

## QUARTERLY ISSUES/PROGRAMS LIST

There follows a listing of significant issues responded to by station WMKR, Pana, Illinois along with the most significant programming treatment of those issues for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The listing is by no means exhaustive. The order in which these stories appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

<i>Description of issue</i>	<i>Program or segment date</i>	<i>Time aired</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Description of program segment</i>
County Gov	1/3/24	8:00 AM	:49	County denies East Point Energy permit
County Gov	1/4/24	4:22 PM	:44	New Laws
County Gov	1/16/24	11:22 AM	:31	County Board prestory Jan
County Gov	2/20/24	3:22 PM	:33	County Board Feb prestory
County Gov	2/28/24	7:00 AM	:39	Local State of the state response

RUN AS OF 1/3/24

AFTER 6AM

LK

After Christian County denied a permit for East Point Energy, and the Sangchris Energy Center, Will Frost, Project Developer, has issued a statement concerning the boards disapproval of the recent standalone battery energy storage system. East Point Energy released the following statement: “East Point is disappointed that the permit was not granted by the county board, but we are committed to continuing to engage with local communities while working towards energy solutions that help to make the grid more renewable, resilient, and affordable for generations to come.” Some of the Christian County Board concerns included people maybe getting set on fire, questions on property ownership, and drainage reports. For more information on the project, visit [sangchrisenergycenter.com](http://sangchrisenergycenter.com).

RUN AS OF 1/4/23

AFTER 6AM

LK

Two laws taking effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, will expand leave rights for workers whose lives have been impacted by violence. Public Act 103-0314 amends the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA). The amendment to VESSA will allow employees to take up to two weeks of unpaid, job protected leave from work to attend a funeral, arrange a funeral, or grieve, if a family or household member is killed in a crime of violence. VESSA provisions currently allow unpaid time off for reasons including medical attention, counseling, victim services, relocating, or participating in legal proceedings. CEBLA was the initiative of a mother in Rockford, Laura Kane, in memory of her son Zachary Birkholz. The bill was successful because of her advocacy at the state capitol.

RUN AS OF 1/16/24

AFTER 6AM

LK

The Christian County Board is set to meet at 6:30 PM on the second floor of the Christian County Courthouse this evening. After approval of minutes, appointments, and public comments, the council will hear the reading of communications and go over committee reports. Under highway, building, and grounds, the board will review a nuisance ordinance, review zoning business and discuss possible funding for water testing in the county. Stay tuned to Regional Radio News for more following the conclusion of the event.

RUN AS OF 2/20/24

AFTER 6AM

LK

Christian County Board set to meet this evening at 6:30 on the second floor of the Christian County Courthouse to discuss business, review committee reports, and hear from the public. The board will hear from the public, along with some representatives from HOPETrust, and a report from the Health Department. here is nothing listed under new business, but cybersecurity insurance will be discussed and the board will hear from the public and Regional Radio News will have a full wrap up following the conclusion of this event.

Illinois State Governor J.B. Pritzker gave his State of the State and Budget Address at the Illinois Capitol one week ago. In this address, the governor set spending plans and revenue projects that will run from July 1st, 2024 to June 30th, 2025. Education was a focal point as 400 million dollars have been added to the fund, the process of handling asylum seekers entering Illinois, and eliminating the 1% grocery tax in the state. Governor Pritzker's \$53 billion budget has mixed reviews from both sides of the aisle but Dr. Redfield believes the state is moving in the right direction overall. Dr. Redfield states that in 2015 the state owed over 16 billion dollars in bills at the end of the year and in 2024 Illinois is down to 23 million dollars owed.

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City Govt	1/2/24	8:00 AM	:24	City Council Prestory Jan 1
City Govt	1/11/24	4:22 PM	:29	Clerk resigns
City Govt	1/17/24	11:22 AM	:33	City Council Jan 2
City Govt	2/26/24	3:22 PM	:49	Park Board Feb
City Govt	3/18/24	7:00 AM	:40	City Council prestory March 2

RUN AS OF 1/2/24

AFTER 6AM

LK

Taylorville City Council is set to meet Tuesday evening for their first meeting of 2024. The council is set to have a short meeting at the municipal building in Taylorville at 7 PM. After approval of minutes, the council will hear from the City Attorney and Taylorville Mayor. There were no committee reports to discuss, but the council will hear from the public if they have any comments.



RUN AS OF 1/11

AFTER 6AM

LK

Taylorville aldermen on the Personnel Committee meet tonight at 5:30 to deliberate in closed session on selecting a new City Clerk for the Christian County seat. Long-time City Clerk Julie Lilly resigned from the position on December 2nd of last year. The meeting notice indicated they may or may not recommend a name to the full City Council for consideration.

RUN AS OF 1/17/24

TZ

The Taylorville City Council met at the municipal building last night at 7:00 p.m. for their second meeting of 2024. All members of the board were present with the exception of Chris Skultety and Randy Mitchelson. The meeting started with a review of the resolution between the city and the Taylorville Downtown rebuild project and approval of minutes from previous meetings both were approved 6-0. The next Taylorville City Council meeting is set for February 5th.

RUN AS OF 2/26/24

The Taylorville Park Board met on Monday evening for a lengthy meeting, among the topics was the Ameren remediation site, Red Bland little league, and budget talks. All members were present except for Roy Monasco. The board spoke about the Ameren Remediation site located near manners park, Taylorville Park Board President Marlene Miller was frustrated after meeting with representatives from the Illinois EPA and Ameren as well as State Senator Steve McClure and State Representative Brad Halbrook. The board stated they would continue operations as normal but with more caution. the Red Bland little league has decided to change where games are played this year. Those were approved.

RUN AS OF 3/18/24

AFTER 6AM

LK

Taylorville City Council is set to meet this evening at 7 PM at the Taylorville Municipal Building for their second March meeting of the month. Both THS Band and Track will be recognized along with accepting the gift of property at 305 E. Poplar Street, easement agreements, and accepting the proposal for construction of Drainage Improvements and the Turn Our Town Teal Event for April. Stay tuned to Regional Radio News for more following the conclusion of this event.

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Economic Development	1/2/24	8:00 AM	:30	PBT merger
Economic Development	1/3/24	4:22 PM	:43	PBT Board update
Economic Development	1/5/24	11:22 AM	:38	Job update
Economic Development	2/19/24	3:22 PM	:47	IDOT Effingham work
Economic Development	3/19/24	7:00 AM	:32	Jack Flash Pana

RUN AS OF 1/2/24

AFTER 6AM

LK

John Gardner, President & CEO of Peoples Bank & Trust, headquartered in Pana, Ill. and Dale Boyer, President & CEO of Arcola First Bank, headquartered in Arcola, Ill., are pleased to announce an agreement to merge Arcola First Bank with Peoples Bank & Trust. The bank resulting from the merger will be Peoples Bank & Trust. The agreement is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to close in late spring or early summer. Customers of Arcola First Bank will soon receive additional specific information explaining the transition well in advance of the actual transition date.

RUN AS OF 1/3/24

AFTER 6AM

LK

Peoples Bank and Trust have a new member on their board of directors. Kelly Evans, has been appointed to the board as announced by PBT and Peoples First Bancshares. Evans is the President & CEO of LINC Systems in Westfield, Indiana and has helped guide the company's growth to include a nationwide sales and service footprint and authored a five-year strategic plan. Evans also served as President and CEO of R.V. Evans Company, a family owned distribution company founded in 1937. PB&T has locations in Pana, Taylorville, Altamont, Tower Hill, Charleston, Springfield, Morrisonville, Palmyra, Waverly, and White Hall. For more information contact the bank at 888-728-1954 or visit [www.BankPBT.com](http://www.BankPBT.com).

RUN AS OF 1/5/24

AFTER 6AM

LK

Total nonfarm jobs increased in ten metropolitan areas, and decreased in four the year ending November 2023, according to data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Unemployment numbers were also released for the state with focuses on the Springfield, Decatur, and Central Illinois region. Christian County saw a .1% increase in unemployment from 4.1% to 4.2%. Shelby saw a .2% increase from 3.7% to 3.9%. Montgomery County also saw a .2% increase from 4.4% to 4.6% in unemployment. Finally Macoupin County saw a .3% increase from 3.4% to 3.7%. Scott County saw the largest decrease down .6%. Decatur saw the largest increase at .5%.



RUN AS OF 2/19/24

AFTER 6AM

LK

The Illinois Department of Transportation announces the closure for the reconstruction of Henrietta Street from Fayette Avenue to Edgar Avenue on Monday, Feb. 19. A marked detour will utilize Outer Belt West and Fayette Avenue. Motorists wanting to access destinations, including Sacred Heart Catholic Church and School located south of the closure can use Raney Street and Grove Avenue. The intersection of Henrietta Street and Fayette Avenue will remain open to traffic, but no traffic will be able to turn south onto Henrietta. East/west traffic on Fayette Avenue will be reduced to one lane in each direction at the intersection. Henrietta Street will reopen when this portion of the project is completed, which is scheduled for early April. For road updates from Getting Around Illinois, visit [www.taylorvilledailynews.com](http://www.taylorvilledailynews.com).

RUN AS OF 3/19/24

TZ

The newly constructed Jack Flash truck Stop in Pana is gearing up for a grand opening celebration on Friday, March 22. Prizes, samples, and giveaways will be on hand the day of the celebration and a new addition to the top of the building will be unveiled. Staffing a brand new business comes with challenges, Wortman says great leadership from the store and kitchen managers made operations smooth in the early life of Jack Flash. For updates and information concerning the Jack Flash Grand Opening Celebration this Friday, visit their Facebook page at Jack Flash Pana.

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Education	1/8/24	8:00 AM	:29	Snowfall education
Education	1/15/24	4:22 PM	:36	Macon County Update
Education	1/18/24	11:22 AM	:34	THS FFA
Education	1/19/24	3:22 PM	:40	Farmer Grants
Education	2/23/24	7:00 AM	:37	LLCC Broadcasting open house

RUN AS OF 1/8/24

AFTER 6AM

LK

With the first snowfall in Central Illinois, the Illinois Department of Transportation is reminding the public to visit and bookmark [gettingaroundillinois.com](http://gettingaroundillinois.com) for continually updated information on road conditions. Weather can change quickly and whether you're driving for 2 miles or 200 miles, [gettingaroundillinois.com](http://gettingaroundillinois.com) is a great resource that is up to date 24/7/365. The road conditions map averages more than 2.5 million pageviews during snow-and-ice season, featuring a color scheme of pinks and blues to differentiate from the red, yellow, and green of traffic congestion reporting as well as to increase accessibility for those who have difficulty distinguishing colors.

RUN AS OF 1/15/23

AFTER 6AM

LK

The Macon County Conservation District received a \$870,750 grant from the Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act grant program or PARC. This will be used for the construction of a new indoor-outdoor classroom in the lower level of the Rock Springs Nature Center. The proposed plan is to start the architectural and engineering for the project this fall and have it completed and ready to bid early winter. The bidding process is scheduled to be completed by late winter of 2024 and contractors on board by the first part of spring. The construction phase of the project is estimated to take 9-12 months with final closeout of the project happening in late spring to early summer of 2025.

RUN AS OF 1/18/24

TZ

Taylorville High Schools National Champion Future Farmers of America Chapter was welcomed inside the Illinois Capitol Building yesterday, to be recognized on the Senate and House floors. This recognition has been sparked since Taylorville's FFA Team took home first place in Strengthening Agriculture and for their multiple individual awards. Illinois State Senator Steve McClure, representing the 54th District, says this is one of his favorite parts of the job, highlighting constituents' successes and being face-to-face with the people he represents. Find out more about Senator Steve McClure on his website, <https://senatormcclure.com>

RUN ON 1/19/24

TZ

State Senator Doris Turner (D-Springfield) is urging eligible farmers and food producers to apply for grants under the Resilient Food System Infrastructure program. The program is funded with \$6.4 million from the Illinois Department of Agriculture and aims to enhance the state's food supply chain. Turner believes that this funding will increase access to fresh, locally-sourced foods, bolster the local economy, and strengthen the overall food supply chain. Additional information is available on the USDA Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure webpage.

RUN AS OF 2/23/24

TZ

Lake Land College is inviting area students interested in the broadcasting field to join them at their Broadcast Communication Open House. Attendees will be able to venture inside the broadcast studio on Friday, March 22 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. followed by hands-on activities and a light lunch. Registration for the open house can be found at [LakeLandCollege.edu/visit](http://LakeLandCollege.edu/visit). More information can be found by contacting Greg Powers, Speech Communication and Broadcast Instructor at 217-234-5335 or by email at [gpowers@lakelandcollege.edu](mailto:gpowers@lakelandcollege.edu).



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Healthcare	2/6/24	8:00 AM	:31	CO Alarm safety
Healthcare	2/9/24	4:22 PM	:34	TMH Survey
Healthcare	2/13/24	11:22 AM	:25	South Fork Blood Drive
Healthcare	2/27/24	3:22 PM	:37	TMH Screenings
Healthcare	3/16/24	7:00 AM	:39	DMD legislation

RUN AS OF 2/6/24

TZ

As temperatures remain low, Illinois residents are turning up their thermostats to keep warm, but with this comes an increased risk of home heating fires and carbon monoxide incidents. The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal is advising residents to take precautions to ensure their safety during the chilly months. Residents are reminded to test smoke and CO alarms monthly, replace them according to manufacturer instructions, and never use ovens or ranges to heat homes. By following these precautions, Illinois residents can reduce the risk of home heating incidents and safeguard their families during the winter months.

RUN AS OF 2/9/24

AFTER 6AM

LK

Taylorville Memorial Hospital is asking residents of Christian County to complete a short survey about health issues in their communities. The survey will be used to guide the hospital's community health efforts for the next three years. Nonprofit hospitals like TMH are required by the Affordable Care Act to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment every three years to identify specific health priorities within the county where that hospital is located. The hospitals use that data to develop a Community Health Implementation Plan to address the selected priorities. The survey is available at [memorial.health/chna-feedback/](http://memorial.health/chna-feedback/)

RUN AS OF 2/13/24

AFTER 6AM

LK

South Fork Township will host a Community Blood Drive with ImpactLife from 1 PM to 4 PM Monday, February 26th at 124 Central Avenue, inside the Senior Citizens Center, Kincaid. Potential donors must be at least 17 years of age and weigh more than 110 lbs. A photo I.D. is required to donate. To donate, please contact Dennis Foli at 237-4327 or visit [www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org) and use code 61415 to locate the drive. You may also call ImpactLife to schedule at 800-747-5401.

RUN AS OF 2/27/24

TZ

Taylorville Memorial Hospital is set to distribute free take-home screening tests for colon cancer on Thursday, March 14, from 8 to 11 a.m. at their drive-thru located on 201 E. Pleasant St in Taylorville. This initiative is part of the Regional Cancer Partnership's efforts, comprising Memorial Health, SIU School of Medicine, Springfield Clinic, and HSHS St. John's Hospital. The event aims to increase awareness and accessibility to early detection methods, contributing to the prevention and early treatment of colorectal cancer within the community. For those seeking further details about the kit distribution, questions can be directed to 217-707-5258.

RUN AS OF 3/16/24

AFTER 6AM

LK

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy – also known as DMD – is a rare disorder, but severe if not caught early enough to be treated. State Senator Julie Morrison introduced a bill that would require all newborns to be screened for DMD. By the time the symptoms of DMD are detected, it is typically too late to treat. Additionally, it takes 2.5 years on average to diagnose after caregivers first notice symptoms – giving children little to no time to receive help. Senate Bill 2658 would require each newborn to be screened for the disease, giving those diagnosed the ability to receive affective treatment. Senate Bill 2658 passed the Senate Public Health Committee on Tuesday and moves to the full Senate for further consideration.