



Smart glasses may be recording you

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Rockford Register Star

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Response to Lena tornado earns praise



Kyle Johnson of Lena captured this image after the April 17 storm swept through town. The National Weather Service confirmed April 18 that the village had been struck by a tornado. PROVIDED BY KYLE JOHNSON

First responders, schools, students recognized for making sure no one was hurt

Jeff Kolkey Rockford Register Star | USA TODAY NETWORK

Stephenson County officials are praising the efforts of first responders, school leaders and volunteers for their response to the April 17 tornado that ripped through Lena. • During an April 20 news conference, those managing cleanup and recovery credited students, teachers and staff for their roles in making sure no one got hurt. The Lena tornado, which was later classified as an EF2, caused significant and widespread property damage, but no injuries.

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‘HR is what’s been missing’

AI explosion met with debate over regulation in Illinois

Jenna Schweikert
Capitol News Illinois

As the artificial intelligence industry rapidly expands, state legislators appear poised to continue imposing regulations on the technology.

Committees in both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly have heard bills that would implement various restrictions and give recommendations on the use of AI in state government and certain industries. The state already has some laws in place, but legislators raised concerns about the harm AI may still be causing consumers.

On April 9 and 10, the Senate held two virtual subject matter hearings on nearly 50 bills about AI and consumer protection, privacy, education and data centers.

Sen. Mary Edly-Allen, D-Libertyville, pointed to social media as an example of what happens when government does not place guardrails on new technology.

“If we got social media wrong, and we did, we cannot afford to get AI wrong,” Edly-Allen said. “Will we act on the lessons we have already learned?”

Industry stakeholders recommended lawmakers let the federal government take control of regulating AI, while acknowledging concerns about its impact. The president, however, declared via executive order in

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Digging this April? Illinois officials say call 811 first

Nida Tazeen
Rockford Register Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Illinois residents are encouraged to call 811 before starting any digging projects.

The practice, which is free, helps prevent damage to underground utility

lines, according to a community announcement.

“Before a shovel hits the dirt, call 811 to have utility lines marked. Hitting utility lines can cause service outages and even lead to injury or death. Stay safe and remember there’s no project too small for a call to 811,” said Doug Scott, Chairman of the Illinois Commerce

Commission.

Illinois law requires homeowners and professional excavators to call Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (JULIE) at 811 at least three business days before digging. Projects must begin within 10 working days of the call, and locate requests have a 25-day life span, according to the announcement.

Illinois

The State One-Call Centers, managed by JULIE and DIGGER within the city of Chicago, operate 24 hours a day to prevent contractors, gardeners and do-it-yourselfers from hitting utility lines while

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