

## Second Quarter 2019 WCBU ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

April 2019 – June 2019

The following issues were addressed during WGLT Newscasts during MORNING EDITION from 5 to 9 am M-F and during ALL THINGS CONSIDERED from 3-6PM, M-F.

**Arts and Culture**

**Education and Family**

**Election 2019/ Election 2020**

**Health and Medicine**

**Higher Education**

**Police and Courts**

**Crime**

**Politics and Government**

**Science and Technology**

**Civil Rights**

**Technology**

**Transportation**

See below for specific stories that addressed the issues above. Other examples of WCBU addressing community issues can be found at [www.wcbu.org](http://www.wcbu.org)

### [Pritzker Signs \\$45 Billion State Construction Bill](#)

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 28, 2019

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker has signed into law a \$45 billion capital spending plan to build and upgrade bridges, roads, schools and parks and pay for it by expanding gambling and make it more expensive to do things like drive and smoke cigarettes.

### [Illinois Advocates For Redistricting Reform Not Giving Up Despite Supreme Court Ruling](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 28, 2019

The co-chairman of an effort to change the way Illinois draws legislative districts calls yesterday's Supreme Court decision on redistricting disappointing - but isn't giving up hope for change.

Brad McMillan is the executive director of Bradley University's Institute for Principled Leadership in Public Service and the co-chair of CHANGE Illinois.

"We were hoping that they would come up with a constitutional standard on the issue of partisan gerrymandering, but they pretty much decided not to do that, and to leave it up to separate states," McMillan said.

### [Romain Arts & Culture Community Center Opens In North Valley Neighborhood](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 28, 2019

The Peoria community celebrated the opening of the Romain Arts and Culture Community Center in the old Greeley School in the North Valley neighborhood today. Jonathon and Nikki Romain purchased the former school building last year to transform it into a hub for the arts, education, business, and community events. Nikki Romain said she hopes kids in Peoria take a lot away from the new community center.

### [Draining The Food Swamp: Bringing Fresh Food Back to Rural Towns](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 28, 2019

People have been leaving rural midwestern areas for decades. And it's not just population loss. Often fresh food sellers move away too. There might be hope, though.

### [UnityPoint announces merger plans with South Dakota's Sanford Health](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 28, 2019

UnityPoint Health is planning to merge with Sanford Health of South Dakota.

### [Tony Holiday Headlines the Harmonica Invitational](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 28, 2019

William Butler of the Contemporary Art Center joins us in the studio today to talk about the Fifth Annual Harmonica Invitational, how it got started, and why it continues to attract the finest "harp" players from around the country. Memphis-based Tony Holiday headlines the event and will be joined by regional Harmonica greats Brian Stear and "Rockin" Billy Gress.

### [Farmers Face A Lot Of Stress. Now There's An App For That](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 27, 2019

Farming can be a lonely job. That isolation can take a toll on mental health. OSF Behavioral Health Manager Luke Raymond said farmers face more stress due to pressure to maintain the family farm and economic factors like poor weather and uncertainty in the market. In rural areas, farmers have less access to resources to help them work through issues. "There are higher rates of depression, suicide and anxiety among that population," Raymond said.

### [Bond For Suspect In Fulton County Deputy's Slaying Set at \\$5 Million](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 27, 2019

Bond for the man charged in the shooting death of a Fulton County Sheriff's Deputy is set at \$5 million.

[Bustos: Dems Vying For GOP-Held Seats Should Frame 2020 Election Around Health Care](#)

By TIM SHELLEY & ERIC STOCK • JUN 27, 2019

The head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee says if the party can frame the 2020 elections around health care, it can win some seats that Republicans have controlled for years.

[Bradley Student's Work Commemorates 50th Moon Landing Anniversary in D.C.](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 27, 2019

A Bradley University engineering student's work will be showcased at the National Air and Space Museum to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing.

[Supreme Court Says Federal Courts Have No Role To Play In Gerrymandering](#)

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 27, 2019

The Supreme Court says federal courts have no role to play in policing political districts drawn for partisan gain. The decision could embolden political line-drawing for partisan gain when state lawmakers undertake the next round of redistricting following the 2020 Census.

[Archbishop Fulton Sheen's Remains Transferred to Peoria](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 27, 2019

After a years-long legal battle, the remains of Archbishop Fulton Sheen have been transferred from New York to Peoria.

[Memorial Funds Established for Family of Slain Deputy](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH & CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUN 27, 2019

Memorial funds have been established to aid the family of a slain Fulton County Sheriff's deputy.

[Defense: Chinese Scholar's Killer Offered To Locate Body](#)

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 26, 2019

Lawyers for a former University of Illinois doctoral student convicted of killing a scholar from China says he offered after his arrest to divulge where her remains are in exchange for a life sentence.

#### Community Mourns Death of Fulton County Deputy

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 26, 2019

The suspect in the slaying of a Fulton County Sheriff's Deputy was arrested Wednesday morning.

#### Are Taller Murals Headed to Peoria?

By H. WAYNE WILSON • JUN 26, 2019

There may be more latitude for painting murals on the sides of buildings in Peoria. Murals currently are limited to 30 feet in height.

#### Some Peoria Council Members Unhappy with Recycling Program

By H. WAYNE WILSON • JUN 26, 2019

There's a dispute over the collection of recyclables in the city of Peoria. A new contract called for bi-weekly pickup citywide.

#### Peoria City Council Votes to Extend Riverfront Land Option, Again

By H. WAYNE WILSON • JUN 26, 2019

The Peoria City Council may have thrown a roadblock in the purchase of property along the riverfront.

#### UPDATE: Fulton County Deputy Killed in Armed Standoff

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 25, 2019

A Fulton County Sheriff's Deputy is dead after he was shot in an armed standoff near Avon on Tuesday afternoon.

#### Public Safety Pension Consolidation Slowly Gaining Momentum

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 25, 2019

A budget. Recreational cannabis. Gambling expansion. The Illinois General Assembly passed a sweeping slate of bills in the final days of this year's legislative session.

### **New Pekin Massage Parlor Regulations Seek To Crack Down on Human Trafficking**

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 25, 2019

The city of Pekin is tackling human trafficking with new regulations on Asian bodywork parlors.

### **Gordon-Booth: Marijuana Legalization Bill Contains "Reparations" For War on Drugs**

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 25, 2019

Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth (D-Peoria) is hailing today's passage of a recreational cannabis bill into law.

### **[UnityPoint Cuts Birthing Services at Pekin Hospital](#)**

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 25, 2019

UnityPoint Health is eliminating birthing services at Pekin Hospital.

A hospital spokesperson said more women are choosing to make the drive to Peoria to deliver their babies, leading to declines in Pekin.

### **[Buyer Found For Former Galesburg Maytag Plant](#)**

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 25, 2019

A buyer has been found for the old Maytag plant in Galesburg.

Real estate firm Phoenix Investors purchased the 855,000 square foot facility on South Linwood and the 462,000 square foot space on Monmouth Boulevard.

The company purchases old industrial properties and rehabilitates them for new usage.

Ken Springer, President of the Knox County Partnership for Economic Development, said it is likely the facilities will be used for transportation, warehousing or logistics, although theoretically, the buildings could return to manufacturing usage, as well.

### **[Illinois Becomes 11th State To Legalize Recreational Marijuana](#)**

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 25, 2019

Gov. J.B. Pritzker has signed legislation making Illinois the 11th state in the nation to legalize recreational marijuana.

### **[Greater Peoria Home Sales Higher in May](#)**

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • JUN 25, 2019

Home sales rebounded last month in greater Peoria.

### [Guilty Verdict in Visiting Chinese Scholar Death](#)

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 24, 2019

Jurors have convicted a former University of Illinois doctoral student in the slaying of a visiting scholar from China who was abducted at a bus stop as she headed to sign an off-campus apartment lease.

### [3 Pets Die in Bartonville House Fire](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 24, 2019

Two cats and a dog died this morning after a house fire in Bartonville.

Bartonville police and firefighters responded to 221 Buena Vista at 5:30 a.m. Several pets were rescued, but three died. All residents escaped the house safely.

A fire found in the basement was quickly extinguished by firefighters.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

### [California Entrepreneur Looks to Aid Peoria Women's Club in Theater Restoration Efforts](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 24, 2019

California businessman Kim Blickenstaff is angling to lend a hand to the restoration of the historic Peoria Women's Club in downtown Peoria.

Blickenstaff is a Central Illinois native who now runs a medical supply company in San Diego.

Over the past year or so, he's taken on a renewed interest in his hometown, including the purchase and planned restoration of downtown Peoria's Scottish Rite Cathedral, and kickstarting several new developments in Peoria Heights.

### [Corn Stock Theatre Manager Jenny Parkhurst To Run Blickenstaff Arts Projects](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 24, 2019

The manager of the Corn Stock Theatre was hired to run two local arts projects spearheaded by California businessman Kim Blickenstaff.

Blickenstaff, a native of Spring Bay and the CEO of Tandem Diabetes Care in San Diego, is currently undertaking several major revitalization projects in the Greater Peoria area.

Jenny Parkhurst will manage the Betty Jayne Center for the Performing Arts in Peoria Heights and the Scottish Rite Theater in downtown Peoria.

### [Illinois Court Tosses Peoria Man's Conviction over Facebook Photo](#)

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 24, 2019

ROCKFORD (AP) - An appellate court has tossed a central Illinois man's gun conviction, ruling a lower court shouldn't have allowed a Facebook photograph of him standing near guns to be entered as evidence.

### [One Dead Following Peoria Shooting](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • JUN 24, 2019

A Peoria man is the city's 12th homicide victim of the year.

Peoria police officers responded to the Harrison Homes about 10:45 p.m. Sunday after receiving a ShotSpotter alert of multiple rounds fired.

Police found 34-year-old Bronzell Howard with multiple gunshot wounds. He was taken to OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead just before 11:30 p.m.

Peoria County Coroner Jamie Harwood said Howard died of traumatic and rapid blood loss caused by the gunshot wounds. He did not believe the shots were fired at close range.

### [Peoria Teen Arrested On 28 Burglary Charges](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 21, 2019

A 17-year-old Peoria teenager faces 28 counts of burglary dating back to January after his latest alleged incident.

Peoria Police Lt. Michael Boland said officers responded to Wal-Mart, 3315 N. University, around 1:25 a.m. Friday. Boland said the teenager forcibly entered the store by smashing through the glass front doors.

Surveillance video shows him entering, stealing items, and quickly leaving, Boland said. Officers found evidence nearby and arrested the teenager on E. Republic.

### [Recreational Cannabis Bill May Give Cultivators Time To Catch Up After Slow Medical Rollout](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 21, 2019

The bill to legalize recreational cannabis currently sitting on Gov. J.B. Pritzker's desk makes a compromise on who gets to grow - and when.

### [Anticipating I-74 Bridge Construction, Taste of Peoria Moves to Northwoods Mall](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 21, 2019

The Taste of Peoria is moving from the Peoria Riverfront to Northwoods Mall.

Peoria Area Community Events says with restrictions on the Murray Baker Bridge already in place and major construction slated to begin next year, it makes sense to move the event to a new location for the safety of everyone involved.

The Taste of Peoria will now be held in the J.C. Penney parking lot on Wednesday, August 14. The event is now in its 38th year.

### [Peoria RiverFront Market Moving Back to Usual Locale](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 21, 2019

The Peoria RiverFront Market can finally go back home.

After floodwaters along the Illinois River receded and Peoria Public Works hustled to clean up the mess left behind, the weekly fresh food market can return to its usual spot in the parking lot on the 200 block of Water Street.

For the last few weeks, the market has been hosted at various locations near, but not actually on, the riverfront.

### [Prosecution Rests Case in Chinese Scholar's Slaying Trial](#)

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 21, 2019

Federal prosecutors have rested their case in the Peoria trial of a former University of Illinois student who could get the death penalty if convicted of killing a scholar from China.

### [Restoring The Shaft: Groundbreaking Ceremony Set For Saturday](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 21, 2019

The Land of Lincoln's first Civil War monument is set to begin the move to its new home tomorrow.

### [Limestone School District Settles Sexual Harassment Lawsuit With Former Student](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 21, 2019

It appears a former Limestone Community High School student has settled a federal civil lawsuit with the school district after she claimed she was sexually harassed by her former teacher at school.

### [Peoria Family Questions CityLift After Child With Autism Mistakenly Dropped Off in Morton](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 20, 2019

A Peoria family is demanding answers from a local transit agency which caters to people with special needs after a 13-year-old boy with autism was reportedly dropped off in Morton by mistake.

### [Peoria Company's Synthetic Leather Could Be the Future of Fashion...And More](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 20, 2019

Synthetic leather is getting one Peoria company big attention from the fashion industry.

### [Honky Tonk Laundry: A Country Jukebox Musical Filled with Heart](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 20, 2019



Join me as I talk with Director Chas Killen about “Honky Tonk Laundry” now playing at Eastlight Theatre. Featuring the music of Reba McEntire, Dolly Parton, Dixie Chicks, Carrie Underwood, and Patsy Cline, “Honky Tonk Laundry” uses timeless country classics to tell the hysterical and heart-warming tale of Lana Mae Hopkins, owner and proprietress of the Wishy Washy Washeteria, and her new employee, Katie. Catch a performance this Friday or Saturday...before the suds are gone!

Will Elton John Play in Peoria in 2019? Maybe.

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 20, 2019

Will Sir Elton John grace Peoria with one last performance?

Museum Unveils Bible That Belonged To Lincoln

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 20, 2019

Illinois historians say a bible that belonged to Abraham Lincoln in the last year of his life will be put on display at the presidential museum and library in the 16th president's hometown.

Conservation Groups Revving Up New Efforts to Restore Illinois River Wetlands

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 20, 2019

Ducks Unlimited and a host of other conservation groups are starting up a new \$5 million effort to protect and restore 13,000 acres of wetlands along the Illinois River.

UPDATE: Coroner Says Man Drowned in East Peoria Pool

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 20, 2019

No foul play is suspected after a 46-year-old man was found dead in an East Peoria pool this morning.

East Peoria police and firefighters responded to a house on Country Lane near Illinois Central College around 6:45 a.m. The man was found unresponsive in an indoor swimming pool by family members.

Police say he was pronounced dead on the scene by Tazewell County Coroner Charles Hanley at 7:30 a.m. The man's identity is being withheld at this time pending family notification.

Pritzker Moves To Get Accurate Illinois Headcount for 2020 Census

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 20, 2019

Gov. J.B. Pritzker created a new Census Office on Thursday to help get an accurate account of Illinois' population before the 2020 Census.

### Man Shot Multiple Times Near Harrison Homes

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 20, 2019

A 30-year-old man is in serious but stable condition after he was shot multiple times near the Harrison Homes on Peoria's South Side.

### Downtown Advisory Commission Chair Urges Experimentation With New Ideas on Riverfront

Tim Shelley, June 19, 2019

The City of Peoria is in the process of developing a master plan from the Bob Michel Bridge to Murray Baker Bridge along the riverfront.

### What Do Peoria Entrepreneurs Need to Jump Start Their Businesses?

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 19, 2019

A group of organizations is trying to identify the biggest needs for budding entrepreneurs in the greater Peoria area.

### It's Too Late To Plant Corn, But Illinois Farmers Can Still Grow Hemp

By TIM SHELLEY & MARY CULLEN • JUN 18, 2019

DOWNS -- One McLean County hemp grower says it may be too late to plant corn crops, but the limit for growing hemp is sky high.

### Peoria Civic Center Sees Banner Year In 2019

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 18, 2019

PEORIA -- The Peoria Civic Center is set to wrap up fiscal year 2019 on a high note.

### Peoria Riverfront Should Be Cleaned Up For The Weekend

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 18, 2019

PEORIA -- After more than a month submerged under floodwaters, the Peoria Riverfront should be fully reopened to foot traffic and events soon.

Peoria Public Works Interim Director Bill Lewis said cleanup efforts are well underway, with public works crews working 12-hour shifts to remove sandbags and clean up parking lots in time for the weekend.

However, Lewis said green spaces along the riverfront may take a little longer to restore.

### Iowa Man to Stand Trial in Peoria on Child Sex Abuse Charges

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • JUN 18, 2019

An Iowa man will stand trial in Peoria next month for child sex offenses. The U.S. Attorney's Office for Central Illinois says Michael Shell was indicted on multiple charges. They include the sexual exploitation of a child, travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct and aggravated sexual abuse of a child.

### Peoria County Board Looks To Fill 3 Vacancies

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 17, 2019

PEORIA -- The Peoria County Board is now accepting applications for three open elected positions.

District 11 Board Member Doctor Greg Adamson, Peoria County Clerk Steve Sonnemaker, and Peoria County State's Attorney Jerry Brady passed away last week.

Applicants for Adamson's County Board seat must live within District 11's boundaries and voted Republican in the primary election they voted in.

### Peoria County Mailing New Voter Registration Cards

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • JUN 17, 2019

Peoria County voters can expect new voter registration cards in the mail.

### Love Peoria Peace Rally Planned

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 17, 2019

Organizers of the upcoming Love Peoria Peace Rally hope it sparks bonding and new understanding among people living in the river city as a response to recent violence.

### [NWS Confirms Central Illinois Tornadoes](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • JUN 17, 2019

The National Weather Service office in Lincoln confirms two tornadoes touched down in central Illinois Saturday night as storms swept through the region.

### [Report Highlights Illinois River Asian Carp and Sediment Issues](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 17, 2019

Proposals to solve the Asian carp problem in the Illinois River include everything from electric barriers to sound waves. However, the solution may ultimately come from basic economic demand generated by creating a robust market for carp-based products.

### [LaHood Says Federal Law Not the Best Approach to Medical Cannabis](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 17, 2019

U.S. Representative Darin LaHood says he is leery of recreational cannabis legalization in Illinois.

### [Peoria County Clerk Steve Sonnemaker Dies at Age 66](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 14, 2019

PEORIA -- Peoria County Clerk Steve Sonnemaker died Friday. He was 66 years old. Peoria County Coroner Jamie Harwood said Sonnemaker died peacefully, surrounded by dear friends, just before 6:45 p.m. "He was one of the most kindest elected officials I have had the privilege to work with. He will be dearly missed," said Harwood. Sonnemaker served on the Peoria County Board from 1980-84. He was elected to the Auditor's Office in 1984, a job he held until 2006, when he was elected Peoria County Clerk.

### [Is Aaron Schock Exploring Another Congressional Run?](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 14, 2019

PEORIA -- Updated paperwork was filed for former U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock's congressional campaign committee earlier this month - but the Peoria Republican says he was just making a tweak to what's in the record.

### [LaHood: Weather and Tariffs Causing Farmers Anxiety](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 14, 2019

PEORIA -- U.S. Representative Darin LaHood said he supports a call from the Illinois Farm Bureau for a statewide disaster declaration for farmers.

The Peoria Republican says two things are causing farmers a lot of anxiety this year: wet weather and tariffs. "Yes, we support the disaster declaration. And depending on what happens at the federal level moving forward, we look forward to being supportive in doing all we can, particularly for farmers in the southern part of our district, where fields are wet," he said.

### [Enjoying the Wet Weather? Expect More Of It This Summer](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 14, 2019

LINCOLN -- Tired of wet weather yet? ad news: You may want to keep your umbrella close by for the next few months. Chris Miller is a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Lincoln. He said a “perfect storm” of factors have led to above-average precipitation this year - and flooding.

### [Mayor Ardis Calls On Peorians To Take Stand Against Violence](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 14, 2019

PEORIA -- Peoria Mayor Jim Ardis said police and city leaders need the community to help stand up against violence.

### [Western Illinois University President Is Stepping Down](#)

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 14, 2019

MACOMB, Ill. (AP) - The president of Western Illinois University is resigning at the end of June after eight years in the post.

### [For Father's Day, Black Justice Project Is Bailing Dads Out of Peoria County Jail](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 14, 2019

PEORIA -- The Black Justice Project is looking to bail some dads out of the Peoria County Jail for Father’s Day.

### [Family: Baby Cut From Slain Chicago Woman's Womb Has Died](#)

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 14, 2019

CHICAGO (AP) - Spokeswomen for the family of a slain Chicago woman whose baby was cut from her womb with a butcher knife says the infant boy has died.

### [Peoria County State's Attorney Jerry Brady Dies](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 13, 2019

PEORIA -- Peoria County State's Attorney Jerry Brady died Thursday at age 70.

### [LaHood: U.S. Cannot Back Down on Iran](#)

By ASSOCIATED PRESS & TIM SHELLEY • JUN 13, 2019

PEORIA -- U.S. Representative Darin LaHood says the reported attacks on two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman this morning is proof that American sanctions on Iran are working.

Gordon-Booth: 2019 Legislative Session Was "Historic"

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 13, 2019

SPRINGFIELD -- Governor J.B. Pritzker and the Democrats who control the General Assembly passed a flurry of major legislation in the closing days of this year's legislative session.

State Rep. Jehan-Gordon Booth (D-Peoria) said lawmakers were highly productive this year.

### Heritage Ensemble Celebrates Twenty Years of Building Bridges through Music

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 13, 2019

Sharon Samuels Reed joins Jenn Gordon in the studio to talk about the Heritage Ensembles' Annual Juneteenth Celebration happening Saturday night at the ICC Performing Arts Center. Find out how the choir started 20 years ago, and how they continue to build cultural bridges and keep history alive through their inspiring performances.

### One Month Later, No Answers on Murder of Peoria 4-Year-Old

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 13, 2019

PEORIA -- Peoria Police Chief Loren Marion said a lack of cooperation from people with information is hindering the investigation into the shooting death of 4-year-old Jeremiah Ward.

Marion said Thursday that community involvement is vital for police trying to solve crimes.

"We still have individuals that are not cooperating with the police, and that is what is frustrating for me and the detectives and the officers of the police department that we have a dead 4-year-old, and people are not coming forward," he said.

### Peoria Mother Pleading for Peace With East Bluff Candlelight Vigil

By MARY CULLEN & TIM SHELLEY • JUN 13, 2019

PEORIA -- One Peoria mom is calling on the community to come together in the wake of Wednesday's shooting that led to the death of a 16-year-old male.

### Two Teens Face Murder Charges in Shooting Death of 16-Year-Old

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 13, 2019

PEORIA -- An armed robbery gone wrong is likely to blame for the shooting death of a 16-year-old in Peoria's East Bluff on Wednesday evening.

UPDATE: 14-Year-Old Arrested in Fatal East Bluff Shooting of Teen

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 12, 2019

PEORIA -- A 16-year-old male was fatally shot in a driveway in Peoria's East Bluff on Wednesday afternoon.

### Pritzker Signs Sweeping Abortion Expansion Into Law

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 12, 2019

PEORIA -- Gov. J.B. Pritzker today signed a bill that he said makes Illinois the most progressive state in the nation on women's reproductive rights.

"The Reproductive Health Act ensures that women's rights in Illinois do not hinge on the fate of Roe v. Wade, or the whims of an increasingly conservative Supreme Court. In this state, women will always have the right to reproductive health care," said Pritzker at a Wednesday press conference in Chicago.

### Peoria Police Make Arrest in 9-Year-Old Cold Case Murder

By COLLIN SCHOPP • JUN 12, 2019

PEORIA -- The Peoria Police Department announced an arrest made in a cold case murder from almost a decade ago.

The evening of December 26, 2010, Peoria Police found 20-year-old Michael Malone unresponsive with multiple gunshot wounds in an alley of the 1800 block of West Howett.

During the investigation, Breon N. Augusta was identified as a suspect. Early this morning, Augusta showed up at the department to turn himself in, and was arrested on a warrant for murder.

Following the arrest, Augusta was transported to the Peoria County jail.

### Should People Awaiting Trial Pay Cash Bonds To Get Out of Jail?

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 12, 2019

PEORIA -- A coalition of Peoria social justice groups are proposing the end of cash bonds for people awaiting trial in Illinois.

### Light It Up: Efforts Underway to Make the Murray Baker Bridge Glow Again

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 12, 2019

PEORIA -- A group of young professionals want the Murray Baker Bridge to shine at night again.

#### Washington Basketball Coach Kevin Brown Dies at Age 50

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 12, 2019

WASHINGTON -- Washington Community High School boys' basketball coach Kevin Brown has lost his battle with brain cancer. He was 50.

#### Prosecutors in Peoria Detail Chinese Scholar's Death

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 12, 2019

PEORIA -- A federal prosecutor has shared with jurors grisly details of how they claim a former University of Illinois doctoral student kidnapped a visiting scholar from China, then brutally beat and killed her.

#### Peoria Council Recognizes 100th Anniversary of Suffrage Amendment

By H. WAYNE WILSON • JUN 12, 2019

Illinois was one of the first three states to ratify the suffrage amendment in 1919. The Peoria City Council Tuesday night passed a resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the event.

#### Peoria Council Discusses Marijuana Legalization

By H. WAYNE WILSON • JUN 12, 2019

Illinois prohibited recreational use of marijuana in 1931. The state will reverse course next January as recreational marijuana will be legal.

#### Peoria Council Member Concerned About Massage Parlors

By H. WAYNE WILSON • JUN 12, 2019

City Councilman Chuck Grayeb is concerned about what he calls a proliferation of massage parlors in Peoria.

#### Keeping Your Child Safe In the Pool This Summer

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 11, 2019

PEORIA -- After the drowning of a five-year-old boy in a Peoria apartment swimming pool over the weekend, Peoria County Coroner Jamie Harwood is emphasizing the importance of knowing



how to swim. Jeremiah Wilson drowned at the Brandywine Crossing apartments pool on Friday afternoon. No foul play is suspected in his death.

### Recreational Cannabis Will Provide Local Cultivator A Chance to Grow

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 11, 2019

DELAVAN -- A Central Illinois medical cannabis grower says the legalization of recreational cannabis in the state will offer new opportunities to expand.

### Delavan Medical Cannabis Grower Marketing To New Audience: Pets

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 11, 2019

DELAVAN -- A local medicinal cannabis grower is expanding into a new market aimed at pets. Revolution Enterprises runs a cannabis cultivation facility in Delavan, a Tazewell County city about half an hour south of Peoria. The company recently acquired HempVet, which makes hemp-based cannabinoid oil products aimed at pets. Revolution General Counsel Ali Jubelirer said CBD can be used for various pet conditions.

### Fatal Knox County House Explosion Believed Accidental

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 11, 2019

RAPATEE -- The house explosion in Rapatee that killed two people is believed to be a tragic accident. Knox County Sheriff David Clague said Tuesday there is no indication of criminal activity leading up to the explosion. Clague said Wanda Swain, 77; and David Swain, Jr., 51, both of 17 Illinois Route 97, died in the explosion on Sunday morning. Several other homes in the surrounding area were also damaged. The Illinois State Fire Marshal is still investigating the cause of the blast.

### Peoria Riverfront Museum Receives Record \$1 Million Donation

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 11, 2019

PEORIA -- The Peoria Riverfront Museum announced a one million dollar donation today, the largest single donation in its operational history.

### Remains of Tremont Marine Found Months After Plane Crash

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 11, 2019

TREMONT -- Authorities say the remains of a central Illinois Marine have been recovered, months after he died in a plane crash off Japan's southern coast.

#### Peoria County Board Member Greg Adamson Dies

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 11, 2019

PEORIA -- Peoria County Board member Dr. Greg Adamson has died at age 58.

Peoria County Coroner Jamie Harwood said Adamson collapsed at his home around 1 a.m. Tuesday. Adamson was taken to OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead just after 2 a.m.

#### UPDATE: Jury Selected in Man's Trial in Chinese Scholar's Death

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 11, 2019

PEORIA -- A jury has been selected in the trial of a former graduate student accused of kidnapping and killing a University of Illinois scholar from China.

#### Rule Violation Forces Bradley Speech Team to Give Back National Trophy

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 10, 2019

PEORIA -- Bradley University's speech team will be forced to give back one of its national trophies after breaking the rules of a competition.

#### Peoria County Sheriff Optimistic About Cannabis Law Changes

By TIM SHELLEY & COLIN SCHOPP • JUN 10, 2019

PEORIA -- Law enforcement officials across the state have expressed concerns about the legalization of recreational marijuana - but Peoria County Sheriff Brian Asbell says he's optimistic about the change

#### Central Illinois Pulls Together To Help After Rapatee Explosion Kills 2

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 10, 2019

RAPATEE -- Central Illinois is reaching out to to help a rural Knox County family after their house exploded Sunday morning, killing two people.

The Fairview Fire Department responded to the intersection of Illinois Route 97 and North Street in Rapatee around 11:30 a.m. Sunday. The explosion was heard from Fairview six miles away, the fire department said in a press release.

Autonomous Pilot Could Be Just The Start For Self-Driving Cars in Peoria

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 10, 2019

Fulton Sheen's Hometown Museum Hopes Peoria Re-Interment Sparks New Interest

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 10, 2019

EL PASO -- The return of Archbishop Fulton Sheen's remains to Peoria have some hoping more people will learn about the Woodford County native's life and works.

UPDATE: 2 Killed in Rural Knox County House Explosion

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 9, 2019

RAPATEE -- Two people are dead after a house exploded in the small community of Rapatee.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen's Remains To Be Brought to Peoria

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 8, 2019

PEORIA -- After a lengthy court battle, New York's highest court has ordered the remains of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen to be brought to Peoria for interment.

What's Going On With The Steamboat Days Carnival?

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 8, 2019

PEORIA -- Conflicting reports on social media may have you confused about the current status of Steamboat Days festivities now that the festival itself is cancelled on the Peoria riverfront.

Here's where things stand.

UPDATE: Elmwood Woman Killed in Two-Vehicle Accident Near Trivoli

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 8, 2019

TRIVOLI -- An 18-year-old rural Elmwood woman is dead after a two vehicle accident on W. Farmington Road late Saturday morning.

UPDATE: No Foul Play Suspected in Peoria 5-Year-Old's Drowning Death

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 7, 2019

PEORIA -- A five-year-old boy died Friday after drowning in an apartment complex pool.

Flooding Stopped The Steamboat Days Festival, But The Race Will Go On

By ERIC STOCK & TIM SHELLEY • JUN 7, 2019

PEORIA -- Organizers of Peoria's annual Steamboat Days carnival say Illinois River levels aren't falling fast enough to enable the event to happen next weekend. Mandy Eubank is treasurer for the Peoria Area Event Committee.

Water Levels Falling, But Debris Still Poses Hazard For Boaters

By MARY CULLEN & TIM SHELLEY • JUN 7, 2019

EAST PEORIA -- Debris in the Illinois River presents potentially dangerous scenarios for boaters this weekend.

Mosquito Wave Brought On By Flooding Annoying, But Not Disease-Spreading

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 7, 2019

It's not just your imagination - the mosquitoes really are blanketing Central Illinois even more than usual this summer. Sara Sparkman of the Tazewell County Health Department said the culprit is recent flooding. "The mosquitoes that are out right now are floodwater mosquitoes," said Sara Sparkman, communications director for the Tazewell County Health Department. "What they do is they lay their eggs in soil, and then when the floodwaters come in, that's when those eggs hatch. So that's what we're seeing a lot of right now."

Cubs-Cards to play in London on June 13-14, 2020

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 7, 2019

NEW YORK (AP) - Major League Baseball has announced the two-game series in London between the Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals at West Ham's Olympic Stadium on June 13-14, 2020.

Annual Moss Avenue Sale Set for Saturday

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 7, 2019

If you're planning to head down historic Moss Avenue on Saturday, plan on hoofing it. Flooding Forces Steamboat Days Cancellation,

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 6, 2019

PEORIA -- Peoria will have to make do without an annual summertime favorite this year.

### Despite Global Industry Downturn, PDC Expands South Pekin Recycling Plant

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 6, 2019

SOUTH PEKIN -- The recycling industry may be suffering from a downturn, but Peoria Disposal Company is making a big investment in green technology.

PDC unveiled a new \$3.5 million expansion of its South Pekin processing plant on Thursday.

### Corn Stock Brings Shrek to the Tent

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 6, 2019

Today's guest is Jimmy Ulrich, director of the Corn Stock's current production of Shrek – The Musical. Based on the hit DreamWorks animated film, the production opens the 66th Season at Corn Stock Theatre and offers an irresistible night of high-energy fun that's perfect for the whole family. Listen as Jimmy takes us "behind the curtain" and talks costumes, cast, make-up, and more! Performances continue this Friday and Saturday in Upper Bradley Park.

### Openings Expected Next Week in Peoria Death Penalty Trial

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 6, 2019

A judge at the trial of a former University of Illinois student charged with killing a visiting Chinese scholar says lawyers should be ready to deliver opening statements by the middle of next week.

Thursday is the fourth day of jury selection at Brendt Christensen's trial in Peoria.

Champaign's News-Gazette cites U.S. District Judge James Shadid as saying the final selection of 12 jurors and six alternates could happen Monday, with openings on Wednesday.

### Peoria Man Arrested on Bloomington Murder Charges

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUN 6, 2019

A Peoria man is one of two people arrested in connection with a Bloomington gun death last October. 27-year old Trevonte Kirkwood of Bloomington died after someone shot him in the back October 30th on North Oak Street in Bloomington.

## CityLink Seeking Public Feedback on Opportunities to Improve

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 6, 2019

CityLink officials want to find out what riders want out of their bus riding experience. The bus agency will hold a series of public meetings next week to present the results of a recent transit study called CityLink on the Move and seek feedback for improvements. CityLink spokeswoman Emily Watson said consultants at Nelson/Nygaard (Nye-gard) Associates have already identified one thing riders want.

## Large Fire Reported at Creve Coeur Towing Business

By TSSHEL1 • JUN 6, 2019

CREVE COEUR -- Multiple fire departments are battling a large blaze at Joe's Towing in Creve Coeur. The Creve Coeur and East Peoria Fire Departments are responding to Joe's Towing, 921 N. Main in Creve Coeur. The Peoria Fire Department was called for mutual aid, but later deferred. It is unclear what started the fire. Black smoke can be seen from East Peoria. Wesley Road is blocked near Joe's Towing.

## Gas Tax Increase Will Address About A Third of Deferred Tri County Highway Maintenance

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUN 6, 2019

The gas tax increase in the new state budget went up 18 cents per gallon. But, there is so much deferred maintenance on Tri County roads Peoria County Engineer Amy McLaren says the tax would have to go up dollars per gallon to catch up.

## Peoria Receives \$300k for Environmental Cleanup

By TIM SHELLEY • JUN 5, 2019

PEORIA -- The city of Peoria will receive \$300,000 from the U.S. EPA to clean up contaminated sites on the near North Side.

The grants will target the Hawkey Rubber Manufacturing, Standard Oil Products and former Monroe Street Station sites for cleanup.

Sites near the Illinois River will be of particular focus

## Lawyer Helping Slain Chinese Scholar's Family Follow Peoria Trial

By KRISTIN MCHUGH & ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 5, 2019

A lawyer for a Chinese family attending the trial of an ex-University of Illinois student charged with killing their daughter says he's explaining to them how the American justice system works.

#### IL Farm Bureau Calls For Statewide Disaster Declaration

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUN 5, 2019

Illinois farmers have planted less than half of their corn crop this year because of frequent spring rain. Usually they are done by now.

#### Yes, It Rained and Poured in May

By KRISTIN MCHUGH & ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 5, 2019

State climate experts are now confirming what we already know. It rained A LOT last month. The Illinois State Climatologist Office says May was the third-wettest on record. It was also the sixth-consecutive month with above-average rainfall.

#### New Gambling Bill Could Favor Peoria Casino

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUN 5, 2019

The Mayor of Peoria says any potential revenue growth from gambling in the Peoria area would come from a land based casino in Peoria. Jim Ardis says the approval of land based casinos in other Illinois cities raises the possibility of moving the Par-A-Dice riverboat onto the land.

#### Peoria Chiefs To Play Road Games in Dozer Park

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • JUN 4, 2019

The Peoria Chiefs will play ball on the road this week—in Peoria.

#### Peoria Mayor Reacts to Capital Bill

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUN 4, 2019

Peoria Mayor Jim Ardis says he's pleased a capital bill passed the General Assembly during the spring session.

#### Downtown Peoria is Testing Ground for Autonomous Vehicles

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • JUN 4, 2019

The streets of Peoria this summer will be a testing ground for driverless vehicles.

### Missing Chinese Scholar Case to Begin in Peoria

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUN 3, 2019

The trial is set to begin in Peoria for a former University of Illinois graduate student accused of kidnapping and killing a visiting scholar from China.

### Illinois River Falling in Peoria; Still Rising Downstream

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • JUN 3, 2019

The Illinois River is slowly falling in Peoria after cresting nearly 9 feet above flood stage Sunday. The National Weather Service predicts the Peoria measurement will drop below 26 feet early Wednesday. Flood stage is 18 feet.

### No Injuries Reported in Early Morning Peoria Blaze

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • JUN 3, 2019

An occupant inside a Peoria garage escaped injury early Monday morning when the structure caught fire.

### [Pritzker Issues Second Flood Disaster Proclamation](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 31, 2019

Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford counties are among 34 included in a second disaster proclamation issued by Gov. J.B. Pritzker.

### [UnityPoint Red White & BOOM Fourth of July Is Set](#)

By TANYA KOONCE • MAY 31, 2019

UnityPoint Red White & BOOM promises to be another magnificent Fourth of July fireworks display.

### [Ameren Illinois Issues Fundraising Challenge for Dream Center Peoria](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 30, 2019

Ameren Illinois is issuing a challenge to supporters of Peoria's Dream Center.

### [HFO Serves Up "Triple Shot of Tchaikovsky" This Weekend](#)

By NATHAN IRWIN • MAY 30, 2019



We're talking with David Commanday, Music Director of the Heartland Festival Orchestra. The HFO is closing its current season with an all-Tchaikovsky program tomorrow night. They'll be performing Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, which Commanday describes as a "barn-burner." The composer's Piano Concerto No. 1. features a return appearance by pianist Michael Brown; it's a technical challenge for the performer, and it's noteworthy among the Piano Concerto repertoire in the way it puts the orchestra and the solo instrument in opposition to one another.

### [Flooding Closes Spoon River Road](#)

By TANYA KOONCE • MAY 29, 2019

Spoon River Road in Peoria County is closed between Elmore Road and Walnut Creek Road, due to flooding of the Spoon River.

### [Peoria County Coroner Issues Statement After Three Apparent Drug Overdose Deaths](#)

By TANYA KOONCE • MAY 29, 2019

The Peoria County Coroner is offering a message of concern. Jamie Harwood says the man found deceased in Peoria Heights Tuesday was the third person in the Peoria area to die from apparent drug overdoses in the last two weeks.

### [River Flooding Could Mean Near Record Crests in Western Illinois](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH & ASSOCIATED PRESS • MAY 29, 2019

Moderate flooding continues along northern portions of the Illinois River but crests near where it intersects the Mississippi River could reach historic levels.

### [Budget Planning Looms for City of Peoria](#)

By H WAYNE WILSON • MAY 29, 2019

The City of Peoria will begin its budget process next month. City manager Patrick Ulrich says the approach will focus on the value of programs within a department, rather than the department as a whole.

### [Missing Chinese Scholar's Parents Arrive in Illinois for Trial](#)

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • MAY 29, 2019

URBANA - The parents of a visiting University of Illinois scholar who disappeared two years ago have arrived in Illinois from China for the murder trial of the man accused of abducting and killing her.

### [OSF HealthCare and CORE Construction Create POINTCORE](#)

By TANYA KOONCE • MAY 24, 2019

CORE Construction and OSF HealthCare System have a new joint venture called POINTCORE. It's a relationship that offers the growing healthcare system consistent quality construction standards. CORE Construction company is also officially adding a specialized construction area to its business portfolio. Quintin Smith is the President of the newly formed group. "We're providing construction services, with healthcare, with innovation, with technology and providing a new delivery model on how these services can come to make this a better industry as a whole."

### [Wheels O' Time Offerings Include Cars, Old and New, and a Historic Home](#)

By NATHAN IRWIN • MAY 24, 2019

This week, we're talking with Marcia Johnson from the Wheels O' Time Museum in Dunlap, about some of their exhibits and events for the 2019 season. The museum is currently displaying an autonomous car made in Morton. There will also be will an exhibit featuring the history of cars, from the Model T to the present day. That exhibit runs June 22nd and 23rd.

### [Deputy Faces Felony Drug Charge](#)

By TANYA KOONCE • MAY 22, 2019

A Peoria County Deputy was arrested Tuesday after being indicted on a drug charge. Peoria County Sheriff Brian Asbell says Deputy Adam King turned himself in, after a warrant was issued for his arrest. King is charged with at class 3 felony for unlawful possession with the intent to deliver a controlled substance.

### [Authorities Seek Gun Theft Suspect](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 21, 2019

Authorities continue to search for one of two suspects accused of stealing scores of guns in central Illinois. A criminal complaint against 19-year-old Miray Smith was unsealed Friday in U.S. District Court in Peoria.

### [Peoria Area Home Sales Drop in April](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH & TANYA KOONCE • MAY 21, 2019

The downward trend for Illinois home sales continued last month despite an uptick in median prices. The Illinois Realtors organization reports family home and condominium sales statewide were down 5.6% in April when compared with last year.

### [ICC Earns Most Promising Place to Work Honor](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 21, 2019

Illinois Central College is a promising place to work. That's according to the National Institute for Staff Organizational Development and the magazine *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*.

## [Peoria's Dressbarn to Close as Company Shuttters All Locations](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH & ASSOCIATED PRESS • MAY 21, 2019

NEW YORK (AP) — Dressbarn, the women's clothing chain that's been around for nearly 60 years, is closing all 650 of its stores.

## [Fight Over Archbishop Fulton Sheen's Remains Continues](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 20, 2019

The Archdiocese of New York has filed a new court motion in the ongoing battle over the remains of former Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

## [Bradley University President Announces Retirement](#)

By TANYA KOONCE • MAY 20, 2019

Bradley University President Gary Roberts is retiring next year. In a letter to faculty and staff this morning Roberts says he has informed the Bradley's Board of Trustees of his intention to retire at the end of his contract next May.

## [Morton Civic Chorus Presents "Encore 2019" Next Week](#)

By NATHAN IRWIN • MAY 17, 2019

Our guest this week is Denise Adams, director of the Morton Civic Chorus. The Chorus is presenting its spring fundraising concert, "Encore 2019" next week. It's also celebrating Adams' 35-year anniversary at the podium. Adams talk a bit about the history of the Chorus: It grew out of a fundraising event to raise money for someone who needed a kidney transplant. Now, proceeds from the spring concert go to the Central Illinois Memorial Kidney Fund, which provides services to patients with chronic kidney disease.

## [Report: Local Payroll Growth Contributes to Stable Economy](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 16, 2019

The Composite Index of Business and Economic Indicators shows greater Peoria's economy remains stable despite mixed conditions. The report assigns the Peoria-Pekin Metropolitan Statistical Area a first quarter 2019 Index value of 102.8. A value over 100 is deemed favorable.

## [Peoria's Water Street Now Open](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 16, 2019

Peoria's riverfront area is slowly returning to normal nearly two weeks after being inundated with flood waters. The city of Peoria says the 300 block of SW Water Street is now open to all traffic. The Liberty parking lot is also open, but it can only be accessed from Harrison Street.

## [High School Student Picks Eureka College Over Scores of Options](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 16, 2019

A Louisiana high school senior will begin classes at Eureka College later this year. This may not seem extraordinary, except Antoinette Love earned at least 115 other college acceptances and nearly \$4-million in total scholarships as part of personal quest that went viral on social media.

### [Temporary Location in Place for Peoria's Riverfront Market's Opening](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 16, 2019

The Peoria RiverFront Market kicks off its 2019 season Saturday in a temporary location due to flooding. Organizers say the market will open at 8:00 a.m. in the Caterpillar parking lot at the corner of SW Water and Hamilton streets. It will remain in this temporary location on May 25.

### [Memorial Walk Planned to Remember Gun Violence Victims](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 16, 2019

A walk Friday evening will remember Peorians who have died from gun violence.

### [Wife of Cubs' Ben Zobrist Files for Divorce](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH & ASSOCIATED PRESS • MAY 15, 2019

CHICAGO - Julianna Zobrist, the wife of Chicago Cubs World Series MVP Ben Zobrist, has filed for divorce.

### [Peoria Flood Cleanup Begins](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 15, 2019

Sandbag cleanup is underway along Peoria's riverfront. Public works crews began removal Wednesday in the 300 block of SW Water Street.

### [Pop-A-Shot Loan Approved by Peoria Council](#)

By H.WAYNE WILSON • MAY 15, 2019

The Peoria City Council last night took a step to bring a new company to town.

### [Investigation Continues On The Shooting That Killed A 4 year-old](#)

By TANYA KOONCE • MAY 14, 2019

Peoria Police and city leaders are calling for anyone who knows anything about the murder of Jeremiah Ward Monday to come forward.

Police and members of the Peoria Community Against Violence (PCAV) group did an extensive canvas Tuesday of the West Ann neighborhood where the 4-year-old was shot.

#### [4-Year-Old Killed Monday in South Peoria Shooting](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 13, 2019

Police say a 4-year-old boy was killed in a South Peoria double shooting Monday evening. Jeremiah L. Ward and an unidentified 23-year-old male were found as officers responded to a ShotSpotter alert in the 2800 block of West Ann Street around 5:45 p.m.

#### [Caterpillar To Supply Autonomous Vehicles for Australia Mine](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 13, 2019

#### [Authorities Seek Information on Missing Creve Coeur Man](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 13, 2019

Authorities are asking for the public's help in locating a missing Creve Coeur man.

#### [Sculpture Walk Returns Next Weekend](#)

By NATHAN IRWIN • MAY 10, 2019

This week, we're talking to Bill Conger, from the Peoria Riverfront Museum, and Lynette Steger with Sculpture Walk Peoria. Sculpture Walk 2019 gets underway next Saturday (May 18th), with 9 new sculptures along Washington Street in downtown Peoria. Opening day activities include opportunities to see the sculptures and interact with the artists. Local arts groups will also be on hand, with information about their classes, programs and scholarship opportunities. Steger says this is intended to allow people to experience and participate in the arts year-round.

#### [Health Departments Offer Test Kits for Flooded Water Wells](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 9, 2019

Health officials across the state are concerned flooding rivers and streams have contaminated private water wells.

#### [Peoria City Council Gets New Members & Community Trash Cans Are Coming](#)

By H WAYNE WILSON • MAY 8, 2019

The five candidates elected to the Peoria City Council last month took their seats as at-large members at last night's meeting. Re-elected members Beth Jensen, Zach Oyler and Sid Ruckriegel are joined by newcomers John Kelly and Rita Ali.

#### [Illinois River to Hold Steady Monday in Peoria](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 6, 2019

The Illinois River is holding steady in Peoria, nearly 10 feet above flood stage.

### Large Section of Illinois River Closed to Recreation Traffic

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 6, 2019

The Illinois River is closed to recreational traffic between Lacon and the Mississippi River due to flooding.

### In Photos: Peoria Riverfront Flooding

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 5, 2019

### City of Peoria Updates Flood Preparation Progress

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 3, 2019

Work to protect the Peoria's River Station from flood waters is nearly complete. Assistant Public Works Director Sie Maroon expects completion of the remaining sandbag walls Friday.

### Peoria County Included in Governor's Disaster Proclamation

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 3, 2019

Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford counties are among 34 included in a disaster proclamation issued by Governor J.B. Pritzker. The governor issued the declaration today in response to rapidly rising water and record crests on the Illinois and Mississippi rivers.

### Peoria Players Theatre Presents "A Chorus Line"

By NATHAN IRWIN • MAY 3, 2019

This week, our guest is Chip Joyce. He's directing "A Chorus Line" at Peoria Players Theatre, and also appearing in the production as Zach the director.

### [Contract Awarded for Peoria Air National Guard Firehouse](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 3, 2019

Construction of a new fire and rescue house for the Peoria Air National Guard is moving forward.

### CAT Boosts Dividend

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 2, 2019

Caterpillar is boosting its quarterly dividend 20%.

### Flash Flood Watch Through Thursday Evening

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 2, 2019

Flash flooding is a concern as more heavy rain moves across central Illinois. A flash flood watch remains in effect through this evening for the entire Peoria Public Radio listening area.

### Peoria Prepares for Illinois River Flooding

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 2, 2019

Sandbagging begins Thursday on the Peoria riverfront as the Illinois River pushes past flood stage.

### Tazewell County Deputy Safe After Patrol SUV Swept Up in Flash Flooding

By KRISTIN MCHUGH & TANYA KOONCE • MAY 1, 2019

A Tazewell County Sheriff's deputy escaped injury after his patrol vehicle was swept up in flash flooding early Wednesday.

### Trial Underway in Death of Central Illinois Drug Informant

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • MAY 1, 2019

CHICAGO - A trial is underway of a man accused in the 2012 murder of an informant who cooperated with a federal investigation into a central Illinois drug ring.

### Rivers Overflowing Following Heavy Rains

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • MAY 1, 2019

Rivers are rising across the Midwest after multiple days of heavy rainfall.

### Cannabis Merges Into Health Care

By TANYA KOONCE • MAY 1, 2019

We are taking a closer look at what the legalization of cannabis could mean for Illinois. The State of Cannabis is a collaborative reporting effort by public radio stations across the state. This piece in the series looks at the potential health care considerations of recreational marijuana.

Flash Flood Watch Through Wednesday Evening

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • APR 30, 2019

Flooding is possible as showers and thunderstorms with heavy rain continue across central Illinois Tuesday.



## Emergency Landing at Central Illinois Regional Airport

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • APR 29, 2019

No injuries were reported after a United Airlines Express flight made an emergency landing in Bloomington Sunday night.

## Father Of Shooting Suspect Says He's Not Guilty On Weapons Charge

By TANYA KOONCE & AP • APR 26, 2019

PEKIN, Ill. - The father of the man accused of killing four people at a Waffle House in Tennessee last year has pleaded not guilty to charges related to the gun used in the shooting.

## Peoria Celebrates Great American Cleanup on Saturday

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • APR 26, 2019

Neighborhood associations and organizations throughout Peoria are celebrating the Great American Cleanup Saturday.

## Peoria Symphony Closes Season with a Tribute to New York

By NATHAN IRWIN • APR 26, 2019

Our guest this week is George Stelluto, Music Director of the Peoria Symphony Orchestra. Their 121st season closes this week with the concert, "Great Cities: New York." Selections from Edward MacDowell and Samuel Barber reflect the Romantic tradition of the city; Broadway is represented by "West Side Story" and a "collage" of show tunes.

## Crystal Lake Parents Accused of Killing Young Son Make Court Appearances

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • APR 25, 2019

WOODSTOCK - A judge has set bail at \$5 million each for an Illinois mother and father charged with murder in the death of their 5-year-old son.

## Bradley University to Honor Speech Team Friday

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • APR 25, 2019

Bradley University is honoring its national award-winning speech team Friday.

## TSA Cautions Summer Travelers to Check Themselves

By TANYA KOONCE • APR 24, 2019

The Transportation Security Administrations is trying to keep people moving through the screening lines during the busy summer travel season.

Update: Missing Woman Located

By TANYA KOONCE • APR 24, 2019

Peoria Police say they have located the woman who went missing about 3:00 a.m.

Peoria Council Greenlights Chase Bank Building Redevelopment

By H. WAYNE WILSON • APR 24, 2019

The redevelopment of the old Chase Bank Building in downtown Peoria is one step closer to reality.

Caterpillar's First Quarter 2019 Earnings Set Record

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • APR 24, 2019

Caterpillar is reporting an 5 percent increase in first quarter sales and revenue. The company says last quarter's sales and revenue amounted to \$13.5 billion. Fourth quarter adjusted profit was \$3.25 per share. That's up 19 percent from the same quarter last year. Caterpillar says the share profit is a first quarter record.

Father of Man Accused in Waffle House Shooting Faces Two New Lawsuits

By ASSOCIATED PRESS & KRISTIN MCHUGH • APR 23, 2019

Two new lawsuits have been filed against a Morton man whose son is accused of killing four people and injuring three others in a shooting at a Nashville Waffle House.

Peoria Police Encourage Neighbors App by Ring

By TANYA KOONCE • APR 23, 2019

The Peoria Police Department is joining the free Neighbors app by Ring and encouraging others to consider it too.

Illinois, Peoria Home Sales Slide in March

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • APR 23, 2019

Illinois home sales plunged last month, despite improving prices and inventory levels.

### Authorities Identify Peoria's Latest Murder Victim

By KRISTIN MCHUGH & TANYA KOONCE • APR 23, 2019

Authorities have identified the teen who died in an early morning Peoria shooting. The victim is 18-year-old Louis Salazar.

### One Dead, One Injured in Early Morning Peoria Shooting

By TANYA KOONCE • APR 23, 2019

Peoria police are investigating the city's 9th homicide of the year. The young man was shot and killed in the Taft Homes.

### Bradley Theatre Presents "Sense and Sensibility"

By NATHAN IRWIN • APR 19, 2019

Bradley University is closing its current season with a production of "Sense and Sensibility" -- an adaptation of the classic novel by Jane Austen. We're talking with director Dan Matisa; and with Susan Falk, who plays Elinor.

### Coroner: Deadly Goodfield Trailer Fire Intentionally Set

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • APR 18, 2019

GOODFIELD - Authorities say a mobile home fire that killed three children and two adults in central Illinois was intentionally set.

### ISU Radio Station To Assume Management of WCBU

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • APR 18, 2019

Bradley University is ending its daily operation of WCBU. WGLT, the public radio station operated by Illinois State University in Normal, will manage Peoria Public Radio's operations. Bradley University and Illinois State University announced the five-year management and programming agreement Thursday, April 18.

### PIA's Record-setting Streak Continues

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • APR 17, 2019

Peoria International Airport's record-setting passenger count continues.

## Murder Suspect Surrenders to Peoria Police

By KRISTIN MCHUGH & TANYA KOONCE • APR 17, 2019

Peoria police have arrested the woman wanted for stabbing another young woman in large fight last week at Schmoeger Park.

## Peoria Changes Dumpster Regulations and Hires A Special Job Coach

By H WAYNE WILSON • APR 15, 2019

Enclosures around large dumpsters at businesses in the city of Peoria may not be constructed with any type of wire. The city council unanimously approved regulations to ban wire and chain link fences to hide refuse containers.

## Peoria Man Arrested for Taft Homes Stabbing Death

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • APR 15, 2019

A Peoria man is facing a murder charge following a Sunday night stabbing.

## Friday Afternoon Fire Closes Peoria's Southwest Adams Street

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • APR 12, 2019

An industrial fire closed a portion of Peoria's Southwest Adams Street Friday afternoon.

## Woman Stabbed in Peoria Park Dies

By TANYA KOONCE & KRISTIN MCHUGH • APR 12, 2019

A Peoria woman stabbed in the neck during a Thursday afternoon fight is dead. Peoria County Coroner Jamie Harwood says 19-year-old Charee A. Alexander died at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center at 2:05 p.m. Friday.

## Coffeehouse Sessions Offer Live Music Experience at Rock Solid Studios

By NATHAN IRWIN • APR 12, 2019

This week, we're talking with Jimmy Bridgeman, the owner of Rock Solid Studios in Dunlap; and with musician David McDonald. Bridgeman says he started his studio in an effort to provide a quality recording facility for local musicians. They've since expanded to add songwriting workshops and open-mic nights, and their "Coffeehouse sessions." Those combine elements of a recording studio and a small performance venue.

## Woman Stabbed in Large Fight at a Peoria Park

By TANYA KOONCE • APR 12, 2019

Peoria Police are investigating a stabbing Thursday at Schmoeger Park.

## Authorities Seek Cause of Deadly Goodfield Fire

By KRISTIN MCHUGH & TANYA KOONCE • APR 8, 2019

The Woodford County community of Goodfield is still largely trying to understand a fire that killed five people Saturday night.

## "The Marty Monologues" Return to the Apollo Theater

By NATHAN IRWIN • APR 5, 2019

This week, we're talking with Marty Wombacher, about this weekend's performance of "The Marty Monologues." He's the writer behind the "Meanwhile Back in Peoria blog," and the show features his stories of growing up in Peoria in the 1960s.

The performance incorporates local musicians Sarah Marie Dillard and Brandon Mooberry.

After the Peoria performance, Wombacher will present the show in Chicago and New York.

"The Marty Monologues" will be performed Sunday night at 7:00 at the Apollo Theater in downtown Peoria.

## FBI Rejects Teen's Claim to be Long-missing Illinois Boy

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • APR 4, 2019

CINCINNATI — DNA tests disproved a teenager's claim that he was an Illinois boy who disappeared eight years ago, the FBI said Thursday, dashing hopes that the baffling case had finally been solved.

## The Votes Are In: Newcomers Prevail in Key Races

By TANYA KOONCE & KRISTIN MCHUGH • APR 2, 2019

Newcomers prevailed in several key races in Peoria and Tazewell Counties in the election Tuesday.