

Quarterly Issues Programs List for Station WUEZ-FM
January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023
Placed in the Public File April 3, 2023

Section I. Issues.

The station has identified the following issues as significant issues facing our community in this quarter:

- A. Economy**
- B. Crime**
- C. Health**
- D. Tourism**

Section II. Responsive Programs

The station has broadcast programming dealing with each of the above-referenced issues. Programming dealing with each issue is set out below.

A. Economy

Week in Review | Broadcast: January 22, 6:20 a.m. | Duration: 7 minutes

Professor Dale “Buck” Hales is the Director of Southern Illinois University’s Cannabis Research Center. He and his colleges are attempting construct a geodesic dome made entirely out of hemp-derived products, like hemp-crete and hemp-wood. Buckminster Fuller, world renowned for his pioneering geodesic dome designs, was an SIU faculty member from 1959-1970. The idea behind Hales’ project is to harness the legacy of Buckminster Fuller to promote the use of hemp in construction, using a visually appealing structure to draw the attention of building contractors, hemp farmers, and tourists.

Week in Review | Broadcast: January 29, 6:02 a.m. | Duration: 9 minutes

Home energy costs have risen dramatically for many southern Illinoisans. Ameren customers are now seeing their first bills from some of the coldest winter months. That, on top of a steep rate increase, has left their customers seeing shockingly high bills. In this interview with Ameren Spokesman Tucker Kennedy, listeners learn about the energy auction and how those prices are decided, as well as the increasing shortage of electric generation facilities.

Week in Review | Broadcast: January 29, 6:12 a.m. | Duration: 18 minutes

In mid-2023, Saline River Farms will break ground on a massive meat processing plant in Williamson County. This new business would have around 400 employees and would process beef and pork from local farms. In this interview with S.R.F. co-owner Brent Clark, listeners learn that the project is a part of a federal program to de-centralize food production and how the project would create more opportunities for local farmers to raise beef and pork as well as the farmers who would grow the animal feed.

Week in Review | Broadcast: March 5, 6:02 a.m. | Duration: 18 minutes

Funding for a long-planned multimodal transportation center in Carbondale was recently released by state and federal officials. In this interview with Carbondale City Manager Gary Williams, listeners learn the multimodal center will house more than a train and bus depot, it will also house a job training center and open office space. This project received a \$13 million grant and dozens of demolition and construction jobs will be created.

Week in Review | Broadcast: March 19, 6:12 a.m. | Duration: 17 minutes

A new non-profit organization, SI Now, aims to grow not one town or county, but the entire southern Illinois region. In this interview with organizers Woody Thorne and Deborah Barnett, listeners learn how SI Now plans to achieve their goal, as well as the urgent need for workers shared by many local businesses.

B. Crime

Week in Review | Broadcast: January 22, 6:02 a.m. | Duration: 19 minutes

There's a new sheriff in Williamson County. Jeff Diederich was sworn into the office in December 2022. He and his deputies recently broke up large left ring, conservatively valued at about \$16,000. In the rural portions of our listening area, this type of theft has long been a problem. In this interview, listeners also learned about ongoing murder investigations and the cooperative efforts to fight crime regionally with law enforcement counterparts in the surrounding area.

C. Health

Week in Review | Broadcast: February 19, 6:02 a.m. | Duration: 13 minutes

Once thought not to exist in rural southern Illinois, homelessness is becoming an issue in many small towns throughout the region. In this interview with Camille Dorris, the Executive Director for the Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless, listeners learn that the Marion-based organization currently serves around 650 families. Dorris also explains how undiagnosed or untreated mental illness can exacerbate the homeless plight, making it difficult to find a job or home.

Week in Review | Broadcast: February 26, 6:02 a.m. | Duration: 10 minutes

There's a growing shortage of EMTs and paramedics in southern Illinois. In this interview with Brad Robinson, Southern Illinois Healthcare's EMS Coordinator, listeners learn that some counties in the region only have one ambulance and that staffing those ambulances is becoming an issue as well. Robinson is also the Mayor of Carterville and explained a legislative proposal that would require body cameras to be worn by all first responders.

D. Tourism

Week in Review | Broadcast: February 12, 6:02 a.m. | Duration: 12 minutes

For the past several years, Veterans Airport in Marion has been served by Cape Air. The airline currently provides passenger service from Marion to St. Louis and Nashville. Three airlines, including Cape Air, submitted proposals to handle passenger service. In this interview with Veterans Airport Manager Doug Kimmel, listeners hear about all three providers including equipment they would use, and destination they would serve.

Week in Review | Broadcast: February 12, 6:15 a.m. | Duration: 14 minutes

A new resort and casino is under construction in Williamson County is nearing completion. Walker's Bluff is looking for employees. In this interview with General Manager Craig Levesque, listeners learn that the company has received roughly 600 applications for 400 open jobs. The long-planned Walker's Bluff Casino and Resort is scheduled to be complete in the spring of 2023 and hopes are that it will become a major tourist draw as a convention center and casino.

Week in Review | Broadcast: February 26, 6:12 a.m. | Duration: 17 minutes

After months of speculation and input from the community, the Marion minor league baseball team has a new name - the Thrillville Thrillbillies. In this interview with the club's General Manager Dave Kost and marketing specialist Herby Voss, listeners learn that the new ball team will play a total of 60 games each season, with 30 of the played on their home field. Listeners also learn about broader plans for the ballpark, which including transforming it into a family entertainment complex.

Week in Review | Broadcast: March 12, 6:02 a.m. | Duration: 12 minutes

There's a movement to designate The Shawnee National Forest as the Shawnee National Park and Climate Preserve. While the idea is still in the beginning stages, if carried through to completion, it would be the first wilderness area in the country to receive the "climate preserve" designation. In this interview with area outdoorsman Les Winkeler, listeners learn specifics of the plan, what proposed changes would look like, and how current tourist activities would be protected