The following issues were addressed during WGLT Newscasts during MORNING EDITION from 5 to 9 am M-F and during ALL THINGS CONSIDERED from 3-7PM, M-F, and during WGLT's local news magazine show Sound Ideas, 5-5:30pm, M-F, April 1 2024-June 30 2024. The story lengths range from one minute to 22 minutes. Other examples of WGLT addressing community issues can be found at www.wglt.org.

Politics and Government

**ISU students feel optimistic after climate change lobby trip to Washington, DC**

Braden Fogerson, June 17, 2024

Three Illinois State University students have returned from a trip to Washington to push for climate change legislation with congressional staffers.

**Delays by auditor cause McLean County to violate multiple grant agreements**

Melissa Ellin, June 14, 2024

Payment delays caused by McLean County Auditor Michelle Anderson forced the county to violate several grant agreements with area service providers, emails obtained by WGLT through a public records request show.

**McLean County voters to decide fate of auditor's office in November**

Colin Hardman, June 14, 2024

The McLean County Board voted Thursday night to add a question to November's ballot, asking voters to decide whether the position of auditor should be eliminated, amid criticism of the current auditor's performance.

**IDOC outlines plan to relocate Lincoln women's prison; staff, residents object**

Adeline Schultz, June 14, 2024

The Illinois Department of Corrections held a public meeting Thursday in Lincoln to give residents and other stakeholders the opportunity to express concerns about the planned reconstruction of Logan Correctional Center to a location in northern Illinois.
McLean County behavioral health advisory group restructuring delayed, still underway

Melissa Ellin, June 12, 2024

June's meeting of the McLean County Board's Behavioral Health Coordinating Council ad hoc committee will not happen. County board Chair Catherine Metsker said delays in group restructuring are the cause.

Bloomington council approves purchasing nursery site for Public Works Department

Adeline Schultz, June 10, 2024

The Bloomington City Council on Monday approved the purchase of the former site of Owen Nursery to house its Public Works Department that has long needed a new home.

McLean County Board to vote on placing referendum to eliminate auditor's office on November ballot

Melissa Ellin, June 10, 2024

The McLean County Board’s executive committee unanimously approved a resolution Monday to place a referendum on the November ballot to eliminate the elected office overseeing county finances and bookkeeping, sending the issue to the full board on Thursday.

McLean County to consider eliminating elected auditor, adding advisory panel for mental health funding

Eric Stock, June 7, 2024

McLean County voters could be asked this fall if they want to eliminate the elected auditor's office that oversees the county's bookkeeping. The County Board's executive committee on Monday will consider placing the request on the November ballot.

Normal could create grocery tax as state tax ends

Charlie Schlenker, June 7, 2024

The Normal Town Council hasn't yet decided how to address the loss of grocery tax revenue included in the new state budget, said Mayor Chris Koos.

Rep. LaHood urges ban on products from Chinese company building an Illinois battery plant

Charlie Schlenker, June 7, 2024
U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood is urging the Biden administration to blacklist Chinese electric battery manufacturer Gotion for human rights violations.

**Judge blocks law that would have banned newly slated candidates from ballot**

Hannah Meisel, June 5, 2024

A Sangamon County judge on Wednesday blocked the Illinois State Board of Elections from enforcing a new law that would have prevented certain General Assembly candidates who didn’t run in the March primary from getting on the November ballot.

**Democrats and GOP maneuver on contraception issue in U.S. Senate**

Charlie Schlenker, June 5, 2024

The presence of reproductive rights in the fall political campaign took center stage in the Senate Wednesday with a Democratic-backed vote to declare contraception a federal right.

**Illinois residents can claim bigger state tax credit next year under new budget**

Dave McKinney, June 4, 2024

The standard exemption increase will mean an extra $69 or so for families of four. The tax credit will once again be tied to inflation after lawmakers last year quietly untied it.

**Normal council approves 2 contracts for street resurfacing**

Adeline Schultz, June 3, 2024

The Normal Town Council approved two contracts on Monday related to street resurfacing projects in the town. The council accepted bids from and awarded two contracts to Rowe Construction, a division of United Contractors Midwest Inc.

**Judge considering whether slated candidates can appear on November ballot**

Hannah Meisel, June 3, 2024

A Sangamon County judge is weighing whether to block a new state law that bans the long-practiced tradition of political parties slating candidates for a general election after sitting out of a primary race.

**State Sen. Tom Bennett slams migrant funding, tax increases in new state budget**

Eric Stock, May 31, 2024
State Sen. Tom Bennett of Gibson City says the state's plan to add a new tax on sportsbooks and increase taxes on gaming is the wrong approach to balancing Illinois' books.

**Sen. Koehler satisfied with state budget in a tough revenue year**

Charlie Schlenker, May 30, 2024

A state senator who represents parts of Bloomington-Normal said the newly-passed $53.1 billion state budget is about as good a document as can be expected in a difficult year for funding.

**Illinois lawmakers react to felony conviction of former president Donald Trump**

Collin Schopp, May 30, 2024

Central Illinois Republican Bill Hauter calls the guilty verdict in the New York criminal trial of former President Donald Trump “disappointing.”

**Congressman: Report details China's involvement in fentanyl crisis in U.S.**

Colin Hardman, May 30, 2024

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi says China's government enables companies to illegally supply the dangerous synthetic opioid.

**Bloomington council approves resurfacing program, annexation for solar project**

Adeline Schultz, May 29, 2024

The Bloomington City Council on Monday approved plans to annex land on Washington Street to allow construction of a community-scale solar energy project. Members also waived the formal bidding process for a resurfacing and pavement preservation program to update streets and sidewalks.

**Illinois House ekes out $53.1 billion budget after floor theatrics**

Tina Sfondeles, May 29, 2024

Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s office optimistically put out a statement to celebrate the budget’s spending measure after it cleared the Illinois House. But the revenue measure was trickier.

**Senate Democrats send $53.1B spending plan to House**

Jerry Nowicki, May 27, 2024
Two days after the General Assembly was scheduled to adjourn its spring session, Democrats in the Illinois Senate advanced a $53.1 billion budget to the House Sunday night, where leaders expect it to pass without changes.

**Maternal health, abortion protection measures advance as session nears end**

Alex Abbeduto, May 26, 2024

In the final days of their spring legislative session, Democrats in the General Assembly advanced measures aimed at expanding and protecting aspects of maternal and women’s health care.

**Health insurance changes targeting 'utilization management,' more will head to governor**

Peter Hancock, May 25, 2024

A package of health insurance reform measures that Gov. JB Pritzker called for at the beginning of the legislative session will soon be headed to his desk for his signature.

**Bloomington city manager expects quick council action on housing incentives**

Charlie Schlenker, May 23, 2024

Jeff Jurgens, Bloomington's new city manager, expects to move expeditiously to address the Twin City housing shortage. Jurgens said in a Sound Ideas interview there will be a council meeting early next month to talk about barriers to creating new housing and sharing ideas of what the city can do.

**Woodford County declared 'non-sanctuary' for undocumented migrants**

Tim Shelley, May 22, 2024

The Woodford County Board on Tuesday passed a resolution declaring the county a "non-sanctuary" for migrants in the country illegally.

**State employees union disputes IDOC plan to move Logan Correctional Center**

Lyndsay Jones, May 21, 2024

The union that represents state employees, including correctional workers, has joined other state and local leaders in critiquing a plan to tear down and rebuild two aging prisons, including the Logan Correctional Center outside of Lincoln.

**Democracy's Future podcast: Student group at IWU helps women find their voice in politics**
In the latest episode of Democracy’s Future, we explore the role women play in politics in the U.S. For most of America's history, it's been a secondary role. Women make up a larger share of the electorate, but men have historically held the majority of elected offices.

**Democracy's Future podcast: Student group at IWU helps women find their voice in politics**

In the latest episode of Democracy’s Future, we explore the role women play in politics in the U.S. For most of America's history, it's been a secondary role. Women make up a larger share of the electorate, but men have historically held the majority of elected offices.

**Normal council OKs actions related to Uptown pedestrian underpass project**

The Normal Town Council approved several measures Monday having to do with the pedestrian underpass project at the train station in Uptown.

**Nursing home industry unlikely to see much help from Springfield in tough budget year**

The McLean County Board unanimously approved the new installation to the east of Bloomington-Normal. Landowners supported the plan they say will diversify the use of their farmland.

**Regional Housing Recovery Plan is on the table. Now what?**

The McLean County Regional Planning Commission has finished its Regional Housing Recovery Plan to address shortages in housing, workforce housing, mixed use housing, affordable housing, and housing for the housing challenged.

**ISU scholar lays out how autocrats steal democracy in new book**
Nearly a third of the world's population lives in countries that are not free. Another 28% live in partly-free countries. That's according to the nonpartisan think tank Freedom House. And the trend is not encouraging.

**Government, economic leaders push back on state plan to move Logan Correctional Center**

**Lyndsay Jones**, May 16, 2024

Gov. JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Corrections announced in March the state intended to tear down and rebuild two prisons in poor conditions: Stateville Correctional Center for men in Crest Hill outside of Joliet, and the Logan Correctional Center for women outside of Lincoln.

**City of Bloomington Township electors reject Israel ballot question**

**Adeline Schultz**, May 15, 2024

It was standing-room only at the City of Bloomington Township special meeting on Tuesday where more than 100 people gathered to discuss and vote on whether to place a question on the November ballot concerning U.S. military funding to Israel. The measure failed, and the question will not appear on the November ballot.

**Regional Planning Commission moves toward implementing housing recovery plan**

**Charlie Schlenker**, May 14, 2024

The McLean County Regional Planning Commission is moving to put its housing recovery plan into practice. After briefing the Bloomington and Normal councils, and soon the county board, commission director Ray Lai said an implementation committee will be formed with more than just governmental stakeholders.

**Citizen petition forces City of Bloomington Township vote on Israel referendum**

**Charlie Schlenker**, May 14, 2024

A citizen petition requires the City of Bloomington Township to consider a potential referendum that calls for stopping military aid to Israel over the war in Gaza.

**Bloomington council hears reports on affordable housing, downtown streetscape plan**

**Adeline Schultz**, May 13, 2024
The Bloomington City Council heard reports Monday on the affordable housing situation in McLean County, and on progress being made in the first phase of the downtown streetscape plan the council approved last month.

**National League of Cities Centennial Road Trip stops in Normal**

Charlie Schlenker, May 13, 2024

The Town of Normal is helping the National League of Cities observe its centennial. A century ago, most mid-sized and small cities and towns were agriculture support centers, in essence market towns.

**Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul sues company for publishing voters’ personal data**

Dave McKinney, May 9, 2024

A publishing company whose politically slanted newspapers have been derided as “pink slime” is being sued by Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul for illegally identifying birthdates and home addresses of “hundreds of thousands” of voters.

**Normal mayor floats loan interest rate buydown program to address housing shortage**

Charlie Schlenker, May 7, 2024

Mayor Chris Koos has moved slightly off of his generally free market stance on development projects that could reduce the community housing shortage for mid-tier workers.

**Normal council OKs licensing requirements for tobacco shops, hears recommendations on housing crisis**

Adeline Schultz, May 7, 2024

The Normal Town Council met Monday to discuss several items of business, including a new ordinance establishing licensing requirements for retail tobacco shops and a presentation on the affordable housing crisis.

**What is ranked choice voting? And what could it mean for Illinois?**

Mawa Iqbal, May 6, 2024

Ranked choice voting could be an option in Illinois in 2028. We’re breaking down what that change would look like and why it matters.

**Center for Human Services to add to low-income housing options in Bloomington**
Lyndsay Jones, May 6, 2024

Over $9 million in funding from the Illinois Housing Development Authority will help the McLean County Center for Human Services develop a 24-unit apartment building on Bloomington's west side.

Bloomington mayoral candidates display a contrast in approach

Charlie Schlenker, May 3, 2024

The upcoming Bloomington mayoral race between incumbent Mboka Mwilambwe and former State Rep. Dan Brady may hinge more on style and vision than on big differences on issues.

Illinois voters could be asked about IVF coverage, millionaire tax in November

Alex Degman, May 1, 2024

A question about whether abortion protections should be codified will not make it onto this year’s general election ballot.

Bloomington Mayor Mwilambwe: 'The state of our city is strong and resilient'

Charlie Schlenker, May 1, 2024

At a "State of the City" event held Wednesday at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts, Mayor Mboke Mwilambwe said Bloomington is healthy and prosperous with a falling crime rate and good economic development.

ISU tells pro-Palestinian students to remove tents from Quad

Charlie Schlenker, April 30, 2024

Illinois State University students have joined their counterparts on dozens of college campuses nationwide in setting up tent encampments to demonstrate support for Palestinians.

Bloomington holds public meeting on TIF Redevelopment Plan for downtown

Adeline Schultz, April 29, 2024

The City of Bloomington held a public meeting Monday evening on a proposed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Redevelopment Plan for the downtown area. The proposal would create a new TIF district in the downtown area.
Election officials to weigh whether Darren Bailey and GOP operative Dan Proft illegally coordinated

Andrew Adams, April 29, 2024

A year and a half after Republican Darren Bailey lost his campaign to challenge Gov. JB Pritzker, state election officials are weighing whether he illegally colluded with conservative radio show host and political operative Dan Proft in the 2022 campaign.

Former state Rep. Dan Brady to run for Bloomington mayor

Lyndsay Jones, April 29, 2024

Dan Brady will challenge Mboka Mwilambwe, who announced earlier this month he intends to seek a second term as Bloomington's mayor in 2025.

Sorensen to tour border and Mexico manufacturing areas

Charlie Schlenker, April 25, 2024

This time could be different on immigration. That's the hope Democratic Congressman Eric Sorensen has for a trip to the Arizona border.

Gleason exits as city manager after Bloomington council approves replacement

Adeline Schultz, April 23, 2024

As expected, the Bloomington City Council Monday night approved Deputy City Manager Jeff Jurgens as Tim Gleason's replacement. Billy Tyus, the other deputy city manager, did not seek the position and will remain in his current role.

Q&A: Bloomington's outgoing public housing director says any new units could help lowest income renters

Lyndsay Jones, April 22, 2024

Echoing a familiar refrain in the Twin Cities, outgoing Bloomington Housing Authority Executive Director Jeremy Hayes says any additional rental housing would help the community's lowest income renters.

Bloomington explores grant for possible shelter expansion and green energy improvements

Melissa Ellin, April 22, 2024
Bloomington wants to partner with Home Sweet Home to put around $1 million in federal grant money toward shelter improvements. That includes solar panels, potential shelter expansion and the development of a non-congregate shelter for those currently encamped across the city.

**Bloomington picks deputy Jeff Jurgens as new city manager**

*Lyndsay Jones*, April 18, 2024

Jeff Jurgens, a longtime employee of the city who's been deputy city manager just more than a year, is set to become city manager once Tim Gleason leaves early next month.

**Bloomington council hears plan for bus transfer center is moving right along**

*Adeline Schultz*, April 16, 2024

Connect Transit General Manager David Braun said a federal study already has approved the parking deck site and plans are underway to review several submitted proposals for construction.

**Normal Town Council OKs new contract with police union**

*Jack Podlesnik*, April 15, 2024

The contract calls for a 15% raise spanning four years, including a 6% hike in 2024, a 5% raise in April 2025 and then 2% raises in 2026 and 2027.

**Pritzker appoints first-ever Prisoner Review Board director; Chicago advances migrant funding**

*Dilpreet Raju*, April 15, 2024

Weeks after two high-profile resignations at the Illinois Prisoner Review Board, Gov. JB Pritzker on Monday appointed the first-ever executive director to help lead the beleaguered agency.

**Mwilambwe to run for 2nd term as Bloomington mayor**

*Charlie Schlenker*, April 15, 2024

Mayor Mboka Mwilambwe has been informally telling friends and people who have asked him that he will seek a second, four-year term for a couple months. It's now official.

**McLean County clerk addresses disability voting incident at county board meeting**

*Colin Hardman*, April 12, 2024
County Clerk Kathy Michael apologized for the treatment of Tres'von Milligan-Evans, saying election judges make mistakes but that the ballot was ultimately counted. The county board also formally passed some procedural rule changes.

**Pritzker names Sen. Ann Gillespie new head of state insurance oversight agency**

Peter Hancock, April 9, 2024

Governor calling for sweeping changes in regulation; report shows state facing skyrocketing costs.

**'Hold us accountable': Accessibility a top priority for planners, city officials in downtown streetscape plan**

Lyndsay Jones, April 9, 2024

"We have to sustain the commitment — and, frankly, the accountability," Ward 7 council member Mollie Ward said about Bloomington's pledge to prioritize accessibility as work on revitalizing downtown Bloomington via the adopted streetscape plan unfolds.

**Bloomington council approves downtown streetscape plan, annual budget**

Adeline Schultz, April 8, 2024

Bloomington City Council members voted unanimously Monday to approve the streetscape plan for improving downtown Bloomington that has been in the works for the better part of two years.

**‘Returning to basics’: McLean County reevaluates behavioral health efforts**

Melissa Ellin, April 6, 2024

County Board Chair Catherine Metsker said she thinks the county's behavioral health advisory group lacks structure, and she’s tackling the issue head-on. Her self-identified “ambitious goal” is to formalize policies and procedures for the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council — for the first time in its history — and she wants to get it done in under six months.

**McLean County state’s attorney outlines frustrations with end of cash bail at GOP campaign event**

Eric Stock, April 5, 2024

McLean County State's Attorney Erika Reynolds said the Pretrial Fairness Act [PFA], which took effect last September as part of a sweeping criminal justice reform law, takes away too much discretion from prosecutors and judges to decide which defendants should remain in custody while awaiting trial.
**Rep. Chung votes no on dual credit bill kept alive by Higher Education Committee**

Lauren Warnecke, April 5, 2024

A seventh attempt to update the Dual Credit Quality Act has cleared an Illinois House committee, extending the deadline to successfully bring it to the full House. Strong opposition from community college faculty, including both faculty unions at Heartland Community College, curbed a vote last week.

**State authorities are looking into release of voter data that includes McLean County**

Lyndsay Jones, April 4, 2024

The full names, addresses and birthdates of some Illinois voters were published last week on a series of websites started by conservative activist Dan Proft. The state Board of Elections said it's asked the company that manages those websites — Local Government Information Services — to take the information down.

**In Chicago visit, Attorney General Garland announces $78M anti-violence initiative**

Dilpreet Raju, April 4, 2024

In a visit to Chicago on Wednesday, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland announced $78 million in federal grant funding for community-based anti-violence programs.

**During Heartland ag complex tour, Rep. Eric Sorensen talks farm bill and foreign aid**

Lyndsay Jones, April 3, 2024

During a visit in Bloomington-Normal, U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen said he will not support a version of the farm bill that does not include funding for a federal nutrition program.

**What Planned Parenthood of Illinois has observed since the Dobbs decision**

Lyndsay Jones, April 3, 2024

Planned Parenthood of Illinois' senior director of public policy and advocacy spoke at an event organized by the League of Women Voters of McLean County on Tuesday evening.

**Housing gets more emphasis in latest B-N community needs survey**

Megan Spoerlein, April 2, 2024
The City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal are creating a five-year plan to fund and distribute federal Community Development Block Grant funding.

**Normal council authorizes $5.4 million settlement with Alan Beaman**

*Jack Podlesnik*, April 1, 2024

Alan Beaman and the Town of Normal have agreed to a $5.4 million settlement regarding his imprisonment from 1995 to 2008.

**Defamation case linked to former Madigan aide sent back to Illinois**

*Peter Hancock*, April 1, 2024

A federal judge in Puerto Rico last week told a politically connected former state contractor that if he wants to sue for defamation against the people who’ve accused him of defrauding the state of Illinois, he’ll have to do so in an Illinois courtroom.

**Education and Schools**

**Illinois Wesleyan will offer 3 new majors and new certificates this fall**

*Colleen Holden*, June 21, 2024

Come this fall, students will be able to major in sociology-criminology, supply chain management or communication.

**Former Flanagan area boarding school worker accused of embezzlement**

*Charlie Schlenker*, June 18, 2024

A former worker at a boys’ home in rural Livingston County faces embezzlement charges.

**Unit 5 school board approves $137.5 million annual budget**

*Colin Hardman*, June 13, 2024

The school board on Wednesday accepted an amended budget that is close to the document reviewed in January.

**District 87 approves budget, expresses some concerns about downtown TIF**

June 13, 2024

**Heartland seeks state funding for 2 new buildings to expand workforce training**

June 12, 2024
**ISU's plans for new STEM Science Lab Building could attract federal funding**

June 4, 2024

**Shuffling in the provost's office as IWU prepares for its new president**

*Lauren Warnecke*, June 3, 2024

Abigail Kerr was selected to replace Mark Brodl in January as interim provost for a one-year term. She left higher education altogether on May 31.

**State grant to make trek to Chiddix Junior High safer**

*Charlie Schlenker*, June 3, 2024

The Town of Normal will use a nearly $249,000 grant to make walking to Chiddix Junior High School safer. The Safe Routes to School grant will create several new paths and access to a pedestrian bridge on Karin Drive.

**Unit 5 offers space and ways to grieve for 2nd grade teacher Amy Moore**

*Charlie Schlenker*, June 3, 2024

Unit 5's Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Kristal Shelvin said the district wanted to offer support for staff and families who face an unexplainable situation and allow room for the many ways in which people grieve.

**Unit 5 to buy 5 electric school buses with grant money**

*Charlie Schlenker*, May 30, 2024

Unit 5 schools will get almost $1.1 million to buy five electric school buses, with the funding coming from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Competition.

**Eureka public school students could have option of studying the Bible during the school day**

*Collin Schopp*, May 28, 2024

An Ohio-based nonprofit is starting a new chapter in Eureka, with the goal of offering an off-campus, privately-funded Bible class, during the school day.

**Listen: It's the end of the school year — and for some educators, the end of an era**

*Lyndsay Jones*, May 24, 2024
In this WGLT audio postcard, two teachers from Unit 5 and District 87 reflect on what it's meant to spend the past 30 years in education — what's changed and what's not.

'A distraction:' B-N students, parents, educators weigh in on phones in schools

Melissa Ellin, May 20, 2024

Illinois is not part of the growing movement from state legislators to have a larger say in how students are using phones in schools, leaving educators to make their own rules and regulations surrounding phone usage. In Bloomington-Normal, those policies vary widely.

ISU trustees set fees for new students, keeping cost increases below inflation rate

Charlie Schlenker, May 17, 2024

The ISU Board of Trustees has approved a 3.6% increase in fees, and room and board rose 3.5%. The ISU board held a special meeting Friday after putting off a vote last week to get more information.

Unit 5 updates discrimination and bullying policies to meet state requirements

Colin Hardman, May 16, 2024

The district is adding new language regarding mandatory reporting of incidents, in compliance with state requirements.

District 87 board addresses security concerns, building acquisition

Adeline Schultz, May 15, 2024

The District 87 school board heard a report on Wednesday addressing safety and security concerns following two incidents at Bloomington schools in recent weeks.

ISU policy update covers contemporary forms of harassment as safety concerns simmer on campus

Lauren Warnecke, May 15, 2024

A new definition of violence includes harmful use of social media and text messaging. But policy changes move slowly in a fast-paced, online world.

ISU trustees to hold special meeting for vote on increasing student fees, housing and dining

Lyndsay Jones, May 15, 2024
After delaying a vote last week, Illinois State University's board of trustees will gather for a special meeting Friday to take a vote on proposed student fee increases for the 2024-2025 school year.

Amid contract negotiations, ISU faculty union demonstrate at Board of Trustees meeting

Lyndsay Jones, May 10, 2024

Dozens of members of a union representing tenured and tenure-track faculty at Illinois State University demonstrated at Friday's board of trustees meeting, showing up en masse and dressed in green to highlight members' priorities.

McLean County school districts try to help homeless youth. They have to find them first

Melissa Ellin, May 9, 2024

When it comes to helping youth experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness, schools can play a surprisingly vital role in providing stability and aid — if they’re aware there’s an issue in the first place. Oftentimes, they’re not.

ISU professor awarded $1.5M grant to study reducing barriers for blind and low-vision learners

Lauren Warnecke, May 8, 2024

The five-year project combines survey research and case-learning evaluating teacher preparedness in K-12 science classrooms

'Still helping others': ISU awards scholarship in honor of late agriculture student

Adeline Schultz, April 29, 2024

Illinois State University’s Department of Agriculture held its annual Awards Banquet on Sunday, where many current and incoming students and faculty in the department were honored for their contributions and accomplishments. A new scholarship was awarded during the ceremony in honor of ISU student Kristian “KP” Philpotts, who was killed while driving for a rideshare company in Urbana in 2022.

Heartland president sees bright future for community college

Adeline Schultz, April 25, 2024

Heartland Community College is honoring late board chair Gregg Chadwick by naming the newly-remodeled Gregg Chadwick Community Board Room in his honor in the Community Commons Building.
Aondover Tarhule, who became ISU's 21st president last month after a year in the interim role, said the university is grappling with ongoing delays in the student aid award process, as well as responding to the prevalence of artificial intelligence tech and a looming drop in graduating high school seniors.

An exhibit at Milner Library at Illinois State University outlines the history of the program and its intersection with social justice issues since forming in 1974.

The nonprofit For A Better Tomorrow will host its first STEAM Olympics in partnership with Illinois Wesleyan University.

The Unit 5 school board already has plans to increase temporary classrooms and is keeping high school expansions in mind, but the study indicates re-balancing population at the lower levels may be worth looking into as well.

Dietz retired as Illinois State University's president in 2021 after seven years in the role, and 10 years with the university overall. He was named a finalist for the interim presidency at St. Cloud State in March.

Annual IWU fundraiser marks 2nd record-breaking year
Donors gave more than $2.7 million to an annual fundraiser for Illinois Wesleyan University, breaking last year's record of just over $2.6 million.

**Normal Community students use balloons to capture aerial photos and videos of solar eclipse**

*Megan Spoerlein*, April 8, 2024

Normal Community High School AP computer science students on Monday used balloons to capture aerial photos and videos of the solar eclipse.

**No weapons found after Bloomington Junior High and High School were placed on lockdown**

*Eric Stock*, April 8, 2024

According to a statement District 87 officials released to families, the lockdown was “out of an abundance of caution due to a received report implying a potential security concern.”

**Bilingual advocate tells ISU educators arbitrary standards stigmatize EAL students**

*Adeline Schultz*, April 5, 2024

Jonathan Rosa of Stanford University’s Graduate School of Education said the way we talk about bilingual students in an educational setting contributes to stigmatization that holds groups of people back from greater opportunity. English as an Additional Language, or EAL, students are seen as educationally deficient, and further sorted into categories.

**Rep. Chung votes no on dual credit bill kept alive by Higher Education Committee**

*Lauren Warnecke*, April 5, 2024

A seventh attempt to update the Dual Credit Quality Act has cleared an Illinois House committee, extending the deadline to successfully bring it to the full House. Strong opposition from community college faculty, including both faculty unions at Heartland Community College, curbed a vote last week.

**A COVID-era tutoring initiative worked with thousands of Illinois students. Will it continue?**

*Lyndsay Jones*, April 1, 2024

Since the 2022-23 academic school year, the Illinois Tutoring Initiative has brought more than 83,000 hours of what’s called high-impact tutoring to over 6,000 students across the state.
Environment and Nature

**Recycling rate rises in McLean County**

Charlie Schlenker, June 14, 2024

McLean County registered its highest recycling rate ever last year. Nearly 48% of all municipal solid waste produced in the county did not go to a landfill.

**Unit 5 to buy 5 electric school buses with grant money**

Charlie Schlenker, May 30, 2024

Unit 5 schools will get almost $1.1 million to buy five electric school buses, with the funding coming from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Competition.

**Unpacking $300 million in Bloomington-Normal water treatment improvements**

Charlie Schlenker, May 22, 2024

**Recycling knowledge and practice don't match in McLean County**

May 13, 2024

**Illinois utility spending will greatly increase consumer bills, a new report warns**

**Chronic Wasting Disease among deer found in Ford County**

Charlie Schlenker, May 2, 2024

A disease that kills white-tailed deer has moved further into central Illinois. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources said Chronic Wasting Disease is now in Ford County. It’s also been found in Livingston and 19 other Illinois counties.

**ISU Office of Sustainability 'walks the talk' by adopting 2 miles of North Normal highway**

Lauren Warnecke, April 22, 2024

After a few test runs, ISU's Office of Sustainability hopes to open opportunities to care for their stretch of North Linden Street to volunteers.

**Water reclamation district offers brief deadline extension to Bloomington plastics recycler**

Charlie Schlenker, April 15, 2024
The Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District board has given a plastics recycler until the end of the month to submit documents the district has been requesting for about two years.

**B-N water reclamation district could disconnect plastics recycler from sewer system**

Charlie Schlenker, April 12, 2024

The Bloomington Normal Water Reclamation District board will consider the unusual step of revoking the wastewater discharge permit of Akshar Plastics, a subsidiary of Bell International LLC.

**Cicada siren songs set to soar in Central Illinois**

Charlie Schlenker, April 10, 2024

This year was already a rare one in central Illinois for a solar eclipse. The next happening is even rarer — two broods of cicadas will emerge from the ground this year at the same time.

**McLean County recycling rates at risk after hauler chooses not to renew city contract**

Charlie Schlenker, April 4, 2024

McLean County's recycling rate could take a hit after bulk waste hauler LRS Henson Disposal chose not to renew its contract with the City of Bloomington.

**State is investigating hazmat spill and large fish kill near McLean-Livingston county line**

Ryan Denham, April 4, 2024

State investigators are trying to determine whether a hazardous spill near the McLean-Livingston county line led to a large fish kill on a 20-mile stretch of Rooks Creek.

**Business and Economy**

**Bill calling for interest rate disclosures on small business loans dies in Illinois House**

Amy Yee, May 22, 2024

Nonbank loans to small businesses have grown rapidly in recent years, but nonbank commercial lenders aren’t required to disclose the annual percentage rate to borrowers.

**Why Rivian never got its $49.5 million in state EDGE tax credits**

Ryan Denham, May 20, 2024
State officials confirmed Monday that Rivian has not any received any of the tax breaks, part of the EDGE tax credit program, despite hiring significantly more people and investing more money in Normal than initially expected.

**Rivian says demo drives, leasing and marketing campaigns are helping to spur demand**

May 7, 2024

**Education is key for the EV revolution's next phase, even in Rivian's backyard**

April 25, 2024

**State Farm pays $65 million to settle life insurance overcharge lawsuit**

Charlie Schlenker, June 21, 2024

Checks are going out in a $65 million settlement of a class action lawsuit against State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company. Attorneys had accused State Farm in a federal court in Missouri of overcharging on policies.

**Regional Housing Recovery Plan is on the table. Now what?**

Charlie Schlenker, May 16, 2024

The McLean County Regional Planning Commission has finished its Regional Housing Recovery Plan to address shortages in housing, workforce housing, mixed use housing, affordable housing, and housing for the housing challenged.

**Bloomington-Normal's jobless rate ticks up to 4.2%, still the lowest for any metro area in Illinois**

Charlie Schlenker, April 25, 2024

The Bloomington-Normal labor market saw the second highest unemployment rate increase in the state in March. The increase was more than half a point. The 4.2% jobless rate is still the lowest among major Illinois metro areas.

**McHistory: Rivian isn't the first electric automaker in Bloomington-Normal**

Charlie Schlenker, April 4, 2024

By now, most people know the Rivian story in which a scrappy startup electric automaker brought a mothballed Mitsubishi plant back to life, hired 8,000 people, and has now gone on to make more than 100,000 vehicles. Fewer may know Rivian was not the first electric automaker in Bloomington-Normal.
Small town leaders convene in Lexington to address common challenges — and opportunities

Lauren Warnecke, June 21, 2024

While many small towns are seeing populations decline and businesses leave, Lexington is growing.

State Farm pays $65 million to settle life insurance overcharge lawsuit

Charlie Schlenker, June 21, 2024

Checks are going out in a $65 million settlement of a class action lawsuit against State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company. Attorneys had accused State Farm in a federal court in Missouri of overcharging on policies.

Funk Farms in McLean County celebrates bicentennial anniversary

Lauren Warnecke, June 20, 2024

Ferrero's chocolate factory expansion adds 50 jobs to Bloomington area

May 7, 2024

Rivian to get $827 million in state incentives to support R2 expansion and more hiring in Normal

Ryan Denham, May 2, 2024

140+ adoptions, 9 staffers and 7 months: Inside Bloomington-Normal's first cat cafe

Lyndsay Jones, April 15, 2024

In addition to being a cat lover herself, Lauri Meins said she opened The Cat's Meow to build community and give people an opportunity to experience the "natural serotonin you get from having a kitten in your lap."

Rivian showcases upcoming new R2, R3 and R3X models at Uptown event

Colin Hardman, April 6, 2024

The electric automaker hosted a community event and discussed future plans Saturday in Uptown Normal, including manufacturing upgrades and staff expansion. The new R2 model's lower price was a point of special emphasis.

Science and Technology
McHistory: The up and down lives of Bloomington's 'indoor chauffeurs'

Charlie Schlenker, June 7, 2024

There was a time people operated elevators across the country, instead of passengers just pressing buttons as they do today.

ISU's plans for new STEM Science Lab Building could attract federal funding

Charlie Schlenker, June 4, 2024

A federal contribution to a new STEM/Science Lab Building at Illinois State University could come with the help of U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen, who has requested funding for 15 projects in his district, including $15 million for the ISU building.

Arts and Culture

3 things to do this weekend: Juneteenth, Bloomington Gold and DaZ Exotic at Nightshop

Lauren Warnecke, June 21, 2024

Rare corvettes will be on display and cruising Route 66 at the annual Bloomington Gold car show.

Music, musicals and comedy planned for 2024-25 after a record-breaking season at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts

Lauren Leisure, June 20, 2024

The downtown Bloomington concert venue announced its upcoming season in a launch event Thursday. A revamped season ticket program provides discounts for patrons booking 12 or more shows.

Behind the curtain of the costume shop for Illinois Shakespeare Festival

Emily Bollinger, June 20, 2024

The Illinois Shakespeare Festival costume shop is getting ready for their 2024 season.

McHistory: The last legal MLB spitballer pitched in Bloomington

Charlie Schlenker, June 18, 2024
There are many colorful characters in baseball. For Hall of Famer Burleigh "Old Stubblebeard" Grimes, the color in question is blue.

**McHistory: Legendary broadcaster Stretch Miller knew how to tell a story**

Charlie Schlenker, June 17, 2024

Legendary broadcaster and storyteller Campbell "Stretch" Miller had the attitude of why let facts get in the way of a good story.

**Conversation group supports new residents with learning English — and making genuine connections**

Lauren Warnecke, June 17, 2024

Star Literacy and Bloomington Public Library partner to present monthly, casual conversation groups aimed at English language learners.

**WWE Superstar Cody Rhodes defends his title at Grossinger Motors Arena**

Lauren Warnecke, June 17, 2024

The untelevised WWE event in Bloomington features stars from both Raw and SmackDown—a rarity outside the WrestleMania championships.

**3 things to do this weekend: 2 fun fundraisers and Lucinda Williams at the Castle**

Lauren Warnecke, June 14, 2024

Singer/songwriter Lucinda Williams' four-decade career included pop, rock, country, folk and Americana awards. She's on tour with new music and stops in Bloomington Friday night.

**Free concert in Heyworth to spread local veterans' stories through song**

Melissa Ellin, June 13, 2024

Heyworth is hosting a free concert on June 19 that will feature music that tells local veterans' stories of their time in the military. The challenge: the songs will be written the same day they're performed.

**The guard is changing at Illinois Shakespeare Festival**

Charlie Schlenker, June 11, 2024
The Illinois Shakespeare Festival has named Robert Quinlan as its next artistic director. Quinlan will take over in the fall when current director John Stark retires.

**Small town McLean goes big (and soon, bigger) as a vintage arcade destination**

Lauren Warnecke, June 10, 2024

Arcadia owner John Yates is converting the building used as a workshop for 30 years into a new pay-once, play-all-day arcade.

**Composer captures the pulsing flow of cicada calls in Central Illinois**

Charlie Schlenker, June 10, 2024

The rare emergence of two broods of periodic cicadas at one time in parts of Central Illinois has attracted international attention from those who want to hear the pulsating and ear-piercing mating choruses.

**McHistory: The up and down lives of Bloomington's 'indoor chauffeurs'**

Charlie Schlenker, June 7, 2024

There was a time people operated elevators across the country, instead of passengers just pressing buttons as they do today.

**3 things to do this weekend: Didgeridoo, Cogs & Corsets and Catalina Wine Mixer**

Lauren Warnecke, June 7, 2024

Cogs & Corsets convenes steampunk enthusiasts in downtown Bloomington for the 7th year.

**DeWitt County Museum adorns a historic home with quilts — and the stories they tell**

Lauren Warnecke, June 6, 2024

On Sunday, a free talk at the DeWitt County Museum in Clinton explores a connection between quilts and the Underground Railroad.

**ISU’s theater and dance department renamed to reflect growing interest in film**

Lauren Leisure, June 6, 2024

In a move to embrace the evolution of performing arts education, Illinois State University has rebranded its School of Theatre and Dance to reflect growing interest in cinematic arts.
**Taichi Fukumura picked to lead the Illinois Symphony**

Lauren Warnecke, June 6, 2024

Taichi Fukumura has been selected from four finalists over a two-year search process.

**WIU Center for Performing Arts named after former ISU provost Al Goldfarb**

Rich Egger, June 4, 2024

A new building on the Macomb campus of Western Illinois University will be named for a former president of the institution, Al Goldfarb.

**The Bistro's 'Momma' crafts a safe space for LGBTQ people — one cocktail at a time**

Lauren Warnecke, June 4, 2024

Jan Lancaster is part of the 2024 class of McLean County History Makers that will be celebrated at the annual History Makers' Gala on June 18.

**All aboard! 'The Conductors' takes little passengers on a big journey**

Sarah Nardi, June 3, 2024

A collaboration between theater groups and Illinois Art Station brings two interactive performances to Bloomington-Normal.

**McLean County youth and young adults find family and confidence with the Penguin Project**

Melissa Ellin, June 1, 2024

In the SpongeBob Musical, a typical cast has 30 to 35 actors, but in The Penguin Project of McLean County’s production, that number is doubled — one of many modifications made so youth and young adults with special needs are center stage in every role.

**Gamers and card collectors convene in Bloomington for 7th annual Illinois Game Con**

Lauren Warnecke, May 31, 2024

Organized by Ryan Tauscher, who owns Normal game store The Item Shop, the 7-year-old gaming convention has become Illinois' largest.

**Illinois rockers Revis get the band back together with a revival tour stopping at the Castle**
The band formed in the late 1990s and made a splash with their debut studio album but had been dormant for nearly a decade when they started writing new songs.

3 things to do this weekend: Endurance sports, spooky plays and SpongeBob SquarePants

The region's longest running multi-sport event celebrates its 30th anniversary at Comlara Park Saturday.

Bloomington offers free entertainment for veterans

This collaboration will open doors for veterans to attend a variety of free performances at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts [BCPA] and the Grossinger Motors Arena.

3 things to do this weekend: Garden talk, Mackinaw wine and beer fest, jazz in the park

The holiday weekend includes Mackinaw Valley Vineyard's annual festival of craft beer and wines from around the world.

Swing into summer with Bloomington-Normal's Sweet Nothings

The four-piece band plays swing, traditional and hot club jazz from the early 20th century, with a full slate of shows all summer long, including on the patio from 6-9 p.m. Friday at Destihl Beer Hall, 1200 Greenbriar Drive in Normal.

Illinois Wesleyan librarian Abigail Mann to appear on 'Jeopardy!'

Mann is a digital scholarship librarian with research expertise in the arts and humanities. She will appear on Jeopardy! Tuesday, May 28.

Gangstagrass returns to Bloomington after 5 years, serving up 'The Blackest Thing on the Menu'

Gangstagrass returns to Bloomington after 5 years, serving up 'The Blackest Thing on the Menu'
The band Gangstagrass combines hip-hop and bluegrass, whose shared roots complement each other in surprising ways. They play at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday.

3 things to do this weekend: Festival kick-off and a funk-soul-rock lineup at Nightshop

Lauren Warnecke, May 17, 2024

A pair of restaurants—one in Normal and the other in Le Roy—spill into the streets gearing up for festival season.

Anniversary bash toasts Reverberation Vinyl's 13 years — as records reasserted themselves

Lauren Warnecke, May 14, 2024

Reverberation Vinyl owner John Anderson is largely detached from the mega-music industry, which has capitalized on the resurgence of vinyl and squeezed some independent artists out. Anderson sticks to his musical values and passions, stocking deep cuts and undiscovered gems. Each spring, he hosts a concert in the shop.

New poetry from Heartland professor lays bare the beautiful mess of life's toughest moments

Lauren Warnecke, May 10, 2024

Poet Cathy Gilbert doesn't shy away from tough topics, but her most recent collection was as much a coping mechanism as an artistic expression. Her new book examines becoming a mother for the first time — to twins — as her own mother was dying.

3 things to do this weekend: Family Day at Tipton Park, flower sale and a community knit-in

Lauren Warnecke, May 10, 2024

The Bloomington Kiwanis' annual flower sale takes place each Mother's Day weekend, with proceeds supporting camp scholarships for kids.

We the Kingdom blurs the lines between 'Church Music' and rock 'n' roll in Bloomington-Normal debut

Lauren Warnecke, May 9, 2024

The contemporary Christian band We the Kingdom is on the road for the first time since lead singer Franni Rae Cash Cain's departure.
3 things to do this weekend: Spring markets, story slam and Route 66 fest

Lauren Warnecke, May 3, 2024

The unofficial kickoff to market season presents opportunities to shop in Bloomington, Hudson, Towanda and Downs.

All the world's (literally) a stage for the Nomad Theatre Company

Sarah Nardi, May 2, 2024

Nomad Theatre Company debuts its 2024-25 season with The Warehouse Plays

Prairie Fire Theatre's new children's opera is coming to a school near you

Lauren Warnecke, May 2, 2024

Treble Trouble is a hero's tale of how Princess Poco saved the land of Melodia from perpetual silence — and teaching a few lessons along the way.

3 things to do this weekend: Barbershop, blooms and a powerful piece of theater

Lauren Warnecke, April 26, 2024

Spring blooms are fleeting—catch them while you can on a walk led by ParkLands Foundation naturalists.

At ISU's ReggieCon, video games and comics are a vessel for deeper conversation

Ryan Denham, April 25, 2024

The four-day celebration of creativity called ReggieCon begins Saturday at Illinois State University, featuring creators and creative thinkers from campus and beyond.

Alternate Alejandro Gómez Guillén vies for Illinois Symphony directorship with season-ending 'Opposites Attract'

Lauren Warnecke, April 25, 2024

Alejandro Gómez Guillén replaces Naomi Woo, who withdrew her candidacy to focus on other professional opportunities.

65 years after the music died, Josh Henderson captures collective trauma in a new suite at history museum
Composer and multi-instrumentalist Josh Henderson aimed to capture the diversity and complexity of the Midwest while in residence at the University of Iowa — starting with a star-studded 1959 music tour riddled by a national tragedy. **After 4 years, JJ Grey & Mofro return to Castle Theatre with a new record in tow**

The title track to Olustee is inspired by cross-generational wildfires near JJ Grey's northeast Florida home.

**3 things to do this weekend: Gamma Phi Circus, Record Store Day, TEDxNormal**

Gamma Phi Circus presents The Magic of Musicals, and the spring edition of Record Store Day includes a Coffeehound pop-up at Waiting Room Records in Uptown Normal.

**Twin Cities rock jazz band Inktrail lays down a record—finally**

With thousands of hours in front of live audiences, the instrumental trio Inktrail settled on nine original songs for their debut titular album.

**Second show added for Pete Davidson's Prehab Tour at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts**

Tickets sold out in 48 hours to the former SNL star's comedy tour, set to land in Bloomington on June 14.

**'Panther Women' by Coalescence Theatre shines a light on the women behind the movement**

India Nicole Burton's Panther Women: An Army for the Liberation was praised in Chicago, where Myesha-Tiara directed the immersive play in a converted office space. Now, Tiara sets the play in a church rec room with local actors.

**3 things to do this weekend: The Wolves, Slow Art Day and an ISO chamber concert**
Lauren Warnecke, April 12, 2024

Music director candidate Tania Miller leads the Illinois Symphony for her second of two engagements. And Eureka College tackles a Pulitzer-nominated Sarah DeLappe play done recently by Illinois Wesleyan.

Town announces outdoor summer music at Connie Link, Uptown Circle and Make Music Normal

Lauren Warnecke, April 11, 2024

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Normal's flagship music fest, Make Music Normal.

El Paso's Project XV Museum shares voting rights stories, including their own—but it's not open yet

Lauren Warnecke, April 11, 2024

The Project XV Museum had hoped to be open by now. Saturday's gala is aimed at raising funds to continue making progress on 4,000 square feet of exhibit space, including David Strother's historic barber shop.

Student-led Holi Moli Festival of Colors is back, this time in Uptown Normal

Evy York, April 10, 2024

Normal Community High School students are organizing the 2nd annual Holi Moli Festival of Colors at the Uptown Normal circle to help continue to connect the Bloomington-Normal community with Indian culture.

Inside Art video: Writing a thriller with Sue Rovens from Normal

Emily Bollinger, April 9, 2024

This episode of WGLT's video series Inside Art features independent suspense and thriller author Sue Rovens from Normal.

Matthew Sweet returns to the road after a 4-year break, bringing all the hits

Lauren Warnecke, April 6, 2024

Sweet is working on his 16th studio album, but doesn't mind that people love hearing the old stuff.
3 things to do this weekend: 'Clyde's' at Heartland, dancing for peace and Matthew Sweet

Lauren Warnecke, April 5, 2024

Matthew Sweet makes his first appearance in Bloomington since 2019, stopping for a one-night-only full band show at the Castle Theatre.

Eureka College professor to screen Mississippi blues documentary at Chicago film festival

Lauren Warnecke, April 4, 2024

Media studies professor Phil Duncan directed, shot and produced Mississippi Mud: A Natural History of the Blues during several trips to the Mississippi Delta.

At Heartland Theatre, sandwich-making at ‘Clyde’s’ is more than meat and bread

Lauren Warnecke, April 2, 2024

Running April 4-20 at Heartland Theatre in Normal, Clyde’s is the story of four sandwich shop workers and their insufferable boss, Clyde.

Springfield photographer Lee Milner reflects on his life and career

Dean Olsen, April 1, 2024

For Lee Milner, who at 64 was volunteering his time as Quinn’s photographer and later would send the photographs to the Illinois State Archives, recording history was just his latest efforts at “making a difference.”

Higher Education

ISU’s theater and dance department renamed to reflect growing interest in film

Lauren Leisure, June 6, 2024

In a move to embrace the evolution of performing arts education, Illinois State University has rebranded its School of Theatre and Dance to reflect growing interest in cinematic arts.

WIU Center for Performing Arts named after former ISU provost Al Goldfarb

Rich Egger, June 4, 2024

A new building on the Macomb campus of Western Illinois University will be named for a former president of the institution, Al Goldfarb.
ISU's plans for new STEM Science Lab Building could attract federal funding

Charlie Schlenker, June 4, 2024

A federal contribution to a new STEM/Science Lab Building at Illinois State University could come with the help of U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen, who has requested funding for 15 projects in his district, including $15 million for the ISU building.

Shuffling in the provost's office as IWU prepares for its new president

Lauren Warnecke, June 3, 2024

Abigail Kerr was selected to replace Mark Brodl in January as interim provost for a one-year term. She left higher education altogether on May 31.

ISU trustees set fees for new students, keeping cost increases below inflation rate

Charlie Schlenker, May 17, 2024

The ISU Board of Trustees has approved a 3.6% increase in fees, and room and board rose 3.5%. The ISU board held a special meeting Friday after putting off a vote last week to get more information.

ISU scholar lays out how autocrats steal democracy in new book

Charlie Schlenker, May 16, 2024

Nearly a third of the world's population lives in countries that are not free. Another 28% live in partly-free countries. That's according to the nonpartisan think tank Freedom House. And the trend is not encouraging.

ISU tells pro-Palestinian students to remove tents from Quad

Charlie Schlenker, April 30, 2024

Illinois State University students have joined their counterparts on dozens of college campuses nationwide in setting up tent encampments to demonstrate support for Palestinians.

Q&A: ISU's new president on FAFSA delays, equitable university funding and AI policies

Lyndsay Jones, April 25, 2024

Aondover Tarhule, who became ISU's 21st president last month after a year in the interim role, said the university is grappling with ongoing delays in the student aid award process, as well as
responding to the prevalence of artificial intelligence tech and a looming drop in graduating high school seniors.

**How it started, how it's going: ISU Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies reflects on 50 years**

Lauren Warnecke, April 24, 2024

An exhibit at Milner Library at Illinois State University outlines the history of the program and its intersection with social justice issues since forming in 1974.

**Ex-ISU president Dietz named interim president at St. Cloud State University**

Eric Stock, April 17, 2024

Dietz retired as Illinois State University's president in 2021 after seven years in the role, and 10 years with the university overall. He was named a finalist for the interim presidency at St. Cloud State in March.

**Annual IWU fundraiser marks 2nd record-breaking year**

Lyndsay Jones, April 15, 2024

Donors gave more than $2.7 million to an annual fundraiser for Illinois Wesleyan University, breaking last year's record of just over $2.6 million.

**Former ISU athletics director Sheahon Zenger named Illinois Wesleyan's new president**

Lyndsay Jones, April 10, 2024

Sheahon Zenger will succeed outgoing Illinois Wesleyan president Georgia Nugent, who will step down at the end of the academic year. Zenger will assume the private liberal arts university's top job on July 1.

**Rep. Chung votes no on dual credit bill kept alive by Higher Education Committee**

Lauren Warnecke, April 5, 2024

A seventh attempt to update the Dual Credit Quality Act has cleared an Illinois House committee, extending the deadline to successfully bring it to the full House. Strong opposition from community college faculty, including both faculty unions at Heartland Community College, curbed a vote last week.