifty-Nine in '84 details Radbourn's season and his life.
- 06/24 6:30 Bloomington native and Public Radio Journalist Tom Ashbrook has been on the scene for Indira Gandhi's funeral, the refugee exodus from Vietnam, the post-Mao opening of China, and 9-11. He returned to his home town to speak at Illinois State University.
- 06/30 3:00 Town of Normal leaders are speaking re-assuring words about traffic access to the Sugar Creek Arts Festival even though railroad improvement delays have pushed back a street closing schedule into festival time.

### BUSINESS, ECONOMY & LABOR

- 04/04 3:00 One of the nation's top insurance industry executives says a year after passage of the Affordable Care Act there are still more questions than answers. State Farm Insurance Chairman Ed Rust Junior says regulatory implementation and policy structures are unclear...
- 04/06 2:30 Garbage production dropped close to six percent in McLean County last year. That's according to the Ecology Action Center in Normal which tracks solid waste. For years there had been a

general increase in recycling. That was interrupted by the recession. The Center's Michael Brown says recycling is going back up, but waste production remains down....

04/13 3:00 In the face of record-setting gas price increases, one Illinois lawmaker says it's time for an "all of the above" approach to energy. 11th district

U-S Congressman Adam Kinzinger says pre-Gulf oil spill drilling permits were running about ten per week. He says the pace hasn't recovered...

04/14 5:30 An ISU Professor is one of a group of economists and academics asking the Justice Department to investigate the BCS system in college football. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more....

04/20 5:30 A prominent wildlife conservationist and award winning television host thinks we're missing the forest for one or two particular trees. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with Jeff Corwin about mass extinction and other issues...

05/03 5:30 Many Newspapers are struggling to survive as advertising revenue falls and readers move to other means of getting information than the daily paper. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with the publisher of Bloomington's paper of record about the changing landscape...

05/13 2:00 State Farm Insurance will begin offering insurance benefits to same sex couples who are employees when the Illinois Civil Union bill goes into effect in June. Spokesman Phil Supple says the company already offers such benefits in nine states and the District of Columbia as required in those jurisdictions but will extend it nationwide....

05/19 3:00 Illinoisans are getting their first look at how Democratic lawmakers want to redraw boundaries for state Senate districts.

06/22 5:30 Six months ago WGLT reported Broadway Avenue might need to be closed to accommodate 110 mile an hour rail service through the twin cities. The issue has now heated up. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with the Mayor of Normal...

06/30 3:30 Bike Lanes are a big priority for the Main Street corridor in Bloomington-Normal according to public input on the future of Main Street. John Howseal (HOW-seel), the President of the urban planning firm Howseal-Levine (HOW-seel luh-VEEN) Associates of Chicago, says more than 550 people have taken the on-line survey as part of the transportation feasibility study....

## CHILDREN & FAMILY/EDUCATION

04/01 2:00 Governor Pat Quinn has singled out school consolidation as a major cost saver for the state. The state's top education official disagrees. Illinois Board of Education Superintendent Chris Koch (cook) says he's got the data to prove forced school consolidation is not going to pull the state out of its fiscal mess and may be even more costly....

04/04 3:00 Budget reductions are impacting how students learn at Illinois State University, but not in the way you might think. ISU's Special Education Assistive Technology Center uses equipment worth more than a half million dollars to train college students how to teach children with disabilities. But once grads snag that first teaching job, schools often don't have access to the same technology, so the new teachers adapt. ISU sophomore Katie Hamilton says the SEAT center teaches them to be resourceful...

04/11 3:00 A young girl is alive today thanks to the quick action of the lead custodian at Prairieland Elementary School in Normal.

04/14 5:30 An ISU Professor is one of a group of economists and academics asking the Justice Department to investigate the BCS system in college football. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more....

05/04 3:00 Six counts of murder have been filed against a rural Chenoa man in connection with last week's death of the three year old daughter of his girlfriend. 23-year old David Gharrett is being held in the Mclean County Jail in lieu of two-million dollars bond. Assistant State's Attorney Jane Foster says Gharrett claims he was alone with three-year old Destiny Cox last Wednesday when the child began choking on hot peppers. She says Gharrett initially said Destiny fell into a bathtub.

05/12 3:00 The site of swarms of young people armed with paint cans can cause alarm in some towns, but in Pontiac Illinois it's a welcome decade long spring tradition. Students are spraying "Dump no Waste," and "Drains into Vermillion River" next to storm sewers, manhole covers and on top of sewer drains.

05/16 3:00 Though the Illinois House and Senate have to reconcile different versions of the state budget, it's not looking good for the Cooperative Extension Service. The Senate version generally has fewer cuts than the house. But, Cynthia O'Neill, the Extension Director for McLean, Woodford, and

Livingston Counties says the senate proposed bill chops nearly 14-million dollars....

06/01 4:30 It's all in Governor Pat Quinn's lap now. In a last-minute flurry of activity, Illinois' General Assembly finalized a new state budget, backed a massive expansion of gambling and sanctioned a hike of electric rates. Whether any or all of them go forward and become law is up to Quinn.

06/01 3:00 Public education in Illinois could be in peril if the state doesn't do a better job funding it. That's what Illinois State University President Al Bowman says. He says the 1-point-15 percent cut I-S-U's getting hit with in the new budget continues a troubling trend:

06/16 2:00 Food pantries have been scraping by for the last year and a half with slower donations and increased demand. Sabrina Burkiewicz of the Home Sweet Home Mission says now they are even struggling to find enough chairs for people to sit and eat....

## ENVIRONMENT

04/06 3:00 Garbage production dropped close to six percent in McLean County last year. That's according to the Ecology Action Center in Normal which tracks solid waste. For years there had been a general increase in recycling. That was interrupted by the recession. The Center's Michael Brown says recycling is going back up, but waste production remains down....

04/12 5:30 Some twin city residents are hoping to bring a fowl presence into Bloomington-Normal, and they want the community to change current ordinances to allow it:

04/20 5:30 A prominent wildlife conservationist and award winning television host thinks we're missing the forest for one or two particular trees.

04/30 4:30 It's a familiar sight on any road trip -- Those furry animals that failed to make it across the highway in time. Otherwise known as road kill. Most people just drive past. But a few resourceful citizens make the most of a bad situation. They stop, pick up the dead animal and potentially make a few extra bucks. Although, in some cases, it's illegal in Illinois.

05/04 3:30 The Peoria Chamber of Commerce is calling on businesses to do what they can to reduce ground level ozone in the community. Chamber Chief Operating Officer Roberta Parks says Peoria is in significant danger of being deemed a non-attainment area by the U-S-E-P-A. Parks says that would have serious consequences for business...

05/09 4:00 Claims from clusters of spring storms have risen by more than half for State Farm Insurance in just a week.

05/24 3:00 O-S-F Saint Joseph Medical Center estimates it will save 350-thousand dollars a year by replacing all its fluorescent light fixtures with new L-E-D bulbs. Director of Engineering Kerry Loiselle (LOH-ee-zehl) says they are hoping for savings of up to 80 percent of the energy, depending on how old and inefficient the fluorescent bulbs were...

06/13 3:00 The fires burning along the Arizona-New Mexico border may soon be evident in Illinois. Tom Wilmitch with the Illinois State University Planetarium compares it to the explosion of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines a decade ago:

06/16 2:00 Central Illinois legislators say they hope to find a way to fix what they call an embarrassing new state insurance program before it goes into full effect. At a news conference Representative Bill Mitchell of Forsythe said the abrupt switching of healthcare providers for state employees hangs workers out to dry. ...

## HEALTH & MEDICINE

04/04 3:00 One of the nation's top insurance industry executives says a year after passage of the Affordable Care Act there are still more questions than answers. State Farm Insurance Chairman Ed Rust Junior says regulatory implementation and policy structures are unclear...

04/06 3:00 60-percent of Illinois State University employees may have to choose a new health insurer next month. That's the percentage who currently have coverage from the Health Alliance and Humana HMOs.

04/08 3:00 A group of Bloomington-Normal residents want fresh eggs, REAL fresh eggs. Blo-No Backyard Chickens is seeking to change the Normal and Bloomington ordinances to allow chickens to be kept for laying purposes.

04/12 5:30 Some twin city residents are hoping to bring a fowl presence into Bloomington-Normal, and

they want the community to change current ordinances to allow it:

04/14 3:00 Fatty foods served in restaurants may be on their way out. The Illinois House has voted to ban artificial trans fats... or unsaturated fats... from fast food joints and school vending machines.

04/25 3:00 State Senator Dave Koehler (KAY-luhr) of Peoria says it's urgent the General Assembly pass legislation setting up insurance exchanges this year. The Peoria Democrat says that's because if Illinois waits, it could forfeit federal help in that step of implementing the Affordable Care Act...

05/06 6:00 The Illinois House has voted down a three-year pilot program for medical marijuana. The measure got only 53 of the 60 votes it needed to pass. Sixty-one people voted ``no.'' One of those 'no' votes comes from Bloomington State Representative Dan Brady, who says he's concerned about oversight:

05/18 2:00 Health Alliance Medical Plans is keeping up the pressure on the state of Illinois regarding its bid to offer insurance to 100-thousand state workers. Health Alliance says the consultant used by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services used faulty assumptions on costs and discounts. The Agency says, though it remains confident about its choice to drop Health Alliance and force some state workers to choose another provider.

05/25 3:00 There's disappointing news for state and university employees and retirees who had been holding out hope Illinois would continue to offer Health Alliance and Humana health insurance. A state ethics commission came out with a ruling last night that the Department of Healthcare and Family Services was right to drop the companies. By law the department had to stay largely silent while awaiting a decision.

06/01 4:30 It's all in Governor Pat Quinn's lap now. In a last-minute flurry of activity, Illinois' General Assembly finalized a new state budget, backed a massive expansion of gambling and sanctioned a hike of electric rates. Whether any or all of them go forward and become law is up to Quinn.

06/13 3:00 Sometimes it pays to do nothing. And that may be the case for State of Illinois employees in Mclean County who are losing their Health Alliance or Humana health coverage. The two HMOs and the State are embroiled in a contract dispute. Khris Klevenger (kris klehv-en-juhr) is Illinois State University's Assistant Vice President for Human Resources....

06/29 3:00 Proposed cuts to Medicaid could result in horrific long-term damage to Illinois' economy. That's according to Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, a healthcare watchdog group. Pollack says if cuts approved by the US House become law, total Medicaid funding would decrease 33-percent in ten years, leaving massive economic wounds for the state.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS

04/11 5:30 The League of Women Voters of McLean County is asking the County Board for a referendum on consolidating the Bloomington Election Commission and the election function of the County Clerk's office.

04/14 5:30 An ISU Professor is one of a group of economists and academics asking the Justice Department to investigate the BCS system in college football. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more....

04/19 4:30 Ex-Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich's second corruption trial begins tomorrow. And it's likely to once again put a lot of attention on Rahm Emanuel, now Chicago's mayor-elect. Emanuel was never called to testify last summer and has NOT been accused of wrongdoing.

05/02 3:00 Opening statements are scheduled to take place this morning in the retrial of former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich.

05/04 3:00 Six counts of murder have been filed against a rural Chenoa man in connection with last week's death of the three year old daughter of his girlfriend. 23-year old David Gharrett is being held in the Mclean County Jail in lieu of two-million dollars bond. Assistant State's Attorney Jane Foster says Gharrett claims he was alone with three-year old Destiny Cox last Wednesday when the child began choking on hot peppers. She says Gharrett initially said Destiny fell into a bathtub.

05/10 3:00 The Bloomington City Council has taken the unusual step of swearing in only three of the four winners in last month's aldermanic election. That's because fourth ward alderwoman Judy Stearns' eligibility to serve is up in the air after she received too many homestead exemptions on multiple properties she owns.

05/19 2:00 Two state lawmakers say the federal government has agreed to buy the unused Thomson Correctional Center for \$165 million. Democrat State Senator Mike Jacobs of East Moline, and Republican Richard Morthland of Cordova, say Governor Pat Quinn has reached agreement with the Obama

administration.

05/26 5:00 Bloomington Alderman Judy Stearns has filed a lawsuit against the city of Bloomington and the City Council. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports Stearns is asking a court to order she be seated for a new term.

06/06 3:00 Efforts by the U.S. Justice Department to lighten prison sentences for crack cocaine to the same as for the powdered form of the drug puzzle McLean County's chief prosecutor. Bill Yoder says eliminating disparity is good, but, the direction troubles Yoder...

06/17 3:00 The conviction rate for sexual offenses committed at six Midwestern college campuses including Illinois State University is about half the national average, and experts say the numbers are part of a larger trend.

## POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

04/01 2:00 The Illinois House is beginning to implement its own budget. A few measures that will make up a broader package sailed out of the chamber yesterday. But the governor says he won't go along with the cuts that plan will require.

04/06 3:00 Voters in Bloomington returned three incumbent aldermen to office and elected a longtime community leader to an open seat. In ward eight, retired banker Rob Fazzini beat out Eric DeCossas and Mary Kramp....

04/11 5:30 The League of Women Voters of McLean County is asking the County Board for a referendum on consolidating the Bloomington Election Commission and the election function of the County Clerk's office. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with a member of the league who makes the case...

04/19 4:30 Ex-Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich's second corruption trial begins tomorrow (Wednesday). And it's likely to once again put a lot of attention on Rahm Emanuel, now Chicago's mayor-elect. Emanuel was never called to testify last summer and has NOT been accused of wrongdoing. But IPR's Sam Hudzik reports his name came up repeatedly at trial, including in some secretly-recorded phone calls.

05/02 3:00 An ISU Political Scientist says the killing of Osama Bin Laden may create a little pushback to get out of Afghanistan. But, Lane Crothers says it's doubtful the nation's political leadership will change President Obama's policy....

05/05 4:30 When one thinks of a lobbyist, the picture that often comes to mind is a glad handed man with pockets full of cash chasing lawmakers down the hall.

05/12 2:00 The advocacy group Illinois People's Action is pointing at big banks as a way to solve the state budget crisis. Organizer Don Carlson says it's really a revenue crisis more than a budget problem. And he says Chase Bank is among the large financial institutions taking advantage of the state in interest because of long term agreements on short term borrowing...

05/16 2:00 Though the Illinois House and Senate have to reconcile different versions of the state budget, it's not looking good for the Cooperative Extension Service. The Senate version generally has fewer cuts than the house. But, Cynthia O'Neill, the Extension Director for McLean, Woodford, and Livingston Counties says the senate proposed bill chops nearly 14-million dollars.....

05/19 6:00 Caterpillar reported April sales growth of 66-percent. But, the U-S economy remains shaky according to the Peoria-based- company's Chief Financial Officer. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more from Edward Rapp's appearance at Illinois Wesleyan University...

06/01 4:30 It's all in Governor Pat Quinn's lap now. In a last-minute flurry of activity, Illinois' General Assembly finalized a new state budget, backed a massive expansion of gambling and sanctioned a hike of electric rates. Whether any or all of them go forward and become law is up to Quinn.

06/13 3:00 The Mayor of Normal says a high speed rail study using a million dollars in state funding is a waste of money. The study will look at 220-mile an hour service between Chicago and Champaign-Urbana. That's double the speed of the high speed service now being built from Chicago to Saint Louis through Bloomington Normal. Mayor Chris Koos says it's bad policy to study less than the full number of options...

06/22 5:30 Six months ago WGLT reported Broadway Avenue might need to be closed to accommodate 110 mile an hour rail service through the twin cities. The issue has now heated up. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with the Mayor of Normal...

06/24 9:00 Bloomington native and Public Radio Journalist Tom Ashbrook has been on the scene for

Indira Gandhi's funeral, the refugee exodus from Vietnam, the post-Mao opening of China, and 9-11. He returned to his home town to speak at Illinois State University. And he sat down with WGLT's Charlie Schlenker at the Alumni Center to think about the future of journalism in the information age.

## RACE, EQUALITY & RIGHTS

04/04 2:30 Budget reductions are impacting how students learn at Illinois State University, but not in the way you might think. ISU's Special Education Assistive Technology Center uses equipment worth more than a half million dollars to train college students how to teach children with disabilities. But once grads snag that first teaching job, schools often don't have access to the same technology, so the new teachers adapt. ISU sophomore Katie Hamilton says the SEAT center teaches them to be resourceful...

04/07 3:00 A state lawmaker wants Illinois State University to improve its African-American student enrollment. During a hearing in Champaign of the Illinois House Higher Education Appropriations committee, Democrat Monique Davis of Chicago questioned ISU President Al Bowman about the university's attempts to recruit and retain black students.

04/08 3:00 Members of the Illinois House voted today to keep gun owner records private.

05/02 3:30 It's a problem state officials say lies unassumingly under the surface of our everyday lives, human trafficking.

05/05 2:30 One of the largest adoption and foster care services in Illinois is warning it may drop those services if forced to accommodate gay couples. Catholic Charities want to keep the ability to turn away unmarried couples, but new legal protections for gay couples go into effect June first. That's when they can apply for civil unions.

05/26 5:00 June First marks the first day in Illinois in which couples can apply for a civil union. As IPR's Jenna Dooley reports, that means same sex couples can enjoy many of the rights of marriage. But it also means there are plenty of details to work out.

06/07 2:00 The American Civil Liberties Union is seeking a federal investigation of possible discrimination in the way Illinois state police handle searches during traffic stops.

The ACLU says state police are far more likely to ask minority drivers for permission to search their cars. ACLU Legal Director Harvey Grossman says state officials have ignored the problem for six years...

## SOCIAL SERVICE & PROGRAMS

04/13 2:30 Faith-based groups that facilitate adoptions in Illinois would be allowed to weed out gay parents under a plan being considered in the state legislature. Democratic Senator Dave Koehler (KAY-ler) of Peoria says protections for religious groups were a main sticking point during discussions on the recently passed civil unions law. It gives gay couples many of the same rights as heterosexual ones.

04/28 3:00 The twin city Y-W-C-A is cutting fitness and health programs and over a dozen part time positions in a bid to get more bang from diminishing bucks.

04/29 3:00 Lawmakers continually call for the state to slash its spending. But as IPR's Luke Runyon reports ... they don't often like when it actually happens.

05/12 2:00 A citizen advocacy group in Bloomington Normal says banks aren't paying their fair share toward the state budget crisis. Illinois People's Action has demonstrated outside Chase Bank in Bloomington. Organizer Don Carlson says Chase Bank took 88-million-dollars more than it should have from the state in toxic interest rate swaps....

06/02 3:00 The bill expanding gambling exponentially in Illinois passed the legislature this week with the support of Bloomington State Representative Dan Brady. The central Illinois Republican says it wasn't his first choice to add revenue to the state's coffers but he says he likes the fact it jump starts the video gaming expansion approved a few years ago.

06/07 2:30 A strong showing of community members at a public transit system hearing may have saved a bus route in eastern Bloomington. Interim General Manager of the Bloomington Normal Transit System

06/16 3:00 Food pantries have been scraping by for the last year and a half with slower donations and increased demand. Sabrina Burkiewicz of the Home Sweet Home Mission says now they are even struggling to find enough chairs for people to sit and eat....

06/29 3:00 Proposed cuts to Medicaid could result in horrific long-term damage to Illinois' economy.

That's according to Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, a healthcare watchdog group. Pollack says if cuts approved by the US House become law, total Medicaid funding would decrease 33-percent in ten years, leaving massive economic wounds for the state.

## TECHNOLOGY

04/04 3:00 Budget reductions are impacting how students learn at Illinois State University, but not in the way you might think. ISU's Special Education Assistive Technology Center uses equipment worth more than a half million dollars to train college students how to teach children with disabilities.

04/13 5:30 One of the world's top experts on robot technology is coming to Illinois State University this month, and he's bringing some of his special friends with him.

04/22 2:30 U-S Senator Dick Durbin says the House pull back from regulating the environmental consequences of the oil industry is "mindless." The Illinois Democrat said during an event in Normal that there are ways to develop home grown environmentally safe energy. Consider, he says, what Germany is doing...

05/03 5:30 Many Newspapers are struggling to survive as advertising revenue falls and readers move to other means of getting information than the daily paper. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with the publisher of Bloomington's paper of record about the changing landscape...

05/05 5:00 When one thinks of a lobbyist, the picture that often comes to mind is a glad handed man with pockets full of cash chasing lawmakers down the hall.

05/12 6:00 The McLean County Museum of History in Bloomington is currently featuring an exhibit that showcases the talent of a prominent central Illinois architect.

06/03 3:00 Web based businesses like Amazon and E-Bay are generally able to operate without charging shoppers a state sales tax.

06/08 2:30 Environmental groups in central Illinois will be showing a documentary that examines a technologically-advanced gas drilling process being considered for the area. In February, an Iowa firm expressed interest in drilling for oil deposits and was denied by the zoning board.

06/28 2:00 The new General Manager of the Bloomington Normal Public Transit System comes out of the Waukesha Metro Transit System in Wisconsin. Andrew Johnson was chosen from among 62 applicants. Johnson has an MBA and a Bachelor's degree in Finance. He currently oversees all daily operations in his current system. And Johnson says he has had good relations with organized labor...

## TRANSPORTATION

04/04 2:30 The town of Normal has taken delivery of two Mitsubishi "i" electric vehicles it will use for educational and promotional purposes. The small, white cars were driven to Normal city hall last night by Mitsubishi officials, including plant manager Jerry Berwanger. Jeff Pritts, chair of Bloomington-Normal's EV task force, was one of the first to drive one of the cars. He expects to see more on city streets later this year...

04/07 2:30 An eleven point five billion dollar state road construction plan for the next six years contains only about 75-million-dollars for project. in McLean County. In comparison, the list includes more than 50-million in major projects alone for Peoria and far more for Peoria County than for McLean. Illinois Department of Transportation Director Gary Hannig says federal stimulus money and the capital bill are propping up road spending even though it's down more than a billion dollars from the last plan....

04/18 2:30 Construction on the high speed rail track through Bloomington Normal will begin on or near May first. Wayne Aldrich is the Uptown Development Director for the Town of Normal. He says the track renewal train is a very long train that is largely automated...

05/09 2:30 The U-S Transportation Department is issuing more than two billion dollars in additional high speed rail grants. Some states have turned up their noses at high speed rail money. But, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood of Peoria says there were ten billion dollars in requests for two billion available dollars....

05/18 3:00 McLean County's Highway Department has some happy news about project bids for the summer construction season....they've come in low. Highway Department Director Eric Schmidt says in the highway fund alone the windfall is about 150-thousand-dollars...

06/07 3:30 A strong showing of community members at a public transit system hearing may have

saved a bus route in eastern Bloomington. Interim General Manager of the Bloomington Normal Transit System Dave Anderson says there is a good chance that the board of trustees will reconsider cutting the Teal J line after a number of people and organizations said cutting the line would severely affect their livelihood.

06/22 5:30 Six months ago WGLT reported Broadway Avenue might need to be closed to accommodate 110 mile an hour rail service through the twin cities. The issue has now heated up. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with the Mayor of Normal...

06/30 3:00 Bike Lanes are a big priority for the Main Street corridor in Bloomington-Normal according to public input on the future of Main Street. John Howseal (HOW-seel), the President of the urban planning firm Houseal-Levine (HOW-seel luh-VEEN) Associates of Chicago, says more than 550 people have taken the on-line survey as part of the transportation feasibility study....