

# ARTS AND CULTURE



---

## Local News

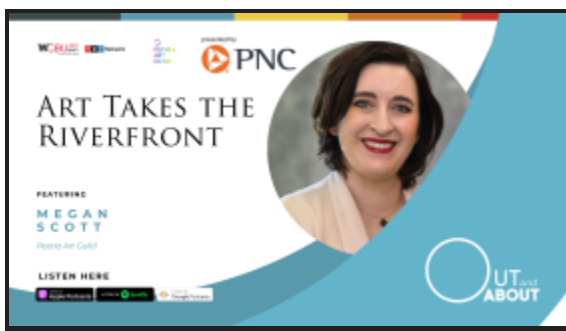
### Photo exhibit explores Peoria's 'forgotten sculptor' Joseph Petarde

Mae Gilliland Wright

, September 24, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Elizabeth Klise, executive director of the Peoria Historical Society, about a new exhibition entitled "Joseph Petarde: Maestro of Stone," on view Oct. 1-28 at Peoria Public Library's Main Library.

**Listen • 4:30**



---

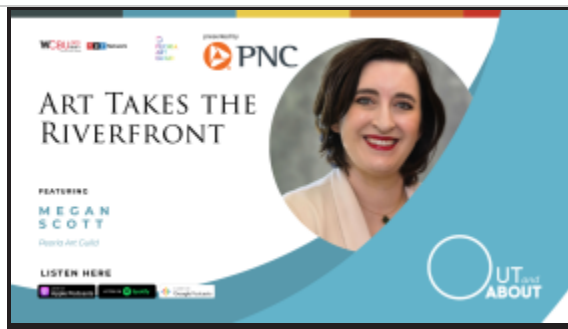
### 64th annual Fine Art Fair returns Sept. 26 and 27 to the Peoria Riverfront

Mae Gilliland Wright

, September 17, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Megan Scott, executive director of the Peoria Art Guild, about the 64th annual Fine Art Fair, returning Sept. 26 and 27 to the Peoria Riverfront. More than 100 artists from 13 states and three countries will showcase painting, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, printmaking, glass, and more, alongside local emerging artists.

**Listen • 4:30**



---

## Local News

# 64th annual Fine Art Fair returns Sept. 26 and 27 to the Peoria Riverfront

Mae Gilliland Wright

, September 17, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Megan Scott, executive director of the Peoria Art Guild, about the 64th annual Fine Art Fair, returning Sept. 26 and 27 to the Peoria Riverfront. More than 100 artists from 13 states and three countries will showcase painting, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, printmaking, glass, and more, alongside local emerging artists.

**Listen • 4:30**

---



---

## Pekin Marigold Festival taking place Sept. 9-13 at Mineral Springs Park

Mae Gilliland Wright

, September 10, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Amy McCoy, executive director of the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce, about the 2026 Pekin Marigold Festival, taking place Sept. 9 through the 13. The event began as an art show over half a century ago, and today Art in the Park continues that creative tradition with more than 230 vendors offering handmade and homemade work ranging from painting and writing to woodworking and other crafts.

**Listen • 4:30**



---

Local News

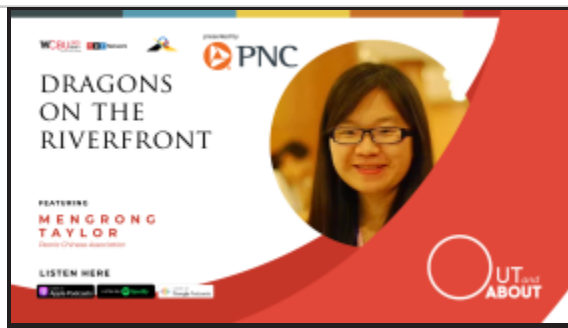
## Pekin Marigold Festival taking place Sept. 9-13 at Mineral Springs Park

Mae Gilliland Wright

, September 10, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Amy McCoy, executive director of the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce, about the 2026 Pekin Marigold Festival, taking place Sept. 9 through the 13. The event began as an art show over half a century ago, and today Art in the Park continues that creative tradition with more than 230 vendors offering handmade and homemade work ranging from painting and writing to woodworking and other crafts.

**Listen • 4:30**



---

## Peoria Dragon Boat Race coming to the Peoria Riverfront Sept. 13

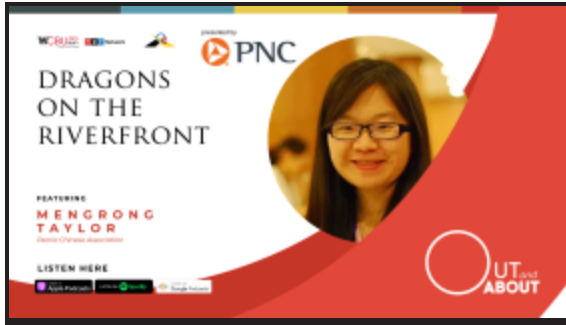
[Mae Gilliland Wright](#)

, September 3, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Mengrong Taylor, chair of the Peoria Chinese Association, about the Peoria Dragon Boat Race on Sept. 13 at the Peoria Riverfront. The celebration offers visitors a chance to experience Chinese traditions while exploring the connections between art, culture, teamwork and community.

**Listen • 4:30**

---



---

## Local News

# Peoria Dragon Boat Race coming to the Peoria Riverfront Sept. 13

Mae Gilliland Wright

, September 3, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Mengrong Taylor, chair of the Peoria Chinese Association, about the Peoria Dragon Boat Race on Sept. 13 at the Peoria Riverfront. The celebration offers visitors a chance to experience Chinese traditions while exploring the connections between art, culture, teamwork and community.

**Listen • 4:30**



---

# Peoria Area Repair Café coming to River City Labs Sept. 12

Mae Gilliland Wright

, August 27, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Jennifer Brady, co-founder of the Peoria Area Repair Café, about its next free event on Sept. 12 at River City Labs.

**Listen • 4:30**



---

#### Local News

## Peoria Area Repair Café coming to River City Labs Sept. 12

Mae Gilliland Wright

, August 27, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Jennifer Brady, co-founder of the Peoria Area Repair Café, about its next free event on Sept. 12 at River City Labs.

**Listen • 4:30**



---

## Heartland Festival Orchestra opens new season Sept. 11 in Washington

[Mae Gilliland Wright](#)

, August 20, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with David Commanday, artistic director and conductor of the Heartland Festival Orchestra, about the HFO's upcoming season, opening Sept. 11 at Crossroads Global Methodist Church in Washington.

**Listen • 4:30**



**Local News**

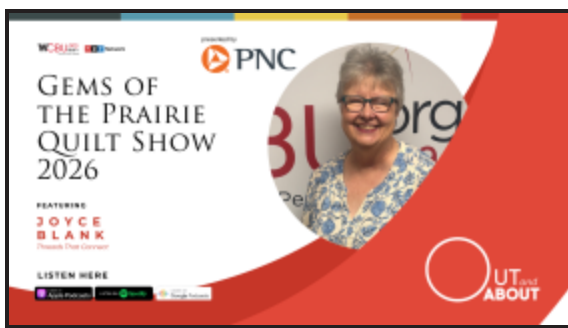
## Heartland Festival Orchestra opens new season Sept. 11 in Washington

[Mae Gilliland Wright](#)

, August 20, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with David Commanday, artistic director and conductor of the Heartland Festival Orchestra, about the HFO's upcoming season, opening Sept. 11 at Crossroads Global Methodist Church in Washington.

**Listen • 4:30**



---

## Gems of the Prairie Quilters present annual quilt show Aug. 22 and 23

Mae Gilliland Wright

, August 13, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Joyce Blank of Gems of the Prairie Quilters about the group's annual quilt show, taking place Aug. 22 and 23 at the Life Together Center in Peoria.

**Listen • 4:30**



---

Local News

## Gems of the Prairie Quilters present annual quilt show Aug. 22 and 23

Mae Gilliland Wright

, August 13, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Joyce Blank of Gems of the Prairie Quilters about the group's

annual quilt show, taking place Aug. 22 and 23 at the Life Together Center in Peoria. Visitors can explore more than 300 quilts created by local quilters, along with demonstrations, vendors, a traditional bed turning and special Quilts of Valor presentations.

**Listen • 4:30**



## For What It's Worth: A Tribute to Stephen Stills in Song & Story, coming Aug. 22

Mae Gilliland Wright

, August 6, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Barry Cloyd about For What It's Worth: A Tribute to Stephen Stills in Song & Story, coming Aug. 22 to the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria. Blending live music with storytelling, the multimedia performance traces Stills' career through Buffalo Springfield, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young and his solo work.

**Listen • 4:30**



---

## Local News

# For What It's Worth: A Tribute to Stephen Stills in Song & Story, coming Aug. 22

Mae Gilliland Wright

, August 6, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Barry Cloyd about For What It's Worth: A Tribute to Stephen Stills in Song & Story, coming Aug. 22 to the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria. Blending live music with storytelling, the multimedia performance traces Stills' career through Buffalo Springfield, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young and his solo work.

Listen • 4:30



---

## Annual Summer Festa Picnic coming to Hickory Grove Park

[Mae Gilliland Wright](#)

, July 30, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Rhonda Ossola Parker of the Italian American Society about the annual Summer Festa Picnic on Aug. 9 at Hickory Grove Park. Celebrating its 95th year, the family-friendly event features authentic Italian food, live music, artisan vendors, bocce, spaghetti-eating contests and a special tribute to the 100th anniversary of Agatucci's Restaurant.

**Listen • 4:30**



---

**Local News**

## Annual Summer Festa Picnic coming to Hickory Grove Park

[Mae Gilliland Wright](#)

, July 30, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Rhonda Ossola Parker of the Italian American Society about the annual Summer Festa Picnic on Aug. 9 at Hickory Grove Park.

**Listen • 4:30**

---



---

## Chillicothe Players Theatre presents 'The Great Gatsby'

Mae Gilliland Wright

, July 23, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Roseanne Urbanc of Chillicothe Players Theatre about their upcoming production of "The Great Gatsby."

**Listen • 4:30**



---

Local News

## Chillicothe Players Theatre presents The Great Gatsby

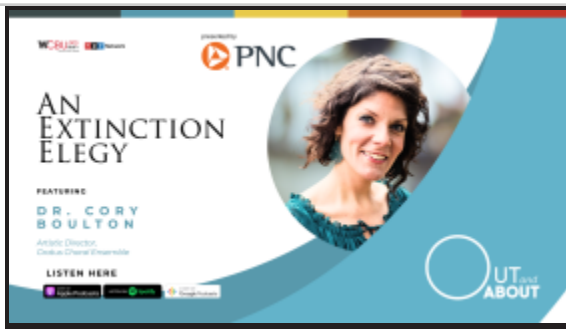
Mae Gilliland Wright

, July 23, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Roseanne Urbanc of Chillicothe Players Theatre about their upcoming production of The Great Gatsby. Running Aug. 6-9 at Shore Acres

Clubhouse, the production combines the glamour of the Roaring Twenties with an immersive theater experience, inviting audiences to dress in 1920s attire and become part of Gatsby's world. The adaptation explores timeless themes of ambition, love, friendship and the pursuit of the American Dream.

**Listen • 4:30**



## Gratus Choral Ensemble presents The Lost Birds

Mae Gilliland Wright

, July 16, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Cory Boulton of Bradley University about The Lost Birds, a powerful choral work presented by the Gratus Choral Ensemble on July 26 at First Federated Church at 4 p.m.

**Listen • 4:30**



Local News

# Gratus Choral Ensemble presents The Lost Birds

Mae Gilliland Wright

, July 16, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Cory Boulton of Bradley University about The Lost Birds, a powerful choral work presented by the Gratus Choral Ensemble on July 26 at First Federated Church at 4 p.m.

**Listen • 4:30**



---

# Heartland Latin Dancers present Latin Dance Night at Casa de Arte

Mae Gilliland Wright

, July 9, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Salil Bavdekar of Heartland Latin Dancers about Latin Dance Night at Casa de Arte, located in Peoria's Warehouse District. Held on the last Saturday of every month, the evening features a beginner-friendly dance lesson followed by an outdoor social dance where no partner or experience is required.

**Listen • 4:30**

---



## Local News

# Heartland Latin Dancers present Latin Dance Night at Casa de Arte

Mae Gilliland Wright

, July 9, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Salil Bavdekar of Heartland Latin Dancers about Latin Dance Night at Casa de Arte, located in Peoria's Warehouse District. Held on the last Saturday of every month, the evening features a beginner-friendly dance lesson followed by an outdoor social dance where no partner or experience is required. Bavdekar says the goal is to help people build friendships while learning something new: "Anyone can learn it as long as you want to just come out there and have fun."

Listen • 4:30



# River City Pride Festival adds Artist Row for July 18 event

[Mae Gilliland Wright](#)

, July 2, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Jake Bowers of Peoria Proud about this year's River City Pride Festival on July 18 at the Peoria RiverFront. The free festival features live entertainment, community organizations, interactive art, food vendors, educational programming and a new Artist Row showcasing local creatives.

**Listen • 4:30**



[Local News](#)

## River City Pride Festival adds Artist Row for July 18 event

[Mae Gilliland Wright](#)

, July 2, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Jake Bowers of Peoria Proud about this year's River City Pride Festival on July 18 at the Peoria RiverFront.

**Listen • 4:30**

---

## Economy and Business



---

## State News

# 'War on 74' rivalry becomes official competition with Country Financial backing

Braden Fogerson

, September 30, 2026

The "War on 74" series will conclude each year with a traveling Rivalry Series trophy being presented to the school that scores the most points throughout the year in competitions against their rival.



---

## Local News

# Caterpillar showcases how technology can make jobsites safer, more efficient

Joe Deacon

, September 30, 2026

Artificial intelligence, remote operation and advanced safety systems are among the technological advancements Caterpillar is working to incorporate into its construction and mining equipment.

---



---

Local News

## New cameras will improve security at Pekin downtown pocket parks

Steve Stein

, September 30, 2026

Pekin's two downtown pocket parks are getting stronger security with the purchase and installation of a security-grade camera at each location for about \$10,000.



---

Local News

## Pekin awards 3 businesses TIF commercial improvement grants

Steve Stein

, September 29, 2026

Three businesses were awarded TIF grants totaling \$104,000 from the city of Pekin that will help pay for renovations to their buildings. The grants were approved Monday by the Pekin City Council.



Local News

## Bradley University touts new student growth as total enrollment slips

Joe Deacon

, September 24, 2026

New student enrollment is on the rise at Bradley University, although overall enrollment has fallen just below 4,000 for the first time in at least 36 years.



Local News

## Upon further review, Washington sports bar will receive city grant

Steve Stein

, September 24, 2026

A Washington bar will receive a \$34,000 grant from the city to help pay for a project to replace its doors and renovate its parking lot.



---

#### Local News

## Developers add more apartments to mixed-use Warehouse District project

Joe Deacon

, September 23, 2026

Adjusted plans for a \$5.9 million mixed-use development in Peoria's Warehouse District will nearly triple the number of residential units while reducing the amount of commercial space.



---

#### Local News

# Washington approves Business Development District, with quarter-percent sales tax increase

Steve Stein

, September 22, 2026

Washington is establishing a Business Development District. The City Council has approved the district, which runs along Washington Road from Washington Plaza to Wilmor Road.



---

Local News

## Money matters to Peoria County Treasurer candidates

Steve Stein

, September 22, 2026

Peoria County Treasurer Branden Martin was appointed to the job last year, replacing Nicole Bjerke. Now the Republican is running for the post in the November election against Democrat Randy Stevens.

---



---

#### Local News

## Urich defends Peoria's use of Flock cameras, justifies West Main TIF District

Joe Deacon

, September 17, 2026

In his latest regular interview with WCBU, Peoria City Manager Patrick Ulrich said the city hasn't given any thought to changing its policy regarding the police department's use of Flock Safety cameras.

**Listen • 7:24**



---

#### State News

## Former Lincoln College campus to become a business incubator with \$1 leases on offer

Lauren Warnecke

, September 16, 2026

An investor purchased the property with the intention to offer businesses \$1 leases. Nonprofits looking to expand can operate from one of five campus buildings for free.

---



---

Local News

## **Pekin building owner turns down \$50K commercial building grant**

Steve Stein

, September 16, 2026

An applicant who was approved by the Pekin City Council for a \$50,000 commercial building improvement grant has turned down the money because it wasn't sufficient for a project.

---



---

Local News

## **ICC receives \$3M state grant to bolster manufacturing training programs**

Joe Deacon

, September 15, 2026

A \$3 million state capital grant will allow Illinois Central College to upgrade lab and classroom space used for manufacturing training.

---



---

Local News

## Washington, shopping center reach compromise on \$50K grant

Steve Stein

, September 11, 2026

The owners of the Cherry Tree Plaza shopping center will get their \$50,000 Washington business property improvement grant in equal installments if they meet the city's requirements.

---



---

Local News

## Tazewell County takes first step toward declaring a data center moratorium

Steve Stein

, September 10, 2026

Tazewell County may soon join the list of area counties and communities with a moratorium on data center proposals. The county board's land use committee has recommended a nine-month moratorium.



---

Local News

## Advocates for Tourism Improvement District make their pitch to Peoria City Council

Joe Deacon

, September 10, 2026

A group of 12 hotel owners in Peoria want the city to become one of the first Illinois communities outside of Chicago to establish a Tourism Improvement District.



---

Local News

## OSF HealthCare gets \$2M federal earmark for dental sedation clinic

Joe Deacon

, September 9, 2026

Patients in Central Illinois will have improved access to oral surgery through a planned renovation and expansion of services at OSF HealthCare's dental clinic at the Saint Francis Medical Center campus in Peoria.



---

Local News

## Washington Plaza revival efforts would benefit from city's first Business Development District

Steve Stein

, September 9, 2026

Washington's push to revive Washington Plaza is likely getting a monetary shot in the arm. The city council has given its initial approval to establish the city's first Business Development District.

---



---

Local News

## Peoria approves West Main TIF district, with opposition from council member where it's located

Joe Deacon

, September 9, 2026

An assessment of the West Main TIF district projects the generation of nearly \$55 million in cumulative tax increment over the 23-year life of the TIF, with anticipated private investment of \$82.7 million.



---

Local News

## Rep. LaHood says mail-in voting will not be disrupted; Trump should work on affordability

Ben Howell, Joe Deacon

, September 8, 2026

U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood spoke to WCBU during a stop in Peoria to announce federal appropriation money for an industrial park in the city. He gave his thoughts on current events including the federal deficit, mail-in voting and data centers.

**Listen • 7:25**



---

#### State News

## Pritzker defends Logan prison closure; pumps 5-year plan to attract new business to Lincoln

Lauren Warnecke

, September 8, 2026

During a media appearance Tuesday in Bloomington, Pritzker said he's the most pro-economic development governor since Jim Thompson, who left office in 1991. He plans to work with Logan County officials to address state properties where industry has left, including the pending closure of Logan Correctional Center.

---



---

#### Local News

## With Logan Correctional Center set to close, Lincoln mayor urges state to not leave another mess

Lauren Warnecke

, September 8, 2026

Mayor Tracy Welch wants to see the women's prison site remediated, unlike what happened two decades ago at the 100-acre Lincoln Developmental Center site. It's part of the City of Lincoln's multi-pronged strategy boosting economic development in the Logan County seat.

**Listen • 4:30**



---

#### Local News

## Peoria, Peoria County get \$600K for Galena Road Industrial Park development

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 4, 2026

Plans to develop a \$40 million industrial park along Galena Road on Peoria's northeast side received another financial boost.



**Local News**

## East Peoria moves ahead with \$2.6M final phase to install turf ball fields

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 2, 2026

The last two grass-and-dirt diamonds at the EastSide Centre sports complex in East Peoria will be converted to synthetic turf.



**Local News**

## Analyst sees gas prices trending toward a record Labor Day high

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 2, 2026

As a three-day holiday weekend and corresponding increased travel approaches, drivers could be in store for a pricey Labor Day at the gas pump.

---



---

Local News

## Museum puts record \$5M gift toward student access initiative

Joe Deacon

, August 27, 2026

The largest individual philanthropic donation in the history of the Peoria Riverfront Museum will extend a long-running initiative offering free admission to students, teachers and families across the Tri-County area.

---



Local News

## Damaged crossing signals near Pekin High School to be repaired

Steve Stein

, August 27, 2026

Malfunctioning pedestrian crossing signals at an intersection next to Pekin High School will be repaired after a lightning strike damaged the signs over the summer.



---

#### Local News

## Peoria District 150 tabs accountants to finish audits, looks to pass budget next month

Joe Deacon

, August 25, 2026

Accountants with a national financial consulting firm will help Peoria Public Schools District 150 complete a two-year backlog of audits, with the district on track to adopt its annual budget by the end of next month.



---

#### Local News

# Global firm applies to develop wind farm in Peoria County

Joe Deacon

, August 24, 2026

Repsol Renewables has applied for a special use allowance for its Four Creeks Wind Project, seeking to install approximately 113 turbines across an area north of Brimfield and west of Princeville, extending to the Knox and Stark county lines.



---

Local News

## East Peoria Mayor John Kahl announces reelection bid

Joe Deacon

, August 24, 2026

East Peoria Mayor John Kahl announced he will run for a third four-year term in a social media post, saying that holding the office "has been one of the greatest honors of my life."



Local News

## Sept. 11 hero coming to Washington to speak at annual remembrance ceremony

Steve Stein

, August 20, 2026

The City of Washington has awarded a \$2,500 tourism grant to the committee that's organizing this year's Sept. 11 Remembrance Ceremony. The grant will help offset the cost of bringing in the guest speaker.



---

Local News

## East Peoria adopts updated floodplain, vows to continue appeals to FEMA

Joe Deacon

, August 19, 2026

Two weeks after members expressed reluctance and frustration, the East Peoria City Council voted unanimously in adopting new flood maps in accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's update for Tazewell County.

---



---

Local News

## Rep. Sorensen discusses clean energy careers, minority business needs during Peoria stop

Joe Deacon

, August 18, 2026

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen returned to Peoria for the second time in less than a week Tuesday, speaking to a clean energy workforce training class and talking with budding entrepreneurs at the Minority Business Development Center.



---

Local News

## Washington revives discussion over chopped down Cherry Tree Plaza improvement grant request

Steve Stein

, August 18, 2026

A commercial building improvement grant of more than \$45,000 for the Cherry Tree Plaza shopping center in Washington is back on the table, after the city council previously rejected the request.

---



---

#### Local News

## Mayor Ali views Phoenix Manor project as another key piece to revitalizing Peoria's South Side

Joe Deacon

, August 18, 2026

Peoria Mayor Rita Ali remains steadfast in her belief that the planned Phoenix Manor permanent supportive housing development on the South Side ultimately will benefit the neighborhood.

**Listen • 7:30**



---

#### Local News

# Update to Peoria's nuisance enforcement remains under consideration

Joe Deacon

, August 14, 2026

The City of Peoria continues to look at strengthening its enforcement targeting chronic nuisance properties. But a proposal championed by city council member Denise Jackson that would require around the clock staffing at large apartment complexes failed to advance.



Local News

## Rep. Sorensen participates in Peoria panel to discuss affordability concerns

Joe Deacon

, August 13, 2026

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen said he and his colleagues in Washington should do more to manage the rising costs hitting American households.

---



---

Local News

## Two stop signs will be added to downtown Pekin intersection to improve safety

Steve Stein

, August 13, 2026

A potentially dangerous intersection in downtown Pekin soon will be converted into a four-way stop to make it safer.



---

Local News

## Tazewell County committee recommends removing agricultural land from possible data center sites

Steve Stein

, August 12, 2026

If a data center is built in Tazewell County, it must be in an industrial area. That was the key takeaway from the Tazewell County Board land use committee's initial dive into a data center ordinance.

---



---

#### Local News

## Peoria City Council gives initial OK to South Side supportive housing complex

Joe Deacon

, August 12, 2026

The Peoria City Council has given initial approval for a \$29 million permanent supportive housing complex for homeless families on the city's South Side. Mayor Rita Ali said the Phoenix Manor development is a key step toward revitalizing the area.

---



---

#### Local News

## Bradley University announces launch of 2 technology majors

[Joe Deacon](#)

, August 11, 2026

Bradley University announced Tuesday that the Artificial Intelligence and Data Science major programs within the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems are currently accepting students.

---



---

**Local News**

## **Jamonica Rolle looks to build on foundation, community ties as new Illinois Central College president**

[Joe Deacon](#)

, August 10, 2026

Fall classes at Illinois Central College begin next week, and new president Jamonica Rolle says it's a moment she's been waiting for since starting her position in July. In an extended interview, Rolle details what attracted her to ICC.

**Listen • 7:30**



Local News

## State awards funding to review site for planned Galena Road industrial park

Joe Deacon

, August 10, 2026

A planned \$40 million industrial park along Galena Road in Peoria is getting some state funding to move the project forward.

---



Local News

## East Peoria leaders express reluctance before initial approval of updated FEMA floodplain maps

Joe Deacon

, August 7, 2026

East Peoria leaders are moving ahead begrudgingly toward accepting new floodplain maps presented by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

---



---

#### Local News

## Apartment complex for homeless people on Peoria's South Side advances; community voices objections

Joe Deacon

, August 7, 2026

A proposed 48-unit apartment complex at the site of the former Harrison School on Peoria's South Side would assist families transitioning out of homelessness, but residents who live in the vicinity feel the location is not the right place for such a development.



---

#### Local News

## Will Washington be the next area community with a Business Development District?

Steve Stein

, August 5, 2026

Washington plans to join the crowd when it comes to creating a Business Development District. Several area towns including East Peoria, Morton and Pekin have the economic development tool in place.

---



---

#### Local News

## East Peoria approves farming lease for new city property, salary increase for mayor's position

Joe Deacon

, August 5, 2026

East Peoria is going to keep most of its recently purchased property on the north side as an operating farm for at least the next year.

---



#### Local News

# Taking a look at Caterpillar's \$10M pledge to bolster Illinois' manufacturing workforce

Joe Deacon

, August 5, 2026

Caterpillar is making a \$10 million workforce development pledge to boost manufacturing careers in Illinois, as part of a broader five-year, \$100 million “Building the Future Workforce Initiative” global commitment the company launched in 2025.

Listen • 7:30



---

Local News

## Washington City Council denies grants for bar, shopping center

Steve Stein

, August 4, 2026

The Washington City Council has turned down commercial building and property improvement grant requests from Kep's Sports Bar & Grill and Cherry Tree Plaza.

---



---

Local News

## Peoria area sees surge in home sales during second quarter

Joe Deacon

, August 4, 2026

The second three months of 2026 produced a sizeable spike in home sales across the Greater Peoria market.



---

Local News

## Peoria Civic Center promotes Sutherland to general manager

Joe Deacon

, August 4, 2026

Beau Sutherland has been named general manager of the Peoria Civic Center after filling the role in an interim capacity for the past two months.

---



---

Local News

## Tazewell County shuts down proposed Mackinaw Township community solar farm

Steve Stein

, August 3, 2026

The Tazewell County Board voted 17-2 to reject a request for a special use for a five-megawatt solar farm proposed in Mackinaw Township.

---



---

Local News

## Peoria considers plans to establish a tourism improvement district

Joe Deacon

, July 30, 2026

An initiative to create a taxing district aimed at boosting tourism and hotel stays in Peoria took a step forward this week. The proposal would impose a 1.5% tax

on short-term hotel room rentals, with the proceeds used to support marketing and other programs aimed at attracting out-of-town visitors.

---



Local News

## Peoria's architecture changed when Caterpillar didn't build its new headquarters Downtown

Molly Hughes

, July 29, 2026

Architectural historian Tim Hartneck, who volunteers for the Peoria Historical Society and maintains the Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation's architectural archive, said the Caterpillar era is what put modern day Peoria on the map.

**Listen • 7:30**



Local News

# Peoria's new optimized buildings, and the science of why they feel the way they do

Molly Hughes

, July 29, 2026

The buildings going up now belong to a style that has spread across mid-sized cities in the country — efficient, functional and from nowhere in particular.

---



---

Local News

## Pekin library sees visits climbing, issues with homeless patrons declining

Steve Stein

, July 29, 2026

Pekin Public Library Director Jeff Brooks had good news to convey to city leaders in the library's annual report: Patron visits are climbing and steps to improve safety have been successful.

---



---

#### Local News

## Peoria greenlights \$7.3M renovation of Main Street storefronts, agrees to sell nearby parking lot to developers

Joe Deacon

, July 29, 2026

A nearly \$7.3 million redevelopment project along the 500 block of Main Street in Downtown Peoria calls for three street-level eateries and a boutique hotel on the second floor.



---

#### Local News

## Pekin, CityLink still on the road to renewing their agreement for public bus service

Steve Stein

, July 28, 2026

Pekin isn't quite ready to renew its agreement with CityLink. After about a half-hour of discussion Monday with CityLink officials, the Pekin City Council tabled a vote on the agreement until Oct. 26.

---



---

#### Local News

## Price of gas in Peoria area climbs as fuel markets remain volatile

Joe Deacon

, July 27, 2026

The price for a gallon of gas in Greater Peoria is back above \$4.20 as volatility in the global oil market continues, stemming from the war with Iran.

---



---

#### Local News

## Bradley, Millikin universities announce MBA direct admission partnership

Joe Deacon

, July 27, 2026

Bradley University business students have an opportunity to secure a postgraduate degree through a new admission partnership with Millikin University in Decatur.

---



---

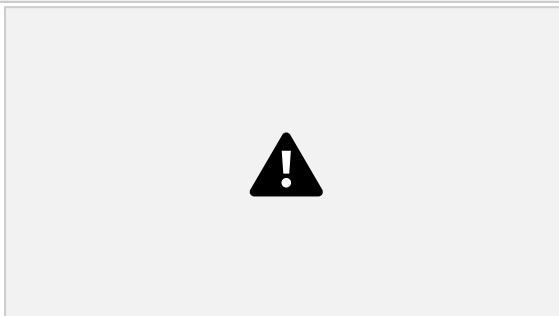
#### Local News

## New string lights enhance a block of Peoria's Warehouse District

Joe Deacon

, July 24, 2026

Visitors to a section of Peoria's Warehouse District will find things a touch brighter now. Twelve strands of string lights spanning the 800 block of SW Adams Street are in place and functional, completing a placemaking collaboration.



---

#### State News

## These 9 Illinois communities say they're interested in new nuclear facilities

[Maggie Dougherty](#)

, July 24, 2026

The state lifted its moratorium on new nuclear facilities, but development could still be decades away

---



---

**Local News**

## East Peoria gives final OK for purchase of farm property

[Joe Deacon](#)

, July 23, 2026

East Peoria is growing in size by an additional 272 acres, at a cost of \$5.25 million. The city council unanimously voted for final approval to purchase the Keil & Blye Farm property between Centennial Drive, Grange Road and U.S. 24.

---



---

**Local News**

# Decades-old oversight at Lincoln Grade School site in Washington will be corrected

Steve Stein

, July 23, 2026

The recent sale of Lincoln Grade School to the Washington Park District revealed an oversight. Platted streets and alleys on city-owned right-of-way were dedicated to Washington Grade School District 52, but never vacated.



---

Local News

## Rand retiring as head of Advanced Medical Transport; Baker named incoming CEO

Joe Deacon

, July 22, 2026

Advanced Medical Transport will have its first new leader in 35 years by the end of this year. Andrew Rand is retiring as the Peoria-based nonprofit emergency medical service's CEO, with current Chief Operating Officer Todd Baker set to take over Rand's role.

---



---

#### Local News

## Washington reimburses restaurant neighbor more than \$100K for issues caused by developer

Steve Stein

, July 21, 2026

The City of Washington has stepped in for a second time to resolve disputes between the developer of a downtown square restaurant and an adjacent neighbor. This time, it was sculptor Marlene Miller.



---

#### Local News

## Morton Industries expands to East Peoria manufacturing facility in support of data center market

Joe Deacon

, July 20, 2026

Morton Industries is expanding its operations in the Greater Peoria region with the addition of an 80,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in East Peoria. The company said the site will be dedicated to stainless steel production for the growing data center market.



Local News

## Peoria council vote on Twin Towers funding plan targeted for late September

Joe Deacon

, July 16, 2026

In late April, the Peoria City Council approved an ordinance formally proposing the Twin Towers Place Special Service Area. Tower residents petitioned the city to create the SSA to generate the estimated \$2.5 million needed for repairs and renovations.



Local News

# Jackson plans community forum to discuss state of Peoria's 1st District

Joe Deacon

, July 15, 2026

Peoria City Council member Denise Jackson said the South Side is facing a “critical juncture” in pursuing stability, revitalization and economic progress.



---

Local News

## Pekin wants answers from CityLink before considering contract renewal

Steve Stein

, July 15, 2026

Pekin has put the brakes on renewing its annual contract with CityLink until several questions are answered. The city council and CityLink representatives will talk at the council's July 27 meeting.



---

Local News

# Advanced Medical Transport, Peoria police planning shared north side location

Joe Deacon

, July 15, 2026

A planned Advanced Medical Transport ambulance station on Peoria's north side is expected to double as the site of a new Peoria Police Department substation.



---

Local News

## Peoria city manager expresses frustration over ongoing issues with Downtown Riverview Plaza

Joe Deacon

, July 14, 2026

The Riverview Plaza tower in Downtown Peoria has been shuttered for more than two years, as the city pushes the building owner to fix the fire suppression, sprinkler and electrical systems. City Manager Patrick Urich said Peoria is doing everything within its power to see the building brought into code compliance.

**Listen • 7:18**

---



---

Local News

## Bradley University announces plans to upgrade prominent residence hall

Joe Deacon

, July 13, 2026

A complete modernization of Harper Hall stands as the centerpiece of Bradley University's \$25 million investment in improving residential accommodations and student life.



---

Local News

## Were the Pop-Up Chicken Shop firings legal?

Molly Hughes

, July 9, 2026

Five employees of Pop-Up Chicken Shop lost their jobs on the Fourth of July after telling owner Aaron Francis they wouldn't work without the time-and-a-half listed in the company's employee handbook.

Listen • 4:18



---

Local News

## East Peoria mayor discusses long-range plans, city growth and keeping the casino

Joe Deacon

, July 9, 2026

In the resumption of a quarterly interview series, East Peoria Mayor John Kahl says optimizing city growth is a key component of the 20-year comprehensive plan adopted in January.

Listen • 7:30



---

Local News

# East Peoria spends \$5.2M on farmland with eye toward residential development

Joe Deacon

, July 8, 2026

East Peoria city leaders have agreed to spend \$5.2 million for more than 270 acres of undeveloped farmland near the city's northeast side in hopes of future residential growth.



---

Local News

## Digital billboard at Washington Plaza, new church may be coming to Washington

Steve Stein

, July 8, 2026

Proposals to add a digital billboard to the Washington Plaza shopping center sign and bring a new church to Washington each cleared a hurdle at this week's Washington City Council meeting.

---



---

Local News

## Bradley University offering voluntary retirement incentive

Joe Deacon

, July 7, 2026

Bradley University announced it is offering a voluntary retirement incentive program for full-time employees age 62 and older.

---

## Education



/

WGLT

## 'War on 74' rivalry becomes official competition with Country Financial backing

Braden Fogerson

, September 30, 2026

The "War on 74" series will conclude each year with a traveling Rivalry Series trophy being presented to the school that scores the most points throughout the year in competitions against their rival.



Joe Deacon

/

WCBU

## Bradley looks to start new homecoming tradition with 'Yard Party'

Joe Deacon

, September 30, 2026

As additions and improvements emerge throughout the Bradley University campus, the institution looks to place a renewed emphasis on homecoming weekend. The inaugural yard party Saturday on the Alumni Quad stands as the centerpiece for three days of homecoming festivities.

Listen • 4:49



## Peoria Public Schools board approves tentative balanced budget, as recent audits remain unfinished

September 29, 2026



## Retired meteorologist Chuck Collins to teach broadcasting class at Bradley

September 28, 2026

Listen • 4:23



## Tazewell County voters to weigh 1% school facility tax on November ballot

September 28, 2026

Listen • 7:25



# Bradley University touts new student growth as total enrollment slips

Joe Deacon

, September 24, 2026

New student enrollment is on the rise at Bradley University, although overall enrollment has fallen just below 4,000 for the first time in at least 36 years.



---

## Local News

# A brand new game at Bradley: Flag football among 5 premier club programs for women

Joe Deacon

, September 16, 2026

Flag football is one of five women's premier club sports now available at Bradley, along with soccer, ice hockey, wrestling and STUNT — commonly known as competitive cheer.

Listen • 7:30

---



---

Local News

## Bradley immigration panel stresses working together and the reality for U.S. immigrants

Tim Rosenberger

, September 15, 2026

The reality for immigrants in the United States is very different from what is being portrayed, said one panelist at the Tom and Jean Dirksen Symposium at Bradley University.



---

Local News

## Peoria Public Schools hire interim CFO, delay vote on hiring firm to help draft strategic plan

Joe Deacon

, September 15, 2026

The Peoria Public Schools Board of Education has hired an interim chief financial officer to oversee the District 150 accounts, bridging a gap until the administration selects a permanent CFO.

---



---

#### Local News

## ICC receives \$3M state grant to bolster manufacturing training programs

Joe Deacon

, September 15, 2026

A \$3 million state capital grant will allow Illinois Central College to upgrade lab and classroom space used for manufacturing training.

---



---

#### Local News

## Exhibit commemorating Sept. 11 anniversary set to open at Peoria Riverfront Museum

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 3, 2026

A new exhibit at the Peoria Riverfront Museum opening this weekend commemorates the upcoming 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

---



---

**Local News**

## **Pekin grade school district gives bus company an ultimatum to fix student transportation problems**

[Steve Stein](#)

, September 1, 2026

The Pekin District 108 School Board sent a stern message Monday to Alltown Bus Service: Fix all the problems that have plagued student transportation by the end of the month, or else.

---



---

**Local News**

# Peoria mourns deaths of 2 pioneering city council members

Joe Deacon

, August 31, 2026

Calling them “pioneers” and “trailblazers,” Peoria leaders are remembering the service and dedication of former city council members Eric Turner and Camille Gibson, who died in recent weeks.



---

Local News

## East Peoria library seeking voters' approval for tax rate adjustment

Joe Deacon

, August 28, 2026

Voters in East Peoria are being asked to adjust the tax rate for the Fondulac District Library, but administrators say the requested increase doesn't actually raise taxes.



Local News

## Museum puts record \$5M gift toward student access initiative

Joe Deacon

, August 27, 2026

The largest individual philanthropic donation in the history of the Peoria Riverfront Museum will extend a long-running initiative offering free admission to students, teachers and families across the Tri-County area.



---

Local News

## Damaged crossing signals near Pekin High School to be repaired

Steve Stein

, August 27, 2026

Malfunctioning pedestrian crossing signals at an intersection next to Pekin High School will be repaired after a lightning strike damaged the signs over the summer.

---



---

#### Local News

## Peoria District 150 tabs accountants to finish audits, looks to pass budget next month

Joe Deacon

, August 25, 2026

Accountants with a national financial consulting firm will help Peoria Public Schools District 150 complete a two-year backlog of audits, with the district on track to adopt its annual budget by the end of next month.



---

#### Local News

## Pekin grade school district cancels two days of class over bus issues

Joe Deacon, Steve Stein

, August 20, 2026

Problems with bus service on the first day of school have prompted Pekin District 108 officials to cancel classes Thursday and Friday to rectify the transportation challenges.

---



---

#### Local News

## PPS 150 sees \$9M increase in evidence-based funding as district considers ‘third-party’ audit help

[Joe Deacon](#)

, August 11, 2026

Peoria Public Schools will get an increase of about \$9.3 million this year in evidence-based funding from the State of Illinois, as district leaders mull the idea of getting outside assistance to address a two-year audit backlog.

---



---

#### Local News

# Bradley University announces launch of 2 technology majors

Joe Deacon

, August 11, 2026

Bradley University announced Tuesday that the Artificial Intelligence and Data Science major programs within the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems are currently accepting students.



---

Local News

## Jamonica Rolle looks to build on foundation, community ties as new Illinois Central College president

Joe Deacon

, August 10, 2026

Fall classes at Illinois Central College begin next week, and new president Jamonica Rolle says it's a moment she's been waiting for since starting her position in July. In an extended interview, Rolle details what attracted her to ICC.

**Listen • 7:30**

---



---

Local News

## Will Washington be the next area community with a Business Development District?

Steve Stein

, August 5, 2026

Washington plans to join the crowd when it comes to creating a Business Development District. Several area towns including East Peoria, Morton and Pekin have the economic development tool in place.



---

Local News

## Taking a look at Caterpillar's \$10M pledge to bolster Illinois' manufacturing workforce

Joe Deacon

, August 5, 2026

Caterpillar is making a \$10 million workforce development pledge to boost manufacturing careers in Illinois, as part of a broader five-year, \$100 million “Building the Future Workforce Initiative” global commitment the company launched in 2025.

**Listen • 7:30**



---

#### Local News

## After combative debate, Peoria school board votes in favor of one-semester Elite contract

Tim Rosenberger

, August 1, 2026

The Peoria Public Schools Board of Education approved a one-semester contract with Elite Community Outreach as part of Peoria's Safe Schools Program.



---

#### Local News

# University celebrates founder Lydia Moss Bradley's 210th birthday

Joe Deacon

, July 31, 2026

Bradley University administrators, alumni, faculty and staff gathered on campus Thursday to mark the 210th anniversary of founder Lydia Moss Bradley's birthday. The event at the Hayden-Clark Alumni Center featured actress Laura Keyes portraying Moss Bradley.



---

Local News

## District 150 Elite vote collapses in open meetings dispute, exposing rift with newest members

Molly Hughes

, July 28, 2026

The Peoria Public Schools Board spent nearly two hours Monday night hearing from 20 speakers on a proposed \$624,000 contract with Elite Community Outreach — only to watch the vote collapse over whether the item had been legally posted at all.

---



---

Local News

## Bradley, Millikin universities announce MBA direct admission partnership

Joe Deacon

, July 27, 2026

Bradley University business students have an opportunity to secure a postgraduate degree through a new admission partnership with Millikin University in Decatur.



---

Local News

## Decades-old oversight at Lincoln Grade School site in Washington will be corrected

Steve Stein

, July 23, 2026

The recent sale of Lincoln Grade School to the Washington Park District revealed an oversight. Platted streets and alleys on city-owned right-of-way were dedicated to Washington Grade School District 52, but never vacated.

---



---

Local News

## Elite's WINNING program draws a mix of scrutiny and support at Peoria School Board meeting

Molly Hughes

, July 14, 2026

"Our crime statistics for juveniles is significantly worse than East St. Louis," said Tom Marshall, an Elite Community Outreach board member who sits on the county's Juvenile Justice Council, describing the findings of a University of Illinois Chicago study he said was shared with the council. "They're known for being one of the worst areas in the state."

---



---

Local News

# Bradley University announces plans to upgrade prominent residence hall

Joe Deacon

, July 13, 2026

A complete modernization of Harper Hall stands as the centerpiece of Bradley University's \$25 million investment in improving residential accommodations and student life.



---

Local News

## Bradley University offering voluntary retirement incentive

Joe Deacon

, July 7, 2026

Bradley University announced it is offering a voluntary retirement incentive program for full-time employees age 62 and older.



---

Local News

# Peoria school board postpones action on tax increase, elects McConnell new president

Joe Deacon

, July 1, 2026

The Peoria Public Schools Board of Education has delayed a vote on requesting a half-cent sales tax increase to help pay for facility maintenance.



---

Local News

## Bid for temporary restraining order denied ahead of Peoria school board meeting

Joe Deacon

, July 1, 2026

Incoming Peoria Board of Education member Andy Diaz said his request for a temporary restraining order ahead of Wednesday's special meeting has been denied on a technicality.

---

## Health



*Joe Deacon*

/

*WCBU*

## **South Pekin may get \$8M for water system infrastructure improvements**

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 21, 2026

The \$8 million would upgrade the water treatment plant and replace water mains throughout the community. The intent is to reduce the current elevated levels of manganese in the system and eliminate the associated health risks.



## New law makes medical aid in dying possible in Central Illinois — if you can find a provider

September 11, 2026

Listen • 7:27



## OSF HealthCare gets \$2M federal earmark for dental sedation clinic

September 9, 2026



## Central Illinois nurses say 'very close follow-up' key to supporting postpartum moms

August 25, 2026

Listen • 4:48

---



---

#### Local News

## Chillicothe notifies residents of elevated contaminants in water supply

Joe Deacon

, August 21, 2026

Recent testing of the Chillicothe Community Water System detected concentrations of two PFAS compounds that significantly exceeded the potable groundwater quality standards.



---

#### Local News

## Solvera, Heartland health centers share in state grant awards

Joe Deacon

, August 20, 2026

Two Peoria community health centers are among 21 facilities across the state sharing a total of \$50 million in grant funding from the state.

---



---

#### Local News

## Peoria health department offering funds to address food insecurity

Joe Deacon

, August 20, 2026

The Peoria City/County Health Department has announced a funding opportunity totaling \$100,000 for projects to help feed working families.



---

#### Local News

## Peoria City Council gives initial OK to South Side supportive housing complex

Joe Deacon

, August 12, 2026

The Peoria City Council has given initial approval for a \$29 million permanent supportive housing complex for homeless families on the city's South Side.

Mayor Rita Ali said the Phoenix Manor development is a key step toward revitalizing the area.

---



---

Local News

## **Apartment complex for homeless people on Peoria's South Side advances; community voices objections**

Joe Deacon

, August 7, 2026

A proposed 48-unit apartment complex at the site of the former Harrison School on Peoria's South Side would assist families transitioning out of homelessness, but residents who live in the vicinity feel the location is not the right place for such a development.

---



---

Local News

## Township committee set to look into using public funds for Peoria senior center

Joe Deacon

, July 31, 2026

Advocates for a dedicated senior center in Peoria are applauding the decision to formally establish an ad hoc township committee to study the feasibility.

---



---

Local News

## Rand retiring as head of Advanced Medical Transport; Baker named incoming CEO

Joe Deacon

, July 22, 2026

Advanced Medical Transport will have its first new leader in 35 years by the end of this year. Andrew Rand is retiring as the Peoria-based nonprofit emergency medical service's CEO, with current Chief Operating Officer Todd Baker set to take over Rand's role.

---



---

Local News

## Advanced Medical Transport, Peoria police planning shared north side location

Joe Deacon

, July 15, 2026

A planned Advanced Medical Transport ambulance station on Peoria's north side is expected to double as the site of a new Peoria Police Department substation.

---

## Politics and Government



---

Local News

## Peoria man handed 55-year sentence for killing teen in 2022

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 30, 2026

A 26-year-old Peoria man has been sentenced to 55 years in prison for an Independence Day 2022 shooting that killed one person and injured another at the former Taft Homes residential complex.

---



---

**Local News**

## **New cameras will improve security at Pekin downtown pocket parks**

[Steve Stein](#)

, September 30, 2026

Pekin's two downtown pocket parks are getting stronger security with the purchase and installation of a security-grade camera at each location for about \$10,000.

---



---

**Local News**

# Peoria Public Schools board approves tentative balanced budget, as recent audits remain unfinished

Joe Deacon

, September 29, 2026

Peoria Public Schools District 150 has adopted a tentative balanced budget for the 2027 fiscal year with revenues exceeding expenses by \$5.3 million.



---

State News

## Congressional candidates offer positions on budget deficit and Social Security fixes

Charlie Schlenker

, September 29, 2026

The major party candidates for Congress in Central Illinois have significantly different views of how to deal with looming financial crises over the federal budget deficit, national debt, and Social Security.

Listen • 4:49

---



---

#### Local News

## Pekin awards 3 businesses TIF commercial improvement grants

Steve Stein

, September 29, 2026

Three businesses were awarded TIF grants totaling \$104,000 from the city of Pekin that will help pay for renovations to their buildings. The grants were approved Monday by the Pekin City Council.



---

#### Local News

## Tazewell County voters to weigh 1% school facility tax on November ballot

Steve Stein

, September 28, 2026

Tazewell County will be asking voters in November to support a referendum on a 1% school facility tax. Morton School District 709 Superintendent Joe Sander

says the funding would support facility maintenance upgrades, safety and security and mental health resources.

**Listen • 7:25**



**Local News**

## Peoria Civic Center management maintains optimism amid industry challenges

Joe Deacon

, September 28, 2026

New general manager Beau Sutherland presented the entertainment and convention complex's latest annual report at the most recent Peoria City Council meeting, showing an adjusted gross income of \$7.8 million.



**Local News**

# Peoria Heights breaks ground on \$8M water filtration plant mayor calls a 'game changer'

Joe Deacon

, September 25, 2026

Construction is set to begin on a new \$8.1 million water filtration plant in Peoria Heights, believed to be the largest public works project in the village's history.

---



---

Local News

## Upon further review, Washington sports bar will receive city grant

Steve Stein

, September 24, 2026

A Washington bar will receive a \$34,000 grant from the city to help pay for a project to replace its doors and renovate its parking lot.

---



Local News

## Developers add more apartments to mixed-use Warehouse District project

Joe Deacon

, September 23, 2026

Adjusted plans for a \$5.9 million mixed-use development in Peoria's Warehouse District will nearly triple the number of residential units while reducing the amount of commercial space.



---

Local News

## Peoria to offer city workers a paid day off to serve as election judges

Joe Deacon

, September 23, 2026

The Peoria City Council approved an administrative policy that provides eight hours of normal wages for workers appointed to serve as an election judge for any primary, general, consolidated or special election.

---



---

#### State News

## Illinois attorney general claims victory in lawsuit against Trump administration

Peter Hancock

, September 23, 2026

Federal judge strikes down rules barring noncitizens from certain emergency public benefits



---

#### Local News

## Washington approves Business Development District, with quarter-percent sales tax increase

Steve Stein

, September 22, 2026

Washington is establishing a Business Development District. The City Council has approved the district, which runs along Washington Road from Washington Plaza to Wilmor Road.

---



---

#### Local News

## Money matters to Peoria County Treasurer candidates

Steve Stein

, September 22, 2026

Peoria County Treasurer Branden Martin was appointed to the job last year, replacing Nicole Bjerke. Now the Republican is running for the post in the November election against Democrat Randy Stevens.

---



---

#### Local News

## South Pekin may get \$8M for water system infrastructure improvements

Joe Deacon

, September 21, 2026

The \$8 million would upgrade the water treatment plant and replace water mains throughout the community. The intent is to reduce the current elevated levels of manganese in the system and eliminate the associated health risks.



---

State News

## Gov. Pritzker opens up about his 80 lb. weight loss, use of GLP-1 — ‘I think it’s what I need to succeed’

Tina Sfondeles

, September 21, 2026

More than two years into his new weight loss journey, JB Pritzker says he wants to talk about it openly, largely in part because he knows millions of Americans are suffering from obesity-related health conditions. The disclosure also comes just months before Democrats are expected to announce their intentions to run for president.



Local News

## Peoria City Council member Kiran Velpula cited for DUI, other major traffic violations

Joe Deacon

, September 21, 2026

Peoria City Council member Kiran Velpula is facing a charge of driving under the influence and other related major traffic violations, according to Peoria County court records.



---

Local News

## Peoria County Clerk candidates look to take the office into the future

Steve Stein

, September 21, 2026

The two contenders for Peoria County Clerk in the upcoming November election each praised the office Saturday during a candidate forum and said they're the one to lead it into the future.

---



---

Local News

## Urich defends Peoria's use of Flock cameras, justifies West Main TIF District

Joe Deacon

, September 17, 2026

In his latest regular interview with WCBU, Peoria City Manager Patrick Urich said the city hasn't given any thought to changing its policy regarding the police department's use of Flock Safety cameras.

Listen • 7:24



---

Local News

## Former softball coach charged with child sexual assault dies in custody

Joe Deacon

, September 17, 2026

A former youth softball coach being held on child sexual assault charges died Thursday after being found unresponsive in his Woodford County jail cell.

---



---

#### State News

## Gov. Pritzker seeks disaster declaration for 8 counties following August storms

Eric Stock

, September 16, 2026

If FEMA approves the disaster declaration, it would make a number of programs available to help residents and property owners recover, including grant funding for temporary housing and home repairs, along with low-interest loans to cover uninsured property damage.

---



---

#### Local News

## East Peoria takes first step toward adding more Flock Safety cameras

Joe Deacon

, September 16, 2026

East Peoria city leaders support a proposal to add 10 more Flock Safety automated license plate reader cameras to the police department's existing system that's been in place four years.

---



---

Local News

## Pekin building owner turns down \$50K commercial building grant

Steve Stein

, September 16, 2026

An applicant who was approved by the Pekin City Council for a \$50,000 commercial building improvement grant has turned down the money because it wasn't sufficient for a project.

---



---

Local News

# Bradley immigration panel stresses working together and the reality for U.S. immigrants

Tim Rosenberger

, September 15, 2026

The reality for immigrants in the United States is very different from what is being portrayed, said one panelist at the Tom and Jean Dirksen Symposium at Bradley University.



---

## Local News

# ICC receives \$3M state grant to bolster manufacturing training programs

Joe Deacon

, September 15, 2026

A \$3 million state capital grant will allow Illinois Central College to upgrade lab and classroom space used for manufacturing training.

---



---

#### Local News

## Peoria community gathers to mark 25th anniversary of 9/11 attacks

Joe Deacon

, September 11, 2026

An estimated crowd of around 400 first responders, elected officials, civic leaders and community members attended the 25th Anniversary 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on Friday at the Peoria Riverfront Museum.



---

#### Local News

## Washington, shopping center reach compromise on \$50K grant

Steve Stein

, September 11, 2026

The owners of the Cherry Tree Plaza shopping center will get their \$50,000 Washington business property improvement grant in equal installments if they meet the city's requirements.

---



---

#### State News

## New law makes medical aid in dying possible in Central Illinois — if you can find a provider

Courtney Conroy and Eric Stock

, September 11, 2026

Illinois' medical aid in dying law takes effect Saturday. Terminally ill adults across the state will have the legal option to request medication from a physician to end their lives. In Central Illinois, it might not be that easy.

**Listen • 7:27**



---

#### Local News

# Tazewell County takes first step toward declaring a data center moratorium

Steve Stein

, September 10, 2026

Tazewell County may soon join the list of area counties and communities with a moratorium on data center proposals. The county board's land use committee has recommended a nine-month moratorium.



---

Local News

## Advocates for Tourism Improvement District make their pitch to Peoria City Council

Joe Deacon

, September 10, 2026

A group of 12 hotel owners in Peoria want the city to become one of the first Illinois communities outside of Chicago to establish a Tourism Improvement District.

---



---

#### Local News

## OSF HealthCare gets \$2M federal earmark for dental sedation clinic

Joe Deacon

, September 9, 2026

Patients in Central Illinois will have improved access to oral surgery through a planned renovation and expansion of services at OSF HealthCare's dental clinic at the Saint Francis Medical Center campus in Peoria.



---

#### Local News

## Washington Plaza revival efforts would benefit from city's first Business Development District

Steve Stein

, September 9, 2026

Washington's push to revive Washington Plaza is likely getting a monetary shot in the arm. The city council has given its initial approval to establish the city's first Business Development District.

---



---

#### Local News

## Peoria approves West Main TIF district, with opposition from council member where it's located

Joe Deacon

, September 9, 2026

An assessment of the West Main TIF district projects the generation of nearly \$55 million in cumulative tax increment over the 23-year life of the TIF, with anticipated private investment of \$82.7 million.

---



---

#### Local News

# Rep. LaHood says mail-in voting will not be disrupted; Trump should work on affordability

Ben Howell, Joe Deacon

, September 8, 2026

U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood spoke to WCBU during a stop in Peoria to announce federal appropriation money for an industrial park in the city. He gave his thoughts on current events including the federal deficit, mail-in voting and data centers.

Listen • 7:25



---

## State News

# Pritzker defends Logan prison closure; pumps 5-year plan to attract new business to Lincoln

Lauren Warnecke

, September 8, 2026

During a media appearance Tuesday in Bloomington, Pritzker said he's the most pro-economic development governor since Jim Thompson, who left office in 1991. He plans to work with Logan County officials to address state properties where industry has left, including the pending closure of Logan Correctional Center.

---



---

#### Local News

## With Logan Correctional Center set to close, Lincoln mayor urges state to not leave another mess

Lauren Warnecke

, September 8, 2026

Mayor Tracy Welch wants to see the women's prison site remediated, unlike what happened two decades ago at the 100-acre Lincoln Developmental Center site. It's part of the City of Lincoln's multi-pronged strategy boosting economic development in the Logan County seat.

**Listen • 4:30**



---

#### Local News

## Peoria, Peoria County get \$600K for Galena Road Industrial Park development

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 4, 2026

Plans to develop a \$40 million industrial park along Galena Road on Peoria's northeast side received another financial boost.



---

[Local News](#)

## **Exhibit commemorating Sept. 11 anniversary set to open at Peoria Riverfront Museum**

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 3, 2026

A new exhibit at the Peoria Riverfront Museum opening this weekend commemorates the upcoming 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.



---

[Local News](#)

## East Peoria moves ahead with \$2.6M final phase to install turf ball fields

Joe Deacon

, September 2, 2026

The last two grass-and-dirt diamonds at the EastSide Centre sports complex in East Peoria will be converted to synthetic turf.

---



---

Local News

## Analyst sees gas prices trending toward a record Labor Day high

Joe Deacon

, September 2, 2026

As a three-day holiday weekend and corresponding increased travel approaches, drivers could be in store for a pricey Labor Day at the gas pump.

---



---

Local News

# Police announce arrest of second suspect in fatal shooting and crash

Joe Deacon

, September 2, 2026

The second suspect in last month's early morning shooting and fleeing incident on the South Side that left two men dead has been released from the hospital and charged with first-degree murder.



---

## Local News

# Peoria mourns deaths of 2 pioneering city council members

Joe Deacon

, August 31, 2026

Calling them "pioneers" and "trailblazers," Peoria leaders are remembering the service and dedication of former city council members Eric Turner and Camille Gibson, who died in recent weeks.



Local News

## Tazewell County dispatchers will need to make their pitch for pay increase 'behind closed doors'

Steve Stein

, August 31, 2026

Tazewell County dispatchers want a raise. They'll have to get it through their union and collective bargaining. That was the essence of what TC3 governance board chair John Kahl told them at a board meeting.

---



Local News

## Vietnam War Memorial Wall replica will travel to Tremont next year

Steve Stein

, August 31, 2026

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall will be in Tremont next year. Tremont resident and veteran Rick Otey made the announcement at a Tazewell County Board meeting.

---



---

Local News

## Suspect to remain in custody on first-degree murder, reckless homicide charges

Joe Deacon

, August 28, 2026

A Peoria man charged in the deaths of two men during a string of criminal violence early Saturday will remain in custody until his trial begins.



---

Local News

## East Peoria library seeking voters' approval for tax rate adjustment

Joe Deacon

, August 28, 2026

Voters in East Peoria are being asked to adjust the tax rate for the Fondulac District Library, but administrators say the requested increase doesn't actually raise taxes.

---



---

#### Local News

## Damaged crossing signals near Pekin High School to be repaired

Steve Stein

, August 27, 2026

Malfunctioning pedestrian crossing signals at an intersection next to Pekin High School will be repaired after a lightning strike damaged the signs over the summer.

---



---

#### State News

# Pritzker says state won't trade farmland for data centers during Central Illinois stop

Courtney Conroy

, August 27, 2026

Gov. JB Pritzker said he doesn't want to see McLean County farmland given up for data centers. He said the state should be pumping the brakes on the industry rather than rolling out the red carpet for it.

Listen • 7:24



Local News

## Greater Peoria elections officials expect little impact from Supreme Court decision on mail-in ballots

Joe Deacon

, August 26, 2026

The officials overseeing elections in Peoria and Tazewell counties say they haven't changed any plans for the November midterm election following a U.S. Supreme Court decision tied to mail-in ballots.



---

Local News

## State's attorney: Peoria police officer was justified in May fatal shooting downtown

Joe Deacon

, August 26, 2026

Peoria County State's Attorney Jodi Hoos has determined the fatal shooting of a St. Louis man by a Peoria police officer outside a downtown hotel in May was justified.



---

Local News

## Shots fired outside courthouse in Downtown Peoria

Joe Deacon

, August 26, 2026

Police are investigating after shots were fired Wednesday morning near the Peoria County Courthouse Downtown.

---



---

Local News

## Peoria puts MacArthur Flats senior housing complex back on track

Joe Deacon

, August 26, 2026

The Peoria City Council voted unanimously to approve an updated redevelopment agreement with Peoria Opportunities Foundation for the MacArthur Senior Flats project on the city's South Side.

---



---

Local News

## Ex-Creve Coeur police chief returns in interim role after chief, deputy chief and an officer resign

[Steve Stein](#)

, August 25, 2026

Dale King is back in charge of the Creve Coeur Police Department as interim police chief following the resignation Friday of Justin Egan.

---



---

**Local News**

## **Pekin keeps Flock license plate reading cameras in place for a 4th year**

[Steve Stein](#)

, August 25, 2026

The 54 Flock license plate reading cameras in Pekin will remain there for another year. The Pekin City Council voted 6-1 on Monday to renew its annual contract with Flock.

---



---

**Local News**

## **Global firm applies to develop wind farm in Peoria County**

[Joe Deacon](#)

, August 24, 2026

Repsol Renewables has applied for a special use allowance for its Four Creeks Wind Project, seeking to install approximately 113 turbines across an area north of Brimfield and west of Princeville, extending to the Knox and Stark county lines.

---



---

**Local News**

## **East Peoria Mayor John Kahl announces reelection bid**

[Joe Deacon](#)

, August 24, 2026

East Peoria Mayor John Kahl announced he will run for a third four-year term in a social media post, saying that holding the office "has been one of the greatest honors of my life."

---



---

**Local News**

# Chillicothe notifies residents of elevated contaminants in water supply

Joe Deacon

, August 21, 2026

Recent testing of the Chillicothe Community Water System detected concentrations of two PFAS compounds that significantly exceeded the potable groundwater quality standards.



---

Local News

## Solvera, Heartland health centers share in state grant awards

Joe Deacon

, August 20, 2026

Two Peoria community health centers are among 21 facilities across the state sharing a total of \$50 million in grant funding from the state.



---

Local News

# Sept. 11 hero coming to Washington to speak at annual remembrance ceremony

Steve Stein

, August 20, 2026

The City of Washington has awarded a \$2,500 tourism grant to the committee that's organizing this year's Sept. 11 Remembrance Ceremony. The grant will help offset the cost of bringing in the guest speaker.



---

## Local News

# Peoria health department offering funds to address food insecurity

Joe Deacon

, August 20, 2026

The Peoria City/County Health Department has announced a funding opportunity totaling \$100,000 for projects to help feed working families.

---



---

Local News

## East Peoria adopts updated floodplain, vows to continue appeals to FEMA

Joe Deacon

, August 19, 2026

Two weeks after members expressed reluctance and frustration, the East Peoria City Council voted unanimously in adopting new flood maps in accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's update for Tazewell County.



---

Local News

## Pekin ethanol plant draws \$200K total penalty over Illinois River refinery pollution

Joe Deacon

, August 19, 2026

The company formerly known as Pacific Ethanol Pekin will fund a \$125,000 environmental restoration project and pay a \$75,000 civil penalty as part of a consent order ending legal proceedings over refinery pollution on the Illinois River.



---

Local News

## Rep. Sorensen discusses clean energy careers, minority business needs during Peoria stop

Joe Deacon

, August 18, 2026

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen returned to Peoria for the second time in less than a week Tuesday, speaking to a clean energy workforce training class and talking with budding entrepreneurs at the Minority Business Development Center.



---

Local News

# Washington revives discussion over chopped down Cherry Tree Plaza improvement grant request

Steve Stein

, August 18, 2026

A commercial building improvement grant of more than \$45,000 for the Cherry Tree Plaza shopping center in Washington is back on the table, after the city council previously rejected the request.



---

Local News

## Mayor Ali views Phoenix Manor project as another key piece to revitalizing Peoria's South Side

Joe Deacon

, August 18, 2026

Peoria Mayor Rita Ali remains steadfast in her belief that the planned Phoenix Manor permanent supportive housing development on the South Side ultimately will benefit the neighborhood.

**Listen • 7:30**

---



---

#### State News

## Georgia man found guilty of first-degree murder in death of Peoria teen at 2022 party in Bloomington

Lauren Warnecke

, August 17, 2026

A McLean County jury convicted Tomiyale Anderson, 22, on all counts related to the shooting death of 17-year-old Kanye Stowers, a student at Richwoods High School in Peoria.



---

#### Local News

## Update to Peoria's nuisance enforcement remains under consideration

Joe Deacon

, August 14, 2026

The City of Peoria continues to look at strengthening its enforcement targeting chronic nuisance properties. But a proposal championed by city council member Denise Jackson that would require around the clock staffing at large apartment complexes failed to advance.



---

#### State News

## Rep. Sorensen questions president's decision on vaccines, threats to Air Force One

Ben Howell

, August 14, 2026

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen questioned two recent actions taken by the Trump administration. He called for parents to do their own research on vaccines and for the president to be transparent.

**Listen • 4:30**



---

#### Local News

# Rep. Sorensen participates in Peoria panel to discuss affordability concerns

Joe Deacon

, August 13, 2026

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen said he and his colleagues in Washington should do more to manage the rising costs hitting American households.



---

## Local News

# Two stop signs will be added to downtown Pekin intersection to improve safety

Steve Stein

, August 13, 2026

A potentially dangerous intersection in downtown Pekin soon will be converted into a four-way stop to make it safer.



Local News

## Tazewell County committee recommends removing agricultural land from possible data center sites

Steve Stein

, August 12, 2026

If a data center is built in Tazewell County, it must be in an industrial area. That was the key takeaway from the Tazewell County Board land use committee's initial dive into a data center ordinance.



Local News

## Peoria City Council gives initial OK to South Side supportive housing complex

Joe Deacon

, August 12, 2026

The Peoria City Council has given initial approval for a \$29 million permanent supportive housing complex for homeless families on the city's South Side. Mayor Rita Ali said the Phoenix Manor development is a key step toward revitalizing the area.



---

#### State News

## Pritzker, Bailey seek to convince farmers at forum they're the best for agriculture

Ben Szalinski

, August 11, 2026

JB Pritzker and Republicans Darren Bailey and Don Tracy participated in a candidate forum about agriculture policy on Monday on an Illinois farm.

**Listen • 4:30**



---

#### Local News

## State awards funding to review site for planned Galena Road industrial park

Joe Deacon

, August 10, 2026

A planned \$40 million industrial park along Galena Road in Peoria is getting some state funding to move the project forward.

---



---

#### Local News

## East Peoria leaders express reluctance before initial approval of updated FEMA floodplain maps

Joe Deacon

, August 7, 2026

East Peoria leaders are moving ahead begrudgingly toward accepting new floodplain maps presented by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

---



---

#### Local News

## Apartment complex for homeless people on Peoria's South Side advances; community voices objections

[Joe Deacon](#)

, August 7, 2026

A proposed 48-unit apartment complex at the site of the former Harrison School on Peoria's South Side would assist families transitioning out of homelessness, but residents who live in the vicinity feel the location is not the right place for such a development.



**Local News**

## Voting rights 'Day of Action' on Peoria's South Side seeks to boost election participation

[Joe Deacon](#)

, August 6, 2026

With the November general election approaching, several Peoria organizations are coming together for a push to get more people involved in the process, particularly on the city's South Side.

**Listen • 4:30**

---



---

Local News

## Will Washington be the next area community with a Business Development District?

Steve Stein

, August 5, 2026

Washington plans to join the crowd when it comes to creating a Business Development District. Several area towns including East Peoria, Morton and Pekin have the economic development tool in place.



---

Local News

## East Peoria approves farming lease for new city property, salary increase for mayor's position

Joe Deacon

, August 5, 2026

East Peoria is going to keep most of its recently purchased property on the north side as an operating farm for at least the next year.

---



---

Local News

## Washington City Council denies grants for bar, shopping center

Steve Stein

, August 4, 2026

The Washington City Council has turned down commercial building and property improvement grant requests from Kep's Sports Bar & Grill and Cherry Tree Plaza.

---



---

Local News

## Tazewell County shuts down proposed Mackinaw Township community solar farm

Steve Stein

, August 3, 2026

The Tazewell County Board voted 17-2 to reject a request for a special use for a five-megawatt solar farm proposed in Mackinaw Township.

---



---

Local News

## Township committee set to look into using public funds for Peoria senior center

Joe Deacon

, July 31, 2026

Advocates for a dedicated senior center in Peoria are applauding the decision to formally establish an ad hoc township committee to study the feasibility.

---



---

Local News

# Tazewell County or Abraham Lincoln? Question dominates Justice Center Annex naming

Steve Stein

, July 30, 2026

The Tazewell County Board is trying to come up with an official name for the most expensive building in county history. The \$44 million Tazewell County Justice Center Annex is expected to open next year.



---

Local News

## Peoria considers plans to establish a tourism improvement district

Joe Deacon

, July 30, 2026

An initiative to create a taxing district aimed at boosting tourism and hotel stays in Peoria took a step forward this week. The proposal would impose a 1.5% tax on short-term hotel room rentals, with the proceeds used to support marketing and other programs aimed at attracting out-of-town visitors.

---



---

#### Local News

## Prosecutor: Peoria County judge reverses own decision, sentences man for manslaughter instead of murder

Joe Deacon

, July 29, 2026

A Peoria man originally found guilty of murder has been sentenced instead to 10 years in prison for involuntary manslaughter.



---

#### Local News

## Pekin library sees visits climbing, issues with homeless patrons declining

Steve Stein

, July 29, 2026

Pekin Public Library Director Jeff Brooks had good news to convey to city leaders in the library's annual report: Patron visits are climbing and steps to improve safety have been successful.

---



---

#### Local News

## Peoria City Council advances push for better apartment complex security amid reservations

[Joe Deacon](#)

, July 29, 2026

Peoria City Council member Denise Jackson is advocating for regulations mandating 24-hour security staffing at apartment complexes with more than 50 rental units.

---



---

#### Local News

# Peoria greenlights \$7.3M renovation of Main Street storefronts, agrees to sell nearby parking lot to developers

Joe Deacon

, July 29, 2026

A nearly \$7.3 million redevelopment project along the 500 block of Main Street in Downtown Peoria calls for three street-level eateries and a boutique hotel on the second floor.



---

## Local News

# Driver accused in deadly crash after fleeing traffic stop is jailed in Peoria

Joe Deacon

, July 28, 2026

The alleged driver of a vehicle that fled a traffic stop in Peoria's East Bluff neighborhood and was later involved in a collision with another vehicle that claimed the life of a teen passenger is now in custody at the Peoria County Jail.

---



---

Local News

## **Pekin, CityLink still on the road to renewing their agreement for public bus service**

Steve Stein

, July 28, 2026

Pekin isn't quite ready to renew its agreement with CityLink. After about a half-hour of discussion Monday with CityLink officials, the Pekin City Council tabled a vote on the agreement until Oct. 26.



---

Local News

## **Chuck Grayeb eyes return to Peoria City Council with bid for an at-large seat**

Joe Deacon

, July 28, 2026

After a little more than a year away from the Peoria City Council, longtime member Chuck Grayeb wants to return to City Hall.

---



---

#### Local News

## Peoria Housing Authority taking initial steps toward demolishing ‘obsolete’ Harrison Homes

Joe Deacon

, July 27, 2026

Several public housing buildings on Peoria’s South Side could be slated for demolition in hopes of creating an opportunity for continued neighborhood revitalization efforts.

---



---

#### State News

# Weatherman-turned-congressman Eric Sorensen wants to guide weather preparedness from D.C.

Eric Stock

, July 27, 2026

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen has been tabbed to lead a new legislative panel on weather preparedness.

**Listen • 4:33**



---

Local News

## New string lights enhance a block of Peoria's Warehouse District

Joe Deacon

, July 24, 2026

Visitors to a section of Peoria's Warehouse District will find things a touch brighter now. Twelve strands of string lights spanning the 800 block of SW Adams Street are in place and functional, completing a placemaking collaboration.

---



---

#### State News

## These 9 Illinois communities say they're interested in new nuclear facilities

Maggie Dougherty

, July 24, 2026

The state lifted its moratorium on new nuclear facilities, but development could still be decades away



---

#### Local News

## Driver flees Peoria traffic stop; teen passenger in second vehicle killed in collision

Joe Deacon

, July 23, 2026

A 17-year-old girl died early Thursday after the vehicle she was in was struck by another vehicle that fled from a traffic stop in Peoria's East Bluff neighborhood.

---



---

#### State News

## Here's how Illinois election authorities guard against noncitizen voting

Peter Hancock

, July 23, 2026

Officials say safeguards are in place to prevent inadvertent registration

---



#### Local News

## East Peoria gives final OK for purchase of farm property

Joe Deacon

, July 23, 2026

East Peoria is growing in size by an additional 272 acres, at a cost of \$5.25 million. The city council unanimously voted for final approval to purchase the Keil & Blye Farm property between Centennial Drive, Grange Road and U.S. 24.

---



---

#### State News

## Israel, transgender athletes and semiconductors: What Central Illinois congressmen considered in recent defense spending vote

Lizzie Seils

, July 23, 2026

The National Defense Authorization Act allocates funding for the Department of Defense and sets policy for the agency. This year's proposal includes raises for service members, more than a billion dollars for building barracks and housing, and tens of billions for weaponry, boats and aircraft.

---



---

#### Local News

# Eureka man dies in rural Woodford County crash

Joe Deacon

, July 23, 2026

A 73-year-old Eureka man is dead after a two-vehicle crash on U.S. 24 in rural Woodford County, said coroner Tim Ruestman.



---

Local News

## Decades-old oversight at Lincoln Grade School site in Washington will be corrected

Steve Stein

, July 23, 2026

The recent sale of Lincoln Grade School to the Washington Park District revealed an oversight. Platted streets and alleys on city-owned right-of-way were dedicated to Washington Grade School District 52, but never vacated.

---



---

Local News

## Rand retiring as head of Advanced Medical Transport; Baker named incoming CEO

Joe Deacon

, July 22, 2026

Advanced Medical Transport will have its first new leader in 35 years by the end of this year. Andrew Rand is retiring as the Peoria-based nonprofit emergency medical service's CEO, with current Chief Operating Officer Todd Baker set to take over Rand's role.



---

Local News

## East Peoria advances proposal to increase mayor's salary

Joe Deacon

, July 22, 2026

The ordinance would increase the East Peoria mayor's base pay to slightly more than \$128,700. With no city administrator, the mayor handles all of East Peoria's executive duties.

---



---

#### Local News

## Washington reimburses restaurant neighbor more than \$100K for issues caused by developer

Steve Stein

, July 21, 2026

The City of Washington has stepped in for a second time to resolve disputes between the developer of a downtown square restaurant and an adjacent neighbor. This time, it was sculptor Marlene Miller.

---



---

#### Local News

# Jury finds Peoria Heights Mayor Wigginton not guilty of DUI

Joe Deacon

, July 21, 2026

Peoria Heights Mayor Matt Wigginton has been found not guilty of misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence.



---

## State News

# LaHood, Sorensen have big cash advantages in re-election bids

Eric Stock

, July 20, 2026

The candidates running to unseat two U.S. House members in Central Illinois are well behind in fundraising heading into the heart of campaign season.



---

## Local News

# Peoria council vote on Twin Towers funding plan targeted for late September

Joe Deacon

, July 16, 2026

In late April, the Peoria City Council approved an ordinance formally proposing the Twin Towers Place Special Service Area. Tower residents petitioned the city to create the SSA to generate the estimated \$2.5 million needed for repairs and renovations.



Local News

## 2 charged with murder, concealment connected to East Bluff man found dead in his freezer

Joe Deacon, Lauren Warnecke

, July 15, 2026

A Peoria man found dead inside an East Bluff residence Monday suffered fatal injuries that prompted a homicide investigation, according to Peoria County Coroner Jamie Harwood. Two people have been arrested in connection with the incident.

---



---

#### Local News

## Jackson plans community forum to discuss state of Peoria's 1st District

Joe Deacon

, July 15, 2026

Peoria City Council member Denise Jackson said the South Side is facing a "critical juncture" in pursuing stability, revitalization and economic progress.



---

#### Local News

## Pekin wants answers from CityLink before considering contract renewal

Steve Stein

, July 15, 2026

Pekin has put the brakes on renewing its annual contract with CityLink until several questions are answered. The city council and CityLink representatives will talk at the council's July 27 meeting.

---



---

#### Local News

## Peoria Police Department pilots program using drones as first responders

Joe Deacon

, July 15, 2026

The Peoria Police Department is running a one-week pilot program using drones as emergency first responders. The trial is aimed at improving response times, enhancing community and officer safety, and providing police with critical information prior to arriving at a scene.



---

#### Local News

## Advanced Medical Transport, Peoria police planning shared north side location

Joe Deacon

, July 15, 2026

A planned Advanced Medical Transport ambulance station on Peoria's north side is expected to double as the site of a new Peoria Police Department substation.

---



---

#### Local News

## City Hall lobby is home for new Pekin 50-year time capsule

Steve Stein

, July 14, 2026

The City of Pekin has created a time capsule that will be opened July 4, 2076, on the 300th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The capsule is in the City Hall lobby.

---



#### Local News

# Peoria city manager expresses frustration over ongoing issues with Downtown Riverview Plaza

Joe Deacon

, July 14, 2026

The Riverview Plaza tower in Downtown Peoria has been shuttered for more than two years, as the city pushes the building owner to fix the fire suppression, sprinkler and electrical systems. City Manager Patrick Urich said Peoria is doing everything within its power to see the building brought into code compliance.

**Listen • 7:18**



---

Local News

## Peoria County Board approves emergency fix for storm-damaged Radnor Road drainage structure

Molly Hughes

, July 10, 2026

The Peoria County Board approved an emergency \$101,000 contract on Thursday to repair a drainage structure on Radnor Road that failed during June's heavy rains.

---



---

Local News

## Decatur man receives life sentence for 2023 murder at West Peoria gas station

Joe Deacon

, July 10, 2026

Lamentae Turner of Decatur has been sentenced to life in prison for a 2023 fatal shooting at the Casey's gas station on Farmington Road in West Peoria.



---

Local News

## Prosecutors say off-duty Creve Coeur police officer killed roommate, changed her story in interviews

Joe Deacon

, July 9, 2026

Caitlynn Girkin, 27, faces three counts of first-degree murder in the death of Adolfo Cazares, 29, in the early morning hours of March 10. Her pretrial detention hearing has been delayed until next Thursday.

---



---

#### Local News

## East Peoria mayor discusses long-range plans, city growth and keeping the casino

Joe Deacon

, July 9, 2026

In the resumption of a quarterly interview series, East Peoria Mayor John Kahl says optimizing city growth is a key component of the 20-year comprehensive plan adopted in January.

**Listen • 7:30**



---

#### State News

# Illinois' U.S. Senate Republican nominee Don Tracy aims to slow cost-of-living increases

Zachary Knox-Doyle

, July 8, 2026

Tracy is running against Democratic Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton in the race to replace retiring U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin.



---

Local News

## East Peoria spends \$5.2M on farmland with eye toward residential development

Joe Deacon

, July 8, 2026

East Peoria city leaders have agreed to spend \$5.2 million for more than 270 acres of undeveloped farmland near the city's northeast side in hopes of future residential growth.

---



---

#### Local News

## Digital billboard at Washington Plaza, new church may be coming to Washington

Steve Stein

, July 8, 2026

Proposals to add a digital billboard to the Washington Plaza shopping center sign and bring a new church to Washington each cleared a hurdle at this week's Washington City Council meeting.



---

#### Local News

## 'We need to get money out of our politics,' says U.S. Rep Eric Sorensen

Molly Hughes

, July 8, 2026

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen criticized a Supreme Court decision that struck down limits on how much political parties can spend in coordination with their candidates.



---

Local News

## Authorities announce female officer's arrest in fatal Creve Coeur shooting

Joe Deacon

, July 8, 2026

Tazewell County State's Attorney Kevin Johnson and the Illinois State Police announced the arrest of Caitlynn Girkin in connection with the fatal shooting of Adolfo Cazares.



---

Local News

## Sorensen criticizes \$1.5T defense bill, points to Rock Island Arsenal wins

Molly Hughes

, July 8, 2026

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen said this year's defense policy bill costs too much — at the same time he hopes the legislation's funding protects military installations in Central Illinois.



---

Local News

## Washington honors ex-firefighter who alerted neighbors during fire

Steve Stein

, July 7, 2026

With a few dozen of his neighbors looking on, Washington resident Al Ponto was honored Monday by the city for his actions awakening neighbors whose home was on fire.



---

Local News

# Peoria police report declines in murders, shootings through first half of year

Joe Deacon

, July 1, 2026

Shooting incidents, gunshot victims and total homicides in Peoria are down slightly through the first six months of 2026, compared with a year ago.



---

Local News

## Peoria school board postpones action on tax increase, elects McConnell new president

Joe Deacon

, July 1, 2026

The Peoria Public Schools Board of Education has delayed a vote on requesting a half-cent sales tax increase to help pay for facility maintenance.

---



---

#### State News

## Farmer faces \$250K fine after pesticide drift near Morton school

Ben Howell

, July 1, 2026

A Morton farmer faces a potential \$250,000 fine by the Illinois Department of Agriculture for allegedly applying pesticides on a farm near the Bethel Lutheran School while the school hosted an outdoor event.

**Listen • 4:51**



---

#### Local News

## Jury awards \$50M judgement in sexual assault case at a Peoria camp

Joe Deacon

, July 1, 2026

A jury in Cook County has returned a \$50 million judgment against the Chicago-based owners of a Peoria fitness camp after an 8-year-old boy was allegedly sexually assaulted by another male camper.

---



---

Local News

## **Bid for temporary restraining order denied ahead of Peoria school board meeting**

Joe Deacon

, July 1, 2026

Incoming Peoria Board of Education member Andy Diaz said his request for a temporary restraining order ahead of Wednesday's special meeting has been denied on a technicality.

---

## **Public Safety (aka Police and Courts)**



## **Peoria man handed 55-year sentence for killing teen in 2022**

September 30, 2026



## **New cameras will improve security at Pekin downtown pocket parks**

September 30, 2026



## **Suspect in custody as Peoria County Sheriff's Office investigates woman, child deaths**

September 25, 2026

---



---

Local News

## Upon further review, Washington sports bar will receive city grant

Steve Stein

, September 24, 2026

A Washington bar will receive a \$34,000 grant from the city to help pay for a project to replace its doors and renovate its parking lot.



---

Local News

## Peoria woman handed 53-year sentence for murder in riverfront shooting

Joe Deacon

, September 23, 2026

A 20-year-old Peoria woman has been sentenced to 53 years in prison for the 2025 shooting death of a woman who was sitting in a vehicle along the city's riverfront.

---



---

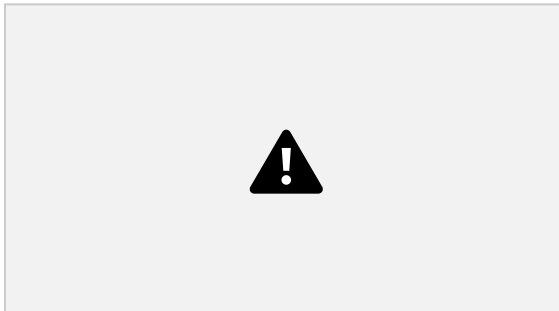
Local News

## Peoria homicide victim receives posthumous honor from Carnegie Hero Fund

Joe Deacon

, September 23, 2026

Jakaiden Rynearson is one of the 16 latest North American recipients of the Carnegie Medal, awarded to people who “enter extreme danger while saving or attempting to save the lives of others.”



---

Local News

## Peoria Police investigating new leads in Alexis Scott case

Tim Rosenberger

, September 22, 2026

Peoria Police Chief Brad Dixon said the department is looking into new leads in the disappearance of Peorian Alexis Scott nine years ago.

---



---

Local News

## Coroner reports no signs of foul play in death of Woodford County jail inmate

Joe Deacon

, September 21, 2026

Peoria County Coroner Jamie Harwood says preliminary autopsy results suggest no foul play was involved in last week's death of Jason Rockhold, who was being held at the Woodford County jail in Eureka.

---



---

Local News

## Peoria City Council member Kiran Velpula cited for DUI, other major traffic violations

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 21, 2026

Peoria City Council member Kiran Velpula is facing a charge of driving under the influence and other related major traffic violations, according to Peoria County court records.



---

**Local News**

## Urich defends Peoria's use of Flock cameras, justifies West Main TIF District

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 17, 2026

In his latest regular interview with WCBU, Peoria City Manager Patrick Urich said the city hasn't given any thought to changing its policy regarding the police department's use of Flock Safety cameras.

**Listen • 7:24**



---

**Local News**

# Former softball coach charged with child sexual assault dies in custody

Joe Deacon

, September 17, 2026

A former youth softball coach being held on child sexual assault charges died Thursday after being found unresponsive in his Woodford County jail cell.



---

Local News

## East Peoria takes first step toward adding more Flock Safety cameras

Joe Deacon

, September 16, 2026

East Peoria city leaders support a proposal to add 10 more Flock Safety automated license plate reader cameras to the police department's existing system that's been in place four years.



---

Local News

## Pekin building owner turns down \$50K commercial building grant

Steve Stein

, September 16, 2026

An applicant who was approved by the Pekin City Council for a \$50,000 commercial building improvement grant has turned down the money because it wasn't sufficient for a project.



---

Local News

## Creve Coeur police in 'state of chaos' as former chief investigated for misconduct

Lauren Warnecke, Steve Stein

, September 12, 2026

Former chief of police Dale King agreed to return to the department following departures of its two top officers. The Illinois State Police is investigating former chief Justin Egan, who resigned last month.

---



---

Local News

## Peoria community gathers to mark 25th anniversary of 9/11 attacks

Joe Deacon

, September 11, 2026

An estimated crowd of around 400 first responders, elected officials, civic leaders and community members attended the 25th Anniversary 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on Friday at the Peoria Riverfront Museum.



---

Local News

## Washington, shopping center reach compromise on \$50K grant

Steve Stein

, September 11, 2026

The owners of the Cherry Tree Plaza shopping center will get their \$50,000 Washington business property improvement grant in equal installments if they meet the city's requirements.

---



---

#### Local News

## Tazewell County takes first step toward declaring a data center moratorium

Steve Stein

, September 10, 2026

Tazewell County may soon join the list of area counties and communities with a moratorium on data center proposals. The county board's land use committee has recommended a nine-month moratorium.

---



---

#### Local News

# Advocates for Tourism Improvement District make their pitch to Peoria City Council

Joe Deacon

, September 10, 2026

A group of 12 hotel owners in Peoria want the city to become one of the first Illinois communities outside of Chicago to establish a Tourism Improvement District.



---

Local News

## Woman dies in fire at Peoria high-rise apartment building

Joe Deacon

, September 6, 2026

A 70-year-old woman has died after a fire broke out early Sunday morning in a high-rise apartment building just west of Downtown Peoria.

---



---

Local News

## Exhibit commemorating Sept. 11 anniversary set to open at Peoria Riverfront Museum

Joe Deacon

, September 3, 2026

A new exhibit at the Peoria Riverfront Museum opening this weekend commemorates the upcoming 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.



---

Local News

## Teen rider in Peoria Motorcycle Club race crash dies; sheriff's office investigating

Joe Deacon

, September 3, 2026

A 15-year-old motorcycle racer from Colorado who was injured in a crash during an event nearly two weeks ago in Bartonville has died, prompting an investigation by the Peoria County Sheriff's Office.

---



---

Local News

## East Peoria moves ahead with \$2.6M final phase to install turf ball fields

Joe Deacon

, September 2, 2026

The last two grass-and-dirt diamonds at the EastSide Centre sports complex in East Peoria will be converted to synthetic turf.

---



---

Local News

## Police announce arrest of second suspect in fatal shooting and crash

Joe Deacon

, September 2, 2026

The second suspect in last month's early morning shooting and fleeing incident on the South Side that left two men dead has been released from the hospital and charged with first-degree murder.

---



---

#### Local News

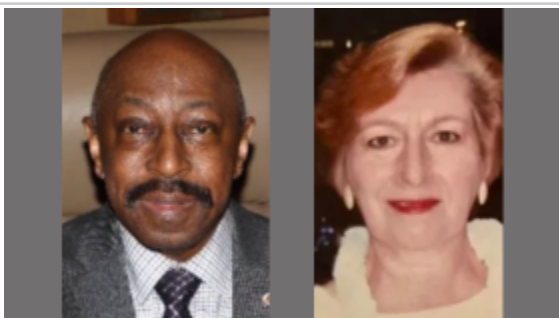
## Pekin grade school district gives bus company an ultimatum to fix student transportation problems

Steve Stein

, September 1, 2026

The Pekin District 108 School Board sent a stern message Monday to Alltown Bus Service: Fix all the problems that have plagued student transportation by the end of the month, or else.

---



---

#### Local News

# Peoria mourns deaths of 2 pioneering city council members

Joe Deacon

, August 31, 2026

Calling them “pioneers” and “trailblazers,” Peoria leaders are remembering the service and dedication of former city council members Eric Turner and Camille Gibson, who died in recent weeks.

---



---

Local News

## Tazewell County dispatchers will need to make their pitch for pay increase 'behind closed doors'

Steve Stein

, August 31, 2026

Tazewell County dispatchers want a raise. They'll have to get it through their union and collective bargaining. That was the essence of what TC3 governance board chair John Kahl told them at a board meeting.

---



---

Local News

## Suspect to remain in custody on first-degree murder, reckless homicide charges

Joe Deacon

, August 28, 2026

A Peoria man charged in the deaths of two men during a string of criminal violence early Saturday will remain in custody until his trial begins.



---

Local News

## One suspect in fatal shooting and crash released from hospital, arrested

Joe Deacon

, August 27, 2026

A 20-year-old Peoria man has been arrested for murder and other charges stemming from a fatal shooting and crash last weekend on the city's South Side.

---



---

Local News

## Damaged crossing signals near Pekin High School to be repaired

Steve Stein

, August 27, 2026

Malfunctioning pedestrian crossing signals at an intersection next to Pekin High School will be repaired after a lightning strike damaged the signs over the summer.

---



---

Local News

## State's attorney: Peoria police officer was justified in May fatal shooting downtown

[Joe Deacon](#)

, August 26, 2026

Peoria County State's Attorney Jodi Hoos has determined the fatal shooting of a St. Louis man by a Peoria police officer outside a downtown hotel in May was justified.

---



---

**Local News**

## **Shots fired outside courthouse in Downtown Peoria**

[Joe Deacon](#)

, August 26, 2026

Police are investigating after shots were fired Wednesday morning near the Peoria County Courthouse Downtown.

---



---

**Local News**

# Ex-Creve Coeur police chief returns in interim role after chief, deputy chief and an officer resign

Steve Stein

, August 25, 2026

Dale King is back in charge of the Creve Coeur Police Department as interim police chief following the resignation Friday of Justin Egan.



---

Local News

## Pekin keeps Flock license plate reading cameras in place for a 4th year

Steve Stein

, August 25, 2026

The 54 Flock license plate reading cameras in Pekin will remain there for another year. The Pekin City Council voted 6-1 on Monday to renew its annual contract with Flock.

---



---

Local News

## East Peoria Mayor John Kahl announces reelection bid

Joe Deacon

, August 24, 2026

East Peoria Mayor John Kahl announced he will run for a third four-year term in a social media post, saying that holding the office “has been one of the greatest honors of my life.”



---

Local News

## Victims identified in fatal shooting, car crash that killed pedestrian

Lizzie Seils

, August 23, 2026

The Peoria County Coroner has identified the victims of early Saturday morning's fatal shooting, car chase and crash as a 52-year-old man and a 26-year-old man, both from the city's South Side.

---



---

Local News

## 2 dead, 2 suspects hospitalized after shooting, car chase in Peoria

Lizzie Seils

, August 22, 2026

Two people are dead, another person is wounded, and two suspects are in the hospital after a shooting led to a car chase and crash overnight Saturday on Peoria's South Side.

---



---

Local News

## Arson indicated after Peoria fire damages several vehicles

Joe Deacon

, August 21, 2026

The Peoria Fire Department said a Thursday night fire that damaged multiple vehicles on West Main Street was intentionally set.



---

Local News

## Sept. 11 hero coming to Washington to speak at annual remembrance ceremony

Steve Stein

, August 20, 2026

The City of Washington has awarded a \$2,500 tourism grant to the committee that's organizing this year's Sept. 11 Remembrance Ceremony. The grant will help offset the cost of bringing in the guest speaker.



---

Local News

# Pekin grade school district cancels two days of class over bus issues

Joe Deacon, Steve Stein

, August 20, 2026

Problems with bus service on the first day of school have prompted Pekin District 108 officials to cancel classes Thursday and Friday to rectify the transportation challenges.



---

## Local News

# Mayor Ali views Phoenix Manor project as another key piece to revitalizing Peoria's South Side

Joe Deacon

, August 18, 2026

Peoria Mayor Rita Ali remains steadfast in her belief that the planned Phoenix Manor permanent supportive housing development on the South Side ultimately will benefit the neighborhood.

**Listen • 7:30**

---



---

#### State News

## Georgia man found guilty of first-degree murder in death of Peoria teen at 2022 party in Bloomington

Lauren Warnecke

, August 17, 2026

A McLean County jury convicted Tomiyale Anderson, 22, on all counts related to the shooting death of 17-year-old Kanye Stowers, a student at Richwoods High School in Peoria.



---

#### Local News

## Update to Peoria's nuisance enforcement remains under consideration

Joe Deacon

, August 14, 2026

The City of Peoria continues to look at strengthening its enforcement targeting chronic nuisance properties. But a proposal championed by city council member Denise Jackson that would require around the clock staffing at large apartment complexes failed to advance.



---

Local News

## Tri-County region spared from brunt of storm that struck Bloomington-Normal

Joe Deacon, Eric Stock

, August 14, 2026

A severe storm system that damaged buildings, downed trees and left thousands without power in Bloomington-Normal on Thursday largely spared the Tri-County region.



---

Local News

# Two stop signs will be added to downtown Pekin intersection to improve safety

Steve Stein

, August 13, 2026

A potentially dangerous intersection in downtown Pekin soon will be converted into a four-way stop to make it safer.

---



---

Local News

## Peoria City Council gives initial OK to South Side supportive housing complex

Joe Deacon

, August 12, 2026

The Peoria City Council has given initial approval for a \$29 million permanent supportive housing complex for homeless families on the city's South Side. Mayor Rita Ali said the Phoenix Manor development is a key step toward revitalizing the area.

---



---

Local News

## Pekin puts off renewal vote on contract for its 54 Flock cameras

Steve Stein

, August 11, 2026

The Pekin City Council on Monday delayed a decision on whether the city should renew its annual contract with Flock Safety for 54 license plate reading cameras. The issue was tabled until Aug. 24.



---

Local News

## Peoria County man identified in fatal semi crash

Eric Stock

, August 9, 2026

Fulton County Coroner Austin Rhodes said Todd Brown, 54, of Hanna City, was killed Friday afternoon after the semi tractor-trailer he was driving drove off the northbound lanes of Illinois Route 97.

---



---

#### Local News

## Apartment complex for homeless people on Peoria's South Side advances; community voices objections

Joe Deacon

, August 7, 2026

A proposed 48-unit apartment complex at the site of the former Harrison School on Peoria's South Side would assist families transitioning out of homelessness, but residents who live in the vicinity feel the location is not the right place for such a development.

---



---

#### Local News

# Will Washington be the next area community with a Business Development District?

Steve Stein

, August 5, 2026

Washington plans to join the crowd when it comes to creating a Business Development District. Several area towns including East Peoria, Morton and Pekin have the economic development tool in place.

---



---

Local News

## Tazewell County coroner says no foul play in death of man found along Pekin park trail

Joe Deacon

, August 4, 2026

The death of a man who was found Monday along a trail on the south end of McNaughton Park in Pekin has been determined as “heart related,” according to the Tazewell County coroner.

---



---

Local News

## **Tazewell County or Abraham Lincoln? Question dominates Justice Center Annex naming**

Steve Stein

, July 30, 2026

The Tazewell County Board is trying to come up with an official name for the most expensive building in county history. The \$44 million Tazewell County Justice Center Annex is expected to open next year.



---

Local News

## **Peoria police make arrest tied to fatal shooting at Bradley Park**

Joe Deacon

, July 30, 2026

Peoria Police said Marcus Triplett Jr., 18, was arrested Tuesday during execution of a search warrant at a residence in the 1300 block of North Manchin Avenue.

---



---

Local News

## Prosecutor: Peoria County judge reverses own decision, sentences man for manslaughter instead of murder

Joe Deacon

, July 29, 2026

A Peoria man originally found guilty of murder has been sentenced instead to 10 years in prison for involuntary manslaughter.

---



---

Local News

## Pekin library sees visits climbing, issues with homeless patrons declining

Steve Stein

, July 29, 2026

Pekin Public Library Director Jeff Brooks had good news to convey to city leaders in the library's annual report: Patron visits are climbing and steps to improve safety have been successful.

---



---

Local News

## Peoria City Council advances push for better apartment complex security amid reservations

Joe Deacon

, July 29, 2026

Peoria City Council member Denise Jackson is advocating for regulations mandating 24-hour security staffing at apartment complexes with more than 50 rental units.

---



---

Local News

# Driver accused in deadly crash after fleeing traffic stop is jailed in Peoria

Joe Deacon

, July 28, 2026

The alleged driver of a vehicle that fled a traffic stop in Peoria's East Bluff neighborhood and was later involved in a collision with another vehicle that claimed the life of a teen passenger is now in custody at the Peoria County Jail.



---

Local News

## Pekin, CityLink still on the road to renewing their agreement for public bus service

Steve Stein

, July 28, 2026

Pekin isn't quite ready to renew its agreement with CityLink. After about a half-hour of discussion Monday with CityLink officials, the Pekin City Council tabled a vote on the agreement until Oct. 26.

---



---

Local News

## Peoria Housing Authority taking initial steps toward demolishing 'obsolete' Harrison Homes

Joe Deacon

, July 27, 2026

Several public housing buildings on Peoria's South Side could be slated for demolition in hopes of creating an opportunity for continued neighborhood revitalization efforts.



---

Local News

## Driver flees Peoria traffic stop; teen passenger in second vehicle killed in collision

Joe Deacon

, July 23, 2026

A 17-year-old girl died early Thursday after the vehicle she was in was struck by another vehicle that fled from a traffic stop in Peoria's East Bluff neighborhood.

---



---

Local News

## East Peoria gives final OK for purchase of farm property

Joe Deacon

, July 23, 2026

East Peoria is growing in size by an additional 272 acres, at a cost of \$5.25 million. The city council unanimously voted for final approval to purchase the Keil & Blye Farm property between Centennial Drive, Grange Road and U.S. 24.

---



---

Local News

## Eureka man dies in rural Woodford County crash

Joe Deacon

, July 23, 2026

A 73-year-old Eureka man is dead after a two-vehicle crash on U.S. 24 in rural Woodford County, said coroner Tim Ruestman.

---



---

Local News

## Decades-old oversight at Lincoln Grade School site in Washington will be corrected

Steve Stein

, July 23, 2026

The recent sale of Lincoln Grade School to the Washington Park District revealed an oversight. Platted streets and alleys on city-owned right-of-way were dedicated to Washington Grade School District 52, but never vacated.

---



---

Local News

# Rand retiring as head of Advanced Medical Transport; Baker named incoming CEO

Joe Deacon

, July 22, 2026

Advanced Medical Transport will have its first new leader in 35 years by the end of this year. Andrew Rand is retiring as the Peoria-based nonprofit emergency medical service's CEO, with current Chief Operating Officer Todd Baker set to take over Rand's role.



---

Local News

## Jury finds Peoria Heights Mayor Wigginton not guilty of DUI

Joe Deacon

, July 21, 2026

Peoria Heights Mayor Matt Wigginton has been found not guilty of misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence.

---



---

Local News

## Dismemberment charges added in East Bluff homicide as new details are revealed

Lauren Warnecke

, July 17, 2026

Peoria County State's Attorney Jodi Hoos said 41-year-old David L. King was strangled to death prior to being severely mutilated.



---

Local News

## Week-long drone pilot leads to arrest in ambulance theft

Lauren Warnecke

, July 16, 2026

Peoria Police are testing a first responder drone, allowing officers to assess a scene remotely. In the pilot program's first days, police used the drone in place of a high speed chase involving a stolen ambulance.

---



---

#### Local News

## Peoria council vote on Twin Towers funding plan targeted for late September

Joe Deacon

, July 16, 2026

In late April, the Peoria City Council approved an ordinance formally proposing the Twin Towers Place Special Service Area. Tower residents petitioned the city to create the SSA to generate the estimated \$2.5 million needed for repairs and renovations.

---



---

#### Local News

## 2 charged with murder, concealment connected to East Bluff man found dead in his freezer

Joe Deacon, Lauren Warnecke

, July 15, 2026

A Peoria man found dead inside an East Bluff residence Monday suffered fatal injuries that prompted a homicide investigation, according to Peoria County Coroner Jamie Harwood. Two people have been arrested in connection with the incident.



---

### Local News

## Jackson plans community forum to discuss state of Peoria's 1st District

Joe Deacon

, July 15, 2026

Peoria City Council member Denise Jackson said the South Side is facing a “critical juncture” in pursuing stability, revitalization and economic progress.

---



---

#### Local News

## Peoria Police Department pilots program using drones as first responders

Joe Deacon

, July 15, 2026

The Peoria Police Department is running a one-week pilot program using drones as emergency first responders. The trial is aimed at improving response times, enhancing community and officer safety, and providing police with critical information prior to arriving at a scene.



---

#### Local News

## Advanced Medical Transport, Peoria police planning shared north side location

Joe Deacon

, July 15, 2026

A planned Advanced Medical Transport ambulance station on Peoria's north side is expected to double as the site of a new Peoria Police Department substation.

---



---

Local News

## Peoria city manager expresses frustration over ongoing issues with Downtown Riverview Plaza

Joe Deacon

, July 14, 2026

The Riverview Plaza tower in Downtown Peoria has been shuttered for more than two years, as the city pushes the building owner to fix the fire suppression, sprinkler and electrical systems. City Manager Patrick Urich said Peoria is doing everything within its power to see the building brought into code compliance.

Listen • 7:18



---

Local News

# Decatur man receives life sentence for 2023 murder at West Peoria gas station

Joe Deacon

, July 10, 2026

Lamentae Turner of Decatur has been sentenced to life in prison for a 2023 fatal shooting at the Casey's gas station on Farmington Road in West Peoria.

---



---

Local News

## Prosecutors say off-duty Creve Coeur police officer killed roommate, changed her story in interviews

Joe Deacon

, July 9, 2026

Caitlynn Girkin, 27, faces three counts of first-degree murder in the death of Adolfo Cazares, 29, in the early morning hours of March 10. Her pretrial detention hearing has been delayed until next Thursday.

---



---

Local News

## East Peoria mayor discusses long-range plans, city growth and keeping the casino

Joe Deacon

, July 9, 2026

In the resumption of a quarterly interview series, East Peoria Mayor John Kahl says optimizing city growth is a key component of the 20-year comprehensive plan adopted in January.

**Listen • 7:30**



---

Local News

## East Peoria spends \$5.2M on farmland with eye toward residential development

Joe Deacon

, July 8, 2026

East Peoria city leaders have agreed to spend \$5.2 million for more than 270 acres of undeveloped farmland near the city's northeast side in hopes of future residential growth.



Local News

## Authorities announce female officer's arrest in fatal Creve Coeur shooting

Joe Deacon

, July 8, 2026

Tazewell County State's Attorney Kevin Johnson and the Illinois State Police announced the arrest of Caitlynn Girkin in connection with the fatal shooting of Adolfo Cazares.



Local News

## Peoria coroner identifies body pulled from the Illinois River

[Joe Deacon](#)

, July 7, 2026

Peoria County Coroner Jamie Harwood said the body of a Peoria man recovered from the Illinois River likely was in the water for at least eight hours.

---



---

[Local News](#)

## Washington honors ex-firefighter who alerted neighbors during fire

[Steve Stein](#)

, July 7, 2026

With a few dozen of his neighbors looking on, Washington resident Al Ponto was honored Monday by the city for his actions awakening neighbors whose home was on fire.

---



---

[Local News](#)

# Peoria police report declines in murders, shootings through first half of year

Joe Deacon

, July 1, 2026

Shooting incidents, gunshot victims and total homicides in Peoria are down slightly through the first six months of 2026, compared with a year ago.



Local News

## Motorcyclist killed in 2-vehicle crash in Pekin

Joe Deacon

, July 1, 2026

Dennis Kenser Jr., 50, of rural Manito, died early Wednesday after a crash involving a second vehicle in Pekin.



Local News

## Jury awards \$50M judgement in sexual assault case at a Peoria camp

Joe Deacon

, July 1, 2026

A jury in Cook County has returned a \$50 million judgment against the Chicago-based owners of a Peoria fitness camp after an 8-year-old boy was allegedly sexually assaulted by another male camper.

---