

Fourth Quarter 2018 WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS October 2018 – December 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

Next To Normal Story Slam: Become One With The Meal

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · DEC 19, 2018

Many people will be flying for the holidays. Here's a story about airplanes, the way they used to be, taken from a recent Next To Normal Story Slam held at the McLean County Arts Center and produced by Devon Lovell.

Kathy Davis is a former flight attendant. She's writing a book about her 35 year career called "Coffee, Tea, or Peas."

Datebook: McLean County Santa For Seniors

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · DEC 14, 2018

Mary Shadowens said she has a passion to serve the elderly.

Illinois Symphony Celebrates The Holidays

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · DEC 14, 2018

The Illinois Symphony Orchestra puts on its Holiday Pops concert Friday evening at 7:30 at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts.

Music Director Ken Lam dropped by the GLT studios, as he often does before concerts, and said the challenge is to honor the sentiment of the holiday while keeping the interpretation and the music fresh.

Next To Normal Story Slam: Changes In Life, Students, And Society

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · DEC 11, 2018

Here's a story of change, of resisting change, fearing change, realizing change, and then accepting it.

GLT Datebook: Photographer Goes High Above It All

By LAURA KENNEDY · DEC 7, 2018

Fine art photographer Ron Frazier had hit rock bottom with his inspiration. After photographing the Illinois landscape for many years, he felt his enthusiasm waning until, finally, he put down his camera.

Artist Experiments In Analog Film

By LAURA KENNEDY · NOV 28, 2018

The films of Basim Magdy depict curious and unlikely narratives through images wrapped in original sound. His unique storytelling is captured in the latest exhibition at [University Galleries](#) in Uptown Normal. "To Hypnotize Them With Forgetfulness" is currently up through Dec. 16.

GLT Datebook: Out Of The Studio And Into The Arts Center

By LAURA KENNEDY · NOV 26, 2018

[The McLean County Arts Center in Bloomington](#) is trying something new in conjunction with its annual Holiday Treasures Exhibition and Sale.

Culture Maven: Baby You Can Drive My Car ... Into The Sunset

By LAURA KENNEDY · NOV 21, 2018

Editor's note: This story is part of a special episode of GLT's Sound Ideas focused entirely on autonomous driving. It aired Nov. 21. [Read more stories in the series.](#)

Music Scholar Finds Commonalities In American, Latin Culture

By MARY CULLEN · NOV 16, 2018

In a time when immigrants are painted as illegal invaders and something to be feared, Adriana Martinez studies how music ties American and Mexican culture together.

Young Entrepreneurs Talk The Future Of Modern Businesses

By MARY CULLEN · NOV 16, 2018

Illinois State University's College of Business hosted its 8th annual [Startup Showcase](#) this month, with 15 student entrepreneurs competing for cash prizes to advance their business plan.

GLT Datebook: 25 Years Of Trees

By LAURA KENNEDY · NOV 15, 2018

Silver bells have a double meaning at [The Baby Fold's Festival of Trees](#) this year. The organization is celebrating 25 years of the popular holiday fundraiser.

New Partnership Inspires Creativity In Kids

By LAURA KENNEDY · NOV 15, 2018

A new grant to the Children's Discovery Museum has allowed it to throw open the doors to let the kids go out and about to find new artistic experiences and spark a little creativity.

GLT Datebook: A Little Romance And Dirty Politics On Tap For 2019 Illinois Shakespeare Festival

By LAURA KENNEDY · NOV 4, 2018

A fresh look at classic stories will drive the 2019 [Illinois Shakespeare Festival](#) season.

Ugandan Playwright Talks Blackness In America

By MARY CULLEN · NOV 1, 2018

Adong Judith was just a girl during the 1986 Northern Uganda War that divided her home country. This year, Judith was a keynote speaker at Illinois State University's [Culturally Responsive Campus Community Conference](#), telling the story of realizing her blackness.

ISU Civic Chorale Still In Full Voice After 50 Years

By LAURA KENNEDY · OCT 30, 2018

A venerable Bloomington-Normal choral group has spent 50 years in a town and gown endeavor that unites singers across the generations.

GLT Datebook: Community Players Throws A Classic Toga Party

By LAURA KENNEDY · OCT 29, 2018

A Roman slave hatches a complicated plot to help his young master win the girl-next-door, as well as win freedom for himself. The plan quickly spirals into farce in the classic musical “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to The Forum.”

Photos: Marching Bands Compete At State Championships

By CINDY LE · OCT 21, 2018

Over 40 marching bands from across Illinois competed Saturday at the [High School Marching Band Championships](#) at Hancock Stadium.

Illinois Symphony Starts Season With Fanfare For The Uncommon Woman

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · OCT 19, 2018

The Illinois Symphony Orchestra begins its season Friday evening at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts.

'The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time' Forges Human Connections

By LAURA KENNEDY · OCT 19, 2018

Wellington the dog is dead. Cristopher Boone is on the case, and the search for the killer takes him on an adventure that leads to some surprising revelations.

Another Pitch For Bloomington Library Expansion And Park Rejuvenation

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · OCT 15, 2018

The Bloomington Public Library and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department are asking the city council to make generational facility commitments.

The 'da Vinci Of Typeface,' Bloomington Native Honored With Exhibit

By MIKE MCCURDY · OCT 15, 2018

The letters in words you're reading right now were designed by someone, maybe a team of someones. In the digital age, designing fonts and typefaces has never been easier. Simply choosing a font for your document is as easy as clicking on a pull down menu, and among the choices will be typefaces designed by a Bloomington native.

Courage Captured In A Sculpture

By RYAN DENHAM & AUSTIN GOULD · OCT 12, 2018

Standing in the middle of Andrew Jumonville's shop was a towering man. He was normal height, but on his pedestal he looked heroic.

Human Desires Haunt 'A Doll's House'

By LAURA KENNEDY · OCT 12, 2018

It was the door slam heard around the world.

When Nora, the protagonist of Henrik Ibsen’s “A Doll’s House,” walked out on her husband, her children, and the sham of a life she’d been leading, the closing of the door ended the play, but opened greater opportunities for women in theater to play a rich, dynamic character.

Heartland Landscape Painter Harold Gregor Passes Away

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER & LAURA KENNEDY · OCT 8, 2018

Noted Midwestern landscape artist Harold Gregor of Bloomington has died. He was 89.

Keith Knight: Cartoonist Turned Activist

By JON NORTON · OCT 5, 2018

Award-winning cartoonist Keith Knight's focus on racial profiling, police brutality, and race relations have many pegging him as a social activist.

IWU Creator's 'Red Thread' Ties Art To Life

By LAURA KENNEDY · OCT 4, 2018

In Grace Sheese’s artwork, rabbits, squirrels and other animals frolic around ceramic cups. Yet under the whimsy, the artist has a powerful message about connection to share.

Central Illinois Blacksmiths Forge A Return Of Iron Age Craft

By MARY CULLEN · OCT 2, 2018

From medieval weapons to farming tools to hand railings and wall hangings, blacksmithing is actually thought to have started around 1,500 B.C. in the Middle East.

Why We're Pro Anti-Hero

By LAURA KENNEDY · OCT 1, 2018

Pop culture once idolized the hero—the white knight who took the high road to the rescue. But lately our tastes have changed, taking a darker turn toward what we seem to find irresistible.

Business and Economy

Small-Business Leader Says State Must Repair Rocky Relationship

By MARY CULLEN · DEC 14, 2018

The leader of the [Small Business Advocacy Council](#) said the near 800 day-long state budget impasse set small businesses up for a rocky relationship with Illinois government.

[State Farm Bank Sanctioned Over Handling Of Credit Reports](#)

By RYAN DENHAM · DEC 14, 2018

State Farm Bank has been ordered to change its practices after the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau found it violated federal law by improperly obtaining consumer credit reports and failing to quickly correct bad information it was supplying to credit reporting agencies.

[Why Buy A Rivian? Pre-Order Customers Share Their EV Story](#)

By RYAN DENHAM · DEC 13, 2018

When you watch Rivian's promotional videos, their electric vehicles are always speeding across the beach, winding through a forest, or heading to some sort of adventure.

That's not Steve Smieszek.

[House Passes Farm Bill, Sending It To Trump's Desk](#)

By RYAN DENHAM & AP · DEC 12, 2018

The House on Wednesday easily passed the farm bill, a massive legislative package that reauthorizes agriculture programs and food aid.

[ISU Alum Named Fortune's Businessperson of the Year](#)

By RYAN DENHAM · DEC 11, 2018

An Illinois State University grad who rose through the ranks of insurer Progressive has become the first woman named Fortune's Businessperson of the Year.

[State Farm's Tipsord Picked For Pritzker Economic Team](#)

By RYAN DENHAM · DEC 3, 2018

State Farm's CEO was named to Gov.-elect JB Pritzker's growing transition team on Monday.

[Meet The Auto Industry Veterans Who Guided Rivian Through 'Pivot Points'](#)

By RYAN DENHAM · NOV 30, 2018

There's no guarantee of success in the auto industry, especially for an electric vehicle startup like Rivian. But there was a moment when John Shook from Rivian's board of directors knew it was in good hands.

[LA Auto Show: Tesla, Detroit Loom As Rivian Charges Into EV Market](#)

By RYAN DENHAM · NOV 28, 2018

This week in a packed LA Auto Show presentation room, the crowd hooped and hollered when Rivian's electric [pickup and SUV pulled on stage](#) for their big debut.

[EV World Reacts To Rivian's Price Tag, 'Impressive' Specs](#)

By RYAN DENHAM · NOV 27, 2018

The electric automaker Rivian earned a lot of good press, consumer curiosity, and even a few jaw-drops this week as its pickup and SUV were [finally revealed at the LA Auto Show](#).

But will those translate into sales?

Rivian Rolls Out Pickup Under The Stars In LA

By RYAN DENHAM · NOV 27, 2018

Rivian wowed a crowd of investors and other VIPs on Monday as the EV startup's pickup made its first public appearance under—and in front of—the stars in Los Angeles.

LA Auto Show: Your First Look At Rivian's R1T Pickup Truck

By RYAN DENHAM · NOV 26, 2018

Rivian's pickup knows how to make an entrance.

Its headlights (and really the entire front end) are signature. Instead of horizontally shaped, the oval headlights are vertical—like you're looking down at two LED-illuminated mini stadiums. They're connected by a horizontal bar of light stretching side to side.

Local Unemployment Rate Rises In October

By MARY CULLEN · NOV 21, 2018

The Bloomington-Normal area economy's unemployment rate increased by half of a percentage point between September and October, rising to 4.1 percent.

Young Entrepreneurs Talk The Future Of Modern Businesses

By MARY CULLEN · NOV 16, 2018

Illinois State University's College of Business hosted its 8th annual [Startup Showcase](#) this month, with 15 student entrepreneurs competing for cash prizes to advance their business plan.

As Launch Looms, Step Inside Rivian's Engineering and Design Hub In Detroit

By RYAN DENHAM · NOV 15, 2018

Two years ago when Bloomington-Normal first met Rivian, it looked like a one-man band. R.J. Scaringe was seemingly the face, the brains, and the extent of the operation.

Not anymore.

\$21 Million Ameren Project Approved In McLean County

By RYAN DENHAM · NOV 13, 2018

Ameren Illinois has won approval from state regulators to begin construction next year on a \$21 million transmission line project that will stretch across McLean County.

Green Top Grocery Hits Fundraising Goal, Will Remain Open

By RYAN DENHAM · NOV 13, 2018

With a successful fundraising campaign keeping the doors open, Green Top Grocery will turn its attention to the busy holiday season.

Pabst Says MillerCoors Is Trying To Put It Out Of Business

By AP · NOV 12, 2018

Pabst Brewing Company and MillerCoors are heading to trial to settle a contract dispute in which Pabst accuses the brewing giant of trying to undermine its competitor by breaking a contract to make their products.

Nonprofits To Get Millions After McLean County Farmland Auction

By RYAN DENHAM · NOV 12, 2018

Nearly 1,000 acres of high-quality farmland are expected to turn into millions of dollars in donations to Illinois Wesleyan University and two other nonprofits during a highly anticipated auction Tuesday.

Rivian To Open Factory Store In Normal

By RYAN DENHAM · OCT 9, 2018

Bloomington-Normal residents won't have to wait very long after the LA Auto Show to see Rivian's first two vehicles firsthand—or to shop for one.

West Bloomington Group To Offer Business Microloans

By ERIC STOCK · OCT 9, 2018

Anyone looking to start or expand a business in west Bloomington can get financial help from a new microloan program.

Biaggi's Owner Eager For New Challenges, New Restaurant Format

By ERIC STOCK · OCT 4, 2018

When Todd Hovenden opened [Biaggi's Italian restaurant](#) in Bloomington in 1999, he had never run a restaurant before.

Education And Family

Unit 5 Supt. Talks Teachers Union Friction, Blended Courses

By MARY CULLEN · NOV 28, 2018

The [Unit 5 Teachers Union](#) voiced frustrations about a consistent lack of follow through by the school board.

At a recent school board meeting, [Unit 5 Education Association](#) President Lindsey Dickinson said the board has yet to correct a series of issues after multiple complaints from the teachers union.

She noted frequently unanswered questions, unfulfilled requests, and little to no follow through on concerns.

District Superintendent Mark Daniel said those concerns are being addressed internally.

Local Colleges Announce STEM Scholarships

By MARY CULLEN · NOV 8, 2018

The [National Science Foundation](#) awarded a combined \$4.6 million grant to Heartland Community College, Illinois State, and Illinois Wesleyan universities to bolster STEM studies.

More Illinois Schools Have Access To High-Speed Internet, But Some Still Suffer Without It

By LEE V. GAINES · OCT 19, 2018

Access to high-speed internet stops about seven miles east of both Nippersink School District 2 and Richmond-Burton Community High School District 157, according to Tom Lind. He's the superintendent of both districts, located near the border of Wisconsin — about 70 miles northwest of Chicago.

How Do You Test For Teaching Talent?

By DUSTY RHODES · OCT 16, 2018

What test should school teachers have to pass to earn a license in Illinois? The Illinois State Board of Education takes up that question at their meeting Wednesday.

District 87's Reilly: Teacher Licensing, Bad Rap Contributing To Shortage

By ERIC STOCK · OCT 15, 2018

District 87 Superintendent Barry Reilly said it was eye-opening to see how bad [Illinois' teacher shortage](#) is and could become.

NIU To Open Sustainability Research Hub With U Of I

By CHASE CAVANAUGH · OCT 10, 2018

Northern Illinois University will be the fourth research hub for the Illinois Innovation Network.

This hub will be part of a research network that spans three University of Illinois campuses, each focused on different subjects. Gov Bruce Rauner says the state's already budgeted \$15 million for NIU's center, and NIU President Lisa Freeman says the center will focus on issues of sustainability.

"Environmental sustainability, water and food policy, water and food shortages," she said.

Gov. Rauner said this could lead to significant innovation.

A Different Path To A Degree

By DUSTY RHODES · OCT 9, 2018

Illinois has historically ranked second in the nation when it comes to high school graduates leaving the state to go to college. But there's good news for a certain set of students who opt to stay.

Election 2018

What Happens When You Lose An Election?

By Mary Cullen • Nov 9, 2018

After every election, the focus is on the winners, their thoughts about the campaign and goals for the office. But every election also has candidates who lose, despite fighting just as hard as those who won.

Pritzker Announces Transition Team — Includes Republican Gov. Edgar

By Brian Mackey • Nov 8, 2018

A day after defeating incumbent Bruce Rauner, Illinois Gov.-elect J.B. Pritzker is beginning his transition into government.

ISU Expert: Election Showed More Purple Than Blue

By Eric Stock • Nov 7, 2018

Even though Democrats have taken back control of the U.S. House, a political scientist at Illinois State University says there were several key storylines that didn't pan out on Election Day.

7 Women Claim Victory In McLean County Races

By Mary Cullen & Breanna Grow • Nov 7, 2018

It was said to be another Year of the Woman. Following Tuesday's midterm election, that prediction came true as more women were elected to public office across the U.S. than ever before.

Londrigan Concedes To Davis In 13th Congressional District

By Ryan Denham • Nov 7, 2018

UPDATED 4:05 p.m. | Democrat Betsy Dirksen Londrigan conceded Wednesday in her closely watched race against U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis after it became clear his 2,700-vote lead would hold.

Blue Wave or Red Wall? McLean County Party Leaders Unpack Election Results

By Ryan Denham, Mary Cullen & Eric Stock • Nov 7, 2018

McLean County didn't see a blue wave or a red wave on Election Day.

Illinois Democrats Sweep Statewide Ballot

By Daisy Contreras • Nov 7, 2018

Democrats dominated in Illinois Tuesday night — easily taking all statewide races on the ballot.

Davis Wins Re-Election In 13th Congressional District

By Ryan Denham, Sam Dunklau & Jaclyn Driscoll & AP • Nov 7, 2018

Republican Rep. Rodney Davis has won a fourth term representing the 13th Congressional District. But this time, he'll be in the minority party in the House.

Turnout Jumps In McLean County But Still Lags 2016

By Ryan Denham • Nov 6, 2018

More McLean County voters turned out Tuesday than during the last midterm election, though the pace failed to reach the high-water mark of a presidential election year.

Pritzker Wins Illinois, But Loses McLean County

By Ryan Denham & AP • Nov 6, 2018

Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner conceded Tuesday to Democratic opponent J.B. Pritzker.

Brady, Sommer Win Re-Election To Illinois House

By Ryan Denham & Colleen Reynolds • Nov 6, 2018

Republican state Reps. Dan Brady and Keith Sommer successfully fought off Democratic challengers Tuesday, even as Illinois Republicans lost the race for governor and attorney general.

GOP County Clerk Michael Defeats Democrat Richards

By Ryan Denham, Eric Stock & Mary Cullen • Nov 6, 2018

Republican incumbent Kathy Michael will retain her seat as McLean County clerk after a bitter re-election fight that was fueled by misconduct allegations lodged against both candidates.

Bloomington Voters Reject Question To Dissolve Election Commission

By Ryan Denham & Eric Stock • Nov 6, 2018

Bloomington voters want to keep their own election commission.

The ballot question on whether to dissolve the Bloomington Election Commission failed to pass Tuesday, according to preliminary vote totals. Only 44 percent of voters voted “yes” on the ballot question.

Democrats Pick Up Seats, Add Diversity To McLean County Board

By Ryan Denham, Eric Stock & Breanna Grow • Nov 6, 2018

Democratic challengers knocked off three incumbent Republicans on the McLean County Board on Tuesday, increasing the diversity of an elected body long dominated by white men.

Local Election Updates: Democrats Win County, Statewide Races

By WGLT Staff • Nov 6, 2018

This is the moment we've been waiting for: The polls have closed on Election Day 2018.

Election Results: Illinois Governor, U.S. House Races

By Ryan Denham • Nov 6, 2018

The latest election results in several key Illinois races, including governor, U.S. House, and the General Assembly. These results come from NPR and The Associated Press.

Election Results: Balance of Power in Congress

By Ryan Denham • Nov 6, 2018

Track the balance of power between the major parties in Congress as results come in for House and Senate races. These results come from NPR and The Associated Press.

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Long Line Again At Illinois State University Voting Site

By Ryan Denham & Mary Cullen • Nov 6, 2018

UPDATED 5:30 p.m. | Strong turnout was reported around McLean County on Tuesday, including a long line at Illinois State University that prompted allegations of voter suppression from College Democrats.

NPR Live Blog: National Results and Analysis

By Ryan Denham • Nov 6, 2018

Follow live coverage of the 2018 midterm elections, including national results and analysis from NPR. Get caught up on the latest news.

Harold Slams \$1M Gift to Opponent In Bloomington Visit

By Eric Stock • Nov 5, 2018

Illinois Republicans say House Speaker Mike Madigan's last-minute campaign donation to Kwame Raoul is a sign Democrats fear Raoul could lose in the state attorney general's race.

Cyber Expert: 2016 Election Led To 'Fast And Furious' Response By DHS, States

By Ryan Denham • Nov 5, 2018

Calling the 2016 election a “wake-up call,” a national leader in cybersecurity says that the federal government is working closely with states like Illinois to protect voting systems from digital interference.

Campaigns Ramp Up 'Get Out The Vote' Efforts Before Election Day

By Eric Stock • Nov 4, 2018

The head of the McLean County Democratic Party says the party's get-out-the-vote effort in the days leading up to Tuesday's election is the largest it's ever been.

McLean County Early Voting Up 131% From Last Midterm Election

By Ryan Denham • Nov 1, 2018

McLean County has already seen twice the number of early voters for Tuesday's election than during the last midterm election—with the busiest final days still coming up this weekend.

13th Congressional District Race Attracts National Attention On Social Media

By Ryan Denham • Nov 1, 2018

Illinois State University social media expert Nate Carpenter joins GLT's Sound Ideas to talk about what people are saying on Twitter about the 13th Congressional District race.

Sen. Dick Durbin Encouraged by Early Voting, Denounces Trump Immigration Claims

By Sam Dunklau • Oct 31, 2018

Illinois Senator Dick Durbin was in Springfield today (WED), casting his ballot in the 2018 Election. He says he's encouraged by early voting tallies in Illinois so far, and that immigration is now among the chief issues thanks to President Trump.

7 Storylines We're Watching On Election Night

By Ryan Denham • Oct 31, 2018

If it feels like campaigning for the Nov. 6 midterm election has been going on for a long time, that's because it has.

Fact Check: The Fourth And Final Davis-Londrigan Debate

By Ryan Denham, Jaclyn Driscoll & Christine Herman • Oct 30, 2018

Republican U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis and Democratic challenger Betsy Dirksen Londrigan debated Monday for the last time before Election Day, accusing one another of lying about who's funding their campaigns, whether pre-existing conditions will be covered, and who really benefits from the tax cuts.

Motorcycle Group Pulls Rauner Endorsement

By Brian Mackey • Oct 30, 2018

Days before the election, a leading motorcycle group is rescinding its endorsement of Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner.

Davis, Londrigan Spar Over Campaign Donors In Final GLT Debate

By Breanna Grow • Oct 29, 2018

Republican U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis and Democratic challenger Betsy Dirksen Londrigan both want to know where each others' loyalties lie—to their campaign donors or the residents of the 13th Congressional District?

Video: Rubio Stumps For Davis At GOP Rally In Normal

By Ryan Denham • Oct 29, 2018

Sen. Marco Rubio rallied Central Illinois Republicans behind Rep. Rodney Davis on Monday, calling him an effective, moderate voice in a country filled with political extremism.

[Bustos Voices Support For Londrigan During ISU Visit](#)

By MARY CULLEN · OCT 29, 2018

U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos stopped in Bloomington-Normal on Monday to voice her support for fellow Democrat Betsy Dirksen Londrigan in the 13th Congressional District.

[Rubio, Bustos In Normal Today Ahead Of GLT's 13th District Debate](#)

By RYAN DENHAM · OCT 29, 2018

U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis and Democratic challenger Betsy Dirksen Londrigan are getting help from some of the biggest names in their parties ahead of Monday's GLT debate.

[Trump Visits Southern Illinois Stumping for Rep. Mike Bost](#)

By AMELIA BLAKELY · OCT 28, 2018

Thousands of residents traveled from across the heartland to southern Illinois Saturday to hear and see President Donald Trump.

Trump rallied for incumbent Republican Congressman Mike Bost. Congressman Rodney Davis (R-Taylorville) and State Rep. Terri Bryant (R-Murphysboro) also spoke at the rally, endorsing the Republican Party for the midterm elections before Trump arrived.

Trump began his speech by addressing the shooting in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in a synagogue that left 11 people dead.

County Board's East Bloomington Candidates Hold Similar Positions

By MARY CULLEN · OCT 26, 2018

Voters in McLean County Board District 10 do not have an easy task telling the candidates apart.

What The 'Year Of The Woman' Looks Like In Illinois

By MARY HANSEN · OCT 26, 2018

Erin Cetindag and Delaney Flattery stopped by the Sangamon County building to vote early on a recent Saturday. The two college students were home in Springfield on break from schools out-of-state.

"That was the most fun test I've ever taken," laughed Cetindag, a senior at American University.

"We turned it in and got stickers," Flattery, a senior at Butler University added.

When asked about the gender diversity of the candidates they just voted for, both noticed something.

For Illinois Governors, Political Experience Optional

By BRIAN MACKEY · OCT 26, 2018

The upcoming general election will decide whether Republican Bruce Rauner gets another term as Illinois governor or if the voters will choose to go with Democrat J.B. Pritzker.

But there's one outcome of the election we already know for certain: Illinois will continue its experiment with amateur politicians running state government.

Republican, Libertarian Vying For Rural Seat On McLean County Board

By RYAN DENHAM · OCT 25, 2018

McLean County Board District 1 is one of the bigger districts geographically, home to around 16,000 people in towns such as Lexington, Hudson, Colfax, and Gridley.

McLean County Treasurer Touts Experience vs. Libertarian Challenger

By ERIC STOCK · OCT 24, 2018

McLean County's treasurer is touting her experience in leading the office as she seeks four more years, while her opponent in the Nov. 6 election would like to see the office take a larger role in reigning in the county's spending.

[What's With That 'Reject City Election Law' Question On The Ballot?](#)

By ERIC STOCK · OCT 24, 2018

Among the many races and measures on the ballot for Bloomington voters this election is a proposal to do away with the agency that printed the very ballots they are using.

[County Board Candidates Talk BEC, Meeting Times, And Government's Role](#)

By MARY CULLEN · OCT 23, 2018

The question of what office should oversee local elections divided candidates Tuesday at GLT's McLean County Board forum for Districts 2, 8, and 9.

[Democrat Pritzker Gives \\$15M More For Governor Bid](#)

By AP · OCT 23, 2018

Billionaire Democrat J.B. Pritzker has donated \$15 million more to his campaign for Illinois governor, pushing his self-financing total to \$161.5 million.

[Trump To Hold Rally For Bost In Southern Illinois](#)

By AP · OCT 23, 2018

President Donald Trump is stopping in southern Illinois to support Republican Rep. Mike Bost's re-election bid.

[Fact Check: Davis, Londrigan Muddy The Water On Health Care, Tax Overhaul](#)

By CHRISTINE HERMAN, SAM DUNKLAU & RYAN DENHAM · OCT 19, 2018

biggest issues in the race for the 13th Congressional District between incumbent Rodney Davis and challenger Betsy Dirksen Londrigan.

[Davis And Londrigan Argue Gun Control, Healthcare In Urbana Debate](#)

By JIM MEADOWS · OCT 19, 2018

A broadcast debate in Urbana between the candidates for Illinois' 13th Congressional District seat covered issues that ranged from healthcare to preventing gun violence.

[Blair Confronts Rep. Sommer On 20-Year Tenure](#)

By BREANNA GROW · OCT 17, 2018

Democratic candidate for the Illinois 88th House District Jill Blair said her opponent's unwillingness to hear constituents' concerns was part of her decision to run for his seat.

[Pritzker Staffers Sue Own Campaign For Racial Discrimination](#)

By BRIAN MACKEY · OCT 17, 2018

The Democratic candidate for Illinois governor is facing a racial discrimination lawsuit against his campaign — from his own campaign workers.

Ten current and former staffers accuse J.B. Pritzker’s campaign operation of subjecting them to harassment and retaliation. Pritzker denies the accusations.

Illinois National Guard To Help Protect Against Cyberattacks On Election Day

By DAISY CONTRERAS · OCT 16, 2018

With only three weeks until Election Day, the Illinois State Board of Elections wants to reassure voters their information is safe from cyberattacks.

Outside Money Floods Into Local Races As Election Nears

By ERIC STOCK & RYAN DENHAM · OCT 16, 2018

More and more money from outside McLean County—and even Illinois—is pouring into local campaigns with just weeks to go until the Nov. 6 midterm election.

Davis, Dirksen Londrigan, Face Off in First of Four 13th Congressional Debates

By SAM DUNKLAU · OCT 16, 2018

Candidates in the race for Illinois’ 13th Congressional seat squared off in the first of four debates in Springfield on Monday. Recent polling has suggested the race could be close between Republican incumbent Rodney Davis and Democratic challenger Betsy Dirksen Londrigan.

Listen

Listening...

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Listen to a summary of the story.

Voting Rights Attorney Talks Impact Of Gerrymandering

By MARY CULLEN · OCT 15, 2018

Every 10 years, the majority party in each state redraws district lines. Parties often pack or crack districts to allow them a majority of votes, a process known as gerrymandering.

Vice President Pence Stumps for Incumbent Davis at Springfield Fundraiser

By SAM DUNKLAU & DAISY CONTRERAS · OCT 12, 2018

Vice President Mike Pence was in Springfield Friday, stumping for Congressman Rodney Davis. Pence has been crisscrossing the country to help GOP candidates maintain control of districts that could flip Democratic in the midterm election.

Listen
Listening...

1:53

Sam Dunklau and Daisy Contreras were among supporters and protesters at the Republican fundraiser.

[Londrigan Talks GOP Tax Bill, Paul Ryan Health Care Ad](#)

By MARY CULLEN · OCT 12, 2018

With weeks to go until the midterm election, Democratic congressional candidate Betsy Dirksen Londrigan rallied her base during a recent stop in Bloomington-Normal.

['Heavy Turnout' For Early Voting With 3 Weeks To Go](#)

By RYAN DENHAM · OCT 12, 2018

Nearly 1,700 McLean County voters have already cast their ballots for the midterm election—a heavy turnout for early voting with three weeks to go before Election Day.

[Yes, You Can Still Register To Vote In Illinois](#)

By MARY HANSEN · OCT 12, 2018

You might have seen social media posts saying Tuesday was the voter registration deadline in Illinois.

But don't worry: Illinois residents can sign up to vote through Election Day.

[Video: Brady, Challenger Webb Take Separate Approach To Higher Ed](#)

By BREANNA GROW · OCT 10, 2018

Candidates for the 105th Illinois House District set public education funding as a top priority during a GLT debate Wednesday night at Illinois State's University Galleries.

[Making Noise About Rep. Sommer's Quiet Tenure](#)

By RYAN DENHAM · OCT 10, 2018

Voters are accustomed to politicians who love to self-promote—the ones who call press conferences to brag about all the bills they've introduced, who give impassioned floor speeches ahead of a controversial vote, who blitz the media with press releases about their positions.

[Pence To Raise Money For Davis In Springfield](#)

By SEAN CRAWFORD · OCT 9, 2018

Vice President Mike Pence will make a stop in Springfield this week, raising money for incumbent U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis.

[Democrat Tries To Ride Blue Wave Into Mitchell's District](#)

By RYAN DENHAM · OCT 6, 2018

Jen McMillin says she decided to run for office last year on the day two Democratic heavy-hitters—Lisa Madigan and Barbara Flynn Currie—announced they weren't seeking another term.

Statewide Poll: Illinois GOP Candidates May Face Uphill Election Battle

By SAM DUNKLAU · OCT 5, 2018

A new [statewide poll](#) shows Republican President Donald Trump may weigh down Illinois' GOP candidates in the midterm election.

Southern Illinois University's Simon Institute surveyed more than 700 Illinois voters. They were asked whether President Trump's record in office would make them more or less likely to vote for Illinois Republicans in state and Congressional races.

Is Age Just A Number? The Race For Illinois Secretary Of State

By JACLYN DRISCOLL · OCT 5, 2018

Secretary of State Jesse White has held the elected office nearly two decades. This year, his Republican opponent is questioning whether White will be able to serve out another four-year term if elected.

At Tense County Clerk Debate, Uncertainty About Ethical 'Lines'

By BREANNA GROW · OCT 4, 2018

In the race for McLean County clerk, incumbent Republican Kathy Michael and her Democratic challenger Nikita Richards have often been at odds.

McLean County GOP Chair: 'Bullies' Influencing Local Campaigns

By ERIC STOCK · OCT 3, 2018

The head of the McLean County Republican Party is coming to the county clerk's defense in what's become a bitter re-election battle.

Davis, LaHood Want Federal Investigation Into Pritzker Toilet 'Scheme'

By AP · OCT 3, 2018

UPDATED 8:40 a.m. | The Democratic nominee for Illinois governor says he will repay the Cook County treasurer more than \$330,000 worth of property-tax breaks he received in what an investigator called a "scheme to defraud" taxpayers.

In Clerk's Race, Both Sides Stretch The Truth on Early Voting Delay

By RYAN DENHAM · OCT 2, 2018

Democrat Nikita Richards says Republican McLean County Clerk Kathy Michael “broke the law” when she delayed the start of early voting last spring. Republicans say that’s a “bold lie that cannot be allowed to stand.”

Rauner In Bloomington As Walgreens Opens Opioid Disposal Kiosk

By MARY CULLEN · OCT 2, 2018

Incumbent Gov. Bruce Rauner visited Bloomington-Normal on Tuesday with no pitch regarding his election campaign, just five weeks away from midterms.

New B-N Youth Activists Group Plans Candidates Forum

By JON NORTON · OCT 2, 2018

Student protests following the Valentine’s Day mass school shooting in Parkland, Florida, have not ebbed.

Illinois Third Party Candidates Not Included In Upcoming Gov. Debate

By RACHEL OTWELL · OCT 1, 2018

The next [debate](#) for Illinois nominees for governor is this Wednesday in Chicago. But two candidates are being left out this time around.

Datebook: McLean County Santa For Seniors

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER · DEC 14, 2018

Mary Shadowens said she has a passion to serve the elderly.

Why Doesn't Bloomington-Normal Have A Level 1 Trauma Center?

By RYAN DENHAM · DEC 11, 2018

Bloomington-Normal has a lot of things that would make other communities jealous.

OSF Opens First Urgo Retail Clinic In Normal

By MARY CULLEN · DEC 5, 2018

OSF Healthcare's first Bloomington-Normal Urgo retail clinic allows patients to add an urgent care-style visit to their list of errands.

Professionals Discuss Opioid Addiction Treatment, Prevention

By MARY CULLEN · DEC 4, 2018

As the national opioid epidemic continues, representatives from the medical, treatment, and insurance fields met in Bloomington at a roundtable discussion to talk about more collaboration to care for addicts and prevent addiction.

TEDx Speaker: Laughter's Healing Power Is No Joke

By RYAN DENHAM · OCT 28, 2018

There's a saying that tragedy plus time equals comedy. It's a formula, suggesting that even your worst moments may grow a little bit funny if you wait long enough.

Illinois Tightens Flu Shot Requirements For Health Workers. But Who's Enforcing It?

By CHRISTINE HERMAN · OCT 9, 2018

A new Illinois [statute](#) aims to boost flu shot rates among healthcare workers by making it harder for employees to decline the vaccine.

Lawmakers say this is important in light of last year's flu season that killed more people than [car crashes and drug overdoses](#). But some on the frontlines of public health worry that a law that's not enforced will have little effect.

After Challenging Flu Season Last Year, Health Officials Say Get Vaccine Early

By JACLYN DRISCOLL · OCT 5, 2018

Last year brought a lot of flu activity across the state and this year health professionals are urging the public to roll up their sleeves and get flu shots early this year.

Education and Schools

Unit 5 Supt. Talks Teachers Union Friction, Blended Courses

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Nov 28, 2018

The [Unit 5](#) Teachers Union voiced frustrations about a consistent lack of follow through by the school board.

At a recent school board meeting, [Unit 5 Education Association](#) President Lindsey Dickinson said the board has yet to correct a series of issues after multiple complaints from the teachers union.

She noted frequently unanswered questions, unfulfilled requests, and little to no follow through on concerns.

District Superintendent Mark Daniel said those concerns are being addressed internally.

Local Colleges Announce STEM Scholarships

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Nov 8, 2018

The [National Science Foundation](#) awarded a combined \$4.6 million grant to Heartland Community College, Illinois State, and Illinois Wesleyan universities to bolster STEM studies.

More Illinois Schools Have Access To High-Speed Internet, But Some Still Suffer Without It

By [Lee V. Gaines](#) • Oct 19, 2018

Access to high-speed internet stops about seven miles east of both Nippersink School District 2 and Richmond-Burton Community High School District 157, according to Tom Lind. He's the superintendent of both districts, located near the border of Wisconsin — about 70 miles northwest of Chicago.

How Do You Test For Teaching Talent?

By [Dusty Rhodes](#) • Oct 16, 2018

What test should school teachers have to pass to earn a license in Illinois? The Illinois State Board of Education takes up that question at their meeting Wednesday.

District 87's Reilly: Teacher Licensing, Bad Rap Contributing To Shortage

By [Eric Stock](#) • Oct 15, 2018

District 87 Superintendent Barry Reilly said it was eye-opening to see how bad [Illinois' teacher shortage](#) is and could become.

NIU To Open Sustainability Research Hub With U Of I

By [Chase Cavanaugh](#) • Oct 10, 2018

Northern Illinois University will be the fourth research hub for the Illinois Innovation Network. This hub will be part of a research network that spans three University of Illinois campuses, each focused on different subjects. Gov Bruce Rauner says the state's already budgeted \$15 million for NIU's center, and NIU President Lisa Freeman says the center will focus on issues of sustainability.

"Environmental sustainability, water and food policy, water and food shortages," she said. Gov. Rauner said this could lead to significant innovation.

A Different Path To A Degree

By [Dusty Rhodes](#) • Oct 9, 2018

Illinois has historically ranked second in the nation when it comes to high school graduates leaving the state to go to college. But there's good news for a certain set of students who opt to stay.

U of Illinois Considers Metal Detectors At State Farm Center

By AP • Dec 6, 2018

University of Illinois officials are considering installing walk-through metal detectors at the State Farm Center. Director Kevin Ullestad tells the Champaign News-Gazette that officials are considering the detectors as part of an ongoing security review.

If installed, the metal detectors would be permanent and used for all athletic events as well as concerts and shows. Ullestad says staff members use hand-held wands at shows with a "more active crowd." They include rock concerts and hip-hop shows.

Illinois Education Funding Fixes Still Top Priority

By Rachel Otwell • Dec 5, 2018

Gov.-elect J.B. Pritzker and a new crop of legislators will take office come January. Those crafting state education policies say they will continue one of the biggest fights in recent years, finding more funding for teachers, students and schools.

Unit 5 Supt. Talks Teachers Union Friction, Blended Courses

By Mary Cullen • Nov 28, 2018

The Unit 5 Teachers Union voiced frustrations about a consistent lack of follow through by the school board.

At a recent school board meeting, Unit 5 Education Association President Lindsey Dickinson said the board has yet to correct a series of issues after multiple complaints from the teachers union.

She noted frequently unanswered questions, unfulfilled requests, and little to no follow through on concerns.

District Superintendent Mark Daniel said those concerns are being addressed internally.

Unit 5 Considering Student Information System, Tax Levy

By Breanna Grow • Nov 15, 2018

Unit 5 is looking to replace its current student information system with a new platform district officials say will make life easier for students, parents and teachers.

Report Card: 8 Underperforming Schools, 3 Exemplary in B-N

By Eric Stock • Oct 31, 2018

Illinois' new school report card shows three Unit 5 junior high schools and one elementary school are underperforming, while three of the district's grade schools received high marks.

Run-Hide-Fight Shows Trainees How To Survive An Active Shooter

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Oct 15, 2018

Illinois State University is increasing efforts to train faculty and students to Run, Hide, or Fight if an active shooter comes to campus. This comes eight months after the deadliest high school shooting in the U.S.

Higher Education

ISU Fraternity Council Bands Together To Spread Message Of Consent

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Dec 18, 2018

Social fraternities are often in the spotlight, and not always for a good reason. There are stories of hazing, bullying, excessive alcohol consumption, and sexual violence.

Why Illinois Won't 'Ban The Box' On College Applications

By [Lee V. Gaines](#) • Dec 13, 2018

Four years ago, Chris Miner decided to apply to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Then 40-years-old, Miner was encouraged to apply by a counselor at the community college he attended. He was told he was a shoo-in.

He sat down at his computer and started the application. But then Miner faced this question: Have you ever been convicted of a crime?

"I just sat there and stared at the screen for like 10 minutes," he said. "It was like everything, every advancement I had made so far might be over with, maybe this is the end of the ride."

Illinois State University Joins Higher Ed Improvement Collaboration

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Dec 11, 2018

Illinois State University is banding together with 130 other public institutions to collaborate on new best practices to keep students in school through graduation.

ISU Alum Named Fortune's Businessperson of the Year

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Dec 11, 2018

An Illinois State University grad who rose through the ranks of insurer Progressive has become the first woman named Fortune's Businessperson of the Year.

ISU To Spend \$6 Million On Farmland And Building Repairs

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

Illinois State University is planning to expand the University Farm by 80 acres.

[GLT Datebook: Photographer Goes High Above It All](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Dec 7, 2018

Fine art photographer Ron Frazier had hit rock bottom with his inspiration. After photographing the Illinois landscape for many years, he felt his enthusiasm waning until, finally, he put down his camera.

[Showing Students College Isn't The Only Option For Success](#)

By [Mary Hansen](#) • Dec 6, 2018

On a recent Tuesday afternoon, a few high school students are measuring and cutting siding. They're building a house in the trades class at the Capital Area Career Center in Springfield and learning construction skills, like putting on a roof or installing a window.

Shelby Landers is one of the students hammering siding on to the front of the house. The 17-year-old senior says he was happy to leave the classroom and get more hands-on experience.

[ISU Students Hope Town Council Candidate Bridges Campus-Community Gap](#)

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Dec 3, 2018

An Illinois State University student is running for Normal Town Council.

Junior marketing major [Alex Campbell](#) announced his candidacy to a crowd of students in an ISU classroom Monday night.

[ISU Title IX Chief Weighs New Sexual Assault Guidelines On Campuses](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Nov 29, 2018

The head of Illinois State University's Title IX program said the university is still assessing the potential impacts proposed changes for sexual assault claims on campuses could have on victims and the accused.

[Bond Rating Agency Changes IWU Outlook To Negative](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Nov 28, 2018

A bond rating agency said its outlook on Illinois Wesleyan University is negative and no longer stable. Enrollment grew this year at the liberal arts school in Bloomington. But, Moody's Investors Service says a legacy of falling enrollment and net tuition revenue at IWU will contribute to imbalanced operations as existing smaller class sizes cycle through the school.

[Artist Experiments In Analog Film](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Nov 28, 2018

The films of Basim Magdy depict curious and unlikely narratives through images wrapped in original sound. His unique storytelling is captured in the latest exhibition at [University Galleries](#) in Uptown Normal. “To Hypnotize Them With Forgetfulness” is currently up through Dec. 16.

[ISU Student To Run For Town Council](#)

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Nov 28, 2018

After noticing what he calls a lack of student impact on local government, an Illinois State University student announced his candidacy for [Normal Town Council](#).

Alex Campbell is a junior marketing major. He said the Town of Normal has historically missed a student perspective and voice on the council.

Campbell said his input would provide a voice for university student residents.

[Higher Ed Weighs In On K-12 Teacher Standards](#)

By [Dusty Rhodes](#) • Nov 23, 2018

Tony Sanders is the CEO of Unit 46 in Elgin — the state's second-largest school district, with almost 40,000 students. Right now, he's short at least 30 teachers. He's using retired teachers as long-term substitutes. Even though those retirees can teach only 120 days out of the 178-day school year, Sanders knows he's got it better than superintendents in districts that don't have a deep bench of subs.

"Yeah, if it weren't for retirees, we would really be in a jam," Sanders says. "Luckily, a lot of retirees like to come back and still be in a classroom."

[Learning Big Things From Small Worms In ISU Research Lab](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Nov 21, 2018

An Illinois State University researcher is learning some pretty big things with help from teeny tiny worms.

[Culture Maven: Baby You Can Drive My Car ... Into The Sunset](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Nov 21, 2018

Editor's note: This story is part of a special episode of GLT's Sound Ideas focused entirely on autonomous driving. It aired Nov. 21. [Read more stories in the series.](#)

[Young Entrepreneurs Talk The Future Of Modern Businesses](#)

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Nov 16, 2018

Illinois State University's College of Business hosted its 8th annual [Startup Showcase](#) this month, with 15 student entrepreneurs competing for cash prizes to advance their business plan.

[New Partnership Inspires Creativity In Kids](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Nov 15, 2018

A new grant to the Children's Discovery Museum has allowed it to throw open the doors to let the kids go out and about to find new artistic experiences and spark a little creativity.

[Farmland Auction Fetches \\$11.6M for 2 Shelters, IWU](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Nov 13, 2018

Two Bloomington homeless shelters and Illinois Wesleyan University will share in an \$11.6 million gift. It comes from the sale of prime farmland in McLean County.

[Dark Days for Transparency & Shared Governance at WIU](#)

By [Rich Egger](#) • Nov 11, 2018

[The recording of a closed door meeting](#) held by the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees reveals board members repeatedly violated the [Illinois Open Meetings Act \(OMA\)](#).

[Do Campus Sexual Misconduct Policies Allow Harassment To Persist?](#)

By editor • Nov 9, 2018

Every college campus has standards and policies to prevent sexual harassment. But time and again, repeated complaints are filed against professors for saying and doing inappropriate things -- yet they often keep their jobs. Documents and interviews from two recent cases on campuses in Illinois shed some light on the reasons why this remains a persistent issue at many schools.

[Local Colleges Announce STEM Scholarships](#)

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Nov 8, 2018

The [National Science Foundation](#) awarded a combined \$4.6 million grant to Heartland Community College, Illinois State, and Illinois Wesleyan universities to bolster STEM studies.

[How Drones Are Changing Emergency Management In Illinois](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Nov 8, 2018

Drones are no longer a new or emerging technology. They're a part of everyday life for insurance companies, photographers, law enforcement, and the military.

[GLT Datebook: A Little Romance And Dirty Politics On Tap For 2019 Illinois Shakespeare Festival](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Nov 4, 2018

A fresh look at classic stories will drive the 2019 [Illinois Shakespeare Festival](#) season.

[Frat House Facelift Possible In Normal](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Nov 2, 2018

The new owner of a run down old fraternity house in Normal wants to build an addition and make improvements. But the proposal for what would become a sorority house at Hovey and Kingsley requires a special use permit and a variance for fewer parking spaces than the town usually requires.

[Vigil Message: Together We Are Stronger Than Hate](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Nov 2, 2018

The Bloomington-Normal and Illinois State University communities gathered Thursday evening to mourn and rededicate themselves to good in the wake of the temple shootings in Pittsburgh.

[Ugandan Playwright Talks Blackness In America](#)

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Nov 1, 2018

Adong Judith was just a girl during the 1986 Northern Uganda War that divided her home country. This year, Judith was a keynote speaker at Illinois State University's [Culturally Responsive Campus Community Conference](#), telling the story of realizing her blackness.

[ISU Honors Potts, Ferengul As Top Entrepreneurs](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Nov 1, 2018

Illinois State University's College of Business is recognizing a craft brewery co-owner who has grown his enterprise into an international business as its Entrepreneur of the Year.

[ISU Civic Chorale Still In Full Voice After 50 Years](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Oct 30, 2018

A venerable Bloomington-Normal choral group has spent 50 years in a town and gown endeavor that unites singers across the generations.

[Shots Fired, Fights Erupt At Large Party Near ISU](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Oct 28, 2018

Normal Police are looking for the man who opened fire early Sunday after fights broke out at a large party near Illinois State University.

[5 Ways To Protect Yourself During Cybersecurity Awareness Month And Beyond](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Oct 28, 2018

October is [National Cybersecurity Awareness Month](#), and it began with a sobering reminder of what's stake—another big breach affecting our personal data.

[WIU Considers Eliminating 18 Academic Programs](#)

By [Emily Boyer](#) • Oct 26, 2018

Western Illinois University is considering whether to eliminate more academic programs as it continues to grapple with falling student enrollment numbers and looks to get back on solid financial footing.

[ISU's Dietz Urges Caution Around Stopped Trains](#)

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Oct 23, 2018

Illinois State University President Larry Dietz is urging caution to students, faculty, and staff as Uptown Normal continues to see standing freight trains backing up pedestrian and motorist traffic.

[Climate Change Researcher Talks Illinois Impact](#)

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Oct 23, 2018

The impact of climate change on Illinois is a lot more than switching from hot days to cold days.

[U of I Professor: Club Sports May Limit Access For Youth](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Oct 22, 2018

A professor who has studied recreational sports is raising concerns that club sports are limiting opportunities for some young people in ways that can present a lifetime of negative consequences.

[Photos: Marching Bands Compete At State Championships](#)

By [Cindy Le](#) • Oct 21, 2018

Over 40 marching bands from across Illinois competed Saturday at the [High School Marching Band Championships](#) at Hancock Stadium.

[ISU Trustees Approve State Budget Requests, Dietz Bonus Pay Amount](#)

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Oct 19, 2018

The Illinois State University Board of Trustees on Friday approved fiscal year 2020's annual budget request to the state, including a 10 percent increase in operations.

['The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time' Forges Human Connections](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Oct 19, 2018

Wellington the dog is dead. Cristopher Boone is on the case, and the search for the killer takes him on an adventure that leads to some surprising revelations.

[Summit Urges Nonprofit Teamups, Big And Small](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Oct 19, 2018

The two-year state budget crisis made life difficult for many of the 105,000 nonprofits across Illinois that rely in some way on taxpayer support.

[ISU Board of Trustees To Consider Bonus For Dietz](#)

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Oct 17, 2018

The [Illinois State University Board of Trustees](#) will consider bonus pay for University President Larry Dietz on Friday.

[Uptown Train Blockage Sees No Swift Solution](#)

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Oct 17, 2018

Normal residents and Illinois State University students are putting their lives at risk to get around stopped freight trains in Uptown. Despite concerns reported to the freight operator, it could take a while to see a change in train traffic.

[How Do You Test For Teaching Talent?](#)

By [Dusty Rhodes](#) • Oct 16, 2018

What test should school teachers have to pass to earn a license in Illinois? The Illinois State Board of Education takes up that question at their meeting Wednesday.

[Sexual Assault Allies Discuss Impact Of Kavanaugh Hearings](#)

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Oct 16, 2018

Following Christine Blasey Ford's testimony against now Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, the national sexual assault hotline saw a [147 percent increase in calls](#).

[ISU Athletic Facility Improvements Head To Trustees](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Oct 15, 2018

Illinois State University plans to replace the lower bowl seating and add ADA compliant seats, box seating locations and a suite in Redbird Arena.

[Run-Hide-Fight Shows Trainees How To Survive An Active Shooter](#)

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Oct 15, 2018

Illinois State University is increasing efforts to train faculty and students to Run, Hide, or Fight if an active shooter comes to campus. This comes eight months after the deadliest high school shooting in the U.S.

[WGLT Announces Hall of Fame, 2018 Inaugural Class](#)

By [Melissa Libert](#) • Oct 11, 2018

WGLT has cultivated a strong culture of public service excellence for more than 53 years. New in 2018, [WGLT launched a Hall of Fame](#) to recognize those who have made contributions integral to WGLT's ongoing excellence in public service to the Illinois State University, Bloomington-Normal, and McLean County communities. Selections will be announced annually.

[Video: Brady, Challenger Webb Take Separate Approach To Higher Ed](#)

By [Breanna Grow](#) • Oct 10, 2018

Candidates for the 105th Illinois House District set public education funding as a top priority during a GLT debate Wednesday night at Illinois State's University Galleries.

[NIU To Open Sustainability Research Hub With U Of I](#)

By [Chase Cavanaugh](#) • Oct 10, 2018

Northern Illinois University will be the fourth research hub for the Illinois Innovation Network. This hub will be part of a research network that spans three University of Illinois campuses, each focused on different subjects. Gov Bruce Rauner says the state's already budgeted \$15 million for NIU's center, and NIU President Lisa Freeman says the center will focus on issues of sustainability.

"Environmental sustainability, water and food policy, water and food shortages," she said. Gov. Rauner said this could lead to significant innovation.

[Photos: Heartland Students De-Stress With Mini Therapy Horses](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) & Jeff Smudde • Oct 10, 2018

Move over, therapy dogs. Heartland Community College is bringing in mini therapy horses. The Normal college hosted mini therapy horses from the organization MiniVisits on Tuesday.

[A Different Path To A Degree](#)

By [Dusty Rhodes](#) • Oct 9, 2018

Illinois has historically ranked second in the nation when it comes to high school graduates leaving the state to go to college. But there's good news for a certain set of students who opt to stay.

[Heartland President Issues 5K Challenge](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Oct 9, 2018

Heartland Community College President Keith Cornille is putting his money where his feet are.

[Uptown Tree Lighting Signifies Start Of ISU Homecoming](#)

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Oct 9, 2018

For the sixth year in a row, Illinois State University has kicked off [Homecoming](#) week with the Uptown tree lighting in partnership with the Town of Normal.

[Heartland Landscape Painter Harold Gregor Passes Away](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) & [Laura Kennedy](#) • Oct 8, 2018

Noted Midwestern landscape artist Harold Gregor of Bloomington has died. He was 89.

[U of Illinois To Dedicate Garden For Slain Chinese Scholar](#)

By AP • Oct 8, 2018

The University of Illinois is dedicating a garden to a 26-year-old Chinese scholar who authorities say was kidnapped near campus and killed last year.

Yingying Zhang disappeared June 9, 2017, after she arrived at the university in central Illinois.

Former graduate student Brendt Christensen has been charged with her abduction and death.

Authorities have not found her body.

[Fourteen U Of I Professors Sign Letter Opposing Kavanaugh Nomination](#)

By Brian Moline • Oct 5, 2018

Fourteen professors or instructors from the University of Illinois College of Law signed a letter opposing Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court.

[Flaming Alcohol Bottle Burns University of Illinois Student](#)

By AP • Oct 5, 2018

A University of Illinois student could face criminal charges after police say he accidentally caused serious burns to another student by setting a bottle of alcohol on fire.

[IWU Creator's 'Red Thread' Ties Art To Life](#)

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Oct 4, 2018

In Grace Sheese's artwork, rabbits, squirrels and other animals frolic around ceramic cups. Yet under the whimsy, the artist has a powerful message about connection to share.

[Experience Fuels Lofty Goals For Redbird Hoops](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Oct 3, 2018

Illinois State men's basketball coach Dan Muller isn't shy about his lofty expectations for the Redbirds this season.

[ISU To Study Impact Of Temperature Change On Nervous System](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Oct 3, 2018

Illinois State University is getting a \$495,000 grant to study how changes in temperatures can impact the nervous system.

Why We're Pro Anti-Hero

By [Laura Kennedy](#) • Oct 1, 2018

Pop culture once idolized the hero—the white knight who took the high road to the rescue. But lately our tastes have changed, taking a darker turn toward what we seem to find irresistible.

Police and Courts

Armed Robber Hits Store On Bloomington's East Side

By [Ryan Denham](#) • 22 hours ago

Police are investigating whether an armed robbery Monday morning on Bloomington's east side was the work of the [Business Bandit](#).

Ford County Men Plead Guilty To Mosque Bombing

By [Eric Stock](#) • Jan 24, 2019

Two Ford County men have pleaded guilty to their roles in bombing an Islamic mosque in Minnesota and trying to bomb an abortion clinic in Champaign.

Coroner: Truck Driver Not Drunk Before I-74 Bus Crash

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 23, 2019

The driver whose truck collided head-on with a Normal West school bus last month was not drunk or on drugs at the time of the crash, the Peoria County coroner said Wednesday.

Police Link 'Business Bandit' To 7 Armed Robberies

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 16, 2019

Bloomington Police on Wednesday reminded businesses to make sure their video surveillance systems are working properly, as investigators look for the "Business Bandit" suspected in at least seven armed robberies.

Woman Sues LaSalle County For Being Forcibly Stripped

By AP • Jan 16, 2019

[A federal lawsuit has been filed](#) by a woman who claims LaSalle County sheriff's deputies violated her civil rights when they forcibly stripped her following a 2017 arrest.

The attorney for Zandrea Askew says three female deputies stripped the ex-U.S. Marine sergeant on Jan. 20, 2017.

Texas Man Gets 35 Years In 8-State Child Pornography Scheme

By AP • Jan 16, 2019

Federal prosecutors in Illinois say a Texas man has been sentenced to 35 years in prison on child pornography charges involving more than 40 girls in eight states, including 28 in central Illinois. Prosecutors said Tuesday 36-year-old Mark P. Barnwell of Whitehouse, Texas, was sentenced on Jan. 9.

Authorities say he used false Facebook profiles to contact girls and advertise modeling opportunities. Prosecutors say Barnwell directed the girls to send him sexually explicit photos and threatened to post the nude photos online if they failed to send more.

[Rauner Reduces Prison Term For Man Who Killed Grandparents In Lincoln](#)

By AP • Jan 15, 2019

Former Gov. Bruce Rauner has reduced the 75-year prison sentence for a 38-year-old man convicted in 1996 of fatally shooting his grandparents in Lincoln.

[Decatur Men Face Murder, Robbery Charges](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 9, 2019

Two Decatur men are being held on \$5 million bond in connection with last month's fatal shooting of a 20-year-old from Bloomington.

[Normal PD: TV Dramatization Leads To Sexual Assault Victimization](#)

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Jan 9, 2019

Too many people are learning misconceptions about sexual assault through TV shows. That's according to members of [Normal Police](#)'s Investigative Unit.

[Decatur Men Arrested In West Bloomington Fatal Shooting](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 7, 2019

Two Decatur men were arrested Monday in connection with the fatal shooting of a 20-year-old from Bloomington over a month ago.

[Senate Confirms U.S. Attorney For Central Illinois](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Jan 3, 2019

John Milhiser was confirmed Wednesday as U.S. attorney for central Illinois, becoming the first permanent appointee to the job since President Donald Trump took office.

[Police Hunt For Suspect After Burglary, High-Speed Crash](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Dec 24, 2018

Authorities are looking for the public's help finding a burglary suspect who allegedly caused a high-speed crash on Veterans Parkway on Sunday as he fled police.

[10 Years Later, Photos Of Bank Robber Tell Gripping Story](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Dec 20, 2018

You've probably seen the photo. An older man in a denim shirt, pistol in hand, cigarillo hanging from his mouth, leaping over the median on an interstate.

[Gun Violence Vigil Calls For Better Laws And More Involvement In Lives Of Young](#)

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

Nine people have died in Bloomington-Normal in gun violence this year. More than that tally have survived bullet wounds.

[Police: No New Information On West Side Homicide](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Dec 12, 2018

A week after a 20-year-old Bloomington man was shot and killed on the city's west side, there have been no arrests in the case and police have released little information about what happened.

[Bloomington, Normal Police Diverge On Approach To Speeding Tickets](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Mary Cullen](#) • Dec 7, 2018

You don't need to tell Glenda Jackson that people drive too fast on Hershey Road. She already knows.

[Two Dead In Normal West Bus Crash On I-74](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) & [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Dec 5, 2018

Two people died and two others were seriously injured Wednesday night when a semitrailer truck on Interstate 74 crashed head-on into a school bus carrying Normal West girls basketball players back from a game in Champaign. None of the students were critically injured.

[One Person Dead After Shooting On Bloomington's West Side](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Dec 5, 2018

UPDATED 5 p.m. | One person was shot and killed early Wednesday on Bloomington's west side, police said.

[Two New Associate Judges Named In 11th Circuit](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Nov 29, 2018

The Illinois Supreme Court has named two Bloomington attorneys to associate judge positions.

[BPD Make Arrest In Summer Drug-Induced Homicide](#)

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Nov 20, 2018

Bloomington Police made an arrest Tuesday following a July drug-induced homicide.

[BPD Seeks Suspect In Shooting Of 14-Year-Old Boy](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Nov 19, 2018

Bloomington Police are trying to determine who shot a 14-year-old boy in the leg over the weekend.

[Man Arrested In Shooting Death Of 12-Year-Old In Decatur](#)

By AP • Nov 13, 2018

Authorities say a 20-year-old man has been arrested following the shooting death of a 12-year-old boy in Decatur.

[Peoria Diocese Removes Three Retirees From Ministry Over Abuse](#)

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

The Catholic Diocese of Peoria has removed three long-retired priests from public ministry because of credible allegations of sexual misconduct with children.

[Coroner: Murdered Princeville Couple Fought Attack](#)

By [Kristin McHugh](#) & [Tanya Koonce](#) • Nov 1, 2018

The Princeville couple found Tuesday in the Spoon River fought for their lives. Peoria County Coroner Jamie Harwood announced the autopsy findings of Susan Brill de Ramirez and Antonio Ramirez Barron Wednesday.

[Attorney General: McLean County Board Auditor Pay Discussion Illegally Closed](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Oct 31, 2018

The Illinois attorney general has ruled against McLean County's attempt to hold closed sessions of the county board Finance Committee to talk about the salaries of the coroner and auditor.

[Shooting Victim Identified In Bloomington](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Oct 31, 2018

Authorities have identified the man gunned down on a Bloomington street Tuesday night as 27-year-old Trevonte Kirkwood of Bloomington.

[Man In Bloomington Dies From Gunshot](#)

By [Jon Norton](#) • Oct 31, 2018

Bloomington police say an unidentified man has died in a local hospital of an apparent gunshot wound.

[2,500+ Ecstasy Pills Found In Bloomington Drug Bust](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Oct 28, 2018

Bloomington Police recovered over 2,500 ecstasy pills and \$1,500 in cash inside a residence on South Main Street late last week.

[Shots Fired, Fights Erupt At Large Party Near ISU](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Oct 28, 2018

Normal Police are looking for the man who opened fire early Sunday after fights broke out at a large party near Illinois State University.

[Illinois Attorney General Sues B&B Owner Who Refused to Host Same Sex Ceremony](#)

By [Sam Dunklau](#) • Oct 24, 2018

An Illinois bed and breakfast that refused to host a gay couple's civil union ceremony is also refusing to pay a court-ordered settlement. Illinois' Attorney General is now intervening in the case.

[Mays Extradited Back to McLean County In Riley Drive Shootings](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Oct 18, 2018

UPDATED 4:30 p.m. | A 25-year-old Bloomington man was extradited back to McLean County on Thursday to face murder charges stemming from a triple homicide on Riley Drive.

[State Supreme Court Rules Against Pantagraph, WGLT In Zimmerman Murder Case](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Oct 18, 2018

The Illinois Supreme Court has quelled a two-year legal effort by media organizations to make certain information public in the Kirk Zimmerman murder case. One justice has also filed a dissenting opinion.

[Problem-Solving Courts Face Challenges In Funding Shift, New Drugs](#)

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Oct 18, 2018

The first drug court began in 1989 in Miami, offering those with addiction issues an alternative route through—and hopefully out of—the criminal justice system.

[Workers Sue Pritzker Campaign After Seeking \\$7.5M To Settle](#)

By AP • Oct 17, 2018

Ten current and former staffers are suing Democratic governor candidate J.B. Pritzker's campaign, saying they were harassed and discriminated against because of their race.

Politics and Government

[Barickman: Rauner Bailout Attempt Tried To Cheat Voters](#)

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

State Sen. Jason Barickman said Friday that Bruce Rauner never fully grasped the job and responsibility of governor.

[Illinois State University Joins Higher Ed Improvement Collaboration](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Dec 11, 2018

Illinois State University is banding together with 130 other public institutions to collaborate on new best practices to keep students in school through graduation.

[Hauman Calls For Nonpartisan, Issue-Based Council Campaigns](#)

By [Breanna Grow](#) • Dec 11, 2018

Diana Hauman is asking political players in the Twin Cities to keep local elections nonpartisan.

[ISU To Spend \\$6 Million On Farmland And Building Repairs](#)

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

Illinois State University is planning to expand the University Farm by 80 acres.

[Mayor Koos Hopes For Infrastructure Bill In Pritzker Administration](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Dec 4, 2018

The mayor of Normal said he hopes Gov.-elect J.B. Pritzker broadens his transition team looking at state infrastructure needs.

[Renner To Signal Support In April Council Races](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Nov 29, 2018

Bloomington Mayor Tari Renner said a significant portion of the city council will be new after elections next April.

Autonomous Vehicles: Ethics Regulation And Programming Converge

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Nov 26, 2018

Illinois lawmakers are among those stakeholders trying to figure out how to best position the state to get economic opportunities, but also how to take a common sense approach to regulation, and public safety while moving toward people sharing the road with autonomous vehicles. State Representative Tom Demmer (R) represents the 90th district in north central Illinois. He's a co sponsor of the early legislation already made law on this topic. Demmer said the debate is not particularly partisan, but it IS complicated.

Voices Act Gets Veto Override in Illinois Senate

By [Sam Dunklau](#) • Nov 15, 2018

Illinois state senators approved [a measure](#) Wednesday aimed at helping immigrants who are victims of criminal activity. It was vetoed earlier this year by Governor Bruce Rauner.
Listen

Listening...

Town Readies Fire Station Land Purchase

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Nov 2, 2018

The Town of Normal is preparing the next phase of its plan to relocate its fire stations.

Staff Cuts Halt Property Tax Pressure In Normal For Now

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Nov 2, 2018

The proposed tax levy for the town of Normal could lower the property tax rate by about 1 percent. Town staff have suggested the dollar value of the levy stay the same from last year at nearly \$13 million.

Frat House Facelift Possible In Normal

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Nov 2, 2018

The new owner of a run down old fraternity house in Normal wants to build an addition and make improvements. But the proposal for what would become a sorority house at Hovey and Kingsley requires a special use permit and a variance for fewer parking spaces than the town usually requires.

Attorney General: McLean County Board Auditor Pay Discussion Illegally Closed

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Oct 31, 2018

The Illinois attorney general has ruled against McLean County's attempt to hold closed sessions of the county board Finance Committee to talk about the salaries of the coroner and auditor.

Motorcycle Group Pulls Rauner Endorsement

By [Brian Mackey](#) • Oct 30, 2018

Days before the election, a leading motorcycle group is rescinding its [endorsement](#) of Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner.

Trump Visits Southern Illinois Stumping for Rep. Mike Bost

By [Amelia Blakely](#) • Oct 28, 2018

Thousands of residents traveled from across the heartland to southern Illinois Saturday to hear and see President Donald Trump.

Trump rallied for incumbent Republican Congressman Mike Bost. Congressman Rodney Davis (R-Taylorville) and State Rep. Terri Bryant (R-Murphysboro) also spoke at the rally, endorsing the Republican Party for the midterm elections before Trump arrived.

Trump began his speech by addressing the shooting in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in a synagogue that left 11 people dead.

What The 'Year Of The Woman' Looks Like In Illinois

By [Mary Hansen](#) • Oct 26, 2018

Erin Cetindag and Delaney Flattery stopped by the Sangamon County building to vote early on a recent Saturday. The two college students were home in Springfield on break from schools out-of-state.

"That was the most fun test I've ever taken," laughed Cetindag, a senior at American University.

"We turned it in and got stickers," Flattery, a senior at Butler University added.

When asked about the gender diversity of the candidates they just voted for, both noticed something.

For Illinois Governors, Political Experience Optional

By [Brian Mackey](#) • Oct 26, 2018

The upcoming general election will decide whether Republican Bruce Rauner gets another term as Illinois governor or if the voters will choose to go with Democrat J.B. Pritzker.

But there's one outcome of the election we already know for certain: Illinois will continue its experiment with amateur politicians running state government.

[Connect Transit Capital Plan Includes Downtown Transfer Center](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Oct 23, 2018

Bloomington Normal's bus system could have a downtown Bloomington transfer center in about five years.

[Democrat Pritzker Gives \\$15M More For Governor Bid](#)

By AP • Oct 23, 2018

Billionaire Democrat J.B. Pritzker has donated \$15 million more to his campaign for Illinois governor, pushing his self-financing total to \$161.5 million.

[Trump To Hold Rally For Bost In Southern Illinois](#)

By AP • Oct 23, 2018

President Donald Trump is stopping in southern Illinois to support Republican Rep. Mike Bost's re-election bid.

[Immigration Policy To Hit Agriculture Labor Supply Soon](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Oct 18, 2018

Federal administration immigration policies will soon start to hurt the agriculture sector in a big way, according to the head of the [National Immigrant Justice Center](#).

[Another Pitch For Bloomington Library Expansion And Park Rejuvenation](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Oct 15, 2018

The Bloomington Public Library and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department are asking the city council to make generational facility commitments.

[Fritzen To End Normal Council Service Next Year](#)

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Oct 15, 2018

Normal Town Council member Jeff Fritzen said Monday he won't run for another term.

[Richards Cleared In Independent Ethics Probe](#)

By [Eric Stock](#) • Oct 15, 2018

Bloomington city officials said Monday an independent investigation into alleged ethics violations by city employee and McLean County clerk candidate Nikita Richards showed no wrongdoing.

ISU Athletic Facility Improvements Head To Trustees

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Oct 15, 2018

Illinois State University plans to replace the lower bowl seating and add ADA compliant seats, box seating locations and a suite in Redbird Arena.

\$29 Million Trail East Project Heads To Normal Council

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Oct 12, 2018

The Normal Town Council will take up the \$29 million Trail East project proposal Monday.

Hales Might Exit Joliet Job

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Oct 11, 2018

Former Bloomington City Manager David Hales might be on his way out at his new job in Joliet.

New B-N Youth Activists Group Plans Candidates Forum

By [Jon Norton](#) • Oct 2, 2018

Student protests following the Valentine's Day mass school shooting in Parkland, Florida, have not ebbed.

Science And Technology

How Drones Are Changing Emergency Management In Illinois

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Nov 8, 2018

Drones are no longer a new or emerging technology. They're a part of everyday life for insurance companies, photographers, law enforcement, and the military.

5 Ways To Protect Yourself During Cybersecurity Awareness Month And Beyond

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Oct 28, 2018

October is [National Cybersecurity Awareness Month](#), and it began with a sobering reminder of what's stake—another big breach affecting our personal data.

ISU To Study Impact Of Temperature Change On Nervous System

By [Eric Stock](#) • Oct 3, 2018

Illinois State University is getting a \$495,000 grant to study how changes in temperatures can impact the nervous system.

Civil Rights

Vigil Message: Together We Are Stronger Than Hate

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Nov 2, 2018

The Bloomington-Normal and Illinois State University communities gathered Thursday evening to mourn and rededicate themselves to good in the wake of the temple shootings in Pittsburgh.

Immigration Policy To Hit Agriculture Labor Supply Soon

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Oct 18, 2018

Federal administration immigration policies will soon start to hurt the agriculture sector in a big way, according to the head of the [National Immigrant Justice Center](#).

Keith Knight: Cartoonist Turned Activist

By [Jon Norton](#) • Oct 5, 2018

Award-winning cartoonist Keith Knight's focus on racial profiling, police brutality, and race relations have many pegging him as a social activist.

Technology

State Farm Steady Employment At Year End

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

In spite of community worries over the number and average pay of State Farm employees in Bloomington-Normal, the company said the number of jobs is closing the year steady.

Autonomous Vehicles: Ethics Regulation And Programming Converge

By [Charlie Schlenker](#) • Nov 26, 2018

Illinois lawmakers are among those stakeholders trying to figure out how to best position the state to get economic opportunities, but also how to take a common sense approach to regulation, and public safety while moving toward people sharing the road with autonomous vehicles. State Representative Tom Demmer (R) represents the 90th district in north central Illinois. He's a co sponsor of the early legislation already made law on this topic. Demmer said the debate is not particularly partisan, but it IS complicated.

New Aerial Photos Latest Change For County's GIS Mapping Tool

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Nov 22, 2018

A big upgrade to McLean County's high-tech mapping tool shows just how much can change in four years.

Learning Big Things From Small Worms In ISU Research Lab

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Nov 21, 2018

An Illinois State University researcher is learning some pretty big things with help from teeny tiny worms.

Bloomington-Normal Residents Ready For Autonomous Driving

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Nov 21, 2018

Editor's note: This story is part of a special episode of GLT's Sound Ideas focused entirely on autonomous driving. It aired Nov. 21. [Read more stories in the series.](#)

At State Farm, Self-Driving Cars Evolve From Threat To Opportunity

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Nov 20, 2018

Editor's note: This story is part of a special episode of GLT's Sound Ideas focused entirely on autonomous driving. It aired Nov. 21. [Read more stories in the series.](#)

Young Entrepreneurs Talk The Future Of Modern Businesses

By [Mary Cullen](#) • Nov 16, 2018

Illinois State University's College of Business hosted its 8th annual [Startup Showcase](#) this month, with 15 student entrepreneurs competing for cash prizes to advance their business plan.

County Clerk's Facebook Page Goes Offline As New Policy Developed

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Nov 15, 2018

Jeff Smudde / WGLT

UPDATED 3:20 p.m. | The McLean County clerk's Facebook page has been taken down for "reconstruction" as county officials work on a new social media policy.

How Drones Are Changing Emergency Management In Illinois

By [Ryan Denham](#) • Nov 8, 2018

Drones are no longer a new or emerging technology. They're a part of everyday life for insurance companies, photographers, law enforcement, and the military.

More Illinois Schools Have Access To High-Speed Internet, But Some Still Suffer Without It

By [Lee V. Gaines](#) • Oct 19, 2018

The 'da Vinci Of Typeface,' Bloomington Native Honored With Exhibit

By [Mike McCurdy](#) • Oct 15, 2018

The letters in words you're reading right now were designed by someone, maybe a team of someones. In the digital age, designing fonts and typefaces has never been easier. Simply choosing a font for your document is as easy as clicking on a pull down menu, and among the choices will be typefaces designed by a Bloomington native.