

Community Issues – 2nd Quarter

Crime

Crime remains a top concern with people living in the Decatur – Champaign – Springfield areas. High profile court cases like the Harris brothers’ murder trial were prominently featured; WAND provided up to the minute coverage of the trial via social media (Twitter, Facebook).

Government

Government issues played a huge role in our coverage during the second quarter. Pension reform (still unresolved), gay marriage, and concealed carry topped the legislature’s agenda. The governor called a special session in hopes of resolving the pension crisis, but it still remains unresolved.

Education

Spending cuts and consolidation topped the agenda for education in the 2nd Quarter. Meanwhile, three superintendents decided to move on. The Decatur, Champaign, and Springfield public school districts are looking for new leadership.

Economy & Jobs

Job growth improved in all areas except Decatur, where the rate remains in the double digits. Caterpillar announced a series of layoffs. WAND provided segments called “Hot Jobs” in an effort to steer the unemployed toward new job opportunities.

Health and Public Safety

Public safety issues primarily focused on preparing for severe weather. WAND also provided segments on “work outs that work” designed for people “on the go.”

Military

Memorial Day and July 4th fell in the second quarter; stories about veterans, veterans benefits, and veterans issues (PTSD, housing, employment) were featured on WAND.

Performing Arts & Charitable Events

Various benefits, concerts, and charitable events were featured on WAND. A number of events benefitted local schools and veterans.