

Withers Broadcasting
WDDD-FM, WVZA-FM, WTAO-FM, WHET-FM, WFRX-FM
Quarterly Issues/Programs List
3rd Quarter (July/August/September), 2017

Withers Broadcasting provides its listeners with programming and public service elements that address issues of concern to our local community. Among the issues determined to be of most concern during the preceding quarter were:

A) State:

-- The state passed their first budget in over two years, but not without controversy. Several Republican lawmakers voted in favor of the budget, which included personal and corporate tax increases. Even with a new budget, a mechanism for funding Illinois schools would remain unresolved until late August, when lawmakers approved a revised version of Senate Bill 1. Municipalities, social services, local schools and colleges received a much-needed infusion of cash, but the damage of having no budget for over two years was evident, and in some cases, remains to be seen.

B) Local

--The total solar eclipse event on August 21st provided hope for local tourism, especially in Carbondale (said to be the optimal viewing location for the event), and for local hotels, restaurants and campgrounds. A local winery, Walker's Bluff, also staged a four-day music festival called Moonstock, highlighted by an Ozzy Osbourne concert during the actual eclipse. Law enforcement warned residents of potential traffic issues, fuel shortages and crowds. Initial estimates of tens of thousands of eclipse-goers descending on the area did not materialize until the day of the event, creating the expected traffic crunch well into the night. Many were disappointed as they expected a greater economic impact. Plans are underway for the next total eclipse in 2024.

--SIU-Carbondale, the area's largest employer, began their new fall semester with a new chancellor, Carlo Montemagno, their first non-interim chancellor in nearly 3 years. Due to the state budget fallout, the school had to confront a loss in enrollment, job reductions and the elimination of some programs and services. SIU received significantly less money compared to the previous state budget. Montemagno is proposing an even greater consolidation of the school's programs to save money.

--Crime: In late July and August, both Carbondale and Herrin experienced a string of armed robberies involving two men wearing Halloween masks. Police in both cities have joined forces and are investigating the robberies to be related. Continued local drug enforcement, primarily in Franklin and Jackson Counties. Carbondale continued to experience a number of shootings. There have also been ongoing phone scams targeting Ameren customers, tax filers, veterans, and the elderly. Other high-profile crimes included the city treasurer of Zeigler being indicted after a subsequent FBI raid and investigation revealed he had stolen over 300-thousand dollars in city funds

--Traffic and accident reports: During the traditional road construction season, the area has experienced an increase in accidents, especially on and along Interstate 57, where there has been a 30% spike in incidents involving deaths and injuries. Long traffic delays and detours have become an all-too regular occurrence. Due to increased enforcement and safety checks, the Labor Day holiday weekend was the safest in the state in six years.

C) National

– In the aftermath of hurricanes in Texas and the Gulf Coast, Florida and Puerto Rico, we directed listeners to our websites and offered ways people could make donations to national and local charitable efforts for disaster relief.

These topics were primarily addressed in newscasts, live appearances and/or promotional announcements. Additional topics of local importance were covered in studio interviews and announcements detailed herein:

Date	Time	Topic	Length
7/25/17	7:40 AM	Trooper Joey Watson from the Illinois State Police, promoting Speed Awareness Day in Illinois	3:00
7/28/17	8:00AM	Murry Burger from Picker's Outlet to promote their Junk Fest flea market that supports the Williamson County Shrine Club's charitable efforts.	3:00
8/1/17	8:00AM	Officials from Priority Staffing and the Night's Shield Children's Shelter to talk about an annual school supply drive that assists neglected and abused children at the shelter	3:00
8/9/17	8:00AM	Tibretta Reiman, bureau chief from the DuQuoin State Fair to promote the grandstand lineup at the fair, ticketing policies and free entertainment options	3:00
8/16/17	8:00 AM	Tibretta Reiman, bureau chief from the DuQuoin State Fair to promote the grandstand lineup at the fair, ticketing policies and free entertainment options. We also discussed how Illinois State Police will establish a safety tent at the fair, with an armband system to help protect children and seniors on the fairgrounds.	3:00
8/31	7:30AM	Pastor Michael Nave from Cornerstone Church in Marion to talk about their "What is 9/10" campaign, referring to September 10 th , the date that they will open their second location, in the auditorium of Carbondale High School.	3:00
9/5/17	8:00AM	Tina Gibbs, communications officer from Ameren Illinois, to talk about recent scams involving false representatives demanding payment on the phone, and door-to-door scammers trying to collect payment or acquire personal information from customers	3:00

9/7/17	7:50AM	SIU assistant athletic director Jason Fairfield and director of ticketing Cristina Pisoni to talk about the SIU football home opener, the pre-game tailgate, and SIU's new gameday beer sales and policies.	3:00
9/8/17	7:30AM	Ed Davis, coordinator of Marion's annual Veterans on Parade, to talk about how people could participate in the parade, as well as how people could volunteer to assist parade officials.	3:00
9/8/17	8:50AM	Jennifer Vinyard from Hospice of Southern Illinois and Mark Prince from Prince Law Firm to talk about their Howl At The Moon dueling pianos show on October 13th	3:00

In addition, we posted additional listings of community activities and non-profit events on our websites and shared on social media, and regularly announced many of these events at our discretion during the broadcast day.