

**WAND-TV  
DECATUR, ILLINOIS  
ISSUES & PROGRAMS  
ASCERTAINMENT: PART 1  
FIRST QUARTER, 2024  
LICENSEE: WAND(TV) Partnership**

**WAND-TV HAS IDENTIFIED THE ISSUES FACING CENTRAL ILLINOIS DURING  
THIS QUARTER IN**

**THE LIST BELOW:**

- HEALTH**
- CRIME**
- FIRE, POLICE & PUBLIC WORKS**
- EDUCATION & YOUTH ISSUES**
- GOVERNMENT & POLITICS**
- HUMAN INTEREST**

**THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF PROGRAMMING  
THAT**

**PROVIDED THE MOST SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES  
DURING THE PAST**

**QUARTER. PROGRAMMING FREQUENTLY DEALS WITH MORE THAN ONE ISSUE.  
FOR MORE**

**INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE STATION DIRECTLY.**

**ASCERTAINMENT (2024) – (Q1)**

## HEALTH

- **Local business making Dry January easier (01/2/24, 1:49 TRT, 10 p.m.)**
  - As more research is done on alcohol consumption, experts say we are seeing more indicators that drinking is a growing health risk. The Wakery in Springfield is aiming to make it easier to become sober or just reduce alcohol consumption. They are the first non-alcoholic bar in central Illinois.
- **How to stay safe from frostbite and hypothermia this winter (01/15/24, 1:49 TRT, 4 p.m.)**
  - Temperatures continue to drop, and it's important to stay safe. Experts say there are many ways to avoid frostbite and hypothermia, such as avoiding alcohol and smoking.
- **Health experts offer snow shoveling tips in the heart of winter (01/15/24, :53 TRT, 6 a.m.)**
  - As central Illinois awaits winter weather, health experts are reminding people to be smart when it arrives. Clearing a driveway of snow and ice might sound simple, but it sends people to the emergency room — and even kills people — each year.
- **How to take control over seasonal affective disorder (02/1/24, 1:53 TRT, 6 a.m.)**
  - Winter months can trigger SAD, also known as seasonal affective disorder. However, things like alcohol and watching hours upon hours of TV can worsen symptoms.
- **New Illinois bills could remove barriers for infertility treatment (02/7/24, 1:09 TRT, 4 p.m.)**
  - Sponsors told reporters Wednesday that medical treatments for infertility have become increasingly expensive. Sen. Natalie Toro said insurance companies have prevented many women from accessing necessary care to start or grow a family.
- **DMH Laborist Program helps address gap in maternal health (02/7/24, 2:09 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - In 2023, Decatur Memorial Hospital became the only hospital in Decatur to do deliveries. DMH developed a laborist program, putting physicians in-house at all times, to take care of patients whenever there is an emergency.
- **Early pollen season may bring early misery (03/5/24, 2:06 TRT, 5 p.m.)**
  - A mild winter could mean an early start to allergy season. The itchy eyes and runny nose may not be that far away.
- **Illinois could ban prior authorization for mental health prescriptions helping Medicaid patients (03/7/24, 1:00 TRT, 4 p.m.)**
  - Gov. JB Pritzker announced last month that he wants Illinois to become the first state in the nation to ban prior authorization for in-patient adult and children's mental health care.
- **Illinois bill could create equitable health outcomes review board to address disparities (03/12/24, 1:03 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - A proposal moving in Springfield could require Illinois to establish data collection standards to save lives, promote equitable health outcomes and ensure quality healthcare for all.

## CRIME

- **Man arrested for three counts of animal cruelty (01/4/24, :20 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - A Decatur man was arrested and then later released under the Illinois Pretrial Fairness Act for cruel treatment after two puppies were found dead and a third found malnourished.
- **Man accused in Decatur apartment shooting pleads guilty to one charge (01/8/24, :53 TRT, 6 a.m.)**
  - Diontae Beacham was arrested for the shooting of a teen on East Center Street earlier this month. The shooting happened Sunday around 2 a.m. at an apartment complex in the 300 block of East Center.
- **Police: Man who stole vehicle and released under Pre-Trial Fairness Act immediately steals another car outside of jail (01/9/24, 2:24 TRT, 5 p.m.)**
  - As per the SAFE-T Act requirements, officers took him to the Morgan County Jail, processed him, issued him a citation, and released him.
- **One person shot near IN & OUT Convenience Store in Decatur (02/4/24, :20 TRT, 5 p.m.)**
  - WAND News saw a large police presence outside the store near Mound Rd. and Woodford St. Sunday. Police were called there at 10:44 a.m.
- **Coroner identifies person killed in Decatur shooting that shut down roads Wednesday morning (02/28/24, 2:14 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - The department does not believe this to be a random act of violence but rather a targeted shooting.
- **Champaign man arrested for First-Degree Murder in Danville homicide (02/29/24, :26 TRT, 4 p.m.)**
  - Danville Police officers were called to the 800 block of South St. Wednesday night at 7:30 for a report of people shooting. They found two men on the scene.
- **Illinois State Police confirm human remains found near I-55 in Springfield (03/13/24, :50 TRT, 4 p.m.)**
  - The death is being considered suspicious and an autopsy has been scheduled for Thursday.
- **Decatur PD: Armed robbery suspect dies after police shooting (03/18/24, 2:10 TRT, 10 p.m.)**
  - Police say that two officers shot Rocky L. Dupin, 38, when he pulled a firearm out of his pocket during a stop.

## **FIRE, POLICE AND PUBLIC WORKS**

- **Tax deductions for first responders (01/4/24, 1:54 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - Retired public safety employees can apply for a federal tax deduction of up to \$3,000. It applies to retirees who were firefighters, police, EMTs, corrections workers and some other positions.
- **Large investments made locally to research cancer in firefighters (01/10/24, 2:51 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) found cancer is the leading cause of death among firefighters, and research suggests firefighters are at higher risk of certain types of cancers when compared to the general public.
- **Local firefighters share struggles of fighting fires in winter (01/16/24, 1:49 TRT, 10 p.m.)**
  - Local fire departments say wind and below freezing temperatures are to blame for increased damages, because those factors make fighting fires more difficult.
- **The American Red Cross installing free smoke alarms in homes again this year (02/19/24, 1:47 TRT, 10 p.m.)**
  - They've already started looking for volunteers for next month's event. Last year, they installed over seven thousand smoke alarms with help from dozens of volunteers.
- **Crews called out for fire at Greenwood Manor Apartments in Decatur (02/21/24, :20 TRT, 10 p.m.)**
  - According to the department, no one was injured but families were displaced from two of the apartment units.
- **Harristown Fire Protection District hosting a table talk for firefighters across the state (03/4/24, 1:51 TRT, 10 p.m.)**
  - The four-hour event helped remind firefighters about the danger that comes with the job, and how they can better serve their community while avoiding it.
- **More details released about Mansfield home explosion that prompted school lockdown (03/22/24, :30 TRT, 10 p.m.)**
  - Mansfield Police told WAND News the fire department is investigating, but they believe the explosion was caused by some type of vapor.
- **Springfield ambulance providers speak up at council meeting (03/27/24, 1:18 TRT, 10 p.m.)**
  - His comments addressed the controversy regarding comments made by the fire fighters' union last week.
- **Crews called out for Decatur house fire (03/28/24, :15 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - The occupant said he thought the fire started behind a wood-burning stove he was using. The fire department said an investigation confirmed that to be true.
- **Danville house destroyed by fire, neighboring homes evacuated (03/28/24, :24 TRT, 5 p.m.)**
  - Firefighters had to pull back out of the home temporarily due to the high heat and smoke conditions. They re-entered and searched the second floor. No one was found inside the home.

## EDUCATION AND YOUTH ISSUES

- **Local financial aid resources available after FAFSA changes (01/10/24, 1:57 TRT, 5 p.m.)**
  - The first change is with tax documents. Instead of manually inserting numbers from the previous years' forms, you can now transfer your data exactly from the IRS.
- **DPS students sign beam for new school (01/19/24, 1:45 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - "They are leaving their legacy, so everyone will get the opportunity to sign this beam and they will always know that they are apart of history," said Dr. Rochelle Clark, Superintendent.
- **District 186 kicks off Real Men Read program (01/22/24, 1:47 TRT, 10 p.m.)**
  - With the Real Men Read program, male volunteers visit third grade classrooms and read books to students.
- **DPS holds community forum after recent fights (02/1/24, 3:22 TRT, 10 p.m.)**
  - This call stems from a recent fight inside Stephen Decatur Middle School that involved students as well as parents. A district employee told WAND News a parent used mace spray on students during the fight.
- **Decatur Public Schools launches program to connect with parents (02/13/24, 2:04 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - These changes come after several fights within DPS, including one where parents were involved. Dr. Clark said students missed crucial learning during COVID, including social-emotional skills like emotional regulation.
- **UIS School of Education awarded a \$145,000 grant to address teacher shortages (02/28/24, :54 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - The University of Illinois Springfield School of Education has been awarded a \$145,000 grant from Grow Your Own Teachers to develop a consortium aimed at addressing teacher shortages across Central Illinois.
- **Young engineers in the making at Eisenhower High School (03/4/24, 1:39 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - Fifth graders showcased their Rube Goldberg contraption completed with help from their classmates. Engineering in the Classroom had engineers visit the students for six weeks to help them with their projects.
- **Gies College of Business celebrates their ninth annual Signing Day (03/5/24, 1:39 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - The Director of Communications at Gies College of Business believes it's an important celebration for students because a lot of students don't get to experience moments like this.
- **A new exhibit at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum teaching children STEAM topics (03/25/24, 1:54 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - The Questioners Exhibit is helping children transition into Engineers, Architects and more at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

## GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

- **Ring in the new year with new laws in Illinois (01/1/24, 3:31 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - Illinois is the first state in the Midwest to guarantee paid time off for all workers. Employers are now required to provide workers up to 40 hours, or five days, of paid leave each year.
- **Illinois lawmakers stress school safety as top priority following Iowa school shooting (01/4/24, 1:45 TRT, 10 p.m.)**
  - A law that took effect Monday requires school emergency and crisis response plans to include procedures for law enforcement to quickly enter buildings during emergencies.
- **Carbondale Planned Parenthood clinic expands reproductive, gender-affirming healthcare (01/8/24, 1:25 TRT, 10 p.m.)**
  - Planned Parenthood leaders said the Carbondale facility provides in-clinic abortion, birth control, cancer screenings and STI testing.
- **Illinois lawmakers could cap monthly inhaler costs this spring (02/1/24, 2:02 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - A new plan in Springfield could cap the monthly out-of-pocket cost for inhalers. People struggling with asthma and other lung diseases could pay just \$25 for one prescription inhaler per month.
- **Proposals could create new regulations to protect Illinois kids using social media (02/7/24, 1:01 TRT, 5 p.m.)**
  - Rep. Sue Rezin (R-Morris) hopes Illinois can require high default privacy settings for online and social media companies where minors are reasonably likely to access services, products or features.
- **"This can never happen again": Lawmakers, advocates call for new funeral home regulations following Heinz investigation (02/8/24, 2:06 TRT, 5 p.m.)**
  - The Springfield Democrat wants to create an identification system for all human remains. Turner told reporters Thursday that her plan could also establish a chain of custody for families to know where their loved one is from death to burial or cremation.
- **Pritzker, Democratic lawmakers stress IVF treatment protected in Illinois (03/1/24, 2:11 TRT, 5 p.m.)**
  - The governor told reporters in Chicago this week that people from other states who want to have children using IVF should come to Illinois.
- **Illinois Dignity in Pay Act could eliminate sub-minimum wages despite GOP concerns (03/6/24, 1:07 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - Rep. Theresa Mah (D-Chicago) and many other lawmakers believe it is wrong that some people are paid as low as 50 cents per hour and make only \$100 per month.
- **Illinois bills could help reopen unsolved murder cases, provide transparent homicide data (03/11/24, 1:52 TRT, 5 p.m.)**
  - Buckner and other Democratic lawmakers hope to pass a plan allowing immediate family members to petition law enforcement to review unsolved murder cases after three years of inactivity.

## HUMAN INTEREST

- **"Grandma Flo" prepares to celebrate 90th birthday (1/15/24, 2:26 TRT, 6 a.m.)**
  - From cupcakes to cookies to pies, the sweets pile up at Coney McKane's. Each of them flows up from the basement — courtesy of the restaurant's no-so-secret weapon.
- **Lincoln Land Community College preparing students to staff local kitchens (01/25/24, 2:10 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - Each student designs a recipe, with budget and availability considerations in mind, and tests them to make sure they can be prepared on demand. Then, those dishes are added to the menu at Bistro Verde.
- **Bement siblings honored with lifesaving award (01/26/24, 2:04 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - According to first responders at the scene, the wind chill that day was between -7 and -12 degrees. They say the elderly neighbor was not properly dressed for the weather. The kids tried to help get the neighbor inside, but they couldn't. They then ran to look for help.
- **Local woman urgently seeks liver donor (02/4/24, 3:33 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - Kelly Springman was only 28 years old when she was diagnosed with fatty liver disease. A few years later, she was diagnosed with non-alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver. The complications have continued for her.
- **American Legion completes 90th annual pilgrimage to Lincoln's Tomb (02/12/24, 1:52 TRT, 5 p.m.)**
  - Post 32 has traveled to Lincoln's tomb for 90 years straight. This is a tradition that started in 1935.
- **Springfield woman distributes 1,500 PB&J sandwiches per week (02/15/24, 2:15 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - When the woman stopped bringing sandwiches, Smith took over, making a few dozen sandwiches to deliver. Now the program has expanded, and Smith distributes 1,500 sandwiches on a weekly basis.
- **Ameren builds Taylorville woman a new wheelchair ramp (03/24/24, 1:26 TRT, 10 p.m.)**
  - Volunteers say the work only takes one weekend, but it's worth it to see the smile on their customers face.
- **Third annual Prom Dress Giveaway underway in Champaign (03/26/24, 1:47 TRT, 6 p.m.)**
  - Mike Ingram has dedicated three years to helping families save money when searching for the perfect prom dress or suit. This year, he's back at it with his annual Prom Dress Giveaway.
- **Danville author of children's book hoping to persuade others to chase their dreams (03/30/24, :49 TRT, 10 p.m.)**
  - Erin Hoff is the author of Rejected, a children's book teaching kids the importance of being kind. Hoff decided to write the book because it's something she's always wanted to do.