

Quarterly Issues Programs List for Station WUEZ-FM
January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024
Placed in the Public File March 21, 2024

Section I. Issues.

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

- A. Tourism**
- B. Gun Legislation**
- C. Spring Session**
- D. Aging Population**
- E. Crime/Illegal Drugs**

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. Tourism

Week in Review | Broadcast: January 12, 6:02 a.m. | Duration: 18 minutes

As the coal mining industry continue to decline regionally, a new economic driver is needed. In this interview with Illinois Department of Natural Resource Director Natalie Finnie, listeners learn what will be required to grow tourism in southern Illinois. Issues like repairing Illinois' State Parks after year of deferred maintenance are a top priority for IDNR and Director Finnie.

Week in Review | Broadcast: January 21, 6:02 a.m. | Duration: 8 minutes

For the first time in over a decade, a sitting Governor of Illinois visited the state's extreme southeastern counties. In this interview with Harrisburg Mayor John McPeek, listeners learn what was discussed during Governor JB Pritzker's January visit as well as additional steps the City of Harrisburg has taken to make the municipality more attractive to tourists and potential businesses and residents.

Week in Review | Broadcast: February 4, 6:22 a.m. | Duration: 8 minutes

The annual Southern Illinois Boating and Fishing Show draws thousands of people to Marion each winter. In this interview with Visit SI Executive Director Ashlee Spiller, listeners learn about the attempt to grow tourism regionally as well as specific plans already in place for the April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse.

Week in Review | Broadcast: February 18, 6:02 a.m. | Duration: 12 minutes

With an annual estimated economic impact of \$30 million, the world Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta, Illinois is still a hidden gem for many area residents. In this interview with newly appointed facility director Skip Klinger, listeners learn that the WSRC's yearly Grand American trapshooting tournament brings participants from over 100 countries to southern Illinois.

B. Gun Legislation

Week in Review | Broadcast: January 21, 6:12 a.m. | Duration: 5 minutes

There are still numerous lawsuits challenging the Protection Illinois Communities Act, legislation that outlawed so-called assault style weapons and high capacity magazines. In this interview with Illinois State Rifle Association Executive Director Richard Pearson, listeners learn the current standing of the lawsuits and are informed of the ISRA's attempts to get Illinois Firearm Owners ID Card declared unconstitutional.

C. Spring Legislative Session

Week in Review | Broadcast: January 21, 6:20 a.m. | Duration: 8 minutes

In this interview with Illinois State Representative Paul Jacobs (R-Pomona), listeners are informed of issues likely to come up during the spring legislative session. Some lawmakers have concerns over the amount of money being spent on care for undocumented migrants sent to Illinois from border states, like Texas.

Week in Review | Broadcast: February 11, 6:02 a.m. | Duration: 12 minutes

Estate taxes on farmland have been a controversial topic for years. In this interview with Illinois Farm Bureau President Brian Duncan, listeners learn about pending legislation, backed by the farm bureau, that caps estate taxes on family farms.

Week in Review | Broadcast: March 3, 6:02 a.m. | Duration: 12 minutes

Governor JB Pritzker has proposed eliminating Illinois' 1% grocery sales tax. Currently, the tax is collected by the state with the money then given back to the municipality. In this interview with Illinois Municipal League Executive Director Brad Cole, listeners learn how much money is generated through the 1% tax and how local governments would replace the revenue if the tax is eliminated by lawmakers.

D. Aging Population

Week in Review | Broadcast: Feb 25, 6:22 a.m. | Duration: 8 minutes

This year, more people in the United States will turn 65 than ever before. In this interview with Marion Senior Citizen Center Director Jill Graskewicz, listeners learn about a number of issues hitting senior citizens especially hard, including inflation and the cost of food. Listeners also learn about programs currently available like free or discounted meals, a food pantry, and help with driver's license renewal.

E. Crime/Illegal Drugs

Week in Review | Broadcast: Jan 28, 6:12 a.m. | Duration: 15 minutes

A new drug diversion court is now in place in Jackson County. In this interview with Jackson County State's Attorney Joe Cervantez, listeners learn how defendants qualify for the program, how it works, and the reward for completing the program. Defendants who meet all the requirements will have charges dropped and records expunged.