

WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

January, February, March 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

- 1/11 4:00 A nationwide effort to find a once-popular catalog product has hit a milestone. As IPR's Jenna Dooley reports, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency has good reason to be excited.
- 1/20 7:00 The Illinois Symphony Orchestra serving Bloomington Normal and Springfield is auditioning candidates for the position of Music Director during this season's concerts. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports on the ideas the candidates want to bring to the job...
- 2/06 5:30 The 130-year old Peoria Art Guild has weathered some tough times lately, due to harsh recession realities. But the non-profit organization recently regrouped and has been using new community outreach as part of their comeback plan.
- 2/06 5:30 A leading opponent of the death penalty is coming to Bloomington. Sister Helen Prejean's (PRAY-jzhawn) book "Dead Man Walking" was nominated for a Pulitzer and made into an Oscar winning movie. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with the woman who has counseled many on death row...
- 02/10 5:00 The celebrated Lincoln-Douglas debates live again next week at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with Shannon Cochran, the director of the production "The Rivalry".
- 02/14 5:30 A faculty member in Illinois State university's School of Theatre is the recipient of a prestigious teaching award for her work with first-year acting students.
- 02/15 5:30 If a picture is worth a thousand words, how many pictures does it take to encompass the richness of an entire community? A year-long project coordinated by the Illinois State University Galleries is finding out.
- 02/21 5:30 Comics aren't just for kids, nor are they the sole province of men anymore. That's according to a University of Chicago English professor who's coming to ISU this evening. Hillary Chute (CHEWT) says women started becoming a force in graphic novels, or graphic narratives, about 40 years ago, although she says females have labored in supportive roles in comics for even longer.
- 02/24 6:00 The next Music Director of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra will have a big job and some past history to lay to rest. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the human relations challenges the job brings as the symphony serving Bloomington-Normal and Springfield continues to audition candidates in this concert season...
- 02/27 7:00 The 100th anniversary of the most famous maritime disaster of all time is fast approaching and Milner Library at Illinois State University is marking the occasion with a special event.
- 03/12 6:00 McLean County experienced Irish immigration and culture unlike the ways those developed in New York or Boston. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on a new Exhibit at the McLean County Museum of History chronicles the "greening of the prairie."
- 03/14 6:00 When the curators of the Illinois State University Galleries invited six alumni artists to show their creations in an new exhibition, they let the artists work free range.
- 03/27 5:30 The man featured in the 2004 award-winning film "Hotel Rwanda" will be in Bloomington this weekend, giving the keynote address at the third annual graduation ceremony of the Multicultural Leadership Program.
- 3/30 6:00 The Bloomington City Council is in the midst of making the next budget. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with City Manager David Hales about what is going into the document....

BUSINESS, ECONOMY & LABOR

- 01/02 3:00 Americans seem more confident in their finances heading into 2012, according to the

latest survey by Bloomington-based Country Financial.

01/17 3:00 Officials at the Central Illinois Regional Airport say having service on Allegiant twice weekly to Orlando, Florida fills a huge gap left by the departure of AirTran. The Sunday and Thursday flights between the Bloomington airport and the Orlando-Sanford International Airport begin in mid May. AirTran will cease flights into and out of Bloomington in June. CIRA director Carl Olson says Allegiant will keep central Illinois connected to mid-Florida vacation destinations.

01/25 6:00 The Mayor of Peoria says he foresees growth, and some major projects ahead in 2012, after several very difficult years, as the economy shows signs of turning around in central Illinois. Jim Ardis is presenting the State of the City address today.

01/26 2:30 Officials at Caterpillar expect 2012 could match last year's record-breaking sales and profit performance. Cat's Mike Dewalt tells investors last year's revenues were 60-billion dollars, up from the previous record of 51-billion in 2008, helping make Cat's performance last year the best in decades.

02/22 4:30 Even though the recession is over and Illinois' budget is padded with last year's income tax hike ... money is still tight in state government. Which puts Governor Pat Quinn in a difficult position as he lays out his budget for the next year. The Governor will give his budget address today at noon at the Illinois Capitol. It will be full of gloom. And he is not even wading into the thick of the fiscal mess.

02/23 4:00 Closing down prisons. Laying off 12 hundred state employees and cutting back the remaining workforce's retirement benefits. Paying for fewer medical services for the poor. They're all possibilities under the budget plan Governor Pat Quinn submitted yesterday. The Governor was clear the legislature will have tough choices to make in coming months.

02/27 6:00 The Governor made supportive statements about education in his budget message. But, he also is calling for big changes in the pension system. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on what that might bring to Illinois State University with President Al Bowman...

03/07 6:00 East Central Illinois has become a popular location for wind farms, with several facilities up and running, and more being proposed. Jeff Bossert visited wind farms in Ford and Iroquois Counties. He spoke with residents, officials and experts to learn why the region is such a draw for wind energy and if the benefits outweigh the concerns:

03/22 4:00 A Puerto Rican advocacy group is criticizing State Farm Insurance over a commercial it is airing during the N-C-double-A basketball tournament. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more....

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CHILDREN & FAMILY/EDUCATION

01/04 5:00 The transportation issues that've plagued McLean County's Unit Five schools are slowing improving, according to the school Superintendent.

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03/12 6:00 McLean County experienced Irish immigration and culture unlike the ways those developed in New York or Boston. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on a new Exhibit at the McLean County Museum of History chronicles the "greening of the prairie."

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03/26 5:00 America's public schools, the backbone of the nation's democracy are being destroyed. That's according to an expert on education, and former assistant secretary of the Department of Education under President George H.W. Bush.

ENVIRONMENT

01/02 3:00 McLean County is embracing the idea of recycling, according to the Ecology Action Center in Normal. The Center's Director, Michael Brown, says 80,500 pounds of recyclables were diverted from landfills in 2010, the most recent year for which numbers are available. Brown says that approaches the county wide goal of 40% of waste being recycled.

01/18 5:00 The Illinois River receives much less attention than its western neighbor, the Mighty Mississippi. The "Big Muddy" is the subject of much folklore. Now, there's a new effort underway to put raise the profile of the Illinois.

01/24 3:00 This month is National Radon Action Month. It also coincides with a new state law designed to keep renters more aware of the dangerous gas. As IPR's Jenna Dooley reports...Illinois is one of the riskiest states when it comes to radon:

02/08 3:00 Illinois State University hopes to use social networking to reduce the campus carbon footprint. Parking Services Director Julie North says they are rolling out a ride-sharing site. She says it will help students, faculty, and staff connect to other forms of transportation after they car pool...

02/20 3:00 Peoria's first three electric vehicle charging stations are located at Bradley University. Business Affairs Vice President Gary Anna says the idea to locate charging stations on the hilltop first came up about a year ago, when a potential grad student from Bloomington-Normal inquired about them.

02/28 3:00 Trace amounts of asbestos at Unit Five's Chiddix Junior High School have been detected. The asbestos is believed to have been exposed when new windows were installed in 1997, but a definite source has not been determined.

03/07 6:00 East Central Illinois has become a popular location for wind farms, with several facilities up and running, and more being proposed. Jeff Bossert visited wind farms in Ford and Iroquois Counties. He spoke with residents, officials and experts to learn why the region is such a draw for wind energy and if the benefits outweigh the concerns:

03/20 3:00 A geothermal operation at Corn Belt Energy in Bloomington is being unveiled as an example of how the US Department of Agriculture helps promote energy sustainability and efficiency.

03/21 4:00 A referendum to allow Bloomington and Normal governments to negotiate electric rates for citizens with Ameren failed even though it passed in most Illinois Communities where it appeared on the ballot. The Tea Party and County GOP Chair John Parrot worked against the referendum. Bloomington Mayor Steve Stockton says that hurt its prospects...

HEALTH & MEDICINE

01/03 3:00 A new law means cancer patients will be able to choose an alternative method of treatment without fear their insurance won't pay.

01/19 3:00 The OSF Healthcare System is absorbing Ottawa Community Hospital. The two have signed a definitive agreement that OSF Vice President Jim Farrell says will likely close in late spring. More than 400 healthcare mergers and acquisitions happened last year in the U-S. And Farrell says the trend to prepare for healthcare reform implementation in the next couple of years will likely continue...

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one of the riskiest states when it comes to radon:

02/08 3:00 Three organizations are filling the funding gap so more low income and under-insured McLean County residents can receive needed mental health care.

02/14 3:00 State Treasurer Dan Rutherford says Governor Quinn's proposed closure of mental health facilities in the state and transference of clients to group homes is a legitimate issue to debate. But, speaking in Normal, Rutherford says that discussion isn't happening in a thoughtful way with a five year transition...

02/29 5:30 An Illinois man diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome as an adult will share his struggles and message of hope with an audience at Eureka College tomorrow afternoon.

03/06 5:30 After 32 years reporting for the Bloomington Pantagraph newspaper, Outdoor Editor Scott Richardson has retired. Richardson accepted a buy-out offer from the paper's parent company Lee Enterprises, which has staged a couple of buy-outs of senior staff members as a cost-cutting move.

03/27 3:00 Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan says her office has exposed a major synthetic drug supplier. Investigators found One-hundred-ten thousand dollars' worth last Friday at a tobacco and candy warehouse in Jerseyville and a related site.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS

01/17 6:00 A Chicago aldermanic race underscores the difficulty some candidates in Illinois have in seeking recourse if they feel they have been defamed during a political campaign.

01/19 4:00 In 2008, the U-S Supreme Court overturned a handgun ban in Washington, D-C. Since then, gun owners have been pushing to strike down similar laws across the country. Yesterday, the Illinois Supreme Court considered a challenge to Cook County's ban on assault weapons.

01/30 4:30 When the controversial civil union law took effect in Illinois last year, it resulted in the legal recognition of same sex couples.

01/31 5:30 GOP candidates for McLean County State's Attorney clashed on a variety of issues during a debate sponsored by the county Republican Women's organization. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more...

02/06 5:30 A leading opponent of the death penalty is coming to Bloomington. Sister Helen Prejean's (PRAY-jzhawn) book "Dead Man Walking" was nominated for a Pulitzer and made into an Oscar winning movie. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with the woman who has counseled many on death row...

02/16 6:00 Three of the seven seats on the Illinois Supreme Court are reserved for Cook County. One of those is up for election this year, with a key primary set for March 20th. Mary Jane Theis (TICE like ICE) holds the seat by temporary appointment.

02/20 6:00 The Illinois Supreme Court's decision to allow cameras and microphones in trial courts is modeled on Iowa's 30 year-old policy. So, how did Iowa do it, and how's it been working?

03/05 6:00 An entrenched public figure in the legal community is facing off against a former prosecutor and current defense attorney in the race for circuit judge in the 11th judicial circuit.

03/21 3:00 The Village of Roxana, Illinois, has filed suit against Shell Oil, ConocoPhillips, and W-R-B Refining over contamination from the Wood River Oil Refinery.

03/21 3:00 Some accounting and information technology practices at Illinois State University are being questioned in a report by the Auditor General. The audit centers on a scholarship program for some veterans, as well as security policies and control over ISU's computer environment.

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

01/02 6:00 The state of Illinois' budget mess continues. Although the numbers aren't near as big as now, the early to mid '80s saw state lawmakers pile up a mound of debt. One of those leading the way at the time was Senate President Phil Rock, a Chicago Democrat.

01/05 5:00 When Republican Congressman Tim Johnson of Urbana runs for re-election next year, he'll have to do something he hasn't done in more than a decade - square off in a Republican primary. As Illinois Public Radio's Sean Powers reports, two other Republicans are eying the newly re-drawn 13th Congressional district seat...

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02/02 5:00 Illinois' credit rating is the worst in the nation. The state can't afford to pay billions of dollars it has racked up in bills. And after years of avoiding pension payments, there's worry that the day may come when there is too little money pay retirees.

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03/09 5:00 A state legislative primary contest pits a long-time representative against a relatively unknown challenger in the newly re-drawn 88th house seat.

03/12 4:30 Two democrats hope to take advantage of the new congressional map as they try to unseat entrenched Republican Tim Johnson. As WGLT's Willis Kern reports, pundits say whoever wins the primary next week has a solid chance of winning in November.

RACE, EQUALITY & RIGHTS

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this weekend, giving the keynote address at the third annual graduation ceremony of the Multicultural Leadership Program.

03/28 3:00 Developing diverse leaders is the mission of Bloomington-Normal's Multicultural Leadership Program. As WGLT's Danny Hajek reports, the program, now in its third year, encourages participants to find their passions and give back to the community.

SOCIAL SERVICE & PROGRAMS

01/16 3:00 A new website, MentoringBrothers.org, is being launched as a resource and connection tool to encourage African American men to become mentors in their community.

01/24 3:00 The United Way of McLean County says it has met its \$4.3 million annual fundraising goal. Executive Director Greg Cott says the organization which funds social service programs in the community had tried to reach for an ambitious total this year...

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03/07 3:00 A tax on strip-clubs was approved yesterday by an Illinois Senate committee.

03/23 3:00 The head of the ISU Counseling services says her staff spent most of the night in the residence halls in which two University students were found dead in their rooms. Sandy Colbs says this morning most phone calls have been from concerned parents. And counselors are now seeing the first walk-ins from students needing to talk about the incident and get help with their grief.

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TECHNOLOGY

01/04 2:30 It's already illegal to text while driving in Illinois. As IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports, tougher phone restrictions may be coming down the road:

01/04 2:30 Ameren is disputing news reports that its latest filing for electric delivery rates in Illinois amounts to a rate hike. But spokesman Leigh Morris says some customers would see an increase in delivery rates, but not others. He says this is the first rate application Ameren is seeking in connection with an upgrade of the electric grid --- and he says it's based on a new formula that accepts a lower return on equity and accounts for lower interest rates.

01/11 5:00 A nationwide effort to find a once-popular catalog product has hit a milestone. As IPR's Jenna Dooley reports, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency has good reason to be excited.

02/09 2:30 Against a backdrop of business leaders gathered at State Farm Insurance in Bloomington, Governor Pat Quinn detailed his Illinois Pathways Initiative mentioned in his State of State address last week. The \$4 million public-private partnership aims to increase learning through innovative approaches to education and readiness. Part of the initiative is Science, Technology, Engineering and Math--or STEM--learning. Quinn says it requires a badly-need technology update for Illinois students he calls "digital children."

02/21 3:00 An Illinois law passed a few years ago banned cell phone use while driving in a construction zone. But as IPR's Brian Mackey reports, it turns out the law is not as all-encompassing as advertised:

03/09 3:00 Holding a cell phone up to your ear while driving would be illegal under a measure approved yesterday (THURSDAY) by the Illinois House.

03/26 2:30 The parent company of the Bloomington Pantagraph newspaper is moving forward with charging for on-line content. As many media companies are doing... Lee Enterprises has been experimenting with pay walls on newspaper web sites.

03/27 4:00 A mammoth oil pipeline company wants to expand a pipeline through Livingston,

Woodford and Tazewell Counties. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more...

TRANSPORTATION

01/03 6:00 Airline bankruptcies continue. Many carriers are cutting flights. Saint Louis, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh all have lost big chunks of their air transportation network in the last decade just to name a few. Where will it stop?

01/04 5:00 The transportation issues that've plagued McLean County's Unit Five schools are slowing improving, according to the school Superintendent. Gary Neihaus visited our studios to discuss that and other issues with GLT's Jim Browne:

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02/13 3:00 The House version of the U-S Transportation Bill has bus officials worried. Andrew Johnson of the Bloomington Normal Public Transit System says the proposal eliminates the ability to plan...

02/27 3:00 A new survey of Bloomington Residents shows a surprisingly divided public opinion on the proposed east side highway proposal to link Interstates 55 and 74. Illinois Wesleyan University Political Scientist Tari Renner says his period polling class shows 39% think it's a good idea and 44% a bad idea...

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03/26 3:00 The head of the Bloomington Normal Transit System says once again he's not entirely sure what will happen on federal transit funding by the end of the week. That's when funding is due to expire. Andrew Johnson says the House and Senate are at odds over the length of the extension. The Senate wants a shorter extension than the House...

03/29 3:00 The proposed budget for the City of Bloomington includes spending three and a half million dollars on street repairs. But, City manager David Hales says there's a backlog of 40 to 50 million dollars in needed road work. And to do that in a reasonable time, Hales says the city may need to look at new revenue such as raising the utility tax....