

WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

October, November, December 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

10/03 1:00 A replica of a statute sculpted for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition has been installed in a Chicago park. The dedication of the sculpture Wednesday came more than 50 years after the original bronze figure was stolen and never found.

10/04 6:00 As part of the America's Music Series presented by Illinois State University's Milner Library, the Normal Theatre is running a free screening of a documentary about a ground-breaking all-woman band. The International Sweethearts of Rhythm was a multi-ethnic group trying to make it in a man's world. GLT's Laura Kennedy has more.

10/04 1:30 Dozens of people are marching 30 miles from Decatur to Taylorville trying to highlight the need for immigration reform. Speaking through a translator, undocumented immigrant Benito Gomez of McLean County says he came to the U.S. 13 years ago and GOP Congressman Rodney Davis needs to know that immigration reform would help the economy.

10/07 6:30 At the turn of the 20th century, a certain woman journalist put out four columns a week. She was a prolific writer turning in 2000 words at a crack, a wonderful interviewer, and nobody's fool. Madam Annette talked with everyone from businessmen and public officials to jail inmates. In today's episode of GLT's Recurring series "McHistory" we hear portions of one of Madam Annette's columns as she explores a coal mine under Bloomington. McLean County Museum of History Development Director Beth Whisman reads the column with comment from Archivist Bill Kemp.

10/11 10:00 The first concert of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra season is this evening at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with Music Director Alastair Willis about the works on the program and their continued meaning for audiences.

10/11 6:00 A new project in Bloomington combines art, disadvantaged youth, and downtown development. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on a mural by and about young people that will be dedicated this weekend.

10/14 5:00 And now a conversation with a woman who is a peacemaker. Melissa Weintraub grew up in Bloomington the Jewish daughter of a mom who kept kosher and a dad who ate bacon cheeseburgers. Weintraub is at ISU to talk about using religion to defuse religiously inspired violence. Weintraub tells WGLT's Charlie Schlenker she was steeped in Midwestern story lines and cultural assumptions while being able to see beyond them.

10/28 6:00 As Nazi Germany moved toward war in the 1930s, the oppression of Jews mounted. Most could not get out, but those who could, fled. Among them was a little girl who now lives in Normal. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with Eva Goldschmidt Wyman, the author of a new book, a remembrance of her family's escape from the Holocaust, but also the historical context of the South American Country where they found refuge.

11/5 20:00 In the new movie "Gravity," there is a mission specialist whose face we never see. The astronaut's voice has an Indian accent. The author of a new book looking at racial treatments of South Asians in the U.S. entertainment industry says this is an example of "brown voice."

11/14 8:00 The Bloomington Normal Youth Symphony is celebrating its silver anniversary season this year with a Sunday concert. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on how the youth music group has changed over its quarter century.

11/19 11:00 This has not been an easy week for the Washington, Illinois High School Football Team. Instead of just preparing for a playoff game this weekend, they have one of the largest distractions imaginable, an EF-4 tornado that hit their community.

11/27 4:00 An Illinois law passed last January could let up to half-a-million unauthorized immigrants

drive legally for the first time. Many of them are having a hard time signing up for the license. And, now, a Chicago-area sheriff says the state is rolling out the program too slowly. IPR's Chip Mitchell reports.

12/03 6:00 The 2014 Illinois Shakespeare Festival season has been set. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has a preview.

12/19 11:00 An Illinois Wesleyan University composer is having a work of his debuting at Carnegie Hall this (Thursday) evening. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

BUSINESS, ECONOMY & LABOR

10/01 1:00 Democratic Candidate for Congress in the 13th district says the House Republican approach to Obamacare that lead to a government shutdown is irresponsible and reckless. Former Chief Circuit Judge Ann Callis says she understands not everyone likes the Affordable Care Act. But, she has no sympathy for voting four separate times as GOP Congressman Rodney Davis did to use government shutdown as a tactic to force concessions from the administration.

10/04 1:00 Illinois is a ways off from allowing oil and gas drillers to begin "fracking" ... but companies that are interested can begin the paperwork. IPR's Amanda Vinicky has more.

10/07 6:30 At the turn of the 20th century, a certain woman journalist put out four columns a week. She was a prolific writer turning in 2000 words at a crack, a wonderful interviewer, and nobody's fool. Madam Annette talked with everyone from businessmen and public officials to jail inmates. In today's episode of GLT's Recurring series "McHistory" we hear portions of one of Madam Annette's columns.

10/17 1:00 New Illinois State University President Timothy Flanagan says even though ISU ranks well on some lists of college affordability, the institution will have to work harder to preserve it. Flanagan said during his first State of the University speech that spending power will likely erode as the state shifts pension costs to the campus level.

10/31 12:30 Halloween is a time for chocolate. Kids and adults gorge on it. A Candy industry survey notes three quarters of Americans say chocolate is their favorite Halloween treat. For a holiday with a dark pagan tradition, perhaps that's appropriate, because the history of chocolate is anything but sunny.

11/05 1:30 The U-S Senate is moving ahead with legislation to bar employers from discriminating against workers on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. While supporters say the plan won't make a huge difference in Illinois, it could have a far-reaching impact nationally.

11/07 15:00 Debates, Conference Committee negotiations on the Farm Bill, and legislation to protect homosexual and transgender people from employment discrimination. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker gets Congressman Rodney Davis's take on all of those during Sound Ideas.

11/15 1:00 A financial expert at the University of Illinois says bond rating agency Moody's is keeping a close eye on the school due to the state's ongoing pension crisis. U of I Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller Walter Knorr says Illinois' unfunded liability in the State University Retirement System alone is 20-billion dollars. It's one of four large pension plans the state deals with.

11/22 1:00 The Illinois Supreme Court has ended a practice that let businesses avoid paying millions of dollars in local taxes. The decision could change things in the future, WITHOUT punishing companies for past practices. IPR's Brian Mackey has more.

12/04 15:00 Winter is drawing on. Farmers are into preparation for Spring. We now look at a rapidly growing trend that is really an ancient practice. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with an expert on cover crops and the environmental as well as economic impact they can have.

12/09 12:00 Illinois State University has received a substantial grant from the National Science Foundation to develop computer science teachers for schools. It's a crucial mission. By some accounts in 20 years, the U.S. will need a million more computer science graduates than are now projected to be available. And only one in ten high schools teaches the subject.

12/18 14:30 Bloomington Normal government officials say retail sales and multi family housing are two sectors that could be impacted by State Farm Insurance's creation of huge new office projects in other regions of the country. Over the next two to five years, it's possible the twin cities will have to find a way to cope with a drop of three to four thousand jobs. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with the Mayor of Normal.

CHILDREN & FAMILY/EDUCATION

10/11 11:00 Several studies have found links between language development and breast feeding. now there's new work by an ISU scholar that shows breast feeding may reduce the chance someone develops

stuttering. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with Jamie Smith about work now appearing in the Journal of Communication Disorders.

10/14 1:00 Shoppers in Illinois and 16 other states should be able to use their debit-style food stamp cards after vendor Xerox Corp. restored service following a system outage.

10/29 1:00 The City of Bloomington will purchase new playground equipment for Pepper Ridge Park and Suburban East Park. The decision came with only two "no" votes from alderman Kevin Lower and Judy Stearns. Alderman Lower says the purchase seemed "discretionary".

10/29 2:00 A NASA astronaut who graduated from the University of Illinois spoke to U of I students from orbit. IPR's Sean Powers reports.

11/04 21:00 Unit Five School Superintendent Gary Niehaus says if the school board doesn't get a search for a new Superintendent done in the coming year, he would stick around, but he'd really prefer to retire.

11/11 1:30 As the Air Force theme song played at Illinois State University, Norman Brown stood to be recognized for his military service during the Korean War. Brown is now 83. He also did two tours of duty in Vietnam. Brown was one of just two Korean War- era soldiers to attend a Veterans Day ceremony at ISU's Bone Center.

11/14 8:00 The Bloomington Normal Youth Symphony is celebrating its silver anniversary season this year with a Sunday concert. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on how the youth music group has changed over its quarter century.

11/18 1:00 Republicans in Bloomington had sharply different questions on the state pension system for Lieutenant Governor Candidates speaking at a forum. A retired teacher asked about preserving benefits for retirees. An area lawyer suggested the pensions were bloated and overly generous and should be abolished altogether.

11/25 1:00 A physics professor in the Quad Cities has helped make a breakthrough in the field of ultra-fast optics. Jim Van Howe at Augustana College in Rock Island, and Mike Durst at Bates College in Maine, have developed a laser that may have practical applications in telecommunications, medicine, manufacturing, and other industries.

11/26 21:00 The next decade will not be easy for colleges and universities. Some will close. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with the head of the small liberal arts school in Bloomington about the forces at work. Illinois Wesleyan University President Dick Wilson says his institution will likely be smaller as a result.

12/09 13:00 Illinois State University has received a substantial grant from the National Science Foundation to develop computer science teachers for schools. It's a crucial mission. By some accounts in 20 years, the U.S. will need a million more computer science graduates than are now projected to be available.

12/10 1:00 An Illinois football player is a finalist for the Heisman Trophy. IPR's Jenna Dooley has that story.

12/19 11:00 An Illinois Wesleyan University composer is having a work of his debuting at Carnegie Hall this (Thursday) evening. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

12/23 16:00 Garrett Scott of Normal has had a long life filled with action for social justice. He fought for the first civil rights ordinance in Bloomington Normal. He has spent time in the middle east working with Palestinian Children. And Scott was present for one of the seminal moments in American History, Martin Luther King's I Have A Dream Speech. Scott talks with WGLT's Charlie Schlenker about that experience.

ENVIRONMENT

10/01 1:00 For the second year in a row, the Ecology Action Center's holding a hazardous waste collection event Saturday. Michael Browne of the E-A-C says they collected over 160,000 pounds of waste a year ago.

10/03 1:00 It'll likely be next year before oil and gas companies looking to "frack" in Illinois can begin. But as IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports, the registration process is underway.

10/08 5:00 Being able to predict insect 'outbreaks' in Gypsy moth populations could help solve a lot of other insect and pathogen patterns. The Gypsy moth was inadvertently introduced to North America shortly after the end of the civil war, and within 10 years the insects were killing trees.

10/28 1:00 It'll likely cost you more to throw away garbage in Bloomington. The City Council, meeting in a work session prior to tonight's regular meeting, will consider changes to the city's garbage collection fees.

11/04 1:00 Since January the Town of Normal and the developers of the Hyatt Hotel and mixed use

building on Uptown Circle have been negotiating the design. They're still not done, but are close enough for the Town Council to consider the design for approval.

11/08 1:00 An advocacy group against the practice of hydraulic fracturing is attacking the inclusion of other environmental groups on a state task force. The Department of Natural Resources has named representatives of the Sierra Club, Environmental Law and Policy Center, and Natural Resources Defense Council to the task force which will oversee rule making for the so called fracking law that will go into effect.

11/21 1:00 Environmentalists are disappointed with a ruling by the state's Pollution Control Board. As IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports, the decision could extend the life of a handful of Illinois coal plants.

12/04 6:00 Winter is drawing on. Farmers are into their spring preparation. Today during Sound Ideas we look at a rapidly growing trend that is really an ancient practice. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with an expert on cover crops and the environmental as well as economic impact they can have.

12/06 1:00 The city of Washington in Central Illinois faces sobering financial numbers as it recovers from last month's devastating tornado. Nearly half of Washington's total property value was wiped out when the EF-4 tornado ripped through the town almost three weeks ago.

12/19 10:00 Illinois residents get one last chance tonight to speak out in a public forum about new rules on fracking in the state. These regulations are in response to legislation signed over the summer to regulate high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing.

HEALTH & MEDICINE

10/01 1:00 Democratic and Republican Congressional candidates in central Illinois are each blaming the other party for the government shutdown. 13th district Democrat Ann Callis says no matter how much the GOP dislikes the Affordable Care Act, shutting down the government to gain leverage is not a proper tactic to threaten or use.

10/03 1:30 Bloomington Normal lawmakers say they are scrambling to find more information about the latest decision by state government to drop Health Alliance Medical Plans for retirees. It is the third time the state has tried to sever ties to Health Alliance, dating back to the Blagojevich Administration.

10/11 11:00 Several studies have found links between language development and breast feeding. Now there's new work by an ISU scholar that shows breast feeding may reduce the chance someone develops stuttering. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with Jamie Smith about work now appearing in the Journal of Communication Disorders.

10/16 1:00 The open enrollment period for Medicare began yesterday, but because of the partial government shutdown, signing up could be a little more challenging. Even though Medicare-dot-gov is online despite the shutdown, the website warns users that information posted may not be up to date.

11/04 1:00 Congressman John Shimkus says continued problems with the Health Care-dot-gov website should be reason enough to delay the individual mandate for coverage by a year. The 15th District Collinsville Republican notes that some Democratic Senators are also seeking such a change.

11/18 1:00 With the new health care law, there appears to be a need for more doctors on the front line of medical care, those in family practice and pediatrics. However Dr. Eldon Trame, a Belleville physician who is head of the Illinois State Medical Society, says a big factor is that most doctors veer off into higher paying specialties.

11/25 1:00 Congressman Aaron Schock of Peoria is continuing the GOP campaign against the Affordable Care Act. Schock spoke to reporters in Bloomington and again in Peoria, trying to highlight what he says are reasons the law should be repealed. Schock says there are estimates of ten to fifteen million that will lose their policies. He predicts more.

12/03 6:00 The Bloomington-Normal Community Campus Committee is trying to counter binge drinking through community and campus partnerships. This isn't easy. Cheap drink specials, glamorous advertising, and a youth culture that combines the idea of party - and getting drunk are tough forces to combat.

12/10 1:00 Springfield-based S-I-U Healthcare says it is reviewing and updating its security policies, following the presumed theft of a laptop in mid-October. The organization's C-E-O Doctor Jerry Kruse says after a thorough search, the computer is still missing.

12/12 1:00 The FDA wants to phase out antibiotics in meat. Regulators have released a broad plan designed to prevent meat producers from using drugs that are also used to treat sick humans. IPR's Peter Gray reports on some changes farmers and ranchers will have to get used to.

12/25 1:00 Celebrating the holidays may not come easy for a quarter of Illinois children. A survey shows that's how many have suffered traumatic events. Ann Studzinski with the Illinois Childhood Trauma

Coalition says a good way to treat traumatized children, is before a catastrophic event occurs.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS

10/02 1:00 The state of Illinois has removed Urbana-based Health Alliance from its list of retiree contracts, as of January 2014. Thousands of retired state employees in central Illinois may have to turn to one of four other carriers by January.

10/08 1:00 Bloomington's new police chief is now on the job. 53-year old Brendan Heffner met the public and city staff during a reception at police headquarters. The former state police investigator and beat cop for Normal says he's anxious to get started, but what's to take time to assess how the department runs.

10/14 1:00 When the Illinois General Assembly returns to Springfield next week, lawmakers will be asked to increase the minimum prison term for people convicted of illegal gun possession. The proposal is relatively simple: if you're arrested with a gun you're not supposed to have, you go to prison for at least three years.

10/23 12:20 Illinois drivers licenses for undocumented immigrants are coming soon. Excitement is building in the immigrant community. But, Jennifer Carillo (kuh-REE-yoh) of Illinois People's Action tells WGLT's Charlie Schlenker there is some misinformation and most are still in the dark about how it will shake out.

11/06 1:02 The Illinois House is set to consider legislation that would keep people in prison longer if they're caught illegally carrying a gun. A House committee advanced a revised version of the measure last night. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel says the change will help curb gang violence, but even legislators who voted for the plan are skeptical of that claim.

11/11 2:00 Illinois is looking to bring in an independent monitor for its juvenile prisons. As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, it's intended to bring down the rate of sexual abuse:

11/15 1:00 Attorney General Eric Holder was in Peoria to take a look at a program designed to keep low-level drug offenders out of prison. Holder says he wanted to introduce the Pretrial Alternatives to Detention program to Congress.

11/27 4:00 An Illinois law passed last January could let up to half-a-million unauthorized immigrants drive legally for the first time. Many of them are having a hard time signing up for the license. And, now, a Chicago-area sheriff says the state is rolling out the program too slowly. IPR's Chip Mitchell reports.

12/06 1:00 A major overhaul of Illinois' pensions is now law. Governor Pat Quinn held a private bill-signing ceremony Thursday afternoon in Chicago. As IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports, a court challenge seeking to stop it from taking effect is certain.

12/13 1:00 Appeals court judges in Chicago are looking for the line that distinguishes political horse trading from political corruption. That's as they consider the case of former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. IPR's Robert Wildeboer reports.

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

10/01 2:00 Healthcare advocates are celebrating the opening of Illinois' insurance marketplace ... where those without coverage will be able to shop for plans under the Affordable Care Act starting today. But they're also trying to temper expectations. IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports.

10/01 1:00 One of the common objections to an east side highway project for Bloomington Normal is a fear that it will divide the community and slow development and access. Opponents point to I-74 on the west side where development stalled after the interstate went through.

10/04 1:30 The last U-S Supreme Court decision to have a major impact on campaign finance was "Citizens United" -- a decision that led to the rise of so-called "Super PACs" across the nation, including in Illinois. As IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports, another high-profile case before the court tomorrow (TUESDAY) has activists on alert.

10/08 1:00 Denny Hastert wasn't the Speaker of the U.S. House during the last government shutdown ... but he was an Illinois Congressman in 1995 and '96. He told IPR's Amanda Vinicky this time is different.

10/21 13:00 The fall veto session of the General Assembly begins tomorrow in Springfield. Joining us today for a chat with GLT's Charlie Schlenker is State Representative Keith Sommer of Morton who represents part of Bloomington Normal and McLean County. Sommer lays out his low expectations for what the session will accomplish.

11/04 1:00 A group of activists are working to end Illinois' flat income tax. They say they've gathered more than 150-thousand signatures so far, and are making their case to Illinois lawmakers. Income in

Illinois is taxed at a uniform five percent, whether you're working at a drive-thru window or you're the CEO of a multi-national corporation. The people pushing what they call a "fair tax" would have wealthy people pay more, while middle- and lower- income people would pay less.

11/06 1:00 Congressman Rodney Davis says it is too early to tell how many debates he will have with his opponent or whether he will have any. Davis's opposition in the 13th District Republican Primary is Urbana Attorney Erika Harold.

11/12 16:30 Elected officials in communities all over Illinois are having to swallow hard and make tough choices to find ways to meet unfunded pension obligations for police, fire, and municipal workers. The City of Bloomington is among them. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with City Manager David Hales about the options and possibilities policy makers face there.

11/19 1:00 State officials say victims of the weekend storms should take extra care in documenting their material losses. About two years ago, seven people died in the tornadoes that rocked Harrisburg, in deep southern Illinois. Yet, the state was denied a request for federal assistance.

11/27 1:00 Lot can change ahead of Illinois' primary election, which isn't until next March. But a new poll gives a glimpse of where the governor's race stacks up. IPR's Amanda Vinicky has more.

12/03 1:00 A plan to create a tax on satellite TV and use the money as an incentive for businesses has been introduced in Springfield. IPR's Brian Mackey has more.

12/09 1:00 It's been five years to the day since F-B-I agents arrived at then Governor Rod Blagojevich's house ... to arrest him on charges of corruption. Blagojevich is serving a 14-year prison sentence, and for most Illinois politicians -- it's good riddance. IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports.

12/12 5:00 For many years, talk of changing Social Security has been a third rail of national politics, particularly for Democrats. Touch it peril of your office. But, it's starting to come up for next year's election cycle, even in Democratic Congressional Primaries. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports.

12/16 13:30 A poll done for the Unit Five School district to help gauge the prospects of a sales tax referendum in McLean County offers some encouragement to supporters of the proposal. GLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the survey of 400 registered voters about their attitudes toward paying one percent in sales taxes to help facilities in schools all over the county.

RACE, EQUALITY & RIGHTS

10/14 15:00 And now a conversation with a woman who is a peacemaker. Melissa Weintraub grew up in Bloomington the Jewish daughter of a mom who kept kosher and a dad who ate bacon cheeseburgers. Weintraub is at ISU to talk about using religion to defuse religiously inspired violence.

10/23 12:30 Illinois drivers licenses for undocumented immigrants are coming soon. Excitement is building in the immigrant community. But, Jennifer Carillo (kuh-REE-yoh) of Illinois People's Action tells WGLT's Charlie Schlenker there is some misinformation and most are still in the dark about how it will shake out.

10/23 1:00 Rain didn't stop advocates for same-sex marriage, who rallied under umbrellas by the hundreds in front of the Illinois Capitol today. A measure to legalize same-sex marriage passed the state Senate earlier this year, but has stalled in the Illinois House. IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports.

10/29 1:00 About 3 dozen Illinois representatives of business, law enforcement and the faith community joined 600 from around the country in reaching out to Members of Congress in a push for immigration reform this year. WGLT's Washington Correspondent Hanna Gutmann reports Central Illinois sent representatives from agribusiness.

11/06 11:00 In the new movie "Gravity," there is a mission specialist whose face we never see. The astronaut's voice has an Indian accent. The author of a new book looking at racial treatments of south asians in the U.S. entertainment industry says this is an example of "brown voice."

11/06 1:00 The only candidate running for governor who has yet to announce a running mate is incumbent Pat Quinn. The Democrat has been silent about who he wants as a lieutenant governor. Time is running out.

11/14 1:00 The Roman Catholic Bishop of Springfield plans a special prayer service the day same-sex marriage is to be signed into law. As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, he says it's "scandalous" that so many Catholic politicians supported the legislation.

11/27 4:00 An Illinois law passed last January could let up to half-a-million unauthorized immigrants drive legally for the first time. Many of them are having a hard time signing up for the license. And, now, a Chicago-area sheriff says the state is rolling out the program too slowly. IPR's Chip Mitchell reports.

12/06 1:00 Starting this week, undocumented immigrants in Illinois can apply for a temporary driver's license at a couple of facilities. A facility in Bloomington will start next week. The program is set to expand statewide by next month...thanks to an Illinois law approved earlier in the year.

12/18 10:00 Supporters of a proposal to change the ward system for the Bloomington City Council to one that includes some at-large council members have submitted petition signatures to place the referendum on the March ballot. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports now that the question appears to be heading to voters, opposition to the idea is coalescing.

12/23 15:00 Garrett Scott of Normal has had a long life filled with action for social justice. He fought for the first civil rights ordinance in Bloomington Normal. He has spent time in the middle east working with Palestinian Children. And Scott was present for one of the seminal moments in American History, Martin Luther King's I Have A Dream Speech. Scott talks with WGLT's Charlie Schlenker about that experience.

SOCIAL SERVICE & PROGRAMS

10/01 6:00 Poverty rates in McLean County have risen from last year. The 15.7% poverty rate gleaned from census data is six tenths of a point higher than in 2011. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with Jennifer Clary from the Social Impact Research Center of the Heartland Alliance, a prominent anti poverty group in Illinois.

10/09 1:00 Community Planners want to know what West Bloomington residents think of the area, and are convening a focus group to find out. Matthew Tomlin, a Stevenson Center graduate student working with the United Way, is putting the group together.

10/14 1:00 In its kick off campaign Home Sweet Home Ministries in Bloomington is announcing it's new initiative aimed at making it easier for people to share. Matt Dratt is the development and community relations manager for the charity founded by Billy Shelper 96 years ago.

10/16 1:00 As it has before on big issues, the League of Women Voters is tackling a study of an important social service sector in McLean County. League Vice President Sally Rudolph says the study will examine the way mental health programs are delivered in the twin cities.

10/30 1:00 Illinois lawmakers are trying to stop guardians from using the internet to get rid of their adoptive kids - without any oversight. IPR's Tony Arnold reports.

11/07 1:00 Though Conference committee leaders are meeting on the Farm Bill this week, outside rhetoric is heating up over the long stalled measure. Democrats are focusing on House Republican demands to cut SNAP or food stamp assistance. But, Ag Committee Member and Representative Rodney Davis of Taylorville tells GLT the 40 billion dollar reduction is reasonable and merely returns to policies set during the Clinton administration.

11/15 1:00 The head of Illinois' troubled child welfare system resigned this afternoon. A news release from the governor's office says the director has been diagnosed with cancer. The resignation comes in the wake of recent media reports on the child welfare system, including an investigation on child deaths by public radio station WBEZ and the Chicago Sun-Times. IPR's Tony Arnold reports.

11/25 5:00 Since the economic downturn, a growing number of citizens have tried to represent themselves in court, particularly in civil matters, like filing for divorce and seeking small claims. But now there is a corps of volunteers to help them. WGLT's Judy Valente has the story.

11/25 4:30 As farm bill negotiations continue in Washington, it's fairly certain that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, will be cut. One proposal would trim the food stamp program by \$4 billion over the next decade; the other would cut roughly ten times that much. That's after the Obama Administration's recession-era boost to SNAP expired November 1st, leaving the average family with about 30 dollars less to spend each month.

11/29 4:00 Millions of Americans awoke this morning with a gargantuan hangover from over-indulging Thanksgiving Day on food and football. Others, at the crack of dawn, raced out the door for the start of the Black Friday shop-a-thon. That is, if they didn't already start their shopping on Thanksgiving night.

12/03 21:30 The Bloomington-Normal Community Campus Committee is trying to counter binge drinking through community and campus partnerships. This isn't easy. Cheap drink specials, glamorous advertising, and a youth culture that combines the idea of party - and getting drunk are tough forces to combat. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with a man on the front lines of the BNCCC fight.

12/11 1:00 Representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency say scamming storm victims is a problem that can be prevented with proper education. Deanna Frazier with FEMA has spent the

past several weeks in central Illinois helping victims of last month's tornado get back on their feet.

12/12 6:00 For many years, talk of changing Social Security has been a third rail of national politics, particularly for Democrats. Touch it peril of your office. But, it's starting to come up for next year's election cycle, even in Democratic Congressional Primaries. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports.

12/19 1:00 U-S Senator Dick Durbin and fellow Democrats Elizabeth Warren and Jack Reed are pushing legislation they say will protect college students from college loan debt and defaults. Student loan debt is now the largest household debt after mortgages, even outpacing credit cards. Durbin says nearly half of student loan defaults come from loans given to students attending for profit colleges, partly because the degrees are often not worth very much.

12/30 1:00 Congressman Rodney Davis continues to defend proposed reductions to the SNAP or food stamp program. Democrats say a reduction of 40 billion dollars over a decade to pre-recession levels in the supplemental food assistance program would hurt people on the edge who have not recovered from the recession.

TECHNOLOGY

10/01 1:30 No elected officials spoke out in favor of the east side highway project at a joint meeting of the Bloomington, Normal, and the County governing bodies. County Board Member Stan Hoselton of Chenoa was symbolic of many in his opposition.

10/07 6:30 At the turn of the 20th century, a certain woman journalist put out four columns a week. She was a prolific writer turning in 2000 words at a crack, a wonderful interviewer, and nobody's fool. Madam Annette talked with everyone from businessmen and public officials to jail inmates. In today's episode of GLT's Recurring series "McHistory" we hear portions of one of Madam Annette's columns as she explores a coal mine under Bloomington.

10/18 1:00 The Illinois Supreme Court today struck down the so-called "Amazon tax." As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, the decision could pave the way for businesses to make more money online.

10/21 1:00 3-D printers are changing the way many people do business. As IPR's Sean Powers reports, the machines that create toys, guns and even human bones are also changing the way students learn in the classroom.

11/08 1:00 Illinois People's Action says it suspects the Department of Natural Resources wants to exclude dissent in its rule making process on the new law governing Hydraulic Fracturing to extract oil and gas deposits. Dawn Dannenbring is an organizer for the advocacy group.

11/15 1:00 The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is seeking public feedback on the state's first-ever regulations for high-volume oil and gas drilling. Draft regulations for hydraulic fracturing have been published, which begins a public comment period that will last until Jan. 3.

11/25 1:00 A physics professor in the Quad Cities has helped make a breakthrough in the field of ultra-fast optics. Jim Van Howe at Augustana College in Rock Island, and Mike Durst at Bates College in Maine, have developed a laser that may have practical applications in telecommunications, medicine, manufacturing, and other industries.

11/28 5:30 McLean County says it's going to stop using carbon monoxide to euthanize animals. As Illinois Public Radio's Sean Powers reports, it's the last animal control center in Illinois still using a gas chamber.

12/09 13:00 Illinois State University has received a substantial grant from the National Science Foundation to develop computer science teachers for schools. It's a crucial mission. By some accounts in 20 years, the U.S. will need a million more computer science graduates than are now projected to be available.

12/10 1:00 Springfield-based S-I-U Healthcare says it is reviewing and updating its security policies, following the presumed theft of a laptop in mid-October. The organization's C-E-O Doctor Jerry Kruse says after a thorough search, the computer is still missing. Kruse says the laptop contained medical information of nearly 19 hundred patients.

12/17 1:00 This year, Illinois began a program to cull the state's Medicaid rolls. So far, it has resulted in two out of every five recipients being dropped. But some lawmakers say a new agreement with a labor union jeopardizes further cost savings. IPR's Brian Mackey has more.

12/26 15:00 Looming changes in employment levels at State Farm Insurance Company will force adjustments in Bloomington Normal municipal governments. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker asks Bloomington Mayor Tari Renner how major those changes could be.

TRANSPORTATION

10/01 2:00 One of the common objections to an east side highway project for Bloomington Normal is a fear that it will divide the community and slow development and access. Opponents point to I-74 on the west side where development stalled after the interstate went through.

10/10 1:00 Illinois has reached a deal with Amtrak to keep its trains running in the state. As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, that prevents a threatened shutdown of service next week.

10/14 1:00 Illinois' largest capital construction program expires next year and Governor Pat Quinn says he hopes to launch a similar program. IPR's Sean Powers reports.

10/15 1:00 The Bloomington City Council has put the training wheels on a bicycle master plan. Aldermen approved short stretches of bike lane and sharrows to create bicycle connections between Illinois Wesleyan University, the downtown, and the Constitution Trail. Alderman Rob Fazzini supports the lanes, but notes bicycles like motorcycles have safety issues on roads.

10/23 12:30 Illinois drivers licenses for undocumented immigrants are coming soon. Excitement is building in the immigrant community. But, Jennifer Carillo of Illinois People's Action tells WGLT's Charlie Schlenker there is some misinformation and most are still in the dark about how it will shake out.

11/18 1:00 It's not just teens using smart phones when driving, older drivers are too. Holly Anderson is a spokesman for Bloomington-based State Farm Insurance. She says the survey shows some troubling trends.

11/27 21:00 In spite of two recent suspected underage drinking and driving related deaths in Bloomington Normal, the Police Chief for the Town of Normal says the metro area is generally safer than most on that front. Today, during Sound Ideas, WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with the chief about DUIs, falling crime rates, and disaster planning.

12/03 21:30 The Bloomington-Normal Community Campus Committee is trying to counter binge drinking through community and campus partnerships. This isn't easy. Cheap drink specials, glamorous advertising, and a youth culture that combines the idea of party - and getting drunk are tough forces to combat. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with a man on the front lines of the BNCCC fight.

12/06 1:00 Starting this week, undocumented immigrants in Illinois can apply for a temporary driver's license at a couple of facilities. A facility in Bloomington will start next week. The program is set to expand statewide by next month...thanks to an Illinois law approved earlier in the year.

12/09 1:00 Starting this week, undocumented immigrants in Illinois can apply for a temporary driver's license at a couple of facilities, but the program is set to expand statewide by next month...thanks to an Illinois law approved earlier in the year. As IPR's Sean Powers reports, the state estimates as many as 500-thousand people will apply.

12/20 1:00 A University of Illinois graduate aboard the International Space Station goes on his first spacewalk this weekend. NASA Astronaut Mike Hopkins will fix a broken cooling line. The walk is set for tomorrow, and it will take about six hours.

12/23 1:00 Amtrak trains operating out of Chicago to points across Illinois and the Midwest will soon offer free Internet access. The passenger train company says Wi-Fi will be installed on the Chicago-to-Carbondale and Chicago-to-Quincy lines.

12/26 1:00 January first brings a new Illinois law that limits talking on the phone while driving. It's often been referred to as "cell phone ban." But, it's actually more nuanced. The law starts out by saying you cannot drive while using an electronic device such as a phone or laptop.

12/27 1:00 A Bloomington-Normal institution is closing its doors next week. Elmo Quinn or his father and uncle have been operating Quinn's Full-Service Gas Station on North Main in Bloomington since 1941. At the end of the business day Tuesday, Quinn will lock the doors for good.

12/30 1:00 Not done holiday shopping? Try the Illinois Secretary of State. Nearly a dozen new license plates will be for sale in 2014. The Secretary of State's Office has to offer just about something for everyone.