

Public File Information for 1st Quarter of 2015

As station News Director, I can certify that this group of stations runs daily newscasts from 5AM-9AM and also airs "Focus," a news and public affairs program on Sunday mornings on WLRW 94.5 FM-WIXY 100.3 FM-WREE 92.5 FM-WYXY 99.1 FM-Oldies 97.9 (WLRW 94.5 FM HD-2)-Extra 92.1 (WCFF 92.5 FM HD-2)-Hits 99.7 (WIXY 100.3 FM HD-2). "Focus" deals with the issues facing our community and our state. Here are some of the issues covered on "Focus" programs in recent weeks with attached scripts:

- 1. The drawbacks of high tech gifts for kids.
- 2. Wood burning in the wintertime and the impact on health.
- 3. Fair chance employment policies.
- 4. Updating the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.
- 5. Prison overcrowding.
- 6. Winter driving safety.
- 7. Keeping New Year's Resolutions by checking in with your doctor.
- 8. Delaying the state's medical marijuana program.
- 9. Tobacco prevention and smoking cessation.
- 10. Preparing for income tax time, trusting your preparer, and free help from AARP.
- 11. Radon Action Month.
- 12. Outdoor therapy for children with disabilities.
- 13. Advancing wind power in Illinois.
- 14. Illinois' health insurance marketplace.
- 15. Poison Control Center calls were up due to e-cigarettes.
- 16. The influence of outside money in state elections.
- 17. The state's poor facing an unfair tax burden.
- 18. The Earned Income Tax Credit's impact in rural areas.
- 19. The measles outbreak and the controversy over vaccinations.
- 20. Reducing suicide rates amongst military veterans.
- 21. Free and unrestricted internet.
- 22. A documentary project about the impact of closing schools.
- 23. Get Covered Illinois and the Affordable Care Act.
- 24. Cutting the cord on land line phone service.
- 25. USDA investing into state farmers.
- 26. Jobs on the rise in the solar industry.
- 27. Illinois' participation in the free school breakfast program among the lowest in the nation.
- 28. McDonalds called on to be a global leader in the fight against the overuse of antibiotics.
- 29. Severe Weather Awareness Week.
- 30. Religious beliefs and health care.
- 31. Regardless of gas prices, we want fuel efficiency.
- 32. International Stand Up to Bullying Day.
- 33. Building a better breakfast as part of National Nutrition Month.
- 34. Restaurants called on to help end childhood obesity.
- 35. Losing sleep.

I can attest that newscasts run on a daily basis, and focus airs weekly.

Sarah Sheppard, News Direc

Hlim Radio Group

OFFICIAL SEAL
DEBORAH E FOLLETT
Notary Public - State of Illinois
My Commission Expires Nov 19, 2017















FOCUS 1/4/2015

The drawbacks of high tech gifts for kids...

Good morning and welcome to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Focus is a weekly show dedicated to a look at news, and public affairs. Your kids might be busy playing with electronic gifts they got for the holidays. And while there are many positives to technology, experts caution you to keep an eye on the amount of time a teen or child spends in front of a screen or online. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports. (START TECH GIFTS1 SEGMENT)

IN: "Mobile phones and..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

As you throw another log into your wood stove or fireplace to lessen winter's chill, a reminder that there are ways to burn a more efficient fire and reduce wood smoke, which is a source of air pollution and harmful to human health. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START FIRE SEGMENT)

IN: "Burning a cleaner..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

"Banning the Box" to create jobs. That story is next on Focus.

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. A new state law went into effect Jan. 1 that prohibits employers from asking about a potential employee's criminal background on job applications. Illinois joins a dozen other states that have implemented so-called "fair chance" employment policies, and the fifth state to include private employers. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports. (START BOX SEGMENT)

IN: "Illinois is set..."
OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."
Fewer kids in jail. That story is next on Focus.

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Congress is expected to update the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act this year, with a new version introduced last month. One of the proposed changes would reward states for locking up fewer kids, and Illinois is already making progress in moving away from detention for young offenders. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START KIDS IN JAIL SEGMENT)

IN: "Congress is set ... "

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

They're locked up with little space and little to do. A recent report finds Illinois prisoners spend their days in one of the nation's most overcrowded prison systems, and some experts say there are few resources available to prepare those who are incarcerated for eventual reentry into society. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports. (START TECH GIFTS SEGMENT)

IN: "Illinois houses an..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

PSAs

And that'll do it for this week's Focus. Thanks for joining us. If you have any questions or comments about this week's show, write to me, Sarah Addison – News Director. 2603 West Bradley Avenue. Champaign, IL 61821. Or email me, news@illiniradio.com. Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

A statewide news service for Illinois

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Sound Files on the Phone: (888) 600-9800, ID Code: 29

December 26, 2014

Available files: mp3 way jpg

The Drawback of High Tech Gifts for Kids

Springfield, IL - Some Illinois kids might be busy today playing with a new electronic gift. And while there are many positives to technology, experts caution parents to keep an eye on the amount of time a teen or child spends in front of a screen or online. Comments from Ann Lagges, (LAG-ess) assistant professor of clinical psychology in Clinical Psychiatry, Indiana University School of Medicine. Image available; photo of a person using a tablet.

Intro: As Illinois families spent time celebrating yesterday, some teens and children had their eyes glued to a screen. Mobile phones and tablets are popular gifts, but experts are cautioning parents about the drawbacks of technology. Indiana University professor of clinical psychology Dr. Ann Lagges says there are many positives to electronics, including educational uses and helping kids stay connected with friends, but she says moderation is key.

Cut 39249:13 "Whenever anything takes up all of somebody's time, it becomes their sole focus; it means that other parts of their life are paying the price. So, things like real-world social activities, school work, sleep, physical exercise, things like that."

Tag: Lagges suggests parents keep an eye on what their kids are doing online and set some time limits. She says parents should also consider the quality of activity, since working with friends on a school project is very different than playing a violent video game.

Second Cut: Lagges also encourages parents to consider the example they set.

Cut 40249:11 "The parent who has their phone with them all the time and responds immediately to every bing is perhaps not sending the best message to their kids about how to keep technology and social media in its proper place."

<u>Third Cut</u>: She says while there is no solid evidence that electronics can cause depression, she warms that social media can exacerbate depression or anxiety. She encourages parents to watch for changes in their child's behavior.

Cut 41249 :14 "Depressed and irritable mood, not seeming to enjoy anything anymore, changes in sleep or appetite, seeming really fired, having trouble concentrating, making statements about being worthless or even in most extreme cases making statements about death or suicide."

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses soundbite(s)

LEAD: As Illinois families spent time celebrating yesterday, it's likely that many teens and children had their eyes glued to a screen. Mobile phones and tablets are popular gifts, but as Mary Schuermann reports, experts are warning parents of the drawbacks to technology.

Cut 42249:40 Outcue... Mary Schuermann reporting.

Note to Editors: Lagges is available through Gene Ford, 317.962.4576. Sergey Galyonkin

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December 30, 2014

Available files mp3 wav jpg

Building a More Efficient, Cleaner Fire

Springfield, IL — As many Illinoisans throw another log into their wood stove or fireplace to lessen winter's chill, a reminder that there are ways to burn a more efficient fire and reduce wood smoke, which is a source of air pollution and harmful to human health. Comments from Alison Davis, senior adviser, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Image available: Photo of a burning log.

<u>Intro</u>: Burning a cleaner fire in that wood stove or fireplace over the winter months is helpful to Illinoisans' health, and it also benefits the state's climate, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Alison Davis with the E-P-A says a good way to burn the hottest and most efficient fire possible is to use only dry, seasoned wood.

Cut 46249:15 "The reason that this is important is that dry wood burns more completely, and that benefits you in two ways; one, you get more energy out of the firewood because it burns more of the detual wood itself, and the other is the fire then produces less smoke."

Tag: It's also suggested that to maintain proper airflow and efficiency, regularly remove ashes from your wood-burning stove or fireplace.

Second Cut: Davis adds that wood smoke produces fine particle pollution, which can be harmful to human health.

Cut 47249:14 "When you breathe in air that has fine particles in it, it can penetrate deep into the lungs where it can harm the heart, the blood vessels and the lungs. Fine particles are linked to heart attacks, strokes."

Tag: In addition to particle pollution, there's also the danger of smoke filled with toxins or harmful □ chemicals if certain materials end up in the fire. So, the E-P-A advises never burning such items as □ plastics, foam and other garbage, or wood that's been coated, painted, or pressure-treated.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEAD: Burning a cleaner fire in that wood stove or fireplace over the winter months is helpful to Illinoisans' health, and it also benefits the state's climate, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Mary Schuermann explains.

Cut 48249:33 Outcue. Schuermann reporting

Note to Editors: Reach Davis through Jennifer Colaizzi at 202-564-7776. More info at http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/bestburn.html.

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December 29, 2014

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

"Banning the Box" Could Open Doors for Some IL Job Applicants

Springfield, IL - A new law goes into effect Jan. 1 that prohibits Illinois employers from asking about a potential employee's criminal background on job applications. Illinois joins a dozen other states that have implemented so-valled "fair chance" employment policies, and the fifth state to include private employers. Comments from Michelle Rodriguez, senior staff attorney, National Employment Law Project. Image available: photo of job interview.

Intro: Illinois is set to join many other states in "banning the box" on job applications that ask about a person's criminal history. A new law goes into effect this week that prevents criminal background checks until after an applicant is deemed qualified for a job. Michelle Rodriguez with the National Employment Law Project says an estimated 70-million U-S adults have an arrest or conviction record and the law should open doors for many Illinoisans.

Cut 43249 :11 "That's a tremendous number of people that are walking around with potential barriers. So if folks can't get jobs that's going to be bad for all of our communities - for our economy, for public safety. It just really doesn't make sense."

Tag: The Illinois Job Opportunities for Qualified Applicants Act does not apply to certain positions where employers must exclude applicants with criminal histories. The Illinois Department of Labor and Violations will be responsible for enforcement:

Second Cut: Rodriguez says local advocates have been working on the legislation for quite a while to ensure that all Illinoisans have a chance to prove themselves when looking for work.

Cut 44249:15 "This is actually something that we see as practically going viral at this point. There are 13 states that have some type of "ban the box" fair-chance hiring laws in place; and now, they're getting close to 100 cities and counties across the country that have embraced this policy."

Tag: Illinois has had a ban-the-box policy for state government jobs in place since 2013, and becomes with fifth state to include private employers in fair-chance hiring policies.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses soundbite(s)

LEAD: Illinois is set to join many other states in "banning the box" on job applications that asks about a person's criminal history. Mary Schuermann has more.

Cut 45249:44 Outcue... Schuermann reporting.

Note to Editors: Rodriguez is available at 202-887-8202. The law text: http://ilga.gov/legislation/98/HB/PDF/09800HB5701lv.pdf.

12/21/2014 22:03 → WIXY-FM 1/

Illinois News Connection

A statewide news service for Illinois

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December 22, 2014

Available files: mp3 wav.jpg

Act in Congress Could Mean Fewer Kids in Illinois Jails

Springfield, IL — Congress is expected to update the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act next year, with a new version introduced this month. One of the proposed changes would reward states for locking up fewer kids, and Illinois is already making progress in moving away from detention for young offenders. Comments from Jeff Bradley, statewide coordinator, Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, Image available: Photo of a prison fence.

Intro. Congress is set to consider updating a decades-old law that guides states on the custody and care of juveniles in the criminal justice system. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act was introduced this month, and one big change would be providing incentives to states to lock up fewer children. In Illinois, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative supports community-based alternatives to detention. Statewide coordinator Jeff Bradley says these are less costly and more effective at helping troubled kids.

Cut 29249:15 "It costs us about \$100,000 a year to put a child in prison in Illinois. You can serve the same child for \$5,000 to \$7,000 in the community, by evaluating the child's needs and creating a treatment plan that effectively addresses what those needs are."

Tag: Other changes proposed include sliminating a loophole that allows juvenile courts to detain young people for non-criminal acts; reducing the placement of kids in adult jails, and guidance for states on reducing racial and ethnic disparities.

Second Cut: Bradley says the state continues to transform its approach to juvenile justice. The Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission is examining the causes of delinquent behavior, how to best protect the community, and how to address the issues facing troubled kids. They're also taking into consideration the fact that many delinquent youth are also victims of abuse or neglect.

Cut 30249 :13 "We are now in a position where we're taking things like traumatic childhood events into consideration when it comes to, why does a person do what they do? How can we have responses to that behavior that's trauma-informed?"

Tag: He says the Redeploy Illinois program is also making a difference, with incentives for communities to provide their own services and supports to young people at risk. The state's Department of Juvenile Justice says the daily population in its six facilities has steadily declined from more than 15-hundred kids in 2003, to a current population of 800.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEAD: Congress is set to consider updating a decades-old law that guides states on the custody and care of juveniles in the criminal justice system. As Mary Schuermann reports, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act would offer states incentives to lock up fewer children.

Cut 31249:43 Outcue...Schuermann reporting.

Note to Editors: Bradley is available at 312-861-6600. Illinois data: https://www.illinois.gov/idjj/Documents/2014 12 01 DJJAnnual%20Report Final(4).pdf.

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November 21, 2014

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

The Human Impacts of Illinois Prison Overcrowding

Springfield, IL.—They're locked up with little space and little to do. A recent report finds illinois prisoners spend their days in one of the nation's most overcrowded prison systems, and some experts say there are few resources available to prepare those who are incarcerated for eventual reentry into society. Comments from Alan Mills, executive director, Uptown People's Law Center. Image available: Photo of Joliet prison.

Intro: Illinois houses an estimated 49-thousand people in its prison system, and a recent report finds it's one of the most overcrowded systems in the entire country. According to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistic's most recent census of prisoners, Illinois is operating at over 170-percent of the capacity it was designed for. Meanwhile, Alan Mills with the Uptown People's Law Center says the Department of Corrections budget has decreased by more than 10 percent in the last few years. He says the human impact is devastating, especially at maximum-security facilities.

Cut 51249:15 "There is not enough capacity to provide programming for these folks. There is no more education programs; there aren't even any jobs for them to do. They simply sit there and stare at the walls, or a TV set if they are lucky – and I put that in big quotes – enough to have one. And these are not necessarily all people in segregation."

<u>Tag</u>: Mills says prisons are so full that people who don't need to be in solitary confinement can't be moved out, and some inmates live in warehouses, gyms, and basements. He says the lack of resources to provide meaningful programs makes it more likely that people will commit new crimes when they are released. According to the census, Alabama is the only prison system more crowded than Illinois.

Second Cut: Also of concern is health care, says Mills. Illinois is 50th among states in the amount of money it spends delivering medical services in prisons.

Cut 52249 :13 "We're asking the people who work at the Department of Corrections to do an impossible job, which is to care for a huge number of both physically and mentally ill people with no money. And they don't do a very good job at it – but not because they're terrible doctors, but because they're asked to do the impossible."

Third Cut: Mills says the biggest problem is the number of non-violent prisoners, people with mental illness or substance abuse disorders who would beneat more from treatment than from being locked in a cell.

Cut 53249:14 "Prison may have a role to play in society, in terms of protecting us from violent people who might otherwise harm others. But frankly, our prison system is full of thousands of people who don't meet that criteria. So, we've caused this problem by sending far too many people to prison."

Tag: Mills recently testified about the effects of prison overcrowding before the Illinois Legislature's special Joint Committee on Criminal Justice Reform.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses soundbite(s)

LEAD: Illinois houses an estimated 49-thousand people in its prison system, and a recent report finds it's one of the most overcrowded systems in the entire country. Mary Schuermann has more.

Cut \$4249 1:04 Outcue... Schuermann reporting

FOCUS 1/11/2015

Tips to stay safe on the roads as temperatures drop.

Good morning and welcome to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Focus is a weekly show dedicated to a look at news, and public affairs. The bitterly cold weather embracing us right now can present a challenge to drivers and AAA has tips to keep your vehicle moving, and to keep you safe in these wintry conditions. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports. (START COLD ROADS SEGMENT)

IN: "It's not just ... "

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

It's one of the most common New Year's resolutions, but losing weight often is difficult to achieve and maintain. Instead of turning to restrictive diets to shed pounds, some experts recommend making a goal to live a healthier life. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START HEALTH RESOLUTION SEGMENT)

IN: "After all the ... "

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

Illinois' Medical Marijuana program is still delayed. That story is next on Focus.

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. One year into Illinois' pilot program for medical marijuana, the state has not yet issued licenses to medical cannabis businesses. Supporters of medical marijuana say that if the state would allow for home cultivation, many patients would already have medicine to help relieve their symptoms of illnesses or chronic diseases. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports. (START MED MARIJUANA DELAY SEGMENT)

IN: "As the Illinois..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

Illinois is 34th in the nation in the latest rankings on funding efforts for tobacco prevention and cessation efforts. Anti-smoking advocates say more need to be done to reduce tobacco use, which is still the nation's leading cause of preventable death. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START TOBACCO FUNDING SEGMENT)

IN: "The latest report..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

Gather your documents, tax time is near. That story is next on Focus.

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Resolve to start planning for the income-tax filing season ahead. So says an income-tax adviser. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START TAX TIME SEGMENT)

IN: "As January gets..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

PSAs

And that'll do it for this week's Focus. Thanks for joining us. If you have any questions or comments about this week's show, write to me, Sarah Addison – News Director. 2603 West Bradley Avenue. Champaign, IL 61821. Or email me, news@illiniradio.com. Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

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We have a winner! The new iPad goes to Chris Nelson at WVLE. Thanks, everyone who took our survey and HAPPY NEW YEAR to all!

January 8, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg-

Tips to Stay Safe on Roads as Temperatures Drop

Chicago, IL - The bitterly cold weather embracing Illinois can present a challenge to motorists. Nick Jarmusz (JAR-mish) with AAA has tips to keep your vehicle moving, and to keep you safe in wintry conditions. Image available: Photo of a car on a frozen road.

Intro: It's not just snow and ice that can pose risks to Illinois drivers during the winter, but also brutally cold weather. When temperatures dip below zero as they did this week, Nick Jarmusz with Triple-A says never hit the road with a nearly empty tank.

Cut 60249 :14 "Keep at least a half-tank of gas in your car at all times during cold weather to avoid engine freeze-up, and so that way if you do get stranded you have enough gas to periodically run the engine to keep the car warmed up."

Tag: He also says it's best to check your car's battery before a cold spell. Faulty car batteries cause more car-starting problems than any other factor. At zero degrees, even a good battery has about 35 percent less starting power.

Second Cut: On Wednesday, officials with the Illinois Tollway activated patrols to help drivers in disabled vehicles. And if your car freezes up or breaks down, or if you get in a wreck, Jarmusz strongly recommends staying with your vehicle.

Cut 61249 :15 "If you start venturing away from your car, the elements are going to be a bigger danger to you than if you were to stay and wait. If you're on a road you can either flag down help or wait for an emergency vehicle. ... If you have your cell phone, you can call for help."

Third Cut: Another point to keep in mind, according to Jarmusz, is to disengage cruise control when you encounter snowy or slippery roads.

Cut 62249 :18 "It maintains a specific speed, and if you begin to slide, the vehicle is going to want to keep the wheels spinning at the same rate in order to maintain the same speed. So what it's going to do is contribute to loss of control, and if you rum into a less-traction situation the wheels are going to keep spinning."

Tag: When roads are slippery, Jarmusz says, front-wheel drive and all-wheel drive can help a great deal to get your car going, but once you're at speed, they do nothing to help slow down or stop your vehicle. If your vehicle has anti-lock brakes, he recommends applying constant, firm pressure to bring the vehicle to a controlled stop under slippery conditions.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses soundbite(s)

LEAD: It's not just snow and ice that can pose risks to Illinois drivers during the winter, but also brutally cold weather. Mary Schuermann has tips to keep you safe and get you going.

Cut 63249 :38 Outcue... Mary Schuermann reporting,

Note to Editors: Jarmusz is at 608-828-2495.

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January 2, 2015

Available files hip3 way ipg.

Forget the Mirror: Make a Resolution for Better Health

Springfield, IL - It's one of the most common New Year's resolutions, but losing weight often is difficult to achieve and maintain. Instead of turning to restrictive diets to shed pounds, some experts recommend lilinoisans make a goal to live a healthier life. Comments from Christina Rollins, director of Food and Nutrition Services, Memorial Medical Center, Springfield, and spokesperson, Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Image available: photo of feet on a scale.

Intro: After all the food and festivities of the holidays, some Illinoisans will resolve to shed pounds in 2015. Nutrition experts say focusing on health instead of a number on the scale can make a New Year's resolution to lose weight a maintainable goal. Christina Rollins with the Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics says focusing on the health benefits of weight loss is particularly important for those who have young children and teenagers.

Cut 49249:12 "Children are very impressionable. We don't want to encourage them to have any distorted ideas about eating and weight loss, we want to make sure that everything is kept in a positive framework and that we encourage healthy eating not restrictive eating."

Tag: To achieve realistic results, Rollins recommends setting a long-term goal and breaking it down into smaller, measurable steps. She says changes in your daily routine such as drinking more water, packing a funch instead of dining out, or taking a family walk after dinner can become life-long habits that improve health and help to shed pounds.

Second Cut: Rollins says restrictive diet plans that promise dramatic, immediate weight loss are generally not sustainable over time.

Cut 50249 :13 "When you're starting any kind of weight-loss regime try to eat a variety of foods from all the food groups.

Any diet plan that recommends you completely eliminate a food group is not a good idea because each food offers a unique health benefit."

Third Cut: Rollins says weight loss of just five to 10 percent can reduce an obese person's risk of developing certain cancers, and some chronic diseases including hypertension and diabetes. She encourages people who need to slim down to consider those health benefits, not just how they will look in the mirror.

Cut 51249:11 "Image aside, having a healthy weight and being physically strong and active will make you feel better. So having those healthy eating habits and moving throughout the day will really fust make you feel better as you move along "

Tag: She adds that, before starting any diet plan, it's important to discuss options with your doctor and determine the ideal weight range for your body frame and height.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses soundbite(s)

LEAD: After all the food and festivities of the holidays, many Illinoisans will resolve to shed pounds in 2015. Experts say focusing on health instead of a number on the scale can make a New Year's resolution to lose weight a maintainable goal. Mary Schuermann has more.

Cut \$2249 :42 Outcue... Mary Schuermann, reporting.

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January 6, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Patients Restless, Delays Continue in Medical Marijuana Program

Springfield, IL - One year into Illinois' pilot program for medical marijuana, the state has not yet issued licenses to medical cannabis businesses. Supporters of medical marijuana say that if the state would allow for home cultivation, many patients would already have medicine to help relieve their symptoms of illnesses or chronic diseases. Comments from Dan Linn, executive director, Illinois NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws). Image available: photo of a dried cannabis bud.

Intro: As the Illinois Department of Public Health continues to review medical marijuana cultivation centers and dispensaries, many patients are going without the medicine that can help ease their pain. The state missed its end-of-year goal for choosing which businesses will receive permits in the state's pilot medical marijuana program. Dan Linn with Illinois NORML says he understands it's not an easy task, but the entire program is treading water until licenses are distributed.

Cut 56249 :13 "Patients aren't allowed to grow their own, so they've been at the mercy of the state. And patients are definitely starting to get restless, and they're starting to get upset that this is a four-year pilot program and we've already spend 25 percent of it not helping sick people. \[\Box\Bigsigs \Box\Bi

<u>Tag</u>: Linn says if the law allowed for home cultivation, many people who are sick and suffering from debilitating conditions could have already produced the medicine themselves. The state has not given a reason for the delay, but there are reports that licenses will be available in the next week.

Second Cut: Linn says the delay means patients will have to wait longer to access medicinal marijuana, because the vast majority of approved applicants will not be able to start production anytime soon.

Cut 57249:13 "They're going to need to start constructing, or renovating a facility that's already standing. And all of that takes time. People that are looking to build greenhouses, that's going to be difficult to do when the ground is frozen now that we're in January."

Third Cut: He adds that the state's delay could be due to potential legal action from those applicants who do not get permits.

Cut 58249:16 "Agencies that are involved in issuing these licenses, I think that they're expecting lawsuits to be filed against them. They're looking to do everything that they can to prevent those lawsuits from being filed to the point of being overly cautious as well as causing these delays in the program's timeline."

Tag: Licenses are expected to be awarded to about 20 cultivation centers and 60 dispensaries.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses soundbite(s)

LEAD: As the Illinois Department of Public Health continues to review medical marijuana cultivation centers and dispensaries, many patients are going without the medicine that can help ease their pain. Mary Schuermann has more

Cut 59249:47 Outcue... Mary Schuermann reporting

Note to Editors: Linn is available 847-341-0591.

A statewide news service for Illinois

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January 9, 2015

Available files: mp3 way ipg

Report Ranks IL 34th Nationally for Tobacco Prevention Funding

Springfield, IL — Illinois is 34th in the nation in the latest rankings on funding efforts for tobacco prevention and cessation efforts. Anti-smoking advocates say more need to be done to reduce tobacco use, which is still the nation's leading cause of preventable death. Comments from Kathy Drea (dray), vice president of advocacy, American Lung Association in Illinois; and John Schachter, director of communications, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. Image available: photo of an ashtray.

Intro: The latest report on how well states are funding tobacco prevention and cessation efforts has Illinois ranked 34th in the nation. According to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Illinois will take in more than one billion dollars in tobacco tax and settlement revenue this year — but will only spend a little over 11-million dollars to help smokers quit and prevent kids from starting, Kathy Drea with the American Lung Association in Illinois says that's about eight percent of what the C-D-C recommends.

Cut 64249:14 "These are broken promises to our children. The tobacco settlement was supposed to end the addiction to tobacco, and it certainly has not. The money has not been used to end the death and disease caused by tobacco use."

<u>Tag</u>: The report says smoking contributes to more than 18-thousand deaths in Illinois, and five-and-a-half billion in annual health-related costs. And the tobacco industry spends 350-million dollars annually to market its products in Illinois.

Second Cut: The report points to Florida as an example other states should follow. John Schachter with the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids says Florida cut its high school smoking rate in half – from 15 percent to seven-and-a-half – by adequately funding tobacco prevention through a voter-approved ballot initiative.

Cut 65249 :12 "We would actually save 2.3 million lives, over \$120 billion in healthcare costs. We would prevent seven million kids from becoming adult smokers, if we can get every state to fust achieve Plorida's rate, let alone go beyond that."

Tag 2: Schachter says Illinois' 14-percent high school smoking rate is line with the national average. He adds tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the U-S, with nearly a half-million deaths each year.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses third soundbite(s)

LEAD: The latest report on how well states are funding tobacco prevention and cessation efforts has Illinois ranked 34th in the nation. The details from Mary Schuermann.

Cut 66249:52 Outcue... Schuermann reporting

Note to Editors: Reach Drea at 217-787-5864; Schachter at 202-296-5469. Link to report: http://bit.ly/1f8xFfil

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January 5, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Gather your Documents; Tax Time is Near

Springfield, IL — Resolve to start planning for the income-tax filing season ahead, So says an income-tax adviser. Comments from Luis Garcia, spokesperson, Internal Revenue Service. Image available: photo of a calculator.

<u>Intro</u>: As January gets under way, experts say a little time spent preparing for tax season in the next few days will pay off in the months ahead. Luis Garcia with the I-R-S says now is the time to make sure you know where all your important tax documents are, so you're not scrambling to find them when the deadline is looming.

Cut 53249:13 "That means if you've got Form 1099s from your bank, or you have your W-2 from your employer, you want to make sure that all those documents end up in the same place. Now, whether it's a shoebox or a folder - that's really the most important thing."

Tag: Garcia also offers a reminder that anyone who wants to claim a charitable donation for 2014 needs to have appropriate records where necessary. More detailed information, forms and publications are online at "IRS.gov."

**

Second Cut: Garcia says this is the first tax season in which the Affordable Care Act figures heavily. That will include a little extra paperwork for many taxpayers.

Cut 54249:14 "The people who purchased health insurance, they want to be on the lookout for Form 1095A. And that's the form that you're going to use to make sure that you get the credit that you need, in order to make sure that you're getting your health insurance covered properly."

<u>Tag 2:</u> Garcia says there also is a form to fill out for anyone who received an exemption to the health-insurance mandate for 2014.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEAD: January is here, and experts say a little time spent preparing for tax season in the next few days will pay off in the months ahead. Mary Schuermann has more on that.

Cut 55249:37 Outcue...Mary Schuerman reporting.

Note to Editors: Reach Garcia at 313-234-1800. More info is at www.irs.gov.

FOCUS 1/18/2015

It's Radon Action Month. What are the levels in YOUR home?

Good morning and welcome to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Focus is a weekly show dedicated to a look at news, and public affairs. Radon-related lung cancer claims the lives of an estimated 12-hundred Illinoisans every year. That's why the Illinois Emergency Management Agency is encouraging home owners to test for radon in their homes during Radon Action Month. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START RADON SEGMENT)

IN: "Radon is the ... "

OUT; "... Illinois News Connection."

Nature can be a powerful addition to therapies for children with disabilities, according to a professional outdoor educator who wants families to think about adding outdoor adventures this year. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports. (START OUTSIDE SEGMENT)

IN: "in Illinois and..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

Meaningful support is needed to advance wind power in Illinois. That story is next on Focus.

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Congress is considering whether to renew tax credits critical to wind development, but some say the measure does not address the long-term needs of wind-energy production. And a new report shows how wind can help Illinois and the nation reduce carbon emissions to meet the EPA's clean-energy goals. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports. (START WIND POWER SEGMENT)

IN: "Illinois has grown..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

Illinois' health insurance marketplace enrollment sees a strong start. That story is next on Focus.

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. There's fewer than five weeks left to choose a Marketplace Insurance Plan, and state leaders say Illinois is off to a strong start. More than 121,000 people enrolled or re-enrolled in a health insurance plan in the first month, and efforts are expanding to reach the uninsured in southern parts of the state. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START HEALTH ENROLL SEGMENT)

IN: "It's the final..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

Poison control centers fielded more than double the number of calls last year about e-cigarette exposure and exposure to the nicotine liquids loaded into the devices compared to 2013. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports. (START ECIGS SEGMENT)

IN: "The number of..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

And that'll do it for this week's Focus. Thanks for joining us. If you have any questions or comments about this week's show, write to me, Sarah Addison – News Director. 2603 West Bradley Avenue. Champaign, IL 61821. Or email me, news@illiniradio.com. Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

A statewide news service for Illinois

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January 13, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Radon Action Month in Illinois: What Are The Levels in Your Home?

Springfield, IL – Radon-related lung cancer claims the lives of an estimated 12-hundred Illinoisans every year. That's why the Illinois Emergency Management Agency is encouraging home owners to test for radon in their homes during Radon Action Month. Comments from Patrick Daniels, radon program manager, Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Image available: photo of a radon testing kit.

Intro: Radon is the biggest health risk in a private home, and this month state leaders are encouraging Illinoisans to test their homes for the dangerous gas. According to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, nearly 12-hundred citizens die annually from radon-related lung cancer. Radon program manager Patrick Daniels says now is the best time of the year to check the radon levels inside a home.

Cut 71249 :10 "We want to test homes under what we call 'closed house conditions.' Being as cold as it is we tend to keep our windows and doors shut and homes closed up and preny tight so it just makes it a good time to test."

Tag: Test kits range in price from 10 dellars to 30 dellars, and can be purchased at a local hardware store or online. Daniels says it's recommended that homeowners who are involved in a real estate transaction hire a licensed professional to test the home for radon.

Second Cut: Radon is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that can enter structures through small cracks in the foundation, sump pumps or soil in crawlspaces. Daniels says there are typically higher levels of radon in northern parts of the state. But, he adds, elevated levels of the gas have been found in all Illinois counties.

Cut 72249 :15 "What makes this a great place to grow corn and soybeans - the glacial till that was pushed down during the ice age - gives us varying uranium concentrations. Radon comes from the decay of uranium in the soil comes into our homes, and builds up to levels that will cause lung cancer."

Third Cut: A radon mitigation system can greatly reduce radon levels, and the average cost runs between eight hundred dollars to 12-hundred dollars. Daniels says to save money, treat it like any other home improvement project.

Cut 73249:10 "Find a licensed mitigator, but find more than one, Get at least two bids, if not three bids. Get them to give you a written proposal and then compare bids to help keep costs down."

Tag: Information on test kits and licensed mitigation experts is available on the web: radon.illinois.gov.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses soundbite(s)

LEAD: Radon is the biggest health risk in a private home, and this month state leaders are encouraging Illinoisans to test their homes for the dangerous gas. More from Mary Schuermann.

Cut 74249 :43 Outcue... Mary Schuermann reporting.

Note to Editors: Daniels is available at patrick.daniels@illinois.gov or 217-782-1325.

1/13/2015 19:58 → WIXY-FM 1/3

Illinois News Connection

A statewide news service for Illinois

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January 14, 2015

Available file: mp3 wav jpg

Time Outside is Good for Illinoisans with Disabilities, Even in Water

Springfield, IL — Nature can be a powerful addition to therapies for children with disabilities, according to a professional outdoor educator who wants families to think about adding outdoor adventures this year. Comments from Kathy Ambrosini, creator of programs designed to include people with disabilities in outdoor activities image available: Photo of a dad helping a child ski.

Intro: In Illinois and across the nation, the "get outside" message for children is being extended to kids with disabilities. A professional outdoor educator is asking families to think about the power of nature, even as they're busy dealing with the other priorities of a child with a disability. Kathy Ambrosini says there are social gains to be made when children spend time outside of a building, especially for children with autism spectrum disorders.

Cut 61249 :12 "Forming relationships with humans - very, very important, and sometimes the early stepping stones to those are the natural inclination of a child toward other forms of life."

<u>Tag</u>: She adds that if outdoor time is a new addition to the schedule, the child should bring along a favorite item — and it's best not to have an agenda. Ambrosini advises letting the child lead the way. For older children connected to tech devices, she says it's O-K to bring them along and use them to take photos se the device camera as binoculars, or look up information about a bug.

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Second Cut: Don't let the colder winter weather in Illinois stop the adventures. Ambrosini say there is value in every season — and the biggest benefits are often for secondary issues, such as anxiety and decression.

Cut 62249:12 "Stepping outsice for maybe even three minutes. It's short, it's sweet, but the dismells different. The breeze feels different. It's another kind of relief."

Tag: As a bonus, she finds that parents and caregivers experience stress relief, too.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEAD: In Illinois and across the nation, the "get outside" message for children is being extended to kids with disabilities. Mary Schuermann explains.

Cut 0249 Outcue...Schuermann reporting

Note to Editors: Reach Kathy Ambrosini at 845-255-0919, ext. 1233.

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December 8, 2014

Available files: mp3 way ipg

Report: "Meaningful" Support Needed to Advance Illinois Wind Power

Springfield, II. — Congress is considering whether to renew tax credits critical to wind development, but some say the measure does not address the long-term needs of wind-energy production. And a new report shows how wind can help illinois and the nation reduce carbon emissions to meet the EPA's clean-energy goals. Comments from Kevin Borgia, (bor-jah), public policy manager, Wind on the Wire. Image available: photo of a wind turbine.

Intro: Illinois has grown to be the fourth-largest state for wind energy, and a new report finds with continued growth, the carbon pollution from 16 coal plants could be eliminated. According to Environment Illinois, continued rapid development would allow wind energy to supply 30 percent of the nation's electricity by 2030. Kevin Borgia with Wind on the Wire says that would provide enough carbon reductions to meet the E-P-A's proposed Clean Power Plan.

Cut 81249:16 "We are able to harness the wind resource that is in Illinois in central and northern parts of the state and sell that into Chicago and the power markets in points east. That's really made wind an export commodity for Illinois, which can be really helpful for addressing the pollution issues that surround fossil fuel use,"

Tag: The findings come days after the comment period closed for the Clean Power Plan. Borgia says as leaders prepare to reduce carbon emissions in Illinois, wind generation remains one of the cheapest, most rapidly-scalable solutions to provide emissions-free power.

Second Cut: Congress is debating extending the wind-energy tax credit that would be good through the end of 2014, but Borgia says more meaningful support in needed. And while many energy sources have tax incentives written into the tax code, Borgia says wind incentives expire every two years.

Cut 82249:13 "We have to have a political debate about it every couple of years, which means that it gets used as a political football and gets used as leverage for other things. That's no way to run a business. You have an incentive that's there and then it's gone and then it's there again. That creates enormous business instability."

Third Cut: Borgia says wind is a large boon for the state's economy, especially in rural areas. He points to a study from Illinois State University that found the overall lifetime economic benefit of existing wind farms is nearly 6 billion dollars.

Cut 83249:11 "The annual local property-tax revenue is over 28 million dollars. And this is at time when revenues from the state are dwindling or are fickle, and there are new, local revenues that are really important for the state."

Tag: The analysis predicts wind will expand significantly in Illinois over the next 15 years, producing enough power for six-point-two million homes.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses soundbite(s)

LEAD: Illinois has grown to be the fourth largest state for wind energy, and a new report finds with continued growth, the carbon pollution from 16 coal plans could be eliminated. Mary Schuermann reports.

Cut 84249 150 Outcue... Mary Schuermann, reporting.

Note to Editors: Borgia is available at: 651-544-3400. The report: http://tinyurl.com/py5lh9o; Additional data: http://renewableenergy.illinoisstate.edu/.

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January 12, 2015

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"Strong Start" for IL in Health Insurance Marketplace Enrollment

Springfield, IL — There's fewer than five weeks left to choose a Marketplace Insurance Plan, and wate leaders say Illinois is off to a strong start. More than 121,000 people enrolled or re-enrolled in a health insurance plan in the first month, and efforts are expanding to reach the uninsured in southern parts of the state. Comments from Jennifer Koehler (COE-lur), executive director, GetCoveredIllinois. Image available: photo of GetCoveredIllinois website.

Intro: It's the final push to get eligible Illinoisans signed up for health insurance available under the Affordable Care Act. There's just about one month left until the deadline to sign up for a Marketplace Insurance Plan. It's the second year of 'GetCoveredIllinois,' and executive director Jennifer Koehler says more than 121-thousand people enrolled or re-enrolled during the first month of enrollment.

Cut 67249:13 "We think that's a strong start, we obviously have still a way to go. But with the addition of this new number, basically it means that approximately 800,000 people in Illinois have obtained coverage under the Affordable Care Act."

Tag: There are 400 marketplace plans available this year, and Koehler says the 'GetCoveredIllinois' website has comparison tools available to help people select a plan that meets their individual needs and budget. January 15th is the deadline to apply for coverage that starts February 1st. The final deadline for coverage in 2015 is February 15th.

Second Cut: Koehler says there has been good interest in the marketplace this year, and the majority of enrollees are new applicants.

Cut 68249:15 "We've enrolled more people in the first 30 days of open enrollment this year, an we did in the first 90 days last year. So, we're pleased with that and in general, our reports from the field indicate that the program overall seems to be running smoothly."

Third Cut: While pleased with the progress, Koehler adds there are still tens of thousands of uninsured Illinoisans. She says they've been using a direct-mail program in southern parts of the state where it can be difficult to reach the uninsured through traditional means.

Cut 69249:10 "In urban areas, you've got a lot of traffic in particular locations. Some of our downstate areas, the uninsured are literally tens or hundreds of miles away from each other."

Tag: In the final weeks before the deadline, she says they'll expand outreach to seven additional counties.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses sour dbite(s)

LEAD: It's the final push to get eligible Illinoisans signed up for health insurance available under the Affordable Care Act. As Mary Schuermann reports, there's just about one month left until the deadline to enroll in a Marketplace Insurance Plan.

Cut 70249:43 Outcue... Schuermann reporting

Note to Editors: Koehler is available at 217-782-2801.

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January 16, 2015

Available file mp3 wav jpg

Calls for Tighter Regulations for E-Cigarettes

Springfield, IL - Poison control centers fielded more than double the number of calls last year about e-parette exposure and exposure to the nicotine liquids loaded into the devices compared to 2013. Comments from Vine Willmore, vice president for communications at the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Image available: Photo of person with an e-cigarette.

Intro: The number of calls to poison control centers about electronic eigarette incidents more than doubled last year (compared to 2013), according to new data from the American Association of coison Control Centers. Children under age six were the victims in more than half the cases. The rise it calls has the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids calling on the F-D-A to finalize its proposed rule to regular the products. Campaign spokesman Vince Willmore says the agency also needs to crack down on comparies' marketing and flavors, such as 'gummy bear' and bubble gum.

Cut 75249 :11 "Given how they're being marketed, and given these sweet flavors, it's not surprising that more kids are using e-cigarettes, and that they're attracted to nicotine liquids and being poisoned by them."

Tag: While there are no federal regulations to restrict the sale of electronic cigarettes and the recotine liquids, most states, including Illinois require that purchasers be 18. A law enacted this year in clinois require e-cigarette cartridges and liquids for sale to be kept behind store counters in age-restricted area.

Second Cut: Willmore says the colors and packaging of e-cigarettes also appeal to kids, yet not time is highly dangerous - and not only because of potential addiction.

Cut 76249:15 "Nicotine is a very toxic substance, and that exposure to even small amounts of cotine - whether it's through the skin or through ingestion - can cause vomiting and seizures. And unfortunately, it can even be lethal."

Tag: Willmore says the F-D-A should require childproof packaging, and adults need to keep the devices and supplies out of sight and out of reach of children.

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OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEAD: The number of calls to poison control centers about electronic eigarette incidents more than debted last year (compared to 2013), according to new data from the American Association of Poison Control Schuermann has details.

Cut 77249:52 Outcue... Schuermann reporting

Note to Editors: Reach Willmore at 202-296-5469. American Association of Poison Control Correstata: http://www.aapcc.org/alerts/e-cigarettes.

FOCUS 1/25/2015

The influence of outside money in Illinois elections.

Good morning and welcome to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Focus is a weekly show dedicated to a look at news, and public affairs. Last week marked the fifth anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, a ruling that the money corporations spend on campaign donations is an extension of their freedom of speech rights. Illinois is among states that passed a resolution calling for a U.S. Constitutional amendment that would allow for the decision to be overturned. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports. (START ELECTION MONEY SEGMENT)

IN: "It's been five..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

The state's poor face an unfair tax burden. That story is next on Focus.

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Low and middle income Illinoisans pay a much greater share of their income in state and local taxes than the state's most affluent, according to a new study from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. It also ranks Illinois fifth among states with the most regressive tax systems. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports. (START TAX BURDEN SEGMENT)

IN: "A new study..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

It's a program that's helped keep millions of working Americans out of poverty and a new analysis on the Earned Income Tax Credit shows it's even more significant in small towns and rural areas. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START RURAL TAX CREDIT SEGMENT)

IN: "A tax credit..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection

Ready to file taxes? Do you trust your preparer? That story is next on Focus.

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Filing taxes is one of the most important yearly financial transactions for Illinoisans, and the Internal Revenue Service says it's crucial to be wise in choosing a tax preparer. The IRS recommends a review of credentials and all the pricing details up front. It's estimated that more than half of taxpayers use professional preparers for filing income tax returns. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START TAX TRUST SEGMENT)

IN: "As the Internal..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

PSAs

And that'll do it for this week's Focus. Thanks for joining us. If you have any questions or comments about this week's show, write to me, Sarah Addison – News Director. 2603 West Bradley Avenue. Champaign, IL 61821. Or email me, news@illiniradio.com. Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

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Available files: mp3 wav jpg

January 21, 2015

The Influence of Outside Money in Illinois Elections

Springfield, IL — Today marks the fifth anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, a ruling that the money corporations spend on campaign donations is an extension of their freedom of speech rights. Illinois is among states that passed a resolution calling for a U.S. Constitutional amendment that would allow for the decision to be overturned. Comments from Brian Gladstein, director of programs and strategy, Common Cause Illinois. Image available: Photo of money.

<u>Intro:</u> It's been five years since the Supreme Court's decision in the "Citizens United" case paved the way for unlimited corporate spending in elections. The court ruled that restricting campaign spending by outside groups is unconstitutional because it hinders their freedom of speech. Brian Gladstein with Common Cause Illinois says the decision has had a lingering impact on politics in the state.

Cut 89249:14 "We've seen a definite increase in super-PACs and the amounts of money being spent on independent expenditures. We just experienced one of the most expensive races for governor and now, we have a governor that is self-funded."

<u>Tag:</u> He adds that political campaign spending from undisclosed sources topped 170-million dollars in 2014. Illinois is one of more than a dozen states that passed resolutions calling for a U-S constitutional amendment that would overturn Citizens United. Today, demonstrations and educational forums are being held around the nation, and in Illinois to mark the anniversary of the ruling.

<u>Second Cut:</u> Gladstein says he's convinced that more people are realizing the ways "corporate personhood" can mute the voices of ordinary citizens. He believes when more communities work together and speak up, change can happen.

Cut 90249:09 "Most people now that we talk to do understand these issues and are concerned about big special interests having influence on elections, and more importantly, on public policy."

Tag: A new, national report from Common Cause claims that unfettered special interest spending is blocking progress on five issues important to the American people – the minimum wage, gun control, climate change, student loans, and net neutrality.

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January 19, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Report: Illinois Poor Face Unfair Tax Burden

Springfield, IL – Low and middle income Illinoisan pay a much greater share of their income in state and local taxes than the state's most affluent, according to a new study from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. It also ranks Illinois fifth among states with the most regressive tax systems. Comments from Meg Wiehe (wee-HEE), state policy director, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. Image available: photo of currency and coins.

<u>Intro:</u> A new study finds Illinois' poorest residents are paying almost three times more in taxes than the top one-percent of earners. According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, the state takes a much greater share of income from middle and low income families than from the wealthy. Meg Wiehe, the institute's state policy director, says changes in tax policies could help solidify the state budget.

Cut 78249:15 "If you have a state tax system that hitches its wagon to those at the very bottom whose incomes are stagnant or even declining, rather than taking an adequate share from those at the top who are seeing their incomes growing, there could be major consequences for the state's ability to raise adequate revenue."

<u>Tag:</u> As a share of family income, the report finds Illinois' lowest 20 percent of earners pay over 13 percent in state and local taxes, yet the top one percent pay about four-and-a half percent.

<u>Second Cut:</u> Wiehe says Illinois' poorest face an unfair burden because of the state's flat income tax rate of three-point-75 percent and its reliance on sales, excise, and property taxes. She says the state will have a problem with the expiration of a temporary income tax hike this year.

Cut 79249:11 "I think that there will be a lot of conversation happening in Illinois this year about how to raise adequate and fair revenue to plug that budget gap both for the short and the long term."

<u>Tag:</u> Illinois made the report's "terrible ten," ranking fifth among states that are high tax for the poorest and low tax for the wealthiest.

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November 14, 2014

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Earned Income Tax Credit Benefits Residents of Rural Illinois

Springfield, IL - It's a program that's helped keep millions of working Americans out of poverty and a new analysis on the Earned Income Tax Credit shows it's even more significant in small towns and rural areas. Comments from Jon Bailey, rural policy director, Center for Rural Affairs. Image available: Photo of money and letters spelling the word "tax."

Intro: A tax credit helping many lower-income working families keep more of their earnings is proving to be especially important in rural areas and small towns across Illinois and the country, according to new research. The Earned Income Tax Credit has been touted as one of the most effective anti-poverty policy efforts and a nationwide analysis by Jon Bailey at the Center for Rural Affairs found...

Cut 32249 :10 "The Earned Income Tax Credit was used by more people in rural and small-town, small-city areas than in big urban areas in the country."

Tag: Bailey says the higher use of the tax credit tracks right along with the other economic indicators that point to many rural families still struggling financially,

Second Cut: Nationwide, the number of people who claim the credit is less than 19-percent in metropolitan areas, compared to more than 21-percent in rural areas and small towns and cities. Bailey predicts that divide will continue to widen.

Cut 33249 :15 "Because the gap between rural areas and urban areas has been growing. So, if that trend continues, I would suspect that more people are going to need to use the Earned Income Tax Credit. It's going to be even more important."

Tag 2: Bailey says the increasing importance of the Earned Income Tax Credit to working families should send a message to federal policymakers to strongly consider proposals to expand its reach by making more people eligible.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP; uses first soundbite(s)

LEAD: A tax credit helping many lower-income working families keep more of their earnings is proving to be especially important in rural areas and small towns across Illinois and the country, according to new research. Mary Schuermann explains.

Cut 34249 :29 Outcue... Schuermann reporting

Note to Editors: Bailey is at 402-687-2103 x 1013 or jonb@cfra.org. Report is at http://files.cfra.org/pdf/EITC-final.pdf. Internal Revenue Service info on EITC at http://l.usa.gov/10ETq6v.

A statewide news service for Illinois

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January 20, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Ready to File Taxes? Do You Trust Your Preparer?

Springfield, IL – Filing taxes is one of the most important yearly financial transactions for Illinoisans, and the Internal Revenue Service says it's crucial to be wise in choosing a tax preparer. The IRS recommends a review of credentials and all the pricing details up front. It's estimated that more than half of taxpayers use professional preparers for filing income tax returns. Comments from Mark Hanson, spokesman, Internal Revenue Service. Image available: Photo of tax forms.

Intro: As the Internal Revenue Service begins processing tax returns today (Tuesday), a word of caution for those across the state who will seek help from a paid professional. I-R-S spokesman Mark Hanson says most preparers are knowledgeable and trustworthy, but sometimes taxpayers can be misled by those who don't understand complex tax situations — or who mislead people into taking credits or deductions they aren't entitled to, in order to increase their own fee.

Cut 85249:13 "Each year, it's not uncommon to find stories around the country where a tax preparer has done something that may not necessarily be right. So, you want to make sure you're having somebody who represents your best interests, and does so legally."

<u>Tag:</u> Hanson says a reliable tax professional will have an I-R-S Preparer Tax Identification Number. And he advises taxpayers to investigate the person's professional credentials, review the return before signing, and make sure any refund is sent directly to you, never to the tax preparer.

Second Cut: Hanson also recommends checking the service fees for a professional tax service upfront.

Cut 86249:09 "A tax preparer should not be charging you a fee based upon the amount of refund you are expected to get. This could be a red flag, right up front."

<u>Third Cut:</u> Hanson notes you're still legally responsible for what's on your return, even if you don't prepare it yourself.

Cut 87249:15 "If the IRS questions the accuracy of any information, we're going to ask you the taxpayer – not necessarily your tax preparer. So, once you sign that return, you're telling the IRS, 'This is a complete and accurate return,' to the best of your knowledge. Once you sign it, you own it."

<u>Tag:</u> Today is the first day that taxpayers can file electronically and is also the first day for the I-R-S on the processing of paper returns.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses soundbite(s)

LEAD: As the Internal Revenue Service begins processing tax returns today (Tuesday), a word of caution for those across the state who will seek help from a paid professional. Mary Schuermann has the details.

Cut 88249:49 Outcue... Mary Schuermann reporting.

Note to Editors: Hanson is available at 336-574-6040. More at http://www.irs.gov.

FOCUS 2/8/2015

A measles outbreak stirs controversy over vaccinations.

Good morning and welcome to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Focus is a weekly show dedicated to a look at news, and public affairs. A measles outbreak that began at Disneyland is intensifying the debate over vaccinations. A volunteer pediatrician out of Bolingbrook says while it is a doctor's role is to educate parents; they also need to respect the parent's right to make medical choices they feel are best for their child. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports. (START VACCINATION SEGMENT)

IN: "Doctors, parents and..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

The U.S. Senate on Tuesday passed legislation aimed at reducing America's soaring suicide rate for military veterans. It includes third-party evaluations of mental health and suicide prevention efforts in the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Defense Department. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START VET SUICIDE SEGMENT)

IN: "The U.S. Senate ... "

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

Free internet for all is closer to reality. That story is next on Focus.

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. You could soon have access to a free and open Internet. Federal Communications Commission chairman Tom Wheeler is recommending the strongest open-Internet regulations ever proposed by the agency, which would classify the web the same as any other utility. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports. (START FREE INTERNET SEGMENT)

IN: "The head of..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

A team of documentary filmmakers is exploring questions facing public education in Illinois, as it follows the families, educators and policymakers affected by the 2013 historic Chicago Public School closings. "The School Project" is a series of six 10-minute documentary shorts that will be available online. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START SCHOOL CLOSING DOC SEGMENT)

IN: "A new documentary..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection

New Year's resolution fizzling out? Try checking in with your doctor. That story is next on Focus.

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. If you made a New Year's resolution to be healthier, you may find your resolve fizzling out now that it's February. One expert says a primary care physician is a valuable resource for those who are looking to make meaningful changes to their diet and exercise, and can help them stick to the right plan in the long run. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START RESOLUTION FAIL SEGMENT)

IN: "An apple a..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

P\$As

And that'll do it for this week's Focus. Thanks for joining us. If you have any questions or comments about this week's show, write to me, Sarah Addison – News Director. 2603 West Bradley Avenue. Champaign, IL 61821. Or email me, news@illiniradio.com. Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

A statewide news service for Illinois

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February 6, 2015

Measles Outbreak Stirs Controversy Over Vaccinations

IL Pediatrician Says It's A Parent's Right to Decide

Springfield, IL - A measles outbreak that began at Disneyland is intensifying the debate over vaccinations. An Illinois pediatrician says while it is a doctor's role is to educate parents; they also need to respect the parent's right to make medical choices they feel are best for their child. Comments from Dr. Lainna (LAY-nah) Callentine (rhymes with valentine), volunteer pediatrician, Bolingbrook Christian Health Center. Image available: photo of a syringe and needle.

<u>Intro:</u> Doctors, parents and politicians all over the country are involved in a heated debate over vaccinations following a measles outbreak that began at Disneyland in California. Top health leaders have linked the outbreak to children who were not vaccinated for the disease. Dr. Lainna Callentine volunteers at clinics for the under-served in Illinois, and says it's crucial that parents and their child's pediatrician have an open dialogue about the reasons they are choosing, or not choosing to vaccinate.

Cut 31249:15 "As a pediatrician, my role is to educate and to empower parents to make healthy decisions on behalf of their children. But I have to respect that a parent has a right ultimately to make that decision and that is not my personal right on their behalf."

<u>Tag:</u> According to a Pew Research Center report, about 68 percent of Americans say vaccines should be required, and 30 percent say vaccines should be a matter of personal choice. Parents may choose to not vaccinate, or delay vaccinating children for many reasons including religious beliefs, medical issues, poverty, or a lack of access to medical care.

<u>Second Cut:</u> There are some doctors who refuse to accept patients whose parents are anti-vaccine. Callentine says that is sending the wrong message.

Cut 32249:14 "I see a problem with physicians who do not allow healthy dialogue and questions. When you push them out of your practice, you're really pushing them into the arms of perhaps some of the charlatans out there who are feeding a lot of misinformation."

Third Cut: Callentine adds that there is a lot of information available about vaccinations, and parents should be fully educated before making a decision for their child.

Cut 33249:14 "It's important for parents to understand the information they are looking at and where that information comes from. It's also important to understand how those illnesses are

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February 4, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Senate Passes Bill Addressing Veteran Suicide

Springfield, IL — The U.S. Senate on Tuesday passed legislation aimed at reducing America's soaring suicide rate for military veterans. It includes third-party evaluations of mental health and suicide prevention efforts in the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Defense Department. Comments from Jayce Elliston, a veteran of the Gulf War. Image available: Photo of Vietnam Veterans Memorial Plaza in Chicago.

<u>Intro:</u> The U-S Senate passed legislation on Tuesday to improve mental health services for veterans in Illinois and the rest of the country. The "Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act" would provide funding to evaluate the mental health and suicide prevention programs of the V-A and the Defense Department, improve training and enhance collaboration. Jayce Elliston, a Gulf War veteran who lives with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, says almost two-dozen vets take their own lives every day.

Cut 25249:11 "It's a massive problem. Twenty-two a day is unconscionable. It's got to be changed, and anything that we can do to make it better, and a review of the systems that we have in place, is probably a great idea."

<u>Tag:</u> Elliston points out the numbers total about eight-thousand veteran suicides per year. The legislation is named for a Marine veteran who struggled with P-T-S-D and committed suicide in 2011 at age 28.

<u>Second Cut:</u> Elliston says an entire generation of veterans is dealing with the lifelong impact of taking the lives of others in war, which has a profound effect on their own mental health.

Cut 26249:14 "Imagine a person that takes another person's life. You deal with emotional issues for the rest of your life – trying to quantify and trying to put meaning to what you did – and some people have a real, real difficult time coming to terms with that."

<u>Tag</u>: The Clay Hunt bill passed unanimously in the Senate and the House and is headed to President Obama's desk.

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February 5, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Proposal Would Open Doors to Faster Internet for All Illinoisans

Springfield, IL – All Illinoisans soon could have access to a free and open Internet. Federal Communications Commission chairman Tom Wheeler is recommending the strongest open-Internet regulations ever proposed by the agency, which would classify the web the same as any other utility. Comments from Whitney Kimball Coe, program associate, Center for Rural Strategies.

<u>Intro:</u> The head of the Federal Communications Commission is proposing to reclassify the Internet the same as a utility, which would improve access for rural Illinoisans. F-C-C Chairman Tom Wheeler announced yesterday (Wednesday) that he will seek to have the Internet regulated under Title 2 of the Communications Act. Whitney Kimball Coe with the Center for Rural Strategies says it would create a free and open Internet for everyone.

Cut 28249:15 "The ability to communicate and to have access to places where you can contribute knowledge and also gain knowledge, that just seems to be a basic human right at this point. And rural folks are pretty used to being in the slow lane, and I think we're tired of it and we're looking for greater access."

<u>Tag:</u> The proposal allows the creation of regulations to ban paid prioritization of content and services across all Internet platforms including mobile broadband. It's estimated that more than half of rural Americans have no access to high-speed Internet.

<u>Second Cut:</u> Much of the debate over net neutrality has centered around Internet providers who want to charge fees for fast-speed lanes on their networks. But Kimball Coe says it's more than that for rural Illinoisans.

Cut 29249:10 "While net neutrality has become a big issue, we're still talking about the need for access and not just talking about wanting a faster Internet. We want to actually get on the Internet."

<u>Tag:</u> Opponents argue the proposal is overreaching and would stifle investment and customer choice. The commission must approve the proposal, and a vote is expected February 26.

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January 26, 2015

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Illinois Film Series Creating Dialogue on Impact of School Closings

Springfield, IL – A team of documentary filmmakers is exploring questions facing public education in Illinois, as it follows the families, educators and policymakers affected by the 2013 historic Chicago Public School closings. "The School Project" is a series of six 10-minute documentary shorts that will be available online. Comments from Bob Hercules, co-executive producer, The School Project. Image available: photo of children protesting.

Intro: A new documentary series is opening a dialogue about public education and equity in Illinois. Focusing on the fallout from Chicago's historic closing of 49 public schools in 2013, "The School Project" examines the issues affecting the schools now, and gives a voice to parents and public education leaders. Co-executive producer of the series Bob Hercules says it touches on discipline policies, the history of reform, standardized testing, charter schools and equitable school funding.

Cut 92249:13 "Kids are coming out of lower-income neighborhoods, they're inevitably getting lower funds for their schools. If a kid is in a wealthier, suburban neighborhood, obviously they get a lot more money for their schools. So the question is, 'Is that fair?' "

<u>Tag:</u> Two of the six documentaries in the series have been released and can be viewed at schoolprojectfilm.com. The website also features an interactive map and provides an outlet for families to share their stories about the impact of the closings.

<u>Second Cut:</u> The second segment of the series was released last week, which Hercules says coincides with a report from the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research exploring the whereabouts of the 10 thousand students displaced by the 2013 closings. Hercules says it shines a light on the implications that other districts with closings may face, and what happens to the students.

Cut 93249:12 "A lot of families, I don't think had any problems going to the new schools. They seemed to transition pretty well. A significant number actually did not go to the welcoming schools, and so the question is 'Where did they go, and why?'"

<u>Tag:</u> According to the report, proximity to home was the deciding factor. While most displaced students enrolled in schools with better academic ratings, just one-fifth ended up at top-tier schools, and nearly one-quarter went to schools that were lower-performing than the welcoming schools assigned to them by

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February 3, 2015

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New Year's Resolution Fizzling? Try Checking In with Your Doctor

Springfield, IL — Illinoisans who made New Years' resolutions to be healthier may find their resolve fizzling out now that it's February. One expert says a primary care physician is a valuable resource for those who are looking to make meaningful changes to their diet and exercise, and can help them stick to the right plan in the long run. Comments from Dr. Glen Stream, board chair, Family Medicine for America's Health. Image available: Photo of a scale.

<u>Intro:</u> An apple a day may keep the doctor away, but one medical expert says it's important to keep the doctor close by when making a pledge for better health. A new survey finds the majority of Americans are looking to make changes to their diet and exercise this year — yet only about half of them will consult their doctor as part of the process. Dr. Glen Stream with Family Medicine for America's Health says they're bypassing a valuable resource, since generally no one knows a person's specific health issues better than their primary care physician.

Cut 21249:13 "Your family doctor can help sort through all of those potential options as far as different diets are out there, to find the one that may both be the most effective, but also the safest and the most medically appropriate for us."

<u>Tag:</u> He says a family doctor can help cut through the barrage of health and diet information that's available. According to the survey from Family Medicine for America's Health, Americans have the most trust by far in physicians to provide advice about healthy behaviors, yet they turn most often to online sources.

<u>Second Cut:</u> Stream says he understands that some people are embarrassed or nervous about discussing diet and exercise with their doctor. But he says a personal physician should be considered an ally.

Cut 22249:13 "So often, patients come in with medical issues that are so difficult to treat. I think if the patient comes in and says, 'You know, I'm ready to change my lifestyle and I want you to help me.' Those sorts of interactions—for me, as a physician—make my day."

<u>Third Cut:</u> Stream adds that money spent on treatment of medical conditions far exceeds prevention. And he says more emphasis on primary care and prevention could help address the country's growing rates of chronic disease.

FOCUS 2/15/2015

Today is the deadline for you to get your healthcare coverage before facing a penalty.

Good morning and welcome to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Focus is a weekly show dedicated to a look at news, and public affairs. Get Covered Illinois is the official health Marketplace for Illinois and it's where you can go to take the first step to finding the health coverage you need and today is a major deadline. Joining me this morning to talk more about health coverage through the Affordable care Act is Regional Ourtreach Coordinator Amanda Kozar. (START GCI INTERVIEW)

IN: "Good morning. Thanks..."
OUT: "... so much. Thanks"

Volunteers are ready to help you with your taxes. That story is next on Focus.

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. The April 15th tax deadline will be here before you know it, and free assistance is available to help you sort through the details. AARP Tax Aide volunteers at more than 200 locations around the state will be helping taxpayers of all ages. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START TAX HELP SEGMENT)

IN: "Tax season is..."
OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

PSAs

And that'll do it for this week's Focus. Thanks for joining us. If you have any questions or comments about this week's show, write to me, Sarah Addison – News Director. 2603 West Bradley Avenue. Champaign, IL 61821. Or email me, news@illiniradio.com. Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

Talking Points

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Legimal Outreach

Coordin. Amauda

IS GET COVERED ILLINOIS?

Get Covered Illinois is the official health Marketplace for Illinois residents. It's where residents can go to take the first step to finding the health coverage they need.

Lozar

WHAT IS GET COVERED ILLINOIS?

WHAT IS THE MARKETPLACE?

- The health insurance Marketplace is a part of the Affordable Care Act, which was put in place to make sure that people could access their options more easily.
- Essentially, it is an online shopping website for health insurance. Through the Marketplace, residents can compare their options side-by-side and see what financial help they qualify for to help lower costs.

HOW MANY PLANS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE MARKETPLACE?

- This year, there are more plans than ever, with about 200 more individual plan options and about 150 more plans for the small group market.
 - This is great news for Illinois residents, as it shows that the Affordable Care Act is working as it's intended to encourage competition in the health insurance market, Illinois residents would also be keen to know that in addition to having more options, the increased competition also means more competitive rates.

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE MARKETPLACE?

- People don't think that health insurance is affordable.
 - According to an announcement from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), enrollment numbers in Illinois from the first month of open enrollment revealed that 80 percent of Marketplace customers were eligible for financial help to help lower the cost of coverage.
- Residents also may think coverage through the Marketplace is second-rate. However, plans purchased through the Marketplace are actually the same as those obtained from private insurance companies.
 - In fact, these plans are provided by many of the top insurance companies in the state. In addition, all plans sold through the Marketplace include Essential Health Benefits and vital wellness services such as doctor's visits, prescription drugs, hospitalization and health screenings.

THERE SEEM LIKE A LOT OF OPTIONS, IS THERE ANY WAY FOR ILLINOISANS TO GET HELP?

- Yes. With so many health insurance options available, signing up for coverage may seem a bit complicated. But no one has to go through the process alone.
 - There are hundreds of trained professionals, including brokers, agents and navigators, who are available to walk residents through their options. They're available in communities across the state at absolutely no cost so that Illinois residents have the resources they need to make informed coverage decisions.
- Get Covered Illinois is extending hours at enrollment locations in advance of the deadline, and inperson appointments are available to help consumers enroll before the deadline.
- You can find a trained professional in your community by visiting getcoveredillinois.gov, or you can even call the Help Desk at 866-311-1119 and make an appointment at a time and location convenient to you.

WHAT HAPPENS IF RESIDENTS DON'T GET INSURANCE BEFORE THE DEADLINE?

- If you miss the February 15th deadline, you may have to wait until 2016 for health coverage through the Marketplace.
- You may also have to pay a penalty on your 2015 taxes if you do not choose a health plan by Feb. 15. Almost everyone is required to have health insurance and the fines have increased this year. Depending on your income, the fine for not having health insurance may be \$325 at minimum.

ANYTHING ELSE ILLINOIS RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW?

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February 9, 2015

Available files: mp3 w/// pg

Tax Aide Volunteers Ready to Crunch the Numbers for Illinoisans

Springfield, IL - The April 15th tax deadline will be here before you know it, and free assistance is available to help some Illinoisans sort through the details. AARP Tax Aide volunteers at more than 200 sites around the state will be helping taxpayers of all ages. Comments from Heather Heppner, associate state director of communications, AARP liknois. Image available: photo of a Tax Aide volunteer.

Intro: Tax season is in full swing, and volunteers are available to help eligible Illinoisans crunch the numbers. The A-A-R-P Foundation Tax Aide program offers free tax preparation assistance for familiar with low to moderate incomes. A-A-R-P Illinois spokesperson Heather Heppner says the trained preparers call be program taxpayers sort through new tax requirements and credits.

Cut 39249 :14 "There's a few changes that are going to come around this year particularly with regards to the Affordable Care Act. And beyond that, our Tax Aide volunteers particularly look for areas that you may be eligible for deductions and other tax credits that you might not otherwise be aware of."

Tag: Interested taxpayers need to provide the usual income documents plus their family's health insurance information. Heppner says Illinoisans who used Tax Aide preparers last year received over 43 million dollars in income tax refunds and over five million dollars from the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Second Cut: The services are offered at nearly two hundred sites around the state, including senior centers and libraries. Heppner recommends scheduling an appointment sooner rather than later.

Cut 40249:13 "Our Tax Aide volunteers serve people at the sites from the beginning of February until tax day. April 15. The sites do fill up pretty quickly, and you don't want to be in a situation where it's the beginning of poril and you can't get an appointment."

Tag: In 2014, over 11 hundred Tax Aide volunteers helped more than 83 thousand Illinoisans file their state and federal returns.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses soundbite(s)

LEAD: Tax season is in full swing, and volunteers are available to help eligible Illinoisans crunch the numbers. War, Schuermann reports.

Cut 41249:49 Outcue... Mary Schuermann reporting.

Note to Editors: Heppner can be reached at 312-458-3623. More information: www.narp.org/findtaxhelp of 1-888-AARPNOW.

FOCUS 2/22/2015

Will Illinois cut the cord on landline phone service?

Good morning and welcome to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Focus is a weekly show dedicated to a look at news, and public affairs. The Illinois Telecommunications Act is up for review this year, and consumer groups are concerned big telecommunication companies will push for the elimination of low-cost home phone service, saying that mobile phones and Internet telephones are great technology, but not reliable or affordable enough for many residents. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START LANDLINE SEGMENT)

IN: "Illinois consumer groups..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

Illinois farmers could benefit from a USDA program. That story is next on Focus.

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *Investments from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) could help another generation stay on the farm. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START FARM HELP SEGMENT)

IN: "The average age..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

Illinois has made a major advancement in an annual state list of employment in the solar industry. According to The Solar foundation, Illinois added 17 hundred solar jobs in 2014, jumping from 20th to 12th nationally. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports. (START SOLAR JOBS SEGMENT)

IN: "The sun is..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

Free school breakfast is a good thing, but maybe not for Illinois. That story is next on Focus.

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Illinois ranks 42nd in a new report on participation in free school breakfast programs. According to the Food Research and Action Center, less than half of the children in Illinois who receive free school lunches also participate in the breakfast program. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START FREE SCHOOL BFAST SEGMENT)

IN: "A new report..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

A consumer watchdog group is calling on McDonald's to become a global leader in the fight against the overuse of antibiotics. According to the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), if the company stopped purchasing meat raised with antibiotics, it would change the market and make antibiotic-free meat more affordable and accessible. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports.

PSAs

And that'll do it for this week's Focus. Thanks for joining us. If you have any questions or comments about this week's show, write to me, Sarah Addison – News Director. 2603 West Bradley Avenue. Champaign, IL 61821. Or email me, news@illiniradio.com. Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

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February 18, 2015

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Will Illinois Cut Cord on Landline Phone Service?

Springfield, IL - The Illinois Telecommunications Act is up for review this year, and consumer groups are concerned big telecommunication companies will push for the elimination of low-cost home phone service. Jim Chilsen, director of communications with the Citizens Utility Board, says mobile phones and Internet telephones are great technology, but not reliable or affordable enough for many Illinoisans. Image available: photo of a landline telephone.

Intro: Illinois consumer groups say they are worried state lawmakers will allow the cord to be cut on home phone service. The Illinois Telecommunications Act will expire this year. Jim Chilsen with the Citizens Utility Board says the review will open the door for A-T-and-T and other large telecom companies to push customers onto phone options that are more expensive and less reliable than landline service.

Cut 60249:13 "For millions of consumers and small businesses, this is still the most reliable, affordable choice. A smart phone is a great device but it's not affordable for everyone. And anybody who's taken a trip across the state can tell you that it's not always reliable."

Tag: Chilsen says if lawmakers scrap the obligation to serve requirement in the act, companies could abandon areas they deem unprofitable, leaving some rural areas without home phone service. And he says there are also concerns that consumers' choice plans will no longer be mandated, which range from about three dollars to 20 dollars a month. According to the F-C-C, nearly 40 percent of U-S households now have no landline phone service.

<u>Second Cut:</u> A-T-and-T officials have said the company wants to deliver more of the modern communications services that consumers are demanding, such as wireless phones and high-speed Internet calling. But Chilsen argues there are health and safety reasons the landline option be preserved.

Cut 61249:16 "People who have pacemakers and who need to report to a doctor's office, often a land line is the most reliable way. Often consumers are concerned about 911 service. The most reliable 911 option is a land line because it doesn't go out in a power outage."

<u>Tag:</u> In a survey conducted last year on behalf of A-A-R-P, nearly half of respondents said they use traditional phone service nearly always or most of the time. The percentages were higher for Illinoisans ages 65 and older.

A statewide news service for Illinois

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January 30, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Next Crop of IL Farmers could Benefit from USDA Program

Springfield, IL — Investments from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) could help another generation stay on the farm. Comments from Traci Bruckner, senior associate for agriculture and conservation policy, Center for Rural Affairs. Image available: Photo of hay bales in farm field.

<u>Intro:</u> The average age of Illinois farmers is 56, and as their retirement nears, there is a need to get the next crop of farmers up and running. The U-S-D-A is providing 18-million dollars to help educate and develop the next generation of ag businesses, in Illinois and around the nation. The funding is in the 2014 Farm Bill, under the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development program. Traci Bruckner with the Center for Rural Affairs says the program is a great starting point for people who want to farm.

Cut 14249:12 "It provides support to organizations and land-grant universities and other agencies, to provide mentoring and training for the next generation of farmers and ranchers."

<u>Tag:</u> In Illinois, there are currently nearly 75-thousand farms producing a variety of products, including corn, wheat, pork, and cattle. Bruckner says those who want more information can contact the Center for Rural Affairs, or go to its website, 'cfra.org.'

Second Cut: Bruckner says it's difficult for young people today to get started farming and ranching, and this program helps them identify what they need to do and learn to achieve that goal.

Cut 15249:14 "A lot of these folks don't really know where to start and how to get started, so these training and mentoring programs can really help them identify what their values are, how they can connect that to getting started in farming and really, help connect them to those opportunities."

Tag: Bruckner says the new crop of growers and ranchers come from all different kinds of backgrounds.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEAD: The average age of Illinois farmers is 56, and as their retirement nears, there is a need to get the next crop of farmers up and running. More from Mary Schuermann.

z/ 2/16/2015 19:57

Illinois News Connection

A statewide news service for Illinois

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February 17, 2015

Available files mp3 was jpg

Report: Homegrown Solar Jobs Flourishing in Illinois

Springfield, IL – Illinois has made a major advancement in an annual state list of employment in the solar industry. According to The Solar foundation, the Prairie State added 17 hundred solar jobs in 2014, jumping from 20th for 12th nationally. Comments from Bret Fanshaw, solar program coordinator, Environment America, and spokesment. Environment Illinois. Image available: photo of the sun over a bridge.

Intro: The sun is shining on solar power in Illinois. A new report ranks the state 12th nationally for the number of people employed in the solar industry, up from 20th in 2013. According to The Solar Foundation. 17 hundred solar jobs were added last year, bringing the total to 38 hundred in Illinois. Spokesman for Environment Illinois Bret Fanshaw says these are homegrown jobs in sectors like manufacturing and installation.

Cut 57249:11 "In a lot of ways the jobs can't be outsourced because they're right here at home. Fou're installing them on someone's home in Chicago and so that's a job that's right here in the state of Illinois."

Tag: The Solar Jobs Census found that nationally the industry is exceeding growth expectations, adding workers at a rate nearly 20 times faster than the overall economy. It's estimated that employment in solar has grown over 85 percent in the past five years, resulting in nearly 80 thousand jobs.

Second Cut: Fanshaw says Illinois has strong policies contributing to the growth of solar power, including net metering which creates incentives for rooftop solar. And the new Illinois Clean Jobs Goalition is working to get the state to obtain 35 percent of its power from clean energy by 2030.

Cut 58249:13 "Certainly if the state hits that by using wind - and especially solar - the employment numbers will surely grow along with the great environmental benefits that come with putting solar up by reducing our air political and also working to fight climate change."

Tag: 25 percent of the state's energy is required to come from renewable sources under the current state Renewable Portfolio Standard. Almost half of Illinois' electricity comes from nuclear power, followed by coal, natural gas, and renewable sources.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP; uses soundbite(s)

LEAD: The sun is shining on solar power in Illinois. As Mary Schuermann reports, a few report ranks the state 12th nationally for the number of people employed in the solar industry, up from 20th in 20.3.

Cut 59249:46 Outcue. Mary Schuermann reporting.

Note to Editors: Fanshaw is available at 602-252-9225. The report: http://prc.thesolarfoundation.org/solarstates/.

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February 11, 2015

Available files: mp3 way png

IL Among the Lowest Performing States for Free School Breakfast Participation

Springfield, IL - Illinois ranks 42nd in a new report on participation in free school breakfast programs. According to the Food Research and Action Center, less than half of the children in Illinois who receive free school lunches also participate in the breakfast program. Comments from Diane Doherty, executive director Illinois Hunger Coalition. Image available photo of a child eating at school.

Intro: A new report shows 11 million low-income children nationwide are participating in free breakfast programs on the average day, but Illinois is at the back of the bus when it comes to reaching hungry children. The report from the Food Research and Action Center shows Illinois ranks 42nd among the states. Executive director for the Illinois Hunger Coalition Diane Doherty says hunger in the classroom is not only bad for a child's health, but also for his or her academic performance.

Cut 46249:13 "We know that if kids are trying to learn and trying to focus on an empty stamach it's much harder for them. And kids complain about headaches, they complain about stomach aches, they're more tired, they're less able to concentrate."

Tag: According to the report, statewide in Illinois, about over 770 thousand low-income children receive school lunches, and less than half of them participate in the breakfast program.

Second Cut: Doherty says the schools that are most successful at feeding children are the ones that use non-traditional, creative approaches to how and when breakfast is served.

Cut 47249:10 "That includes breakfast in the classroom, breakfast after the bell, grab-and-go. You know a lot of kids get to school at the last minute, their parents are rushing off to work so it's a really busy time."

Third Cut: Doherty says Illinois is making progress in some areas, with more than 130 school districts now participating in the U-S-D-A's Community Eligibility Provision program.

Cut 48249:11 "It's a new federal option that allows high-poverty schools to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students in a less bureaucratic, simpler, more efficient, time-saving method."

<u>Tag 2</u>: The Food Research and Action Center says a reasonable goal is to reach 70 low-income children with school breakfast for every 100 who eat lunch. Illinois missed that goal by a large margin, with only about 45 percent eating both breakfast and lunch at school.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEAD: A new report shows 11 million low-income children nationwide are participating in free breakfast programs on the average day. But Mary Schuermann reports Illinois is at the back of the bus when it comes to reaching hungry kids.

Cut 49249:43 Outcue... Mary Schuermann reporting.

Note to Editors: Doherty can be reached at 312-629-9580. Report at www.frac.org. .

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January 27, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

McDonald's Urged to Be Leader and End Antibiotic Use in Meat

Springfield,IL — A consumer watchdog group is calling on McDonald's to become a global leader in the fight against the overuse of antibiotics. According to the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), if the company stopped purchasing meat raised with antibiotics, it would change the market and make antibiotic-free meat more affordable and accessible. Comments from Pamela Clough (cluff), campaign coordinator, U.S. PIRG's Stop Antibiotics Overuse Campaign. Image available: photo of a McDonald's Big Mac and french fries.

Intro: The company known for its "Golden Arches" is being asked to make its burgers, chicken nuggets and other menu items antibiotic-free. It's estimated that nearly 70-percent of all antibiotics sold in the U-S are used in raising livestock and poultry. McDonald's sells more than one-billion pounds of beef each year, and Pamela Clough with the watchdog U-S Public Interest Research Group says if the fast-food giant required its suppliers to stop raising meat with antibiotics, it would prompt sweeping changes in the industry.

Cut 11249:14 "If they were to make this change, it would be the equivalent of banning antibiotics in meat production in a small country. And so, if they make this commitment, it could really change the paradigm of the market and make antibiotic-free meat more affordable and more accessible for everybody"

Tag: Some medical experts say the overuse of antibiotics is creating antibiotic-resistant infections that are serious public health threats. McDonald's says it recognizes the importance of combating antibiotic resistance and an update to its policy on antibiotic use in food animals is due out this year.

Second Cut: Other restaurants, including Panera and Chipotle, say they already use only antibiotic-free meats, and the Chick-fil-A chain has made a commitment to only purchase chicken raised without antibiotics by 2020. In 2003, McDonald's implemented a policy about antibiotics, but Clough says it didn't go far enough.

Cut 12249:12 "It only applied to some suppliers, and didn't require even these suppliers to only purchase meat raised without antibiotics. It had to do with antibiotics used for growth promotion versus disease prevention. In the end, we need stronger action."

<u>Tag:</u> The fast-food giant announced last year that it will start transitioning to sustainable beef by 2016, but Clough says it wasn't specific about the definition of "sustainable."

FOCUS 3/8/2015

It's time to prepare for the dangers of volatile spring weather.

Good morning and welcome to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Focus is a weekly show dedicated to a look at news, and public affairs. It's Severe Weather Awareness Week in Illinois, and state emergency leaders are encouraging residents to be prepared for spring storms. Last Tuesday a statewide tornado drill was held to test emergency alert systems. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START SPRING WX SEGMENT)

IN: "The warmer and..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

The Supreme Court could affect health care in Illinois. That story is next on Focus.

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. The United States Supreme Court heard the latest challenge to the Affordable Care Act this week. Opponents argue the King v. Burwell case threatens access to health insurance subsidies that help millions of Americans pay for their new coverage, including thousands of Illinoisans. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START ACA SEGMENT)

IN: "A U.S. Supreme..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

A bill under consideration by the Illinois Senate would modify a current law that allows the religious beliefs of health care providers to trump the medical needs of patients. Senate Bill 1564, sponsored by Senator Daniel Biss of Evanston, amends the law to protect patients when their health care providers practice under religious restrictions. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports. (START PATIENT CARE/RELIGION SEGMENT)

IN: "New legislation in..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

Regardless of gas prices, we want fuel efficiency. That story is next on Focus.

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Gas prices may be low, but a new survey shows consumers don't believe prices will stay that way and they want their next car or truck to get better gas mileage. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START FUEL EFFICIENCY SEGMENT)

IN: "Gas prices will..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

You're encouraged to take a stance against bullies as part of International Stand Up to Bullying Day. The observance comes on the heels of a recent poll that shows bullying is seen as more of a problem for youth today than ever before. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports.

IN: "A recent survey..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection.

PSAs

And that'll do it for this week's Focus. Thanks for joining us. If you have any questions or comments about this week's show, write to me, Sarah Addison – News Director. 2603 West Bradley Avenue. Champaign, IL 61821. Or email me, news@illiniradio.com. Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

7/ 3/2/2015 02:19 → WIXY-FM 1/1

Illinois News Connection

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March 2, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Time to Prepare for Dangers of Volatile Spring Weather

Springfield, IL – It's Severe Weather Awareness Week in Illinois, and state emergency leaders are encouraging residents to be prepared for spring storms. Tuesday March 3, a statewide tornado drill will be held at 10 a.m. to test emergency alert systems. Comments from Mike McClure, senior meteorologist, National Weather Service, Quad Cities. Image available; photo of a lightning strike.

<u>Intro</u>: The warmer and often volatile weather of spring will soon arrive, and during Severe Weather Awareness Week, state emergency officials are reminding Illinoisans about the dangers of thunderstorms, lightening, tornadoes, and flash floods. Mike McClure with the National Weather Service in the Quad Cities says residents should be cautious when a weather alert is issued, even if it is not in your immediate area.

Cut 81249:12 "Severe weather, you know, doesn't fall nicely and neatly unfortunately as we like it to and into the exact areas that we forecast. That's why we say, if you are in or near a watch area, be prepared and stay alert."

<u>Tag</u>: A watch means an area has potential to see severe weather; a warning means severe weather is either occurring or expected to occur. The statewide Tornado Warning test will be held tomorrow (Tue.) at 10 a.m. Schools, businesses and families are encouraged to practice tornado drills.

Second Cut: To be prepared for severe weather, McClure advises residents to have a plan for seeking shelter at home, or when traveling. He adds it's also good to inspect your home for potential hazards during a storm, such as weakened trees or windows that could shatter.

Cut 82249 :14 "Also wrapped into this too maybe learning how to use a fire extinguisher or administer CFR; knowing how to turn off the electricity, gas and water; and then having an emergency supply kit because some storms may produce power outages that could last for quite a while."

<u>Tag</u>: Along with local television and radio stations, smart phones can also send severe weather alerts. But McClure says they are not always reliable during power outages. He recommends a battery-operated weather alert radio.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP; uses soundbite(s)

LEAD: The warmer and often volatile weather of spring will soon arrive, and during Severe Weather Awareness Week, state emergency officials are reminding Illinoisans about the dangers of thunderstorms, lightening, tornadoes, and flash floods. More from Mary Schuermann.

Cut 83249:45 Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.

Note to Editors: McClure is available at 563-386-3976.

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March 3, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Supreme Court Case Could Affect Health Care in Illinois

Springfield, IL — The United States Supreme Court will hear the latest challenge to the Affordable Care Act on Wednesday. Opponents argue the King v. Burwell case threatens access to health insurance subsidies that help millions of Americans pay for their new coverage, including thousands of Illinoisans. Comments from Sue Morano (muh-RAN-oh), an Intensive Care Unit nurse, Image available; photo of a stethoscope.

Intro: A U-S Supreme Court hearing tomorrow (Wednesday) could have serious implications for thousands of Illinoisans receiving subsidies through the Affordable Care Act. In King versus Burwell, justices will decide whether federal health insurance subsidies in states using the federal exchange, like Illinois, are illegal. Sue Morano, an Intensive Care Unit nurse, believes the case threatens the health and financial security of millions of workers. She adds it would turn back the gains that nurses and doctors have made in improving patient care delivery.

Cut 84249:12 "The healthcare law has helped so many people, in ways they don't even realize. With the focus on preventative care, it's quite life-saving and it means that my patients are living healthier lives."

<u>Tag</u>: The plaintiffs argue the federal subsidies should only be allowed in the states that have established their own health insurance exchanges. It's estimated that 270-thousand Illinois residents receive subsidies, averaging 210 dollars a month.

Second Cut: If the court sides with the plaintiffs, insurance premiums could jump and some people would no longer be able to afford their coverage. Morano says with the uninsured rate at an all—time low, the stakes are too high to make that kind of change.

Cut 85249:11 "I feel that we simply just cannot go back to a time when people have to choose between health care and putting food on the table, making sure that their family has a roof over their heads."

Tag: The Supreme Court is expected to rule in this case sometime before June.

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OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses soundbite(s)

LEAD: A U-S Supreme Court hearing tomorrow (Wednesday) could have serious implications for thousands of Illinoisans receiving subsidies through the Affordable Care Act. Mary Schuermann reports.

Cut 86249:48 Outcue...Schuermann reporting.

Note to Editors: Morano is available through Kate Snyder: kateasnyder@gmail.com.

#/ 2/24/2015 22:45 → WIXY-FM 1/1

Illinois News Connection

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February 25, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav

Striking Balance Between Religion, Patient Care in IL

Springfield, IL – A bill under consideration by the Illinois Senate would modify a current law that allows the religious beliefs of health care providers to trump the medical needs of patients. Senate Bill 1564, sponsored by Senator Daniel Biss (D-Evanston), amends the law to protect patients when their health care providers practice under religious restrictions. Comments from Lorie Chaiten (chay-tin), director, reproductive rights project, ACLU of Illinois. Image available: photo of a doctor holding a stethoscope.

<u>Intro</u>: New legislation in Illinois would strike a balance between a medical provider's religious beliefs and what's in the best interest of the patient. Current state law allows doctors, nurses and other health care providers to refuse care based on the provider's religious beliefs. Lorie Chaiten with the A-C-L-U of Illinois says S-B 1564 seeks to strike a balance by ensuring patient safety while allowing religious refusal.

Cut 74249:15 "But to do so they have to have in place protocols and procedures that assure that the patient gets access to the information they need about their treatment options, about where they can get care and that the patient isn't harmed as a result of the religious refusal."

<u>Tag</u>: Chaiten says rape victims in need of emergency contraception, and families facing end-of-life decisions are among those impacted by religious restrictions in Illinois. S-B 1564 was introduced last week and is pending in the Senate Assignments Committee. $\Box\Box$

Second Cut: The current law dates back to the 1970s, and Chaiten says 80 percent of recently polled voters said they want it repealed or modified.

Cut 75249 :15 "We have lived under this Healthcare Right of Conscience Act for decades in this state and it doesn't protect patients. We've had an Illinois Appellate Court rule that the religious beliefs of the provider trump the interests of the patient and that isn't good enough for Illinois."

Tag: That 2012 court ruling allowed pharmacists to refuse to dispense certain contraceptives on religious grounds.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses soundbite(s)

LEAD: New legislation in Illinois would strike a balance between a medical provider's religious beliefs and what's in the best interest of the patient. Mary Schuermann explains.

Cut 76249:47 Outcue... Mary Schuermann reporting.

Note to Editors: Chaiten is available a312-201-9740. The bill https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/SB1564/2015. The polling conducted in February by Fako Research & Strategies.

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February 24, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Survey: Illinoisans Want Fuel Efficiency Regardless of Gas Prices

Washington - Gas prices may be low, but a new survey shows consumers don't believe prices will stay that way and they want their next car or truck to get better gas mileage. Comments from Mark Cooper, director of research at Consumer Federation of America - which commissioned the survey; and Jack Gillis, author of The Car Book. Image available: Photo of gas pump.

<u>Intro</u>: Gas prices will go up again. That's the expectation of consumers, according to a new survey commissioned by the Consumer Federation of America that also finds that car buyers still have an eye on better mileage. C-F-A's Mark Cooper says nearly 86 percent rank fuel efficiency as important when shopping for a new car or truck.

Cut 71249:10 "They say they want to get about 5 or 6 miles per gallon more, compared to the vehicle that they own. So they're very intelligent about gasoline prices."

<u>Tag</u>: Cooper says consumers also see better mileage as a cushion against the rise and fall of gas prices while trying to set monthly budgets.

Second Cut: Jack Gillis, author of The Car Book, says no one is fooled by today's low gas prices. The report's research shows that consumers could easily pay nearly double for gas each month when prices rise again.

Cut 72249 :09 "Consumers are smart and have long memories. So it's no surprise they still want more fuel efficiency even though today's gas prices may be low."

<u>Tag</u>: The survey found those polled believe gas prices will be edging close to four dollars a gallon five years from now, and prefer a car or truck that gets at least 30 M-P-G. The research also noted that Americans are driving fewer miles, and it's expected that will not change as younger generations shun vehicle ownership.

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OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEAD: Gas prices will go up again. That's the expectation of consumers according to a new survey, as Mary Schuermann reports.

Cut 73249:32 Outcue... Mary Schuermann reporting.

Note to Editors: Cooper and Gillis: 202-737-0776. Report: "Staying on the Road to 54.5 MPG by 2025," at http://www.consumerfed.org/pdfs/150215_Gasoline-Rollercoaster-Fuel-Economicy_report.pdf

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February 27, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Poll: Bullying Still Viewed as a "Not in My Backyard" Problem

Springfield, IL - Illinoisans and others around the globe are encouraged to take a stance against bullies today (Fri.) as part of International Stand Up to Bullying Day. The observance comes on the heels of a recent poll that shows bullying is seen as more of a problem for youth today than ever before. Comments from Bernard Cherkasov, (chur-KAH-sov), CEO, Equality Illinois; and Sean Kosofsky (kah-SHOF-skee), executive director, Tyler Clementi Foundation. Image available: photo of an upset feenage girl.

Intro: As some Illinoisans observe today's International Stand Up to Bullying Day, a recent survey finds the majority of adults believe bullying is more prevalent than ever. The poll released by the Tyler Clementi Foundation found despite increased awareness, bullying is still viewed as a "not in my backyard" problem. C-E-O of Equality Illinois Bernard Cherkasov says bullying is more than innocent teasing because it can leave emotional scars for years to come.

Cut 77249 :11 "Victims of bullying – they experience higher rates of absenteeism in schools, they experience higher rates of depression, and victims of bullying also attempt suicide at a much higher rate. $\Box\Box\Box\Box\Box$ "

Tag: Cherkasov adds that suicide attempts by L-G-B-T students occur at a rate three times higher than that of non L-G-B-T students. The poll also found most parents are conflicted when it comes to teaching children how to appropriately respond to bullying, with just half of respondents saying children should notify an adult.

<u>Second Cut:</u> The Tyler Clementi Foundation promotes safe, inclusive and respectful social environments. Executive director Sean Kosofsky says the foundation's poll found men were much more likely to recommend direct confrontation than women, which he adds is not always appropriate for the situation.

Cut 78249:12 "We are a big believer in being upstanders. When people are bystanders and they see something happening wrong they should do something, but we don't necessarily advise doing something unsafe."

Third Cut: Bullying is not just a school yard problem. Kosofsky says half of those polled have experienced or witnessed bullying on the job.

Cut 79249 :11 "It really is a pattern of power and aggression that occurs to basically influence your own authority over someone and it's really disruptive to learning, and to workers."

<u>Tag</u>: International Stand Up to Bullying Day encourages people to make a pledge to take a visible, public stance against bullying.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses soundbite(s)

LEAD: As some Illinoisans observe today's International Stand Up to Bullying Day, a recent survey finds the majority of adults believe bullying is more prevalent than ever. Mary Schuermann reports.

Cut 80249:55 Outcue... Mary Schuermann, reporting.

Note to Editors: Kosofsky is available at 919-627-8337. The poll was commissioned by Workplace Options and The Tyler Clementi Foundation. The results: http://tinyurl.com/q2dcx6r. \Box

FOCUS 3/22/2015

Building a better breakfast.

Good morning and welcome to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Focus is a weekly show dedicated to a look at news, and public affairs. (START NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH SEGMENT)

IN: "Joining me on..."

OUT: "... for having me."

Businesses are stepping up to fight childhood obesity in Illinois. That story is next on Focus.

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. Some organizations across the state, restaurants and educational institutions are among those around the nation making a commitment to help end childhood obesity. Through Partnership for a Healthier America, the goal is to increase access to healthier meal options. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more. (START FAT KIDS SEGMENT)

IN: "Accessing nutritious foods..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

Many of us struggle to get enough rest. A recent poll cites pain, stress and poor health among the most common factors for losing sleep. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports. (START SLEEP SEGMENT)

IN: "Sleep is one..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

PSAs

And that'll do it for this week's Focus. Thanks for joining us. If you have any questions or comments about this week's show, write to me, Sarah Addison – News Director. 2603 West Bradley Avenue. Champaign, IL 61821. Or email me, news@illiniradio.com. Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.



St. Louis District Dairy Council is proud to be the lifeline between you and your local dairy farmers. If you have any questions, or are interested in learning more about the programs and tools that we have to offer, please contact us.



THeNutritionEducationPeople

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March 6, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

Businesses Step Up to Fight Childhood Obesity

Springfield, IL - Some Illinois organizations, restaurants and educational institutions are among those around the nation making a commitment to help end childhood obesity. Through Partnership for a Healthier America, the goal is to increase access to healthier meal options. Comments from Drew Nannis, chief marketing officer, Partnership for a Healthier America. Image available: photo of baskets of fresh produce.

<u>Intro</u>: Accessing nutritious foods is a challenge for many families, and some experts say the problem contributes to the obesity epidemic. But businesses in the food industry and various organizations are stepping up to help make the healthy choice, the easy choice. Drew Nannis with Partnership for a Healthier America says some Illinois restaurants, food suppliers, community groups and colleges are among those increasing access to healthy food.

Cut 11249:15 "We want to make sure that it's as easy as possible getting rid of the barriers such as time, cost and other issues that may be there that prevent people from making the healthier option. We believe that people know what the healthier option is, we just need to make it as readily available as possible."

Tag: The changes include increasing affordability, adding vegetables and fruits to restaurant menus and adopting programs promoting nutrition and physical activity. Walgreens and Walmart are among those involved in the program.

Second Cut: Nannis says recent signs suggest a leveling off of what was an escalating rate of obesity for quite some time. The partnership's goal is to bring it down to five percent because, Nannis says, childhood obesity leads to a multitude of health problems.

Cut 12249 :13 "It's everything from an economic issue where people are having to take sick days and productivity drops to a national security issue - a quarter of the people who are volunteering for our armed forces are actually too heavy to serve. So this is a wide-reaching epidemic."

<u>Tag</u>: Almost 20 percent of children age 10 to 17 are obese in Illinois, according to the most recent State of Obesity report released by the Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. □□

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEAD: Accessing nutritious foods is a challenge for many Illinois families, and experts say the problem contributes to the obesity epidemic. But, Mary Schuermann reports, businesses in the food industry and various organizations are stepping up to help make the healthy choice.

Cut 13249:38 Outcue... Mary Schuermann reporting.

Note to Editors: Namis can be reached at 202-842-9001. More information: http://ahealthieramerica.org/and http://stateofobesity.org/states/il/.

A statewide news service for Illinois

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Illinois Doctor: Quality, Quantity Important for Good Sleep

Springfield, IL - Many Illinoisans are still trying to recover from the hour of sleep they lost after the change to Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, but for others it's just another day in their regular struggle to get enough rest. A recent poll cites pain, stress and poor health among the most common factors for losing sleep. Comments from Dr. Sarah Zallek, director, Illinois Neurological Institute, OSF Healthcare. Image available: photo of a woman sleeping on a couch.

<u>Intro</u>: Sleep is one of the basics for human survival, but for many folks, getting a good night's sleep on a regular basis is little more than a dream. It's estimated that more than one-third of adults don't always or often get the amount of sleep they need to feel their best. Dr. Sarah Zallek with O-S-F Healthcare's Illinois Neurological Institute says the stress and demands of daily life can be a factor.

Cut 17249:13 "We need enough sleep, and it has to be good quality sleep when we get it. And the quantity of sleep is the first thing that goes when we have all sorts of other things to do. We put sleep at the end of the priority list and so, we often don't get enough sleep opportunity."

Tag: She lists other factors that can limit sleep quality as caffeine, alcohol, and environmental noise. According to the latest poll from the National Sleep Foundation, pain, stress and poor health also correlate to shorter sleep durations and worse sleep quality for millions of Americans.

<u>Second Cut</u>: Zallek says most adults require seven to nine hours of shut-eye a night. And while she says it is hard to make up for the lost hour of sleep due to Daylight Savings Time, it shouldn't take long to adjust to the time change.

Cut 18249 :10 "You want to stay on your same sleep schedule – you don't want to adjust too much either way and have very good sleep habits to begin with – but then, just very readily, start sleeping on the new schedule."

Third Cut: Zallek says a good night's rest starts with good sleep hygiene, which includes practicing a regular and quiet bedtime routine. She adds that folks who bring laptops or smartphones to bed can interrupt the body's natural response to hitting the hay.

Cut 19249:13 "Their brain loses that nice habit of getting in bed and falling asleep. So what we want to do is go to bed and automatically have that association of 'Ah, I'm in bed. I'm going to fall asleep now,' without really thinking about it."

<u>Tag</u>: For some people, there are medical reasons sleep doesn't come naturally. Zallek cites about 80 different types of sleep disorders including insomnia, restless leg syndrome, narcolepsy and apnea.

OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)

LEAD: Like food, water and oxygen, sleep is one of the basics for human survival. But for many Illinoisans, getting a good night's sleep on a regular basis is little more than a dream. Mary Schuermann explains.

Cut 20249:48 Outcue...Schuermann reporting

Note to Editors: See the poll: sleepfoundation.org/media-center/press-release/2015-sleep-america-poll. Reach Zallek at 309-655-3897.