

Third Quarter 2018 WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS July 2018 – September 2018

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 67pm, M-F. The story lengths range from one minute to 59 minutes.

Arts and Culture

Gay Or Trans: A Casting Controversy

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Sep 20, 2018 Is just being an actor enough to play the role of a gay or trans character?

New Book Offers Navigation For The Life Of An Actor

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Sep 18, 2018 The life of an actor is no easy road, with ample demands that can tax the hardest of artists. But help is at hand from a new book from a Bloomington-Normal pair who saw the need for practical advice that leads to lasting positive change for actors.

District 87 Dedicates Fine Arts Addition

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 13, 2018 Bloomington High School has cut the ribbon for its fine arts wing expansion and renovation.

Belly Up To The Bar For A Second Chance At Love

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Sep 11, 2018 Kindred spirits gather in a neighborhood bar in Philly and get something stronger than a shot of whiskey. It's a place where everybody knows your name. But do they know your heart?

GLT Datebook: Community Players Puts On 'Peter And The Starcatchers'

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 7, 2018 Community Players in Bloomington begins its 97th season this weekend with "Peter and the Starcatchers."

GLT Datebook: 'A Dying Breed' Performed At Normal Theater

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 7, 2018 The Coalescence Theater Project is a new institution in the Twin Cities with some stalwart names attached.

From Mali To The Twin Cities

By [Jon Norton](#) • Aug 17, 2018 Defining a griot's role in West African society can be a challenge, as the title doesn't translate easily to European-based culture.

Thelonious Monk Documentary To Show At Normal Theater

By [Jon Norton](#) • Aug 15, 2018 Illinois Wesleyan University jazz studies director Glenn Wilson says rare concert footage is a major reason the Thelonious Monk documentary is "a must watch."

Bloomington Artist Sculpts Homage To A Boy's Imagination

By [Jon Norton](#) • Aug 10, 2018 Bloomington's Herb Eaton says his "Mommy's Broom" bronze sculpture chosen for this year's [Peoria Sculpture Walk](#) is actually a vision from 30 years ago.

City Mouse Band Leader Says Punk Keeps Her Sane

By [Jon Norton](#) • Aug 9, 2018 Miski Dee Rodriguez said she left corporate America 15 years ago to follow her true love: Music.

GLT Datebook: BCPA Rolls Out New Season Lineup

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 3, 2018 New fine arts acts and more children's programming are part of the lineup of the [new season at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts](#).

A Secret Garden Offers Healing To The Wounded

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) & Student Reporter Katie Seelinger • Aug 3, 2018 [Prairie Fire Theatre](#) goes gothic this year with an erie production of "The Secret Garden," based on the 1911 novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

Old Smoke Band Takes Time To Craft Impressive Debut Album

By [Jon Norton](#) • Aug 2, 2018 The now five member blues-rock outfit Old Smoke has been headlining central Illinois shows and opening for national acts including Samantha Fish and Tommy Castro at [the Castle Theatre](#) for roughly three years -- despite no album to sell or promote.

Chicago Farmer's Birthday Present to His Fans: Live Album And 2-Night Party

By [Jon Norton](#) • Aug 1, 2018 Cody Diekhoff as his alter ego [Chicago Farmer](#) is a riveting live performer who has cultivated a loyal following with folk songs and stories about the American heartland. And especially central Illinois.

Organizer Hopes To Expand Bloomington Pride Fest Into Annual Parade

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 24, 2018 A first-time event in downtown Saturday celebrates 25 years since the city's first bar for the LGBTQ community opened.

Conklin Theater Group Gets An Encore In New Barn III

By [Colleen Reynolds](#) • Jul 18, 2018 As many as 150 people recently participated in a ceremonial barn-raising event in Goodfield, but it wasn't to help an ailing farmer.

Digital Age Accelerates Cultural Globalization

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) & Student Reporter Katie Seelinger • Jul 17, 2018 The digital age has aided globalization of popular culture, according to Illinois State University professor [Lane Crothers](#).

GLT Datebook: Community Gears Up For Lincoln's Festival

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 16, 2018 It's the Illinois bicentennial, and as a result the 10th year of [Lincoln's Festival](#) in Bloomington-Normal will be richer and more nuanced, according to organizer Barb Adams and grant writer Marcia Young.

Creativity Center Fundraiser Faces Big Challenge

By Colleen Reynolds • Jul 16, 2018 For five days earlier this summer, the air conditioning system went out at the Creativity Center on Chestnut and Locust streets, across from the [Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts](#).

Young Artists Explore Community With Bloomington Mural Project

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 15, 2018 Inside the Constitution Trail tunnel under Washington Street in Bloomington, young artist Eden Warner painted a giant letter “B” with lots of green trees.

The Something Brothers Launch 'Apollo'

By [Jon Norton](#) • Jul 11, 2018 The Something Brothers guitarist Edwin Pierce said it was surprisingly easy for band members to create and record new music together despite a nearly 30-year studio hiatus, and missing a key band member.

Central Illinois Barbershop Quartets Shine in Global Competition

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 10, 2018 Central Illinois can lay claim to three of the best barbershop quartets in the world, including this year's international champion.

GLT Datebook: Concerts On The Quad Brings Strong July Lineup

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 3, 2018 [Concerts on the Quad](#) have been filling pleasant summer Mondays since the 1980s at Illinois State University.

Next To Normal Story Slam: Motherhood

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 3, 2018 The Fourth of July holiday is all about mom and apple pie, as well as the nation's founding. Here is a different story of motherhood.

Textures, Imagery Key To Latest Neko Case Album

By [Jon Norton](#) • Jul 2, 2018 The last time singer-songwriter Neko Case played the Castle Theatre in Bloomington, the sold-out crowd missed out on her new album. The recording "Hell-On" was still a few months away from release.

Business and Economy

Unemployment Rates Improve In Major Illinois Cities

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 27, 2018 Unemployment rates fell in August in all but one of the major cities in Illinois, including Bloomington-Normal.

Data Dashboard Provides New View of Bloomington-Normal

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 26, 2018 What's the average commute time in Bloomington-Normal? How many patents do our entrepreneurs win each year? What's the median rent for those living in the Twin Cities?

Locally Owned Restaurants Headline Fall Openings In B-N

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 18, 2018 Bloomington-Normal tends to get excited whenever a new chain restaurant opens. But this fall there are several locally opened restauranteurs who are opening their doors to customers.

Parking, Bees, and Downtown: Inside Bloomington's Big Zoning Overhaul

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 10, 2018 Jeff Henry of Bloomington is an urban beekeeper, hoping to reverse an alarming decline in pollinators like honeybees that threatens our global food supply.

Professional Recording Studios Thriving In Twin Cities

By [Jon Norton](#) • Sep 10, 2018 Music industry experts have predicted the demise of the traditional recording studio for nearly two decades.

ISU President Dietz Picked For Google Nonprofit Competition

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 24, 2018 Illinois State University President Larry Dietz has been picked to help Google choose which nonprofits around the state will receive thousands of dollars in grant funding.

For Shrinking Illinois Towns, A 'Smarter' Approach

By [Mary Hansen](#) • Aug 24, 2018 Farm towns in Illinois have been shrinking for decades, and the trend doesn't show signs of reversing. By 2025, rural counties with populations of less than 10,000 people will see 7.4 percent of their residents leave, while counties with populations

between 10,000 and 25,000 will lose 5.4 percent. That's according to projections from the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#).

Realtors: Corporate Relocations Boost Home Sales In July

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 23, 2018 The local Realtors president said corporate relocations helped the Bloomington-Normal real estate market play some catchup during an especially busy July.

Bloomington-Normal Loses 300 Jobs In One Year

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 23, 2018 Bloomington-Normal is one of three metro areas in Illinois which lost jobs over the last year.

Rauner, Pritzker Make Back-To-Back Pitches To Illinois Farmers

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 22, 2018 Gov. Bruce Rauner and his Democratic challenger J.B. Pritzker were minutes away from crossing paths Wednesday in Normal as they asked a tent full of farmers for their support.

Finding That Perfect Business Name Is No Easy Feat

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 22, 2018 A few years ago, Brandon Leach and Zack Poletto were ready to [open their pop-up restaurant in Bloomington](#), inspired by their favorite dishes from all over the world.

Peoria Area's Labor Market Improves In Second Quarter

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 21, 2018 The Peoria area's economy saw improved labor market conditions during the second quarter of 2018.

Homebuilders Adapt To New Reality In Bloomington-Normal Market

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 8, 2018

Recession, a new housing crisis has developed in America. [You've been hearing reports all week](#) on Morning Edition and All Things Considered, about those who've been shut out of the housing market. Here's a look at how the homebuilding slowdown is playing out in Bloomington-Normal.

Biaggi's To Move, Add New Restaurant In Bloomington

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 3, 2018 Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano is moving, while the company is planning a second restaurant in Bloomington.

Illinois Human Rights Act 'Expansion Bill' In Limbo

By [Rachel Otwell](#) • Aug 1, 2018 Advocates of the so-called Illinois Human Rights Act "expansion bill" are urging Governor Bruce Rauner to sign that piece of legislation, which is currently on his desk. Otherwise, without his action, it would die by mid-August.

Trade Disputes Loom Large Over Farm Conference In Normal

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 1, 2018 Agricultural economist Todd Hubbs had just finished telling a room full of farmers about how all the uncertainty surrounding global trade is affecting U.S. corn growers.

Rep. Davis: Job Training Must Stay In Farm Bill

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 30, 2018 As Congress gets set to debate a final version of a new farm bill this summer, one of the negotiators wants to ensure job training requirements are included.

B-N's Jobless Rate Rose In June

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 26, 2018 Bloomington-Normal's jobless rate rose in June, though state officials say that's not necessarily a bad thing.

Sales Tick Up As Housing Market Tries to Shake State Farm Uncertainty

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 18, 2018 You know what's not good for a real estate market? A ton of uncertainty at the market's biggest employer.

Bridgestone To Add Workers, Make \$12 Million Investment At Normal Plant

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 17, 2018 The Bridgestone plant in Normal will add 30 new employees as part of a \$12 million investment, the tiremaker announced Tuesday.

Illinois Farm Bureau Asks For End To Trade Brinksmanship

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 13, 2018 The Illinois Farm Bureau is calling for the Trump administration to go to the bargaining table with China over tariffs.

Bloomington, IWU Seeks Bids For Former Electrolux Site

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 10, 2018 The City of Bloomington is working with Illinois Wesleyan University to find a new purpose for the former Mennonite Hospital and Electrolux site.

Fresh Market In Normal To Close

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 9, 2018 Fresh Market has announced it's closing its stores in Normal and 14 other locations.

As Local Airbnb Scene Thrives, Hotels Want Regulation

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 3, 2018 A semipro baseball team. A band performing at the Castle Theatre. A mom visiting to watch her son play college football. A family reunion. An author writing a book about historic Route 66.

Education And Family

District 87 Raises Board Member Expenses Cap Following Pricey Conference

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Sep 28, 2018

District 87's superintendent said the new higher limit on school board member expenses is not directly connected with last year's pricey trip to a conference in Chicago.

Promise Council Receives \$25K State Farm Grant

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Sep 27, 2018

[The Promise Council](#) is one of 40 organizations receiving a \$25,000 grant from [State Farm Neighborhood Assist.](#)

District 87 Sees Additional State Funds In 2019 Budget

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Sep 27, 2018

District 87's final budget approved Wednesday night shows increased revenue in the education fund due to the state's new evidence-based funding model for K-12 schools.

Heartland Community College Sees Operation Fund Deficit

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Sep 18, 2018

For the first time, [Heartland Community College](#) is seeing a deficit in its operating budget.

Oakland Elementary Gives Students Healthy Start To School

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 17, 2018

Students at one Bloomington grade school are getting a healthy start to the day.

Could One Answer To Teacher Shortage Be Right Under Our Nose?

By [Dusty Rhodes](#) • Sep 14, 2018 Like most states, Illinois is struggling with a severe teacher shortage. And, also like most states, that shortage is felt most profoundly in the area of special education. There is, however, an army of teacher assistants already on the job. Could they help relieve this shortage?

NCHS Teacher Nominated For Illinois Teacher Of The Year

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Sep 11, 2018

A music and choir teacher from [Unit 5](#) is one of 10 nominated to be the 2019 Illinois Teacher of the Year.

Illinois Launches College Planning Tool Aimed at Keeping Students In-State

By [Sam Dunklau](#) • Sep 6, 2018 Illinois government wants to keep kids from leaving the state for college. Its latest effort is a website and app that allows students and their parents to compare in-state schools.

ISU Freshman Class Grows 10 Percent

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) & Erin Rickert • Sep 5, 2018

Illinois State University's freshman class grew by 10 percent this fall as recruiters fought off out-of-state competition and uncertainty about the state budget.

Unit 5 Superintendent Talks 2020 Referendum, Redistricting

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 28, 2018

[Unit 5](#) Superintendent Mark Daniel said the district has about a year and a half until a referendum becomes necessary to maintain the current quality of education.

University Of Illinois To Offer Free Tuition Based On Family Income

By [Dusty Rhodes](#) • Aug 27, 2018

The University of Illinois on Monday announced a new financial aid program designed to make enrollment at its Urbana-Champaign campus more affordable for middle-class students.

Unit 5 Veteran: Substitute Teacher Pay Is Not Enough

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 23, 2018

A veteran Unit 5 substitute teacher said the district doesn't pay in a timely manner, let alone enough for the job.

Heartland Partners With Exelon For On-Site Classes In Clinton

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 22, 2018

A new partnership between [Heartland Community College](#) and [Exelon](#) gives employees at the [Clinton Power Station](#) customized courses towards an associate's degree.

BHS Freshmen Excited For New School, New Experiences

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 20, 2018

[Bloomington High School](#) (BHS) welcomed this year's freshman class Monday with a cookout and game day.

Skipping School: How The Role Of A Teacher Has Changed

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 16, 2018

Editor's note: This is Part 3 of [GLT's Skipping School](#), a special series about the teacher shortage facing Illinois schools. You can also read [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).

Study: Helicopter Parenting Can Lead To Lack Of Political Involvement

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 15, 2018

A recent study co-authored by an Illinois State University professor finds that college-aged adults who were helicopter parented are less likely to get involved in politics than their non-helicopter parented counterparts.

Skipping School: Why Teachers Quit, And How To Stop It

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 14, 2018

Editor's note: This is Part 1 of [GLT's Skipping School](#), a special series about the teacher shortage facing Illinois schools.

B-N Resident Says Unit 5 Lacks Minority Teachers

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 9, 2018 There's a lack of minority representation and participation in Unit 5 schools, according to a 20-year Bloomington-Normal resident.

Progressive Private School In Normal Adds Early Learning In Second Year

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 6, 2018 Parents and kids across Bloomington-Normal are about to snap back into their school routines as classes resume in Unit 5 and District 87 after summer break.

Central Illinois Schools Face Teacher Shortage As School Year Approaches

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 31, 2018 Many Central Illinois school districts are struggling to fill an unprecedented number of teaching vacancies just weeks before the school year begins.

ISU Enrollment Signs Encouraging

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 30, 2018 Illinois State University leaders said projections show enrollment will be just fine in the fall term.

WIU Focusing on the Positive to Reverse Enrollment Decline

By [Rich Egger](#) • Jul 16, 2018 Western Illinois University has seen a sharp drop in student enrollment in recent years, which means less money coming in through tuition and fees. That, combined with decreases in state financial support – especially during the two-year state budget impasse – hurt the university's finances, leading to layoffs, furloughs, and an early retirement program.

SIU President Randy Dunn Will Step Down

By [Jennifer Fuller](#) • Jul 13, 2018 SIU Trustees will meet in special session Monday to vote on a separation agreement for System President Randy Dunn.

Unit 5 Board Approves Colene Hoose Special Needs Addition

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Jul 12, 2018 The [Unit 5 school board](#) on Wednesday picked its contractor for a proposed [\\$1 million special needs addition](#) to [Colene Hoose Elementary School](#).

'Union Alternatives' Woo Illinois Teachers

By [Dusty Rhodes](#) • Jul 11, 2018 Ten days ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that public sector employees who choose not to join unions no longer have to pay reduced fees to cover collective bargaining. And already, a crusade to persuade teachers to drop union membership has hit Illinois.

Heartland Community College To Debut Video Counseling

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 5, 2018 Heartland Community College is set to become the first community college in the state to offer counseling services to its students by video.

Kalitzky, Roser Picked For Unit 5 School Board Vacancies

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 3, 2018 Two Unit 5 parents have been chosen to fill vacancies on the school board.

Health and Medicine

Hepatitis A Outbreaks Prompt Targeted Vaccination Effort In Illinois

By [Jaclyn Driscoll](#) • Sep 13, 2018

The Illinois Department of Public Health said they are trying to prevent an outbreak of Hepatitis A after several neighboring states have experienced their own.

Futurist Looks Beyond Government and Doctors To Reform Health Care

By [Ryan Denham](#) & Erin Rickert • Aug 29, 2018

If you're looking for the federal government to fix the American health care system, Jeff Bauer says you're looking in the wrong place.

Law Requires Cats Be Registered And Vaccinated For Rabies

By AP • Aug 27, 2018
Flickr

Illinois county officials have about four months to figure out details of the rabies vaccination effort for cats.

Legislation signed into law this month by Gov. Bruce Rauner amended Illinois' Animal Control Act. Beginning in January, cat owners must vaccinate their cats for rabies and keep them updated from the age of 4 months. The second rabies shot must be done within one year of the first vaccination.

Law Expands Behavioral, Mental Telehealth Care To Medicaid Recipients

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 24, 2018

Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti was in Bloomington-Normal on Thursday to witness a demonstration of Advocate BroMenn's telehealth system.

Rauner Signs Expansive Mental Health Care Laws

By AP • Aug 22, 2018

Gov. Bruce Rauner has signed five laws expanding mental health and addiction-treatment services and Medicaid coverage of them.

Smoking Ban 10 Years Later: More Acceptance, But Businesses Still Object

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 27, 2018

It's been 10 years since Illinois went smoke-free in all public buildings, including bars and restaurants.

Politics and Government

McLean County Board Candidates Outline Views At GLT Forum

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 18, 2018

The idea of a nonpartisan commission to handle elections in McLean County divided candidates Tuesday at a forum hosted by GLT and the League of Women Voters of McLean County.

Bloomington Council Approves Land Sale, Rental Assistance Program

By [Breanna Grow](#) • Sep 11, 2018

The city of Bloomington will sell 3 acres of land at Sunnyside Park to the Boys and Girls Club for \$1.

Bloomington To Sell Land To Boys & Girls Club For \$1

By [Breanna Grow](#) • Sep 9, 2018

Bloomington aldermen on Monday will consider an agreement to sell three acres to the local Boys and Girls Club for \$1.

Photos: Long Underway Political Season Officially Starts With Labor Day Parade

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 3, 2018

The Labor Day parade in Bloomington had some unusual elements this year.

The People vs. The Budget

By [Brian Mackey](#) • Aug 31, 2018

When it comes to state spending, Illinois politicians are giving voters what they want. That's the problem.

Bloomington Studies Insurance For Water, Sewer Repairs

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 28, 2018

Bloomington residents would pay about \$1 more on their monthly water bills as insurance against leaks, based on a proposal the City Council reviewed on Monday night.

Illinois Political Roots Relevant 200 Years Later

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 27, 2018

Illinois settlement patterns did a lot to shape the early politics of the state and remain a force today, according to Illinois Wesleyan University Political Scientist Jim Simeone.

Bloomington Ward 8 To Have Contested Race

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 21, 2018

A second candidate has announced a run for Bloomington's Ward 8 on the southeast side.

Barickman Sees Path Forward For Rauner

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 20, 2018

After a divisive primary, Republicans worried they would not be able to come together in time to make the governor's race competitive.

Evidence Swap Planned Before Key Hearing In Election Commission Case

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 17, 2018

The fight over whether the Bloomington Election Commission should be dissolved turned a bit more cordial Friday as those on opposite sides of the issue agreed in court to quickly swap evidence in hopes of meeting a fast-approaching deadline.

Republicans Tout Unity After Divisive Primary, Challenging General Election Ahead

By [Daisy Contreras](#) • Aug 16, 2018

Republicans held their annual rally at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield Wednesday with a message of party unity. Bruce Rauner still holds the top office in state government. But as he pushes for re-election, he's trying to appease conservatives who feel betrayed and whose support he needs to win a second term.

Study: Helicopter Parenting Can Lead To Lack Of Political Involvement

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 15, 2018

A recent study co-authored by an Illinois State University professor finds that college-aged adults who were helicopter parented are less likely to get involved in politics than their non-helicopter parented counterparts.

Schmidt To Run For Sixth Term On Bloomington Council

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 14, 2018

The longest currently serving alderman in Bloomington said she wants four more years.

Rauner To Spend Millions To Help GOP Chances In November

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 12, 2018

Gov. Bruce Rauner is spending millions of his own dollars to help fellow Republicans in the November election.

Lorenz To Seek Re-Election To Normal Town Council

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 8, 2018

Normal Town Council member Kathleen Lorenz said she's running for a second term next April.

Multi Sport Complex Project Vetting Grinds On

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 7, 2018

Time continues to tick in a three month window to determine how or whether to proceed with a proposed multi sport complex in Bloomington Normal. That's how long, Mayor Chris Koos said last month would be the limit to decide.

Speaking on GLT's Sound Ideas Tuesday, Koos said the Town has now met with a private developer.

"It was really at a high level, get to know them - they get to know us. So, no details came out of that. But, they are very interested in the project," said Koos.

Sheriff: New Opioid Program Offers 'Help Not Handcuffs'

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 1, 2018

The [McLean County Sheriff's Department](#) rolled out a new program Wednesday to tackle the county's opioid epidemic that's taken 78 lives since 2015.

ISU Enrollment Signs Encouraging

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 30, 2018

Illinois State University leaders said projections show enrollment will be just fine in the fall term.

Smoking Ban 10 Years Later: More Acceptance, But Businesses Still Object

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 27, 2018

It's been 10 years since Illinois went smoke-free in all public buildings, including bars and restaurants.

Illinois Farm Bureau To President: Thanks But Not Enough

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 24, 2018

Farmers across the nation have expressed concern about economic hardship created by Trump tariffs and retaliation by other nations against U.S. agricultural products.

Bloomington OKs New Arena Elevator; Welcomes New City Manager

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 23, 2018

Bloomington aldermen on Monday approved spending \$610,000 to install a new elevator at Grossinger Motors Arena on a 5-3 vote.

Grossinger Motors Arena Needs New Elevator For ADA Compliance

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 21, 2018

Grossinger Motors Arena needs a new elevator to comply with federal disability guidelines.

Barickman Cautious About Trump Impact on Illinois Election

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 20, 2018

said he thinks President Trump did not acknowledge what a ruthless dictator Vladimir Putin is and where Putin's self-interest lies.

Money Machines: Billionaires Rain Cash — With Strings Attached?

By [Mary Hansen](#) • Jul 19, 2018

This is part of our election-year series, Money Machines, looking at campaign spending in the 2018 election. The first article can be [found here](#).

Blair Outraises Sommer In Latest Campaign Reports

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 18, 2018

UPDATED 12:50 p.m. | The Democrat looking to unseat state Rep. Keith Sommer is closing the fundraising gap as both candidates head into the thick of campaign season.

Digital Age Accelerates Cultural Globalization

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) & Student Reporter Katie Seelinger • Jul 17, 2018

The digital age has aided globalization of popular culture, according to Illinois State University professor [Lane Crothers](#).

Possible Second Developer Intrigued By Sports Complex Idea

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 17, 2018

The mayor of Normal said Tuesday there is a second potential developer of a sports complex. He declined to say specifically who.

Term Limit And Property Tax Referenda Go On McLean County Ballot

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 17, 2018

The McLean County Board decided Tuesday to put two advisory referenda on the fall ballot.

Illinois Lawmakers Slam Trump's Helsinki Summit

By [Eric Stock](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 17, 2018

President Donald Trump has been taking heat from both sides of the aisle following his news conference in Helsinki on Monday [in which he sided with Russian President Vladimir Putin](#).

Normal Ends Fiscal Year With Lower Reserves

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 16, 2018

The Town of Normal ended its fiscal year June 30, with reserves down by \$1.8 million.

Mathy Regrets Lack Of Opportunity For Dialogue On Welcoming City Issue

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 16, 2018

Bloomington Alderman Jamie Mathy said he regrets [cancellation of the special meeting last week](#) to deal with a new version of a Welcoming City ordinance.

Illinois Farm Bureau Asks For End To Trade Brinksmanship

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 13, 2018

The Illinois Farm Bureau is calling for the Trump administration to go to the bargaining table with China over tariffs.

Report: Race Tightens Between Davis, Londrigan

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 13, 2018

UPDATED 4:30 p.m. | A well-known nonpartisan analyst says the race is tightening between U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis and his Democratic challenger, Betsy Dirksen Londrigan.

Pritzker Defends Rauner Attack Ad, Opens Local Campaign Office

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Jul 12, 2018

[J.B. Pritzker](#) opened a campaign office Thursday in Downtown Bloomington where he stood by his recent TV [ad attacking Gov. Bruce Rauner](#).

Targeted Republicans In Tricky Spot On Questions About Trump

By [Brian Mackey](#) • Jul 11, 2018

Democrats are trying to flip several Congressional seats in Illinois this fall. That's put some Republicans in a tricky spot when it comes to questions about President Donald Trump.

Chicago Lawmaker Chosen To Run Democratic Party of Illinois

By AP • Jul 11, 2018

A Chicago lawmaker has been named interim executive director of the Democratic Party of Illinois.

McLean County Nixes Vote On Election Offices Merger

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 10, 2018

McLean County voters outside Bloomington won't have a say in whether the county's and city's election offices should merge.

ISU Scholar: Supreme Court Nominee Conservative But Establishment

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 10, 2018

For all his lengthy record as a federal judge, the [new Supreme Court nominee](#) might still be a mystery on social issues.

Bloomington, IWU Seeks Bids For Former Electrolux Site

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 10, 2018

The City of Bloomington is working with Illinois Wesleyan University to find a new purpose for the former Mennonite Hospital and Electrolux site.

Activists Plot Next Steps As Bloomington Moves On From Immigration Ordinance

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 9, 2018

As the Bloomington City Council moved on from a twice-canceled vote on a controversial Welcoming City ordinance, local activists said Monday they're looking for other ways—outside of policymaking—to protect local immigrants.

Renner Cancels Vote On Immigration Ordinance

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Mary Cullen](#) • Jul 9, 2018

Facing a lack of council support and opposition from local Welcoming City activists, Mayor Tari Renner canceled Monday's planned vote on Bloomington's immigration ordinance.

Koos Calls For Crackdown on Gun Traffickers

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 3, 2018

The mayor of Normal said Tuesday he thinks a variety of initiatives can happen to address the impact of recent gun violence on Bloomington-Normal.

Science And Technology

ISU Professor: Too Much Tech For Parents Can Be Bad For Their Kids

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 24, 2018

An Illinois State University professor is sounding an alarm that parents' overuse of technology could be leading to social and emotional problems in their young children.

ISU Gets Grant For New Microscope Lab

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 13, 2018

Illinois State University has received a federal grant to install a new microscope lab.

FCC Awards \$100M For Rural Broadband In Illinois

By [Mary Hansen](#) • Sep 4, 2018

Farm towns in Illinois could get access to high-speed internet with the help of new federal funding.

Nine companies are getting nearly \$100 million from the Federal Communications Commission to bring internet access to small towns in the state.

The commission this week announced the subsidies, which are funded from a service fee on most internet and phone bills.

Wisper ISP, based in Mascoutah, Illinois, was awarded the largest grant, \$35 million, to connect nearly 9,000 homes and businesses in southern Illinois.

ISU President Dietz Picked For Google Nonprofit Competition

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 24, 2018

Illinois State University President Larry Dietz has been picked to help Google choose which nonprofits around the state will receive thousands of dollars in grant funding.

Police and Courts

Brookfield Man Identified In Fatal I-39 Crash

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 28, 2018

Authorities released the name of a second man killed Sept. 19 in a fiery crash that shut down Interstate 39.

One Injured In Morning Shooting In West Bloomington

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 25, 2018

Bloomington Police were out in force Tuesday morning on the city's west side after someone was shot.

Bloomington PD Takes Man Into Custody After 5-Hour Standoff

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 23, 2018

A five-hour police standoff in Bloomington ended Sunday with a 3-year-old boy being safely retrieved from a barricaded home and a man being taken into custody.

1 of 3 Victims Identified In I-39 Crash

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 21, 2018

McLean County Coroner Kathy Davis has released the name of one of three people who were killed in a [fiery crash](#) that shut down Interstate 39 north of Normal early Wednesday.

Bloomington Police Seek Suspect In Hotel Robbery Attempt

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 21, 2018

Bloomington Police are looking for the public's help finding the man who tried to rob a hotel at gunpoint.

Who Benefits From Video Court?

By [Lee V. Gaines](#) • Sep 21, 2018

In 2000, Charles Davidson was arrested the day before the 4th of July for a crime he said he didn't commit. Urbana Police responded that evening to a complaint of fireworks and came upon Davidson, who claims he made the complaint on behalf of his mother. According to court records, police accused the now 68-year-old youth mentor of providing officers with the false last name of "Edwards." Davidson said "Edwards" was his mother's last name, and he simply gave police his first name.

Dad ODs. Can You Sue A Local Drug Dealer?

By [Brian Mackey](#) • Sep 20, 2018

The Illinois Supreme Court on Wednesday heard arguments over whether victims of the illegal drug trade can sue dealers.

Fatal Crash Shuts Down Interstate 39 Near Hudson

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 19, 2018

Three people were killed Wednesday in a fiery crash that shut down Interstate 39 north of Bloomington-Normal, authorities said.

One Year Later, No End In Sight For Coliseum Fraud Case

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 13, 2018

It's been a year since five former U.S. Cellular Coliseum officials were [charged with 111 criminal counts](#)—accused of running a brazen multiyear fraud scheme that stole hundreds of thousands of dollars from Bloomington taxpayers.

Former Hudson Cop Claims Pregnancy Discrimination, Retaliation In Lawsuit

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 11, 2018

A former Hudson police officer has filed a federal lawsuit against her former boss and the village, claiming they discriminated and retaliated against her.

Bloomington Police Report String of Unlocked Car Thefts

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 10, 2018

Bloomington Police are reminding drivers to lock their cars following a rash of vehicle thefts.

Wisconsin Man Arrested In Bloomington

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 6, 2018

Bloomington Police have arrested a Wisconsin man in connection with a shooting in Green Bay.

Champaign Settles Lawsuits Against Police For \$3.7M

By AP • Sep 5, 2018

The City of Champaign has approved settling two lawsuits accusing police of wrongdoing for a combined \$3.7 million.

Peoria Man Pleads Guilty In Death During Kidnap Of Lottery Winner

By AP • Sep 5, 2018

A Peoria man has pleaded guilty to murder charges in the death of a man during a kidnapping that authorities say stemmed from trying to steal money from recent lottery winnings.

Judge Rejects Attempts To Kill Charges In Coliseum Fraud Case

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 31, 2018

The lead defendant in the Coliseum fraud case lost two of three rounds in a McLean County courtroom Friday, as a judge rejected attempts to kill the case before trial.

Former Cop Sues Peoria Over Social Media Posts

By AP • Aug 29, 2018

A former Peoria police officer who was fired for inappropriate social media use says the posts were protected under the First Amendment.

Ex-ISU Student Becomes Advocate After Friend Dies in DUI Crash

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 25, 2018

A new campaign to get drunk drivers off the road hits close to home for a former Illinois State University student.

Schock Wants Corruption Trial Moved To Peoria

By AP • Aug 22, 2018

Former U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock is seeking to move his corruption trial from a federal court in Urbana to Peoria.

\$27K In Meth Seized In Carlock Traffic Stop

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 17, 2018

Two men are in custody after Bloomington Police seized \$27,000 in meth and other illegal prescription pills during a traffic stop in Carlock.

Trump Picks Top Federal Prosecutor For Central Illinois

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 16, 2018

Nearly 19 months after taking office, President Donald Trump announced Thursday his nominee to become the top federal prosecutor for the Central District of Illinois.

Appeals Court Rules Against Ex-Pastor In Sexual Harassment Case

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 15, 2018

An Illinois appellate court ruled Tuesday that a former Bloomington pastor shouldn't be allowed to sue his church for defamation because its internal investigation into sexual harassment allegations against him was constitutionally protected.

Urbana Judge Reprimanded For Soliciting Police, Physician Groups

By AP • Aug 13, 2018

An Illinois judge has been reprimanded for using his position to solicit paid speaking engagements from law enforcement groups, medical societies and hospitals.

Sheriff: New Opioid Program Offers 'Help Not Handcuffs'

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 1, 2018

The [McLean County Sheriff's Department](#) rolled out a new program Wednesday to tackle the county's opioid epidemic that's taken 78 lives since 2015.

Report: To Calculate True Financial Cost Of Crime, Don't Forget The Victims

By [Brian Mackey](#) • Jul 31, 2018

A new report is trying to calculate a more realistic tally of what crime costs in Illinois.

Suspect In U of I Scholar's Death Seeks Info On Trump, China Talks

By AP • Jul 30, 2018

A suspect in the 2017 kidnapping and slaying of a University of Illinois scholar from China wants to know if President Donald Trump spoke to Chinese officials about the case when he visited China in November.

Sheriff Asks U.S. Marshals For Security Review After Courthouse Stabbing

By [Eric Stock](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 19, 2018

McLean County Sheriff Jon Sandage said Thursday he's asked the U.S. Marshals to review courthouse security after a defendant snuck a knife into the building and stabbed himself after being convicted of a sex crime.

Peoria Officer Fatally Shoots 19-Year-Old After Traffic Stop

By AP • Jul 19, 2018

Authorities say a Peoria police officer fatally shot a 19-year-old man who fled from a vehicle after a traffic stop.

Stabbing Suspect Told Police Victim Threatened Her

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 18, 2018

A 22-year-old Bloomington woman charged in a fatal stabbing told police the victim had threatened her before their final confrontation, authorities said Wednesday.

Woman Charged With Murder In Bloomington Stabbing

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 17, 2018

A 22-year-old Bloomington woman was charged Wednesday with first-degree murder in connection with a fatal stabbing on the west side.

Leila J. Jackson made her first court appearance Wednesday. She's charged with stabbing Quantez Brown, 24, with a knife after an argument early Tuesday in the 400 block of North Roosevelt Avenue, just west of downtown. Brown went to the hospital but died from his injuries.

Jackson is being held on \$2 million bond. She was appointed a public defender. Her arraignment is scheduled for 10 a.m. July 27.

Pontiac Lawyer Tabled Associate Judge

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 16, 2018

Judges in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit have filled one of the vacancies on the bench.

Police Arrest Riley Drive Murder Suspect In Milwaukee

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 13, 2018

Police say a Bloomington man wanted on murder charges following the triple homicide last month on Riley Drive has been taken into custody.

Bloomington-Normal Police: Gun Incidents Steady Despite Recent Killings

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 11, 2018

Police in Bloomington-Normal say despite the recent string of fatal shootings, there are no signs of a larger trend.

ISU Scholar: Supreme Court Nominee Conservative But Establishment

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 10, 2018

For all his lengthy record as a federal judge, the [new Supreme Court nominee](#) might still be a mystery on social issues.

Officers Hurt After Overnight Arrest In Bloomington

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 9, 2018

Three Bloomington Police officers suffered minor injuries while trying to arrest a suspect overnight.

Police Arrest Suspected Serial Flasher In Normal

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 6, 2018

Normal Police are asking for more potential victims to come forward after they arrested a man Friday accused of repeatedly exposing himself to women and girls.

Police ID Suspect In Riley Drive Slayings

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 3, 2018

Authorities said Tuesday they're looking for the public's help finding a 21-year-old Bloomington man suspected of fatally shooting three people last month on Riley Drive.

One Person Shot Overnight On Bloomington's West Side

By [Jon Norton](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 3, 2018

A man was injured early Tuesday by gunfire on Bloomington's west side, police said.

Election 2018

House Passes Davis' Measure On Tax Cuts

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Sep 28, 2018

The U.S. House passed Tax Reform 2.0 on Friday that includes a resolution ([H.R. 6760](#)) from U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis.

McLean County Panel To Review Ethics Complaint Next Week

By [Eric Stock](#) & [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 28, 2018

McLean County's Ethics Commission has scheduled a meeting to review a complaint filed against County Clerk Kathy Michael.

Ethics Complaints Stir Questions In County Clerk's Race

By [Ryan Denham](#), [Eric Stock](#), [Charlie Schlenker](#) & [Mary Cullen](#) • Sep 27, 2018

Local Democrats claimed Thursday they have proof McLean County Clerk Kathy Michael used her county-owned computers for political purposes and that they suspect she tried to destroy one of them to conceal evidence of it.

Illinois Early Voting Begins Thursday

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Sep 26, 2018

Early voting for the midterm election starts Thursday. Voters in McLean County can head to the polls beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Pritzker Touts Affordability In Higher Ed Plan During ISU Stop

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 26, 2018

Democratic candidate for governor JB Pritzker [unveiled his higher education plan](#) Wednesday during a stop at Illinois State University, pledging to spend millions more on financial aid for low-income students and those considering out-of-state schools.

GOP House Candidate Caulkins: 'Only Way To Shrink Government Is To Starve It'

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 26, 2018

Bloomington-Normal's two Illinois House districts are attracting a lot of attention this election season, with state Reps. Dan Brady and Keith Sommer facing their first general election challengers in years.

Governor Hopefuls Clash Over Taxes At Debate

By AP • Sep 21, 2018

The candidates for Illinois governor clashed Thursday over taxes [during their first televised debate](#).

Democrat J.B. Pritzker says he wants to change Illinois' flat tax to a graduated system, in which the highest earners are taxed at a higher rate than middle-class and low-income households. But he won't say what the new rates should be. He says it should be negotiated with the Legislature.

McLean County Board Candidates Outline Views At GLT Forum

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 18, 2018

The idea of a nonpartisan commission to handle elections in McLean County divided candidates Tuesday at a forum hosted by GLT and the League of Women Voters of McLean County.

Residency Issue Stirs McLean County Board Race

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 18, 2018

The McLean County Board vice chairman is responding to an allegation by his opponent in the November election that he doesn't live where he claims.

Candidates For Illinois Governor To Meet In First Debate This Week

By [Brian Mackey](#) • Sep 17, 2018

As of Monday, there are [50 days](#) until Election Day. And in the race for Illinois governor, debate season is finally getting underway.

Barickman On Rauner's 'Unorthodox' Speech, Higher Ed Funding Rewrite

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 14, 2018

A day after Gov. Bruce Rauner's "unorthodox" speech in Chicago, state Sen. Jason Barickman said he thinks the Republican incumbent needed a campaign reset and could still win in November.

Rauner Campaigns For 2nd Chance: 'I'm A Better Governor Now'

By AP • Sep 14, 2018

A humbled Gov. Bruce Rauner is promising a different kind of governor in a second term.

Durbin Endorses Richards; Calls County Clerk 'Traffic Cop' For Democracy

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 10, 2018

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin took a break from Supreme Court fights and White House crises Monday to endorse Democratic candidate for McLean County clerk Nikita Richards.

The Attorney General Race: Talk About The Speaker Dominates

By [Daisy Contreras](#) • Sep 6, 2018

Democratic Attorney General Lisa Madigan's decision to not seek re-election after over 15 years in office drew a plethora of candidates to the ballot. The last three standing, Republican nominee Erika Harold, Democratic candidate Kwame Raoul and Libertarian Bubba Harsy, continue to battle it out with just nine weeks until the general election.

Michael Denies Voter Suppression Claims; Wants Challenger To Apologize

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 4, 2018

The fight between Republican County Clerk Kathy Michael and the Democrats looking to unseat her escalated Tuesday as Michael claimed she's been falsely accused of voter suppression and Democrats alleged they have proof Michael does political work on county time.

Photos: Long Underway Political Season Officially Starts With Labor Day Parade

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 3, 2018

The Labor Day parade in Bloomington had some unusual elements this year.

Rep. Davis Added To Republican Incumbent-Protection Program

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 30, 2018

U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis has been added to a Republican incumbent-protection program—another sign of the [national stakes](#) in Illinois' competitive 13th Congressional District.

Illinois Governor Approves Medical Cannabis As Alternative For Opioids

By [Jaclyn Driscoll](#) • Aug 28, 2018

Governor Bruce Rauner [signed a measure](#) on Tuesday that will allow medical cannabis to be used as an alternative treatment for conditions often treated with opioids, such as cancer, HIV, Alzheimer's and more.

'Fiscal Conservative' Boelen Hopes To Succeed Sage On Bloomington Council

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 28, 2018

The Bloomington City Council will be losing one of its most fiscally conservative aldermen next spring when David Sage steps down after three terms.

Davis on Russia Investigation: 'Let The Judicial Process Play Out'

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 23, 2018

Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible Russian election interference has led to five convictions coming out of President Donald Trump's inner circle.

So You Want To Dissolve An Election Commission ...

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 23, 2018

Republicans and Libertarians are trying to kill the Bloomington Election Commission (BEC).

It's not the first time someone's wanted to do that. After all, it's a little odd that Bloomington has its own election authority when everyone else in the county votes through the county clerk's office.

Attorney General Candidates Weigh In On Need For Illinois Catholic Church Investigation

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 23, 2018

Republican candidate for attorney general Erika Harold said she wants a statewide grand jury to investigate cases of child sex abuse within the Catholic church in Illinois.

Rauner, Pritzker Make Back-To-Back Pitches To Illinois Farmers

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 22, 2018

Gov. Bruce Rauner and his Democratic challenger J.B. Pritzker were minutes away from crossing paths Wednesday in Normal as they asked a tent full of farmers for their support.

Harold: Attorney General Can't 'Choose Winners and Losers' In Business

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 21, 2018

Republican candidate for attorney general Erika Harold says her recent comments at a coal energy conference in southern Illinois are not a signal she wants to ease up on environmental law enforcement.

Barickman Sees Path Forward For Rauner

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 20, 2018

After a divisive primary, Republicans worried they would not be able to come together in time to make the governor's race competitive.

Congressman Rodney Davis' Field Director Arrested for Aggravated Battery

By [Jaclyn Driscoll](#) • Aug 16, 2018

Update: Congressman Rodney Davis said Levi Lovell, the staffer who was fired, was not sent by him, nor does he believe his campaign sent him, to Democratic challenger Betsy Dirksen-Londrigan's event at a Springfield bar last Wednesday.

In an interview last week, Londrigan said it is common to see political operatives affiliated with the Davis campaign at her events. On Monday, Davis said he too sees trackers at his gatherings but does not know who they are with.

"Those are some of the things, unfortunately, that are a part of politics today," said Davis. "I'd rather it not be part of politics. I've been screamed at so loud by supporters of those who are opposed to me that they've spat on me in the streets of Springfield. That's not something we should condone and I certainly don't condone the behavior of my former employee either."

Davis has apologized for the incident.

Lovell was released on bond on Thursday. The Sangamon County State's Attorney said criminal charges have not been filed at this time.

Previous story: The Field Director for U.S. Congressman Rodney Davis was arrested last night for aggravated battery at a campaign event for Davis' opponent.

Republicans Tout Unity After Divisive Primary, Challenging General Election Ahead

By [Daisy Contreras](#) • Aug 16, 2018

Republicans held their annual rally at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield Wednesday with a message of party unity. Bruce Rauner still holds the top office in state government. But as he pushes for re-election, he's trying to appease conservatives who feel betrayed and whose support he needs to win a second term.

Rauner Offers Rare Public Display Of Affection For Trump

By [Jaclyn Driscoll](#) • Aug 15, 2018

In an effort to deliver a message of unity in the Republican party, both statewide and nationally, Gov. Bruce Rauner offered a rare show of support for the Commander in Chief at Wednesday's GOP rally in Springfield.

Governor's Day At State Fair Puts Focus On November Election

By AP • Aug 15, 2018

Illinois Republicans are converging on Springfield and the Illinois State Fair for Governor's Day.

The annual festivities Wednesday draw a focus on the crucial November balloting. Gov. Bruce Rauner is trying to win re-election along with a slate of statewide and congressional candidates.

Republican regulars met early Wednesday in downtown Springfield before GOP faithful hit the fairgrounds for an old-fashioned campaign rally.

Rauner was scheduled to speak at 1 p.m. The multimillionaire faces billionaire Democrat J.B. Pritzker in a tough fall campaign.

Pritzker Determined To Bring Blue Wave To McLean County

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 15, 2018

Statewide and local Democratic candidates gathered Wednesday in Bloomington as part of a kickoff rally ahead of Democrat Day at the State Fair.

Rauner To Spend Millions To Help GOP Chances In November

By [Eric Stock](#) • Aug 12, 2018

Gov. Bruce Rauner is spending millions of his own dollars to help fellow Republicans in the November election.

Pritzker, Durbin In Bloomington This Week For Democrat Day Kickoff

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 10, 2018

Democratic candidates from across the state will converge in Bloomington-Normal next week, an uncommon occurrence in red McLean County.

Election Security: Partisan Or Practical?

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 10, 2018

Illinois election officials are still trying to determine how best to safeguard the election process and voter data. That's after Russians [hacked the Illinois voter log](#) in the 2016 election, exposing 76,000 voter registrations.

Some voter information, though, is not under state control.

Q&A: Bloomington City Council Candidate Georgene Chissell

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 1, 2018

There are still 244 days until the next Bloomington City Council election, but three candidates have already announced plans to run.

Rep. Davis: Job Training Must Stay In Farm Bill

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 30, 2018

As Congress gets set to debate a final version of a new farm bill this summer, one of the negotiators wants to ensure job training requirements are included.

Attorney General Candidate Raoul Aims To Root Out Public Corruption

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 28, 2018

The Democratic candidate for Illinois attorney general said he supports much of the work Lisa Madigan has done in the 16 years in that office, but added there are some areas where he would focus more attention.

During Trump Visit, Davis Says EU Announcement Is 'Big Deal' For Farmers

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Jason Rosenbaum](#) & AP • Jul 26, 2018

The trade partnership struck between the Trump administration and the EU this week is a “big deal” for Illinois farmers, U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis said Thursday during a visit with the president near St. Louis.

Chissell Announces Bloomington City Council Run

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 25, 2018

A local business owner said Wednesday she’s running for Bloomington City Council in 2019—at least the third candidate to announce with more than 250 days until the election.

Russian Hacking Points To Need For Cybersecurity Specialists

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Jul 25, 2018

The Illinois State Board of Elections (ISBE) faced scrutiny after Illinois became one of 39 states [hacked by the Russians](#) in the 2016 election. ISBE said only voter rolls were hacked, and no ballots were tampered with.

The board’s IT Director Matt Emmons said Tuesday that’s why cybersecurity specialists are imperative.

County Board Member Barnett To Run For Bloomington City Council

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 24, 2018

McLean County Board member Josh Barnett announced Tuesday he will run for Bloomington City Council in [Ward 8](#).

Barickman Cautious About Trump Impact on Illinois Election

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 20, 2018

State Sen. Jason Barickman said he thinks President Trump did not acknowledge what a ruthless dictator Vladimir Putin is and where Putin's self-interest lies.

Money Machines: Billionaires Rain Cash — With Strings Attached?

By [Mary Hansen](#) • Jul 19, 2018

This is part of our election-year series, Money Machines, looking at campaign spending in the 2018 election. The first article can be [found here](#).

GOP Picks New Candidate For County Board Race In South Bloomington

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 19, 2018

Republicans have picked a new candidate for a three-way McLean County Board race in south Bloomington.

Blair Outraises Sommer In Latest Campaign Reports

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 18, 2018

UPDATED 12:50 p.m. | The Democrat looking to unseat state Rep. Keith Sommer is closing the fundraising gap as both candidates head into the thick of campaign season.

Rauner: Trump Should Be Holding Russians Accountable

By [Brian Mackey](#) • Jul 17, 2018

Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner says he does not agree with President Trump's initial statements on Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Term Limit And Property Tax Referenda Go On McLean County Ballot

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 17, 2018

The McLean County Board decided Tuesday to put two advisory referenda on the fall ballot.

Londrigan Claims Momentum After Outraising Davis Last Quarter

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 16, 2018

New campaign finance disclosures show Democrat Betsy Dirksen Londrigan outraised U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis last quarter, though the incumbent Republican still has a much larger war chest heading into the thick of campaign season.

Russia Indictments Likely Cover Illinois Hack, State Official Says

By [Brian Mackey](#) • Jul 13, 2018

There are Illinois connections in Friday's [indictments](#) related to Russian hacking around the 2016 elections.

Report: Race Tightens Between Davis, Londrigan

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jul 13, 2018

UPDATED 4:30 p.m. | A well-known nonpartisan analyst says the race is tightening between U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis and his Democratic challenger, Betsy Dirksen Londrigan.

Pritzker Defends Rauner Attack Ad, Opens Local Campaign Office

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Jul 12, 2018

[J.B. Pritzker](#) opened a campaign office Thursday in Downtown Bloomington where he stood by his recent TV [ad attacking Gov. Bruce Rauner](#).

Targeted Republicans In Tricky Spot On Questions About Trump

By [Brian Mackey](#) • Jul 11, 2018

Democrats are trying to flip several Congressional seats in Illinois this fall. That's put some Republicans in a tricky spot when it comes to questions about President Donald Trump.

McLean County Nixes Vote On Election Offices Merger

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jul 10, 2018

McLean County voters outside Bloomington won't have a say in whether the county's and city's election offices should merge.

ISU Scholar: Supreme Court Nominee Conservative But Establishment

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 10, 2018

For all his lengthy record as a federal judge, the [new Supreme Court nominee](#) might still be a mystery on social issues.

Civil Rights

Technology

ISU Professor: Too Much Tech For Parents Can Be Bad For Their Kids

By [Eric Stock](#) • Sep 24, 2018

An Illinois State University professor is sounding an alarm that parents' overuse of technology could be leading to social and emotional problems in their young children.

Under New State Law, Cities Can't Regulate Drones

By [Mary Hansen](#) • Sep 24, 2018

Drone enthusiasts, be aware – the rules for the small, unmanned aircrafts could be changing in Illinois.

A new law bars cities from regulating the use of drones.

The law excludes the city of Chicago, but a spokesman with the Illinois Department of Transportation says it will create consistent rules around the rest of the state.

Jackie Reiser is a co-owner of Measure Illinois – a Springfield-based company that provides drones to oversee power lines and construction sites. She says more unified regulation is a good thing.

The Cost Of Doing Business Across The Rural Digital Divide

By [Mary Hansen](#) • Sep 6, 2018

Gary Smith has worked at the grain elevator at Okaw Farmer's Co-op in Lovington, Illinois, for forty years. On his desk sit two computer screens, where he tracks corn and soybean prices online at the Chicago Board of Trade.

As he explains, trade moves fast: “Just bam bam bam, and within a few seconds it could change a nickel or a dime against your favor.”

Higher Education

Pritzker Touts Affordability In Higher Ed Plan During ISU Stop

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 26, 2018

Democratic candidate for governor JB Pritzker [unveiled his higher education plan](#) Wednesday during a stop at Illinois State University, pledging to spend millions more on financial aid for low-income students and those considering out-of-state schools.

Are Illinois' Out-Of-State College Students A Double-Edged Sword?

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 24, 2018

Over the last 15 years Illinois has seen a 57 percent increase in number of students choosing to go out-of-state for college—enough students to fill an entire public university campus.

ISU Launches New Scholarships For McLean County Students

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Sep 20, 2018

Illinois State University President Larry Dietz on Thursday [announced new scholarships](#) that could keep high schoolers from leaving the state, as he called on lawmakers to revamp the way they fund higher education.

Winners and Losers As Illinois Universities Report Fall Enrollment

By [Ryan Denham](#) & IPR Contributors • Sep 13, 2018

Illinois' public universities have finished tallying up their student bodies for the new school year, and once again it's a mix of winners and losers.

Illinois Launches College Planning Tool Aimed at Keeping Students In-State

By [Sam Dunklau](#) • Sep 6, 2018

Illinois government wants to keep kids from leaving the state for college. Its latest effort is a website and app that allows students and their parents to compare in-state schools.

ISU Freshman Class Grows 10 Percent

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) & Erin Rickert • Sep 5, 2018

Illinois State University's freshman class grew by 10 percent this fall as recruiters fought off out-of-state competition and uncertainty about the state budget.

IWU Enrollment Stabilizes

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Sep 1, 2018

Illinois Wesleyan University has its largest freshmen class in at least five years.

Brady's Higher Ed Working Group Pivots To New Funding Formula

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Aug 28, 2018

One of Springfield's top Republican negotiators on higher education said freeing up more money for financial aid might look easy compared to the coming debate over a new funding formula for state universities.

Illinois Political Roots Relevant 200 Years Later

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Aug 27, 2018

Illinois settlement patterns did a lot to shape the early politics of the state and remain a force today, according to Illinois Wesleyan University Political Scientist Jim Simeone.

University Of Illinois To Offer Free Tuition Based On Family Income

By [Dusty Rhodes](#) • Aug 27, 2018

The University of Illinois on Monday announced a new financial aid program designed to make enrollment at its Urbana-Champaign campus more affordable for middle-class students.

Heartland Partners With Exelon For On-Site Classes In Clinton

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Aug 22, 2018

A new partnership between [Heartland Community College](#) and [Exelon](#) gives employees at the [Clinton Power Station](#) customized courses towards an associate's degree.

Illinois To Offer New Merit-Based College Scholarships

By AP • Aug 22, 2018

Illinois is creating a new merit-based scholarship aimed at getting more high school graduates to attend in-state colleges and universities.

Common App Drops Criminal Records Question; Millikin Will Continue To Ask

By Lee Gaines & Eric Stock • Aug 21, 2018

At least one Illinois university will continue to ask applicants about their criminal histories despite a recent announcement from the Common Application that the form will no longer include the question as of next fall.

ISU Enrollment Signs Encouraging

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 30, 2018

Illinois State University leaders said projections show enrollment will be just fine in the fall term.

ISU Raises Nearly \$22 Million In Donations In FY 2018

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Jul 27, 2018

Illinois State University posted its second highest fundraising year on record last budget year.

Digital Age Accelerates Cultural Globalization

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) & Student Reporter Katie Seelinger • Jul 17, 2018

The digital age has aided globalization of popular culture, according to Illinois State University professor [Lane Crothers](#).

WIU Focusing on the Positive to Reverse Enrollment Decline

By [Rich Egger](#) • Jul 16, 2018

Western Illinois University has seen a sharp drop in student enrollment in recent years, which means less money coming in through tuition and fees. That, combined with decreases in state financial support – especially during the two-year state budget impasse – hurt the university's finances, leading to layoffs, furloughs, and an early retirement program.

SIU President Randy Dunn Will Step Down

By [Jennifer Fuller](#) • Jul 13, 2018

New U of Illinois Medical School Open Its Doors

By AP • Jul 2, 2018

The University of Illinois' new medical school is set to open its doors with its first class of 32 students.

[The News-Gazette reports](#) the Carle Illinois College of Medicine will kick off a weeklong orientation for students on Monday. There will be a welcome from Dean King Li, campus tours and a barbeque before studies begin.

"It's getting real," said Andrea Jake, director of student affairs.

[Brady's Higher Ed Working Group Pivots To New Funding Formula ...](#)

By Ryan
Denham

Aug 28, 2018 ... One of Springfield's top Republican negotiators on **higher education** said freeing up more money for financial aid might look easy compared to ...