

WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

January, February, March 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

01/14 5:00 From funeral homes joining Facebook to Harley-Davidson hearses, members of the "baby boom" generation continue impacting national consumer trends until their final days. The funeral business, seen by some as slow to embrace change, is becoming increasingly innovative in order to meet the needs of aging boomers. But as IPR's Peter Gray reports, not everyone in the business is along for the ride.

01/25 6:00 Opera singer Kate Tombaugh is gearing up for the performance of a lifetime. This Sunday, she sings at the famous Carnegie Hall in New York City. As WGLT's Daniel Hajek reports, the Illinois Wesleyan University alum is fulfilling her dream through a powerful voice.

01/31 8:00 Two hundred years ago this week, Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" was published to much acclaim, and the adoration continues today. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more.

02/04 6:00 Matisyahu is best known for being the Orthodox Jewish rapper. But now he has a new look and a new sound. He's playing at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts tomorrow night. WGLT's Daniel Hajek caught up with him while en route to Central Illinois.

02/21 6:00 Pokey LaFarge has a voice that brings back styles of the good old days. He's a young songwriter who mixes country, blues and jazz into his own Americana style. He'll be at the Castle Theatre in Bloomington Saturday. As WGLT's Daniel Hajek reports, watching LaFarge on stage is like traveling back in time.

02/28 6:30 The celebrated Irish music group, the Chieftains, has won six grammies and put out 50 albums in more than a half century of touring. They remain on the road, in Bloomington in fact, on Sunday. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker tries to wedge questions about the latest recording into the fast flow of words and stories from a founder of the Chieftains, the loquacious Paddy Moloney.

03/05 5:30 On March 6th, 1923, the Bloomington Women's Club produced a short play that launched a theatrical tradition that has lasted through nine decades. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more on the history of Community Players, and why it has endured so long.

03/19 5:00 In less than 2 weeks, Illinois' only maximum-security female correctional center will close its doors. Critics of Governor Pat Quinn's decision to shutter the Dwight prison say the inmates will lose out on some medical, vocational, and volunteer-based programs. But at least one benefit will be following these women with their transfer to Logan Correctional Center. IPR's Jeff Bossert explains.

03/25 6:00 Why do some countries go from strength to strength and others wallow for generations and centuries at subsistence level food supplies that bind nearly the entire populace to poverty. A scholar visiting Illinois Wesleyan University tomorrow thinks he has a good answer as he tells WGLT's Charlie Schlenker.

BUSINESS, ECONOMY & LABOR

01/09 9:00 A new session of the Illinois General Assembly begins today, when candidates who won in November's elections take the oath of office. The outgoing class of legislators left the incoming one with quite a burden. Last night the previous General Assembly adjourned without doing anything to reduce Illinois' 97-billion-dollars of pension debt. There were a few last minute tries, though, as IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports.

01/14 5:30 After taking the oath of office to serve a new district, Illinois Congressman Aaron Schock now represents most of Mclean County. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with the Peoria Republican, whose area takes in the east side of Bloomington Normal, about the challenges looming in Washington.

01/30 6:00 Oscar winning writer and director Oliver Stone believes popular culture versions of history

do a disservice to the United States. Stone visits ISU tomorrow to talk about the untold history of the U.S. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more in this exclusive interview.

02/05 4:30 The new federal health care law will be the first chance for many people to get coverage, but a key demographic may not get that option. It's up to states to decide if they will allow individuals who make less than about 15 thousand dollars, and who don't have kids, to sign up for government-backed insurance. Illinois lawmakers are set to debate that during their spring legislative session. IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports.

02/13 6:00 McLean County's top economic development official packs his bags and heads east to Indiana after another week on the job. With nine years under his belt at the helm of the Economic Development Council of Bloomington-Normal, Marty Vanags is leaving to head up the Indy Partnership, a division of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce. WGLT's Willis Kern has more.

02/28 8:00 Yesterday brought the latest in a long line of proposals to fix the state's underfunded pension systems. The measure also comes as members of the Illinois House of Representatives are set to have a marathon debate on pensions today. IPR's Brian Mackey has more.

03/07 4:30 There were few surprises in Gov. Pat Quinn's budget address in the Illinois General Assembly. He called it a "difficult" proposal, with steep cuts in spending on education. So we challenged Statehouse IPR reporter Brian Mackey to find seven things that WERE surprising about the governor's speech.

03/22 2:00 The Federal Aviation Administration says it will de-fund the air traffic control tower at the Central Illinois Regional Airport as part of cuts related to the federal sequester.

CHILDREN & FAMILY/EDUCATION

01/03 4:30 Even though Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington is a private liberal arts institution, that doesn't mean the economy hasn't affected the school. Dick Wilson has been president of Illinois Wesleyan University for nearly a decade, and the economy tanked at about the same time. Wilson says that's causing a lot of anxiety for parents, students, and the University.

01/11 5:30 Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan this week said shifting pension costs from the state to Schools is still one of his priorities, saying the "free lunch" for schools should end.

01/28 5:00 Less than 1 percent of all American babies are born at home, But that percentage is increasing. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the number of U-S home births jumped 29 percent between 2004 and 2009. As IPR's Kimberlie Kranich (KRAH-nick) reports, despite the trend, women's home birth options in Illinois remain limited.

02/12 4:30 This week marks two months since the Sandy Hook school shootings that have jump-started the national dialogue on curbing gun violence. Due to some limitations on their ability to communicate, people with autism are sometimes regarded as being more prone to acts of planned violence. Claims like this, that a link may exist between neurological disorders and mass murders, echoed around TV talk shows and other news outlets following the Connecticut and Colorado mass shootings. Today an outspoken young artist with a mild form of autism wants to help set the record straight for those who don't understand the way his brain works. IPR's Peter Gray has the story.

02/15 7:30 Same-sex couples with an eye on marriage got a Valentine from the Illinois Senate yesterday. Thirty-three Democrats and one Republican voted to legalize gay marriage. IPR's Brian Mackey has more.

03/21 5:30 Illinois State University's improv troupe is headed to the nationals of the College Improv Tournament this weekend. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more with one of the members of Improv Mafia.

03/25 6:00 Why do some countries go from strength to strength and others wallow for generations and centuries at subsistence level food supplies that bind nearly the entire populace to poverty. A scholar visiting Illinois Wesleyan University tomorrow thinks he has a good answer as he tells WGLT's Charlie Schlenker.

ENVIRONMENT

01/02 6:00 The Javan Rhino. The Western Lowland Gorilla. The Siberian Tiger. These are just a few of the animals that were recently listed as the world's most endangered species. But one National Geographic photographer is aiming to pare that list down with his work. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more.

01/17 6:00 All the political oxygen in Washington seems taken up with budget cuts to reduce the deficit. But, ISU's Martin Luther King Junior speaker and former White House advisor says there is a different way to rebuild the dream. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with an advocate of "Greening the Economy".

02/01 5:00 There are no boats, no skimmers and it's far away from any ocean. Shrimping in rural El Paso, Illinois sounds impossible. But as WGLT's Daniel Hajek reports, the Steiner Farm has found a way to do it.

02/11 6:00 Caterpillar says it is going all in with natural gas engines. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the Peoria company's decision to sign a research and development agreement that will bring compressed natural gas fueled heavy equipment to market in about five years.

02/19 6:00 Prince Charles of Britain has stated that genetically-engineered foods take mankind into "realms that belong to God." The Center for Food Safety, an independent food watchdog group, says GM crops can cause health problems including cancer, and suppressed immune systems. Seed companies and farm lobby groups say the technology holds the promise of ending world hunger, and generating big profits. Democratic state Senator Dave Koehler of Peoria says he's introduced a bill today GMO foods be labeled as such.

03/04 1:00 Illinois officials say the bat disease known as white-nose syndrome has reached that state. IPR's Veronique LaCapra reports, the fungal disease that has killed more than 5.5 million bats in the eastern U.S. has been making its way West.

03/13 1:00 Illinois environmentalists are divided on the drilling technique of hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as "fracking." Some big name groups negotiated regulations that have already been hailed as a possible national model. But as IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports, other advocates say only an outright ban will do.

03/26 1:00 Two freshman Congressmen, including one who represents Bloomington-Normal, want the Army Corps of Engineers to start thinking of ways it can coordinate river management to keep cargo traffic flowing during droughts or floods. IPR's Rachel Lippmann explains.

HEALTH & MEDICINE

01/01 1:00 Today (Jan. 1, 2013) marks five years since Illinois' smoking ban went into effect. But that hasn't stopped efforts to roll back the restrictions.

01/14 1:00 Despite the drug's reputation for inducing a lack of motivation, a state lawmaker is continuing a long fight to legalize medical marijuana in Illinois. IPR's Chris Slaby reports.

01/28 5:30 Less than 1 percent of all American babies are born at home, but that percentage is increasing. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the number of U-S home births jumped 29 percent between 2004 and 2009. As IPR's Kimberlie Kranich (KRAH-nick) reports, despite the trend, womens home birth options in Illinois remain limited.

02/04 1:00 A partisan split has so far kept Governor Pat Quinn's administration from expanding the state's health care program for the poor. IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports.

02/18 1:00 An Illinois lawmaker wants to put limits on youth and school football practices so athletes could tackle just once a week. IPR's Brian Mackey has more.

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03/04 4:30 Illinois is faced with a steady stream of deadlines as it rolls out a marketplace where small businesses and the uninsured can shop for health care coverage. Just last week month Illinois won conditional federal approval to move forward with its so-called insurance exchange. But even as officials dig into the complexities of getting it up and running, they're also negotiating to change it in the future. IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports.

03/14 6:00 Seeing a counselor doesn't always mean sitting on a couch in a sterile doctor's office. Some are taking their sessions to local horse stables. Equine assisted psychotherapy utilizes activities with horses as a way to work through emotional issues. As WGLT's Daniel Hajek reports, it's therapy with a whole new perspective.

03/19 1:00 Early results of a study of Illinois' Medicaid rolls show many recipients don't actually qualify.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS

01/04 1:00 After a day of ups and downs for supporters of gay marriage in Illinois, they say they're willing to wait until Spring. They had been trying to get the measure into law during the last days of the current lame duck session. But as IPR's Brian Mackey reports, that now seems out of reach.

01/16 1:00 Republican Congressman Aaron Schock says he could support standardized background checks wherever people buy guns, but doubts an assault weapon ban would be effective in preventing recent mass shooting tragedies. The Peoria Representative whose district now includes most of McLean County also says gun control is not the way to address the recent killings.

01/18 6:00 Beginning in the 1970s with harsher sentences for drug offenses and then in the 90s with truth in sentencing laws prison populations soared. In the last forty years the prison census in the U.S. rose from 250,000 inmates to more than 2.3 million. And yet, in Illinois more than half the people who leave prison are back in the clink within three years. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with IWU's Martin Luther King Speaker about the state of prisons and hopes for change.

02/05 5:00 Cameras and Microphones have come to Mclean County Circuit Court. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the start of enhanced coverage.

02/12 4:30 This week marks two months since the Sandy Hook school shootings that have jump-started the national dialogue on curbing gun violence. Due to some limitations on their ability to communicate, people with autism are sometimes regarded as being more prone to acts of planned violence. Claims like this, that a link may exist between neurological disorders and mass murders, echoed around TV talk shows and other news outlets following the Connecticut and Colorado mass shootings. Today an outspoken young artist with a mild form of autism wants to help set the record straight for those who don't understand the way his brain works. IPR's Peter Gray has the story.

02/20 4:00 A defeated Central Illinois Congressional Candidate is suing the IRS saying its rules contributed to his loss in November. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports.

03/01 1:30 A McLean County Judge has sentenced convicted murderer Misook Nowlin to 55 years in prison for strangling her mother in law Linda Tyda. during the sentencing hearing, Nowlin's husband Don Wang testified he thought he was ok until the drive down from Chicago for the hearing.

03/19 5:00 In less than 2 weeks, Illinois' only maximum-security female correctional center will close its doors. Critics of Governor Pat Quinn's decision to shutter the Dwight prison say the inmates will lose out on some medical, vocational, and volunteer-based programs. But at least one benefit will be following these women with their transfer to Logan Correctional Center. IPR's Jeff Bossert explains.

3/29 5:30 When Illinois prison inmates are released, many are not met at the gates by family or friends. Instead, they pack all their belongings into a small box or bag and are given a train or bus ticket and ten dollars, then sent out to become productive citizens. IPR's Rob Wildeboer follows a few inmates as they set out on their quest for life in freedom.

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

01/08 1:00 Today the state will see if Illinois legislators finally do something about the state's underfunded pensions ... or if they'll leave the nearly \$100 billion dollar problem to the incoming General Assembly. IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports.

01/14 5:30 After taking the oath of office to serve a new district, Illinois Congressman Aaron Schock now represents most of Mclean County. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with the Peoria Republican, whose area takes in the east side of Bloomington Normal, about the challenges looming in Washington.

01/21 5:30 Much has now been made of the technology advantage President Obama's Campaign had over his Republican challenger Mitt Romney. A Bloomington-Normal native played a key part in that result. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the ever more sophisticated effort that helped create the opportunity for this inauguration day.

02/07 8:00 Governor Pat Quinn gave his annual State of the State address yesterday. He gave members of the General Assembly a laundry list of legislation he'd like to see passed, affecting everything from the minimum wage to guns to pensions. IPR's Brian Mackey has our story.

02/14 6:00 There are two unusual things about the elections in McLean County this year. First, there is a February 26th primary, and second for the first time in more than 20 years candidates from both major parties want to be Bloomington Township Supervisor. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

02/20 4:00 A defeated Central Illinois Congressional Candidate is suing the IRS saying its rules contributed to his loss in November. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports.

03/05 5:00 The first woman elected to statewide office in Illinois has died. Dawn Clark Netsch was 86. In January, she revealed she had A-L-S, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Netsch was a Democrat, but people on both sides of the aisle are remembering her as a committed public servant. IPR's Brian Mackey has more.

03/06 4:30 People decide to own guns for a variety of reasons. Some buy them for protection or hunting, or for history. The IPR series "Our Guns" has been profiling local gun owners. Today, the world of antique gun collecting. IPR's Alex Keefe visited one of the country's biggest antique arms auction houses, in northwest Illinois.

3/20 5:30 After a decade of Chris Koos as Mayor of Normal, two challengers are trying to make a case for change. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker reports both political newcomers are articulating separate themes in an effort to unseat the incumbent..

RACE, EQUALITY & RIGHTS

01/02 1:00 Clergy on both sides of the gay marriage issue are weighing in as the legislature gets ready to debate a bill in the closing days of the session.

01/17 1:00 Poverty rates are on the rise in McLean and Peoria Counties as well as statewide.

01/18 6:00 Beginning in the 1970s with harsher sentences for drug offenses and then in the 90s with truth in sentencing laws prison populations soared. In the last forty years the prison census in the U.S. rose from 250,000 inmates to more than 2.3 million. And yet, in Illinois more than half the people who leave prison are back in the clink within three years. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with IWU's Martin Luther King Speaker about the state of prisons and hopes for change.

02/08 1:00 A member of a central Illinois social justice advocacy group says he is encouraged that House Speaker John Boehner's recent acceptance of the idea of a path toward citizenship will increase the chance of an immigration reform bill.

02/14 1:00 The Illinois Senate has voted to legalize same-sex marriage, advancing a proposal that would make the state the 10th in the nation allowing same-sex couples to wed.

02/28 1:00 Illinois lawmakers today heard arguments over whether to ban future sales of so-called "assault weapons." Chicago and Downstate legislators remain split on the issue. And as Chris Slaby reports, police officials are split too.

03/07 1:00 President Obama has signed the updated version of the Violence Against Women Act. This is expected to pose challenges for many college campuses in how they handle dating violence. Illinois State University officials say they are ahead of the curve thanks to criticism from the federal government that went out to universities two years ago.

03/20 1:00 The McLean County Museum of History is honoring a group of history makers who fostered institutions, built a richer community, and fought for civil rights and social justice.

SOCIAL SERVICE & PROGRAMS

01/01 5:00 This week, the McLean County United Way campaign will release its final update before the effort winds up at the end of the month. Organizers are happy that more than three-fourths of the \$4.35 million goal has been raised. WGLT's Willis Kern talks with United Way President and CEO Greg Cott.

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01/28 1:00 As Congress and the President bargain over budget cuts, a poverty researcher is pointing out how entitlement program cuts might affect the nation.

02/05 4:30 The new federal health care law will be the first chance for many people to get coverage,

but a key demographic may not get that option. It's up to states to decide if they will allow individuals who make less than about 15 thousand dollars, and who don't have kids, to sign up for government-backed insurance. Illinois lawmakers are set to debate that during their spring legislative session. IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports.

02/18 1:00 Only landlords in large cities can evict residents for committing a crime. But a proposal in the state legislature could extend that right to smaller communities. IPR's Chris Slaby reports.

03/07 4:30 There were few surprises in Gov. Pat Quinn's budget address in the Illinois General Assembly. He called it a "difficult" proposal, with steep cuts in spending on education. So we challenged Statehouse IPR reporter Brian Mackey to find seven things that WERE surprising about the governor's speech.

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TECHNOLOGY

01/21 5:30 Much has now been made of the technology advantage President Obama's Campaign had over his Republican challenger Mitt Romney. A Bloomington-Normal native played a key part in that result. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the ever more sophisticated effort that helped create the opportunity for this inauguration day.

01/28 1:00 A University of Illinois researcher is experimenting with stem cells as a potential treatment for a common form of muscular dystrophy affecting boys. IPR's Jim Meadows reports.

02/01 1:00 A group of businesses believes Illinois should stop investing money in landline telephones. But a utilities organization says old-fashion phones still have a use in this new technology age. IPR's Chris Slaby reports.

02/05 1:00 A Brazilian-based agribusiness company says its plant in central Illinois will soon be home to the first generator powered exclusively by gravity but it's not giving out many details. IPR's Jim Meadows has more.

02/19 1:00 The McLean County Board is asking state lawmakers not to take away local power over oil and gas wells.

02/25 1:00 A new national survey from Bloomington-based Country Financial, shows more than half of all Americans manage their investments using the internet.

03/21 1:00 Utility giants Ameren and Commonwealth Edison are on their way to securing a rate hike that will pay for upgrades to the state's electric grid. As IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports, legislators passed the measure in a hurry.

03/28 1:00 Illinois legislators are being asked to strike a balance between privacy concerns, and letting police use technology they say will help them do their jobs. IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports on a plan before the state Senate.

TRANSPORTATION

01/02 1:00 The Mississippi River's water level is dropping again and barge industry trade groups warn that river commerce could essentially come to a halt by mid-month. IPR's Adam Allington reports from Saint Louis that ice on the northern section of the Mississippi is reducing flow more than expected.

01/17 1:00 The Mayors of Peoria and Normal are traveling with staff to Washington DC next week to meet with Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. IPR's Alex Rusciano reports the group is asking for \$4 million to help bring passenger rail service between Peoria and Bloomington/Normal.

01/22 6:00 Officials at Bloomington-Normal's regional airport are mulling over year-end figures that look foreign to them. After a decade or more of expansion, passenger service declined last year. But alarm bells aren't being sounded, at least not yet. WGLT's Willis Kern reports.

1/30 1:00 The State of Illinois is giving McLean County \$800,000 to extend the Constitution Trail north past Towanda. County Administrator Bill Wasson says the two and a half mile addition to the trail will likely be constructed in 2014 or 2015...

02/11 6:00 Caterpillar says it is going all in with natural gas engines. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the Peoria company's decision to sign a research and development agreement that will bring compressed natural gas fueled heavy equipment to market in about five years.

03/05 1:00 The Head of Connect Transit in Bloomington Normal says a recent round of public listening sessions gave valuable input on new bus route proposals to come out in about a month.

03/21 1:00 The three candidates for mayor of Normal have differing views on the need for bike paths on town streets. They discussed the issue among several others at a forum held at Illinois State University.

03/25 1:00 Details of how Bloomington-Normal leaders will retain air traffic control operations at the Central Illinois Regional have yet to be finalized. But, Airport Director Carl Olson is criticizing the federal cuts that lead to the local scramble as poorly conceived.