

Quarterly Issues Programs List for Station WUEZ-FM
April 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021
Placed in the Public File July 08, 2021

Section I -- Issues

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

- A. COVID-19 Vaccinations**
- B. COVID-19 Effect on Local Economy**
- C. Crime**
- D. Effect of Census on Redistricting**
- E. 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. COVID Vaccinations

Week in Review | Broadcast: April 18, 06:02 a.m. | Duration: 12 minutes

By mid-April, rare cases of blood clotting condition had caused the FDA to temporarily halt the distribution of the one-shot Johnson & Johnson version of the COVID-19 vaccine. We spoke with Carrie Eldridge, the then-Director of the Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health Department, for an explanation about the rare condition and to address vaccine hesitancy in southern Illinois.

Week in Review | Broadcast: April 25, 06:12 a.m. | Duration: 22 minutes

Vaccine hesitancy is a real issue in southern Illinois. Four out of the five counties at the bottom of the list for vaccine administration are in southern Illinois. Physicians Joshua Miksanek and Jeff Ripperda took listener questions to help put to bed any falsehoods surrounding the vaccine.

Week in Review | Broadcast: May 2, 2021 06:20 a.m. | Duration: 4 minutes

By early May, low demand had led to the closure of one of southern Illinois' two mass vaccination sites. Public health officials, like Jackson County Health Department Director Bart Hagston, were concerned. The low demand was due to vaccine hesitancy, not southern Illinoisans already being vaccinated.

Week in Review | Broadcast: June 20, 06:03 a.m. | Duration: 18 minutes

After over a year of living with some type of COVID-19 induced restriction, Illinois entered Phase V, a full reopening, on June 11. But public health officials warned that the pandemic was not over yet. Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike explained why a large number of the population needs to receive the COVID-19 vaccine for it to be effective in returning life to normal.

B. COVID-19 Effect on Local Economy

Week in Review | Broadcast: May 23, 06:12 a.m. | Duration: 8 minutes

Restrictions put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19 had a devastating impact on the local economy. Some business shut down; some never reopened. The town of Marion was no exception. In this interview, Mayor Mike Absher lays out his plan to return the city to normal.

C. Crime

Week in Review | Broadcast: April 11, 06:02 a.m. | Duration: 18 minutes

April is Child Abuse Awareness month. This interview with FBI Special Agent Ray Hart details one of the most heinous crimes against children: human trafficking. In this interview, listeners are taught how to spot the signs of human trafficking, which can often hide in plain sight.

Week in Review | Broadcast: May 16, 06:13 a.m. | Duration: 16 minutes

A recent rise in gun crime in Carbondale has many of the city's resident concerned. In May, city leaders named a new police chief, department veteran Stan Reno. In this interview, Reno gives us some insight about his approach to keeping the peace.

D. 2020 Census and Political Redistricting

Week in Review | Broadcast: June 6, 06:10 a.m. | Duration: 18 minutes

Political boundaries in Illinois will look different in the next election. Following the U.S. Census every ten years, boundaries are redrawn to reflect the current population. But this year was different, due to the pandemic census data was delayed, but Illinois lawmakers drew new boundaries using different data. In this interview, longtime Illinois Political Expert Dr. John Jackson explains the process.

E. Tourism

Week in Review | Broadcast April 11, 06:20 a.m. | Duration: 11 minutes

Warmer weather means an increase in tourism in southern Illinois. In the Shawnee National Forest, tourists can see waterfalls, wildlife, and rock formations thousands of years old. But getting to the natural wonders can be dangerous. In this interview with Pope County Sheriff Jerry Suits, we learn the best practices for exploring the wilderness and what to do if you find yourself lost.

Week in Review | Broadcast: April 18, 06:15 a.m. | Duration: 10 minutes

A casino and resort in Williamson County has been in the planning stages for years. In April, Walker's Bluff developers receive initial approval from the state for a gaming license, which cleared the way for some construction to begin. Once completed, it's estimated the property will generate millions of dollars in tax revenue and provide hundreds of construction jobs and dozens of full-time jobs once the casino/resort is open for business. In this interview, Walker's Bluff owner Cynde Bunch and Elite Casinos CEO Dan Kehl provide us with an updated timeline for construction.

Week in Review | Broadcast: April 25, 06:02 a.m. | Duration: 5 minutes

Southern Illinois had been happy to hear the recent news that a casino/resort at Walker's Bluff was moving closer to a reality. But residents got a reality check a week later when it was revealed that a labor dispute threatened to derail the project. State Senator Dale Fowler joined us with an update on negotiations and progress on legislation in Springfield that would require all new casinos built in the state to have a labor agreement in place.

Week in Review | Broadcast May 16, 06:02 a.m. | Duration: 9 minutes

It's currently not an option to take a direct, commercial flight from southern Illinois to Chicago. Currently, travelers have to first catch a connecting flight to St. Louis or board a plane in Kentucky or Missouri. In this interview with Veterans Airport Director Doug Kimmell, and Carbondale Economic Development Director Steve Mitchell, we get an update on the progress the two municipalities are making together on getting a flight to Chicago.

Week in Review | Broadcast: June 20, 06:20 a.m. | Duration: 10 minutes

Once filled with shoppers and merchants, Marion's Star Centre Mall is now a shell of its former self. Most stores sit empty. A new development group hopes to change that through a public-private partnership with the City of Marion. In this interview with Mayor Mike Absher, we learn what that plan is and where progress stands.