



## **WRSP Local Issues/Programs List 2nd Quarter 2017**

**WRSP'S** programs and public service announcements provided information about the following issues of importance to the community during the 2nd Quarter of 2017:

- **Adoption from Foster Care**
- **Community**
- **Crime/Court**
- **Economy**
- **Education**
- **Government**
- **Health and Wellness**
- **Partnership for Drug-Free Kids**
- **Teacher Recruitment**
- **UNICEF**

Programs that provided coverage of these community issues:

### **Good Day Illinois—airs Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.**

WRSP airs a local morning newscast five days a week.

### **Fox News at 5:30 p.m.—airs Monday-Friday 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

WRSP airs a local newscast seven 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.

## **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 2nd quarter of 2017 are listed in this report.

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

### **Community**

April 4, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 40 seconds

John Reger reported that Lincoln Land Community College raised awareness about sexual assault. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Day of Action” was hosted by the LLCC Sexual Assault and Violence Education Task Force. One of the events featured a “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” themed fashion show featuring men in high heels to show support for victims. The event also featured educational presentations of sexual violence and how you can help. Program Assistant of Student Success Shelby Bedford said “The educational materials focus primarily on bystander prevention and how you can intervene when something is going on and how to notice if something is going on that you need to intervene in.”

April 8, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that community members from the University of Illinois and Champaign County gathered at Memorial Stadium to help fight hunger. The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual campus and community day of service attracted more than 1500 volunteers. Those volunteers packed about 150,000 meals for the Eastern Illinois Foodbank. Organizers said the event will help those who need it and not make them choose between food and other necessities.

April 19, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 34 seconds

Adam Rife reported that Springfield city leaders are voicing their opposition to proposed budget cuts by President Trump. Trump is proposing to cut “community development block grants”, which are federal funds that go to local governments. In a unanimous vote, the council approved a resolution that will be sent to congressional representatives making their opposition known. Springfield receives about one-million-dollars a year through the grants. The money goes towards helping low-income residents, disabled citizens, youth and homeless people in the city.

April 20, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that poets can now send in their entries for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Illinois Emerging Writers completion. The statewide competition is open to anyone over the age of 18. The winner will get a cash prize of \$500. The deadline for entries is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

May 5, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 1 minute and 5 seconds

Akilah Davis reported that a local women's group, the Women for Women Initiative, awarded a total of \$40,000 to Compass for Kids, Girls on the Run and The Parent Place. The Women for Women Initiative is part of the community foundation for the Land of Lincoln. Each active member pledges to give \$1,000 a year, which in turn is given back to the community. The donations this year will cover summer camp for 20 homeless elementary students in Springfield, buy updated manuals for Girls on the Run and expand the nurturing mother's education and support group.

May 15, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 26 seconds

Adam Rife reported that the Macon County Sheriff's office received a \$357,000 donation for new vehicles and equipment. The donation came from the Howard Buffet Foundation. Howard Buffet is the son of Billionaire Warren Buffet and is a Decatur resident and has served as an auxiliary deputy for the sheriff's office since 2012.

May 22, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

John Reger reported that AMC Showplace 12 in Springfield is currently undergoing renovations to make it a new IMAX movie theatre. The Springfield Department of Public Works approved a building permit for a 4,000 square foot remodel of auditorium 8 to turn it to an IMAX capable auditorium.

May 24, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 53 seconds

Adam Rife reported that local firefighters can now add birthing aid to their expanding list of skills. Nurses from HSHS St. John's Hospital visited the Springfield

Fire Department where they taught firefighters how to deliver babies. It started with a lecture, informing crews what to do to ensure a healthy baby. Firefighters then received hands-on experience practicing giving newborns CPR. They even used a mannequin to rehearse assistance in labor and delivery. Bob Marfell, Division Chief of Training and Education for Springfield Fire Department, said “Pediatric care makes all of us very nervous. We deal with adults fine but when you put them in little bodies the stress level goes up dramatically and we’re just trying to become more familiar and this is probably the most extreme.”

May 31, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that Springfield’s electronic recycling drop off program begins June 5<sup>th</sup> and runs until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Electronics can be dropped off at BLH Computers, located at 1832 Stevenson Drive in Springfield.

June 5, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 27 seconds

Adam Rife reported that Springfield’s youth is responding to the recent gun violence with an anti-violence movement, called the “off-limits challenge.” The challenge encourages youth to keep drugs, gang activity and violence off limits. It started as a video by 12-year-old Cameron Davis that quickly went viral. Parents said they are proud of their children for joining the cause.

June 12, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 44 seconds

Adam Rife reported that around 400 people walked to defeat ALS at Southwind Park. City officials attended and there were also kid zones and activity centers. Organizers said the walk is the best way to empower yourself and to support those who are still fighting the disease. Organizers reached about 80% of their \$160,000 goal. They will continue to take donations for the next few months.

June 16, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that Robin Hood Foundation, a longtime running charity organization out of Danville, is facing legal issues with its name. The foundation is known in Danville for taking donated household items and distributing them to low-income families. The founder of the organization, Greg Miller, received a letter from an attorney for Robin Hood Foundation in New York. The New York foundation said they

have exclusive rights over the name and demand Miller change the name. Greg Miller, Executive Director of the Robin Hood Foundation, said “The message will always be the same but just getting the community to know who we are. We don’t want to get lost in the shuffle but we need to make our move now while we’re still seasonal so it’ll be in everybody’s mindset that ‘hey, that used to be Robin Hood, let’s give to him.” Miller is in search of an attorney in the area but said he’ll cooperate with a name change. He asked the community to send him ideas for a new name.

June 20, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 33 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that CrimeStoppers is offering the largest reward ever established by the organization. A \$40,000 reward is being offered for any tips leading to an arrest in the case of missing University of Illinois scholar Ying-Ying Zhang. This is in addition to the reward the FBI being offered by the FBI. Zhang was last seen getting into a black Saturn Astra on June 9<sup>th</sup>. While investigators are following up on their own leads, any information offered up by the public could be the clue that helps authorities find her.

June 27, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

John Reger reported that around 60 high school students got an inside look at a career in nursing. The Memorial Center for Learning and Innovation hosted a “Teens Experiencing Nursing” camp. Students had hands-on experience in skills training and simulations. They also shadowed nursing staff throughout the hospital.

## **Crime and Court**

April 3, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that Thomas Small, who was accused of murdering his wife nearly 40 years ago plead not guilty. Small was arrested in March in connection with the 1980 murder. Small is accused of killing his wife Diane in their home in Kankakee County, then dumping her dismembered body in a river in Coles County. Small is charged with two counts of murder and one count of concealing a homicide. He is being held on a 2-million-dollar bond.

April 7, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that 21-year-old Lindsay Johnson plead guilty to felony endangering the life or health of a child. Johnson was sentenced to 10 years in prison in connection with her newborn's death. Authorities said she suffocated her baby son in March of 2016, after giving birth in a residence hall bathroom. Officers found her wearing a backpack with her deceased newborn son inside.

April 9, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 1 minute and 2 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that Springfield police said two juvenile females allegedly broke into Kumler Outreach Ministries and have been caught. Police don't think the vandalism was religiously motivated. Members of the church said it helps provide food to more than one-thousand people a month. A lot of damage done was with donated food. Sharon Brown, Executive Director, said "Then again we are asking ourselves why, but we're relieved no one was hurt and there wasn't more damage and as far as we can tell nothing was taken."

April 13, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

John Reger reported that a Decatur IHOP Manager, 26-year-old Jason White, was arrested on April 9<sup>th</sup> and charged as an armed, habitual criminal and aggravated discharge of a firearm after firing a gun in the restaurant after an argument between customers and other IHOP staff.

April 17, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 29 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that 18-year-old Ashley White and 20-year-old Joseph Moore were arrested authorities found three pounds of marijuana and a firearm during a traffic stop in Litchfield. White and Moore were charged with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and possession of cannabis. Moore was also charged with possession of a weapon by a felon and the manufacture or delivery of cannabis.

April 27, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that two house fires in Springfield are under investigation for arson. The fire department responded to a house fire in Twin Lakes

subdivision and after that fire was extinguished, another house fire was discovered. The Springfield Fire Department believes these two fires were not random acts.

April 28, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 31 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that 27-year-old John Becker, Jr., 28-year-old Crystal Kline and 35-year-old Angel Chaffin are facing Class X felonies for alleged meth manufacturing. Police said when they searched the home in the 200 block of South David Street, they found a significant amount of meth paraphernalia, including more than 400 grams of suspected meth, along with two four-year-old boys. All three suspects could face up to 30 years in prison.

May 3, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 33 seconds

John Reger reported that 56-year-old Charles Hill of Decatur faces Class X felony charges for allegedly kidnapping a woman and torturing her until she revealed the location of drugs. The other suspect, 36-year-old Demariel Cunningham, was arrested April 24<sup>th</sup>. The 29-year-old woman said she was held against her will in a Decatur home, tortured with a hot metal object, hit with a baseball bat and kicked in the face. She said the two men were looking for crack cocaine. Both men now face two counts of aggravated kidnapping and two counts of aggravated battery.

May 10, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 45 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that police are looking for 30-year-old Antonia Andrews. Andrews crashed into the McDonald's at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and South Grand Avenue on May 6<sup>th</sup>. No one inside was hurt. Andrews faces charges of reckless driving and criminal damage to property over \$10,000.

May 23, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 21 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that 55-year-old Brian Ferguson was officially charged with home invasion and arson. Ferguson set a Pana house on fire and threatened to cut the person inside. Ferguson's bond was set for \$250,000. If he is released on bond, he has been ordered not to contact the victim.

May 25, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that lawyers for former House Speaker Dennis Hastert are seeking a settlement with one of his sexual abuse victims. A lawsuit was filed over a broken 3.5-million-dollar “hush money pact.” Now lawyers for Hastert are asking the victim’s lawyer to name a settlement price. Hastert is serving a 15-month sentence for violating bank withdrawal and reporting requirements. He is due for parole in August.

June 1, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 54 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that Springfield police are still searching for the gunmen who killed a 28-year-old pregnant woman. According to police, Sheena Malone was shot in the torso near 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Ash Street on May 30<sup>th</sup>. She died about an hour later and her baby was delivered by emergency c-section. Police are looking for a dark skinned man with a short haircut and the car is a purple or dark maroon four door sedan. Police said the shooting is likely related to rival groups tied to other shootings in the area. Springfield Police Officer Mike Badger said “We definitely believe this was a targeted shooting and this individual was not the target. I think they hit the wrong person. We believe it’s related to other shootings that have occurred in the area recently.” Police said that there was likely a driver and passenger in the suspect’s vehicle, and the passenger likely pulled the trigger. Anyone with information is asked to call the police or CrimeStoppers.

June 2, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 23 seconds

Adam Rife reported that Decatur police made an arrest in connection with the shooting on May 28<sup>th</sup>. 24-year-old Gavarius Carney was taken into custody. The 37-year-old victim was shot at multiple times and suffered non-life threatening injuries. Carney is facing charges of attempted murder, aggravated battery with a firearm and possession of a weapon by a felon.

June 19, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that 23-year-old Decarlos Johnson-Foston is accused of stomping a kitten to death because he wasn’t allowed to bring it on a train. Johnson-Foston was at a Belleville Metrolink station on June 16<sup>th</sup> when a security guard told him that the kitten wasn’t allowed on the train. That’s when he allegedly slammed it to the ground and stomped on its head. After that, he took off on a bus. While on the bus, police said he stole a wallet. He’s facing animal cruelty charges.

June 22, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that Joseph Pickett, of Edwardsville, was charged with threatening President Trump after he knowingly and willfully made a threat to take the life of, kidnap and inflict bodily harm against Trump on Facebook.

June 30, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

Adam Rife reported that 18-year-old Dillan Desilva was charged with involuntary manslaughter after another 18-year-old male died after the two were in a fight. Desilva faces 2 to 5 years in prison and is being held on a \$500,000 bond.

## **Economy**

April 6, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

Adam Rife reported that lawmakers continue to push for a minimum wage increase in Illinois. With a House bill that passed out of committee, the measure would increase minimum wage in Illinois to \$15 per hour over a four-year period. Small businesses that have fewer than 50 employees would be eligible for an income tax credit from the state. It would not include employees under the age of 18 or employees making tipped wages. Representative Will Guzzardi said "Employee compensation is the lowest it's been since the 1950's. There's a profound imbalance in the American economy right now. Workers are getting less, they're working longer, and they're strapping to get by." The Senate grand bargain included a minimum wage bill, but failed to gain support. Other minimum wage bills that have been introduced in the past stalled. This bill moves on to its third reading.

April 19, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 43 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that the Illinois Small Business Development Center, or SBDC, announced how they will give professional advising on International Trade and Exporting. The goal is to help companies succeed as a team, instead of individually. Ryan McCrady, President of SBDC, said "SO if we can build the overall economy, then we can build all the communities. Instead of fighting over pieces of the pie, growing the pie larger by sharing assets and unique capabilities of each of the communities." The new resources are provided at no cost to the business owner.

April 21, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 54 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that the "15 for Illinois Future" tour made a stop in Springfield. The event was part of a statewide press tour to raise awareness about a House bill that would raise Illinois' minimum wage incrementally over the next five years, reaching \$15 per hour by 2022. The bill's sponsor, Representative Will Guzzardi, said that more than 40% of the Illinois' workforce makes less than \$15 per hour and he wants to see that changed. Guzzardi said "You just can't get by on that kind of a wage in this state. I mean, making \$10-\$11 an hour, even if you're working full-time while trying to provide for a family and raise children, these wages are simply inadequate, and people are working as hard as they possibly can and they still can't get ahead." Guzzardi also said that raising the minimum wage would inject billions of dollars into the state's economy. The bill is currently waiting on a vote in the Illinois House.

May 3, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that Norb Andy's is being closed indefinitely. The downtown bar reopened last summer after closing for a few months. Owners said that it is closing for good due to lack of money coming in.

May 8, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 27 seconds

John Reger reported that Sinclair Broadcast Group announced they have purchased Tribune Media. The nearly four-billion-dollar deal adds 42 Tribune stations to Sinclair, which will now own or operate more than 200 stations nationwide. Sinclair is now the largest owner of local television stations in the country.

May 12, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 36 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that Congressman Darin LaHood plans to boost local business. LaHood said cutting taxes is key to helping businesses grow, create more jobs and increase the minimum wage. He also said the Obama Administration set too many restrictions and regulations, and business owners want a change. LaHood said "We all want clean air and clean water, but we want some reasonableness with how we deal with regulations and make sure they go through the legislative process so that both sides can have a fair hearing before we implement a regulation and frankly that's what

I've heard today." LaHood also said the United States need free and open trade to strengthen our economy.

May 19, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 28 seconds

John Reger reported that unemployment rates in Illinois are down but the Illinois Department of Security said the drop is due to a shrinking labor force. Officials said March job growth numbers were revised to show a drop of 7700 jobs. April's monthly payroll drop kept over-the-year job growth well below the national average.

May 29, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 1 minute

Dee Dee Gatton reported that Dr. Alfred Klinger, a 91-year-old World War II veteran spent his Memorial Day marching for a change. Klinger joined dozens of others on a 200 mile walk from Chicago to Springfield. The Marchers started their journey 2 weeks ago, walking through rain and heat. The marchers had one agenda in mind—a "People and Planet First" budget. It would raise about 23-billion-dollars by closing corporate tax loopholes, passing a transaction tax on LaSalle Street trades and making the wealthy pay a higher income tax. Klinger said "It is important that all of us stay active, because you heard them, this is what democracy looks like." Samantha Nichols, of Fair Economy Illinois, said "It's emotionally overwhelming, to put so much of our hearts and souls into something. I think that's what our communities can be, I think that's what our governments should be fostering and that's why we're marching."

May 30, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that a bill to increase Illinois' minimum wage to \$15 per hour passed the House. The minimum wage would increase over the next five years and eventually reach \$15 per hour by 2022. The wage increase would not include employees under the age of 18 or employees making tipped wages. Small businesses who have less than 50 employees would be eligible for an income tax credit. The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

June 5, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that according to a new report from Credit Suisse, at least 1 out of every 5 shopping malls in the U.S. will go out of business in the next five years. The report estimates that around 8600 stores will close this year alone, and

between 20%-25% of American malls will close within five years. The report stated that as malls close, online sales will increase from 17% to 35% by 2030.

June 14, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 26 seconds

Adam Rife reported that Sears Holding Corporation is expected to lay off 400 employees, which means they will no longer qualify for tax breaks in Illinois. Sears is headquartered in the Chicago suburb of Hoffman Estates. The retailer was granted a 10-year, 15-million-dollar a year tax break in 2011 provided they invested back in the state. Right now Sears is below the minimum number of employees needed to maintain the edge tax breaks.

June 28, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 30 seconds

Adam Rife reported that analysts are predicting the new iPhone 8 will smash the record set by the iPhone 6 and sell over 240-million-phones in the first year. Apple hasn't made significant changes to the iPhone in three years and sales reflected that as consumers waited for the revamped phone. Updates to voice assist Siri, augmented reality and artificial intelligence could draw in more buyers and shoot Apple to the top spot of smartphone sellers in the world.

## **Education**

April 1, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 30 seconds

Lindsey Hess reported that Richland Community College is laying off more staff due to declining enrollment, as well as a lack of state funding. The Herald and Review reported that 18 employees will be laid off. The college has already eliminated five administrative positions, and more than two dozen staff members took buyouts. The layoffs are part of an effort to cut the college's budget by 1.4-million-dollars this fiscal year. The college has not received any of the 2.2-million-dollars its owed by the state.

April 4, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 21 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that the University of Illinois at Springfield named a new Dean of the College of Public Affairs. Robert Smith previously served as the Dean of

the College of Liberal arts at Savannah State University, and chair of the Political Science Department at Kennesaw State University. Smith is scheduled to start on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

April 7, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that University of Illinois at Springfield picked a new Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Claire Ford will take over the role, pending a formal approval by the Board of Trustees. Ford brings more than 20 years of professional experience in student affairs.

April 10, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Adam Rife reported that the University of Illinois has a new federal lobbyist. Paul Weinberger was named the Director of Federal Relations. Weinberger will earn \$170,000 per year and be based in Washington, D.C. Formal approval by the university's Board of Trustees is expected in May, although Weinberger is already on the job.

April 12, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 40 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that the state's school funding formula could soon change. New legislation is expected to create a new foundation for funding schools. If Senator Jason Barickman's proposal passes, the new model would be based on how each district works. It would also set a priority for schools that need the most money.

April 14, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 44 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that Lincoln Land Community College is developing a Cyber-Security program with the \$2,000 in grant money they received from the National Science Foundation. Local businesses said that the demand for cyber-security employees is growing as more people are buying online. The goal is to help students with some experience to move through the program more quickly. Dr. Wendy Howerter, Assistant Vice-President, Academic Innovation and Effectiveness, said "Students who have foundation already in computer networking or software can potentially move through the curriculum a little faster and be done quicker. But it does start at the entry level so those without experience can start in the program." The college expects the program to be available in the fall of 2018.

April 18, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that Moody's Investors Service said some Illinois universities are in danger of credit downgrades. The company has already downgraded Northeastern Illinois University's credit to below junk status. Moody's cited "weakened cash flow," partially due to the budget impasse. Moody's will review six other universities over the next 90 days.

April 24, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that Eastern Illinois University has a plan to combat a recent drop in enrollment. The university enrollment declined from 8500 students in the fall of 2015 to fewer than 6700 students in the spring. EIU said they plan to boost marketing campaigns, social media outreach and events. School officials said the state's economic and political issues have resulted in fewer students wanting to attend college in Illinois.

May 1, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that University of Illinois at Springfield faculty members are going on strike. The union that represents them called for a strike after no agreement was made during a bargaining session. A statement from UIS said "This is disappointing, but progress is being made in negotiations and our campus will carry on in pursuit of our core mission. The two sides have been working on a contract for over 20 months.

May 9, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 17 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that fraternities at the University of Illinois are now required to train members on preventing sexual assault. Each chapter will have to teach members about bystander intervention, along with two sexual assault prevention programs that the students are already required to take.

May 26, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

John Reger reported that the “Civil War Tech” program combines science and history to teach kids about the technologies used during the Civil War. 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Springfield Christian School re-enacted a battle, built and tested their own ships and even learned how to de-code and send telegraphs written in Morse code.

May 30, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 26 seconds

Matt Witkos reported that top school officials are pushing lawmakers to pass a budget which will fully fund schools. A coalition of 440 superintendents said the state owes them more than 1-billion-dollars and that money is crucial for their special education and transportation programs.

May 31, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 1 minute and 15 seconds

Jaclyn Driscoll reported that superintendents from across the state gathered at the state capitol to urge lawmakers to pass a budget for the students of Illinois. The state currently owes Illinois public schools more than 1-billion-dollars for this year alone. The funding is for special programs like special education and transportation. The superintendents said passing a budget is more than just a duty, it's a moral obligation to fund the future of the state, to invest in students. Though District 186 have not had budget cuts since 2014, superintendent Jennifer Gill said it's getting harder to operate efficiently and effectively for students every day that passes without a state budget. Gill said “We've been doing quite a large facilities study and we know that we're going to need 98-million-dollars over the next 10 years just to maintain the status of our building with regular lifecycle costs. Right now, with no budget, with no extra funding through a new funding formula, we have no way to really think about how to pay for those things unless we go and ask the tax payers.” Using the hashtag #passILbudget and fix that formula, hundreds of superintendents, principals, and parents have chimed in, urging Governor Rauner and the General Assembly to properly fund education in Illinois.

June 6, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 37 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that the state's budget impasse continues to impact education. Springfield District 186 will now start paying for a service that the state previously covered earlier this year. Local hospitals announced they will stop providing athletic trainers for area high schools. The hospitals can no longer offer those because of the millions of dollars in unpaid bills by the state. District 186 board members approved a one-year contract with Springfield Clinic to bring in three athletic trainers—one at each of the district's high schools.

June 19, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 43 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that Jennifer Gill, District 186 Superintendent, delivered a drastic warning at the school board meeting. Gill told the school board that unless lawmakers and Governor Rauner approves an education budget by December, the district would deplete its cash reserves and be forced to close schools. Gill said it's time to reach out to legislators. She said "Having bipartisan support and then coming together is what we are calling for to make sure we pass the budget, make sure we look and consider school funding options and also so that we can think about paying that categorical debt that they owe us."

June 26, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that the Illinois State Board of Education is proposing a new timeline for a law to help students pass state exams. The "Every Student Succeeds Act" wants 90% of students to pass state math and reading exams by 2032. The board previously aimed for 100% by 2014.

June 28, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that a new law allows bible courses to be taught in Kentucky public schools. Critics are keeping a close eye to make sure teachers don't turn the classroom into practice grounds for what they preach on Sundays. The bill gives local school boards the option of developing a bible literacy class as part of their social studies curriculum.

June 29, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 42 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that some state universities are in danger of losing their accreditation if the budget crisis continues. The Higher Learning Commission sent a letter to lawmakers saying the impasse has led to increased tuition and delays in financial aid grants and staff reductions. They said the diminished cash reserves will hurt students and make it harder to hire qualified professors. Southern Illinois University's President said that if lost, it could take years to regain that accreditation. Randy Dunn, SIU President, said "This is a high stakes game that we're entering into right now. With a federal accreditation comes the ability to offer federal financial aid. This is a make or break situation for my institution."

## **Government**

April 3, 2017

### **Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 25 seconds

Adam Rife reported that lawmakers are trying to change what information is on a high school transcript. Current Illinois law requires high school transcripts to include a student's SAT score, but some parents are looking to get that score removed from their child's transcript. A new bill that passed the Senate would allow parents to remove the score from a transcript. Parents said students should have more control over what information a college receives when they apply for admission. Students who retake the SAT test could send an updated score to colleges.

April 5, 2017

### **Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 58 seconds

Adam Rife reported that the Illinois State Supreme Court denied Governor Rauner's request to bypass a lower court and take up his case for imposing pay and working conditions on AFSCME members. Rauner and the state's largest public employee union have been at odds over contract negotiations. The state labor ruling last fall found negotiations were at an impasse, meaning Governor Rauner could impose his terms and the union could strike. But AFSCME sued, and on appeal, the court barred Rauner from taking action until it decides the merits of the case. The case now returns to the 4<sup>th</sup> District Appellate Court. AFSCME released a statement regarding the decision and said "Governor Rauner should stop wasting time and money on costly court fights, and instead do his own job, working constructively to find common ground." The Rauner Administration saying "It is regrettable that AFSCME is continuously resisting every attempt for quick resolution and wants to continue dragging this out in the courts."

April 6, 2017

### **NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 32 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that legislation in the House could change the type of smoke detectors we use. The bill would require Illinois residents to use smoke detectors with a long-term battery. Right now batteries have to be changed every year. Chris Richmond, Springfield Fire Marshall, said "We've installed nearly 1500 of these model smoke alarms in the last 18 months alone here in Springfield and over 900 residences here in Springfield." If the bill becomes law, there would be a five-year grace period to change over the new device.

April 13, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 27 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that some Illinois lawmakers are pushing to legalize recreational marijuana. Supporters of the new bill said it's not a question of if it happens, but when. Law enforcement said that if the bill passes, it won't change things for them because they don't target "small amount users." The sponsors of the bills said that legalizing recreational marijuana could generate up to 700-million-dollars in tax revenue for the state.

May 3, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that a new bill to protect online privacy could get voted on. The "Right to Know" Act would require online companies to identify what private information they are collecting online. They would also have to let you know what information they sold to third parties.

May 11, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan is calling for an independent investigation into potential Russian interference in the 2016 election. In a letter to the Deputy Attorney General, Madigan and other top officials said Comey's firing during the investigation was "violation of public trust." The group said that appointing an independent counsel will start restoring public confidence in the investigation.

May 13, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 29 seconds

Esther Kwon reported that the fallout from President Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey continues. Politicians in Washington are divided over the issue, with some coming to President Trump's defense, while others are calling for a special prosecutor to investigate Russian ties to Trump's 2016 election campaign. President Trump is trying to shift the focus back to potential contenders to become the new FBI Director.

May 16, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 23 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that a bill that would allowed taxpayer funds to be used for election campaigns has passed the Senate on its second vote. Public funds would match donations of \$25 to \$150 made to candidates. The sponsor, Senator Daniel Biss, said the bill would make elections fairer for candidates without individual wealth.

May 25, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 40 seconds

Adam Rife reported that CWLP said Illinois owes nearly 3.5-million-dollars in unpaid utility bills for buildings in Springfield. This is the second time this has happened since the budget impasse began nearly three years ago. Last summer the state owed 12-million-dollars. Right now there are no plans to shut off services. Doug Brown, CWLP Chief Utility Engineer, said "It's definitely a different situation that we have with the state because they're going to pay their bills. They're going to come back as soon as they get the appropriations and they're going to pay. They're not going to declare bankruptcy or going to get up and move." Right now, the state's bill backlog is up to over 14-million-dollars.

May 26, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 26 seconds

Adam Rife reported that Senate Democrats asked for more clarity from the Rauner Administration on why the state is leasing private warehouses. Agency directors were questioned by the Senate Appropriations Committee about why the state was leasing property instead of using existing state buildings to store records. The controversy comes after the Department of Human Services moved records from a former prison to a Springfield warehouse earlier this year.

June 1, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

John Reger reported that we're only 30 days away until the start of Illinois' fiscal year. As the state enters its third year without a budget, Illinois' credit rating was downgraded twice by S&P and Moody's. It is the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> credit downgrades in 28 months, which started back in February of 2015 when Governor Bruce Rauner took office.

June 6, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 23 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that State Representative Scott Drury announced he'll be in Independent Democrat for the Illinois Governor's race. Drury promised to bring "honest change" to Illinois. Drury is up against businessmen J.B. Pritzker and Chris Kennedy, State Senator Daniel Biss, Chicago Alderman Ameya Pa'War and Regional Superintendent Dr. Bob Daiber.

June 11, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

Em Nguyen reported that Attorney General Jeff Sessions is now scheduled to appear before the Senate Intelligence Committee. Sessions' testimony comes just days after former FBI Director James Comey testified. Since Comey's testimony, President Donald Trump has been taking aim at Comey on Twitter. He also said he is ready to give his side of the story under oath.

June 12, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 2 minutes and 13 seconds

Rachel Droze reported that the state is only 18 days away until it's in its third year without a budget. Education is still one of the hot button issues. Governor Rauner's Education Secretary, Beth Pervis, was quoted in the State Journal Register saying Rauner supports 90% of the approved education funding reform legislation but will veto it because it's too generous to Chicago public schools. Chicago is the only school district in the state required to fund its own teacher pensions. Bill supporters said this new formula puts Chicago schools on equal footing with the rest of Illinois school districts that already have state-covered teacher pensions. Rauner's Administration, however, said taxpayers shouldn't be on the hook for Chicago's skipped pension payments. A spokesperson for Governor Rauner said "While SB1 reflects elements of the agreed-upon framework, components inserted into this bill will result in the diversion of millions of dollars away from other deserving districts to the Chicago public schools." Democratic Senator Andy Manar said "Most rational people would be able to accept winning 90% of any argument and move on. This is why we have complete and utter chaos and gridlock in Illinois." The proposed funding formula would direct new funds to districts based on need. No district would receive less than it currently does.

June 20, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that Comptroller Susana Mendoza addressed her concerns in a letter to Governor Rauner. In it, she said that Illinois is "effectively hemorrhaging money we don't have" and that Illinois has more than 15-billion-dollars in unpaid bills, yet over the past year, the state has been spending an average of 600-

million-dollars more per month. She closed saying “It is already too late, action is needed now.”

June 25, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

Em Nguyen reported that Illinois’ credit with be downgraded to junk bond status if we go into another year without a state budget. The agency, S&P Global, warned the state they would downgrade Illinois’ credit rating once again if a budget agreement if not reached by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

June 30, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 45 seconds

John Reger reported that Senator Bill Brady was unanimously elected by his caucus to be the new Senate GOP leader after current leader Christine Radogno announced her resignation. Brady has represented the Bloomington district since May of 2002. Senator Brady said he’s ready to continue the bipartisan work leader Radogno started. Brady said “We know that Illinois needs a bipartisan solution. It needs a solution and we know it’s going to have to be bipartisan. We will continue that effort, and building further on that effort, and we’re glad to hear that a bipartisan effort is working over in the House as well.” Radogno said she “couldn’t be more proud” and that she believes he’ll be a very capable leader.

## **Health and Wellness**

April 5, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 22 seconds

Dee Dee Gattton reported that a study found that as the brain ages, neurons and circuits that regulate sleep begin to wear down. That means many seniors sleep less, and feel tired during the day. Data showed a lack of sleep is linked to almost every major disease, like diabetes, Alzheimer’s and cancer.

April 11, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

John Reger reported that University of Illinois at Springfield will be holding a Health and Wellness Fair on April 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fair will offer free screenings to get your blood pressure, BMI and cholesterol checked, just to name a

few. The Central Illinois Community Blood Center will also be there holding a blood drive.

April 20, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that a new partnership aims to find a vaccination for the herpes virus. Rational vaccines, a start-up founded by an SIU medicine researcher, and Theil Capital, a private equity investment firm, announced the partnership. Early trials show the vaccine was 100 times more effective than traditional subunit vaccines. The herpes virus currently affects four-billion-people worldwide.

April 15, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 30 seconds

John Reger reported that a new study found that you can walk your way to better health. The study found that activities such as bicycling, walking and running may optimize brain function and give you an overall sense of well-being during exercise. Blood supply to the brain was once considered an involuntary action that wasn't affected by exercise or change in blood pressure, but this work found the impact of a foot while walking sends pressure waves through the arteries and increases bloody supply to the brain.

May 1, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 30 seconds

Adam Rife reported that Sangamon County Sheriff's deputies collected expired and unused prescription drugs over the weekend of April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. They picked up bags of unwanted and expired drugs at the health department. Law enforcement officials said it was a good way to keep old prescription drugs from falling into the wrong hands. Around 1200 pounds of medication was collected in Sangamon County, which is more than double what they collected six months ago.

May 9, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 42 seconds

Adam Rife reported that a new drug treatment center opened in Springfield. The Rebound Health Systems is an out-patient treatment center and will offer services for DUI assessments, group therapy and counseling. Patients will also have access to medical professionals. The owner, Michael Reeves, who is also a recovering addict said he's determined to help addicts and their families. Reeves, a licensed clinical social worker, said "We work to offer services to every individual, insurance and without,

we'll do whatever we can. We offer sliding fees and scales and it's just we are here to help you during a traumatic time and we believe in treating the whole family because it is a family disease." Reeves said he hopes to start offering detox services and possibly an in-patient facility in the future.

May 18, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 50 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that every year, more than 795,000 people in the U.S. have a stroke. If it's not fatal, then it can lead to brain damage or long-term disability. Now, rural hospitals that may not have neurologists on staff, there's a new technology that allows one hospital to tele-conference to another hospital. The technology is like facetime for doctors. Jacob Kitchener, Interventional Neurologist, said "There is another medical personnel who is helping me do things. If I want to see how strong someone's arm is and they can't move it, the medical personnel can lift their arm up to see what they can do. If it falls right down, then I know there's a real problem." The equipment is so advanced that it allows doctors to zoom in close enough to examine pupil response.

May 30, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 43 seconds

John Reger reported that according to researchers, eating a small amount of chocolate could decrease your risk of a common and serious type of irregular heart rhythm. In a new study of people in Denmark, people who ate chocolate a couple of times per month had a 10% lower risk for this condition. People who ate one serving a week had a 17% lower risk and those who ate 2 to 6 weekly servings had a 20% lower risk. Researchers said that while they were small serving sizes, they still found a significant link between eating chocolate and lower risk.

May 31, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 20 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that the Illinois Department of Public Health said that the first mosquitoes to test positive for the West Nile virus have been found in Madison County. The mosquitoes that tested positive were collected in Godfrey. So far, no human cases of the virus have been reported.

June 8, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 37 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that Illinois mosquitos tested positive for the West Nile virus. Health officials warn to be on high alert, as it is officially mosquito season.

Officials confirmed the virus in Macon County. This is the third time the mosquitos tested positive for the virus this year. Melaney Arnold, from the Illinois Department of Public Health, said “we see West Nile virus in Illinois every year. It’s an epidemic throughout the state.”

June 9, 2017

**Good Day Illinois**

7 a.m.-8 a.m.

Segment was 38 seconds

Jenn Sullivan reported that a new study suggests children who drink dairy alternatives may end up shorter than those who drink cow’s milk. According to the report, each cup of non-cow’s milk consumed daily is associated to a loss of .15 inches in height compared to the average for a child’s age. Some experts worry the study is misleading. One expert pointed out that taller children are not necessarily healthier, saying she does not think it’s appropriate to use height as a marker for health.

June 23, 2017

**Fox News at 5:30 p.m.**

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Segment was 43 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that prescription pill abuse has become an epidemic. Sacred Heart-Griffin summer school students got a new perspective when the Trauma Director at HSHS St. John’s Hospital talked to the group about what opioids are, how they can damage your body and long term effects on your health. Dr. Kari Jerge, Trauma Medical Director, said “We really see the negative side effects of what happens when this spins out of control. Those folks end up in our emergency rooms and they end up in my trauma bay, so I think we have a new perspective of how this can go wrong and how it can really hurt people.”

June 29, 2017

**NewsChannel at Nine**

9 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Segment was 30 seconds

Dee Dee Gatton reported that CVS announced its removing tanning oil and sunscreens with an SPF under 15. Foods containing trans-fats are next. The chain is removing them a year before a nationwide ban is set to go into effect. Beyond the trans-fat ban, CVS is pushing for healthier food. They’re testing a new layout that puts pretzels, nuts and dried fruit where the candy and cookies used to be, and putting the candy and cookies closer to the middle of the store.

**Public Service Announcements**

**Adoption from Foster Care**

- Various dates and times

- **PSA** aired 16 times
- **PSA** sponsored by AdoptUSKids

This campaign encourages the adoption of children from foster care by consistently delivering the message that “You don’t have to be perfect to be a perfect parent.” Viewers can visit [www.adoptuskids.org](http://www.adoptuskids.org) for more information or call 1-888-200-4005 to receive the latest information about the foster care system and the adoption process.

### **Partnership for Drug-Free Kids**

- Various dates and times
- **PSA** aired 56 times
- **PSA** sponsored by the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids

This campaign strives to help families struggling with their child’s substance abuse. They empower families with information, support and guidance to get the help their loved one needs and deserves. Viewers can visit [www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org) for more information.

### **Teacher Recruitment**

- Various dates and times
- **PSA** aired 39 times
- **PSA** sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education

This campaign’s mission is to enable viewers interested in a teaching career to explore teaching, and learn about the different pathways to become a teacher, depending on their education, location and interests. Viewers can visit [www.teach.org](http://www.teach.org) for more information.

### **UNICEF**

- Various dates and times
- **PSA** aired 63 times
- **PSA** sponsored by UNICEF

This campaign is designed to raise donations to help the world’s children. UNICEF pushes towards a better world. Donations go to help give children food, water and medicine, among other things. Viewers can visit [www.unicefusa.org](http://www.unicefusa.org) for more information or to donate.

