

Second Quarter 2019 WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

April 2019 – June 2019

The following issues were addressed during WGLT Newscasts during MORNING EDITION from 5 to 9 am M-F and during ALL THINGS CONSIDERED from 3-6PM, M-F, and during Sound Ideas, Noon-1pm, and 6-7pm, M-F. The story lengths range from one minute to 59 minutes. Other examples of WGLT addressing community issues can be found at www.wglt.org

Arts and Culture

[Datebook: A Truth Universally Acknowledged In The Awesomeness Of 'Pride And Prejudice'](#)
By LAURA KENNEDY • JUN 28, 2019

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[Newly Minted Curators Spotlight Teen Art](#)
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An artist. A teacher. An illustrator.

Those were the three paths to an art career that Kendra Paitz heard about when she was growing up. Now that she's the director and chief curator of the [University Galleries](#) in Normal, Paitz decided to show area young people all sorts of possibilities for a career in the visual arts. With the help of a grant from the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, she established the University Galleries' Teen Arts group, inviting a group of Bloomington High School students to the galleries for a yearlong program of unique opportunities.

[GLT Datebook: Shakespeare Sings In 'As You Like It'](#)
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The [Illinois Shakespeare Festival](#) sets the stage this summer for a one-of-a-kind escape into the forest of Arden with the romantic comedy, "As You Like It." Young lovers flee a corrupt court, plunging headlong into the forest, where they find love, friendship, and new songs to sing.

[GLT Datebook: Where Deconstruction And Construction Meet](#)
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Artist Katie Bell stood smiling among the collection of materials she'd gathered around town for her exhibition at [University Galleries](#). It looks like a construction site, but the materials are on the verge of being formed into the visual landscape of a deconstructed painting.

[Prairie Fire Theatre Reveals The Mother Lode In 'Gypsy'](#)
By LAURA KENNEDY • JUN 11, 2019

Everything's coming up roses at [Prairie Fire Theatre](#) with the staging of "Gypsy," the classic musical which is based on the memoirs of famous strip tease artist Gypsy Rose Lee.

[GLT Datebook: 10-Minute Play Festival Gets A Touch Of Noir](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • JUN 10, 2019

It was a dark and stormy night. The rain dripped into my glass of gin, dampening my spirits. Then suddenly, out of the shadows, *he* was there – Bruce Boeck. Well, of course he was there. After all, I had asked him to do an interview about his play, "Library Noir."

[Psych Geeks: A Golden Age Of Fandom](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • JUN 6, 2019

Fandom has truly come into its own. That's according to a couple of guys who should know: [GLT's Psych Geeks](#). Where it was once supremely geeky and social unacceptable to be a Trekki, now it's accepted and even considered cool. Fandom has moved centerstage.

[GLT Datebook: Shakespeare Festival Adapts Afresh](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • MAY 31, 2019

The play's the thing at the [Illinois Shakespeare Festival](#). And this season, the plays we know so well have a new look and a fresh perspective to thrill audiences.

[GLT Datebook: Poet And Photographer Explores Decay In The Heartland](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • MAY 24, 2019

Sagging barns and rusted out cars in the rural landscape offer inspiration to artist Justin Hamm, who needs more than just words—and more than just images—to express his feelings about what he encounters out and about in the Midwest.

[Culture Maven: The Complications Of Cancel Culture](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • MAY 22, 2019

There's no more Kate Smith singing "God Bless America" at Yankee games. Her statue outside of the Philadelphia Flyers stadium is gone, too.

[Coalescence Theatre Selected For Curtain Call On The National Stage](#)

By MARY CULLEN • MAY 20, 2019

Bloomington's [Coalescence Theatre Project](#) has a curtain call on the national stage in June.

[GLT Datebook: Superheroes Go Classical For Kids](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • MAY 20, 2019

What if the things we're teased about are actually the very things we need to make us strong?

['Beetlejuice' Gives Local Designer Big Break](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • MAY 17, 2019

Say "Beetlejuice" three times fast and you'll summon the irreverent demon—and Savannah Wetzel will make sure he's nattily attired.

[GLT Datebook: New Classical Ensemble Makes Music And Opportunities](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • MAY 10, 2019

A new classical ensemble in Bloomington-Normal isn't waiting for their big break. They're breaking into the business on their own power, armed with energy, passion, and some talented friends.

[Tony Award Nominee Shows IWU Alum's Love For Storytelling](#)

By ERIC STOCK • MAY 8, 2019

One of this year's hottest Broadway shows this year was produced by an Illinois Wesleyan University alum.

[Tree Carving Immortalizes Bloomington's Baseball Legend](#)

By WILLIS KERN • MAY 4, 2019

Nearly to the day 139 years after making his major league baseball debut on May 5, 1880, a tree carving of Bloomington's Charles "Old Hoss" Radbourn was dedicated not quite 60 feet, 6 inches from his final resting place.

[GLT Datebook: Emerging Artists Reveal Insight, Playfulness](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • MAY 3, 2019

The rising artists of Illinois have an abiding sense of humor and are not afraid to use it.

[Central Illinois Figure Skating Spins Up To Annual Show](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 26, 2019

Spring is here. Flowers are blooming. Trees are budding. And ice skating is peaking. Wait, what? Ice Skating? The Central Illinois Figure Skating Club is performing its annual celebration Saturday evening at Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington. It's the seventh year for the annual show and the figure skating community has grown by leaps and bounds. Lena Chaudhury from the club said they now have 72 skaters, as young as three on up to people in their 60s.

[GLT Datebook: 'A Few Good Men' Explores The Gray Area Of Truth](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • APR 26, 2019

A classic courtroom drama navigates the gray areas of power and honor in the latest production from [Community Players](#).

[Modernizing The Button: History You Can Hold](#)

By MARY CULLEN • APR 24, 2019

Most historical artifacts get tucked away in museums behind locked doors and thick glass. For some, the best piece of history fits in your palm and sits in a drawer at home.

[IWU Gifted 35 Steinway Pianos](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 22, 2019

Illinois Wesleyan University is receiving a \$3.5 million gift to become an all Steinway piano music school. University Piano Technician Dave Horine said they will be buying 35 new pianos and trading in 45.

[GLT Datebook: New Season Looms For Heartland Theatre](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • APR 21, 2019

[Heartland Theatre](#) has scheduled a new season that includes opportunities to catch the works of rising playwrights, plus a chance to see a classic masterpiece. Oh, and there's cake, too.

[Art Show Reveals How Good Friday Leads To Renewal](#)

By JON NORTON • APR 18, 2019

The 10th annual “What’s So Good About Good Friday?” art show spotlights local artists’ impressions about Good Friday and their Christian faith. This year more than 60 artists will exhibit works centering on the idea that Jesus’s crucifixion, death, and resurrection accomplished something beautiful.

[BCPA Creativity Center Capital Campaign Unveiled](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 12, 2019

The Friends of the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts has announced a \$5 million capital campaign to finish the Creativity Center across the street from the BCPA on Locust Street.

[GLT Datebook: The Psych Geeks Explore Nostalgia](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • APR 12, 2019

Taking a moment to reflect on your past, recall a cherished friend or replay a memory is more than just a fun journey into remembrance. It's a healthy jaunt through nostalgia, and according to [GLT's Psych Geeks](#), it can do you a world of good.

[Gamma Phi Circus Celebrates 90 Years With The Greatest Of Ease](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • APR 10, 2019

[Gamma Phi Circus](#) at Illinois State University celebrates a milestone anniversary this weekend with a show that looks back over the decades, even as the circus moves confidently towards a bright future.

[New Work Premieres With Illinois Symphony Orchestra](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 5, 2019

The Illinois Symphony Orchestra premieres a new piece of music Friday evening at the BCPA in Bloomington.

[GLT Datebook: 'Harvey' Heads Down A Rabbit Hole Of Laughs](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • APR 5, 2019

You can forget about that Peeps-toting bunny. The rabbit to watch this season is one you can't even see. Or can you?

[GLT Datebook: 'Table Manners' Serves Up Tasty Farce](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • APR 1, 2019

Don't talk with your mouth full. Keep your elbows off the table. Avoid picking your teeth with the salad fork.

Education and Family

[Unit 5 Finance Committee Takes On Growing Structural Deficit](#)

By MARY CULLEN • JUN 19, 2019

The Unit 5 Finance Committee met Wednesday night for preliminary discussions on how to address the district's growing education fund deficit.

[ISU Grad Prepares To 'Jump Into The Real World'](#)

By MARY CULLEN • MAY 14, 2019

It's graduation season, and thousands of students are walking across the stage this month at Illinois colleges and universities.

[ISU Board Of Trustees Hear Union Worker Complaints, Freeze Tuition](#)

By MARY CULLEN • MAY 10, 2019

Updated 1:10 p.m. | Illinois State workers and student supporters called on the university to increase pay for all workers to a \$15 hourly wage, at minimum.

[Public Asks For Transparency Amid Unit 5 Harassment Allegations](#)

By MARY CULLEN • APR 10, 2019

Members of the Bloomington-Normal community spoke out at the Unit 5 school board meeting Wednesday night, calling for the district to clear the air on the recent resignation of James Harden.

Election 2020/2019

[LaHood Talks SCOTUS Rulings, Constituent Email Surveys](#)

By MARY CULLEN • JUN 28, 2019

Despite a conservative ruling, one Republican congressman from Central Illinois is “very disappointed” in the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision on gerrymandering.

[McLean County Democrats Juggle 24 Presidential Candidates](#)

By MARY CULLEN • JUN 28, 2019

Many McLean County Democrats are taking a "wait and see" approach before choosing a candidate to support in next year's presidential primary.

[DCCC Head Confident Londrigan Can Unseat Davis On Second Try](#)

By ERIC STOCK & TIM SHELLEY • JUN 27, 2019

The woman tasked with getting more Democrats elected in Congress next year feels the party is well positioned to win a Central Illinois district that's long been in Republican hands.

[LaHood: Trump Will Lose Subpoena Fight](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 25, 2019

GOP Rep. Darin LaHood says President Trump's strategy of blocking his staff members from testifying before Congress will not work.

[One Year In, Local GOP Chair Focused On Building Ground Game](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • APR 19, 2019

One year into the job, the chair of the McLean County GOP says she's focused on building up her party's ground game to push back against newly energized Democrats.

[McLean County Dems Tout Huge Growth In 2018](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 19, 2019

A year ago, Erik Rankin took over as Chair of the McLean County Democratic Party. In that time, Democrats have added County Board seats, elected city council members that have party values and built party infrastructure.

[Dirksen Londrigan Runs Again For Congress](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 11, 2019

Only five months after she lost an election for the U.S. House, Springfield Democrat Betsy Dirksen Londrigan announced Thursday she is running for Congress again in the 13th District.

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[Carrillo Unseats Schmidt; 4 New Aldermen Set For Bloomington](#)

By RYAN DENHAM, ERIC STOCK & CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 3, 2019

A well-known community organizer unseated a five-term incumbent in Tuesday's election, meaning four new faces will be joining the Bloomington City Council next month.

[Election Recap: Incumbents Fall In Bloomington-Normal Council Races](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 3, 2019

GLT's Charlie Schlenker recaps the April 2 municipal elections, which unseated two incumbents (R.C. McBride and Karen Schmidt) on Bloomington-Normal city councils. This aired Wednesday on GLT's Sound Ideas.

[Koos Doesn't Expect 'Divisive' Normal Council After Election](#)

By RYAN DENHAM, CHARLIE SCHLENKER & ERIC STOCK • APR 3, 2019

Mayor Chris Koos struck an optimistic tone Wednesday that the Town Council won't become too divisive following the election of two new members who beat his preferred candidates.

[Voter Turnout Low But Slightly Above 2015 Levels](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • APR 2, 2019

Election authorities weren't expecting a big turnout Tuesday. And they didn't get one.

[Incumbents Re-Elected To Unit 5 School Board](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • APR 2, 2019

Six incumbents won re-election to the Unit 5 school board Tuesday, with two recent appointees fending off a challenge from a former district employee.

[Nord, Smith Win Normal Town Council Race; Lorenz Re-Elected](#)

By RYAN DENHAM, CHARLIE SCHLENKER & MARY CULLEN • APR 2, 2019

Two challengers who've criticized the direction of Uptown Normal redevelopment knocked off an incumbent Normal Town Council member Tuesday as they emerged as the top vote-getters in a crowded eight-way race.

[Election Day Live Blog: Incumbents Fall In Bloomington-Normal](#)

By STAFF • APR 2, 2019

Central Illinois voters went to the polls Tuesday to choose who they want to represent them on city councils, school boards, community college boards, and other elected bodies.

[Council Candidate Nord Threatens Legal Action Against Town Over Tap-On Fee](#)

By BREANNA GROW • APR 2, 2019

A nearly 2-year dispute between the Town of Normal and town council candidate Stan Nord remained unresolved on the eve of Election Day.

Health and Medicine

[Draining The Food Swamp: Bringing Fresh Food Back to Rural Towns](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 28, 2019

People have been leaving rural midwestern areas for decades. And it's not just population loss. Often fresh food sellers move away too. There might be hope, though.

[Bates-Diop Family Hosts Clinics To Get More AEDs In Schools](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUN 17, 2019

An NBA basketball player brought his skills back to Bloomington-Normal to help bring more defibrillators to schools. That device [saved his brother's life two years ago](#).

[B-N Cannabis Users Support Legalization But Would Stick With Medical Program](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • MAY 30, 2019

Four years ago, Alice Moss came home from work and walked into a nightmare.

Her partner had shot himself. He later died about a long hospitalization.

[Central Illinois Medical Community Fights Skepticism Amid Measles Outbreak](#)

By ERIC STOCK • MAY 23, 2019

Vaccination rates remain high in McLean County despite what the medical community says are efforts by skeptics to sow confusion over settled science, and they claim it's putting our health at greater risk.

[Q&A: Heartland Community College Trains Student Nurses In Maternal Mortality Prevention](#)

By MARY CULLEN • MAY 13, 2019

Maternal mortality rates in the U.S. are the highest among developed nations. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists report a 26% increase in the maternal mortality rate between 2000 and 20-14.

[HCC Trains Student Nurses In Maternal Mortality Prevention](#)

By MARY CULLEN • MAY 9, 2019

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report 700 women die every year in the U.S. from pregnancy-related complications.

[Former Obama Health Care Advisor To Give Illinois Wesleyan Commencement Speech](#)

By SEAN NEWGENT & CHARLIE SCHLENKER • MAY 3, 2019

As Illinois Wesleyan's 2019 graduates take their first steps into the working world Sunday, a fellow Titan alum will tell them their liberal arts degree will be key to their success.

[Can Cannabis Help Patients Avoid Opioids?](#)

By STEPH WHITESIDE • MAY 1, 2019

WSIU and Illinois Newsroom reported this story as part of a weeklong series from public radio stations around the state focusing on the potential impact of marijuana legalization.

Since February, patients in Illinois have been able to swap their opioid prescriptions for marijuana. And many are doing just that.

They're part of a program designed to let patients who might not qualify for the state's regular medical marijuana program exchange an opioid prescription, like Oxycontin, for weed.

[Forum Focuses On Trauma-Informed Care in Children](#)

By WILLIS KERN • APR 22, 2019

When trauma impacts young children, the long-term effects can be detrimental to society, in addition to the individual traumatized.

['Need Kidney, Type O': Bloomington Woman Uses Car To Search For Kidney Donor](#)

By BREANNA GROW • APR 19, 2019

You might have seen a car driving around Bloomington with an unusual message written across its windows: "Need kidney. Type O."

There's a phone number, too.

[EpiPen Shortage Nears 1 Year](#)

By MARY CULLEN • APR 17, 2019

A nationwide EpiPen shortage is nearing its one-year mark, leaving many fearing the risks of anaphylactic shock.

Higher Education

[50 Years After Stonewall, ISU Advocate Sees Unfinished Business](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & KATIE SEELINGER • JUN 28, 2019

Friday marks the [50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots](#), and local LGBTQ+ rights advocate Barb Dallinger says there's still a long way to go.

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By LAURA KENNEDY • JUN 28, 2019

This summer, the [Illinois Shakespeare Festival](#) presents an original staging of a great romantic classic.

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An artist. A teacher. An illustrator.

Those were the three paths to an art career that Kendra Paitz heard about when she was growing up. Now that she's the director and chief curator of the [University Galleries](#) in Normal, Paitz decided to show area young people all sorts of possibilities for a career in the visual arts. With the help of a grant from the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, she established the University Galleries' Teen Arts group, inviting a group of Bloomington High School students to the galleries for a yearlong program of unique opportunities.

[Illinois Wesleyan Names Interim President](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUN 26, 2019

Illinois Wesleyan University has tabbed the former president of Kenyon College in Ohio to serve as interim president following [Eric Jensen's recent departure](#).

[GLT Datebook: Shakespeare Sings In 'As You Like It'](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • JUN 21, 2019

[The Illinois Shakespeare Festival](#) sets the stage this summer for a one-of-a-kind escape into the forest of Arden with the romantic comedy, "As You Like It." Young lovers flee a corrupt court, plunging headlong into the forest, where they find love, friendship, and new songs to sing.

[IWU's Sikma: 'Overwhelmed' By Hall Of Fame Reflections](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUN 19, 2019

Illinois Wesleyan University alum Jack Sikma has had a whirlwind few weeks.

[Heartland Trustees Approve Tentative FY 2020 Budget](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUN 18, 2019

The Heartland Community College board on Tuesday approved a tentative \$32 million operating budget for fiscal year 2020, which begins July 1.

[WIU Board Chairperson Talks About Presidential Separation Agreement](#)

By RICH EGGER • JUN 18, 2019

At the beginning of their June 14 meeting, Western Illinois University trustees agreed to a plan that calls for WIU President Jack Thomas to step down on June 30. After the 7.5 hour meeting, Tri States Public Radio talked to Board of Trustees Chairperson Greg Aguilar about the deal.

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Artist Katie Bell stood smiling among the collection of materials she'd gathered around town for her exhibition at [University Galleries](#). It looks like a construction site, but the materials are on the verge of being formed into the visual landscape of a deconstructed painting.

[WIU President Resigns](#)

By AP • JUN 14, 2019

The president of Western Illinois University is resigning at the end of June after eight years in the post. Jack Thomas has told an audience of about 200 people that Western Illinois "would best be served by new leadership" at a "pivotal time" for the school. Thomas has been under fire from alumni and others. The Quad-City Times reports that enrollment has dropped 35% in the last decade, although administrators say it's due to many factors, including population trends and cuts in state support.

[Dual Credit Offerings Through HCC Save High Schoolers Big Bucks](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUN 12, 2019

Heartland Community College said high school students across central Illinois have saved \$4.9 million in community college tuition and fees with dual credit courses through their high schools over the last five years. Sixteen high schools participate in the program with HCC.

[Western Illinois Alumni Group Wants President To Step Down](#)

By AP • JUN 11, 2019

A group that represents alumni at Western Illinois University is urging the president to resign.

[More Of That, Please: ISU Graduate Helps Others Navigate Justice System](#)

By TIFFANI JACKSON • JUN 6, 2019

Every week or so on GLT's [The Leadoff](#) podcast, we'll bring you the story of an unsung community servant who's making Bloomington-Normal a better place. It's a feature we call [More of That, Please](#). [Subscribe to The Leadoff](#) on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts. [You can also suggest local people we should feature](#).

[Hall Of Famer Sikma To Headline YMCA Dinner](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUN 5, 2019

A former Illinois Wesleyan basketball standout will soon be going from the NBA Finals to Bloomington for a charity fundraiser.

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[IWU President Jensen Announces Sudden Retirement](#)

By ERIC STOCK • MAY 31, 2019

Illinois Wesleyan University President Eric Jensen has announced his retirement after [serving in the role less than four years](#).

[McHistory: The Roots Of Feminism](#)

By MARY CULLEN • MAY 28, 2019

From 1892 to the early 1930s professor June Rose Colby taught literature, grammar, and composition at Illinois State Normal University. One of the first female professors at the university, Colby was a pioneer for feminism.

[Bloomington, IWU To Hire Broker To Sell Former Electrolux Site](#)

By ERIC STOCK • MAY 28, 2019

The City of Bloomington and Illinois Wesleyan University are ramping up marketing efforts to find a buyer for the former Mennonite Hospital and Electrolux site.

[IWU Professor On Quest To Increase Diversity, Promote Inclusivity In Science](#)

By AMINA JINADU & RYAN DENHAM • MAY 23, 2019

Women and members of underrepresented groups are at a disadvantage in STEM fields across the globe.

[Culture Maven: The Complications Of Cancel Culture](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • MAY 22, 2019

There's no more Kate Smith singing "God Bless America" at Yankee games. Her statue outside of the Philadelphia Flyers stadium is gone, too.

[Heartland Board OKs New Union Contract With Adjunct Faculty](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • MAY 21, 2019

The Heartland Community College board on Tuesday approved a new union contract with its adjunct faculty, guaranteeing at least 2% per-credit-hour raises over the next three years.

[Weekend IT Upgrade Will Impact GLT Streaming](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • MAY 17, 2019

A major IT upgrade at Illinois State University this weekend will impact some GLT services.

[ISU Grad Prepares To 'Jump Into The Real World'](#)

By MARY CULLEN • MAY 14, 2019

It's graduation season, and thousands of students are walking across the stage this month at Illinois colleges and universities.

[Pritzker Names 2 Newcomers To ISU Board](#)

By ERIC STOCK • MAY 13, 2019

Two newcomers will be joining the Illinois State University Board of Trustees, following Gov. J.B. Pritzker's appointments.

[IWU's Salowitz: Keeping Score All These Years](#)

By ERIC STOCK • MAY 13, 2019

In the ever changing world of college athletics, you can only imagine the degrees of change Stew Salowitz has seen at Illinois Wesleyan University.

[GLT Datebook: New Classical Ensemble Makes Music And Opportunities](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • MAY 10, 2019

A new classical ensemble in Bloomington-Normal isn't waiting for their big break. They're breaking into the business on their own power, armed with energy, passion, and some talented friends.

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By ERIC STOCK • MAY 8, 2019

One of this year's hottest Broadway shows this year was produced by an Illinois Wesleyan University alum.

[ISU Trustees Consider Tuition Freeze](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • MAY 7, 2019

The cost of attending Illinois State University in the fall would rise about 1.3%, according to a proposal going to the Board of Trustees on Friday.

[Bloomington HS Aims To 'Grow Their Own' To Address Teacher Shortage](#)

By ERIC STOCK • MAY 6, 2019

Bloomington High School is looking to address the [national teacher shortage](#) by helping to groom new educators before they head off to college.

[Former Obama Health Care Advisor To Give Illinois Wesleyan Commencement Speech](#)

By SEAN NEWGENT & CHARLIE SCHLENKER • MAY 3, 2019

As Illinois Wesleyan's 2019 graduates take their first steps into the working world Sunday, a fellow Titan alum will tell them their liberal arts degree will be key to their success.

[ISU Waits For 3 Trustee Appointments With Tuition, Fee Votes Approaching](#)

By ERIC STOCK • APR 29, 2019

Illinois State University is missing nearly half of its governing board as it awaits Gov. J.B. Pritzker to make three appointments.

[ISU Apologizes For Publishing Anti-Gay Letter That Violates Its Values](#)

By ERIC STOCK • APR 25, 2019

Illinois State University President Larry Dietz and the editor of ISU's alumni magazine say they have apologized to a couple whose picture was criticized in a letter to the editor. Susan Marquardt Blystone is listed as the editor on ISU's website.

[ISU Cadets Tutor, Bond With Grade School Students](#)

By ERIC STOCK • APR 24, 2019

Cadets at Illinois State University who aspire to be tomorrow's military leaders are helping to educate tomorrow's leaders in the classroom.

[IWU Gifted 35 Steinway Pianos](#)

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Illinois Wesleyan University is receiving a \$3.5 million gift to become an all Steinway piano music school. University Piano Technician Dave Horine said they will be buying 35 new pianos and trading in 45.

[Environmentalist Urges Decisive Move Toward Organic Farming](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 17, 2019

We are already a water-challenged planet. As global climate change continues, we are likely to become more so, according to Vandana Shiva, a noted environmentalist.

[Quality Not Quantity The Way Forward For Midsized Newspapers](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 17, 2019

The future of newspapers is in more and deeper local coverage, according to a prominent former Illinois State University student.

[GLT Datebook: The Psych Geeks Explore Nostalgia](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • APR 12, 2019

Taking a moment to reflect on your past, recall a cherished friend or replay a memory is more than just a fun journey into remembrance. It's a healthy jaunt through nostalgia, and according to [GLT's Psych Geeks](#), it can do you a world of good.

[ISU Union Workers Rally For Fair Contracts, Higher Wages](#)

By MARY CULLEN • APR 10, 2019

Illinois State University union employees rallied Wednesday to garner support amidst contract negotiations. The contracts expired last June and negotiations have been ongoing since the fall.

[Gamma Phi Circus Celebrates 90 Years With The Greatest Of Ease](#)

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You can forget about that Peeps-toting bunny. The rabbit to watch this season is one you can't even see. Or can you?

[Gun Violence May Be Next Issue On Criminal Justice Panel's Agenda](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • APR 4, 2019

Less than 48 hours after the latest fatal shooting in Bloomington, leaders of the county's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council signaled Thursday that reducing gun violence will become one of their priorities.

[Illini To Sell Beer At Football, Basketball Games This Fall](#)

By AP • APR 2, 2019

The University of Illinois will start selling beer in general seating areas at Memorial Stadium and State Farm Center this fall.

[ISU Employee Accused Of Embezzling \\$161K](#)

By ERIC STOCK • APR 2, 2019

A clerical worker at Illinois State University is accused of embezzling more than \$160,000 in cash from the university over several years.

Police and Courts

[Suspect Turns Himself In After Fatal Hit-And-Run In Bloomington](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUN 24, 2019

A 27-year-old Bloomington man has turned himself in to police after allegedly fleeing the scene of a [fatal hit-and-run crash](#) over the weekend.

[Motorcyclist Killed In Hit-And-Run Crash In Bloomington](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUN 22, 2019

A 39-year-old man from Normal was identified Sunday as the victim in a fatal hit-and-run south of Downtown Bloomington.

[Bloomington Man ID'd in Fatal Motorcycle Crash](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUN 21, 2019

McLean County Coroner Kathy Yoder said it was a 45-year-old Bloomington man [who died in a motorcycle crash in northeast Normal on Thursday](#).

[One Killed In Motorcycle Crash In Northeast Normal](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUN 20, 2019

UPDATED 8:40 p.m. | A stretch of Pipeline Road in northeast Normal was closed for several hours Thursday afternoon as police investigated a fatal motorcycle crash.

[Man Shot In Butt On Bloomington's East Side](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUN 17, 2019

A 27-year-old man was shot in the butt Sunday night on Bloomington's east side, police said. [Is Aaron Schock Exploring Another Congressional Run?](#)
JUN 14, 2019

PEORIA -- Updated paperwork was filed for former U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock's congressional campaign committee earlier this month - but the Peoria Republican says he was just making a tweak to what's in the record.

[Settlement Reached In Pregnant Cop's Lawsuit Against Hudson](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUN 13, 2019

A settlement has been reached in a federal lawsuit filed by a pregnant police officer in Hudson who claimed her former boss and the village discriminated and retaliated against her.

[Hybrid Gang Dispute Tied To Gunfire Incidents In B-N](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUN 11, 2019

UPDATED 5:10 p.m. | There have been dozens of incidents of gunfire in Bloomington-Normal in the past 18 months. But court records suggest it's a relatively small number of suspects in many of those incidents—including several involved in a hybrid gang dispute.

[Horses On The Run After Crash On Interstate 74](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUN 6, 2019

A portion of Interstate 74 near Downs was closed Thursday night as horses broke loose after a crash.

[Two Men Charged In 2018 Bloomington Homicide](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUN 6, 2019

After an eight-month investigation, authorities said Thursday that two central Illinois men have been charged with killing Trevonte Kirkwood in Bloomington last fall.

[BPD Arrest 2 Men On Sex Abuse Charges](#)

By ERIC STOCK • MAY 30, 2019

Bloomington Police say they have arrested two Bloomington men on sex abuse charges stemming from separate cases involving children.

[Police Seek Suspect After Fleeing Department of Corrections In Bloomington](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • MAY 28, 2019

UPDATED 8:30 p.m. | A 29-year-old from Bloomington remained at large Wednesday after escaping from the Illinois Department of Corrections during an arrest.

[Pedestrian Seriously Injured In Bloomington Hit-And-Run](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • MAY 21, 2019

Bloomington Police are looking for the public's help in finding a vehicle involved in a hit-and-run Monday night that left a man seriously injured.

[Carlock Mayor Arrested, But Not Charged, In Domestic Dispute](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • MAY 17, 2019

Carlock Mayor Jeremiah Houston said Friday he won't comment on his arrest earlier this year on domestic battery charges—including an allegation that he told his wife that there was no use calling the police because he was the mayor.

[B-N Men Arrested In Series Of Armed Robberies](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • MAY 17, 2019

UPDATED 4 p.m. | Two local men were arrested Friday in connection with a series of armed robberies at Bloomington-Normal businesses in the past month.

[Third Armed Robbery Strikes Normal Auto Parts Store](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • MAY 16, 2019

Normal Police are investigating an armed robbery at an auto parts store—the third holdup in the past month involving two hooded suspects.

[State Farm Denies Allegations In Agents-In-Training Lawsuit](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • MAY 15, 2019

State Farm has denied the [allegations of a federal lawsuit](#) filed by two New York men who say they were fraudulently recruited into an agent training program and improperly denied employee benefits.

[EMT Shortages Strain Rural Agencies In Central Illinois](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • MAY 7, 2019

Travis Wilson can make being an EMT sound like the coolest gig in the world. “It’s not like anything else in the field of medicine,” Wilson said. “It’s different every single day. If you’re an adrenaline junkie, it’s an awesome job.”

[Bloomington Man Convicted In Police Informant's Slaying In Chicago](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • MAY 3, 2019

A Bloomington man with an extensive criminal record was convicted of murder Friday in the death of a police informant.

[Two Armed Robbers Hit Convenience Store in Bloomington](#)

By DARNYSHA MITCHELL • MAY 1, 2019

Police are investigating an armed robbery Monday afternoon at a convenience store in Bloomington's southwest side.

[Regional Law Enforcement Leaders Huddle On Street Crime](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 30, 2019

About 60 law enforcement leaders from across the region gathered Monday at Heartland Community College to share data and intelligence.

[Teachers Union Pres Responds To Death Threat](#)

By DUSTY RHODES • APR 30, 2019

Authorities are investigating an anonymous letter threatening the lives of anyone in line to receive state-funded pensions. The letter was mailed to several legislators and at least one public radio station. In big letters, the mailing says “Dead people can’t collect fat state pensions,” and goes on to warn lawmakers and union leaders of death by arson, strangulation or other unspecified means.

[Video Footage Shows Pattern Of Abuse By Normal Woman Accused Of Murder](#)

By MARY CULLEN • APR 26, 2019

Prosecutors in the January death of an 8-year-old girl from Normal point to a consistent pattern of abuse under the eye of Illinois’ Department of Children and Family Services.

[Cynthia Marie Baker](#), also known as Cynthia Clay, was arrested on a warrant earlier this week for charges of murder, aggravated domestic battery, and domestic battery of a child in connection with the girl’s death.

[Reckless But Law-Abiding: How Guns Get Stolen In McLean County](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • APR 25, 2019

Last summer Normal Police learned of an 80-year-old man with 80 guns. But the ones missing from his Bloomington home mattered most.

[B-N Woman Faces Murder Charge In Child's Death](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • APR 24, 2019

A 41-year-old Normal woman was charged Wednesday with murder for allegedly kicking an 8-year-old and causing fatal injuries earlier this year.

Cynthia M. Baker, also known as Cynthia M. Clay, is charged with murder, aggravated battery of a child, and aggravated domestic battery. Authorities said Baker kicked the child in the abdomen, causing massive internal injuries. The child died Jan. 26 after being transported to a Peoria hospital, police said.

[Prosecutors Attempt To Poke Holes In Zimmerman Alibi](#)

By MARY CULLEN • APR 23, 2019

The prosecutors in Kirk Zimmerman's murder trial Tuesday worked to break down Zimmerman's alibi for the night of his ex-wife's murder by calling Zimmerman's girlfriend to the stand.

[Coroner: Fatal Goodfield Fire Was Intentionally Set](#)

By RYAN DENHAM & AP • APR 18, 2019

UPDATED 7 p.m. | Authorities said Thursday that a fire which killed five people at a Goodfield mobile home was intentionally set and that a juvenile suspect is being questioned.

[4 Teens Arrested After Miller Park Fight, Stabbing](#)

By JON NORTON • APR 17, 2019

UPDATED 4 p.m. | Four teenagers were arrested in connection with a fight that led to a stabbing Tuesday night at Miller Park, authorities said.

[Coroner: 5 Killed In Goodfield Fire Died Of Smoke Inhalation](#)

By AP • APR 9, 2019

The Woodford County coroner says smoke inhalation killed three children and two adults in a weekend mobile home fire in Goodfield.

[Jurors See Zimmerman's First Interview With Police](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • APR 9, 2019

Jurors on Tuesday got their first look at Kirk Zimmerman in the hours after his ex-wife's murder, as they watched video of his first interview with Bloomington Police detectives.

[Differing Views Of Zimmerman Divorce Emerge As Murder Trial Begins](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • APR 8, 2019

Prosecutors opened their case Monday against Kirk Zimmerman by telling jurors he was motivated by greed and hate for his ex-wife, Pamela, before fatally shooting her almost five years ago. His defense argued they were "happily divorced" and that stories of Zimmerman's financial problems were overblown.

[FBI: Teenager Is Not Long-Missing Aurora Boy Timmothy Pitzen](#)

By AP • APR 4, 2019

Authorities have rejected a teenager's claim that he is an Illinois boy who disappeared in 2011 at age 6.

BPD Promotes Neighbors App For Crime Alerts, Data

By ERIC STOCK • APR 2, 2019

Bloomington Police have joined a new online community that it hopes will help the public help them fight crime.

Crime

Regional Law Enforcement Leaders Huddle On Street Crime

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 30, 2019

About 60 law enforcement leaders from across the region gathered Monday at Heartland Community College to share data and intelligence.

Video Footage Shows Pattern Of Abuse By Normal Woman Accused Of Murder

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[Cynthia Marie Baker](#), also known as Cynthia Clay, was arrested on a warrant earlier this week for charges of murder, aggravated domestic battery, and domestic battery of a child in connection with the girl's death.

One Dead, Two Injured from Gunfire On Bloomington's East Side

Gunfire claimed the life of one man in Bloomington on Tuesday night. Two others are in critical condition at area hospitals.

Bloomington Police say Nathaniel Caldwell, 26, was found in the 1200 block of Orchard Drive with a gunshot wound after they were called around 9:50 p.m. Tuesday for a report of shots fired. He is currently listed in critical condition at an area hospital.

Politics and Government

[Normal To Swap Rivian For Mitsubishi On Motorway](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUN 30, 2019

The Bloomington-Normal driving public might have to get used to a new name for a prominent road.

[When Government's Social Media Goes Awry](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUN 26, 2019

Editor's note: This is Part 2 of a WGLT series on government's use of social media. [Part 1](#) was about how government and public safety agencies are using social media.

[Government Agencies Get In The Social Media Game](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUN 25, 2019

Editor's note: This is Part 1 of a WGLT series on government's use of social media. Coming Wednesday: WGLT examines how governments respond when social media creates controversy. Social media has become such a dominant force in much of our lives that it's become nearly impossible to avoid.

[Bloomington Council Agrees To Wait For Transit Working Group](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUN 24, 2019

The Bloomington City Council has passed a wait-and-see resolution concerning Connect Transit and the recent public campaign to undo a route cut and fare increases.

[Bloomington Could Offset Connect Mobility Fare Hikes](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUN 24, 2019

Bloomington could soon be tipping its hand in how much its willing to help Connect Transit's on-demand service for elderly riders and those with disabilities.

[Heartland Trustees Approve Tentative FY 2020 Budget](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUN 18, 2019

The Heartland Community College board on Tuesday approved a tentative \$32 million operating budget for fiscal year 2020, which begins July 1.

[Murphy Resigns From McLean County Board](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUN 18, 2019

McLean County Board member Scott Murphy has resigned. In his resignation letter, Murphy said he's buying a house in Bloomington-Normal outside of his [District 2 boundaries](#).

[Is Aaron Schock Exploring Another Congressional Run?](#)

By EDITOR • JUN 14, 2019

PEORIA -- Updated paperwork was filed for former U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock's congressional campaign committee earlier this month - but the Peoria Republican says he was just making a tweak to what's in the record.

[Rep. Sommer: Not Much Bipartisanship In State Budget](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUN 10, 2019

All this talk of bipartisanship in the Illinois legislature is a bit overblown, according to a veteran state lawmaker who opposed much of the legislation that Gov. J.B Pritzker and Democratic leaders pushed through in what some political observers have called an historic legislative session.

[Normal Council To Consider Less Lead Time For Public Comment](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • MAY 31, 2019

The Normal Town Council will consider making it easier for the public to comment at meetings of the council and other town boards and commissions.

[Rep. Brady Barricade Measure Pushes For Safer Schools](#)

By MARY CULLEN • MAY 22, 2019

A measure aimed at making classrooms safer in the event of a school shooting is gaining speed in the Illinois General Assembly.

[McLean County Adopts Social Media Policy, Names 'Wasson Way'](#)

By ERIC STOCK • MAY 21, 2019

McLean County has adopted a social media policy, though County Board members exempted themselves from the new guidelines.

[Lawsuit Likely Between Normal Council Member And Town](#)

By JOE DEACON • MAY 21, 2019

The Town of Normal appears headed into a lawsuit with one of its new council members over an unpaid sewer tap-on fee.

[Why Barickman Bolted From The Cannabis Bill](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • MAY 13, 2019

State Sen. Jason Barickman said he [went public against Gov. JB Pritzker's bill](#) on legalizing recreational use of marijuana even though he knows it will make it more difficult to get a compromise bill.

[Bloomington Aldermen Seek Gender-Neutral Title](#)

By ERIC STOCK • MAY 10, 2019

One of the first orders of business for the newly sworn in Bloomington City Council members will be to decide how they wish to be identified.

[LaHood: Trump Will Lose Subpoena Fight](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 25, 2019

GOP Rep. Darin LaHood says President Trump's strategy of blocking his staff members from testifying before Congress will not work.

[McLean County Dems Tout Huge Growth In 2018](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 19, 2019

A year ago, Erik Rankin took over as Chair of the McLean County Democratic Party. In that time, Democrats have added County Board seats, elected city council members that have party values and built party infrastructure.

[Democrats Press Brady About GOP Solutions In Lieu Of Graduated Tax](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 17, 2019

Democrats challenged state Rep. Dan Brady, R-Normal, during a sparsely attended town hall meeting Tuesday about a proposal for a graduated income tax.

[Dirksen Londrigan Runs Again For Congress](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 11, 2019

Only five months after she lost an election for the U.S. House, Springfield Democrat Betsy Dirksen Londrigan announced Thursday she is running for Congress again in the 13th District.

[Photos: Youth Activists Continue Work Against Gun Violence](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • MAR 22, 2019

High school youth activists in the Twin Cities are focusing this year on reducing local gun violence.

[Mayor Of Normal Not Keen To Copy Possible Bloomington Gas Tax](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • MAR 19, 2019

Debate over gasoline tax increases to fund road repairs in Bloomington and Normal is more complex than the question of keeping the amount the same in both cities.

[Bloomington Staff Pave Way On Street Funding Policy Debate](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • MAR 19, 2019

Bloomington aldermen gave little indication Monday whether they are likely to approve a 4-cent per gallon increase in a local gasoline tax during a committee of the whole meeting that included the topic.

[CNN Legal Analyst: Collusion Not Relevant To Trump's Future](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • FEB 28, 2019

CNN legal analyst and former federal prosecutor Renato Mariotti said those who oppose President Trump should not count on a special prosecutor's report or Congress to get rid of the president.

[Bloomington Neurosurgeon Advocates In Washington](#)

By STAFF • FEB 18, 2019

Neurosurgeon Ann Stroink of Bloomington said she makes a trip to Washington nearly every month. She's a volunteer advocate for her professional groups, not a professional lobbyist.

[Bloomington Halts Business Registry Program](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • FEB 14, 2019

The City of Bloomington has suspended its [business registration program](#).

[Zoning Code Revamp Heads To Bloomington Council](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • FEB 13, 2019

The Bloomington Planning Commission on Wednesday passed concerns to the city council over housing density in areas just outside downtown.

[Have We Been Misspelling J.B. Pritzker's Name?](#)

By BRIAN MACKEY • FEB 8, 2019

There is a mystery at the heart of Illinois government. Statehouse reporters have been in private discussions about it for weeks. After internal deliberations here at public radio, we thought it was finally time to go public.

Science and Technology

[For Roy Choi, Food And Tech Mashup Is Recipe For Success | WGLT](#)

<https://www.wglt.org/.../roy-choi-food-and-tech-mashup-recipe-success>

Apr 13, 2018 ... Choi is the special guest of Illinois State University's **Science and Technology Week**, appearing to share his story of culinary innovation as the ...

Normal To Swap Rivian For Mitsubishi On Motorway

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUN 30, 2019

The Bloomington-Normal driving public might have to get used to a new name for a prominent road.

Quality Not Quantity The Way Forward For Midsized Newspapers

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • APR 17, 2019

The future of newspapers is in more and deeper local coverage, according to a prominent former Illinois State University student.

ISU Student Team Receives EPA Grant For Sustainable Construction Project

An Illinois State University student team was awarded a grant by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its project using recycled waste materials as an environmentally friendly alternative in construction material.

Civil Rights

McHistory: Civil Rights Before The Movement

By MARY CULLEN • JUN 11, 2019

Jun 11, 2019 ... Dr. Eugene Covington was the first and only African American physician in McLean County in the early 20th century. This episode of McHistory ...

Transportation

Normal To Swap Rivian For Mitsubishi On Motorway

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUN 30, 2019

The Bloomington-Normal driving public might have to get used to a new name for a prominent road.

Unit 5 Recruits Bus Hires With Real-World Test Drive

By RYAN DENHAM • JUN 25, 2019

Unit 5 is trying [to recruit more bus drivers](#) for next school year by showing them that it's not as intimidating as it looks.

Bloomington Council Agrees To Wait For Transit Working Group

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUN 24, 2019

The Bloomington City Council has passed a wait-and-see resolution concerning Connect Transit and the recent public campaign to undo a route cut and fare increases.

Bloomington Council Member Wants To Reject Transit Budget Over ...

<https://www.wglt.org/.../bloomington-council-member-wants-reject-transit-budget-over-route-fare-changes>

Jun 10, 2019 ... Council member Jeff Crabill wants to discuss rejecting **Connect Transit's** \$13.7 million budget at the council's June 17 Committee of the Whole ...

Connect Transit Gathers Public Input For Working Group | WGLT

<https://www.wglt.org/.../connect-transit-gathers-public-input-working-group>

May 11, 2019 ... Following a public work session Saturday morning, **Connect Transit's** board has a better idea of what its new Connect to the Future working ...