

WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

April, May, June 2013

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

04/01 8:00 A legend from The Tonight Show Band is making an appearance in central Illinois, along with a new musical group he's mentoring. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more.

04/05 6:00 The annual Illinois State University charity drag show is moving to a larger venue to accommodate a growing audience. As WGLT's Laura Kennedy discovered, drag is picking up steam.

04/11 6:00 What do you do with the rest of your life when someone shoots and kills your only son? The McLean County Multicultural Leadership Program has found someone with a surprising and uplifting answer. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on a story of forgiveness and redemption.

04/16 6:00 Got a Swiss Army knife? A water purifier? Dry socks? Then you're on your way to being ready for the zombie apocalypse. Max Brooks, the author of *The Zombie Survival Guide*, is coming to Illinois State University this week to talk about the undead and their undying popularity. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more.

05/03 7:00 Over a half-century ago, the drive-in movie theatre was a cultural icon. But since the 80's, they've been disappearing from the American landscape. As WGLT's Daniel Hajek reports, the remaining drive-ins still open today are fighting to survive in this digital age.

05/16 6:00 Route 66 is often referred to as "The Mother Road," because of its impact on travel in the U.S., but stretching from New York to San Francisco is the first trans-national roadway. The "Lincoln Highway," crosses northern Illinois, and that's where Dan Libman, an English Instructor at Northern Illinois University, and avid bicyclist, reports in the first of a three part Series.

05/23 7:00 Summer is typically a time for taking it easy. Not so for one hard working young Bloomington musician, who is on the verge of realizing a dream. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more.

05/27 1:00 You will soon be able to drink wine, beer, and soda inside the auditorium at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts. By selling drinks in hard plastic cups with swivel lids, Performing Arts Director Joel Aalberts says they want to create a more relaxed and enjoyable time.

06/05 5:30 The Normal Public Library is offering a summer reading program for adults that encourages each reader to feel like a kid again. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more.

06/11 5:00 This just in...Abraham Lincoln's math homework was correct! Researchers have connected a new fragment of Lincoln's earliest known handwritten manuscript to other records of the 16th President. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports this expands the understanding of Lincoln and of teaching methods of the times.

06/14 5:00 As plans move ahead for a memorial to President Dwight Eisenhower, controversy over its design continues, along with choosing the words that best exemplify the 34th President. An Illinois State Professor of History agrees it's not an easy task.

06/25 6:00 A new generation is learning the ropes of circus performing just as a book highlighting the lives of two superstars of the circus is released. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more about the artists, and how they influenced circus performers from the Twin Cities.

BUSINESS, ECONOMY & LABOR

04/04 6:00 This has been an unusual election cycle for the city of Bloomington council races. As WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports, candidates have filed petition challenges, been shown political cold shoulders, and the supposedly non-partisan contests have a strident undercurrent.

04/12 1:00 A big surge in now home sales is being credited with fueling a nearly 28% increase home sales in the twin cities during the first quarter of this year compared to 2012.

04/23 1:00 The Chairman of Caterpillar is part of a coalition that is now hailing introduction of immigration reform legislation. Doug Oberhelman spoke recently before the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition saying his Peoria-based company trains a lot of bright young engineers and then often loses them, sometimes to competitors.

4/30 5:30 With all the focus on state pensions and the continued need for budget cuts this year, there is another funding crisis looming that is not getting a lot of attention just yet. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on road funding.

05/03 1:00 The Illinois House yesterday approved a massive overhaul of state-employee pension systems. As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, it's been more than a year in the making.

5/10 5:30 A U-S Senate committee has started debate on a plan to provide a pathway to citizenship for millions of people living in the United States illegally. The Senate immigration reform bill includes a special provision for farm workers that shortens the waiting period for legal residency. Illinois Public Radio's Sean Powers explores how that section would impact Illinois' agricultural workers.

5/14 6:00 The new Congress is working on a new Farm Bill. The 2008 Farm Bill expired last September, but parts of it have been extended until this coming September. There are some new faces on the House Agriculture 'Committee that's working on the bill, including Illinois Republican Congressman Rodney Davis of Taylorville. IPR's Jeff Bossert asked a farmer and some industry experts what they can expect from the freshman congressman as the debate heats up.

5/21 1:00 Opponents of the controversial method of extracting gas from shale known as fracking are taking their voices back to Springfield.

06/12 6:00 Bloomington's new Mayor says he hopes for quick passage of a downtown revitalization plan. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with the mayor about development and about dogs.

06/17 5:30 Officials at Bloomington-Normal's Community Cancer Center are ready to break ground on their nearly \$10 million expansion project. WGLT's Willis Kern has more.

06/20 1:00 Over 200 people crowded into the Old Main Room at ISU's Bone Student Center for the first of a series of hearings by State Senator Dave Koehler, head of the Senate Ag Subcommittee. This spring the Peoria Democrat came up with a measure to mandate genetically modified, or engineered, foods be labeled as such.

06/27 5:30 The Economic Development Council of the Bloomington Normal Area wants to create more tools to lure businesses to McLean County. Proposals would require schools cities, and other taxing bodies to give up money. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the new initiatives.

CHILDREN & FAMILY/EDUCATION

04/01 1:00 Illinois lawmakers are considering a change that would keep more teenagers out of adult court.

04/04 1:00 An expert on mass school shootings says it is not an easy thing for people to determine whether a student poses a threat or is just making a threat. Ron Ellis, the Director of the School and Campus Security Training Program for the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System and Illinois Terrorism Task Force says there is no accurate profile.

04/08 5:30 A mixed group of Jewish and Arab teenagers will spend time in Bloomington Normal late this summer getting to know central Illinois and reducing the tensions that have lead to generations of hatred and war. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

04/11 6:00 What do you do with the rest of your life when someone shoots and kills your only son? The McLean County Multicultural Leadership Program has found someone with a surprising and uplifting answer. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on a story of forgiveness and redemption.

05/06 5:00 As Illinois lawmakers consider allowing same sex marriage, an expert on adoption at Illinois State University has perspective on the issue. Jeanne Howard wrote an affidavit in favor of same sex adoption in a Michigan case.

05/07 5:30 Al Bowman's tenure as president of Illinois State University will end this summer. The 60-year old former speech instructor became ISU's 17th president a decade ago and is reflecting on those years as well as looking to the future. WGLT's Willis Kern reports.

05/21 6:00 This school year in the Unit Five District has been shaped by an incident that happened very early in the fall term, the shooting at Normal Community High School. As the year winds down, the Superintendent talks with GLT's Charlie Schlenker about the lessons learned.

05/22 5:00 As the spring legislative session winds down, school officials in Illinois are still waiting to find out how much their state aid will be cut again this year to accommodate the state's tight financial condition. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports they are also hoping lawmakers will try to find a way to fix the funding shortage for the long term.

06/03 7:00 Gay couples in Illinois hoping to have their wedding this summer got some bad news Friday. The state House of Representatives did not call the bill legalizing same-sex marriage for a vote. IPR's Tony Arnold reports on what went into that decision - and where the issue goes from here.

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ENVIRONMENT

04/09 6:00 You may not notice it, but a relentless fungal disease is plaguing hibernating bats in North America. It's called White-Nose Syndrome and it's spreading into the Midwest with no signs of stopping. Researchers are concerned the sudden loss of bats could have devastating impacts on agriculture. As WGLT's Daniel Hajek reports, Illinois has now joined the list of contaminated states.

04/12 6:00 Spring is here, birds are singing, but the world could end in a heartbeat. WGLT's Jim Browne talks with an ISU professor about how various heavenly bodies could spell doom for our planet.

04/24 4:00 As the Illinois River continues to rise, communities in the western part of the state are trying to keep their towns dry and their levees high enough. Volunteers, emergency responders, and prisoners have been working side by side since this weekend. IPR's Rachel Otwell recently visited a few of those towns. She brings us this report.

4/30 6:00 President Obama visited Argonne National Lab in the western suburbs of Chicago last month, and among the many projects there is an effort to dramatically improve battery power. It's one of several green energy hubs around the country. In a story reported jointly for Illinois Issues magazine and Illinois Public Radio, Brian Mackey talks with some of the people trying to revolutionize transportation, from right here in Illinois.

05/13 1:00 If you want to attract birds, get bugs. That's what Mariette Nowak, an expert on bird friendly habitat who's speaking at ISU Monday says.

05/15 5:00 The ornamental grass in your front yard could provide power for your car. That's the goal of research going on right now at Illinois State University. WGLT's Jim Browne has the story.

05/24 5:00 Corn farmers are trying to get their crop in the ground in between this spring's frequent rains, but their choices for planting are limited for the most part to major players. Many seed companies have been taken over by large corporations such as Monsanto and DuPont. But, as Harvest Public Media's Bill Wheelhouse reports, one seed company in the region continues to thrive:

5/30 6:00 With summer just around the corner, hiking enthusiasts are starting to hit the trails. As part of our occasional series, "Unknown Illinois," we take you to the Cache River State Natural Area, about a four hour drive from McLean County in the far southern tip of the state. That's where Judy Valente meets up with two expert hikers, and learns hiking is about more than just physical exercise.

06/04 1:00 Technically, central Illinois is already in the season for West Nile Virus. But, Kera Simon-Brousset of the McLean County Health Department says in spite of all the mosquitoes hatching out, so far there is little risk of the virus.

06/07 5:00 Individual state constitutions across the nation spell out a host of guaranteed rights for their citizens. For example, same sex marriage or collective bargaining. But what about the right to farm? Harvest Public Media's Bill Wheelhouse reports on what's behind a NEW DRIVE to establish that guarantee.

06/17 1:00 Governor Pat Quinn has signed into law what's touted as the nation's toughest regulations on "fracking." IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports.

06/26 1:00 The head of ISU's Center for Renewable energy says he applauds President Obama's call to double again renewable energy production in the nation by focusing on wind and solar power generation.

HEALTH & MEDICINE

04/09 1:00 The Illinois House could vote as soon as this week on a measure that would allow patients with certain medical conditions to legally use marijuana. IPR's Chris Slaby has more.

04/15 1:00 Nurses working in Illinois prisons are raising concerns about the care being given to inmates, and the company that's supposed to provide the care

04/17 5:30 April is National Donate Life month, raising awareness for organ and tissue donation. The benefit of donation to a recipient on the national waiting list is obvious. But as WGLT's Daniel Hajek reports, the process can be just as healing to a donor family.

04/29 1:00 An Illinois State University scholar says the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have fallen especially hard on the National Guard. All soldiers coming back from deployment are at higher risk than the rest of the population for divorce, drug and alcohol problems, and mental health issues. But, Psychology Professor Mark Swerdlik said in a recent campus speech that guard members have it tougher than regular soldiers.

05/21 1:00 The Illinois House has sent the governor legislation that would require schools to buy "catastrophic insurance" for student athletes. IPR's Brian Mackey has more.

5/21 1:00 The Illinois House today advanced a measure that would significantly expand Illinois' health care for the poor. IPR's Brian Mackey reports.

05/23 1:00 The Illinois House yesterday rejected an attempt to take a closer look at the field of psychology and its role in shaping Illinois law. As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, the sticking point for some lawmakers was the group backing the proposal.

06/10 1:00 The American Cancer Society says a new national study could be a "gamechanger" in fighting the disease. IPR's Chris Slaby has more.

06/17 5:30 Officials at Bloomington-Normal's Community Cancer Center are ready to break ground on their nearly \$10 million expansion project. WGLT's Willis Kern has more.

06/19 1:00 The American Red Cross is urging qualified donors to give blood this summer. Ben Corey with the Peoria-based Red Cross Heart of America region, says summer donations will help sustain the current blood supply and prevent future problems.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS

04/01 1:00 The closure of the Dwight Correctional Center last week means other state prisons will be able to ramp up staff.

4/11 6:00 What do you do with the rest of your life when someone shoots and kills your only son? The McLean County Multicultural Leadership Program has found someone with a surprising and uplifting answer. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on a story of forgiveness and redemption.

04/16 1:00 Seventeen-year-olds accused of committing felonies would be tried in juvenile court under a measure approved today in the Illinois House. IPR's Brian Mackey has more.

05/06 5:00 As Illinois lawmakers consider allowing same sex marriage, an expert on adoption at Illinois State University has perspective on the issue. Jeanne Howard wrote an affidavit in favor of same sex adoption in a Michigan case.

05/10 5:00 A U-S Senate committee has started debate on a plan to provide a pathway to citizenship for millions of people living in the United States illegally. The Senate immigration reform bill includes a special provision for farm workers that shortens the waiting period for legal residency. Illinois Public Radio's Sean Powers explores how that section would impact Illinois' agricultural workers.

05/15 1:00 A national group is celebrating the success of Drug Courts and in particular McLean County's program. Chris Deutsch with the National Association of Drug Court Professionals says the courts focus on rehabilitation over incarceration as a solution to drug addiction.

5/30 5:30 Drones have been a controversial military weapon in the last decade, and just last week President Obama set tighter standards and oversight over their use. As debate over military drones continues, there's another debate going on about the use of drones in non-combat situations within the U-S. IPR's Sean Powers reports from Urbana.

06/04 1:00 Victims of sexual abuse in Illinois have a limited amount of time in which to file charges, but a proposal on its way to the governor would cut back some of those limits. IPR's Chris Slaby reports.

06/11 1:00 A top official at the Illinois Department of Corrections has resigned following allegations of sexual harassment.

06/17 1:00 State lawmakers have passed a new statute that requires law enforcement officials to communicate with schools about student offenses that could jeopardize the school's safety. McLean County States Attorney Jason Chambers says the law would address violent behavior outside the school that could translate to risky behavior inside.

06/24 6:00 Judges and prosecutors from Turkey are in Central Illinois to see how the judicial system works in the US. WGLT's Jim Browne talks with the man facilitating the visit.

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

04/02 5:00 Six candidates are vying for three spots on the Normal town council in next week's municipal election. WGLT's Willis Kern reports two incumbents are among those seeking voter approval.

04/02 6:00 Massive government spending cuts imposed by the sequester will soon have a direct impact on air traffic in and out of Bloomington. WGLT's Willis Kern talks with Illinois' senior U. S. Senator Dick Durbin about what can be done to stave off those cuts.

04/04 6:00 This has been an unusual election cycle for the city of Bloomington council races. As WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports, candidates have filed petition challenges, been shown political cold shoulders, and the supposedly non-partisan contests have a strident undercurrent.

4/10 5:30 The Transportation Department reauthorization bill is one of the many things stalled in Washington. It is due for another look soon. Both parties view rebuilding the transportation infrastructure as crucial to economic prosperity, in construction job creation and in creating commerce. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with a central and southern Illinois Congressman about how to go about funding the bill.

05/01 5:30 With all the focus on state pensions and the continued need for budget cuts this year, there is another funding crisis looming that is not getting a lot of attention just yet. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on road funding.

05/15 1:00 A new audit says Illinois' Road Fund overpaid for employee health insurance. More than 150-million dollars that should have gone for road construction was diverted. IPR's Brian Mackey has more.

05/22 5:00 As the spring legislative session winds down, school officials in Illinois are still waiting to find out how much their state aid will be cut again this year to accommodate the state's tight financial condition. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports they are also hoping lawmakers will try to find a way to fix the funding shortage for the long term.

05/28 1:00 Members of the Illinois House continued pushing for their version of a pension overhaul today. The Democratic leaders of the House and Senate remain deadlocked over the best approach to fixing Illinois 100-billion-dollar pension problem. The latest twist could affect how public school teachers' pensions are funded. IPR's Brian Mackey has more.

06/04 1:00 Illinois' credit rating has suffered another downgrade. It follows the General Assembly's adjournment Friday without any agreement on what to do about the state's pension systems. IPR's Amanda Vinicky has more.

06/11 5:00 This just in...Abraham Lincoln's math homework was correct! Researchers have connected a new fragment of Lincoln's earliest known handwritten manuscript to other records of the 16th President. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports this expands the understanding of Lincoln and of teaching methods of the times.

06/27 5:30 The Economic Development Council of the Bloomington Normal Area wants to create more tools to lure businesses to McLean County. Proposals would require schools cities, and other taxing bodies to give up money. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the new initiatives.

RACE, EQUALITY & RIGHTS

04/08 5:30 A mixed group of Jewish and Arab teenagers will spend time in Bloomington Normal late this summer getting to know central Illinois and reducing the tensions that have led to generations of hatred and war. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

04/23 1:00 People are the only advantage a business really has. That's according to Caterpillar

Chairman Doug Oberhelman who recently spoke out in favor of immigration reform.

04/25 1:00 A group of addiction and drug specialists today called on the Illinois Senate to reject the medical use of marijuana. IPR's Brian Mackey has more.

05/06 5:00 As Illinois lawmakers consider allowing same sex marriage, an expert on adoption at Illinois State University has perspective on the issue. Jeanne Howard wrote an affidavit in favor of same sex adoption in a Michigan case.

05/16 1:00 Illinois State University is rolling out a new policy that will expand the number of background checks done on university workers, including students on campus. This follows a review sparked by the Penn State child molestation scandal.

05/23 1:00 Illinois legislators continue to struggle with finding a concealed carry proposal that appeases those on both sides of the gun debate. But the sponsor of the latest plan says he expects it to pass it through the House tomorrow, after getting committee approval today. IPR's Chris Slaby reports.

06/03 7:00 Gay couples in Illinois hoping to have their wedding this summer got some bad news Friday. The state House of Representatives did not call the bill legalizing same-sex marriage for a vote. IPR's Tony Arnold reports on what went into that decision - and where the issue goes from here.

06/19 1:00 Central Illinois Congressman Rodney Davis is hastily disavowing comments made by the Montgomery County GOP Chair about Davis's opponent, Erika Harold.

06/24 1:00 The Supreme Court's decision to side-step a ruling on affirmative action has left many wondering about the policy's constitutionality. But for ISU, that might not be a relevant debate.

SOCIAL SERVICE & PROGRAMS

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04/19 1:00 Illinois lawmakers appear to be heeding warnings that a program serving approximately 85-thousand senior citizens could be shut down without additional funding. Amanda Vinicky has more.

05/15 1:00 A national group is celebrating the success of Drug Courts and in particular McLean County's program. Chris Deutsch with the National Association of Drug Court Professionals says the courts focus on rehabilitation over incarceration as a solution to drug addiction.

05/21 1:00 The Illinois House today advanced a measure that would significantly expand Illinois' health care for the poor. IPR's Brian Mackey reports.

05/27 1:00 The Illinois legislature is considering a measure that would create what's called a "Homeless Bill of Rights." It's intended to prohibit discrimination based on housing status when it comes to things like privacy and employment. But opponents say the proposed legislation could inundate cities with unnecessary lawsuits.

06/04 1:00 At least two-dozen pieces of veteran-related legislation were introduced in the Illinois legislature this past session. While some lawmakers say the state should do anything it can to help veterans, others say there are limits on how far to go. IPR's Chris Slaby reports.

06/12 1:00 Retiring McLean County Sheriff Mike Emery says he disagrees with a proposal by one of the candidates for Sheriff. Former Lieutenant Jeff Elston says the county should look at housing mentally ill inmates in a separate facility. Emery is working on a proposal to remodel an existing section of the jail to separate those who have mental issues from the general population.

TECHNOLOGY

04/15 1:00 A Nobel prize winning scientist says models of global climate change have so far under-predicted actual changes. And speaking at Illinois State University, Donald Wuebbles says Illinois may see frequent hundred degree heat waves, a month of 90 degree days every summer, and more extreme weather events such as floods and droughts by the end of the century. He says it is still possible to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emissions, but not easily.

04/25 1:00 A top technology writer says cable television companies should get the message that they

need to stop bundling channels and start offering ala-carte service. David Pogue of the New York Times is at Illinois State University and says the news that Amazon is developing a TV set top box to stream content is significant.

4/30 6:00 President Obama visited Argonne National Lab in the western suburbs of Chicago last month, and among the many projects there is an effort to dramatically improve battery power. It's one of several green energy hubs around the country. In a story reported jointly for Illinois Issues magazine and Illinois Public Radio, Brian Mackey talks with some of the people trying to revolutionize transportation, from right here in Illinois.

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05/15 5:00 The ornamental grass in your front yard could provide power for your car. That's the goal of research going on right now at Illinois State University. WGLT's Jim Browne has the story.

05/24 1:00 The Illinois Senate has voted to ban the use of cell phones while driving. IPR's Brian Mackey reports, there are a few exceptions.

06/05 1:00 Violent criminals in Illinois who post recordings of their crimes online could start spending more time in prison. A measure is on its way to the governor's desk after lawmakers approved it. IPR's Chris Slaby reports.

06/17 1:00 Governor Pat Quinn has signed into law what's touted as the nation's toughest regulations on "fracking." IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports.

06/24 1:00 The ISU Police Department is going digital with its new Bird Watch phone app. Chief of Police Aaron Woodruff says the app will provide users with current information on campus security. In the technology age, he says, this will be a better way to keep ISU residents informed.

TRANSPORTATION

04/05 1:00 Even though only a tiny part of Illinois' high speed rail project can be considered complete, a top transportation official says it will be finished on time. Joe Shacter from the Illinois Department of Transportation says only about 15 miles of work is finalized, but enough rail has been laid to cover almost the entire route from Chicago to St. Louis.

4/10 5:30 The Transportation Department reauthorization bill is one of the many things stalled in Washington. It is due for another look soon. Both parties view rebuilding the transportation infrastructure as crucial to economic prosperity, in construction job creation and in creating commerce. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with a central and southern Illinois Congressman about how to go about funding the bill.

04/22 1:00 Young adults who have never been through a drivers' education program may have to take an online class in order to get a license. IPR's Amanda Vinicky explains.

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05/27 5:00 The former mayor of Macomb has concluded a 4-year stint as the chairman of Amtrak. Tom Carper says the experience was "quite a ride." IPR's Rich Egger reports.

06/11 1:00 The budget lawmakers approved would keep school transportation funding next year the same as this year. But as IPR's Chris Slaby reports, Illinois school districts still face financial struggles.

06/18 1:00 The Town of Normal is pursuing a Bicycle Friendly Community designation. Town leaders believe efforts to create bike paths and routes in the community will already qualify with the town for the lowest designation of Bronze. Town Planner Mercy Davison says the label might help with certain grant applications, but is mainly a quality of life indicator.

06/26 1:00 An Illinois legislative leader helped open Normal's new electric vehicle supercharging stations.