

WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS Second Quarter 2026 April 2026 – June 2026

The following issues were addressed during WGLT Newscasts during MORNING EDITION from 5 to 9 am M-F, during ALL THINGS CONSIDERED from 3-6 pm, M-F, during Sound Ideas segments in those dayparts, and on our website at www.wglt.org. Story lengths ranged from 30 seconds to 7.5 minutes. Other examples of WGLT addressing community issues can be found at www.wglt.org.

Politics and Government

[WGLT and Dirksen Congressional Center to host Adam Kinzinger at Illinois State University on Oct. 1](#) June 30, 2026

[Sen. Durbin says president holding housing bill hostage won't last](#)

Charlie Schlenker, June 29, 2026

[Durbin lauds Chestnut dental clinic in Bloomington as Congress cuts health programs](#)

Charlie Schlenker, June 29, 2026

[Uptown Design Review Commission tables votes on Trail East, West designs](#)

[Lizzie Seils](#), June 26, 2026

The Uptown Design Review Commission has delayed votes on proposed designs for the long-planned Trail East and West developments, asking the designers for more mock-ups and some changes.

[Bloomington watching federal grant changes to programs that help homeless people](#)

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 26, 2026

Agencies that provide homeless services in Bloomington-Normal are sounding an alarm over changing federal guidelines that may reduce funding for those programs.

[What happened to Illinois' plug-in solar bill and does it have a future here?](#)

[Nikoel Hytrek](#), June 26, 2026

A bill to make solar power more accessible to renters and others who face barriers to the alternative energy source stalled in the Illinois Senate, but it's likely to return in the fall veto session because lawmakers like the idea of helping residents with their electric bills.

Cocktails-to-go, new state agency among laws taking effect July 1

[Ben Szalinski](#), June 26, 2026

July 1 marks a second New Year's Day in Illinois as a new budget takes effect along with more than a dozen new state laws.

Bloomington-Normal's homeless count drops. Advocates worry federal policy changes could erase gains

[Eric Stock](#), June 24, 2026

Bloomington-Normal saw a drop in its homeless population in early 2026, while regional data indicates an increase. Advocates attribute that to more robust reporting and more counties participating.

Bears stadium fail wasn't Pritzker's only fumble — his affordable housing plan also went nowhere

[Mawa Iqbal](#), June 23, 2026

Gov. JB Pritzker's plan would have allowed multi-unit housing, such as duplexes and triplexes, and "granny flats" on nearly all properties zoned for residential use. But he was unable to overcome local government leaders' opposition to the proposal.

City council welcomes 3 new Bloomington police officers, OKs several vehicle purchases

[Lizzie Seils](#), June 22, 2026

The Bloomington City Council on Monday approved hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of new vehicle purchases, welcomed three new police officers to the force and approved a settlement involving a former officer.

Consultant from Normal wants to diversify the data center discussion in McLean County

[Ben Howell](#), [Eric Stock](#), June 22, 2026

Harrison Meece wants to be on the team bringing a data center somewhere in McLean County — but only on the people's terms. He said as various moratoriums are put in place, now is the time to do more education for residents.

Federal cuts are hitting Illinois food assistance recipients — and the farmers who feed them

[Molly A. Wallace](#), June 19, 2026

President Donald Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill" severely impacted two of Illinois' most economically vulnerable groups: the hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans set to lose Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food assistance this year and the small farmers who are losing them as customers.

Joliet contractor submits proposals for Trail East and West in Uptown

[Lizzie Seils](#), June 18, 2026

A Joliet-based contractor is proposing two six-story buildings with restaurants and residential space to become the long-planned Trail East and Trail West developments near Uptown Circle.

'A home for hope': Obama Presidential Center christened in grand opening ceremony

[Aidan Klineman](#), June 18, 2026

The project, under construction on Chicago's southside since 2021, opens its doors to the public this week.

Town of Normal expects residential BESS to grow along with industrial systems

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 18, 2026

There has been one permit pulled for the installation of a BESS, at Rivian. It encompasses less than an acre, according to the town planning and zoning department, and would not be visible from a public street.

McLean County governments, school districts play the market as gas prices remain high

[Braden Fogerson](#), June 17, 2026

Buying in bulk has saved countywide governments and school districts money as prices rose across the country.

Pritzker signs nearly \$56B budget with new business taxes as he seeks 3rd term

[Ben Szalinski](#), June 16, 2026

Gov. JB Pritzker signed the eighth budget of his tenure on Tuesday as he and Illinois Democrats gear up for an election-year battle centered around affordability — though he had to issue a clean-up veto aimed at addressing late-night drafting errors.

City of Bloomington lays out general timeline for data center moratorium

[Lizzie Seils](#), June 16, 2026

The City of Bloomington shared a general timeline for the actions it plans to take during a six-month moratorium on proposals for hyperscale data centers.

Town council approves addition to Normal Police drone fleet

[Braden Fogerson](#), June 15, 2026

The Normal Town Council on Monday approved the \$50,000 purchase of a Flock Drone as First Responder System [DFR] for the police department.

City of Bloomington testing waters before diving into possible new source

[Lizzie Seils](#), June 15, 2026

The City of Bloomington will need to update a more than decade-old study to better understand its water needs and how to move forward. That was among the findings presented to the city council by consulting firm Farnsworth Group in a study of the city's water usage and possible avenues for expansion.

State Rep. Sharon Chung reflects on media protections, data centers and more following the spring legislative session

[Evan Holden](#), June 15, 2026

Democratic state Rep. Sharon Chung is celebrating passing public media protections, congratulates the Chicago Tribune, her work on the cannabis industry, data centers and the budget.

History Maker John McIntyre champions bipartisanship, in more than just politics

[Ben Howell](#), June 15, 2026

You might know him as Coach Mac, Principal McIntyre or Mr. Board Chair. Regardless of what his title was, John McIntyre said he was drawn his entire life to serving Bloomington-Normal.

McLean County Board approves restrictive data center zoning requirements

[Jim Stahly Jr.](#), June 11, 2026

The approval stops short of six-month moratoriums approved by Bloomington and Normal, but gives McLean County more stringent rules than most neighboring counties, officials said.

A look back at the Bicentennial in McLean County, filled with kitsch, celebration and warm feelings

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 11, 2026

McLean County and Central Illinois are gearing up for America 250 with a bunch of events, everything from a community drone show on July 2 to readings of the Declaration of Independence at Connie Link Amphitheater in Normal and in Downtown Bloomington. It's not the first national anniversary involving a big celebration. Let's go back 50 years to hear what they did for the nation's Bicentennial.

Bloomington touts housing construction advances

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 10, 2026

Bloomington Mayor Dan Brady said the summer is marking progress on more than \$315 million in public and private investment projects.

Fresh parking could be a selling point for Bloomington arena naming rights

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 10, 2026

Bloomington appears ready to more aggressively market naming rights opportunities for the former Grossinger Motors Arena in Downtown Bloomington. Sponsorship by the auto group ended in 2022, and the city has called a news conference next Wednesday to highlight revived use of the building.

Raoul suggests underfunding of his office could make winning legal battles against Trump harder

Nikoel Hytrek and UIS Public Affairs Reporting (PAR), June 10, 2026

Although the attorney general's office has been successful in many lawsuits against the Trump administration, Raoul lamented his office didn't receive new funding compared to last year.

Pritzker's spring wins come with caveats as BUILD, megaprojects bills stall

[Brenden Moore](#), June 9, 2026

Over his 7½ years in office, Gov. JB Pritzker has largely gotten his way in the Democratic-supermajority Illinois General Assembly. But there were some high-profile caveats that underscored the limits of his clout among his fellow Democrats who run the state legislature.

Bloomington establishes conditions for continued funding of EDC

[Joe Deacon - WGLT](#), June 8, 2026

The City of Bloomington will continue making annual funding contributions to the Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council, but with a series of conditions attached.

Long vacant Bloomington auto shop to become headquarters for Jimmy John's franchisee

[Joe Deacon - WGLT](#), June 8, 2026

The historic Clay Dooley Building in the heart of Bloomington is getting a new tenant after sitting idle for nearly a decade.

U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood and Democratic opponent Paul Nolley differ on war powers vote

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 8, 2026

Republican U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood voted against the recent war powers act resolution in the House requiring an end to the war in Iran, even though LaHood has repeatedly said he wants the war to wind down.

Trump administration blocks wind farm development in Illinois and across the nation

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 5, 2026

Billions of dollars in wind farm projects all over Illinois are on hold, including two projects in McLean County, two in Peoria County, and one in Tazewell County.

Lincoln and Logan County officials slam state plans to close Logan Correctional Center

[Eric Stock](#), June 5, 2026

The Illinois Department of Corrections announced Friday it is officially closing the Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln and will relocate the 800-bed facility to Crest Hill in Will County.

Normal Planning Commission recommends changes to planned Infiniti Pointe subdivision

[Ben Howell](#), June 4, 2026

The vote was 4-2 with commission members Bob Broad and Mike Matejka voting against the changes. The recommendation will go before the Normal Town Council at its June 15 meeting.

LaHood no, Sorensen yes as House votes to end the war with Iran

[Ryan Denham](#), June 3, 2026

U.S. Reps. Darin LaHood and Eric Sorensen split their votes Wednesday as the Republican-led House voted to end the war with Iran, a bipartisan rebuke of President Trump's handling of the conflict and the subsequent economic fallout.

Illinois bill limits how social media companies can target feeds to children

[Nikoel Hytrek](#), June 3, 2026

Lawmakers on the final day of the General Assembly passed a bill to regulate how minors interact with social media and other online platforms to make them less addictive.

McLean County ZBA sends more stringent data center rules to county board

[Jim Stahly Jr.](#), June 3, 2026

The zoning board's more detailed rules for data centers cover everything from infrastructure and lighting to power and water use.

Normal mayor addresses fire department planning, kratom and E-bike enforcement

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 2, 2026

Mayor Chris Koos said he's pleased the firefighters' union is willing to have conversations about the fire service, and the future of the department outside of collective bargaining with the town.

Rideshare drivers could unionize in Illinois under bill passed by General Assembly

Jenna Schweikert, June 2, 2026

Drivers for companies like Uber and Lyft could elect union representatives and perform union activities, like collective bargaining.

Bloomington voters leverage township rules to add data centers, grocery tax to November ballot

[Jim Stahly Jr.](#), June 2, 2026

The nonbinding ballot questions on data centers, arms sales and a 1% grocery tax telegraph voter sentiment in the upcoming election.

Normal council votes to ban sale or distribution of kratom

[Braden Fogerson](#), June 1, 2026

Violators are subject to a fine of between \$100 and \$750 per day. The ordinance also allows the city manager to suspend or revoke a violator's business license.

Corrected tax bills are in the mail to overcharged Hudson Township taxpayers

[Lauren Warnecke](#), June 1, 2026

Property owners in rural areas of Hudson Township were incorrectly charged a Hudson Village tax on their most recent tax bills. The error affects about 600 taxpayers who were initially overcharged by about 2%.

Illinois lawmakers approve e-bike regulations with bipartisan support

[Evan Holden](#), June 1, 2026

The widow of an Illinois State University administrator struck and killed by an e-bike praised the legislation, which passed with mostly bipartisan support in the final hours of the spring legislative session.

Illinois lawmakers fail to pass Bears bill despite goal line push

[Brenden Moore](#), [Ben Szalinski](#), June 1, 2026

Despite a Hail Mary heave from the Illinois Senate in the final hours of the spring legislative session, state lawmakers ultimately failed to reach the end zone on a bill incentivizing the Chicago Bears to build a new stadium in Illinois.

Schools to get funding increase, but less than some had urged

[Peter Hancock](#), June 1, 2026

Illinois lawmakers passed a budget Monday morning that includes a full \$350 million increase in Evidence-Based Funding for public schools, money earmarked specifically for the neediest school districts in the state.

How Central Illinois lawmakers voted on the \$56 billion budget that just passed in Springfield

[Evan Holden](#), June 1, 2026

Here's how state Sens. Dave Koehler and Chris Balkema and Reps. Sharon Chung and Ryan Spain voted on the budget package that passed in Springfield early Monday morning.

Session slog ends in \$56 billion budget, new taxes on social media companies, crypto, fantasy sports

[Ben Szalinski](#), June 1, 2026

Illinois lawmakers approved the state budget early Monday morning after slogging through the night, enacting new taxes on businesses and authorizing less spending than what Gov. JB Pritzker proposed in February.

POWER Act data center regulation won't move forward this spring

[Nikoel Hytrek](#), May 31, 2026

The POWER Act, an expansive bill to regulate data centers, will not pass the General Assembly this spring, but the bill's leaders say the measure isn't dead and negotiations will continue through the summer.

Property tax debt sale reform will allow homeowners to keep more of their equity

[Jenna Schweikert](#), May 31, 2026

Illinois could soon reform the state's regulations on delinquent property tax sales after the House approved a bill 80-35 along party lines Saturday evening that lets homeowners keep their equity.

Details of \$55.9 billion budget begin to take shape with 12 hours left in session

[Ben Szalinski](#), [Jerry Nowicki](#), May 31, 2026

The Illinois Senate filed a more than 3,500-page spending plan late Saturday night but how it will be paid for has not been made public.

Normal to consider kratom ban

[Eric Stock](#), May 29, 2026

Town of Normal staff say kratom carries the potential for serious significant health risks for users and it's largely unregulated.

U.S. Rep. Sorensen says Democrats need a message beyond opposing Trump

[Molly Hughes](#), May 29, 2026

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen has a message about what Democrats should run on this November — groceries, gas prices, and the doctor's bill.

Sorensen says set rules for data centers, but don't drive them away

[Molly Hughes](#), May 29, 2026

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen doesn't want to block data centers from coming to Illinois. He also doesn't want them arriving without conditions. He's worried some data center developers will try to cut corners to get there.

How Bloomington might build a long straw to a river to get more water

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 28, 2026

As the City of Bloomington considers how to get more water in the future, planners could look to the city of Joliet for an example. One of the options under study by Bloomington would be for the city to build a pipeline to the Illinois River.

Lawmakers approve bill to regulate e-bikes, scooters

[Ben Szalinski](#), May 28, 2026

Owners of electric bikes, scooters and other modes of transportation could soon be subject to new regulations under a bill moving forward in the Statehouse.

Illinois lawmakers celebrate Sen. Durbin as he wraps up 44-year career in Congress

[Evan Holden](#), May 27, 2026

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin talked about his life in politics during an address Wednesday to the Illinois legislature. Durbin was elected to the Senate in 1996 and is retiring in January 2027.

Bloomington council expands tax incentive zone for potential new commercial development projects

[Braden Fogerson](#), May 27, 2026

The Bloomington City Council on Tuesday approved boundary modifications to the Bloomington-Normal Enterprise Zone, which provides state and local tax incentives for businesses within the zone. The adjustment was made in part to include additional businesses not previously within the zone.

Bloomington approves 6-month moratorium on data centers

[Braden Fogerson](#), May 26, 2026

The city council also approved a change to council meeting procedures, and a \$7 million park project funded by grant money.

Sen. Durbin is hopeful, but skeptical, of Trump closing Iran deal

[Ben Howell](#), May 26, 2026

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin spoke to McLean County Democrats at a private event in support of upcoming races in the 2026 election. He spoke to WGLT about his thoughts on Iran, redistricting and more.

History Makers Art and Camille Taylor are married in life, advocacy and activism

[Ben Howell](#), May 26, 2026

Art and Camille Taylor married in 1994 and have worked to advocate for each other's passions ever since. However, they did plenty of standing up for others before and after they reunited.

Bloomington-Normal librarians support state legislation to end high prices on e-books

[Ben Howell](#), [Eric Stock](#), May 26, 2026

John Fischer and Jeanne Hamilton both support the "Illinois Digital Library Protection Act." They say it will help keep book publishers from forcing unfair agreements in order for them to offer digital content to patrons.

Former Bloomington alderman announces a bid for McLean County Board

[Lauren Warnecke](#), May 23, 2026

Kevin Lower has announced he'll compete for an open seat, hoping to represent south Bloomington on the county board. Lower previously served on Bloomington City Council, and unsuccessfully ran for mayor in 2017.

City manager says federal grant assurance was a 'game changer' to proceed with underpass in Normal

[Eric Stock](#), May 21, 2026

Normal City Manager Pam Reece said the Federal Railroad Administration has assured the town it's OK with the delay.

'Junk fee' ban heads to Pritzker as Senate OKs bill allowing minors to consent to birth control

[Nikoel Hytrek](#), [Jerry Nowicki](#) and [Peter Hancock](#), May 20, 2026

The Illinois Senate advanced 40 bills on Wednesday, including a ban on “junk fees” and a bill allowing minors to consent to receiving birth control services without the need for a parent or other person’s consent.

State plans B-N's second manufacturing training academy on site at Rivian

[Ryan Denham](#), May 20, 2026

Bloomington-Normal could soon be home to a second state-supported manufacturing training academy — this time based at Rivian. State officials announced the development during a visit to Rivian on Tuesday.

Rep. Sorensen resuscitates a bill taking aim at Big Pharma

[Lauren Warnecke](#), May 19, 2026

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen, a Democrat who represents parts of Bloomington-Normal and Peoria, wants to stop pharmaceutical companies from gaming an FDA loophole he says is keeping generics from reaching the market.

Lake Bloomington property owners incorrectly charged on 2026 tax bills

[Lauren Warnecke](#), May 19, 2026

Parcels within Hudson Township, but outside the Village of Hudson, including the area surrounding Lake Bloomington, were inadvertently charged a village tax. A review of several tax bills indicates it may have also affected how village residents were taxed.

During Rivian visit, Pritzker says new R2 model could open EV market to the middle class

[Ryan Denham](#), May 19, 2026

Gov. JB Pritzker visited Rivian’s new manufacturing plant in Normal on Tuesday and suggested that the company’s new R2 model could open up the market for EVs to middle-income buyers in the same way that Ford’s Model T did for regular cars a century ago.

Uptown Underpass still coming, despite ballooning cost and delays

[Braden Fogerson](#), May 19, 2026

The Normal Town Council on Monday approved three resolutions to proceed with work on the long-delayed Uptown underpass.

Bloomington City Council discusses cleaning up amendment process

[Jim Stahly Jr.](#), May 18, 2026

The Bloomington City Council is trying to bring a little more order into how amendments are brought into council votes, attempting to avoid confusion on what's being approved.

Normal Town Council OKs 6-month data center moratorium; Bloomington poised to do the same

[Braden Fogerson, Jim Stahly Jr.](#), May 18, 2026

The Normal Town Council on Monday unanimously approved a six-month moratorium on the development of data centers. Bloomington City Council members appear ready to do the same next week.

With enhanced website, McLean County government leaps ahead in ADA compliance

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 15, 2026

The website for McLean County Government just got a lot easier to use for people with disabilities. County board chair Elizabeth Johnston said a new module can read PDF documents aloud, and even interpret technical drawings like plans to change the design of an intersection.

Normal council to vote on new contract for Uptown underpass construction

[Eric Stock](#), May 15, 2026

The underpass project is up for a second vote because the first contractor pulled out of the project. Since then, the cost has risen from \$32 million to \$34 million, but the town's cost remains the same. That's close to \$15 million.

Normal to vote on 6-month data center moratorium

[Eric Stock](#), May 15, 2026

Town staff say data centers present “distinct challenges and impacts” that the town’s land-use regulations are not currently built to address.

Divided McLean County Board rejects pay raise for members

[Jim Stahly Jr.](#), May 14, 2026

McLean County Board members have voted down a pay raise, rejecting what would have been their first raise in 10 years and keeping pay at the current level of \$4,900 a year through the end of 2030.

Bloomington to consider temporary moratorium on data centers

[Eric Stock](#), May 14, 2026

The council's monthly nonvoting meeting at 6 p.m. Monday will mark the first time the council has planned to consider policy on data centers since it hosted two public meetings earlier this month.

Advocates, accusing governor of 'lack of engagement,' urge passage of data center regulations by end of May

[Nikoel Hytrek](#), May 14, 2026

Environmental advocates continue to pressure lawmakers to require more transparency about data centers' water and energy use as the legislative session creeps toward the finish line.

GOP state lawmakers want to reform property taxes by increasing taxes on wind and solar

[Evan Holden](#), May 13, 2026

GOP legislators also introduced bills to make it easier for people older than 65 to get a homestead exemption, and allow property tax assessments to be published online.

Rep. LaHood cautiously supports creating debt commission to address deficit and Social Security shortfalls

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 13, 2026

U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood said he favors an approach to dealing with the looming Social Security insolvency that takes at least some of the political gamesmanship out of the issue.

Pritzker urges feds to release \$1B in broadband funds to Illinois

[Maggie Dougherty](#), May 13, 2026

Gov. JB Pritzker sent a letter to U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick on Tuesday, urging him to approve Illinois' proposal for federal broadband infrastructure funds.

McLean County proposes stricter guidelines for data centers while waiting for the state to act

[Eric Stock](#), May 12, 2026

McLean County government plans to consider new data center guidelines that would be the toughest in the state. Lea Cline, who chairs the county board's land use committee, said she proposed the new rules because she's not convinced state lawmakers are going to adopt any restrictions soon.

Bloomington OKs land exchange with IWU, with eye toward future development

[Joe Deacon - WGLT](#), May 11, 2026

The City of Bloomington will explore development possibilities for land on the northeast edge of Downtown, after acquiring the former Electrolux and Mennonite Hospital property through a land exchange with Illinois Wesleyan University.

Rep. Sorensen questions Hegseth about Rock Island layoffs, voiding union contracts

[Lauren Warnecke](#), May 11, 2026

The Democrat from Moline recently visited Bloomington-Normal for a whirlwind tour, discussing community school funding, flood mitigation and data centers. In a WGLT interview, he also reacted to confronting the defense secretary about continued cuts to the civilian workforce that makes weapons and ammunition.

CIRA hopes to boost community economic impact through air cargo road

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 11, 2026

The Central Illinois Regional Airport is giving a big thank-you to Congressman Darin LaHood for coming through with \$1.5 million in grant money.

Local Democracy Playbook: How to get more candidates to run for public office

[Eric Stock](#), May 10, 2026

With local elections in McLean County facing low turnout and dozens of uncontested seats, what's stopping our neighbors from running for office?

Local Democracy Playbook: 7 tips to get stuff done in Bloomington-Normal

[Charlie Schlenker](#), [Lauren Warnecke](#), May 10, 2026

It takes more than Facebook comments and email blasts to get results when advocating for change in local government. WGLT talked to those who've done it successfully to create this Local Democracy Playbook — a resource for you to follow in their footsteps.

Tension from ISU's AFSCME strike lingers, even after new contract ratified

[Ben Howell](#), May 8, 2026

The AFSCME Local 1110 president spoke at Friday's ISU Board of Trustees meeting. He said workers are glad to be back at work but are still upset with university leadership. ISU's president said none of the administration viewed the negotiations as personal.

Rep. Sorensen says DOJ investigation against D87, Ridgeview is a distraction from gas prices, community schools cuts

[Lauren Warnecke](#), May 8, 2026

“They’re going to try to give us anything to look at other than the gas approaching \$5 a gallon,” U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen said during a visit to Normal this week.

In an era of hostility, press protections remain strong in Illinois

[Ben Howell, Eric Stock](#), May 8, 2026

Don Craven, an attorney for multiple journalism associations in the state, said Illinois is in good shape compared to other states. Amid uncertainty at the federal level, he defended his work in courts and litigation to protect the profession.

LaHood opposes using public money for White House ballroom project

[Joe Deacon - WGLT](#), May 7, 2026

With a new Republican plan in Congress calling for \$1 billion in funding for security improvements tied to the White House ballroom project, U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood says he doesn't want any public money going to support the project.

Bloomington residents speak out against data centers at public forum

[Ben Howell](#), May 6, 2026

At Wednesday's forum, only one resident spoke in favor of a data center. The other 24 people raised concerns over water use, pollution, land use and transparency from the city.

Bloomington's data center hot topic is ho-hum in Normal

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 6, 2026

Data centers are getting a lot of attention in Bloomington. In Normal, not so much — both in inquiries by business and concerns from the public.

Rep. LaHood again calls for ‘off ramp’ on U.S. war in Iran to bring fuel costs down

[Joe Deacon - WGLT](#), May 6, 2026

While gas prices keep soaring as the U.S. war in Iran shows no end in sight, Republican U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood said he’s ready to see the Trump Administration find a way out of the war soon.

Normal renews agreement for ISU-branded water tower

[Braden Fogerson](#), May 4, 2026

The town council on Monday approved a license agreement with the Illinois State University Board of Trustees for the Main Street water tower.

Sen. Durbin says he will not back House version of Farm Bill

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 4, 2026

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin doesn't think the current version of the Farm Bill will fly. During a news conference in Normal, he said the House version will not get his vote.

Rep. Sorensen pledges additional funding for Uptown Normal flood relief

[Lauren Warnecke](#), May 4, 2026

With an additional \$1.6 million Sorensen plans to pursue through the appropriations process this year, federal grants would cover well over half of a major upgrade to Uptown's overwhelmed sewer system.

Bloomington-Normal joins in nationwide May Day protests

[Ben Howell](#), May 1, 2026

In the same vein as "No Kings" protests, the Bloomington-Normal rally of the national "May Day Strong" protest called for an end to attacks on laborers. The Illinois Federation of Teachers called special attention to addressing the lack of higher ed funding.

Bloomington tornado cleanup ebbs while road work ramp up

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 1, 2026

The City of Bloomington is getting close to the end of cleanup from the tornadoes that swept through the Twin Cities on April 17. City Manager Jeff Jurgens said city crews have hauled away 442 truckloads of debris.

Bloomington mayor says State of the City is strong, but 'the work never ends'

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 1, 2026

In his first State of the City speech, Bloomington Mayor Dan Brady said the city has accomplished a lot in his first year in office.

McLean County property tax bills show increase from 2025

[Ben Howell](#), May 1, 2026

McLean County property tax bills total \$483.6 million from the 2025 assessment period. It's a 4% increase from last year.

McLean County Clerk says it's 'game on' after police question staff about overtime pay

[Lauren Warnecke](#), May 1, 2026

In a press conference Friday morning, McLean County Clerk Kathy Michael said scrutiny about her office's spending in 2025 was a politically-motivated attempt to slander her in an election year.

Justice Department investigates District 87, Ridgeview and 34 other Illinois school districts over 'gender ideology'

[Ryan Denham](#), April 30, 2026

The Trump administration said Thursday it had launched an investigation in District 87, Ridgeview, and 34 other Illinois school districts to “to determine whether they have included sexual orientation and gender ideology content in any class for grades pre-K-12.”

Bloomington city manager says public exploration of data center issue is only the beginning

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 30, 2026

City Manager Jeff Jurgens doesn't think there is any location inside city limits that would be suitable for a large-scale data center, though there may be places outside municipal limits that fall under county government.

Major overhaul of Fox Creek Road in southwest Bloomington set to begin next week

[Saskia Molina Gamez](#), April 30, 2026

Road construction will begin as soon as next week on a stretch of Fox Creek Road on Bloomington's southwest side, between Savanna and Beich roads. There will be a bridge replacement, new roadway, multi-use, and new traffic signals as part of the project.

Illinois lawmakers punt remap amendment after SCOTUS Voting Rights Act ruling

Ben Szalinski and Peter Hancock, April 29, 2026

Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, said the Senate will not move forward with a constitutional amendment rewriting the state's redistricting rules after a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday.

Bloomington sets date for data center discussion; council disagrees over streetscape change

[Braden Fogerson](#), April 28, 2026

The data center public forum will be held at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts on Wednesday, May 6. The event will be from 2-4 p.m. and continue from 6-8 p.m.

Bloomington council approves \$60,000 drone show for July 4 weekend

[Braden Fogerson](#), April 27, 2026

The show at the Interstate Center will involve 300 drones and include animation elements, custom audio and synchronization provided by Firefly Services.

Underpass and other Uptown development decisions loom for the Normal Town Council

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 24, 2026

After more than eight years of trying, the Town of Normal may be able to move ahead with the Trail East and West developments on Uptown Circle. And if council members balk at a price increase for the Uptown Underpass, the town could have to repay millions in grant funding.

AFSCME presents nearly 7,000 petition signatures to ISU president, hoping to end strike

[Ben Howell](#), April 24, 2026

On day 17 of the AFSCME Local 1110 strike, union representatives presented the president of Illinois State University with nearly 7,000 petition signatures urging his negotiation of a fair deal. A state senator on campus said the strike is "putting pressure on us as legislators as well."

Pritzker's affordable housing plan gets Senate hearing as municipalities remain opposed

[Aidan Klineman](#), April 24, 2026

Illinois lawmakers questioned affordable housing advocates, municipal leaders and members of the public Thursday on Gov. JB Pritzker's Building Up Illinois Developments plan.

Champaign County Board approves 1-year data center moratorium

[Abigail Bottar](#), April 24, 2026

The measure temporarily bans construction of data center facilities with at least 10,000 square feet of processing area. More than a hundred residents attended the meeting to speak in favor of the moratorium.

ISU's president requests more state funding as hundreds of employees remain on strike

[Evan Holden](#), April 23, 2026

At an Illinois House committee hearing in Springfield on Thursday, Illinois State University President Aondover Tarhule requested more state funding as striking employees also in attendance claimed ISU was not negotiating with them in good faith.

Millionaire tax amendment fails to gain enough support from House Democrats

[Ben Szalinski](#), April 23, 2026

A “millionaire tax” proposal floated in the Illinois House failed to gain enough traction in Springfield this week, making it increasingly unlikely that voters will be asked to approve the measure in November.

Central Illinois lawmakers split on changing legislative map requirements in Illinois

[Evan Holden](#), April 23, 2026

House Republicans raise concerns about an amendment to the Illinois constitution changing the requirements for House district maps in Illinois. It allows for the creation of racial coalitions or influence districts and creates a priority ranking for the requirements.

Lawmakers eye water use transparency requirements for data centers

[Nikoel Hytrek](#), April 23, 2026

Lawmakers emphasized the need for transparency about how much water data centers use to cool their facilities at the final of three data center-focused hearings in the House Executive Committee.

Illinois lawmakers want to expand protections to domestic violence victims to digital spaces

[Evan Holden](#), April 22, 2026

The Illinois Senate unanimously has voted to expand orders of protection to online spaces and allow victims to indefinitely extend protection orders. The bill would give law enforcement more tools to investigate violations of orders of protection.

Gov. Pritzker bans state workers from using insider information on prediction market apps like Kalshi

[Tina Sfondeles](#), April 21, 2026

The governor said he's concerned about the lack of oversight, including bets on events which can be influenced by state employees.

Illinois Democrats still weighing budget options as strong revenue mixes with uncertain outlook

[Ben Szalinski](#), April 21, 2026

Democrats are entering the home stretch of budget negotiations ahead of their scheduled May 31 adjournment while monitoring better-than-expected revenue growth alongside the uncertainty that is a hallmark of governing during Donald Trump's presidency.

Lawmakers sweeten pot to keep Bears in Illinois, with stadium bill linked to statewide property tax relief

[Fran Spielman](#), [Tina Sfondeles](#), April 21, 2026

The Bears continue to weigh whether to build a stadium in Arlington Heights or Northwest Indiana. A new property tax relief element to a measure that would allow the Bears to renegotiate their property taxes with the northwest suburb is seen as essential in getting support from lawmakers outside of Chicago, including Republicans.

Lawmakers Chung, Koehler look to keep Illinois a beacon of LGBTQ+ support

[Jim Stahly Jr.](#), April 21, 2026

Much of the legislation they discussed Monday night at an annual legislative town hall hosted by the Prairie Pride Coalition and Equality Illinois is aimed at keeping in place support that's being scuttled by the Trump administration.

Normal approves Uptown TIF measures and extends tornado emergency declaration

[Braden Fogerson](#), April 20, 2026

The Normal Town Council approved four measures related to the Uptown Normal TIF District at its meeting Monday night.

McLean County Board chair is happy shared sales tax fund is starting to live up to original vision

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 20, 2026

The chair of the McLean County Board said the recent awarding of \$1.7 million in mental health and human service funding shows the potential of an intergovernmental agreement using shared tax money to improve the community.

150,000 Illinois households may lose federal food assistance beginning May 1

Jenna Schweikert and UIS Public Affairs Reporting (PAR), April 20, 2026

Ahead of an estimated 150,000 Illinois households losing their federal food assistance on May 1, advocates rallied at the Capitol to call for state support at extending assistance to those who may lose their benefits.

George Wendt remembered as conservative 'stalwart' of McLean County government

[Eric Stock](#), April 19, 2026

A Republican colleague said George Wendt will be remembered as a “stalwart advocate” of conservative principles on the McLean County Board.

Illinois House Republicans split on bill allowing eligible high schoolers to register to vote

[Evan Holden](#), April 17, 2026

The Illinois House passed a bill requiring high schools to provide an opportunity for eligible students to register to vote. Some Illinois Republicans have concerns about the lack of parental involvement and the influence of partisan politics in schools.

State Board of Elections dismisses complaint alleging Kathleen Lorenz violated campaign finance laws

[Lauren Warnecke](#), [Evan Holden](#), April 17, 2026

The Illinois State Board of Elections on Friday said a complaint filed against Normal Town Council member Kathleen Lorenz failed to reach the burden of proof that she broke campaign finance laws in her 2025 run for mayor.

McLean County Board awards more than \$1.7 million in health and public safety funding

[Michele Steinbacher](#), April 16, 2026

Mental Health and Public Safety Fund awards range from \$30,000 to \$650,000, and will go to groups such as Home Sweet Home Missions, Lifelong Access, and The Baby Fold.

House approves Pritzker initiative to regulate social media algorithms

[Ben Szalinski](#), April 16, 2026

A bill to regulate social media companies and the features they make available to minors is advancing in the Statehouse.

Democrat Joshua Crockett announces a run for McLean County Clerk

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 16, 2026

Crockett said it's time for a fresh face in the office and he wants to do innovative things other county clerks do, such as employ universal polling places.

Normal Township reports a boost in ARC membership, increase in tax levy for general assistance fund

[Lauren Warnecke](#), April 15, 2026

The first annual meeting since Normal township experienced a complete turnover of trustees included plans to celebrate the Activity and Recreation Center's 10th anniversary.

Traffic and ISU campus safety initiative nears final recommendations

[Ben Howell](#), April 15, 2026

The big area of contention is School Street as it intersects with College Avenue and Mulberry Street. It leaves the Town of Normal and Illinois State University with a final recommendation to make regarding the intersection.

City of Bloomington wants volunteer service help — and lots of it — as term expirations loom

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 15, 2026

A big chunk of the community volunteers on appointed boards and commissions in Bloomington will have their terms expire at the end of the month. A few more terms will lapse at the end of June, according to the city website. And there were already a lot of vacancies among the 138 seats the mayor fills by appointment.

Normal Township approves ballot question on pro-Israel state law

[Lauren Warnecke](#), April 15, 2026

Attendees at Normal Township's annual meeting Tuesday voted to add a nonbinding question to the November ballot, allowing residents to express opinions on a state law prohibiting state-funded institutions from involvement with companies that don't support Israel.

McLean County Clerk Kathy Michael no-shows County Board Executive Committee

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 14, 2026

The skirmishing between Democratic McLean County Board members and Republican McLean County Clerk Kathy Michael continued as Michael did not appear before the board Executive Committee Monday afternoon.

House Speaker backs millionaires tax, but Democrats split over how much to devote to property tax relief

[Mawa Iqbal](#), April 14, 2026

One proposed constitutional amendment imposing a 3% tax on millionaires would yield \$1,500 checks to property owners. Another would divvy up proceeds between schools and property tax relief. An early May deadline looms to get a plan before voters this fall.

Bloomington approves 'historic' \$370 million budget and Connect Transit transfer

[Molly Hughes](#), April 14, 2026

The Bloomington City Council unanimously approved a \$370.5 million fiscal year 2027 budget Monday night, the largest in the city's history.

Negotiations over data center legislation have yet to ramp up as environmental groups cite favorable poll

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 13, 2026

The Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition said data center operators need to be transparent about what the public gets out of the big installations, releasing polling data showing 70% of Illinois residents support tighter regulation of the data center industry embodied in the POWER Act.

If Trail East and West development is revived, Uptown mural may go

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 8, 2026

The new version of the proposed Trail East and West development project in Uptown Normal would be primarily residential housing on the north side of the traffic circle

straddling Constitution Trail. And a controversial mural on a building in the project footprint would likely be torn down.

Waymo begins testing in Chicago as bill seeks to legalize autonomous vehicles

[Jacques Abou-Rizk](#), April 7, 2026

For the last year, legislators in Springfield have been trying to work through a variety of issues raised by skeptics of the autonomous vehicles, known as AVs.

Normal council adopts formal code of ethics

[Michele Steinbacher](#), April 6, 2026

The Normal Town Council has a new code of ethics, and though it's mostly symbolic, the resident who proposed the idea says it is needed in today's political climate.

Illinois pursues abortion coverage for people with little or no insurance

Nikoel Hytrek and UIS Public Affairs Reporting (PAR), April 6, 2026

A new Illinois bill would establish a state grant program to pay for abortions for uninsured or underinsured people. The grant money would come from funds set aside from Affordable Care Act plans.

B-N Water Reclamation District gets \$5 million grant to spark west side industrial development

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 6, 2026

The state has announced a \$5 million grant for the Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District [BNWRD] that is intended to stimulate business development on the west side of the Twin Cities.

Republicans, Pritzker point fingers over cause of rising property taxes

Ben Szalinski, April 1, 2026

Republicans are blaming Democratic policies, such as unfunded mandates on local governments and school districts, for raising property taxes while failing to provide other financial assistance.

Sorensen says Iran conflict a failure of foresight, calls to 'finish it'

[Molly Hughes](#), April 1, 2026

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen on Wednesday said the Trump administration failed to protect Americans from the economic fallout of the conflict in Iran and, with the president set to address the nation this evening, he said he wants answers.

Education

[High schoolers could soon be able to swap 2 years of foreign language with technical education](#)

June 26, 2026

[Unit 5 school board approves school repairs, portable classrooms](#)

June 23, 2026

[Bloomington Career Academy sees growth in new space](#)

June 23, 2026

[IWU locksmith retires after 45 years of serving with hard work and heart](#)

June 18, 2026

[McLean County governments, school districts play the market as gas prices remain high](#)

June 17, 2026

Unit 5

1. [Chiddix teacher agrees to delay detention hearing as he awaits trial on felony grooming, solicitation charges](#)
2. [Chiddix Junior High teacher faces 42 felony counts in the school's 2nd grooming case](#)
3. [Prosecutors say 'additional individuals have come forward' in grooming case against Unit 5 teacher](#)
4. [Unit 5 parent sues over alleged harassment of a trans student at Chiddix Junior High](#)
5. [New parent notification system coming to Unit 5](#)
6. [Inside the skills-focused young adult program at Eugene Field](#)
7. [Local Democracy Playbook: 7 tips to get stuff done in Bloomington-Normal](#)

District 87

1. [Why mattress trash is this Bloomington nonprofit's treasure](#)
2. [High schoolers could soon be able to swap 2 years of foreign language with technical education](#)
3. [Bloomington Career Academy sees growth in new space](#)
4. [McLean County governments, school districts play the market as gas prices remain high](#)
5. [New eligibility requirements reshape District 87's summer school program](#)
6. [Pure joy: Teachers tour future home for District 87's Sarah Raymond School](#)
7. [Bloomington Junior High students lead project focused on positivity](#)

Higher Education

1. [Bloomington to construct green rain garden to filter and collect flood runoff](#)
2. [WGLT and Dirksen Congressional Center to host Adam Kinzinger at Illinois State University on Oct. 1](#)
3. [Heisman Trophy winner and entrepreneur Tim Tebow to headline Red Cross annual Evening of Stars](#)
4. [ISU alum Laurie Metcalf wins a Tony Award for 'Death of a Salesman' performance](#)
5. [Heartland Community College plans for same or less money despite slight statewide funding increase in higher ed](#)
6. [ISU looks to 'weather the storm' as state funding bump lags behind inflation](#)
7. [Suspect in ISU shooting convicted on gun charges, acquitted of attempted murder](#)

Olympia begins work on a large addition to middle and high school campus

Braden Fogerson, June 9, 2026

A new athletics space, three agriculture classrooms and a new home for the unit office are included in the project.

Baby Fold administrator authors book and app for parents of neurodivergent children

Braden Fogerson, June 8, 2026

The book, Pilot's Drive for Autonomy: The Neurodynamic Navigator System, provides a guide to children diagnosed with Pathological Demand Avoidance [PDA], a subtype of autism.

Cell phone ban, loosening foreign language requirements among education bills to pass

Peter Hancock, June 2, 2026

Gov. JB Pritzker says he intends to sign legislation imposing a statewide ban on cell phones and other wireless communication devices during instructional time in public schools and charter schools.

Illinois Wesleyan ready to 'play offense' in approaching enrollment cliff

Braden Fogerson, May 26, 2026

Illinois Wesleyan University is leaning into technology improvement and expansion as it moves toward the 2026-27 school year.

When sustainability is made doable, one college student's trash can become another's treasure

Ben Howell, May 21, 2026

As part of NPR's Climate Solutions Week, you'll learn about efforts to make sustainability and recycling easier for college students in Illinois. Because one student's trash is another's treasure come the next semester.

Illinois bill would give teachers due process but raises concerns about patterns of bad behavior

Evan Holden, Charlie Schlenker, Lauren Warnecke, May 21, 2026

A bill introduced in the Illinois legislature would allow teachers to challenge notices of remedy, actions that go against school policy but can be fixed. Opponents have raised concern that this could erase documentation of patterns of abuse by teachers.

ISU student deposits drop as enrollment cliff arrives

Charlie Schlenker, May 15, 2026

The long-dreaded enrollment cliff for colleges and universities is here. "I think there's still a path to success for us, but we'll have to be nimble," said ISU admissions chief Jeff Mavros.

First-of-its-kind quantum science center coming to Illinois Wesleyan

Braden Fogerson, May 14, 2026

Illinois Wesleyan University on Thursday announced a new interdisciplinary program focused on quantum science that it says will be the first of its kind in the U.S.

Downs receives state grant for traffic safety near Tri-Valley schools

Eric Stock, May 12, 2026

There will be sidewalk improvements and upgrades to traffic control devices and pedestrian crossings around Tri-Valley Elementary, Middle and High School.

Bloomington OKs land exchange with IWU, with eye toward future development

Joe Deacon - WGLT, May 11, 2026

The City of Bloomington will explore development possibilities for land on the northeast edge of Downtown, after acquiring the former Electrolux and Mennonite Hospital property through a land exchange with Illinois Wesleyan University.

Tension from ISU's AFSCME strike lingers, even after new contract ratified

[Ben Howell](#), May 8, 2026

The AFSCME Local 1110 president spoke at Friday's ISU Board of Trustees meeting. He said workers are glad to be back at work but are still upset with university leadership. ISU's president said none of the administration viewed the negotiations as personal.

ISU trustees approve \$84 million for new science complex facilities

[Ben Howell](#), May 8, 2026

With a combination of state funding and repayment from student fees, the Illinois State University Board of Trustees on Friday approved \$84 million in funding for three new STEM facilities. They include a new teaching building, an annex and a greenhouse.

Community schools worry about future funding, which might lead to service cuts

[Evan Holden](#), May 8, 2026

Community and afterschool programs are requesting more money as they still try to get federal funding cuts back, and Gov. JB Pritzker proposed a funding cut in next year's budget.

Illinois lawmakers question progress under Evidence-Based Funding for public education

Peter Hancock, May 6, 2026

State Lawmakers will assess how much progress has occurred in public education under the Evidence-Based Funding formula.

Normal West mock trial team heads to national competition in Iowa

[Braden Fogerson](#), May 6, 2026

This marks the first time a Unit 5 mock trial team is competing at the National High School Mock Trial Championship.

Illinois bomb squad called to NCHS responding to general threat to the school

[Lauren Warnecke](#), [Courtney Conroy](#), May 5, 2026

Students and staff at Normal Community High School returned home Tuesday after a call broadly threatening the school prompted an emergency response.

ISU and AFSCME reach tentative deal on new contract to end strike

[Ryan Denham](#), May 5, 2026

Illinois State University and the AFSCME union that represents buildings, dining and food service workers announced late Monday that they've reached a tentative deal, likely ending the longest single-unit strike in ISU history.

Normal West principal receives \$10,000 leadership award

[Braden Fogerson](#), May 4, 2026

The students and staff of Normal Community West High School surprised the school principal as they celebrated her win of a leadership excellence award.

Tech literacy a goal for the new superintendent at Bloomington-based Regional Office of Education

[Braden Fogerson](#), May 4, 2026

Molly Allen, who served about six years as assistant regional superintendent, is now regional superintendent. She takes over for Mark Jontry, who retired in April.

Bloomington-Normal joins in nationwide May Day protests

[Ben Howell](#), May 1, 2026

In the same vein as "No Kings" protests, the Bloomington-Normal rally of the national "May Day Strong" protest called for an end to attacks on laborers. The Illinois Federation of Teachers called special attention to addressing the lack of higher ed funding.

After governor's remarks, ISU tells mediator it's willing to return to bargaining table with striking AFSCME

[Eric Stock](#), May 1, 2026

An ISU spokesperson said university administration contacted the federal mediator Thursday morning to indicate their willingness to resume negotiations with AFSCME Local 1110. ISU says the session with the mediator is planned for Monday.

Justice Department investigates District 87, Ridgeview and 34 other Illinois school districts over 'gender ideology'

[Ryan Denham](#), April 30, 2026

The Trump administration said Thursday it had launched an investigation in District 87, Ridgeview, and 34 other Illinois school districts to “to determine whether they have included sexual orientation and gender ideology content in any class for grades pre-K-12.”

Judge denies attempt to kick temporary workers at ISU off the job as AFSCME strike continues

[Lauren Warnecke](#), April 29, 2026

The union representing building, grounds and dining workers at Illinois State attempted to gain a temporary restraining order preventing the university from contracting janitorial services during a work stoppage. A judge denied the request.

Gov. Pritzker wants AFSCME and ISU to resume negotiations as strike hits 4th week

[Evan Holden](#), April 29, 2026

Gov. JB Pritzker said he wants Illinois State University and the AFSCME union to come back to the negotiating table as the strike enters its fourth week. "It seems like there is a deal to be made," he said.

Striking ISU workers struggling with cost of living as work stoppage continues

[Braden Fogerson](#), April 28, 2026

Dining and grounds workers say the financial squeeze of going weeks without pay is making it tough for them to get by. Union members have been on strike since April 8.

Illinois State University sticking to final offer in AFSCME strike negotiations

[Ben Howell](#), [Eric Stock](#), April 27, 2026

Glen Nelson, vice president of finance and planning at Illinois State University, said the union and ISU continue to have three sticking points concerning back pay and future salary raises. ISU has said it has already offered the union its best and final deal.

School psychologists 'drowning' as school sales tax hasn't yet filled a District 87 mental health gap

[Braden Fogerson](#), April 27, 2026

Superintendent David Mouser said facilities upgrades are underway as coffers fill from the new county school sales tax. But that revenue hasn't had a significant impact on a shortage of mental health professionals working in District 87. An employee said salaries aren't competitive enough to keep school psychologists in the district.

District 87 superintendent sounds off on State Farm departure, phones and SNAP benefits

[Braden Fogerson](#), April 27, 2026

District 87 Superintendent David Mouser said cell phones are the leading cause for disciplinary referrals at Bloomington High School. A new policy rolled out this year bans phones in classrooms.

Illinois Wesleyan names new director of Petrick Idea Center

[Ben Howell](#), April 27, 2026

Ben Hage will take his new position effective June 1. The Petrick Idea Center will open this fall semester at Illinois Wesleyan University.

ISU says its external custodial contractors are not strikebreakers

[Eric Stock](#), April 24, 2026

Illinois State University officials on Friday acknowledged using external companies to perform custodial and grounds work on campus during the AFSCME strike, a claim that the union contends in a lawsuit is a violation of state law. ISU officials maintain they are in compliance with hiring and procurement laws.

AFSCME presents nearly 7,000 petition signatures to ISU president, hoping to end strike

[Ben Howell](#), April 24, 2026

On day 17 of the AFSCME Local 1110 strike, union representatives presented the president of Illinois State University with nearly 7,000 petition signatures urging his negotiation of a fair deal. A state senator on campus said the strike is "putting pressure on us as legislators as well."

ISU's president requests more state funding as hundreds of employees remain on strike

[Evan Holden](#), April 23, 2026

At an Illinois House committee hearing in Springfield on Thursday, Illinois State University President Aondover Tarhule requested more state funding as striking employees also in attendance claimed ISU was not negotiating with them in good faith.

Chiddix Junior High teacher faces grooming charges

[Eric Stock](#), April 23, 2026

Normal Police say Brandon Knapp, 43, of Hudson, was indicted Wednesday by a McLean County grand jury. Knapp, who taught at Chiddix Junior High School in Normal, was placed on paid leave in January as police investigated reports of alleged misconduct.

B-N lacrosse team to become ineligible for playoffs without pivot from IHSA

[Braden Fogerson](#), April 23, 2026

Normal Community, Normal West and Bloomington High School play in a co-op for girls lacrosse. A new IHSA rule makes it ineligible for playoffs starting in 2027.

Report: Illinois stalls in efforts to expand preschool compared to other states

[Jenna Schweikert](#), April 22, 2026

A new report from the National Institute for Early Education Research found Illinois' rate of growth in enrollment and funding for universal preschool is slowing, despite state efforts to expand preschool programming.

AFSCME sues Illinois State University for allegedly hiring strikebreakers

[Eric Stock](#), April 22, 2026

The union representing building and dining service workers at Illinois State University has sued the university, alleging it violated state law by hiring temporary workers during the union's strike, which is now in its third week.

It's been 20 years since the NCAA banned Chief Illiniwek from championship games. Some students want U of I to move on

April 20, 2026

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) told U of I it could not bring out its then mascot at championship games. The NCAA said Chief Illiniwek was hostile to Indigenous communities.

Faculty at University of Illinois Springfield reach tentative agreement to end strike

[Sean Crawford](#), April 20, 2026

After more than two weeks on the picket line, tenured and tenure-track faculty at the University of Illinois Springfield have a deal to return to work. Faculty will be back in the classroom Monday.

Stan Gozur takes over as president of Unit 5 school board, is pleased with district's direction

[Ben Howell, Eric Stock](#), April 17, 2026

Stan Gozur, newly elected president of the Unit 5 school board, said he is pleased with the outcome of the district's enrollment study that concluded that neither Carlock Elementary nor Glenn Elementary schools should be closed.

ISU faculty union files unfair labor practice complaint amid AFSCME strike

[Braden Fogerson](#), April 16, 2026

Illinois State University's faculty union said Thursday it's filed an unfair labor practice complaint against the university and its Board of Trustees after its members were allegedly asked to do the work of striking workers from another union.

Study shows \$799 million regional economic impact from community colleges, including Heartland

[Saskia Molina Gamez](#), April 16, 2026

Heartland Community College and three other institutions together generate \$799.6 million in economic impact and support 10,464 jobs across Central Illinois, according to a new study.

Unit 5 ends enrollment study with approval of new facilities and enrollment plan

[Braden Fogerson](#), April 16, 2026

The approved item avoids displacing students at Carlock or Glenn Elementary and adds no new taxes to pay for facility construction costs.

AFSCME continues worker strike at ISU heading into day 9

[Ben Howell](#), April 15, 2026

With the fifth contract negotiation session failing on Wednesday, AFSCME Local 1110 is heading into day nine of its strike at Illinois State University. Picketers outside Bone Student Center said proposed contract terms are still not good enough.

ISU takes part in campaign to recruit teachers from other career fields

[Eric Stock](#), April 15, 2026

A nonprofit group of educators is looking to address the statewide teacher shortage by recruiting more candidates from other career paths.

Will this be the year the state legislature approves a cellphone ban in schools?

[Sam Freeman](#), April 14, 2026

Illinois is one of only eight states that have no statewide restrictions on the use of cellphones in public schools.

Unit 5 receives \$30,000 grant to expand news literacy instruction

[Braden Fogerson](#), April 13, 2026

Unit 5 was accepted for the News Literacy District Fellowship to provide \$30,000 in grant funding over the next three years, beginning in the fall.

Unit 5 plans to monitor projected growth in Carlock as the district plans to spare its grade school

[Eric Stock](#), April 10, 2026

A committee of school board members and educators completed a multi-year process related to enrollment realignment on Thursday when it presented a final recommendation to the school board. That recommendation avoids two of the most controversial options the district considered.

Carlock, Glenn parents thankful for Unit 5 school recommendation

[Braden Fogerson](#), April 10, 2026

Carlock Elementary was initially proposed to close due to its enrollment that hovers around 100 students. The consulting firm Cropper GIS characterized that as “unsustainable.” Parents are relieved to hear Unit 5 plans to recommend school board members approve a plan to keep the school open and keep Glenn Elementary as-is.

Carlock and Glenn Elementary students stay put in proposal coming to Unit 5 school board vote next week

[Braden Fogerson](#), April 9, 2026

Unit 5 Superintendent Kristen Weikle presented details of the proposed plan during a virtual meeting Thursday night.

Campus beginning to see effects from ISU worker strike

[Braden Fogerson](#), April 9, 2026

AFSCME workers have been demonstrating outside Hovey Hall and at various points across campus where the university's striking grounds, buildings and dining services workers would typically be on the job.

ISU workers go on strike after negotiations hit dead end

[Braden Fogerson, Lauren Warnecke](#), April 7, 2026

Illinois State University's unionized buildings, grounds and dining services workers went on strike Wednesday after failing to reach an agreement with ISU administrators on a new contract.

District 87's David Mouser named a Superintendent of Distinction

[Courtney Conroy](#), April 7, 2026

Each year, the Illinois Association of School Administrators selects one honoree from each of the state's 21 regions through peer nominations.

ISU partners with South Korean Chungnam University to push innovation—especially with AI

[Lauren Warnecke](#), April 7, 2026

A delegation visited the Illinois State campus Tuesday for meetings with faculty and administration to formalize a collaborative approach to research and AI policymaking.

Children's Discovery Museum officially opens new exhibit about farm and food this week

[Ben Howell](#), April 6, 2026

The exhibit area closed for renovations in January. It will officially reopen on Thursday, April 9, featuring pretend play and education on agriculture, farming and the sources of food in Central Illinois.

ISU workers union sets Wednesday strike deadline

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 6, 2026

The union representing buildings, grounds, and dining services workers at Illinois State University said it will strike Wednesday if there is no contract agreement by then.

University of Illinois Springfield faculty go on strike

[Jenna Schweikert, Ben Szalinski](#), April 3, 2026

Faculty at the University of Illinois Springfield went on strike Friday after contract negotiations failed to produce satisfactory wage increases and address other concerns.

Business and Economy

[Why mattress trash is this Bloomington nonprofit's treasure](#)

[Lizzie Seils](#), June 29, 2026

When Daniel Kern officially founded the nonprofit Kernovate in 2025, he hoped to solve three problems: diverting mattresses from landfills, giving beds to those in need and providing work opportunities.

[State Farm slows changes for agent contracts](#)

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 26, 2026

State Farm has slowed implementation of some controversial contract changes for its network of agents but retained its elimination of insurance benefits.

[New report indicates Illinois' creative economy has 'major' impact statewide](#)

June 25, 2026

[Habitat for Humanity and State Farm partner to build two new homes in Bloomington](#)

June 24, 2026

[Trump says the U.S. doesn't need a trade deal with its neighbors. Farm groups push hard for renewal](#)

June 24, 2026

[G.J. Lofts building project receives funding support for energy efficient infrastructure](#)

[Ben Howell](#), June 23, 2026

The funding from the C-PACE program offsets the high cost of materials for heating and cooling systems, energy control systems, light fixtures and water conservation.

[State Farm slows changes for agent contracts](#)

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 26, 2026

State Farm has slowed implementation of some controversial contract changes for its network of agents but retained its elimination of insurance benefits.

Consultant from Normal wants to diversify the data center discussion in McLean County

[Ben Howell, Eric Stock](#), June 22, 2026

Harrison Meece wants to be on the team bringing a data center somewhere in McLean County — but only on the people's terms. He said as various moratoriums are put in place, now is the time to do more education for residents.

No gas price remedy but the marketplace

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 18, 2026

Rising gas prices caused by the U.S. war with Iran have caused a significant bump in the national inflation rate. A number of stopgap policy proposals have come up to ease the pain at the pump. It's questionable whether those ideas really matter.

Bloomington touts housing construction advances

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 10, 2026

Bloomington Mayor Dan Brady said the summer is marking progress on more than \$315 million in public and private investment projects.

Fresh parking could be a selling point for Bloomington arena naming rights

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 10, 2026

Bloomington appears ready to more aggressively market naming rights opportunities for the former Grossinger Motors Arena in Downtown Bloomington. Sponsorship by the auto group ended in 2022, and the city has called a news conference next Wednesday to highlight revived use of the building.

Trump administration blocks wind farm development in Illinois and across the nation

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 5, 2026

Billions of dollars in wind farm projects all over Illinois are on hold, including two projects in McLean County, two in Peoria County, and one in Tazewell County.

Country Financial CEO Jim Jacobs to retire

[Ryan Denham, Eric Stock](#), June 3, 2026

Bloomington-based Country Financial, one of McLean County's largest employers, announced the leadership changes on Wednesday morning. CEO Jim Jacobs plans to retire on June 30 after 21 years with the company.

Boiling mad and fearing an uncertain future, State Farm agents react to contract changes

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 2, 2026

Many State Farm agents said they feel angry and betrayed by the Bloomington-based company.

State Farm reduces base compensation for 19,000 agents

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 27, 2026

State Farm has told its 19,000 agents it is changing its compensation and benefits contract for them. The Bloomington-based company is also cutting benefits for retired agents.

G.J. Lofts construction project underway at former State Farm building Downtown

[Ben Howell](#), [Eric Stock](#), May 22, 2026

Phase one, including the first 57 apartments, is expected to be completed by next summer. Justin Fern of Urban Equity Properties spoke to WGLT on details for the planned G.J. Lofts project.

As McLean County weighs data centers, Joliet's massive project puts water use in context

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 18, 2026

Data centers may have a big geographical footprint, but they don't necessarily use a lot of water compared to other industrial facilities. WGLT gathered some data to help put data center water use in context, based on what's been approved in Joliet between here and Chicago.

CIRA hopes to boost community economic impact through air cargo road

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 11, 2026

The Central Illinois Regional Airport is giving a big thank-you to Congressman Darin LaHood for coming through with \$1.5 million in grant money.

ISU trustees approve \$84 million for new science complex facilities

[Ben Howell](#), May 8, 2026

With a combination of state funding and repayment from student fees, the Illinois State University Board of Trustees on Friday approved \$84 million in funding for three new STEM facilities. They include a new teaching building, an annex and a greenhouse.

Bloomington's data center hot topic is ho-hum in Normal

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 6, 2026

Data centers are getting a lot of attention in Bloomington. In Normal, not so much — both in inquiries by business and concerns from the public.

State Farm, Country Financial stay busy handling McLean County tornado claims

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 5, 2026

So far, State Farm and Country Financial have fielded a combined 656 insurance claims in McLean County from the April 17 storms and tornadoes.

Sen. Durbin says he will not back House version of Farm Bill

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 4, 2026

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin doesn't think the current version of the Farm Bill will fly. During a news conference in Normal, he said the House version will not get his vote.

FAA mandate delays United Airlines service to Bloomington until fall

[Eric Stock](#), May 4, 2026

A Central Illinois Regional Airport spokesperson confirms that service is pushed back until Oct. 24 at the earliest due to Federal Aviation Administration restrictions at O'Hare.

Bloomington mayor says State of the City is strong, but 'the work never ends'

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 1, 2026

In his first State of the City speech, Bloomington Mayor Dan Brady said the city has accomplished a lot in his first year in office.

Bloomington city manager says public exploration of data center issue is only the beginning

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 30, 2026

City Manager Jeff Jurgens doesn't think there is any location inside city limits that would be suitable for a large-scale data center, though there may be places outside municipal limits that fall under county government.

Bloomington refutes online reports of planned data center, plans public forums

[Eric Stock](#), April 17, 2026

Bloomington Mayor Dan Brady said Friday the city has no plans to consider a data center proposal in May, and the city will schedule a series of public forums on the controversial topic.

Negotiations over data center legislation have yet to ramp up as environmental groups cite favorable poll

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 13, 2026

The Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition said data center operators need to be transparent about what the public gets out of the big installations, releasing polling data showing 70% of Illinois residents support tighter regulation of the data center industry embodied in the POWER Act.

ISU workers union sets Wednesday strike deadline

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 6, 2026

The union representing buildings, grounds, and dining services workers at Illinois State University said it will strike Wednesday if there is no contract agreement by then.

B-N Water Reclamation District gets \$5 million grant to spark west side industrial development

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 6, 2026

The state has announced a \$5 million grant for the Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District [BNWRD] that is intended to stimulate business development on the west side of the Twin Cities.

Arts and Culture

Apples are a democratic fruit in the Midwestern imagination

[Charlie Schlenker](#) June 30, 2026

There will no doubt be apple pie on the menu at many July 4 celebrations this year. There is every year. This quintessential American fruit, however, has varying cultural weight in

different regions of the country. That's according to folklorist Lucy Long, author of the new book, *Sweet, Tart, & Golden — Apples in the Midwestern Imagination*.

Toni Tucker retires from Ewing Cultural Center, finishing to-do list years ahead of schedule

[Lauren Warnecke](#), June 30, 2026

Toni Tucker departs after 14 years as the primary steward of the estate's home and gardens in Bloomington, part of a collective 38 years with Illinois State University.

Lincoln and the Light of the Declaration of Independence

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 26, 2026

As the nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a Lincoln scholar from Bloomington-Normal is saying Abraham Lincoln relied on the Declaration all his life.

Music & Munch Benefit Concert has a long history turning tunes into togetherness

[Zachary Knox-Doyle](#), June 25, 2026

Cathy Hyland Moon and the Collective Arts and Learning Network make the annual concert bigger than music by sending all proceeds to the Therapeutic Arts Program in East Africa.

Man's best friend joins the gentlemen of Verona at Illinois Shakespeare Festival

[Lauren Fischer](#), [Lauren Warnecke](#), June 25, 2026

"The Two Gentlemen of Verona" is taking the stage at Illinois Shakespeare Festival, bringing a dog along to help tell the timeless story of betrayal, friendship and forgiveness.

New report indicates Illinois' creative economy has 'major' impact statewide

[Zachary Knox-Doyle](#), [Lauren Warnecke](#), June 25, 2026

Arts Alliance Illinois, along with several other nonprofits and government partners, released a two-part study this week providing evidence of the creative sector's economic impact in Chicago — and across the state.

Murals add color and hope for youths in juvenile detention

[Lauren Warnecke](#), June 23, 2026

With support from the Illinois Arts Council, the McLean County Juvenile Detention Center has added two murals to areas frequented by youths held in pretrial detention. Staff say

adding color to the walls is a small thing, but can make a big difference in the lives of youth staying in the facility.

Art exhibition celebrates 250 years of America — while aspiring 'A More Perfect Union'

[Lauren Warnecke](#), June 17, 2026

At first, concerns rolled in from all sides of the political spectrum about the politics of patriotism. The collection of pieces by local artists respond to a series of questions about revolutionary moments, how migration and settlement impact the natural world and what it means to be an American.

Special Olympics Illinois' Summer Games brings more than athletics to Bloomington-Normal

[Zachary Knox-Doyle](#), June 11, 2026

What makes the event like no other is its emphasis on inclusion of everyone and building irreplaceable bonds through a large sum of people from all walks of life, organizers said. This year's games will feature 3,450 athletes and unified partners, 1,250 coaches and 1,200 volunteers.

A look back at the Bicentennial in McLean County, filled with kitsch, celebration and warm feelings

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 11, 2026

McLean County and Central Illinois are gearing up for America 250 with a bunch of events, everything from a community drone show on July 2 to readings of the Declaration of Independence at Connie Link Amphitheater in Normal and in Downtown Bloomington. It's not the first national anniversary involving a big celebration. Let's go back 50 years to hear what they did for the nation's Bicentennial.

3 Uptown Normal buildings could be demolished for new development straddling Constitution Trail

[Lizzie Seils](#), June 11, 2026

The Town of Normal's Historic Preservation Commission will decide whether or not to approve demolition of three Uptown Normal buildings at its next meeting.

New and old ways McLean County is celebrating America's 250th — drone show, fireworks, a flea market and more

[Lauren Fischer](#), June 11, 2026

All around Central Illinois, towns are holding Fourth of July firework shows, festivals and other events to celebrate 250 years of America. That includes a new drone show at the Interstate Center in Bloomington.

4 red wolf pups born at Miller Park Zoo a boost to the critically endangered species

[Zachary Knox-Doyle](#), June 8, 2026

The birth of four red wolf pups is significant for the species' conservation. Approximately 25 remain in the wild.

ISU alum Laurie Metcalf wins a Tony Award for 'Death of a Salesman' performance

[Lauren Warnecke](#), June 8, 2026

Metcalf picked up her third Tony on Sunday, adding to a stack of accolades gathered across her five decade career on stage and screen.

Hot air balloons will fly again at Lincoln's Balloons Over 66 Weekend in August

[Ryan Denham](#), June 6, 2026

Just four days after a local benefactor pulled the plug after years of bearing the costs himself, the Balloons Over 66 Weekend Committee said late Friday that they've figured out how to keep the balloons flying another year.

A Normal mural to be unveiled in Normal this week

[Lauren Warnecke](#), June 4, 2026

Pontiac's Diaz Sign Art created a custom mural for Sprague's Super Service commemorating significant landmarks in the Town of Normal: the Normal Theater and Steak and Shake. It will be officially unveiled Friday, ahead of a 1950s-themed celebration as part of the Cruisin' through the Century Route 66 Centennial.

The outdoor music season is here in B-N and beyond

[Lauren Warnecke](#), June 3, 2026

While not an exhaustive list, here's WGLT's recommendations for live music outside during Central Illinois' summer months.

Route 66 centennial is not just a moment, but a movement for businesses leaning on its image

[Ben Howell](#), June 3, 2026

The 100th birthday of Route 66 is not lost on businesses and attractions who depend on it. In Lexington, Towanda, Atlanta and Normal, proprietors acknowledge the importance of the nostalgia-driven love for the Mother Road is not just a moment in its history, but a movement they are a part of.

Miller Park Zoo selects a new permanent director

[Lauren Warnecke](#), June 3, 2026

Paul Bouseman has been picked to lead the city-owned zoo. He previously worked in zoo management and parks and recreation in Evansville, Indiana.

Bloomington native tied to famous UFO case to speak on unexplained phenomena

[Courtney Conroy](#), June 2, 2026

John Burroughs, whose account of the Rendlesham Forest incident helped make it one of the world's most famous UFO cases, is bringing a UFO conference to Bloomington and will discuss his decades-long effort to obtain medical benefits for health challenges related to the event.

For now, Lincoln's Balloons Over 66 festival won't have balloons

[Lauren Warnecke](#), June 2, 2026

Seth Goodman said he can't keep organizing the hot air balloons that are the cornerstone of Lincoln's signature event. Goodman told WGLT he can't keep covering the \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year it takes to operate and insure the balloon flights.

The Child's Play Fundstival is ready to take center stage in the Sam's Club parking lot

[Lauren Fischer](#), June 2, 2026

Johnnie Owens and other Midwest musicians are working with Sam's Club to bring two days of music and fundraising to the grocery store's parking lot. The "Fundstival" will take place on June 5 and 6.

Al Oltmanns appointed artistic director of Heartland Theatre Company

[Zachary Knox-Doyle](#), [Lauren Warnecke](#), May 27, 2026

Oltmanns will replace Rhys Lovell, who stepped down after over a decade in the position.

B-N gets roller skating back with pop-up Wheelz at the Interstate Center

[Zachary Knox-Doyle](#), [Lauren Warnecke](#), May 27, 2026

Wheelz brings skating back to the area for the first time in three years, with an inaugural all-day event Sunday in Bloomington. After Skate N Place closed in 2023, the closest permanent rink is nearly an hour away.

Midwest Punk Fest returns with a new home at Meltdown Creative Works

[Lauren Warnecke](#), May 26, 2026

Midwest Punk Fest organizer Jeremy Plue is reviving the regional festival after a four-year hiatus. He's also the "chief creative juggernaut" at Meltdown Creative Works and saw an opportunity to bring the festival back in the burgeoning venue.

Bloomington-Normal librarians support state legislation to end high prices on e-books

[Ben Howell](#), [Eric Stock](#), May 26, 2026

John Fischer and Jeanne Hamilton both support the "Illinois Digital Library Protection Act." They say it will help keep book publishers from forcing unfair agreements in order for them to offer digital content to patrons.

Ahead of Bloomington show, L.A. Guns' Phil Lewis reflects on Girl, the new stuff and settling differences with Tracii Guns

[Courtney Conroy](#), [Lauren Warnecke](#), May 21, 2026

"The fans stay excited, we stay excited and we keep making records," Phil Lewis from L.A. Guns told WGLT. They play alongside Cinderella's Tom Keifer on May 28 at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts.

Nomad Theatre caps season with barn-themed plays — in a North Normal barn

[Lauren Warnecke](#), May 15, 2026

Ellie Wertz of Honey DEW Acres suggested her 5-acre farm just outside Bloomington-Normal as a spot for Nomad Theatre Company's roaming productions. Co-founder Connie Blick describes it as "kismet."

PATH art auction promotes 988 awareness with color, resilience — and a sundae bar

[Lauren Warnecke](#), May 14, 2026

Six winning artworks will be featured on 988 posters around McLean County. Bloomington nonprofit PATH operates 988 calls for nine Illinois counties, plus 24/7 statewide text-to-chat support.

New projection show to highlight Bloomington's Route 66 centennial celebration in June

[Ben Howell](#), May 13, 2026

In a one-time show on June 6, the McLean County Museum of History will serve as the backdrop of a special projection show. Visit BN coordinated the project for ISU fine arts faculty to illustrate and animate images for the show.

With 'Dreamgirls,' director Jennifer Rusk passes the torch to a new generation of divas

[Lauren Warnecke](#), May 7, 2026

Bloomington-Normal native Jennifer Rusk is known around town for her dazzling vocals. As the century-old Community Players Theatre performs the Twin Cities' first-ever "Dreamgirls," she's giving others the spotlight.

Normal Community Experimental Ensemble releases 'A Moment of Yet' — an album made without sheet music

[Courtney Conroy](#), [Lauren Warnecke](#), April 29, 2026

An experimental music ensemble made up of high schoolers from Normal has dropped a new LP and is preparing for a concert at the McLean County Museum of History.

A new Route 66 book shares stories from forgotten women who shaped the Mother Road

[Courtney Conroy](#), [Lauren Warnecke](#), April 23, 2026

As Route 66 turns 100, a new book is expanding the story of the Mother Road by focusing on people often left out of its history. The author will visit Bloomington-Normal on May 2.

Farm bureau announces a \$1 million investment in McLean County fairgrounds

[Addy Carnahan](#), [Lauren Warnecke](#), April 16, 2026

The farm bureau said renovations will take place over the next three years. Funding will go toward upgrades, maintenance and new improvements to keep the fairgrounds in good condition.

BCPA announces a trio of First Friday concerts on the lawn this summer

[Addy Carnahan](#), [Lauren Warnecke](#), April 16, 2026

The first of three First Fridays is in June, with cover bands performing popular hits across decades and genres on the BCPA lawn.

[Illinois Symphony season finale includes a world premiere inspired by Route 66](#)

[Lauren Warnecke](#), April 16, 2026

The orchestra's dual presence in Bloomington-Normal and Springfield, plus the 100th anniversary of the Mother Road in 2026, present a perfect opportunity to debut Michelle Isaac's 'Reverie on the Mother Road.'

[At Normal Theater, Bob Odenkirk explains why his new movie borrowed the name 'Normal'](#)

[Ryan Denham](#), April 3, 2026

The sketch comedy legend turned action star Bob Odenkirk brought a sneak peek of his new movie Normal to the Normal Theater on Thursday for a sold-out crowd.

[Normal Public Library sees attendance rebound in renovated branch as it pursues a sustainability certificate](#)

[Lauren Warnecke](#), April 2, 2026

Normal Public Library Director John Fischer said they hope to be an example to other community organizations that sustainability is possible. The Sustainable Libraries Initiative has been pursued by just 100 North American libraries.

[2026 Illinois Shakespeare Festival drops 'Romeo and Juliet,' 'The Two Gentlemen of Verona' and 'Our Town'](#)

[Courtney Conroy](#), April 1, 2026

The Illinois Shakespeare Festival has announced its 2026 season, featuring two Shakespeare plays and, for the first time, an American classic.

Technology

[Boiling mad and fearing an uncertain future, State Farm agents react to contract changes](#)

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 2, 2026

Many State Farm agents said they feel angry and betrayed by the Bloomington-based company.

[State Farm reduces base compensation for 19,000 agents](#)

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 27, 2026

State Farm has told its 19,000 agents it is changing its compensation and benefits contract for them. The Bloomington-based company is also cutting benefits for retired agents.

Illinois Wesleyan ready to 'play offense' in approaching enrollment cliff

[Braden Fogerson](#), May 26, 2026

Illinois Wesleyan University is leaning into technology improvement and expansion as it moves toward the 2026-27 school year.

As McLean County weighs data centers, Joliet's massive project puts water use in context

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 18, 2026

Data centers may have a big geographical footprint, but they don't necessarily use a lot of water compared to other industrial facilities. WGLT gathered some data to help put data center water use in context, based on what's been approved in Joliet between here and Chicago.

Bloomington city manager says public exploration of data center issue is only the beginning

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 30, 2026

City Manager Jeff Jurgens doesn't think there is any location inside city limits that would be suitable for a large-scale data center, though there may be places outside municipal limits that fall under county government.

Health and Medicine

Durbin lauds Chestnut dental clinic in Bloomington as Congress cuts health programs

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 29, 2026

U.S Sen. Dick Durbin said the struggle to improve dental care for low-income people is going the wrong way in Washington. During an appearance at Chestnut Health Systems in Bloomington, Durbin said that's particularly true for children.

Need rises sharply at Bloomington-Normal's Community Health Care Clinic

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 22, 2026

The Community Health Care Clinic in Normal has seen a big increase in need over the last nine months.

Pritzker signs bill protecting medical records for abortion patients in Illinois

Nikoel Hytrek and UIS Public Affairs Reporting (PAR), June 24, 2026

Gov. JB Pritzker signed a bill into law that would protect abortion-seekers in Illinois from potential retaliation by shielding their digital medical records from out-of-state entities.

Adam Nielsen is living with joy, hope—and Alzheimer's

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 10, 2026

Normal Citizen of the Year Adam Nielsen is living with early onset Alzheimer's disease. He and his wife Dayna Brown are doing so publicly and intentionally, as support to others who may be going through the same thing and as part of an advocacy effort.

B-N adds its first dermatologist who specializes in people of color

June 23, 2026

Disability rights advocates file lawsuit over Illinois' 'dangerous' right-to-die law

June 15, 2026

History Maker Feli Sebastian guided the most vulnerable of Bloomington-Normal

June 8, 2026

Family advocates praise Illinois bill that gives parents more transparency in child abuse investigations

[Evan Holden](#), June 5, 2026

Illinois lawmakers unanimously passed a bill during the spring legislative session that gives more transparency and tools to parents to defend themselves in child abuse cases.

McLean County's first Mental Health Field Day makes self-care feel less intimidating

[Courtney Conroy](#), May 30, 2026

McLean County Behavioral Health Coordination hosted a wide variety of tents and organizations Saturday at Normandy Village in Normal as part of Mental Health Awareness Month.

An autism therapy at Lifelong Access has 'transformed' a Bloomington family's life

[Cindy Alcazar](#), May 20, 2026

Bloomington resident Adrienne Overmeyer said Applied Behavior Analysis, a therapy commonly used to address challenging behaviors among autistic clients, helped her son become more independent.

Rep. Sorensen resuscitates a bill taking aim at Big Pharma

[Lauren Warnecke](#), May 19, 2026

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen, a Democrat who represents parts of Bloomington-Normal and Peoria, wants to stop pharmaceutical companies from gaming an FDA loophole he says is keeping generics from reaching the market.

OSF HealthCare to end St. Jude affiliation in Peoria

[Ben Howell](#), [Joe Deacon](#) - [WGLT](#), [Eric Stock](#), May 12, 2026

OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois and UICOMP will end their affiliation with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in a major change for Peoria's regional destination healthcare provider.

OSF names Derrick Frazier president of St. Joseph Medical Center as Shim steps down

[Courtney Conroy](#), May 6, 2026

After being named president of St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington just over a year ago, Eunmee Shim will step down from her role May 29.

Central Illinois groups have a goal to make Bloomington-Normal a dementia-friendly community

[Ben Howell](#), [Eric Stock](#), May 1, 2026

The East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging and the University of Illinois Extension are both leaders in the Bloomington-Normal Dementia-Friendly Task Force. The new group wants to set objectives for supporting those with dementia and their families through a survey which closes June 15.

Peer support a critical piece of the addiction recovery puzzle in McLean County

[Lauren Warnecke](#), April 28, 2026

Coordination between McLean County's court system, community health providers and Heartland Community College has made peer support specialists a valued part of the care team in the county's drug court. One participant said drug court was a lifeline she needed to begin addiction recovery.

OSF St. Joseph leaders hope new chapel helps patients, families and staff 'find peace'

[Saskia Molina Gamez](#), April 23, 2026

After years of planning and fundraising, leaders at OSF HealthCare St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington invited community members to experience their new patient and family-centered chapel.

Bloomington and Normal to host fair housing and wellness resources event

[Ben Howell](#), April 22, 2026

In association with the Mid-Illinois Realtors Association, the City of Bloomington and Town of Normal will offer the fair to bring to residents a network of community organizations related to housing and wellness.

New OSF HealthCare CEO Conger eyes continued growth, improvement in care

[Joe Deacon - WGLT](#), April 14, 2026

Following a lengthy transition period, Michelle Conger is embracing her new role as CEO of the OSF HealthCare system. Conger, who joined OSF in 1994, moved into the network's top leadership position following Bob Sehring's retirement early this month.

Volunteers help meet need for Spanish translators in Bloomington-Normal

[Saskia Molina Gamez](#), April 14, 2026

In the Bloomington-Normal community, there is a significant need for Spanish-speaking volunteer translators. Organizations such as Illinois State University's Sigma Delta Pi (the National Spanish Honor Society) and Wesley United Methodist Church and community members who volunteer independently are helping fill this need for translating and interpreting.

Adam Nielsen is living with joy, hope—and Alzheimer's

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 10, 2026

Normal Citizen of the Year Adam Nielsen is living with early onset Alzheimer's disease. He and his wife Dayna Brown are doing so publicly and intentionally, as support to others who may be going through the same thing and as part of an advocacy effort.

Brightpoint holds annual Color Run to support family visitation center in Bloomington

[Ben Howell](#), April 8, 2026

The "Taking Steps to End Child Abuse Color Run" is in its 16th year this April. It is held in the memory of Duncan and Jack Leichtenberg of LeRoy, the 2009 victims of childhood domestic violence.

[Bloomington family whose son drowned wants more autism resources available](#)

[Cindy Alcazar](#), April 7, 2026

A nonprofit is partnering with a Bloomington family to bring awareness of resources for families navigating autism. Leo Egbers was diagnosed with autism shortly before he drowned in a pond behind his home in 2024.

[Illinois pursues abortion coverage for people with little or no insurance](#)

Nikoel Hytrek and UIS Public Affairs Reporting (PAR), April 6, 2026

A new Illinois bill would establish a state grant program to pay for abortions for uninsured or underinsured people. The grant money would come from funds set aside from Affordable Care Act plans.

Law Enforcement

[One man shot, teenager arrested following fight at west Bloomington grocery store](#)

[Joe Deacon - WGLT](#), June 27, 2026

Bloomington Police said one man suffered a gunshot wound and another man has been arrested after a fight broke out Friday afternoon inside a west Bloomington grocery store.

[Bloomington man arrested for alleged involvement in \\$1.3M armed robbery at a Missouri casino](#)

[Lizzie Seils, Lauren Warnecke](#), June 26, 2026

A Bloomington 20-year-old was arrested for allegedly robbing a Missouri casino at gunpoint, alongside another man.

[Man arrested after shooting in Normal](#)

[Ryan Denham](#), June 26, 2026

Police are investigating a shooting late Thursday that seriously injured a man in Normal. One suspect is in custody.

Former U of I cop from LeRoy sentenced to 25 years after sexual assault conviction

[Lauren Warnecke](#), June 25, 2026

Jerald Sandage was initially charged with official misconduct, accused of abusing his access to police records. That led to a police investigation uncovering evidence he'd used those records to track, drug and sexually assault as many as four women.

B-N residents voice concerns about Flock cameras in policing to the man who leads Bloomington's program

[Lauren Warnecke](#), June 25, 2026

Jack McQueen took questions from concerned citizens leading a campaign against use of Flock brand license plate reading cameras to solve crimes.

Prosecutors allege a decade-long 'pattern of behavior' as judge jails second Chiddix teacher before trial

[Lauren Warnecke](#), June 24, 2026

A judge said there was "no doubt" the state had met its burden of proof that Chiddix teacher Andrew "Drew" Miller poses a threat to society and should be detained. Miller has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Murals add color and hope for youths in juvenile detention

[Lauren Warnecke](#), June 23, 2026

With support from the Illinois Arts Council, the McLean County Juvenile Detention Center has added two murals to areas frequented by youths held in pretrial detention. Staff say adding color to the walls is a small thing, but can make a big difference in the lives of youth staying in the facility.

Chiddix teacher agrees to delay detention hearing as he awaits trial on felony grooming, solicitation charges

[Lauren Warnecke](#), [Eric Stock](#), June 18, 2026

Appearing in McLean County court on Thursday afternoon, Andrew "Drew" Miller, 40, of Normal, waived his right to a speedy determination about whether he'll be detained awaiting trial on 42 felony counts.

Chiddix Junior High teacher faces 42 felony counts in the school's 2nd grooming case

[Eric Stock](#), June 17, 2026

Police spokesperson Bryce Janssen said a warrant was issued for Andrew “Drew” Miller, 40, of Normal following a grand jury indictment on Wednesday morning. Officers from the department’s street crimes unit pulled Miller over at a traffic stop at Hamilton Road and Bunn Street. He was taken into custody at 1:12 p.m.

Suspect convicted nearly 5 years after fatal shooting in Bloomington

[Lauren Warnecke](#), June 15, 2026

A jury found Osman McLaurin guilty of first-degree murder and unlawful possession of a firearm in connection with the 2021 fatal shooting of Geoffrey Rowry.

Woman dies in I-39 crash in Woodford County

[Eric Stock](#), June 10, 2026

Woodford County Coroner Tim Ruestman said a vehicle driven by Lulije Cosentino, 49, of Dixon, was rear-ended by another vehicle on southbound Interstate 39 about five miles south of Minonk.

Suspect accused of slipping his girlfriend abortion pills gets 7 years in a plea deal

[Zachary Knox-Doyle](#), June 8, 2026

Emerson Evans, 32, pleaded guilty to manslaughter of an unborn baby after being accused of slipping abortion pills to his girlfriend last year.

Prosecutors say 'additional individuals have come forward' in grooming case against Unit 5 teacher

[Ryan Denham](#), June 4, 2026

Prosecutors said Thursday that “additional individuals have come forward” in the case against a Unit 5 junior high teacher accused of grooming at least one child.

Suspect in ISU shooting convicted on gun charges, acquitted of attempted murder

[Lauren Warnecke](#), June 1, 2026

Emir Thomas, of Chicago, faces up to 30 years in prison, despite a jury finding him not guilty of attempted murder in the 2025 shooting at the Bone Student Center

75-year sentence handed down for cocaine trafficking in McLean County

[Charlie Schlenker](#), May 31, 2026

An Illinois State Police K-9 dog detected the presence of drugs inside a refrigerator truck following a traffic stop. Authorities said officers found four large black garbage bags containing a substance that tested positive for cocaine.

State Police troopers receive Medal of Honor after gun battle with armed suspect in Lexington

[Eric Stock](#), May 28, 2026

ISP Master Sgt. Billy Quinn and Sgt. Benjamin Reichard were among 19 officers from police agencies across the state to receive the honor Thursday at a ceremony in Springfield.

Teen boy dies after crash near McLean

[Lauren Warnecke](#), May 25, 2026

The 13-year-old was a passenger in a SUV that crashed on U.S. Route 136 under the Interstate 55 underpass. He died at the hospital early Monday morning.

Unit 5 parent sues over alleged harassment of a trans student at Chiddix Junior High

[Lauren Warnecke](#), May 21, 2026

The school district requested a change of venue to a federal court in Peoria. Angela Sutton claims administrators repeatedly ignored concerns about her transgender child being bullied at school.

Third person dies in fatal crash outside Cooksville

[Ben Howell](#), May 19, 2026

Three people have died after a crash involving two vehicles at the intersection of Illinois Route 9 and East Road in rural Cooksville.

2 women killed in vehicle crash east of Bloomington

[Joe Deacon - WGLT](#), May 17, 2026

Two women are dead after a passenger van and an SUV collided Sunday afternoon in rural McLean County.

17-year-old charged as an adult in Bloomington shooting

[Eric Stock](#), May 16, 2026

Bloomington Police arrested the teen at his home without incident around 3 p.m. Friday, according to department spokesperson Bryce Janssen.

Prison or treatment? Thousands participate in mental health courts. Half graduate — and millions are left out

Grace Hauck, Josh McGhee (Mindsite News) and Andrew Adams, May 14, 2026

The courts offer an alternative to incarceration. Outcomes depend heavily on local services.

Illinois has 279 new lawyers. The huge 4th judicial district got only 5

[Evan Holden](#), [Lauren Warnecke](#), May 13, 2026

Three-quarters of all attorneys who passed the bar exam in February opted to work in Cook County. The Illinois Supreme Court has been examining ways to address legal deserts in small and rural counties across the state.

Two Normal firefighters receive state's Medal of Valor for pulling child from mobile home fire

[Evan Holden](#), May 12, 2026

Two Normal Firefighters received the state's Medal of Valor for trying to rescue a child from a fire last year. The award is given to a firefighter for an act of heroism or bravery that clearly demonstrated courage and dedication in the face of danger while in the performance of duty.

Bloomington man gets 26-year prison sentence for failing to report fatal DUI crash

[Eric Stock](#), May 11, 2026

McLean County Judge Don Knapp handed down the sentence for 26-year-old Michael Mitchell, who pleaded guilty in February to four felony counts in connection with the November 2024 crash.

Bloomington Police investigate weekend shooting which left one man hospitalized

[Eric Stock](#), May 11, 2026

A Bloomington man is hospitalized in stable condition after being shot inside an apartment building over the weekend.

Ellsworth woman gets 17 years for fatally shooting her husband

[Lauren Warnecke](#), May 11, 2026

Desiree Robertson must serve at least half her sentence. She told jurors in February she was acting in self-defense when she shot Daniel Shelby, 41, twice in the head.

20-year-old dead after motorcycle crash on I-55 in Normal

[Ryan Denham](#), May 10, 2026

A 20-year-old man is dead after a motorcycle crash Saturday night on Interstate 55 in Normal, authorities said.

Illinois State Police launches investigation into deadly ICE shooting

[Sophie Sherry](#), May 6, 2026

The probe is the most high-profile independent inquiry that's been announced in response to Operation Midway Blitz, during which federal agents also shot Marimar Martinez in Brighton Park and routinely used pummeling force and chemical irritants.

Former U of I cop convicted again after sexual assault trial

[Lauren Warnecke](#), April 30, 2026

Jerald Sandage had a 2022 conviction overturned alleging official misconduct. He was also charged with criminal sexual assault, accused of targeting by accessing police records while he was employed as a university police officer in Champaign-Urbana. A jury this week convicted Sandage a second time.

Judge denies attempt to kick temporary workers at ISU off the job as AFSCME strike continues

[Lauren Warnecke](#), April 29, 2026

The union representing building, grounds and dining workers at Illinois State attempted to gain a temporary restraining order preventing the university from contracting janitorial services during a work stoppage. A judge denied the request.

No arrests one month after mass shooting in Normal

[Eric Stock](#), April 28, 2026

Police said no arrests have been made. The department has not said whether they have identified any suspects. All six shooting victims are out of the hospital.

Investigators say Chiddix Junior High Teacher whispered lewd things in a young girl's ear

[Charlie Schlenker](#), April 24, 2026

McLean County prosecutors said Friday that a 43-year-old Unit 5 junior high school teacher made sexually suggestive remarks to a 13-year-old girl last year. He faces charges of grooming.

Statewide data shows McLean County detains defendants awaiting trial at higher rates

[Lauren Warnecke](#), April 24, 2026

The average across Illinois since the Pretrial Fairness Act took effect in 2023 shows people are placed on pretrial supervision at a 2-to-1 ratio when they are charged with a crime. In McLean County, more people are jailed while awaiting trial.

Chiddix Junior High teacher faces grooming charges

[Eric Stock](#), April 23, 2026

Normal Police say Brandon Knapp, 43, of Hudson, was indicted Wednesday by a McLean County grand jury. Knapp, who taught at Chiddix Junior High School in Normal, was placed on paid leave in January as police investigated reports of alleged misconduct.

Bloomington city manager says expanded police oversight power is not possible for the PSCRB

[Lauren Warnecke](#), April 23, 2026

During a period of self-reflection, Bloomington's Public Safety and Community Relations Board is considering its scope and purview as a public police accountability body. A member of the legal team that wrote its bylaws said disciplinary action and investigatory power is not legally possible.

Two juveniles arrested in connection with Valentine's Day shooting near ISU campus

[Lauren Warnecke](#), April 8, 2026

Two 17-year-old boys are in custody for their alleged roles in a shooting that left another teen hospitalized. One of the boys has been charged as an adult.

Normal Police plans drones as first responders in pilot project

[Ben Howell](#), [Eric Stock](#), April 6, 2026

The Normal Police Department has made technology one of its top priorities in 2026. That includes a new video drone that officers can bring to crime and crash scenes.

Woodford County woman arrested on theft charges, accused of stealing from her Lexington employer

[Lauren Warnecke](#), April 6, 2026

Nicole Nesland is accused of embezzling over \$500,000 from a Lexington business. If convicted, she faces up to 15 years in prison for each charge.

[One defendant sentenced in murder of slain Chicago police officer, ISU grad Aréanah Preston](#)

[Ben Howell](#), April 3, 2026

Joseph Brooks, 22, will serve 55 years in prison for the first-degree murder of officer Aréanah Preston. He was one of four people charged in her death.

Sports

[Twin City athletes brought home 5 medals from Special Olympics 2026 games](#)

[Lauren Warnecke](#), June 29, 2026

Athletes from Bloomington-Normal competed in athletics, bocce and unified volleyball, with each medaling in this year's games in Minnesota.

[Bloomington Bison score off the ice earning two league awards](#)

[Zachary Knox-Doyle](#), June 29, 2026

The Bison earned ECHL's Rising Star Growth Award and the Corporate Partnership Team of the Year Award during the 2025-26 ECHL Team Awards Ceremony.

[Video: Football frenzy hits Bloomington-Normal during World Cup](#)

[Ben Howell](#), June 26, 2026

A bar and restaurant in Downtown Bloomington saw a full house Thursday night as Team U.S.A. took on Turkey in the World Cup. Fans told WGLT they enjoy the barbecue and beer in the soccer-friendly establishment.

[Missouri Valley Conference remakes Arch Madness, moves women's tournament to St. Louis](#)

[Eric Stock](#), June 22, 2026

The top 10 teams in the 11-team league will qualify for the postseason tournament and the top two seeds will get automatic bids to the semifinals.

Special Olympics Illinois' Summer Games brings more than athletics to Bloomington-Normal

[Zachary Knox-Doyle](#), June 11, 2026

What makes the event like no other is its emphasis on inclusion of everyone and building irreplaceable bonds through a large sum of people from all walks of life, organizers said. This year's games will feature 3,450 athletes and unified partners, 1,250 coaches and 1,200 volunteers.

Heisman Trophy winner and entrepreneur Tim Tebow to headline Red Cross annual Evening of Stars

[Courtney Conroy](#), June 9, 2026

The American Red Cross will host its 31st annual Evening of Stars event Sept. 9 at the Bone Student Center at Illinois State University. Tebow will serve as the event's keynote speaker.

U.S. Rep. LaHood eager for World Cup tournament to begin this week

[Charlie Schlenker](#), June 8, 2026

When the World Cup soccer tournament begins Thursday, a Central Illinois congressman will see nine years of work begin to pay off.

Pulling with purpose: CIRA event supports Special Olympics Illinois

[Braden Fogerson](#), June 8, 2026

An inaugural plane pull event raised thousands of dollars for Special Olympics Illinois Saturday.

Bloomington chef Kenneth Hardiman to assist with culinary game plan for World Cup

[Randy Kindred](#), June 5, 2026

The World Cup is among many major sporting events on Hardiman's calendar. He was at the Kentucky Derby in May and in New York for Saturday's Belmont Stakes. He was in Oklahoma City recently for the NBA Western Conference Finals and works a number of top-level tennis tournaments, including the U.S. Open.

Chicago Bears' board of directors votes to push stadium to Hammond, Indiana

[Patrick Finley](#), June 5, 2026

A source cautioned that Friday's announcement didn't eliminate Arlington Heights from consideration, were the state to find a way to give the Bears property tax certainty on the 326-acre plot they own.

History Maker Melinda Fischer points to teamwork in her winning career in softball

[Ben Howell](#), June 1, 2026

Retired ISU softball coach Melinda Fischer is one of this year's McLean County History Makers. She talked to WGLT about the "extraordinary people that have really made my journey so exciting and so valuable," and how she's spending her time since retiring.

Illinois lawmakers fail to pass Bears bill despite goal line push

[Brenden Moore](#), [Ben Szalinski](#), June 1, 2026

Despite a Hail Mary heave from the Illinois Senate in the final hours of the spring legislative session, state lawmakers ultimately failed to reach the end zone on a bill incentivizing the Chicago Bears to build a new stadium in Illinois.

U-High grad Chaia Meier works way up to lead role as Bradley women's basketball coach

[Randy Kindred](#), April 29, 2026

Former U-High girls basketball coach Mike Sondgeroth recalls Meier being "a player who was devoted to the program and gave her all."

Central Catholic's Debbie Coffman retires after 32 years of coaching

[Ben Howell](#), April 29, 2026

After 32 years at Central Catholic High School and 28 as head girls basketball coach, Debbie Coffman has decided to retire. She finished her career with an overall record of 632 to 204.

Illinois State Athletics discontinues men's tennis, effective immediately

[Courtney Conroy](#), [Lauren Warnecke](#), April 28, 2026

Illinois State Athletics has announced plans to discontinue its men's tennis program, effective at the end of the spring 2026 semester.

B-N lacrosse team to become ineligible for playoffs without pivot from IHSA

[Braden Fogerson](#), April 23, 2026

Normal Community, Normal West and Bloomington High School play in a co-op for girls lacrosse. A new IHSA rule makes it ineligible for playoffs starting in 2027.

Underestimated early, Heartland grad Sam Antonacci works his way to White Sox

[Randy Kindred](#), April 21, 2026

Sam Antonacci blossomed into the 2023 NJCAA Division II National Player of the Year by his sophomore season, leading Heartland to a 57-5 record and the national championship. In 2024, Antonacci was drafted in the fifth round by the Chicago White Sox.

In 2nd season, Bloomington Bison take aim at a spot in the ECHL playoffs

[Ben Howell](#), [Eric Stock](#), April 17, 2026

While the second season coming to an end, head coach Phillip Barski and the Bloomington Bison want to keep playing hockey at Grossinger Motors Arena. With games Friday and Saturday, the team is close to earning its first-ever postseason berth.

Bloomington golfer Brandon Holtz still processing 'great experience' at Masters

[Randy Kindred](#), April 16, 2026

Brandon Holtz called it “a great week, a great experience,” and here is what we know: Holtz learned a great deal in his time at the famed Augusta National Golf Club.

Want to win big in sports? Follow Normal West grad Glenn Kinley, TV's good-luck charm

[Randy Kindred](#), April 8, 2026

A 2017 Normal West High School graduate, Kinley has been around a lot of winning in his young career as a television sports director. While at KSNT in Topeka, Kansas, he covered a Kansas men's basketball national championship and two Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl wins. Now this: Illinois' run to the men's basketball Final Four as sports director at WCIA in Champaign.

Illinois State falls to Marshall in WNIT championship

[Eric Stock](#), April 4, 2026

The Illinois State women's basketball team fell to Marshall University, 66-41, in the WNIT championship on Saturday in Huntington, West Virginia.

Redbird women look to continue historic run for ISU hoops teams

[Eric Stock](#), April 3, 2026

Illinois State is one of only two institutions that can boast that it had both of its basketball programs playing in the national semifinals.