

# **WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS**

## **April, May, June 2012**

**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

- 04/05 7:00 A touring rock musicians' desire to come in off the road and give back to young people has spawned a new school in downtown Bloomington.
- 04/06 4:00 The remains of a statue honoring Civil War soldiers from Central Illinois will soon be laid to rest in Lincoln. As IPR's Peter Gray reports, the idea to build this iconic statue its own memorial site was inspired by an accident four years ago.
- 04/09 5:30 For young black men headed to Illinois State University, the culture shock of campus life can present a huge challenge. A program called "My Brotha's Keeper," helps them maintain their focus on graduating with a degree, despite roadblocks, both academic and social.
- 04/12 6:00 Milner Library at Illinois State University is celebrating the 200th birthday of Charles Dickens by opening its vaults and exhibiting its collection of rare Dickens books. But that's not the end of the story. There's also one item on display that was a serendipitous discovery worthy of Dickens himself.
- 04/13 6:00 Shooter Jennings is country music's outsider. He's experimented with psychedelic and hard rock, but with his new band Triple Crown and a new album titled Family Man, Jennings is back with a true country sound. He's fresh off a performance at Bloomington's Castle Theater and stopped in at the studio to talk with WGLT's Daniel Hajek about Family Man and the people that inspired his new record.
- 04/19 6:00 The man who broadcast the most watched television program ever is coming to Bloomington Normal a week from today. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks about a life in broadcasting with the man who had the call on the most recent Green Bay Packers Superbowl victory, Joe Buck....
- 05/04 6:00 Dark matter is all around us, but we cannot see it. The observations that led to its discovery happened in the 1930s. However, it was generally treated as an observational error until the '70s. Since then, scientists have placed a greater emphasis on trying to unlock its mysteries.
- 05/23 5:30 City engineers and urban planner types have gathered in Normal to learn how to make communities friendly to bicycles. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on that idea with the head of the American League of Bicyclists...
- 05/30 6:00 After two years of searching, the Illinois Symphony Orchestra has chosen its new Music Director. He is Alastair Willis, an internationally known guest conductor. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with the Grammy nominated artist who will bring his baton to Bloomington-Normal, and Springfield. ...
- 06/11 5:30 A group of local volunteers are working to celebrate both Mclean County's agricultural heritage and the historic art of quilting.
- 06/12 6:00 The Bloomington City Council is sending a message to the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts...cut the budget next year. No one, though, on either side of the debate over funding for the downtown cultural district has an idea yet how much.
- 06/14 6:00 One day after being named manager of Normal's Children's Discovery Museum, Sheila Riley was at the Uptown Normal facility, meeting staff, volunteers, board members and visitors. WGLT's Willis Kern stopped by the museum and has this interview.
- 06/18 6:00 The future of the daily newspaper continues to be obscured by changing patterns of information consumption. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with a veteran of central Illinois print journalism about the shifting landscape...
- 06/27 5:30 A central Illinois high school teacher is getting the chance to explore the depths of the Black Sea. U High instructor Cory Culbertson is joining 11 other educators during Titanic discoverer Robert Ballard's Nautilus Exploration Program. WGLT's Lee Strubinger talks with Culbertson about the unseen nautical frontier.

## BUSINESS, ECONOMY & LABOR

04/16 4:00 The controversial drilling process known as hydraulic fracturing could be coming to Southern Illinois as soon as next month. The energy industry says that's good news for people living above the natural gas deposits, millions of dollars have already been spent leasing mineral and land rights.

04/18 5:00 Governor Pat Quinn received some unsolicited advice yesterday on how to bring the state out of its financial mess. His counterpart in Wisconsin, Governor Scott Walker, was the keynote speaker at an annual event hosted by two of Illinois' leading business organizations.

05/18 5:30 Republican candidates trying to win selection to the party's ballot spot in the 13th Congressional District are already showing polish on the stump. They've been campaigning for the favor of county party chairs at a series of public forums around the district. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports three of them made a strong showing during one in McLean County...

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06/21 6:00 Even though the term "Energy Independence," has been used by every president since Richard Nixon, along with a slew of other politicians, it still packs an emotional punch. That's what an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University, and non-fellow member of the Brookings Institute has to say.

06/26 5:30 The number of retirements at Illinois State University this year has skyrocketed. Typically, there are about 30 people calling it a career each June. This year, more than 115 ISU faculty and staff are retiring. President Al Bowman says one reason for the higher number of retirements is the aging out of baby boomers. But he says there is another significant factor.

06/29 5:00 The US Supreme Court health care ruling prompted predictable reactions among Illinois politicians and interest groups, but there were a few surprises. And most people seem to have one thing in common: after months of keeping health care policy-making on hold while waiting for the court's ruling, they're still trying to figure out what that decision means.

## CHILDREN & FAMILY/EDUCATION

04/02 6:00 An ex-con Illinois State University's Social Justice Project helped free from prison comes to Normal tomorrow. Dale Helmig was convicted in 1996 for the slaying three years earlier of his mother in Missouri. He spent 15 years behind bars for a crime he didn't commit.

04/03 5:00 A group of Normal Community High School students is trying to make it clear how tough it is to bicycle to school. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on their efforts to save gas money and improve the world...

04/04 5:30 The incoming President at the University of Illinois says the recent past few years of scandal at the university won't do irreparable damage to the U of I's reputation.

04/09 5:30 For young black men headed to Illinois State University, the culture shock of campus life can present a huge challenge. A program called "My Brotha's Keeper," helps them maintain their focus on graduating with a degree, despite roadblocks, both academic and social.

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06/08 6:00 The skyrocketing cost of a college degree could go up even more unless Congress steps in this summer. That's the topic of discussion as WGLT's Willis Kern visits with Illinois State University President Al Bowman, who recently characterized Illinois' funding practices as a "privatization of public education."

06/19 5:30 A nationally known expert on bullying is going to be talking to twin city educators about the problem. Rosalind Wiseman has written books about cliques, social justice, and has a monthly Family Circle magazine column, "Ask Rosalind."

06/28 6:00 It's still awkward for a same sex couple in Bloomington to fill out forms...because the choices are married, single, and divorced. It's difficult sometimes to have anniversaries recognized in the workplace...if you're in a civil union.

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## ENVIRONMENT

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04/19 3:00 The Jewel-Osco stores in Bloomington-Normal are serving as an example to the rest of that corporation. The company says the three stores in the twin cities have diverted 94% of their waste from area landfills, the first of the chain's stores to meet a 90% recycling goal. John Dunsing is the company's project manager...

05/14 3:00 Environmentalists still aren't satisfied with Tenaska, even after the Omaha company made major changes to the plant it wants to build in central Illinois. Legislators could take up the revised plan this week.

05/15 5:30 A dramatic event involving dozens of bicyclists riding through the heart of Bloomington-Normal will highlight the central Illinois observation of National Bike Week.

05/29 5:30 Agriculture's regulatory yardstick, the Farm Bill, is up for reauthorization in Congress this year. That's the topic of conversation as WGLT's Willis Kern visits with Illinois Farm Bureau President Phil Nelson.

06/05 3:00 One of Bloomington Mayoral Candidate Tari Renner's top campaign issues is working toward a regional water supply. Renner says he's not sure whether conditions have changed enough over the last 30 years to allow compromise with small units of government in Western McLean and eastern Tazewell Counties, but he says the problem will not go away....

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nautical frontier.

## HEALTH & MEDICINE

04/11 3:30 As the country waits for the US Supreme Court to decide the fate of President Obama's health care act, the president's home state has been working to implement it. But some legislators want to hold off in hopes the court will kill the legislation, or it would be repealed if a Republican is elected president this fall.

04/16 4:00 The controversial drilling process known as hydraulic fracturing could be coming to Southern Illinois as soon as next month. The energy industry says that's good news for people living above the natural gas deposits, millions of dollars have already been spent leasing mineral and land rights. But as Rachel Otwell reports, some residents say the drilling could jeopardize their health.

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05/23 5:30 Illinois legislators have sidestepped a political minefield this spring. As Barack Obama's home state, there had been a push to implement a key component of the president's signature health care plan.

05/25 5:00 The General Assembly has overwhelmingly approved steep cuts to Medicaid, Illinois' system of health care for the poor. Backers of the cuts say they're a long-overdue correction for a program that's grown out of control.

05/31 6:00 It's the final day of the Illinois legislature's spring session, and a flurry of activity is certain under the Statehouse dome. Following a surprise announcement from the House Speaker clearing the way for a pension overhaul, it could be labor unions' last chance to preserve state employee and teacher retirement benefits.

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS

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04/26 3:00 Indicted State Representative Derrick Smith was a no-show today at a meeting of a special House committee investigating his conduct. But as IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports, legislators are requesting he make an appearance next time.

05/01 3:00 Immigration issues top (topped) protests in a number of communities across the country marking May Day, including Bloomington-Normal. Jenn Carillo (kuh-REE-yoh) of Occupy Blo-No and Latinos United for Change says a courthouse area demonstration calls (called) for McLean County Sheriff Mike Emery to stop calling immigration officials when identities are in doubt...

05/14 4:30 Local officials across Illinois are getting schooled in transparency. By the end of this year they're required to learn about the state's Open Meetings law using training on the internet. IPR's Sam Hudzik reports there's a worry this noble goal could end up scaring away community volunteers:

05/28 6:00 It's not just students and teachers who're packing up and leaving schools in central Illinois

now that the academic year's come to a close. Rich Hirsch is from Joliet, where his father was a corrections officer. But you won't hear the police officer assigned to Bloomington Junior High School compare his job with his father's. Hirsch calls his work challenging, but rewarding beyond his expectations.

05/30 2:30 Two Bloomington couples are among the 25 from around the state filing lawsuits in an effort to legalize same-sex marriage in Illinois. Ryan Cannon Scott and her partner Daphne Scott Henderson as well as Peggy Burton and Donna O'Crowly are part of the suit filed by the ACLU of IL and Lamda Legal. Cannon Scott says the suits seek to bring simplicity to a complex situation.

06/12 3:00 A judge says electronic messages between city officials sent during an open meeting should be public record. The city of Champaign denied a newspaper's request for electronic communications among city council members sent during the board's meetings. But Monday a judge sided with the paper, saying the records are public even if they were sent on personal phones and e-mail accounts.

06/28 6:00 It's still awkward for a same sex couple in Bloomington to fill out forms...because the choices are married, single, and divorced. It's difficult sometimes to have anniversaries recognized in the workplace...if you're in a civil union. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with a couple seeking to change that....

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## POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

04/06 5:30 Six-term Republican U-S Congressman Tim Johnson made it official he's leaving Congress at the end of his current term, just weeks after winning the Republican nomination.

04/11 3:30 As the country waits for the US Supreme Court to decide the fate of President Obama's health care act, the president's home state has been working to implement it. But some legislators want to hold off in hopes the court will kill the legislation, or it would be repealed if a Republican is elected president this fall.

04/17 5:30 The public got a look at many of the possible candidates for the GOP congressional nomination in the 13th district, even though the selection will be done behind closed doors. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on presentations given in Bloomington...

04/18 5:00 Governor Pat Quinn received some unsolicited advice yesterday on how to bring the state out of its financial mess. His counterpart in Wisconsin, Governor Scott Walker, was the keynote speaker at an annual event hosted by two of Illinois' leading business organizations.

04/30 4:30 Tomorrow marks six weeks since Illinois voters went to the polls for the state's primary elections. It was a happy day for winners, and a devastating one for the losers.

05/08 6:00 Illinois' State Treasurer is still defending himself against charges of waste by granting double-digit pay hikes to some staff members.

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05/23 5:30 Illinois legislators have sidestepped a political minefield this spring. As Barack Obama's home state, there had been a push to implement a key component of the president's signature health care plan. Instead, General Assembly leaders collectively decided to shelve their work on a so-called "insurance exchange."

05/25 5:00 The General Assembly has overwhelmingly approved steep cuts to Medicaid, Illinois' system of health care for the poor. Backers of the cuts say they're a long-overdue correction for a program that's grown out of control.

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05/31 5:00 Tempers have flared at the Illinois capitol this week, as lawmakers strive to reach a deal on how to cut the state's soaring pension costs. House Speaker Mike Madigan says he'll share some of the blame for causing the problem. But now he wants to fix it.

06/04 6:30 Illinois lawmakers left Springfield without addressing the need to adequately fund the state's pension system, although a budget was achieved early Friday morning.

06/05 5:30 Bloomington Mayor Steve Stockton says he's not ready to endorse Tari Renner or any candidate for mayor. The retired State Farm Insurance executive is wrapping up his second term in office and will not be seeking re-election.

06/12 6:00 The Bloomington City Council is sending a message to the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts...cut the budget next year. No one, though, on either side of the debate over funding for the downtown cultural district has an idea yet how much.

### RACE, EQUALITY & RIGHTS

04/04 2:30 Illinois historians have obtained a photograph that looks ordinary but is extremely rare; the image of an African-American man who fought in the Civil War. The picture shows Nathan Hughes decades after the war, when he was a respected farmer in northern Illinois.

04/09 5:30 For young black men headed to Illinois State University, the culture shock of campus life can present a huge challenge. A program called "My Brotha's Keeper," helps them maintain their focus on graduating with a degree, despite roadblocks, both academic and social.

04/10 3:00 A pair of central Illinois civil rights groups are sponsoring a rally at Bloomington City Hall Wednesday evening in connection with the killing of Florida teen Trayvon Martin. The Illinois People's Action and Latinos United for Change are organizing the rally which will feature speakers like Billy Ruffin, a minister at the City of Refuge Ministries in Bloomington. Ruffin says the black community creates some problems when young people behave poorly, engage in black on black crime, or make other bad choices:

05/10 3:00 News of President Barack Obama's endorsement of same-sex marriage doesn't surprise one twin city woman. Shari Zeck says she's loosely affiliated with the "Triangle Association." The group tracks news concerning rights of gay, lesbian, and transgendered people in the community. She says there could be a potential downside to the President's remarks this week:

05/30 3:00 Two Bloomington couples are among the 25 from around the state filing lawsuits in an effort to legalize same-sex marriage in Illinois. Ryan Cannon Scott and her partner Daphne Scott Henderson as well as Peggy Burton and Donna O'Crowly are part of the suit filed by the ACLU of IL and Lamda Legal. Cannon Scott says the suits seek to bring simplicity to a complex situation.

06/14 3:00 A hundred same sex couples have received civil union licenses in McLean County in the first year since the law was passed. Carl Olson and his partner Levi Sturgeon were the 100th license. That's less than ten percent of the total number of civil union and marriage licenses in the county in the same period. But, Sturgeon says with debate beginning over a gay marriage bill, it's clear the culture is shifting....

06/21 3:00 As elected officials continue to criticize Governor Pat Quinn's decision to close the "super max" prison in Tamms and other correctional facilities, at least one group is enthusiastic about the change.

06/28 6:00 It's still awkward for a same sex couple in Bloomington to fill out forms...because the choices are married, single, and divorced. It's difficult sometimes to have anniversaries recognized in the workplace...if you're in a civil union. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with a couple seeking to change that....

### SOCIAL SERVICE & PROGRAMS

04/03 3:00 An internationally-acclaimed documentary filmmaker will screen his latest project at Illinois State University. Gerry Straub will show his film "Mud Pies and Kites" at Capen Auditorium. It's about Haiti before and after the devastating earthquake. Gerry Straub says he wants to help the poor by allowing them to explain their plight through film. He says the images he saw in Haiti will forever be with him.

04/19 6:00 The man who broadcast the most watched television program ever is coming to

Bloomington Normal a week from today. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks about a life in broadcasting with the man who had the call on the most recent Green Bay Packers Superbowl victory, Joe Buck....

05/14 3:00 So far this year child advocates in McLean County say they have conducted 43% more interviews of suspected child sex abuse victims than last year. Statewide, the figure among child advocacy centers is up 12.7%. Judy Brucker of the Mclean County Child Protection Network says the poor economy may be a reason for the multi-year trend that has accelerated from January to April...

05/16 3:00 Miniature horses trained as service animals may soon accompany Illinoisans with disabilities to school or the grocery store. A measure approved by the Illinois Senate Tuesday adds miniature horses to the list of approved service animals. Businesses would be able to take a horse's size and weight into account, as well as if it's controlled and housebroken. The measure's sponsor says it's important to the disabled community.

05/16 5:00 The United Way of McLean County is moving toward a 2 year cycle of funding and selecting providers.

06/11 3:00 The top Illinois House Republican says state government is in the middle of a significant and permanent restructuring to a smaller entity. Minority Leader Tom Cross spoke to reporters recently in Bloomington..

06/19 6:00 A nationally known expert on bullying is going to be talking to twin city educators about the problem, WGLT's Jim Browne talks with her about the issue:

06/27 3:00 Hot temperatures are scorching the Central Illinois region. Experts advise everyone to stay inside during peak sun hours, and a homeless shelter in Central Illinois is doing its part to help those in need during the heat wave. In addition to keeping residents cool and hydrated, Home Sweet Home Ministries' Sabrina Burkiewicz says the mission is also keeping residents informed on weather conditions...

## TECHNOLOGY

04/11 3:00 A new survey by Bloomington's State Farm Insurance shows a troubling trend among teen drivers, 57 percent of whom admit to sending and receiving text messages while behind the wheel. Chris Mullen is Director of Technology research for State Farm. She says it's hard to reconcile the actions of those drivers with their knowledge:

04/16 4:00 The controversial drilling process known as hydraulic fracturing could be coming to Southern Illinois as soon as next month. The energy industry says that's good news for people living above the natural gas deposits, millions of dollars have already been spent leasing mineral and land rights. But as Rachel Otwell reports, some residents say the drilling could jeopardize their health.

04/27 3:00 A Bloomington-Normal businessman says he's not too upset a state court rejected a law aimed at leveling competition between on-line and conventional retailers. The so called Amazon-tax law passed last year and requires bricks and mortar stores in Illinois that vend through Amazon to collect Illinois sales tax. Dick Smith of Wild Country Outfitters in Normal says the overall goal of the rejected sales tax law is a good one...

05/04 6:00 Dark matter is all around us, but we cannot see it. The observations that led to its discovery happened in the 1930s. However, it was generally treated as an observational error until the '70s. Since then, scientists have placed a greater emphasis on trying to unlock its mysteries. IPR's Rich Egger talks with one of those researchers, who grew up in west central Illinois.

05/31 3:00 Advocate BroMenn is set to unveil its new \$53 million 79,000 square foot patient care tower. Public tours will be conducted (Saturday/tomorrow) through the two public stories of the four-story addition, which runs along Sugar Creek in Normal. The first patients could begin using the space by the end of June. Dan Cooper, Advocate's Planning and Design Manager, says technology is state of the art in the new addition.

06/07 5:00 While the Queen was celebrating her Diamond Jubilee in London over the weekend, car collectors in Central Illinois were out having their own celebration of English heritage. As WGLT's Daniel Hajek reports, it was all about the classics at the Champagne British Car Festival.

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Ballard's Nautilus Exploration Program. WGLT's Lee Strubinger talks with Culbertson about the unseen nautical frontier.

06/28 3:00 The City of Bloomington says their new website is set to go up early next week. The City's Information and Technology Services Craig McBeth says the new city website is easier to navigate and more geared toward residents and businesses.

## TRANSPORTATION

04/03 5:00 A group of Normal Community High School students is trying to make it clear how tough it is to bicycle to school. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on their efforts to save gas money and improve the world...

04/11 3:00 Amtrak is on a record setting pace for ridership in the first half of its budget year nationally and on the Chicago to Saint Louis corridor. Marc Magliari is a spokesman for the passenger rail service. He says Chicago to Saint Louis routes through Bloomington Normal have increased more than ten percent, far more than other routes in Illinois or the national average increase for Amtrak of 3.7%

04/17 2:30 The addition of Macon County to the rural transportation cooperative known as SHOW BUS is an example of growing need and a desire not to spend any more money according to McLean County Administrator Bill Wasson....

05/23 3:00 By August, the Bloomington-Normal Public Transit system will have a new identity. System manager Andrew Johnson says the new name, Connect Transit, will be accompanied by a new logo and color scheme. Transit board members approved the change, which Johnson says defines the value of the transit system's service.

05/23 5:30 A dramatic event involving dozens of bicyclists riding through the heart of Bloomington-Normal will highlight the central Illinois observation of National Bike Week. WGLT's Willis Kern has more.

05/23 5:30 City engineers and urban planner types have gathered in Normal to learn how to make communities friendly to bicycles. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on that idea with the head of the American League of Bicyclists...

06/07 5:00 While the Queen was celebrating her Diamond Jubilee in London over the weekend, car collectors in Central Illinois were out having their own celebration of English heritage. As WGLT's Daniel Hajek reports, it was all about the classics at the Champagne British Car Festival.

06/18 3:00 Whether or not an east side bypass should be built around the twin cities is one of the main topics Bloomington Mayor Steve Stockton would like to see discussed during a community-wide visioning experience he'd like to start before leaving office. Stockton says such a dialogue would open the eyes of those who don't feel there's a need for an east-side bypass.

06/21 3:00 The National Weather Service has designated Bloomington's Central Illinois Regional Airport as "StormReady." The special designation means the airport operations staff works closely with local emergency officials to get the word out about severe weather and its potential impact. Chris Miller, a meteorologist with NWS in Lincoln, says many companies, organizations and communities meet several of the StormReady standards, but might fall short in one or two areas.