

WCBU Q3 2025 FCC Report

Arts and Culture



Local News

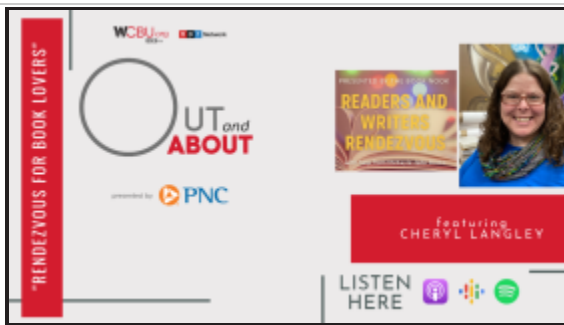
From Cozy Reads to Creative Teens: Here's what's new at Peoria Public Library This Fall

Mae Gilliland Wright

, September 24, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Jennifer Davis of Peoria Public Library. Davis discusses the library's wide array of programming this autumn that will be a perfect fit for falling temperatures and cozying up with a book.

LISTEN • 4:50



Local News

First-ever 'Readers and Writers Rendezvous' coming to the Peoria Civic Center

Mae Gilliland Wright

, September 17, 2025

On this week's episode of WCBU's Out & About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks to Cheryl Langley, general manager of The Book Nook, about the first-ever Readers and Writers Rendezvous event, taking place Saturday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Peoria Civic Center.

LISTEN • 5:00



Local News

White House chief of staff during 9/11 reflects on historic moment informing Bush of terrorist attack

Joe Deacon

, September 11, 2025

Former White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card, forever known for whispering to President George W. Bush in a Florida classroom on the morning of 9/11, says the famous image stands as a call to honor the lives lost that day.



Local News

Indian classical music part of Heartland Festival Orchestra performance

Mae Gilliland Wright

, September 10, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with David Commanday, conductor of the Heartland Festival Orchestra, about "Sitar and Symphony."

LISTEN • 4:50



Local News

Peoria City Council gives green light to pursue \$11M public-private riverfront amphitheater

Joe Deacon

, September 9, 2025

A plan to use a charitable gift to develop an \$11 million amphitheater along the Illinois River in Peoria has gained enthusiastic support from city leaders.



Local News

Murals and more: Weekend events celebrate public art in Peoria

Joe Deacon

, September 4, 2025

A big weekend of dedications and celebrations is in store for public art lovers and activity seekers in downtown Peoria.



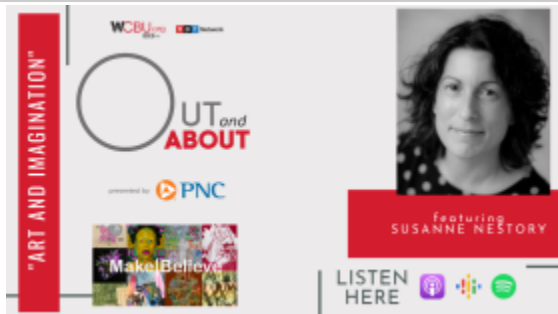
Local News

Community leaders envision East Peoria's new Levee Park as a public attraction

Joe Deacon

, September 4, 2025

East Peoria Community Foundation President Sue Portscheller joined a host of other community and civic leaders for a soft opening and ribbon cutting at Levee Park.



Local News

Group exhibition 'MAKE | BELIEVE' explores the space between fantasy and reality

Mae Gilliland Wright

, September 3, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois chats with Susanne Nestory, gallery consultant for Bradley University's Department of Art and Design, about "MAKE | BELIEVE" — a dynamic group exhibition curated by Marcella Hackbardt.

LISTEN • 5:00



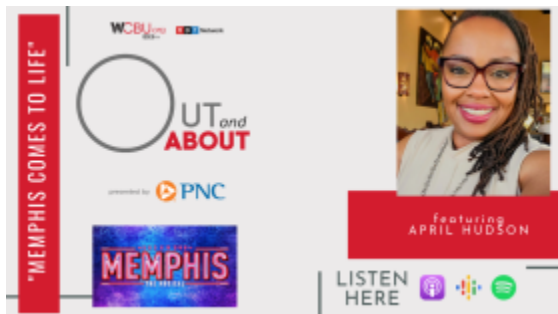
Local News

Peoria Labor Day Parade shifts to Bradley Park, Farmington Road

Joe Deacon

, August 29, 2025

This year's Peoria Labor Day parade will take a new path, starting in lower Laura Bradley Park and heading west along Farmington Road in West Peoria.



Local News

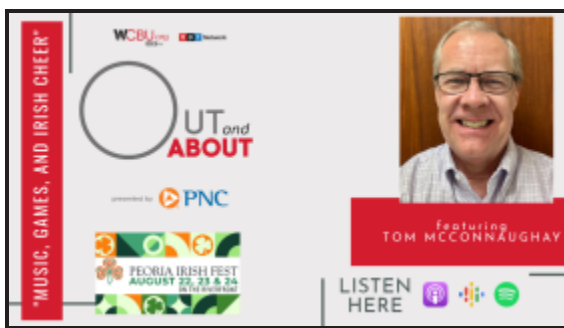
Tony Award winning musical 'Memphis' coming to Peoria Players Theatre

Mae Gilliland Wright

, August 26, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois chats with April Hudson, cast member in Peoria Players Theatre's production of 'Memphis.'

LISTEN • 4:50



Local News

Peoria Irish Fest returns to the Peoria RiverFront August 22 - 24

Mae Gilliland Wright

, August 20, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois chats with Tom McConaughay, Entertainment Chair for Peoria Irish Fest.

LISTEN • 5:00



Local News

Dirksen Congressional Center set to celebrate 50th anniversary

Joe Deacon

, August 18, 2025

The Dirksen Congressional Center in Pekin kicks off its 50th anniversary celebration with a public open house reception on Tuesday. The event commemorates the exact day in 1975 when President Gerald Ford officially dedicated the nation's only independent congressional research center and archive.



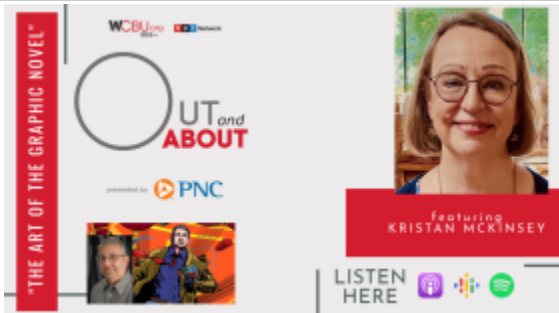
Local News

Peoria launches ARPA-funded public art initiative as a beautification program

Joe Deacon

, August 15, 2025

A new city-sponsored public art initiative aims to brighten up many of Peoria's light posts and traffic cabinets. The "Banners and Boxes" beautification program features submissions from 21 local artists displayed throughout downtown, the Warehouse District and Sheridan Village.



Local News

Peoria Riverfront Museum hosts 'How Graphic Novels Became an Art Form for Everyone (Really)'

Mae Gilliland Wright

, August 13, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois chats with Kristan McKinsey of the Fine Arts Society of Peoria about the upcoming lecture "How Graphic Novels Became an Art Form for Everyone (Really)."

LISTEN • 5:00



Local News

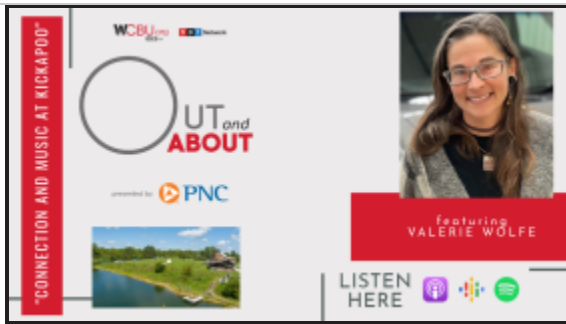
India Fest returns to the Peoria Riverfront August 16

Mae Gilliland Wright

, August 6, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois chats with Indo-American Society of Peoria board member Krupal Sanghvi about the upcoming India Fest.

LISTEN • 4:30



Local News

Kickapoo Creek Festival features live music, workshops, stargazing, and canoeing

Mae Gilliland Wright

, July 30, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central talks with Friends of Rocky Glen board member Valerie Wolfe about the upcoming Kickapoo Creek Festival. This free three-day event takes place at Sommer Farm, August 8-10.

LISTEN • 4:30



Local News

Peoria, Hengst Foundation in talks to add amphitheater to Riverfront revitalization plan

Joe Deacon

, July 25, 2025

Peoria's existing large-scale plan to upgrade the Riverfront has a new feature, with the city and the Hengst Foundation in discussions to pursue an amphitheater project near the Murray Baker Bridge.



Local News

Project 1612 presents Ripples: The 10th Anniversary Invitational in Morton

Mae Gilliland Wright

, July 23, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Jessica Bingham, co-founder of Project 1612, about Ripples: The 10th Anniversary Invitational. This milestone exhibition brings together seven past Project 1612 artists exploring powerful themes like identity, climate change, and history.

LISTEN • 4:30



Local News

Peoria plays a role in upcoming independent film on century-old Leopold and Loeb murder case

[Joe Deacon](#)

, July 17, 2025

Just more than 100 years ago, two Chicago university students perpetrated a notorious child murder that became known at the time as “the crime of the century.” Now, Peoria is playing a significant role in an independent feature film about the case.



Local News

Boogie Night disco costume dance party returns to Peoria's Contemporary Art Center

[Mae Gilliland Wright](#)

, July 16, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks to William Butler, Executive Director of the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria, about the return of Boogie Night — the CAC's annual disco costume dance party.

LISTEN • 4:30



Local News

Peoria Municipal Band ready for the 2025 summer season

Mae Gilliland Wright

, July 8, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois chats with Dr. David Vroman, conductor of the Peoria Municipal Band, about their exciting 2025 season.

LISTEN • 4:30



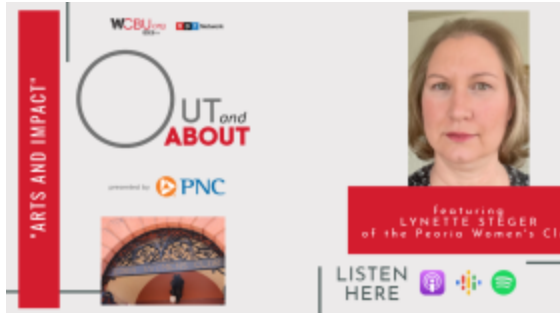
Local News

Exhibit at Methodist College chronicles evolution of AIDS/HIV public health messaging

Joe Deacon

, July 2, 2025

A national traveling exhibit currently at Peoria's Methodist College showcases the history of public health messaging related to AIDS and HIV dating back to the 1980s.



Local News

Peoria Women's Club has long-standing impact on Peoria's civic and cultural landscape

Mae Gilliland Wright

, July 1, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Lynette Steger, First Vice President of the Peoria Women's Club, about the organization's long-standing impact on Peoria's civic and cultural landscape.

LISTEN • 4:30

Business and Economy



Joe Deacon

/

WCBU

State tourism grant helps Peoria land national Esports and tech festival

[Joe Deacon](#)

, 18 hours ago

A national gaming, entertainment and tech festival is coming to downtown Peoria beginning next year, with organizers expecting to attract tens of thousands of guests.



Greater Peoria Economic Development Council

/

Facebook

Thousands of students expected for Peoria CareerSpark expo

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 29, 2025

Organizers are anticipating more than 4,000 eighth-grade students from across Central Illinois for this week's ninth Greater Peoria CareerSpark expo at the Peoria Civic Center.



New career center brings advanced technology to job seekers with disabilities

September 26, 2025



Peoria Civic Center boasts record income, prepares for losses in year ahead

September 25, 2025



Proposed Peoria budget puts city expenses at \$301M for 2026

September 24, 2025



Local News

UPDATE: Peoria submits \$1.2M winning bid for Expo Gardens after council OKs increased purchase price

Joe Deacon

, September 23, 2025

The City of Peoria submitted a successful bid of a little more than \$1.2 million on Wednesday to secure its planned acquisition of Exposition Gardens.



Local News

Peoria developer plans to transform Pekin stormwater facility to retail site

Steve Stein

, September 23, 2025

City property on Court Street that's located in one of Pekin's busiest commercial areas but is currently being used as a stormwater facility, has been sold to a developer for \$100,000.



Local News

Dozer Park begins major project to install new playing surface

Joe Deacon

, September 22, 2025

The latest phase of renovations at Dozer Park is underway with the installation of a new playing surface. Work started Monday morning at the downtown stadium that has served as home to the Peoria Chiefs baseball team since 2022.



Local News

Three-year federal funding award assists Greater Peoria EDC's planning, programming

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 18, 2025

The Greater Peoria Economic Development Council is getting \$210,000 in federal funding to assist with operational expenses over the next three years, helping the organization boost private investment and job creation.



Local News

Peoria Heights trustees will seek override of mayor's grocery tax veto

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 17, 2025

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Local News

Peoria Heights mayor vetoes adoption of local grocery tax

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 15, 2025

The status of a possible local grocery tax in Peoria Heights remains undetermined after Mayor Matt Wigginton vetoed authorization ahead of this week's village board meeting.



Local News

OSF awarded \$2.5 million to join effort to improve hypertension care

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 9, 2025

OSF HealthCare has been selected to participate in an initiative aimed at advancing management of high blood pressure.



Local News

Pekin school bus bosses will get bonuses for staying through department transition to high school

Steve Stein

, September 9, 2025

The Pekin City Council on Monday approved paying bonuses totaling \$10,000 to school bus department administrators to encourage them to stay with the city until it gets out of the school bus business.



Local News

Need code compliance work done? Morton now has a grant for that

Steve Stein

, September 8, 2025

A business that needs code compliance work to open in Morton can now apply for a grant specifically created for that work.



Local News

Mayor says new East Peoria police station remains on track to open next summer

Joe Deacon

, September 5, 2025

Construction of East Peoria's new \$21.6 million police department building is on schedule to finish next summer.



Local News

Nonprofit foundation seeks to assist STEM funding through partnership with Black Band Distillery

Joe Deacon

, September 2, 2025

Following his death in February 2024, the nonprofit Will Kenny Foundation was established in his memory to benefit educational programs in Central Illinois. The

group has provided three scholarships so far, and now it's hoping to do even more.



Local News

Peoria Labor Day Parade shifts to Bradley Park, Farmington Road

Joe Deacon

, August 29, 2025

This year's Peoria Labor Day parade will take a new path, starting in lower Laura Bradley Park and heading west along Farmington Road in West Peoria.



Local News

Peoria airport tops 80K travelers in one month for the first time

Joe Deacon

, August 28, 2025

A continuing trend of increased air travel resulted in the General Wayne A. Downing Peoria International Airport reporting its highest passenger count ever recorded in July.



Local News

Peoria leaders press Ameren Illinois over surging energy bills

Joe Deacon

, August 28, 2025

As many Peoria residents cope with skyrocketing electricity bills, city leaders are seeking an explanation for the summer's surging energy prices.



Local News

Peoria's Landmark Recreation Center to close

Joe Deacon

, August 27, 2025

The Landmark Recreation Center in Peoria will close next month after 46 years. The venue announced the closure in a social media post Wednesday, attributing the decision to “the pending sale of our property.”



Local News

Denise Moore exits PCCEO, says board has put agency ‘in crisis’

Joe Deacon

, August 27, 2025

The Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity is again in need of a new CEO following the resignation of Denise Moore after just four months.



Local News

Lifelong Access expands into Tri-County with autism and mental health clinic in Bartonville

Joe Deacon

, August 21, 2025

A company that provides autism and mental health services has opened its first Peoria County clinic in Bartonville. Lifelong Access, which has operated in McLean County for nearly 70 years, celebrated its expansion into the Tri-County region Wednesday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Local News

East Peoria OKs \$500K loan for interior remodel at The Putt Club

Joe Deacon

, August 21, 2025

Owners of The Putt Club intend to significantly remodel the inside entertainment area, in response to high demand during bad weather and cold seasons.



Local News

Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce adapts, evolves under Gallo's direction

Joe Deacon

, August 18, 2025

Jessica Linder Gallo believes the Greater Peoria region continues to make strides in business development and economic growth. She says a focus on talent retention is among the chamber's top objectives.



Local News

Vote on potential Peoria County loan to Liberty Steel & Wire delayed

Joe Deacon

, August 14, 2025

Liberty Steel & Wire's request for a \$2.65 million loan from Peoria County is on hold, possibly until next year.



Local News

Peoria City Council gets update on Illinois American Water's replacement of lead service lines

Joe Deacon

, August 14, 2025

Illinois American Water hopes to reassure Peoria residents and city leaders that the utility company is working diligently to replace lead service lines.



Local News

'The right time': Ackerman eyes big final pumpkin season before closing popular farm's public side

Joe Deacon

, August 14, 2025

John Ackerman of Ackerman Family Farms is gearing up for another big fall of offering a wide variety of pumpkins and family-friendly activities for visitors to their 30-acre site just east of Morton. But this season will be a little different, after Ackerman announced the farm will close its public side after this year.



Local News

Peoria discusses possibility, requirements of 'tiny homes' concept for unhoused residents

Joe Deacon

, August 13, 2025

Peoria city leaders seem receptive to the notion of using small dwellings as temporary housing for unsheltered individuals, but they want more details before moving forward with necessary changes to building and zoning codes.



Local News

Pekin's 54 Flock license plate reading cameras will remain in use

Steve Stein

, August 12, 2025

The Pekin City Council on Monday unanimously approved renewing the city's annual contract with Flock Safety for the 54 license plate reading cameras installed throughout the community.



Local News

Peoria County considering \$2.65M loan to help Liberty Steel & Wire bring headquarters to region

Joe Deacon

, August 11, 2025

Members of the Peoria County Board are expected to vote this week on a \$2.65 million loan that could lead to Liberty Steel & Wire relocating its company headquarters to Bartonville from Texas.



Local News

Peoria aims to assist multiple Warehouse District redevelopment projects

Joe Deacon

, August 8, 2025

A pair of action items connected to redevelopment projects in Peoria's Warehouse District will be up for a vote at Tuesday's city council meeting, including a move aimed at facilitating renovation of the historic former International Harvester buildings.



Local News

Distillery Labs envisions bright future entering its 2nd year in downtown Peoria space

Joe Deacon

, August 7, 2025

The Distillery Labs innovation hub in downtown Peoria enters its second year looking to build on initial momentum. Executive director Doug Cruitt says the small business incubator remains committed to its mission of helping emerging entrepreneurs develop their ideas and bring them to reality.



Local News

East Peoria City Council approves IEPA, water treatment expenses despite commissioner's reluctance

Joe Deacon

, August 6, 2025

The East Peoria City Council has approved more than \$300,000 in water treatment-related expenses required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, but with some apprehension.



Local News

Morton is latest area community to impose a local 1% grocery sales tax

Steve Stein

, August 6, 2025

Shoppers at Morton grocery stores will continue paying a 1% grocery sales tax next year, when the state's tax expires.



Local News

2 small businesses join Greater Peoria's list of 'Illinois Made Makers' winners

Joe Deacon

, August 5, 2025

Owners of Sarah Beth's Homemade Dips in Hanna City and Tres Rojas Winery in Washington were presented with their awards for being selected among this year's winners in the state's "Illinois Made Makers" campaign.



Local News

Washington approves two business improvement grants, considering two others

Steve Stein

, August 5, 2025

Business building and property improvement grants for Countryside Banquet & Catering and Sleep Inn were approved Monday by the Washington City Council.



Local News

Peoria area home sales show uptick in second quarter

Joe Deacon

, August 4, 2025

The residential real estate market in Greater Peoria is on a slight rebound after a tough first quarter.



Local News

Ameren Illinois touts new \$20M Peoria Solar Energy Center as step toward state's clean energy target

[Joe Deacon](#)

, July 31, 2025

Plenty of sunlight cascaded over an open field just west of Pottstown on Thursday morning, perhaps a bright sign for Ameren Illinois as the utility company begins construction on a renewable energy facility for Greater Peoria.



Local News

String of big months puts Peoria International Airport on track for best annual passenger total

[Joe Deacon](#)

, July 29, 2025

The General Wayne A. Downing Peoria International Airport remains on a streak of breaking monthly passenger count records. The airport says nearly 79,000 passengers came through the facility in June, an increase of 20% from the same month in 2024.



Local News

Peoria receives 3 redevelopment bids for city-owned tower, enters agreement for repairs at closed high-rise

Joe Deacon

, July 28, 2025

Three companies have submitted redevelopment proposals to the City of Peoria for turning the Tower on Adams property into a mixed-use commercial and residential property. Meanwhile, the city also has entered into an agreement with the owners of the Riverview Plaza as a step toward getting the closed high-rise repaired.



Local News

Kroger store on Sterling Avenue closes earlier than planned

Joe Deacon

, July 24, 2025

The Kroger grocery store in Peoria's Sterling Bazaar shopping center closed Wednesday, more than a week ahead of the initially scheduled date.



Local News

Bradley sprinter's NIL deal with Peoria biotech company highlights recovery from childhood cancer

Joe Deacon

, July 23, 2025

In her freshman track season at Bradley University, sprinter Carolina Martinez broke a 41-year-old school record in the 300-meter dash. Now, she's building on her athletic success by sharing her story of recovery and resilience through an NIL partnership with Veloxity Labs.



Local News

Peoria City Council accepts grants for home repairs program, auto crimes task force

Joe Deacon

, July 22, 2025

Through two separate state grant awards, the City of Peoria is receiving \$500,000 for a home repairs program and another \$1.36 million to continue addressing auto-related crimes.



Local News

'Team Washington' will help recruit a new city administrator

Steve Stein

, July 22, 2025

A consultant and “Team Washington,” made up of two city employees and Mayor Lilija Stevens, will recruit Washington's next city administrator.



Local News

Peoria plays a role in upcoming independent film on century-old Leopold and Loeb murder case

[Joe Deacon](#)

, July 17, 2025

Just more than 100 years ago, two Chicago university students perpetrated a notorious child murder that became known at the time as “the crime of the century.” Now, Peoria is playing a significant role in an independent feature film about the case.



Local News

OSF launches mobile maternity unit in partnership with Meridian

[Joe Deacon](#)

, July 15, 2025

A partnership between OSF HealthCare and Meridian Health Plan of Illinois is bringing a mobile service unit to Peoria-area expectant and recent mothers in need of maternity care.



Local News

Project developers announce plans for MacArthur Senior Flats affordable housing complex

Joe Deacon

, July 11, 2025

After more than three years in planning, an affordable housing project for seniors 55 and over is on its way to Peoria's near South Side, tabbed as a key piece of the MacArthur Corridor Revitalization.



Local News

Peoria enters agreement to develop sewer extension on northwest side

Joe Deacon

, July 8, 2025

The City of Peoria will provide funding for a sanitary sewer extension to connect the existing system to the Haven on the Farms and Pringle Enterprises properties along War Memoria Drive on the city's northwest side.



Local News

Peoria nonprofit awarded \$1M grant to develop South Village clean energy housing project

Joe Deacon

, July 8, 2025

The head of a relatively new Peoria nonprofit hopes a state grant of close to \$1 million will spark investor interest in a proposed affordable housing development with a clean energy component on the city's South Side.

Politics and Government



Emily Bollinger

/

WGLT

Rep. Sorensen stands with Democrats, blames Republicans for government shutdown

Ben Howell

, 17 hours ago

With government funding run dry, Rep. Eric Sorensen is among a long list of Democrats and Republicans trying to quickly shape the narrative around the first government shutdown in more than six years.



Joe Deacon

/

WCBU

Peoria's budget proposal keeps property tax rate unchanged

[Joe Deacon](#)

, 20 hours ago

The City of Peoria's proposed financial plan for 2026 sees the property tax rate virtually unchanged from the current fiscal year, but a \$3 million overall budget imbalance has some city council members suggesting spending cuts.



Koehler: Public transit funding bill 'vital' to Peoria's CityLink, other downstate transportation agencies

September 30, 2025



Washington City Council begins city administrator search, likes idea of new deputy position

September 30, 2025



Q&A: Peoria's League of Women Voters president touts benefits of area leaders discussing local implications of federal policies

September 29, 2025



State News

Central Illinois Republicans rally for increased student privacy

Lauren Warnecke

, September 26, 2025

At a joint news conference Friday, Carlock resident Desi Anderson was joined by state and national lawmakers to announce proposed legislation clamping down on student directory data that is not protected by current privacy laws.

LISTEN • 2:00



State News

Rep. LaHood on the government shutdown, Tylenol guidance, and foreign aid after US AID

Eric Stock

, September 26, 2025

"I'm cautious of some of the things that have come from the HHS secretary," said Rep. Darin LaHood. "What I would tell people is rely on evidence and facts that are based on science."

LISTEN • 8:18



State News

During B-N stop, conservative governor candidate Ted Dabrowski vows to fight for economic change in Illinois

Paul J. Aguilar

, September 26, 2025

Conservative Illinois GOP candidate Ted Dabrowski discusses the most pressing issues in the state and how he hopes to deal with them if elected in 2026.



State News

Republican Darren Bailey visits Bloomington as he joins race for governor a second time

Braden Fogerson

, September 25, 2025

Republican Darren Bailey stopped in Bloomington as part of a three-leg tour announcing another run for governor of Illinois.



Local News

Peoria Civic Center boasts record income, prepares for losses in year ahead

Joe Deacon

, September 25, 2025

Coming off a record-breaking year, the Peoria Civic Center is bracing for a significant dropoff in 2026 amid industry challenges and a major improvement project planned for next summer.



Local News

Tazewell County Courthouse exterior to get \$120K cleaning

Steve Stein

, September 25, 2025

The historic Tazewell County Courthouse in Pekin is having some long-awaited work done. The county board on Wednesday approved hiring Summit Masonry to clean and seal the exterior of the courthouse.



Local News

Proposed Peoria budget puts city expenses at \$301M for 2026

Joe Deacon

, September 24, 2025

Peoria City Council members are getting their first looks at the city staff's proposed two-year budget. The recommended spending plan has 2026 anticipated expenses of \$301 million and projected revenues of \$298 million.



Local News

UPDATE: Peoria submits \$1.2M winning bid for Expo Gardens after council OKs increased purchase price

Joe Deacon

, September 23, 2025

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Local News

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City property on Court Street that's located in one of Pekin's busiest commercial areas but is currently being used as a stormwater facility, has been sold to a developer for \$100,000.



State News

U.S. Army veteran wants to continue oath of service in 16th Congressional District

Ben Howell

, September 19, 2025

Brendyn Morgan credited several aspects of his life in deciding to run for public office, including his six years in the Army, his work in public housing and lessons from his single mom.

LISTEN • 5:40



Local News

‘The urgency is so great’: Salvation Army breaks ground on new emergency shelter in Peoria

Joe Deacon

, September 19, 2025

The Salvation Army is marking the start of construction on a new two-story men’s shelter in downtown Peoria, as fundraising efforts for the \$30 million project continue.



Local News

New Tazewell County Animal Control facility fixes 'something that's needed to be fixed'

Steve Stein

, September 19, 2025

Tazewell County Animal Control employees – and the animals under their care – are looking forward to a bright future with a new \$3.5 million animal control facility.



Local News

Three-year federal funding award assists Greater Peoria EDC's planning, programming

Joe Deacon

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The Greater Peoria Economic Development Council is getting \$210,000 in federal funding to assist with operational expenses over the next three years, helping the organization boost private investment and job creation.



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Joe Deacon

, September 17, 2025

Peoria Heights village trustees have scheduled another vote to enact a local grocery tax after Mayor Matt Wigginton vetoed the initial approval late last week.



Local News

Democratic challenger launches bid to unseat Spain in State House

Joe Deacon

, September 17, 2025

A former village trustee from the Quad Cities area has started a campaign to unseat Republican State Rep. Ryan Spain in Illinois' 73rd House District.



State News

Illinois House speaker says lawmakers are more aware of their surroundings

Jim Stahly Jr.

, September 16, 2025

While the recent killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk has escalated fears of political violence, Illinois House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch has been on high

alert since June 14, when Democratic former Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband were killed in their home.



Local News

Peoria County aiming to extend life of jail facility with renovations

Joe Deacon

, September 16, 2025

Rather than build an entirely new jail at taxpayer expenses, Peoria County instead will try to get as much life as possible out of its existing facility.



Local News

Washington City Council again signs civility pledge for officials

Steve Stein

, September 16, 2025

For the second time this year, the Washington City Council signed the Illinois Municipal League's Civility Pledge for elected officials. Four new alderpersons weren't able to sign the pledge earlier.



State News

Young Democrat Montez Soliz to challenge incumbent Eric Sorensen in 17th District primary

Charlie Schlenker

, September 15, 2025

Montez Soliz says he's running against Democratic U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen in the March primary for the 17th Congressional District that includes parts of Bloomington-Normal and Greater Peoria.

LISTEN • 7:40



Local News

Peoria Heights mayor vetoes adoption of local grocery tax

Joe Deacon

, September 15, 2025

The status of a possible local grocery tax in Peoria Heights remains undetermined after Mayor Matt Wigginton vetoed authorization ahead of this week's village board meeting.



State News

Jim Edgar, former Illinois governor, dies at 79

Selena Kuznikov

, September 14, 2025

Jim Edgar, a Republican, served two-terms as Illinois governor from 1991 to 1999. He announced this year that he was being treated for pancreatic cancer.



Local News

Bradley TEDx event brings speakers to discuss community challenges

Joe Deacon

, September 12, 2025

For its second TEDx event, Bradley University will bring together a group of speakers next week to discuss approaches for seeking innovative solutions to social challenges.



Local News

Morton's Church Square now is officially ... 'Church Square'

Steve Stein

, September 12, 2025

For nearly a decade, green space and a parking area off East Jefferson Street owned by the Village of Morton has been called "Church Square" by village residents. But it wasn't an official name.



State News

Young Republican leaders in Central Illinois share what connected them to Charlie Kirk

Ryan Denham

, September 12, 2025

Leaders with Young Republican groups in Central Illinois say they felt a deep connection to the slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk and that his death will further galvanize his movement.

LISTEN • 7:55



Local News

White House chief of staff during 9/11 reflects on historic moment informing Bush of terrorist attack

Joe Deacon

, September 11, 2025

Former White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card, forever known for whispering to President George W. Bush in a Florida classroom on the morning of 9/11, says the famous image stands as a call to honor the lives lost that day.



Local News

Illinois elected leaders decry killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk

Joe Deacon

, September 10, 2025

The U.S. Congressional representatives whose districts include the Peoria area condemned political violence Wednesday in the aftermath of the fatal shooting of right-wing activist Charlie Kirk.



Local News

Peoria City Council gives green light to pursue \$11M public-private riverfront amphitheater

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 9, 2025

A plan to use a charitable gift to develop an \$11 million amphitheater along the Illinois River in Peoria has gained enthusiastic support from city leaders.



Local News

OSF awarded \$2.5 million to join effort to improve hypertension care

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 9, 2025

OSF HealthCare has been selected to participate in an initiative aimed at advancing management of high blood pressure.



Local News

Pekin school bus bosses will get bonuses for staying through department transition to high school

Steve Stein

, September 9, 2025

The Pekin City Council on Monday approved paying bonuses totaling \$10,000 to school bus department administrators to encourage them to stay with the city until it gets out of the school bus business.



State News

Chicago Republican enters congressional primary against Rep. LaHood, who he calls a 'RINO'

Ben Howell

, September 8, 2025

John Kitover is a former Internal Revenue Service employee who worked in project and facilities management. He previously served for four years in the Army National Guard. He resigned from his job in May to run full time in the district of central and northwestern Illinois.

LISTEN • 5:32



Local News

Need code compliance work done? Morton now has a grant for that

Steve Stein

, September 8, 2025

A business that needs code compliance work to open in Morton can now apply for a grant specifically created for that work.



Local News

Mayor says new East Peoria police station remains on track to open next summer

Joe Deacon

, September 5, 2025

Construction of East Peoria's new \$21.6 million police department building is on schedule to finish next summer.



Local News

Murals and more: Weekend events celebrate public art in Peoria

Joe Deacon

, September 4, 2025

A big weekend of dedications and celebrations is in store for public art lovers and activity seekers in downtown Peoria.



Local News

Community leaders envision East Peoria's new Levee Park as a public attraction

Joe Deacon

, September 4, 2025

East Peoria Community Foundation President Sue Portscher joined a host of other community and civic leaders for a soft opening and ribbon cutting at Levee Park.



Local News

Washington adds parking areas, sidewalks to downtown square resurfacing project

Steve Stein

, September 3, 2025

A resurfacing project on U.S. Business Route 24 in the downtown Washington square has grown. The Washington City Council on Tuesday approved resurfacing parking areas and repairing sidewalks.



State News

Carroll County Board chair, farmer Julie Bickelhaupt announces bid for Rep. Sorensen's seat

Eric Stock

, August 29, 2025

Julie Bickelhaupt is a farmer and chair of the Carroll County Board, a rural county along the Mississippi River border with Iowa. She said she's running to lower costs for Americans, support farmers and strengthen education.

LISTEN • 6:05



Local News

Peoria Labor Day Parade shifts to Bradley Park, Farmington Road

Joe Deacon

, August 29, 2025

This year's Peoria Labor Day parade will take a new path, starting in lower Laura Bradley Park and heading west along Farmington Road in West Peoria.



State News

Trump administration readying 'ramped up' deportation campaign for Chicago next week

August 29, 2025

As the White House gears up plans for a major deportation effort in the city and potential deployment of National Guard troops, Mayor Brandon Johnson and police Supt. Larry Snelling stressed that Chicago cops won't assist ICE agents who attempt to conduct raids.



Local News

Peoria leaders press Ameren Illinois over surging energy bills

Joe Deacon

, August 28, 2025

As many Peoria residents cope with skyrocketing electricity bills, city leaders are seeking an explanation for the summer's surging energy prices.



Local News

'Smart, capable' Mindy Darcy appointed Tazewell County's interim administrator

[Steve Stein](#)

, August 28, 2025

The Tazewell County Board has approved the appointment of assistant county administrator Mindy Darcy as interim county administrator. She's replacing Mike Deluhery, who resigned.



[State News](#)

Hundreds of police departments use camera company accused of breaking state law

[Andrew Adams](#)

, August 27, 2025

Giannoulis alleges Flock Safety improperly shared data with federal border officials



[Local News](#)

Denise Moore exits PCCEO, says board has put agency 'in crisis'

Joe Deacon

, August 27, 2025

The Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity is again in need of a new CEO following the resignation of Denise Moore after just four months.



Local News

Peoria extends AMT ambulance services agreement, accepts \$2.9M grant for police co-response unit

Joe Deacon

, August 27, 2025

In a deal categorized as a “milestone” and a “celebration,” the City of Peoria and Advanced Medical Transport finalized a pact that extends the city’s ambulance services for at least five years beyond the current contract.



State News

Rep. Sorensen says Democrats must 'fight back' after Texas gerrymander

Eric Stock

, August 26, 2025

Political maps are typically redone once a decade after each census. Texas is looking to adopt a mid-decade map change at the behest of President Donald Trump in hopes of adding five more Republican congressional seats in 2027.

LISTEN • 7:58



Local News

Split Peoria school board hires search firm for next superintendent

Joe Deacon

, August 26, 2025

A divided Peoria Public Schools Board of Education voted Monday to move forward with a Texas-based search firm to find a replacement for outgoing Superintendent Sharon Kherat.



Local News

Not-for-profit TCRC gets TIF grant for its downtown Pekin building

Steve Stein

, August 26, 2025

A request by Tazewell County Resource Centers for a TIF commercial building improvement grant to help pay for renovations at its downtown Pekin building was barely approved Monday by the city council.



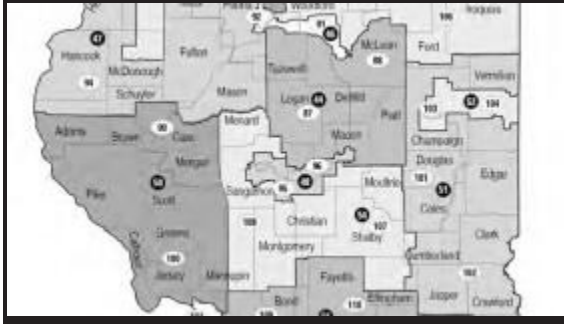
State News

Rep. Sorensen joins AFSCME union members to bash GOP's tax cut and spending plan

Ben Howell

, August 25, 2025

LISTEN • 7:58



Effort revived to push for fair maps constitutional amendment in Illinois

, August 21, 2025

LISTEN • 7:08



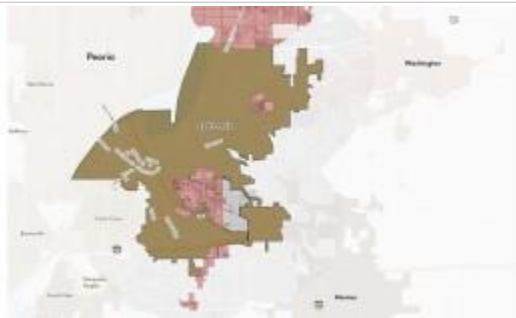
Local News

East Peoria OKs \$500K loan for interior remodel at The Putt Club

Joe Deacon

, August 21, 2025

Owners of The Putt Club intend to significantly remodel the inside entertainment area, in response to high demand during bad weather and cold seasons.



Local News

East Peoria moves closer to finalizing long-range comprehensive plan

Joe Deacon

, August 20, 2025

East Peoria city leaders are making progress on developing and adopting a long-range comprehensive plan. The city council held a 30-minute work session on the 2045 comprehensive plan immediately before Tuesday's regularly scheduled meeting.



State News

Election lawyers, Obama alumni renew Illinois redistricting reform push

Andrew Adams

, August 19, 2025

A group of former Obama administration officials and election lawyers announced Tuesday they are attempting to reform the way the state draws district maps for the state legislature. They want to do this by passing a state constitutional amendment via a ballot initiative during the 2026 general election.



Local News

Former mayor Manier, St. Jude runners honored by Washington City Council

Steve Stein

, August 19, 2025

Former Washington Mayor Gary Manier, the city's longest-serving mayor, was honored Monday with at a city council meeting. Manier did not attend the meeting because of another commitment.



State News

Raoul sues Trump administration for access to crime victim funding

Peter Hancock

, August 18, 2025

Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced Monday that he has joined a multistate lawsuit seeking to block the Trump administration from withholding federal funding to support crime victims in Illinois due to the state's policy on immigration.



Local News

Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce adapts, evolves under Gallo's direction

Joe Deacon

, August 18, 2025

Jessica Linder Gallo believes the Greater Peoria region continues to make strides in business development and economic growth. She says a focus on talent retention is among the chamber's top objectives.



Local News

Dirksen Congressional Center set to celebrate 50th anniversary

Joe Deacon

, August 18, 2025

The Dirksen Congressional Center in Pekin kicks off its 50th anniversary celebration with a public open house reception on Tuesday. The event commemorates the exact day in 1975 when President Gerald Ford officially dedicated the nation's only independent congressional research center and archive.



Local News

Washington will rebid Candlewood Bridge repair project

Steve Stein

, August 15, 2025

A nearly \$600,000 bid to repair the historic Candlewood Bridge in Washington has been rejected by the city and the project will be rebid.



Local News

Peoria launches ARPA-funded public art initiative as a beautification program

Joe Deacon

, August 15, 2025

A new city-sponsored public art initiative aims to brighten up many of Peoria's light posts and traffic cabinets. The "Banners and Boxes" beautification program

features submissions from 21 local artists displayed throughout downtown, the Warehouse District and Sheridan Village.



State News

Pritzker signs union protection bills amid Trump war on federal unions

Tina Sfondeles

, August 15, 2025

The signing comes after the Federal Emergency Management Agency joined at least three other federal agencies in canceling contracts with unions to comply with President Trump's March executive order that stripped many federal workers of union protections.



Local News

Vote on potential Peoria County loan to Liberty Steel & Wire delayed

[Joe Deacon](#)

, August 14, 2025

Liberty Steel & Wire's request for a \$2.65 million loan from Peoria County is on hold, possibly until next year.



Local News

Peoria City Council gets update on Illinois American Water's replacement of lead service lines

[Joe Deacon](#)

, August 14, 2025

Illinois American Water hopes to reassure Peoria residents and city leaders that the utility company is working diligently to replace lead service lines.



State News

Rock City Democrat travels Central Illinois in bid for state position from 16th Congressional District

Ben Howell

, August 13, 2025

Kevin Lamm of Rock City is seeking a state party position as the Democratic state central committeeman for the 16th Congressional District. The seat is currently held by John Daniel, who is not seeking re-election.

LISTEN • 5:26



State News

16th Congressional District candidate Scott Best runs as outsider, even from other Democrats

Charlie Schlenker

, August 13, 2025

Scott Best, a Rivian worker from Normal, says he's running for the 16th Congressional District seat as a Democrat in the 2026 election.

LISTEN • 6:59



Local News

Peoria discusses possibility, requirements of 'tiny homes' concept for unhoused residents

Joe Deacon

, August 13, 2025

Peoria city leaders seem receptive to the notion of using small dwellings as temporary housing for unsheltered individuals, but they want more details before moving forward with necessary changes to building and zoning codes.



State News

GOP candidate for 17th Congressional District is active early this election cycle

Charlie Schlenker

, August 12, 2025

'Tis the season for political candidates to firm up plans to run for party primaries next year. Dillan Vancil is running for Congress as a Republican in the 17th district. That U.S. House seat is currently held by Democrat Eric Sorensen.

LISTEN • 7:11



Local News

Pekin's 54 Flock license plate reading cameras will remain in use

Steve Stein

, August 12, 2025

The Pekin City Council on Monday unanimously approved renewing the city's annual contract with Flock Safety for the 54 license plate reading cameras installed throughout the community.



Local News

Peoria County considering \$2.65M loan to help Liberty Steel & Wire bring headquarters to region

Joe Deacon

, August 11, 2025

Members of the Peoria County Board are expected to vote this week on a \$2.65 million loan that could lead to Liberty Steel & Wire relocating its company headquarters to Bartonville from Texas.



Local News

Peoria aims to assist multiple Warehouse District redevelopment projects

Joe Deacon

, August 8, 2025

A pair of action items connected to redevelopment projects in Peoria's Warehouse District will be up for a vote at Tuesday's city council meeting, including a move aimed at facilitating renovation of the historic former International Harvester buildings.



State News

Gov. Pritzker says Illinois could retaliate if GOP redistricts in Texas

Charlie Schlenker

, August 6, 2025

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker has told NPR if Texas and other Republican majority states redraw new congressional districts outside the usual schedule after census periods, Illinois and blue states might follow the political escalation.



Local News

Man indicted for 2023 murder, RICO charges tied to street gang

Joe Deacon

, August 6, 2025

A 22-year-old man has been indicted in connection with a 2023 murder in Peoria, along with corrupt organization charges for participation in a violent street gang known as “the Snakes.”



Local News

East Peoria City Council approves IEPA, water treatment expenses despite commissioner's reluctance

Joe Deacon

, August 6, 2025

The East Peoria City Council has approved more than \$300,000 in water treatment-related expenses required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, but with some apprehension.



Local News

Morton is latest area community to impose a local 1% grocery sales tax

Steve Stein

, August 6, 2025

Shoppers at Morton grocery stores will continue paying a 1% grocery sales tax next year, when the state's tax expires.



State News

Woodford County Coroner Tim Ruestman to run for state representative

Vivienne Hughes

, August 5, 2025

Longtime Woodford County Coroner Tim Ruestman said Tuesday he will run for the Republican nomination for state representative in the 105th District.



State News

Rep. LaHood won't run for Senate, aims to keep his seat in the House

Lauren Warnecke

, August 5, 2025

Rep. Darin LaHood, a Peoria Republican, was rumored to be considering a run for the U.S. Senate. He announced Tuesday he'll campaign to continue representing Illinois' 16th Congressional District.



Local News

Washington approves two business improvement grants, considering two others

Steve Stein

, August 5, 2025

Business building and property improvement grants for Countryside Banquet & Catering and Sleep Inn were approved Monday by the Washington City Council.



Local News

State Rep. Dennis Tipsword reverses reelection plan, will run for Woodford County sheriff

Steve Stein

, August 1, 2025

Dennis Tipsword is abandoning his re-election campaign for state representative in the 105th District to run for Woodford County sheriff in 2026.



State News

Rep. Sorensen decries local effects coming from Medicaid cuts

Braden Fogerson

, August 1, 2025

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen spoke against patient loss of Medicaid coverage during a tour of a OSF HealthCare facility in Peoria.

LISTEN • 1:52



Local News

Ameren Illinois touts new \$20M Peoria Solar Energy Center as step toward state's clean energy target

Joe Deacon

, July 31, 2025

Plenty of sunlight cascaded over an open field just west of Pottstown on Thursday morning, perhaps a bright sign for Ameren Illinois as the utility company begins construction on a renewable energy facility for Greater Peoria.



Local News

New guaranteed maximum price for Tazewell County Justice Center Annex: \$43.5M

Steve Stein

, July 31, 2025

Tazewell County Board members Wednesday approved a new guaranteed maximum price for the construction of the three-story Tazewell County Justice Center Annex. The price is \$43,498,217.



State News

Rep. LaHood defends higher tariffs and new landscape of trade agreements

Charlie Schlenker

, July 30, 2025

U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood is hailing this week's announcement of a trade agreement with the European Union and recent ones with Vietnam, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, and Japan as the Trump administration continues to reshape the global economy.



Local News

Man sentenced to maximum 85-year prison sentence for teen's murder

Joe Deacon

, July 30, 2025

The man convicted of first-degree murder in the 2023 shooting death of a Peoria teen has been sentenced to a maximum 85-year prison term for the crime.



Local News

Peoria County schedules collection events for hazardous household waste

Joe Deacon

, July 30, 2025

Peoria County's Sustainability and Resource Conservation Department will hold a hazardous household waste collection drive Saturday morning at Expo Gardens in Peoria.



State News

Trump administration requests voter data from Illinois elections board

Peter Hancock

, July 29, 2025

The Trump administration has asked Illinois election officials for a copy of the state's voter registration database, including sensitive data about individual voters and detailed information about the state's efforts to scrub ineligible voters from the rolls.



Local News

Done deal: Pekin buys 1,000-acre Lutticken property for \$14M

Steve Stein

, July 29, 2025

The 1,000-acre Lutticken property belongs to Pekin. Mayor Mary Burress announced Monday the city had closed earlier in the day on its \$14 million purchase of the property.



Local News

Peoria receives 3 redevelopment bids for city-owned tower, enters agreement for repairs at closed high-rise

Joe Deacon

, July 28, 2025

Three companies have submitted redevelopment proposals to the City of Peoria for turning the Tower on Adams property into a mixed-use commercial and residential property. Meanwhile, the city also has entered into an agreement with the owners of the Riverview Plaza as a step toward getting the closed high-rise repaired.



State News

Kelly leans on experience in Illinois' Democratic Senate primary

Ben Szalinski

, July 25, 2025

Longtime U.S. House member boasts legislative accomplishments



Local News

Village of Morton, school district split \$215,000 cost of making crosswalks safer

Steve Stein

, July 25, 2025

The village of Morton and Morton School District agreed this month to evenly split the \$215,000 cost of installing rapid flashing beacon lights at crosswalks in front of three district schools.



Local News

Peoria, Hengst Foundation in talks to add amphitheater to Riverfront revitalization plan

Joe Deacon

, July 25, 2025

Peoria's existing large-scale plan to upgrade the Riverfront has a new feature, with the city and the Hengst Foundation in discussions to pursue an amphitheater project near the Murray Baker Bridge.



Local News

Peoria seminar showcases services, resources available to assist veterans

Joe Deacon

, July 24, 2025

Homelessness, physical and mental health struggles, barriers to transportation. Those are among the biggest challenges facing many U.S. military veterans, according to organizers of a regional summit held Wednesday at the Peoria Riverfront Museum.



Local News

Peoria City Council accepts grants for home repairs program, auto crimes task force

Joe Deacon

, July 22, 2025

Through two separate state grant awards, the City of Peoria is receiving \$500,000 for a home repairs program and another \$1.36 million to continue addressing auto-related crimes.



Local News

'Team Washington' will help recruit a new city administrator

Steve Stein

, July 22, 2025

A consultant and “Team Washington,” made up of two city employees and Mayor Lilija Stevens, will recruit Washington's next city administrator.



Local News

Peoria gears up for \$10M road rehab project on MacArthur Highway

Joe Deacon

, July 21, 2025

A long-sought rehabilitation of one of Peoria's major South Side roadways will get underway in the next few weeks.



Local News

'Now we have clarity': WCBU and public media look to chart a new path after federal funding cuts

Eric Stock

, July 18, 2025

WCBU, WGLT and public broadcasters across the country are assessing an uncertain future after Congress voted after midnight Friday to cancel about \$1.1 billion already committed to public radio and television stations.

LISTEN • 10:58



Local News

Washington's Ben Franklin store getting a \$50K business improvement grant from the city

Steve Stein

, July 18, 2025

The Washington City Council this week gave the owner of a future Ben Franklin store its thumbs up to receive a \$50,000 grant from the city that will help cover the cost of renovation expenses.



Local News

PPS board turns down subscription for new metal detector system

Joe Deacon

, July 16, 2025

A proposal for Peoria Public Schools to purchase a new walk-through metal detector system for the district's three traditional high schools failed to gain board of education approval on Tuesday.



State News

State Sen. Chris Balkema announces reelection bid

Eric Stock

, July 16, 2025

Chris Balkema won a special election last year in the 53rd Senate District, a large, mostly rural district north of Bloomington-Normal. It stretches from the Peoria area to the Indiana border.



Local News

Pekin has a new city clerk

Steve Stein

, July 15, 2025

Normally the swearing in of a city clerk doesn't end with a standing ovation from the audience. The swearing in Monday of Nicole Stewart as Pekin's new city clerk wasn't a normal occasion.



Local News

Funding hold up pauses Neighborhood House produce coupon program

Collin Schopp

, July 15, 2025

A program providing access to fresh produce for Peoria's low-income seniors is on pause.



Local News

Project developers announce plans for MacArthur Senior Flats affordable housing complex

[Joe Deacon](#)

, July 11, 2025

After more than three years in planning, an affordable housing project for seniors 55 and over is on its way to Peoria's near South Side, tabbed as a key piece of the MacArthur Corridor Revitalization.



Local News

State grant means Tazewell County's election technology is getting an upgrade

[Collin Schopp](#)

, July 10, 2025

Election procedures at the Tazewell County Clerk's Office have received a major upgrade.



Local News

Peoria enters agreement to develop sewer extension on northwest side

[Joe Deacon](#)

, July 8, 2025

The City of Peoria will provide funding for a sanitary sewer extension to connect the existing system to the Haven on the Farms and Pringle Enterprises properties along War Memoria Drive on the city's northwest side.



Local News

Peoria nonprofit awarded \$1M grant to develop South Village clean energy housing project

[Joe Deacon](#)

, July 8, 2025

The head of a relatively new Peoria nonprofit hopes a state grant of close to \$1 million will spark investor interest in a proposed affordable housing development with a clean energy component on the city's South Side.



Local News

Washington, Morton among Tri-County ZIP codes added to list for high lead exposure risk

Joe Deacon

, July 8, 2025

Seven ZIP codes across the Tri-County area are among the 180 added to the state's list of areas considered at high risk for childhood lead exposure, including the communities of Washington, Morton, Mapleton and Metamora.



Local News

'Severely dilapidated' Washington home headed for demolition

Steve Stein

, July 8, 2025

The Washington City Council gave the city the go-ahead Monday to begin legal proceedings that most likely will result in the demolition of a blighted home at 121 S. Elm St.



Local News

Raw sewage leak raises Farm Creek concerns in Washington

Collin Schopp

, July 7, 2025

The City of Washington is asking residents to steer clear of Farm Creek after a raw sewage leak.



Local News

Village sales tax is a Morton first

Steve Stein

, July 7, 2025

Morton shoppers are paying a village sales tax for the first time in the village's history.



Local News

Peoria Heights promotes from within for first new police chief in 30 years

Collin Schopp

, July 3, 2025

The Village of Peoria Heights has a new police chief. Though the department's leadership is a familiar face hired internally, it's the first change in the position in 30 years.



Local News

East Peoria pursues \$3M project to install turf at 2 more EastSide Centre fields

Joe Deacon

, July 3, 2025

East Peoria will move forward on the next phase of a project to install synthetic turf on the EastSide Centre Sports Complex baseball and softball diamonds.



State News

Democrats deride Senate passage of Trump bill, as activists target GOP lawmakers ahead of House vote

Tina Sfondeles

, July 1, 2025

Democratic activists are now focusing their efforts on the three Republican members of the Illinois delegation, despite their allegiances to Trump: Reps. Mary Miller, Darin LaHood and Mike Bost.

Public safety



WCBU file photo

Peoria pair arrested for aggravated arson, endangering children

Joe Deacon

, 17 hours ago

Peoria police have arrested two people on charges of aggravated arson and endangering the life or health of a child following an apartment fire Tuesday night.



Teen found guilty of murder in connection with June fatal shooting

Joe Deacon

, 18 hours ago

A Peoria County jury returned guilty verdicts in the trial of a 17-year-old for his involvement in a June shooting on Peoria's South Side that left another man dead.



Peoria's budget proposal keeps property tax rate unchanged

20 hours ago



UPDATE: Coroner IDs teen killed in Peoria shooting; investigation continues

23 hours ago



Koehler: Public transit funding bill 'vital' to Peoria's CityLink, other downstate transportation agencies

September 30, 2025



Local News

Q&A: Peoria's League of Women Voters president touts benefits of area leaders discussing local implications of federal policies

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 29, 2025

Several Peoria-area community leaders are set to speak Monday night on possible local impacts from the “Big Beautiful Bill” and other federal policies. The non-partisan discussion is the latest in a series of “teach-in” speaking engagements hosted by the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria.

LISTEN • 10:05



Local News

‘The urgency is so great’: Salvation Army breaks ground on new emergency shelter in Peoria

[Joe Deacon](#)

, September 19, 2025

The Salvation Army is marking the start of construction on a new two-story men’s shelter in downtown Peoria, as fundraising efforts for the \$30 million project continue.



Local News

New Tazewell County Animal Control facility fixes 'something that's needed to be fixed'

Steve Stein

, September 19, 2025

Tazewell County Animal Control employees – and the animals under their care – are looking forward to a bright future with a new \$3.5 million animal control facility.



Local News

Peoria's Methodist College is marking 125 years of health care education

Joe Deacon

, September 18, 2025

Methodist College in Peoria is celebrating a milestone anniversary this weekend with a series of events commemorating its 125-year history of educating health care professionals.



Local News

Peoria County aiming to extend life of jail facility with renovations

Joe Deacon

, September 16, 2025

Rather than build an entirely new jail at taxpayer expenses, Peoria County instead will try to get as much life as possible out of its existing facility.



Local News

Second person killed in Pekin vehicle collision identified

Joe Deacon

, September 15, 2025

A 45-year-old woman who died at a Peoria hospital on Sunday following a three-vehicle crash in Pekin the day before has been identified.



Local News

Second death confirmed in multi-vehicle crash in Pekin

Joe Deacon

, September 13, 2025

A Tazewell County resident is dead after an early Saturday morning multi-vehicle collision on Pekin's south side.



Local News

Bradley TEDx event brings speakers to discuss community challenges

Joe Deacon

, September 12, 2025

For its second TEDx event, Bradley University will bring together a group of speakers next week to discuss approaches for seeking innovative solutions to social challenges.



Local News

Morton's Church Square now is officially ... 'Church Square'

Steve Stein

, September 12, 2025

For nearly a decade, green space and a parking area off East Jefferson Street owned by the Village of Morton has been called "Church Square" by village residents. But it wasn't an official name.



Local News

Illinois elected leaders decry killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk

Joe Deacon

, September 10, 2025

The U.S. Congressional representatives whose districts include the Peoria area condemned political violence Wednesday in the aftermath of the fatal shooting of right-wing activist Charlie Kirk.



Local News

State Police release video of Peoria officers shooting man with wooden bat

Eric Stock

, September 5, 2025

Illinois State Police have released body camera footage of Peoria officers shooting and killing a man who swung a wooden bat at the officers and tried to run away.



Local News

Mayor says new East Peoria police station remains on track to open next summer

Joe Deacon

, September 5, 2025

Construction of East Peoria's new \$21.6 million police department building is on schedule to finish next summer.



Local News

Murals and more: Weekend events celebrate public art in Peoria

Joe Deacon

, September 4, 2025

A big weekend of dedications and celebrations is in store for public art lovers and activity seekers in downtown Peoria.



Local News

Community leaders envision East Peoria's new Levee Park as a public attraction

Joe Deacon

, September 4, 2025

East Peoria Community Foundation President Sue Portscheller joined a host of other community and civic leaders for a soft opening and ribbon cutting at Levee Park.



Local News

Murder charges filed against elderly Pekin man in wife's death

Joe Deacon

, September 3, 2025

Tazewell County prosecutors have filed first-degree murder charges against a 93-year-old Pekin man accused of killing his wife. James Pate remains in custody

in the Tazewell County Jail following his arrest Tuesday afternoon for allegedly causing the death of Cheryl Pate, 80.



Local News

Washington adds parking areas, sidewalks to downtown square resurfacing project

Steve Stein

, September 3, 2025

A resurfacing project on U.S. Business Route 24 in the downtown Washington square has grown. The Washington City Council on Tuesday approved resurfacing parking areas and repairing sidewalks.



Local News

Pekin police announce elderly man's arrest in fatal stabbing

Joe Deacon

, September 2, 2025

Pekin police arrested a 93-year-old man on a charge of first-degree murder Tuesday in connection with the stabbing death of a female victim.



Local News

Peoria man killed in Woodford County motorcycle crash

Joe Deacon

, September 2, 2025

A Peoria man involved in a Labor Day motorcycle crash in Woodford County died early Tuesday morning.



Local News

Coroner ID's man found dead in vehicle in weekend crash near Glasford

Joe Deacon

, September 2, 2025

The driver of a car found in a ditch Saturday in rural Peoria County was pronounced dead at the scene.



Local News

Peoria Labor Day Parade shifts to Bradley Park, Farmington Road

Joe Deacon

, August 29, 2025

This year's Peoria Labor Day parade will take a new path, starting in lower Laura Bradley Park and heading west along Farmington Road in West Peoria.



State News

Trump administration readying 'ramped up' deportation campaign for Chicago next week

August 29, 2025

As the White House gears up plans for a major deportation effort in the city and potential deployment of National Guard troops, Mayor Brandon Johnson and police Supt. Larry Snelling stressed that Chicago cops won't assist ICE agents who attempt to conduct raids.



State News

Hundreds of police departments use camera company accused of breaking state law

Andrew Adams

, August 27, 2025

Giannoulis alleges Flock Safety improperly shared data with federal border officials



Local News

Denise Moore exits PCCEO, says board has put agency 'in crisis'

[Joe Deacon](#)

, August 27, 2025

The Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity is again in need of a new CEO following the resignation of Denise Moore after just four months.



Local News

Peoria extends AMT ambulance services agreement, accepts \$2.9M grant for police co-response unit

[Joe Deacon](#)

, August 27, 2025

In a deal categorized as a “milestone” and a “celebration,” the City of Peoria and Advanced Medical Transport finalized a pact that extends the city’s ambulance services for at least five years beyond the current contract.



Local News

Peoria police chief aims to ease community fears after latest shooting incident at Manual High

Joe Deacon

, August 23, 2025

After Peoria police arrested a 15-year-old boy Friday afternoon for a shooting that targeted the Manual High School building, Police Chief Eric Echevarria sought to reassure the community that the department is actively taking steps to keep schools safe.



Local News

Peoria's South Side Mission adds water treatment systems through charitable campaign

Joe Deacon

, August 22, 2025

A donation celebrating two 100-year anniversaries is bringing water softening equipment to Peoria's South Side Mission.



Local News

Peoria woman handed 31-year sentence for boyfriend's murder

Joe Deacon

, August 21, 2025

A Peoria woman has been sentenced to more than three decades in prison after pleading guilty to the 2023 murder of her boyfriend.



Local News

East Peoria OKs \$500K loan for interior remodel at The Putt Club

Joe Deacon

, August 21, 2025

Owners of The Putt Club intend to significantly remodel the inside entertainment area, in response to high demand during bad weather and cold seasons.



Local News

Peoria man found guilty of girlfriend's murder

Joe Deacon

, August 21, 2025

A Peoria man has been found guilty of first-degree murder for the fatal shooting of his girlfriend in 2021.



Local News

Teen girl injured in shooting near Manual High School

Joe Deacon

, August 20, 2025

Peoria Police say a 15-year-old girl was grazed by a bullet outside Manual High School on Wednesday afternoon.



Local News

Man dies from injuries after 'domestic situation' in Woodford County

Ryan Denham

, August 18, 2025

Authorities say a 54-year-old man has died from his self-inflicted gunshot wound during a “domestic situation” in Woodford County that left the man’s girlfriend seriously injured.



Local News

Washington will rebid Candlewood Bridge repair project

Steve Stein

, August 15, 2025

A nearly \$600,000 bid to repair the historic Candlewood Bridge in Washington has been rejected by the city and the project will be rebid.



Local News

Peoria launches ARPA-funded public art initiative as a beautification program

Joe Deacon

, August 15, 2025

A new city-sponsored public art initiative aims to brighten up many of Peoria's light posts and traffic cabinets. The "Banners and Boxes" beautification program features submissions from 21 local artists displayed throughout downtown, the Warehouse District and Sheridan Village.



Local News

Washington Fire Department earns state recognition in smoke alarm installation program

Joe Deacon

, August 13, 2025

The Washington Fire Department's participation in a statewide initiative to highlight fire safety through no-cost smoke alarm installations gained recognition Wednesday for reaching a noteworthy milestone.



Local News

Peoria discusses possibility, requirements of 'tiny homes' concept for unhoused residents

Joe Deacon

, August 13, 2025

Peoria city leaders seem receptive to the notion of using small dwellings as temporary housing for unsheltered individuals, but they want more details before moving forward with necessary changes to building and zoning codes.



Local News

Pekin's 54 Flock license plate reading cameras will remain in use

[Steve Stein](#)

, August 12, 2025

The Pekin City Council on Monday unanimously approved renewing the city's annual contract with Flock Safety for the 54 license plate reading cameras installed throughout the community.



Local News

Two people found shot at rural Washburn home in Woodford County

[Ryan Denham](#)

, August 9, 2025

Authorities are investigating a "domestic situation" in Woodford County on Saturday that sent two people to the hospital with gunshot wounds.



Local News

Lawsuit alleges Airgas exposed picketing Peoria workers to dangerous chemicals

[Joe Deacon](#)

, August 8, 2025

A lawsuit filed by a New Jersey-based Teamsters local alleges striking workers at Airgas facilities in Peoria and elsewhere were subjected to hazardous chemicals while picketing last month.



Local News

Peoria Police Department identifies officers placed on leave after fatal shooting

[Joe Deacon](#)

, August 7, 2025

Two Peoria Police officers have been placed on critical incident leave following the fatal shooting of a man armed with a wooden bat Tuesday in the East Bluff neighborhood.



Local News

Guilty plea earns Pekin woman 16-year sentence for trying to have her husband killed

Joe Deacon

, August 7, 2025

Tazewell County court records show Allison Salinas pleaded guilty to felony solicitation of murder for trying to have her husband killed.



Local News

Man indicted for 2023 murder, RICO charges tied to street gang

Joe Deacon

, August 6, 2025

A 22-year-old man has been indicted in connection with a 2023 murder in Peoria, along with corrupt organization charges for participation in a violent street gang known as “the Snakes.”



Local News

East Peoria City Council approves IEPA, water treatment expenses despite commissioner's reluctance

Joe Deacon

, August 6, 2025

The East Peoria City Council has approved more than \$300,000 in water treatment-related expenses required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, but with some apprehension.



Local News

Man dies after police shooting incident in Peoria's East Bluff

Joe Deacon

, August 6, 2025

A 41-year-old Peoria man is dead after he was shot Tuesday afternoon during an alleged altercation with Peoria Police in the East Bluff neighborhood.



Local News

Washington approves two business improvement grants, considering two others

Steve Stein

, August 5, 2025

Business building and property improvement grants for Countryside Banquet & Catering and Sleep Inn were approved Monday by the Washington City Council.



Local News

Peoria area home sales show uptick in second quarter

Joe Deacon

, August 4, 2025

The residential real estate market in Greater Peoria is on a slight rebound after a tough first quarter.



Local News

Peoria girl dies several days after drowning in country club pool

Joe Deacon

, August 2, 2025

A 6-year-old Peoria girl has died after days in the hospital following a drowning at Mt. Hawley Country Club.



Local News

Jury finds man guilty of 2023 murder connected to dice game

Joe Deacon

, July 31, 2025

A Peoria County jury has returned guilty verdicts in the murder trial of a Peoria man who shot another man during a 2023 dice game in the city's North Valley.



Local News

Man sentenced to maximum 85-year prison sentence for teen's murder

Joe Deacon

, July 30, 2025

The man convicted of first-degree murder in the 2023 shooting death of a Peoria teen has been sentenced to a maximum 85-year prison term for the crime.



Local News

Peoria County schedules collection events for hazardous household waste

Joe Deacon

, July 30, 2025

Peoria County's Sustainability and Resource Conservation Department will hold a hazardous household waste collection drive Saturday morning at Expo Gardens in Peoria.



Local News

Peoria organizations partner to launch South Side home rehab initiative

Joe Deacon

, July 29, 2025

Two Peoria organizations are working together on an initiative to boost home ownership possibilities for low-income households on the city's South Side, with financial assistance from the health department.



Local News

Peoria police announce arrest in 2023 murder of teen during mass shooting

Joe Deacon

, July 25, 2025

A 22-year-old Peoria man has been charged with first-degree murder stemming from a 2023 mass shooting on the city's South Side that resulted in a teen's death a month after the incident.



Local News

Village of Morton, school district split \$215,000 cost of making crosswalks safer

Steve Stein

, July 25, 2025

The village of Morton and Morton School District agreed this month to evenly split the \$215,000 cost of installing rapid flashing beacon lights at crosswalks in front of three district schools.



Local News

Peoria City Council accepts grants for home repairs program, auto crimes task force

[Joe Deacon](#)

, July 22, 2025

Through two separate state grant awards, the City of Peoria is receiving \$500,000 for a home repairs program and another \$1.36 million to continue addressing auto-related crimes.



Local News

Pekin police announce arrest in murder-for-hire plot

[Joe Deacon](#)

, July 22, 2025

A Pekin woman has been arrested for allegedly attempting to have someone killed.



Local News

'Team Washington' will help recruit a new city administrator

[Steve Stein](#)

, July 22, 2025

A consultant and “Team Washington,” made up of two city employees and Mayor Lilija Stevens, will recruit Washington's next city administrator.



Local News

Peoria gears up for \$10M road rehab project on MacArthur Highway

[Joe Deacon](#)

, July 21, 2025

A long-sought rehabilitation of one of Peoria’s major South Side roadways will get underway in the next few weeks.



Local News

Water company finds high lead levels in some routine tests in Peoria County

[Collin Schopp](#)

, July 16, 2025

A handful of Peoria water testing sites are showing elevated levels of lead.



Local News

PPS board turns down subscription for new metal detector system

[Joe Deacon](#)

, July 16, 2025

A proposal for Peoria Public Schools to purchase a new walk-through metal detector system for the district's three traditional high schools failed to gain board of education approval on Tuesday.



Local News

Judge cites Aaron Rossi's 'hubris and unlimited greed' in giving 3 more years in prison for COVID fraud

Collin Schopp

, July 15, 2025

Former Reditus Labs CEO Aaron Rossi was sentenced Tuesday to an additional three years in prison for COVID-era billing fraud. That's on top of a five-year sentence he's already serving in a separate case.



Local News

Bartonville man dies in weekend car crash in Missouri

Collin Schopp

, July 14, 2025

A Peoria County man is dead after a weekend crash in Camden County, Missouri.



Local News

New violence prevention march steps off outside Peoria city hall this weekend

Collin Schopp

, July 11, 2025

A new march event planned for Saturday in Peoria aims to raise awareness of community involvement in efforts to prevent violence.



Local News

Second person pleads guilty in fatal Facebook Marketplace robbery

Collin Schopp

, July 11, 2025

A second Peoria man pleaded guilty Friday to his involvement in an attempted Facebook Marketplace robbery that left one of the alleged robbers dead.



Local News

After child deaths in Peoria, experts stress the importance of knowing your resources as a caregiver

Collin Schopp

, July 11, 2025

Community leaders are highlighting resources for family support and child safety after Peoria saw two alleged incidents of homicide of small children last week.



Local News

Peoria man found guilty in fatal 2023 hit-and-run accident

Collin Schopp

, July 11, 2025

A Peoria man was found guilty Thursday of a fatal hit-and-run accident from 2023.



Local News

Project developers announce plans for MacArthur Senior Flats affordable housing complex

Joe Deacon

, July 11, 2025

After more than three years in planning, an affordable housing project for seniors 55 and over is on its way to Peoria's near South Side, tabbed as a key piece of the MacArthur Corridor Revitalization.



Local News

East Peoria dentist identified as victim in LaSalle County skydiving death

Collin Schopp

, July 10, 2025

An East Peoria dentist has been identified as the man who died in a skydiving accident earlier this week in LaSalle County.



Local News

Juvenile suspect in fatal shooting charged as adult, ordered held until trial

Joe Deacon

, July 9, 2025

A 17-year-old charged in connection with a fatal shooting near Martin Luther King Jr. Park will remain in custody until his trial begins.



Local News

Peoria enters agreement to develop sewer extension on northwest side

Joe Deacon

, July 8, 2025

The City of Peoria will provide funding for a sanitary sewer extension to connect the existing system to the Haven on the Farms and Pringle Enterprises properties along War Memoria Drive on the city's northwest side.



Local News

Peoria man ordered detained until trial in death of 18-month-old boy

Collin Schopp

, July 7, 2025

A Peoria man will remain in custody until the outcome of legal proceedings for the alleged murder of an 18-month-old child.



Local News

3rd suspect, a juvenile, arrested in shooting death of Peoria man

Collin Schopp

, July 7, 2025

A Peoria teen arrested by police on Monday is the third suspect in the shooting death of a 20-year old man.



Local News

Raw sewage leak raises Farm Creek concerns in Washington

Collin Schopp

, July 7, 2025

The City of Washington is asking residents to steer clear of Farm Creek after a raw sewage leak.



Local News

Peoria man pleads guilty to 2024 murder of girlfriend, gets 45 year-sentence

Collin Schopp

, July 7, 2025

A Peoria man accused of murdering his girlfriend pleaded guilty Monday, and as part of a plea agreement, was sentenced to 45 years in prison.



Local News

Coroner seeks public's help to identify body found in South Peoria

Collin Schopp

, July 7, 2025

The Peoria County coroner has tentatively identified a body found in a South Peoria home after asking the public for help.



Local News

One person killed in I-74 crash in East Peoria

Joe Deacon

, July 3, 2025

A 30-year-old Peoria man died Thursday after the SUV he was driving was struck in an accident with a truck-tractor on Interstate 74 in East Peoria.



Local News

Peoria Heights promotes from within for first new police chief in 30 years

Collin Schopp

, July 3, 2025

The Village of Peoria Heights has a new police chief. Though the department's leadership is a familiar face hired internally, it's the first change in the position in 30 years.



Local News

Peoria man arrested on murder charge in death of infant

Joe Deacon

, July 2, 2025

A Peoria man has been arrested on first-degree murder charges in the death of his 7-month-old son Tuesday morning. The incident is the city's second homicide involving a young child this week.



Local News

18-year-old faces murder charge after Peoria boy's death from signs of abuse

Joe Deacon

, July 1, 2025

Prosecutors have charged an 18-year-old babysitter with murder in connection with the death of an 18-month-old Peoria boy who showed signs of abuse.
