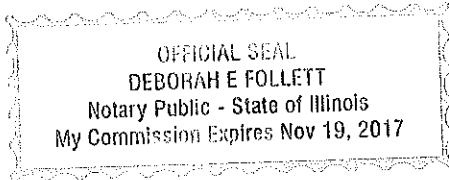


**Public File Information for 3rd Quarter of 2015**

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. Veterans and job opportunities
2. Fourth of July etiquette
3. Summer and holiday travel and travel tips with Illinois State Trooper Tracy Lillard
4. Christmas in July fundraiser
5. Farm to school programs
6. Urban flooding
7. DUI arrests in Decatur top in the state
8. The rise in heroin use
9. Reducing household water usage
10. Local track club heading to the USATF National Jr. Olympics
11. Aquifer research
12. An endangered species of dragonfly released into the wild
13. Illinois' high rates of child poverty
14. Champaign's hidden art gallery
15. Baby First Expo
16. Happiness Happens Month
17. Back-to-School sales tax holiday
18. Vaccination debate
19. Medicaid turns 50
20. Free public wifi can be risky
21. Courage Connection
22. Illinois a top state for supporting those with asthma and allergies
23. National Health Center Week in August and Suicide Prevention Week in September
24. Genetically modified organisms (GMO) bill
25. Illinois' lack of a budget and the strain on child welfare organizations
26. Back-to School and attendance habits
27. Contact lens care
28. "Green Latinos"
29. Woody's Menagerie hit with violations of the Animal Welfare Act
30. Healthy sleep habits
31. Career opportunities in the IT field
32. Hunger Action Month and IRG's Feeding Our Kids fundraiser
33. Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County's Dare to Dream, Dream to Build event
34. "Escape room" trend is in Champaign
35. Same-sex discrimination charges filed on a B&B in Paxton
36. A push to reinstate the death penalty
37. Women and unequal pay
38. "Pumpkin Chunkin"



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

*Sarah Sheppard*  
 Sarah Sheppard, News Director  
 Illini Radio Group



FOCUS 7/5/2015

*Connecting veterans with job opportunities.*

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. *In a difficult job market, finding meaningful employment can be a hard job for veterans returning home. But a new initiative in 25 cities, including Chicago, is working to promote economic success for veterans and their families through educational and employment opportunities. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START VETS AND JOBS SEGMENT)

IN: "There are an..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*The 4th of July may be over, but there are still rules to follow when you hang the stars and stripes. That story is next on Focus.*

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *The Fourth of July was yesterday, but that doesn't mean the decorations and flags need to come down. Before hanging the Stars and Stripes, the United States Flag Code calls for specific procedures to ensure any flag displayed is shown with respect. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START 4TH ETTIQUETTE SEGMENT)

IN: "Flags are popping..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*The National Safety Council is expecting this Fourth of July weekend to be one of the deadliest on record on the nation's roadways, with more than 400 traffic fatalities estimated nationally between Thursday evening and Sunday night. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports.* (START 4TH TRAVEL SEGMENT)

IN: "The Fourth of July..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*We'll continue the conversation of travelling safely this summer with Illinois State Trooper Tracy Lillard next on Focus.*

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *Tim Taylor from the Morning Mix on Mix 94.5 and I spoke with Illinois State Trooper Tracy Lillard about the dangers of summer travel.* (START TRACY LILLARD INTERVIEW)

IN: "Obviously we're into..."

OUT: "... Thanks! Drive safe!"

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](mailto:news@illiniradio.com). Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

## **Illinois News Connection**

A statewide news service for Illinois

Producer: Mary Kuhlman, 4064 N. Lincoln Ave. #231, Chicago, IL, 60618 Ph: 800-931-9973 Fax: 208-247-1830 E-mail:  
inc@newsservice.org

**MEDIA PRODUCTS ONLINE: [www.newsservice.org](http://www.newsservice.org) Your Web Account ID is: INC-249  
Sound Files on the Phone: (888) 600-9800, ID Code: 29**

June 29, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### **Initiative Connecting IL Veterans with Education, Job Opportunities**

Springfield, IL – In a difficult job market, finding meaningful employment can be a hard job for veterans returning home to Illinois. But a new initiative in 25 cities, including Chicago, is working to promote economic success for veterans and their families through educational and employment opportunities. Comments from Rosye ('Rosie') Cloud, director, Office of Transition, Employment and Economic Impact, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Image available: photo of soldiers.

**Intro:** There are an estimated 76 thousand post-9/11 veterans living in Illinois, a number that's expected to rise as more return home. Experts say these veterans face a multitude of challenges, including an economy with limited job openings. The director of the V-A's Office of Transition, Employment and Economic Impact, Royse Cloud, says veterans are leaving the military trained and ready for work, and once they are connected to employment they persist and achieve. But she says getting that first job can sometimes be difficult.

**Cut 55249 :12** *"When you have 99 percent of the country that hasn't served it may be a little more difficult to understand the type of service and the type of opportunities and work that our men and women have experienced during their service."*

**Tag:** The V-A recently launched its Veterans Economic Communities Initiative in Chicago and other cities to help veterans gain competitive career skills and knowledge in local, in-demand fields. Cloud says the VA is partnering with businesses, educators, community organizations and others to connect veterans and their families to educational and employment opportunities in their area.

\*\*\*

**Second Cut:** Cloud says the initiative is about building partnerships and strong collaboration with service organizations and partners at the local level.

**Cut 56249 :15** *"The VA is coming into these communities to not only learn about the great work that's already happening, but to also ensure that the lines of communication are flowing so that any federal programs, benefits, services and partnerships are made available to everybody at the community level."*

**Tag:** The Veterans Economic Communities Initiative is currently in 25 cities and is expected to add 25 more. Cloud says the first communities were selected based on unemployment, employment opportunities, education spending and post-9/11 veteran populations.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** There are an estimated 76 thousand post 9/11 veterans living in Illinois, a number that's expected to rise as more return home. As Mary Schuermann reports, there's a new effort to help these veterans, who sometimes face a multitude of challenges including an economy with limited job openings.

**Cut 57249 :51** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Cloud at 202-461-7600.

# Illinois News Connection

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**Direct login: [www.newsservice.org/story](http://www.newsservice.org/story)**

July 3, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

## Rules to Follow When Hanging the Stars and Stripes

Springfield, IL -- Illinoisans are getting set to celebrate the Fourth of July holiday. And before hanging the Stars and Stripes, the United States Flag Code calls for specific procedures to ensure any flag displayed is shown respect. Comments from Mike Buss, deputy director, Americanism Division, American Legion national headquarters. Image available: photo of an American Flag.

**Intro:** Flags are popping up all over Illinois this Fourth of July weekend. But there are some important "dos and don'ts" to consider before flying Old Glory. The U-S Flag Code became public law in 1942 and specifies the exact rules for use and display of the flag. Mike Buss with the American Legion says above all, he hopes people show respect for the flag.

*Cut 61249 :14 "Hopefully, they're flying their flag. And if they've been flying it, give pause to look up, remember what that flag means. It represents our country and of course, everyone has their own opinion, their own thoughts as to what the flag means to them. If you ask 20 people, I'd venture to guess you'll get 20 different answers."*

**Tag:** Buss says it's okay to fly a flag in the rain, as long as it's an all-weather flag -- and at night, the flag needs proper illumination. He adds the flag should never be displayed if it is tattered, torn or faded. If a flag becomes no longer serviceable, it can be given to the American Legion to be destroyed in a disposal ceremony.

\*\*\*

**Second Cut:** Buss says it's permissible to use paper plates and balloons or even wear clothing with a flag image or the stars-and-stripes pattern. But he says the actual American Flag should never be used in that way.

*Cut 62249 :13 "If you don't use the flag, you're fine. If you decide you want to take the flag and make it into a bikini -- or worse yet, I've seen articles where people use the flag as a tablecloth -- that's a real no-no. You shouldn't do that."*

**Tag:** The Flag Code also covers patriotic customs, such as etiquette during the national anthem. All people present are expected to face the flag, remove their hat, and place their right hand over their heart. Buss adds that misusing the flag is considered a breach of the Flag Code, but there are no penalties or fines for doing so.

## **Illinois News Connection**

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July 1, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### **Holiday Travel: Dangerous Weekend Expected on IL Roads**

**Springfield, IL – The National Safety Council is expecting this Fourth of July weekend to be one of the deadliest on record on the nation's roadways, with more than 400 traffic fatalities estimated nationally between Thursday evening and Sunday night. Comments from Debbie Hersman, president and CEO, National Safety Council. Images available: photo of highway traffic and headshot of Hersman.**

**Intro:** The Fourth of July is almost upon us and, as some Illinoisans pack their cars for holiday travel, safety experts are reminding folks to be extra cautious on the roads. The National Safety Council is estimating 409 people will lose their lives, and more than 49-thousand will be injured nationally in car accidents between Thursday evening and Sunday night. President and C-E-O Debbie Hersman says roadways are especially dangerous in the summer months, and there is increased risk during holiday weekends.

**Cut 58249 :15** *"We actually expect this Fourth of July to be the worst Fourth of July on record when it comes to fatalities since 2008. A lot of people are driving – the economy is getting better, gas prices are lower than they were last summer - all of this contributes to increased risk."*

**Tag:** She says in Illinois, there were nearly one-thousand motor vehicle fatalities in 2013, and there's been an increase in deaths every month this year since January. She says in general, buses, trains and airlines have much lower death rates than passenger vehicles per passenger mile of travel.

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**Second Cut:** Hersman says the good news is, advanced car features such as anti-lock brakes, back-up cameras and electronic stability control are helping to improve vehicle safety. But she says drivers also need to be responsible and take precautions.

**Cut 59249 :11** *"As people are making their plans and packing for their summer vacation, make sure that they remember when they are on the road to put down the phone, to buckle up; make sure that they always have a sober driver."*

**Tag:** According to the C-D-C, car accidents are the leading cause of death among people ages one to 54, and seat belts reduce serious crash-related injuries and deaths by about half.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** The Fourth of July is almost upon us and, as some Illinoisans pack their cars for holiday travel, safety experts are reminding folks to be extra cautious on the roads. Mary Schuermann reports.

**Cut 60249 :52** *Outcue...Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Hersman at 800-621-7615. More info at [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org) and at [www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/seatbelts/facts.html](http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/seatbelts/facts.html).

FOCUS 7/12/2015

*Christmas in July comes to C-U*

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. *Ryan Leskis is our director of community resources here at the Illini Radio Group and hosts a podcast called "Show and Tell." His goal is to bring higher awareness of the unique and exciting events, people and places of Central Illinois.* (START XMAS IN JULY SEGMENT)

IN: "Today I'm joined..."

OUT: "... slash winter event."

*Farm to school is a win-win in Illinois. That story is next on Focus.*

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *Farm to school programs here and around the country are bringing fresh, locally grown food to children while putting more money in the pockets of farmers. This year, Congress is considering the Farm to School Act of 2015, which would improve upon and expand these programs. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports.* (START FARM TO SCHOOL SEGMENT)

IN: "School cafeterias around..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*A new report from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources finds urban flooding is a prevalent and expensive problem in the state. According to the findings, more than \$2.3 billion in damages were reported from urban flooding between 2007 and 2014. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START URBAN FLOODING SEGMENT)

IN: "Urban flooding 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](mailto:news@illiniradio.com). Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

# Illinois News Connection

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July 9, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

## Urban Flooding: A Big, Expensive Problem in Illinois

Springfield, IL – A new report from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources finds urban flooding is a prevalent and expensive problem in the state. According to the findings, more than \$2.3 billion in damages were reported from urban flooding between 2007 and 2014. Comments from Loren Wobig (woh-big), manager, Division of Resource Management (IDNR). Image available: Photo of a car on a flooded street.

**Intro:** Urban flooding is prevalent throughout Illinois, and a new report says state agencies are examining ways to address the problem. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources says between 2007 and 2014, flooding in urban areas caused more than two-billion dollars in damages. Loren Wobig with the department's Division of Resource Management says climate trends have increased rainfall, and the older sewer systems just weren't designed for the amount of runoff they have to accommodate.

*Cut 70249 :14 "Maybe for a 10-year event, they were looking at a four-inch rainfall or a three-inch rainfall. And now, we're finding that those communities are experiencing those kinds of rainfalls on a much more frequent basis, or perhaps the intensity of that rainfall is greater than what they were designing for."*

**Tag:** To reduce urban flooding and its impacts, the report offers many recommendations – including developing a model storm-water ordinance for communities; improved data collection and analysis; and updating aging, undersized storm sewer systems.

\*\*\*

**Second Cut:** Wobig says another key is ensuring residents are well informed about their insurance options.

*Cut 71249 :13 "The report recommends creating some flyers, perhaps that would be distributed during closings or that could be provided to renters, to make them aware that there are insurance products out there available to them that kind of cover that risk."*

**Tag:** He adds there is no easy solution to urban flooding, and it will take a combination of strategies to reduce the risks – including collaboration by neighborhoods, cities and state agencies.

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July 6, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### **Farm to School Win-Win in Illinois**

**Springfield, IL** – Farm to school programs in Illinois and around the country are bringing fresh, locally grown food to children while putting more money in the pockets of farmers. This year, Congress is considering the Farm to School Act of 2015, which would improve upon and expand these programs. Comments from Wes King, executive director, Illinois Stewardship Alliance. Image available: photo of a worker's hand and apples.

**Intro:** School cafeterias around Illinois are using more locally-sourced fruits and vegetables, while teaching children a thing or two about the benefits of healthy eating. The Chicago Public Schools system is among districts incorporating food from school gardens and local farms into cafeteria menus. And the New Berlin School District provides educational programs for children and their families about healthy eating and local food. Wes King with the Illinois Stewardship Alliance says these opportunities help to put children in the driver's seat of a healthier diet.

**Cut 64249 :10** *"There's just something to being involved in the process, seeing where it comes from that makes kids more excited and more willing to make that leap into trying some new healthier foods."*

**Tag:** King adds that federal policy is key to ensuring healthy options are available for all Illinois school children. And the Farm to School Act of 2015 introduced this year as part of the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act would expand these Farm to School programs. □□

\*\*\*

**Second Cut:** King says Farm to School programs are a win-win because children access fresh food and area agriculture gets a boost.

**Cut 65249 :14** *"The more likely we have opportunities to have that healthy, fresh vegetables be from farms nearby, which means more money in the pockets of farms but also means more money in those communities, so it really can have a much larger impact by keeping those dollars locally."*

**Tag:** The Farm to School Act would increase funding to include preschools, summer food service program sites and after school programs. It also would improve program participation from veterans and beginning farmers and ranchers.

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**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** School cafeterias around Illinois are using more locally-sourced fruits and vegetables, while teaching children a thing or two about the benefits of healthy eating. Mary Schuermann reports.

**Cut 66249 :50** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** King is available at 217-528 1563 or wes@illstewards.org.



FOCUS 7/26/2015

8/1/15 w/o Baby Expo Seg.

*The consequences of draining aquifers*

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 new study finds Illinois is among states transferring a heavy volume of groundwater from aquifers. Researchers at the UI found the Central Valley aquifer, the High Plains aquifer and the Mississippi Embayment aquifer are being managed in ways that are not sustainable. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports.* (START AQUIFER SEGMENT)

IN: "Aquifers provide a..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*They've lived in a lab for four to five years, and now, several mature Hine's emerald dragonflies are being released into the wild in Illinois. It is on the endangered species list and researchers are working to increase the dragonfly's population size and its genetic diversity. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START DRAGONFLY SEGMENT)

IN: "Ecologists are working..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*Child poverty lingers in Illinois. That story is next on Focus.*

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *A national snapshot of child well-being released earlier this week finds Illinois continues to struggle with high rates of child poverty. According to the Anne E. Casey Foundation's 2015 KIDS COUNT Data Book, 21 percent of children in the state live in poverty, with rates rising higher for families in some groups. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports.* (START CHILD POVERTY SEGMENT)

IN: "Not only is..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*Ryan Leskis is our director of community resources here at the Illini Radio Group and hosts a podcast called "Show and Tell." His goal is to bring higher awareness of the unique and exciting events, people and places of Central Illinois.* (START BABY EXPO SEGMENT)

IN: "Today we're here..."

OUT: "... to seeing everybody."

*The coolest art gallery you've never heard of. More of "Show and Tell" next on Focus.*

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *Checking back in with our director of community resources Ryan Leskis and his podcast "Show and Tell."* (START GALLERY SEGMENT)

IN: "I'm joined today..."

OUT: "...just appreciate it."

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](mailto:news@illiniradio.com). Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

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

July 20, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### Overdrawn: The Consequences of Draining Aquifers

Springfield, IL – A new study finds Illinois is among states transferring a heavy volume of groundwater from aquifers. Researchers found the Central Valley aquifer, the High Plains aquifer and the Mississippi Embayment aquifer are being managed in ways that are not sustainable. Comments from Megan Konar, assistant professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Image available: Photo of field irrigation.

**Intro:** Aquifers provide a natural source of groundwater, and a new study from the University of Illinois examines the possible consequences of over-drawing from three major aquifers in the U-S. Megan Konar and other researchers examined the Central Valley, High Plains and Mississippi Embayment aquifers. She says reliance on these three aquifers accounted for 93-percent of groundwater depletion in the U-S between 2000 and 2008.

**Cut 83249 :10** *"Ground water aquifer is like a bank. So, if you're just drawing out a lot more money than you're putting in, then eventually, your finite supply is going to end. And so, we're just using a lot more water than is being recharged."*

**Tag:** The study found Illinois is transferring large volumes of water from the High Plains and Mississippi Embayment aquifers. Konar suggests policies be enacted to slow groundwater depletion, including creating groundwater property rights, or a market for water, in which it is allocated to farmers and they can then sell or buy it.

**Second Cut:** Konar says depleting the aquifers could lead to difficult choices that affect food security. The report found agriculture uses the majority of water from aquifers, and Konar says a reliable water source is essential to producing staple commodities, such as rice, wheat and corn.

**Cut 84249 :15** *"We found that they contribute to 18.5 percent of domestic cereal supply in the U.S. and that interestingly, they also contribute a large fraction to a few countries internationally. They contribute almost 10 percent to the cereal supply of Japan, Taiwan and Panama."*

**Third Cut:** Urban areas also rely heavily on aquifers, and Konar contends that groundwater depletion will affect their ability to meet normal water demands and respond to climate changes.

**Cut 85249 :13** *"Projections for the future climate are that it's going to increase in variability and so, having these groundwater resources to buffer against variability is really important. They're likely going to be more valuable in the future. So, we should really start thinking of them as a strategic natural resource."*

**Tag:** Chicago relies on two percent of the water from the High Plains aquifer, and one percent of the Mississippi Embayment aquifer.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP:** uses first soundbite(s)

**LEAD:** Aquifers provide a natural source of groundwater, and a new study from the University of Illinois examines the possible consequences of over-drawing from three major aquifers in the U-S. Mary Schuermann reports.

**Cut 86249 :43** *Outcue...Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Konar at 217-244-1073 or [mkonar@illinois.edu](mailto:mkonar@illinois.edu). The study: <http://intl.pnas.org/content/112/28/8561.full.pdf>.

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July 21, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### "Irreplaceable" Dragonfly Spreads its Wings in Illinois

Springfield, IL – They've lived in a lab for four to five years, and now, several mature Hine's emerald dragonflies are being released into the wild in Illinois. It is on the endangered species list and researchers are working to increase the dragonfly's population size and its genetic diversity. Comments from Mike Grimm, conservation ecologist, Nature Conservancy. Image available: photo of a Hine's emerald dragonfly.

**Intro:** Ecologists are working to boost the population of a rare dragonfly in Illinois. The Hine's emerald dragonfly is federally endangered, and is found in just a few states. Researchers at the University of South Dakota incubated eggs from Wisconsin in a lab, and are now releasing them as mature dragonflies into a northeast Illinois forest. Mike Grimm with the Nature Conservancy says the idea is to build up the existing wild population, so it can withstand disease or any natural disturbances.

**Cut 87249 :11** *"If you have a larger population that has a more diverse genetic makeup, your odds of surviving some natural catastrophe or habitat change – your chances of survival – are much better."*

**Tag:** The dragonflies were raised in the lab for four to five years, and about 20 are expected to be released into the wild. In Illinois, it's estimated there are just over 300 individual emerald dragonflies, and others are found in Michigan, Missouri and Wisconsin.

\*\*\*

**Second Cut:** Like any endangered species, Grimm says the emerald dragonfly is worth protecting.

**Cut 88249 :09** *"It's a three- to four-inch long, black with bright green, emerald eyes. You know, it's quite a beautiful animal, and its value in that sense of an irreplaceable part of our natural world."*

\*\*\*

**Third Cut:** Grimm says it takes the commitment of many to make conservation work successful, and in this case, the University of South Dakota, the Nature Conservancy, U-S Fish and Wildlife Service and other organizations came together.

**Cut 89249 :10** *"This is just another example of one of these collaborative conservation projects that require coordination, time, funding and a lot of skill, and it's a learning opportunity for us."*

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** Ecologists are working to boost the population of a rare dragonfly in Illinois. As Mary Schuermann reports the Hine's emerald dragonfly is federally endangered, and is found in just a few select states.

**Cut 90249 :47** *Outcue... Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Grimm at 703-841-5300.

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July 22, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### **Child Poverty Lingers in Illinois; Disparities Continue**

**Springfield, IL –** A national snapshot of child well-being released Tuesday finds Illinois continues to struggle with high rates of child poverty. According to the Anne E. Casey Foundation's 2015 KIDS COUNT Data Book, 21 percent of Illinois children live in poverty, with rates rising higher for families in some groups. Comments from Larry Joseph, director of research, Voices for Illinois Children. Image available: Photo of girls holding hands.

**Intro:** Not only is poverty a lingering problem for Illinois children, a new report also finds the impacts of the recession have been the harshest for the most disadvantaged groups. The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2015 KIDS COUNT Data Book finds 21 percent of Illinois children live in poverty, up from 17 percent in 2008. And Larry Joseph with Voices for Illinois Children says the recession hit some families particularly hard.

**Cut 91249 :12** *"Between 2008 and 2013, poverty rates in Illinois increased by six percentage points for black kids, five percentage points for Latino children, but only two percentage points for white children."*

**Tag:** The report examines four sets of indicators of child well-being: economic stability, education, health, and family and community. Illinois is near the national average in most areas, but fares better than other states in preschool participation and children's health insurance coverage.

**Second Cut:** Besides the recession, Joseph says longer-term changes in the structure of the economy have made it difficult for families to make ends meet. He adds the job market has become limited for those without higher education, and more parents lack secure employment and pay.

**Cut 92249 :12** *"Median family income has not kept pace with inflation the past 15 years. Median earnings for full-time, year-round workers have not kept pace with inflation, either."*

**Third Cut:** Joseph says child poverty needs to be addressed with comprehensive policies that strengthen parents' income and work supports. Among them, he lists affordable childcare for low-income working families.

**Cut 93249 :13** *"The Childcare Assistance program in Illinois helps parents, in particular single mothers, to maintain stable employment. Unfortunately, that program is in serious jeopardy."*

**Tag:** The governor's proposed budget includes deep cuts to the program and limits eligibility. On the national level, Joseph says the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program both help lift families out of poverty, and have positive long-term effects on children.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** Not only is poverty a lingering problem for Illinois children, a new report also finds the impacts of the recession have been the harshest for the most disadvantaged groups. More from Mary Schuermann.

**Cut 94249 :47** *Outcue...Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Joseph at 312-516-5556. The report is online at [necf.org](http://necf.org). □ □

FOCUS 7/19/2015

*Why Decatur tops the list for DUI arrests in Illinois.*

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 new survey examines the efforts of Illinois police departments to keep drunk drivers off the roads. The Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists' Annual Survey ranks agencies for DUI arrests, with Decatur taking the top spot. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports.* (START DUI SEGMENT)

IN: "The work of..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*Heroin use is on the rise, more than doubling among young adults over the past ten years. Those are the findings of recent research from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which also finds a connection to prescription painkillers. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START HEROIN2 SEGMENT)

IN: "Heroin use and..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*"If it's yellow, let it mellow" might not be such a crazy practice after all. That story is next on Focus.*

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *New research from Indiana University-Bloomington shows that flushing the toilet less often could significantly reduce household water usage, but disgust and contamination concerns keep people reaching for the handle. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START FLUSH SEGMENT)

IN: "When it comes..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*The Vipers Track Club is made up of athletes from Bloomington, Centennial, Central, Danville, Monticello, St. Thomas More and Urbana High Schools along with Franklin, Edison, Jefferson, Rantoul and Urbana Middle Schools. They hope to take the club to the USATF National Jr. Olympics in Jacksonville, Florida at the end of the month. They are looking for sponsors and supporters who are willing to use the "Pay It Forward" initiative to help out! Tim Taylor from the Morning Mix on Mix 94.5 and I talked with the Vipers earlier this week.* (START VIPERS INTERVIEW)

IN: "So we are..."

OUT: "... that you need."

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](mailto:news@illiniradio.com). Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

## **Illinois News Connection**

A statewide news service for Illinois

Producer: Mary Kuhlman, 4064 N. Lincoln Ave. #231, Chicago, IL, 60618 Ph: 800-931-9973 Fax: 208-247-1830 E-mail:  
inc@newsservice.org

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

July 16, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### **DUI Arrest Survey Highlights Work of Illinois Police**

**Springfield, IL – A new survey examines the efforts of Illinois police departments to keep drunk drivers off the roads. The Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists' Annual Survey ranks agencies for DUI arrests, with Decatur taking the top spot. Comments from Rita Kreslin, executive director for AAIM, Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists. Image available: photo of a DUI arrest.**

**Intro:** The work of police departments around Illinois to reduce drunk driving is highlighted in a new survey. The Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists surveyed departments to determine how many D-U-I arrests are made, and to give special recognition to the most productive agencies and officers. Executive director Rita Kreslin says cops face dangerous situations when stopping a suspected intoxicated driver.

**Cut 79249 :15** *"Not only can you get a driver that's belligerent but there's a lot of risk involved because you never know who's driving behind that wheel. And we commend our officers every year, let them know that they're doing good work, to keep up the good fight and that what they do makes a difference."*

**Tag:** According to the survey, the Decatur Police Department ranked first in the state with 477 arrests in 2014, followed by Springfield and Naperville. Because of its size, Chicago is in its own category, and the survey found 33-hundred D-U-I arrests, about two percent fewer than 2013. □ □

**Second Cut:** Kreslin says education and awareness are crucial to stemming drunk driving, and she contends it's always safer and cheaper to find alternative transportation when drinking alcohol than to face the possible consequences of a D-U-I arrest. But she adds that many people still don't get the message.

**Cut 80249 :14** *"The average drunk driver, they say, drives 80 times before they actually get caught. And they get brave because they're doing it so often and eventually it's either a cop that's going to stop them, a tree or maybe even a small child crossing the street."*

**Third Cut:** The Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists organizes Victim Impact Panels that involve hundreds of D-U-I defendants in Illinois each month. Kreslin says victims of drunk-driving accidents meet with offenders to share their stories.

**Cut 81249 :14** *"Many times, the victims have lost a loved one and they're sharing the story of how the drunk driving crash happened, and many times the offender is telling the story of how he took the life of someone or she took the life of someone because of poor choices and decisions that they made."*

**Tag:** Kreslin says presentations also are held at schools, businesses and law enforcement agencies to encourage prevention and illustrate the consequences of impaired driving.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** The work of police departments around Illinois to reduce drunk driving is highlighted in a new survey. We get the story from Mary Schuermann.

**Cut 82249 :49** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Kreslin is available at 847-240-0027. The survey: [aaim1.org](http://aaim1.org).



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July 15, 2015

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### **CDC Examines Rise in Heroin Use in States Including Illinois**

Springfield, IL – Heroin use is on the rise, more than doubling among young adults over the past ten years. Those are the findings of recent research from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which also finds a connection to prescription painkillers. Comments from CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden (FREE-den). Image available: Photo of a heroin needle.

**Intro:** Heroin use and abuse in the U-S is rising among most age groups and income levels, according to a recent report from the C-D-C. Usage has risen the fastest, more than doubling, for young adults. In Illinois last year, more than 600 people died from a heroin overdose. The reasons behind the rise are complicated, says C-D-C Director Dr. Tom Frieden. But one thing is clear – there's a connection to opioid prescription painkiller addiction.

**Cut 76249 :14** *"The chemical is essentially the same. So, when heroin is five times cheaper and much more widely available, it becomes something that's driving this trend of rapid increase in heroin use."*

**Tag:** It may be a case of unintended consequences, with Frieden explaining that prescription painkillers became harder to obtain after limits were imposed because of addiction concerns. The C-D-C report says 45-percent of those who have used heroin had been dependent on prescription painkillers. Another finding: people without health coverage are more likely to use heroin.

**Second Cut:** There's also been a national uptick in heroin overdose deaths, more than eight-thousand in 2013. Frieden says quality and potency varies on the street, and overdose-reverse medications aren't always readily available in emergency rooms, although he says that needs to change. He underscores the need to keep opioid painkillers as medical treatment options despite the heroin connection, with pros and cons weighed carefully.

**Cut 77249 :18** *"If someone has excruciating pain from a surgical procedure, or a car crash, or a severe, terminal pain from cancer, you absolutely want to provide all palliation. For chronic non-cancer pain, you really have to look at the risks and the benefits."*

**Tag:** Recommendations for stemming the tide of heroin abuse include increased access to treatment, including medication-assisted treatments; recognition of the link between past prescription painkiller dependence and future heroin use; and pain treatment plans for chronic sufferers that include options beyond medications.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP; uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** Heroin use and abuse in the U-S is rising among most age groups and income levels, according to a new report from the C-D-C. Usage has risen the fastest, more than doubling, for young adults. More from Mary Schuermann.

**Cut 78249 :55** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Dr. Tom Frieden by [media@cdc.gov](mailto:media@cdc.gov). Report: "Today's Heroin Epidemic," at <http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/heroin/index.html>,

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July 13, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### Study: Changes in Flushing Attitudes Could Reduce Water Use

Springfield, IL – New research from Indiana University-Bloomington shows that flushing the toilet less often could significantly reduce household water usage, but disgust and contamination concerns keep people reaching for the handle. Comments from Michelle Lute (lute), post-doctoral fellow, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University-Bloomington. Image available: photo of a toilet.

**Intro:** When it comes to water conservation, experts say every drop in the bucket counts - including those drops in the commode. According to a survey from Indiana University-Bloomington, toilets are a huge water guzzler, accounting for more than a quarter of household water use. While urine is not linked to the harmful bacteria found in stools, the majority of people surveyed reported always flushing after urination. Researcher Michelle Lute says if multiple households started reducing their flushing, it would add up significantly.

**Cut 73249 :14** *"A lot of people think it's not worthwhile to reduce their own flushing because they think other people won't. But if we can change that attitude, people can be talking about 'Oh, this is a worthwhile thing to do and I know that other people are also doing it,' that might increase motivation to flush less."*

**Tag:** The survey found the main reasons that people flush after urinating are disgust, habit, belief about cleanliness and a lack of environmental motivation. Lute says new innovations in the marketplace could help to change attitudes, including environmentally friendly products that can mask the smell and color of urine left behind.

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**Second Cut:** Lute says researchers examined toilet flushing because people do it several times a day without much thought. She encourages Illinoisans to consider not rushing to flush. □□□□

**Cut 74249 :14** *"People have different rules. Sometimes they flush every other time, or once it reaches a certain color, or a certain amount of toilet paper, that sort of thing. Whatever people are comfortable with - but simply just reducing a couple flushes a day can make a big difference."*

**Tag:** The online survey included one thousand people from across the country and is published in the Journal of Environmental Psychology.

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**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** When it comes to water conservation, experts say every drop in the bucket counts - including those drops in the commode. Mary Schuermann explains.

**Cut 75249 :55** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Lute at 219.628.4910 The survey:  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0272494415300165>.

FOCUS 8/9/2015

*Happiness happens: Finding joy in the little things*

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 stress of daily life can easily dampen one's mood, but people across the country are encouraged to try to bring more happiness into their lives during Happiness Happens Month in August. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more* (START HAPPINESS SEGMENT)

IN: "Looking at the..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*Illinois is not among the more than a dozen states with back-to-school sales tax holidays. While some tout the benefits of tax-exempt events, some tax policy experts say the state may not be missing out on much. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports.* (START TAX HOLIDAY SEGMENT)

IN: "Illinoisans are not..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*Kids going back to school have a new vaccine requirement. That story is next on Focus.*

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *State health leaders are reminding families about immunization requirements as you get your kids ready for back-to-school. This fall, there is a new vaccine requirement for sixth and 12th graders to protect against meningitis. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports.* (START VACCINE SEGMENT)

IN: "As Illinois families..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*As Medicaid turns 50 this week, a new report highlights the difference the health insurance program is making in the lives of low-income children in Illinois. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START MEDICAID SEGMENT)

IN: "The Medicaid program..."

OUT: "... to seeing everybody."

*Free Wi-Fi is convenient, yet risky. That story is next on Focus.*

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *A new survey of Internet users shows that the freedom and convenience of public wireless networks may come at a cost. According to an AARP Fraud Watch Network report, nearly half of people quizzed about online and wireless safety failed. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START FREE WIFI SEGMENT)

IN: "Public wireless networks..."

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](mailto:news@illiniradio.com). Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

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August 4, 2015

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### **Happiness Happens: Finding Joy in the Little things**

Springfield, IL – The stress of daily life can easily dampen one's mood, but people across the country are encouraged to try to bring more happiness into their lives during Happiness Happens Month in August. Comments from Pamela Gail Johnson, founder, Secret Society of Happy People. Image available: photo of people jumping into a lake.

**Intro:** Looking at the brighter side is not always easy when things get you down, but during August Illinoisans and other folks around the country are being challenged to find ways to incorporate more happiness into their lives. It's Happiness Happens Month, established by the Secret Society of Happy People. Founder Pamela Gail Johnson says while there are a lot of unpleasant things in the world, there are plenty of joyful things. She suggests trying to start and end the day on a positive note.

**Cut 29249 :15** *"Even if that means not looking online, or our Twitter feed, or watching the news before going to bed. Go watch a sitcom, or sit and meditate, or read a funny book, or talk to somebody who makes you laugh. Try to do something so you do find that little moment of happiness."*

**Tag:** The group has a Happiness Month Challenge, which encourages people to do something happy each day, such as wearing a favorite shirt, buying someone a cup of coffee or planning a mini vacation. Johnson says the idea is to get more people to discuss their happiness, and celebrate it with others.

**Second Cut:** It's not that most people don't realize they're happy, Johnson says it's just that they minimize the small things. She adds happiness typically comes from tiny moments.

**Cut 30249 :15** *"When you clean out your closet, you're not necessarily thinking that's a happy moment. But the truth is after you've done that experience you're probably very satisfied, you're probably relieved it's done and then the next morning when you go do find something, honestly at that point you become extremely happy because you completed a task."*

**Third Cut:** Johnson acknowledges that it's alright to get down in the dumps on occasion.

**Cut 31249 :11** *"Being angry, being sad you're going to have all the emotions nobody's going to be happy just all the time - that's just not realistic so the question is can we be happy just half the time or a little bit more to keep it in balance."*

**Tag:** Some of the drivers of happiness, according to the 2015 World Happiness Report, include budgeting with well-being in mind; eating healthy and exercising; seeking social support; and increasing generosity.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** Looking at the brighter side is not always easy when things gets you down, but during August Illinoisans and other folks around the country are being challenged to find ways to incorporate more happiness into their lives. More from Mary Schuermann.

**Cut 32249 :45** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Johnson is at [pamelagail@sohp.com](mailto:pamelagail@sohp.com). More information: <http://sohp.com/>. The report: <http://tinyurl.com/qdzzgu8>.

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August 5, 2015

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### Sales Tax Holidays: Is Illinois Missing Out?

Springfield, IL – Illinois is not among the more than a dozen states with back-to-school sales tax holidays. While some tout the benefits of tax-exempt events, some tax policy experts say the state may not be missing out on much. Comments from Cara Griffith, editor in chief, Tax Analysts. Image available: photo of school supplies.

**Intro:** Illinoisans are not getting a break on back-to-school supplies like those in over a dozen states enjoying tax-free holidays. While some supporters say tax-exempt events are good for consumers and businesses, others contend they're not worth the hype. 18 states are offering tax-free holidays for back-to-school shopping, and policy expert Cara Griffith with Tax Analysts says the benefits are debatable.

**Cut 33249 :15** *"From an actual revenue standpoint, businesses might see more revenue; states are certainly going to take a revenue loss in terms of the taxes they would have received. But I think at the end of the day the real benefit of these are they are incredibly politically popular because it sounds like you are doing a really good thing for consumers."*

**Tag:** According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, sales tax holidays cost states about 300 million dollars annually. But research from the University of Cincinnati Economics Center estimated an almost five percent boost in sales during a sales tax holiday, with average families saving about 38 dollars. Illinois offered a tax-free weekend in 2010, but pulled the plug the following year with state leaders citing too many unpaid bills as the reason. □ □

**Second Cut:** Griffith agrees there is a benefit for shoppers, but says any boost for retailers is really just a shift in sales.

**Cut 34249 :13** *"They might see a spike but what they're also going to see is a corresponding decrease prior to the sales tax holiday. They'll see a spike during the sales tax holiday of revenue and then it goes back down. So what the sales tax holidays do is really just accelerate consumer spending."*

**Third Cut:** Griffith points out that Illinoisans wanting to take advantage of tax exemptions can always cross the state border.

**Cut 35249 :09** *"Consumers are so mobile these days that you know if one state does a sales tax holiday, well they're just going to go ahead and drive there and take advantage of that. So states that are not doing sales tax holidays, they're certainly not missing out."*

**Tag:** Iowa and Missouri are among the 18 states offering back-to-school sales tax holidays this year.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP:** uses first soundbite(s)

**LEAD:** Illinoisans are not getting a break on back-to-school supplies like those in over a dozen states enjoying tax free holidays. While some supporters say tax exempt events are good for consumers and business, others contend they're not worth the hype. Mary Schuermann explains.

**Cut 36249 :57** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Griffith at 703-533-4400.

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Announcing Web Upgrade – new design focused on images will be even easier to use (we hope!) and will be made live on Tuesday, August 4th. We welcome your feedback!

August 3, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### New Vaccine Requirement for Some Illinois School Kids

Springfield, IL – State health leaders are reminding Illinois families about immunization requirements as they get ready for back-to-school. This fall, there is a new vaccine requirement for sixth and 12th graders to protect against meningitis. Comments from Nirav Shah (NIR-rahv shaw), director, Illinois Department of Public Health. Image available: photo of an immunization.

**Intro:** As Illinois families prepare to send their kids back to class, state leaders say immunizations should be on the back-to-school checklist. For school entrance, students must show proof of vaccinations against several diseases, including diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, mumps and measles. Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health Nirav Shah says this fall they are introducing a new requirement of vaccination against meningococcal (meh-ning-goh-kok-uhl) disease.

**Cut 26249 :09** *"This is the bacteria that causes meningitis. Sixth graders must show proof of having one dose and 12th graders must show proof of having received at least two doses."*

**Tag:** Illinois families that object to vaccinations on religious grounds are not legally required to obtain the immunizations, but the parent must present a signed statement to the school district detailing the grounds for objection. Medical exemptions are also allowed and require a doctor's note explaining why one or more of the required immunizing agents is medically conflicting.

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**Second Cut:** Earlier this year, there was an outbreak of measles in Illinois, and a total of 15 children were affected. Shah says the incident underscores the need for anyone who can be vaccinated to receive immunizations to prevent infection. □□

**Cut 27249 :13** *"Vaccines when properly used create this invisible force field which protects not only the child who's been vaccinated but the entire community of children - even those children who for whatever reason, medical or otherwise, may not be able to be vaccinated."*

**Tag:** According to the State Board of Education, Illinois had a 97 percent compliance rate for school vaccinations in 2013. The federal government and researchers have acknowledged that no vaccine is 100 percent safe or effective and no public health official or vaccine provider can determine who will be protected or harmed by a vaccine. □□□□

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** As Illinois families prepare to send their kids back to class, state leaders say immunizations should be on the back-to-school checklist. Mary Schuermann reports.

**Cut 28249 :45** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting*

**Note to Editors:** Shah is at 217-558-0500. More information: [www.idph.state.il.us/about/shots.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/about/shots.htm)

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Announcing Web Upgrade – A new design focused on images will be even easier to use (we hope!) and goes live on Tues., Aug. 4. We welcome your feedback!

July 28, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg mov

### Medicaid: "A World of Difference" for Illinois Kids

Springfield, IL – As Medicaid turns 50 this week, a new report highlights the difference the health insurance program is making in the lives of low-income children in Illinois. Comments from Margaret Stapleton, health-care justice director, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law; and Joan Alker ("Al" rhymes with "pal"), executive director, Georgetown University Center for Children and Families. Images available: Photo of a child and doctor; video news segment on research (from Georgetown CCF).

**Intro:** The Medicaid program marks its 50th year this week, and a new report examines the lifelong benefits the program has provided to some of Illinois' most vulnerable children. According to the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, kids in the Medicaid program become healthier adults with better educational outcomes and greater financial security. Margaret Stapleton with the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law in Chicago says the benefits are invaluable.

**Cut 20249 :14** *"They're all going to have a physician that's paying attention to their development and their well-being. And we all know that kids getting attention and preventive care when they need it just makes a world of difference for them, for the rest of their lives."*

**Tag:** One-point-six million Illinois kids receive health services through Medicaid. The program also benefits low-income seniors and people with disabilities.

**Second Cut:** The study compiles other research done in the last few years, on the lives of people who received Medicaid as children in the 1980s and 90s. And executive director of the Georgetown Center, Joan Alker, says there's a positive economic impact.

**Cut 21249 :14** *"Some studies are now finding that children who received Medicaid actually pay more taxes as adults and use fewer government subsidies. So essentially, the government is getting a great return on investment by providing kids with Medicaid."*

**Tag:** Alker adds the program has played a vital role in reducing the uninsured rate for children, dropping to about seven percent in 2013, from 12 percent in 1987.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** The Medicaid program marks its 50th year this week, and a new report examines the lifelong benefits the program has provided to some of Illinois' most vulnerable children. Mary Schuermann reports.

**Cut 22249 :39** *Outcue...Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Stapleton at 312-263-3830; Alker at 202-784-4075, Georgetown CCF has produced a video available for your use that includes a state-specific interview. See it here: [https://www.dropbox.com/s/qf8cbj1uirrcnv/MedicaidTurns50\\_IL\\_StephBecker.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/qf8cbj1uirrcnv/MedicaidTurns50_IL_StephBecker.mp4?dl=0). The study is at <http://ccf.georgetown.edu/>.

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July 30, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### Free Wi-Fi: Convenient, Yet Risky for Illinoisans

Springfield, IL – A new survey of Internet users shows that the freedom and convenience of public wireless networks may come at a cost. According to an AARP Fraud Watch Network report, nearly half of people quizzed about online and wireless safety failed. Comments from Kaitlin Lounsberry (lauwns-berry), spokeswoman, AARP Illinois. Image available: photo of an Internet cafe.

**Intro:** Public wireless networks make updating social media or checking emails convenient when on the go, but a new survey finds many people are engaging in activity that could make them vulnerable to hackers. A new A-A-R-P Fraud Watch Network report found that about a quarter of adults using the Internet access free public Wi-Fi once a week or more. And Kaitlin Lounsberry with A-A-R-P Illinois says nearly half of respondents failed a quiz about online and wireless safety. She adds that without the proper precautions, scam artists can easily wreak havoc.

**Cut 23249 :14** *"People can get access to their passwords and their account and they can access their bank accounts and take their money or they can access files and they can hold those and freeze them and make them pay them in order to get access back to their files."*

**Tag:** When using public Wi-Fi, Lounsberry says Illinoisans should know that it is not safe to access websites with sensitive information, such as banking or credit cards. To have the best security online, she recommends having different passwords for various accounts, and changing them every 90 days.

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**Second Cut:** The survey found that 26 percent of smartphone users do not have a passcode on their phones, which Lounsberry says is a behavior that also can compromise personal information. □□□□

**Cut 24249 :11** *"Especially if you're using public Wi-Fi or in the event you lose your phone, it makes it so much easier for people to obtain your information and get you and your finances into a whole mess of trouble."*

**Tag:** To increase awareness about the risks of cyber scams, A-A-R-P is launching the "Watch Your Wi-Fi" campaign to let people know about the dangers associated with unsecured Wi-Fi and ways to keep themselves and their personal information protected.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

LEAD: Public wireless networks make updating social media or checking emails convenient when on the go, but a new survey finds many people are engaging in activity that could make them vulnerable to hackers. More from Mary Schuermann.

**Cut 25249 :52** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Lounsberry is available at 312-458-3613. More information: [aarp.org/FraudWatchNetwork](http://aarp.org/FraudWatchNetwork). □□



FOCUS 8/16/2015

*The Courage Connection transition...*

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. *Ryan Leskis is the director of community affairs here at the Illini Radio Group and hosts a podcast on the station websites called "Show and Tell." His goal is to bring higher awareness of the unique and exciting events, people and places of Central Illinois.* (START COURAGE CONNECTION SEGMENT)

IN: "Today I'm joined ..."

OUT: "... alright, take care."

*Illinois schools make the asthma and allergy honor roll. That story is next on Focus.*

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *For the first time, Illinois is identified as a top state for the most comprehensive and public policies supporting people with asthma, food allergies and related allergic diseases in elementary, middle and high schools. The state made the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America's State Honor Roll 2015 list. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START ASTHMA ALLERGY SEGMENT)

IN: "As Illinois children..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*Health centers in Illinois and around the country are serving a record number of people with little or no health coverage who are able to receive care in their communities instead of visiting the emergency room. It's one of the things being celebrated this week during National Health Center Week.* (START ER SEGMENT)

IN: "New data released..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*The U-S House just passed a bill that prohibits Illinois and other states from enacting their own laws requiring labels for foods made with genetically modified organisms, or G-M-Os. And it's good news or bad news depending who you ask. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports.* (START GMO SEGMENT)

IN: "There are cheers..."

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](mailto:news@illiniradio.com). Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

## ***Illinois News Connection***

A statewide news service for Illinois

Producer: Mary Kuhlman, 4064 N. Lincoln Ave. #231, Chicago, IL, 60618 Ph: 800-931-9973 Fax: 208-247-1830 E-mail:  
inc@newsservice.org

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

August 12, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### **Data Show Health Centers Reducing ER Visits**

**Springfield, IL-** Health centers in Illinois and around the country are serving a record number of people with little or no health coverage who are able to receive care in their communities instead of visiting the emergency room. It's one of the things being celebrated this week during National Health Center Week. Comments from Nicole Plegge (play-ghee) communications specialist, Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation. Image available: photo of a doctor's office.

**Intro:** New data released this week by the National Association of Community Health Centers indicate that the centers are serving more patients than ever, at more than 24-million people nationwide. In Illinois, more than one million people are served by 450 health center sites. Nicole Plegge with the Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation says many locations often cater to a population that may only have an emergency room visit as an alternative.

**Cut 40249 :09** *"Emergency room is for emergencies. We're here for everybody no matter if you're insured, if you're underinsured we're here to provide primary health care for everybody that needs it."*

**Tag:** According to the National Association of Community Health Centers, the centers lower emergency department visits and offer care at a fraction of the cost of an E-R visit. Nationwide, almost 40-percent of E-R visits are considered primary care in nature, and therefore preventable.

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**Second Cut:** Plegge says while Illinoisans with private or employer-supported health insurance have access to a variety of health care options, health centers often serve populations who struggle to find care from the private sector.

**Cut 41249 :10** *"If someone is not insured there is someone onsite where we can help them find insurance if they need it. So a lot of our health centers have that option for people because it can be difficult to navigate through."*

**Tag:** Health centers serve one in 14 Americans for their health care needs. Health centers started 50 years ago as a pilot project during President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. This is National Health Center Week (August 9-15).

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** New data released this week by the National Association of Community Health Centers indicates that the centers are serving more patients than ever, at more than 24-million people nationwide. More from Mary Schuermann.

**Cut 42249 :42** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Plegge at 618-215-8149. More info:  
<https://www.nachc.com/client/documents/research/maps/IL2015.pdf>

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August 13, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### **Illinois Schools Make Asthma and Allergy Honor Roll**

**Springfield, IL** – For the first time, Illinois is identified as a top state for the most comprehensive and public policies supporting people with asthma, food allergies and related allergic diseases in elementary, middle and high schools. The state made the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America's State Honor Roll 2015 list. Comments from Larissa Kaczaniuk (catch-ah-nook), Advocacy and Outreach Manager, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. Image available: photo of an asthma inhaler.

**Intro:** As Illinois children return to class this month, parents can be assured their kids are learning in some of the best schools nationally for asthma and allergy protection. For the first time, Illinois was named to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America's Honor Roll, along with 12 other states and the District of Columbia. Larissa Kaczaniuk with the foundation says they've identified states with the most comprehensive policies in elementary, middle and high schools to protect children at risk for asthma or allergies.

**Cut 43249 :16** *"We've got seven million children with asthma in the United States and six million with food allergies so it's impacting a lot of kids. With asthma especially, there are a lot of external triggers that can worsen asthma attacks so it's really important to make sure that we've got healthy school environments that kids can be learning, they're not missing school days."*

**Tag:** Kaczaniuk says asthma is the leading cause of school absences due to a chronic illness, accounting for over 10 million missed school days each year.

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**Second Cut:** To make the honor roll, states must meet 18 of 23 policies covering medication, access to care and the school environment. Kaczaniuk says the list then allows parents and schools to examine areas that need to be addressed.

**Cut 44249 :12** *"Illinois is looking at a problem with the nurse-to-student ratio and also indoor air-quality indicators that they had not met. Those are the two areas that we would like to see improvement but it's great that Illinois has made the honor roll this year."*

**Tag:** This is the eighth year for the report, and Kaczaniuk notes a major improvement in the number of states authorizing schools to keep medications on hand to treat severe allergic reactions.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** As Illinois children return to class this month, parents can be assured their kids are learning in some of the best schools nationally for asthma and allergy protection. Mary Schuermann explains.

*Cut 45249 :44 Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Kaczaniuk at 202-466-7643 ext. 227. The report:  
<http://www.aafa.org/display.cfm?ID=5&sub=105&cont=766>.

## Illinois News Connection

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Announcing Web Upgrade – new design focused on images will be even easier to use (we hope!) and will be made live on Tuesday, August 4th. We welcome your feedback!

July 27, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### Cheers, Jeers for Food Labeling Bill

Springfield, IL – The U-S House just passed a bill that prohibits Illinois and other states from enacting their own laws requiring labels for foods made with genetically modified organisms, or G-M-Os. And it's good news or bad news depending who you ask. Comments from Richard Eidlin (EYED-lin), vice president of policy and campaigns, American Sustainable Business Council; and Mark Denzler, vice president and chief operating officer of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association. Image available: photo of a food label.

**Intro:** There are cheers and jeers for a bill approved by the U-S House that prohibits states from requiring G-M-O food labeling. Richard Eidlin with the American Sustainable Business Council says the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act would not make food labels more accurate or our food system safer. He adds there is a reason it's often called the DARK Act.

**Cut 15249 :12** *"It will keep consumers unknowing and in the dark about what's in their food. It's really disingenuous because it calls for voluntary labeling standards. So, it effectively accomplishes nothing."*

The Illinois Manufacturers' Association is among those supporting the measure, and vice president Mark Denzler says it will prevent a costly patchwork of state labeling mandates.

**Cut 16249 :12** *"If you have a manufacturer in the state of Illinois, they may have to label it differently depending on where it's shipped. One label for Vermont, a second label for Illinois, a third label for California, and so that's extremely difficult."*

**Tag:** But Eidlin contends the problem would be solved if Congress would pass a bill requiring G-M-O labeling at the national level. He says it would prevent confusion, and create a level playing field for all food manufacturers.

**Third Cut:** Some in the industry contend any labeling requirement suggests genetically modified foods are not as safe as other foods. And Denzler argues G-M-O's are fundamental to the food supply.

**Cut 17249 :07** *"We think that consumers have plenty of information that's available to them. This just ensures that the FDA is the proper branch to regulate food."*

**Fourth Cut:** But Eidlin counters that there is no definitive science around the long-term safety of genetically engineered food, and says consumers want more information.

**Cut 18249 :11** *"Over 90 percent of the American public in survey after survey has indicated their interest in knowing what's in their food, which is why manufacturers are increasingly moving to do it on a voluntary basis."*

**Tag:** Vermont, Connecticut and Maine have already passed laws that mandate G-M-O labeling. Such laws are also being considered in several other states.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP:** uses first soundbite(s)  
**LEAD:** There are cheers and jeers for a bill approved by the U-S House that prohibits states from requiring G-M-O food labeling. The story from Mary Schuermann.  
**Cut 19249 :59** *Outcue... Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Eidlin at 312-970-9302; Denzler at 415-647-2221. The bill: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1599>.

FOCUS 8/30/2015

*It's back to school and attendance matters.*

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. *Regular school attendance is linked to academic and personal success. With the start of school underway, educational experts are working to bring chronic absenteeism into focus to ensure all students develop good attendance habits. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports.* (START BTS SEGMENT)

IN: "Illinois kids can..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*Child welfare organizations in Illinois are deeply troubled by recent actions taken by Governor Bruce Rauner that could burden thousands of families. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START CHILDCARE CUTS SEGMENT)

IN: "Governor Bruce Rauner's..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*Vision is precious, so practice good contact lens habits. That story is next on Focus.*

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *If you're sleeping in your contact lenses, storing or rinsing them in tap water or showering or swimming while wearing lenses, the CDC wants you to know it's not a good idea. With about 40 million contact lens wearers, there are nearly a million health care visits for contact lens complications and keratitis, which is the inflammation of the cornea. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START CONTACTS SEGMENT)

IN: "Illinoisans and other..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*A new survey released by Earthjustice and GreenLatinos finds a wide range of environmental issues are just as important to Latinos as is immigration reform. It also found that Latinos view climate change as a consequence of human activity at a higher percentage than do other Americans. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports.*(START LATINO ENV SEGMENT)

IN: "A new poll..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*An Illinois Animal Exhibitor is facing animal act violations. That story is next on Focus.*

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *A traveling exhibitor of exotic animals is accused of failing to provide adequate care to animals and failing to provide access for inspection. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has filed a complaint against Woody's Menagerie in Mulberry Grove alleging numerous violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START GMO SEGMENT)

IN: "An Illinois animal..."

OUT: "...Illinois News Connection."

PSAs

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inc@newsservice.org

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August 17, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### **Back to School: Attendance Matters for Health, Success**

**Springfield, IL – Regular school attendance is linked to academic and personal success. With the start of school in Illinois, educational experts are working to bring chronic absenteeism into focus to ensure all students develop good attendance habits. Comments from Madelyn James, director of the Birth-to-Eight Project, Voices for Illinois Children. Image available: photo of an empty classroom.**

**Intro:** Illinois kids can start the school year off right by attending the first day of class, but research finds it's crucial that students have good attendance throughout the year. Madelyn James with Voices for Illinois Children says there is a strong relationship between regular attendance and academic and personal success. She says research indicates families, teachers, administrators and communities should promote good attendance habits early - in preschool and kindergarten.

**Cut 46249 :15** *"When children are absent, whether it's sporadically across the year or consecutively, there is a significant impact on their ability to learn and to be prepared for future instruction."*

**Tag:** Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing more than 10 percent of the school year, which is roughly 18 days. And James says as early as kindergarten it can have a negative, cumulative effect that becomes apparent in reading levels and the dropout rate.

**Second Cut:** Besides medical reasons, James says students also miss school due to housing instability, transportation issues, or conflicts with a parent's work schedule. She adds it's an issue schools, parents and the community need to address together.

**Cut 47249 :15** *"It's a broader discussion we need to have as a society of how do we support parents ensuring that they have this system of care across a full day and ensure that their children are in school to take advantage of all the instructional time that's available."*

**Third Cut:** James encourages families to begin a back-to-school routine weeks before class begins. That includes preparing backpacks at night, an earlier bedtime and a regular breakfast. She says it will help kids get to class on time and improve their health.

**Cut 48249 :13** *"Making sure that children have sufficient sleep certainly is going to help their immune systems be ready for being exposed to probably a much larger array of bacteria and viruses."*

**Tag:** This year, Illinois leaders created an Attendance Commission to study chronic absenteeism and introduce strategies to improve school attendance.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** Illinois kids can start the school year off right by attending the first day of class, but research finds it's crucial that students have good attendance throughout the year. Mary Schuermann explains.

**Cut 49249 :48** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach James at 312-516-5573.

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August 26, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

## **Is Worth It To Work? IL Families Struggle After Child Care Cuts**

**Springfield, IL –** Child welfare organizations in Illinois are deeply troubled by recent actions taken by Governor Bruce Rauner that could burden thousands of families. Comments from Emily Miller, director, Policy and Advocacy, Voices for Illinois Children.

**Intro:** Governor Bruce Rauner's administration says difficult decisions have to be made to manage the four billion dollar budget. The governor filed an "emergency rule," narrowing eligibility for the Child Care Assistance Program, a change that Emily Miller with Voices for Illinois Children says impacts nine out of ten low-income families who were receiving help to pay for child care. □□□□

**Cut 60249 :12** *"This isn't a free ride. This is help for families who are low-income and trying to work themselves out of poverty so that they have the tools they need to be able to provide for their families, to be able to go to work every day."*

**Tag:** According to federal data, 14 percent of Illinois residents are living at or below the federal poverty level. Child care eligibility was reduced from parents earning from about 37 hundred to 12 hundred dollars a month for a family of four. Teen parents, parents of children with special needs, and parents receiving welfare are still eligible. Meanwhile, a House panel met yesterday (on Tuesday) to discuss funding options for child care assistance for working parents. □□□□

**Second Cut:** By filing an emergency rule, Governor Rauner side-stepped the input of lawmakers and the public. Miller explains her view of the math in action... □□

**Cut 61249 :13** *"Unfortunately, the rules that the governor put into place make it far more financially responsible for parents to choose not to work. The cost of childcare is cost prohibitive, they pay more than they make."*

**Third Cut:** Miller says children's advocates are also concerned about the transfer of an established child welfare official. Linda Saterfield was removed as Association Director for the Office of Early Childhood at the Illinois Department of Human Services. Miller believes Saterfield was ousted for testifying to lawmakers that the cuts would be devastating.

**Cut 62249 :12** *"Anybody who's worked in public policy knows that it's the exchange of ideas that actually moves the ball forward and you can't just get rid of people because they dare to express something that's different from you."*

**Tag:** The Department said that Saterfield was transferred to the Office of Adult Services and Basic Support for "internal personnel reasons."

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** Child welfare organizations in Illinois are deeply troubled by recent actions taken by Governor Bruce Rauner that could burden thousands of families. More from Mary Schuermann.

**Cut 63249 :58** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Miller at 773-203-9654, Data: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/17000.html>.

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August 27, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### **Vision is Precious: Bad Contact Lens Habits Can Lead to Blindness**

Springfield, IL - If you're sleeping in your contact lenses, storing or rinsing them in tap water or showering or swimming while wearing lenses, the CDC wants you to know it's not a good idea. With about 40 million contact lens wearers, there are nearly a million health care visits for contact lens complications and keratitis, which is the inflammation of the cornea. The CDC is using "Contact Lens Health Week" to educate the public. Comments from Dr. Jennifer Cope, medical epidemiologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and Dr. Brian Plattner, president-elect, Illinois Optometric Association.

**Intro:** Illinoisans and others across the country who wear contact lenses are encouraged to practice the best possible hygiene habits in order to avoid bacteria that can blind a person. That's the message from the C-D-C during this "Contact Lens Health Week." Dr. Jennifer Cope with the C-D-C authored a report in which 99 percent of wearers reported at least one contact lens hygiene risk behavior, such as sleeping in them, or exposing the lens to water.

**Cut 64249 :12** *"That allows bacteria, all kinds of microorganisms, to come into contact with your contact lens, and then that lens goes on your eye, and that's how the microorganisms can find their way into your eye and cause an infection."*

**Tag:** Cope says a common risk behavior is storing or rinsing lenses in tap water and showering or swimming while wearing lenses. She says water exposes the lenses to dangerous bacteria.

**Second Cut:** The Illinois Optometric Association's Dr. Brian Plattner says stretching contact lenses past the expiration date is also dangerous to eye health, neither is stretching solution...□□□□

**Cut 65249 :14** *"We commonly see contact lens patients that sleep in lenses that were never designed to be slept in. Also it's very common that instead of replacing their contact lens solution completely each night they'll reuse solution over and over again."*

**Third Cut:** About 40 million adults in the U.S. wear contact lenses, and Plattner urges them to take eye care seriously. □□

**Cut 66249 :14** *"Many of our contact lens patients feel invincible like a serious sight-threatening infection could never happen to them. Our vision is precious, and unfortunately, often we end up taking it for granted until something serious happens."*

**Tag:** It's estimated that each year in the U-S there are nearly a million health care visits for contact lens complications and keratitis, which is the inflammation of the cornea - at a cost of 175 million dollars.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** If you're storing or rinsing lenses in tap water and showering or swimming while wearing lenses, the CDC wants you to know it's not a good idea. We shouldn't sleep in them either. Mary Schuermann explains.

**Cut 67249 :42** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Cope at 404-639-3286; Plattner at 309-343-1179. Link to study: <http://goo.gl/CNKnw0>



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

August 20, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### **Survey: Latinos Care Deeply About Environmental Protection**

**Springfield, IL –** A survey released by Earthjustice and GreenLatinos finds a wide range of environmental issues are just as important to Latinos as is immigration reform. It also found that Latinos view climate change as a consequence of human activity at a higher percentage than do other Americans. Comments from Antonio Lopez, executive director, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization. Image available: photo of emissions from a coal plant.

**Intro:** A new poll finds Latinos in Illinois and around the nation are deeply concerned about the environment. According to the survey conducted for Earthjustice and GreenLatinos, almost two-thirds of Latinos polled see climate change as a consequence of human activity compared with just over half of the general population. Antonio Lopez with the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization in Chicago is not surprised by the findings because he says Latino and other minority communities have borne the brunt of environmental injustices in the community.

**Cut 53249 :13** *"Latino and African-Americans - due to kind of histories of discrimination and racism, particularly around housing policies - are oftentimes living in communities close to landfills or, in our case, in close proximity to a coal power plant."*

**Tag:** The survey found the environmental issues of strengthening the Clean Water Act, increasing water conservation and reducing smog and air pollution are just as important to Latino voters as the passage of immigration reform.

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**Second Cut:** In the survey, 74 percent of Latinos said it was extremely or very important to set national standards to prevent global warming and climate change. And Lopez says at the federal level the recently finalized Clean Power Plan is a positive step forward in reducing air pollution.

**Cut 54249 :12** *"This has a lot of potential, but we're also hopeful that there's not going to be loopholes that are going to allow for the continuation of a lot of the problems around air quality and environmental degradation near low-income communities."*

**Tag:** The survey also found six out of ten Latinos have confidence that stronger environmental laws will improve economic growth and create new jobs.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** A new poll finds Latinos in Illinois and around the nation are deeply concerned about the environment. Mary Schuermann reports.

**Cut 55249 :55** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Lopez at 773-762-6991. The poll:<http://earthjustice.org/features/poll-latino-opinion>.

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

August 24, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### **Illinois Animal Exhibitor Facing Animal Act Violations**

**Springfield, IL** – A traveling exhibitor of exotic animals in Illinois is accused of failing to provide adequate care to animals and failing to provide access for inspection. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has filed a complaint against **Woody's Menagerie in Mulberry Grove** alleging numerous violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Comments from **Lisa Wathne** (wahaht-knee), captive exotic animal specialist, Humane Society of the United States. Image available: photo of lion cubs.

**Intro:** An Illinois animal exhibitor is facing numerous violations of the Animal Welfare Act. The U-S Department of Agriculture has filed a complaint against the owners of **Woody's Menagerie in Mulberry Grove**, a traveling educational wildlife exhibit featuring exotic animals. **Lisa Wathne** with the Humane Society of the United States says the business has been cited for egregious violations.

**Cut 56249 :16** *"Ill and injured animals have gone for months at a time without any veterinary care. Animals have been kept in cages that are so small they can have difficulty standing up. They've been out in frigid winter conditions without adequate shelter. The list is long and quite horrific."*

**Tag:** According to the complaint, the respondents made false statements to inspectors regarding animals and did not provide access for inspection. The owner, **Gregg Woody**, has said publicly that he will defend his reputation of caring for animals to anyone, and that he only has received a letter of allegations. Animals involved in the complaint include goats, bears, tigers and a cougar.

**Second Cut:** Wathne adds that the owner's actions also resulted in the deaths of some animals.

**Cut 57249 :15** *"They acquire a lot of animals from other exhibitors and apparently slaughter some of those animals presumably for the meat trade. So there are numerous references within the USDA files of Woody slaughtering bears and African lions."*

**Third Cut:** **Woody's Menagerie** could face fines, license suspension or revocation. Wathne believes the owner should no longer be allowed to exhibit animals.

**Cut 58249 :12** *"We hope that Woody's license will be revoked and that he'll be put out of business. So this will certainly bring an end to the misery and suffering that he has caused for many animals."*

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** An Illinois animal exhibitor is facing numerous violations of the Animal Welfare Act. More from **Mary Schuermann**.

**Cut 59249 :58** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Wathne at 206-367-0228. More info: <http://tinyurl.com/pps8wn4>.

FOCUS 9/6/2015

*Labor Day and traveling clean...*

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. *One-point-seven million Illinoisans are expected to hit the roads this Labor Day weekend. Killjoy alert: Nationally, our expected mileage equates to over one-point-five billion pounds of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere, according to US Public Interest Research Group. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START LABOR DAY TRAVEL SEGMENT)

IN: "Highways will be..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*Want better sleep? Drop those devices and get outside! That story is next on Focus.*

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *If you can't sleep, spend more time outdoors and avoid the bright light of screens and devices, according to two new Illinois sleep studies. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START SLEEP BETTER SEGMENT)

IN: "Sleep deprivation is..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*New career mobile app developers, data engineers, and wireless networking engineers are expected to get a major bump in wages next year, says one of the world's largest recruiting firms. Robert Half International's 2016 Salary Guide predicts a major opportunity for entry level workers with I-T skills. Other experts say related legal and management skills are just as necessary. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports.* (START IT MONEY SEGMENT)

IN: "Some good news..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*Unmasking the face of hunger in Illinois. That story is next on Focus.*

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *Illinois' hunger-fighting networks are ready to take the mask off hunger. This month is Hunger Action Month in Illinois and it works to build awareness that while hunger often goes unseen, it's still an issue in every community. An estimated one-in-seven Illinoisans is considered food insecure, meaning they lack "reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food." Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START HAM SEGMENT)

IN: "Hunger may be..."

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](mailto:news@illiniradio.com). Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

## Illinois News Connection

A statewide news service for Illinois

Producer: Mary Kuhlman, 4064 N. Lincoln Ave. #231, Chicago, IL, 60618 Ph: 800-931-9973 Fax: 208-247-1830 E-mail: inc@newsservice.org

**MEDIA PRODUCTS ONLINE:** [www.newsservice.org](http://www.newsservice.org) Your Web Account ID is: INC-249  
Sound Files on the Phone: (888) 600-9800, ID Code: 29

September 4, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### Holiday Road Trip: What Price for "Clean" Travel?

Springfield, IL - One-point-seven million Illinoisans are expected to hit the roads this Labor Day weekend. Killjoy alert: Nationally, our expected milenge equates to over one-point-five billion pounds of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere, according to US PIRG. Comments from Abe Scarr, director, Illinois Public Interest Research Group (PIRG).

**Intro:** Highways will be bustling with Labor Day Weekend travel. Triple-A predicts the highest volume since 2008, with an estimated one-point-seven million Illinoisans driving 50 miles or more. According to the Public Interest Research Group, across the nation vehicles will burn over 67 million gallons of gas this weekend. And, not to kill any healthy roadtrip buzz, but that equates to over one-point-five billion pounds of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. Abe Scarr with the public interest group in Illinois explains...□□□□

**Cut 78249 :14** *"Our transportation sector is one of the largest contributors to global warming pollution and there's a lot of air pollution that comes from cars that affects our lungs and our health as well. Especially on the hot summer days, we've seen an increase in ozone and other respiratory problems."*

**Tag:** Scarr notes that research indicates Americans are actually driving less overall, but transportation policy hasn't caught up. In fact, infrastructure hasn't even been maintained in many areas. In tight policy decisions, Scarr contends more resources should be directed to investment in public transportation and other options that reduce pollution. □□

**Second Cut:** With its continued budget impasse, Scarr admits Illinois is in a tough spot. He points out that's more reason to look at overall costs long-term, and prioritize solutions that reduce congestion and curb air pollution, such as bus-rapid transit lines, bike routes and carpool lanes.

**Cut 79249 :14** *"Certainly for the Chicago region, there is a regional planning organization that has a really good plan for the next 30 years in terms of transportation planning, but mostly it's coming down to resources and whether we have the resources to make that plan a reality."*

**Tag:** Meanwhile, PIRG's stance against the Illiana toll road remains strong, which Scarr says would take important resources away from other transportation options. Governor Bruce Rauner recently shelved the project due to the budget crisis.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP:** uses first soundbite(s)

**LEAD:** Labor Day Weekend, and holiday road trips...with cheap gas prices, many travelers may want to know more about the real costs of a 'getaway.' Mary Schuermann has more.

**Cut 80249 :53** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Scarr at 312-544-4433 x228. Gasoline info:[http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/aoc/tables\\_ref.cfm](http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/aoc/tables_ref.cfm); emissions info: <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/calculator.html#results>.

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August 31, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### Want Better Sleep? Drop Devices, Get Outside

Springfield, IL - If you can't sleep, spend more time outdoors and avoid the bright light of screens and devices, according to two new Illinois sleep studies. Comments from Diana Grigsby-Toussaint, professor of kinesiology and community health, University of Illinois; and Stephanie Crowley, assistant professor, department of behavioral sciences, Rush University Medical Center.

**Intro:** Sleep deprivation is considered a form of torture, and one-in-five Americans are getting less than six hours of slumber a night, says the National Sleep Foundation. Researchers in Illinois report the answer may lie in more time in nature and less time in front of a bright screen. Diana Grigsby-Toussaint with the U of I says their study found a link between quality sleep and access to nature, including green space.

**Cut 68249 :14** *"We also were able to look at access to bodies of water. Also how much sunlight people have in a particular part of the country. All those things were looked upon as positive attributes of the natural environment."*

**Tag:** The link was much stronger for men and those ages 65 and older. So, get more time in nature... anything else? Turns out researchers at Rush, Brown and Monash Universities have found that the light emitted from tablets, phones and computers can seriously disrupt sleep, especially for children between the ages of nine and 15.

**Second Cut:** Stephanie Crowley with Rush University's Medical Center says holding a bright light close to your eyes makes it more difficult to fall asleep and wake early. She suggests parents shut down electronic devices about two hours before bed time.

**Cut 69249 :13** *"That will help maintain the circadian timing system and the brain clock to kind of synchronize to going to bed at an earlier time so that the youngster can actually get up in the morning for school."*

**Third Cut:** Grigsby-Toussaint adds that poor sleep can impact mood, performance and health. □ □

**Cut 70249 :14** *"Most times people tend to think of sleep as something that maybe is not as important as eating, for example. But sleep certainly affects so many other aspects of your life that I really don't think you can underestimate the importance of good quality sleep."*

**Tag:** Besides setting down electronics and engaging with nature, to get better sleep she suggests reducing caffeine, following a regular bedtime, and exercising.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP:** uses first soundbite(s)

**LEAD:** Want better sleep? Drop the devices at night and get outside during the day, advises two studies from Illinois researchers. Mary Schuermann has more on what the sleep-deprived can do.

**Cut 71249 :45** *Outcue... Mary Schuermann reports.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Grigsby-Toussaint at 217-333-9207; Crowley at 312-563-4783. Research: exposure to natural environment affect on sleep: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26193624>; study on exposure to evening light: <http://press.endocrine.org/doi/abs/10.1210/jc.2015-2775>

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September 2, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### Major Recruiter Advises New Job Seekers: Follow The (IT) Money

Springfield, IL - New career mobile app developers, data engineers, and wireless networking engineers are expected to get a major bump in wages next year, says one of the world's largest recruiting firms. Robert Half International's 2016 Salary Guide released today (Weds.) predicts a major opportunity for entry level workers with I-T skills. Other experts say related legal and management skills are just as necessary. Comments from Gerald Doyle, vice provost, Office of Student Access, Career Services, Illinois Institute of Technology; and Chris Jansen, metro market manager, Robert Half International. □ □

**Intro:** Some good news for Illinois college grads and career changers. Today (Weds.) recruiting company Robert Half International released its 2016 Salary Guide. It projects starting pay in the I-T field to increase five percent next year, with data engineers and mobile app developers among the hottest positions. But don't despair if you're not a computer natural, Gerald Doyle with the Illinois Institute of Technology also expects that fields will be less siloed..

**Cut 75249 :15** *"Some people will be able to serve as a product manager in terms of managing a scope of ideas. You'll find people growing in the area of privacy issues, both on the legal front but also in terms of securing our health and our financial records."*

**Tag:** The highest starting salary increase in I-T is predicted to be wireless networking engineers, jumping over nine percent. The guide also examines accounting and finance, creative and marketing, administrative support, and legal fields – all of which will see increases in starting salaries.

**Second Cut:** State data shows Illinois unemployment rate (5.8) is slightly down, with the largest hiring increase in professional and business Services. Chris Jansen with Robert Half expects continued job growth, and more professional companies already investing in full time workers..

**Cut 76249 :13** *"For a college-degreed worker today that's over the age of 25, the unemployment rate is half the national average at 2.6 percent. In most instances from an economic standpoint that would be considered full employment."*

**Tag:** He suggests the best resumes show an intermingling of skills from different disciplines. And, he adds, for businesses trying to attract top talent, the majority of people polled in their guide said they'd need about a 26 percent pay raise salary to move to another company.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** Some good news for Illinois college grads and career changers - major opportunities are predicted in the I-T field next year. More from Mary Schuermann.

**Cut 77249 :57** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Doyle at 312-567-3000; Jansen at 650-234-6234. The guide: [roberthalf.com](http://roberthalf.com).

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September 1, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### 'Unmasking' the Face of Hunger in Illinois

Springfield, IL – Illinois' hunger-fighting networks are ready to take the mask off hunger. Hunger Action Month begins today (Tuesday) in Illinois to build awareness that while hunger often goes unseen, it's still an issue in every community. An estimated one-in-seven Illinoisans is considered food insecure, meaning they lack "reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food." Comments from Donna Lake, director of communications and philanthropy, Northern Illinois Foodbank.

**Intro:** Hunger may be invisible but it has a face. A neighbor, co-worker, or even relative may be among the one-in-seven Illinoisans at risk for hunger. During Hunger Action Month in September, Illinoisans are encouraged to fight hunger in their community. Donna Lake with the Northern Illinois Foodbank says people in cities, suburbs, and rural areas struggle to get food on the table. And she sees hunger in both young and old faces...

**Cut 72249 :14** *"We've got one here that says she can't afford to buy food after paying other expenses, she's on social security but has no other income. Another woman, age 87, and she's not eligible for any other help so she needs this pantry to survive."*

**Tag:** Baby boomers are especially vulnerable to hunger, Lake adds, because of health and economic factors. A recent Feeding America report found that almost two-thirds (63 percent) of adult clients at food banks and pantries are age 50 or older.

**Second Cut:** Lake encourages folks to volunteer their time assisting at their local food bank or pantry, because it makes a big difference in people's lives. Money is always needed, and she assures donors their money is well spent.

**Cut 73249 :12** *"We want to make sure that we're using their generosity in the most efficient and effective way possible. We can turn every dollar donated into eight dollars worth of groceries for a neighbor in need."*

**Tag:** Lake says ending hunger is also a matter of health. At the Northern Illinois Foodbank, more than half of the households that need help have at least one member with high blood pressure, and 62 percent report choosing between paying for food or medicine.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP:** uses first soundbite(s)

**LEAD:** Hunger may be invisible but it has a face. As Mary Schuermann reports, neighbor, co-worker, or even relatives may be among the one-in-seven Illinoisans at risk for hunger.

**Cut 74249 :44** *Outcue... Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Lake at 630-443-6910. Hunger data: [feedingamerica.org](http://feedingamerica.org).





FOCUS 9/13/2015

*Dare to dream, dream to build...*

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. *Ryan Leskis is the director of community resources here at the Illini Radio Group and hosts a podcast on the station websites called "Show and Tell." His goal is to bring higher awareness of the unique and exciting events, people and places of Central Illinois. In just under two weeks, Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County and the Homebuilders Association of East Central Illinois present the third annual Dare to Dream, Dream to Build event. Ryan spoke with Habitat's development director Kelly Hill about this year's event...* (START DREAM/BUILD SEGMENT)

IN: "Good to be..."

OUT: "... at one time."

*One person CAN save a life. That story is next on Focus.*

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *Someone dies in Illinois by suicide nearly every three days, and nationally, of the 10 leading causes of death, suicide is the only one still going up. It's Suicide Prevention Week, and prevention experts encourage everyone to learn the signs of suicide and when in doubt, reach out. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START SUICIDE SEGMENT)

IN: "No one wants..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*Hunger-fighting organizations across the state are urging Congress to protect children's health by reauthorizing federally funded school nutrition programs, set to expire Sept. 30. One in five Illinois kids frequently don't know when or where they'll get their next meal. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports.* (START SCHOOL HUNGER SEGMENT)

IN: "For thousands of..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*And the Feeding Our Kids organization here locally works to provide nourishing food to food insecure school children in Champaign County on weekends and school holidays throughout the school year. To learn how you can help, visit their website at feeding-our-kids-dot-org.*

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.

*New bed & PSAs*

## **Illinois News Connection**

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inc@newsservice.org

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

September 8, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### **Preventing Suicide: One Person Can Save A Life**

Springfield, IL – An Illinoisan dies by suicide nearly every three days, and nationally, of the 10 leading causes of death, suicide is the only one still going up. It's Suicide Prevention Week, and prevention experts encourage everyone to learn the signs of suicide and when in doubt, reach out. Comments from Steve Moore, co-chair Illinois chapter, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

**Intro:** No one wants to be nosy, but it could actually save a life. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, every 12 minutes in the U-S someone takes their own life. And in Illinois a person dies by suicide nearly every three days. Steve Moore with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in Illinois says this year's Suicide Prevention Week (Sept. 6-12) is aimed at creating an informed conversation that suicide doesn't have to be inevitable, and can be prevented by recognizing those who need help. □□

**Cut 81249 :12** *"Reach out to them, make them understand that you are there, that the world is not hopeless, that there is help out there. Then get them that help, stick with them. One person can make a difference."*

**Tag:** People contemplating suicide typically give an indication. Moore explains it could be a change in behavior, including increased alcohol or drug use, extreme fatigue, aggression, or depression. Resources are available throughout Illinois. For immediate help, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 800-273 TALK (8255), and is open 24/7.

**Second Cut:** Of the 10 leading causes of death, Moore notes suicide is the only one one trending upward. When a person decides to take their own life, Moore notes their coping skills are compromised beyond the ability to reason and their pain has exceeded their hope. He says the root lies in untreated mental illness. □□

**Cut 82249 :10** *"Suicide is dying of depression, dying of schizophrenia but it's nothing that should have a stigma associated with it and people should try to get help."*

**Tag:** Every fall, "Out of the Darkness" Community Walks are scheduled around Illinois to raise awareness and bring together people who have experienced a suicide loss. The Chicagoland walk will be held Saturday, September 26 at Grant Park.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** Nosiness may be considered socially rude, but it could actually save a life. Mary Schuermann explains.

**Cut 83249 :56** *Outcue...Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Moore at 312-890-2377. More info:  
<http://www.ifonlytakesone.org/suicide-in-illinois/statistics/>

## Illinois News Connection

A statewide news service for Illinois

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September 10, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### Time is Short to Act on School Meals

Springfield, IL - Hunger-fighting organizations in Illinois are urging Congress to protect children's health by reauthorizing federally funded school nutrition programs, set to expire Sept. 30. One in five Illinois kids frequently don't know when or where they'll get their next meal. Comments from Bob Dolgan, director of statewide partnerships, Greater Chicago Food Depository.

**Intro:** For thousands of kids in Illinois, going back to school means breakfast and lunch five days a week – meals missed by many students during summer months. The School Lunch Program provides food for more than 725 thousand low-income children in Illinois, but the Food Research and Action Center estimates about 14 percent of those kids are unable to access summer food sites. Bob Dolgan with the Greater Chicago Food Depository says a bill introduced in the U-S Senate, the Hunger Free Summer for Kids Act, would help expand the Summer Food Service Program.

**Cut 84249 :15** *"If we had more flexibility to serve meals in rural areas with things like mobile meal delivery; if in urban areas we could drop meals and move onto a number of sites on any given day which we can't do now, we could serve many more children."*

**Tag:** Dolgan says school programs are critical in Illinois, where one in five children frequently don't know when or where they'll get their next meal. The legislation is part of the Child Nutrition Act, which must be reauthorized by Sept. 30. □□□□

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**Second Cut:** The bill, introduced by U-S Senator Mark Kirk (R) of Illinois, would give states more options to reach hungry kids in hard-to-reach areas, including providing a grocery credit for families to □□purchase healthy food for their kids. Dolgan says they are also advocating to drop an area eligibility requirement. □□□□

**Cut 85249 :17** *"If you're a child in Illinois who is living in a community that is relatively high income, but your family is lower income you're not able to get a summer meal. (:10) If eligibility were expanded, almost 175 thousand more children would potentially have access to summer meals. (:17)"*

**Tag:** In addition to school meals, other programs set to expire if Congress doesn't act include support for pregnant women, new mothers, and infants; as well as food for children at homeless shelters and child-care centers. □□

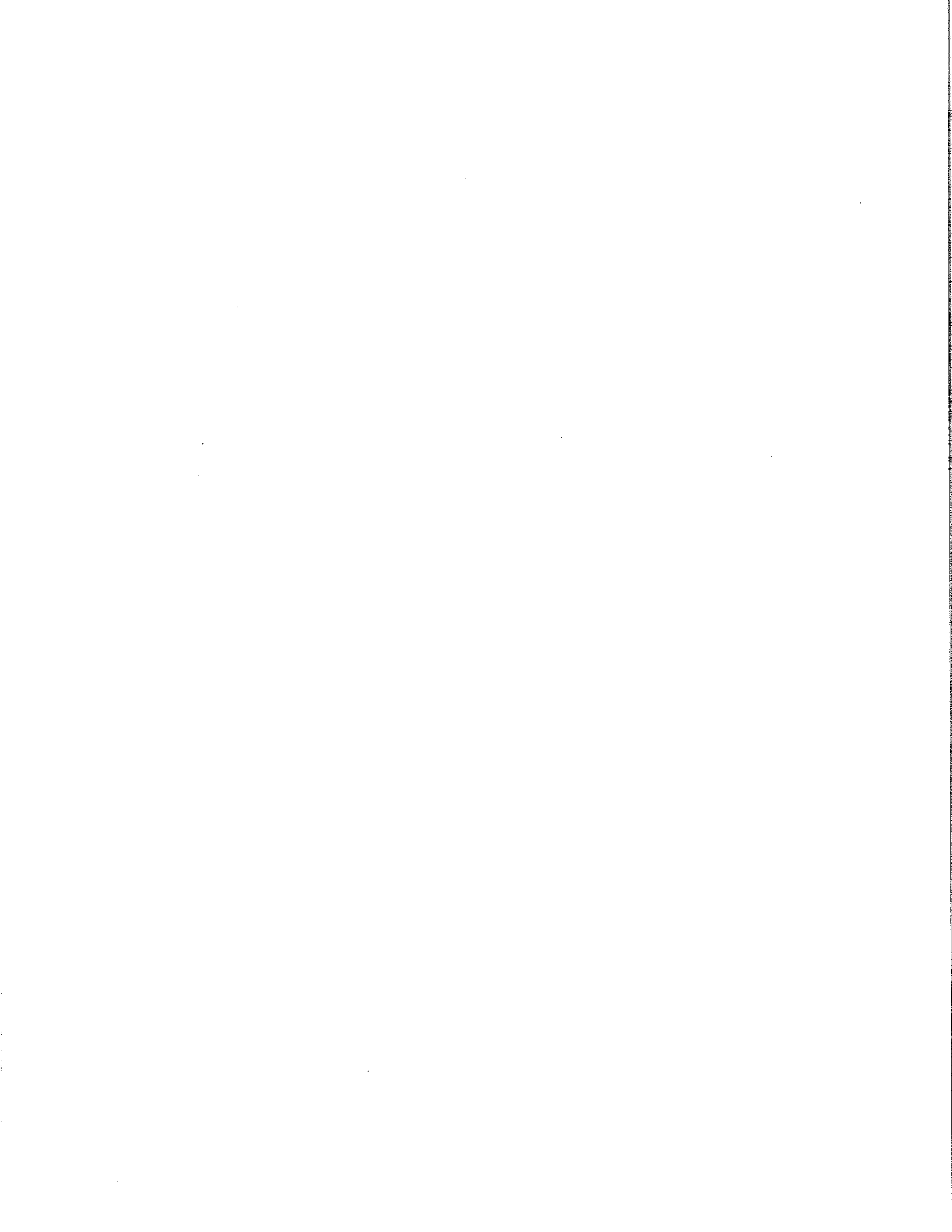
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**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP:** uses first soundbite(s)

**LEAD:** For thousands of kids in Illinois, going back to school means breakfast and lunch five days a week – meals missed by many students during summer months. Mary Schuermann explains.

**Cut 86249 :57** *Outcue... Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Dolgan at 773-247-3663. Data: [http://frac.org/pdf/2015\\_summer\\_nutrition\\_report.pdf](http://frac.org/pdf/2015_summer_nutrition_report.pdf)



FOCUS 9/20/2015

*Solve the puzzles, escape the room, save the world!*

3 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. *Ryan Leskis is the director of community resources here at the Illini Radio Group and hosts a podcast on the station websites called "Show and Tell." His goal is to bring higher awareness of the unique and exciting events, people and places of Central Illinois.* (START ESCAPE ROOM SEGMENT)

IN: "Today I have..."

OUT: "... for having us."

*With no budget, critical state services are crumbling. That story is next on Focus.*

PSAs

1 Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *A new report details the ongoing damage as the state enters its third month without a budget. According to the findings from Voices for Illinois Children, the lack of funding has resulted in the deterioration – and in some cases, elimination – of critical services for children, families, and communities. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports.* (START BUDGET IMPASSE SEGMENT)

IN: "Illinois is in..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

2 *The Illinois Human Rights Commission on Thursday ruled that a bed and breakfast lodging in Paxton violated the law when it denied a same-sex couple use of its facility for a civil union ceremony. Todd and Mark Wathen filed charges of discrimination against Timber Creek Bed and Breakfast in March 2011, not long after civil unions became legal in the state. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection has more.* (START SAME SEX DISCRIMINATION SEGMENT)

IN: "Supporters of equal..."

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](mailto:news@illiniradio.com). Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

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inc@newsservice.org

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

September 16, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### **Report: Critical Services "Crumbling" without IL Budget**

Springfield, IL – A new report details the ongoing damage as Illinois enters its third month without a state budget. According to the findings from Voices for Illinois Children, the lack of funding has resulted in the deterioration – and in some cases, elimination – of critical services for children, families, and communities. Comments from Lisa Christensen Gee (hard 'g'), policy analyst, Voices for Illinois Children.

**Intro:** Illinois is in its third month of the budget impasse and a new report finds the state's social-service infrastructure is crumbling. According to Voices for Illinois Children, while some services are still partially funded as a result of court orders or the availability of federal dollars, others are falling apart without state funding. Policy analyst Lisa Christensen Gee says senior care, after-school and domestic violence programs are among those hanging by a thread.

**Cut 11249 :13** *"Individuals who are being turned away from service providers, who are not able to get therapy for their developmentally-delayed toddlers and babies. It's overwhelming, frankly, the degree to which these things are not just theoretical – and they're happening right now."*

**Tag:** Among the findings – with the state's only Sudden Infant Death Syndrome prevention provider down to one employee, assistance is reduced that could prevent accidental infant deaths. The lack of state funding also has ended conservation-related services for hunting, fishing and wildlife.

**Second Cut:** Christensen Gee expects things to get worse in the coming weeks, because September is the first month with no more money coming in from Fiscal Year 2015.

**Cut 12249 :13** *"Many organizations are exhausting their cash reserves and are having to take more drastic steps to try to maintain levels of service as much as possible, while maintaining a functional organization and operation."*

**Third Cut:** Governor Bruce Rauner and the Democrat-controlled General Assembly have been at odds over the budget for months, Christensen Gee believes lawmakers need to look at solutions that raise revenue to help children, families and communities around the state.

**Cut 13249 :14** *"A determination of who is left standing at the end of this is completely in the hands of Governor Rauner and the General Assembly. And if we're going to prevent further damage, together, lawmakers and the governor need to take responsibility for funding these priorities."*

**Tag:** Voices for Illinois Children recommends the state restore the income tax rates that were rolled back earlier this year, expand the sales tax base to include services, and close corporate tax loopholes. Rauner has said he would consider a tax increase if Democrats agree to his plan to change workers compensation and restrict liability lawsuit awards. □□□□

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP: uses first soundbite(s)**

**LEAD:** Illinois is in its third month of the budget impasse and a new report finds the state's social-service infrastructure is crumbling. More from Mary Schuermann.

**Cut 14249 :51** *Outcue...Schuermann reporting*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Christensen Gee at 312-516-5579. The report: <http://www.voices4kids.org>.

# Illinois News Connection

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**Direct login: [www.newsservice.org/story](http://www.newsservice.org/story)**

September 18, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

## **IL Human Rights Commission Rules Against B&B Rejection of Gay Couple's Ceremony**

Springfield, IL - The Illinois Human Rights Commission on Thursday ruled that a bed and breakfast lodging violated the law when it denied a same-sex couple use of its facility for a civil union ceremony. Todd and Mark Wathen filed charges of discrimination against Timber Creek Bed and Breakfast in March 2011, not long after civil unions became legal in the state. Comments from John Knight, director of the LGBT and HIV/AIDS Project at the ACLU of Illinois; and Betty Tsamis (silent "t"), attorney, Tsamis Law Firm.

**Intro:** Supporters of equal rights are celebrating a victory against discrimination in Illinois. On Thursday, the Illinois Human Rights Commission ruled in favor of a same-sex couple who claimed they were denied access to the Timber Creek Bed and Breakfast in Paxton to hold their civil union ceremony. Todd and Mark Wathen reached out to the facility after the state approved civil unions in 2011. John Knight with the ACLU of Illinois says Timber Creek rejected the couple based on the owners' beliefs that "homosexuality is immoral and unnatural."

*Cut 15249 :08 "We're talking about well before we now have marriage throughout the country and just it felt terrible for them to be told, Well you can get but not here." "*

**Tag:** The owners said their religious liberty would be offended if the facility was used to celebrate a same-sex union. The commission ruled Timber Creek violated the Illinois Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation by businesses open to the public.

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**Second Cut:** Attorney Betty Tsamis represented the Wathens and says the ruling illustrates that businesses owners need to follow the law regardless of personal beliefs.

*Cut 16249 :16 "Illinois is sending a very strong message that discrimination against same-sex couples is absolutely unacceptable in the area of services and public accommodations and this is in line with the state's long history of supporting civil rights for LGBT people."*

**Tag:** The U-S Supreme Court extended marriage equality to all 50 states in June, and since then some opponents have argued the private businesses and public officials have the right to refuse service for same-sex couples seeking marriage. But others contend allowing such a religious exemption is sanctioning discrimination.





FOCUS 9/27/2015

*Four more decades of unequal pay for women*

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. *New analysis from the Institute for Women's Policy Research shows if current trends continue, women will not receive equal pay compared to men until 2059 – one year later than the group's projection a year ago. The study found in 2014, women earned 78 cents for every dollar earned by men. Mary Schuermann from Illinois News Connection reports.* (START UNEQUAL PAY SEGMENT)

IN: "Women won't get..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*When the state Senate reconvenes, Democratic Sen. Bill Haine says he'll introduce a bill calling for reinstatement of the death penalty. But some experts say there's little chance the effort will progress given that there's less support for the death penalty now than in the past.* (START EXECUTION SEGMENT)

IN: "Will the death..."

OUT: "... Illinois News Connection."

*Fall is here. Time to chunk some pumpkins! That story is next on Focus.*

PSAs

Welcome back to Focus. I'm station news director Sarah Addison. *Ryan Leskis is the director of community resources here at the Illini Radio Group and hosts a podcast on the station websites called "Show and Tell." His goal is to bring higher awareness of the unique and exciting events, people and places of Central Illinois.* (START PUMPKIN CHUNKIN' SEGMENT)

IN: "I'm here with..."

OUT: "... for having me."

*And in case you missed the Show and Tell segment on the trend of escape rooms... check it out!*

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](mailto:news@illiniradio.com). Focus will return same time next Sunday morning.

## **Illinois News Connection**

A statewide news service for Illinois

Producer: Mary Kuhlman, 4064 N. Lincoln Ave. #231, Chicago, IL, 60618 Ph: 800-931-9973 Fax: 208-247-1830 E-mail:  
inc@newsservice.org

**MEDIA PRODUCTS ONLINE: [www.newsservice.org](http://www.newsservice.org) Your Web Account ID is: INC-249**  
**Sound Files on the Phone: (888) 600-9800, ID Code: 29**

September 22, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### **Report: Four More Decades of Unequal Pay for Women**

Springfield, IL – New analysis from the Institute for Women's Policy Research shows if current trends continue, women will not receive equal pay compared to men until 2059 – one year later than the group's projection a year ago. The study found in 2014, women earned 78 cents for every dollar earned by men. Comments from Jessica Milli, study director, Institute for Women's Policy Research.

**Intro:** Women won't get paid as much as men until the year 2059, if current conditions prevail, according to a report by the Institute for Women's Policy Research. Jessica Milli, the study director, says the median income for women working full-time was over 10-thousand dollars less than men in 2014. Milli says more needs to be done to close the gender wage gap – not only because women deserve to be paid equally for their work, but because it's hurting families and the economy overall.

*Cut 22249 :16 "If you were to add up the earnings gains that women would get if they were paid the same as men – so in the same occupations, for the same hours of work – that would amount to an extra \$450 billion dollars into families' pockets."*

**Tag:** Milli admits the pay gap between women and men isn't always due to unfair employers – more women work in occupations that historically have paid less. Still, she says, policies to modernize overtime pay regulations, increase access to affordable child-care, and mandate paid family leave would go a long way to help shorten the time women will have to wait to be paid the same as men.

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**Second Cut:** The report found neither women nor men saw a significant increase in inflation-adjusted earnings last year compared with 2013. And it says women who are represented by a union earn on average over 200-dollars more per week than those in nonunion jobs. Milli notes for decades, women have been adding more education and job experience to their resumes, but says investment in what she calls "human capital" hasn't translated into fair earnings fast enough.

*Cut 23249 :10 "Those losses due to the wage gap really add up. Women lose about \$530,000 dollars by the time they reach the age of 59."*

**Tag:** Milli adds losses over a career for college-educated women can be as high as 800-thousand dollars. She says if the pace of closing the wage gap continues at the same rate as it has since 1960, it will be another 45 years before women see equal pay.

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP:** uses first soundbite(s)

**LEAD:** In 2014, women earned 78 cents for every dollar a man earned, and a new report says it could be another 45 years before women see equal pay. Mary Schuermann has more.

*Cut 24249 1:00 Outcue... Mary Schuermann, reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** The fact sheet is here: <http://goo.gl/nNMGD0> - Reach Milli at (202) 785-0393.

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September 21, 2015

Available files: mp3 wav jpg

### **Bringing Executions Back to IL: Expert Predicts it's Unlikely**

Springfield, IL – When the state Senate reconvenes, Democratic Sen. Bill Haine says he'll introduce a bill calling for reinstatement of the death penalty. But some experts say there's little chance the effort will progress given that there's less support for the death penalty now than in the past. Comments from Robert Dunham, executive director, Death Penalty Information Center,

**Intro:** Will the death penalty be coming back to Illinois? There have been no executions since 2000, when a moratorium was put in place by Governor George Ryan, and capital punishment was eventually abolished in 2011. Democratic State Senator Bill Haine has said he intends to file legislation when the Senate reconvenes next month to restore the death penalty in limited instances. Robert Dunham with the Death Penalty Information Center says while it isn't an unusual move, he doesn't expect it to get any traction.

**Cut 18249 :13** *"There have been legislators in other states that have abolished the death penalty who have introduced bills to reinstate it and typically those bills have gone nowhere and generally they haven't even gotten hearings set up in the committees."*

**Tag:** There have been past attempts to bring back capital punishment to Illinois, but none of the bills have made it out of committee. A poll from the Pew Research Center earlier this year showed 56 percent of the public supports the death penalty, the lowest level it's reported in the last 40 years.

**Second Cut:** Haine stated that times have changed since 2011, with terrible acts occurring around the country including the recent shooting death of a police officer in Illinois. And he suggests the death sentence be used for the most heinous crimes, such as the murder of police officers or children. Meanwhile, Dunham explains that the national view on capital punishment is changing.

**Cut 19249 :11** *"Over time the debate has shifted from are there some rare instances in which it might be imposed to is this a policy that can be carried out reliably and consistently?"*

**Third Cut:** According to the Death Penalty Information Center, there have been 155 exonerations of death row inmates since 1971, the most recent in June of this year. Besides the problem of wrongful convictions, Dunham says there are questions about racial discrimination in the use of the death penalty and about police and prosecutorial misconduct. □ □

**Cut 20249 :11** *"As in Illinois where there were more innocent people who were tortured into giving false confessions than there were guilty people who were executed in the state. There is ongoing, very serious concern about the death penalty."*

**OPTIONAL REPORTER WRAP:** uses first soundbite(s)

**LEAD:** Will the death penalty be coming back to Illinois? Mary Schuermann has more on the latest attempt.

**Cut 21249 :54** *Outcue... Mary Schuermann reporting.*

**Note to Editors:** Reach Dunham at 202-289-4022. The Pew poll: <http://tinyurl.com/l7edm3u>.

