

WCBU Q2 2026 FCC Report

Categories/Topics below:

- Arts and Culture
- Business and Economy
- Education
- Politics and Government
- Public Safety

Arts and Culture

Local News

Peoria Riverfront Museum lands \$1M donation, adds rare printing of Declaration of Independence

Joe Deacon

, June 26, 2026

The Peoria Riverfront Museum is celebrating a \$1 million philanthropic gift for performance opportunities, and the addition of another rare historical American document to its permanent collection.



Local News

Peoria Municipal Band celebrates 89th season of free summer concerts

Mae Gilliland Wright

, June 25, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Dr. David Vroman, director of the Peoria Municipal Band, about the band's 89th season of free summer concerts.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

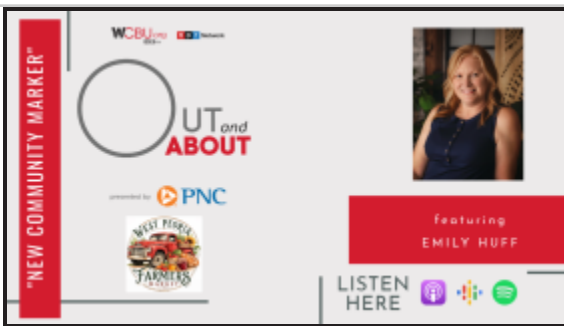
Peoria Riverfront Museum leader stresses inclusion in Great American State Fair is not political

Joe Deacon

, June 22, 2026

The Peoria Riverfront Museum will represent Illinois with a pavilion on the National Mall as part of the upcoming Great American State Fair in Washington, D.C., celebrating the 250th anniversary of American independence.

Listen • 7:30



Local News

Introducing the new West Peoria Farmers Market

Mae Gilliland Wright

, June 18, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Emily Huff about the new West Peoria Farmers Market, held every Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Franciscan Recreation Complex.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Peoria Astronomical Society's summer viewings at Northmoor Observatory surpass 7 decades

Joe Deacon

, June 18, 2026

This Saturday night brings the last sunset before the summer solstice arrives early Sunday, beginning the longest day of the year. If the evening skies stay clear, it could be a great night for stargazing at the century-old Northmoor Observatory in Donovan Park.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Crowd of 200K anticipated for 40th Red, White & Boom fireworks show

Joe Deacon

, June 17, 2026

Organizers of this year's Red, White & Boom fireworks show along the Illinois River on Independence Day expect the turnout to be spectacular.



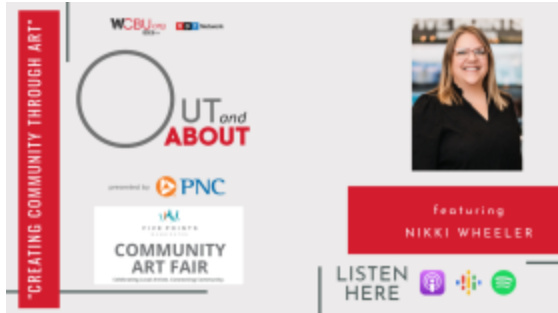
Local News

Flag Day ceremony dedicates new Patriot Plaza in Peoria

Joe Deacon

, June 15, 2026

Veterans, local civic leaders and community members joined in celebrating Peoria's new Patriot Plaza historic memorial Sunday during a dedication ceremony at Springdale Cemetery.



Local News

Five Points Washington's Community Art Fair

Mae Gilliland Wright

, June 11, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Nikki Wheeler, Special Events Assistant at Five Points Washington, about the upcoming Community Art Fair on June 20 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. This curated outdoor event brings together regional artists, live music and hands-on art activities for children in a welcoming, community-centered setting. Wheeler shares how the fair supports local creatives while expanding access to arts and culture, and how it's the perfect way to discover something exciting and new.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Peoria's Juneteenth observance blossoms into community-wide series of events and activities

[Joe Deacon](#)

, June 11, 2026

The cultural and community impact of the Juneteenth holiday continues to grow in Peoria each year, evidenced by a month filled with several celebrations and activities.



Local News

New plaza at Peoria's Springdale Cemetery honors Revolutionary War veterans

[Joe Deacon](#)

, June 10, 2026

As America prepares to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, a new memorial honoring Revolutionary War veterans with ties to the Peoria area is taking its place in the historic Springdale Cemetery.



Local News

Peoria Mayor Ali thinks riverfront amphitheater will arrive sooner, cost a little more

Joe Deacon

, June 9, 2026

Peoria Mayor Ali believes the 5,000-seat outdoor performance venue along the Illinois River will provide an economic impact and cultural benefit for the entire region. While the project is primarily funded by an \$11 million donation to the city, Ali said it's looking like the cost may go slightly above that amount.

Listen • 4:29



Local News

Peoria NAACP Branch celebrates Juneteenth with parade

Rich Draeger

, June 8, 2026

The Peoria NAACP will again celebrate Juneteenth with the 3rd annual Ernestine Jackson Freedom Day Parade on Saturday, June 13, in Downtown Peoria. The parade will feature 70+ units and be led by Grand Marshall Andre W. Allen, a Peoria City Council member, and family.

Listen • 4:28



Local News

Jubilee Day: A Juneteenth Celebration

Mae Gilliland Wright

, June 4, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Chanel Hargrave-Murray of the Peoria Park District about Jubilee Day: A Juneteenth Celebration, taking place June 19 on the Peoria RiverFront. The free community event blends live entertainment, cultural experiences, family activities, food vendors, storytelling, an Ancestor Tree Activation Station and much more. The evening concludes with a special Juneteenth-themed drone show over the riverfront.

Listen • 4:30



State News

For now, Lincoln's Balloons Over 66 festival won't have balloons

Lauren Warnecke

, June 2, 2026

Seth Goodman said he can't keep organizing the hot air balloons that are the cornerstone of Lincoln's signature event. Goodman told WGLT he can't keep covering the \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year it takes to operate and insure the balloon flights.



Local News

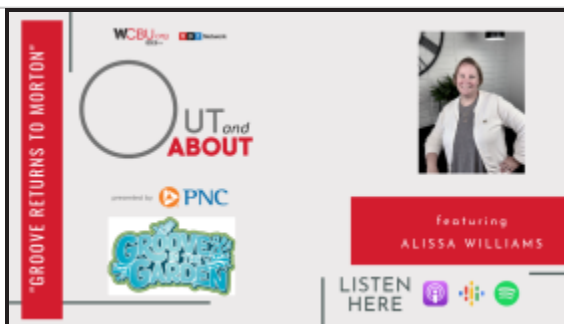
YANI Collective Juneteenth Fest set for June 13 on Peoria Riverfront

Mae Gilliland Wright

, May 28, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Marc Supreme of Strictly Hip Hop 90.7 FM about this year's YANI Collective Juneteenth Fest taking place June 13 at the Peoria Riverfront.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Morton Public Library's Groove in the Garden Concert Series

[Mae Gilliland Wright](#)

, May 21, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Alissa Williams of the Morton Public Library about the return of the library's popular Groove in the Garden Concert Series.

Listen • 4:30



[Local News](#)

Peoria Civic Center to search for new GM as Edgar departs

[Joe Deacon](#)

, May 15, 2026

Rik Edgar is stepping down as general manager of the Peoria Civic Center to pursue another job opportunity, the entertainment venue's management company announced Friday.



Local News

Mackinaw Music International Wine and Craft Beer Festival

Mae Gilliland Wright

, May 14, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Diane Hahn, co-founder of Mackinaw Valley Vineyard, about the upcoming Mackinaw Music, International Wine, and Craft Beer Festival taking place Memorial Day weekend. The two-day event features live music, local food vendors, and the chance to sample wines and craft beers from around the world.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Peoria comedy club illustrates how \$16 billion in pandemic relief missed the places that needed it most

Molly Hughes

, May 14, 2026

For the first two decades Dan Conlin owned the Jukebox Comedy Club, the money from the previous week's shows paid for the next one. Shows, bills, another week, another show. Then came the pandemic.

Listen • 4:25



Local News

'Toytopia' at the Riverfront Museum suggests the toys we loved say a lot about us

Molly Hughes

, May 8, 2026

There's a life-size dollhouse you can walk into. A row of vintage arcade cabinets, fully playable. LEGO bricks, Lincoln Logs and every generation of Mr. Potato Head are lined up side by side.



Local News

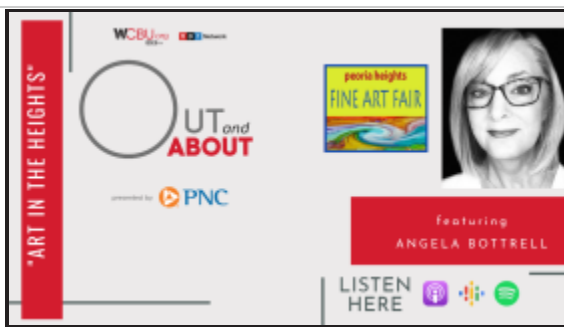
Robert Ketchens feature exhibition at the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria

Mae Gilliland Wright

, May 7, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with social realist painter Robert Ketchens about his current exhibition at the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria. On view through June 20 in Gallery 3R, Ketchens' work uses bold color and symbolism to explore the complexities of the African diaspora and themes of dignity, memory, and humanity. The exhibition will culminate in the CAC's Juneteenth Celebration, where Ketchens will speak about his work, with a combined art reception on May 16.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Peoria Heights holds annual Fine Art Fair

[Mae Gilliland Wright](#)

, April 30, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Angela Bottrell, co-chair of the Peoria Heights Fine Art Fair, about the upcoming two-day event taking place May 9 and 10 in Tower Park. The juried fair features artists working across a wide range of mediums, from painting and photography to sculpture, jewelry, and fiber arts. Angela shares how the event supports working artists while creating a vibrant weekend for the community in the heart of Peoria Heights.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

One new Peoria mural overlooks Bradley entryway. Another will mark America 250 on West Main

[Joe Deacon](#)

, April 23, 2026

Bradley University recently unveiled a large mural on Harper Hall near the campus entryway intersection, while ArtsPartners of Central Illinois has announced plans for another mural at the corner of Main and Sheridan Road.



Local News

Wheels O' Time Museum celebrates transportation history

Mae Gilliland Wright

, April 23, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Diana Klein, Executive Director of the Wheels O' Time Museum, about the museum's 2026 season opening on May 1 and a full lineup of events celebrating transportation history through hands-on experiences.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Central Illinois Youth Symphony celebrates 60 years

Mae Gilliland Wright

, April 16, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Lidia Riley, Executive Director of the Central Illinois Youth Symphony, about the group's upcoming 60th anniversary concerts on May 3 at Five Points Washington. This milestone event brings together current students and alumni for a homecoming-style performance celebrating generations of young musicians. Riley shares how the program reflects both the organization's history and its future, with a mix of classic works, new compositions, and a grand finale featuring the 1812 Overture.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

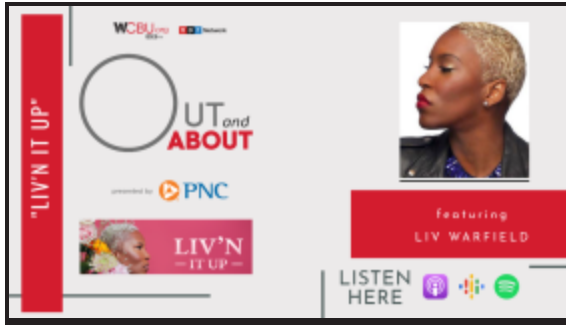
Peoria World Affairs Council looks at climate change and indigenous communities

Mae Gilliland Wright

, April 9, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois is joined by Angela Weck, Executive Director of the Peoria Area World Affairs Council. They chat about an upcoming program exploring Indigenous rights, environmental justice, and global climate challenges.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Liv Warfield performs with the Peoria Symphony Orchestra

Mae Gilliland Wright

, April 2, 2026

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Peoria native and singer-songwriter, director, and performer Liv Warfield about her upcoming April 17 concert with the Peoria Symphony Orchestra at the Prairie Home Alliance Theater.

Economy and Business

Local News

Greater Peoria education, business leaders emphasize workforce readiness

Joe Deacon

, June 26, 2026

Incoming Peoria Public Schools Superintendent Jerry Bell said he wants District 150 to work hand-in-hand with the business community in preparing students to meet evolving workforce needs.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Tazewell County chooses 'better product' over local company for copier lease and service contract

Steve Stein

, June 25, 2026

After a vigorous debate Wednesday, Watts Copy Systems of Springfield won out over NCI Business Systems of Morton for a five-year contract to supply and service Tazewell County's 56 copiers.



Local News

Peoria City Council OKs tax incentive for Dutch Bros coffee shop

Joe Deacon

, June 24, 2026

Development of a Dutch Bros Coffee franchise near a well-traveled Peoria intersection will benefit from a tax reimbursement deal to offset some project expenses.



Local News

New roof will fix 'waterfall' leak at Pekin fire station

Steve Stein

, June 24, 2026

A leaky roof at a Pekin fire station that has allowed water to cascade into living quarters and work areas while disrupting emergency response operations will be removed and replaced.



Local News

Peoria approves adding 6 civilian officers to police department to strengthen downtown security

Joe Deacon

, June 24, 2026

The City of Peoria will spend about \$500,000 a year to hire six civilian community service officers aimed at boosting the police department's daytime security presence downtown.



Local News

Pekin decides not to sell its wastewater collection and treatment system

Steve Stein

, June 23, 2026

Illinois American Water won't purchase Pekin's wastewater system. Within two minutes Monday, the Pekin City Council discussed and rejected a proposal to enter into negotiations with the water company.



Local News

New era for Washington Plaza includes green space, security cameras, resurfaced parking lot

Steve Stein

, June 18, 2026

Washington Plaza is getting a makeover, fueled by an estimated \$500,000 investment by the City of Washington. A quarter-acre green space and parking lot resurfacing are among the highlights.



Local News

Bradley Athletics brings basketball NIL funding in-house

Joe Deacon

, June 17, 2026

The Bradley University athletics department will take over management of revenue sharing support and fundraising for its basketball teams, the university announced on Wednesday.



State News

Pritzker signs nearly \$56B budget with new business taxes as he seeks 3rd term

Ben Szalinski

, June 16, 2026

Budget contains minimal spending increase despite being largest in state history



Local News

Peoria market reflects downward trend in average gas prices

Joe Deacon

, June 15, 2026

As of Monday afternoon, the fuel cost-tracking website GasBuddy showed a per-gallon average of \$4.37 in the Peoria market.



Local News

Komatsu bets \$28 million on Peoria's manufacturing future

Molly Hughes

, June 10, 2026

Komatsu marked the grand opening of its new Peoria mining and surface haulage headquarters Wednesday with a ceremonial tree planting, a fitting symbol for a company whose name translates from Japanese as "little pine tree." Executives said the new facility signals their commitment to the future of manufacturing in the region and to the planet itself.



Local News

Open house on proposed sale of Pekin's wastewater system is not a city event

Steve Stein

, June 10, 2026

Pekin residents who want to learn about Illinois American Water's proposed purchase of the city's wastewater system can do so Thursday during an open house at City Hall.



Local News

Peoria Mayor Ali thinks riverfront amphitheater will arrive sooner, cost a little more

Joe Deacon

, June 9, 2026

Peoria Mayor Ali believes the 5,000-seat outdoor performance venue along the Illinois River will provide an economic impact and cultural benefit for the entire region. While the project is primarily funded by an \$11 million donation to the city, Ali said it's looking like the cost may go slightly above that amount.

Listen • 4:29



Local News

Pekin council members get new devices so they can 'do their job'

Steve Stein

, June 9, 2026

Pekin City Council members have struggled with their iPads. They've often been unable to reply to emails. The purchase of seven laptop/tablets for nearly \$19,000 will hopefully solve the problems.



Local News

East Peoria Mayor Kahl touts economic growth as owners celebrate Hampton Inn opening

Joe Deacon

, June 5, 2026

As owners of the new Hampton Inn along the Illinois River in East Peoria celebrate the hotel's "excellent start," Mayor John Kahl says the development signifies another step in the city's progress.



Local News

Peoria Heights trustees raise concerns over changes to development at former grocery store site

Joe Deacon

, June 5, 2026

Downsized plans for a mixed-used office and commercial building at the former Save A Lot grocery store site in Peoria Heights have board members considering whether the village codes need to be strengthened.



Local News

Peoria Mayor Ali details opposition to Pritzker's proposed statewide housing initiative

Joe Deacon

, June 4, 2026

Peoria Mayor Rita Ali says she supports the idea of streamlining the process for approving housing projects, but proposed statewide zoning regulations would go too far.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Washington steps up again to help downtown restaurant neighbor

Steve Stein

, June 3, 2026

The owner of a business on Washington's downtown square will get a six-figure payout from the city as a reimbursement for unexpected costs, and the city will spend another \$25,000 to repair drainage issues caused by the construction of a neighboring restaurant.



State News

Boiling mad and fearing an uncertain future, State Farm agents react to contract changes

Charlie Schlenker

, June 2, 2026

Many State Farm agents said they feel angry and betrayed by the Bloomington-based company.

Listen • 7:38



Local News

Peoria County puts another \$1M toward Radnor Road revitalization

Joe Deacon

, May 29, 2026

An additional \$1 million in federal funding will help Peoria County pay for preliminary design engineering on a project to revitalize Radnor Road, although construction may still be years away.



Local News

Peoria renews ShotSpotter subscription for another three years

Joe Deacon

, May 28, 2026

Peoria has renewed the police department's subscription to the ShotSpotter gunfire detection system for another three years. Police Chief Brad Dixon said the service has been very helpful in assisting officers in their response to shooting incidents.



Local News

Peoria council OKs swap with school district to advance Expo Gardens residential development

Joe Deacon

, May 27, 2026

Plans for a 200-home residential neighborhood at the former Exposition Gardens site in Peoria are taking shape after the City Council approved a land exchange with Peoria Public Schools to make the property more attractive to developers.



Local News

Gas prices remain volatile at start of Memorial Day weekend

Joe Deacon

, May 22, 2026

The price of gas in Greater Peoria has ticked down in recent days, but is still well above last year's average heading into the Memorial Day weekend.



Local News

Peoria Heights board discusses possible measures to manage public parking

Joe Deacon

, May 22, 2026

A member of the Peoria Heights village board wants to take a proactive approach to oversight of pay lots for public parking in business districts.



Local News

Former OSF fundraiser takes newly-created position with Bradley basketball programs

Joe Deacon

, May 20, 2026

Tom Hammerton has been named the general manager for the Bradley University men's and women's basketball programs.



Local News

Washington approves permit for city's first cannabis dispensary

Joe Deacon

, May 18, 2026

The first adult-use cannabis dispensary in Washington is one step closer to opening after gaining formal support from the city's elected representatives.



Local News

Peoria Civic Center to search for new GM as Edgar departs

Joe Deacon

, May 15, 2026

Rik Edgar is stepping down as general manager of the Peoria Civic Center to pursue another job opportunity, the entertainment venue's management company announced Friday.



Local News

Pekin seniors can get a reduction on their monthly garbage bill

Steve Stein

, May 14, 2026

Seniors age 65 and older who live in an owner-occupied home in Pekin are eligible for a \$1.50 discount on their monthly solid waste collection bill.



Local News

Peoria establishes registry for Main Street TIF; town board OKs committee on senior center

Joe Deacon

, May 14, 2026

The City of Peoria is taking the first step in establishing an economic incentive to spur growth on Main Street, while Peoria Township will consider forming a committee to look into the viability of a community senior center.



Local News

Member of St. Jude leadership board says care will not change, fundraising will continue

Joe Deacon

, May 13, 2026

A member of the Midwest Leadership Board for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital says no child will lose their care as the affiliation with OSF HealthCare comes to an end.



Local News

Split Peoria City Council OKs King Zone site for package liquor, but a hurdle still remains

Joe Deacon

, May 13, 2026

An East Bluff convenience and grocery store is one step closer to being able to sell package liquor, but whether or not the business receives a license remains to be seen.



Local News

New Peoria tattoo parlor a fresh start steeped in history, progress — and family

Tim Rosenberger

, May 13, 2026

A new downtown Peoria tattoo parlor remembers history but also looks to the future.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Urich offers Spring Street option for marina access if Caroline Street turns private

Joe Deacon

, May 11, 2026

A pending property sale that would see O'Brien Steel acquire land near the Illinois River from the Detweiller Trust has drawn scrutiny from some community members over the potential loss of river access and green space.

Listen • 4:29



Local News

Peoria set to complete traffic pattern switch on downtown streets

Joe Deacon

, May 11, 2026

Weather permitting, the Jefferson Avenue switch to two-way traffic between Walnut and Fayette streets starts at 10 a.m. Tuesday. This follows the recent phased implementation of two-way traffic on Adams Street.



Local News

Leaky water main near Washington Community High School will be replaced

Steve Stein

, May 8, 2026

A troublesome 700-foot water main under Bondurant Street just west of Washington Community High School will be replaced this summer. The Washington City Council approved a low bid of about \$270,000.



Local News

East Peoria to add more on-street parking, crosswalk near BluTowne

Joe Deacon

, May 8, 2026

The work includes removing the existing curb on the north side of Washington in the project area, adding easy-access parking spaces and installing a signalized crosswalk similar to the one on Washington between City Hall and the shopping center.



Local News

Newest 'Big Table Report' sets framework for strategic plan to grow Greater Peoria economy

Joe Deacon

, May 7, 2026

Strengthening the talent pipeline and overcoming economic barriers are among the five strategic pillars identified in the latest comprehensive report setting a roadmap for growing the Greater Peoria region.



Local News

Washington residents could get property tax relief if cannabis dispensary opens

Steve Stein

, May 6, 2026

Sales tax revenue from the proposed first adult-use cannabis dispensary in Washington may give residents property tax relief. The possibility was brought up during a Washington City Council meeting.



Local News

Panel offers students insights into importance of AI skills for future career opportunities

Joe Deacon

, May 4, 2026

Groups of Peoria high school students heard about the growing importance of artificial intelligence technology as it relates to workforce development during a panel discussion Monday at Distillery Labs.



Local News

Peoria market nears \$5 mark for a gallon of gas

Joe Deacon, Eric Stock

, May 4, 2026

Peoria-area drivers are getting closer to paying \$5 per gallon of gas as the war in Iran remains at a stalemate.



Local News

Pekin officials defend purchase of a new \$80K truck

Steve Stein

, April 29, 2026

The normally routine purchase of a new truck caused a bit of a stir at a Pekin City Council meeting. The 2026 Ford F-550 with a dump body will replace a 2003 dump truck that's in terrible shape.



Local News

Peoria issues 'call to action' in seeking aid and feedback for future housing development

Tim Rosenberger

, April 23, 2026

Peoria city government this week asked local professionals and residents for assistance and feedback to help build more and better housing.



Local News

Tennis ball sidelines Washington police canine Styx

Steve Stein

, April 22, 2026

Washington police dog Styx loves his tennis ball. So much that he accidentally swallowed it and had to have it surgically removed. But he's OK. Police Chief Jeff Stevens said Styx is recovering well.



Local News

Proposed Washington adult-use cannabis dispensary 'won't be a haven for criminal activity'

Steve Stein

, April 21, 2026

The chief legal officer for the company that wants to open the first adult-use cannabis dispensary in Washington assured city council members Monday that the building will be discreet and safe.



Local News

Peoria issues formal request for Expo Gardens residential development

Joe Deacon

, April 21, 2026

The City of Peoria has put out a call for housing developers interested in pursuing a residential project at the former Exposition Gardens.



Local News

Carle Health puts \$8M into facility upgrades at Pekin Hospital

Joe Deacon

, April 17, 2026

Carle Health will spend close to \$8 million to modernize Pekin Hospital, retiring unused and aging spaces with a focus on patient-based improvements.



Local News

Bradley student project targets food insecurity by raising awareness, funds to assist kitchen

Joe Deacon

, April 17, 2026

As part of a senior capstone project, Bradley classmates Kullan Le Blanc, Alyssa Barrera and Brendan Rayl launched the “Peoria Feeds Peoria” campaign and established a partnership with Sophia’s Kitchen in downtown Peoria.



Local News

Study shows \$799 million regional economic impact from community colleges, including ICC

Saskia Molina Gamez

, April 17, 2026

Illinois Central College and three other institutions together generate nearly \$800 million in economic impact and support 10,464 jobs across Central Illinois, according to a new study.



Local News

Pekin keeps the city's garbage collection in-house

Steve Stein

, April 16, 2026

Pekin has operated its own solid waste collection department for more than 20 years. That's not going to change anytime soon, after the city council unanimously rejected a bid from GFL Environmental.



Local News

Peoria City Council OKs putting \$480K toward upgrades at Martin Luther King Jr. Park

Joe Deacon

, April 15, 2026

The City of Peoria will provide close to a half-million dollars to rehabilitate Martin Luther King Jr. Park on the city's South Side



Local News

Peoria Township electors approve ballot question related to boycotts of Israel, meeting on senior center

[Joe Deacon](#)

, April 15, 2026

The annual meeting of the Peoria Township electors drew an overflow crowd Tuesday at City Hall, producing votes in favor of both a non-binding ballot question related to boycotts of Israel and a special meeting to consider funding for a possible senior center.



Local News

Lutticken Farms property now a part of Pekin Park District

[Steve Stein](#)

, April 14, 2026

The proposed data center on Pekin's Lutticken Farms property wasn't on the agenda at Monday's council meeting. But it was discussed twice, and it was in the background of two items involving the Lutticken land.



Local News

New OSF HealthCare CEO Conger eyes continued growth, improvement in care

Joe Deacon

, April 14, 2026

Following a lengthy transition period, Michelle Conger is embracing her new role as CEO of the OSF HealthCare system. Conger, who joined OSF in 1994, moved into the network's top leadership position following Bob Sehring's retirement early this month.

Listen • 7:31



Local News

Mayor Ali eager to see downtown growth from traffic pattern change, other planned projects

Joe Deacon

, April 8, 2026

In the resumption of a regular interview series, Peoria Mayor Rita Ali discusses the desire to see more activity return to downtown, as well as ongoing efforts aimed at business development, crime reduction and addressing the city's housing needs.

Listen • 4:29



Local News

As steel company vows to protect Peoria riverfront and trail, neighbors remain alarmed by pending land sale

Joe Deacon

, April 7, 2026

Critics of a pending sale of property along the Illinois River in Peoria fear a potential loss of green space and access, but the parties involved in the sale said the transaction is necessary to preserve the entity tasked with oversight of the land.



Local News

Washington cannabis dispensary foe: 'Our city does not need drug money to be successful'

Steve Stein

, April 7, 2026

Washington City Council members heard Monday from opponents of what would be the city's first adult-use cannabis dispensary. The dispensary is planned for the intersection of Centennial and McClugage.



Local News

Bradley President Shadid looks to university's future as he marks first year as leader

Joe Deacon

, April 1, 2026

The start of April marks Jim Shadid's one-year anniversary of taking on the role of Bradley University's 13th president. In an extended interview with WCBU, Shadid reflects on his first year while looking ahead to strengthening the university and upholding its mission.

Education



Peoria Public Schools

/

YouTube

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

[Joe Deacon](#)

, 16 hours ago

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.



courtesy

/

Peoria Public Schools

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

[Joe Deacon](#)

, 20 hours ago

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.



Peoria Riverfront Museum lands \$1M donation, adds rare printing of Declaration of Independence

June 26, 2026



Greater Peoria education, business leaders emphasize workforce readiness

June 26, 2026

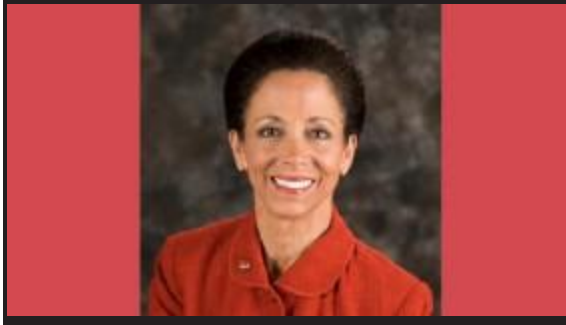
Listen • 4:30



High schoolers could soon be able to swap 2 years of foreign language with technical education

June 26, 2026

Listen • 5:05



Local News

Former Bradley University president Glasser dies

Joe Deacon

, June 23, 2026

Joanne Glasser, who served from 2007-2015 as Bradley University's first female president, has died.



State News

Missouri Valley Conference remakes Arch Madness, moves women's tournament to St. Louis

Eric Stock

, June 22, 2026

The top 10 teams in the 11-team league will qualify for the postseason tournament and the top two seeds will get automatic bids to the semifinals.



Local News

Peoria Astronomical Society's summer viewings at Northmoor Observatory surpass 7 decades

Joe Deacon

, June 18, 2026

This Saturday night brings the last sunset before the summer solstice arrives early Sunday, beginning the longest day of the year. If the evening skies stay clear, it could be a great night for stargazing at the century-old Northmoor Observatory in Donovan Park.

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[Joe Deacon](#)

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State News

Pritzker signs nearly \$56B budget with new business taxes as he seeks 3rd term

[Ben Szalinski](#)

, June 16, 2026

Budget contains minimal spending increase despite being largest in state history



Local News

Superintendent says AI is already ‘part of the ecosystem’ at District 150 – with or without a policy

Molly Hughes

, June 12, 2026

District 150 Superintendent Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat said artificial intelligence in the classroom is inevitable but Peoria schools don't have a plan for it yet.



Local News

Peoria superintendent makes final push to save teacher grant as she prepares to leave district

Molly Hughes

, June 12, 2026

Peoria School District 150 Superintendent Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat is using some of her final weeks in office to fight for continued funding of the Teacher Vacancy Grant, a state program she said transformed how the district recruits and keeps teachers.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Peoria's Juneteenth observance blossoms into community-wide series of events and activities

Joe Deacon

, June 11, 2026

The cultural and community impact of the Juneteenth holiday continues to grow in Peoria each year, evidenced by a month filled with several celebrations and activities.



Local News

Peoria Mayor Ali details opposition to Pritzker's proposed statewide housing initiative

Joe Deacon

, June 4, 2026

Peoria Mayor Rita Ali says she supports the idea of streamlining the process for approving housing projects, but proposed statewide zoning regulations would go too far.

[Listen • 4:30](#)



State News

Schools to get funding increase, but less than some had urged

Peter Hancock

, June 1, 2026

Illinois lawmakers passed a budget Monday morning that includes a full \$350 million increase in Evidence-Based Funding for public schools, money earmarked specifically for the neediest school districts in the state.



Local News

Peoria council OKs swap with school district to advance Expo Gardens residential development

[Joe Deacon](#)

, May 27, 2026

Plans for a 200-home residential neighborhood at the former Exposition Gardens site in Peoria are taking shape after the City Council approved a land exchange with Peoria Public Schools to make the property more attractive to developers.



Local News

How a new consortium seeks to strengthen Greater Peoria's health care workforce pipeline

[Joe Deacon](#)

, May 26, 2026

Peoria City Council member Kiran Velpula sees a new medical and educational partnership as a way to build the city's health care workforce and boost the regional economy.

Listen • 4:30



State News

Illinois bill would give teachers due process but raises concerns about patterns of bad behavior

Evan Holden, Charlie Schlenker, Lauren Warnecke

, May 21, 2026

A bill introduced in the Illinois legislature would allow teachers to challenge notices of remedy, actions that go against school policy but can be fixed. Opponents have raised concern that this could erase documentation of patterns of abuse by teachers.

Listen • 4:33



Local News

Former OSF fundraiser takes newly-created position with Bradley basketball programs

Joe Deacon

, May 20, 2026

Tom Hammerton has been named the general manager for the Bradley University men's and women's basketball programs.



Local News

Peoria school board recognizes student science researchers, celebrates attendance gains

Molly Hughes

, May 12, 2026

A Peoria Public Schools teacher has brought home a \$10,000 grant to study the chemistry and history of chocolate — and she's putting her students to work on the research.



Local News

Leaky water main near Washington Community High School will be replaced

Steve Stein

, May 8, 2026

A troublesome 700-foot water main under Bondurant Street just west of Washington Community High School will be replaced this summer. The Washington City Council approved a low bid of about \$270,000.



Local News

Panel offers students insights into importance of AI skills for future career opportunities

Joe Deacon

, May 4, 2026

Groups of Peoria high school students heard about the growing importance of artificial intelligence technology as it relates to workforce development during a panel discussion Monday at Distillery Labs.



State News

Illinois State Board of Education wants to revamp how it counts low-income students

Peter Hancock

, May 3, 2026

Number of families receiving federal benefits such as Medicaid and SNAP is declining



Local News

U-High grad Chaia Meier works way up to lead role as Bradley women's basketball coach

Randy Kindred

, April 29, 2026

Former U-High girls basketball coach Mike Sondgeroth recalls Meier being "a player who was devoted to the program and gave her all."



Local News

Peoria school board approves nearly \$1.85 million literacy curriculum overhaul

[Molly Hughes](#)

, April 27, 2026

The Peoria Public Schools Board of Education on Monday approved a sweeping literacy curriculum overhaul, replacing programs set to expire at the end of June.



Local News

Boxing icon Buster Douglas brings championship message to Peoria student speech competition

[Molly Hughes](#)

, April 25, 2026

Elementary and middle school students from across Peoria competed in the 2026 District Speech and Debate Championship on Saturday, and former heavyweight boxer James "Buster" Douglas was there to cheer them on.



Local News

One new Peoria mural overlooks Bradley entryway. Another will mark America 250 on West Main

Joe Deacon

, April 23, 2026

Bradley University recently unveiled a large mural on Harper Hall near the campus entryway intersection, while ArtsPartners of Central Illinois has announced plans for another mural at the corner of Main and Sheridan Road.



Local News

'It's a home': Ground broken on new Wilder-Waite Grade School

Molly Hughes

, April 17, 2026

Under a sunny sky on Friday, Dunlap schools officially broke ground on the new Wilder-Waite Grade School, marking a long-awaited milestone for the growing district. The ceremony blended celebration with reflection on the school's legacy.



Local News

Bradley student project targets food insecurity by raising awareness, funds to assist kitchen

Joe Deacon

, April 17, 2026

As part of a senior capstone project, Bradley classmates Kullan Le Blanc, Alyssa Barrera and Brendan Rayl launched the “Peoria Feeds Peoria” campaign and established a partnership with Sophia’s Kitchen in downtown Peoria.



Local News

Study shows \$799 million regional economic impact from community colleges, including ICC

Saskia Molina Gamez

, April 17, 2026

Illinois Central College and three other institutions together generate nearly \$800 million in economic impact and support 10,464 jobs across Central Illinois, according to a new study.



Local News

'Historic moment' in Washington: Groundbreaking held for new \$23M Lincoln Grade School

Steve Stein

, April 15, 2026

Ground was broken Tuesday for a new \$23.4 million Lincoln Grade School that will be built on the 32-acre Washington Middle School campus on North Main Street.



Local News

Bradley receives \$1M toward completion of weightlessness tower

Joe Deacon

, April 13, 2026

The \$1 million allocation will enable the university to install advanced equipment needed to make the Zaleski Drop Tower housed in the Business and Engineering Convergence Center fully operational.



Local News

Washington cannabis dispensary foe: 'Our city does not need drug money to be successful'

Steve Stein

, April 7, 2026

Washington City Council members heard Monday from opponents of what would be the city's first adult-use cannabis dispensary. The dispensary is planned for the intersection of Centennial and McClugage.



Local News

Bradley President Shadid looks to university's future as he marks first year as leader

Joe Deacon

, April 1, 2026

The start of April marks Jim Shadid's one-year anniversary of taking on the role of Bradley University's 13th president. In an extended interview with WCBU, Shadid reflects on his first year while looking ahead to strengthening the university and upholding its mission.

Politics and Government

Local News

Pekin's new council room podium honors former longtime city clerk

Steve Stein

, June 30, 2026

There's a new \$3,200 podium in the city council meeting room at Pekin City Hall. It's a gift from the family of the late Bill Jansen, who served as Pekin's city clerk from 1939 to 1979.



Local News

Peoria Park District's planned overhaul of Owens Ice Center estimated at \$18-20M

Joe Deacon

, June 30, 2026

The Peoria Park District is gearing up for a major overhaul of the Owens Ice Center, brought about by the need to replace the outdated system that freezes the ice on the rinks.



Local News

Peoria City Council member Cyr is taking a leave of absence

Joe Deacon

, June 30, 2026

Fifth District Peoria City Council member Denis Cyr is taking an extended leave of absence following a recent medical procedure.



Local News

Peoria to consider adding guidelines, standards for porch pantries

Joe Deacon

, June 29, 2026

Peoria is considering a change to the city code that would govern home-based free distribution of food, clothing and other household items.



Courts

WCBU.org npr Network

Local News

Peoria teen handed sentences totaling 90 years in fatal South Side shooting

Joe Deacon

, June 26, 2026

An 18-year-old man found guilty in a fatal shooting on Peoria's South Side last June has been sentenced to a total of 90 years in prison.



Local News

Tazewell County will spend more than \$30K for new chairs in its board meeting room

Steve Stein

, June 26, 2026

Thirty-year-old chairs in the James Carius Community Room at the Tazewell County Justice Center will be replaced. The county board, which meets in the room, approved the purchase of 91 new chairs.



State News

High schoolers could soon be able to swap 2 years of foreign language with technical education

Evan Holden

, June 26, 2026

The current law requires students take at least two years of foreign language classes but that could change if the governor signs a bill the Illinois legislature unanimously passed.

Listen • 5:05



Local News

Tazewell County chooses 'better product' over local company for copier lease and service contract

Steve Stein

, June 25, 2026

After a vigorous debate Wednesday, Watts Copy Systems of Springfield won out over NCI Business Systems of Morton for a five-year contract to supply and service Tazewell County's 56 copiers.



Local News

Peoria City Council OKs tax incentive for Dutch Bros coffee shop

Joe Deacon

, June 24, 2026

Development of a Dutch Bros Coffee franchise near a well-traveled Peoria intersection will benefit from a tax reimbursement deal to offset some project expenses.



Local News

New roof will fix 'waterfall' leak at Pekin fire station

Steve Stein

, June 24, 2026

A leaky roof at a Pekin fire station that has allowed water to cascade into living quarters and work areas while disrupting emergency response operations will be removed and replaced.



Local News

Peoria approves adding 6 civilian officers to police department to strengthen downtown security

Joe Deacon

, June 24, 2026

The City of Peoria will spend about \$500,000 a year to hire six civilian community service officers aimed at boosting the police department's daytime security presence downtown.



Local News

Pekin decides not to sell its wastewater collection and treatment system

Steve Stein

, June 23, 2026

Illinois American Water won't purchase Pekin's wastewater system. Within two minutes Monday, the Pekin City Council discussed and rejected a proposal to enter into negotiations with the water company.



Local News

New \$4M Tazewell County Animal Control facility is a doggone good place for humans, too

Steve Stein

, June 22, 2026

Animals and humans alike will benefit from a new Tazewell County Animal Control facility that has opened on the county's Tremont campus. The old facility, built in the 1990s, was described as a "dungeon."



Local News

Peoria Riverfront Museum leader stresses inclusion in Great American State Fair is not political

Joe Deacon

, June 22, 2026

The Peoria Riverfront Museum will represent Illinois with a pavilion on the National Mall as part of the upcoming Great American State Fair in Washington, D.C., celebrating the 250th anniversary of American independence.

Listen • 7:30



Local News

East Peoria Police Department set for transition to its new station

Joe Deacon

, June 18, 2026

The East Peoria Police Department will move operations to its new headquarters on Camp Street beginning Monday morning.



Local News

New era for Washington Plaza includes green space, security cameras, resurfaced parking lot

Steve Stein

, June 18, 2026

Washington Plaza is getting a makeover, fueled by an estimated \$500,000 investment by the City of Washington. A quarter-acre green space and parking lot resurfacing are among the highlights.



State News

Bloomington natives who worked for and with the Obamas reflect on Presidential Center opening in Chicago

Evan Holden, Eric Stock

, June 18, 2026

The Obama Presidential Center is opening on Friday to the public. Bloomington natives Mike Jordan, who worked for Obama, and Terri Lantz, Jordan's sister, have toured the museum. Mike Kelleher, also originally from Bloomington, worked for Obama when he was the 44th president by picking letters from the public for Obama to read.

Listen • 4:35



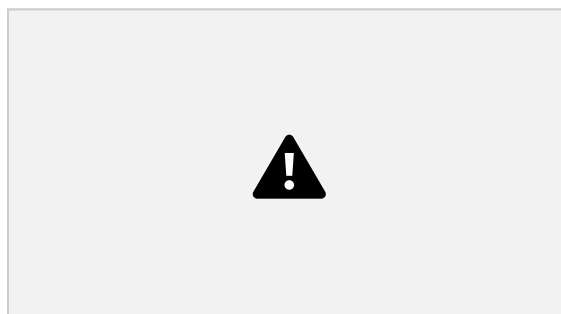
Local News

Crowd of 200K anticipated for 40th Red, White & Boom fireworks show

Joe Deacon

, June 17, 2026

Organizers of this year's Red, White & Boom fireworks show along the Illinois River on Independence Day expect the turnout to be spectacular.



State News

Pritzker signs nearly \$56B budget with new business taxes as he seeks 3rd term

Ben Szalinski

, June 16, 2026

Budget contains minimal spending increase despite being largest in state history



Local News

Life-saving heroes from 2 Washington fires honored by the city

Steve Stein

, June 16, 2026

Six civilians and a firefighter-paramedic from the Washington Fire Department were honored Monday for their life-saving actions during two major fires within an 11-hour span late last month.



State News

Disability rights advocates file lawsuit over Illinois' 'dangerous' right-to-die law

Cindy Hernandez

, June 15, 2026

The advocates oppose the legislation, which takes effect in September. The suits, filed in Illinois and New York on Thursday, contend the act discriminates against people with disabilities.



Local News

Peoria market reflects downward trend in average gas prices

Joe Deacon

, June 15, 2026

As of Monday afternoon, the fuel cost-tracking website GasBuddy showed a per-gallon average of \$4.37 in the Peoria market.



State News

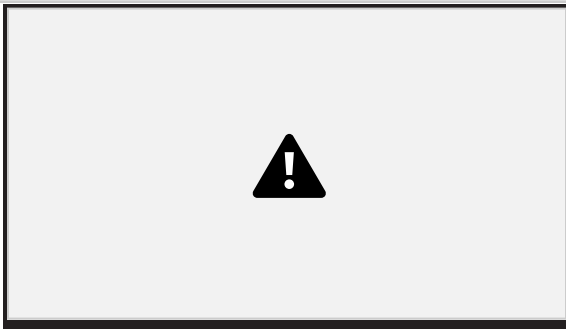
State Rep. Sharon Chung reflects on media protections, data centers and more following the spring legislative session

Evan Holden

, June 15, 2026

Democratic state Rep. Sharon Chung is celebrating passing public media protections, congratulates the Chicago Tribune, her work on the cannabis industry, data centers and the budget.

Listen • 4:40



State News

Sen. Dick Durbin on ICE, Social Security and democracy

Jordan Daniell

, June 12, 2026

Durbin questioned whether immigration authorities are prioritizing dangerous offenders and expressed concern about the broader civil liberties implications.



State News

State Sen. Sally Turner on gas prices, data center and ramming the state budget through

Evan Holden

, June 11, 2026

Republican state Sen. Sally Turner reflects on the late night budget, a pause on gas sales tax, property tax relief, regulating data centers and a pause in data center tax credits.

Listen • 4:33



Local News

Peoria's Juneteenth observance blossoms into community-wide series of events and activities

Joe Deacon

, June 11, 2026

The cultural and community impact of the Juneteenth holiday continues to grow in Peoria each year, evidenced by a month filled with several celebrations and activities.



Local News

Open house on proposed sale of Pekin's wastewater system is not a city event

Steve Stein

, June 10, 2026

Pekin residents who want to learn about Illinois American Water's proposed purchase of the city's wastewater system can do so Thursday during an open house at City Hall.



Local News

New plaza at Peoria's Springdale Cemetery honors Revolutionary War veterans

[Joe Deacon](#)

, June 10, 2026

As America prepares to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, a new memorial honoring Revolutionary War veterans with ties to the Peoria area is taking its place in the historic Springdale Cemetery.



Local News

Developers get green light for \$5.5M mixed-use project in Warehouse District

[Joe Deacon](#)

, June 9, 2026

A \$5.5 million renovation project will add eight loft-style apartments and street-level retail space to Peoria's growing Warehouse District.



State News

Republicans hope to reengage Bears with new proposals

[Ben Szalinski](#)

, June 9, 2026

Pritzker says he's open to special session as he takes calls from Bears



Local News

Peoria Mayor Ali thinks riverfront amphitheater will arrive sooner, cost a little more

[Joe Deacon](#)

, June 9, 2026

Peoria Mayor Ali believes the 5,000-seat outdoor performance venue along the Illinois River will provide an economic impact and cultural benefit for the entire region. While the project is primarily funded by an \$11 million donation to the city, Ali said it's looking like the cost may go slightly above that amount.

Listen • 4:29



Local News

Pekin council members get new devices so they can 'do their job'

Steve Stein

, June 9, 2026

Pekin City Council members have struggled with their iPads. They've often been unable to reply to emails. The purchase of seven laptop/tablets for nearly \$19,000 will hopefully solve the problems.



State News

Pritzker's spring wins come with caveats as BUILD, megaprojects bills stall

Brenden Moore

, June 9, 2026

The governor scored wins on junk fees, cellphones and insurance rates



State News

State Sen. Koehler on the end-of-session crunch and push for data center, insurance industry regulation

Evan Holden

, June 9, 2026

Democratic state Sen. Dave Koehler reflects on data center regulations, the budget process, a bill regulating down coding, insurance and the farmer's estate tax laws.

Listen • 7:44



State News

U.S. Rep. LaHood eager for World Cup tournament to begin this week

Charlie Schlenker

, June 8, 2026

When the World Cup soccer tournament begins Thursday, a Central Illinois congressman will see nine years of work begin to pay off.

Listen • 4:32



State News

U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood and Democratic opponent Paul Nolley differ on war powers vote

Charlie Schlenker

, June 8, 2026

Republican U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood voted against the recent war powers act resolution in the House requiring an end to the war in Iran, even though LaHood has repeatedly said he wants the war to wind down.



State News

Trump administration blocks wind farm development in Illinois and across the nation

Charlie Schlenker

, June 5, 2026

Billions of dollars in wind farm projects all over Illinois are on hold, including two projects in McLean County, two in Peoria County, and one in Tazewell County.

Listen • 7:36



State News

Lincoln and Logan County officials slam state plans to close Logan Correctional Center

Eric Stock

, June 5, 2026

The Illinois Department of Corrections announced Friday it is officially closing the Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln and will relocate the 800-bed facility to Crest Hill in Will County.



Local News

East Peoria Mayor Kahl touts economic growth as owners celebrate Hampton Inn opening

Joe Deacon

, June 5, 2026

As owners of the new Hampton Inn along the Illinois River in East Peoria celebrate the hotel's "excellent start," Mayor John Kahl says the development signifies another step in the city's progress.



State News

Chicago Bears' board of directors votes to push stadium to Hammond, Indiana

Patrick Finley

, June 5, 2026

A source cautioned that Friday's announcement didn't eliminate Arlington Heights from consideration, were the state to find a way to give the Bears property tax certainty on the 326-acre plot they own.



Local News

Peoria Heights trustees raise concerns over changes to development at former grocery store site

Joe Deacon

, June 5, 2026

Downsized plans for a mixed-used office and commercial building at the former Save A Lot grocery store site in Peoria Heights have board members considering whether the village codes need to be strengthened.



Local News

Peoria Mayor Ali details opposition to Pritzker's proposed statewide housing initiative

Joe Deacon

, June 4, 2026

Peoria Mayor Rita Ali says she supports the idea of streamlining the process for approving housing projects, but proposed statewide zoning regulations would go too far.

Listen • 4:30



State News

LaHood no, Sorensen yes as House votes to end the war with Iran

Ryan Denham

, June 3, 2026

U.S. Reps. Darin LaHood and Eric Sorensen split their votes Wednesday as the Republican-led House voted to end the war with Iran, a bipartisan rebuke of President Trump's handling of the conflict and the subsequent economic fallout.



Local News

Washington steps up again to help downtown restaurant neighbor

Steve Stein

, June 3, 2026

The owner of a business on Washington's downtown square will get a six-figure payout from the city as a reimbursement for unexpected costs, and the city will

spend another \$25,000 to repair drainage issues caused by the construction of a neighboring restaurant.



Local News

Peoria gun violence ticks slightly higher in May

Joe Deacon

, June 3, 2026

Gun violence in Peoria increased slightly in May, with homicides and shooting incidents now all above last year's pace.



Local News

Washington responds to two major fires in less than 11 hours with 'bravery and heroism'

Steve Stein

, June 2, 2026

In the aftermath of two major fires over the weekend where lives were saved and pets were rescued, Washington officials praised first responders, community members and neighboring fire departments.



State News

'We didn't have time': Pritzker, leaders defend adjourning without Bears deal

Ben Szalinski, Brenden Moore

, June 1, 2026

Hours after Illinois lawmakers failed to approve a stadium incentives structure aimed at keeping the Chicago Bears in Illinois, Gov. JB Pritzker acknowledged that the “pride and joy of Illinois” may take a deal to build a football palace in Indiana.



State News

Schools to get funding increase, but less than some had urged

Peter Hancock

, June 1, 2026

Illinois lawmakers passed a budget Monday morning that includes a full \$350 million increase in Evidence-Based Funding for public schools, money earmarked specifically for the neediest school districts in the state.



State News

How Central Illinois lawmakers voted on the \$56 billion budget that just passed in Springfield

Evan Holden

, June 1, 2026

Here's how local lawmakers like state Sens. Dave Koehler and Chris Balkema and Reps. Sharon Chung and Ryan Spain voted on the budget package that passed in Springfield early Monday morning.



State News

Session slog ends in \$56 billion budget, new taxes on social media companies, crypto, fantasy sports

Ben Szalinski

, June 1, 2026

Illinois lawmakers approved the state budget early Monday morning after slogging through the night, enacting new taxes on businesses and authorizing less spending than what Gov. JB Pritzker proposed in February.



State News

POWER Act data center regulation won't move forward this spring

Nikoel Hytrek

, May 31, 2026

The POWER Act, an expansive bill to regulate data centers, will not pass the General Assembly this spring, but the bill's leaders say the measure isn't dead and negotiations will continue through the summer.



State News

Details of \$55.9 billion budget begin to take shape with 12 hours left in session

Ben Szalinski, Jerry Nowicki

, May 31, 2026

The Illinois Senate filed a more than 3,500-page spending plan late Saturday night but how it will be paid for has not been made public.



Local News

Peoria County puts another \$1M toward Radnor Road revitalization

Joe Deacon

, May 29, 2026

An additional \$1 million in federal funding will help Peoria County pay for preliminary design engineering on a project to revitalize Radnor Road, although construction may still be years away.



Local News

U.S. Rep. Sorensen says Democrats need a message beyond opposing Trump

Molly Hughes

, May 29, 2026

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen has a message about what Democrats should run on this November — groceries, gas prices, and the doctor's bill.



Local News

Sorensen says set rules for data centers, but don't drive them away

[Molly Hughes](#)

, May 29, 2026

Congressman Eric Sorensen, D-Ill., doesn't want to block data centers from coming to Illinois. He also doesn't want them arriving without conditions. He's worried some data center developers will try to cut corners to get there.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Peoria renews ShotSpotter subscription for another three years

[Joe Deacon](#)

, May 28, 2026

Peoria has renewed the police department's subscription to the ShotSpotter gunfire detection system for another three years. Police Chief Brad Dixon said the service has been very helpful in assisting officers in their response to shooting incidents.



Local News

Peoria council OKs engineering and construction work for new riverfront amphitheater

Joe Deacon

, May 28, 2026

The Peoria City Council this week unanimously approved agreements for engineering and construction services for the planned Dee Hengst Amphitheater along the Illinois River.



Local News

Peoria's new election commission director Jessily Joseph wants a boring election

Molly Hughes

, May 28, 2026

A good election, Jessily Joseph will tell you, is a boring one. "You don't want to be noteworthy," said Joseph, who was appointed executive director of the Peoria County Election Commission on May 21.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Tazewell County Board freezes clerk's salary for 4 years

Molly Hughes

, May 27, 2026

The Tazewell County Board voted Wednesday to freeze County Clerk John Ackerman's salary at \$101,069 for the next four years, rejecting a 3% annual raise in a meeting that became a prolonged public airing of grievances.



Local News

Peoria council OKs swap with school district to advance Expo Gardens residential development

Joe Deacon

, May 27, 2026

Plans for a 200-home residential neighborhood at the former Exposition Gardens site in Peoria are taking shape after the City Council approved a land exchange with Peoria Public Schools to make the property more attractive to developers.



Local News

Pekin council corrects TIF contracts, hears pitch about selling wastewater system

Molly Hughes

, May 27, 2026

The city's residential Tax Increment Financing program allows people who build new homes in certain districts to get the cost of their lot paid back over 10 years through the increased property taxes the new home generates.



State News

Sen. Durbin is hopeful, but skeptical, of Trump closing Iran deal

[Ben Howell](#)

, May 26, 2026

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin spoke to Democrats in Bloomington at a private event in support of upcoming races in the 2026 election. He spoke to WCBU about his thoughts on Iran, redistricting and more.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Jessily Joseph tabbed to lead Peoria's election commission

[Joe Deacon](#)

, May 22, 2026

The Peoria County Election Commission has a new leader ahead of the November general election. Jessily Joseph was appointed executive director Thursday during a special meeting of the PCEC Board.



Local News

Peoria Heights board discusses possible measures to manage public parking

Joe Deacon

, May 22, 2026

A member of the Peoria Heights village board wants to take a proactive approach to oversight of pay lots for public parking in business districts.



State News

Illinois bill would give teachers due process but raises concerns about patterns of bad behavior

Evan Holden, Charlie Schlenker, Lauren Warnecke

, May 21, 2026

A bill introduced in the Illinois legislature would allow teachers to challenge notices of remedy, actions that go against school policy but can be fixed.

Opponents have raised concern that this could erase documentation of patterns of abuse by teachers.

Listen • 4:33



Local News

East Peoria bans smoking and vaping in Levee Park

Joe Deacon

, May 20, 2026

East Peoria leaders want fresh air to be a permanent attraction at Levee Park after placing a ban on smoking and vaping at the new public green space adjacent to City Hall.



Local News

New Peoria Police Chief looks to put in more officers and tech for proactive policing

Joe Deacon

, May 20, 2026

New Peoria Police Chief Brad Dixon says the city deserves a police department that communicates openly, acts with integrity, and earns the public's trust. A

Peoria native who's been on the force for more than 25 years, Dixon is in his first week of leading the department following his recent promotion.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Pritzker helps Peoria Park District mark opening of upgraded Golf Learning Center

Joe Deacon

, May 19, 2026

Gov. JB Pritzker and community leaders see the Peoria Park District's \$6.5 million transformation of the Golf Learning Center as an economic driver for the region.



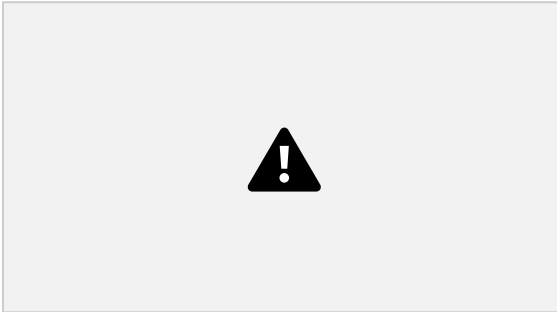
State News

Rep. Sorensen resuscitates a bill taking aim at Big Pharma

Lauren Warnecke

, May 19, 2026

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen, a Democrat who represents parts of Bloomington-Normal and Peoria, wants to stop pharmaceutical companies from gaming an FDA loophole he says is keeping generics from reaching the market.



State News

Illinois county clerks are preparing for mail voting amid continued attacks, changes

Nikoel Hytrek

, May 19, 2026

Communication and experience with the process are keys to maintaining voter faith, clerks say



Local News

Washington approves permit for city's first cannabis dispensary

[Joe Deacon](#)

, May 18, 2026

The first adult-use cannabis dispensary in Washington is one step closer to opening after gaining formal support from the city's elected representatives.



Local News

Brad Dixon takes his oath as Peoria's new police chief

[Joe Deacon](#)

, May 15, 2026

New Peoria Police Chief Brad Dixon affirmed his dedication to the city and commitment to transparency and accountability in taking his oath of office Friday at City Hall.



Local News

Pekin seniors can get a reduction on their monthly garbage bill

Steve Stein

, May 14, 2026

Seniors age 65 and older who live in an owner-occupied home in Pekin are eligible for a \$1.50 discount on their monthly solid waste collection bill.



Local News

Peoria establishes registry for Main Street TIF; town board OKs committee on senior center

Joe Deacon

, May 14, 2026

The City of Peoria is taking the first step in establishing an economic incentive to spur growth on Main Street, while Peoria Township will consider forming a committee to look into the viability of a community senior center.



Local News

Split Peoria City Council OKs King Zone site for package liquor, but a hurdle still remains

[Joe Deacon](#)

, May 13, 2026

An East Bluff convenience and grocery store is one step closer to being able to sell package liquor, but whether or not the business receives a license remains to be seen.



Local News

Why Peoria is considering helping Twin Towers Place cover costs of necessary repairs and renovations

[Joe Deacon](#)

, May 12, 2026

City Manager Patrick Urich points out that no money has been allocated quite yet. Rather, the city may look to establish a special service area to generate the estimated \$2.5 million in funding.

Listen • 4:29



Local News

Data center is no longer on Pekin's plate: 'It's done'

Steve Stein

, May 12, 2026

A data center will not be built on Pekin's Lutticken Farms property. That was the message delivered by City Attorney Jim Vasselli after the city received a letter from lawyers for the developers.



Local News

Urich offers Spring Street option for marina access if Caroline Street turns private

Joe Deacon

, May 11, 2026

A pending property sale that would see O'Brien Steel acquire land near the Illinois River from the Detweiller Trust has drawn scrutiny from some community members over the potential loss of river access and green space.

Listen • 4:29



Local News

Leaky water main near Washington Community High School will be replaced

Steve Stein

, May 8, 2026

A troublesome 700-foot water main under Bondurant Street just west of Washington Community High School will be replaced this summer. The Washington City Council approved a low bid of about \$270,000.



Local News

East Peoria to add more on-street parking, crosswalk near BluTowne

Joe Deacon

, May 8, 2026

The work includes removing the existing curb on the north side of Washington in the project area, adding easy-access parking spaces and installing a signalized

crosswalk similar to the one on Washington between City Hall and the shopping center.



Local News

Newest 'Big Table Report' sets framework for strategic plan to grow Greater Peoria economy

Joe Deacon

, May 7, 2026

Strengthening the talent pipeline and overcoming economic barriers are among the five strategic pillars identified in the latest comprehensive report setting a roadmap for growing the Greater Peoria region.



Local News

LaHood opposes using public money for White House ballroom project

Joe Deacon

, May 7, 2026

With a new Republican plan in Congress calling for \$1 billion in funding for security improvements tied to the White House ballroom project, U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood says he doesn't want any public money going to support the project.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Washington residents could get property tax relief if cannabis dispensary opens

Steve Stein

, May 6, 2026

Sales tax revenue from the proposed first adult-use cannabis dispensary in Washington may give residents property tax relief. The possibility was brought up during a Washington City Council meeting.



Local News

Rep. LaHood again calls for 'off ramp' on U.S. war in Iran to bring fuel costs down

[Joe Deacon](#)

, May 6, 2026

While gas prices keep soaring as the U.S. war in Iran shows no end in sight, Republican U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood said he's ready to see the Trump Administration find a way out of the war soon.

Listen • 4:29



Local News

'Very unsafe' Tazewell County bridge in agricultural area gets \$500K from feds for replacement

[Steve Stein](#)

, May 5, 2026

An estimated \$2.5 million project to replace the "outdated" Furrow Road Bridge has received a \$500,000 shot in the arm from the federal government. Congressman Darin LaHood announced the funding Tuesday.



Local News

Washington bans sale of synthetic kratom, but allows lab-tested natural versions

Steve Stein

, May 5, 2026

Washington is the latest Greater Peoria community to ban the sale of kratom. But in Washington's case, the sale of synthetic kratom is no longer allowed while a natural kratom product can be sold, after lab testing.



State News

Sen. Durbin says he will not back House version of Farm Bill

Charlie Schlenker

, May 4, 2026

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin doesn't think the current version of the Farm Bill will fly. During a news conference in Normal, he said the House version will not get his vote.

Listen • 7:20



Local News

\$200K project will give fresh look to Tazewell County's downtown Pekin campus

Steve Stein

, May 4, 2026

Tazewell County's downtown Pekin campus is getting a makeover. In a project that county officials said is long overdue, improvements will be made to the grounds at the buildings.



Local News

Peoria market nears \$5 mark for a gallon of gas

Joe Deacon, Eric Stock

, May 4, 2026

Peoria-area drivers are getting closer to paying \$5 per gallon of gas as the war in Iran remains at a stalemate.



State News

Illinois State Board of Education wants to revamp how it counts low-income students

Peter Hancock

, May 3, 2026

Number of families receiving federal benefits such as Medicaid and SNAP is declining



Local News

Tazewell County takes first step to prevent data centers

Steve Stein

, April 30, 2026

The board on Wednesday approved a zoning code amendment that prohibits "any use of land which is not explicitly allowed under the code or as adopted by supplemental ordinance."



Local News

Pekin officials defend purchase of a new \$80K truck

Steve Stein

, April 29, 2026

The normally routine purchase of a new truck caused a bit of a stir at a Pekin City Council meeting. The 2026 Ford F-550 with a dump body will replace a 2003 dump truck that's in terrible shape.



Local News

Peoria City Council OKs Twin Towers financing process, again defers King Zone liquor license

Molly Hughes

, April 29, 2026

The Peoria City Council on Tuesday approved the first step toward a \$2.5 million financing package for the Twin Towers Place condominium association, deferred

a contentious liquor license application for a grocery store, and passed a resolution to place a time capsule in City Hall's cornerstone.



Local News

Pekin wants an answer from data center developer

Steve Stein

, April 28, 2026

The clock is running for the developer of a proposed data center in Pekin. City Attorney Jim Vasselli said Monday the city is pressing Western Hospitality Partners to make a decision on the project.



Local News

Peoria Fire Department shows off new and improved \$5M Station 16

Joe Deacon

, April 24, 2026

Elected officials, community members and student-athletes joined Peoria Fire Department personnel Friday for an open house to celebrate the new Station 16 on Northmoor Road.



Local News

East Peoria OKs \$1.2M repaving on Pinecrest Drive, rehabilitation of parking lots near new hotel

Joe Deacon

, April 24, 2026

The third and final phase of a rehabilitation project on Pinecrest Drive in East Peoria has gotten the green light, as has an upgrade of two parking lots near the new Hampton Inn along the riverfront.



Local News

Peoria Heights board mulls policy change to save for new fire engine

Joe Deacon

, April 23, 2026

A potential new policy would see Peoria Heights save any surplus funds in the annual fire department budget and earmark the money toward the future purchase of a new fire engine.



State News

Central Illinois lawmakers split on changing legislative map requirements in Illinois

Evan Holden

, April 23, 2026

House Republicans raise concerns about an amendment to the Illinois constitution changing the requirements for House district maps in Illinois. It allows for the creation of racial coalitions or influence districts and creates a priority ranking for the requirements.



Local News

Tennis ball sidelines Washington police canine Styx

Steve Stein

, April 22, 2026

Washington police dog Styx loves his tennis ball. So much that he accidentally swallowed it and had to have it surgically removed. But he's OK. Police Chief Jeff Stevens said Styx is recovering well.



Local News

Washington becomes latest Central Illinois city to explore kratom ban

Steve Stein

, April 22, 2026

The sale and possession of synthetic kratom would be banned under an ordinance amendment that had a first reading at this week's Washington City Council meeting.



Local News

Retiring Peoria police chief reflects on his tenure, touts department's advancements

Joe Deacon

, April 22, 2026

Retiring Peoria Police Chief Eric Echevarria believes the department is in a better place than when he took the job five years ago.

Listen • 4:30



State News

Illinois lawmakers want to expand protections to domestic violence victims to digital spaces

Evan Holden

, April 22, 2026

The Illinois Senate unanimously has voted to expand orders of protection to online spaces and allow victims to indefinitely extend protection orders. The bill would give law enforcement more tools to investigate violations of orders of protection.

Listen • 4:26



Local News

Proposed Washington adult-use cannabis dispensary 'won't be a haven for criminal activity'

Steve Stein

, April 21, 2026

The chief legal officer for the company that wants to open the first adult-use cannabis dispensary in Washington assured city council members Monday that the building will be discreet and safe.



Local News

Peoria issues formal request for Expo Gardens residential development

Joe Deacon

, April 21, 2026

The City of Peoria has put out a call for housing developers interested in pursuing a residential project at the former Exposition Gardens.



State News

Lawmakers Chung, Koehler look to keep Illinois a beacon of LGBTQ+ support

Jim Stahly Jr.

, April 21, 2026

Much of the legislation they discussed Monday night at an annual legislative town hall hosted by the Prairie Pride Coalition and Equality Illinois is aimed at keeping in place support that's being scuttled by the Trump administration.

Listen • 4:13



Local News

Echevarria to retire as Peoria police chief; Dixon tabbed as successor

Joe Deacon

, April 20, 2026

A leadership change is coming for the Peoria Police Department. Chief Eric Echevarria informed the city he will retire as of May 15, after serving nearly five years in the role. Assistant Chief Brad Dixon has been chosen as the next chief.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Pekin keeps the city's garbage collection in-house

Steve Stein

, April 16, 2026

Pekin has operated its own solid waste collection department for more than 20 years. That's not going to change anytime soon, after the city council unanimously rejected a bid from GFL Environmental.



Local News

Peoria City Council OKs putting \$480K toward upgrades at Martin Luther King Jr. Park

Joe Deacon

, April 15, 2026

The City of Peoria will provide close to a half-million dollars to rehabilitate Martin Luther King Jr. Park on the city's South Side



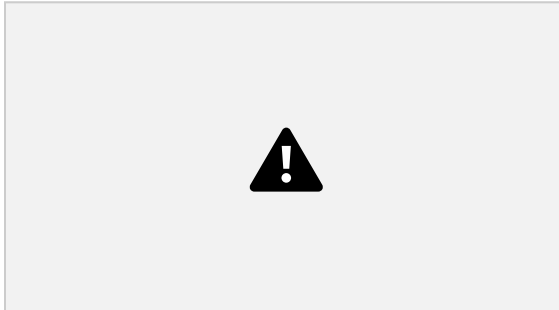
Local News

Peoria Township electors approve ballot question related to boycotts of Israel, meeting on senior center

[Joe Deacon](#)

, April 15, 2026

The annual meeting of the Peoria Township electors drew an overflow crowd Tuesday at City Hall, producing votes in favor of both a non-binding ballot question related to boycotts of Israel and a special meeting to consider funding for a possible senior center.



State News

Costs of state employee health benefits continue steep rise

[Peter Hancock](#)

, April 15, 2026

Health insurance costs are expected to take a bigger bite out of the state's budget and out of state employees' pocketbooks next year.



Local News

Lutticken Farms property now a part of Pekin Park District

Steve Stein

, April 14, 2026

The proposed data center on Pekin's Lutticken Farms property wasn't on the agenda at Monday's council meeting. But it was discussed twice, and it was in the background of two items involving the Lutticken land.



Local News

Bradley receives \$1M toward completion of weightlessness tower

Joe Deacon

, April 13, 2026

The \$1 million allocation will enable the university to install advanced equipment needed to make the Zaleski Drop Tower housed in the Business and Engineering Convergence Center fully operational.



Local News

Peoria man convicted of killing 2 women receives life sentence

Joe Deacon

, April 10, 2026

Stevie Linwood, 44, was convicted in February of first-degree murder in the deaths of Zaneta Winters and Jakaiden Rynearson, his girlfriend and a neighbor who tried to render aid.



Local News

Peoria County Board approves solar facility in Bartonville

Molly Hughes

, April 10, 2026

The Peoria County Board on Thursday approved a solar energy generation facility in Bartonville, one of several zoning, infrastructure and economic development items acted on during the meeting.



Local News

Peoria Heights board approves \$6M budget for next fiscal year

Joe Deacon

, April 9, 2026

The Peoria Heights Village Board has approved a budget for the upcoming fiscal year with a six-figure surplus.



Local News

Suspect arrested, charged nearly a decade after Pekin teen's murder

Joe Deacon

, April 8, 2026

Pekin Police Chief Seth Ranney announced Wednesday his department arrested Keith Brackett, 48, in connection with the death of Robert Bee Jr., a 13-year-old boy who was reported missing in 2016.



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Washington cannabis dispensary foe: 'Our city does not need drug money to be successful'

Steve Stein

, April 7, 2026

Washington City Council members heard Monday from opponents of what would be the city's first adult-use cannabis dispensary. The dispensary is planned for the intersection of Centennial and McClugage.



Local News

Sorensen says Iran conflict a failure of foresight, calls to 'finish it'

Molly Hughes

, April 1, 2026

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen, D-Ill., on Wednesday said the Trump administration failed to protect Americans from the economic fallout of the conflict in Iran and, with the president set to address the nation this evening, he said he wants answers.

Public Safety

Central Illinois braces for wave of prolonged excessive heat

June 27, 2026



Peoria teen handed sentences totaling 90 years in fatal South Side shooting

June 26, 2026



Local News

New roof will fix 'waterfall' leak at Pekin fire station

Steve Stein

, June 24, 2026

A leaky roof at a Pekin fire station that has allowed water to cascade into living quarters and work areas while disrupting emergency response operations will be removed and replaced.



Local News

Peoria approves adding 6 civilian officers to police department to strengthen downtown security

Joe Deacon

, June 24, 2026

The City of Peoria will spend about \$500,000 a year to hire six civilian community service officers aimed at boosting the police department's daytime security presence downtown.



Local News

OSF Strive expands mental health services to more lives touched by violence, including young children

Rich Draeger

, June 24, 2026

OSF Strive is expanding access to trauma-informed mental health services for victims and witnesses of violent crime in Peoria.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

East Peoria Police Department set for transition to its new station

Joe Deacon

, June 18, 2026

The East Peoria Police Department will move operations to its new headquarters on Camp Street beginning Monday morning.



Local News

New era for Washington Plaza includes green space, security cameras, resurfaced parking lot

Steve Stein

, June 18, 2026

Washington Plaza is getting a makeover, fueled by an estimated \$500,000 investment by the City of Washington. A quarter-acre green space and parking lot resurfacing are among the highlights.



Local News

Crowd of 200K anticipated for 40th Red, White & Boom fireworks show

Joe Deacon

, June 17, 2026

Organizers of this year's Red, White & Boom fireworks show along the Illinois River on Independence Day expect the turnout to be spectacular.



State News

Pritzker signs nearly \$56B budget with new business taxes as he seeks 3rd term

Ben Szalinski

, June 16, 2026

Budget contains minimal spending increase despite being largest in state history



Local News

Life-saving heroes from 2 Washington fires honored by the city

Steve Stein

, June 16, 2026

Six civilians and a firefighter-paramedic from the Washington Fire Department were honored Monday for their life-saving actions during two major fires within an 11-hour span late last month.



Local News

Strong storms leave thousands in Tri-County area without power

Joe Deacon

, June 12, 2026

A line of thunderstorms that swept through Greater Peoria on Thursday evening has left thousands with no electricity service.



Local News

Woman killed in I-39 crash in Woodford County

Joe Deacon

, June 10, 2026

A 49-year-old Dixon woman died Wednesday morning after a two-vehicle crash on Interstate 39 in Woodford County.



Local News

Pekin council members get new devices so they can 'do their job'

Steve Stein

, June 9, 2026

Pekin City Council members have struggled with their iPads. They've often been unable to reply to emails. The purchase of seven laptop/tablets for nearly \$19,000 will hopefully solve the problems.



State News

Lincoln and Logan County officials slam state plans to close Logan Correctional Center

Eric Stock

, June 5, 2026

The Illinois Department of Corrections announced Friday it is officially closing the Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln and will relocate the 800-bed facility to Crest Hill in Will County.



Local News

Peoria woman arrested in fatal stabbing of another woman

Joe Deacon

, June 3, 2026

One woman is dead and another is in custody following a stabbing Tuesday night on the western edge of Downtown Peoria.



Local News

Washington steps up again to help downtown restaurant neighbor

Steve Stein

, June 3, 2026

The owner of a business on Washington's downtown square will get a six-figure payout from the city as a reimbursement for unexpected costs, and the city will spend another \$25,000 to repair drainage issues caused by the construction of a neighboring restaurant.



Local News

Peoria gun violence ticks slightly higher in May

Joe Deacon

, June 3, 2026

Gun violence in Peoria increased slightly in May, with homicides and shooting incidents now all above last year's pace.



Local News

Man arrested, charged with impersonating a Peoria County deputy

Joe Deacon

, June 2, 2026

A 43-year-old Peoria man is charged with impersonating a Peoria County sheriff's deputy and weapons crimes after he conducted an illegal traffic stop last week.



Local News

Washington responds to two major fires in less than 11 hours with 'bravery and heroism'

Steve Stein

, June 2, 2026

In the aftermath of two major fires over the weekend where lives were saved and pets were rescued, Washington officials praised first responders, community members and neighboring fire departments.



Local News

Armington man dies in weekend motorcycle crash in Mackinaw

Joe Deacon

, June 1, 2026

A 62-year-old Armington man died Saturday after his motorcycle collided with a pickup truck in Mackinaw.



Local News

IDOT set to close Cedar Street Bridge for monthslong repairs

Joe Deacon

, May 28, 2026

Motorists in Greater Peoria will have one fewer roadway available for crossing the Illinois River for the next couple months, beginning next week.



Local News

Peoria renews ShotSpotter subscription for another three years

Joe Deacon

, May 28, 2026

Peoria has renewed the police department's subscription to the ShotSpotter gunfire detection system for another three years. Police Chief Brad Dixon said the service has been very helpful in assisting officers in their response to shooting incidents.



Local News

Coroner IDs man killed in I-74 wreck near Morton

Joe Deacon

, May 22, 2026

A 62-year-old Peoria man has been identified as the person who died in a two-vehicle accident early Thursday on Interstate 74 near the Morton exit.



Local News

Peoria Heights board discusses possible measures to manage public parking

Joe Deacon

, May 22, 2026

A member of the Peoria Heights village board wants to take a proactive approach to oversight of pay lots for public parking in business districts.



Local News

Fugitive rescued from Illinois River after fleeing arrest in Woodford County

Joe Deacon

, May 21, 2026

A man wanted on a warrant from North Carolina who tried to flee from Woodford County sheriff's deputies Wednesday night was rescued from the Illinois River following his escape attempt.



Local News

One killed, three injured in I-74 crash near Morton

Joe Deacon

, May 21, 2026

Illinois State Police are investigating a crash on Interstate 74 early Thursday that killed one person and injured three others.



Local News

New Peoria Police Chief looks to put in more officers and tech for proactive policing

Joe Deacon

, May 20, 2026

New Peoria Police Chief Brad Dixon says the city deserves a police department that communicates openly, acts with integrity, and earns the public's trust. A Peoria native who's been on the force for more than 25 years, Dixon is in his first week of leading the department following his recent promotion.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Washington man charged in connection with shooting, fire and explosion

Eric Stock

, May 19, 2026

Tazewell County Sheriff Jeffrey Lower said Illinois State Police arrested Scott Tyler Benway, 39, on Monday and took him to the Tazewell County Jail.



Local News

Brad Dixon takes his oath as Peoria's new police chief

Joe Deacon

, May 15, 2026

New Peoria Police Chief Brad Dixon affirmed his dedication to the city and commitment to transparency and accountability in taking his oath of office Friday at City Hall.



Local News

Why Peoria County is holding town hall meetings about its outdoor emergency sirens

Joe Deacon

, May 14, 2026

Peoria County officials are seeking public feedback and clearing up misunderstandings about the outdoor emergency sirens.



Local News

Pekin seniors can get a reduction on their monthly garbage bill

Steve Stein

, May 14, 2026

Seniors age 65 and older who live in an owner-occupied home in Pekin are eligible for a \$1.50 discount on their monthly solid waste collection bill.



Local News

Peoria establishes registry for Main Street TIF; town board OKs committee on senior center

Joe Deacon

, May 14, 2026

The City of Peoria is taking the first step in establishing an economic incentive to spur growth on Main Street, while Peoria Township will consider forming a committee to look into the viability of a community senior center.



Local News

Split Peoria City Council OKs King Zone site for package liquor, but a hurdle still remains

Joe Deacon

, May 13, 2026

An East Bluff convenience and grocery store is one step closer to being able to sell package liquor, but whether or not the business receives a license remains to be seen.



Local News

Suspect in custody after shooting, explosion and fire in Washington

Ryan Denham, Steve Stein

, May 10, 2026

A suspect is in custody and receiving treatment at a Peoria hospital after a shooting, explosion and fire early Sunday morning in a Washington neighborhood near U.S. 24 and North Cummings Lane.



Local News

2 dead after Peoria Police shoot suspect in domestic incident in Downtown Peoria

Ryan Denham, Joe Deacon

, May 8, 2026

A female victim and a male suspect are dead after Peoria Police officers exchanged fire with a gunman who allegedly shot the woman Friday night near Hamilton and Madison streets in Downtown Peoria.



Local News

Leaky water main near Washington Community High School will be replaced

[Steve Stein](#)

, May 8, 2026

A troublesome 700-foot water main under Bondurant Street just west of Washington Community High School will be replaced this summer. The Washington City Council approved a low bid of about \$270,000.



Local News

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The work includes removing the existing curb on the north side of Washington in the project area, adding easy-access parking spaces and installing a signalized crosswalk similar to the one on Washington between City Hall and the shopping center.



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Local News

Peoria Police arrest man wanted for attempted murder after 2-county search

Eric Stock

, May 1, 2026

According to a news release from the Peoria Police Department, Christopher R. Richerson, 52, was found in the garage of a residence in the 1800 block of Kickapoo Creek Road.



Local News

Pekin officials defend purchase of a new \$80K truck

Steve Stein

, April 29, 2026

The normally routine purchase of a new truck caused a bit of a stir at a Pekin City Council meeting. The 2026 Ford F-550 with a dump body will replace a 2003 dump truck that's in terrible shape.



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Tennis ball sidelines Washington police canine Styx

[Steve Stein](#)

, April 22, 2026

Washington police dog Styx loves his tennis ball. So much that he accidentally swallowed it and had to have it surgically removed. But he's OK. Police Chief Jeff Stevens said Styx is recovering well.



Local News

Peoria panel discussion puts focus on advocacy for crime victims

Joe Deacon

, April 22, 2026

Community leaders participating in a conversation about ways to assist victims of criminal violence highlighted the need for support services, advocacy programs, and an examination of the root causes of crime.



Local News

Retiring Peoria police chief reflects on his tenure, touts department's advancements

Joe Deacon

, April 22, 2026

Retiring Peoria Police Chief Eric Echevarria believes the department is in a better place than when he took the job five years ago.

Listen • 4:30



Local News

Block of Adams Street set for switch to two-way traffic as part of downtown conversion project

Joe Deacon

, April 21, 2026

A portion of Adams Street in Peoria will shift to two-way traffic Wednesday morning as the multi-year conversion of two major downtown streets begins to take effect.



Local News

Proposed Washington adult-use cannabis dispensary 'won't be a haven for criminal activity'

Steve Stein

, April 21, 2026

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Listen • 4:30



Local News

Peoria Heights mayor arrested on DUI charge for reportedly sleeping in his car

Eric Stock

, April 18, 2026

An attorney for Peoria Heights Mayor Matt Wigginton is calling the action of Peoria Police “deplorable” for arresting him on suspicion of DUI after he was found asleep in his car.



Local News

Peoria man identified in the city's second homicide of 2026

Eric Stock

, April 17, 2026

Coroner Jamie Harwood said Marnelius Alexander, 23, of Peoria, was pronounced dead at 11:45 p.m. Thursday. Harwood said Alexander died of a gunshot wound to the chest and died instantly.



Local News

Man killed in shooting at Western Avenue gas station

Joe Deacon

, April 16, 2026

The incident is Peoria's first fatal shooting of 2026.



Local News

Peoria City Council OKs putting \$480K toward upgrades at Martin Luther King Jr. Park

Joe Deacon

, April 15, 2026

The City of Peoria will provide close to a half-million dollars to rehabilitate Martin Luther King Jr. Park on the city's South Side



Local News

Apparent human skull found in Tazewell County

Joe Deacon

, April 13, 2026

Authorities in Tazewell County are working to identify skeletal remains located Sunday afternoon near East Peoria.



Local News

Peoria man convicted of killing 2 women receives life sentence

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Pedestrian dies after being struck by vehicle on Murray Baker Bridge

Joe Deacon

, April 10, 2026

A person has died after being struck by a vehicle while walking along Interstate 74 on the East Peoria side of the Murray Baker Bridge.



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Local News

Pedestrian dies after being struck by a car near East Peoria casino

Joe Deacon

, April 6, 2026

A 42-year-old Peoria man is dead after being struck by a vehicle Thursday night near the Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino in East Peoria.
