

WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

October, November, December 2012

Key: The following issues were addressed during WGLT Newscasts at 6:33 and 8:33 AM (during *MORNING EDITION*) AND 4:30 PM (during *ALL THINGS CONSIDERED*.)

Date Length Summary

ARTS & CULTURE

10/05 6:00 Browse the music library of any alternative rock fan and you're likely to find the Grammy nominated band Mutemath on their playlist. They've toured the world with high-energy concerts and appeared on TV as late night musical guests. This fall, the band's guitarist, Todd Gummerman introduced Mutemath to his hometown. As WGLT's Daniel Hajek reports, Central Illinois fans lined up to catch a glimpse of Gummerman live on stage

10/09 6:00 Everyone knows about Abraham Lincoln the emancipator, Lincoln the great debater, and Lincoln the orator. But, in all the Lincoln lore out there, we sometimes forget about Lincoln the lawyer. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with a central Illinois man who has written a new book addressing that oversight

10/10 6:00 Today, young admirers refer to David Foster Wallace as "Saint Dave." The late novelist grew up in central Illinois and taught at ISU while penning the landmark novel "Infinite Jest." Wallace's life is the subject a biography, the first such work about the long-haired, bandana-wearing English professor. WGLT's Willis Kern has more.

10/25 6:00 An Illinois State University graduate returns to campus next week for an appearance at the Latino Cultural Dinner.

WGLT's Laura Kennedy spoke with Cecilia Suarez, an award-winning actress who has appeared in the films "Spanglish" (SPAN-glish) and "Hidalgo", about how her alma mater helped her achieve success.

11/02 6:00 The histories of African Americans, the Irish, and the Germans in McLean County have all been well documented. But, till now, there has been less work done on the history of the Latino community in the twin cities. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

11/24 5:30 The culture wars are a mix of paradoxes, according to an ISU historian. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with a scholar who examines the fight over education and how the triumph of capitalism has led to more liberal values in popular culture.

11/28 3:30 You can't hitch a ride from a vintage, red double-decker bus now driving around the Twin Cities, but you can eat from it. Two Blokes and a Bus is a new local restaurant...on wheels. As WGLT's Daniel Hajek reports, Bloomington-Normal has joined the food truck revolution.

11/30 6:00 From the influence of the French before western settlement to the challenges of breaking the prairie to the last horse drawn milk delivery wagon in town, Bill Kemp has been writing columns about McLean County History for more than seven years. Now he has a book.

12/07 6:00 Illinois State University has a champion computer hacker.

WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the appeal of breaking into computer systems from the winner of the national cyber league competition.

12/17 5:00 Slowly, but surely, many artifacts long ago removed from Ewing Manor are making their way back to the Bloomington estate. Everything from travel logs and luggage from the Ewing's family trip around the world, to photos and correspondence with family, friends, and business partners. WGLT's Lee Strubinger has the story.

12/24 6:00 The National Academy of Sciences has put out a report criticizing NASA for a lack of vision and vague mission. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with an ISU Physicist who has a different take on the agency.

12/25 6:00 The Illinois Shakespeare Festival has hired a new artistic director, who is bringing new ideas to the organization.

WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more.

BUSINESS, ECONOMY & LABOR

10/02 6:00 The new President of the United Auto Workers union local at the Mitsubishi Plant in Normal is settling into his position after being elected several months ago. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the labor climate and aspirations of the new union leader.

10/22 5:00 Illinois voters will have the chance to amend the state Constitution this fall. A question's on the ballot asking voters if they want to make it harder to enhance government employees' retirement benefits, including city and state workers, university employees, and teachers. Backers argue it'll help the state from piling more debt onto Illinois' already-underfunded pensions

10/24 5:00 Don't look to the Town of Normal to lead revived talks on a regional water supply, but they would sit in. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

10/29 6:00 Non-profit groups are being creative with how they replace traditional funding sources eaten up by the financial crisis. One of the most promising ideas is "Crowdfunding," where individuals donate start-up money, often on line.

11/13 6:00 There are four candidate for Mayor of Bloomington who are circulating petitions for next April's municipal contests. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker interviews one of them, a former alderman.

11/21 6:00 Connect Transit is getting some push back from the Bloomington Normal community in reaction to its proposed new bus route structure. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with the system manager who is reasssuring the public their voices are being heard.

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12/03 6:00 After nearly a decade in office first as Interim leader and then as Illinois State University's 17th President, Al Bowman says health reasons have caused him to announce his retirement. The word comes shortly after Bowman signed a new four year contract. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker talks with Bowman about his decision, effective as soon as a successor is chosen.

12/05 5:30 The notion of Iran in possession of nuclear weapons should worry everyone. That's what a speaker who's coming to Peoria says. Bob Feferman's one of the organizers of "United Against Nuclear Iran." He says when it comes to changing a nation's behaviour, money may be the best weapon.

12/06 5:30 A pension debt topping 96 billion dollars, and counting, continues to plague Illinois. Many prior attempts to do something about it have resulted in defeat. Now a dozen rank and file legislators are making a go of it. They unveiled a package Wednesday morning. But like its predecessors, it's already getting bogged down with criticism. IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports

12/12 4:30 The public face of Bloomington's law enforcement and public safety effort is leaving for a new job in Missouri. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the job change of Police Chief Randy McKinley.

CHILDREN & FAMILY/EDUCATION

10/01 4:30 Long-time political activist and former California state lawmaker Tom Hayden makes a stop in Springfield to talk about topics like campaign contributions and the Occupy Wall Street movement.

10/09 6:00 Everyone knows about Abraham Lincoln the emancipator, Lincoln the great debater, and lincoln the orator. But, in all the lincoln lore out there, we sometimes forget about Lincoln the lawyer. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with a central Illinois man who has written a new book addressing that oversight.

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10/30 3:00 Developmentally disabled residents of a central Illinois state institution are being moved out

of the facility, even though critics say they're not ready.

IPR's Amanda Vinicky has more:

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ENVIRONMENT

10/08 3:00 This year's drought raises economic and environmental questions about nitrogen fertilizers on farms. Dan Schaeffer of the Illinois Council on Best Management Practices says the lack of moisture means both that crops used less fertilizer to grow and that a lack of water limited the amount that could be transported into plants. Schaeffer says a massive effort is under way to collect soil samples and see how much nitrogen remains in the soil.

10/15 3:00 Lawns as a cultural icon are a bad thing for the environment according to a leading entomologist. Doug Tallamy, the author of Bringing Nature Home says food web jobs are done better by native plants because insects that supply protein for birds and other animals do better with native plants than imports.

10/24 5:00 Don't look to the Town of Normal to lead revived talks on a regional water supply, but they would sit in. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

11/12 3:00 The low price of natural gas has meant tough competition for the coal industry. Production is down across the country, except, it turns out, in Illinois.

IPR's Brian Mackey reports:

11/16 6:30 Bloomington-Normal is hosting another huge recycling event tomorrow. This one is for household items such as computers, cellphones, household batteries, compact fluorescent lightbulbs and other items not normally included in a weekly recycling effort. However no hazardous waste will be accepted during the event from 8-1 at Illinois Wesleyan's Hansen Center. WGLT's Willis Kern has more on the community's recent household hazardous waste collection event, and prospects for future events.

11/27 3:00 The Illinois agency that oversees state parks wants lawmakers to raise the license plate renewal fee.

IPR's Amanda Vinicky reports it's the second attempt to hike the cost:

12/13 2:30 A report issued by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce says fracking in Illinois could have a \$9 billion economic impact. The study, authored by Illinois State University Economics professor David Loomis, says more than 45,000 jobs could be created if Illinois stepped-up hydrolic fracturing and horizontal drilling of New Albany shale, which is present primarily in southern Illinois.

12/14 6:00 The controversial method of extracting natural gas from the earth known as "fracking" is getting a boost from the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. The business group is releasing a study it says points to thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic development if the state were to okay the process. WGLT's Willis Kern reports.

12/26 3:00 As the heated battle for public opinion continues over the question of Hydraulic fracturing,

an Illinois State University scientist points out the oil exploration issue is moot for central Illinois. Geologist Skip Nelson says fracking targets so called New Albany Shale, a heavy and extensive black rock loaded with dead micro-organisms.

HEALTH & MEDICINE

10/08 3:00 A group of Illinois psychologists is pushing to be able to prescribe drugs, like anti-depressants. Current law only gives doctors that authority.

IPR's Brian Mackey has more:

10/23 1:00 The Rev. Jesse Jackson says his congressman son has checked back into the Mayo Clinic for an evaluation. The elder Jackson says Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. is back at the Minnesota facility and that's been confirmed by Mayo staff.

11/02 2:30 The Town of Normal will consider requiring statewide alcohol certification for bar and restaurant workers. It's called Basset Training. Some business owners don't like the idea. Terry Stralow of Pub Two says he employs fifty people and turnover would create significant expense for him with each new hire.

11/12 2:30 Obamacare, is still under threat, despite President Obama's re-election and the Supreme Court ruling in his administration's favor, according to Wendell Potter, Senior Analyst for the Center for Public Integrity. Potter spoke at Presser Hall at Illinois Wesleyan University Monday night, providing a detailed analysis of the reform bill and the Individual Mandate in particular.

11/22 2:30 America is a sleep deprived society. That's according to Illinois State University nursing professor Teresa Valerio.

11/29 6:00 World AIDS Day is Saturday. A grass-roots movement started in 1988, the day is a rallying cry to unite people in the fight against HIV. But lately, one central Illinois woman feels that the HIV battle has slipped from the national health radar, and she's determined to do something about it. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more.

12/04 2:30 Healthcare and community leaders have dedicated an \$8 million hospice home in Peoria. Felicia Schafer Directs the Richard Owens home for OSF on route 91. Schafer says the home provides help to terminally ill people of all ages on a temporary basis to stabilize their condition and manage their medication.

12/24 3:00 The director of the newly dedicated hospice care home in Peoria says OSF put up the home with an eye to building another. Felicia Schafer says OSF has also done a market study on the twin cities.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS

10/09 6:00 Everyone knows about Abraham Lincoln the emancipator, Lincoln the great debater, and Lincoln the orator. But, in all the Lincoln lore out there, we sometimes forget about Lincoln the lawyer. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with a central Illinois man who has written a new book addressing that oversight.

10/30 3:00 Governor Pat Quinn's push to close prisons got a boost in a ruling made public Monday. An arbitrator says the governor can proceed, but the union representing prison workers is still trying to stop the closures.

IPR's Brian Mackey has more:

10/31 6:00 After months and months of requests from Chicago public radio station WBEZ and other media outlets, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn is finally allowing reporters into prisons. It's a step in the right direction but it took the threat of a federal law suit. And Quinn's administration continues to throw up roadblocks to meaningful transparency.

IPR's Robert Wildeboer reports on the recent legal efforts and the state's new media policy.

11/05 5:00 There's a strong possibility a former state legislator who's fighting a federal indictment could return to the Illinois General Assembly. The House expelled Derrick Smith after he was charged with bribery. But he's still on the ballot for tomorrow's TUESDAY'S election. And he's ahead in the polls.

IPR's Amanda Vinicky looks into what could happen if Smith does win:

12/03 3:00 The Illinois Supreme Court has blocked a lawsuit filed by the neighbors of a cattle farm. As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, the case has implications for people moving into rural areas.

12/10 5:00 There's a lot of money changing hands during the holiday season, and some of it may end up in the clutches of scam artists.

WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more.

12/12 4:30 The appeals court ruling threatening Illinois' ban of concealed weapons follows failed attempts in the General Assembly to pass conceal carry legislation. Supporters of the movement say the ruling is a huge step in the right direction. In the meantime, Illinois residents wanting a permit can still apply for one, but there's a catch.

IPR's Mike Moen has more.

12/12 4:30 The public face of Bloomington's law enforcement and public safety effort is leaving for a new job in Missouri. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more on the job change of Police Chief Randy McKinley.

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

10/08 2:30 A new report says Illinois' budget outlook is a mixed bag. IPR's Tony Arnold reports.

10/09 6:00 Everyone knows about Abraham Lincoln the emancipator, Lincoln the great debater, and Lincoln the orator. But, in all the Lincoln lore out there, we sometimes forget about Lincoln the lawyer. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more with a central Illinois man who has written a new book addressing that oversight.

10/11 6:00 A musical comedy troupe that claims to put the mock in democracy is coming to the Twin Cities for a performance. WGLT's Laura Kennedy has more with one of the original members of The Capitol Steps.

10/22 5:00 Illinois voters will have the chance to amend the state Constitution this fall. A question's on the ballot asking voters if they want to make it harder to enhance government employees' retirement benefits, including city and state workers, university employees, and teachers. Backers argue it'll help the state from piling more debt onto Illinois' already-underfunded pensions. But there's no shortage of critics urging people to vote "no," and a lawsuit trying to get the question tossed completely.

IPR's Amanda Vinicky has more:

10/24 5:00 Don't look to the Town of Normal to lead revived talks on a regional water supply, but they would sit in. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

11/01 5:30 The race for congress in the district which includes part of McLean County, has attracted 6-1/2 Million dollars, much of which is being spent on attack ads.

What should have been a fairly routine race by an incumbent to congress changed last spring, when Republican Tim Johnson announced he would not seek reelection, just weeks after winning the GOP party primary. In addition, the district had been re-drawn by Illinois' Democratic controlled legislature to a more favorable, from their viewpoint, configuration.

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Illinois. Yesterday the Illinois Senate approved legislation that would create a special category of driver's license for immigrants who can't prove legal immigration status.

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12/18 6:00 Reporters recently got a look at conditions inside the Vienna state prison in Southern Illinois. In preparation for the scrutiny, prison administrators had been busy fixing the place up, cleaning, painting, repairing windows. The cosmetic changes were long overdue, but left untouched were the larger questions about what Illinois is achieving as it spends more than a billion dollars every year on prisons.

RACE, EQUALITY & RIGHTS

10/23 5:30 The first transgender Division I college basketball player is criss-crossing the country in an attempt to help others who may be dealing with difficulties surrounding gender. WGLT's Willis Kern reports on Kye Allums' recent trip to Illinois State University.

11/02 6:00 The histories of African Americans, the Irish, and the Germans in McLean County have all been well documented. But, till now, there has been less work done on the history of the Latino community in the twin cities. WGLT's Charlie Schlenker has more.

11/08 3:00 With Illinois' legislative elections over, interest groups are focusing on the upcoming lame-duck veto session. One such group is pushing to create special drivers' licenses for immigrants who come to the U-S illegally. As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, it probably won't be the only controversial measure being pushed in the veto session.

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11/26 6:00 The Illinois General Assembly returns tomorrow for the fall veto session. As Illinois Public Radio's Sean Powers reports, lawmakers may consider a measure to allow undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses.

12/03 6:00 Human Rights Radio is now 25 years old. That's a quarter century of illegal broadcasting. The low-power Springfield station focuses on African American issues and history, with a radical slant. And at its heart, is a man named Mbanna (mmm-BAHN-ah) Kantako (cahn-TAH-koh).

IPR's Rachel Otwell brings us his story.

12/20 3:00 It's a rare day when 170 University Presidents agree on something within four days. But, Illinois Wesleyan University President Richard Wilson says he and more than that number have signed an open letter calling on the President and Congress to take action on gun control now. The move in the wake of the Newtown, Connecticut school shootings, Wilson says also has a bearing because Illinois must soon craft a concealed carry law.

12/28 5:00 A New Years tradition you might not be aware of is being resurrected in Springfield Monday night, "Watch Night," which will be observed as we bid farewell to 2012.

If you're not familiar with "Watch Night," you can be forgiven. Although the tradition goes back to the mid 19th Century, many Americans have never heard of it

SOCIAL SERVICE & PROGRAMS

10/03 6:00 Some local law enforcement agencies hold non-citizen prisoners on behalf of federal immigration officials. That gives immigration officials time to decide if the prisoner should be transferred to a detention facility and possibly deported. The agreement is designed to help crack down on hardened criminals, but there are concerns that it may go too far.

10/23 3:00 A young man on parole was recently imprisoned for failing to attend school even though his

attorneys say he was attending school. IPR's Robert Wildeboer says that's according to a class action lawsuit filed today.

11/02 3:00 The Town of Normal will consider requiring statewide alcohol certification for bar and restaurant workers. It's called Basset Training. Some business owners don't like the idea. Terry Stralow of Pub Two says he employs fifty people and turnover would create significant expense for him with each new hire.

11/20 2:30 Three-fourths of this year's McLean County United Way campaign goal has been attained. After nearly three months of fundraising, campaign chair Barb Baurer says \$3.25 million of the \$4.35 million goal has been raised.

11/27 3:00 A bus full of Illinois Public Action members from Bloomington Normal joined other advocates from across the state in Springfield lobbying for drivers' licenses for undocumented immigrants. Opponents argue that would reward illegal behavior. But, IPA member Christina Deutsch (DOYT-sh) says the issue is public safety and requiring people to pay insurance and take driving tests.

12/11 3:00 A Central Illinois Foster Care agency says it's seen a decrease in giving during their big fundraiser. The 19th Baby Fold Festival of Trees raised a total of \$152,000, several thousand short of their goal.

Vice President of Development Julie Payne says hard times effect fundraising

12/19 5:30 Illinois taxpayers spend more than a billion dollars every year on prisons. You've been hearing about one state prison in Vienna, in far southern Illinois. Yesterday you heard how, not so many years ago, prison inmates staffed the ambulance service and took care of residents who were having medical emergencies. It's far different than life there now. So, today, you'll hear about the history of this prison, a history that is reminiscent of the decades-long neglect suffered by the Illinois Department of Corrections.

12/31 3:00 Illinois lawmakers could vote on a proposal to give driver's licenses to people who are in the country illegally.

IPR's Tony Arnold explains:

TECHNOLOGY

10/08 3:00 This year's drought raises economic and environmental questions about nitrogen fertilizers on farms. Dan Schaeffer of the Illinois Council on Best Management Practices says the lack of moisture means both that crops used less fertilizer to grow and that a lack of water limited the amount that could be transported into plants. Schaeffer says a massive effort is under way to collect soil samples and see how much nitrogen remains in the soil.

10/29 3:00 Illinois State University is one of six colleges participating in the launch of a smart phone application called Evsdrop (EVES-drop). Evsdrop allows users to post "drops" or snippets of information that can be shared. Using location-based technology, Evsdrop users can report on what is going on at a place to a central location. Co-founder David Rush says that gives other users real time, detailed information about what is happening there.

10/30 3:00 Members of Illinois People's Action dressed as zombies to protest the possibility of hydraulic fracturing in Illinois. That's a practice of injecting water and chemical deep into underground rock to allow oil and gas extraction. Bill Rau says it is also tremendously wasteful of water, up to thirty million gallons per well.

11/09 3:00 A group of local governments including Bloomington and Normal has filed a complaint with the Illinois Pollution Control Board hoping to stop hazardous waste from going into the Clinton Landfill. Joe Hooker is an attorney with the City of Champaign. Hooker says DeWitt County gave only a perfunctory sign off on the change from a standard landfill to a hazardous waste facility

11/14 3:00 The Pantagraph newspaper in Bloomington is giving its archive of photographic negatives to the McLean County Museum of History. Greg Koos is the museum director

12/04 3:00 Illinois' new law cracking down on so-called cramming on landline phone bills goes into effect next month. Now, the Citizens Utility Board thinks the new law may have triggered an upsurge in cramming on cellphone bills. Cramming is the practice by third-party companies of adding monthly charges to phone bills without the customers' permission or knowledge.

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10/08 3:00 The Bloomington-Normal public transit system is buying some buses to help alleviate crowding, and to allow for preventative maintenance on other buses. The Connect Transit Board of Trustees approved buying eight used buses for \$83,000.

10/31 3:00 Public Transit officials are getting a better understanding of how the Bloomington-Normal community will be effected by route changes. During a public hearing by Connect Transit issues like quick route changes, drifting routes from lower income areas and the removal of the Teal J route were discussed.

11/08 2:30 With Illinois' legislative elections over, interest groups are focusing on the upcoming lame-duck veto session. One such group is pushing to create special drivers' licenses for immigrants who come to the U-S illegally. As IPR's Brian Mackey reports, it probably won't be the only controversial measure being pushed in the veto session.

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12/03 3:00 Mitsubishi reports solid sales of the central Illinois product Outlander Sport during November. The Japan-based automaker says 1,520 of the crossover utility vehicles rolled off dealer lots last month. That's a 34% increase over November last year and an 18% increase over October 2012 sales.

12/05 5:00 Immigrants who came to the US illegally could soon have the opportunity to drive legally in Illinois. Yesterday the Illinois Senate approved legislation that would create a special category of driver's license for immigrants who can't prove legal immigration status.

12/27 2:30 Weather conditions should begin to get a bit better today, but residents in and around southern Illinois will likely see snow on the ground for the next several days, after a powerful winter storm makes its way east