



## **WRSP**

### **Local Issues/Programs List 1st Quarter 2016**

**WRSP'S** programs and public service announcements provided information about the following issues of importance to the community during the 1st Quarter of 2016:

- **Community**
- **Crime/Court**
- **Economy**
- **Education**
- **Government**
- **Health and Wellness**
- **Homeland Security**
- **Learning and Attention Issues**
- **Type 2 Diabetes**
- **Underage Drinking and Driving**

Programs that provided coverage of these community issues:

#### **Good Day Illinois—airs Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.**

WRSP airs a local morning newscast five days a week.

#### **NewsChannel at Nine on FOX Illinois—airs Monday-Sunday at 9:00 p.m.**

WRSP airs a local newscast seven days a week.

#### **Fox Scene—airs Monday-Sunday at various dates and times**

The FOX Scene is a 60-second vignette that highlights local events in our market.

#### **Public Service Announcements**

WRSP airs numerous Public Service Announcements (PSAs) at various times throughout the broadcast day that cover topics of importance to the community. Snapshots of some of the PSAs that aired during the 1st quarter of 2016 are listed in this report.

## **TOPICS OF IMPORTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY**

### **FOX Scene Springfield Aired various dates and times**

The Springfield Area Home Builders Association hosted the 2016 Home Expo at Prairie Capital Convention Center on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The expo had over 120 vendors from lenders to help finance a home, builders and landscapers.

The “Why Not You Today?” Women’s conference was held at Calvary Church on February 13<sup>th</sup>. The conference sessions were body, mind and spirit and focused on women motivating, empowering and inspiring themselves to be the best they could be.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Plunge was held at Lake Springfield on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds went to help the Special Olympics.

### **Community**

March 4, 2016

#### **NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 42 seconds

John Reger reported that more than 70 vendors from across the state will be at the Illinois Products Expo. There will be foods, like cheese and jams, along with goods, like soy candles that are all made in Illinois. The state agricultural department said it’s a great way to celebrate the agricultural diversity in the Land of Lincoln. Luke Sailer, from the Department of Agriculture, said “We want to support our local businesses but also our agriculture business. These are all Illinois based companies. Our motto is you have to be processed, packaged and produced to join us and it’s a tremendous time.”

March 10, 2016

#### **NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 45 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that a national initiative that honors families of fallen soldiers could come to Oak Ridge cemetery. It’s called the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument. The Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation wants to put one memorial up in each state. It picked Springfield because of the cemetery’s rich history.

Ward 3 Alderman Doris Turner, who said her nephew was the last casualty in Desert Storm, would like to see the memorial in town. Turner said “The monuments that are there, they are very specific to wars and/or conflicts. This is one that will transcend that and will actually speak to all of the individuals that have given their life in each and every one of those conflicts.” The memorial isn’t expected to cost the city any money.

March 12, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that the YMCA offers Kids Night Out the second Saturday of every month. Parents can drop children ages 8-12 off for a child friendly activity night so they have a chance to go away also. Activities include air hockey, foosball, video games, swimming, basketball and dodgeball.

March 22, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 30 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that 10 Illinois police departments have joined a website that raises funds to help pay for new police body cameras. The Palmyra police department only has 2 body cameras, which does not meet the criteria of a new state law that took effect in January. The website is [bodycameradonations.com](http://bodycameradonations.com) and provides body cameras to law enforcement agencies for \$250 each. Donations can be made to individual departments and also a general fund, which will be distributed to each department.

March 24, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 43 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that a group of students at Millikin University are using their spring break to help the local community. Students are cleaning the Millikin community garden, volunteering at a retirement community and participating in other activities that will help improve the area. Tyler McLean, Service and Civic Engagement Coordinator, said “It’s an alternate to traveling or leaving the area. Some of us don’t have those opportunities. It’s a good chance for me to get engaged and build some new relationships and get involved in the community.”

**Crime and Court**

January 1, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 31 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that Champaign police arrested a man they believe may be responsible for two bank robberies. Edward Jovel Peppers was arrested on December 31, 2015 following a robbery at the Bank and Trust in Champaign and they believe that he may have committed an armed robbery at the First Financial Bank in Urbana in early December.

January 3, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that Illinois a new policy which requires police to issue “stop receipts” when stopping a pedestrian. The receipts will show who was stopped, where at and the reason. Protesters in Chicago said this is a big win for them because they feel their police over-exercise their power to stop certain people.

January 8, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that a group of construction workers in Decatur found a man’s body along the shore of Lake Decatur. Police said the man was in his early 30’s and is from the Decatur area. Investigators are looking into how long the body was there and have ruled out foul play.

January 11, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 21 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that the man’s body who was found near Lake Decatur on January 8<sup>th</sup> has been identified as 32-year old William Franklin of Decatur. The coroner said an autopsy was performed and no signs of foul play or internal injuries or infections were found.

January 13, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 36 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that Chicago’s Cook County jail was on lockdown on January 12<sup>th</sup> because over 100 Sheriff’s officers called in sick, which forced the lockdown. There’s a lot of speculation that the absences stemmed from Monday night’s college football championship game.

January 17, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that Springfield police said there's been another rash of car break-ins in the Sherwood and Westchester subdivisions. Officers said that while cars were broken into, little was taken. Springfield Police Department urged residents to lock their car doors at night. They said 90% of car burglaries happen because the vehicle is unlocked.

January 20, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 23 seconds

Adam Rife reported that an attack at the University of Pakistan left two people dead and five wounded. Pakistan police said a professor and a student were killed at the Bacha Kahn University after gunmen stormed the campus. Police and Army officials exchanged gunfire with the attackers, and several explosions went off. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

January 25, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 36 seconds

Adam Rife reported that a man who is accused of murder in the United States is under arrest in Hong Kong. Deyun Shi is accused of killing his teenage nephews in California and then fleeing to China. Shi reportedly told a court that he will not fight extradition back to the United States and will consent "as soon as possible." He was immediately arrested upon landing in China and although he applied for bail, he was denied and taken into custody. Shi refused a lawyer and reportedly decided to represent himself in court. U.S. officials believe that he killed his nephews because he was angry after his wife asked for a divorce.

January 25, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 30 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that a former football captain for the University of Illinois will go on trial this week in the 2006 death of his first wife. Jury selection in the murder trial of Curtis Lovelace began in Quincy. The 47-year old plead not guilty to first degree murder charges. Lovelace told authorities that he found Cory Lovelace dead in bed after dropping their children off at school. An initial autopsy on her body was inconclusive, but later tests determined that the 38-year old died from suffocation.

February 1, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 30 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that two dozen members of the Sinaloa cartel, one of Mexico's biggest drug-trafficking organizations, have been arrested. Assault-type weapons and hundreds of pounds of narcotics were confiscated. The operation took

place at the Arizona border with Mexico with U.S. agents helping Mexican authorities arrest the alleged high-level gang members. The members are in the custody of Mexican authorities and their identities have not been identified.

February 1, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

John Reger reported that Petersburg police are waiting on a toxicology report after they found a body in a home in the 300 block of West Adams Street on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The preliminary autopsy shows the person died of natural causes, but police originally treated this case as suspicious because in October 2015, another person was found dead in that same home.

February 2, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that 21-year old Jacob White of Dieterich is behind bars after starting a fight at the American Legion in Edgewood on January 31<sup>st</sup> and stabbing 3 people. The three victims are expected to be ok.

February 2, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

John Reger reported that a 51-year old Wisconsin man was shot and killed after he answered a knock at his door. Police are still searching for the shooter, who fled after firing the gun.

February 6, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that three people from Bridgeview face felony charges after lying about being kidnapped. 25-year old Joseph Vicario, 21-year old Amanda Woods and 26-year old Shane Ablan allegedly called Vicario's mother and said they were kidnapped. The three were found unharmed in a car. They are all being held at the Cook County jail without bond.

February 9, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that the murder for hire trial of former Illinois police officer Drew Peterson has been postponed. A Randolph County judge agreed to push

the trial's February 29<sup>th</sup> start to May 20<sup>th</sup>. It was previously set to begin in November. Peterson is charged with asking an inmate to kill the Will County State's Attorney who prosecuted the 2012 case against him. Peterson is challenging wiretap evidence he said was improperly obtained by prosecutors.

February 10, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that an Illinois man is being accused of stealing money from a photo booth in Batavia. The camera inside the booth was snapping away as he took the money. The crime was in November, but the photos just recently revealed the suspect. Batavia police said he got away with \$75.

February 13, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 1 minute and 5 seconds

Brendan Cullerton reported that there are at least 20 counterfeit bills in circulation according to police Lieutenant Chris Mueller. So far, only businesses have been the victim. A manager at Qdoba said the bill passed their pen test but was later found to be fake. J.C. Penney and Auto Zone were also scammed.

February 14, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that a Chicago man is being charged with aggravated battery to a 1-year old child after burning him. The son of the suspect's girlfriend suffered burns from a scalding hot bath. Michael Barber's bail is set a 2 million dollars. Doctors also said they found bite marks on the boy.

February 15, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 39 seconds

Adam Rife reported that survivors of the deadly massacre at the Bataclan Theater in Paris said it's still too soon to go back. One Irish couple said they are not comfortable attending a memorial concert being held at the venue. The Eagles of Death Metal, the American rock band that was performing when the November 13<sup>th</sup> attack occurred, are due to return to Paris for another concert. The bank kicked off it's rescheduled European tour on February 13<sup>th</sup>, which was three months to the day after the suicide bombers stormed the Paris theater. A total of 130 people were killed in Paris as a result of the series of coordinated attacks.

February 14, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 30 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that a 30-year old male is in custody after being accused in the death of 38-year old Jacqueline Green. The male was taken into custody for aggravated domestic battery earlier in the day. The incident happened in the 2300 block of East Finch Street on February 13<sup>th</sup>. The Macon County coroner said Green was involved in a dispute with the suspect but wasn't pronounced dead until around 6 p.m. after her neighbors found her unresponsive and called 911.

February 18, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 37 seconds

Adam Rife reported that Bill Cosby is trying to flip the script on the woman whose sexual assault accusation led to his recent arrest. The disgraced comedian has filed a breach-of-contract lawsuit against Andrea Constand and her attorney's. Constand's 2005 sexual assault accusation against Cosby is what sparked the only criminal charges against the comedian. The lawsuit remained under wraps and lawyers declined to comment on the nature of the allegations. However, defendants were all subject to confidentiality clauses covering the lawsuits Constand filed against Cosby in 2005. Constand accused Cosby of drugging and molesting her at his Philadelphia home in 2004.

February 18, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 1 minute

John Reger reported that 26-year old Troy Dennison appeared in court after being accused of playing a major role in the death of a 10-year old child. Dennison is charged with reckless endangerment of a child, causing death. State's Attorney John Milhiser said Dennison had his girlfriend's son give him a ride in a garden tractor on a main road near Illiopolis in August of 2015. A car did not see the tractor and ran it over, killing the boy. Dennison was arrested on February 17<sup>th</sup> after the Sangamon County Sheriff's office determined it was his fault. A grand jury indicted him on the special class 3 felony. Milhiser explained "this 10 year old was driving this yardman tractor without any lights that are necessary at night, while toying a small trailer. The defendant was on that trailer. A vehicle is approaching. The defendant dives off the trailer. The 10-year old does not get out of the way, gets struck in the roadway by this other vehicle." Dennison is also charged with reckless conduct. He faces up to 10 years in prison.

February 19, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that a 12-year old boy was shot in the chest on February 18<sup>th</sup> and is now in critical condition. The boy's family said he was playing in the street in front of his father's home when a gunman pulled up, opened fire and then drove off. Neighbors said the men threw up gang signs, but the boys didn't respond, so the driver opened fire. One witness said a passenger yelled that they're kids but the driver had already started shooting. "They're innocent. They're playing. They can't even be safe in their own neighborhood", said neighbor Stephanie Casillas. The family believes the boy will pull through. Meanwhile, police have not released many details on the case and no arrests have been made.

February 21, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 1 minute and 3 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that protesters are preparing for demonstrations in more than 20 states against the FBI and the court order requiring Apple to help unlock the crypt iPhone belonging to one of the San Bernardino shooters. The protests were organized by an internet rights group. Apple is currently fighting a court order, arguing the software sought by the FBI could be used to break into millions of other iPhones. Now another cybersecurity expert is offering to help unlock the phone. John McAfee said "using social engineering plus the hardware and software, we perform our magic with the wands, and it comes out. This is how it works. There are ten thousand hackers in the world that can easily do what I am suggesting myself." McAfee is defending Apple's refusing to create a back door into the phone's operating system and putting other iPhone users at risk. His plan involves physically taking the phone apart and eliminating any risk to others. The Obama Administration also weighed in, saying it's willing to allow Apple to destroy specialized software it designs to break into the phone.

February 22, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

John Reger reported that the families of 9 victims in the Sandy Hook massacre are now suing the maker of the gun used. The lawsuit against gun maker Remington could make history, as federal laws grants manufacturers immunity from lawsuits related to injuries from criminal misuse of their products. 20 children and 6 teachers were killed in the 2012 shooting. The gunman also shot and killed his mother before killing himself.

February 24, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 33 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that opening statements began in the lawsuit involving the secret filming of sports reporter Erin Andrews. Andrews filed a 75 million dollar lawsuit

against the Marriott at Vanderbilt University in connection with a 2008 incident where her stalker, Michael Barrett, rigged a peephole and videotaped nude images of her and posted them online. Andrews is accusing the hotel of allowing Barrett to rent a room next to hers, which allowed him to record her. She is suing for negligence and invasion of privacy. Barrett was convicted in 2010 and sentenced to two and a half years in prison.

February 25, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 32 seconds

Adam Rife reported that Springfield police said a suspect is still on the loose after a robbery on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Dollar General on North Grand Avenue. Police said he is armed. The man is described as a tall, thin African American with a goatee. He was wearing dark clothes and a hat. He ran from police after taking an undisclosed amount of money. The Springfield Police Department would like anyone with information to come forward. You can also call Crimestoppers at 217-788-8427 if you wish to remain anonymous.

February 25, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

John Reger reported that the Macon County Sheriff's office wants to warn people of a current scam going around. They reported that the caller claims he is from the Sheriff's office and tells victims they missed jury duty and need to get a "green dot" card to pay the fine off or they will be arrested. The Sheriff's office said if you received a similar call, and have made a payment, you should call your local law enforcement agency to file a report.

February 26, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 34 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that Logan County leaders are working to lower heroin use across the county. The Healthy Communities partnership held the first of four planning sessions to lay out a four pillar strategy to combat the increased use of the drug. The four pillars are prevention, treatment, enforcement and harm reduction. The meeting focused on prevention. Attendees ranged from community members to law enforcement officers. Organizers said the variety of people is vital to solving the problem of heroin use.

February 28, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that Decatur police are investigating a shooting from February 27<sup>th</sup>. A female victim showed up at the hospital around 8 p.m. with a gunshot wound to the leg. There are currently no suspects and the incident is under investigation.

March 2, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 37 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that Chicago is reporting its worst murder rate in almost 20 years. In February alone, the Chicago Police Department reported 43 murders, 165 shooting incidents and 187 shooting victims. The violence is concentrated mostly in neighborhoods on the city's south and west sides. Interim Police Superintendent John Escalante is blaming both gang activity and social media for the skyrocketing number of violent crimes. He said he's going to deploy nearly 100 newly-trained sergeants to increase officer supervision. At the same time, police say arrests for gun crimes and murder have risen by more than 40% compared to February of last year.

March 6, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 45 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that help for abused animals in Morgan and Scott Counties is now only a phone call away. Crimestoppers partnered with Protecting Animal Welfare Society, or PAWS, and Scott County dog rescue offer cash rewards for anyone providing information on animal abuse that leads to an arrest. Volunteers said the initiative is in response to a new Illinois law that aims to crack down on animal abuse, which includes pets being left outside in extreme weather. Jen Brainerd, Vice President of Morgan and Scott Counties Crimestoppers, said "Cash talks. I hate to say that, but it really does. But with it now being a misdemeanor and you're going to court, and you're going to be prosecuted, it's going to be an issue."

March 7, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

John Reger reported that an armed robber is on the loose, after holding up a store employee at gun point outside a Family Video. Police said the suspect is a 5'9" to 6' tall white male who was wearing a gray mask. If someone is attempting to rob you at gun point, police said do not try to retaliate and simply hand over your money. Lieutenant Chris Mueller said "if you have to exit a store late at night, enter and exit with somebody else if you can. Know your surroundings. Don't have your head down in your phone texting. Look around. See who's around you. Walk with confidence, and don't be a victim." As for businesses, Lieutenant Mueller said you can prevent robberies by having adequate lighting surrounding your facility, installing video cameras and making sure the camera's vision isn't blocked by any objects.

March 9, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that 37-year old Matthew Swisher has been charged with aggravated DUI and could face jail time, after killing a man in a crash last month. The single car accident happened near Pana on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Swisher lost control of the vehicle and it rolled several times. Swisher and his passenger, Kevin Thompson, were ejected from the vehicle. Thompson was pronounced dead at the scene.

March 15, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 43 seconds

Adam Rife reported that three Chicago police officers were shot on the job overnight on March 14<sup>th</sup> and a woman is being questioned in connection with the shootings. The shootings occurred on the city's west side as five police officers were investigating reported drug activity. According to officials, the officers observed two men acting suspiciously and decided to investigate further. That's when one of the suspects ran away while opening fire in the direction of the officers, hitting three of them multiple times. One of the officers fired back, killing the suspect. A spokesman for the Chicago Police Department said all of the officers were taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

March 16, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 23 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that Champaign police are investigating the death of a newborn found dead on the University of Illinois campus. Officers were called to Bousfield Hall on a report of a student in the bathroom for several hours. When police found the student, they found the body of a baby boy in her backpack. Investigations are on-going and police will decide if any criminal charges apply after the autopsy.

March 29, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 23 seconds

John Reger reported that police have identified the man they said is responsible for a deadly hit and run in Fayette County on March 28<sup>th</sup>. 31-year old Kevin Bagwill of Godfrey was cited for failure to report an accident and leaving the scene of a deadly accident. 30-year old Jason Hearty of Altamont was riding his bike on Route 40 near Saint Elmo when he was hit from behind. Hearty was pronounced dead at the scene.

**Economy**

January 6, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 40 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that there have been a lot of downtown businesses closing and the city continues to battle with the bigger issues of bringing people downtown. Mayor Jim Langfelder said he wants downtown to be the heart of Springfield and that increasing housing, which could start within the next year, could help bring in foot traffic.

January 7, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 30 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that Jacksonville won a \$25,000 grant to bring 10 free concerts to the downtown square. Jacksonville was 1 of 15 small to mid-sized towns selected to receive the award. The plan is to kick-off the concert series with the downtown celebration in May. Jacksonville was the only winner selected from Illinois.

January 8, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 30 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that J.C. Penney reported a nearly 4% increase in comparable-store sales during the holiday. The store focused on store label brands and improved its selection of gifts for the holidays. The company is expected to post annual revenue of 12.6 billion dollars for this fiscal year, which is up nearly 3% from the previous fiscal year.

January 10, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that today marked 194 days of the Illinois budget battle and passing a budget will be a top priority for lawmakers in the coming session. In the new session, ending the budget battle will take precedence over other key issues Illinois politicians hope to address in 2016.

January 14, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 24 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that home sales in Springfield are the best they've had since 2007. According to the Capital Area Association of Realtors, a little more than 3700 homes were sold in 2015, which is up 2% from 2014. The number of foreclosed

homes sold last year was also at its lowest in 5 years. The Realtors Association said that 2016 is expected to be another good year for real estate in Springfield.

January 19, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 32 seconds

Adam Rife reported that the Chinese economy is slowing down and the news is likely to affect stock markets around the world. China announced that its economy grew by 6.8% in the final quarter of 2015, with trade and consumer spending weakening during those three months. For all of 2015, the economy grew by 6.9%, which is the lowest level of growth in China in more than 25 years. The numbers were roughly in line with private sector forecasts and the communist party's official target of around 7% for 2015.

January 22, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 1 minute and 15 seconds

Akilah Davis reported that according to Springfield leaders, federal grants fund crucial services within the city. Those services, however, could soon be cut. Some of the federal grants coming are valued at more than 1 million dollars, and they could be cut by 93%. The city's economic development director said most of the money helps non-profits pay for city services, like paving driveways at SPARC. City leaders are considering adding a grant writer to suit the city's needs. Ward 10 Alderman Ralph Hanauer said "I do think a grant writer could be beneficial. Now is it more beneficial to go through a contractor to do it or a full-time employee? But I do think it's something that will benefit the city." Federal funding for economic development in Springfield has dropped over the last 7 years from more than 2 million dollars to just about 1.3 million dollars this year. The city council is set to vote later this year whether or not to add that grand coordinator.

January 26, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 55 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that the state is inching closer to the 8<sup>th</sup> month without a budget. The responsible budget coalition said it's time for Governor Rauner to be responsible and fix the situation. Donnie Lewis, a student advocate at Richland Community College, said that the college was forced to raise its tuition due to a lack of funding and 200 students lost their map grants. Lewis said funding colleges is not only going to help students but the state economy as well. Lewis said "our economy is going to continue to suffer unless we choose revenue to fund colleges and universities. With a strong higher education system, Illinois families will be able to earn more, our economy will grow at a faster rate and we'll attract business far and wide." The coalition

advocates said there are many different options on the table, including an income tax increase.

February 7, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 45 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that the Springfield Park District is looking for feedback on whether or not to lease a piece of property. There's a communication tower that's located on the east side of the train tracks adjacent to Iles Park and that tower needs to be moved to accommodate the new high speed rail. A national communication tower provider has suggested the tower be moved to a small portion of the undeveloped property just north of Iles Park.

February 19, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 1 minute and 15 seconds

Akilah Davis reported that one of the major points made in Governor Rauner's budget address was the need to expand the state's economy and a new study released by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce looks to see how Illinois' economy compares to other states. The report looks at a handful of areas the state needs to improve on. The study also compares how Illinois stacks up economically compared to other states. For the most part Illinois is ranked in the 40's, but when it comes to the state's economy improving, Illinois is ranked 37<sup>th</sup>. Governor Rauner has said that in order to stay competitive the state must maintain an average rank. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce agrees. Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch said "We don't simply want to get to 25; we want to get to the top 10." The chamber said the study was done to educate everyone on where their state sits. The chamber also said workers compensation reform is the main agenda item that could attract businesses.

March 8, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 36 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that Attorney General Lisa Madigan released the top consumer complaints she received in 2015. Madigan's office received thousands of complaints last year. The highest number of complaints involved consumer debt for the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Next on the list, identity theft, also for the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Madigan said the number of complaints coming in is rising. Madigan announced a lawsuit against a student loan relief operator "National Student Loan Rescue" based in the Chicago suburb of Lombard, accused of being a scam organization. The lawsuit alleges numerous violations of the Debt Settlement Consumer Protection Act.

March 23, 2016

## **Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 17 seconds

Adam Rife reported that the Taylorville City Council has voted unanimously to start charging late fees on the state's water bills from the prison. The state is about 7 months behind and owes Taylorville over \$250,000. The fees will be applied in the next billing cycle.

March 25, 2016

## **NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 55 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that CWLP is looking at tens of millions of dollars in savings with a new coal contract, but customers may not see their bills drop. CWLP said it would rather save the millions for future environmental upgrades. Chief Utility Engineer Doug Brown said the city could face up to 60 million dollars in changes to meet future standards statewide and federally. Ward 9 Alderman Jim Donelan said the utility had promised multiple times to use these savings for the customers, which had been projected at several dollars a month. Donelan said "Those funds are kind of locked up and then at the council's discretion we would have the ability to utilize them for capital improvements or rates, but I'm telling you right now, rate relief is number one on my agenda." CWLP is recommending the city to sign a contract with Arch Coal, but another coal company, Foresight Energy, is also vying for the contract.

## **Education**

January 15, 2016

### **Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 21 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that Springfield Ball Charter gave parents an inside look at the school. The school is currently accepting applications for next school year. Families had the chance to tour the school, meet the teachers and learn about the school's curriculum and program. Ball Charter's principal said there are benefits to the school that are not found in other schools.

January 15, 2016

### **NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

Brett Baldeck reported that a large percentage of schools across Illinois could see an increase in funding if the recommendation by the State Board of Education is approved by lawmakers. The proposal calls for 305 million dollars to be moved from the special education fund to general state aid. Districts with more low-income students would receive more money. The board said 77% of Illinois students would see increased aid. Local superintendents are skeptical the proposal will pass. In Sangamon

County, New Berlin and Pawnee schools would lose \$32,000-\$40,000 dollars per year under the new plan.

January 19, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

John Reger reported that Springfield city leaders are asking district 186 for its support of an extension of the downtown TIF district. Superintendent Jennifer Gill said the district receives four-hundred-sixty thousand dollars a year from the current system and that if the board agrees to the TIF being extended another 11 years, they would like the district to receive more money each year. Gill said “We’re happy to be a part of this conversation in a collaborative way because in our mind, a better community, a better economically-developed community draws in students and wants to keep them within our system. Just like I feel like I have some sort of responsibility for having a great school district to support that economic development.”

January 20, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

John Reger reported that five Illinois schools will receive more than 20 million dollars in federal grants to help improve student performance. The grants are aimed at helping the state’s lowest performing and neediest schools. They will provide invaluable support and resources and are essential to fostering continued academic growth and greater opportunities for all students.

January 21, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 30 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that the Jacksonville school board met for the first time since voting to end its relationship with the 8 points charter school. District leaders focused on what can be done for the 114 students who do not have a school lined up for next year. The school board voted last month to not renew its contract with the 8 points charter school per the superintendent’s recommendation. One of the reasons given was low test scores on state exams. Supporters of the charter school said it was an unfair assessment.

January 24, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that applications are now open for Springfield area high school students interested in participating in an exchange program with Ashikaga, Japan. The Sister Cities Association of Springfield is hosting two public information

sessions. Springfield has been a sister city to Ashikaga, Japan since 1990 and has been sponsoring student exchanges for 25 years. The program is an 11-day student exchange and includes school attendance, living with a Japanese family, tours of the historic sites and spending time with teens in Ashikaga. Carol Zerkle, of Sister Cities, said “it’s an oh my gosh experience. For all of them it’s an eye-opening experience. For some of them, it’s a life-changing experience.”

January 24, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 45 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that Representative Rodney Davis said the college bubble is bursting because of high student loans. Now, he wants lawmakers to start focusing less on high interest rates and more on the root of the problem. Davis said he’s introducing a bill that will do that and more for those drowning in college loan debt. Davis said “allowing employers to help new employees, recent grads, pay down their student debt, and do it without having to tax those employees at the end of the year.” Davis said the bill has received tremendous support and will be pushed to Congress this spring.

February 2, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 37 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that a new funding formula was at the forefront of the district 186 school board meeting. Board President Mike Zimmers asked parents, teachers and administrators to call lawmakers to urge support for a fair school funding formula. Zimmers said he is a big supporter of Andy Manar’s funding plan that would bring more money to the state’s neediest schools. Right now, districts across the state are only receiving a portion of what they’re owed and some schools upstate even have a funding surplus because of property taxes.

February 3, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that the ongoing budget crisis continues to take its tolls on universities. University of Illinois officials said they have been using tuition payments and cash reserves to maintain normalcy. They also asked academic departments to draw up plans for more cuts for the next school year. The cuts could result in fewer courses and larger class sizes in some departments.

February 4, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 45 seconds

John Reger reported that house speaker Michael Madigan is creating a panel to take a look at the way the state funds schools. The move comes as school funding is back in the spotlight after Senate President John Cullerton said he would like to see reform as part of a larger budget deal. In a statement, speaker Madigan said “the President’s commitment to fairly funding our schools and helping all students meet their full potential is one that I share, and I plan to work with him to achieve this goal while making sure that voices from across our state are heard and that all schools and programs are protected throughout the process.” The bipartisan panel will include lawmakers from Chicago, the suburbs and downstate to discuss the funding formula. The first meeting will take place at the Capitol in two weeks.

February 9, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 32 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that a higher education accrediting agency said that the state budget impasse could have significant consequences for public colleges and universities in Illinois. The higher learning commission issued a warning to Governor Rauner and members of the general assembly last week. It said that schools that have to suspend operations or close because of unavailable state funding could lose their accreditation if they don’t come up with plans for their students to continue elsewhere. The commission warned the lack of state funding puts the schools at risk and jeopardizes student’s futures.

February 11, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 30 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that Chicago public schools have cut millions of dollars from school budgets, forcing principals to refigure their plans with the second semester underway. The district cut 85 million dollars as it faces a 1.1 billion dollar budget deficit. District officials said to reduce the impact of the cuts, 41 million dollars in federal funds will be redirected to schools with high poverty levels and they will do everything possible to prevent layoffs.

February 16, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 1 minute

John Reger reported that as the budget impasse drags on, students have rallied almost every time lawmakers are in session, asking them to fund higher education. Right now, low income students who rely on state funded grants are not getting them. Weeks ago, democrats passed an appropriations bill for map grants. Senate President John Cullerton said he would give the Governor a couple of weeks to reconsider his veto threat. Senator Donnie Trotter said “it is prioritizing and we have to do that. What is important to the State of Illinois? What is important to those individuals that have

believed in the dream and believed the story that we told them, that if they get an education they'll do better? That if they can get an education, they'll be part of the solution about keeping Illinois strong and I think we have to live up to that." Governor Rauner hasn't changed his mind on that veto. He said that the democrats bill doesn't come with a funding mechanism so it's an empty promise to students.

February 23, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

John Reger reported that the Decatur school board has passed budget reduction recommendations totaling around 4 million dollars. The district is working to keep the reductions from affecting the classroom. Many reductions are coming from increased flexibility of federal title grants to cover costs. There are some staffing reductions based on enrollment changes. Other reductions include putting off technology upgrades. Superintendent Lisa Taylor said the budget impasse has made this process more difficult. Taylor said "This has been a difficult process and we've been going through budget reductions for years. The biggest challenge is the unknown revenue from the state of Illinois so we continue to really push our legislatures and anybody that we can to really make a decision on how schools are going to be funded." These changes will go into effect during next school year.

February 29, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 1 minute and 25 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that Superintendent Dr. Lance Thurman addressed board members, administrators, staff and parents in a state of the school address. He said the district is looking at between three-hundred and thirty thousand and three-hundred and fifty thousand dollars in personnel cuts next school year that would include a high school administrator, five full-time teachers and one part-time teacher. Middle school and high school art would be eliminated. Dr. Thurman said one-hundred and seventy three dollars was cut last year when changes were made to the district's personnel staff. If the proposed cuts are made, Dr. Thurman said there's nothing left the district could eliminate. If that state continues to not fully fund the district, Dr. Thurman said the schools would have to shut down by 2021. He said "There's nowhere else for us to go. I think one of the realities that all Illinois schools face is you can't cut your way to greatness, so as we have this rhetoric about schools being a priority and supporting schools and being behind it, you can't continue to cut and expect us to be the best in the world, the best in the country. It's just counter-intuitive." The district is also proposing increasing student fees for certain areas, like Driver's Ed. One parent in attendance said that he doesn't believe in student fees and that public schools should be 100% free.

March 2, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that Illinois State University officials said a data breach allowed someone to move payments of faculty and staff to another account. They said the breach appears to be limited to 13 school employees and it involved a total of about \$50,000. The university made sure the proper amount will be credited to the affected employees. The FBI and Illinois State Police are investigating the data breach. Similar crimes have occurred at five other Illinois universities.

March 9, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 34 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that district 186 Superintendent Jennifer Gill laid out a 5 year technology integration plan at the school board meeting. The district will buy new devices for the students, replace old devices already used by teachers and improve infrastructure in schools. The total cost over 5 years is 2.8 million dollars. According to the plan, the funding for technology and improvements is coming from what is currently budgeted in the education fund, so no additional funds are being requested for this plan.

March 11, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 34 seconds

Adam Rife reported that the SIU School of Medicine said that Governor Rauner's budget proposal could cause the school to lose almost 10 million dollars, forcing them to cut more than 100 jobs. Dean Jerry Kruse said 1 in 4 area doctors come from SIU, meaning Springfield could lose quality doctors. He also said this loss in funding would impact the quality of education, with top students looking elsewhere. SIU School of Medicine has already permanently cut 12% of their budget to prepare for reduced state support. Dean Kruse said layoffs will come much sooner if Illinois continues to operate without a budget.

March 13, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that spring break is officially here for UIS students; however, a group of students will spend their week off by helping to fight hunger and homelessness. 26 students and 2 staff members are taking part of the alternative spring break. The group left for New York City on March 12<sup>th</sup>. They will partner with the Youth Service Opportunities Program and volunteer at soup kitchens. Kendra Baber, Vice President of Alternative Spring Break, said "It gives us an opportunity to go out in different communities and kind of realize what's going on in the world; there's homelessness obviously in Springfield, but not on the same scale that there would be in

a big city like New York, so this gives people the opportunity to go out and widen their perspective while they are also helping people in other communities.”

March 14, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 29 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that University of Illinois students are looking into getting a new mascot. It has been nine years since the former mascot, Chief Illiniwek, retired. The student committee said it's time to see if students and the community are ready for a new mascot. Some students are still backing Chief Illiniwek saying he's a symbol and still a mascot at other schools. The U of I Chancellor said she's supportive of a new mascot, but it cannot contain Native American imagery.

March 14, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 29 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that the Riverton school district will have to cut six and a half teaching positions next fall due to the ongoing budget impasse. Riverton schools have not received 2 million dollars in funding. Programs like science technology, engineering and math could also be eliminated. Superintendent Lance Thurman said enrollment is also declining within the district. Thurman said classroom sizes will increase at the middle and high school levels. He said “This is really again because of what's happening with our enrollment because of our current situation with some restructuring in these two buildings. This is kind of a one-time opportunity to be more efficient so we will be pulling together tightening the belt so to speak but it's not hey we can go cut without significantly changing what we're offering to our students.”

March 23, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 1 minute

John Reger reported that the Williamsville school district has placed a teacher on administrative leave after allegations surfaced that she engaged in adult activities on a webcam. Numerous adult pictures and videos have surfaced on multiple websites depicting the teacher undressing herself and performing adult acts in a classroom setting. Superintendent Dave Root said in a statement it appears none of the alleged acts involved students and none were done on Williamsville school property. Root stated “We have a responsibility to make certain to the best of our ability that there are no major distractions or disruptions to the learning environment in our schools.” The Williamsville police department said the individual has not done anything illegal and the only investigation will be from the school district.

March 30, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that the Chicago Teacher Union released plans for a walkout on April 1<sup>st</sup>. CTU said union members will continue to picket at every school on every Friday until there's more attention to school funding and contract negotiations are met. 27,000 union members have worked without a new contract since June. Chicago is the nation's third largest school district with around 400,000 students.

## **Government**

January 2, 2016

### **NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 30 seconds

Jordan Abudeyyeh reported that Governor Bruce Rauner toured the Grand Tower in Southern Illinois to speak with those in the community. The Grand Tower had rising flood waters. Governor Rauner urged people to be vigilant and to heed evacuation orders.

January 6, 2016

### **NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that for the first time, both houses of Congress have approved legislation that would repeal Obamacare. The bill is designed to eliminate many of Obamacare's mandates, taxes and expenditures and redirect Planned Parenthood dollars to other clinics. President Obama has already promised to veto the bill.

January 13, 2016

### **NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 55 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that CWLP customers could be looking at a lower bill if a new coal contract is put in place, but it might only be a couple dollars per month. The number depends on how much the utility saves and how much energy you use. The city is in the process of deciding on whom to purchase coal from. They have purchased from Arch Coal in the past, but the company has filed for bankruptcy.

January 16, 2016

### **NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 51 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that Secretary of State John Kerry confirmed that Iran has complied with the nuclear deal. This means international sanctions against Iran will be lifted. Tehran will now have access to 100 billion dollars in assets that have been

frozen overseas as well as new opportunities in oil, trade and finance. Senator Dick Durbin released his statement on the deal, saying in part, “The Middle East is safer. Israel is safer. The world is safer because of this Iran nuclear agreement. Nevertheless, a non-nuclear Iran is still a threat to America’s interests and values. We can only hope that the spirit of this nuclear agreement will lead to the day when Iran becomes a nation we can trust and work with for positive goals. Until then we must be vigilant.”

January 18, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

John Reger reported that some Illinois lawmakers want to make it harder for police to prevent the release of videos. This is after the highly publicized dashcam footage of showing a white police officer fatally shooting a black teenager. A bill would have a judge be the first stop in determining whether videos should be released to the public instead of allowing agencies to make that determination. 20 states and the District of Columbia have laws addressing body cameras.

January 21, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 55 seconds

John Reger reported that a customer’s CWLP bill will include a way to help the homeless. Twice a year—in January and June—the utility includes an insert where the customer can make a one-time donation to “round up to end homelessness” or as the name suggests, you can have your bill rounded up to the nearest dollar. Each month, the money raised goes to homeless shelters in Springfield. The program raised \$16,000 last year. Juan Huerta, CWLP Director of Community Relations, said “ I think this is a good way for the city of Springfield to be compassionate and to help people in need. That’s the whole goal, to help the shelters. They’re working really hard to keep people from the cold, and we don’t want anybody to have any accidents or issues. It’s a good way to keep people safe.” You can also donate to the program online.

January 23, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that Jackson County is suing the state over unpaid bills. The Southern Illinois County wants to require payment of salary reimbursements which will pay for top government jobs. Last month, Governor Rauner signed a 3.1 billion dollar spending bill that freed up some state money.

January 26, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 23 seconds

Adam Rife reported that Governor Bruce Rauner announced he's combining all of the state's Information Technology functions into one department. It's now called the Department of Innovation and Technology. Governor Rauner said the move will save Illinois money and make it more efficient because it's only changing reporting relationships and management structure. Right now, the state spends 800 million dollars a year on IT systems.

February 4, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 37 seconds

Adam Rife reported that the Internal Revenue Service reported there was a hardware failure with a number of tax processing systems. The agency also said it is in the process of making repairs.

February 8, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 32 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that the state owes Springfield's two largest hospitals at least 76 million dollars for the care of state workers. The state has stopped paying medical bills for state employees because of the lack of a budget. Reports show Memorial Medical Center is owed about 46 million dollars from the state employee's health insurance program and HSHS St. John's is owed about 30 million dollars. MMC said they will not lay-off or downsize any programs that affect patients while they wait for payment.

February 8, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that the Obama Administration is ramping up the fight against Zika asking Congress for nearly 2 billion dollars in emergency funding to combat the spreading virus. The CDC said active transmission of the virus is taking place in over 30 countries. Vaccine development is already underway, with a phase-one trial expected to start by the end of summer, but it will likely take years for a widely available vaccine to be ready. Now, this 1.8 billion dollar request is separate from the fiscal year budget that President Obama will submit to Congress.

February 12, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 22 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that district 186 is not among the 29 Illinois schools that will get help financing building projects. The Illinois State Board of Education approved

several low-interest and zero-interest bonds to pay for construction and remodeling of schools. District 186 was one of nearly 200 applicants that applied for the money, but did not make the cut. The bond amounts range from \$670,000 to 50 million dollars.

February 16, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 1 minute

Akilah Davis reported that in order to qualify for medical marijuana in Illinois, you have to have a serious condition, but some sick patients are finding that their doctor won't write the prescription even if they have the disease. Hospitals have different policies when dealing with medical marijuana recommendations. For example, Memorial Medical Center doesn't allow its doctors to treat sick patients with medical marijuana. This causes major concerns for people like one Jacksonville woman who said she needs that kind of treatment. Erin Williams said "I was shocked when he said he couldn't since he's a qualified doctor. The hospital is telling him he doesn't know better. They know better. It's very unjust. It's unjust to him and patients like me." Illinois Department of Public Health spokesperson Melanie Arnold said a doctor needs to be treating that patient for his specific condition in order to make a recommendation for the medical marijuana pilot program but added that there are no requirements for how long the patient needs to see the doctor.

February 17, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

John Reger reported that Aldermen in Taylorville are sounding off about the correctional facility on Route 29 being 7 months late on their water bill. The prison owes the city more than a quarter of a million dollars. Aldermen have talked about cutting off the center's water and adding interest to the bill. Taylorville Mayor Greg Brotherson said the late payments are related to the ongoing budget impasse and he understands the Aldermen's frustrations.

February 20, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 27 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that Illinois is set to receive money to help homeowners still struggling from the great recession. The Chicago Sun-Times reported the nearly 115 million dollars will be in addition to the nearly 450 million dollars the federal government has given the state since 2010. The Illinois Housing Development Authority hasn't determined how to use the funds, but the treasury department must approve the state's plans. For example, money may be used to demolish home or help first-time home buyers.

February 22, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 28 seconds

Adam Rife reported that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a letter to manufacturers, importers and retailers of Hoverboards stating they will seize or recall any of the two wheeled scooters if they fail to meet federal safety standards. The government cited 52 reports of fires in 24 states that users say were caused by the self-balancing scooters. The fires reportedly led to 2 million dollars in property damage.

February 23, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 29 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that cameras are going to stay in Illinois courtrooms. The state Supreme Court announced it is ending the pilot program, in favor of a permanent policy for cameras in courts. That issue is still on hold in Sangamon County where the court is waiting for the state to approve its proposal, as well as finalize some of their logistical rules for the cameras. Sangamon County judges will still be able to decide on a case-by-case basis when to allow the cameras, and cameras would not be able to get video of jurors or minors.

February 27, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 47 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that future lawmakers are at the state house for the annual model Illinois government simulation. Nearly 300 students from more than 20 Illinois colleges simulated what it would be like to actually be involved in Illinois government process. Students took on the roles of legislatures, lobbyists and budget analysts, just to name a few. Students said the simulation teaches them more about the political process they may not learn in the classroom.

February 29, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 1 minute and 15 seconds

Akilah Davis reported that a proposed bill involving school buses is stirring up controversy over child safety. The legislation would allow school buses to drive on the shoulders of highways. This is a move that has some wondering about the safety of those riding the bus. It would be part of a 5 year pilot program. In areas that are heavily congested with traffic, this could help students get to school on time. Local superintendents said it isn't worth risking their lives. The bill would only allow busses to use the shoulder if there were children on board and if they were headed to or from a school related activity.

March 1, 2016

## **Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 33 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that lawmakers are back at work this week talking about pension reform. A few different plans have been introduced allowing retirees to choose a buyout for their pensions. The idea is retirees would get lump sums to do with as they please, while freeing the state from some pension burdens. Lawmakers are concerned about the education that would be needed for retirees taking the lump sum. Investing the money and getting a good return usually requires a professional. Retirees would have to put the money into a retirement account to avoid it being taxed.

March 10, 2016

## **Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 37 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that the budget stalemate continues at the state house. Governor Bruce Rauner laid out two different options in his budget address. First, asking for compromise on a mix of cuts and revenue increases, and the second, to give him power needed to balance the budget on his own. If lawmakers can't come to an agreement, the general assembly would have to give that power to the Governor, something they typically don't like to do. Senate republicans have introduced a plan called the Unbalanced Budget Response Act. A Senate committee debated the legislation, but didn't take a vote. Lawmakers got heated as the blame game for the current crisis continued.

March 14, 2016

## **NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 27 seconds

John Reger reported that a new spending plan from the Governor shows there's almost 200 million dollars' worth of backlog repairs at the state fairgrounds in Springfield and Duquoin. In Springfield, the Governor said that includes roof repairs on 15 buildings, roadwork throughout the fairgrounds and electrical system upgrades. A plan to pay for the repairs has not yet been approved. The Governor said that if the backlog continues, it will make it more difficult for the facilities to compete to host major events.

March 19, 2016

## **NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Jordan Abudayyeh reported that former Representative Aaron Schock's legal troubles are not over yet. A federal judge ordered Schock to provide 16 records into his spending. Schock must turn over documents related to a joint campaign fundraising committee he controlled, his travel and real estate investments and other personal business dealings.

March 21, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

John Reger reported that legislation has been introduced to the Senate to raise the age to buy tobacco products in the state of Illinois. If passed, the legal age would go from 18 to 21. The bill's sponsor hopes it will decrease the number of young people who start smoking, but the Illinois Retail Merchants Association said those affected would find other way to obtain tobacco products. A study by the Institute of Medicine estimated that raising the age to 21 would lead to a 25% reduction in smoking among 15 to 17 year olds and a 15% reduction in smoking in 18 to 20 year olds.

March 24, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 30 seconds

Stacey Skryszak reported that the state has collected nearly 1 billion dollars through settlements, fines and other penalties for 2015. The Attorney General's office said the sum includes Illinois' 22.5 million dollar share of Morgan Stanley's 3 billion dollar settlement from the 2008 financial crisis. Other contributions include over 600 million dollars in tobacco litigation and cases involving damage to state property. Their offices say over 400 million dollars went toward the state's pension system and the amount fluctuates per year, but 1 billion is the average amount per year of what is collected.

**Health and Wellness**

March 1, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

Stacey Skryszak reported that it was a great month for medical marijuana shops, as sales reached nearly 1.5 million dollars in February. Total retail sales are now over 4.4 million dollars since the program began. Registered dispensaries served more than 3,000 patients last month, and nearly 4800 patients have qualified for the program.

March 1, 2016

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Segment was 24 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that Hy-Vee has issued a voluntary recall on some blue cheese due to a possible listeria contamination. The product was labeled as "Maytag Blue Raw Milk", "Maytag Blue" or "Maytag Iowa Blue Cheese". The 'use by' dates are between January 20<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you have this blue cheese, you're asked to return it to the store. So far, no illnesses have been reported.

March 5, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that there's been an unusual jump in flu recently. This is causing Illinois hospitals to take action. In Chicago, hospitals are even restricting visitors to prevent spreading. The Illinois Department of Public Health said officials statewide are seeing the increase. Illinois flu usually peaks in January. Health experts said the spike may be due to the milder temperatures.

March 8, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that while still very early in the process, HCI alternative leaders said they are happy with the growth of medical marijuana patients. Right now, the dispensary has about 60 regular patients. Officials said they need anywhere from 400-600 just to pay the bills. They said one of the biggest roadblocks is getting local physicians to certify patients.

March 17, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Maggie Poteau reported that dough from Pizza Ranch restaurants across the country are reportedly the cause of thirteen E-Coli outbreaks. The Springfield Pizza Ranch is not affected by the outbreak, but other Illinois locations could be. The food and Drug Administration said all locations has discontinued using the dough as of February 6<sup>th</sup>.

March 18, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 24 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that Amazon is teaming up with Fitbit. Amazon's voice assistance device known as "Alexa" will now tell you how well you slept and how much more exercise you need.

March 28, 2016

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 55 seconds

John Reger reported that the Food and Drug Administration said pain killer abuse is an epidemic in the United States and they have a plan to stop it. The FDA proposed a set of regulations and is opening up the plan to suggestions for 60 days. The FDA is specifically targeting opioid pain killers like Codeine, OxyContin and Morphine. Abuse

of those drugs can lead to addiction or death. Pharmacists said the FDA wants to add chemicals to the drugs to negate the addictive properties, but still kill pain. Springfield Pharmacist Beaux Cole said “It will decrease the ability of that huge release of the drug and block those receptors to where you don’t get that high feeling, and so that is one of the ways they are trying to deter opioid abuse and overdose.”

### **Homeland Security**

- Various dates and times
- **PSA** aired 103 times
- **PSA** sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security

Informed, later communities play a critical role in keeping our nation safe. “If you see something, say something” engages the public in protecting our homeland through awareness. If there is an emergency, call 9-1-1.

### **Learning and Attention Issues**

- Various dates and times
- **PSA** aired 117 times
- **PSA** sponsored by Understood

This campaign hopes to educate viewers discover [www.understood.org](http://www.understood.org), which is a free resource created to empower parents or children with learning and attention issues. 1 in 5 children struggle with dyslexia, ADHD or learning and attention issues. Only 68% of kids with these issues will graduate with a high school diploma and 55% will have some involvement with the criminal justice system.

### **Type 2 Diabetes Prevention**

- Various dates and times
- **PSA** aired 107 times
- **PSA** sponsored by American Diabetes Association, American Medical Association and Centers for Disease Control

This campaign encourages people to learn their risk of type 2 diabetes by taking a short online test. 86 million people have prediabetes and almost 90% of them are unaware of it. Prediabetes can be reversed through weight loss, increased physical activity and diet changes.

### **Underage Drinking and Driving Prevention**

- Various dates and times
- **PSA** aired 10 times
- **PSA** sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

This campaign aims to remind young drivers that underage drinking and driving is the ultimate party foul. Young drivers are responsible for 10% of all impaired driving fatalities and 1 in 5 teens that are involved in fatal car accidents had been drinking.

