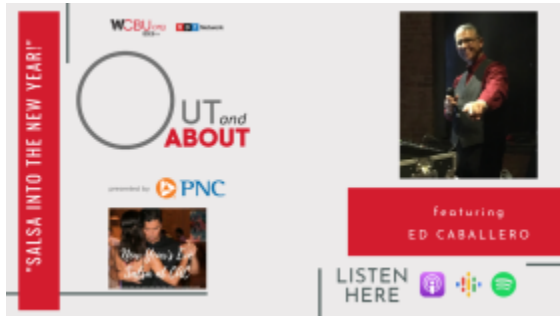


WCBU Q4 2025 FCC Report

Arts and Culture



Local News

Ed Caballero details New Year's Eve Salsa at the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria

Mae Gilliland Wright

, December 18, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with DJ and dance instructor Ed Caballero about New Year's Eve Salsa at the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria.

LISTEN • 5:00



Local News

Peoria musician Barry Cloyd leads The Celtic Winter Solstice Celebration

Mae Gilliland Wright

, December 10, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with musician Barry Cloyd about The Celtic Winter Solstice Celebration, now in its 25th year.

LISTEN • 5:00



Local News

Peoria OKs \$11M amphitheater plan, up to \$300K in emergency funding for New Hope Apartments

Joe Deacon

, December 10, 2025

A patch of land along the Illinois River between the Murray Baker Bridge and the Peoria RiverPlex is officially on track to become the location of an outdoor amphitheater.



Local News

Historic year for Washington Christmas Home Tour

Steve Stein

, December 8, 2025

The 40th annual Christmas Home Tour presented by the Washington Historical Society features a first — an Airbnb home.



Local News

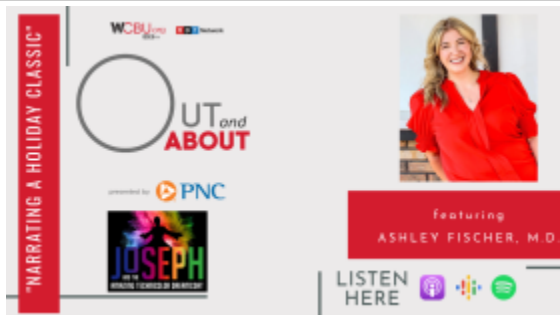
Bishop Tylka renews Sheen Foundation Advisory Board

Joe Deacon

, December 5, 2025

With work underway on the Catholic Diocese of Peoria's project to transform the former Spalding Institute into a new facility honoring the life and legacy of

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, current Bishop Louis Tylka is restoring the Sheen Foundation Advisory Board.



Local News

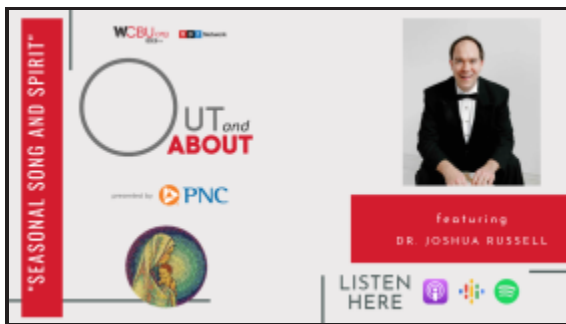
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat opens this weekend at Eastlight Theatre

Mae Gilliland Wright

, December 3, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Ashley Fischer, narrator of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, opening December 5th at Eastlight Theatre in East Peoria.

LISTEN • 5:00



Local News

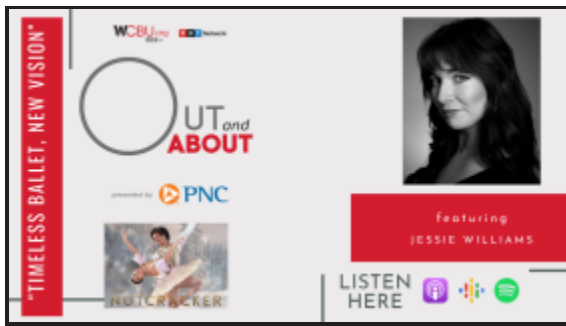
Dr. Joshua Russell is the new Artistic Director of the Peoria Area Civic Chorale

Mae Gilliland Wright

, November 25, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Dr. Joshua Russell, the new Artistic Director of the Peoria Area Civic Chorale.

LISTEN • 5:00



Local News

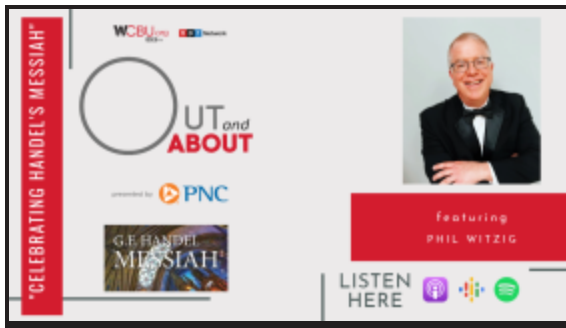
Central Illinois Ballet to stage 'The Nutcracker'

Mae Gilliland Wright

, November 19, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Jessie Williams, Artistic Director of Central Illinois Ballet, about their upcoming production of The Nutcracker.

LISTEN • 5:00



Local News

Morton Community Chorus and Orchestra to perform 'Handel's Messiah'

Mae Gilliland Wright

, November 11, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with conductor Phil Witzig about the Morton Community Chorus and Orchestra's upcoming performance of Handel's Messiah.

LISTEN • 5:00



Local News

Peoria Riverfront Museum gets \$1M gift to offer free admission to school students across Illinois

Joe Deacon

, November 4, 2025

The announcement comes in conjunction with the unveiling of George Washington's hand-written, first presidential proclamation declaring the Thanksgiving holiday.



Local News

'Annie' coming to Peoria Players Theatre

Mae Gilliland Wright

, November 4, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois talks with Mary Ellen Ulrich, Director of "Annie," opening November 7 at Peoria Players Theatre.

LISTEN • 5:00



Local News

Peoria plans public opening of time capsule from 1897

Joe Deacon

, October 30, 2025

A time capsule from 1897, placed in the cornerstone of Peoria City Hall during construction, will be reopened this weekend.



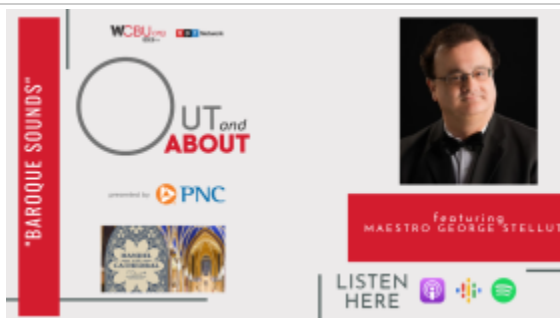
Local News

Peoria Public Library chosen to receive \$10K Carnegie gift

Joe Deacon

, October 29, 2025

The Peoria Public Library will receive a \$10,000 gift from the Carnegie Corporation of New York as part of an initiative marking next year's 250th anniversary of America's independence.



Local News

Peoria Symphony Orchestra preparing for Handel at St. Mary's Cathedral

[Mae Gilliland Wright](#)

, October 29, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois chats with Maestro George Stelluto of the Peoria Symphony Orchestra about their upcoming concert Handel at the Cathedral.

LISTEN • 5:00



Local News

Bradley University Theatre's first full musical since 2017 is 'Into the Woods'

[Mae Gilliland Wright](#)

, October 22, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners speaks with director Al Oltmanns about "Into the Woods," Bradley University Theatre's first full musical since 2017.

LISTEN • 5:00



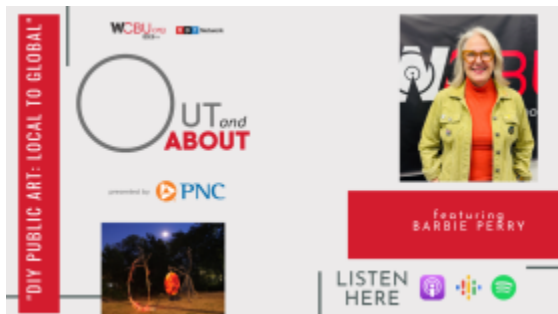
Local News

Peoria's Itoo Society preparing for annual supper celebrating Lebanese heritage

Joe Deacon

, October 20, 2025

The Peoria Itoo Society's two-day supper in celebration of Lebanese heritage is less than two weeks away. The annual fundraiser is marking its 98th year.



Local News

'Terrain Biennial 2025' grassroots festival brings art to where you are

Mae Gilliland Wright

, October 15, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland talks with artist Barbie Perry about Terrain Biennial 2025. This global art festival brings art to front yards, porches, and rooftops in neighborhoods around the world — including central Illinois!

LISTEN • 5:00



Local News

Peoria artist Qingjun Huang creates photographs overlaid with hand-copied biblical text

Mae Gilliland Wright

, October 8, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois speaks with artist Qingjun Huang, joined by translator Liu Yang, about the exhibition "In Her Silence, God" now on display at The Foster Gallery in Peoria.

LISTEN • 5:00



State News

Interview: Presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin tells of leadership in turbulent times

Charlie Schlenker

, October 7, 2025

Pulitzer Prize-winning presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin told a crowd of about 1,200 people at Illinois Wesleyan University on Monday night that Bloomington-Normal favorite son Adlai Stevenson II was her commencement speaker the year she graduated college.

LISTEN • 9:30



Local News

'Fest in the Garden' music and arts festival runs October 5 at Luthy Botanical Garden

Mae Gilliland Wright

, October 2, 2025

On this week's episode of Out and About, Dr. Mae Gilliland of ArtsPartners of Central Illinois chats with Duncan Katlack about Fest in the Garden

Business and Economy



Matthew Mead

/

AP file

Company gets \$1M grant to expand into the popcorn business in Deer Creek

[Ryan Denham](#)

, December 30, 2025

A \$1 million grant will help a company start making popcorn in an expansion that will employ 40 people in Deer Creek, a small town between Peoria and Bloomington-Normal.



Joe Deacon

/

WCBU

Residential complex planned for former East Peoria nursing home

[Joe Deacon](#)

, December 19, 2025

A shuttered senior living facility near the Illinois Central College campus in East Peoria is expected to find new life as an apartment complex.



Ag sector alarm bells are going off

December 18, 2025



Peoria International Airport tops yearly passenger record in 11 months

December 17, 2025



Brimfield boasts state's first solar project on public school grounds

December 16, 2025



Local News

ICC renames welding lab for manufacturer Philippi-Hagenbuch after \$250K donation

Joe Deacon

, December 16, 2025

The gift to the Illinois Central College Educational Foundation comes from Philippi-Hagenbuch Inc., which makes customized mining equipment and off-highway haul trucks.



Local News

Washington's new city administrator 'an excellent fit'

Steve Stein

, December 16, 2025

Will Washington's new city administrator slow the revolving door in the position?



Local News

Business development designation will add 1% sales tax at Peoria's Glen Hollow shopping center

Joe Deacon

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Customers at stores in Peoria's Glen Hollow Shopping Center will see a slight sales tax increase next year, with the revenue earmarked to redevelop the area.



Local News

Boyd Gaming looking to develop its new \$160M casino at current Par-A-Dice location in East Peoria

Joe Deacon

, December 12, 2025

The corporate ownership of East Peoria's Par-A-Dice riverboat casino intends to construct a new \$160 million gambling venue on the existing property, but the decision isn't sitting well with some Peoria city leaders who believe the move violates a long-standing intergovernmental agreement.



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Split vote sees Peoria forgive nearly \$500K in 'uncollectible' Expo Gardens debt

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Peoria City Council again delays consideration of halfway house

Joe Deacon

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Approval of plans to turn a former homeless shelter and mental health facility into a 12-bedroom halfway house for parolees remains on hold after another delay by the Peoria City Council.



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Pekin increases property tax levy 4% for the next fiscal year

Steve Stein

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Steve Stein

, December 9, 2025

Pekin's annexation of the majority of the 1,000-acre Lutticken property from Groveland Township left township officials with more questions than answers.



Local News

Farmdoc bringing annual agriculture economics summit to Peoria area

Joe Deacon

, December 8, 2025

Central Illinois farmers will get a chance to learn more about economic trends in the agriculture industry at an upcoming seminar in East Peoria.



Local News

East Peoria leaders get update on draft of 2045 comprehensive plan ahead of formal adoption

Joe Deacon

, December 4, 2025

The city's guideline for the next 20 years focuses on five primary themes: growth and development, housing, transportation and connectivity, recreation and tourism, and plan implementation.



Local News

Search for Washington city administrator down to 2 finalists

Steve Stein

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The Washington City Council met in a closed session Wednesday with the final candidates to fill the vacant city administrator position.



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Downtown Washington square restaurant building asking price: \$5.25M

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Local News

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chosen for the Small Business Capital and Infrastructure Grant Program announced Friday by Gov. JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Economic Opportunity.



Local News

Shadid sees planned Bradley entryway as a catalyst for corridor development

Joe Deacon

, November 21, 2025

Bradley University President James Shadid touted the gateway and its potential impact at Thursday's Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce Thanksgiving Luncheon, a week after the university announced the project in an email to students, staff and alumni.



Local News

BU president Shadid, chamber's Linder-Gallo stress partnerships, positivity amid 'parallel challenges'

Joe Deacon

, November 20, 2025

Bradley University President James Shadid says bold leadership will help the university and the Peoria community move forward as they face what he sees as "parallel challenges."



Local News

Peoria City Council delays vote on halfway house, OKs biotech lab

Joe Deacon

, November 18, 2025

Plans to convert a vacant former mental health facility and homeless shelter near the south end of Peoria's Warehouse District into a 12-bedroom halfway house for parolees are on hold for at least three weeks.



Local News

Third-quarter home sales dip in Peoria market, PAAR president sees 'softening' of sellers' market

Joe Deacon

, November 10, 2025

Third-quarter home sales in the Peoria market dipped a little compared with last year, but increased over this year's second quarter with inventory slightly on the rise.



Local News

Airline impacts from government shutdown coming soon to central Illinois

Joe Deacon, Charlie Schlenker

, November 7, 2025

Airports in Peoria and Bloomington say there will be impacts to their facilities from a federally-ordered reduction in airline flights at key airports around the country.



Local News

Mayors from Illinois River communities gather in Peoria for nonprofit initiative's first conference

Joe Deacon

, November 6, 2025

A coalition of mayors from communities along the Illinois River is working to protect the waterway and grow its economic opportunities.



Local News

General contractor may need to gather bids for Tazewell County projects using county procedures

Steve Stein

, October 30, 2025

How bids will be gathered by project manager P.J. Hoerr for renovations and improvements at Tazewell County facilities was the subject of a heated debate Wednesday by the county board.



State News

Whistleblower's attorney says settlement reached in Reditus lawsuit, returning \$2.5 million to governments

Ryan Denham

, October 29, 2025

What remains of Reditus Labs will pay out \$5.5 million to settle a lawsuit sparked by a whistleblower who was one of the first to spot fraud inside the now-defunct Central Illinois COVID testing giant.

LISTEN • 5:31



Local News

Busy Peoria City Council gives final approval to 2-year budget

Joe Deacon

, October 29, 2025

Following weeks of preparations, discussions and negotiations, the Peoria City Council on Tuesday approved a two-year spending plan in a matter of minutes.



Local News

East Peoria looks to get tougher on delinquent hotel-motel taxes

Joe Deacon

, October 23, 2025

East Peoria is looking to crack down on hotel and motel operators that aren't up to date in paying city taxes.



Local News

Washington purchases 26-foot artificial community Christmas tree for Washington Plaza

Steve Stein

, October 21, 2025

Washington Plaza will soon be all about Christmas. The City Council on Monday approved the purchase of a 26-foot artificial Christmas tree that will be placed in the shopping center's parking lot.



Local News

Honorary renaming of intersection kicks off Agatucci's celebration of 100 years of business in Peoria

Joe Deacon

, October 15, 2025

A well-known, family-operated Peoria bar and pizzeria is celebrating 100 years in business, complete with a special anniversary logo and an honorary street designation from the city.



State News

To fight the rise in senior scams, BBB leader invites Central Illinois communities to share stories

Michele Steinbacher

, October 13, 2025

The Better Business Bureau of Central Illinois wants to empower seniors, and others, with knowledge that can help protect them against scams.

LISTEN • 8:03



Local News

Upcoming Big Table conference hopes to foster 'action-oriented' ideas for Greater Peoria's future

Joe Deacon

, October 10, 2025

Area residents will have an opportunity to meet with regional business and community leaders to discuss growth strategies at the upcoming Big Table Greater Peoria conference.



Local News

Split Peoria Heights board OKs pact with Peoria Fire Department, overrides grocery tax veto

Joe Deacon

, October 10, 2025

The Village of Peoria Heights will enter a working agreement with the Peoria Fire Department to assist with emergency calls. The plan passed narrowly during Tuesday's three-hour meeting that also saw trustees override the mayor's veto of an ordinance to establish a 1% grocery tax.



State News

Farmland owners holding back on selling acreage as prices sightly drop

Charlie Schlenker

, October 9, 2025

Farmland owners who want to sell their acreage are holding back this fall, compared with this time last year — while land prices have declined slightly.



Local News

State tourism grant helps Peoria land national Esports and tech festival

Joe Deacon

, October 1, 2025

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.

Politics and Government



Emily Bollinger

/

WGLT

Changes to the H-1B visa program could carry a \$7M price tag for OSF HealthCare

Cindy Alcazar, Lauren Warnecke

, December 19, 2025

Health care systems nationwide are bracing for how the Trump administration's price increase to a visa program used to hire skilled foreign workers will negatively affect their ability hire clinicians. OSF HealthCare is among several Bloomington-Normal employers who hire H-1B visa holders.



Joe Deacon

/

WCBU

Residential complex planned for former East Peoria nursing home

[Joe Deacon](#)

, December 19, 2025

A shuttered senior living facility near the Illinois Central College campus in East Peoria is expected to find new life as an apartment complex.



Sorensen reflects on his year in Congress – with some legislative wins and health care at a standstill

December 18, 2025



Ag sector alarm bells are going off

December 18, 2025



Tazewell County Board rejects plan to give townships \$1K for America 250 historic markers

December 18, 2025



State News

Justice Department sues for access to Illinois voter rolls

Peter Hancock

, December 18, 2025

The U.S. Department of Justice filed suit Thursday against the state of Illinois seeking access to its complete, unredacted voter registration database, including sensitive personal data such as dates of birth, driver's license numbers and partial Social Security numbers.



Local News

Golf carts roll onto the March 17 election ballot in Washington

Steve Stein

, December 18, 2025

Should golf carts be allowed on Washington streets? Voters will weigh in on primary election day next year.



State News

Rep. LaHood and other Republicans tell Trump to reject Michael Madigan pardon request

Tina Sfondeles

, December 17, 2025

U.S. Reps. Darin LaHood, Mary Miller and Mike Bost, staunch Trump allies, penned the request on Tuesday.



Local News

Peoria man receives 73-year prison sentence for 2023 murder at gas station

Joe Deacon

, December 17, 2025

A Peoria man convicted of first-degree murder last month in a 2023 fatal shooting at a Center Bluff gas station has been sentenced to 73 years in prison.



Local News

Washington's new city administrator 'an excellent fit'

Steve Stein

, December 16, 2025

Will Washington's new city administrator slow the revolving door in the position?



Local News

Business development designation will add 1% sales tax at Peoria's Glen Hollow shopping center

Joe Deacon

, December 15, 2025

Customers at stores in Peoria's Glen Hollow Shopping Center will see a slight sales tax increase next year, with the revenue earmarked to redevelop the area.



Local News

State's attorney deems Peoria officer was justified in fatal shooting

Joe Deacon

, December 12, 2025

An officer-involved shooting in Peoria's East Bluff that resulted in the death of a 41-year-old man has been deemed justified by the Peoria County State's Attorney Jodi Hoos.



Local News

Boyd Gaming looking to develop its new \$160M casino at current Par-A-Dice location in East Peoria

[Joe Deacon](#)

, December 12, 2025

The corporate ownership of East Peoria's Par-A-Dice riverboat casino intends to construct a new \$160 million gambling venue on the existing property, but the decision isn't sitting well with some Peoria city leaders who believe the move violates a long-standing intergovernmental agreement.



Local News

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[Joe Deacon](#)

, December 11, 2025

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Local News

Peoria man charged with first-degree murder in death of man found in burned garage

Joe Deacon

, December 10, 2025

A 62-year-old Peoria man faces a first-degree murder charge for allegedly killing another man found inside a garage that had been set on fire last month.



Local News

Peoria City Council again delays consideration of halfway house

Joe Deacon

, December 10, 2025

Approval of plans to turn a former homeless shelter and mental health facility into a 12-bedroom halfway house for parolees remains on hold after another delay by the Peoria City Council.



State News

Petition objection derails campaign for Rep. Eric Sorensen's primary opponent

Eric Stock

, December 10, 2025

Democrat Montez Soliz of Rockford posted on social media that he has been removed from the ballot in the 17th Congressional District race following an objection to his petitions. That district includes parts of Bloomington-Normal and Greater Peoria.



Local News

Pekin increases property tax levy 4% for the next fiscal year

Steve Stein

, December 10, 2025

Pekin city staff asked for a 4.9% increase in the city's property tax levy for the next fiscal year. City Council members reduced it to 4%.



Local News

Peoria Police statistics show the city on pace for lowest murder total since 2020

Joe Deacon

, December 10, 2025

The City of Peoria is on track to have its fewest number of homicides in a year since the end of COVID-related lockdowns.



Local News

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Joe Deacon

, December 10, 2025

A patch of land along the Illinois River between the Murray Baker Bridge and the Peoria RiverPlex is officially on track to become the location of an outdoor amphitheater.



Local News

Authorities investigating woman's death at Peoria County Jail

Joe Deacon

, December 9, 2025

An investigation is underway after a 39-year-old woman being held at the Peoria County Jail died Tuesday morning.



Local News

Pekin's Lutticken property annexation perplexes Groveland Township

Steve Stein

, December 9, 2025

Pekin's annexation of the majority of the 1,000-acre Lutticken property from Groveland Township left township officials with more questions than answers.



Local News

Peoria County boosts fees for vaccinations, birth and death certificates

Joe Deacon

, December 9, 2025

The Peoria County Board of Health on Monday approved new vaccination policy costs and an updated fee schedule for birth and death certificates.



State News

How Illinois' Democratic U.S. Senate candidates plan to address economic issues

Ben Szalinski

, December 8, 2025

Recent polling by Reuters found that 45% of voters list “cost of living” as their top concern heading into the 2026 election. With that in mind, the three top Democrats vying to become the party’s nominee for U.S. senator in Illinois have released proposals detailing how they plan to make life more affordable for Americans.



Local News

Updated federal rules pose major funding challenges for Peoria anti-homelessness efforts

Joe Deacon

, December 5, 2025

Peoria-area residents struggling with housing insecurity may face more challenges ahead as support organizations anticipate a drastic reduction in funding.



Local News

Use of fire watch teams allows residents to remain at New Hope Apartments

Joe Deacon

, December 4, 2025

Following a series of intentionally set fires at the New Hope Apartments supportive housing shelter in downtown Peoria, residents are being allowed to stay in the building with around-the-clock fire watch teams on patrol.



Local News

East Peoria leaders get update on draft of 2045 comprehensive plan ahead of formal adoption

Joe Deacon

, December 4, 2025

The city's guideline for the next 20 years focuses on five primary themes: growth and development, housing, transportation and connectivity, recreation and tourism, and plan implementation.



Local News

Shooter gets 45-year sentence for attempted murder of club bouncer

Joe Deacon

, December 4, 2025

A Peoria man has been sentenced to 45 years in prison for a 2023 shooting inside Big Al's strip club in downtown Peoria that left a victim legally blind.



Local News

Ray LaHood appointed Distinguished Director of Edgar Fellows program

Joe Deacon

, December 4, 2025

Former Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood has been appointed the Distinguished Director of Edgar Fellows, a bipartisan program examining civic leadership and public policy.



Local News

East Peoria keeps its property tax levy amount unchanged for second straight year

Joe Deacon

, December 3, 2025

The City of East Peoria is keeping its property tax levy amount unchanged, representing a slight drop in the tax rate, for the next fiscal year.



Local News

Security breach strikes East Peoria's emergency alert system

Joe Deacon

, December 3, 2025

The emergency alert system used by the City of East Peoria recently experienced a breach that exposed its users' personal information and data.



Local News

Search for Washington city administrator down to 2 finalists

Steve Stein

, December 3, 2025

The Washington City Council met in a closed session Wednesday with the final candidates to fill the vacant city administrator position.



Local News

Downtown Washington square restaurant building asking price: \$5.25M

Steve Stein

, December 2, 2025

The Tangled Roots Craft Beer & Kitchen restaurant isn't for sale. But the building where it's located at 140 Washington Square is being listed.



Local News

Peoria reports smooth operations in clearing roadways after season's first major snowfall

Joe Deacon

, December 2, 2025

The City of Peoria's snow removal crews have been working around the clock to clear roadways after a double dose of accumulation over a three-day span. Deputy Director of Public Works Sie Maroon says the back-to-back systems totaled about 5½ inches of snow Saturday, followed by another 2½ inches Monday.



Local News

Man charged in fatal home invasion remains in custody; prosecutors seek to try teen suspect as adult

Joe Deacon

, December 1, 2025

The second person arrested in connection with a home invasion that resulted in a shooting fatality will remain in custody ahead of his trial, and prosecutors intend to try a teen allegedly involved in the crime as an adult.



Local News

Pekin hears how much non-union city employees should be paid

Steve Stein

, December 1, 2025

The results of a salary study for Pekin's non-union city employees showed some are underpaid.



Local News

Pekin City Council puts off property tax levy decision

[Steve Stein](#)

, November 25, 2025

What will be Pekin's property tax levy for the 2026-27 fiscal year? Stay tuned.



Local News

Redevelopment planned for row of Main Street businesses in Downtown Peoria

[Joe Deacon](#)

, November 25, 2025

Developers plan to revitalize a prominent downtown Peoria block by expanding one restaurant and bar, and adding two more.



State News

Appeals court rules shuttered Lincoln College still property tax exempt

[Charlie Schlenker](#)

, November 24, 2025

The Fourth District Appellate Court has reversed a circuit court decision and bounced a property tax dispute between Logan County and the not-for-profit that formerly ran Lincoln College back to the lower court.



Local News

Peoria coroner Harwood calls for veto of 'medical aid in dying' bill

Joe Deacon

, November 24, 2025

Peoria County Coroner Jamie Harwood is calling on Gov. JB Pritzker to veto a bill that would allow terminally ill individuals to get a prescription to end their life.



Local News

Planned grocery store on South Side among 3 Peoria businesses chosen for new round of state grants

[Joe Deacon](#)

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The CJ Harvest Supermarket, Bright Kitchen Strategies and the Gilkesson Mortuary and Cremation Life Center are among 47 businesses across the state chosen for the Small Business Capital and Infrastructure Grant Program announced Friday by Gov. JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Economic Opportunity.



[Local News](#)

Tazewell County Board approves 3-year contract with deputy sheriffs, sergeants

[Steve Stein](#)

, November 20, 2025

The Tazewell County Board has approved a contract with deputy sheriffs and sergeants in the sheriff's department that calls for pay increases over a three-year span through 2026.



[Local News](#)

Peoria City Council delays vote on halfway house, OKs biotech lab

Joe Deacon

, November 18, 2025

Plans to convert a vacant former mental health facility and homeless shelter near the south end of Peoria's Warehouse District into a 12-bedroom halfway house for parolees are on hold for at least three weeks.



Local News

Former Illinois representatives point to district maps as undermining bipartisanship

Joe Deacon

, November 18, 2025

Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood says he'd like to see the power of drawing congressional district maps given to the citizens.



Local News

Opposition mounting for Washington billboard proposal

Steve Stein

, November 18, 2025

A billboard planned for a busy Washington intersection has been given the thumb's down by city staff and the city's Planning and Zoning Commission.



Local News

Third person pleads guilty in fatal shooting during attempted Facebook Marketplace robbery

Joe Deacon

, November 17, 2025

A third person has entered a guilty plea in connection with a foiled 2024 robbery in South Peoria that resulted in the fatal shooting of one of the robbers.



Local News

Peoria Police Department launches online reporting system

Joe Deacon

, November 17, 2025

Peoria residents now have another way to report non-emergency incidents and certain crimes through a new online platform.



Local News

Peoria man sentenced to 80 years in teen's fatal shooting

Joe Deacon

, November 17, 2025

A 21-year-old Peoria man has been sentenced to 80 years in prison for a 2022 shooting that took the life of a 15-year-old boy.



Local News

Peoria County funds jail upgrades with level tax rate in \$174 million budget

Eric Stock

, November 14, 2025

The county's \$174.2 million budget for 2026, which the county board adopted Thursday, devotes \$31.7 million in capital projects, including \$3.5 million in pre-construction services for Peoria County Jail upgrades.



State News

Durbin defends shutdown vote, says it wasn't coordinated with Schumer

Brenden Moore

, November 14, 2025

Saying that he could not justify "playing with other people's lives" as millions of Americans went without their paychecks and benefits, Sen. Dick Durbin on

Thursday defended his vote to reopen the government earlier this week after a record-long federal government shutdown that stretched more than seven weeks.



Local News

Airline impacts from government shutdown coming soon to central Illinois

Joe Deacon, Charlie Schlenker

, November 7, 2025

Airports in Peoria and Bloomington say there will be impacts to their facilities from a federally-ordered reduction in airline flights at key airports around the country.



Local News

Mayors from Illinois River communities gather in Peoria for nonprofit initiative's first conference

[Joe Deacon](#)

, November 6, 2025

A coalition of mayors from communities along the Illinois River is working to protect the waterway and grow its economic opportunities.



Local News

Peoria man convicted of murder in 2023 Center Bluff shooting

[Joe Deacon](#)

, November 5, 2025

A Peoria man was found guilty of first-degree murder Wednesday for shooting another man multiple times in the back at a Center Bluff gas station in 2023.



Local News

Hiring a new finance director also on Washington's plate

[Steve Stein](#)

, November 5, 2025

Once a new city administrator is hired in Washington, how important in the process of hiring a new finance director should that person become?



Local News

Jury finds Peoria woman guilty of murder in 2023 stabbing

[Joe Deacon](#)

, November 5, 2025

A 55-year-old Peoria woman has been convicted of first-degree murder in the August 2023 fatal stabbing of another woman at a Western Avenue gas station.



Local News

Despite October spike, Peoria police statistics show decline in fatal shootings

[Joe Deacon](#)

, November 5, 2025

Three fatal shootings in October nearly doubled Peoria's year-to-date total of gunshot homicides, but the number is still down by more than half compared with a year ago.



Local News

Peoria council member Vespa to run for county judgeship

[Joe Deacon](#)

, November 4, 2025

Mike Vespa announced his candidacy in next November's election on Tuesday, seeking to become resident judge in the 10th Judicial Circuit.



Local News

Peoria Riverfront Museum gets \$1M gift to offer free admission to school students across Illinois

Joe Deacon

, November 4, 2025

The announcement comes in conjunction with the unveiling of George Washington's hand-written, first presidential proclamation declaring the Thanksgiving holiday.



Local News

Bright idea: Washington will add LED lighting to downtown square

Steve Stein

, November 4, 2025

New LED lighting will be installed in the downtown Washington square and two adjacent city-owned parking lots for a total cost of nearly \$24,000.



State News

Bill to regulate homeowners' insurance rates fails on final day of veto session

Peter Hancock

, November 3, 2025

The Illinois House rejected a bill that would have given the state Department of Insurance authority to regulate homeowners' insurance rates.



State News

Identity theft scam targets Logan County residents, claiming missed jury duty

Lauren Warnecke

, November 3, 2025

County officials are aware of several attempts to gain access to personal information, including credit card numbers, by threatening arrest for missing jury duty in Logan County.



Local News

Judge imposes maximum sentence in fatal hit-and-run case

Joe Deacon

, October 31, 2025

A Peoria man convicted for a fatal hit-and-run crash in 2023 has been sentenced to 15 years in prison.



Local News

Interim no more: Darcy promoted to Tazewell County Administrator

Steve Stein

, October 31, 2025

Mindy Darcy's appointment as Tazewell County Administrator was approved this week by the county board. She'll be paid \$170,000 for the first year of a three-year contract.



State News

Lawmakers OK sweeping energy reform package that governor pledges to sign

Andrew Adams

, October 31, 2025

A closely-watched and long-debated piece of energy legislation is set to become law after passing through both legislative chambers with the governor's endorsement.



Local News

Peoria man convicted of murder in 2024 East Bluff fatal shooting

Joe Deacon

, October 30, 2025

A 41-year-old Peoria man was found guilty of first-degree murder Thursday in the 2024 shooting in the East Bluff neighborhood.



Local News

General contractor may need to gather bids for Tazewell County projects using county procedures

Steve Stein

, October 30, 2025

How bids will be gathered by project manager P.J. Hoerr for renovations and improvements at Tazewell County facilities was the subject of a heated debate Wednesday by the county board.



Local News

Peoria plans public opening of time capsule from 1897

Joe Deacon

, October 30, 2025

A time capsule from 1897, placed in the cornerstone of Peoria City Hall during construction, will be reopened this weekend.



Local News

Change to Peoria's snow removal plan draws some concern

Joe Deacon

, October 30, 2025

Mayor Rita Ali voiced some reservations about a change to Peoria's annual snow removal plan that was presented at Tuesday's city council meeting.



Local News

Peoria man found guilty in 2021 murder on South Side

Joe Deacon

, October 29, 2025

A Peoria County jury convicted a man of first-degree murder Tuesday in a 2021 fatal shooting on the city's South Side.



State News

Jury finds ex-cop guilty of second-degree murder for fatally shooting Sonya Massey in her home

Mawa Iqbal

, October 29, 2025

The conviction against former deputy sheriff Sean Grayson, who is white, carries a potential sentence of between four and 20 years.



Local News

Pekin council splits on spending \$150K for new 'welcome' signs

Steve Stein

, October 29, 2025

Should the City of Pekin replace its four “Welcome to Pekin” signs with new ones, and add a welcome sign at the eastern edge of Broadway Road at a cost of about \$30,000 per sign?



State News

Whistleblower's attorney says settlement reached in Reditus lawsuit, returning \$2.5 million to governments

Ryan Denham

, October 29, 2025

What remains of Reditus Labs will pay out \$5.5 million to settle a lawsuit sparked by a whistleblower who was one of the first to spot fraud inside the now-defunct Central Illinois COVID testing giant.

LISTEN • 5:31



State News

ISU teaching assistant on leave faces federal charges over alleged threats to President Trump

Eric Stock

, October 29, 2025

The former graduate teaching assistant at Illinois State University accused of disrupting two on-campus events during homecoming week now faces federal charges for allegedly making threats against President Donald Trump.



Local News

Busy Peoria City Council gives final approval to 2-year budget

Joe Deacon

, October 29, 2025

Following weeks of preparations, discussions and negotiations, the Peoria City Council on Tuesday approved a two-year spending plan in a matter of minutes.



Local News

Pekin prohibits the public from going on Lutticken property

Steve Stein

, October 28, 2025

The City of Pekin took steps Monday to restrict public access to the Lutticken property it purchased for \$14 million earlier this year, while it markets the land to prospective developers.



State News

Rep. Eric Sorensen calls on USDA to keep SNAP food benefits during government shutdown

Eric Stock

, October 27, 2025

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen says a potential lapse in benefits to the largest food assistance program in the U.S. would cause crippling uncertainty for veterans,

seniors and children, leaving them wondering about their ability to afford food next month.



Local News

Peoria City Council to act on proposed new Dunlap school

Joe Deacon

, October 27, 2025

Dunlap Community School District 323 plans to replace the Wilder-Waite Grade School on Peoria's north side with a new, larger facility in anticipation of a need for greater capacity.



Local News

Morton's first-ever full-time firefighters ratify contract

Steve Stein

, October 27, 2025

The first full-time firefighters in the Morton Fire Department's nearly 150-year history have a five-year contract with the village after their union ratified the agreement last week.



State News

NPR's Steve Inskeep on the future of public media, democracy and journalism in the Trump era

Eric Stock

, October 23, 2025

Steve Inskeep is the featured guest at WGLT's Radio Faces dinner on Thursday, Oct. 30 at Illinois State University.

LISTEN • 33:13



Local News

Szentez promoted to role as Peoria Heights interim fire chief

Joe Deacon

, October 23, 2025

The Village of Peoria Heights has a new person leading its volunteer fire department, and Mayor Matt Wigginton is hopeful he will bring some stability to the position.



Local News

East Peoria looks to get tougher on delinquent hotel-motel taxes

Joe Deacon

, October 23, 2025

East Peoria is looking to crack down on hotel and motel operators that aren't up to date in paying city taxes.



State News

4 relatives of GOP candidate Darren Bailey killed in helicopter crash in Montana

Ryan Denham

, October 23, 2025

Republican candidate for governor Darren Bailey's campaign says his son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren were killed in a helicopter crash in Montana.



Local News

Washington approves new deputy city administrator role

Steve Stein

, October 22, 2025

The Washington City Council has created a new city leadership role: Deputy city administrator. It's not an entirely new position, as the person taking the job must be a city department head.



Local News

Peoria readies budget proposal for passage, keeping stormwater utility fee flat

Joe Deacon

, October 22, 2025

A brisk Peoria City Council meeting on Tuesday set the stage for approval of a two-year budget, with stormwater utility fees remaining flat.



Local News

Suspect in Bradley University shooting granted pretrial release

Joe Deacon

, October 22, 2025

A 19-year-old man charged in connection with a weekend shooting on the Bradley University campus will remain free with conditions until his trial begins.



Local News

Washington purchases 26-foot artificial community Christmas tree for Washington Plaza

Steve Stein

, October 21, 2025

Washington Plaza will soon be all about Christmas. The City Council on Monday approved the purchase of a 26-foot artificial Christmas tree that will be placed in the shopping center's parking lot.



State News

Jury chosen in murder trial of former Sangamon County Deputy Sean Grayson

Beth Hundsdorfer

, October 20, 2025

A jury was chosen Monday in the murder trial of former Sangamon County Sheriff's Deputy Sean Grayson.



State News

Nearly 2 million Illinoisians set to lose SNAP benefits amid congressional stalemate

Ben Szalinski

, October 20, 2025

Nearly 2 million people in Illinois could lose federal food benefits ahead of Thanksgiving if Congress can't agree on a budget by the end of the month.



Local News

Peoria's balanced 2026 budget puts revenue, expenses at \$300.5M

Joe Deacon

, October 17, 2025

Peoria city leaders are on track to approve a two-year balanced budget by the end of the month — without previously recommended fee increases.



Local News

'No Kings' protests planned for Saturday in Peoria, elsewhere

Joe Deacon

, October 17, 2025

Rallies protesting Trump administration policies are planned across the country Saturday, including one in Peoria.



Local News

Peoria, Peoria County preparing for large crowds during Grayson murder trial

Joe Deacon

, October 16, 2025

City and county agencies are bracing for anticipated large crowds and demonstrations around the downtown Peoria County Courthouse when the murder trial of Sean Grayson begins Monday.



Local News

Honorary renaming of intersection kicks off Agatucci's celebration of 100 years of business in Peoria

Joe Deacon

, October 15, 2025

A well-known, family-operated Peoria bar and pizzeria is celebrating 100 years in business, complete with a special anniversary logo and an honorary street designation from the city.



Local News

Want to do work for Pekin? Better pay your property taxes

Steve Stein

, October 15, 2025

A contractor hired by the city of Pekin has delinquent property tax issues with the city. So, the city has launched an effort to ensure companies that bid for city work don't have similar issues.



Local News

Peoria City Council approves measure giving police ability to disperse nuisance gatherings

Joe Deacon

, October 14, 2025

The City of Peoria is enacting an updated prohibition of public nuisance gatherings, giving police the authority to disperse crowds when individuals are engaged in unlawful activities.



Local News

Pekin outsources for school bus drivers to address shortage

Steve Stein

, October 14, 2025

Pekin will no longer provide school bus service for Pekin Community High School and District 108 students at the end of this school year. Getting to the finish line of the arrangement has been difficult.



State News

Appeals court allows federalization of troops but says they can't be deployed

Andrew Adams

, October 14, 2025

A federal appeals court has allowed the federalization of National Guard troops in Illinois but told the federal government that those troops can't be deployed while the case makes its way through the courts.



State News

Ex-Speaker Madigan reports to West Virginia prison to begin 7 ½-year sentence

Hannah Meisel

, October 14, 2025

7th Circuit ruled earlier this month against Madigan's bid to remain free during appeal



Local News

Elderly Pekin murder suspect's death reveals Legionnaires' disease at Tazewell County Jail

Joe Deacon

, October 11, 2025

The Tazewell County Sheriff's Office is undertaking measures at the county jail to protect detainees and employees after the recent death of an elderly inmate was due to him contracting Legionnaire's disease.



Local News

Split Peoria Heights board OKs pact with Peoria Fire Department, overrides grocery tax veto

Joe Deacon

, October 10, 2025

The Village of Peoria Heights will enter a working agreement with the Peoria Fire Department to assist with emergency calls. The plan passed narrowly during Tuesday's three-hour meeting that also saw trustees override the mayor's veto of an ordinance to establish a 1% grocery tax.



Local News

Additional murder charges filed in fatal shooting of Peoria teen

Joe Deacon

, October 9, 2025

Prosecutors have filed murder charges against two more people in connection with the shooting death of a 15-year-old boy last week at a West Bluff residence.



Local News

Peoria city leaders look to close \$3M gap in proposed 2026 budget

Joe Deacon

, October 9, 2025

Peoria City Council members will consider a series of possible budget adjustments to close a \$3 million gap in the city's proposed spending plan for 2026.



Local News

Washington city board or commission members who miss multiple meetings could be removed

Steve Stein

, October 8, 2025

Now that all the vacancies have been filled on Washington city boards and commissions, the city is taking action to discourage the poor attendance that plagued some of those bodies in the past.



State News

Illinois attorney general worries where orders for federalized National Guard troops will come from

Eric Stock

, October 7, 2025

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul says he doesn't trust the Trump administration to only give legal orders to the troops.



Local News

'Slight changes' approved in Washington's plans for deputy city administrator position

Steve Stein

, October 7, 2025

The Washington City Council is moving forward with plans to create a deputy city administrator position. Changes to the ordinance that creates the job were approved unanimously Monday by the council.



State News

Interview: Presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin tells of leadership in turbulent times

Charlie Schlenker

, October 7, 2025

Pulitzer Prize-winning presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin told a crowd of about 1,200 people at Illinois Wesleyan University on Monday night that

Bloomington-Normal favorite son Adlai Stevenson II was her commencement speaker the year she graduated college.

LISTEN • 9:30



Local News

2 men charged in connection with teen's fatal shooting

Joe Deacon

, October 3, 2025

The Peoria County State's Attorney's Office has filed charges against two men allegedly involved in the fatal shooting of a 15-year-old boy Wednesday in the West Bluff neighborhood.



Local News

Peoria man sentenced to 65 years for girlfriend's murder

Joe Deacon

, October 3, 2025

A Peoria man convicted of shooting his girlfriend and leaving her in a roadside ditch near Brimfield in 2021 has been sentenced to a total of 65 years in prison.



Local News

Peoria Police's clash with crowd results in arrests, response from mayor, call for investigation

Joe Deacon

, October 2, 2025

A weekend confrontation between Peoria Police officers trying to assist a gunshot victim and a crowd of more than 50 bystanders has led to multiple arrests, prompted a statement from the mayor, and drawn scrutiny from a civil rights organization.



State News

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

Ben Howell

, October 1, 2025

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.



Local News

Peoria's budget proposal keeps property tax rate unchanged

Joe Deacon

, October 1, 2025

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.

Public Safety

