

Quarterly Issues Programs List for Station WJPF/WCIL-AM
April 1st through June 31st, 2024
Placed in the Public File 5/21/24

Section I. Issues.

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

- A. Tourism/Total Eclipse**
- B. Spring Legislative Session**
- C. Homelessness/Food Insecurity/DCFS**
- D. Local Economic Issues/Inflation**
- E. Safe Summer recreation**

A. Tourism/Total Eclipse

1. On April 3rd at 8:20am on the Morning Newswatch we spoke for 15 minutes with Steve Mitchell the Carbondale Economic Development Director about the coming total eclipse of the sun. We spoke about the planned events for the city and for the SIU Campus, lessons of the last eclipse, including traffic issues afterwards, and that many retail locations learned that the best way to capture tourist dollars was merchandise to commentate the event.
2. On April 4th at 7:20am on the Morning Newswatch we spoke for 10 minutes with the Director of IL. Dept. of Natural Resources Natalie Phelps Finnie. She told our audience that nearly all of the campgrounds in the path of totality are already filled with a few rare exceptions. The Director also said that extra staff has been put in position; extra trash removal will be in place and cautioned visitors about blocking roadways in and out of campgrounds.
3. On April 5th at 8:20am on the Morning Newswatch we spoke for 20 minutes with Bob Baer, head of the SIU Physics Dept. and Mike Kentrianakis of the American Astronomical Society on the total eclipse of the sun. We covered essential safe viewing information and also the timing of the event as it crosses our region as well as the scientific research that will be conducted during the time. These two are also involved in the viewing party on the SIU Campus at the football stadium with view screens to follow the eclipse as well as watch a large weather balloon that will be launched from that site.

4. On April 5th at 8:20am on the Morning Newswatch we spoke for 20 minutes with Neil Vincent the Head of Visitor Services for the Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge. Neil shared that the refuge received around 11,000 visitors for the eclipse and that they opened previously closed sections of the park for visitors. He also shared that during recent tests of fish on Crab Orchard Lake that the PCB count was down. There's still sufficient amounts to limit intake and shared those guidelines and also that PFAS, or forever chemicals have now been found in fish in some portions of the lake for the first time.

B. Spring Legislative Session

1. On April 5th at 8:20am on the Morning Newswatch we spoke for 10 minutes with William Lo, the Director of the Carbondale IL Chamber of Commerce, about proposed legislation in this legislative session concerning wages paid to the wait staff in restaurants. It's called the "One Fair Wage Act" and it would raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and end subminimum wages for tipped workers, workers with disabilities, and the young. This has been debated in front of the Carbondale City Council as well and counter intuitively is not supported by many wait staff who believe they will make less if this law goes into effect.
2. On April 26th at 7:20am on the Morning Newswatch we spoke for 10 minutes with Brian Duncan, the President of the IL farm Bureau about the 'Farm Estate Tax". Upon death some family farms have found they do not have the cash they need to pay the estate tax which begins at 4 million dollars. The legislation in Springfield would move that to 6 million dollars. Mr. Duncan shared the situation these farmers find themselves in when they are "land rich, but cash poor".

C. Homelessness/Food Insecurity/DCFS

1. On April 10th at 8:20am on the Morning Newswatch we spoke for 15 minutes with the new Director of Children and Family Services, Heidi Mueller. The new director spoke about the need to redevelop trust in the organization after her predecessor received several contempt of court charges. She also covered the need to hire more staff and the upcoming area job events to fill the needed slots.

D. Local Economic Issues/Inflation

1. On April 18th at 8:20am on the Morning Newswatch we spoke for 20 minutes with the Senior Vice President of Aisin Manufacturing in Marion IL. Bill Cox. It's one of this area's largest employers. They have just completed an expansion of over 400 thousand square feet. Aisin sends parts made in southern Illinois around the world and have just received an award from the state of Illinois for their keyless door handles. Still one of the biggest issues they have is finding and retaining employees to staff their business.

F. Safe Summer recreation

1. On April 3rd at 7:20am on the Morning Newswatch we spoke for 10 minutes with Dermatologist Dr. Hal Lewis. With our region and its rural nature that we have high incidents of skin cancer. Dr. Lewis discussed the symptoms of skin cancer and that if caught early simple procedures can suffice. But he also covered the more severe melanomas that require an expert to diagnose and treat. The Dr. also shared a list of precautions you can take, large hats, sun block, to prevent skin damage and skin cancer.