

WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

April, May, June 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

4/1 1:00 Chicago born actor Kevin Dunn is making his way back to his alma mater Illinois Wesleyan. Dunn along with five other successful Wesleyan alums will share their stories during inaugural week.

4/6 1:00 The Chicago Blues Festival will include a celebration of the city's independent blues record label, Alligator Records, and a tribute to guitarist Otis Rush. The city announced the lineup Tuesday.

4/13 1:00 A preservation group says 11 buildings in the state are in danger of being lost forever. Most of sites are publicly owned. Local governments are facing the difficult choice of their resources to rehabilitate these buildings or tearing them down.

4/18 1:00 The earthquake in Ecuador (ECK-wah-door) scared a man from Bloomington who is living in that country's capital of Quito (KEE-toh). Ryan Kern says he was with friends high in an apartment building.

4/19 0:30 General admission prices are going up for this year's Illinois State Fair. The Illinois Department of Agriculture released gate admission and parking fees today (Tue). The new \$10 admission is \$3 higher for the 2016 fair. It's effective on all but on the fair's opening and closing days and applies to those ages 13 to 59.

4/20 13:30 New Route Theater is presenting a festival of LGBTQ plays tomorrow and this weekend. Theater Director Don Shandrow and program Curator Duane Boutte (boo-tay) (no emphasis) join Charlie Schlenker to talk about Voices of Pride.

4/25 1:00 A student at tiny Alwood High School in Woodhull, Illinois, inspired legislation that will affect military funerals across Illinois.

4/28 11:00 East meets west in the next Illinois Symphony Orchestra Concert. It's the final concert of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra season, coming up Friday.

5/5 1:00 The six million people who perished in the Holocaust were remembered in a prayer and candle-lighting service last night (Thursday) at Moses Montefiore (MON-tay-fee-or-ay) synagogue in Bloomington.

BUSINESS, ECONOMY & LABOR

4/1 0:30 Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner says a one-day strike by Chicago teachers is "shameful" because "children are the victims in this raw display of political power." Teachers are picketing shuttered schools to call for better education funding.

4/5 0:30 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.

4/11 1:00 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.

4/14 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.

4/20 1:00 When the North American Auto Show opened this week in Detroit, there was a renewed emphasis on electric vehicles.

4/25 0:30 Contract negotiations between Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner and a union representing Illinois state workers have reached the state labor board.

4/29 1:00 Students from a Champaign high school on their way to a field trip had to evacuate the bus that was shuttling them to Chicago after it started smoking and eventually caught fire.

5/2 0:30 Researchers analyzed why some hospitals make big profits and found a surprise: Seven of the 10 most profitable hospitals are nonprofits, including one in Urbana, Illinois, where hospital tax exemptions are headed for a contentious court battle.

5/4 1:00 Illinois House members are considering a proposal to change the state's flat income tax to a progressive one. The switch would mean people who earn more money would pay more in income taxes.

5/6 0:30 Commonwealth Edison and Exelon are having another go at legislation to help keep open what it says are money losing nuclear plants in the Quad Cities and Clinton, Illinois.

CHILDREN & FAMILY/EDUCATION

4/5 1:00 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.

4/15 15:00 District 87 is buying houses near Bent Elementary School to turn it into parking. It's not cheap. In this interview with WGLT's Charlie Schlenker, Superintendent Barry Reilly talks about the need for parking there...

4/18 0:30 A leading child advocacy organization is backing a proposal to replace Illinois' flat income tax with a system to tax the state's highest earners more. Democratic state Rep. Lou Lang has pitched a graduated income tax plan he says would mean a tax cut for 99 percent of residents and generate \$1.9 billion.

4/21 1:00 The YMCA of Bloomington Normal is seeing a significant shift in the affluence of the community.

5/2 0:30 Human Service providers in Illinois are wondering what they will be left with after the budget deadlock is resolved.

5/4 15:30 The state budget crisis is eroding social service agencies. The political standoff over Governor Rauner's turnaround agenda is also reshaping the way the state functions in unintended and potentially long lasting ways.

5/5 1:00 The State of Illinois owes the Children's Home and Aid Society in Bloomington about a half million dollars in contracts already paid for.

5/13 15:30 The head of the Children's Home and Aid Society in Bloomington says the last ten months has done a lot to her organization.

ENVIRONMENT

4/5 1:00 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.

4/7 1:00 Flood waters are continuing to recede across Illinois as residents begin the recovery process after dealing with more than a week of high waters.

4/14 1:00 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...

4/18 1:00 The Exelon Corporation continues to say that its Clinton nuclear power plant could close unless the state provides financial incentives to make it more profitable. The company announced Friday the Clinton power station cleared a recent power capacity auction, but that only guarantees that it will continue to operate through May of next year.

4/19 1:00 Legislation introduced in Springfield calls for stricter statewide energy efficiency and renewable energy standards.

4/22 0:30 Wildlife Prairie Park is seeing promising results with the weight loss plans it implemented for many of the animals living at the facility outside of Peoria.

4/28 1:00 Lawmakers and economic development leaders for Dewitt County are urging the state to close a deal that can keep the Clinton Nuclear Power Plant open.

HEALTH & MEDICINE

4/4 0:30 Retail sales of medical marijuana in Illinois increased by roughly 30 percent in March compared to the previous month. Program director Joseph Wright says the state's registered dispensaries sold \$1.9 million worth of marijuana in March to more than 4,700 patients.

4/8 1:00 The McLean County Health Department wants to know who you are. The department is sending out questionnaires, and going door-to-door collecting data on residents.

4/12 1:00 16 members of the Mclean County community will be participating in the Mental Health First Aid training program. The five day program takes place this month at the Mclean County Health Department. With rising rates of mental illness and substance use disorders, the First Aid training allows citizens to help others experiencing a mental crisis or developing a mental health disorder.

4/20 1:00 Illinois health officials are reporting a cluster of cases of a rare bloodstream infection they detected while investigating a Wisconsin outbreak. The Illinois Department of Public Health announced an additional 10 cases of infection from the bacterium Elizabethkingia (ee-LIZ'-ah-beth-KING'-ee-ah), including six deaths.

4/29 1:00 Students from a Champaign high school on their way to a field trip had to evacuate the bus that was shuttling them to Chicago after it started smoking and eventually caught fire.

5/3 0:30 The Illinois medical marijuana industry saw \$2.2 million in retail sales during April, the largest one-month figure yet. Program director Joseph Wright says the program now includes 36 dispensaries and 6,200 qualified patients.

5/4 15:30 The state budget crisis is eroding social service agencies. The political standoff over Governor Rauner's turnaround agenda is also reshaping the way the state functions in

unintended and potentially long lasting ways.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS

4/1 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."

4/5 1:00 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....

4/11 1:00 Former McLean County Judge Charles Witte (WIH-tee) has died at the age of 74. Witte retired in 2001. In recent years he battled cancer.

4/15 3:00 Illinois has operated without a state budget for nine months. This means some things are getting paid for. And others - aren't. Today, a story of three generations of one family who are impacted by the lack of a state budget. IPR's Tony Arnold reports.

4/19 1:00 The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice says the state's courts have to rehear dozens of cases in which youth convicted of murder were sentenced to life without parole. The U-S Supreme Court decided in 2012 that these mandatory sentences were cruel and unusual punishment. But then the court ruled earlier this year that it should apply to defendants who were previously sentenced this way.

4/22 1:00 Attorneys in Peoria filed a joint petition Thursday in hopes of reopening a more than 45-year-old murder case involving the killing of a police officer.

4/25 0:30 McLean County Clerk Kathy Michael has argued long voting lines on election day can be reduced if student voters at ISU register ahead of time.

4/28 0:30 A report from a state-run commission says Illinois laws are preventing juveniles with criminal records from getting employment, education and housing.

5/2 0:30 Police in Normal are asking for public input into a gunfire incident Sunday morning. Assistant Chief Eric Klingele (KLING-gull) says the call came in about 5:36 a.m. in the 500 block of Normal Avenue, in the University Court area.

5/4 0:30 Police in Bloomington are investigating an incident in which someone put tar on a downtown bench, apparently to discourage use by homeless people.

5/13 15:30 The head of the Children's Home and Aid Society in Bloomington says the last ten months has done a lot to her organization.

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

4/1 1:00 Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner is responding to today's (FRI) Chicago teachers strike by keeping his hard line in the sand.

4/4 1:00 Illinois lawmakers are considering whether midwives -- who aren't nurses -- should be legally permitted to oversee home births. Democratic Representative Robyn Gabel (gabe-uhl) of Evanston says it's a matter of safety.

4/8 0:30 The Bloomington Police Department says it can't prove who drove over grave markers and damaged them in connection with a Donald Trump rally. The department says it has

declined to file charges in the case.

4/13 0:30 The Illinois House has passed a measure to suspend fines for drivers who are late renewing their vehicle license plates until the state can continue mailing reminders.

4/19 1:00 McLean County Board Chairman John McIntyre says it will likely take more money to fix the problem of election day voting delays on the campus of Illinois State University. Students complained of three hour wait times during the primary. Some left without casting a ballot.

4/21 1:00 A group of downstate lawmakers are urging colleagues to pass a budget that would include equitable funding for public school children.

4/29 0:30 An Illinois state senator is urging the state to strip Dennis Hastert of the taxpayer-funded pension he receives from when he was state legislator.

5/2 1:00 Attending Illinois State University in the fall would cost about 500 dollars more than it did last August, if Trustees approve the recommended tuition hike.

5/5 13:00 After ten months without payment on signed state contracts, many social service agencies in Illinois have gone under. Others are scraping the bottom of their reserves.

5/13 15:30 The head of the Children's Home and Aid Society in Bloomington says the last ten months has done a lot to her organization.

RACE, EQUALITY & RIGHTS

4/5 0:30 Lawmakers have given initial approval to a measure that would allow transgender people to change the gender marker on their birth certificates, passports, and identification cards.

4/15 3:30 Illinois has operated without a state budget for nine months. This means some things are getting paid for. And others - aren't. Today, a story of three generations of one family who are impacted by the lack of a state budget.

4/19 4:30 Cities in Illinois and across the country are wondering what to do ... now that a landmark Supreme Court decision could invalidate most local laws restricting panhandling.

4/21 0:30 The Illinois House has passed legislation requiring health insurance plans to cover birth control. Democratic Representative Elaine Nekritz of Northbrook says this is already federal law. The proposal's aim is to ensure women in Illinois have access by allowing a 12-month prescription.

4/26 1:00 The Black Lives Matter movement is about more than black lives and police-community relations. That's according to Dontae (DON-tay) Latson (LOT-son), chief executive of the McLean County YWCA.

4/28 5:00 Ahead at (11/6) it's Sound Ideas. In Illinois, the African American Community has been somewhat resistant to LGBTQ issues, in spite of the traditionally Democratic party makeup of that community driven by Chicago and the Metro east populations. Jafari (juh-FAHR-ee) Allen, is a Professor of Anthropology, African Studies and American Studies at the University of Miami.

4/29 0:30 Students living illegally in the U.S. who struggle to pay for college because they don't qualify for financial aid are urging Illinois lawmakers to make them eligible for state help.

5/2 0:30 Human Service providers in Illinois are wondering what they will be left with after the budget deadlock is resolved. Peter Rankaitis of Project Oz in Bloomington says he knows of at least four central Illinois agencies that have cut crisis services to homeless young people and runaways.

5/4 0:30 An Illinois lawmaker wants the state to stop referring to immigrants in the country illegally as aliens.

5/5 1:00 The six million people who perished in the Holocaust were remembered in a prayer and candle-lighting service last night (Thursday) at Moses Montefiore (MON-tay-fee-or-ay) synagogue in Bloomington.

SOCIAL SERVICE & PROGRAMS

4/12 1:00 The McLean County Health Department and its partners will begin Mental Health First Aid instructor training today. The National Council for Behavioral Health is conducting this 5 day training certification.

4/19 15:00 District 87 is buying houses near Bent Elementary School to turn it into parking. It's not cheap. In this interview with WGLT's Charlie Schlenker, Superintendent Barry Reilly talks about the need for parking there.

4/21 8:00 It's hard to get a job when you are autistic. It's hard to socialize. It's hard to do many things. Area advocates hope to create more autism friendly places in Bloomington Normal.

4/22 0:30 The Illinois Senate has approved a measure that would send \$450 million in temporary aid to human service programs during the state's budget stalemate.

4/26 1:00 Human service agencies across the state are feeling the pressure of having no budget leading into the end of the fiscal year. When agencies that normally help community members in need...are in need of help themselves...it becomes a dangerous situation.

4/29 1:00 Starting this weekend home care workers paid by Illinois won't be allowed to work over 40 hours a week. That's because Governor Bruce Rauner says the state can't afford to pay over time and a new federal law requires it. Sharon Lamp is a Des Plaines resident who uses a motorized wheelchair.

5/2 0:30 Deterioration of human services caused by the budget standoff over the Governor's turnaround agenda will take years to undo. That's according to Peter Rankaitis of Project Oz in Bloomington.

5/3 1:00 A mental health agency serving Woodford, Logan, and Tazewell Counties is losing about 30,000 dollars a month by continuing to offer psychiatric services for existing patients in the absence of state money.

5/5 1:00 The head of Children's Home and Aid in Bloomington says it's ironic that state agency workers are still calling them to verify services are being delivered that the state is not paying for.

TECHNOLOGY

4/11 0:30 The man often referred to as "one of the most technically proficient hackers on earth" says people are too fearful of porous security. Charlie Miller is the keynote speaker for Illinois State University's Science and Technology week.

4/13 1:00 Peabody Energy, the nation's largest coal miner, filed for bankruptcy protection Wednesday as a crosscurrent of environmental, technological and economic changes wreak havoc across the industry. The company's bankruptcy filing comes less than three months after Arch Coal, the country's second-largest miner, filed for bankruptcy, on the heels of bankruptcy filings from Alpha Natural Resources, Patriot Coal and Walter Energy.

4/19 15:00 District 87 is buying houses near Bent Elementary School to turn it into parking. It's not cheap.

4/28 1:00 Lawmakers and economic development leaders for Dewitt County are urging the state to close a deal that can keep the Clinton Nuclear Power Plant open. State Representative Bill Mitchell of Forsythe says the plant is a huge economic engine.

4/29 1:00 Mitsubishi Motors North America has sold its plant in Normal to an industrial reclamation firm. Maynards Industries is a Detroit-based company that will take possession of the plant in June.

5/3 0:30 Heavy equipment-maker Caterpillar Inc. plans to put hundreds of jobs in Arizona with the selection of Tucson as the location of new consolidated offices for the company's mining and technology division.

5/6 0:30 Commonwealth Edison and Exelon are having another go at legislation to help keep open what it says are money losing nuclear plants in the Quad Cities and Clinton, Illinois.

TRANSPORTATION

4/6 0:30 Residents at Bloomington's Phoenix Towers are losing the purple bus route, but they're gaining rides on the blue line. Connect Transit says another change being made as routes are tweaked involves safety.

4/13 0:30 The Illinois House has passed a measure to suspend fines for drivers who are late renewing their vehicle license plates until the state can continue mailing reminders. The bill advanced out of the Illinois House unanimously Tuesday and now goes to the Illinois Senate for consideration.

4/15 0:30 Hoping for 20 million dollars in federal money to reconstruct the Main Street Corridor. If the project moves forward it would be based on a 2012 Main Street Transportation study. Normal City Manager Mark Peterson says that document provides a multi-modal treatment of the corridor.

4/26 1:00 Bus riders in the Twin Cities may be able to hitch a ride from Uber to help them get to the nearest bus route, with up to half of the cost paid by Connect Transit. Connect Transit General Manager Andrew Johnson says, if approved, the pilot program would help some customers affected by proposed route changes.

4/29 1:30 The industrial reclamation firm that broke up, sold and tore down more than a dozen General Motors Auto plants has bought the Mitsubishi Plant in Normal. Maynards Industries will take possession of the facility in June, about when Mitsubishi had planned to shut the doors for the last time.