

Quarterly Issues Programs List for Station WUEZ-FM
January 1, 2022 – March 31, 2022
Placed in the Public File April 7, 2022

Section I -- Issues

The station has identified the following issues as significant issues facing our community in this quarter:

- A. COVID-19**
- B. Illinois Politics**
- C. Economy**
- D. Tourism**
- E. Crime**

Section II -- Responsive Programs

The station has broadcast programming dealing with each of the above-referenced issues. Programming dealing with each issue is set out below.

A. COVID-19

Week in Review | Broadcast: January 2, 6:05 a.m. | Duration: 10 minutes

In early January of 2022, southern Illinois once again saw a surge in COVID-19. In this interview with area physician Dr. Jeff Ripperda, listeners are informed of new variants, how effective existing treatments are against new variants, and common symptoms people who recovered from COVID-19 months ago are still experiencing.

Week in Review | Broadcast: January 30, 6:05 a.m. | Duration: 11 minutes

By the end of January 2022, public health officials were cautiously optimistic that the region was on the downhill side of a surge in new COVID-19. Area physician Dr. Jeff Ripperda informs listeners of the most recent news about the virus and treatments available in southern Illinois.

Week in Review | Broadcast: March 6, 6:15 | Duration: 10 minutes

In early March, Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike announced she would be leaving her post. The pediatrician had led the health department since the beginning of the pandemic. In this interview with Dr. Ngozi Ezike, listeners were informed of the current state of the pandemic in Illinois, guidance for removing face masks in most indoor public settings, and lesson learned, sometimes the hard way, over the past two years.

B. Illinois Politics

Week in Review | Broadcast: January 16, 6:10 a.m. | Duration: 20 minutes

Multiple candidates are seeking the Republican nomination for Illinois Governor. One of them is former southern Illinois State Senator Paul Schimpf. In this interview, Schimpf, along with his running mate Carolyn Schofield, lay out their positions on the issues and take questions from listeners.

Week in Review | Broadcast: March 13, 6:05 a.m. | Duration: 10 minutes

For the past 50 years, Mike Madigan has been at the center of Illinois politics. The Chicago Democrat holds the title of being the longest serving statehouse speaker in the entire country. But in the spring of 2022, Madigan was indicted on corruption charges. In this interview with SIU politics professor Dr. John Jackson, listeners learn what brought Madigan down, the quickly changing political environment in Springfield, and if lawmakers can prevent a similar situation in the future by passing ethics reform.

Week in Review | Broadcast: March 27, 6:05 a.m. | Duration: 8 minutes

Illinois has one of the worst credit ratings of any state in the country. Much of that is due to the more than two years (July 1, 2015 – August 31, 2017) Illinois went without a state budget, racking up billions in unpaid bills and late interest charges. The COVID-19 pandemic led to changes in consumer spending which meant changes to the state's biggest form of revenue, taxes. In this interview with Illinois Deputy Governor Andy Manar, listeners are informed of the progress of budget negotiations and how federal COVID-19 relief money will impact the state's spending plan.

C. Economy

Week in Review | Broadcast: January 23, 6:05 a.m. | Duration: 12 minutes

Two years since the first COVID-19 cases were reported, product shortages are still plaguing consumers. One culprit is a shortage of truck drivers to bring the goods to market. In this interview with Mid-West Truckers' Association Executive Vice President Don Schafer, listeners are informed of issues facing the trucking industry both nationally and here in southern Illinois.

Week in Review | Broadcast: January 30, 6:15 a.m. | Duration: 15 minutes

It was announced in January that two of southern Illinois' most recognizable financial institutions would merge into one. Combined, First Southern Bank and The Bank of Carbondale have assets of over one billion dollars. In this interview, First Southern Bank President John Dosier, informs listeners of what changes they can expect when the merger is complete.

Week in Review | Broadcast: February 6, 6:05 a.m. | Duration: 12 minutes
Employers in nearly every industry in southern Illinois are having trouble finding employees. It's a phenomenon happening all over the country. Business experts are calling it the great resignation. In this interview with Dr. Steven Karau, a professor of business management at SIU, listeners learn what issues are important to current job-seekers and the limits employers have implementing those needs.

D. Tourism

Week in Review | Broadcast: February 13, 6:20 a.m. | Duration: 10 minutes
Over the winter, Crab Orchard Lake, part of the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, was partially drained to facilitate work on the lake's dam and a number of boat ramps. In this interview with refuge visitor services director Neil Vincent, listeners are informed of the progress of construction, the cost, what services and areas of the refuge are inaccessible due to construction, and when full access to the refuge is expected again.

Week in Review | Broadcast: February 27, 6:15 a.m. | Duration: 15 minutes
A traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Institute made a stop in southern Illinois. 'Voices and Votes: Democracy in America' posed the question of how a more perfect union is formed and was on display at Murphysboro's General John A Logan Museum. In this interview with museum director Mike Jones, listeners are told the exhibits hours of operation, cost, and rare artifacts on display and get insight into one of the region's most honored historical figures, General John A Logan.

Week in Review | Broadcast March 27, 6:15 a.m. | Duration: 15 minutes
Since adult-use recreational cannabis was legalized in Illinois, sales of the once forbidden product have skyrocketed. With cannabis legalization gaining momentum on the national level as well, interest in other application of the plant is also high. In this interview with SIU Cannabis Science Center Director Dr. Dale "Buck" Hales, listeners are informed of the many applications for marijuana and hemp and are given details about an upcoming symposium the Cannabis Science Center is hosting on the SIU campus.

E. Crime

Week in Review | Broadcast: March 13, 6:15 a.m. | Duration: 15 minutes
Violent gun crimes are happening much more often in southern Illinois than they did just a few years ago. Carbondale, one of southern Illinois' biggest cities and the home of Southern Illinois University, is at the epicenter. In this interview with Jackson County State's Attorney Joe Cervantez, listeners are informed of tactics his office is using in cooperation with police departments to stop violence before it happens and the reality of legal options available to punish violent, and often repeat, offenders.