

WGLT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS Fourth Quarter 2025 October 2025 – December 2025

The following issues were addressed during WGLT Newscasts during MORNING EDITION from 5 to 9 am M-F and during ALL THINGS CONSIDERED from 3-6PM, M-F, and during Sound Ideas, 5p.m.-5:30 p.m., M-F and on our website at www.wglt.org. The story lengths range from one minute to 21 minutes. Other examples of WGLT addressing community issues can be found at www.wglt.org

Politics and Government

Bloomington residents and officials respond to new proactive property maintenance violation policy

[Ben Howell](#), Dec 18, 2025

WGLT talks to Bloomington residents and city council members about the city's new approach to property maintenance issues, as well as how things work across town in Normal.

Rep. LaHood and other Republicans tell Trump to reject Michael Madigan pardon request

[Tina Sfondeles](#), Dec 17, 2025

U.S. Reps. Darin LaHood, Mary Miller and Mike Bost, staunch Trump allies, penned the re

Bloomington considers downtown trolley service during parking crunch

[Charlie Schlenker](#), December 16, 2025

Winter weather complicates an already scarce parking situation in Downtown Bloomington. The Market Street parking deck has closed. And the Front and Center block has yet to finish demolition and become surface parking. That's likely to become available sometime next spring.

New Illinois Farm Bureau president wants to restore communication and credibility for the venerable organization

[Charlie Schlenker](#), December 15, 2025

New Illinois Farm Bureau President Philip Nelson said one reason he unseated previous organization head Brian Duncan was a legal dispute with the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Mental health training continues ramp up in McLean County

[Charlie Schlenker](#), December 15, 2025

McLean County Board Chair Elizabeth Johnston said there's significant movement on mental health program spending in the county. That comes from sales tax money shared with the county by Bloomington and Normal.

McLean County Board members slam health inspectors over confusion with CBD/THC drinks

[Charlie Schlenker](#), December 9, 2025

Some McLean County Board members are criticizing Health Department inspectors over how they address the presence of beverages containing CBD or THC additives. The situation has already caused on again, off again enforcement on hemp-derived drinks.

Health care reform listening session held at Bloomington church

[Cindy Alcazar](#), December 6, 2025

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Bloomington hosted the first of several listening sessions to galvanize support for single-payer health insurance. The nonprofit One People's Campaign led the session.

Bloomington and Normal join McLean County in suggestion they back away from legal cliff and restart talks in sales tax dispute

[Charlie Schlenker](#), December 5, 2025

The latest missive on the dispute between the City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, and McLean County over how the county government handles shared sales tax money includes a

vigorous defense of previous allegations against the county and proffers a reciprocal olive branch.

Cybercriminals target vendor used by the Town of Normal

[Charlie Schlenker](#), December 4, 2025

A cybercrime organization has breached a system used by the Town of Normal to send out emergency and event notices to subscribers.

McLean County budget priorities similar to current spending plan

[Charlie Schlenker](#), November 14, 2025

McLean County Board chair Elizabeth Johnston said the priorities in next year's \$144.5 million budget approved this week remain similar to the current year spending plan.

Brady says water improvements underway as Bloomington charts long-term strategy

[Charlie Schlenker](#), November 14, 2025

WGLT talks to Bloomington's mayor about city planning surrounding water quality and supply, a lawsuit involving Bloomington police, and a recap of a busy summer activity season.

Partisan blame game continues as government reopens

[Charlie Schlenker](#), November 13, 2025

Republicans and Democrats continue blaming each other for the government shutdown even after the vote on a continuing resolution to fund the government until the end of January.

Former McLean County Clerk Jeanette Barrett dies at 99

[Charlie Schlenker](#), November 13, 2025

Jeanette Barrett, a former and longtime McLean County clerk, has died at age 99. Barrett served as county clerk for 21 years and retired in 1998.

NPR political expert Ron Elving visits Central Illinois for event focused on bipartisanship in government

[Charlie Schlenker](#), November 12, 2025

The ideal of bipartisanship has dwindled in Congress and in Washington over several decades. The Dirksen Congressional Center in Pekin is holding an event to highlight the importance of that quality in helping government work well.

Airline impacts from government shutdown coming soon to central Illinois

[Charlie Schlenker](#), [Joe Deacon](#) - WGLT, November 7, 2025

Airports in Bloomington and Peoria say there will be impacts to their facilities from a federally-ordered reduction in airline flights at key airports around the country.

Unit 5 reminds families of food and financial resources amid ongoing government shutdown

[Ben Howell](#), November 5, 2025

Beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP] will only receive half of their normal payments, the Trump administration revealed in court this week.

Mayor Koos answers criticism over underpass decision

[Charlie Schlenker](#), November 4, 2025

The mayor of Normal is answering criticism of the town council decision's to move ahead with the Uptown underpass project despite steep price increases and a larger town share of the \$40.3 million cost.

Uptown business owners raise concerns about tax hikes to fund underpass — and the quick vote on them

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 31, 2025

Some Uptown business owners are criticizing a proposal to raise food and beverage and hotel-motel taxes in Normal. They're also not happy about an accelerated timeline to a council vote on Monday — just three business days after the proposal became public.

Completing Uptown Normal Underpass to require tax hikes

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 30, 2025

To get the decade-old Uptown underpass project over the finish line will require increases in food and beverage and hotel-motel taxes. That staff recommendation emerged at a special town council meeting on Wednesday evening.

McLean County rebuts agreement default allegations from Bloomington and Normal

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 29, 2025

McLean County government has offered an olive branch in its response to notice of default from the City of Bloomington and Town of Normal in a protracted dispute over shared sales tax money.

NPR's Steve Inskeep on the future of public media, democracy and journalism in the Trump era

[Eric Stock](#), October 23, 2025

Steve Inskeep is the featured guest at WGLT's Radio Faces dinner on Thursday, Oct. 30 at Illinois State University.

Officials: Late audit reports cost McLean County government

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 20, 2025

McLean County Auditor Michelle Anderson is again facing criticism, this time for a late county audit that other county officials say is causing problems

Bloomington mayor says sales tax vote is consistent with earlier decisions

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 15, 2025

Mayor Dan Brady says he does not think a close city council vote to dedicate grocery sales tax money to infrastructure came about because of inconsistent messaging.

Another aspect of the city-county-town dispute on sales tax money comes to light

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 6, 2025

Another approved use of money is to replace an aging electronic record management system that integrates information for the courts, law enforcement, and other McLean County stakeholders. There has been a lot of unhappiness about that project too.

ISU leaders ask campus to bear with them on federal shutdown issues

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 1, 2025

The top academic officer and CFO at Illinois State University are asking the campus to have patience in the face of the federal government shutdown.

Education

Bilingual advisory group empowers parents and closes communication gaps in Unit 5

Dec 18, 2025

Unit 5 board approves 2025 tax levy, hears from Carlock Elementary supporters

Dec 18, 2025

Football playoff expansion among 12 new rules approved for IHSA sports

December 17, 2025

ISU Board of Trustees gives the go-ahead for housing project, solar farm

December 12, 2025

ISU names next dean of the Mennonite College of Nursing

December 12, 2025

Unit 5 enrollment study includes options of adding new school east of Veterans, closing Carlock school

December 11, 2025

Unit 5

1. Unit 5 looking at language for sharing law enforcement info amid US immigration crackdown
2. 13-year-old from Normal dies after being critically injured in house fire
3. Unit 5 reminds families of food and financial resources amid ongoing government shutdown
4. New report cards show fewer 'exemplary' B-N schools and more with struggling student groups
5. Unit 5 discusses process, criteria and feedback for enrollment planning study
6. Unit 5 to host public meeting focused on enrollment planning study underway
7. Students, community members largely defend teacher at Unit 5 meeting over 'Abolish ICE' shirt

District 87

1. Students and staff say new phone policy is working as designed at Bloomington High School
2. 'Opens up the world': Stevenson Elementary's new playground focuses on access
3. New report cards show fewer 'exemplary' B-N schools and more with struggling student groups
4. District 87 looks to borrow \$20M in bonds for early childhood center renovations, other improvements
5. District 87 superintendent provides updates on facilities work, teachers and students
6. Bent Elementary School welcomes new playground and greenspace
7. District 87 considers easing graduation requirements for students new to the country

Youth substance abuse prevention program looks to athletes to spread the word

[Braden Fogerson](#), December 8, 2025

A youth substance misuse prevention program from the Illinois Association for Behavioral Health has partnered with the Illinois High School Association and IESA to expand outreach efforts.

Illinois educators hope to tackle thorny issue of math competence

[Peter Hancock](#), December 5, 2025

The document will direct not just the way math is taught in the classroom, but how math teachers are trained in the profession and math programs are administered in school districts.

Private vs. public debate persists at IHSA state football championships

[Braden Fogerson](#), December 4, 2025

Debates over perceived advantages private schools have over public schools in Illinois High School Association [IHSA] athletics continued as the state football championships played out in Normal and DeKalb.

At U-High, 'Signing Santa Claus' comes to town to meet students learning ASL

[Braden Fogerson](#), December 1, 2025

The Bloomington-Normal Deaf Club is bringing holiday festivities to kids who often miss out on some of the fun the season can bring. They started with an ASL class at University High School.

Thomas Metcalf social studies teacher wins \$50,000 classroom furniture makeover

[Braden Fogerson](#), November 25, 2025

Andy Goveia was one of more than 550 K-12 teachers across the country to enter the contest held by KI Furniture.

Appeals court rules shuttered Lincoln College still property tax exempt

[Charlie Schlenker](#), November 24, 2025

The Fourth District Appellate Court has reversed a circuit court decision and bounced a property tax dispute between Logan County and the not-for-profit that formerly ran Lincoln College back to the lower court.

Requests for new K-12 funding in Illinois likely to outstrip available resources

[Peter Hancock](#), November 24, 2025

If advocates, stakeholders and members of the public were granted all their requests for public school funding next year, lawmakers would have to increase the state's K-12 education budget by nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars.

'Years of effort': Public Illinois universities achieve highest enrollment in a decade

[Ben Howell](#), November 21, 2025

The Illinois Board of Higher Education reports that nearly 190,000 students are enrolled across the state for the Fall 2025 semester.

U-High volleyball celebrates first state title in 25 years

[Braden Fogerson](#), November 21, 2025

University High School hosted a ceremony Friday celebrating its volleyball team for winning the IHSA Class 3A State Championship.

University enrollment in Illinois grows to 10-year high despite some declines

[Peter Hancock](#), November 19, 2025

Enrollment at public universities in Illinois grew to a 10-year high of 189,791 students, a 2.3% increase over last year, according to figures released by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Trump administration shares new moves to dismantle more of the Education Department

[Cory Turner](#), November 18, 2025

Opponents of the changes say Congress explicitly located some of these offices inside the Education Department, and the White House cannot legally move their work without Congress' approval.

Emergency response program maps LeRoy school district buildings for first responders

[Braden Fogerson](#), November 12, 2025

The LeRoy school district now has up-to-date 3D school maps, allowing first responders to more quickly respond to emergencies. Other countywide schools are showing interest.

Mental health counselor explains how to regulate emotions in a digital world at McLean County forum

[Braden Fogerson](#), November 6, 2025

Jen Woodrum presented on self-regulation at a behavioral health forum Thursday at the Bone Student Center at Illinois State University.

Heartland Head Start funding secure for now

[Lauren Warnecke](#), October 31, 2025

The Bloomington-based early learning center for low-income families will not be affected by a fiscal cliff faced by many Head Start programs if the government shutdown extends into November.

New teachers union leaders in Illinois call for tax shift to fund K-12, higher education

[Peter Hancock](#), October 23, 2025

The new leader of the Illinois Federation of Teachers says state lawmakers should consider raising taxes on wealthy individuals and corporations that have received federal tax breaks under the Trump administration to increase state spending on education and other public services.

'Knowledge is power' approach to ISU budget allows programs to forecast spending and adapt to deficits over time

[Lauren Warnecke](#), October 23, 2025

A pair of town hall meetings this week with campus stakeholders unveiled more details about ISU's new budget framework that itemizes revenue by enrollment.

ISU trustees call for campus flexibility as new budget model approaches

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 17, 2025

Illinois State leaders are urging the campus to commit to change and remain flexible as the university implements a new budgeting process that could significantly re-allocate program funds.

Students, educators call for Gov. JB Pritzker to release additional higher education funding

[Eric Stock](#), October 16, 2025

Gov. JB Pritzker says he's not ready to release \$25 million in approved funds for higher education. That would include \$1.6 million for Illinois State University.

To fight the rise in senior scams, BBB leader invites Central Illinois communities to share stories

[Michele Steinbacher](#), October 13, 2025

The Better Business Bureau of Central Illinois wants to empower seniors, and others, with knowledge that can help protect them against scams.

ISU students in National Guard are activated for duty

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 9, 2025

As the Trump administration sends National Guard soldiers to Chicago, a half dozen Illinois State University students have been called to active duty this week.

Interview: Presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin tells of leadership in turbulent times

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 7, 2025

Pulitzer Prize-winning presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin told a crowd of about 1,200 people at Illinois Wesleyan University on Monday night that Bloomington-Normal favorite son Adlai Stevenson II was her commencement speaker the year she graduated college.

Report highlights better state funding for education and growth in some areas

[Emmanuel Camarillo](#), October 2, 2025

Eight years after putting in place a tool that gauges kindergarten readiness, more children in Illinois are showing up to elementary school ready to go, but gaps between different groups of students remain and are pronounced, according to a new report on public education in the state.

ISU leaders ask campus to bear with them on federal shutdown issues

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 1, 2025

The top academic officer and CFO at Illinois State University are asking the campus to have patience in the face of the federal government shutdown.

Higher Education

ISU names next dean of the Mennonite College of Nursing

[Ben Howell](#), December 12, 2025

Dr. Linda Haddad has been named the next dean of Illinois State University's Mennonite College of Nursing. Haddad will take the post on July 1, 2026, succeeding Dr. Caroline Mallory who served in the interim position.

ISU revives new dorm and dining plans and proposes solar array for GE Road campus

[Charlie Schlenker](#), December 10, 2025

Illinois State University is trying to revive a stalled dorm and dining center project. It also wants to put a solar farm on the land, roofs, and maybe parking structures at its College of Engineering campus on GE Road in Bloomington.

Beyond the essay: How AI can accelerate learning and humanize instruction

[Charlie Schlenker](#), December 2, 2025

The structure of college classes will have to change in an AI world. That's according to Roy Magnuson, the director of the newly created Adaptive Edge Institute at Illinois State University. The institute studies new technologies and how they influence teaching. Right now, that's Generative AI.

Appeals court rules shuttered Lincoln College still property tax exempt

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Technology

Rivian ups its game on hands-free driving and AI

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Electric automaker Rivian has unveiled new technology it says will put it at the forefront of autonomous vehicles.

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Trade and regulatory impacts mixed and volatile for Rivian

[Charlie Schlenker](#), November 6, 2025

Trump administration trade and regulatory policy initially hurt Rivian. Changes in the administration stance may now help some.

Rivian CEO touts AI as the near future for automobiles

[Charlie Schlenker](#), November 5, 2025

The head of electric vehicle maker Rivian says the future is not just EVs, it's artificial intelligence and autonomous vehicles. And it's coming sooner than you might think.

A streetcorner typewriter poet in Bloomington finds power in permanence

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 6, 2025

In this glued-to-your-phone era of technological isolation from our fellow human beings, one creative person is turning to old tech to help people reconnect and spread joy and a little art. As part of our ongoing feature series More of That, Please, we bring you the story of typewriter poetry.

Solder and static control rule electronic circuit board maker Zentech's quality efforts

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 1, 2025

In Part 3 of our weeklong series about local manufacturing, WGLT visits a Bloomington company that serves both farms and the armed forces with made-to-order circuit boards

Sports

Bears looking past Arlington Heights for possible stadium sites, including Northwest Indiana

[Mitchell Armentrout, Patrick Finley](#), 7 hours ago

Gov. JB Pritzker called the team's latest shift in its stadium focus "a startling slap in the face."

Illinois State football's Niekamp family thrives on coaching, and playing, hard

[Randy Kindred](#), Dec 18, 2025

What happens when your toughest coach is also your dad? Illinois State defensive coordinator Travis Niekamp is pushing sons Tye and Dexter — and the Redbirds — to the brink of the national championship game.

Lincoln's beloved 'Coach E' builds up players and beats cancer on his way to Hall of Fame

[Randy Kindred](#), Dec 18, 2025

For nearly 30 years, Eric “Coach E” Ewald has shaped Lincoln basketball from the background — building confidence, refining an offense and quietly making players better people. Now, the longtime Railers assistant is stepping into the spotlight as an inductee of the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Football playoff expansion among 12 new rules approved for IHSA sports

[Braden Fogerson](#), December 17, 2025

The change adds 16 schools to the brackets of each of the eight classes, determined by student enrollment, that make up the IHSA Football Championships.

ISU football's postseason run evokes memories of 2014 national runners-up

[Eric Stock](#), December 16, 2025

The Redbirds will bring an eight-game road winning streak against FCS opponents to Villanova Stadium in Philadelphia against a Wildcat team that’s won an FCS-record 23 consecutive home games.

ISU Athletics names practice gym and leadership suite after Doug and Kathy Collins

[Eric Stock](#), December 15, 2025

Illinois State University basketball legend Doug Collins will now be forever linked to a part of campus that helped transform him into an All-American and — ultimately — a basketball Hall of Famer.

Road warriors: Redbirds advance to FCS semifinals with win at UC-Davis

[Ryan Denham](#), December 13, 2025

The Illinois State football team is one win away from a shot at a national title after a quarterfinal playoff win Saturday at UC-Davis.

U-High grad Destiny Ramsey making an impact through basketball and business

[Randy Kindred](#), December 10, 2025

Royalty Hoops Etc. is a blend of Destiny Ramsey’s love for basketball and a business acumen built through her education. The Bloomington-Normal native is also the girls junior varsity coach at U-High.

'One of the best moments': ISU football has little time to reflect on upset win

[Eric Stock](#), December 9, 2025

The Redbirds' improbable win over NDSU, two months after ISU lost to the Bison in Normal, lifted ISU into the FCS quarterfinals for a postseason rematch with UC-Davis at 4 p.m. Saturday.

ISU football stuns No. 1 North Dakota State, advances to playoff quarterfinals

[Ryan Denham](#), December 6, 2025

The Illinois State football team upset No. 1 North Dakota State on Saturday, 29-28, advancing to the FCS playoffs quarterfinals next weekend.

Private vs. public debate persists at IHSA state football championships

[Braden Fogerson](#), December 4, 2025

Debates over perceived advantages private schools have over public schools in Illinois High School Association [IHSA] athletics continued as the state football championships played out in Normal and DeKalb.

Often Running in Normal prepares for its final lap

[Eric Stock](#), December 1, 2025

Often Running in Normal is closing soon. Manager Mitch Hobbs said the running shoe and apparel store will likely close in the next few weeks once its remaining inventory is sold.

Illinois State football advances to second round of FCS playoffs

[Eric Stock](#), November 29, 2025

The unseeded Redbirds [9-4] rolled to a 21-3 victory at No. 16 seed Southeastern Louisiana in the first round of the FCS [Football Championship Subdivision] playoffs Saturday at Strawberry Stadium in Hammond, Louisiana.

Heartland Community College claims national title in women's volleyball

[Eric Stock](#), November 24, 2025

The Hawks defeated No. 4 seed Kansas City Community College [Kansas] in straight sets on Saturday to claim the title in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Illinois State football lands postseason bid at Southeastern Louisiana

[Eric Stock](#), November 23, 2025

The Redbirds received an at-large bid to the 24-team field and will play at No. 16 seed Southeastern Louisiana at noon, Saturday, Nov. 29, in Hammond, Louisiana.

U-High volleyball celebrates first state title in 25 years

[Braden Fogerson](#), November 21, 2025

University High School hosted a ceremony Friday celebrating its volleyball team for winning the IHSA Class 3A State Championship.

Explosion of sports wagering discussed at problem gambling conference in Normal

[Eric Stock](#), November 13, 2025

The head of a nonprofit advocacy group urges local governments that collect tax money from video gambling machines to direct some of that revenue toward addiction treatment.

Central Illinois veterans hockey team supports each other, on and off the ice

[Ryan Denham](#)

, November 10, 2025

The Veteran Warriors hockey team touts itself as the only sports program in Central Illinois dedicated to rehabilitation and therapy for disabled veterans. They strive to provide a buddy-check support system and an experience for veterans suffering from PTSD, substance abuse, or other issues.

ISU men's basketball prepares for its 'hardest step' this season

[Eric Stock](#), November 6, 2025

Illinois State men's basketball coach Ryan Pedon says his team embraces being a target this season. The Redbirds are picked to win the Missouri Valley Conference — something the program last achieved in 1998.

Illinois Wesleyan University adding men's bowling in 2026

[Ben Howell](#), October 31, 2025

Athletic director Mike Wagner announced the addition this week, with the team beginning its first competitive season in the 2026-27 academic year. It is the eighth sport added at IWU since 2019.

B-N native Denny Matthews, 'Voice of the Royals,' to say 'I do' for the first time at 83

[Randy Kindred](#), October 30, 2025

Growing up in Kansas, Amy Baker first knew Bloomington-Normal native Denny Matthews as the soothing voice of her beloved baseball team. On Nov. 15, they will be married at the home of the Royals, Kaufmann Stadium in Kansas City.

ISU's Ryan Pedon wants to play more Power 4 schools but major programs aren't interested

[Eric Stock](#), October 29, 2025

As the Illinois State men's basketball team prepares for one of its most anticipated seasons in years, head coach Ryan Pedon says he's frustrated that schools like ISU have a tough time getting schools from major conferences to play them.

'We're greedy': ISU women's basketball coach will aim for sixth straight postseason berth

[Ben Howell](#), [Eric Stock](#), October 27, 2025

The Redbird women's first game of the season takes place Nov. 3, when they will host the Dayton Flyers.

Mackinaw teen takes aim at 2028 Paralympics

[Cole Loiacano](#), October 23, 2025

Jadon Nafziger has been competitively shooting for five years. His talent and training are taking him places.

ISU-Northwestern basketball exhibition to have a family feel for Collinses, Pedon

[Randy Kindred](#), October 22, 2025

When Ryan Pedon's Redbirds meet Chris Collins' Wildcats on Oct. 29 at Evanston, it will be more than a garden variety exhibition game. It will be two good friends seeking to learn about their teams and a proud father/father figure (Doug Collins) loving every minute.

Bison wants 'fast-paced, fun' style as team prepares for 2nd season of Bloomington hockey

[Ben Howell](#), [Sami Johnson](#), October 13, 2025

Head coach Phillip Barski said the team has recruited some new defensive players who can move the puck, helping to create a more well-rounded team.

Football lifts up Ted Schmitz on way to ISU Athletics Hall of Fame honor

[Randy Kindred](#), October 1, 2025

Ted Schmitz has a special place at Illinois State University. He will receive the Campbell "Stretch" Miller Award on Oct. 18 as part of ISU's Percy Family Athletics Hall of Fame inductions.

Transportation

Rediscovering an overlooked linchpin of Illinois industry: Bicycling

[Charlie Schlenker](#), December 16, 2025

A Bloomington-Normal historian says bicycles were once a top export from the state of Illinois. Manufacturing centers in the state, including Peoria and Chicago, made two-thirds of all bicycles sold in the country in 1898.

Bloomington considers downtown trolley service during parking crunch

[Charlie Schlenker](#), December 16, 2025

Winter weather complicates an already scarce parking situation in Downtown Bloomington. The Market Street parking deck has closed. And the Front and Center block has yet to finish demolition and become surface parking. That's likely to become available sometime next spring.

Rivian ups its game on hands-free driving and AI

[Charlie Schlenker](#), December 12, 2025

Electric automaker Rivian has unveiled new technology it says will put it at the forefront of autonomous vehicles.

Connect Transit proceeds with scaled-down downtown transfer center plans following federal grant

[Eric Stock](#), December 8, 2025

"We are less looking for ... a community hub. We are more sticking to the knitting and providing top-notch transportation services at that nice location right in the buckle," said Connect Transit board chair Julie Hile.

Roundabout at College and Rivian raises farm concerns

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 20, 2025

The McLean County Farm Bureau is expressing disappointment with the redesigned intersection of College Avenue and Rivian Motorway, also also known as Route 150. Under construction, it will be a roundabout.

Arts and Culture

After 20 years and 10 albums, B-N singer-songwriter Dan Hubbard is letting go and writing better than ever

[Lauren Warnecke](#), 1 hour ago

Dan Hubbard's new EP, his first studio release in 6 years, explores uncharted territory for the singer-songwriter, who dabbled in new sounds and deeply personal themes for "Letting Go."

Video: Jane Lynch show puts Bloomington woman's aluminum Christmas tree collection on display

[Sami Johnson, Ryan Denham](#), 1 hour ago

Jennifer Jordan from Bloomington showed off part of her massive aluminum Christmas tree collection at the "Jane Lynch - A Swingin' Little Christmas" show on Dec. 12 at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts.

Merkle family transforms yard into Santa's Village for the community of LeRoy

[Sami Johnson](#), December 11, 2025

What Kyle and Shannon Merkle call Santa's Village has, in just a few years, become one of LeRoy's most magical holiday traditions.

BCPA lands two big country artists, bringing Trisha Yearwood and Jake Owen in March 2026

[Courtney Conroy, Lauren Warnecke](#), December 10, 2025

The Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts will welcome Trisha Yearwood and Jake Owen to the stage in March. It's part of a successful track record for country artists at the venue over the last two years.

'Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol' moves the classic story to East Tennessee — with an original Dolly Parton score

[Lauren Warnecke](#), December 4, 2025

The production's first national tour stops for two shows in Bloomington on Saturday. Actor Ken Orman, who plays Scrooge, said the story is more relatable than ever.

Exclusive: New hire at North Pole headquarters adds design expert to Santa's veteran toymaking team

[Lauren Warnecke](#), December 4, 2025

Santa's elves forged a partnership with Normal Parks and Recreation to schedule calls from Santa on Dec. 8 and 10.

Samara Jane, the first Highway 309 Studio Sessions contest winner, says her songwriting can also be therapy

[Jon Norton](#), December 2, 2025

WGLT talks to Samara Jane, winner of our inaugural Highway 309 Studio Sessions Contest, about what inspired her winning entry, "Fine," and what songwriting means to her.

Matthew Curry signs with blues label Ruf Records

[Lauren Warnecke](#), December 2, 2025

Bloomington native Matthew Curry will tour Europe this winter as part of the label's Blues Caravan Tour. His album "One for the Ride" will be re-released in the U.S. in February.

Holiday cheer in Bloomington-Normal: 40+ events, shows and places to shop this December

[Lauren Warnecke](#), November 25, 2025

There are ample opportunities to get merry and bright in and around Bloomington-Normal next month. Here is our list of more than 40 options.

McHistory: When Downtown Bloomington reigned in retail

[Charlie Schlenker](#), November 25, 2025

It has been many decades since Downtown Bloomington was the premier destination for shoppers in the community. There was a time, though, when there were four large department stores downtown.

Yea Big launched an indie label to keep up with himself

[Lauren Warnecke](#), November 20, 2025

Stefen Robinson, aka Yea Big, is a multi-instrumentalist and composer who releases music at a lightning fast pace. Robinson's new label, Black Flag Bonsai Club, is a way to keep the music flowing. He plans to release other artists on the label as well.

A dystopian game show at the Normal Theater imagines immigrants competing for citizenship

[Lauren Warnecke](#), November 13, 2025

Playwright Ariel Cipolla said "So You Think You Can Stay" is designed to spark conversation and challenge both pro- and anti-immigration ideologies by reminding audiences of our collective humanity. There are four performances this weekend at the Normal Theater.

McLean County's culture sector moves through a tricky moment with solidarity and collaboration

[Lauren Warnecke](#), November 12, 2025

Returning from a statewide arts and humanities conference, leaders from Bloomington-Normal's cultural organizations recommit to working together.

Heartland Community College hosts free art classes for veterans through CreatiVets — a nonprofit founded by an alum

[Lauren Warnecke](#), November 11, 2025

CreatiVets and Heartland Community College host veteran-focused art classes that count for class credit and help veterans heal.

Bloomington artist Angel Ambrose reflects on home during 25th annual Art Walk

[Lauren Warnecke](#), November 5, 2025

Ambrose is one of four people who spearheaded a coordinated open-studio walk in downtown Bloomington in 2000, then called the "Around the Corner Art Group" because of where their studios were situated.

McLean County Museum of History honors loved ones now gone with Dia de Muertos celebration

[Saskia Molina Gamez](#) November 4, 2025

Community members gathered over the weekend to honor loved ones who have died at the McLean County Museum of History's annual Dia de Muertos celebration, filling the museum with music, dancing and colorful activities inspired by the traditional Mexican holiday.

Growmark donates \$25,000 in corporate art sales to Twin City nonprofits

[Courtney Conroy](#), October 31, 2025

After collecting just under \$25,000 from corporate art sales, agricultural cooperative Growmark is splitting the proceeds among three local nonprofits.

Day of the Dead: Altar 'ofrenda' will bring a 'small piece of Mexico' to the Twin Cities at museum event

[Cindy Alcazar](#), October 31, 2025

The McLean County Museum of History collaborates with Hispanic Twin City residents to host 5th annual Day of the Dead celebration Saturday, Nov. 1, from 3 -7 p.m.

Fukumura back on the podium with Illinois Symphony's 'Hero's Journey'

[Lauren Warnecke](#), October 31, 2025

Fukumura's second season begins in earnest with a trio of works by Beethoven, Bartók and Rózsa.

McHistory: Homelessness in Bloomington-Normal has been a challenge in many eras

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 30, 2025

There's a declaration of emergency over the number of unhoused people in Bloomington right now, and efforts to provide new housing and expanded space in shelters. In this episode of WGLT's series "McHistory," you'll learn that the issue is not new — though the response today is perhaps more humane than it was in other eras.

'Oh, hi Mark': Actor Greg Sestero presents 'The Room' and 'Big Shark' at Normal Theater

[Emily Bollinger](#), October 30, 2025

Actor Greg Sestero presents "The Room" and "Big Shark" at Normal Theater on Nov. 8.

Bill Killian's kids are now grown-ups. He still decks out his house in Gridley with a Halloween graveyard

[Lauren Warnecke](#), October 23, 2025

Bill Killian's daughter, who was born close to Halloween, requested her dad make a few graves with quippy epitaphs for their front yard in Gridley. Nearly two decades later, the display has about 110 homemade headstones.

Zach Top, Jessie Murph and Treaty Oak Revival to headline 10th annual Tailgate N' Tallboys

[Courtney Conroy](#), October 22, 2025

After several years in Bloomington and Clinton, Iowa, the June 18-20 festival at the McLean County Fairgrounds is currently the only one on Tailgate N' Tallboys' 2026 calendar.

U-High tackles a Pulitzer-winning musical about the ripple effect of mental illness on a family

[Lauren Warnecke](#), October 22, 2025

"Next to Normal" is an ambitious feat for U-High's theater program. The young performers pushed their director for harder material and themes, wanting to tell stories they could relate to.

12 ways to get your ghoul on in McLean County

[Courtney Conroy](#), October 17, 2025

Here's a roundup of Halloween-themed events in Bloomington-Normal and beyond.

It's opening day for Golden Ticket Cinemas in renovated East Bloomington movie theater

[Lauren Warnecke, Cole Loiacano, October 17, 2025](#)

Golden Ticket's Ale House Bloomington is the company's first location in Illinois, bringing the Twin Cities movie theater tally back up to four.

Twin City photographer confronts colonial imagery with humanity and empathy

[Lauren Warnecke, October 16, 2025](#)

Jason Reblando's forthcoming book, "This is Captured Paper," uses cut patterns and collage to "disrupt, confuse and reclaim the photographic narrative" of the Philippines during its U.S. occupation.

The podium as a platform: How Scott Hamilton turned Olympic gold into a life of cancer advocacy

[Lauren Warnecke, October 13, 2025](#)

The figure skating icon headlines the 30th annual Evening of Stars, a benefit supporting the Central Illinois chapter of the American Red Cross.

A few Halloween binges on the big and small screens in Central Illinois

[Lauren Warnecke, October 9, 2025](#)

A look at TV and movie highlights for scary season in Bloomington-Normal.

Comedy and bluegrass music mashup comes to Eagle Theater in Pontiac

[Charlie Schlenker, October 9, 2025](#)

If you enjoy humor found in unusual places ... if you enjoy sorting through public documents ... if you enjoy bluegrass music, then this show might just be for you. It's called "FOIA Love."

Everyone's a critic: Central Illinois food writers help diners decide where to eat

[Nicholas Rynerson, October 9, 2025](#)

Food bloggers Terry Fitts and John Malkin launched a Facebook page to hype Central Illinois restaurants. They were inspired by late restaurant booster Larry Carius, but bring a different style and tone to their food writing.

Van Leer Memorial Bell Tower in Normal plays music after decades of silence

[Paul J. Aguilar, October 7, 2025](#)

The Van Leer Memorial Bell Tower will now play music twice daily as it did last century.

Interview: Presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin tells of leadership in turbulent times

[Charlie Schlenker](#) October 7, 2025

Pulitzer Prize-winning presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin told a crowd of about 1,200 people at Illinois Wesleyan University on Monday night that Bloomington-Normal favorite son Adlai Stevenson II was her commencement speaker the year she graduated college.

A streetcorner typewriter poet in Bloomington finds power in permanence

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 6, 2025

In this glued-to-your-phone era of technological isolation from our fellow human beings, one creative person is turning to old tech to help people reconnect and spread joy and a little art. As part of our ongoing feature series More of That, Please, we bring you the story of typewriter poetry.

After 25 years, Jaycees' Bruegala beer fest sunsets with a final 'Cheers!'

[Cole Loiacano](#), October 2, 2025

Bruegala returns to downtown Bloomington for one last hurrah. The Jaycees are retiring the event after 25 years.

Business and Economy

Federal government grants license extension to Clinton nuclear plant

[Charlie Schlenker](#), December 16, 2025

A federal agency has given the Clinton nuclear power plant another 20 years of life.

How Country Financial has grown and evolved over its first 100 years

[Eric Stock](#), December 16, 2025

Country Financial is one of Bloomington-Normal's largest and longest operating businesses. What you may not know is Country Financial did not start in Bloomington.

Bloomington council OKs \$25.3M property tax levy, a \$3M increase over last year

December 15, 2025

New Illinois Farm Bureau president wants to restore communication and credibility for the venerable organization

December 15, 202

Illinois ag director says Trump trade policies are 'crushing' farmers

December 12, 2025

Rivian ups its game on hands-free driving and AI

[Charlie Schlenker](#), December 12, 2025

Electric automaker Rivian has unveiled new technology it says will put it at the forefront of autonomous vehicles.

With relocation delayed, Downtown Bloomington post office closes abruptly during holiday shipping season

[Eric Stock](#), December 12, 2025

The Downtown Bloomington post office has abruptly closed three weeks ahead of schedule, leaving downtown merchants and residents without access to its facility ahead of the postal service's busiest week of the year.

Retiring Carle BroMenn leader Colleen Kannaday reflects on 35-year health care career

[Colleen Holden](#), December 10, 2025

The health care industry has come a long way in 35 years, and retiring Carle BroMenn and Carle Eureka leader Colleen Kannaday has seen all of it.

McLean County Board members slam health inspectors over confusion with CBD/THC drinks

[Charlie Schlenker](#) December 9, 2025

Some McLean County Board members are criticizing Health Department inspectors over how they address the presence of beverages containing CBD or THC additives. The situation has already caused on again, off again enforcement on hemp-derived drinks.

B-N tourism organization is seeking community input to reshape Twin City travel

[Ben Howell](#), [Eric Stock](#), December 9, 2025

Zach Dietmeier from Visit BN said a new strategic plan will focus on a community-first outlook for tourism. The last one was five years ago.

Bloomington adopts policy for proactive property maintenance enforcement

[Joe Deacon - WGLT](#), December 8, 2025

The City of Bloomington is taking a more proactive approach to property maintenance enforcement, shifting away from the current model that primarily works off complaints from residents.

Trump administration will send \$12 billion in bailout money to farmers hurt by trade war

[Skyler Rossi](#), December 8, 2025

Most of the package is earmarked for row-crop producers. It aims to help farmers – especially those who grow soybeans – balance out losses from high costs and a trade war with China.

Dutch Bros Coffee chain is coming to Bloomington

[Vashti Reed](#), December 5, 2025

Dutch Bros Coffee is coming to Bloomington, starting work on a new \$1.8 million, 1,100-square-foot location near Eastland Mall and Veterans Parkway.

Cannabis plant in Livingston County set to close

[Eric Stock](#), December 4, 2025

According to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's monthly report of mass layoffs, PharmaCann has informed employees that it plans to close its cannabis cultivation plant in Dwight on Jan. 13.

Heartland Community College apprentices help fill need for skilled workers in McLean County

[Ben Howell](#), December 3, 2025

Heartland student apprentices signed certificates reaffirming their commitment to employer sponsors ahead of their upcoming graduations. Among those partners are Bridgestone, Caterpillar Pontiac, OSF St. Joseph, Rivian, 8th Street Welding and Hydraulics and Westminster Village.

In Trump's first year, cost of living in Bloomington-Normal hasn't changed much

[Ryan Denham](#), December 2, 2025

WGLT has been tracking the cost of living in Bloomington-Normal since January, to find out whether President Trump's promise to "bring prices way down" has happened yet.

Reports: Trump cuts could shrink Illinois economy by \$10 billion

[Ben Szalinski](#), December 1, 2025

A report by the Illinois Economic Policy Institute found federal budget cuts could reduce economic activity in Illinois by \$10 billion each year by 2029.

Dynegy to refund some Ameren customers \$38 million in settlement

[Charlie Schlenker](#), December 1, 2025

Some Ameren customers in Central Illinois will receive a credit on upcoming power bills, the result of a \$38 million settlement between the state and Dynegy Inc.

Bloomington City Council OKs anticipated \$3M increase in property tax levy

[Joe Deacon - WGLT](#), November 24, 2025

The City of Bloomington intends to set its 2025 property tax levy at \$25.3 million, an increase of \$3 million over the previous year.

Delta will add a midday flight from CIRA to Atlanta in 2026

[Lauren Warnecke](#), November 24, 2025

Starting March 8, 2026, nonstop flights will depart Central Illinois Regional Airport at noon. That's in addition to Delta's two daily flights between Bloomington and Atlanta.

ICC slashes Nicor, Ameren proposed gas rate hikes by over 40%

[Maggie Dougherty](#), November 20, 2025

The Illinois Commerce Commission Wednesday sharply cut rate increases proposed by Nicor Gas and Ameren Illinois, slowing the speed of rising energy bills for customers in much of the state.

Home Sweet Home sets rules for Bridge shelter village and identifies highest-need residents ahead of opening

[Emily Bollinger](#), November 19, 2025

Home Sweet Home's non-congregate shelter village, The Bridge, aims to be a more accessible path from homelessness to stable housing. Here's how it'll work.

Stigma and financing barriers keep mobile homes out of the discussion about affordable housing

[Ryan Denham](#), [Ben Howell](#), November 19, 2025

Mobile homes are rarely discussed as policymakers and developers try to address a housing shortage that's driven up rents and home prices across Bloomington-Normal. There are many reasons why.

Why Rivian and Tesla's boards offered Scaringe and Musk such big pay packages

[Charlie Schlenker](#), November 18, 2025

Huge compensation agreements for the CEOs of Rivian and Tesla may not be excessive even though they range from several billion to a trillion dollars, according to an expert from ISU's College of Business.

Allegiant adds nonstop flights from Bloomington's CIRA to Phoenix-Mesa in Arizona

[Ryan Denham](#), November 18, 2025

Allegiant said Tuesday that it's adding a twice-weekly nonstop flight from CIRA to Mesa, Arizona, starting Feb. 13. The airport is located near Phoenix. The flights will run on Mondays and Fridays.

How mobile home residents can 'become your own advocate' in the legal system and beyond

[Ben Howell](#), [Ryan Denham](#), November 18, 2025

Here's some advice for how Bloomington-Normal mobile home owners can protect themselves, from knowing the law to organizing with other residents.

Why private equity sees a moneymaker in B-N's mobile home parks

[Ryan Denham](#), [Ben Howell](#), November 16, 2025

Oak Wood's move into Bloomington-Normal is part of a nationwide trend toward consolidation in manufactured home park ownership, often led by private equity acquisitions. Oak Wood even got help from Freddie Mac, a government entity that is supposed to help make housing more, not less, affordable.

Mobile home park owner Oak Wood's business practices trap residents with rising costs

[Ben Howell](#), [Ryan Denham](#), November 16, 2025

For decades, mobile homes were one of the most affordable housing options in Bloomington-Normal, especially for those with low or fixed incomes. Oak Wood's arrival in the market has changed that. Oak Wood has again and again squeezed more money from its residents.

Developer buys 'Auto Hotel' parking garage next to G.J. Lofts project in Downtown Bloomington

[Ryan Denham](#), November 14, 2025

A developer working to bring the former State Farm building back to life in Downtown Bloomington has plans to revive another nearby historic property, too.

Rivian CEO could get \$4.6 billion under new pay package

[Charlie Schlenker](#), November 10, 2025

The board of electric automaker Rivian has restructured the pay package for Chief Executive Officer RJ Scaringe that could net him \$4.6 billion over the next decade.

Trade and regulatory impacts mixed and volatile for Rivian

[Charlie Schlenker](#), November 6, 2025

Trump administration trade and regulatory policy initially hurt Rivian. Changes in the administration stance may now help some.

Rivian CEO touts AI as the near future for automobiles

[Charlie Schlenker](#), November 5, 2025

The head of electric vehicle maker Rivian says the future is not just EVs, it's artificial intelligence and autonomous vehicles. And it's coming sooner than you might think.

Bill to regulate homeowners' insurance rates fails on final day of veto session

[Peter Hancock](#), November 3, 2025

The Illinois House rejected a bill that would have given the state Department of Insurance authority to regulate homeowners' insurance rates.

Solar arrays supply shade — and land — for Midwest farmers

[Jana Rose Schleis](#), November 3, 2025

Temperatures remained into the 80s well in the fall this year in parts of the Midwest. Agrivoltaics offers a respite to extreme heat and land access for new farmers.

Uptown business owners raise concerns about tax hikes to fund underpass — and the quick vote on them

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 31, 2025

Some Uptown business owners are criticizing a proposal to raise food and beverage and hotel-motel taxes in Normal. They're also not happy about an accelerated timeline to a council vote on Monday — just three business days after the proposal became public

Demand softens but prices remain high across Bloomington-Normal housing market

[Ryan Denham](#), [Vashti Reed](#), October 30, 2025

If you've tried to buy a home recently in Bloomington-Normal, you already know that it's a sellers' market. But there are signs that demand from buyers is softening – even as prices keep climbing.

Futurist pushes students and educators to learn how to use AI, not just 'play' with it

[Eric Stock](#), October 29, 2025

Kevin Surace, an AI pioneer and futurist entrepreneur, will host a talk, "Win with AI Today: Practical Tips for Work, School, and Home," as part of ISU's presidential speaker series at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4, at the Brown Ballroom of Bone Student Center.

McDonald's manager in Normal recognized among the top 1% of corporate managers globally

[Ben Howell](#), [Sami Johnson](#), October 29, 2025

Tynessia Edmonds was one of 397 managers to receive the Ray Kroc Award, named for the businessman responsible for turning McDonald's into the global fast-food chain it is today.

Listen • 2:26

Whistleblower's attorney says settlement reached in Reditus lawsuit, returning \$2.5 million to governments

[Ryan Denham](#) October 29, 2025

What remains of Reditus Labs will pay out \$5.5 million to settle a lawsuit sparked by a whistleblower who was one of the first to spot fraud inside the now-defunct Central Illinois COVID testing giant.

Bright Horizons child care center in Bloomington is closing

[Lauren Warnecke](#), October 29, 2025

The Bloomington childcare center offers infant and toddler daycare, plus preschool and kindergarten prep. The closure further squeezes parents' child care options in the Twin Cities.

Demolition begins on Front N Center building in Downtown Bloomington

[Eric Stock](#), [Emily Bollinger](#), October 28, 2025

Demolition began Tuesday on the Front N Center building in Downtown Bloomington. The property will initially become a parking lot, with hopes for redevelopment later.

Bloomington Kohl's store reopens after car collision caused temporary closure

[Ben Howell](#), October 24, 2025

The Kohl's store in Bloomington had a soft launch reopening Friday as it returned to its regular business hours.

EV maker Rivian to cut 4.5% of its workforce

[Ryan Denham](#), October 23, 2025

The electric automaker Rivian confirmed Thursday it's cutting hundreds of positions – about 4.5% of its companywide workforce. That would be about 600 jobs. It's unclear how many of those jobs are in Normal; a Rivian spokesperson said no manufacturing operations employees are impacted.

Lexington mayor calls on energy providers to settle dispute over planned subdivision

[Ben Howell](#), [Eric Stock](#), October 22, 2025

Lexington Mayor Spencer Johansen is calling on Ameren Illinois and Corn Belt Energy to solve a utility dispute in the Century Oaks residential subdivision that's being built. The 34-acre subdivision located on the western edge of Lexington.

Rivian spinoff company Also unveils first e-bike and quad vehicles

[Ryan Denham](#), October 22, 2025

Rivian's micromobility spinoff company Also unveiled its initial lineup of electric vehicles on Wednesday, including an e-bike, and plans for another product in partnership with Amazon.

McLean County Chamber pitches new health care plan to business groups statewide

[Eric Stock](#), October 21, 2025

A business group in McLean County has come up with a plan it says will save employers money on employee health care — not just in McLean County, but across the state.

After getting millions in tax breaks, Rivian now won't say how many people work in Normal

[Ryan Denham](#), October 17, 2025

Rivian is no longer sharing publicly how many people work at its Normal manufacturing plant – a change in longstanding practice for an electric automaker that's received millions of dollars in publicly funded tax breaks. And evidence suggests Rivian's headcount in Normal is much lower than previously thought.

Bloomington mayor says sales tax vote is consistent with earlier decisions

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 15, 2025

Mayor Dan Brady says he does not think a close city council vote to dedicate grocery sales tax money to infrastructure came about because of inconsistent messaging.

Belvidere Assembly to reopen in 2027 to build Jeeps as part of Stellantis' rebuilding plan

October 15, 2025

Thousands of jobs are expected to return to Belvidere as Stellantis announces a plan to reopen its assembly plant.

Illinois Attorney General sues State Farm over homeowner insurance data

[Ben Howell](#), October 14, 2025

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office said the Illinois Department of Insurance is seeking zip-code level nationwide data about State Farm's policies, including premiums collected, the types of policy coverage and insurance limits, and the number of claims against the policy.

Split Bloomington council OKs directing grocery tax revenue to infrastructure spending

[Joe Deacon - WGLT](#), October 13, 2025

All revenue generated by the City of Bloomington's local grocery tax that goes into effect next year will be used to pay for infrastructure improvements.

Farmers caught in Trump's trade war wait for bailout. But many call it a temporary fix

Joe Schulz, October 10, 2025

The Trump administration is promising billions in a bailout for farmers. This harvest season the trade war with China has added to the farm economy's woes, as producers deal with lower crop prices and high costs.

Farmland owners holding back on selling acreage as prices slightly drop

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 9, 2025

Farmland owners who want to sell their acreage are holding back this fall, compared with this time last year — while land prices have declined slightly.

Everyone's a critic: Central Illinois food writers help diners decide where to eat

[Nicholas Rynerson](#), October 9, 2025

Food bloggers Terry Fitts and John Malkin launched a Facebook page to hype Central Illinois restaurants. They were inspired by late restaurant booster Larry Carius, but bring a different style and tone to their food writing.

Illinois manufacturers look for more certainty amid ongoing tariffs

[Eric Stock](#), October 6, 2025

Mark Denzler, president of the Illinois Manufacturers Association, says many companies are deciding whether they can afford to absorb those costs or pass them on to their customers.

Fewer Bridgestone workers than expected are losing jobs

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 3, 2025

The final tally of job cuts at the Bridgestone Firestone plant in Normal is less than first thought. And United Steelworkers Union Local 787 President Jason Beckett said it does not involve layoffs.

Pantagraph plans to stop Monday print edition in November

[Eric Stock](#), October 3, 2025

The shift to more digital content is part of an industry trend as more newsrooms seek to cut printing and delivery costs while still connecting with readers who are increasingly online.

Incentives, workforce development and geography help Bloomington-Normal grow its manufacturing sector

[Eric Stock](#), October 3, 2025

All this week, WGLT has been showcasing some of the makers who have made Bloomington-Normal a manufacturing hub. It hasn't always been that way.

Biotech startup Symbio Bioculinary engineers the elimination of food waste in Bloomington laboratory

[Ben Howell](#), October 2, 2025

Symbio Bioculinary does not concern submission combat or landscaping businesses, it upcycles food waste to tackle the over 30% of meals thrown out in the United States.

Illinois Grain Tour examines state of soybean industry amid international trade war

[Paul J. Aguilar](#), October 1, 2025

Soybean industry workers and buyers shared their thoughts on the agricultural trade war between the U.S. and China during a tour of the Illinois Soybean Association offices in Bloomington.

First tenants already moved in at Carden Springs housing development in north Normal

[Ryan Denham](#) October 1, 2025

The first tenants have already moved in at Carden Springs, a new and sizable apartment and townhome development in north Normal aimed squarely at McLean County's housing shortage.

Solder and static control rule electronic circuit board maker Zentech's quality efforts

[Charlie Schlenker](#), October 1, 2025

In Part 3 of our weeklong series about local manufacturing, WGLT visits a Bloomington company that serves both farms and the armed forces with made-to-order circuit boards.

Environment and Nature

Bloomington adopts policy for proactive property maintenance enforcement

[Joe Deacon - WGLT](#), December 8, 2025

The City of Bloomington is taking a more proactive approach to property maintenance enforcement, shifting away from the current model that primarily works off complaints from residents.

4 paint disposal drop-off locations open in McLean County

[Courtney Conroy](#), December 3, 2025

McLean County has four drop-off locations for disposal of latex and oil-based paint

Trump administration to strip protections for wetlands and streams, leaving Illinois habitat at risk

November 21, 2025

Solar arrays supply shade — and land — for Midwest farmers

November 3, 2025

New trail extension around pond opens at Heartland Community College

October 24, 2025

McLean County tops 50% recycling rate goal for the first time

[Cole Loiacano](#), October 24, 2025

McLean County reached a 51% recycling rate in 2024, making it the first time half the amount of waste generated was recycled.

McLean County lifts burn ban

[Eric Stock](#), October 24, 2025

The McLean County Emergency Management Agency [EMA] said the chance of field fires is reduced as most farm fields have been harvested and some are tilled.

Bloomington considering changes to bulk waste collection

[Joe Deacon - WGLT](#), October 20, 2025

Bloomington is weighing potential adjustments to its bulk waste collection program, with city staff recommending a return to bi-weekly pickup and limiting the community dropoff center to just yard waste and electronics recycling.

Sensory-friendly tours return this fall to Miller Park Zoo

[Ben Howell](#), October 14, 2025

Events and volunteer coordinator Silvia Schuh said the tours, introduced in June, were brought back due to popular demand.

Town of Normal provides update on Vision 2050 Sustainability plan

[Ben Howell](#), October 7, 2025

Normas Director of Zoning and Planning Mercy Davison said town staff is making great progress in the town's Vision 2050/Sustainability plan. Davison gave an update to the Normal Town Council at Monday's meeting.

Illinois News

Illinois news stories from WGLT and our Illinois public radio partners, including WBEZ and Capitol News Illinois.

Justice Department sues for access to Illinois voter rolls

[Peter Hancock](#) Dec 18, 2025

Illinois among at least 19 states being sued for voter data

Statewide: Balancing divorce during the holidays

[Sean Crawford](#), 2 hours ago

From the emotional turbulence to having to schedule around custody and family traditions, it can be far from joyful. We talk with a divorce attorney to get some advice.

Bears looking past Arlington Heights for possible stadium sites, including Northwest Indiana

[Mitchell Armentrout, Patrick Finley](#), 7 hours ago

Gov. JB Pritzker called the team's latest shift in its stadium focus "a startling slap in the face."

Joliet's bishop is appointed by Pope Leo XIV to oversee Archdiocese of New York

[Kade Heather, Robert Herguth](#), 8 hours ago

Bishop Ronald Hicks has been an acolyte of Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich, and is one of the pope's first major U.S. appointments since being elected as worldwide leader of the Catholic church following the death of Pope Francis.

Illinois education officials brace for lean fiscal year ahead in 2026

Peter Hancock, 23 hours ago

Illinois Superintendent of Education Tony Sanders cautioned members of the State Board of Education Wednesday not to get their hopes up for any big increase in K-12 school funding next year.

Rep. LaHood and other Republicans tell Trump to reject Michael Madigan pardon request

[Tina Sfondeles](#), December 17, 2025

U.S. Reps. Darin LaHood, Mary Miller and Mike Bost, staunch Trump allies, penned the request on Tuesday.

Preserving wetlands: 'Those that are remaining are critical to maintain'

[Rich Egger](#), December 17, 2025

Conservationists say wetlands provide many benefits, but the number of wetlands in the Midwest is shrinking.

Illinois vaccine committee votes to keep recommending hepatitis B vaccine for newborns

[Elvia Malagón](#), December 17, 2025

The move marks the second time that state public health officials have broken away from guidance under U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a longtime critic of vaccines.

Pritzker signs \$1.5B plan to overhaul public transportation, avoid service cuts

[Ben Szalinski](#), December 16, 2025

Law raises money to allow Chicago-area transit agencies to avert financial disaster

A once dying mall in Southern Illinois is getting a mighty makeover, thanks to \$112M bond deal — created by the state and backed by local tax money — but the project has hit a speed bump

[Janelle O'Dea, Beth Hundsdorfer](#), December 16, 2025

Officials in Marion say the massive redevelopment is on track, but one of the three main developers has already dropped out, facing a slew of lawsuits

Illinois leaders 'won't back down' following Trump's order limiting AI regulation

[Maggie Dougherty](#), December 16, 2025

Illinois lawmakers vowed to keep fighting for protections against artificial intelligence after President Donald Trump signed an executive order to shield tech companies from state laws.

Illinois extends open enrollment deadline for health care plans starting Jan. 1

[Peter Hancock](#), December 16, 2025

Illinois residents who buy health insurance on the state-run marketplace now have a little more time to sign up for coverage for the upcoming year.

With a federal tax credit ending early, installing home solar is about to get more expensive

[Rachel Cramer](#), December 15, 2025

The massive tax and spending law signed in July halts a federal incentive for residential solar, and homeowners and installers are hurrying to complete projects before the end of the year. Industry experts say there are other ways to cut costs like "group buys."

Boyd Gaming looking to develop its new \$160M casino at current Par-A-Dice location in East Peoria

[Joe Deacon](#), December 12, 2025

The corporate ownership of East Peoria's Par-A-Dice riverboat casino intends to construct a new \$160 million gambling venue on the existing property, but the decision isn't sitting well with some Peoria city leaders who believe the move violates a long-standing intergovernmental agreement.

Illinois ag director says Trump trade policies are 'crushing' farmers

[Peter Hancock](#), December 12, 2025

The Trump administration announced this week that it would make \$12 billion available in the form of one-time payments to U.S. farmers to help weather what it calls "temporary trade market disruptions" in the wake of ongoing tariff disputes with America's trading partners.

Appeals court won't release detained immigrants amid warrantless arrest scrutiny

[Jerry Nowicki](#), December 12, 2025

Split opinion allows consent decree to continue but says lower judge erred

WIU puts ‘for sale’ sign on one of its QC buildings

[Rich Egger](#), December 12, 2025

The resolution approved by the Board of Trustees says Building C of the Quad Cities Complex is surplus to the university’s current purposes.

Indiana Republicans reject Trump-backed redistricting, easing pressure on Illinois Dems for remap

[Mitchell Armentrout](#), December 12, 2025

Gov. JB Pritzker suggested Illinois’ threat to retaliate helped defeat the measure across the border — and he didn’t rule out an effort to expand his state’s 14-3 Democratic edge.

Sen. Emil Jones III to enter deferred prosecution agreement after bribery mistrial

[Hannah Meisel](#), December 11, 2025

January retrial canceled in deal that would see charges dropped in a year

State Week: New Illinois immigrant protection law likely to face a legal challenge

[Sean Crawford](#), [Charles N. Wheeler III](#), [Dan Petrella](#), December 11, 2025

The law places limits on where immigration enforcement agents can detain people. It also gives those who believe their constitutional rights have been violated legal recourse.

New laws: Gun storage, police background check changes take effect in 2026

[Ben Szalinski](#), December 11, 2025

First-time gun offenders can earn a FOID card under new law

WIU can now borrow from its foundation — if necessary

[Rich Egger](#), December 11, 2025

The money would be used to fund university operations.

Statewide: Protecting your mental health during the holidays

[Sean Crawford](#), December 11, 2025

For those who suffer from mental health challenges, holiday stress can make their conditions worse.

Pesticide drift is catching schools off guard. Lawmakers want to require notice before spraying.

Jennifer Bamberg, December 10, 2025

More than 700 Illinois schools are within a quarter-mile of crop fields, yet state law doesn't require pesticide applicators to notify them before spraying. Advocates say a new notification proposal would give educators and park staff time to move children indoors and reduce exposure.

Pritzker signs bill enacting immigrant protections in courthouses

Brenden Moore, December 9, 2025

Gov. JB Pritzker signed legislation Tuesday allowing Illinois residents to sue immigration agents who arrest them in or near courthouses or if they believe their constitutional rights were violated.

Illinois Farm Bureau delegates reject president's bid for 2nd term

Charlie Schlenker, December 8, 2025

Illinois Farm Bureau delegates have rejected a new term for Illinois Farm Bureau [IFB] President Brian Duncan. At the IFB annual meeting in Chicago, nearly 57% of the delegates chose Philip Nelson of Seneca, a former IFB president and state agriculture director, as the organization's 17th president.

Trump administration will send \$12 billion in bailout money to farmers hurt by trade war

Skyler Rossi, December 8, 2025

Most of the package is earmarked for row-crop producers. It aims to help farmers – especially those who grow soybeans – balance out losses from high costs and a trade war with China.

Illinois Supreme Court in 'wait and see' posture as new public defense policy takes shape

Lauren Warnecke, December 8, 2025

Justices from the state's highest court say geographic disparities have affected access to public defenders, particularly in rural counties. A new law aimed at promoting equity across the state has two years to be fully implemented.

How Illinois' Democratic U.S. Senate candidates plan to address economic issues

Ben Szalinski, December 8, 2025

Recent polling by Reuters found that 45% of voters list “cost of living” as their top concern heading into the 2026 election. With that in mind, the three top Democrats vying to become the party's nominee for U.S. senator in Illinois have released proposals detailing how they plan to make life more affordable for Americans.

Bishop Tylka renews Sheen Foundation Advisory Board

Joe Deacon - WGLT, December 5, 2025

With work underway on the Catholic Diocese of Peoria's project to transform the former Spalding Institute into a new facility honoring the life and legacy of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, current Bishop Louis Tylka is restoring the Sheen Foundation Advisory Board.

Illinois educators hope to tackle thorny issue of math competence

[Peter Hancock](#), December 5, 2025

The document will direct not just the way math is taught in the classroom, but how math teachers are trained in the profession and math programs are administered in school districts.

State Week: Illinois goes its own way on vaccines

[Sean Crawford](#), [Charles N. Wheeler III](#), [Mawa Iqbal](#) , December 5, 2025

IDPH will now be able to form guidelines using a combination of the CDC's guidance, recommendations from the World Health Organization and other medical and scientific disease prevention experts — and require that immunizations recommended by the state be covered by state-regulated insurance plans.

DOJ lawyer says it's 'wrong to allege' Operation Midway Blitz is over

[Hannah Meisel](#), December 5, 2025

Judge rebuffs suggestion that ending lawsuit over immigration agents' use of force would preclude new claims

ComEd launches new discount program for low-income customers

[Maggie Dougherty](#), December 5, 2025

Plan allows utility to offer price breaks for those with household incomes up to 300% of federal poverty level

Statewide: The season for scams

[Sean Crawford](#), December 4, 2025

This is the busiest shopping period of the year. That also brings risks to consumers as scammers are working to make sure you have an unhappy holiday season. Your financial and personal information is even more at risk.

Listen • 50:29

Rep. Sorensen calls for Defense Secretary Hegseth to resign after Pentagon watchdog report

[Ryan Denham](#), December 3, 2025

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen on Wednesday renewed his call for Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's ouster, amid a critical report from the Pentagon's own watchdog.

Illinois unveils plans to celebrate 250 years of American independence

[Maggie Dougherty](#), December 3, 2025

Gov. JB Pritzker joined the Illinois America 250 Commission at Navy Pier Wednesday to announce plans for commemorating the upcoming 250th anniversary of American independence.

Sean Grayson's attorneys seek new trial after murder conviction

[Dean Olsen](#), December 3, 2025

Former Sangamon County sheriff's deputy Sean Grayson's lawyers say he deserves a new trial for the 2024 murder of Sonya Massey because the presiding judge erred when allowing the jury to hear Grayson's disparaging remarks about Massey after the fatal shooting.

What Northwestern accepted from the Trump administration to get back \$790M in research funds

[Kaitlin Washburn](#), December 3, 2025

Northwestern's president argues that the school didn't cross any "red lines" in an agreement that closed multiple federal investigations and terminated a deal with students to end a pro-Palestinian encampment. But critics accuse the university of capitulating.

Appeals court weighs release of immigration detainees to electronic monitoring

[Hannah Meisel](#), December 3, 2025

Meanwhile, protesters, clergy and news orgs to end litigation over riot control weapons

Pritzker signs bill allowing Illinois to issue state-specific vaccine guidelines

[Maggie Dougherty](#), December 2, 2025

Gov. JB Pritzker signed a bill Tuesday that he said will protect Illinois residents from "junk science" undermining evidence-based vaccine regulations at the federal level.

Illinois prison artist wowed that her artwork reached Pope Leo XIV

[Mawa Iqbal](#), December 2, 2025

When Gov. JB Pritzker and First Lady MK Pritzker visited the pope in Rome on Nov. 19, they gave the pontiff a gift: a hand-drawn self-portrait by Yesenia Diaz, who's incarcerated downstate.

Reports: Trump cuts could shrink Illinois economy by \$10 billion

[Ben Szalinski](#), December 1, 2025

A report by the Illinois Economic Policy Institute found federal budget cuts could reduce economic activity in Illinois by \$10 billion each year by 2029.

Nonpartisan think tank identifies Illinois' most effective state legislators

[Mawa Iqbal](#), December 1, 2025

In Democratic-led Springfield, a willingness to build coalitions and reach across the political aisle are the marks of a productive lawmaker, a new report finds.

New Federal Rules Could Put Formerly Unhoused People Back Out on The Streets Across Illinois

[Sidnee King Pineda](#), December 1, 2025

The Trump administration is dramatically cutting the money available to help pay for housing for people in need, including those with mental illness or disabilities.

State Week: When ICE comes downstate

[Sean Crawford](#), [Charles N. Wheeler III](#), [Beth Hundsdorfer](#), November 26, 2025

The focus of immigration enforcement this year has been in the Chicago area. But ICE has also been active downstate, in many smaller communities.

Ameren residential gas customers to see average \$3.65 increase on bills in January

[Maggie Dougherty](#), November 26, 2025

The ICC approved a \$73 million rate increase for the utility

IHSA announces bylaw proposals to be voted on, including adding 128 teams to the state football playoffs

[Michael O'Brien](#), November 26, 2025

Schools will vote next month on the possibility of adding 16 teams to each class in the football playoffs.

Budzinski intervenes in local housing dispute on behalf of low-income residents

[Maggie Dougherty](#), November 26, 2025

Affordable housing advocates say this type of issue could become more common with proposed HUD cuts

Statewide: Deportation and families left behind

[Sean Crawford](#), November 25, 2025

As more people are deported by immigration authorities, family members are left behind. One woman tells her story after her father was sent back to Mexico following years of living in the U.S.

Illinois is turning to local jails to treat mentally ill defendants. Some early results offer hope — and warnings

[Meredith Newman](#), November 25, 2025

Pilot programs in Kankakee and McHenry counties provide mental health care to defendants, from smaller jails, who have deemed unfit for trial and are awaiting a state hospital bed.

Peoria coroner Harwood calls for veto of 'medical aid in dying' bill

[Joe Deacon](#), November 24, 2025

Peoria County Coroner Jamie Harwood is calling on Gov. JB Pritzker to veto a bill that would allow terminally ill individuals to get a prescription to end their life.

Requests for new K-12 funding in Illinois likely to outstrip available resources

[Peter Hancock](#), November 24, 2025

If advocates, stakeholders and members of the public were granted all their requests for public school funding next year, lawmakers would have to increase the state's K-12 education budget by nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars.

9 months after federal bribery conviction, former Speaker Madigan disbarred

[Hannah Meisel](#), November 21, 2025

Nearly six decades after becoming a lawyer, former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan has been disbarred following his convictions on federal corruption charges.

State Week: Operation Midway Blitz appears to be winding down, for now

[Sean Crawford](#), [Charles N. Wheeler III](#), [Sophie Sherry](#), November 21, 2025

The immigration enforcement campaign in the Chicago area has gotten quieter, but not silent.

Trump administration to strip protections for wetlands and streams, leaving Illinois habitat at risk

[Juanpablo Ramirez-Franco](#), November 21, 2025

At the heart of the proposal announced earlier this week is a new, stricter definition to the long-debated legal term, "Waters of the United States."

ICC slashes Nicor, Ameren proposed gas rate hikes by over 40%

[Maggie Dougherty](#), November 20, 2025

The Illinois Commerce Commission Wednesday sharply cut rate increases proposed by Nicor Gas and Ameren Illinois, slowing the speed of rising energy bills for customers in much of the state.

Illinois is turning to local jails to treat mentally ill defendants. Some early results offer hope — and warnings

Meredith Newman, November 20, 2025

Pilot programs in Kankakee and McHenry counties provide mental health care to defendants, from smaller jails, who have deemed unfit for trial and are awaiting a state hospital bed.

Statewide: What has changed for theater artists of color?

[Sean Crawford](#), November 20, 2025

Five years ago, a prominent letter rippled through the Chicago theater community, sparked by outrage at the murder of George Floyd. It put an industry in the spotlight, but did it make a difference?

Pritzker ramps up accountability panel focused on alleged ICE abuses

[Brenden Moore](#), November 20, 2025

The Illinois Accountability Commission is continuing to ramp up even as the Trump administration's immigration enforcement campaign in the Chicago region winds down, at least for now.

Newly released cache of Epstein emails reveal deeper ties with Thomas Pritzker, governor's cousin

[Mariah Woelfel](#), November 20, 2025

In the 20,000 pages of documents released by a congressional committee, convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and Thomas Pritzker connect by email at least 20 times. In one exchange, Epstein writes Pritzker, "nice to see you, please come more often."

Pritzker and Pope Leo XIV talk 'Operation Midway Blitz' and a Chicago beer honoring the pontiff

[Mawa Iqbal](#), November 20, 2025

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker and his wife, MK, meet the Chicago-born pope in the Vatican and arrive bearing gifts, including a Chicago brewery's mild ale dubbed "Da Pope." The pontiff gladly accepted the sudsy offering, saying, "I'll put that in the fridge."

7th Circuit stays judge's order restricting immigration agents' use of riot control weapons

[Hannah Meisel](#), November 20, 2025

Operation Midway Blitz has wound down in the two weeks since injunction's issuing

Comptroller candidates spar over taxes, experience in candidate forum

[Ben Szalinski](#), November 19, 2025

5 Democrats are seeking to replace outgoing Comptroller Susana Mendoza

Pritzker discusses immigration crackdown with Pope Leo XIV in Rome

[Brenden Moore](#), November 19, 2025

Gov. JB Pritzker met with Pope Leo XIV in Rome on Wednesday, with the two discussing the Trump administration's aggressive immigration raids and the governor formally inviting the Chicago-born pontiff back for a visit to his hometown.

University enrollment in Illinois grows to 10-year high despite some declines

[Peter Hancock](#), November 19, 2025

Enrollment at public universities in Illinois grew to a 10-year high of 189,791 students, a 2.3% increase over last year, according to figures released by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Digital driver's licenses, IDs available to Illinois residents starting Wednesday

[Mitchell Armentrout](#), November 18, 2025

The Illinois General Assembly passed a law last year allowing for people to carry their IDs on their cellphones.

Senate President Don Harmon avoids \$10M fine after election board deadlocks

[Ben Szalinski](#), November 18, 2025

Democrat was accused of accepting millions of dollars beyond contribution limits in 2024

From new train lines to parking regulations: What else is in Illinois' transit bill

[Ben Szalinski](#), November 18, 2025

Funding formula earmarks Road Fund money for public transportation

Women's Professional Baseball League to play inaugural season in Springfield

[Sean Crawford](#), November 17, 2025

League organizers say they chose Springfield because of its location and the city was also the site of the first game where women were paid to play baseball in 1875.

Full SNAP benefits to resume this month after government shutdown ends

[Maggie Dougherty](#), November 14, 2025

Illinois recipients are expected to receive their outstanding benefits by Nov. 20.

Repairs on the way for Starved Rock State Park

[Jenna Dooley](#), November 14, 2025

Starved Rock State Park will undergo an \$18 million improvement project over the next year

State Week: Durbin's vote rankles many Democrats

[Sean Crawford](#), [Charles N. Wheeler III](#), [Patrick Pfingsten](#), November 14, 2025

The retiring senator was among a handful of Democratic lawmakers to help Republicans reopen the federal government after the longest-ever shutdown.

Statewide: 50 years ago, Siskel & Ebert brought the movies to TV

[Sean Crawford](#), November 14, 2025

The two rival newspaper critics began their landmark pairing on Chicago public television.

Staunton restaurant owner's detention sparks probe into senator's staffer

[Beth Hundsdorfer](#), November 14, 2025

Attorney for Ayuzo files for a stay of deportation

Durbin defends shutdown vote, says it wasn't coordinated with Schumer

[Brenden Moore](#), November 14, 2025

The No. 2 Senate Democrat said he couldn't justify 'playing with other people's lives'

Study raises questions about licensed gun makers in Illinois who aren't making guns

[Vashti Reed](#), [Ryan Denham](#), November 13, 2025

"If they're not making any guns, what are they doing with the license?" said Josh Sugarmann, executive director at the Violence Policy Center.

Education union, students call on governor to release higher education funding

[Peter Hancock](#), November 13, 2025

Money was included in budget with condition that Pritzker must approve all expenditures

Full SNAP benefits to start going out Friday as shutdown ends, Illinois officials say

[Elvia Malagón](#), November 13, 2025

The state expects all 1.8 million Illinoisans who use the food assistance program to get full benefits by Nov. 20 after SNAP was delayed and reduced during the federal shutdown, which ended Wednesday night.

'Broadview Six' plead not guilty to charges of 'impeding' agents outside ICE facility

[Hannah Meisel, Maggie Dougherty](#), November 13, 2025

Democrats, including 9th Congressional District candidate Kat Abughazaleh, arraigned

U of I College of Media removes Illinois Public Media executive director, promotes from within to fill

[Emily Hays](#), November 12, 2025

Illinois Public Media operates an NPR station in Champaign-Urbana and one of two PBS stations serving Bloomington-Normal.

Bailey to stay in governor's race following family tragedy

[Brenden Moore](#), November 11, 2025

Less than three weeks after a helicopter crash claimed the lives of his son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren, Darren Bailey said late Monday that he will move forward with his campaign for governor.

U.S. Border Patrol boss Greg Bovino, fellow agents expected to leave Chicago but could be back in the spring

[Jon Seidel, Tina Sfondeles](#), November 11, 2025

Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin insists "we aren't leaving Chicago," but the feds' immigration campaign is expected to begin winding down. However, one source said they could come back with even greater numbers next March.

Key Illinois Democrats again at odds with Durbin over shutdown vote

[Ben Szalinski](#), November 10, 2025

Illinois' Dick Durbin was one of eight Democrats in the U.S. Senate to support a plan on Sunday night to reopen the federal government. The plan angered many top Illinois Democrats such as Gov. JB Pritzker and three candidates running to replace Durbin

Key Illinois Democrats at odds with Durbin over shutdown vote — again

[Ben Szalinski](#), November 10, 2025

Durbin was among 8 Democratic senators to back plan to reopen federal government

Federal shutdown, budget cuts challenge state policymakers

[Peter Hancock](#), November 7, 2025

The recent suspension of federally funded food assistance for needy Americans as well as upcoming rule changes in Medicaid are presenting difficult challenges for state policymakers.

State Week: Left on the table

[Sean Crawford](#), [Charles N. Wheeler III](#), [Peter Hancock](#), November 7, 2025

State lawmakers passed some key legislation during their fall session, but several other measures failed to get through or were never called for a vote.

Restrictions on federal immigration agents' use of riot control weapons extended indefinitely

[Hannah Meisel](#), November 7, 2025

Federal judge finds immigration agents 'intended to cause protesters harm'

Statewide: A half century later, mystery still surrounds the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald

[Sean Crawford](#), November 6, 2025

'Clean Slate' Act passes after failing to clear legislature in past years

[Maggie Dougherty](#), November 6, 2025

The bill would require law enforcement agencies to automatically seal eligible criminal records every six months.

Judge orders ICE to clean up conditions in Broadview facility that's 'become a prison'

[Hannah Meisel](#), November 6, 2025

Ruling follows hours of testimony from former detainees who couldn't speak to lawyers

Inmate families, advocates speak against mail scanning program

[Peter Hancock](#), November 5, 2025

IDOC says program is intended to reduce drugs, contraband from entering prisons

Legislature passes 'medical aid in dying' bill that governor says he will review

[Maggie Dougherty](#), November 5, 2025

Bill narrowly passes Senate amid opposition from religious groups, diversity rights advocates and medical associations

Illinois lawmakers approve state-specific vaccine guidelines, punt on gambling bill

[Brenden Moore](#), November 5, 2025

Two dozen bills passed during the recently ended fall veto session

Judge calls alleged conditions at Broadview ICE facility ‘unnecessarily cruel’ after day of testimony

[Hannah Meisel](#), November 5, 2025

Former detainees grow emotional while judge weighs temporary restraining order

Illinois bill ‘decouples’ state, federal taxes, raising revenue and angering businesses

[Ben Szalinski](#), November 4, 2025

State level changes are in response to revenue-reducing federal tax policies

Illinois treasurer faces no GOP challenger as 2026 primary ballots take shape

[Brenden Moore](#), November 4, 2025

Tier 2 pension reform bill moves forward, but Pritzker says there’s ‘a lot more work’ to do

[Peter Hancock](#), November 4, 2025

Measure calls for enhanced benefits, but at a significant cost for both state and local governments

Bill to regulate homeowners’ insurance rates fails on final day of veto session

[Peter Hancock](#), November 3, 2025

The Illinois House rejected a bill that would have given the state Department of Insurance authority to regulate homeowners’ insurance rates.

Solar arrays supply shade — and land — for Midwest farmers

[Jana Rose Schleis](#), November 3, 2025

Temperatures remained in the 80s well in the fall this year in parts of the Midwest. Agrivoltaics offers a respite to extreme heat and land access for new farmers.

‘They are literally targeting people.’ ICE comes to southern Illinois

[Beth Hundsdorfer, Illinois Answers Project](#), November 1, 2025

Though instances of ICE detentions in Illinois have been centered on Chicago since President Donald Trump began “Operation Midway Blitz” in September, Gov. JB Pritzker said this week there has been an uptick recently in ICE activity in central and southern Illinois.

Lawsuit alleges ICE detainees denied access to counsel while held in ‘inhumane’ conditions

[Hannah Meisel](#), November 1, 2025

A lawsuit alleges the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement processing facility in the Chicago suburb of Broadview is a “black box” where detainees are denied access to counsel while held in squalid, overcrowded cells.

State Week: A flurry of legislation

[Sean Crawford, Andrew Adams, Mawa Iqbal](#), October 31, 2025

Daylight saving time ends Sunday. Here’s what to know and how to ease the change

[Casey He](#), October 31, 2025

Dr. Kenneth Lee, a neurologist who specializes in sleep medicine, recommends people begin pushing back their bedtime a few nights before Sunday for 15 to 20 minutes each night.

Lawmakers OK sweeping energy reform package that governor pledges to sign

[Andrew Adams](#), October 31, 2025

A closely-watched and long-debated piece of energy legislation is set to become law after passing through both legislative chambers with the governor’s endorsement.

Illinois lawmakers approve ban on civil immigration arrests in state courthouses

[Brenden Moore](#), October 31, 2025

After weeks of criticizing federal immigration raids, state lawmakers took legislative action

Lawmakers approve \$1.5B transit funding package without statewide tax increases

[Ben Szalinski](#), October 31, 2025

Funding for downstate transit agencies decreases from previous plan

Pritzker warns immigration crackdown becoming ‘wider and more intense’

[Brenden Moore](#), October 30, 2025

Governor says masked agents are targeting families, not ‘the worst of the worst’

Drop in the bucket’: Illinois measures to offset SNAP cuts will not alleviate problem

[Maggie Dougherty](#), October 30, 2025

Gov. JB Pritzker signed an executive order allocating \$20 million in state funding as a stopgap measure to support Illinois’ seven food banks, which supply over 2,600 food pantries across the state.

Illinois grad rate hits new high even as ACT scores lag and students continue to miss class

[Sarah Karp](#), October 30, 2025

New state report card data also shows growth for elementary school students on state exams and more Illinois graduates staying in college after the first year.

Statewide: Immigration agents using stealth tactics

[Sean Crawford](#), October 30, 2025

From wearing masks to concealing identities of vehicles, agents are raising concerns in Illinois and other states.

7th Circuit temporarily halts judge's order for daily appearances from Border Patrol's Bovino

[Hannah Meisel](#), October 30, 2025

Democratic candidates, officeholders indicted for 'impeding' agent outside ICE facility

[Hannah Meisel](#), October 30, 2025

Group includes social media influencer and congressional candidate Kat Abughazaleh

House passes energy bill amid debate over costs to consumers

[Andrew Adams](#), October 30, 2025

Proponents say energy storage, efficiency programs will save money, critics wary of claims

Food banks in the central U.S. say they can't fill the gap left by frozen SNAP benefits

[Michael Marks](#), October 29, 2025

Food bank staff expect a wave of new demand as millions of Americans are set to lose federal food assistance in November. But they insist that their services alone won't be enough to feed everyone who relies on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Jury finds ex-cop guilty of second-degree murder for fatally shooting Sonya Massey in her home

[Mawa Iqbal](#), October 29, 2025

The conviction against former deputy sheriff Sean Grayson, who is white, carries a potential sentence of between four and 20 years.

Lawmakers advance bill allowing public officials to conceal personal information

[Brenden Moore](#), October 29, 2025

The move comes amid a rise in threats and harassment against those in elected office

House transit bill ‘not going forward,’ Pritzker says as he opposes new revenue forms

[Ben Szalinski](#), October 29, 2025

Governor says ‘a lot of discussion’ needed to move funding plan forward

Murder case of ex-cop who fatally shot Sonya Massey goes to jurors

[Mawa Iqbal](#), October 29, 2025

The murder case of a white ex-cop accused of killing an unarmed Black woman in her Springfield-area home is now before a jury after lawyers on both sides presented their closing arguments Tuesday.

Remap retreat? Illinois Democrats won’t vote on redistricting effort by end of veto session

[Mitchell Armentrout](#), October 29, 2025

The state’s supermajority party could still reconvene to redraw maps in order to keep up with Republican gerrymandering efforts, but serious logistical questions remain.

House Dems eye taxes on entertainment, billionaires’ investments to fund transit

[Ben Szalinski](#), October 29, 2025

Bill would create stronger oversight board in Chicago area

Bovino ordered to make daily court appearances after three days of tear gas in Chicago

[Hannah Meisel](#), October 29, 2025

Judge warns violations of use-of-force restraining order could result in full tear gas ban

Jury deliberates in murder case of ex-deputy who fatally shot Sonya Massey

[Mawa Iqbal](#), October 29, 2025

Jurors deliberated Tuesday afternoon on first-degree murder charges against Sean Grayson but didn’t reach a verdict after closing arguments offered competing views of why he killed Massey. They will resume work this morning.

Illinois joins lawsuit to force federal government not to pause SNAP benefits

[Ben Szalinski](#), October 28, 2025

Illinois joined 24 other states and the District of Columbia in suing the Trump administration over plans to stop funding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program on Saturday as the federal government shutdown continues.

Crowded Democratic primaries, GOP field for governor take shape as candidates file for office

[Ben Szalinski, Brenden Moore](#), October 27, 2025

Four years ago, candidates braved a mix of rain and snow. Two years ago, it was bone-chilling cold. But on Monday, the sun was shining with an Autumn crisp in the air as hundreds of candidates gathered in Springfield to file petitions for the primary election.

State representative, comptroller candidate's ICE disclosures draw threats from DOJ

MAGGIE DOUGHERTY, October 27, 2025

As state officials continue seeking ways to counter aggressive immigration enforcement activity under President Donald Trump's "Operation Midway Blitz," state Rep. Margaret Croke has drawn ire online for an email sharing details about ICE vehicles.

U.S. House Minority Leader Jeffries accelerates Illinois redistricting push

[Brenden Moore](#), October 27, 2025

While candidates filed petitions Monday to run under Illinois' existing congressional district lines, U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries brought his redistricting campaign to Illinois, pitching top state Democrats on a new map in a series of closed-door meetings.

Deputy who killed Sonya Massey takes the stand in his defense

[Mawa Iqbal](#), October 27, 2025

A former Sangamon County Sheriff's Deputy charged with murdering Springfield-area resident Sonya Massey last year took the witness stand Monday. The case could go to the jury this week.

Border Patrol Commander Greg Bovino ordered to testify in federal court

[Hannah Meisel](#), October 27, 2025

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Commander Gregory Bovino, who has spent the last 5 ½ weeks running the Trump administration's "Operation Midway Blitz" immigration enforcement campaign in the Chicago area, has been ordered to testify in federal court Tuesday after allegations he threw tear gas into a crowd Thursday with neither warning nor justification.

Natural gas rate increases likely for Ameren, Nicor customers next year

[Andrew Adams](#), October 24, 2025

Customers across Illinois could face increased natural gas rates next year, based on proposed decisions in two proceedings before the Illinois Commerce Commission.

State Week: What's left on the fall session agenda?

[Sean Crawford, Charles N. Wheeler III, Brenden Moore](#), October 24, 2025

Illinois lawmakers have one week of session left this year. We discuss what might get done.

Fate of Illinois' first-in-the-nation credit card 'swipe fee' ban awaits judge's ruling

[Hannah Meisel](#), October 24, 2025

2024 law's implementation already delayed until 2026; court arguments heard this week

New teachers union leaders in Illinois call for tax shift to fund K-12, higher education

[Peter Hancock](#), October 23, 2025

The new leader of the Illinois Federation of Teachers says state lawmakers should consider raising taxes on wealthy individuals and corporations that have received federal tax breaks under the Trump administration to increase state spending on education and other public services.

Pritzker forms independent commission to document misconduct of federal agents

[Maggie Dougherty](#), October 23, 2025

The Illinois Accountability Commission will seek public input of misconduct by federal agents

Commission documents alleged abuses by federal agents during Operation Midway Blitz, governor says

[Dave McKinney](#), [Mohammad Samra](#), October 23, 2025

Governor JB Pritzker made the announcement during a morning news conference in the Loop.

4 members of Illinois GOP candidate Darren Bailey's family killed in helicopter crash

[Ben Szalinski](#), October 23, 2025

NTSB investigating crash in Montana; cause of the accident not yet released

Statewide: The War of the Worlds

[Sean Crawford](#), October 23, 2025

A 1938 radio drama became one of the most famous productions ever, thanks to Orson Welles and his company.

4 relatives of GOP candidate Darren Bailey killed in helicopter crash in Montana

[Ryan Denham](#), October 23, 2025

Republican candidate for Governor Darren Bailey's campaign says his son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren were killed in a helicopter crash in Montana.

Jeffries' Illinois redistricting push meets cool reception in Springfield

[Brenden Moore](#), October 22, 2025

U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries' push for Illinois Democrats to redraw the state's congressional map has met a cool reception with state lawmakers.

Testimony underway in the murder case against former Sangamon County deputy

[Beth Hundsdorfer](#), October 22, 2025

Sean Grayson is accused of unlawfully using deadly force in the shooting of Sonya Massey last year

Pritzker talks city budget, Bears stadium with Chicago business and civic leaders

[Maggie Dougherty](#), October 22, 2025

Governor leaves door open for Democratic National Convention to return to the city

Illinois video gambling mogul to seek GOP gubernatorial nomination

[Brenden Moore](#), October 22, 2025

Rick Heidner owns the third-largest video gaming terminal operator in Illinois

Elections board deadlocks on \$10M fine for Senate President Don Harmon

[Ben Szalinski](#), October 21, 2025

Split vote creates confusion as board postpones action for another month

Judge's block on deploying National Guard extended indefinitely as Supreme Court weighs case

[Hannah Meisel](#), October 21, 2025

It's unclear when high court might rule on administration's plea for intervention

University of Illinois Chicago drops race, gender as factors in financial aid and faculty hiring

[Lisa Kurian Philip](#), October 21, 2025

Some faculty see the changes as "voluntary capitulation" to the Trump administration. UIC leaders say they align with "current legal standards" and new University of Illinois System policy.

Immigration officials seek to justify use of force on Chicago-area protesters

[Hannah Meisel](#), October 21, 2025

In hearing on crowd control tactics, officials say no agents have been disciplined

Immigration officials seek to justify use of force on Chicago-area protesters

[Hannah Meisel](#), October 20, 2025

Federal immigration enforcement officials overseeing the Trump administration's ongoing "Operation Midway Blitz" in the Chicago area testified Monday that all uses of aggressive crowd control tactics on protesters in recent weeks have been justified.

Jury chosen in murder trial of former Sangamon County Deputy Sean Grayson

[Beth Hundsdorfer](#), October 20, 2025

A jury was chosen Monday in the murder trial of former Sangamon County Sheriff's Deputy Sean Grayson.

Nearly 2 million Illinoisians set to lose SNAP benefits amid congressional stalemate

[Ben Szalinski](#), October 20, 2025

Nearly 2 million people in Illinois could lose federal food benefits ahead of Thanksgiving if Congress can't agree on a budget by the end of the month.

Trump asks U.S. Supreme Court to allow National Guard deployment in Illinois

[Hannah Meisel](#), October 20, 2025

Administration claims courts have no right to check president's military authority

Chicago's Stacy Davis Gates elected to lead Illinois teachers union

[Sarah Karp](#), October 20, 2025

The powerful and divisive leader will remain as head of the Chicago Teachers Union after she was chosen Saturday to lead the Illinois Federation of Teachers.

How the federal shutdown is hurting Midwest farmers — already dealing with a difficult year

[Frank Morris](#), October 20, 2025

The government shutdown stops USDA from administering farm subsidies, raising the specter of growing farm foreclosures. It also delays a bailout President Trump had promised for farmers impacted by tariffs.

Krishnamoorthi spends \$450K per week on TV ads in Senate race

[Brenden Moore](#), October 17, 2025

U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi's campaign spent an average of more than \$450,000 per week on television ads between July and September to maintain that constant presence, according to his quarterly campaign finance report, filed earlier this week.

State-based health insurance marketplace opens amid federal budget stalemate

[Peter Hancock](#), October 17, 2025

People in Illinois who buy health insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplace are likely to see big increases in the cost of their premiums next year, but state officials are encouraging them to reach out for help before they decide to drop their coverage.

Former military leaders decry National Guard deployment in Illinois

[Andrew Adams](#), [Hannah Meisel](#), October 16, 2025

A group of retired military leaders — including the former head of the state's National Guard, several generals and an admiral — met with Gov. JB Pritzker on Thursday and publicly criticized President Donald Trump's attempted use of National Guard troops in Chicago.

Peoria, Peoria County preparing for large crowds during Grayson murder trial

[Joe Deacon](#), October 16, 2025

City and county agencies are bracing for anticipated large crowds and demonstrations around the downtown Peoria County Courthouse when the murder trial of Sean Grayson begins Monday.

Dabrowski sets fundraising bar at \$1.5M in GOP primary for governor

[Ben Szalinski](#), October 16, 2025

Illinois' Republican primary for governor is growing expensive as the party's 2022 nominee works to rebuild his campaign fund while another candidate receives support from one of the state's wealthiest Republican donors.

Illinois lawmakers condemn ICE raids in Chicago, weigh state response

[Brenden Moore](#), October 15, 2025

State leaders pledge to explore new protections for immigrants but say their power is limited

Pritzker tax summaries show more than \$10M in 2024 income — not including trusts

[Ben Szalinski](#), October 15, 2025

Pritzker is one of the wealthiest elected officials in American history

State Week: Madigan goes to prison

[Sean Crawford](#), [Charles N. Wheeler III](#), [Ray Long](#), October 15, 2025

Former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan reported to a federal facility in Morgantown, West Virginia this week.

Statewide: Getting better sleep

[Sean Crawford](#), October 15, 2025

Many people report having difficulty sleeping. A sleep expert gives us some tips.

More than half of Illinois communities have enacted a local grocery tax

[Ben Szalinski](#), October 15, 2025

Pritzker signed bill eliminating statewide tax, allowing local governments to create their own

Ex-AT&T Illinois head could see bribery charges dismissed under agreement with feds

[Hannah Meisel](#), October 15, 2025

Retrial canceled after two separate juries deadlocked on allegations he bribed Madigan

Belvidere Assembly to reopen in 2027 to build Jeeps as part of Stellantis' rebuilding plan

October 15, 2025

Thousands of jobs are expected to return to Belvidere as Stellantis announces a plan to reopen its assembly plant.

Report offers mixed review of educational progress in Illinois

[Peter Hancock](#), October 14, 2025

Attainment levels are growing, but proficiency rates stagnate despite billions in new spending

Appeals court allows federalization of troops but says they can't be deployed

[Andrew Adams](#), October 14, 2025

A federal appeals court has allowed the federalization of National Guard troops in Illinois but told the federal government that those troops can't be deployed while the case makes its way through the courts.

Ex-Speaker Madigan reports to West Virginia prison to begin 7 ½-year sentence

[Hannah Meisel](#), October 14, 2025

7th Circuit ruled earlier this month against Madigan's bid to remain free during appeal

Veto session preview: Federal issues top of mind as lawmakers seek transit, energy solutions

[Ben Szalinski](#), October 13, 2025

Violent protests, legally questionable immigration raids and the deployment of National Guard troops without the governor's approval will be at the forefront of state lawmakers' minds when they return to Springfield on Tuesday.

Elderly Pekin murder suspect's death reveals Legionnaires' disease at Tazewell County Jail

[Joe Deacon](#), October 11, 2025

The Tazewell County Sheriff's Office is undertaking measures at the county jail to protect detainees and employees after the recent death of an elderly inmate was due to him contracting Legionnaire's disease.

Budzinski urges bipartisan deal to end shutdown, but draws 'red line' on health care

[Brenden Moore](#), October 10, 2025

Illinois congresswoman warns ACA premiums could double if tax credits aren't renewed

Illinois' budget on track for deficit as new federal policies create challenges

[Ben Szalinski](#), October 10, 2025

Illinois is on track to run a more than \$200 million deficit just three months into the current fiscal year, according to the Governor's Office of Management and Budget.

State Week: On the streets and in the courts

[Sean Crawford](#), [Charles N. Wheeler III](#), [Hannah Meisel](#), October 10, 2025

ICE protests continue in Chicago while the city and state fight against National Guard deployment in court.

Farmers caught in Trump's trade war wait for bailout. But many call it a temporary fix

[Joe Schulz](#), October 10, 2025

The Trump administration is promising billions in a bailout for farmers. This harvest season the trade war with China has added to the farm economy's woes, as producers deal with lower crop prices and high costs.

Federal judge temporarily grants state and city bid to block Trump administration National Guard deployment

[Jon Seidel](#), [Tina Sfondeles](#), October 9, 2025

A federal judge in Chicago on Thursday temporarily blocked the Trump administration from ordering the federalization and deployment of the National Guard of the United States within Illinois.

French tech company announces new headquarters at Chicago quantum research park

[Maggie Dougherty](#), October 9, 2025

Company plans to invest \$65M in the new facility, creating 50 jobs

Statewide: Manufacturing amid economic concerns

[Sean Crawford](#), October 9, 2025

Higher labor costs and the president's tariffs are making it difficult to navigate the current business climate.

Listen • 50:29

Judge grants restraining order protecting protesters, journalists in Chicago-area protests

[Peter Hancock](#), October 9, 2025

First Amendment suit bars federal agents from arresting peaceful protesters, working press

As Trump says Pritzker 'should be in jail,' Illinois' governor taunts: 'Come and get me'

[Brenden Moore](#), October 8, 2025

War of words escalates as Texas National Guard arrives in Chicago ahead of hearing

Court scrutiny of ICE mounts as judge rules warrantless arrests violated order

[Jerry Nowicki](#), [Hannah Meisel](#), [Andrew Adams](#), October 8, 2025

Texas National Guard troops arrived in Illinois amid mounting judicial scrutiny of the federal government's aggressive immigration enforcement in the Chicago area.

SCOTUS weighs whether Mike Bost can challenge Illinois election laws

[Ben Szalinski](#), October 8, 2025

Lower courts denied downstate congressman's lawsuit challenging Illinois mail-in voting law

Pritzker, Johnson fight back after President Trump says they should be jailed for failing to protect ICE

[Tina Sfondeles](#), October 8, 2025

Gov. JB Pritzker responded Wednesday morning, writing on X, "I will not back down. Trump is now calling for the arrest of elected representatives checking his power. What else is left on the path to full-blown authoritarianism?"

Van Leer Memorial Bell Tower in Normal plays music after decades of silence

[Paul J. Aguilar](#), October 7, 2025

The Van Leer Memorial Bell Tower will now play music twice daily as it did last century.

Lawmakers 'ready to move' on transit reform, but funding agreement remains elusive

[Ben Szalinski](#), October 7, 2025

Chicago-area transit agencies face funding shortfall beginning in mid-2026

Texas National Guard members arrive at Chicago area military training facility

[Mitchell Armentrout](#), [Tina Sfondeles](#), [Cindy Hernandez](#), [Fran Spielman](#), October 7, 2025

Military troops arrived at an Elwood training center after weeks of threats from President Donald Trump's administration, over the objections of local leaders.

The federal government creates hurdles for Illinois' clean energy goals

[Jack O'Connor](#), October 7, 2025

Sierra Club Illinois Director Jack Darin said Illinois and the federal government have two different, conflicting energy goals, and the state will have to rely on itself to accomplish its green energy goals.

Illinois attorney general worries where orders for federalized National Guard troops will come from

[Eric Stock](#), October 7, 2025

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul says he doesn't trust the Trump administration to only give legal orders to the troops.

Judge won't block federal troop deployment to Chicago — for now

[Hannah Meisel](#), [Brenden Moore](#), October 6, 2025

A federal judge on Monday declined to immediately block the Trump administration from sending National Guard troops to Chicago, but she strongly urged federal officials to hold off deploying guardsmen until Thursday, when she will hear arguments in the case.

Federal judge declines to immediately block National Guard deployment in Illinois

Joe Hernandez, October 6, 2025

Illinois asked a judge to block the Trump administration from federalizing the Illinois National Guard and from sending Guard members from other states, but the judge declined to do so, for now.

Amid Chicago deportation campaign, Trump authorizes 300 National Guard troops over Pritzker's objections

[Selena Kuznikov](#), [Jon Seidel](#), October 4, 2025

President Donald Trump's move comes after Gov. JB Pritzker said earlier this week the Department of Homeland Security requested deployment of 100 military troops to Illinois "for the protection of ICE personnel and facilities."

7th Circuit denies Madigan's bid to stay out of prison while he appeals corruption conviction

[Hannah Meisel](#), October 3, 2025

Former Illinois House speaker scheduled to begin 7 ½-year sentence Oct. 13

Trump freezes \$2.1B for Chicago transit projects in latest 'punishment' of blue states

[Maggie Dougherty](#), October 3, 2025

Pritzker accuses administration of 'holding bipartisan funding hostage' to score political points

State Week: A show of force

[Sean Crawford](#), [Charles N. Wheeler III](#), [Chip Mitchell](#), October 3, 2025

Armed agents in military fatigues patrolled downtown Chicago last weekend. The image sent a message as the Trump Administration continues with its immigration enforcement blitz.

Here's what's in Illinois' \$50.6B six-year infrastructure plan

[Jerry Nowicki](#), October 3, 2025

Largest-ever plan covers roads, bridges, waterways, airports, transit and more

Crops look good across the Midwest and Great Plains. But farmers still face tough economy

Joe Schulz, October 3, 2025

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is expecting a strong corn and soybean harvest this year. But low crop prices, high input costs and international trade uncertainty could hurt farmers.

Statewide: Meet the ICE resistance

[Sean Crawford](#), October 2, 2025

On this episode, an effort called the People's Patrol organizes scores of volunteers to confront immigration agents carrying out President Trump's deportation blitz.

Listen • 50:36

Trump pulls plug on expanding solar program that cuts Illinois electric bills

[Brett Chase](#), October 2, 2025

Gov. Pritzker's administration says \$130 million in federal funding promised to Illinois for expansion of affordable rooftop solar was illegally halted.

No criminal charges will be filed in Chatham YNOT crash

[Sean Crawford](#), October 2, 2025

Ten children were struck by the vehicle inside the building. Five children were killed

New student visa rule blasted by Illinois Attorney General Raoul

[Casey He](#), October 2, 2025

The proposed rule will limit the duration of visas for international students to four years. Democratic attorneys general said it is illegal and will harm students, schools and the economy.

Report highlights better state funding for education and growth in some areas

[Emmanuel Camarillo](#), October 2, 2025

Eight years after putting in place a tool that gauges kindergarten readiness, more children in Illinois are showing up to elementary school ready to go, but gaps between different groups of students remain and are pronounced, according to a new report on public education in the state.

Illinois federal workers heavily stressed as government shutdown yanks paychecks

[Mary Norkol](#), [Jon Seidel](#), [Kade Heather](#), [Esther Yoon-Ji Kang](#), October 2, 2025

For federal workers living paycheck to paycheck, the shutdown could mean choosing between paying for groceries or prescriptions, says National Treasury Employees Union National President Doreen Greenwald.

State tourism grant helps Peoria land national esports and tech festival

[Joe Deacon - WGLT](#), October 1, 2025

A national gaming, entertainment and tech festival is coming to downtown Peoria beginning next year, with organizers expecting to attract tens of thousands of guests.

Illinois Grain Tour examines state of soybean industry amid international trade war

[Paul J. Aguilar](#) October 1, 2025

Soybean industry workers and buyers shared their thoughts on the agricultural trade war between the U.S. and China during a tour of the Illinois Soybean Association offices in Bloomington.

Drought has returned to the Midwest. Farmers say it could hurt their harvests

[Jess Savage](#), October 1, 2025

Several states, including Missouri, Illinois and Indiana, are in moderate to severe drought. Climatologists say it's unlikely to let up soon.

Stratton aims to bring Pritzker administration policies to national stage

[Ben Szalinski](#), October 1, 2025

New political action committee led by Pritzker ally backs Stratton

[State, private developers break ground on quantum research park](#)

[Andrew Adams](#), October 1, 2025

Project has received hundreds of millions of dollars in state funding and tax breaks