

First Quarter 2020 WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

January 2020 – March 2020

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

Health and Medicine

[Addiction Relapse Risk Rises As Coronavirus Isolation Continues](#)

By Sarah Nardi • Mar 30, 2020

Millions of Americans struggling with addiction rely on the support of groups like Alcoholics Anonymous. But due to the strict social distancing measures of COVID-19, many groups have suspended face-to-face meetings. The changes in procedure have some experts worried that people in recovery may be at risk.

[Illinois COVID-19 To Peak In Mid-April Under Current Projections](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 29, 2020

Vishesh Anand / Illinois Public Media

There are now 13 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in McLean County.

The McLean County Health Department released the latest tally Sunday afternoon. The new people with COVID-19 are a man in his 70s and a woman in her 30s. Both are self-isolating at home.

There has been one death and 120 negative tests in McLean County. There are 40 tests outstanding, according to the health department.

[Bloomington-Normal Hospitals Brace For Potential Surge In COVID-19 Cases](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 26, 2020

Bloomington-Normal hospital officials said Thursday they have planned for surges in COVID-19 cases that could demand "desperate action."

[McLean County Sees 3rd Day With No New COVID-19 Cases](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Mar 26, 2020

McLean County has gone three days without a new COVID-19 case, even as the statewide total [has more than doubled over that time.](#)

[Coronavirus Blog 3/26/20: State Launches Nonprofit Response Fund](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 26, 2020

The coronavirus story is developing quickly in Illinois. Here are updates from WGLT's newsroom and our partners at Illinois Public Radio, NPR, and The Associated Press.

[Patients In Central Illinois Frustrated By Lack Of COVID-19 Testing](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 26, 2020

UPDATED 9:30 p.m. | Lindsay O'Brien of Gridley thinks she probably has COVID-19.

She's on Day 9 of feeling sick. She can't catch her breath, is congested, has a fever, and gets the chills. On Monday night her shortness of breath got really bad and she couldn't sleep laying down. She called her primary care doctor the next day.

[Community Orgs Call For Decarceration, Housing During COVID-19 Crisis](#)

By [Breanna Grow](#) • Mar 26, 2020

McLean County Sheriff Jon Sandage [has said he does not plan to release inmates](#) at the McLean County jail in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

[OSF HealthCare Offering Digital Solution to Screen for COVID-19](#)

By [Darnysha Mitchell](#) • Mar 25, 2020

OSF HealthCare has launched an updated digital solution to help educate and triage people who are concerned about COVID-19 and risking exposure to go to a doctor's office.

[McLean County: Too Soon To 'Celebrate' COVID-19 Leveling](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Mar 25, 2020

McLean County hasn't had any new COVID-19 cases in the last two days, but county health officials said Wednesday it could still take weeks to determine if social distancing efforts are starting to flatten the curve in the county.

[Bloomington-Normal Fire Departments Start To Draw On PPE Supplies](#)

By [Darnysha Mitchell](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 25, 2020

Bloomington and Normal fire chiefs said they have adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) for now. That includes masks, gloves, and gowns.

[Beyond Testing, B-N Ambulance Runs Point To Even More COVID-19 Cases](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 23, 2020

One of the difficulties in estimating the penetration of the novel coronavirus in Bloomington-Normal has been a lack of testing. As of Tuesday, [there were only eight confirmed cases of COVID-19 in McLean County](#). Protocols have not called for testing everyone. Early on there was also a lack of swabs used to collect test matter from nasal passages, though that is rising.

[Contingencies For Homeless COVID-19 Patients In B-N Still Developing](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 23, 2020

Mark Romine / Salvation Army of McLean County

The homeless population in Bloomington-Normal is at increased risk of COVID-19 sickness, according to service providers.

[McLean County's COVID-19 Cases Climb To 8](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Eric Stock](#) • Mar 23, 2020

UPDATED 5:40 p.m. | McLean County now has eight people with confirmed positive tests for the coronavirus, the health department said Monday.

[McLean County Reports First COVID-19 Death](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 22, 2020

A woman in intensive care in Bloomington-Normal has died of COVID-19, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

The McLean County Health Department said she was in her 70s and tested positive last week. The department said the woman died late last week.

[Social Service Hotline Inundated With Calls](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 21, 2020

Those living close to the edge have a lot of fear and uncertainty amid the pandemic. Government responses to the coronavirus pandemic have prompted a flood of calls to 211 centers across the state.

[Protective Equipment In Short Supply In Illinois As COVID-19 Cases Mount](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 21, 2020

The daily increase in reported cases of COVID-19 in Illinois is 168. One more person has died, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health. The Cook County man was in his 70s. So far, there have been 753 confirmed cases of coronavirus caused sickness in the state.

[Mutual Aid Team: Grassroots Group Helps The Vulnerable](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 19, 2020

A mutual aid group in Bloomington-Normal is channeling anxiety and stress over the coronavirus into helping others.

Meghan Reha of the [McLean County Mutual Aid Team](#) says the group formed because it's important that people at high risk stay home. Reha said they have about 15 volunteer drivers who will deliver groceries or medicine from pharmacies when authorized.

[Counselor: Space, Understanding, Structure Can Help COVID-19 Coping](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Mar 19, 2020

A licensed counselor in Normal is urging parents of college students to actively listen and show understanding to help their children cope with the COVID-19 response [that has upended their college life](#).

[Mayor Of Normal: Restaurant, Bar Closures More Than A Suggestion](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 17, 2020

Mayor Chris Koos of Normal said the town will enforce the [restaurant and bar closure ordered by the governor](#) because of the coronavirus.

[Normal Stops Water Shutoffs, May Delay Utility Fee Increase](#)

By [Joe Deacon](#) • Mar 16, 2020

The Town of Normal is proceeding with plans to halt water shutoffs and delay a scheduled utility and waste fee increase in response to potential economic ramifications from the coronavirus pandemic.

"As we know, this situation is going to have significant economic impact," City Manager Pam Reece said during Monday's Town Council meeting. "We just don't know to what extent."

[United Way Creates COVID-19 Relief Fund](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 16, 2020

The United Way of McLean County said it will provide targeted help to reduce financial damage from the coronavirus pandemic. The United Way has announced a \$100,000 allocation to support youth and families in the community affected by the outbreak.

[Crowd Bans Push Worship Online In Bloomington-Normal](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 16, 2020

As the coronavirus pandemic forces the nation to disconnect from usual routines, communities of faith tried all the harder to hold on to each other and offer solace. Many turned to worship online, some as a regular part of the program, others for the first time, using meeting programs such as Zoom.

[Lowered Expectations For McLean County Voter Turnout](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 15, 2020

Among the many uncertainties the coronavirus has created in central Illinois is election turnout.

"That is the question of the decade," said McLean County Clerk Kathy Michael.

[Woodford County Man Tests Positive For COVID-19](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 14, 2020

The first downstate cases of coronavirus disease were announced Saturday. Two are in Central Illinois.

[Analysis: Moderate COVID-19 Spike Could Strain B-N Hospitals](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 19, 2020

Warner Hospital and Health Services / Facebook

A new analysis shows how easily Bloomington-Normal's hospitals could become strapped for space even if a moderate-case COVID-19 scenario comes to pass.

[COVID-19 Testing Slowly Increasing In McLean County](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Tim Shelley](#) • Mar 18, 2020

UPDATED 2:55 p.m. | The number of COVID-19 tests being done in McLean County is ticking up slowly, officials said Wednesday, as local health care providers lean more on commercial labs to expand who can get swabbed.

'Limited Resources' Restrict COVID-19 Testing In McLean County

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 12, 2020

"Limited resources" continue to restrict who can be tested for COVID-19 in McLean County, officials said Thursday.

McLean County GOP Chair Raises Concerns About Vaccine Safety

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 9, 2020

The chair of the McLean County Republican Party is urging her members to lobby against a bill that would require incoming sixth-graders to get the HPV vaccine that protects against certain cancers.

HIV Is Now Considered A Chronic Disease. Why Aren't More Primary Care Doctors Able To Help?

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Feb 28, 2020

This is a companion story to a [WGLT article published Friday](#) about the barriers to care facing HIV-positive patients in rural Illinois.

ISU Monitoring China Travelers After Coronavirus Outbreak; Considers Campus Risk Low

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 29, 2020

UPDATED 9:55 a.m. | Illinois State University said Tuesday that a small number of students, faculty, and staff who recently traveled to China have not yet shown any symptoms associated with the [novel coronavirus](#).

OSF Expert: Coronavirus Risk Is Low For Most

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 24, 2020

A Bloomington hospital said Friday rumors that the dangerous new coronavirus had spread to central Illinois were untrue, as a second U.S. patient was confirmed in Chicago.

Q&A: Advocate BroMenn's Colleen Kannaday On What The Carle Acquisition Means for Employees, Patients

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 9, 2020

Thursday's announcement that Carle health system plans to acquire Advocate BroMenn Medical Center and Advocate Eureka Hospital is big news for Central Illinois.

[McLean County Triage Center To Open Monday](#)

By [Breanna Grow](#) • Mar 13, 2020

Starting Monday individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis can seek help at the McLean County Triage Center in downtown Bloomington.

[ISU Students In Europe Scramble To Return](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 12, 2020

Illinois State University continues to work to retrieve students studying abroad. At the start of the semester spokesperson Eric Jome says that number was about 116 students in other countries.

[Bloomington, McLean County Move Polling Sites Due To Coronavirus Concerns](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Eric Stock](#) • Mar 11, 2020

Concerns about the coronavirus prompted the two election authorities in McLean County to move several polling sites less than one week before the Illinois primary election.

[Special Olympics Cancels State Basketball Event](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 10, 2020

Special Olympics Illinois has canceled its state basketball tournament this weekend in Bloomington-Normal and Peoria.

[Illinois Schools Ramp Up E-Learning To Prepare For Coronavirus](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Mar 10, 2020

The state schools superintendent is [telling school districts to prepare](#) for digital learning days if [the coronavirus](#) prompts extended school closings.

[Improvements, Lessons Learned Since H1N1 Pandemic](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Mar 10, 2020

Health care workers in Central Illinois say they are better prepared to respond to the coronavirus than previous pandemics because of digital technology.

[Alcohol Gel Hand Sanitizer Supplies Evaporate](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 9, 2020

The coronavirus is affecting businesses in central Illinois even before the first actual case comes to the region.

[Regional Superintendent: When Schools Will \(And Won't\) Close For Coronavirus](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 9, 2020

Parents should be prepared for their child's school to close for at least a week if a student or staff member there becomes potentially infected or confirmed to have the coronavirus, the regional superintendent for Central Illinois said Monday.

[McLean County GOP Chair Raises Concerns About Vaccine Safety](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 9, 2020

The chair of the McLean County Republican Party is urging her members to lobby against a bill that would require incoming sixth-graders to get the HPV vaccine that protects against certain cancers.

[Amtrak: Train Passenger Through B-N Suspected Coronavirus Case](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Mar 8, 2020

Amtrak is notifying passengers and employees who may have been on a train carrying a passenger who may have the coronavirus. That train traveling from Chicago to St. Louis last Wednesday stopped at Uptown Station in Normal.

[In 13th District Race, Stefanie Smith Says Public Option Isn't Good Enough](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 6, 2020

Democratic congressional candidate Stefanie Smith says anything short of Medicare For All is not enough to fix America's health care system.

[Veteran McLean County Board Member Wants To Accomplish More](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 5, 2020

Longtime McLean County Board member George Gordon said he remains interested and engaged with public policy. He said he is running for another term to see certain projects through, such as the county's creation of several behavioral health initiatives.

[State Farm Limits Travel Due To Coronavirus](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Mar 3, 2020

State Farm has suspended all non-essential business travel through the end of March as a precaution against the spread of coronavirus.

[ISU Curtails Study In Italy, Japan Due To Coronavirus](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Mar 2, 2020

Illinois State University is urging its students studying abroad in Italy and Japan to return to the U.S. due to concerns over the coronavirus.

[B-N Family's Cancer Story Helps Warren Make Case For Medicare For All](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 2, 2020

Sen. Elizabeth Warren has picked up a key endorsement: Rachel Lapp Whitt and Thomas Whitt of Bloomington.

[HIV Is Now Considered A Chronic Disease. Why Aren't More Primary Care Doctors Able To Help?](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Feb 28, 2020

This is a companion story to a [WGLT article published Friday](#) about the barriers to care facing HIV-positive patients in rural Illinois.

[While Cities Celebrate Dropping HIV Infection Rates, Rural Communities At Risk Of Resurgence](#)

By [Breanna Grow](#) • Feb 28, 2020

Central Illinois Friends began 30 years ago in the height of the AIDS epidemic as a hospice center for patients dying of the disease.

[McLean County Health Plan Seeks Root Causes For Poor Health](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Feb 27, 2020

McLean County's [new community health improvement plan](#) (CHIP) aims to get to the underlying causes of mental health and substance abuse problems.

[ISU Health Officials Urge Caution After 3 Mumps Cases Reported](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Feb 26, 2020

Illinois State University reports three people on campus have contracted the mumps.

[Q&A: Londrigan Talks Public Option Vs. Medicare For All](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Feb 26, 2020

Democrat Betsy Dirksen Londrigan said there are a lot of things Congress can do to improve the U.S. health care system that stop well short of implementing a single-payer Medicare For All model.

[Bloomington Woman Brings Her Cancer Fight To New York Fashion Week Runway](#)

By [Cindy Hernandez](#) • Feb 17, 2020

For Katie Bertsche, her own fight with breast cancer has inspired her to raise awareness about metastatic breast cancer.

[District 87 Sees Spike In Absences Due To Illnesses](#)

By [Darnysha Mitchell](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Feb 7, 2020

UPDATED 1:40 p.m. | District 87 schools have seen a surge in absences due to students having the flu.

[ISU Monitoring China Travelers After Coronavirus Outbreak; Considers Campus Risk Low](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 29, 2020

UPDATED 9:55 a.m. | Illinois State University said Tuesday that a small number of students, faculty, and staff who recently traveled to China have not yet shown any symptoms associated with the [novel coronavirus](#).

[OSF Expert: Coronavirus Risk Is Low For Most](#)

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A Bloomington hospital said Friday rumors that the dangerous new coronavirus had spread to central Illinois were untrue, as a second U.S. patient was confirmed in Chicago.

[Orthopedic Surgeon Arrested On Sexual Assault Charges](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 15, 2020

Bloomington Police have arrested a 34-year-old orthopedic surgeon for alleged aggravated criminal sexual assault and abuse of an adult with a physical disability.

[New McLean Co. Health Administrator Preps For Mental Health, Shifting Needs](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jan 10, 2020

[Legal marijuana](#), [teen vaping](#) and rural HIV are just a few of the key issues McLean County's new health department administrator faces as she takes over a department that is seeing staff and funding cuts as more money is being devoted to mental health.

[Helping Veterinarians Make It Through The Toughest Times](#)

By [Jolie Sherman](#) & Mary Cullen • Jan 3, 2020

Being a veterinarian sounds like any animal lover's dream. You get to work with friendly, furry, tail-wagging clients. But the job is a lot harder than it looks.

[McLean County Sees Slight Drop In Overdose Deaths](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jan 2, 2020

Toby Talbot / AP

McLean County saw a slight drop in overdose deaths last year, but the coroner said the spread of powerful narcotics remains a problem.

Politics and Government

[Community Orgs Call For Decarceration, Housing During COVID-19 Crisis](#)

By [Breanna Grow](#) • Mar 26, 2020

McLean County Sheriff Jon Sandage [has said he does not plan to release inmates](#) at the McLean County jail in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

[City Manager Who Shaped Town Of Normal Dies](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 18, 2020

An iconic city manager of Normal has died at the age of 82.

Mayor Of Normal: Restaurant, Bar Closures More Than A Suggestion

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 17, 2020

Mayor Chris Koos of Normal said the town will enforce the [restaurant and bar closure ordered by the governor](#) because of the coronavirus.

Conditional Site Plan Approved For Nord Property

By [Joe Deacon](#) • Mar 17, 2020

Normal Town Council member Kathleen Lorenz fears one of her colleague's defiance of zoning regulations has set a "very, very bad precedent."

Normal Stops Water Shutoffs, May Delay Utility Fee Increase

By [Joe Deacon](#) • Mar 16, 2020

The Town of Normal is proceeding with plans to halt water shutoffs and delay a scheduled utility and waste fee increase in response to potential economic ramifications from the coronavirus pandemic.

"As we know, this situation is going to have significant economic impact," City Manager Pam Reece said during Monday's Town Council meeting. "We just don't know to what extent."

Politics and Government

Lowered Expectations For McLean County Voter Turnout

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 15, 2020

Among the many uncertainties the coronavirus has created in central Illinois is election turnout.

"That is the question of the decade," said McLean County Clerk Kathy Michael.

BPD Report: Crime Down 3% in 2019, But Shootings Still A Concern

By [Joe Deacon](#) • Mar 10, 2020

Crime went down slightly in Bloomington last year, but shootings remain a big issue for the police department.

Normal Planning Commissioner: Council Member Stan Nord Untrustworthy

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 6, 2020

Members of the Planning Commission in Normal expressed skepticism of Town Council member Stan Nord even as they unanimously suggested approval for a site plan for his property.

[Veteran McLean County Board Member Wants To Accomplish More](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 5, 2020

Longtime McLean County Board member George Gordon said he remains interested and engaged with public policy. He said he is running for another term to see certain projects through, such as the county's creation of several behavioral health initiatives.

[McLean County Auditor Candidate Emphasizes Collegiality](#)

By [Darnysha Mitchell](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 5, 2020

McLean County Republican auditor candidate Trisha Malott said she wants to build relationships between the auditor's office and other county office holders and department heads.

[McLean County Pursues Affordable Housing At Fairview Building](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Mar 3, 2020

McLean County is negotiating with a laborers' group that wants to take over the vacant Fairview Building in Normal to turn it into affordable senior housing.

[Normal Approves \\$136.5M Budget, 2% Water Rate Increase](#)

By [Joe Deacon](#) • Mar 3, 2020

A contingency figure left out of the Town of Normal budget for the past three years has been reintroduced.

[Town Of Normal: Nord Develops More In 'Disregard' Of Rules](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Feb 27, 2020

Town of Normal officials contend town council member Stan Nord continues to expand a business on his property in defiance of town zoning rules.

[City Preparing to Replace Aging Pool, Parking Garage](#)

By [Joe Deacon](#) • Feb 25, 2020

Replacements for Bloomington's O'Neil Pool and the Market Street parking garage appear to be on the horizon, with items related to both facilities included in the proposed budget for the 2021 fiscal year.

McLean County Adds Ransomware Protection Amid Higher Insurance Costs

By [Eric Stock](#) • Feb 21, 2020

McLean County is increasing its ransomware protection while facing sharp rises in insurance costs.

McLean County Explores Political Caucuses

By [Eric Stock](#) • Feb 20, 2020

McLean County is exploring bringing partisan caucuses to county government to enable the political parties the formally meet to discuss their legislative priorities.

GOP Wants Balanced Budget Without Progressive Tax

By [Eric Stock](#) • Feb 19, 2020

The head of Illinois Senate Republicans called it "irresponsible" to build a state budget based on revenue from a graduated income tax that voters haven't considered yet.

5G To Bring Opportunity And Potential Disparity

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 19, 2020

The mayor of Normal says 5G and other smart city technology developments will be the topic for the annual One Voice leadership trip to Washington, D.C.

McLean County OKs Cannabis Tax, Sets Portion For Mental Health

By [Eric Stock](#) • Feb 18, 2020

McLean County plans to use a portion of revenue from a new sales tax on recreational cannabis to pay for mental health services, based on a plan the County Board adopted Tuesday.

GOP, Democrats Slam Trump For Commuting Blagojevich Sentence

By [Eric Stock](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 18, 2020

The head of the McLean County Republican party said she was disappointed to see President Donald Trump [commute former Gov. Rod Blagojevich's 14-year prison sentence on Tuesday](#).

[Crowded Field Could Give Illinois Influence In Presidential Race](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Feb 18, 2020

A crowded field in the Democratic race for president could give Illinois a rare chance to influence the race for the White House, according to a political consultant who has been working on primary campaigns in the state for decades.

[Normal Council OKs Raise for City Manager Pam Reece](#)

By [Joe Deacon](#) • Feb 18, 2020

Normal City Manager Pam Reece received a salary increase Monday, along with plenty of praise from Town Council members.

[GOP Senate Hopefuls Seek McLean County Support](#)

By [Joe Deacon](#) • Feb 15, 2020

President Donald Trump is essentially unopposed in next month's Republican primary, but Illinois voters still have some important decisions to make.

[Video: Brady, Blumenshine Spar Over Taxes, Capital Bill in 2018 Redux](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Feb 13, 2020

Republican David Paul Blumenshine is casting himself as the true fiscal conservative in his second bid to unseat longtime legislator Dan Brady.

[Plans For Car Wash Aim to Curb Traffic Problems](#)

By [Joe Deacon](#) • Feb 11, 2020

A new car wash that will replace a fast food restaurant near a busy Bloomington intersection has made plans to ease traffic concerns in the area.

[Mayor Of Normal Details Reasons For Nonstandard Commercial Leases Of Town Property](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 7, 2020

Many factors influence how much rent the Town of Normal charges tenants of town-owned property, according to the mayor of Normal.

[Normal Grants Permit to Cannabis Dispensary](#)

By [Joe Deacon](#) • Feb 4, 2020

It may still be a while until recreational cannabis sales begin in Bloomington-Normal.

[Divided Town Council Approves Lease With ISU Art Gallery](#)

By [Joe Deacon](#) • Feb 4, 2020

Illinois State University's Uptown art gallery has a new five-year lease, but some Normal Town Council members aren't pleased with the terms.

[During ISU Visit, Pritzker Says Funding Released For Fine Arts Complex](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Eric Stock](#) • Jan 30, 2020

Gov. JB Pritzker visited Illinois State University on Thursday to announce the long-awaited Fine Arts Complex renovation is finally going to happen.

[Bloomington Restructuring Paves Way For New Public Works Director](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jan 30, 2020

The city of Bloomington has named a new public works director and created a new position that officials say won't cost the city more money.

[Illinois Joins Multistate Lawsuit Over New Food Stamp Rules](#)

By AP • Jan 30, 2020

Illinois is joining a multistate lawsuit over proposed Trump administration rules on food stamps that could cause hundreds of thousands of Americans to lose their benefits.

[GOP Welcomes Pritzker's Ethics Reforms, Want More](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jan 29, 2020

Gov. JB Pritzker called for ethics reforms during [his State of the State address in Springfield](#) on Wednesday, but a Republican party leader said his plans lack a key component to rooting out corruption.

[Barickman Predicts Temporizing State Of State Message](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 28, 2020

Bloomington state Sen. Jason Barickman said he thinks this week's State of the State speech from Gov. JB Pritzker will not tackle the major issue facing the state.

Council Members Want to Know Where More Money For Connect Transit Would Go

By [Joe Deacon](#) • Jan 28, 2020

Bloomington City Council members Donna Boelen and Jeff Crabill say they want to see specifics on how Connect Transit would spend possible increased funding from the city.

Bloomington Looks To Automate Water Meter Replacements

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jan 27, 2020

Bloomington is looking to replace its aging water meters in the city more efficiently.

Nord, Normal Spar Over Development At His Property

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jan 22, 2020

Town of Normal staff has asked Town Council Member Stan Nord to halt development on his property in west Normal for a business until the town approves a site plan he has yet to submit.

Renner: Bloomington 'In Better Shape' Than A Year Ago

By [Joe Deacon](#) • Jan 21, 2020

Bloomington Mayor Tari Renner said Tuesday night he believes the city continues to make strides toward becoming a better place to live.

Climate Action Campaign Urges Comprehensive Disaster Planning In Normal

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 21, 2020

Normal Town Council members and town staff agreed with an environmental group that the community needs better emergency plans for heat waves and polar vortexes.

McLean County OKs Cannabis Zoning; Rejects Legal Review Of Polling Sites

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jan 21, 2020

McLean County has adopted new guidelines for marijuana businesses to operate in unincorporated areas of the county.

Republican State Officials: Democrats Will Come After Middle Class With 'Fair' Income Tax

By [Breanna Grow](#) • Jan 18, 2020

Come November, Illinois voters will decide whether to change the state's income tax structure from the current flat tax to a new progressive or graduated model.

[City OKs Road Project Tied to Luther Oaks Expansion](#)

By [Joe Deacon](#) • Jan 14, 2020

The City of Bloomington is moving forward with a road improvement project linked to expansion of the Luther Oaks retirement community, but without universal City Council support.

[Illinois Ag Director Resigns Over Response To Rape Email](#)

Gov. J.B. Pritzker's agriculture director has resigned after acknowledging he received, but did not act on, a lobbyist's email seven years ago that referenced an alleged rape cover-up and illegal hiring practices.

['Strong Towns' Author: Local Governments Bear The Weight of Imprudent Growth](#)

By [Breanna Grow](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 12, 2020

The outlook is not good for the nation's cities if current trends continue.

[Nord Questions Town's Chamber of Commerce Membership](#)

By [Joe Deacon](#) • Jan 7, 2020

Normal Town Council member Stan Nord said he believes the town's membership in the McLean County Chamber of Commerce could produce conflicts of interest.

[Amid Low Inventory, Developer Adds Housing Stock On Bloomington's East Side](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 19, 2020

Something rare is happening on Woodbine Road on Bloomington's far east side: Someone is actually building homes.

[State Farm To Offer Paid Administrative Leave To Certain Employees Impacted By Coronavirus](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 17, 2020

State Farm said Tuesday it will offer paid administrative leave to its employees who cannot yet work from home and are caring for their children—or if they or a loved one has the coronavirus.

[Uptown Businesses To Lose Out With ISU Students Gone](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 13, 2020

The coronavirus is about the exact an economic cost on the many businesses and workers who rely on consumer spending from Illinois State University students.

['It's Killing Us': Coronavirus Trickles Through B-N Economy](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 13, 2020

The Bloomington-Normal hotel industry started 2020 off strong.

Booking were solid thanks to big events like the Illinois High School Theatre Festival at Illinois State University. And Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington hosted three state finals for wrestling, competitive cheer, and competitive dance.

[Cost-Conscious Insurance Companies Facing 'War For Talent'](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 11, 2020

More retirements, low unemployment, and increased competition from other industries have all contributed to a “war for talent” in the insurance business, according to a hiring expert.

[Choosy Customers, Regulation May Shape State Farm Bank Exit](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 9, 2020

Exposure to increased regulation and choosy customers not interested in one-stop shopping for insurance and banking are likely among the reasons why State Farm is exiting the banking business, according to industry economist.

[State Farm Stays Profitable Despite Higher Losses, Lower Premiums](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Feb 28, 2020

State Farm posted a smaller yet healthy profit in 2019 despite higher losses and some customers paying reduced premiums, the company announced Friday.

[Passenger Traffic Jumped 15% At Bloomington Airport In 2019](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Feb 27, 2020

Passenger traffic jumped over 15% at Central Illinois Regional Airport in 2019, buoyed by a strong mix of business and leisure travelers.

[For Autonomous Vehicle Policymaking, Next Steps Begin In Bloomington](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Feb 20, 2020

As stakeholders consider the thorny public policy issues surrounding autonomous vehicles, State Farm doesn't just want a seat at the table. It owns the table.

[Neighbors Flag Parking Concerns With Proposed Student Apartment Project](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Feb 14, 2020

Property owners who want to demolish three aging student apartments and build a new complex are expected to face opposition Monday when their plans go in front of the Normal Town Council.

[\\$750 Million: Rivian's Investment At Normal Manufacturing Plant](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Feb 13, 2020

Rivian watchers have known for over three years that the electric automaker planned to invest a lot of money into its Normal manufacturing plant. Now we know how much: \$750 million.

[For Rivian's Pre-Order Customers, Environment Is Key – And So Are Questions About Charging](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Feb 12, 2020

A landscape architect from Queens. A marketing professional in Colorado Springs. A systems engineer from Columbus, Ohio. A cancer scientist near San Diego. An electrical engineer from British Columbia.

[Allegiant Adds CIRA Flights To Florida Panhandle](#)

By [Jolie Sherman](#) • Feb 11, 2020

Allegiant will add its third nonstop route to Florida from Central Illinois Regional Airport (CIRA) in Bloomington starting this summer, officials said Tuesday.

[Sales Slow, Prices Flat In B-N Housing Market For 2019](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 31, 2020

The Bloomington-Normal housing market slowed down in 2019, and real estate agents again pointed the finger at low inventory as a main culprit.

[B-N Jobless Rate Falls; 400 Jobs Added In Past Year](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 31, 2020

The Bloomington-Normal area's jobless rate declined in December, as the local economy added 400 jobs in the past year, the Illinois Department of Employment Security said Thursday.

[State Farm To Launch New Campaign On Super Bowl Sunday](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 30, 2020

State Farm is launching a new creative campaign on Super Bowl Sunday—and the khaki-clad Jake may return to help kick things off.

[Snyder Companies Becomes Tentac In Rebranding](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 22, 2020

One of the most recognizable names in the Bloomington-Normal business community has changed to reflect a shift in ownership.

[MalooF Reaches Into Bloomington-Normal Housing Market With Crowne Merger](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 16, 2020

The leaders of a newly combined real estate company are bullish on the housing markets in Bloomington-Normal and Peoria, despite slowing sales and a dip in prices in 2019.

[As Minimum Wage Rises, So Does Pay Gap For Youngest Workers](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 15, 2020

This month over a million Illinois workers who make the minimum wage got a pay increase, with another raise coming July 1. It was Illinois' first minimum-wage increase in nearly a decade.

[Rivian To Integrate Amazon Alexa Into Electric Vehicles](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 6, 2020

Rivian announced Monday that its owners will be able to use Alexa voice commands to control key vehicle features—the latest collaboration between the electric automaker and Amazon.

Arts And Culture

[Datebook: Patience Pays Off For Local Wildlife Photographer](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Mar 27, 2020

Pamela Cather was teaching psychology at Heartland Community College when she decided to take a free class in digital photography. That was all it took to set her on off on a new career behind the lens.

[Coronavirus Blog 3/26/20: State Launches Nonprofit Response Fund](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 26, 2020

The coronavirus story is developing quickly in Illinois. Here are updates from WGLT's newsroom and our partners at Illinois Public Radio, NPR, and The Associated Press.

[Datebook: Reading In The Time Of Coronavirus](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Mar 20, 2020

As Americans self-isolate to help halt the spread of the coronavirus, an emeritus English professor from Illinois State University has a few book suggestions to accompany the quarantine.

[Crowd Bans Push Worship Online In Bloomington-Normal](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 16, 2020

As the coronavirus pandemic forces the nation to disconnect from usual routines, communities of faith tried all the harder to hold on to each other and offer solace. Many turned to worship online, some as a regular part of the program, others for the first time, using meeting programs such as Zoom.

[B-N Music, Arts Scenes Hit Hard By Coronavirus Cancellations](#)

By [Jon Norton](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 13, 2020

The coronavirus pandemic is scary for many who live on tight margins or don't have the security of a steady paycheck. That includes independent musicians, venue owners, promoters, and others whose livelihood depends on a thriving and functioning arts and music scene.

[Meredith Hopping Finds New Path During Four Minutes Of Faith](#)

By [Jon Norton](#) • Mar 11, 2020

Normal Community High School alum Meredith Hopping says stand-up comedy made the cut ... when the ISU theatre grad drew up a Top 30 list of things she'd like to accomplish as she was turning 30.

[Edward David Anderson Releases 'Live And Solo' Album; Geeked About Backyard Tire Fire](#)

By [Jon Norton](#) • Mar 9, 2020

Bloomington Americana singer/songwriter Edward David Anderson says his new "Live and Solo" album intentionally tried to capture where he's at in his current iteration.

[Ana Popovic Still Blazing 20 Years On](#)

By [Jon Norton](#) • Mar 9, 2020

Blues guitarist and singer/songwriter Ana Popovic said she mentally worked to overcome doubt when she crashed the male-dominated blues scene two decades ago.

[Datebook: Artist Heeds The Call Of The Wild](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Mar 6, 2020

For painter and sculptor Aaron Yount, answering the call of the wild in his artwork could well be down to his DNA.

[Lara Driscoll Weaves Dreams Into Songs](#)

By [Jon Norton](#) • Mar 5, 2020

[Chicago jazz pianist and educator Lara Driscoll](#) credits University of Illinois piano professor Chip Stephens for inspiring the title to her debut album "Woven Dreams."

[B-N Sister Cities Cancels Japan Trip Amid Coronavirus Worries](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Mar 4, 2020

Concerns over the coronavirus have prompted Bloomington-Normal Sister Cities to cancel this year's junior ambassador trip.

[University Galleries Hosts Faculty Biennial](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Mar 3, 2020

The saying goes: Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach.

[Jared Grabb Found Meaning In Home While On The Road](#)

By [Jon Norton](#) • Mar 3, 2020

Peoria native Jared Grabb knew art would be a major part of his life from a young age. But once he arrived in college to study comic book art, he discovered his love of music trumped visual art.

[Datebook: Golden Age Musical Still Shines](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Feb 29, 2020

If you didn't get enough romance on Valentine's Day, try the new production of "Guys and Dolls," opening this weekend at the [Illinois State University Center for the Performing Arts Theater](#).

[At Green Top Grocery, 'Big Lebowski' Promotion Really Ties The Store Together](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Feb 27, 2020

A “Big Lebowski” promotion at [Green Top Grocery](#) was meant to make customers smile and maybe buy some milk. Instead, it’s gone viral and spawned two spinoff events this weekend.

[McHistory: 19th Century Cabbie Saw All Of Bloomington-Normal Society](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 26, 2020

Here is a profile of a man who drove vice presidents and governors, wealthy landowners, visiting artists, and the prominent of Bloomington-Normal all about town more than a century ago.

During Black History Month, this episode of McHistory shows you the working life of Absalom Hawkins, a well-known African American man in the Twin Cities. It also tells you about a 19th century brain drain of African Americans.

Those who became educated had to leave the area to get jobs outside the working class.

[Music Helps Soul Artist Neal Francis Work Out The Changes](#)

By [Jon Norton](#) • Feb 26, 2020

Oak Park native and organ aficionado Neal Francis infuses his original music with the classic soul vibe of the 1960s and 70s. His debut album “Changes” is accompanied by lyrics that document his work to overcome addictions and other demons. A year later, his new single continues that effort.

[Taylor Steele And The Love Preachers Embody Southern Illinois](#)

By [Jon Norton](#) • Feb 25, 2020

Taylor Steele says a spicy sound may soon mix with the Illinois prairie sound her Effingham-based band is known for.

[Datebook: Art Installation Underscores The Walls Between Us](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Feb 22, 2020

"There's a moment every day where we, as artists, have to stand up and do what we can," said artist David Dow. "And encourage dialog and encourage thinking about everything that's going on."

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By [Jon Norton](#) • Feb 20, 2020

Touring the country with bandmates on the strength of major record label releases can sound glamorous.

[ISU Trustees To Consider Nearly \\$18 Million In Spending](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 19, 2020

Illinois State University trustees will take up proposals Friday to spend nearly \$18 million in the next several years on a variety of projects and leases.

[Guitar Legend Eric Johnson Not Sweating The Small Stuff](#)

By [Jon Norton](#) • Feb 18, 2020

During the 30th anniversary year of the release of Eric Johnson's classic album "Ah Via Musicom," the much lauded guitarist said looking back on that album and his other works can be helpful.

[ISU Names Diversity And Inclusion Coordinator](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 17, 2020

The president of Illinois State University has created a new high-level position to coordinate diversity and inclusion efforts. President Larry Dietz said Professor Doris Houston is the new interim assistant to the president in that area.

[McLean County Museum of History Unveils 'Invaluable' Lincoln Document](#)

By [Breanna Grow](#) • Feb 15, 2020

Breanna Grow / WGLT

[The McLean County Museum of History](#) has announced the donation of what staff call an “invaluable” Lincoln document by Lincoln collector and scholar Guy Fraker.

[Datebook: The Past Is Present In 'Hit The Wall'](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Feb 14, 2020

The words “I was there” resound through Ike Holter’s play “Hit the Wall.”

[For deFrance, Classic Rock Is A Living Thing](#)

By [Jon Norton](#) • Feb 14, 2020

Drew deFrance loved the comparison of his namesake band with the sound of classic rockers like Bad Company and Mott the Hoople.

[Bloomington-Normal Catches Up To Modern Dance With Lula Washington Company Performance](#)

By Lauren Warnecke • Feb 12, 2020

Ballet and modern dance are kind of like the Oscars. They can be really, really white. Lula Washington Dance Theatre, performing Saturday at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts, is an exception.

[McHistory: Segregation In Bloomington-Normal](#)

By [Darnysha Mitchell](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 12, 2020

The early 1900s saw an influx of racism and discrimination in the Midwest, from anti-Catholic, anti-immigrant, and anti-African American sentiment, to race riots in Springfield, Chicago, and Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Ku Klux Klan became a force in central Illinois. Segregation grew in Bloomington-Normal and what had been a thriving black middle class was gradually destroyed.

[Chicago Farmer Digs Deep Into Flyover Country](#)

By [Jon Norton](#) • Feb 11, 2020

Bradley J Scott

Bloomington's Cody Diekhoff, known professionally as Chicago Farmer, digs deeper into America's widening economic divide on his new album "Flyover Country."

[Chocolate: Literally A Religious Experience](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 7, 2020

We think of chocolate as an unalloyed good. People rhapsodize over it. They say they would sooner go without, well, many things, than chocolate. Some even call it a religious experience.

[New Music Seeks New Audiences At ISU's RED NOTE Festival](#)

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Many people might think of classical music as a genre largely filled with works popular with audiences hundreds of years ago, or difficult-to-access current music hard for non-musicians to "get." Illinois State University hopes to dispel that misconception next week at the [RED NOTE New Music Festival](#).

[Datebook: MIOpera Offers A Tasty Valentine](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Feb 7, 2020

If music be the food of love, play on...

[Culture Maven: Oscars 2020 Show Some Progress, But Not Enough](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Feb 1, 2020

The [92nd Academy Awards](#) is Sunday, Feb. 9.

[The Banjo's Roots May Be Further East Than Even Africa](#)

By Lauren Warnecke • Jan 31, 2020

Bluegrass is what drew Béla Fleck to the banjo. He heard the theme song to "The Beverly Hillbillies" and the "Dueling Banjos" as a kid, and said he felt compelled to pick up the instrument. He never put it down, and today is considered one of the world's foremost banjo players.

[Datebook: Still 'Waiting' After All These Years](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jan 31, 2020

For 67 years, Vladimir and Estragon have been waiting. And waiting. And waiting ... for Godot.

[Brandon Santini's 'Longshot' Blues Evolution](#)

By [Jon Norton](#) • Jan 30, 2020

Acclaimed 37-year-old bluesman Brandon Santini has an award-winning new album and is edging into a newer sound.

[Datebook: Having Fun With Tradition, Stitch By Stitch](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jan 24, 2020

Working one meticulous stitch at a time, artist Kathryn Leslie utilizes a time-honored tradition to create unexpected images.

[Higdon And Stravinsky Add Modern Feel To Illinois Symphony Orchestra Concert](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 23, 2020

The Illinois Symphony Orchestra brings the audience music of a living composer Saturday in Bloomington. Charlie Schlenker talked with Music Director Ken Lam about the work "To The Point" by Jennifer Higdon.

[Datebook: University Galleries Takes On The Wonders Of Space](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jan 17, 2020

For hundreds of years, artists have made the sky their muse.

[IWU Professor's New Book: Maps Say More About People Than Land](#)

By [Darnysha Mitchell](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 16, 2020

Dan Terkla

Maps lie.

But the way in which they mislead is extraordinarily revealing, according to Illinois Wesleyan University Emeritus Professor Dan Terkla.

[Them Coulee Boys Find Theme On New Album, Community In Eau Claire](#)

By [Jon Norton](#) • Jan 14, 2020

Them Coulee Boys frontman Soren Staff wanted the Eau Claire, Wis.-based band's third album to hang together thematically. Like many bands, their first album was everything they had written prior to forming; their second was mainly leftovers.

[ISU Alcott Scholar: Gerwig's 'Little Women' Not The Definitive Adaptation Critics Say](#)

By [Breanna Grow](#) & Charlie Schlenker • Jan 12, 2020

Over the years several directors have attempted to bring the classic mid-19th century novel "Little Women" to life on the big screen.

[Datebook: Artist Creates In Sync With Plants](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jan 11, 2020

Artist Melissa Oresky spent hours in her childhood shadowing her mother on wildflower walks. Her mother was studying to be a botanist, while Oresky was just plain curious.

[Chicago Author Places Blues In The Great African-American Cultural Migration](#)

By [Jon Norton](#) • Jan 11, 2020

Author David Whiteis believes blues music and blues artists don't get proper recognition as part of the great African-American migration of the 20th century.

[Datebook: 'Our Town' Finds The Epic In The Ordinary](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jan 3, 2020

A classic of American theater opens next week at [Community Players](#) in Bloomington.

[Local Musicians And Friends Celebrate The Life Of Zac Straw](#)

By [Jon Norton](#) • Jan 2, 2020

Shawn Hoeft of Bloomington believes her son Zac would have celebrated his 29th birthday this year had the unknown gunman who killed him been exposed to conflict resolution.

Higher Education

[ISU Braces For Start Of Online Classes](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 22, 2020

Illinois State University Chief Technology Officer Charley Edamala described it as the calm before the storm, as the extended spring break tapered down. The global pandemic has disrupted face-to-face education at most universities in the United States. [Classes at ISU resume online Monday.](#)

[ISU Students In Europe Scramble To Return](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 12, 2020

Illinois State University continues to work to retrieve students studying abroad. At the start of the semester spokesperson Eric Jome says that number was about 116 students in other countries.

[IWU, Heartland Still Evaluating Options For Coronavirus Response](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 11, 2020

While Illinois State University has told students to stay away due to the coronavirus, Illinois Wesleyan and Heartland Community College have yet to take similar extraordinary measures.

[ISU Trustees Give President Dietz \\$48,000 Bonus](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 21, 2020

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[During ISU Visit, Pritzker Says Funding Released For Fine Arts Complex](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Eric Stock](#) • Jan 30, 2020

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Maps lie. But the way in which they mislead is extraordinarily revealing, according to Illinois Wesleyan University Emeritus Professor Dan Terkla.

[ISU Sued Over U-High Admission Reversal](#)

By [Edith Brady-Lunny](#) • Jan 13, 2020

The question whether an eighth-grade student at Illinois State University's Thomas Metcalf lab school sexually harassed a female classmate by asking her for a semi-nude photo is the central issue of a lawsuit filed by the boy's parents in McLean County court.

[IWU Professor: Recession Is 'Inevitable,' COVID-19 Recovery Could Limit Its Impact](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Mar 30, 2020

An economics professor at Illinois Wesleyan University said a recession is inevitable, but flattening the curve on the coronavirus would limit the economic damage.

[Online Petition Asks ISU To Lower Academic Burden With Pass-Fail Option](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 23, 2020

Illinois State University students and faculty embarked on their new online-only learning Monday, with several professors trying to stay open-minded and even optimistic about the challenge.

[ISU Braces For Start Of Online Classes](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 22, 2020

Illinois State University Chief Technology Officer Charley Edamala described it as the calm before the storm, as the extended spring break tapered down. The global pandemic has disrupted face-to-face education at most universities in the United States. [Classes at ISU resume online Monday](#).

[ISU's Seniors Lose Final Weeks On Campus, And Now Enter Shaky Job Market](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#), [Charlie Schlenker](#), [Eric Stock](#), [Cindy Hernandez](#) & [Tiffani Jackson](#) • Mar 19, 2020

Illinois State University's graduating seniors are grappling with a double dose of bad news this week: They won't be able to finish out their final semester on campus, and they're now entering a job market that's a lot shakier than it was a few weeks ago.

[ISU To Stick With Online-Only Classes Through End Of Spring Semester](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 17, 2020

Illinois State University students will not return to in-person classes for the rest of the spring semester, extending a shift to online learning prompted by the coronavirus, officials said Tuesday.

[Uptown Businesses To Lose Out With ISU Students Gone](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 13, 2020

The coronavirus is about the exact an economic cost on the many businesses and workers who rely on consumer spending from Illinois State University students.

[ISU Students In Europe Scramble To Return](#)

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Illinois State University continues to work to retrieve students studying abroad. At the start of the semester spokesperson Eric Jome says that number was about 116 students in other countries.

[Apartment Company Offers Rent-Free Housing For ISU Students Displaced By Coronavirus](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 12, 2020

The Young America apartment management company is offering around 100 vacant beds rent-free to Illinois State University students displaced by the coronavirus.

[IWU, Heartland Still Evaluating Options For Coronavirus Response](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Mar 11, 2020

While Illinois State University has told students to stay away due to the coronavirus, Illinois Wesleyan and Heartland Community College have yet to take similar extraordinary measures.

[Illinois State University To Close Dorms, Shift To Online Classes Due To Coronavirus](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 11, 2020

UPDATED 7:20 a.m. | Illinois State University is sending students home until further notice because of the coronavirus.

[Special Olympics Cancels State Basketball Event](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Mar 10, 2020

Special Olympics Illinois has canceled its state basketball tournament this weekend in Bloomington-Normal and Peoria.

[ISU Basketball Head Coach Says Team Has What It Takes To Win Valley Championship](#)

By [Darnysha Mitchell](#) • Mar 10, 2020

Illinois State University women's basketball coach Kristen Gillespie came into the program three years ago with a tough task of rebuilding a struggling team. Now, the team is on track to becoming an elite contender in the Missouri Valley Conference.

[University Galleries Hosts Faculty Biennial](#)

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The saying goes: Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach.

[ISU Curtails Study In Italy, Japan Due To Coronavirus](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Mar 2, 2020

Illinois State University is urging its students studying abroad in Italy and Japan to return to the U.S. due to concerns over the coronavirus.

[Datebook: Golden Age Musical Still Shines](#)

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If you didn't get enough romance on Valentine's Day, try the new production of "Guys and Dolls," opening this weekend at the [Illinois State University Center for the Performing Arts Theater](#).

[IWU Track Coaches, Athletes Sue Jimmy John's After Getting Sick](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Feb 27, 2020

Ten student-athletes and coaches from the Illinois Wesleyan University track team have sued the owners of a Bloomington Jimmy John's after allegedly getting sick following a meal.

[ISU Health Officials Urge Caution After 3 Mumps Cases Reported](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Feb 26, 2020

Illinois State University reports three people on campus have contracted the mumps.

[ISU Denies Pay Discrimination Claims In Federal Lawsuit](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Feb 26, 2020

Illinois State University says a female business professor who [filed a lawsuit alleging pay discrimination](#) is making less than her peers for justifiable reasons—none of them having to do with her gender.

[Future Teachers Share How They Will Teach Black History](#)

By [Tiffani Jackson](#) • Feb 24, 2020

Discovering your true identity is one of life's greatest quests. History plays a role in connecting the dots, but for African American students, the lack of information taught on their culture could leave some starving for a sense of self.

[Sustainability At Root Of ISU's New Innovation Network Hub](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Feb 24, 2020

Illinois State University's Community Startup Incubator will be ready to hire staff and recruit companies as soon as construction begins on its Trail East home in Uptown Normal.

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[ISU Speaker Cooks Up Ways To Beat Back Math Phobia](#)

By [Tiffani Jackson](#) • Feb 19, 2020

While playing a game of superheroes with her best friend at 7 years old, Eugenia Cheng had one of her first introductions to gender roles.

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[Town Council Approves Locust Street Apartment Project](#)

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Work on a new apartment complex near the Illinois State University campus could begin as soon as May, according to property owners.

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[U.S. Education Official Touts Skills Training In Heartland Community College Visit](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Feb 14, 2020

A federal education official visited Heartland Community College on Friday to see how the school is training students to help [fill a national job skills gap](#).

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The words “I was there” resound through Ike Holter’s play “Hit the Wall.”

[Makerspace Joins Incubator As ISU's Spokes In State Innovation Hub](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Feb 12, 2020

A new on-campus makerspace and startup incubator in Uptown Normal will be Illinois State University’s contributions to a newly funded Illinois Innovation Network, officials said Wednesday.

[IWU Professor Studies Data, Psychology Link In Baseball](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Feb 12, 2020

An Illinois Wesleyan University professor is studying brain waves in baseball players to see if their ability to focus can be measured and improved.

[Author Won't Let LGBTQ+ Figures Be Erased From History](#)

By [Cindy Hernandez](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Feb 10, 2020

Award-winning author Robin Stevenson is determined to not let LGBTQ+ activists be erased from history.

[ISU Gets \\$1.2M Grant To Address Shortage Of Early Intervention Specialists For Blind, Deaf](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Feb 7, 2020

Illinois State University is looking to address what educators say is a severe shortage of early intervention specialists for infants and toddlers who are blind or deaf.

[Chocolate: Literally A Religious Experience](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Feb 7, 2020

We think of chocolate as an unalloyed good. People rhapsodize over it. They say they would sooner go without, well, many things, than chocolate. Some even call it a religious experience.

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[Why Does A Best Picture Contender Include An ISU Reference?](#)

By [Joe Deacon](#) • Feb 7, 2020

Audiences at the [Normal Theater](#) gasped frequently last Thanksgiving weekend during showings of "Parasite."

[HCC Student Sees Iowa Caucus Chaos Firsthand](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Feb 5, 2020

Heartland Community College journalism student Erik House said he decided on a whim Monday to drive to Iowa City to witness the political spectacle. He saw how messy democracy can be.

[Heartland Varsity Esports Team Set To Launch In Fall](#)

By [Jolie Sherman](#) • Feb 4, 2020

In a nod to the academic and life skills that stem from student involvement, Heartland Community College will soon become the third higher education institution in Bloomington-Normal to offer a [varsity esports team](#).

[IWU Unveils Banner Honoring Hall Of Famer Sikma](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Feb 1, 2020

Jack Sikma said coming back to Bloomington and reconnecting with many old friends reaffirmed his decision to come to Illinois Wesleyan University nearly a half century ago.

[Culture Maven: Oscars 2020 Show Some Progress, But Not Enough](#)

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[ISU Speaker Angela Rye Urges MLK Crowd To Go Deeper With Their Allyship](#)

By [Tiffani Jackson](#) • Jan 27, 2020

With an unapologetic call to action, political strategist Angela Rye urged the crowd at Friday's Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Dinner at Illinois State University to stop talking about his legacy, and be about it.

[ISU Basketball Players Shaken After Kobe Bryant's Death](#)

By [John Murray](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 26, 2020

Illinois State women's basketball coach Kristen Gillespie said Kobe Bryant was a childhood hero for many of her players, and his death is a reminder to make every day count.

[ISU Student Housing Project Opening Delayed Until 2022](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 22, 2020

The target opening for Illinois State University's new student housing project has been pushed back until fall 2022 as work continues on a business plan and facility design.

[Professor Alleges Pay Discrimination In Lawsuit Against ISU](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 22, 2020

A tenured professor at Illinois State University claimed in a new sex-discrimination lawsuit that she's unfairly making less than her male peers and was threatened with retaliation for raising her concerns.

[ISU Names Distinguished Professors](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jan 21, 2020

Illinois State University has named professors in technology and mathematics as its new distinguished professors.

[Datebook: University Galleries Takes On The Wonders Of Space](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Jan 17, 2020

For hundreds of years, artists have made the sky their muse.

[IWU Professor's New Book: Maps Say More About People Than Land](#)

By [Darnysha Mitchell](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jan 16, 2020

Maps lie. But the way in which they mislead is extraordinarily revealing, according to Illinois Wesleyan University Emeritus Professor Dan Terkla.

[ISU Sued Over U-High Admission Reversal](#)

By [Edith Brady-Lunny](#) • Jan 13, 2020

The question whether an eighth-grade student at Illinois State University's Thomas Metcalf lab school sexually harassed a female classmate by asking her for a semi-nude photo is the central issue of a lawsuit filed by the boy's parents in McLean County court.