

WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

July, August, September 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

07/19 5:30 The sister city relationship between Bloomington-Normal and a city in Japan is fifty years old and going strong. A delegation from Asahikawa (uh-SIGH-uh-KAH-wah) arrives this weekend to mark the occasion. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with someone in at the beginning of the relationship meant to foster cultural and business exchange.

07/20 4:30 A new movie, Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter, marks a 21st century continuation of the trend toward making the President as much myth as historical figure. That's according to Guy Fraker, a Bloomington attorney and Lincoln Scholar.

07/26 6:00 From molten material to finished glass, the history and evolution of the Studio Glass movement is revealed in a new exhibition at the Illinois State University Galleries. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has this report.

08/15 3:30 A booth promoting rights for gay and lesbian people is debuting at the Illinois State Fair this year. But not everyone thinks it should be at the family-oriented event.

08/16 5:00 In recent years the popularity of zip lines has risen significantly, but so has awareness of accidents and injuries they have caused.

IPR's Peter Gray reports from the Illinois State Fair on what the state's labor department is doing to make sure zip line riders are safe throughout Illinois.

09/03 5:30 Rivers and mountains form people as much as family does according to lyrical poet Eamonn (AY-muhn) Wall. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with this man who inhabits two worlds, Ireland and Missouri about landscape as culture...

09/10 5:30 Guitarist Chris Knight is the voice of small town America. He's an Honorary Texan, a Kentucky Colonel (kernel), a former coal miner, and now, one of country's greatest songwriters. Knight's new album, Little Victories comes out tomorrow. He took a break from his summer tour to join WGLT's Daniel Hajek in the studio.

09/12 7:00 A world-renowned son of Bloomington/Normal returns to the community to help children make music

09/13 4:00 A central Illinois musician is remembering the U-S Ambassador to Libya, who died this week as protestors stormed and burned the U-S Consulate in Benghazi. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with the step brother of Ambassador Chris Stevens...

09/14 6:00 Columbus began the era of globalization, from plants and natural resources to trade and disease. That's according to a book by author Charles Mann, who is coming to Illinois State University tomorrow. WGLT's Charlie Schlenke has more with the author of the book 1493.

09/17 6:00 Ashley Lucas is an Assistant Professor of Dramatic Art at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She's also the daughter of an imprisoned father. It was that combination that compelled her to create a one woman show she's bringing to central Illinois this week

09/20 6:30 Some of the best music in the world arises when cultures collide, fuse, and create something new. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with a co-founder of the group Sones de Mexico, which is playing tonight at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts

09/24 6:00 Humans need an adequate secure food supply to sustain civilization. Over centuries agricultural technology has created huge changes in the way people live. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports in the second segment of the GLT News Series, Farming: A Growing Concern, that the stakes for technological progress have never been higher

BUSINESS, ECONOMY & LABOR

07/02 6:30 A central Illinois business executive has been thrust into the role of Chair of the Board for the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. WGLT's Willis Kern visited the 12th floor Bloomington offices of State Farm Insurance's Ed Rust for this interview.

07/05 5:00 Illinois has racked up the largest unfunded liability in the nation. Politicians there say they're going to fix it. But increasingly it's looking like that won't happen until after the November election. In the meantime, the problem compounds.

07/05 1:00 Chicago-area businesses that let customers roll their own cigarettes say they'll go out of business if new federal regulations take effect tomorrow. IPR's Alex Keefe reports.

07/18 6:00 Normal's Mitsubishi auto assembly plant opened the era of the Outlander Sport with a ceremony kicking off production of the sporty crossover vehicle. But even with the immediate future of the plant hinging on the Outlander, the community's attention seems focused on making the company's electric vehicle more of a mainstream option.

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08/01 6:00 A growing number of U. S. colleges and universities have arrangements with banks providing student ID's that also function as debit cards. Earlier this year, a consumer group cited concerns with some of them, and now members of Congress are raising their own questions

08/10 6:00 It's been an especially tough summer for farmers. The combination of high temperatures and little rain has impacted just about every type of producer. Nevertheless, some are finding ways to get by.

09/06 6:00 Lawsuits by prison employees have prompted the state of Illinois to hold off on the closure of any such facilities, but there's no telling what could happen later in cities like Dwight, home to state's only all-female prison. The battle between the employees' union and Governor Pat Quinn leaves the lives of many on hold. The 4-thousand residents of Dwight wonder what the future holds for their town, and their livelihood.

09/11 5:30 The City of Bloomington credit rating is stable and good compared to many communities. But, the City Manager has ambitions to do better than double A. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on infrastructure with David Hales.

09/24 6:00 The agriculture industry has had a rocky year, highlighted by a vicious drought and oppressive midwestern heat. Farmers in Illinois and elsewhere are trying to make the best of the harvest, while bracing for what lies ahead. As Willis Kern reports in the first segment of the GLT News Series Farming: A Growing Concern, the immediate future is clouded by gridlock in Washington

CHILDREN & FAMILY/EDUCATION

07/24 4:30 As parents begin preparations to send their children back to school, they're becoming increasingly concerned about the return of an old malady of the young.

07/25 1:30 Illinois is still trying to get out of the federal No Child Left Behind law. As it waits, the state's taking a new step to get an exemption from the program's most controversial component.

As IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports, it would mean schools won't get punished if students score better on standardized tests:

08/01 6:00 A growing number of U. S. colleges and universities have arrangements with banks providing student ID's that also function as debit cards. Earlier this year, a consumer group cited concerns with some of them, and now members of Congress are raising their own questions.

08/02 5:30 It's not always easy to say things to our loved ones. One young man has finally told his mother how he feels about her heart transplant, but not in words. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports on music from and about the heart.

08/03 1:00 Officials at the Illinois State Fair unveiled some of this year's new activities Thursday.

As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, much of the success of the event will depend on the weather:

08/09 1:00 Illinois State University is unveiling the new Cardinal Courts apartments. Despite the unexpected situations the project encountered during construction the new housing is move-in ready for students in time for the Fall Semester, as planned.

08/24 1:00 Authorities say 80 percent of all elder abuse cases go unreported. Elder Abuse Supervisor Jessica Bury, who works with PATH crisis center, says different types of abuse include physical, neglect, and financial exploitation. Bury says because only 1 out of 5 cases are reported, the issue deserves more attention. She says creating awareness within the senior community is the best way to prevent elder abuse

09/09 3:00 More than 400 people turned out for a prayer observance Sunday evening at Normal Community High School in the wake of the hostage taking incident in a Friday morning health class.

09/12 6:30 A world-renowned son of Bloomington/Normal returns to the community to help children make music.

09/24 2:30 The McLean County poverty level is higher than the state average, according to a Chicago based research center. Heartland Alliance Social Impact and Research Director Amy Rynell says almost 16 percent of families in McLean County are living on 18 thousand dollars or less. Rynell says the state level budget crisis hinders a county's ability to reduce the poverty hole.

09/26 5:00 The average age of the American farmer is 60. That's according to current census data from the United States Department of Agriculture. And fewer children are remaining on the family farm to take over from their elderly parents. That's helped to create a push in agriculture to cultivate a new generation of farmers

ENVIRONMENT

07/12 6:00 While officials in Normal are proud of their new \$50 million Uptown Station officially opening this weekend, some in the transportation industry refer to it as the "crown jewel" of high speed rail's U. S. future. WGLT's Willis Kern has more.

07/23 4:00 A new type of restaurant is beginning to gain a foothold in central Illinois. It's called Farm to Fork, where the menu features items grown locally rather than shipped in from far-flung places. As WGLT's Laura Kennedy reports, though there may be passion behind this type of enterprise, there can also be obstacles to success.

07/24 6:00 Illinois State University and fifteen other colleges from across the country put their handcrafted solar powered vehicles to the ultimate test this month. They participated in a week long cross country race through the eight states that border the Great Lakes, from New York to Minnesota.

But as WGLT's Daniel Hajek reports, ISU's 'Team Mercury' had a bumpy ride in the American Solar Challenge.

07/27 1:30 Very little legislation has been passed by Congress this year, but now there's a rush to pass the farm bill and do something for drought stricken farmers before the election.

WGLT's Washington Correspondent Hanna Gutmann reports on what it takes to get compromise and action.

08/10 5:00 It's been an especially tough summer for farmers. The combination of high temperatures and little rain has impacted just about every type of producer. Nevertheless, some are finding ways to get by.

08/23 6:00 If you don't wear gloves when you garden, you will once you learn just how dangerous the plants in your yard can be. The Illinois State University Horticulture Center is currently showcasing plants that behave badly as part of the event "Midwestern Night in the Garden of Not-So-Good and Evil," which includes a presentation by an author who specializes in nefarious plants with the power to kill. WGLT's Laura Kennedy, who always wears gloves in the garden, has more.

09/14 6:00 Columbus began the era of globalization, from plants and natural resources to trade and disease. That's according to a book by author Charles Mann, who is coming to Illinois State University Tuesday. WGLT's Charlie Schlenke has more with the author of the book 1493.

09/24 6:00 Farmers have no idea what the next farm bill will look like, but they know it probably won't contain the decades-long mainstay of direct payments. Doug Wilson farms more than 500 acres of corn and beans north of Gridley. He says he's prepared to lose guaranteed subsidies, but not crop insurance.

09/26 6:00 Through the years, American farms have grown a variety of crops, from corn to soybeans to cotton and more. Perhaps the most important crop of all was a new generation of farmers. Careers in agriculture have been traditionally passed down from parent to child. But that's falling by the wayside, as more young people opt to leave the farm, choosing other careers.

HEALTH & MEDICINE

07/11 4:00 There are more calls for Congressman Jesse Jackson Junior to further explain why he's on medical leave from the U-S House. Jackson's staff says the Chicago Democrat is undergoing inpatient treatment for an unspecified ailment. They say it's more serious than they initially thought. Beyond that, details are scarce. Now, even some dependable Jackson supporters say his constituents should get more information, and soon.

07/12 1:30 A state forecasting group expects cigarette sales to dramatically decrease in the coming months. It follows last month's increase in Illinois' cigarette tax, and could mean it'll be a while before state government sees the benefits from the tax hike

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08/20 5:00 Every other day, someone in McLean County takes their own life. A central Illinois event is part of an effort to lower that disturbing statistic.

2012 is shaping up to be a record for suicides in McLean County, according to numbers from Coroner Beth Kimmerling. As of mid July, 10 people had already taken their own lives, that pace would exceed 2010's total of 18 suicides.

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09/25 3:00 McLean County has its first human case of West Nile virus in five years. Health Department Spokeswoman Kera (CARE-uh) Simon says a 73 year old Bloomington man was hospitalized early this month and his illness is now confirmed as West Nile

LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS

07/06 5:00 An immigration activist group is expanding its attempt to put pressure on McLean County Sheriff Mike Emery over his policy of detaining undocumented immigrants for federal officials to take away to detention centers. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

07/26 3:00 Latinos United for Change is rejecting the significance of data showing only a small percentage of undocumented immigrants arrested in McLean County were jailed solely because they were driving while immigrant. WGLT examined inmate data indicating most of those arrested in the last eleven months had DUIs, felony charges, gang affiliation, or multiple aliases as well as no driver's license or insurance.

08/08 3:00 The union that represents prison workers in Illinois goes before a judge Wednesday morning asking him to block Governor Pat Quinn from taking any more steps to close prisons.

08/13 6:00 Illinois' prison system is in crisis. It was built to house 34,000 people, but 48,000 are crowded in now. The Governor is embroiled in a legal battle over his decision to close three prisons, including one in Dwight.

08/14 6:00 Overcrowding in the Illinois prison system has officials putting inmates in some rather unusual places. Yesterday you heard from inmates recently released from Vienna (vie-ANN-uh) prison who lived in an administration building that has only 7 toilets but is housing 600 inmates. WBEZ, the public radio station in Chicago, wants to visit that building but Governor Pat Quinn says no

08/22 6:00 A new front is opening in the ongoing struggle over the second amendment in Illinois and a proposal to allow concealed carrying of weapons. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on what why nothing may happen in McLean County when some people break Illinois law.

09/06 6:00 Lawsuits by prison employees have prompted the state of Illinois to hold off on the closure of any such facilities, but there's no telling what could happen later in cities like Dwight, home to state's

only all-female prison. The battle between the employees' union and Governor Pat Quinn leaves the lives of many on hold. The 4-thousand residents of Dwight wonder what the future holds for their town, and their livelihood.

09/07 7:00 A gun, a hatchet, pills and kerosene all went into a 14 year old boy's backpack before he went to Normal Community High School this morning and took his classmates hostage. Rick Bleichner is the Police Chief of the Town of Normal.

09/11 6:00 The City of Bloomington credit rating is stable and good compared to many communities. But, the City Manager has ambitions to do better than double A. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on infrastructure with David Hales...

09/17 6:00 Ashley Lucas is an Assistant Professor of Dramatic Art at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She's also the daughter of an imprisoned father. It was that combination that compelled her to create a one woman show she's bringing to central Illinois this week.

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

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07/12 6:00 While officials in Normal are proud of their new \$50 million Uptown Station officially opening this weekend, some in the transportation industry refer to it as the "crown jewel" of high speed rail's U. S. future. WGLT's Willis Kern has more.

07/30 5:00 Governor Pat Quinn says he'll call a special legislative session early next month to deal with pension reform. But it's unclear if much has changed since lawmakers tried and failed to pass reform during the spring session.

08/01 6:00 A growing number of U. S. colleges and universities have arrangements with banks providing student ID's that also function as debit cards. Earlier this year, a consumer group cited concerns with some of them, and now members of Congress are raising their own questions.

08/08 5:00 Peoria Congressman Aaron Schock is up for re-election in Illinois' 18th Congressional district. The revamped boundaries include a chunk of McLean County, so the Republican has stepped up his campaigning in and around Bloomington-Normal.

08/14 6:00 Overcrowding in the Illinois prison system has officials putting inmates in some rather unusual places. Yesterday you heard from inmates recently released from Vienna (vie-ANN-uh) prison who lived in an administration building that has only 7 toilets but is housing 600 inmates. WBEZ, the public radio station in Chicago, wants to visit that building but Governor Pat Quinn says no.

08/22 5:30 A new front is opening in the ongoing struggle over the second amendment in Illinois and a proposal to allow concealed carrying of weapons. McLean County State's Attorney Ron Dozier has put out a four page press release saying he won't prosecute a lot of the allegations of unlawful use of a weapon any more. Illinois is the only remaining state without a concealed carry provision... Dozier says perhaps his bold step can help achieve it.

08/27 6:00 Up until now Congressman Jesse Jackson Junior's medical leave has led most observers to focus on the damage to his political future. But as Jackson continues to receive treatment at the Mayo Clinic some are starting to wonder what will happen to the Chicago Democrat's pet projects. Projects like the long anticipated construction of a South Suburban Airport in Will County. Earlier this year Jackson held a groundbreaking for the airport that could ultimately be controlled by people who live in Cook County.

09/05 5:00 It was Governor Pat Quinn's time to shine. Last night, Quinn was among the speakers who kicked off the Democratic National Convention. He was there to help ensure President Barack Obama's political future. But what about his own? From the DNC in Charlotte, North Carolina, IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports

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09/20 6:00 Erik Rankin, a professor of Politics and Government at Illinois State University teamed up with fellow professor Nancy Lind to give the book, "Governing Illinois," a much needed update, and a new chapter.

09/24 6:00 The agriculture industry has had a rocky year, highlighted by a vicious drought and oppressive midwestern heat. Farmers in Illinois and elsewhere are trying to make the best of the harvest, while bracing for what lies ahead. As Willis Kern reports in the first segment of the GLT News Series Farming: A Growing Concern, the immediate future is clouded by gridlock in Washington.

RACE, EQUALITY & RIGHTS

07/06 5:00 An immigration activist group is expanding its attempt to put pressure on McLean County Sheriff Mike Emery over his policy of detaining undocumented immigrants for federal officials to take away to detention centers. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

07/23 3:00 The Bloomington-Normal immigrant rights group Latinos United for Change has argued a Sheriff's department policy asking for federal immigration help in identifying jail inmates targets people for driving while immigrant. But, an examination of data made available by the Sheriff's Department does not bear that out. Over the last 11 months, of the inmates held at the request of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement or ICE, only 13% had no other legal problems save for the lack of a drivers license and insurance

08/13 6:00 Illinois' prison system is in crisis. It was built to house 34,000 people, but 48,000 are crowded in now. The Governor is embroiled in a legal battle over his decision to close three prisons, including one in Dwight. Conditions are deteriorating and recently released inmates say its not just unpleasant punishment, it's inhumane and abusive. Over the last several months, Illinois Public Radio member station WBEZ in Chicago has been requesting visits to two minimum security facilities to see what taxpayers are getting for the billion dollars they spend on prisons, but Governor Quinn is refusing.

08/15 3:30 A booth promoting rights for gay and lesbian people is debuting at the Illinois State Fair this year. But not everyone thinks it should be at the family-oriented event. IPR's Rachel Otwell reports.

08/22 6:00 A new front is opening in the ongoing struggle over the second amendment in Illinois and a proposal to allow concealed carrying of weapons. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on what why nothing may happen in McLean County when some people break Illinois law.

09/04 3:00 Latinos United for Change are continuing their campaign to stop ICE Holds by addressing the McLean County Justice Committee. An organizer for Illinois Peoples Action and L-U-C, Jennifer Carrillo (Car-EE-yo), says ICE holds are voluntary and, she says, McLean County doesn't have to comply with them.

09/07 3:00 The first openly gay person elected to public office in Illinois will be part of the cast performing the play '8' on the ISU campus this weekend.

'8' was written by Dustin Lance Black, screenwriter for "Milk," and "J. Edgar." It's based on the trial to overturn California's proposition eight. Passed by voters, the initiative bars adoption of children by same-sex couples.

09/17 6:00 Columbus began the era of globalization, from plants and natural resources to trade and disease. That's according to a book by author Charles Mann, who is coming to Illinois State University tomorrow. WGLT's Charlie Schlenke has more with the author of the book 1493.

SOCIAL SERVICE & PROGRAMS

07/03 2:30 The Salvation Army in Bloomington is asking for donations of box fans to help people beat the heat. Development Director Steve Schroeder (SHROH-duhr) says they are down to fifteen fans in reserve and demand will likely increase.

07/09 3:00 The American Red Cross wants community organizations, schools and businesses to use its free online disaster preparedness tool. Red Cross of the Heartland Chapter Executive Director Lynn

Hruska (huh-RUSS-kuh) says the need for such planning is strong.

07/24 4:30 As parents begin preparations to send their children back to school, they're becoming increasingly concerned about the return of an old malady of the young.

08/02 2:30 The heartland Food Network and Bloomington Farmer's Market are trying to make fresh food more accessible to poor people. Marisa (mu-REE-suh) Brooks, of the Downtown Bloomington Association says the food network is offering grant money to expand the value of food stamp tokens at the market

08/20 5:00 Every other day, someone in McLean County takes their own life. A central Illinois event is part of an effort to lower that disturbing statistic.

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09/12 7:00 A world-renowned son of Bloomington/Normal returns to the community to help children make music.

09/27 2:30 The state's lengthy lag time on paying its bills has led an association to step in. The horse racing industry is fronting the cash owed to some winners of races.

TECHNOLOGY

07/18 6:00 Normal's Mitsubishi auto assembly plant opened the era of the Outlander Sport with a ceremony kicking off production of the sporty crossover vehicle. But even with the immediate future of the plant hinging on the Outlander, the community's attention seems focused on making the company's electric vehicle more of a mainstream option.

07/25 6:00 Caterpillar is earning healthy profits. The good results have given the board reason to substantially boost executive compensation at the Peoria based company. Yet Caterpillar has two recent high profile labor disputes over WORKER wages. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with an ISU scholar on those issues.

07/27 6:30 Illinois State University and fifteen other colleges from across the country put their handcrafted solar powered vehicles to the ultimate test this month. They participated in a week long cross country race through the eight states that border the Great Lakes, from New York to Minnesota.

But as WGLT's Daniel Hajek reports, ISU's 'Team Mercury' had a bumpy ride in the American Solar Challenge.

07/31 5:30 Some major changes are on the horizon very soon for the Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System, including a smart phone app, a new major transfer station and a new identity. BNPTS General Manager Andrew Johnson says, within a few weeks, bus riders in the twin cities will be able to track the progress of the city fleet in real time using a smart phone app.

08/16 2:30 Peoria based Caterpillar will get federal help to experiment on ways to make diesel engines more efficient. The Energy Department is awarding the heavy equipment maker three and a half million dollars. Ed Owens is a Supervisor of the Hybrid Electric Systems and Materials Technology Program. Owens says the money will pay for Caterpillar to research new cast iron engine block alloys

09/04 3:00 The head of the Bloomington Water Department says the city might not have to spend that extra five million dollars on the long running pipeline road project after all. The project is to modernize water pumping infrastructure between town and the city reservoirs at Lakes Evergreen and Bloomington north of the twin cities. Water Director Craig Cummings says planners made assumptions fifteen years ago that they would need to move 30 million gallons per day to the City of Bloomington.

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TRANSPORTATION

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08/13 3:00 Beginning today, Bloomington Normal Transit System buses will no longer use the North and Fell Streets transfer station. That location is being shifted two block south and east to the new Uptown Station. During a GLT interview last month, transit system manager Andrew Johnson said there are plenty of advantages to having the new transfer point in Normal.

08/27 6:00 Up until now Congressman Jesse Jackson Junior's medical leave has led most observers to focus on the damage to his political future. But as Jackson continues to receive treatment at the Mayo Clinic some are starting to wonder what will happen to the Chicago Democrat's pet projects. Projects like the long anticipated construction of a South Suburban Airport in Will County. Earlier this year Jackson held a groundbreaking for the airport that could ultimately be controlled by people who live in Cook County.

09/03 3:00 A survey finds teenage passengers aren't afraid to tell their friends to stop texting and driving. But the same survey finds about a third of those who will correct the behavior admit they do it themselves. Bloomington-based State Farm Insurance and Harris Interactive conducted the survey of 650 14-18 year olds during July. State Farm's Director of Technology Research Chris Mullen says the finding underscores the need to set good examples for teens.

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09/27 3:00 Workers will build High Speed rail passenger cars for the Chicago to Saint Louis corridor in Illinois. Illinois Department of Transportation Spokesman Josh Kauffman says the contract is worth \$352 million to Nippon-Sharyu based in Rochelle.