

## **Quarterly Issues Fourth Quarter – October-December 2018**

**ISSUE:** Business, Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Bloomington Rezoning

**Date:** 10/1/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - Bloomington aldermen are ready to present to the public a massive zoning overhaul that will guide land use decisions for years to come.

The city government decided two years ago to pay a Chicago consulting firm \$125,000 to make a more user-friendly zoning code that encourages development, including downtown.

John Houseal of the firm Houseal, Lavigne, and Associates is recommending the city create three separate zoning districts instead of one massive district that he said currently hinders development.

"There's no core. It doesn't transition out to something else, then transition into the residential neighborhoods, (it's) inconsistent with your comprehensive plan recommendations, and inconsistent with the investment and development patterns of downtowns that are thriving," said Houseal.

Other recommendations include making it easier for people to set up home-based businesses, as long as they don't disrupt residential neighborhoods.

"The basic litmus test for home occupation is if I drive by, or I have lived next door, and I have no idea that you have a business, that's the perfect home occupation," said Houseal.

The zoning recommendations cover so much ground they even include rules for raising chickens and keeping bee hives. Alderman Scott Black wants a robust public discussion.

"This is really kind of like the underlying fabric, and the way we set the table for our community," Black said.

"The decisions we make on this one probably will last far longer than any of us up here. That's scary, so let's do it right," the alderman also said.

The consultant said none of the zoning changes should reduce landowners' property values.

A public question and answer session is scheduled October 10, with a planning commission hearing October 24. Final city council action is expected November 26.

**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:**Rauner on Opioids

**Date:** 10/2/2018

**Time:** 5pm

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - Gov. Bruce Rauner was in Bloomington Tuesday promoting public and private efforts to keep addictive painkillers out of the wrong hands.

Rauner visited Walgreens at Veterans Parkway and GE Road, the only Twin-Cities location and one of 83 places statewide to set up kiosks where people can dispose of unwanted or unused medications, including opioids.

"If any medication is not needed, it should be safely and promptly disposed of," said Rauner.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, Pfizer, Prime Therapeutics, and AmerisourceBergen are partnering with Walgreens to expand the safe medication disposal program.

"They may just have it sitting in their medicine cabinet where a young person could get access to it, or it could get known with some of neighbors. Somebody who maybe addicted may come over for a cup of coffee and grab it," the governor said.

In this partisan election year, Rauner said Democrats and Republicans have worked together to combat opioid abuse. Rauner noted 11,000 Illinoisans have died from opioid overdoses the past ten years.

Drop boxes are also in the lobbies of the Normal and Bloomington police departments, in addition to the kiosk at Walgreens.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:**Miller Park Holiday Rules

**Date:** 10/3/2018

**Time:** 5pm

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - Spent casings and blood on the scene, yet there is no cooperation from witnesses, no injuries reported, and no one in custody after the shooting on Monroe Street Monday night.

Police were initially called around 10:50pm in response to several males fighting in the intersection of Monroe and Mason Streets, but by the time they arrived those involved had dispersed.

It was about 20 minutes later that police then received the call about multiple shots being fired.

The department reached out to several people who were in the area on Tuesday but could find no one in the mood to be cooperative.

Again, anyone with any information regarding the shooting are asked to call the Bloomington Police Department or McClean County Crime Stoppers.

**ISSUE:** Business

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:**ESports at Grossinger

**Date:** 10/4/2018

**Time:** 5pm

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

Grossinger Motors Arena is set to host a not so typical sporting tournament for central Illinois.

The inaugural Sixty Six Games Esports Tournament will bring competitors to Bloomington-Normal to play live and in-person "League of Legends."

The event will be held January 12-13, 2019. Three different levels of play will be featured including college/open, high-school only, and one-on-one action.

The tournament is organized by the Bloomington-Normal Area Convention and Visitors Bureau with State Farm as the title sponsor.

WJBC's Scott Laughlin and Kevin Bessler sat down with Matt Hawkins, the bureau's sports marketing manager, as he hopes the event will attract spectators to the area.

"That was kind of the one x-factor we weren't so sure about...we are pretty confident we can get the teams and people to come play but we want as many people to come and watch," said Hawkins.

This is central Illinois' first sanctioned esports live tournament.

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**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** County Clerk Debate

**Date:** 10/4/2018

**Time:** 5pm

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

**NORMAL** - The heated rhetoric that's marked the McLean County Clerk's contest showed no signs of cooling off Thursday night as the two candidates met for their first and possibly only joint appearance.

Democratic challenger Nikita Richards said she's taking the "high road," but won't apologize for telling the truth.

Richards not mince words in her opening statement at a forum hosted by public radio station WGLT and the local League of Women Voters.

"I'm running to bring positive change and new ideas to an office with a history of nepotism and mismanagement," said Richards.

Incumbent Republican Kathy Michael accused Richards of lying about her record, including whether Michael broke the law when she didn't start early voting on time during the March primary.

Michael called Richards a "young lady" when pushing back on the challenger's claims that polling places might not be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Michael also did not apologize for calling Richards and her backers "radical socialists."

"I can't imagine if anybody gets offended at being called a radical socialist," said Michael.

"I don't know if that's necessarily an insult. That's something for voters to look at, and decide if that's the way they would like to go," added Michael, who's seeking a third term.

The rivals, each facing allegations of ethical misconduct, agreed they should let investigations run their course, but they believe they'll be vindicated.

The two shook hands after the encounter, witnessed by a packed house at Heartland Community College.

**ISSUE:** Charity

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Students Help Food Bank

**Date:** 10/5/2018

**Time:** 7pm

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

College students, who might not be able to afford healthy meals, will soon be able to go to a food pantry in Normal to make sure they don't go hungry.

One of three Illinois State University students who helped set up the School Street Food Pantry said he's excited and incredibly moved that students will soon be able to get their groceries there.

A ribbon cutting is scheduled this evening (Friday evening), and the pantry at First United Methodist Church in the 200 block of North School Street will officially open next Friday.

ISU student Noah Tang said a sizable portion of the student population is "food insecure," which means they struggle to eat healthy meals on a regular basis. Every indication tells Tang the food pantry will be a popular place.

Midwest and Eastern Illinois Food Banks are donating the food, although the public is also asked to make food donations and to volunteer to work at the food pantry.

Students with an ID from ISU, Wesleyan, Heartland, and Lincoln colleges are eligible to pick up food from the pantry.

The pantry's website offers other information at [school-street-food-pantry-dot-org](http://school-street-food-pantry-dot-org).

**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Council Fees

**Date:** 10/5/2018

**Time:** 7pm

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - All Bloomington businesses would have to register with the city and pay a one-time only \$50 registration fee if city alderman approve an ordinance Monday night.

The city council directed staffers to draft a registration program at a meeting in March. The proposal would impact the estimated 3,500 to 4,500 businesses currently operating in Bloomington, and any future businesses that may set up shop in the city.

Businesses would have to update their registration yearly, without having to pay a fee, although failing to do so would result in a \$75 fine.

The fees would generate \$175,000 \$225,000 during the next fiscal year, but staffers contend there are other advantages. A report to the council said the fire department would have quick access to the information in case of an emergency. The city could also more easily identify new businesses to collect taxes from them.

Staffers said data that businesses supply to the city could help measure the health of the local economy and more easily connect businesses with resources to help them grow.

In another business, the council will consider raising fees and fines for a variety of city functions that is expected to generate an extra 225-thousand dollars in revenue next fiscal year.

Aldermen will also consider taking a big step to resolve a long-running dispute with boat dock owners at Lake Bloomington, which is owned by the city.

A proposed ordinance would require existing dock owners to pay \$50 a year for a permit. New dock permits would cost \$250, plus \$50 annual renewal fees.

City staff contended too many boat docks would threaten Lake Bloomington's water quality, which is one of the city's main water sources.

The ordinance limits the number of boat docks at 245. There are currently 236. Seven docks are not eligible for a permit because owners don't have a lease with the city or they don't keep a residence there.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Normal Man Sentenced

**Date:** 10/6/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

On April 8, Kevin Thornton, 45, of Normal was found naked by Bloomington police outside of a woman's home.

The woman said that Thornton had been invited, and that consensual contact had occurred, but he pulled a gun out when she wouldn't allow things to go as far as he wanted.

Police say he was flung outside after the two fought.

Thornton said he voluntarily stepped outside, naked mind you, in order to let the woman calm down from the drugs she took, and that she then shut the door and locked him out.

After representing himself at the sentencing, Thornton was sentenced to 18 years in prison for the armed violence that occurred that day in April.

In July, he was convicted of being a habitual criminal, committing armed violence, intimidation, attempted sexual assault, and being a felon in possession of a weapon.

Only the armed violence and habitual criminal convictions were entered by Judge Scott Drazewski, however, since all the charges occurred within a single act.

In a 40 minute statement, Thornton, one can only assume eloquently, maintained his innocence of all charges.

The prosecution pointed out that Thornton has been convicted of seven prior felonies.

**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** State Waste

**Date:** 10/10/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

SPRINGFIELD-A new report highlights waste and pork in Illinois' budget and its author says it just highlights the slap in the face to taxpayers.

Illinois Policy Institute Director of Budget and Tax Research Adam Schuster said their Waste Watch report highlights \$91 million on things the government should not be spending on ...

Among the excessive spending are millions on bike paths and related programs, and millions for an art council chaired by House Speaker Michael Madigan's wife.

Schuster said structural changes are needed to address the \$200 billion in unfunded public sector benefit guarantees. While the \$91 million may be a drop in that bucket, Schuster said it's a slap in the face of taxpayers.

The full report can be found at [IllinoisPolicy.org](http://IllinoisPolicy.org).

**ISSUE:** Business

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Café Italia Closes

**Date:** 10/10/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

Café Italia in Bloomington has decided to close its doors starting this (Wednesday) afternoon.

Located at 511 Chancellor Drive, the restaurant posted a closing notice on its front door after lunch service.

The notice states, "We regret to inform you that Café Italia has no other options than to cease operation."

In March, the restaurant's owner Frank Composto faced delayed action from Bloomington's liquor commission due to late payment of around \$13,000 on food and beverage taxes.

The locally owned Italian establishment was open for seven years.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Wrongful Conviction

**Date:** 10/15/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON- In 1991, Jamie Snow was convicted for the murder of Bill Little during an alleged robbery attempt in Bloomington.

Snow has filed multiple failed appeals, saying that the state's witnesses were unreliable and provided false testimony.

Eight years later, in 1999 and also in Bloomington, Bart McNeil was convicted for the murder of his 4-year old daughter.

Also having filed multiple failed appeals, McNeil says that Bloomington police failed to seriously consider another suspect - his ex-wife, who was subsequently convicted of the murder of her mother-in law 12 years later.

Both men have always maintained their innocence.

These two cases will be the focus of the panel Wrongful Convictions: The Pursuit of Justice in Illinois, organized by Illinois Wesleyan University professor of Psychology Amanda Vicary.

The two cases, represented by the Exoneration Project, will be discussed by panelists as a way to engage the community on the issues surrounding wrongful convictions.

"It's important for our community to pay attention to potential problems with our justice system because no one ever knows whether they or a loved one could be affected one day," says Vicary.

The event will be held at 7pm on Tuesday in IWU's Hansen Student center, and is free and open to the public.

**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Fritzen Retires

**Date:** 10/15/2018

**Time:** 3pm

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

**NORMAL** - The senior member of the Normal Town Council announced Monday he is not running for re-election.

Jeff Fritzen is finishing his eighth four-year term as a council member. He was first elected in 1983, and is currently Mayor Pro-Tem.

Fritzen, 66, said he might find some future projects exciting, but questioned whether he would be able to put his heart into a job that also includes the sometimes mundane tasks of dealing with town finances. Fritzen said the job is not about pursuing a personal agenda.

"You have to have, I think, the right things in mind when you seek an office like this, and for me, the level of public service that it deserves is something that requires your heart to be in it," Fritzen said.

Fritzen ran for mayor against incumbent Chris Koos in 2005. He lost to Koos, but believes his idea won out in the end of having a privately-owned Uptown hotel instead of a publicly-owned hotel. Fritzen wound up supporting Koos in the last mayoral election in 2017.

Fritzen attended Illinois State University and worked in the 1970's as a sports writer and assistant sports editor at The Pantagraph.

Fritzen has been Executive Vice President of Bloomington Offset Process, Inc. since 1994.

Seats held by Fritzen, Kathleen Lorenz, and R.C. McBride are up for election next spring. Lorenz and McBride are each seeking second terms. So far, they are the only announced candidates.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Eastland Robbery

**Date:** 10/16/2018

**Time:** 4pm

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

**BLOOMINGTON** - Bloomington Police are asking for the public's help to find the man who took off with two bank bags during the noon hour Tuesday from a store at Eastland Mall.

Employees at JC Sales reported a black man forced open the rear door at about 12:15 p.m. and removed bank bags from the owner's purse, which was in an employee-only area of the store.

Police were told the man fled with an undisclosed amount of cash and was seen running in the direction of the 2000 block of East Empire.

The suspect is said to be a black man, about 5' 8", in his late teens or early 20's, with facial hair and short-cropped hair. He was wearing a black jacket, jeans, and tennis shoes.

Anyone with information about this crime is asked to contact Bloomington Police Detective Steve Moreland at 309-434-2548 or the department's main line at 309-820-8888.

McLean County Crime Stoppers is accepting anonymous tips at 309-828-1111. Crime Stoppers pays rewards of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest and indictment.

**ISSUE:**Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:**88<sup>th</sup> District Debate

**Date:** 10/17/2018

**Time:** 10:30 am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

**NORMAL** - The challenger to Republican State Rep. Keith Sommer in the 88th Legislative District race claimed during a debate Wednesday night that Sommer is not responsive to constituents' concerns. The incumbent of almost 20 years said that's not true, and added that public input helps him make better decisions.

Sommer and Democrat Jill Blair squared off in a forum at Illinois State University's Alumni Center, sponsored by the McLean County League of Women Voters and public radio station WGLT.

"I'm looking at faces in the crowd right here today that I know have expressed to me frustration with trying to ask Rep. Sommer to consider their positions and to consider their input. They did not feel like they were heard," said Blair.

"That's part of the reason why I have decided to step forward and run," Blair added.

Sommer said he's conservative, but is open to other views.

"If you have an argument that you would like to present to me, I fully am open to discussion," said Sommer.

"I want to know what you think, and that way, I can make my best decisions," Sommer also said.

Blair said she's not beholden to Democratic House Speaker Michael Madigan. Blair said she's not taking campaign money from the Illinois Democratic party, but she and Madigan are likely to agree on certain issues.

"I am a Democrat, and if I find areas of agreement with the speaker because we share a party and we share philosophies, that's not the same thing as being beholden to him," said Blair.

"I certainly will not be voting for Speaker Madigan to continue his reign in Springfield. It's been far too long," Sommer said.

The 88th District includes central, west, and southeast Bloomington, and also areas near Danvers and McLean in addition to parts of Tazewell County.

**ISSUE:**Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:**Harper Arrest

**Date:** 10/18/2018

**Time:** 5 pm

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

LEROY - LeRoy Police have arrested a man accused of using the Facebook Messenger application to solicit a child for sex.

49-year old Edward Harper of Danville allegedly used the instant messaging app about September 30th to solicit an 11-year old child in LeRoy for sex.

LeRoy PD went to Harper's Danville home to arrest him on Thursday. He's being held in the McLean County Jail before he appears for a bond hearing.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Harper in Court

**Date:** 10/19/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - A man reportedly told LeRoy Police he was drunk, and it was stupid for him to communicate with an 11-year old girl he knew on the Facebook Messenger application to lure her into having sex.

McLean County prosecutors Friday charged Edward Harper, 49, of Danville with two felony counts of indecent solicitation of a child for allegedly asking the child to visit him in Danville for a sexual encounter.

At a bond hearing, Assistant State's Attorney Jacob Harlow said the girl's mother called LeRoy PD after finding out her daughter had been solicited for sex on Facebook.

Harlow said the child asked Harper if it bothered him that she was only 11.

"Yes, but who cares," Harper allegedly replied.

Associate Judge Sarah Duffy set bond at \$100,000, meaning Harper has to post \$10,035 to be released from jail. If he's released, Duffy ordered Harper not to have contact with anyone younger than 18.

Duffy appointed a public defender to represent Harper, who's scheduled to appear in court again November 2.

**ISSUE:**Schools

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** ISU Budget Approved

**Date:** 10/19/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

The wheels will keep turning at Illinois State University next year as the Board of Trustees approved the University's annual operating budget of \$458-point-one million dollars for fiscal year 2019.

Among the approvals under that million dollar budget a bonus for ISU President Larry Dietz (DEETS) to the tune of \$48 thousand dollars, which is just below the maximum \$50-thousand bonus Dietz could have received under terms of his contract.

The bonus comes after a glowing performance review for Dietz.

Some of the funding will also go to replace lower bowl seating in Redbird Arena and the replacement of the flooring and indoor track at Horton Field House.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Mays in Court

**Date:** 10/19/2018

**Time:** 3pm

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - A McLean County judge raised the bond Friday for accused triple murderer Sydney Mays.

The Bloomington man went before the judge using a video link, which was his first court appearance since Bloomington Police returned him Thursday from Milwaukee where he faced drug charges.

Mays, 25, was being held on \$7 million bond for allegedly shooting to death three men and critically wounding a young boy June 18 in an apartment at 311 Riley Drive.

Court records revealed police found 18 bullet casings where Juan Perez-Macedo, 33, Nathaniel Pena, and Corey Jackson, both 22, were shot to death. A four-year old boy was gravely injured.

However, Associate Judge Sarah Duffy raised the bail another \$25,000 for a probation violation. At the time of the shootings, Mays had been on probation in a 2016 burglary case.

Judge Duffy appointed a public defender to represent Mays. He's scheduled to appear in court again November 2.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Normal Shots Fired

**Date:** 10/20/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

The sound of gunshots were heard early this morning in the 800 block of South Fell Avenue in Normal

Normal Police responded to the scene just before 5 a.m. to find evidence of multiple shots fired into a residence.

Residents were in the home at the time of the shooting but no injuries were sustained. Police say they responded to the same 800 block earlier in the morning around 2 a.m. as a vehicle endured criminal damage.

Anyone with information on the shooting or criminal damage to the vehicle is asked to contact the Normal Police Department.

**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Bloomington Fees

**Date:** 10/22/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - New Bloomington City Manager Tim Gleason said an ordinance unanimously passed by the city council Monday night requires him to curb "pension spiking" for retiring city workers that costs taxpayers millions of dollars.

Government employees are able to collect big paychecks when they retire based on a 1995 city policy enabling them to buy back unused sick time if they have a combined age and length of service totalling 75 years IF they worked continuously at least 15 years.

Gleason said he won't bring back collective bargaining agreements to the council for consideration unless the issue is "significantly addressed."

"Understanding that the employees of the city of Bloomington are our greatest resource, but at the same time, the financial impacts to the pension spiking are one that many, if not all communities around the state have had to address," Gleason said in describing how he'll have to strike a balance between workers and taxpayers' interests.

A staff report said there are 198 workers grandfathered into the two-decades old sick leave policy, and 39 are eligible to collect their benefits immediately. The cost to the city over the next several years could run between \$3 million to \$4 million, according to the report.

In other business, the divisions evident two weeks ago came into view again Monday night as aldermen were asked to act again on a \$50 registration fee for all city businesses, and higher fees for many city functions. The council had to take another vote because there were errors in the initial ordinance.

The latest vote was 5-4 with Aldermen Karen Schmidt, Scott Black, Jamie Mathy, and David Sage voting no.

"Sooner or later, we're going to have to come to grips with the idea that we're going to have to make some changes to services delivered by the city. We can't keep raising fees and taxes," said Sage.

Sage, a fiscal conservative, is retiring next spring as the Ward 2 alderman representing the southwest side.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Priests Removed

**Date:** 11/1/18

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

McLEAN COUNTY-The Catholic Diocese of Peoria, which covers McLean County, is ordering three retired priests to step down from public ministry due to what it said were "credible allegations" of sexual abuse of a minor.

One of the three is Fr. Duane Leclercq, who served at Bloomington's Holy Trinity Church from 1964 through 1968. He also served at St. John in Clinton and St. Patrick in Wapella in the 1980's and St. Patrick in Dwight in 1994, according to a Diocese news release.

The Diocese said the alleged sexual misconduct involving Leclercq happened approximately 30 years ago.

Allegations against Fr. George Hiland happened about 50 years ago, and reported sexual abuse involving Fr. John Onderko happened approximately 55 years ago, according to the Diocese.

Hiland's 13 years at Streator's St. Stephen ended in 1971. He worked at St. John the Baptist in Fairbury and St. James in Forrest from 1976 to 1992 and St. Patrick in Dwight until he reached Senior Status in 1994.

None of Onderko's assignments were in the WJBC listening area.

Bishop Daniel Jenky is prohibiting all three men from using the title Father or Reverend or wearing clerical garb and the Roman collar.

The Diocese said the allegations were reported to state prosecutors.

Bishop Jenky said in a statement that he apologizes and prays daily for all sexual abuse victims.

The Diocese said its 'safe environment' program has made an important impact on the safety of children in Catholic faith communities throughout the 26 counties, including McLean, Livingston, Logan, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties.

The following is a news release issued Thursday evening from the Catholic Diocese of Peoria:

NEWS RELEASE

The Diocese of Peoria, Illinois

November 1, 2018

For Immediate Release

“Catholic Diocese of Peoria Removes  
Three Retired Priests from Public Ministry”

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C., of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria, upon the unanimous advice of the Diocesan Review Commission, has required these three retired priests to step down from public ministry due to each having credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor:

Fr. George Hiland

Fr. Duane Leclercq

Fr. John Onderko

Hiland is alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor approximately fifty year ago.

Leclercq has been alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor approximately thirty years ago.

Onderko has been alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor approximately fifty-five years ago.

Effective immediately, Hiland, Leclercq and Onderko can no longer function as Catholic priests in any public capacity, wear clerical garb or the Roman collar, and are to refrain from using the title Reverend or Father.

It is the policy of the Diocese to report all allegations of child sexual abuse to the proper State’s Attorney. Accordingly, these allegations have been reported to the proper State’s Attorneys.

George Hiland’s assignments while serving in the Diocese of Peoria included: St. Stephen, Streator (1958-1971), St. Patrick, Arlington (1971-1976), St. John the Baptist, Fairbury and St. James, Forrest (1976-1992), St. Patrick, Dwight (1992-1994), Senior Status (1994).

Duane Leclercq’s assignments while serving in the Diocese of Peoria included: Holy Trinity, Bloomington (1964-1968), St. Mark, Peoria (1968-1971), St. Mary, Moline (1971-1973), St. Vincent de Paul, Peoria (1973-1976), Sacre Coeur, Creve Coeur (1976-1979), St. Edward, Chillicothe (1979-1982), Director of Teens Encounter Christ, with

residence at St. Bernard, Peoria (1982-1983), St. John, Clinton, and St. Patrick, Wapella (1983-1989), St. Theresa, Earlville (1989-1991), St. Boniface, Peoria (1991-1994), St. Patrick, Dwight (1994), St. Patrick, LaSalle (1994-2003), Sacred Heart, Granville and St. Patrick, Hennepin (2003-2008), Senior Status (2008).

John Onderko's assignments while serving in the Diocese of Peoria included: St. Hyacinth, LaSalle (1962), Sacre Coeur, Creve Coeur (1962-1965), St. Hyacinth (1965-1980), Holy Cross, Mendota and Sts. Peter and Paul, Peterstown (1980-1981), St. Mary, Moline (1981-1993), Resurrection, LaSalle (1993-2005), Senior Status (2005).

Under the direction of Bishop Jenky, the Diocese of Peoria remains committed to maintaining a safe environment for all children. The implementation of the current safe environment program used within the Diocese has made an important impact on the safety of the children in the Catholic faith communities throughout the 26 counties of the diocese.

Bishop Jenky continues to pray daily for all victims of sexual abuse and apologizes and prays that the Lord will heal the wounds resulting from this abuse.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** BPD Drug Bust

**Date:** 11/1/2018

**Time:** 5 am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON-A three month long investigation ended this (Friday) morning as the Bloomington Police Department's Vice Unit busted up a powder and crack cocaine distribution operation.

Four Bloomington men were arrested as BPD seized approximately 185 grams of powder cocaine, approx. 115 grams of crack cocaine, approx. \$6,900 in United States currency, three handguns, one shotgun and one bullet proof vest as they served federal search warrants.

23-year old Khalil Hood, 38-year old Lorenzo Aken, 52-year old Larry Lanier and 30-year old Raymone Stephens were all arrested with police saying there are federal charges pending on several of the defendants

The investigation is ongoing and authorities expect to make further arrests.

Members of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Marshals Task Force, Illinois State Police Tactical Response Team and Bloomington Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics Team all assisted in this morning's bust.

**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Mayor Mendoza

**Date:** 11/2/2018

**Time:** 2 pm

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

CHICAGO - Republican candidate for State Comptroller, Darlene Senger, said incumbent Democrat Susana Mendoza can't have it both ways.

Senger is calling for Mendoza to drop out of the comptroller's race now that a video has surfaced indicating Mendoza plans on running for Mayor of Chicago next spring.

The recording was first reported Friday by Chicago public radio station WBEZ.

"I'm Susana Mendoza, and I'm running for Mayor of Chicago. I'm asking you to join me on this journey together," the comptroller said.

In a statement, Senger said it's the "height of arrogance and hypocrisy to be running for two offices at the same time."

Senger also called on Democratic House Speaker Michael Madigan and candidate for Governor J.B. Pritzker to tell Mendoza to get out of the race.

A Mendoza spokeswoman said the comptroller is still not sure whether she'll run to replace Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Mendoza's political consultant said she agreed to record the video even though she hadn't made up her mind. The consultant said someone leaked the video.

**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Betsy Election Eve

**Date:** 11/5/2018

**Time:** over night

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - The Democratic candidate trying to unseat Republican Cong. Rodney Davis in the 13th District said she's not ready to back House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's bid to again become Speaker of the House.

Campaigning in Bloomington on the eve of the election, Betsy Dirksen Londrigan said if she's elected and Democrats win a House majority, she'll come back to the district to survey whether constituents think Pelosi should again be chosen as speaker.

"I think that the people in the 13th District would want to weigh in on that. That's a big decision, and I would like to hear what they have to say."

Londrigan worked the phones late Monday afternoon in Downtown Bloomington, joining County Clerk candidate Nikita Richards and Bloomington Mayor Tari Renner in a get-out-the-vote effort.

Londrigan said she feels "strong" as the campaign comes to an end.

"We have left it all on the field," she said.

"We've put all those miles on my car listening to people. They've given me a clear directive about what they expect, and what they're asking me to do. They're asking me to protect their health care. They're asking me to protect their Social Security and Medicare," said Londrigan.

Londrigan expects an unprecedented turnout from college students and other energized young people will lift her over the top.

"I think you're going to see a lot of energy from young people that you haven't seen in the past, because they're ready to return some sanity and humanity to our national discourse and politics," Londrigan said.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Drug Bust update

**Date:** 11/6/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - The U.S. Attorney's office has charged two local men with conspiring to distribute crack cocaine in the Bloomington area, and a former McLean County assistant state's attorney is leading the government's case against the pair.

Raymone Stephens, 30, and 23-year old Khalil Hood, 23, were two of the four men arrested early Friday morning when authorities raided two apartments on East Empire and another on Fairmont Drive.

Stephens and Hood are charged with conspiracy to manufacture and distribute more than 28 grams of crack cocaine, which carry penalties of five to 40 years in prison if they're found guilty. They face 10 years to life in prison if they have one or more prior felony drug convictions.

Leading the government's case is former McLean County First Assistant State's Attorney Adam Ghrist, who became a federal prosecutor in June.

A U.S. magistrate ordered Stephens to remain in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service. A detention hearing for Hood is set for Thursday.

Investigators said they seized about 300 grams of crack and powder cocaine, approximately \$6,900 in suspected drug money, a shotgun, three handguns, and a bullet proof vest.

Federal authorities said the arrests were part of an ongoing investigation by the Bloomington Police Department's Vice Unit and the Drug Enforcement Administration. BPD's SWAT team, the Illinois State Police Tactical Response unit, and the U.S. Marshals Task Force were also involved in the arrests and execution of search warrants.

Two other suspects face charges in McLean County Court.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Drug Homicide Plea

**Date:** 11/9/2018

**Time:** 4 pm

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

A man has pleaded guilty to supplying drugs that caused the death of another man in Bloomington earlier this year.

24-year old Troy McBride of Rantoul pleaded guilty in McLean County Court Friday to a drug-induced homicide charge, alleging McBride sold 41-year old James Dingman controlled substances that caused his death.

In return for McBride's guilty plea, prosecutors dropped a half-dozen drug charges and agreed to cap McBride's sentence to no more than 14 years. McBride will have to serve 75 percent of his sentence.

McLean County Coroner Kathy Davis determined Dingman died in March after ingesting heroin and the powerful painkilling opioid fentanyl (FEN-tuh-null). Authorities found Dingman unresponsive at an apartment in the 22-hundred block of Todd Drive.

McLean County Judge Scott Drazewski (druh-ZESS-kee) scheduled a December 28th sentencing hearing.

**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Dan Brady Reaching Out

**Date:** 11/12/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - Fresh from winning re-election, long-time Republican State Rep. Dan Brady of Bloomington said Monday he's extending the hand of friendship to Democratic Governor-elect J.B. Pritzker.

Brady said he's worked with Democratic governors before and he'll try to do it again.

"I've been able to do things in the 105th District by knowing that I'm in the minority here in Springfield. I'll be further in the minority in Springfield when the new session starts. However, when you get dealt a lemon, you've got to try to make lemonade out of it," Brady said during an appearance on WJBC's Scott Miller Show.

Brady said his participation in a working group dealing with higher education funding shows he's willing to work across the aisle.

The funding formula for Illinois' public universities, including Illinois State University, will be a focus of the working group going into the next General Assembly, according to Brady, who's as Minority Whip holds the number two position among House Republicans.

Brady was re-elected last week, defeating Democrat Benjamin Webb to win the seat representing the 105th District, which includes the eastern portions of Bloomington-Normal, Lexington,

Chenoa, and Fairbury. Brady was also able to fend off a primary challenge from the Republican right last Spring.

Brady said voters picked him because they feel he's approachable, responsive, and a good listener.

**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Another One Joins the Race

**Date:** 11/13/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

**NORMAL** - A Normal Town Council candidate, who announced her candidacy Tuesday, said she wants to be a voice for many who feel they're not adequately represented in local government.

Pat Turner is the sixth candidate in the race for three council seats in next April's municipal election. Turner said she's spent about three decades working in the non-profit sector addressing such issues as food insecurity, homelessness, and senior care. In a news release, Turner said she founded the Center for Hope and Temba food pantries.

Turner is a past recipient of the local Martin Luther King award and was twice nominated for YWCA McLean County Women of Distinction honors.

Incumbent council members R.C. McBride and Kathleen Lorenz are each seeking second terms. They're joined by new council candidates Illinois State University College of Business Professor Karyn Smith, Library Board member Joel Studebaker and Normal Planning Commissioner Dave Shields.

**ISSUE:** Business

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Green Top Reaches Goal

**Date:** 11/13/2018

**Time:** 4:30pm

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - The grocery store cooperative that opened its doors in May of 2017 won't go out of business, and management is optimistic about its future.

Green Top Grocery's 1,900-plus owners reached a little deeper to push the store over the edge and meet the Monday afternoon deadline of raising \$300,000.

Sales started slow for the co-op when the doors opened at 921 E. Washington St., and layoffs at State Farm changed the economic landscape around town.

Co-op leadership announced a turnaround plan earlier this year. It's an eight month strategy expected to streamline operations, show better marketing and greater community outreach. The plan proved to be successful so far as second quarter sales rose 30 percent in three months.

Michael Gorman, Green Top's Board President says he encouraged by the store's current trajectory.

**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Council Second Day

**Date:** 11/14/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - Top brass at Bloomington Police are about to roll out a proposal to provide officers with body-worn cameras.

City Manager Tim Gleason announced Chief Clay Wheeler and two of his assistant chiefs will present a proposal Monday night that's about two years in the making. Council action is expected at the end of the month.

"We're going to have a public discussion, and then we plan on bringing this before council as an agenda item on November 26," said Gleason.

The most recent report to the council on body-worn cameras came in April when former Chief Brendan Heffner said the department had been testing various equipment. Some officers, Heffner said, were hesitant to wear the cameras, but soon understood their importance.

Aldermen are also considering moving Monday night council meetings to Tuesdays. The change might happen the middle of next year. Council member Kimberly Bray supports the idea saying it would give aldermen an extra day to study and question staff about various agenda items that usually aren't available until Thursday or Friday of the previous week.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Deer Poaching Arrest

**Date:** 11/15/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

PEORIA - A prominent Tazewell County hunter, who had his own cable TV show, faces a federal indictment, a hefty fine and possible prison time, for allegedly killing too many deer during a hunt in southern Indiana five years ago.

A grand jury on Thursday indicted Christopher Brackett, 41, of East Peoria. He produced and starred in the show "Fear No Evil" seen on the Outdoor Channel.

In Indiana, hunters with the proper permit can kill one antlered deer each season. Federal authorities charged Brackett with killing two animals in December 2013.

The U.S. Attorney's office said an episode showed Brackett fatally shooting an 11-point deer, which he nicknamed the "Unicorn Buck" and transported the dead animal across the state line to Illinois.

The edited program did not show Brackett allegedly killing a smaller eight-point buck. A day after killing the deer, Brackett allegedly bought a non-resident deer muzzleloader permit and registered the smaller buck, both using his cameraman's name.

Brackett faces fines of up to \$250,000 and up to five years in prison if he's found guilty of either of the two felony charges.

**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Council Filings

**Date:** 11/19/2018

**Time:** 3pm

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

NORMAL - Candidates eyeing council seats in Bloomington and Normal are filing petitions for next April's municipal elections.

Candidates in both communities have until next Monday at 5 p.m. to file petitions with citizens' signatures.

In Bloomington, a lottery will determine ballot positions in Ward 2 because Donna Boelen and Georgene Chissell filed their petitions at the same time Monday morning. They're competing for the seat held by David Sage, who's not running for reelection.

Ward 4 Alderman and local lawyer Amelia Buragas has not announced her intentions as she waits to see if she'll be appointed as an associate judge. Insurance broker Don "Chip" Frank has turned in his petitions for that seat.

In Ward 6, Jenn Carrillo was the first to file. She's challenging incumbent Karen Schmidt, who has yet to turn in her paperwork.

Jeff Crabill is on the ballot in Ward 8. Crabill filed on the same day Josh Barnett pulled out of the race for the seat held by Diana Hauman, who is not seeking reelection.

In Normal, there will be a lottery to determine ballot position among incumbents Kathleen Lorenz and R.C. McBride, and newcomers Stan Nord and Dave Shields. They all filed their petitions Monday morning.

Later in the day, Illinois State University Business Professor Karyn Smith filed her petitions.

There are two other announced candidates who have yet to file their petitions, Pat Turner and Joel Studebaker. The clerk's office said three other people have taken out petitions for the three town council seats up for election next April.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Normal Stabbing

**Date:** 11/24/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

NORMAL - Normal Police say someone stabbed a teenager in the back during a fight at Anderson Park on East College Avenue in Normal.

A police sergeant said the 16-year old boy was alert and talking when Normal rescue crews took him to Advocate BroMenn Medical Center shortly before five o'clock Saturday afternoon.

The boy's condition is not known. He's believed to have suffered a single stab wound to the back, but police don't think his injuries are life threatening.

Detectives were conducting interviews, but there have been no arrests, and investigators have not recovered a weapon.

**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Bloomington Tax Levy

**Date:** 11/25/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - Bloomington aldermen Monday night will review a proposed property tax levy to fund the government next year, and it won't change homeowners' tax bills.

The city intends to collect almost \$20.3 million in property taxes next year with a tax rate of almost \$1.08 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Council members also made good on their pledge not to raise property taxes last year, but fees shot up for various city functions.

Aldermen also cut back on services, including less frequent bulk waste pickup to plug a \$3 million dollar deficit. It's not clear whether the council will consider more fee increases and service cuts when the budget process starts up before year's end.

Aldermen will also consider a levy for the library that would bring in \$4.8 million in property taxes next year. That's unchanged and calls for no tax hike after taxes were raised this year. The owner of a \$165,000 dollar home paid an extra \$4.17 to pay for repairs to the Olive Street library.

The council plans to take final action on the tax levies at its December 17 meeting.

**ISSUE:** Government,Business

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Body Cams and AirBNB

**Date:** 11/27/2018

**Time:** Noon

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - Bloomington is following Normal's lead by charging a six percent tax on patrons who book short-term rentals with Airbnb and similar online services.

Aldermen adopted the tax on a unanimous vote Monday night even though council member Kimberly Bray wanted the ordinance to require safety inspections of rental sites.

Mayor Tari Renner said Airbnb is not opposed to taxing customers at the same rate as competing hotels even as the company wines and dines the nation's mayors.

"They've been very prominent sponsors of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and made sure that they bought us some very, very, very lavish dinners," said Renner.

The council's action comes amid data showing Bloomington-Normal has the lowest hotel occupancy rate in the state.

Aldermen commended city staffers for working closely with Normal on developing the ordinance.

The council also unanimously approved the purchase of body cameras and other electronic equipment for city police officers at a cost of about \$750,000 over five years.

"Much of the academic research that's been done has shown that it has helped to reduce violence against police officers, as well as citizens," Renner said.

The mayor noted body cams also help reduce misunderstandings.

Quoting journalist Dan Rather, Renner said the camera "never blinks."

**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Ward 4 Challenge

**Date:** 12/2/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

City election commissioners are considering a challenge to petitions filed by Ward 4 candidate for alderman Julie Emig.

Amelia Buragas, who's not running for re-election, has thrown her support to Emig.

The challenge was filed by Regina Noland.

Emig, who was administering finals at ISU and not attending the hearing does have an attorney there representing her.

Emig's opponent is Don "Chip" Frank, who also did not attend the hearing.

The commission ruling can be challenged in court.

The panel will hear arguments in the case next Monday.

**ISSUE:** Governemnt

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Normal Levy Adopted

**Date:** 12/3/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

Property owners in Normal will see what the mayor describes as a "very modest" decrease in taxes because there are fewer government employees.

However, Mayor Chris Koos said the town council would like to find the money to hire a communications director, a job that hasn't been filled since Dan Irvin departed in June.

Koos said there's a lot of misinformation going around, especially on social media.

Belt-tightening enabled the council to adopt a levy unchanged from this year, in which the town government will collect almost 13 million dollars in property taxes.

With a projected one percent increase in taxable land values, the owner of a 165-thousand dollar home will pay an estimated seven-dollars-50 cents less on next year's tax bill.

**ISSUE:** Crime,Community

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Normal Bus Update

**Date:** 11/5/2018

**Time:** Overnight

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - A semi apparently going the wrong way on Interstate 74 Wednesday night struck a school bus carrying members of Normal West High School's junior varsity girls basketball team.

A team volunteer on board the bus was killed, as was the driver of the semi, according to Illinois State Police.

The force of the head-on collision, that happened at about 8:30 p.m. in the westbound lanes between Bloomington and Downs, crushed the front end of the bus.

Unit 5 reported the team members did not suffer life-threatening injuries, but a 72-year old team volunteer was killed, as State Police Trooper Tracy Lillard told reporters.

"The family has agreed they would like his name released. His name is Charles Crabtree, age 72, and he's a male from Normal, Illinois. He was a volunteer with the basketball team that was on the school bus," said Trooper Lillard.

State Police said the semi driver, a 34-year old Iowa man, was driving eastbound in the westbound lanes.

Police said eight girls were on the bus. They were heading back from a game at Champaign Central High School.

OSF HealthCare told news partner WMBD-TV that OSF St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington treated four of the students. They were in good condition. Adults who were more seriously hurt were taken to OSF St. Francis Medical in Peoria.

Unit 5 spokesperson Dayna Brown said there's school at Normal West Thursday, but counselors are available to help anybody who might be traumatized by what happened.

"We have a protocol in place where we will have staff here," said Brown.

"We'll have some staff from the school. We'll also have some staff from the district. We have administrators. We'll have extra administrative support, and we'll be sure that everyone is supported in anything they need," Brown also said.

On its Facebook page, the school district said it is "devastated" by Crabtree's death.

"Please keep the Crabtree family and the entire Normal West community in your thoughts," the statement said.

**ISSUE:** Community

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** McSwain Passes

**Date:** 12/8/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - Saturday was declared Rev. Frank McSwain Sr. Remembrance Day in Bloomington, and at a service celebrating McSwain's life, the city's police chief praised the late pastor for his service to others.

Chief Clay Wheeler said McSwain and Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church on West Market Street have touched thousands of lives.

"If BPD called upon a community to help us try to provide a safe atmosphere for children, Rev. McSwain and Mt. Pisgah were there. If we needed services for a family in need, he would provide," said Wheeler.

"Some of us choose to live a life in which we have a purpose greater than to our family or simply ourselves," said Wheeler.

"He touched thousands of lives in this community, and we owe him our gratitude," Wheeler added.

McSwain, 64, died November 29. Mayor Tari Renner is expected to read a proclamation in McSwain's honor at Monday night's city council meeting.

**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Petition Hearing

**Date:** 12/10/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - Bloomington city election commissioners have objected a challenge questioning the validity of nominating petitions filed by a candidate for alderman.

Election commissioners Monday denied the challenge of Regina Noland against Ward 4 alderman candidate Julie Emig.

Noland claimed that three pages of the submitted petitions were left blank and unclear if they were completed in either the State of Illinois or McLean County.

Emig's attorney, Jeff Brown, said the alleged errors are technical issues that don't violate the Election Code.

"The notary seal that is affixed to each page of the petition establishes that the notaries in question are commissioned within the State of Illinois in compliance with the Election Code," said Brown.

Noland, a resident in Ward 4, said all items on petitions should be counted the same.

"Let's say she didn't fill in the addresses next to her name at the top of the petition, is that okay?"

Emig, an Illinois State University professor, faces insurance broker Don "Chip" Frank in Ward 4.

Incumbent Amelia Buragas is not running for a second term and is backing Emig in the race.

**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** BLM Water & Sewer

**Date:** 12/10/2018

**Time:** 3pm

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

**BLOOMINGTON** Bloomington aldermen are offering property owners protection in case their water and sewer bills soar because of infrastructure failures.

The city council voted unanimously Monday night for a voluntary program from Tennessee-based Sunbelt Insurance Group's ServLine plan, which costs \$1.05 per month for water leak protection.

The decision was not unanimous for more expensive insurance covering breakdowns of private property connections to the city's main water and sewer lines, which cost up to \$6.60 per month.

That vote was six-to-two with Aldermen Karen Schmidt and David Sage voting no. Sage is concerned the city is transferring to property owners responsibility for system failures.

"You're asking residents to be responsible for water and sewer lines underground that they have no control over. Whether it's work in the street, or work in the parkway, they have no control over how that work was done," said Sage.

Alderman Amelia Buragas said her constituents in Ward 4, which includes the north central part of the city, want options about how to deal with potential problems.

"Residents, especially in older neighborhoods, are aware of their potential liability," said Buragas.

"I know there have been different ways that the code has been interpreted over the years when it comes to that public right-of-way portion, but no matter what, everyone is still responsible if they have a failure under their own property. This provides another option. Residents want it, Buragas also said.

Property owners can opt out of water leak protection, but they wouldn't be eligible for the pricier coverage.

Alderman Kimberly Bray did not vote because she said her employer, State Farm Insurance, offers a competing policy.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Dover Homicide

**Date:** 12/12/2018

**Time:** 5:30pm

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - Bloomington Police are still seeking additional information following the Twin Cities' 11th homicide victim this year.

On December 5th police were called to the 800 block of West Jefferson Street at about 4:45 in the morning to find 20-year old Egerton (hard G as in egg) Dover, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Dover was enrolled at Heartland Community College and is a 2016 graduate of University High School in Normal.

Anyone with information is asked to contact BPD Detective Steve Fanelli at 309-434-2457 or BPD Detective Jared Roth at 309-434-2379.

To remain anonymous, call McLean County Crime Stoppers at (309) 828-1111.

**ISSUE:** Schools

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Unit 5 Subs

**Date:** 12/13/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

NORMAL - Substitute teachers in Unit 5 are a step closer to receiving their first pay raise in 18 years.

Administrators have come up with a plan to raise pay from the current 80 dollars a day, and also provide financial incentives for subs to work more days. Unit 5 and other districts struggle to overcome a substitute teacher shortage.

"Our goal of course is to have fewer non-covered sub jobs, which means more expense, but in that particular situation, more expense would be a good thing," said Unit 5 Business Manager Marty Hickman.

He is still working on the cost, and how the district will pay for the raises.

The school board is expected to act at the January 16th meeting.

Unit 5 substitutes waged a public battle for a raise starting back in August when long-time substitute Pamela Etcheson addressed the board.

Three more subs spoke out at a September board meeting.

Etcheson said she's pleased at what's been accomplished so far.

Unit 5 Human Resources Director James Harden also pledged twice-monthly paydays instead of one. Harden said subs will be given a district email account, and receive daily notices so they'll feel more like they're a part of the Unit 5 family.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Macon Co. Fatal Crash

**Date:** 12/17/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

MAROA - A single-vehicle crash in rural Maroa Friday night claimed the life of a DeWitt County man.

Macon County Coroner Michael Day said William Shane Peterson, 41, of Kenney was killed in the accident on Washington Street, near Lake Fork Lane, west of Maroa at about 10 p.m.

Authorities said the vehicle Peterson was in was westbound on Washington Street when it left the roadway, hit a culvert and a utility pole before catching fire.

Police said a passing motorist freed a woman from the vehicle. She's believed to be Peterson's wife. An ambulance took her to an area hospital.

Peterson remained trapped inside, and the coroner said he suffered severe head and chest injuries before the vehicle caught fire.

The coroner and Macon County Sheriff's Police are investigating.

**ISSUE:** Government

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Normal Raises

**Date:** 12/17/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

NORMAL - Normal's mayor and council members will receive raises starting two years from now following action at Monday night's town council meeting.

Prominent local business leader Andy Shirk, president of Beer Nuts, spoke in favor of increased pay because he said elected leaders are under-compensated for all the time they spend on the job.

"In my professional opinion, you deserve to work for more than peanuts," said Shirk.

Former council candidate Ron Ulmer spoke out against the pay hikes, saying 12-year term limits would reduce the financial strain on elected and appointed officials

Mayoral hopeful Marc Tiritilli argued the essential parts of the mayor's job can still be done on a part-time basis.

"Things like going to Rivian events on the taxpayers' dollar, marching in other peoples' parades, signing on to declarations to pull us back from the brink of nuclear war, these are not essential to town governance," Tiritilli said.

Council members voted 4-2 to boost the mayor's pay to \$32,000, from the current \$18,000 when Chris Koos' term runs out in 2021.

Future council members will be paid \$6,800, up \$2,000, when they take office in 2021 and 2023.

Kathleen Lorenz, who's running for a second term next year, voted against both proposals because she didn't like the timing.

"Our budget last year wasn't great. I don't know that our budget in the coming year is going to be notably better," said Lorenz.

"I just question whether any raise, even a more reasonable number, is a mission-critical step we need to take this year," she added.

R.C. McBride, who's also up for reelection next year, backed the mayoral raise, but not for council members.

Citing poor "optics" and the "stigma" of approving raises, Councilman Jeff Fritzen suggested smaller pay hikes, but colleagues rejected the idea.

Mayor Koos said he's the on the job almost all the time, taking away from his business. A couple of years ago, he estimated the mayor's job cost him \$45,000. Koos said it's gotten to the point that only wealthy or retired people can do what's become a full-time position.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Casey's Suspect in Court

**Date:** 12/20/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

BLOOMINGTON - A McLean County Judge has set bond at a half-million dollars for the two suspects in a weekend robbery outside Casey's General Store on Fox Creek Road.

Prosecutors filed armed robbery charges against Mary Harris, 29, and Calvin Harris, 31. Mary Harris, who used to work at the store, is also charged with unlawful use of a weapon by a felon.

Bloomington Police said a Casey's employee was in his vehicle when one of the robbers pointed a gun at him and made off with more than \$5,000.

Both defendants have to post a \$50,035 cash bond to be released from jail while awaiting trial.

Their next court date is January 4.

**ISSUE:** Crime

**HOW ISSUE WAS TREATED:** News story

**TITLE:** Normal Home Invasion

**Date:** 12/22/2018

**Time:** 5am

**Duration:** Story ran 12 hours

**NORMAL** - Normal Police are investigating a Friday night home invasion that happened in an apartment complex in the 2000 block of North Linden Avenue.

A woman told police she returned home about 9 p.m. to find an intruder inside wearing a gray hoodie and dark pants.

Police say there was a brief struggle, but she escaped, and was not seriously hurt.

Anyone with information is asked to call Normal Police Detective Bradley Underwood at 454-9535.