

## Fourth Quarter 2019 WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

October 2019 – December 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.

### Arts and Culture

#### [Datebook: Local Author Immortalizes Nature Lover](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • DEC 28, 2019

A bowl of persimmons and a long walk through Funks Grove cemented a friendship that has inspired a new book from a local author.

#### [Matthew Curry Is Taming His Blazing Guitar](#)

By JON NORTON • DEC 20, 2019

Bloomington native Matthew Curry says his "guitar gun-slinger" days may not be completely over, but his sound should evolve.

#### [Joe Stamm's New EP A Home For Wayward Songs](#)

By JON NORTON • DEC 17, 2019

Joe Stamm said his version of country music contains rural American imagery and deeply personal songwriting.

#### [Datebook: Exploring The Genius Of Da Vinci](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • DEC 16, 2019

In honor of the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci, an exhibition at the [Peoria Riverfront Museum](#) provides fresh insight into the mind of the unique genius, revealing the progressive artistic and scientific principals he established while giving visitors a chance to get hands-on with full size recreations of his inventions.

#### [Datebook: Collaboration Helps Bring Sarah's Garden Into Focus](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • DEC 6, 2019

Ken Kashian's new book is more than just a book. In his latest effort, "This Moment ... in Sarah's Garden," the photographer set out to highlight the ever-changing face of Sarah Davis' garden at the David Davis Mansion in Bloomington. The result offers much more than photographs, though.

## [Broadcaster, Entertainer Ken Behrens Remembered For 'Making People Happy'](#)

By ERIC STOCK • DEC 2, 2019

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## [WGLT's Culture Maven On The Legacy Of Mr. Rogers](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • NOV 29, 2019

GENE J. PUSKAR / AP

With a cardigan, a pair of tennis shoes and some hand puppets, Fred Rogers set out to make the kind of children's programming he felt kids deserved.

## [Gamma Phi Circus Ready For Showtime At Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade](#)

By JOLIE SHERMAN • NOV 26, 2019

A few students from Illinois State University will spend Thanksgiving with 50 million people. Of course, not around the dining room table.

## [Datebook: Shakespeare Festival Expands Season](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • NOV 22, 2019

In Shakespeare's day, the audience let their voices be heard, boisterously sharing their opinions and pelting villains with orange rinds.

## [Filmmaker Brings Doc About Franco Regime's Aftermath To IWU](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • NOV 18, 2019

A new documentary from a filmmaker with ties to Illinois Wesleyan University reveals what happens when a country doesn't confront its own past atrocities.

## [The Illinois Symphony Orchestra Celebrates Real and Fictional Heroes With Its New Program](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & SEAN NEWGENT • NOV 14, 2019

Some instrumental film scores can instantly invoke a feeling in the listener, regardless whether they are watching the movie or doing something else. The Imperial March from "Star Wars" creates a sense of foreboding, the theme of 1978's "Superman" is uplifting and powerful, and who doesn't get a shiver when hearing John Carpenter's theme for "Halloween"?

## [Datebook: Nomad Uproots Traditional Theater](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • NOV 14, 2019

So, a theater company walks into a bar...

That's not an opening line to a joke. It's actually a new site-specific theater company that's presenting its inaugural production at Nightshop and Fat Jack's this weekend. The company plans to carve its own niche in the Twin Cities by staging works where the plays are set.

### [Michael Mwenso Works To Dissolve 'Mysterious' American History](#)

By JON NORTON • NOV 13, 2019

Michael Mwenso's music destiny appeared after his mother was deported from their home in London to her native Africa.

### [Heartland Community College's Origami Cranes Continue To Inspire](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • NOV 11, 2019

An ancient Japanese legend promises that anyone who creates 1,000 origami cranes will have a wish granted by the gods.

### [Datebook: Rust Belt Drama Leaves Workers In A 'Sweat'](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • NOV 8, 2019

A shifting economic landscape leads to layoffs and desperation in Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "Sweat."

### [Concert Highlights The Impact Of War On Composers](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • NOV 6, 2019

A collaborative arts event in honor of Veterans Day highlights the creative efforts that emerged from the devastation of World War I.

### [A Tale Of Tuning Told Through History](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & SEAN NEWGENT • NOV 1, 2019

To accommodate the piano keyboard, the Western world created 12 intervals as a mathematical compromise.

### [Datebook: 'Cabaret' Gets Gritty](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • NOV 1, 2019

"This story resonates now more than ever. That's why I wanted to direct it."

### [Hot Sauce Universe: Recording Without A Net Is The Point](#)

By JON NORTON • OCT 30, 2019

Intentionally recording a studio album in front of a live audience can be perilous. What if the audience doesn't respond? What if the performers aren't in synch musically that night?

### [ISU To Begin Competitive Video Game Team](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • OCT 28, 2019

Illinois State University is adding a video gaming program.

### [Datebook: Heartland Theatre Gets Its Irish Up](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • OCT 25, 2019

GEOFF HUGHES / HEARTLAND THEATER

A strip of land and the love between misfit farmers are at the heart of the Tony award-winning play "Outside Mullingar," opening Oct. 31 at [Heartland Theatre](#) in Normal.

### [Datebook: Authenticity Takes Center Stage in 'Twelfth Night'](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • OCT 18, 2019

Tempest-tossed twins crash in a strange land, only to rush into adventure, romance and gender confusion in Shakespeare's comedy "Twelfth Night."

### [Chris Corkery's New Album A Deep Dive Into Honky-Tonk](#)

By JON NORTON • OCT 17, 2019

Alcohol and anger fuel many of the original songs on the just released "The Gill Street Sessions" live album from [Saybrook singer-songwriter Chris Corkery](#).

### [Route 66 Advocates Aim To Keep Its Legacy Alive](#)

By ERIC STOCK • OCT 17, 2019

Route 66 advocates from across the Midwest will gather in Normal this weekend looking for ways to help the historic highway bring more tourism to their communities.

### [Datebook: The Psych Geeks Declare The Joker Wild](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • OCT 11, 2019

With a new film that's no joke at the box office, the Joker is the man of the hour.

### [From Classroom To Studio To Gallery](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • OCT 10, 2019

“You always want to see who you’re learning from. You always want to see what they can do.”

### [Folk? Pop? Bluegrass? Good Morning Bedlam Says Yes](#)

By JON NORTON • OCT 9, 2019

Good Morning Bedlam is another young string band more inspired by — than tethered to — traditional bluegrass.

### [Lovell Resigns As McLean County Museum of History Director](#)

By ERIC STOCK • OCT 9, 2019

The McLean County Museum of History has announced Adam Lovell has resigned as its executive director after only a year and a half on the job.

### [Datebook: Abstraction Frees Artists In Heartland Exhibition](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • OCT 4, 2019

Through undulating lines, bold dashes of color, and unconventional focus, six local artists explore the limitless potential of abstract art in the current exhibition at the [Joe McCauley Gallery](#) at Heartland Community College.

### [Old Salt Union: The Music Is About The Story](#)

By JON NORTON • OCT 3, 2019

In the bluegrass world where technical prowess is highly valued, stand-up bassist and vocalist Jesse Farrar of Old Salt Union believes songwriting actually trumps instrumental virtuosity.

### [Danielle Nicole Finds Musical Magic With A Scene Change](#)

By JON NORTON • OCT 2, 2019

It's not easy to recapture the magic of a family music group after touring exhaustion kills the joy and the chemistry. [Kansas City native Danielle Nicole](#) has done that by changing her scene.

## Business and Economy

### [Rivian Lands Another \\$1.3 Billion In New Investment Round](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • DEC 23, 2019

Rivian on Monday announced its fourth major investment of 2019—this time \$1.3 billion led by funds and accounts advised by T. Rowe Price.

### [Heartland Talking To Rivian, Illinois Central College About Worker Training](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • DEC 20, 2019

Rivian is looking to hire hundreds of workers for its Normal manufacturing plant over the next few years. Heartland Community College wants to be ready to help get them trained.

### [Permits: Over \\$24 Million In Work This Year At Rivian Plant](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • DEC 19, 2019

Rivian completed or started over \$24 million in remodeling, demolition, and construction work inside its Normal manufacturing plant in 2019, Town of Normal building permits show.

### [Uptown's Hyatt Sold To Tennessee Company](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • DEC 11, 2019

The [Hyatt Place hotel](#) in Uptown Normal has a new owner.

### [Divergent Views Of Eastland Mall's Future Emerge At Property Tax Hearing](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • DEC 4, 2019

Eastland Mall's owners forecast a dire future for the mall Wednesday as they tried to significantly lower their property tax bill, with one of their experts saying he doesn't think the half-empty mall will ever recover from losing four of its five anchor stores.

### [What This Year's Property Tax Appeals Say About The B-N Economy](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • DEC 2, 2019

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### [After Rivian Investment, Cox Wants To Learn How To Value Used Batteries](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • DEC 2, 2019

An auto services company hopes its \$350 million investment in Rivian will help it better understand the value of used batteries after they're pulled out of electric vehicles.

### [This Young Farmer Just Bought Her Own 20 Acres. Now Comes The Hard Part.](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • DEC 2, 2019

2019 was a memorable year for central Illinois farmers—and not in a good way. Trade disputes cut into prices and drove up anxiety. A soggy planting season led to a [late harvest](#). And just as farmers finally were able to get into this fields this fall, it snowed.

### [CVS To Close Downtown Bloomington Location](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • NOV 25, 2019

Downtown Bloomington will soon be losing its CVS store.

### [What Tesla's Cybertruck Means For Rivian](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • NOV 22, 2019

The electric vehicle world has changed a lot in the year since Rivian [revealed its pickup and SUV at the LA Auto Show](#), with the Detroit automakers and others announcing their own new models.

### [Jobless Rate Falls Again; Leisure & Hospitality And Retail Add Jobs](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • NOV 21, 2019

Bloomington-Normal's jobless rate fell again in October, with employers adding around 400 jobs over the past year, the [Illinois Department of Employment Security reported Thursday](#).

### [USDA's Trade Aid Payments Raise Questions About Fairness, Transparency](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • NOV 21, 2019

Illinois' two senators are calling on the USDA to rework its massive trade aid program to fix what they see as inequities and a lack of transparency into how payments are doled out.

### [ISU Farm To Buy Equipment With \\$50K Gift From Illinois Farm Bureau](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • OCT 27, 2019

The Illinois State University farm will buy new equipment with help from a \$50,000 gift from the Illinois Farm Bureau's board of directors.

### [Q&A: Rivian's Manufacturing Chief On What's Happening Inside The Plant](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • OCT 14, 2019

While Uptown Normal was [filled with Rivian buzz](#) during Sunday's community event, the real action is taking place 5 miles west at the automaker's manufacturing plant.

### [B-N Gets First Look At Rivian Vehicles During Uptown Event](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • OCT 13, 2019

Two years after arriving to a community filled with the hopeful and the doubtful, the electric automaker Rivian received an enthusiastic reception Sunday in Uptown Normal as it showed off three vehicles and invited jobseekers to apply at its manufacturing plant.

### [Connect Transit Responds To Public Concern Over New Electric Buses](#)

By MARY CULLEN • OCT 7, 2019

Some Bloomington-Normal community members are criticizing Connect Transit for purchasing electric buses. The transportation agency at the time said by using state and federal grants, the buses will be paid for with “no local funding.”

### [Rivian To Bring Electric Vehicles To Uptown Normal](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • OCT 3, 2019

Nearly two years after Rivian first arrived in Normal, community members will finally be able to see the company’s first electric vehicles in person.

## Education and Family

### [Finalist Interviews This Week For Unit 5 Superintendent](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • DEC 17, 2019

The Unit 5 school board this week is interviewing three finalists to become the district’s new superintendent.

### [B-N High Schoolers Get A Chance To Run State Government](#)

By JOLIE SHERMAN • DEC 16, 2019

This spring, students from Normal Community High School will sit in the seats of senators.

### [First Student Touts Tech Updates, 97% Staffing To Unit 5 Board](#)

By MARY CULLEN • DEC 11, 2019

Representatives from First Student made their pitch to Unit 5 officials Wednesday as the school board continues to [mull over transportation options](#) for next school year.

### [New Grading Model Met With Confusion, Pushback In Unit 5 High Schools](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • DEC 11, 2019

Unit 5 is facing pushback from its high school teachers over the rollout of a new grading system that educators say is confusing parents and students and not delivering on its promise to individualize learning.

### [Teacher, Volunteer Earn Statewide Awards For Connecting Kids With Agriculture](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • NOV 22, 2019

Teacher Katie Buckley needed to show her students in LeRoy the many real-world applications of the STEM concepts they were learning about. That made agriculture a no-brainer.

### [How One IWU, ISU Professor Aided In U.S. Western Expansion](#)

By MARY CULLEN • NOV 8, 2019



If it weren't for the curious mind and adventurous nature of a former professor from Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State universities, the United States may not have expanded West when it did.

### [As Dual Credit Offerings Grow, Unit 5 And Heartland Add Computer Science Associate's Program](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • NOV 5, 2019

A lot of people don't figure out what they want to do professionally until college—or later. Brady Veal of Bloomington knew when was 8.

### [Creating Space For Women, People Of Color in STEM](#)

By MARY CULLEN • NOV 1, 2019

After commonly being the only woman and person of color in STEM circles, Candice Halbert decided to make a change.

### [Economy Is Key Driver As Community College Enrollment Declines Again](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • OCT 31, 2019

Enrollment declined at Illinois community colleges again this fall, driven in part by a strong economy and low unemployment.

### [New State Data Show Wide Family Income Gaps In B-N Schools](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • OCT 30, 2019

The state's latest batch of data shows fewer underperforming schools in Unit 5 and District 87, even as many are asked to serve more high-need students from low-income families.

### [How Unit 5 Plans To Find A New Superintendent By January](#)

By MARY CULLEN • OCT 3, 2019

The Unit 5 school board has developed a schedule to announce its new superintendent by the end of January. The confidential search will open Monday and close Nov. 29.

## Health and Medicine

### [Recovering Addicts Face Extra Challenges Around The Holidays](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • DEC 20, 2019

For recovering addicts, staying sober can more difficult around the holidays. Alcohol is as pervasive as gingerbread cookies at holiday parties. And as families come together, the pain of past relapses can linger even if a person is newly sober.

## [McLean County Names McKnight To Lead Health Department](#)

By ERIC STOCK • DEC 11, 2019

McLean County health officials have chosen a county health director in Missouri to lead their health department.

## [Town Planning Commission: Cannabis Businesses OK, With Restrictions](#)

By BREANNA GROW • NOV 7, 2019

The zoning amendment that will go before the Normal Town Council for consideration Nov. 18 would allow cannabis-related businesses to locate in the town — with restrictions.

## [TEDxNormal Speaker: The Secret Ingredient To Happy, Long-Lasting Relationships](#)

By BREANNA GROW • NOV 6, 2019

After 10 years of marriage, Sam Cullinane and her husband Patrick were ready to call it quits. They filed for divorce, and Sam moved from Utah to Spain. A year later, they decided to get back together—and are still married today.

## [Flu Season Mild So Far In McLean County](#)

By ERIC STOCK • OCT 30, 2019

Health officials in McLean County say flu season has been relatively mild this fall.

## [Housing Matters: Pilot Program Links Homelessness To Health](#)

By ERIC STOCK • OCT 30, 2019

## [‘Not Your Grandfather’s’ VA Clinic Set To Open in Bloomington](#)

By ERIC STOCK • OCT 28, 2019

The new Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic that will open in Bloomington next month is emphasizing mental health services in addition to primary care and other medical services to veterans.

## [Rotary Celebrates Human Spirit And The Near Eradication Of Polio](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & SEAN NEWGENT • OCT 25, 2019

The polio virus is present in only two countries in the world now. There were fewer than 40 cases last year in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Only a few decades ago the virus paralyzed tens of thousands in more than 130 countries.

## [Hudson Man 'Making The Best Of It' As He Battles Brain Tumor](#)

By ERIC STOCK • OCT 23, 2019

## [Bloomington Vet Joins Study For Stem Cell Therapy To Treat Dogs With Arthritis](#)

By DARNYSHA MITCHELL • OCT 23, 2019

The Eastland Companion Animal Hospital in Bloomington is asking dog owners if they want to participate in research on using stem cells to treat dogs with arthritis.

## [Rep. Sommer Turns Focus To DCFS, Medical Exams For Abused Children](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • OCT 22, 2019

A Central Illinois lawmaker said he's encouraged by first steps taken by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the its director's pledge to "re-focus on safety."

## [Trauma Expert Says Behavioral Health Starts In The Home](#)

By MARY CULLEN • OCT 17, 2019

Trauma and the behavioral health concerns that come as a result must be addressed.

## [Olympia 4-H Club Gets \\$25K Grant To Expand Emergency Mini Food Pantries](#)

By JOLIE SHERMAN • OCT 17, 2019

Youth in the Olympia school district are getting some big help as they chip away at food insecurity in rural McLean County.

## [ISU Speech Clinic Helps Transgender Clients Find Their Voice](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • OCT 14, 2019

Our voice is something many of us take for granted—not only that it's there when we need it but that it accurately reflects who we are.

## [Central Illinois Black Nurses Group Advocates For Patients—And Themselves](#)

By TIFFANI JACKSON • OCT 10, 2019

Race and healthcare have a dark history together.

The [1932 Tuskegee Syphilis experiment](#) is perhaps the most infamous example, when over 100 innocent black men were infected with the disease and died from its effects.

## [Normal Begins Exploring Cannabis Options, Hears From Connect Transit Board Members](#)

By JOE DEACON • OCT 8, 2019

As Normal begins to consider how it wants to approach the upcoming legalization of recreational marijuana, Town Council members hope to get public input from the business and law enforcement communities.

## [Bloomington's Cannabis Task Force Set To Hold 1st Meeting](#)

By ERIC STOCK • OCT 2, 2019

Bloomington's new cannabis task force meets for the first time on Thursday night to help guide the city on policy in advance of recreational marijuana sales becoming legal next year.

[Bloomington Doctor Advocates Age Limit To Buy E-Cigarettes](#)  
By ERIC STOCK • OCT 1, 2019

A Bloomington lung doctor said he would like the state to set minimum ages to buy e-cigarettes, as vaping is tied to more than 800 illnesses nationwide and 12 deaths.

## Higher Education

[IWU 'Sweetens The Pot' For McLean County Scholarship](#)  
By ERIC STOCK • DEC 3, 2019

[Chinese Consul General Calls For Better Relations In ISU Speech](#)  
By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • NOV 20, 2019

The Chinese consul general in Chicago said talks to end the trade war are at a critical point. During a speech at Illinois State University, Zhao Jian said the world's two largest economies are interdependent.

[How One IWU, ISU Professor Aided In U.S. Western Expansion](#)  
By MARY CULLEN • NOV 8, 2019

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A lot of people don't figure out what they want to do professionally until college—or later. Brady Veal of Bloomington knew when was 8.

[Pulitzer Prize Finalist Looks At The History Of Torture In America](#)  
By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & SEAN NEWGENT • NOV 1, 2019

America has a long history of torture. From enhanced interrogation during the Iraq War all the way back to the Salem Witch Trials, torture has featured prominently in the story of the country. The question of why it happened is a question of power and fear.

### [A Tale Of Tuning Told Through History](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & SEAN NEWGENT • NOV 1, 2019

To accommodate the piano keyboard, the Western world created 12 intervals as a mathematical compromise.

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### [ISU To Begin Competitive Video Game Team](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • OCT 28, 2019

Illinois State University is adding a video gaming program.

### [ISU Takes Next Steps On Adding Engineering Programs](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • OCT 18, 2019

Illinois State University is taking next steps toward the launch of mechanical and electrical engineering programs.

### [Herbariums Explain The Biodiversity Of The Past, Present, And Future](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & SEAN NEWGENT • OCT 15, 2019

As climate change and human industry destroy once thriving habitats, scientists are using samples from herbariums to piece together the history of our ecosystem