

Third Quarter 2019 WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

July 2019 – September 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

[Bloomington-Normal Becomes Mandolin Central \(For A Week, Anyway\)](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • SEP 30, 2019

A local music ensemble is rolling out the red carpet to welcome mandolin players from around the country as they celebrate their instrument and endeavor to bring back its glory days.

[Puerto Rican Identity Tied To Sport Complicates Political Future Of Commonwealth](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & DARNYSHA MITCHELL • SEP 27, 2019

There is a dark side to using sports to help create a national and cultural identity. Scholar Antonio Sotomayor said Puerto Rico is a case in point.

[Datebook: Artist Richard Finch Finds Life In Stillness](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • SEP 27, 2019

A new show at the [McLean County Arts Center](#) in Bloomington looks back on a lifetime of work from local artist and educator Richard Finch.

[Broadway Vet Returns Home To Build Bridges](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • SEP 27, 2019

A Bloomington-Normal native and Broadway veteran has brought his new musical home to help it find its feet through the efforts of the next generation of theater performers.

['She Said Project' Director Believes Women Sharing Stories Can Have Worldwide Impact](#)

By JON NORTON • SEP 26, 2019

“That’s What She Said” is similar to a TED Talk. Except all 10 women simultaneously inhabit a stage crafted to look and feel like a living room. Nine watch as one-by-one, each nervous speaker takes her turn sharing intimate, personal stories to a majority female audience.

[Classical Guitarist Naeim Rahmani Looks For Commonalities Between Iranians And Americans](#)

By JON NORTON • SEP 25, 2019

Naeim Rahmani is unusual in the world of classical guitar. He began formal lessons at age 22, an age most serious players had already been practicing for up to 4-5 hours per day since their mid-teens.

[Famed Sports Journalist's Collection Tells A Story About Adventures](#)

By DARNYSHA MITCHELL • SEP 23, 2019

After 60 years of telling captivating stories around the sports world, reporter Dave Kindred's donation of artifacts and memorabilia to Illinois Wesleyan is taking fans for a ride all over again.

[B-N Maker 'Creates The Atmosphere' At Catholic Churches](#)

By MARY CULLEN • SEP 23, 2019

He’s not a craftsman or guildler, nor artist or tradesman. Andy Birkey makes his living carving, casting, and decorating traditional gothic furnishings for Catholic churches, but he said he struggles to consider himself part of Bloomington-Normal's community of artists.

[Datebook: 'Yellow Inn' Offers Universality Beneath The Laughs](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • SEP 20, 2019

When guests check into the Yellow Inn, they get something other than a bed for the night. They get class warfare and murderous mayhem.

[Jason Hawk Harris Turns Deep Pain Into Lauded Debut Album](#)

By JON NORTON • SEP 19, 2019

Jason Hawk Harris' debut on Bloodshot Records is an Americana gem many are calling one of the best albums of the year.

[Needle And Thread Provide Empowerment](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • SEP 18, 2019

Artist Aram Han Sifuentes stitches together a communal art experience to give power to those seeking change.

[Red Panda Cubs 'Totes Adorbs' At Miller Park Zoo](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • SEP 17, 2019

The Miller Park Zoo has another cute dose of aww for visitors. Its red pandas have had three cubs. The litter has one male and two females, the first time the zoo in Bloomington has had panda cubs.

Red Pandas were once native to North America. There are fossils as far back as five million years. The zoo said their habitat today is in pockets of mountain areas above four thousand feet in China, Nepal, Burma, and Bhutan.

[Illinois State University Alumna Wonsook Kim Tells Why She Loves ISU](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & SEAN NEWGENT • SEP 16, 2019

“Illinois State University is where I started. Why ISU? Because this is where my heart is at.”

Wonsook Kim earned three degrees at Illinois State in the 1970s and experienced her first dates, first job, and first experience with dorm life there. Her love for her alma mater is why she and her husband decided to give the school a \$12 million donation last Thursday, the largest individual donation in the school's history. For her generosity, ISU President Larry Dietz announced that the College of Fine Arts and the School of Art will both be renamed after Kim.

[Wiplot Says Collaboration Is The Point](#)

By JON NORTON • SEP 13, 2019

The Bloomington-Normal alt-pop/rock quartet Wiplot makes a rare performance Saturday night at Nightshop in downtown Bloomington.

[Datebook: 'The Electric Baby' Lights Up Heartland Theatre's Stage](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • SEP 12, 2019

[Heartland Theatre](#) dabbles in magical realism for its latest production, “The Electric Baby,” opening this weekend and running through Sept. 28.

[Artist Finds The Healing Touch In Silk](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • SEP 12, 2019

Silk reveals its soft touch and capricious core in a new exhibition of works in downtown Bloomington.

[Central Illinois Girl Scouts Are Keeping Girls Interest Despite Decline In Membership](#)

By DARNYSHA MITCHELL • SEP 12, 2019

Central Illinois Girl Scouts are seeking new methods to recruit girls to combat a drop in enrollment.

[Desert Blues Back In Bloomington With Rural, Female Perspective](#)

By JON NORTON • SEP 12, 2019

This week wasn't the first, tenth, or maybe the hundredth time Reverberation Vinyl owner John Anderson was spinning what's become known as Desert Blues on the turntable in his Bloomington store.

[Datebook: Gallery Show Embraces Technology And Its Complications](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • SEP 9, 2019

Artist Jonah King explores the warmth of a simple human gesture as it exists within a digital realm.

[Gamma Phi Circus To Perform In Macy's Thanksgiving Parade](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • SEP 5, 2019

Gamma Phi Circus at Illinois State University will celebrate its 90th year with a parade: the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade in New York City.

[ISU Student Art Gallery Opens At Bloomington Airport](#)

By SEAN NEWGENT & DARNYSHA MITCHELL • SEP 2, 2019

The Central Illinois Regional Airport has collaborated with the Illinois State University's School of Art and College of Fine Arts to open its first student art gallery.

[Datebook: Community Players Goes Barefoot For Comedy Classic](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • AUG 30, 2019

Boy meets girl. Boy marries girl. Boy, does that ever change everything!

[Ida Mae Reveling In American History](#)

By JON NORTON • AUG 29, 2019

Chris Turpin and Stephanie Jean seemingly had it made by 2014. The English natives were half of the grunge/blues band Kill It Kid that was signed to Sire Records and had just released its third album.

[Datebook: Artist Blooms In 'Flowers-o'-the-Moon' At University Galleries](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • AUG 23, 2019

The school year is barely underway, but for one young artist, it's already homecoming.

[Life-Changing Travel Prepares Grant Milliren For The Road Ahead](#)

By JON NORTON • AUG 23, 2019

Grant Milliren, now 21, was getting serious about music by his mid-teens. But the Illinois State University arts technology student was also a varsity athlete at Neuqua Valley High School in suburban Naperville.

[Josh Ritter Documents America's Darker Days](#)

By JON NORTON • AUG 21, 2019

Josh Ritter is known worldwide as a talented songwriter. Matter of fact, [Paste Magazine named him one of the 100 greatest living songwriters in 2006](#).

[ISU To Name College Of Fine Arts And School Of Art For Alum And World Famous Artist](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • AUG 19, 2019

Illinois State University will name its College of Fine Arts and School of Art for graduate Wonsook Kim.

[Datebook: 'Eye Candy' Offers Pop Of Color And Joy](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • AUG 17, 2019

A riot of color and lighthearted images brighten the Armstrong Gallery at the [McLean County Arts Center](#) in Bloomington.

[BCPA Announces Diverse Lineup For New Season](#)

By KATIE SEELINGER & PERSON: CHARLIE SCHLENKER • AUG 15, 2019

Programmers for the [Bloomington Center For The Performing Arts](#) said the city-owned venue had a full and successful season last year and hope to build on that performance. The BCPA has never turned a profit and was not expected to at its founding. But, Assistant Performing Arts Manager Ann-Marie Dittman said last year gross revenue rose by \$200,000. The improvement came after some instability and a lower than usual number of bookings in 2017 following the unexpected death of BCPA Director Tina Salamone. This season, Dittman said the BCPA is revving its engines with an even more full and diverse selection of shows.

[Lil' Ed's Career An Homage To Blues Legend Uncle](#)

By JON NORTON • AUG 14, 2019

[Lil' Ed Williams and his band The Blues Imperials](#) emulate the Chicago house-rockin' style of fellow Alligator Records great Hound Dog Taylor and Lil' Ed's uncle, Delmark Records artist J.B. Hutto.

[Passion Play 'Keeps The Faith' To Return For 97th Year In Bloomington](#)

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 12, 2019

One of the longest-running theater productions in the United States has decided it will be back for a 97th year in Bloomington.

[Datebook: Contra Dancing Has Room For All](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • AUG 9, 2019

Martha Tyner drew a bow across her fiddle and grimaced at the resulting sound.

[An Even Keel Has Kept Country Star John Conlee Grounded](#)

By JON NORTON • AUG 7, 2019

John Conlee is one of those small-town boys that made good. Coming of age in the 1950s on a farm outside Versailles, Kentucky, Conlee's family sold eggs door to door and raised sheep and even feeder pigs. Their cash crop at that time was tobacco.

[English Professor Helps To List '100 Greatest Literary Characters'](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • AUG 4, 2019

Jay Gatsby made the list. So did Hester Prynne, Huckleberry Finn and Harry Potter.

[Late To Music, National Park Radio Founder Finds His Passion](#)

By JON NORTON • AUG 1, 2019

Stefan Szabo came to professional music at the relative late age of his later 30s. The founder of the folk/Americana band National Park Radio says working full-time in IT after college, then getting married and having two kids at 19 and 21 kept him from pursuing his love of music, at least full time.

[Menzingers Getting Comfortable As 30-Somethings](#)

By JON NORTON • JUL 31, 2019

The Philadelphia-based pop/punk band The Menzingers has received critical acclaim for their last two albums, much of which fleshes out the angst of moving from 20-somethings into their 30s.

[Datebook: Heavy Hitters Headline Opera Season](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • JUL 29, 2019

[MIOpera](#) draws on a pair of monster classics for the 2019 season.

[The Darts: An Accidental Garage Punk Party](#)

By JON NORTON • JUL 23, 2019

A judge and prosecutor ... a sports medicine teacher ... an orthodontist office administrator. That doesn't scream "all-female horror-punk/garage-rock band that tours the world."

[Datebook: Beware #TheIdesOfMarch](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • JUL 19, 2019

Social media and the 24-hour news cycle are the battlefields of political warfare in "Caesar," a modern take on the classic tragedy by Shakespeare, now running at the [Illinois Shakespeare Festival](#).

[Illinois Rail: Bluegrass Friends Spreading Joy](#)

By JON NORTON • JUL 12, 2019

A steamboat cruise on the Illinois River seems an unlikely first gig for a gospel-tinged bluegrass band.

[Datebook: Inside Out Celebrates Art And Nature](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • JUL 12, 2019

Art and nature meet up at the [Inside Out Arts Fair](#), coming up Saturday, July 20. This day-long event offers opportunities to acquire art, as well as a chance to become a better artist yourself.

[Shuga Beatz Showcase Original Music](#)

By JON NORTON • JUL 10, 2019

Songwriting is an important component for members of the Shuga Beatz, the Bloomington-Normal rock/blues/R&B sextet. [Important enough to mention such on the group's website](#).

[Scary Is Relative In 'The Addams Family'](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • JUL 10, 2019

In the middle of a sunny summer, one local theater company is embracing its dark side with a musical that's a scream come true for the director.

[Datebook: Exhibition Provides Snapshot Of Permanent Collection](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • JUL 6, 2019

Almost everything that comes into [University Galleries](#) goes back out again. After being on view for a matter of weeks, the art goes back to the artists or to another gallery for another exhibition.

[Sibley Celebrates Vibrant and Rich History](#)

By KATIE SEELINGER & PERSON: CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUL 3, 2019

Small towns across Illinois are having a rough go to keep their culture alive. For decades rural populations have been falling. Some subside into tiny crossroads communities. Others keep trying.

Business and Economy

[Hard-Hit By Drug War, Parts Of B-N Will Get Advantage With Cannabis Legalization](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • SEP 30, 2019

State officials said Monday that Bloomington's west side and neighborhoods around Illinois State University were among the hardest-hit by the war on drugs – and those living there should get a leg up when cannabis becomes legal next year.

[EDC To Include Laborshed Data, More In Quarterly Report](#)

By MARY CULLEN • SEP 25, 2019

The vice president of the Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council said a change in data surveyed is a step in the right direction to better recruiting new businesses to the community.

[Peoria Sees Job Growth, But Still Lags Behind the Pack](#)

By MARY CULLEN & CHARLIE SCHLENKER • SEP 24, 2019

While the Peoria area is showing job growth, it still lags national averages.

[B-N Community Cheers Amazon's Big Rivian Order](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & ERIC STOCK • SEP 19, 2019

The Bloomington-Normal community was charged up Thursday after [Amazon announced its 100,000-van purchase from Rivian](#)—the largest order ever for electric delivery vehicles.

[Amazon To Buy 100,000 Electric Vans From Rivian](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • SEP 19, 2019

The retail giant [Amazon announced Thursday](#) it plans to buy 100,000 electric delivery vehicles from Rivian as part of a larger effort to reduce its carbon footprint.

[Axe-Throwing Business Looks To Open In Bloomington](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • SEP 18, 2019

Bloomington-Normal has all sorts of recreation options that improve our quality of life.

Soon we may add axe-throwing to the list.

[After Growth, Heartland Bank Now Considering IPO](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • SEP 18, 2019

Heartland Bank and Trust's holding company could soon become one of the few Bloomington-based businesses to be publicly traded on the stock market.

[Developer Plans Luxury Apartments In Former State Farm Building](#)

By RYAN DENHAM & ERIC STOCK • SEP 6, 2019

UPDATED 12:30 p.m. | State Farm announced Friday it's found another interested buyer for its downtown Bloomington building, potentially saving it from demolition.

[\\$33 Million And Counting: Trade Payments Buy Patience From McLean County Farmers](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • SEP 3, 2019

This is the first in a four-part series about how the USDA's trade relief payments are playing out in Central Illinois. It was produced by WGLT and WCBU.

[Report: State Farm Plays Key Role In Illinois R&D Landscape](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • AUG 26, 2019

A new report shows State Farm is most of the top patent-producing companies in Illinois.

[Equal Pay: It's More Than Just Salary Negotiation](#)

By MARY CULLEN • AUG 22, 2019

Illinois State University's [College of Arts and Sciences](#) in partnership with [YWCA McLean County](#) and the [League of Women Voters](#) hosted an equal pay panel Thursday in response to the ongoing call for gender equality.

[Bloomington-Normal Unemployment Rate Falls In July, 200 Jobs Added](#)

By MARY CULLEN • AUG 22, 2019

The Bloomington-Normal unemployment rate fell in July as the economy added 200 jobs from this time a year ago.

[EDC President Sets Sights On Suburban Businesses](#)

By MARY CULLEN • AUG 22, 2019

The [Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council](#)'s new CEO says his first plan of action is to work on business retention and expansion.

[How China's Swine Fever Outbreak Is Impacting Illinois Farmers](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • AUG 17, 2019

Want to know farmer Chad Leman's top concern? It's not the trade dispute with China.

[Town Official: Sports Complex Would Cover Operational Costs By 2nd Year](#)

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 14, 2019

A Town of Normal official projects local youth and adult sports teams would exceed a consultant's estimates for what's needed to cover the proposed multisport complex's operational costs.

[Pantagraph Owner Sees Growth In Digital](#)

By MARY CULLEN • AUG 8, 2019

The parent company of The Pantagraph [reported Thursday](#) increased digital subscriptions and advertisers in its third quarter.

[Group Brings Together State Farm, Rivian And Illinois' Other Autonomous Vehicle Leaders](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • AUG 8, 2019

The future of driving will be a system of systems: Cars talking to other cars talking to road sensors talking to traffic signals talking to nearby businesses.

[With 'Muddled' Export Outlook, Farm Bureau Economist Says To 'Fertilize Multiple Markets'](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • AUG 2, 2019

An economist with the American Farm Bureau visiting Normal this week said the trade dispute with China has shown how “dangerous” overreliance on one customer can be.

[Illinois Corn Growers Tap Into NASA Data For New Cooperative](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 25, 2019

Central Illinois farmers produce a lot of corn and soybeans. But they also produce tons of data.

[State Farm To Demolish Downtown Building After Sale Falls Through](#)

By RYAN DENHAM & CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUL 18, 2019

UPDATED 11 a.m. | State Farm said Thursday that it plans to demolish its former downtown Bloomington building after the planned sale fell through.

[Corteva Agriscience Plant In LeRoy To Close](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 17, 2019

UPDATED 3:40 p.m. | An unknown number of people will lose their jobs after [Corteva Agriscience](#) announced Wednesday it is closing its commercial soybean production facility in LeRoy.

[Tesla To Open Sales, Service Center In Bloomington](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 16, 2019

The electric automaker Tesla plans to open its first Illinois sales and service location outside the Chicago area in Bloomington.

[Bloomington Council Mulls Future Of Video Gambling, Supports Parkview Inn License](#)

By MARY CULLEN • JUL 16, 2019

Bloomington is still mulling over what to do with the city's [year-and-a-half long moratorium](#) on new video gambling licenses. City council members agree they want video gambling to be limited in some way.

[Career Link On The Front Lines Helping Displaced Retail, Restaurant Workers](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 3, 2019

Four years ago, the big story in the Bloomington-Normal economy was the [closure of Mitsubishi's manufacturing plant](#) and the loss of 1,200 jobs. Some workers got retrained and found new jobs. Others left the area forever.

[Economic Development Council Hires New Director | WGLT](#)

<https://www.wglt.org/.../economic-development-council-hires-new-director>

Jul 12, 2019 ... The Bloomington Normal **Economic Development** Council has picked the **economic development** manager from the Chicago suburb of Tinley .

Education and Family

[Tri-Valley Middle School To Receive National Honor](#)

By MARY CULLEN • SEP 26, 2019

Tri-Valley Middle School was named one of 25 Illinois elementary, middle, and high schools to receive a [2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools](#) award.

[Unit 5 May Seek Other Busing Options After First Student Problems](#)

By MARY CULLEN • SEP 26, 2019

Unit 5's school board president said Wednesday the district should consider exploring other transportation options starting next year amid concerns about its current busing company, First Student.

[Bloomington Junior High Teacher Up For State's Top Teacher Award](#)

By JOLIE SHERMAN • SEP 26, 2019

Next month the 2020 Illinois Teacher of the Year will be chosen from among the [10 finalists](#).

[ISU Stevenson Center Celebrates 25th Anniversary](#)

By MARY CULLEN • SEP 11, 2019

The [Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development](#) at Illinois State University holds itself accountable for creating tomorrow's leaders in McLean County.

[New Unit 5 High School Class Offers Homegrown Solution To Teacher Shortage](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • SEP 11, 2019

Illinois has a teacher shortage, and policymakers are trying some big ideas to fix it. That includes raising the [minimum teacher salary](#) and getting rid of the [Basic Skills Test requirement](#).

By DARNYSHA MITCHELL • SEP 12, 2019

Central Illinois Girl Scouts are seeking new methods to recruit girls to combat a drop in enrollment.

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 29, 2019

[IWU Names Search Committee For New President](#)

By MARY CULLEN • SEP 4, 2019

Illinois Wesleyan named a 12-person committee to find the private university's 20th president.

[ISU Nursing College Awarded \\$2.8 Million Grant For Rural, Underserved Care](#)

By MARY CULLEN & RYAN DENHAM • SEP 4, 2019

The [U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration](#) awarded Illinois State University's [Mennonite College of Nursing](#) (MCN) with a \$2.8 million Advanced Nursing Education Workforce grant—one of the largest the college has ever received.

[Heartland Sees Largest Freshman Class In 4 Years](#)

By MARY CULLEN • SEP 4, 2019

[Heartland Community College](#) welcomed its largest freshman class in four years with over 1,500 new students.

[Unit 5 Plans for \\$12.8 Million Deficit](#)

By MARY CULLEN • AUG 29, 2019

The Unit 5 school district is on track to end this fiscal year with a \$12.8 million deficit. That's part of the tentative \$192 million total budget for 2019-2020.

[Teaching Children About Sex, Consensual Touch](#)

By MARY CULLEN • AUG 23, 2019

Even if the conversations are uncomfortable, a community sex educator said it's important for parents to start young when talking about themes of sex and body anatomy with their children.

[Unit 5 Updates Finals Exemption Policy](#)

By MARY CULLEN • AUG 15, 2019

The Unit 5 school board approved a change to its finals policy Wednesday, expanding final exam exemptions to include high school juniors. Director for Secondary Education Dan Lamboley said the previous policy allowed seniors with an "A" or "B" grade and no more than six absences to opt out of finals for that class.

"What we're proposing to start in spring 2020 is any junior or senior with an 'A' average in a class on the last day of the semester would be exempt from that final assessment," he said.

[Glenn Parent Disappointed With Unit 5 Handling Of Sexual Abuse Claims](#)

By MARY CULLEN • AUG 15, 2019

The Unit 5 school board heard public comment Wednesday from a woman whose daughter was in Jonathan Hovey's first grade class at Glenn Elementary this past school year.

[Unit 5, First Student Prepare For New School Year](#)

By MARY CULLEN • AUG 6, 2019

After at least three years using bus-tracking capabilities, Unit 5 is looking into its next step.

[LeRoy Plans Job Fair After Major Employer Shuts Down](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 19, 2019

Less than a week after the [sudden closure of a major employer](#), LeRoy is hosting a job fair for displaced workers and other jobseekers.

[Unit 5 Expands Collaboration With Chestnut, Adds Mental Health Counselor at Normal West](#)

By MARY CULLEN • JUL 11, 2019

The Unit 5 school board Wednesday voted to expand a collaborative agreement with Chestnut Health Systems to bring a full-time mental health counselor to Normal West high school.

[With Growing Education Fund Deficit, Unit 5 Strategy Session Focuses On Pitch To Voters](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 8, 2019

The sales pitch that Unit 5 leaders hope to make to taxpayers later this year began to take shape Monday, as district officials sketched out the need for a community task force—and possibly a consultant—that could lobby the public for passage of a revenue-raising referendum.

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & KATIE SEELINGER • AUG 13, 2019

Amateur radio, or ham radio, can be a fun hobby for some, but it can also open many doors for the future.

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • AUG 5, 2019

On Friday [police arrested a longtime first-grade teacher](#) at Glenn Elementary School in Unit 5 for allegedly molesting female students. Unit 5 pulled the teacher, Jonathan Hovey, from class back in April when the district learned of a new allegation.

By ERIC STOCK • JUL 22, 2019

Illinois State University's Board of Trustees will vote this week on a proposal to lease space in the planned Trail East building to open a small-business incubator.

Election 2020

[Eric Stock | WGLT](#)

<https://www.wglt.org/people/eric-stock>

Sept2 days ago ... What The 1860 **Election** Could Teach Us About **2020**. By Eric Stock ... Robustelli Won't Seek Re-**Election** County Board; Newcomer Emerges. By Eric Stock ...

[Dan Brady Will Seek Re-Election For State Representative In 105th ...](#)

<https://www.wglt.org/.../dan-brady-will-seek-re-election-state-representative-105th-district>

2 days ago ... Dan Brady announced Monday he will seek re-**election** in the 105th District. ... currently a Normal Town Council member, in November **2020**.

Environment and Sustainability

[First Year Of Illinois Industrial Hemp Program A Learning Curve For Growers](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • SEP 24, 2019

Industrial hemp growers are still working through some kinks to comply with state rules and have a successful growing season.

[ISU Launches Food Studies Program With 'Seasons of Change' Viewing](#)

By ERIC STOCK • SEP 24, 2019

A documentary that depicts a Woodford County vegetable farmer's struggle with climate change is scheduled to play in a sneak preview at the Normal Theater on Wednesday night.

[Bloomington Set To Update Watershed Plans](#)

By ERIC STOCK • SEP 23, 2019

Bloomington is looking up update its watershed plans for Lake Bloomington and Evergreen Lake to ensure [the city's drinking water](#) remains safe.

[Amazon To Buy 100,000 Electric Vans From Rivian](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • SEP 19, 2019

The retail giant [Amazon announced Thursday](#) it plans to buy 100,000 electric delivery vehicles from Rivian as part of a larger effort to reduce its carbon footprint.

[Forum: As Global Temps Heat Up, So Does Opportunity For Action](#)

By BREANNA GROW • SEP 13, 2019

Real-feel estimates topped out at a sweltering 120 degrees Thursday; the day before, at 114 degrees. If you struggle to remember many days like that when you were a kid, your memory isn't failing you, speakers at a climate change panel Thursday warned; *it is getting hot in here.*

[Rivian Investment Tally Nears \\$1.7 Billion This Year](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • SEP 10, 2019

Rivian has attracted another large investment, this time \$350 million from Cox Automotive.

[Registration Lags For Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • SEP 5, 2019

Appointments to drop off household hazardous waste Saturday at the Rivian auto plant in Normal are running below what organizers hoped would come in.

[Advocates Seek To Save State Farm Building Amid Uncertain Timeline](#)

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 26, 2019

State Farm's recent decision [to demolish its former downtown Bloomington headquarters](#) has left local officials scrambling to prevent an iconic community structure from disappearing.

[McLean County's Recycling Rate Rises For Third Straight Year](#)

By AMINA JINADU • AUG 8, 2019

McLean County's recycling rate increased for the third year in a row in 2018.

[As Off-Campus Recycling Starts, ISU's New Sustainability Chief Plots Next Moves](#)

By AMINA JINADU & RYAN DENHAM • JUL 31, 2019

Starting Thursday, Illinois State University students living in off-campus apartments [will have access to recycling](#) as a new Town of Normal ordinance goes into effect.

With that longtime priority off the to-do list, ISU's new Office of Sustainability program director [Elisabeth Reed](#) is planning for the future.

[International Documentary on Climate Change Educates B-N](#)

By KATIE SEELINGER & CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUL 3, 2019

Internationally-known documentary maker and environmentalist Renee Scheltema said "Normal is Over."

Health and Medicine

[Barickman: State Action Needed On Vaping](#)

By MARY CULLEN • SEP 13, 2019

After the Trump administration this week [vowed to ban flavored e-cigarettes](#), one state senator from Bloomington is saying Illinois shouldn't wait for federal action.

[McLean County Offers Intervention As Vaping Illnesses Spread](#)

By ERIC STOCK • SEP 12, 2019

Several neighboring counties are reporting cases of severe lung disease tied to vaping and McLean County is preparing for it by offering school interventions.

[Bloomington Will Spend Up To \\$2M To Improve Water Testing](#)

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 27, 2019

Bloomington plans to spend up to \$2 million over the next five years to upgrade its aging water monitoring systems.

[App Or Appointment: Community Health Care Clinic Pilots New Tech](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & SEAN NEWGENT • AUG 23, 2019

In an increasingly busy world, there is one constant: advances in technology making life easier.

The [Community Health Care Clinic](#) in Normal, which partners with local hospitals and colleges, understands that its patients cannot always make room in their schedules for regular visits. Director Mike Romagnoli says his clinic will test a smart phone app that will remedy this problem.

[Free Dental Clinic Finds Huge Need In Bloomington-Normal](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • AUG 19, 2019

The head of the Community Health Care Clinic said six months into operations of the new dental clinic they are only scratching the surface of filling the need for tooth care for low-income people in the Twin Cities.

[West Bloomington Garden Needs Money, Manpower To Keep Growing](#)

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 9, 2019

A vegetable garden that's been growing in a west Bloomington food desert has come to a crossroads.

[Understanding McLean County's Low STD Rates](#)

By MARY CULLEN • AUG 9, 2019

McLean County [reports](#) lower sexually transmitted disease rates than its most similar Central Illinois neighbors, but the director of the Illinois Department of Public Health said that could point to a problem.

[McLean County Study: Race, Economics Drive Health Outcomes](#)

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 1, 2019

A coalition of health advocates in McLean County [has produced a study](#) which said the most pressing health needs in the county are similar to what they were in 2016 when the group produced its first report.

[Bloomington Nursing Home Fined \\$25k After Losing Resident](#)

By MARY CULLEN • JUL 26, 2019

The Illinois Department of Public Health has fined a Bloomington nursing home \$25,000 for letting a 49-year-old woman with dementia wander away from the facility in stockinged feet.

[Harmonica Therapy Creates Happy Tune For Respiratory Sufferers](#)

By WILLIS KERN • JUL 23, 2019

Every month, a handful of people gather on Bloomington's east side to make music together. The tunes they produce aren't headed to the top of the charts, but the sounds are likely to improve their lives.

[Merged Eye Care Center VisionPoint Preps For Opening Day](#)

By KATIE SEELINGER • JUL 22, 2019

Four eye care practices are just weeks away from moving into their newly merged operation on Bloomington's east side.

[McLean County Named To Poverty Watch List](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUL 12, 2019

McLean County added nearly 5,000 people to the poverty rolls in one year. That's one of the reasons McLean is on Heartland Alliance's poverty watch list.

Higher Education

[Puerto Rican Identity Tied To Sport Complicates Political Future Of Commonwealth](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & DARNYSHA MITCHELL • SEP 27, 2019

There is a dark side to using sports to help create a national and cultural identity. Scholar Antonio Sotomayor said Puerto Rico is a case in point.

[Broadway Vet Returns Home To Build Bridges](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • SEP 27, 2019

A Bloomington-Normal native and Broadway veteran has brought his new musical home to help it find its feet through the efforts of the next generation of theater performers.

['Death With Dignity' Advocate To Speak at ISU](#)

By ERIC STOCK • SEP 27, 2019

Advocates for medically-assisted suicide are trying to lay the groundwork for Illinois to pass a "death with dignity" law.

[NAACP Calls On Eureka College Leader For Freedom Fund Keynote](#)

By TIFFANI JACKSON • SEP 26, 2019

Scholarship recipients from Central Illinois on Friday will hear from a leader of color who embodies the type of success that the NAACP's Freedom Fund Banquet wants to cultivate.

[ISU Expert: Impeachment Push Could Backfire](#)

By ERIC STOCK • SEP 25, 2019

A political science expert at Illinois State University said the Democrats' call for an impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump could backfire unless a smoking gun emerges.

[Enrollment Exodus: Why So Many Chinese Students Choose That 'Cornfield' School In Illinois](#)

By DUSTY RHODES • SEP 24, 2019

International students, especially those from China, play a crucial role in funding the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

[ISU Launches Food Studies Program With 'Seasons of Change' Viewing](#)

By ERIC STOCK • SEP 24, 2019

A documentary that depicts a Woodford County vegetable farmer's struggle with climate change is scheduled to play in a sneak preview at the Normal Theater on Wednesday night.

[Enrollment Exodus: What Makes ISU Successful?](#)

By SEAN NEWGENT & CHARLIE SCHLENKER • SEP 23, 2019

Illinois State University had another great recruiting year, with a [1.2% increase in total enrollment and the largest freshman class in 33 years](#). It's another stable year. Several other schools throughout the state continued years of enrollment drops.

[Famed Sports Journalist's Collection Tells A Story About Adventures](#)

By DARNYSHA MITCHELL • SEP 23, 2019

After 60 years of telling captivating stories around the sports world, reporter Dave Kindred's donation of artifacts and memorabilia to Illinois Wesleyan is taking fans for a ride all over again.

[Schuyler Bailar Headlines ISU's LGBTQA Cultural Dinner](#)

By SEAN NEWGENT & MARY CULLEN • SEP 23, 2019

Schuyler Bailar was the first openly transgender NCAA swimmer and first trans male athlete documented to compete in Division 1 for any sport.

[Enrollment Exodus: Equity And The Effort To Retain Illinois Students](#)

By PETER MEDLIN • SEP 23, 2019

What happens when universities see enrollment plunge year after year? For many Illinois schools, they focus on how to hold on to the students already walking their halls. Students often leave between their first and second year.

[Enrollment Exodus: Public Universities Do More Than Educate Students](#)

By RICH EGGER • SEP 23, 2019

Tammy Yates was excited to come to Macomb seven years ago. Yates and her partner Chad Hunziker opened [Chubby's](#), a restaurant on West Adams Street, just a few blocks from the Western Illinois University campus.

[Enrollment Exodus: How Private Colleges and Universities Are Meeting Enrollment Challenges](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • SEP 23, 2019

Illinois colleges and universities have been under pressure for years from smaller graduating classes, out-of-state competition and changing demographics. Private higher education institutions in the state face the same challenges public schools do and a couple extra.

[Global Climate Strikers March On Uptown](#)

By BREANNA GROW • SEP 20, 2019

Cries of “Fossil fuels have got to go” rose into the air Friday afternoon as students in bright orange vests held up traffic, waving on at least 250 climate strikers marching through Uptown Normal.

[ISU To Open Multicultural Center Next Fall](#)

By SEAN NEWGENT & CHARLIE SCHLENKER • SEP 20, 2019

By this time next year, Illinois State University's new multicultural center should be open for business.

[Datebook: 'Yellow Inn' Offers Universality Beneath The Laughs](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • SEP 20, 2019

When guests check into the Yellow Inn, they get something other than a bed for the night. They get class warfare and murderous mayhem.

[Needle And Thread Provide Empowerment](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • SEP 18, 2019

Artist Aram Han Sifuentes stitches together a communal art experience to give power to those seeking change.

[Cheer Coach, Teacher Off The Job After Alleged Hotel Incident](#)

By RYAN DENHAM, CHARLIE SCHLENKER & ERIC STOCK • SEP 17, 2019

Editor's note: Four days after this story was published, the Utica police chief told WGLT it appears no formal charges will be filed against Miller in this case. [That updated story is available online.](#)

A Bloomington-Normal cheerleading coach and teacher has been placed on leave as authorities investigate an alleged incident at a hotel in LaSalle County.

[Union Approves ISU Contract; Second Unit Still Bargaining](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • SEP 17, 2019

UPDATED 10:35 a.m. | The union that represents around 360 Illinois State University building service, dining, and grounds employees has overwhelmingly approved a new contract that took over a year to negotiate.

[IWU New Student Enrollment Down Over 17% From 2018](#)

By MARY CULLEN • SEP 16, 2019

Illinois Wesleyan University's fall enrollment numbers show a 17.4% decrease in new students [from 2018](#).

[Illinois State University Alumna Wonsook Kim Tells Why She Loves ISU](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & SEAN NEWGENT • SEP 16, 2019

“Illinois State University is where I started. Why ISU? Because this is where my heart is at.”

Wonsook Kim earned three degrees at Illinois State in the 1970s and experienced her first dates, first job, and first experience with dorm life there. Her love for her alma mater is why she and her husband decided to give the school a \$12 million donation last Thursday, the largest individual donation in the school’s history. For

her generosity, ISU President Larry Dietz announced that the College of Fine Arts and the School of Art will both be renamed after Kim.

[IWU To Add Men's Volleyball, Women's Soccer](#)

By ERIC STOCK • SEP 13, 2019

Illinois Wesleyan University Athletic Director Mike Wagner has announced the university plans to add men's volleyball and women's bowling for the 2020-2021 athletic year.

[ISU Announces \\$12M Gift To Rename College Of Fine Arts](#)

By ERIC STOCK • SEP 12, 2019

A world famous artist is giving her alma mater Illinois State University \$12 million to support its fine arts program.

[ISU Stevenson Center Celebrates 25th Anniversary](#)

By MARY CULLEN • SEP 11, 2019

The [Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development](#) at Illinois State University holds itself accountable for creating tomorrow's leaders in McLean County.

[Heartland C.C. Panel Pushes Stable Tax Rates](#)

By ERIC STOCK • SEP 11, 2019

A task force recommends Heartland Community College keep its tax rates stable and maintain strong cash reserves to ensure long-term financial stability.

[Scientist Group To Host 'It's Getting Hot In Here' Forum in Normal](#)

By ERIC STOCK • SEP 11, 2019

Climate change advocates will be presenting a report in Normal that they say presents a stark choice: make major efforts to reduce greenhouse gases or watch temperatures rise to dangerous levels.

[Datebook: Gallery Show Embraces Technology And Its Complications](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • SEP 9, 2019

Artist Jonah King explores the warmth of a simple human gesture as it exists within a digital realm.

[Bob Dylan To Perform At ISU In October](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • SEP 9, 2019

Music legend Bob Dylan will perform next month at Illinois State University's Braden Auditorium.

[Gamma Phi Circus To Perform In Macy's Thanksgiving Parade](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • SEP 5, 2019

Gamma Phi Circus at Illinois State University will celebrate its 90th year with a parade: the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade in New York City.

[IWU Names Search Committee For New President](#)

By MARY CULLEN • SEP 4, 2019

Illinois Wesleyan named a 12-person committee to find the private university's 20th president.

[Heartland Sees Largest Freshman Class In 4 Years](#)

By MARY CULLEN • SEP 4, 2019

[Heartland Community College](#) welcomed its largest freshman class in four years with over 1,500 new students.

[ISU Recruits Largest Freshman Class In Three Decades](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • SEP 4, 2019

UPDATED 5:15 p.m. | Illinois State University freshman enrollment jumped nearly 5% this fall—its largest freshman class in 33 years.

[U of I Student From Normal Arrested In Noose Incident](#)

By CHRISTINE HERMAN • SEP 3, 2019

University of Illinois student Andrew Smith of Normal has been arrested in connection with a noose found in an elevator at [Allen Hall](#) in Urbana early Sunday morning.

[New ISU Housing Project Would Create New Southwest 'Gateway' To Campus](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • AUG 31, 2019

The new student housing project that Illinois State University wants to build would also include a new dining venue and create a new southwest gateway to campus, newly released documents show.

[IWU Cancels Shermer Address Amid Sexual Assault Allegations](#)

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 29, 2019

Illinois Wesleyan University has canceled author [Michael Shermer's visit](#) for the President's Convocation after the university discovered sexual assault allegations against him.

[IWU Gets Big Piano Delivery On Path To Become All-Steinway School](#)

By DARNYSHA MITCHELL & CHARLIE SCHLENKER • AUG 28, 2019

Illinois Wesleyan University Tuesday had a lawn and sidewalk full of Steinway & Sons pianos.

[ISU Welcomes First All-Female, Majority Black Student Executive Board](#)

By MARY CULLEN • AUG 27, 2019

Illinois State University is seeing a spike in female students applying for student government positions. The student body administration say it's likely a result of the university's first all-female leadership team.

['Skeptic' Publisher To Deliver IWU Convocation](#)

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 27, 2019

A best-selling author will call for critical thinking when he addresses Illinois Wesleyan University students during next week's President's Convocation.

[ISU Picks Rhode Island Developer For \\$100 Million Student Housing Project](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • AUG 23, 2019

A Rhode Island developer has been awarded a \$100 million student housing project at Illinois State University that's expected to open in fall 2021.

[Equal Pay: It's More Than Just Salary Negotiation](#)

By MARY CULLEN • AUG 22, 2019

Illinois State University's [College of Arts and Sciences](#) in partnership with [YWCA McLean County](#) and the [League of Women Voters](#) hosted an equal pay panel Thursday in response to the ongoing call for gender equality.

[Free Dental Clinic Finds Huge Need In Bloomington-Normal](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • AUG 19, 2019

The head of the Community Health Care Clinic said six months into operations of the new dental clinic they are only scratching the surface of filling the need for tooth care for low-income people in the Twin Cities.

[ISU To Name College Of Fine Arts And School Of Art For Alum And World Famous Artist](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • AUG 19, 2019

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Illinois State University will name its College of Fine Arts and School of Art for graduate Wonsook Kim.

[What Manmade Footpaths Can Tell Us About A City](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • AUG 17, 2019

You've seen them all over, every time you go into an urban area. But you've probably never thought about the psychology or the socioeconomic factors at play underneath.

[Bloomington Residents Talk Desires For Former Electrolux Site](#)

By MARY CULLEN • AUG 16, 2019

Bloomington residents voiced their desires for what should occupy the 4.1 acre block that formerly housed Mennonite Hospital and Electrolux at [800 N. Main Street](#).

“Something that would be economically viable,” Tim Tilton said.
“Something that is respectful of the historic nature of the neighborhood,” Andy Birkey added.

[ISU To Search For Provost As Murphy Sets 2020 Retirement](#)

By MARY CULLEN • AUG 14, 2019

After three decades with Illinois State University, Provost Jan Murphy plans to retire at the end of next year.

[How The Internet Of Things Will Change Health Care](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & KATIE SEELINGER • AUG 7, 2019

One of the leaders of an expanding health care technology partnership in Illinois says their work will lead to better outcomes for patients in rural areas.

[New Law Will Require Illinois Students To Apply For Financial Aid](#)

By LEE GAINES • AUG 6, 2019

Illinois is now the third state to require graduating high school seniors fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, otherwise known as the FAFSA form.

[ISU Union Workers Continue 13 Months Without New Contracts](#)

By MARY CULLEN • JUL 31, 2019

Illinois State University union workers are 13 months in [without new contracts](#). An AFSCME staff representative said it’s time for the university to nix its hiring range practice.

[McLean County Clerk Wants \\$400,000 More for Smooth, Secure Elections](#)

By COLLEEN REYNOLDS • JUL 31, 2019

Civic engagement comes with a cost, according to McLean County Clerk Kathy Michael.

[As Off-Campus Recycling Starts, ISU’s New Sustainability Chief Plots Next Moves](#)

By AMINA JINADU & RYAN DENHAM • JUL 31, 2019

Starting Thursday, Illinois State University students living in off-campus apartments [will have access to recycling](#) as a new Town of Normal ordinance goes into effect.

With that longtime priority off the to-do list, ISU's new Office of Sustainability program director [Elisabeth Reed](#) is planning for the future.

[Multicultural Award Ceremony Breaks Barriers For B-N Students](#)

By TIFFANI JACKSON • JUL 30, 2019

When Alicia Lenard heard about an award ceremony for minority students in Bloomington-Normal, she made sure her fifth-grader, Christina, was there.

[Datebook: Heavy Hitters Headline Opera Season](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • JUL 29, 2019

[MIOpera](#) draws on a pair of monster classics for the 2019 season.

[ISU Gets \\$1M Gift To Create Innovation Institute](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUL 29, 2019

Illinois State University plans to establish a new innovation institute with a \$1 million gift it received from two alums.

[ISU Approves Trail East Incubator Space](#)

By MARY CULLEN • JUL 26, 2019

Updated 4:15 p.m. | Illinois State University is [officially a tenant](#) of the planned Trail East Building in Uptown Normal.

['Bad Timing' In Recycling Markets As Normal's Multifamily Ordinance Kicks In](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 26, 2019

After years of lobbying and waiting, Illinois State University students will finally have access to recycling at their off-campus apartments starting next month. Turns out, the timing is still not great.

[ISU To Consider Trail East Incubator, Data Storage Upgrade](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUL 22, 2019

Illinois State University's Board of Trustees will vote this week on a proposal to lease space in the planned Trail East building to open a small-business incubator.

[Datebook: Beware #TheIdesOfMarch](#)

By LAURA KENNEDY • JUL 19, 2019

Social media and the 24-hour news cycle are the battlefields of political warfare in "Caesar," a modern take on the classic tragedy by Shakespeare, now running at the [Illinois Shakespeare Festival](#).

[ISU Athletics To Sell Beer, Wine At Select Events](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 18, 2019

Fans will soon be able to buy beer and wine at Illinois State University Athletics events—and not just in premium seating locations.

[B-N Youth Work In Microgravity With ISS Underwater](#)

By MARY CULLEN • JUL 10, 2019

Bloomington-Normal youth this week embarked on an adventure at Normal Community West High School to build the International Space Station, with a few modifications.

[Economist: Illinois Gas Tax Hike Could Change Long-Term Driving Habits](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUL 9, 2019

An economist predicts Illinois' [19-cent-per-gallon gas tax hike](#) will cause many Illinoisans to drive less, even if we haven't changed our habits just yet.

[ISU Weighing Two Proposals For Student Housing Project](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 8, 2019

Illinois State University is still considering the two proposals it received for a [new student housing project](#), though details about the competing plans have not been made public.

[IWU Hopes New Minors Will Boost Enrollment](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUL 2, 2019

Illinois Wesleyan is hoping an expanded menu of minors will attract more college-bound students to the private university.

Starting in the fall, Wesleyan will offer six new minors: actuarial science, statistics, film studies, French and Francophone studies, Italian studies and religious diversity.

Provost and Dean of Faculty Mark Brodl said students and faculty all expressed interest in adding these new programs. He sees a dual benefit.

Police and Courts

[Police Chief: No Charges Coming Against B-N Cheerleading Coach](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • SEP 20, 2019

A University High School cheerleading coach's alleged comments to a 17-year-old student at a LaSalle County hotel were not criminal and won't result in any charges, the North Utica police chief said Monday.

[Cheer Coach, Teacher Off The Job After Alleged Hotel Incident](#)

By RYAN DENHAM, CHARLIE SCHLENKER & ERIC STOCK • SEP 17, 2019

Editor's note: Four days after this story was published, the Utica police chief told WGLT it appears no formal charges will be filed against Miller in this case. [That updated story is available online.](#)

A Bloomington-Normal cheerleading coach and teacher has been placed on leave as authorities investigate an alleged incident at a hotel in LaSalle County.

[Beaman Asks Appeals Court To Authorize Jury Trial Against Normal Police](#)

By EDITH BRADY-LUNNY • SEP 11, 2019

A former Bloomington man exonerated of murder charges is entitled to a jury trial on his claims that three retired Normal police officers played a significant role in his wrongful conviction, according to arguments by his lawyers Wednesday to the Fourth District Appellate Court.

[Brestan Pleads Guilty To Child Pornography Charges Ahead Of Murder Trial](#)

By EDITH BRADY-LUNNY • SEP 6, 2019

A Bloomington man charged in the 2017 brutal stabbing death of a woman pleaded guilty Friday to child pornography charges involving a minor girl.

[Music Video Is Latest Link Between Online Threats, B-N Gun Violence](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • AUG 28, 2019

UPDATED 9:40 a.m. | New details emerged Tuesday about the recent outbreak of gun violence in Bloomington-Normal as authorities pointed to a new rap video that they say shows a deadly dispute between two hybrid street gangs.

[Bloomington Man Charged With Attempted Murder In Shooting](#)

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 22, 2019

Bloomington Police said they have arrested a second person in connection with a shooting in which two people were hospitalized earlier this month.

[Ex-Bloomington Arena Manager Convicted Of Theft](#)

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 16, 2019

A McLean County jury has convicted a former Bloomington arena manager of stealing money from the venue.

[2 People Shot Near Apartments In Southwest Bloomington](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • AUG 13, 2019

Bloomington Police are investigating a shooting that injured two people Tuesday afternoon on the city's southwest side.

[U.S. Attorneys Seek To Curb Violent Crime In Central Illinois](#)

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 5, 2019

The top prosecutor in Central Illinois is looking to implement more proactive strategies to reduce violent crime.

[Six Years Later, Families Seek Closure In B-N Deaths](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • AUG 2, 2019

Life was hard for Haileigh Eichhorn in the month before she died.

[Woman Accused Of Stabbing Her Mother 15 Times At Bloomington Apartment](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 20, 2019

A 26-year-old Bloomington woman was charged with attempted murder Saturday after allegedly stabbing her mother 15 times inside their apartment.

[Man Arrested For Two Bloomington Shootings](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUL 17, 2019

Police have arrested a man and a woman in Normal in connection with two recent Bloomington shootings. Two juvenile boys were wounded in shootings last Thursday and Friday on Peach and Lee streets.

[Buck Smuggler Also Admits Poaching](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUL 16, 2019

A former TV hunting show host from East Peoria has admitted poaching and smuggling a deer. Federal prosecutors said forty-one-year-old Christopher Brackett used to host "Fear No Evil" on the Outdoor Channel. Brackett admitted killing two bucks in Indiana in 2013 within minutes of each other when state rules said he could only take one in a season.

[Maryland Bank Robbery Suspect Arrested In McLean County](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 1, 2019

Authorities say a 36-year-old suspect was arrested outside Bloomington on Saturday in connection with an armed robbery last month in Maryland.

Politics and Government

[Dan Brady Will Seek Re-Election For State Representative In 105th District](#)

By DARNYSHA MITCHELL • SEP 30, 2019

State Rep. Dan Brady announced Monday he will seek re-election in the 105th District.

[Puerto Rican Identity Tied To Sport Complicates Political Future Of Commonwealth](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & DARNYSHA MITCHELL • SEP 27, 2019

There is a dark side to using sports to help create a national and cultural identity. Scholar Antonio Sotomayor said Puerto Rico is a case in point.

[Robustelli Won't Seek Re-Election County Board; Newcomer Emerges](#)

By ERIC STOCK • SEP 18, 2019

McLean County Board member Carlo Robustelli, a Bloomington Democrat, has announced he won't be seeking a third term next year, while a political newcomer has announced his campaign for the seat.

“With a deep bench of energized, highly qualified progressives, I feel now is the best time to announce my intentions, and I look forward to supporting a fellow resident of District 8 for election to the County Board,” Robustelli said on Facebook.

[McLean County Seeks 6% Budget Increase; Taxes Level](#)

By ERIC STOCK • SEP 17, 2019

McLean County Administrator Camille Rodriguez presented a \$102.8 million budget proposal on Tuesday that would keep the property tax rate flat and give 1.5% pay raises to non-union staff.

[Cummings To Run For State Representative In 105th District](#)

By ERIC STOCK • SEP 13, 2019

Normal Town Council member Chamberly Cummings announced Friday she plans to challenge longtime incumbent state Rep. Dan Brady in the 105th House District.

[Barickman: State Action Needed On Vaping](#)

By MARY CULLEN • SEP 13, 2019

After the Trump administration this week [vowed to ban flavored e-cigarettes](#), one state senator from Bloomington is saying Illinois shouldn't wait for federal action.

[Effort To Make Demolition Of State Farm Building More Difficult On Hold](#) By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & SEAN NEWGENT • SEP 11, 2019

The Historic Preservation Commission had been set to hold hearings on two historic landmark nominations for the downtown building State Farm is offloading.

But Mayor Tari Renner said those won't be needed.

[Bloomington To Consider Cannabis Task Force](#) By ERIC STOCK • SEP 9, 2019

The Bloomington City Council will consider creating a task force to figure how it will handle recreational marijuana use when it becomes legal Jan. 1.

[Trail West Project Waits In Wings As Trail East Construction Nears](#) By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • SEP 4, 2019

Construction is scheduled to begin this fall on the \$30 million mixed-use building that will rise on the northeast arc of Uptown circle. It is known as Trail East.

[Analysis: Uptown TIF Good Value For Taxpayers](#) By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • SEP 4, 2019

An analysis of the tax increment financing (TIF) district in Uptown Normal indicates the effort to spark development in the city center begun in 1999 has been a good value for taxpayers, according to a consultant.

[Normal Council Backs Brewpub In Redevelopment Agreement](#) By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • SEP 4, 2019

The Normal Town Council has approved a development agreement with an Uptown business to create a two-story brewpub and rooftop dining establishment using the old Bill's Key and Lock shop property.

[Bloomington Could Move Some Offices To McLean County Building](#) By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • AUG 20, 2019

McLean County government is in the early stages of talks to move more Bloomington city offices into the county government complex.

[More Summer Roadwork Approved by Normal Council](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • AUG 19, 2019

The Normal Town Council on Monday approved more than \$792,000 in late summer road repairs.

City Engineer Brian Otto said the town had considered using concrete instead of asphalt on Cottage Avenue between Gregory Street and Barton Drive, but the money didn't work out.

[New Sexual Assault Victim Protection Not The Last Word](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & TIM SHELLEY • AUG 19, 2019

State Sen. Jason Barickman said a new law to prevent further trauma to some sexual assault victims might not be enough.

The Bloomington Republican said the YWCA in Bloomington told him several McLean County women who reported sexual assaults when they went to the hospital for treatment ended up getting arrested because they had outstanding warrants. He said the problem does not happen often, but there have been incidents statewide.

[Senator Barickman Calls For Civility In Political Rhetoric](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & KATIE SEELINGER • AUG 16, 2019

State Sen. Jason Barickman of Bloomington said the problem of violent rhetoric in American politics spans both parties.

[McLean Co. Clerk Defends Election Requests In Tense Finance Meeting](#)

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 7, 2019

Several Democratic McLean County Board members questioned some of County Clerk Kathy Michael's budget requests and voter projections during a heated Finance Committee meeting Wednesday, while the three-term Republican countered by suggesting Democrats were trying to relitigate the 2018 election.

[Straw Poll: McLean County Democrats Undecided But Enthusiastic About 2020](#)

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 5, 2019

McLean County Democrats are enthusiastic about the 2020 election but still not sure who they want on the ballot in the presidential race, according to a party official who organized a straw poll at the county fair.

[Blumenshine Seeks 2020 Rematch Against Rep. Dan Brady](#)

By MARY CULLEN • JUL 30, 2019

Updated 11:55 a.m. | A Bloomington-Normal real estate broker has thrown his hat in the ring once again in the race to unseat Republican state Rep. Dan Brady in 2020.

[ISU Expert Hails Direction For Puerto Rico As Governor Resigns](#)

By KATIE SEELINGER & PERSON: CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUL 26, 2019

Riccardo Rosselló, the Governor of Puerto Rico, resigned this week after 12 days of protests and demonstrations. Puerto Ricans had already displayed dissatisfaction over the lack of government performance during Hurricanes Maria and Irma, but the tipping point was Rosselló's chat room transcripts, which were recently published. The transcripts included hateful comments towards women, the working class, the LGBTQ+ community, and other marginalized groups in Puerto Rico that were made by Rosselló and members of his small governing clique.

[Koos: Normal 'Cautious' But In Good Financial Position](#)

By JOE DEACON • JUL 16, 2019

While noting that most municipalities continue to face financial challenges, Mayor Chris Koos says the Town of Normal is in “good shape.”

[Rally Takes Aim at Immigration Detention Centers](#)

By JOE DEACON • JUL 13, 2019

Laura Tepen of Bloomington has seen first-hand the conditions facing refugees along the southern U.S. border. In February, her family of five volunteered at a respite center in McAllen, Texas, where they helped feed and give clothes to people released from detention centers.

[Kinzinger's Rising Star Burns A Bit Brighter In Trump Era](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 12, 2019

Twenty years ago, Adam Kinzinger was a college kid navigating the politics of the McLean County Board, pushing for fiscal discipline, evening meeting times, and merging the Bloomington Election Commission into the county clerk's office.

[Bloomington To Host Meeting On Route 9 Bike Lanes](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUL 9, 2019

The City of Bloomington has scheduled a public meeting to gather feedback on a proposal to add bike lanes along Illinois Route 9.

[Bloomington Delays Liquor License Over Conditions, Enforcement Questions](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUL 8, 2019

Bloomington City Council members want more clearly defined conditions and enforcement measures before deciding whether to approve a liquor license that [would enable a convenience store to reopen](#) under new ownership on the city's southwest side.

[Bloomington To Seek Conditions For Convenience Store To Reopen](#)

By ERIC STOCK • JUL 8, 2019

A Bloomington convenience store wanting to reopen under new ownership will have to limit its hours and make other accommodations to get a liquor license.

[With City's Budget Stable, Council Member Bray Looks To Library, Emergency Services](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 8, 2019

With the City of Bloomington's budget situation much improved, City Council member Kim Bray says it could be time to move ahead with improvements at Bloomington Public Library.

[International Documentary on Climate Change Educates B-N](#)

By KATIE SEELINGER & CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUL 3, 2019

Internationally-known documentary maker and environmentalist Renee Scheltema said "Normal is Over."

[Normal Council Continues Feeling Out Process After Election Shakeup](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUL 2, 2019

Normal Town Council members are continuing to get used to each other. Dynamics have shifted with the addition of two new members, Stan Nord and Karyn Smith.

[A Split Normal Council Vote For Rivian Motorway Name Change](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUL 2, 2019

The Normal Town Council voted Monday to rename Mitsubishi Motorway for Rivian, which now owns the plant along that west-side road. It was a 4-2 vote.

Science And Technology

By RYAN DENHAM • AUG 20, 2019

The shift from gas-powered to electric vehicles will accelerate in the next five years as the number of available EV models grows rapidly—including more SUVs and crossovers—and a fast-charging infrastructure is built out, according to an EV expert.

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 31, 2019

A new survey from State Farm finds early autonomous technology in cars may inadvertently create more distracted drivers by lulling them into a false sense of security.

By MARY CULLEN • JUL 10, 2019

Bloomington-Normal youth this week embarked on an adventure at Normal Community West High School to build the International Space Station, with a few modifications.

Civil Rights

By MARY CULLEN • JUL 19, 2019

Last year, “Green Book” hit the big screen and shocked the world with an accurate depiction of what life was like for African Americans in the U.S. before the Civil Rights Act.

By JOE DEACON • JUL 13, 2019

Laura Tepen of Bloomington has seen first-hand the conditions facing refugees along the southern U.S. border. In February, her family of five volunteered at a respite center in McAllen, Texas, where they helped feed and give clothes to people released from detention centers.

Transportation

By RYAN DENHAM • SEP 19, 2019

The retail giant [Amazon announced Thursday](#) it plans to buy 100,000 electric delivery vehicles from Rivian as part of a larger effort to reduce its carbon footprint.

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • SEP 10, 2019

Rivian has attracted another large investment, this time \$350 million from Cox Automotive.

By KATIE SEELINGER & CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUL 3, 2019

Internationally-known documentary maker and environmentalist Renee Scheltema said "Normal is Over."

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUL 2, 2019

The Normal Town Council voted Monday to rename Mitsubishi Motorway for Rivian, which now owns the plant along that west-side road. It was a 4-2 vote.

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & SEAN NEWGENT • SEP 11, 2019

The Town of Normal is pulling back on a pilot project to allow E-scooters into the community. Talks with Illinois State University and a scooter company began in January, but town planner Mercy Davison said that is now on hold.

University communities around the country have been targeted by E-scooter companies who see an audience for the motorized vehicles. But Davison said that after looking into the ordinances of other communities in Illinois, the town found that scooters would not be a possibility anytime soon.

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • AUG 19, 2019

The Normal Town Council on Monday approved more than \$792,000 in late summer road repairs.

City Engineer Brian Otto said the town had considered using concrete instead of asphalt on Cottage Avenue between Gregory Street and Barton Drive, but the money didn't work out.

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 12, 2019

Bloomington City Council members on Monday rejected two of Mayor Tari Renner's appointments to the city's transportation commission, amid claims the city should try harder to place applicants on the boards they requested to serve.

By WILLIS KERN • JUL 20, 2019

The term "scorcher" took on new meaning at Bloomington's David Davis Mansion Saturday.

By ERIC STOCK • JUL 9, 2019

An economist predicts Illinois' [19-cent-per-gallon gas tax hike](#) will cause many Illinoisans to drive less, even if we haven't changed our habits just yet.

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUL 2, 2019

The Normal Town Council voted Monday to rename Mitsubishi Motorway for Rivian, which now owns the plant along that west-side road. It was a 4-2 vote.

Connect Transit Approves Contracts For Electric Buses, Transfer Center

By MARY CULLEN • SEP 24, 2019

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Connect Transit will soon add a fleet of electric buses.

The Connect Transit board Tuesday approved a contract to bring on four electric buses per year over the next three to four years.

General Manager Isaac Thorne said Connect Transit will purchase 12 to 17 Catalyst E2 buses from [Proterra](#), an electric bus manufacturer. All buses will be paid for through state and federal grants, with no local funding.

[Congress | WGLT](#)

<https://www.wglt.org/term/congress>

Aug 19, 2019 ... Ray LaHood On **Transit**, Politics, Schock And Life After Washington. By Willis Kern • Oct 8, 2015. Linda Healy/WGLT. Ray LaHood spent more than two decades ...

[Bloomington City Council | WGLT](#)

<https://www.wglt.org/term/bloomington-city-council>

Aug 12, 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 ...

[Bloomington Council Rejects 2 Renner Appointees | WGLT](#)

<https://www.wglt.org/.../bloomington-council-rejects-2-renner-appointees>

Aug 11, 2019 ... Renner said while the city has two vacancies on the **Connect Transit** board, he doesn't plan to appoint anyone to that board until the Connect ...

[Connect Transit Closes Year With Ridership Gains | WGLT](#)

<https://www.wglt.org/post/connect-transit-closes-year-ridership-gains>

Jul 11, 2019 ... Bloomington-Normal's bus system ended its budget year with a 9.2% increase in riders. **Connect Transit** said the 2,446,527 rides provid

Sports

[Puerto Rican Identity Tied To Sport Complicates Political Future Of Commonwealth](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & DARNYSHA MITCHELL • SEP 27, 2019

There is a dark side to using sports to help create a national and cultural identity. Scholar Antonio Sotomayor said Puerto Rico is a case in point.

[Famed Sports Journalist's Collection Tells A Story About Adventures](#)

By DARNYSHA MITCHELL • SEP 23, 2019

After 60 years of telling captivating stories around the sports world, reporter Dave Kindred's donation of artifacts and memorabilia to Illinois Wesleyan is taking fans for a ride all over again.

[McHistory: Bloomington's Unsung Baseball Great](#)

By MARY CULLEN • SEP 23, 2019

Baseball fans remember the greats of the sport: the Babe Ruths, the Lou Gehrigs. And the players that didn't quite make the Hall of Fame often slip through the cracks of our memory.

[Axe-Throwing Business Looks To Open In Bloomington](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • SEP 18, 2019

Bloomington-Normal has all sorts of recreation options that improve our quality of life.

Soon we may add axe-throwing to the list.

[Cricket Players See Hope In Proposed Multisport Complex](#)

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 28, 2019

Renewed talk of a multisport complex in Bloomington-Normal has offered hope to organizers of various sports that they would be able to play year-round and bring more tournaments to the Twin Cities. Among them are soccer, softball, and lacrosse.

[Carew Motivated by Faith to Raise Heart Health Awareness](#)

By JOE DEACON • AUG 24, 2019

Nearly four years ago, baseball Hall of Famer Rod Carew suffered a massive heart attack while golfing. He survived, but five months later doctors told him he would require a heart transplant.

[Youth Soccer in B-N Preps For Multisport Complex — Or Not](#)

By ERIC STOCK • AUG 12, 2019

Youth soccer organizers in Bloomington-Normal are hoping a new multisport complex will solve their facility needs when they lose their current home, but they aren't counting on it.

[Small School Districts Find New Football Life Moving To 8-Man Game](#)

By JON NORTON • JUL 18, 2019

The Flanagan-Cornell-Woodland football team last year didn't score on its opponents until its 6th game, when it tallied 8 against Minonk. It went scoreless the rest of the year after barely having enough students to finish the season due to injuries and players quitting.

[New Indie Wrestling Company Pins B-N Fans, With Eyes On Expansion](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 10, 2019

There's nothing quite like the crowd at a professional wrestling match.

[Women's World Cup Run Inspires B-N Soccer Players](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 5, 2019

The whole country will be watching Sunday when the [U.S. women face Netherlands in the World Cup final](#). That includes 11-year-olds Lana Esparza, Natalie Bierbaum, and Kylie Stanton, all teammates on the [Illinois Fire Juniors U12](#) soccer team in Bloomington.