

## **WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS**

### **July, August, September 2015**

**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

- 7/1    3:00    An e-mail campaign pushing for a new Normal Public Library outside of Uptown is not likely to go very far.
- 7/2    3:00    The Bloomington Library will set up a couple of pilot program bookmobile stops on the west side.
- 7/6    3:00    The head of the Normal Public Library Board says that body looks forward to deciding the new library location in partnership with the Town Council and staff.
- 7/7    3:00    The head of the Normal Public Library Board says the library staff has done all that they can for the library in its current location.
- 7/9    10:00   The 13th annual Illinois Chamber Music Festival is just around the corner!
- 7/13   3:00    The Route 66 visitors center in downtown Bloomington has brought in more than 26 hundred people since it opened.
- 7/15   13:00   The 7th annual "Lincoln's Festival" kicks off Friday in Bloomington Normal and runs through the weekend.
- 7/17   3:00    A federal judge in Peoria has ordered a Hollywood film producer to pay a retired Normal firefighter more than \$178,000 restitution.
- 7/21   3:00    Visitors to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield will get a chance to learn about the historic 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, and a cup of tea.
- 7/27   1:00    Funding for the arts in Illinois has dramatically decreased over the past decade... And Governor Bruce Rauner has called for that trend to continue.
- 8/5    22:00   A century ago most of the jobs in the U.S. were in rural areas, agricultural jobs. Now 2% or less of the workforce is in the countryside.
- 7/31   3:00    A 150-year-old Springfield contractor will restore the roof of the Illinois Governor's Mansion for \$493,000.
- 8/3    3:00    Severe weather forced the Lollapalooza music festival on Chicago's lakefront to end a half-hour early last night.

#### BUSINESS, ECONOMY & LABOR

- 7/1    3:00    Plans are underway to expand this year's Farm Progress Show in Decatur before it takes place in September.
- 7/2    3:00    The looming closure of the McLean County Landfill will increase costs to dispose of Bloomington Normal garbage in about two years.
- 7/6    3:00    A central Illinois banker says the budget standoff makes Illinois look bad. Republican Governor Bruce Rauner and legislative Democrats have failed to negotiate a state

budget.

7/7 3:00 An inheritance dispute in McLean County has resulted in a new legal decision that benefits the accounting profession.

7/8 3:00 Another milestone for the future Green Top Grocery CoOp in Bloomington as the number of owners grows past 800, an increase of 300 over the past year.

7/13 3:00 McLean County Government is asking the State Supreme Court to take a look at an Alan Beaman related case involving a dispute between the county and its insurance company.

7/14 3:00 Whistleblowers who sued State Farm Fire and Casualty Co. can seek more evidence of fraud against the U.S. government after 2005's Hurricane Katrina.

7/15 3:00 Bloomington Alderman Karen Schmidt says the town council needs a broader discussion with the U.S. Cellular Coliseum.

7/17 3:00 The Normal Town Council is expected to close a loophole in its animal control ordinance that could allow puppy mills to operate legally in Normal.

7/17 3:00 Mike McElroy, the mayor of Decatur, has died at the age of 63. McElroy was in an auto accident after suffering a medical emergency while driving.

7/20 3:00 A proposed land swap between Illinois State University and the town of Normal would change the look of Main Street.

7/23 3:00 The Democratic Candidate for Congress in the 18th district special election says he would probably have voted no on a bill to create a national GMO labeling system for food.

7/28 3:00 The standoff between the governor and legislature over the Governor's turnaround agenda could hinder efforts to prepare for the closure of Mitsubishi.

7/30 3:00 Exelon Nuclear says it will announce in September whether to close the Clinton Nuclear Plant.

8/3 3:00 There are several barriers to resale of auto plants in general and the Mitsubishi facility in Normal in particular, according an auto industry expert.

#### CHILDREN & FAMILY/EDUCATION

7/1 3:00 A spokesman for the Illinois National Guard says about 90 staffers of the Lincoln's Challenge program for troubled youth have been asked not to report for work because of the state budget impasse.

7/1 3:00 The president of Eastern Illinois University says the school is considering budget-cutting measures including layoffs.

7/7 3:00 A federal judge says Illinois must keep funding its foster care and child-protection services despite the ongoing budget stalemate.

7/8 3:00 Despite withholding salary increases for faculty and staff this year, ISU President Larry Dietz says the university's recent track record on wage hikes is a strong one.

7/14 11:00 The Illinois Public Health Association recently honored a McLean County resident as its public health worker of the year. Sue Albee-Grant won that award partly for her work on the County Health Department's oral health program.

7/15 3:00 Data provided by Southern Illinois University shows that the school's administrators have spent more than \$180,000 on in-house chartered airplane flights over the past two years.

7/16 3:00 Children facing abuse and neglect are the beneficiaries of a bicycle ride in McLean County this weekend.

7/20 3:00 A proposed land swap between Illinois State University and the town of Normal

would change the look of Main Street.

7/28 3:00 More Illinois families will be able to receive federal food stamps under expanded eligibility signed into law by Gov. Bruce Rauner.

7/29 3:00 Illinois' child welfare agency says it's doing a better job of tracking youth who run away. That's after an audit showed the Department of Children and Family Services was failing to keep tabs on those young people.

7/31 3:00 Chicago aldermen have taken a big step to make the city's O'Hare and Midway airports among the most breast-feeding friendly airports in the nation.

7/31 3:00 Bloomington Normal and County Government leaders are announcing the formation of a task force to address the Mitsubishi plant closure.

## ENVIRONMENT

7/1 3:00 Environmental filmmaker Rhiannon Fionn [ree-ANN-uhn fee-OWN) urges people to take their own legal action regarding coal ash because Congress does not want to.

7/2 3:00 The McLean County Landfill will be the next one to close in the state of Illinois. A new state EPA report indicates the remaining capacity will last only two more years....

7/10 3:00 This month's heavy rains are causing a high amount of fertilizer to run off from farm fields.

7/16 3:00 Peoria officials say tearing down abandoned houses can remove eyesores and make neighborhoods safer.

7/17 3:00 One of the most impressive birds in the world is back in Illinois, thanks to a repopulation program, and a ban on the insecticide DDT.

7/23 3:00 One of the Candidates for Congress in the September special election says he is not in favor of federal legislation just passed by the House to set up a nationwide system of voluntary genetically modified or GMO food labeling.

7/30 3:00 Anglers hoping to eliminate a few invasive Asian carp at the 10th annual Redneck Fishing Tournament in central Illinois will have to wait until Labor Day Weekend.

## HEALTH & MEDICINE

7/8 3:00 A new group has formed to push for policies in Springfield favorable to the medical marijuana industry with a well-connected former Illinois Department of Agriculture employee as its top lobbyist.

7/9 3:00 After two years of construction, a long-planned addition to the Community Cancer Center in Normal is nearing completion.

7/16 3:00 The new Happy Hour legislation that's now in effect in Illinois has a training provision that makes the idea more palatable for groups that generally oppose anything that may lead to over imbibing at drinking establishments.

7/20 3:00 The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency says it has detected a toxin in the Monee (moh-NEE') Reservoir in northern Illinois.

7/23 3:00 A bill has passed the U.S. House to standardize Genetically Modified or GMO food labeling.

7/28 3:00 More Illinois families will be able to receive federal food stamps under expanded eligibility signed into law by Gov. Bruce Rauner.

7/31 3:00 Chicago aldermen have taken a big step to make the city's O'Hare and Midway

airports among the most breast-feeding friendly airports in the nation.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS

7/1 3:00 A spokesman for the Illinois National Guard says about 90 staffers of the Lincoln's Challenge program for troubled youth have been asked not to report for work because of the state budget impasse.

7/2 3:00 Gov. Bruce Rauner has signed a new law that puts the fee most Illinois residents pay for 911 emergency telephone service at a uniform eighty-seven cents per month for both land lines and mobile phones.

7/7 3:00 An inheritance dispute in McLean County has resulted in a new legal decision that benefits the accounting profession.

7/9 3:00 The City of Chicago tried to convince a Cook County judge it can modify retirement benefits for some of its employees.

7/10 3:00 The Eureka College Chief Diversity Officer is one of the members of the Ferguson Commission, which is releasing its recommendations for the community on Monday.

7/13 3:00 McLean County Government is asking the State Supreme Court to take a look at an Alan Beaman related case involving a dispute between the county and its insurance company.

7/14 3:00 Whistleblowers who sued State Farm Fire and Casualty Co. can seek more evidence of fraud against the U.S. government after 2005's Hurricane Katrina.

7/15 3:00 Surprising no one, State's Attorney Jason Chambers says he's running for another term as McLean County's top prosecutor.

7/15 2:00 15 homes are total losses after a Tornado hit the Village of Delavan.

7/21 3:00 Bloomington Police have arrested the ex-husband of a Bloomington financial advisor for her murder.

7/22 3:00 A 21-year old ISU student has now pleaded guilty to fleeing the scene after causing the death of another ISU student in January.

7/23 3:00 A federal judge in Chicago is mandating the State of Illinois to pay Cook County Medicaid providers - even though the budget impasse continues at the Statehouse.

7/29 3:00 Wheaton College in suburban Chicago says it will stop offering health insurance plans to students to avoid providing birth control coverage mandated by the Affordable Care Act.

7/31 3:00 An Illinois appeals court has ruled a McLean County Circuit Judge made a mistake in disallowing evidence in an asbestos trial.

7/31 3:00 A Bloomington man has pleaded not guilty to charges he killed his ex-wife, who was found in November in her office with multiple gunshot wounds.

### POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

7/1 3:00 Environmental filmmaker Rhiannon Fionn [ree-ANN-uhn fee-OWN) urges people to take their own legal action regarding coal ash because Congress does not want to.

7/1 3:00 Not only are Illinois legislators unable to agree on a new annual budget, they are at odds over what to do for the next month.

7/2 3:00 The Bloomington Library will set up a couple of pilot program bookmobile stops on the west side.

7/6 3:00 The head of the Normal Public Library Board says that body looks forward to

deciding the new library location in partnership with the Town Council and staff.

7/7 3:00 The McLean County Board is rushing to rework agreements with the Public Building Commission just in case lawmakers pass a property tax freeze.

7/7 3:00 The Mayor of Normal says he is surprised at how much citizen input focused on an indoor center as part of the new Park and Recreation Master Plan.

7/7 3:00 Maybe no one cares who represents Illinois' 18th congressional district in Washington.

7/8 3:00 In the midst of a budget stalemate Governor Bruce Rauner says he's re-introducing his five-point agenda, with some changes.

7/10 3:00 Monday the commission charged with charting a path toward healing in Ferguson Missouri releases it's recommendations.

7/13 2:00 The Route 66 visitors center in downtown Bloomington has brought in more than 26 hundred people since it opened.

7/14 3:00 McLean County Government is asking the State Supreme Court to take a look at an Alan Beaman related case involving a dispute between the county and its insurance company.

7/14 3:00 Bloomington Alderman Karen Schmidt says the town council needs a broader discussion with the U.S. Cellular Coliseum.

7/17 2:00 Mike McElroy, the mayor of Decatur, has died at the age of 63.

7/21 16:00 State Senator Darin LaHood swept to a convincing win in his Congressional primary election earlier this month.

7/22 3:00 Town of Normal sales tax revenue projections have fallen three quarters of a million dollars short.

7/27 3:00 Illinois advocates for the arts say Governor Bruce Rauner's plan for more budget cuts is bad policy.

7/29 3:00 One of the ideas a Bloomington budget task force is considering is not making good on previous pension contribution commitments.

7/31 3:00 Chicago aldermen have taken a big step to make the city's O'Hare and Midway airports among the most breast-feeding friendly airports in the nation.

### RACE, EQUALITY & RIGHTS

7/1 1:00 A spokesman for the Illinois National Guard says about 90 staffers of the Lincoln's Challenge program for troubled youth have been asked not to report for work because of the state budget impasse.

7/2 3:00 The Bloomington Library will set up a couple of pilot program bookmobile stops on the west side.

7/10 3:00 The Eureka College Chief Diversity Officer is one of the members of the Ferguson Commission, which is releasing it's recommendations for the community on Monday.

7/16 1:00 Supporters of a rural Illinois high school that has come under criticism for calling its sports teams 'Midgets' are rallying to keep the contentious nickname.

7/28 22:00 The Mitsubishi closing has potential implications for area governments and area residents.

### SOCIAL SERVICE & PROBLEMS

7/1 1:00 A spokesman for the Illinois National Guard says about 90 staffers of the Lincoln's Challenge program for troubled youth have been asked not to report for work because of the state budget impasse.

7/2 3:00 The Bloomington Library will set up a couple of pilot program bookmobile stops on the west side.

7/7 1:00 A federal judge says Illinois must keep funding its foster care and child-protection services despite the ongoing budget stalemate.

7/15 3:00 A top Democratic Illinois lawmaker is criticizing the state's child welfare agency.

7/28 3:00 One of the agencies most needed to help Mitsubishi workers transition away from the plant as it closes has only a month's worth of cash left to operate.

7/28 3:00 The standoff between the governor and legislature over the Governor's turnaround agenda could hinder efforts to prepare for the closure of Mitsubishi.

### TECHNOLOGY

7/2 3:00 The McLean County Landfill has only two years of capacity at current usage.

7/21 3:00 Mclean County Board members are none to happy about spending nearly a million dollars on new radio consoles for the 9-1-1 system.

7/29 14:00 An Illinois State University scientist is the first to find a magnetic sensor in the brain of the worm. Andres Vidal Gadea (ahn-DRAYSS vee-DAHL gah-DAY-uh) says many animals have a set of magnetic beads that act like the needle of a compass.

7/30 3:00 Exelon Nuclear says it will announce in September whether to close the Clinton Nuclear Plant.

8/3 3:00 Even though twin city bus ridership dipped in the final quarter of 2015, it's up overall by about 5.5%.

### TRANSPORTATION

7/17 2:00 Two rail workers were injured in the derailment of a 9 rail cars near Pontiac at about midnight. Nine cars carrying grain came off the tracks.

7/23 3:00 There is an unconfirmed report that Mitsubishi Motors plans to end production at its auto assembly plant in Normal.

7/27 3:00 Not all manufacturing jobs are equal and the potential loss of 1,200 Mitsubishi jobs when the plant closes in November will be a huge economic blow to central Illinois.

7/28 19:00 The Mitsubishi closing has potential implications for area governments and area residents.

7/31 3:00 There are several barriers to resale of auto plants in general and the Mitsubishi facility in Normal in particular, according an an auto industry expert.

8/3 3:00 Even though twin city bus ridership dipped in the final quarter of 2015, it's up overall by about 5.5%.