

# First Quarter 2018 WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

January 2018 – March 2018

**Key:** 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

### GLT Datebook: Heroes And Villains On Ice

By LAURA KENNEDY · MAR 31, 2018

[The Central Illinois Figure Skating Club](#) welcomes national champions for the upcoming spring show.

### Retired Librarian Finds New Purpose In South Africa

By LAURA KENNEDY · MAR 28, 2018

Once a librarian, always a librarian.

### Scholar Believes Graphic Novels, Comic Books Are Powerful Educational Tools

By LAURA KENNEDY · MAR 26, 2018

An expert scholar in children's literature is a firm believer in the power of graphic novels as an educational tool.

### GLT Datebook: New Exhibition Explores Transitions

By LAURA KENNEDY · MAR 24, 2018

Photographer Rana Young is currently showing her work at the [University Galleries](#) in Uptown Normal. "The Rug's Topography" navigates intimacy and separation in the face of transitions.

### 'Drag Race' Royalty Struts The Stage At Charity Show

By LAURA KENNEDY · MAR 20, 2018

Naomi Smalls may not live up to her name, but she lives up to her fierce reputation.

## GLT Datebook: @Salon Is A Theater Of Conversation And Exchange

By LAURA KENNEDY · MAR 17, 2018

Artists and audience members will engage in an afternoon of conversation, poetry, music and more in @Salon.

## Photos Reveal Quiet Fortitude Against Adversity

By LAURA KENNEDY · MAR 14, 2018

Photographer Terttu Uibopuu draws parallels between her homeland of Estonia and her new home in America in a collection of photos currently on view at the [University Galleries](#) in Uptown Normal.

## Artist Shares Serious Message Beneath The Bling

By LAURA KENNEDY · MAR 13, 2018

A new exhibition of art at the [University Galleries](#) in Uptown Normal is actually more than just art. It's a blinged-out protest against violence and injustice.

## GLT Datebook: Bowl For Kids' Sake

By LAURA KENNEDY · MAR 10, 2018

Big Brothers Big Sisters of McLean County is hosting a fun fundraiser that helps kids in our community.

## Battiste Inducted Into ISU's College Of Fine Arts Hall Of Fame

By LAURA KENNEDY · MAR 9, 2018

Illinois State University honored one of its own by inducting Francois Battiste into the College of Fine Arts Hall of Fame.

## Local Author Celebrates Favorite Childhood Writer

By LAURA KENNEDY · MAR 8, 2018

At the age of 8, Paul Allen was perusing the stacks at the Bloomington Public Library when he discovered a book that ignited his imagination and, years later, resulted in a biography of the acclaimed author, Eleanor Cameron.

## GLT Datebook: Cantus Novus Offers Spring Concert

By LAURA KENNEDY · MAR 3, 2018

The local choral group Cantus Novus mixes seldom-heard classical music with contemporary pieces in their upcoming spring concert.

## GLT Culture Maven: Oscar Is Slow To Change

By LAURA KENNEDY · MAR 2, 2018

Criticism regarding the lack of racial and gender diversity in the nominees for the Oscar has dogged the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for years.

## Psych Geeks: 'Black Panther' Shows The Way In Representation

By LAURA KENNEDY · FEB 27, 2018

The latest offering from the Marvel Cinematic Universe clawed its way to the top of the box office for a second week in a row. That's unsurprising, according to [GLT's Psych Geeks](#), because "Black Panther" is a film that's fulfilling a deep need for audiences.

## GLT Datebook: Art And Photojournalism Meet In Exhibit

By LAURA KENNEDY · FEB 24, 2018

The senior photographer at Illinois State University focuses on campus life in a new show up at the Joe McCauley Gallery.

## Allerton Park Masters A Plan For The Future

By LAURA KENNEDY · FEB 22, 2018

Allerton Park has seen the future, and it does not include funding from the State of Illinois.

## GLT Datebook: 'Hands' Exhibition Invites Interaction

By LAURA KENNEDY · FEB 17, 2018

Eighteen colorful pairs of hands reach out from the walls of Illinois State University's Milner Library in a new exhibition that draws visitors in for a closer look.

## Dark Comedy Shines A Light On Storytelling

By LAURA KENNEDY · FEB 16, 2018

When things get bad ... really bad ... at least we have each other and our stories.

## Fundraiser Turns Up Rare Book On Slavery

By STUDENT REPORTER DANIA DE LA HOYA & CHARLIE SCHLENKER • FEB 14, 2018

A local nonprofit organization has found a new home for a rare, historical text from the 19th century.

## GLT Datebook: Polar Plunge Is Freezing Fun

By LAURA KENNEDY • FEB 10, 2018

Normally, dashing pell-mell into a lake in the middle of February would be considered simply bonkers. Not so when it's for a good cause.

## Poster Exhibition Challenges Gender Inequality

By LAURA KENNEDY • FEB 6, 2018

An exhibition of posters in Bloomington showcases the work of artists who are taking a stand for human rights by challenging gender inequality.

## Lots Of Restaurant Openings In 2017; Not So Many Closures

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • FEB 5, 2018

The food service industry is a volatile one. Turnover in establishments can approach 100 percent in just a very few years. 2017 was an active year for restaurant openings and closures.

## GLT Datebook: University Galleries Highlights Faculty Artwork

By LAURA KENNEDY • FEB 3, 2018

LAURA KENNEDY / WGLT

The works by faculty members of the Illinois State University School of Art are on currently on view at the University Galleries.

## Heartland Theater Tests The Limits Of Loyalty

By LAURA KENNEDY • FEB 2, 2018

[Heartland Theater](#) takes a provocative and unconventional look at loyalty within a no-win situation in the new production of "For the Loyal."

## Children's Author Conquered Challenges To Find Success

By LAURA KENNEDY · JAN 30, 2018

"An educator today who had me in their classroom, I think, would be pretty worried."

## GLT Datebook: Storyteller Keeps Ancient Art Alive

By LAURA KENNEDY · JAN 27, 2018

BOBBY NORFOLK

Storytelling and loving to hear a story is just in our blood. That's according to a storyteller that's coming to the Bloomington Public Library.

## Lincoln Bench Vandalized In Bloomington

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · JAN 23, 2018

Someone has poured a caustic liquid on a popular public artwork in downtown Bloomington.

## GLT Datebook: Local Concert Benefits Puerto Rico

By LAURA KENNEDY · JAN 19, 2018

Two Normal Community High School juniors are organizing a benefit concert for hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico and learning the benefits of civic engagement.

## Animal House: Bad To The Bone

By LAURA KENNEDY · JAN 16, 2018

Who can resist those furry faces when it comes to giving our dogs a treat? Well, think twice before you treat your dog to a bone.

## Circus Superfan Makes Massive Donation to Illinois State University

By LAURA KENNEDY · JAN 16, 2018

The [Circus and Allied Arts Collection](#) at ISU's Milner Library has hit the mother lode of sequined costumes, rare poster art, classic photos and a paper mache frog head in a donation of 250,000 items from the collection of a circus superfan.

## GLT Datebook: Girl Scouts Kick Off Cookie Season

By LAURA KENNEDY · JAN 13, 2018

The humble cookie can build confidence, teach leadership and help girls around the world.

## Psych Geeks: Why Bad Movies Make Us Feel So Good

By LAURA KENNEDY · JAN 11, 2018

It's awards season in Hollywood, a time to celebrate the best the film industry has to offer. As for the other end of the cinematic spectrum—bad movies—well, they're always in season, and always fresh. No matter how much they stink.

## GLT Datebook: Artists Share Sensibilities And Exhibition

By LAURA KENNEDY · JAN 6, 2018

Alissa Palmer and Whitney Johnson share a visual vocabulary ... and now share gallery space in their exhibition, "Sensing Synonyms."

## Business and Economy

### Trump's Tariffs Plan Worries Illinois Farmers

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 30, 2018

Illinois farmers have cheered President Donald Trump for his moves on regulatory relief, the federal tax overhaul, and his appointment of Sonny Perdue as agriculture secretary.

### State Farm PR Executive Leaving Company

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 15, 2018

An executive who leads State Farm's external public relations efforts is leaving the company for a new job at another insurer.

### CIRA Looks To Customs Service, Freight As Passenger Traffic Dips

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 14, 2018

A decline in business travel and increased low-fare competition from Chicago's O'Hare airport were among the factors that drove down passenger traffic at Bloomington's Central Illinois Regional Airport in 2017.

### Museum Event Reveals How Great War Shaped Caterpillar's Future

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 9, 2018

World War I was one of the deadliest and most destructive episodes in human history.

## State Farm To Cut 890 IT Jobs In Bloomington

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 6, 2018

State Farm announced Tuesday it will cut around 890 jobs in Bloomington as part of an IT restructuring project that will add similar positions in Atlanta, Dallas, and Phoenix.

## Keg Grove Adds New Brewery To Heart Of Bloomington

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 2, 2018

When you visit the new [Keg Grove Brewing Co.](#) in Bloomington, the first thing you notice is the location.

## 'Significant Catastrophe Losses' Drive Down State Farm's 2017 Financials

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 1, 2018

State Farm on Thursday reported its second-straight year of operating losses for its property-casualty insurance businesses, as the company pledged to get leaner and make significant internal changes.

## Dick's To Stop Selling Assault-Style Rifles In Stores

By AP · FEB 28, 2018

Dick's Sporting Goods will immediately end sales of assault-style rifles in its stores and won't sell guns to anyone under 21 years old following the school massacre in Parkland, Florida.

## Progressive CEO Talks Self-Driving Cars, Hiring Moves During ISU Visit

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 23, 2018

The CEO of one of State Farm's top competitors says she welcomes the challenge that her company will face as self-driving vehicles cut into the number of accidents in the decades ahead.

## B-N Housing Market's 2018 Off To Slow Start In January

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 20, 2018

The Bloomington-Normal housing market got off to a slow start in 2018, with sales in January—typically one of the slowest months of the year—falling by more than 25 percent from a year ago.

## State Farm To Give \$1,000 Bonuses Amid Job Reductions

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 27, 2018

State Farm announced this week it's giving \$1,000 one-time bonuses to some of its employees, even as the company continues a cost-cutting realignment of its IT workforce.

## B-N Jobless Rate Falls; 1,100 Positions Added In Past Year

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 25, 2018

The Bloomington-Normal economy has added 1,100 jobs in the past year, as the local jobless rate fell to just 3.8 percent in December, the Illinois Department of Employment Security reported Thursday.

## Fewer Retail Jobs In Bloomington-Normal As Shopping Habits Evolve

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 22, 2018

When a big local retailer like JCPenney or Gordmans closes its doors, it becomes another chapter in the "retail apocalypse" storyline that predicts the end of brick-and-mortar shopping.

## Growing Craft-Beer Scene Adds New Taproom In Bloomington

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 19, 2018

A local brewery's new taproom in south Bloomington is the latest addition to Central Illinois' growing craft-beer scene.

## Chicago Makes Amazon's Finalist List For Second Headquarters

By AP · JAN 18, 2018

Chicago has made the list of the top 20 cities Amazon is considering for its massive second headquarters.

## Downtown Hotel Idea 'May Not Need Any City Money In The Pot'

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 15, 2018

An architect and developer who made a surprise pitch last week for a downtown Bloomington hotel connected to Grossinger Motors Arena says the project may not require much city investment.



## State Farm To Move Employees Out Of Downtown Bloomington

By RYAN DENHAM & CHARLIE SCHLENKER · JAN 11, 2018

For the first time in nearly a century, State Farm employees will soon be without a home in downtown Bloomington.

## Searching for Clues Into Rivian's Electric Vehicle Future

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 9, 2018

When Rivian Automotive bought the shuttered Mitsubishi Motors plant in Normal, the company's mystique was part of the excitement. Who was this MIT grad who wants to build electric vehicles here? What will the cars look like? Will it be like Tesla?

## Delayed East-Side Kroger Project Now Officially 'On Hold'

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 5, 2018

Plans are now on hold for a new Kroger Marketplace store on Bloomington's east side.

## New Uptown Building Considered On Circle

By MIKE MCCURDY · JAN 4, 2018

The Normal Town Council at its next meeting may review a proposal for what's being called a "major economic development initiative" in Uptown Normal.

## Hobby Lobby Moving Locations In Normal

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 4, 2018

The Hobby Lobby store in Normal is moving to a smaller location within the same shopping center.

## Illinois Farmers Plan Another Push for Industrial Hemp

By JACLYN DRISCOLL · JAN 2, 2018

Making it legal to raise industrial hemp has been a topic of discussion in Illinois for years. Wisconsin is the most recent state to allow farmers to grow it. Will Illinois be next?

## Swingers Grille in West Normal Closes

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 1, 2018

## Education and Family

### Grad Students Unionizing at Illinois State University

By MIKE MCCURDY · MAR 20, 2018

Organizers of a union that would represent Illinois State University graduate students have crossed a threshold.

## Unit 5 Parent Calls For Inclusive Athletic Department At Normal West

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN · MAR 1, 2018

The Unit 5 school board on Wednesday approved Nathan Fincham as the new Normal West high school football coach. But the action came with concerns voiced by the public.

## Unit 5 Board President To Resign

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN · MAR 1, 2018

Unit 5 School Board President Jim Hayek will resign from his position at the end of May.

## ISU Trustees Mull Over State Pension, Health Care Shifts

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN · FEB 16, 2018

A new proposal from [Gov. Bruce Rauner's budget address](#) could force universities to pick up more of the cost of pensions and health insurance for Illinois State employees.

## 'Inclusive' Playground Planned To Bring People Together

By MIKE MCCURDY · FEB 16, 2018

A new playground planned for Bloomington's east side is designed for kids with disabilities and to bring all children together.

## Unit 5 Renews Contract With Bus Company First Student

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN · JAN 25, 2018

The Unit 5 school board on Wednesday voted to renew its contract with First Student for two years, with some board members saying the bus vendor has restored their faith in the company.

## Health and Medicine

### New Equipment At BroMenn To Reduce Patient Anxiety—And Maybe Bills Too

By STUDENT REPORTER DANIA DE LA HOYA & CHARLIE SCHLENKER · MAR 9, 2018

Advocate BroMenn Medical Center in Normal is rolling out new state-of-the-art equipment worth \$5 million.

## **B-N Doctors Think Twice On Painkillers Amid Opioid Epidemic**

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 29, 2018

Dr. Ramsin Benyamin views the opioid epidemic almost like he would a patient. If you ask Benyamin how he'd fix the opioid issue—how he'd treat it—he starts with a diagnosis.

## **'Getting To Zero' Group Brings HIV Conversation To Normal**

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN · JAN 19, 2018

An organization working to halt the spread of HIV in Illinois wants to have the difficult conversations behind treating the disease.

## **Flu Season Appears To Be Peaking Early In Illinois**

By AP · JAN 8, 2018

State records show that the flu season in Illinois appears to be peaking early this year.

## **Politics and Government**

Republicans field a candidate against the Democrat who beat him in last month's primary.

## **Redistricting Advocates Lobbying Illinois Lawmakers**

By AP · MAR 30, 2018

Some advocates are pushing for an Illinois constitutional amendment to change how legislative districts are created in the state.

## **Vacancies Open Up On Normal Township, Library Boards**

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 28, 2018

One couple's move out of state is opening up two vacancies on local elected boards.

## **Top Aide Campaigned During Legionnaires' Crisis**

By AP · MAR 27, 2018

Records show that a top aide at the Illinois Department of Public Health took a leave of absence to work on political campaigns in the fall of 2016 while the agency faced the baffling return of deadly Legionnaires' disease at a state-run veterans home.

## Bloomington Council Again Backs On-Site Library Expansion

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN & RYAN DENHAM · MAR 27, 2018

Bloomington aldermen reiterated their preference Monday that the city's library expand in its current location rather than move to a new home.

## Activists Push Aldermen On Immigration Ordinance; Budget Gap Narrows

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN · MAR 27, 2018

The [Keep Families Together](#) coalition continued its rally in the Bloomington City Council chambers Monday [after breaking a 24-hour fast](#).

## After Primary Win, Londrigan Added To DCCC's Red To Blue Program

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 26, 2018

National Democrats are throwing their support behind Betsy Dirksen Londrigan, adding her to a list of top-tier candidates who they think have a shot at defeating Republican incumbents in November.

## Rauner Seeks To Unite GOP After Squeaking Out Primary Win

By AP · MAR 22, 2018

Gov. Bruce Rauner is seeking "common ground" with Republicans on divisive issues after barely surviving an insurgent challenge in Tuesday's election.

## Bloomington's Police Advisory Board Holds First Regular Meeting

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN · MAR 22, 2018

Bloomington residents were able to ask questions during the Public Safety and Community Relations Board's (PSCRB) first quarterly meeting Wednesday.

## Local Democrats Feel Emboldened By Primary Turnout

By JUDITH VALENTE · MAR 21, 2018

The number of Democrats turning out for Tuesday's primary more than tripled over the number that voted in 2014.

## Turnout Dips In McLean County, But More Voters Are Democrats

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 20, 2018

Turnout in Tuesday's election fell slightly in McLean County from the last gubernatorial primary in 2014—though a much larger percentage of voters took Democratic ballots.

## Londrigan Wins 5-Way Primary, Takes On Davis In November

By RYAN DENHAM & STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN · MAR 20, 2018

Betsy Dirksen Londrigan emerged victorious Tuesday in a five-way Democratic primary for the 13th Congressional District, setting up a general election matchup against U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis in November.

## Harold, Raoul Win Attorney General Races

By AP · MAR 20, 2018

Attorney and former Miss America Erika Harold has won the Republican primary for Illinois attorney general.

## Brady Fends Off Primary Challenger Blumenshine For GOP Nomination

By RYAN DENHAM, LAURA KENNEDY & COLLEEN REYNOLDS · MAR 20, 2018

State Rep. Dan Brady successfully fought off a Republican primary challenge from Twin City real estate agent David Paul Blumenshine on Tuesday.

## Watchinski, Thompson Win McLean County Board Races

By RYAN DENHAM, JUDITH VALENTE & CHARLIE SCHLENKER · MAR 20, 2018

Shayna Watchinski declared victory Tuesday over Democratic incumbent Paul Segobiano in their McLean County Board primary race.

## Rauner (Barely) Wins Primary, Will Face Pritzker

By BRIAN MACKEY · MAR 20, 2018

Illinois primary voters have spoken. This year's race for governor will be a battle between two of the wealthiest men in the state.

## Election Results: Winners Claim Victory As Returns Come In

By WGLT STAFF · MAR 20, 2018

Polls close at 7 p.m. Tuesday as voters choose their nominees for November's high-stakes election, including races for governor, attorney general, Congress, and McLean County Board, among others.

## Local Lawmakers, Bloomington Aldermen Exchange Ideas For Capital Project Funding

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN · MAR 20, 2018

Local lawmakers met with the Bloomington City Council on Monday to discuss ways to fund future infrastructure projects and other priorities.

## Election Day Arrives: Polls Open Until 7 p.m.

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 20, 2018

It's Election Day (finally)! Voters across Illinois are going to the polls Tuesday in a primary that will set up another high-stakes election in November.

## Q&A with Ives: 'Fringe' Issues, Gun Control, And Why Everything Begins With Pensions

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 19, 2018

Candidates for governor are crisscrossing the state in the final hours before Tuesday's primary election.

## Gov. Rauner Spotted In B-N On St. Patrick's Day

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 17, 2018

Three days before the primary election, Gov. Bruce Rauner made an unannounced St. Patrick's Day visit to Bloomington-Normal.

## Democrats Hold Edge In McLean County Early Voting

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 16, 2018

It's no secret that [local Democrats are energized](#) heading into Tuesday's primary election. Early voting tallies are showing just how energized they may be.

## Normal Township Creates New Disclosure Policy For Businesses

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 15, 2018

Normal Township trustees approved a new disclosure policy Thursday that will require companies doing business with the township to divulge their true owners.

## Davis Supports School Safety Bill As It Passes House

By RYAN DENHAM & AP · MAR 14, 2018

The U.S. House has approved a bill to improve school safety in the wake of the shooting that left 17 dead at a Florida high school.

## Five Democrats Vying For Chance To Face Rodney Davis In November

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 14, 2018

One of the most closely watched races in Tuesday's election will be the Democratic primary for the 13th Congressional District.

## Rauner Vetoes Gun Retailer Licensing Legislation

By AP · MAR 13, 2018

Gov. Bruce Rauner has vetoed legislation that would have required gun stores to be licensed by the state, calling it "unnecessary, burdensome regulation."

## Aldermen May Turn Up Pressure On Problem Landlords

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 12, 2018

UPDATED 1:45 p.m. | Bloomington aldermen signaled Monday they want the city to clamp down harder on landlords with chronic code violations in the wake of the Gettysburg Drive apartment fire.

## McLean County Board Primary Preview: Gerald Thompson

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · MAR 12, 2018

An interview with Gerald Thompson, who is running for McLean County Board in the March 20 GOP primary against Carlock Mayor Jeremiah Houston. They're running in District 1.

## McLean County Board Primary Preview: Jeremiah Houston

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · MAR 12, 2018

An interview with Carlock Mayor Jeremiah Houston, who is running for the McLean County Board. His primary opponent March 20 is Gerald Thompson.

## Election Preview: McLean County Board Candidate Shayna Watchinski

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 8, 2018

GLT's primary election interview with Shayna Watchinski, a Democratic challenger who will face incumbent McLean County Board member Paul Segobiano on March 20. Watchinski is a healthcare professional and well-known progressive activist.

District 8 includes Bloomington's west side.

## Election Preview: McLean County Board Candidate Paul Segobiano

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 8, 2018

GLT's primary election interview with Paul Segobiano, an incumbent McLean County Board member. He faces a primary challenge March 20 from fellow Democrat Shayna Watchinski.

Segobiano represents District 8, which includes Bloomington's west side.

## Illinois House Committee Approves Credit Card Marketing Ban

By AP · MAR 8, 2018

An Illinois House committee has approved a bill that would prevent credit card companies from marketing their products on public university and community college campuses.

## Facing Primary Challenge From Left, Segobiano Touts Bipartisan Record

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 8, 2018

Democratic voters on Bloomington's west side will decide March 20 whether their longtime McLean County Board member should get to keep his job.

## Mystery Flyers Shake Up Democratic County Board Primary

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 6, 2018



UPDATED 8:25 a.m. | Two weeks before the election, two mysterious flyers are causing a stir in the race between incumbent McLean County Board member Paul Segobiano and his primary challenger, Shayna Watchinski.

## Normal Council Approves Leaner Budget, Monthly Water Bills

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN · MAR 6, 2018

The Normal Town Council passed Monday what some council members are calling the most difficult budget they've seen in their careers.

## Brady Defends Tenure As GOP Primary Challenger Pushes Term Limits

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 5, 2018

State Rep. Dan Brady and his GOP primary challenger David Paul Blumenshine sparred Monday over term limits, as both offered competing strategies for limiting Democratic House Speaker Mike Madigan's power in Springfield.

## Minimum Age For Tackle Football Gets Initial OK

By AP · MAR 1, 2018

A plan to prohibit tackle football among the youngest children to prevent head trauma is moving to the Illinois House floor for a vote.

## Beyond Trump: Local Democrats Look To Merge Old Guard With New Energy

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 1, 2018

The future of the McLean County Democratic Party began 14 months ago.

## Growing Signs That Aaron Schock Prosecution On Shaky Ground

By AP · FEB 28, 2018

There are signs key portions of the corruption case against former U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock may be at risk of unraveling.

## Arm The Teachers? Illinois Educators Don't Like The Idea

By KATIE FINLON · FEB 27, 2018

Illinois education officials are weighing in on President Donald Trump's proposal to arm teachers as a school safety precaution.

## Madigan Discloses New Complaints Involving Staffers

By SAM DUNKLAU · FEB 27, 2018

Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan continued to push back Tuesday against accusations that his office mishandled sexual harassment complaints.

## Early Voting Expected To Pick Up In McLean County

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 27, 2018

Less than 200 McLean County residents cast ballots during the first week of early voting ahead of the March 20 primary.

## 13th District Democratic Candidates Discuss Immigration, Foreign Policy At Forum

By BRIAN MOLINE & CHRISTINE HERMAN · FEB 27, 2018

The Democratic candidates for Illinois' 13th Congressional district discussed foreign policy and immigration issues at an event Monday night in Champaign.

## Bloomington Waste Collection Fees To Increase

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN & RYAN DENHAM · FEB 27, 2018

The cost of trash collection for some Bloomington residents will increase in May.

## More Gun Legislation Filed At Illinois State Capitol

By JACLYN DRISCOLL · FEB 22, 2018

More gun control legislation has been filed in Illinois in the wake of the Florida school shooting.

## More Democrats Want Probe Into Misconduct At Madigan Offices

By AP · FEB 21, 2018

A growing number of Illinois Democrats are calling for an independent investigation of misconduct within longtime House Speaker Michael Madigan's political and state operations.

## Koos Wants To Avoid Narrow Majority On Any Welcoming City Vote

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 20, 2018

Normal Mayor Chris Koos said Tuesday that he only wants to move forward on a Welcoming City ordinance if it can win support from at least five of seven Town Council members.

## Downstate Debate Canceled After Pritzker Declines

By JIM MEADOWS & NIALA BOODHOO · FEB 20, 2018

The only debate on live television planned for outside of Chicago between the Democratic candidates for Illinois governor has been canceled.

## Aldermen Cool To Raising Taxes, New Gambling Fee In Next Year's Budget

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN · FEB 20, 2018

Bloomington aldermen said Monday they might approve some sort of gas tax increase next week to pay for street repairs. But not the full 4 cents per gallon put forward by city staff.

## Normal Council Approves Rivian Tax Abatement, Multisport Complex Study

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 19, 2018

The Normal Town Council on Monday voted unanimously to approve Rivian's first property tax breaks for meeting initial investment benchmarks, even as some council members said they want to learn more about the stealthy automaker's operations.

## Quinn: State Attorneys General 'Last Line Of Defense' Against Trump

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 16, 2018

As Bloomington-Normal debates whether to enact a Welcoming City ordinance, former Gov. Pat Quinn said there should be a bright line between local police and federal immigration officers.

## Sommer Is Wait-And-See On Rauner's Pension, Budget Proposals

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 15, 2018

State Rep. Keith Sommer said Thursday he's taking a wait-and-see approach on many of the governor's [budget proposals laid out this week](#), even as Sommer's Democratic challenger called them "insincere and disingenuous" and potentially disruptive for Illinois schools.

## Old Idea Could Change School Funding Dollars

By DUSTY RHODES · FEB 14, 2018

One of the biggest changes Gov. Bruce Rauner proposed in [Wednesday's budget address](#) is making local school districts bear the costs of teacher pensions.

## In Budget Speech, Rauner Pushes Tax Cut and Pension Shift

By BRIAN MACKEY, SEAN CRAWFORD, DUSTY RHODES & RYAN DENHAM & SAMUEL DUNKLAU · FEB 14, 2018

Gov. Bruce Rauner [outlined his plans for the Illinois budget](#) in a speech to lawmakers Wednesday afternoon.

## Aldermen Take First Steps Toward Washington Street Development Projects

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 14, 2018

City leaders took two big steps this week toward luring new development—including two housing projects—along Washington Street just east of downtown Bloomington.

## Democratic Campaign Worker Alleges Harassment By Supervisor

By AP · FEB 13, 2018

A campaign worker for Illinois Democrats says it took party officials too long to respond after she reported sexual harassment by a male supervisor last year.

## Bloomington Hires Recruiter For City Manager Search

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 13, 2018

Bloomington aldermen voted Monday to spend \$20,000 to hire a recruitment firm to help find candidates to become the next city manager.

## Even Without A Budget, Illinois Spends And Spends

By BRIAN MACKEY · FEB 13, 2018

Gov. Bruce Rauner is scheduled to unveil his fourth budget proposal Wednesday in a speech to the General Assembly.

Illinois lawmakers have only enacted a budget for one of the three years he's been in office. That led to service cuts and some layoffs, but the state didn't collapse. For most people, life went on as normal.

So we asked Statehouse reporter Brian Mackey: Does it really matter if Illinois has a budget?

## Mayor, Aldermen Clash Again Over Immigration Ordinance, Agenda-Setting

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN & RYAN DENHAM · FEB 13, 2018

Often chilly relations between some Bloomington aldermen and Mayor Tari Renner became even worse at Monday's council meeting.

## Bloomington Aldermen Won't Outsource Garbage Pickup; Fee Increases Likely

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN & RYAN DENHAM · FEB 13, 2018

The City of Bloomington will continue to pick up garbage itself.

## Lisa Madigan Endorses Erik Jones in 13th District Race

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 12, 2018

Democratic candidate for Congress Erik Jones on Sunday picked up the endorsement of his former boss, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan.

## For Local Republicans Picking Next Chair, How Big Should The Tent Be?

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 12, 2018

Yes, McLean County Democrats are energized headed into this year's elections. But Republicans know how to win.

## Q&A with Normal's Pam Reece: Tight Budgets, Transparency, and Job Creation

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 9, 2018

A major transition is now underway in the Town of Normal, with retiring City Manager Mark Peterson turning the keys over to his top deputy and now successor, Pam Reece.

## Environment, Healthcare Among Top Issues For Voters At GLT Candidates Forum

By COLLEEN REYNOLDS · FEB 8, 2018

The environment, including climate change, along with maintaining and expanding healthcare coverage were among the top issues for attendees at Tuesday's GLT Candidates Forum for the five Democrats looking to unseat U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis.

## County's Zoning Board Endorses Solar Project Plans

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 8, 2018

The Zoning Board of Appeals has unanimously endorsed plans to bring the first three solar projects to McLean County.

## Penn Won't Seek Another Term As McLean County Democrats Leader

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 8, 2018

Both of McLean County's major political parties will have new top leaders later this year. An Illinois Senate committee has endorsed raising the age to purchase tobacco from 18 to 21.

## At Forum, Little Space Between Democrats On Key Progressive Issues

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 6, 2018

The five Democrats looking to unseat U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis echoed each other Tuesday on nearly every progressive issue—from health care to immigration—while trying to distinguish themselves using their personal and professional backgrounds.

## Pritzker Apologizes For Comments On Race

By AP · FEB 6, 2018

Democratic Illinois governor candidate J.B. Pritzker apologized Tuesday for racially insensitive comments captured on a FBI wiretap between him and then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

## Ballot Dispute Delays Early Voting In McLean County

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 6, 2018

Early voting for the March 20 primary will not begin this week in McLean County as scheduled because of an ongoing legal fight over who's on the ballot.

## Union Raises Concerns About Bloomington Garbage Outsourcing Talk

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 6, 2018

The union that represents the City of Bloomington's solid waste employees is lobbying aldermen not to outsource garbage collection to private companies.

## Town Of Normal To Consider Implementing Recycling Options

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN, CHARLIE SCHLENKER & RYAN DENHAM · FEB 6, 2018

The Normal Town Council will likely consider an ordinance this spring requiring that apartment buildings provide the option to recycle.

## In Wind Farm Country, New Questions As Solar Companies Move In

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 6, 2018

This week in central Illinois, we've seen three straight days of snow, gloomy skies, and temperatures in the single digits. Doesn't exactly sound like a perfect spot for a bunch of new solar farms, does it?

## Photos: Gov. Rauner Tours Destihl Brewery

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN · FEB 3, 2018

Gov. Bruce Rauner toured the Destihl Brewery in Normal on Saturday before taking questions inside the seven-month-old facility.

## Rauner: Video 'Shows How Unelectable Jeanne Ives Really Is'

By RYAN DENHAM & STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN · FEB 3, 2018

Several Republicans called Saturday for Jeanne Ives to take down a [controversial campaign video](#) targeting Gov. Bruce Rauner that critics say depicts cartoonish, offensive versions of trans Illinoisans and women activists.

## Calling For 'Reset' In Springfield, Biss Tries To Close Gap On Pritzker

By STUDENT REPORTER DANIA DE LA HOYA & CHARLIE SCHLENKER · FEB 2, 2018

One Democratic candidate for governor is less than impressed with Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner's positive tone in this week's [State of the State address](#) and thinks it's a sign Illinois is ready for a change in power.

## New Legislation Calls For Transparency If Mahomet Aquifer Contaminated

By MARK SCHULTZ · FEB 2, 2018

The Illinois state senator representing much of the area covered by the Mahomet Aquifer says he's got ideas for a task force looking at ways to protect the Mahomet Aquifer from future accidental contamination.

## Pritzker: Campaign Will Carry Down-Ballot Democrats In November

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 2, 2018

Democratic candidate for Governor JB Pritzker stopped in Bloomington on Friday to deliver a fiery stump speech exclusively targeting Gov. Bruce Rauner, looking past the Democratic primary just 46 days away.

## Normal Council's Scott Preston Considers Run For McLean County GOP Chair

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 2, 2018

Normal Town Council member Scott Preston said Thursday he's considering a run for McLean County Republican Party chair.

## Londrigan, Jones Even On Fundraising As Democratic Primary Nears

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 1, 2018

Betsy Dirksen Londrigan outraised her Democratic rivals last quarter in the 13th Congressional District primary, leaving her and Erik Jones with nearly identical campaign war chests for the final stretch.

## After Rauner's Address, How Much Bipartisanship Is Possible In Election Year?



By CHARLIE SCHLENKER, SEAN CRAWFORD, RYAN DENHAM & BECKY FLETCHER · FEB 1, 2018

Gov. Bruce Rauner says bipartisanship is needed to move the state forward. But a lack of trust in the shadow of an election year and the governor's own remarks make that less likely to happen.

## Illinois Delegation Reacts to Trump's First State Of The Union

By RYAN DENHAM & HANNA GUTMANN · JAN 31, 2018

Illinois Democrats and Republicans sat in the same chamber listening to [President Donald Trump's State of the Union](#) on Tuesday night, but they came away hearing different messages.

## Live NPR Annotation of the State of the Union Address

By NPR · JAN 30, 2018

President Trump is delivering his State of the Union address to Congress, which will be followed by a response from the Democratic Party.

## GOP's Erika Harold: Public Corruption Focus Goes Beyond Politics

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 30, 2018

Illinois attorney general hopeful Erika Harold said she wants to increase efforts to stop public corruption while simultaneously staying away from partisan politics—a difficult balancing act for a Republican office holder in a blue state.

## Could Naming Names Discourage Harassment By Illinois Public Officials?

By MARY CULLEN · JAN 30, 2018

Two new proposals at the Illinois statehouse aim to hold lawmakers and other government officials accountable in cases of harassment or discrimination.

## Democrat Daiber Pushes Dicamba Herbicide Ban For Illinois Farming

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 25, 2018

A Democratic candidate for governor and part-time farmer wants Illinois to ban the use of a controversial herbicide that's damaged crops all over the Midwest.

## Rauner's Calendar Has Mansion Business Meeting

By AP · JAN 25, 2018

Gov. Bruce Rauner's official calendar shows he scheduled a May 2015 meeting at the Executive Mansion with a former business partner who claims in a lawsuit they discussed a personal business deal.

## Renner 'Hugely Skeptical' Of Privatizing Garbage Collection In Bloomington

By STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN, CHARLIE SCHLENKER & RYAN DENHAM · JAN 23, 2018

UPDATED 2:45 p.m. | Bloomington Mayor Tari Renner said Tuesday he was “hugely skeptical” of privatizing garbage collection, a move some aldermen think would help close the city’s looming \$3 million budget deficit.

## Trump Signs Funding Bill, Bringing Shutdown To An End

By NPR & WGLT · JAN 22, 2018

President Trump has [signed a stopgap spending bill passed by Congress on Monday](#), ending the partial shutdown of the federal government after three days.

## Q&A with Mayor Koos: New Uptown Building, Mural, And Parking

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & RYAN DENHAM · JAN 18, 2018

Normal leaders are moving ahead with plans for a new five-story building on the northeast arc of Uptown circle, the next step in a dramatic reshaping of the town’s central business district.

## Woman Vying To Be County GOP Chair Wants To Win Hearts and Minds

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 18, 2018

If President Donald Trump has taught us anything, it’s that the way you communicate your political beliefs matters more than ever.

## 2 Governor Candidates Spend \$26M In Last 3 Months

By AP · JAN 17, 2018

The November election race for Illinois governor cost \$28 million just for the last three months of 2017.

## Republicans Build Up War Chests For Illinois House Races

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 17, 2018

Central Illinois Republicans are growing their campaign war chests as they prepare to defend themselves against energized challengers in the March primary and November general election.

## More Questions Emerge At Joint Meeting On Downtown Catalyst Project

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 16, 2018

Three government bodies met jointly Tuesday night to nudge forward an ambitious plan to [build a new library and transit center](#) in downtown Bloomington, even as several officials noted a lack of public buy-in as one major hurdle to the effort.

## Latest Uptown Proposal Stirs Fears About Lost History, Mural

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 15, 2018

Normal Town Council members could get an earful Tuesday night as they decide whether to take the first step toward another building project in Uptown Normal—a proposal that some community members say threatens the central business district's history and charm.

## Springfield Democrat Adds Her Progressive Voice To 13th District Race

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 12, 2018

The surprise fifth Democrat looking to challenge incumbent U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis says she won't take money from corporations and will fight for universal health care, tuition-free college, and publicly funded elections.

## Connie Beard Plans Run For McLean County GOP Chair

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 11, 2018

A longtime local GOP leader said Thursday she wants to succeed Chuck Erickson as chair of the McLean County Republican Party.

## Renner Rebuffs Aldermen, Schedules Joint Meeting On Library-Transit Project

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 9, 2018

Bloomington Mayor Tari Renner said Tuesday he's put a controversial joint meeting back on the calendar for next week, rejecting a push by some aldermen to forgo a deeper discussion on a proposed downtown library-transit project.

## Chuck Erickson Won't Seek Re-Election As Republican Party Chairman

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 9, 2018

McLean County Republican Party chairman Chuck Erickson announced Tuesday he won't be seeking re-election to that post, leaving the local GOP with new leadership heading into a tough 2018 election cycle with many contested races.

## Downtown Bloomington Catalyst Project Stirs Dissent During Consent Agenda

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 8, 2018

Bloomington aldermen butted heads again Monday over a proposal to build a new library and transit hub downtown, even as a local developer pitched his own competing vision for a catalyst project to revitalize the city's central business district.

## Davis: Tax Bill Will Win Over Voters Before November Election

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 4, 2018

Fresh off their first major legislative victory since President Donald Trump took office, Republican lawmakers went on a bit of a victory tour back home during the holiday break.

## Davis Defends Trump's 'Strong Stance' in North Korea Nuclear Button Tweet

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 3, 2018

U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis said Wednesday that he's not concerned by the [president's tweet sizing up America's "nuclear button"](#) and that he thinks the Trump's "strong stance" on North Korea is working.

## Normal Council Approves Young America Tax Agreement

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 3, 2018

The Normal Town Council signed off Tuesday on an [agreement with Young America Realty and other local apartment owners](#) that will resolve a long-running dispute over property taxes.

## Science and Technology

### First Rivian Adventure Vehicles Will Be Self-Driving

By MIKE MCCURDY · MAR 2, 2018

The first two vehicles being introduced by Rivian Automotive this year will be autonomous, or self-driving, and designed for adventure.

During an interview for [GLT's Sound Ideas](#), Rivian CEO RJ Scaringe said the "electric adventure vehicles" will have steering wheels, but drivers won't have to necessarily use them.

## Environment and Sustainability

### Music, History Flow In 'The Colorado'

By MIKE MCCURDY · MAR 4, 2018

The filmmaker behind "[The Colorado](#)" gives credit for his film, in part, to an explorer with central Illinois connections.

## Transportation

company says the average decline for Illinois rate payers will be 2.9 percent.

### State Gives Planning Money To Connect Transit Downtown Transfer Center

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · FEB 23, 2018

The Illinois Department of Transportation is giving Bloomington-Normal's bus system \$250,000.

### Duckworth Hopes For Compromise On Infrastructure And DACA

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · JAN 30, 2018

The Trump administration's offer to address the DACA problem of childhood immigrants comes with too steep a price tag for many Democrats.

# Police and Courts

## Police: Hidden Cameras Found In Piano Teacher's Apartment

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 28, 2018

Bloomington Police are asking parents to come forward if their children took piano lessons from a local teacher who's accused of sexually abusing six children and secretly taping at least some of the incidents.

## Police: Seized Cannabis Butter Worth \$116,000

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 19, 2018

A 39-year-old Bloomington man is in custody after police seized more than \$100,000 in drugs—including 13 pounds of cannabis butter—from a mobile home.

## Sorensen's Co-Defendant Gets Stiffer Sentence In Fraud Case

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 15, 2018

Former McLean County Board chair Matt Sorensen's co-defendant was sentenced Wednesday to a stiffer two-year prison sentence for his role in a scheme that defrauded State Farm Insurance.

## Ford County Men Are Suspects In Two Bombings

By JIM MEADOWS & BRIAN MOLINE & AP · MAR 14, 2018

Three Ford County men have been charged with arson in the bombing last year of a mosque in suburban Minneapolis.

## ISU Professor: Women Are Thriving As Police Officers

By JON NORTON · MAR 12, 2018

Despite slightly declining numbers in this decade, Illinois State University Criminal Justice Sciences professor Cara Rabe-Hemp says female police officers have made gains in numbers and respect since entering policing in larger numbers in the 1980s.

## Normal West Student Dies From Injuries In Car Crash

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 8, 2018

A senior softball player at Normal West high school has died from her injuries sustained in a car crash this week, authorities said Thursday.

## Nurse Accused Of Stealing Patient Medication

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · MAR 1, 2018

Bloomington Police have arrested a 31-year-old nurse for allegedly ripping painkiller patches off the arms of nursing home patients and stealing them.

## Two More Victims Lead To New Charges Against Piano Teacher

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 27, 2018

Prosecutors say two more underage victims have stepped forward alleging sexual abuse at the hands of their former piano teacher.

## Teen Driver Ticketed In Bloomington School Bus Crash

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 17, 2018

A 17-year-old driver was ticketed for allegedly disregarding a stop sign last week and crashing into a school bus, sending three kids in the bus to the hospital with minor injuries.

## Man Pleads Not Guilty To Stabbing Wife

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 16, 2018

A 50-year-old Bloomington man pleaded not guilty Friday to stabbing his wife to death last week as she was [reportedly planning to leave him](#).

## Family Sues Wilmington Over Liz Larson's Drowning Death

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 15, 2018

The family of former GLT staff member Liz Larson has filed a lawsuit against the City of Wilmington over her [drowning last summer](#), alleging city officials have failed for decades to protect visitors from a river dam's deadly underwater vortex.

## Prosecutors: Murder Suspect Also Abused Stepson In 2017

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 7, 2018

A Bloomington man was formally charged Wednesday with stabbing his wife to death this week during a fight at their home and abusing his 8-year-old stepson in two separate incidents last year.

## Victim Identified In Fatal Stabbing In Bloomington

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 5, 2018

A 50-year-old Bloomington man has been arrested in connection with the fatal stabbing of his wife at their home Monday afternoon.

## Bloomington Ransomware Fighter Earns FBI Award

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · JAN 30, 2018

The FBI is honoring a Bloomington man for helping curb cybercrime.

## Piano Teacher Arrested In Normal On Sexual Assault Charges

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 30, 2018

A 36-year-old local piano teacher was arrested Tuesday in Normal on allegations he sexually assaulted an underage girl who was apparently one of his students. Police say there are likely more victims.

## McLean County Court Faces Year Of Changes

By JUDITH VALENTE · JAN 30, 2018

There have been a number of changes at the McLean County Circuit Court, including revisions to drug laws and the bond-setting structure, aimed at keeping low-level offenders out of jail. Earlier this month, the court established a new, mandatory electronic filing system.

## McLean County Judge Freitag To Retire In July

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 29, 2018

A second local judge will be retiring this year.

## Bloomington Woman Faces Murder Charge In Mobile Home Park Stabbing

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 25, 2018

A 22-year-old woman now faces murder charges in connection with a fatal stabbing last month at a south Bloomington mobile home park.



## El Paso Woman Killed In I-39 Crash Near Hudson

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 16, 2018

A 29-year-old El Paso woman was killed Monday in a crash on Interstate 39 in Hudson.

## 2 Men Suspected of Breaking Into Video Gaming Terminals

By AP · JAN 4, 2018

Officials are looking for information about two men they say have been breaking into video gaming terminals in central Illinois and stealing cash.

## Man Whose Gun Allegedly Misfired Indicted On Attempted Murder Charge

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · JAN 3, 2018

A McLean County grand jury indicted a Latham man Wednesday on an attempted murder charge connected to an incident in Normal.

## Alleged Child Rapist Arrested In Bloomington

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · JAN 3, 2018

Bloomington Police arrested a 53-year-old man for multiple counts of predatory criminal sexual assault of a victim under the age of 13.

## Misook: False Testimony Led To Conviction In Mother-In-Law's Death

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 3, 2018

A woman convicted of luring her mother-in-law to Bloomington for an ultimately fatal confrontation says in a new court filing that a key witness lied during her 2012 trial.

## Election 2018

### After Primary Win, Londrigan Added To DCCC's Red To Blue Program

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 26, 2018

National Democrats are throwing their support behind Betsy Dirksen Londrigan, adding her to a list of top-tier candidates who they think have a shot at defeating Republican incumbents in November.

## Rauner Seeks To Unite GOP After Squeaking Out Primary Win

By AP · MAR 22, 2018

Gov. Bruce Rauner is seeking "common ground" with Republicans on divisive issues after barely surviving an insurgent challenge in Tuesday's election.

## Local Democrats Feel Emboldened By Primary Turnout

By JUDITH VALENTE · MAR 21, 2018

The number of Democrats turning out for Tuesday's primary more than tripled over the number that voted in 2014.

## Turnout Dips In McLean County, But More Voters Are Democrats

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 20, 2018

Turnout in Tuesday's election fell slightly in McLean County from the last gubernatorial primary in 2014—though a much larger percentage of voters took Democratic ballots.

## Londrigan Wins 5-Way Primary, Takes On Davis In November

By RYAN DENHAM & STUDENT REPORTER BAYLEE STEELMAN · MAR 20, 2018

Betsy Dirksen Londrigan emerged victorious Tuesday in a five-way Democratic primary for the 13th Congressional District, setting up a general election matchup against U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis in November.

## Harold, Raoul Win Attorney General Races

By AP · MAR 20, 2018

Attorney and former Miss America Erika Harold has won the Republican primary for Illinois attorney general.

## Watchinski, Thompson Win McLean County Board Races

By RYAN DENHAM, JUDITH VALENTE & CHARLIE SCHLENKER · MAR 20, 2018

Shayna Watchinski declared victory Tuesday over Democratic incumbent Paul Segobiano in their McLean County Board primary race.

## Rauner (Barely) Wins Primary, Will Face Pritzker

By BRIAN MACKEY · MAR 20, 2018

Illinois primary voters have spoken. This year's race for governor will be a battle between two of the wealthiest men in the state.

## Election Results: Winners Claim Victory As Returns Come In

By WGLT STAFF · MAR 20, 2018

Polls close at 7 p.m. Tuesday as voters choose their nominees for November's high-stakes election, including races for governor, attorney general, Congress, and McLean County Board, among others.

## Election Day Arrives: Polls Open Until 7 p.m.

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 20, 2018

It's Election Day (finally)! Voters across Illinois are going to the polls Tuesday in a primary that will set up another high-stakes election in November.

## Connect Transit, Cabs Offer Free Rides On Election Day

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 19, 2018

If you or someone you know needs a ride on Election Day, there are some options.

## Q&A with Ives: 'Fringe' Issues, Gun Control, And Why Everything Begins With Pensions

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 19, 2018

Candidates for governor are crisscrossing the state in the final hours before Tuesday's primary election.

## Gov. Rauner Spotted In B-N On St. Patrick's Day

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 17, 2018

Three days before the primary election, Gov. Bruce Rauner made an unannounced St. Patrick's Day visit to Bloomington-Normal.

## Democrats Hold Edge In McLean County Early Voting

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 16, 2018

It's no secret that [local Democrats are energized](#) heading into Tuesday's primary election. Early voting tallies are showing just how energized they may be.

## Five Democrats Vying For Chance To Face Rodney Davis In November

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 14, 2018

One of the most closely watched races in Tuesday's election will be the Democratic primary for the 13th Congressional District.

## Two Republicans Vying To Replace Cavallini On McLean County Board

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · MAR 12, 2018

The Republican primary race for McLean County Board District 1 pits the mayor of Carlock against a longtime member of the Illinois Farm Bureau board.

## Facing Primary Challenge From Left, Segobiano Touts Bipartisan Record

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 8, 2018

Democratic voters on Bloomington's west side will decide March 20 whether their longtime McLean County Board member should get to keep his job.

## Mystery Flyers Shake Up Democratic County Board Primary

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 6, 2018

UPDATED 8:25 a.m. | Two weeks before the election, two mysterious flyers are causing a stir in the race between incumbent McLean County Board member Paul Segobiano and his primary challenger, Shayna Watchinski.

## Brady Defends Tenure As GOP Primary Challenger Pushes Term Limits

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 5, 2018

State Rep. Dan Brady and his GOP primary challenger David Paul Blumenshine sparred Monday over term limits, as both offered competing strategies for limiting Democratic House Speaker Mike Madigan's power in Springfield.

## Beyond Trump: Local Democrats Look To Merge Old Guard With New Energy

By RYAN DENHAM · MAR 1, 2018

The future of the McLean County Democratic Party began 14 months ago.

## Early Voting Expected To Pick Up In McLean County

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 27, 2018

Less than 200 McLean County residents cast ballots during the first week of early voting ahead of the March 20 primary.

## 13th District Democratic Candidates Discuss Immigration, Foreign Policy At Forum

By BRIAN MOLINE & CHRISTINE HERMAN · FEB 27, 2018

The Democratic candidates for Illinois' 13th Congressional district discussed foreign policy and immigration issues at an event Monday night in Champaign.

## Rauner Promotes Tax Cut During Visit To Growmark In Bloomington

By JUDITH VALENTE · FEB 22, 2018

Gov. Bruce Rauner on Thursday brought his sales pitch for a state tax cut to Bloomington.

## Downstate Debate Canceled After Pritzker Declines

By JIM MEADOWS & NIALA BOODHOO · FEB 20, 2018

The only debate on live television planned for outside of Chicago between the Democratic candidates for Illinois governor has been canceled.

## Quinn: State Attorneys General 'Last Line Of Defense' Against Trump

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 16, 2018

As Bloomington-Normal debates whether to enact a Welcoming City ordinance, former Gov. Pat Quinn said there should be a bright line between local police and federal immigration officers.

## Sommer Is Wait-And-See On Rauner's Pension, Budget Proposals

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 15, 2018

State Rep. Keith Sommer said Thursday he's taking a wait-and-see approach on many of the governor's [budget proposals laid out this week](#), even as Sommer's Democratic challenger called them "insincere and disingenuous" and potentially disruptive for Illinois schools.

## Early Voting Becomes Issue In McLean County Clerk Election

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · FEB 15, 2018

A [delay of early voting for the primary election](#) in McLean County has become an issue in the November race for county clerk.

## Lisa Madigan Endorses Erik Jones in 13th District Race

By RYAN DENHAM · FEB 12, 2018

Democratic candidate for Congress Erik Jones on Sunday picked up the endorsement of his former boss, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan.

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Illinois attorney general hopeful Erika Harold said she wants to increase efforts to stop public corruption while simultaneously staying away from partisan politics—a difficult balancing act for a Republican office holder in a blue state.

## Progressives Use Cardboard Cutout Stunt To Critique Davis, LaHood

By STUDENT REPORTER DANIA DE LA HOYA · JAN 26, 2018

With the primary election less than two months away, progressives in McLean County are upping the pressure on Republican office holders—or at least cardboard cutouts of them.

## Democrat Daiber Pushes Dicamba Herbicide Ban For Illinois Farming

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 25, 2018

A Democratic candidate for governor and part-time farmer wants Illinois to ban the use of a controversial herbicide that's damaged crops all over the Midwest.

## Rep. LaHood Optimistic About Immigration Bill

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · JAN 24, 2018

U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood said he believes [GOP Senate Leader Mitch McConnell's promise to have a vote soon on immigration](#) will be easy to keep. That promise was part of the deal to end a brief government shutdown this week.

## Davis-LaHood Blame Durbin-Duckworth For Government Shutdown

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · JAN 20, 2018

Republicans and Democrats are each blaming the other party for the impasse that has caused government funding to expire and a [partial government shutdown](#) to loom on Monday.



## Bloomington-Normal Women To March For Progressive Agenda

By JUDITH VALENTE · JAN 19, 2018

Calling themselves the "Bloomington-Normal Resistance," dozens of local women are planning to take to the streets at this Saturday's [March to the Polls in Chicago](#).

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## Springfield Democrat Adds Her Progressive Voice To 13th District Race

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 12, 2018

The surprise fifth Democrat looking to challenge incumbent U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis says she won't take money from corporations and will fight for universal health care, tuition-free college, and publicly funded elections.

## Chuck Erickson Won't Seek Re-Election As Republican Party Chairman

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 9, 2018

McLean County Republican Party chairman Chuck Erickson announced Tuesday he won't be seeking re-election to that post, leaving the local GOP with new leadership heading into a tough 2018 election cycle with many contested races.

## Davis: Tax Bill Will Win Over Voters Before November Election

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 4, 2018

Fresh off their first major legislative victory since President Donald Trump took office, Republican lawmakers went on a bit of a victory tour back home during the holiday break.

## Davis Defends Trump's 'Strong Stance' in North Korea Nuclear Button Tweet

By RYAN DENHAM · JAN 3, 2018

U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis said Wednesday that he's not concerned by the [president's tweet sizing up America's "nuclear button"](#) and that he thinks the Trump's "strong stance" on North Korea is working.

## Civil Rights

### Fundraiser Turns Up Rare Book On Slavery

By STUDENT REPORTER DANIA DE LA HOYA & CHARLIE SCHLENKER · FEB 14, 2018

A local nonprofit organization has found a new home for a rare, historical text from the 19th century.

### Mayor Renner To Council: Vote No If You Want But Vote

by CHARLIE SCHLENKER · FEB 12, 2018

Two potential draft Welcoming City ordinances are now available for the city of Bloomington. Mayor Tari Renner said he sees no problem with having both of them go to the City Council.