

Business and Economy

Bradley Students To Help Lead Outreach To Peoria's Hispanic Businesses - Dec. 17, 2019 by Dana Vollmer

The Greater Peoria Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is partnering with Bradley University students to connect Latinx businesses with resources in the community.

Peoria Zoning Board Recommends Approval of 2 Recreational Pot Shots - Dec. 5, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The Peoria Planning and Zoning Commission is recommending approval of recreational cannabis sales at two locations.

Peoria Business Community Offers Balanced Budget Proposal - Oct. 29, 2019 by H. Wayne Wilson

The business community is offering its own suggestions for the city of Peoria's 2020 budget.

Education and Family

Gates Foundation Grant Funds Program to Boost Peoria Graduation Rates - Dec. 10, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Peoria Public Schools will participate in a program built to improve graduation rates for black, Latinx, and low-income students.

State Board of Education Asks Families to Report Seculsion, Restraint - Nov. 25, 2019 by Dusty Rhodes

The Illinois State Board of Education is encouraging anyone with information about abusive time-out rooms or restraints in any school setting to share that information directly with the agency.

Merger Urger: State Senator Pushes Consolidation - Nov. 12, 2019 by Dusty Rhodes

Illinois has more than 850 school districts, and most of those stop at 8th grade, or serve only high school students. State Sen. Dan McConchie (R-Lake Zurich), has proposed legislation that would give such districts three years to merge to become “unit” districts — the kind that serve all grades.

Future Farmers of America Starts All Special Needs Chapter at Jamieson School - Nov. 11, 2019 by Dana Vollmer

Peoria’s Jamieson School is home to the newest chapter of the Future Farmers of America, a youth organization meant to build leadership through agricultural education.

For Parents, Lawmaker Wants Student Questioning Loophole Closed - Nov. 8, 2019 by Dusty Rhodes

If a school resource officer wants to question a student about a criminal act, they first have to notify the student's parents. That's according to a new law implemented at the beginning of this school year.

How a Plan to Help Illinois’ Teacher Shortage Made the Paraprofessional Shortage Worse - Nov. 6, 2019 by Peter Medlin

Over the past few years, Illinois lawmakers have been trying to ease the teacher shortage. But one of those plans also made it more difficult for school paraprofessionals to get licensed.

Quest Charter Academy Asks For Continued Peoria 150 Funding - Nov. 4, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Peoria Public Schools board members heard Quest Charter Academy's arguments for five more years of funding at a public hearing Monday night.

Disabled, Disenrolled: Lawsuit Asks For Dollars and Decision - Nov. 1, 2019 by Dusty Rhodes

The plaintiff represents 10 children with disabilities, seeking almost \$1 million from one of the very poorest school districts in the state — [West Harvey-Dixmoor District 147](#).

IL School Report Card: Now With Even More Data - Oct. 31, 2019 by Dusty Rhodes

The Illinois State Board of Education yesterday released its new report card. That name makes it sound like gives schools a grade, which it does.

Illinois Lawmakers Call For Investigation Into Sale of Student Data - Oct. 23, 2019 by Dana Vollmer

A group of state lawmakers is calling on Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul to investigate the sale of student data.

Black and Brown Teachers Have a Request: Listen - Oct. 15, 2019 by Dusty Rhodes

In Illinois, students of color comprise [more than half](#) of the school population, but their teachers are [overwhelmingly white](#).

Who Will Pay To Education Profoundly Disabled Children - Oct. 1 2019 by Dusty Rhodes

About a dozen children with complex medical needs have been kicked out of school over a funding dispute.

Election 2020

Election Board to Decide If Anonymous Objection Can Bump Candidates Off Ballot - Dec. 11, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Can an anonymous person bump a candidate off the ballot? The Illinois State Board of Elections will decide next week.

Peoria Democrat Spanky Edwards Looks To Challenge Cheri Bustos - Nov. 15, 2019 by Tim Shelley

A Peoria Democrat says the people of the 17th Congressional District need another option in the March 2020 primary besides incumbent Rep. Cheri Bustos.

Tazewell Treasurer Gears Up For Run Against Dave Koehler - Nov. 7, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Tazewell County Treasurer Mary Burress is gearing up for a run against Democratic State Senator Dave Koehler.

Health and Medicine

OSF Files To Build \$237M Comprehensive Cancer Center in Peoria - Dec. 9, 2019 by Tim Shelley

OSF HealthCare is asking the state of Illinois to approve construction of a \$237 million regional Comprehensive Cancer Center on its Peoria campus.

Second Report Reiterates Dire Impacts of IEPA Staffing Cuts - Dec. 6, 2019 by Tim Shelley

A new report is again sounding the alarm on the impacts of staffing cuts at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

ICC Partners with ISU To Streamline Nursing Degrees - Dec. 3, 2019 by Dana Vollmer

Nursing students will be offered a streamlined path to an advanced degree, under a new agreement between Illinois Central College and Illinois State University.

OSF Claims Meridian Owes Them "Millions of Dollars" - Dec. 3, 2019 by Tim Shelley

OSF HealthCare said it is terminating its contract with Meridian later this month due to "millions of dollars of outstanding claims" unpaid over the past five years.

OSF Ending Meridian Medicare, Medicaid Acceptance Next Month - Nov. 29, 2019 by Tim Shelley

OSF HealthCare hospitals, doctor's offices, and home care services will soon no longer accept Medicaid and Medicare patients enrolled in a Meridian-managed plan.

Report: Severe Staff Shortages Are Hampering Illinois Environmental Regulation - Nov. 26, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Severe staffing cutbacks are overwhelming the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's enforcement efforts.

Medical Students Honor The Lives of Those Who Donated Their Bodies For Education - Nov. 21, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Medical students from the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria paid tribute to the people who donated their bodies so they could learn.

Central Illinois Has High Suicide Rates, But There's A Plan To Help - Nov. 18, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The Partnership for a Healthy Community wants to lower the Tri-County suicide rate by 10 percent over the next three years.

ACA Health Plans in Illinois: Steady Rates Overall, But Some Counties Have Limited Options - Nov. 1, 2019 by Christine Herman

Most people in Illinois who have insurance through the Affordable Care Act won't see big changes to their monthly premiums next year, according to a [report](#) released this week by the [Illinois Department of Insurance](#).

Effort To Cap Insulin Costs Could Soon Be Called For a Vote - Oct. 24, 2019 by Christine Herman

Lawmakers could soon vote on a measure that would make Illinois the second state to cap insulin costs.

Free Mammograms Available To Uninsured Patients - Oct. 17, 2019 by Dana Vollmer

The Tazewell County Health Department is partnering with UnityPoint to offer free walk-in mammograms Friday.

Long-Acting Contraceptives Are The Most Effective, But Not All Patients Can Access Them - Oct. 15, 2019 by Dana Vollmer

Long-acting reversible birth control, like intrauterine devices (IUDs) and arm implants, are considered the [most effective](#) contraceptives on the market.

Peoria County Receives \$5.6M To Remove Lead Paint From Homes - Oct. 9, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is giving Peoria County \$5.6 million to remove dangerous lead paint from homes.

Higher Education

Bradley Students to Help Lead Outreach to Peoria's Hispanic Businesses - Dec. 17, 2019 by Dana Vollmer

The Greater Peoria Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is partnering with Bradley University students to connect Latinx businesses with resources in the community.

ICC Partners with ISU To Streamline Nursing Degrees - Dec. 3, 2019 by Dana Vollmer

Nursing students will be offered a streamlined path to an advanced degree, under a new agreement between Illinois Central College and Illinois State University.

U of I System Moves, But Doesn't 'Ban the Box' on Applications - Dec. 4, 2019 by Lee Gaines

Prospective undergraduate students applying to the University of Illinois' three campuses won't be asked about their criminal histories until after they've been admitted.

Eureka College Rolls Out Tuition-Free Higher Ed To 3 High Schools - Nov. 27, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The "Uniquely Eureka Promise" will allow qualifying students from three high schools to receive a free four-year degree from Eureka College.

Reports of Bias on the Rise at the University of Illinois - Oct. 21, 2019 by Lee Gaines

Four swastikas were found on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus in the last two weeks. The hate symbols were found drawn or carved in two different residence halls, a library and a bathroom stall in the campus' foreign languages building.

Bradley President Calls Effort to Student Athlete Endorsements 'Misguided'- Oct. 3, 2019 by Dana Vollmer

[Legislation](#) being considered in the Illinois House would allow college athletes to get paid for endorsements.

Police and Courts

Wanted Fugitive Sought in Minier Is Found - Dec. 24, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The Minier Police Department is asking residents to lock their doors and windows due to a wanted fugitive in the area.

Cause of Death Revealed in Case of Missing Deer Creek Man - Dec. 23, 2019 by Dana Vollmer and Tim Shelley

A missing Deer Creek man whose remains were found Monday in rural Tazewell County died of blunt force trauma, according to autopsy results.

Three Killed in Suspected Drunk Driving Crash - Dec. 21, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Three people are dead after a suspected drunken driver crashed into their vehicle.

13 Bomb Squad Members Convicted on Federal Racketeering Charges - Dec. 18, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Thirteen members of Peoria's Bomb Squad gang were convicted on federal racketeering charges Tuesday.

Sunnyland Man Arrested for Missing Morton Man's Murder - Dec. 17, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Tazewell County deputies have arrested a 52-year-old Sunnyland man for the murder of a missing Morton man.

Mapleton Man Arrested on Animal Cruelty Charges

A 22-year-old Mapleton man faces multiple animal cruelty and burglary charges linked to a string of disturbing incidents across rural Peoria County.

Moore Press Conference Outside Nightclub Turns Heated When Owner Pulls Up - Dec. 13, 2019 by Tim Shelley

First District Councilwoman Denise Moore's press conference calling for "aggressive action" on state site selection laws for clubs following an early morning homicide was interrupted when the club's owner showed up.

Peoria Woman's Drowning Death Ruled Homicide - Dec. 13, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Peoria County Coroner Jamie Harwood says the November death of a local woman is a homicide.

Six Children Removed From Peoria Apartment - Dec. 12, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Six children were removed from a Lexington Hills apartment Wednesday after they were found alone.

Pekin Woman Killed in Car Crash - Dec. 11, 2019 by Tim Shelley

A 20-year-old Pekin woman is dead after a two-vehicle accident on Springfield Road Tuesday.

Pekin Postpones Motorized Bike Regulation Until Next Year - Dec. 10, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The Pekin City Council is putting off a vote on requiring motorized bike owners to register their vehicles with the police until next year.

East Peoria Neighborhood Hit With Vehicle Burglaries - Dec. 6, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The city of East Peoria is warning citizens to lock up their vehicles after a burglary spree near ICC Friday morning.

All Mary Davis Home Escapees Now in Police Custody - Dec. 6 2019 by Tim Shelley

All five juveniles who escaped from Galesburg's Mary Davis Home last month are now in custody.

**How Far Should the Courts Intervene in Freedom of Religious Exercise?
Dec. 5, 2019 by Tim Shelley**

A retired Bradley University professor says the Supreme Court is increasingly intervening in religious exercise.

Peoria Fugitive Arrested After Month on the Run - Dec. 4, 2019 by Tim Shelley

A Peoria man wanted in connection with a November shooting in South Peoria was arrested Wednesday by the U.S. Marshals.

75-Year-Old Woman Dead in Peoria's 23rd 2019 Homicide - Dec. 4, 2019 by Tim Shelley

A 75-year-old Peoria woman is dead after a suspected elder abuse incident.

ICE Agents Raid North Peoria Business - Dec. 4, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Agents with the Department of Homeland Security's Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Department raided a Peoria business on Wednesday.

Stolen Vehicle Found with Infant Safe Inside - Dec. 1, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The Peoria Police Department is looking for a man who allegedly stole a van with a 6-month-old infant inside.

Appellate Court Orders New Trial for Ex-Peoria Cop on Child Porn Charges - Nov. 27, 2019 by Tim Shelley

An Illinois Appellate Court threw out the child pornography conviction of a former Peoria police officer Tuesday.

Woman Killed in 4-Vehicle Accident - Nov. 25, 2019 by Tim Shelley

A woman is dead after a four-vehicle crash in Peoria Monday evening.

Second Defendant Pleads Guilty But Mentally Ill in Princeville Couple's Slaying - Nov. 25, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The second suspect in the slaying of a Princeville couple pleaded guilty but mentally ill Monday.

Second Man Arrested in Shooting That Killed Woman, Injured 2 Others - Nov. 24, 2019 by Tim Shelley

One of the individuals injured in a shooting in northwest Peoria Saturday night has been arrested in connection with the crime.

State Supreme Court Rules Sex Offenders Can't Be Banned from Social Media - Nov. 22, 2019 by Dana Vollmer

State law bans registered sex offenders from social media websites during their probation period, which for some, can last for decades.

Bench Trial Begins for Princeville Man Accused of Slaying Parents - Nov. 15, 2019 by Dana Vollmer

A bench trial is underway for 22-year-old Jose Ramirez, who is accused of murdering his parents last year. Both were Bradley University employees.

Judge Approves 2022 E.D. Edwards Closure - Nov. 13, 2019 by Tim Shelley

A federal judge has approved a consent decree to close the E.D. Edwards power plant by the end of 2022.

Peoria Man Arrested For Infant's Death - Nov. 13, 2019 by Tim Shelley

A 20-year-old Peoria man faces murder charges in connection with the death of his 6-month-old daughter.

Knox County Parole Officer Charged With Misconduct - Nov. 5, 2019 by Tim Shelley

An Illinois Department of Corrections parole officer from Knox County was charged with official and sexual misconduct.

14-Year-Old Zaveon Marks Found Guilty of Murder - Oct. 30, 2019 by Dana Vollmer

A jury found 14-year-old Zaveon Marks guilty of one count of first degree murder and one count of unlawful possession of a weapon in the shooting death of 16-year-old Zarious Fair last summer.

ISP Investigating After Attempted Murder Suspect Dies - Oct. 30, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The suspect in an alleged attempted murder incident in South Peoria has died.

Peoria County Deputy Fired for Unprofessional Conduct - Oct. 29, 2019 by Tim Shelley

A 20-year veteran of the Peoria County Sheriff's Office was terminated for unprofessional conduct.

DCFS Involved 14 Times With 9-Year-Old Goodfield Murder Suspect Since Birth - Oct. 22, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services was involved in a 9-year-old Goodfield boy's livelihood 14 times since his birth.

Woman Killed in South Peoria Hit-and-Run - Oct. 20, 2019 by Tim Shelley

A female pedestrian is dead after a hit-and-run accident late Saturday in South Peoria.

Co-Defendant Expected to Take Plea Deal in Double Homicide - Oct. 18, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The two men charged with the brutal slaying of a Princeville couple last year appeared in court Friday.

New York Man Arrested in Peoria After Ramming Bloomington Squad Car - Oct. 17, 2019 by Tim Shelley

A New York man was arrested in Peoria after ramming a Bloomington police car on Wednesday morning.

Peoria Prepares to Roll Out Ring Doorbell Subsidies - Oct. 15, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The city of Peoria is partnering with Amazon's Ring to distribute doorbell cameras at a steep discount.

Washington Woman Killed in 2-Vehicle Crash - Oct. 9, 2019 by Tim Shelley

A Washington woman died Wednesday after a two-vehicle crash involving a truck-trailer.

9-Year-Old Faces Five Murder Counts in Fatal Goodfield Fire - Oct. 8, 2019 by Tim Shelley

A 9-year-old faces five first-degree murder charges in connection with a fatal trailer fire in Goodfield last April.

8-Year-Old Girl Shot on West Bluff - Oct. 4, 2019 by Tim Shelley

An 8-year-old girl is expected to recover after she was shot in the leg this morning on Peoria's West Bluff.

Central Illinois Plays Role in Bust of International Fentanyl Ring - Oct. 2, 2019 by Tim Shelley

An alleged conspiracy to import and distribute deadly fentanyl and synthetic opioids touched Central Illinois.

Politics and Government

New Year, New Laws: What's Coming in 2020 - Dec. 30, 2019 by Sam Dunklau

The more than 255 new Illinois laws taking effect on New Year's Day may affect everything from your car to your paycheck.

Central Illinois Representatives Praise Passage of USMCA Trade Agreement - Dec. 20, 2019 by Ryan Denham and Dana Vollmer

Central Illinois congressional representatives are praising the [bipartisan House passage of an updated trade agreement](#) among the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

Central Illinois Delegation Splits Along Party Lines on Impeachment - Dec. 19, 2019 by Tim Shelley

As expected, Central Illinois' congressional delegation split along party lines on the roll call for two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump.

Peoria Takes Part in Nationwide Impeachment Protests - Dec. 17, 2017 by Tim Shelley

A frequent forum for political protest in Peoria was the host for about 100 ralliers calling for President Donald Trump's impeachment Tuesday.

General Counsel Recommends Tossing Out Fawell Petition Challenge - Dec. 16, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The Illinois State Board of Elections' general counsel is recommending tossing out a petition challenge to 17th District congressional candidate Bill Fawell.

As Impeachment Vote Nears, Republican Groups Aim at Lawmakers on Both Sides - Dec. 16, 2019 by Brian Mackey

As members of the U.S. House of Representatives [prepare](#) to vote on whether to impeach President Trump this week, Republican interest groups have been waging an ad war in selected districts across the country, including in Illinois.

LaHood Says Impeachment is “Witch Hunt by the Democrats” - Dec. 13, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Republican Congressman Darin LaHood says he won't vote to impeach President Donald Trump.

Elections Board to Decide if Anonymous Objection Can Bump Candidates - Dec. 11, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Can an anonymous person bump a candidate off the ballot? The Illinois State Board of Elections will decide next week.

Peoria Council OK's Recreational Pot Sales at 2 Locations - Dec. 11, 2019 by H. Wayne Wilson

The sale of recreational marijuana in the City of Peoria moved a step closer to reality last night.

Bustos: Today Is A Bad Day For America - Dec. 10, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-Moline) said introducing articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump isn't a task she relished.

Bustos Says USMCA Good For American Workers - Dec. 10, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-Moline) said the revised USMCA trade agreement with Mexico and Canada protects the interests of farmers, organized labor, and environmental organizations.

Illinois GOP Chooses Peoria For 2020 Convention - Dec. 10, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The Illinois Republican Party will again host their convention at the Peoria Civic Center next year.

MacArthur Highway Revitalization Plan Up For Council Vote - Dec. 9, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The Peoria City Council is set to vote Tuesday on approval of a final plan to revitalize the MacArthur Highway corridor.

With Eye Towards More Diversity, Peoria Plots Plan Forward - Dec. 6, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The Peoria City Council will hear Tuesday how the city is progressing on its diversity hiring goals.

In Peoria, Lori Lightfoot Weighs in on CPD Turmoil - Dec. 4, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot said she's asked the inspector general to complete an investigation into former Chicago Police Superintendent's conduct "as expeditiously as possible."

Chicago Mayor Urges Cooperation on Pension Issues - Dec. 4, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot said she wants to work with Peoria and other Illinois cities on issues of shared concern.

East Peoria Keeps Property Tax Rate Flat - Dec. 4, 2019 by Tim Shelley

East Peoria's property tax rate will remain the same next year.

Democrat Mark Haasis Challenges Darin LaHood for IL-18 Seat - Dec. 3, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Democrat Mark Haasis is challenging Darin LaHood for the right to represent the 18th Congressional District.

New Effort to Erect Reagan Statue at State Capitol Underway - Dec. 3, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Eureka College is working with a state representative to erect a statue of Ronald Reagan at the state Capitol.

Pritzker Campaign Seeks Sanctions Against Plaintiffs in Racial Discrimination Lawsuit - Dec. 3, 2019 by Brian Mackey

Gov. J.B. Pritzker's campaign operation is striking back against a group of former workers who're suing for racial discrimination.

Gun Ownership Case Asks Illinois Court: Can A Convict Ever Own a Gun? - Nov. 27, 2019 by Sam Dunklau

The Illinois Supreme Court heard arguments in a case that could determine whether a person convicted of battery can still own a gun.

Lawmakers, Aviation Companies Disappointed in Pritzker Tax Exemption Veto - Nov. 26, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Gov. J.B. Pritzker vetoed a bill Monday to exempt private aviation repair companies from paying sales taxes on parts through 2024.

Pekin City Council Oks Recreational Cannabis Businesses - Nov. 26, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The Pekin City Council approved zoning provisions for recreational cannabis businesses at its meeting Monday.

2020 Election Season Fires Up With Petition Filing - Nov. 25, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Monday is the first day for candidates to file their petitions with election authorities. Central Illinois is set to see competitive races on the national, state, and local levels.

Peoria County Eyes "Status Quo" 2020 Budget - Nov. 25, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Peoria County's proposed \$133 million 2020 budget makes a full payment to employee pensions without raising property taxes.

Tazewell Board Fumes At County Clerk Employee Pay Raises - Nov. 21, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The Tazewell County Board is in a furor after County Clerk John Ackerman gave his employees raises after the board approved a budget next year.

Pritzker Shoots Down Constitutional Amendment to Address Pension Liability - Nov. 20, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Governor J.B. Pritzker shot down the suggestion of amending the Illinois Constitution to address the state's public pension funding deficit.

EP Council Appears to Compromise on Firefighter Contract - Nov. 19, 2019 by Tim Shelley

It appears a protracted dispute over the East Peoria firefighter union's contract may be resolved.

New Extended Stay Hotel Planned in East Peoria - Nov. 19, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Another hotel is set to open in East Peoria.

Ardis Says More to be Done on Public Safety Pension - Nov. 15, 2019 by Dana Vollmer

Illinois lawmakers have officially sent a police and fire pension consolidation plan to Governor J.B. Pritzker's desk.

Council Roundup: New Southside Bar, Scooter Pilot Approved - Nov. 13, 2019 by H. Wayne Wilson

A site on Peoria's southside that has been a problem bar in the past will get a liquor license, but with a change.

Study Suggests Some Conflict is Good for Local Government - Nov. 13, 2019 by Chase Cavanaugh

Political conflict can be both helpful and harmful to local government. According to a new study, which it is depends on the nature of the conflict.

East Galesburg Mayor, Police Department Resign En Masse- Nov. 8, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The mayor, village clerk, and entire police department of East Galesburg have resigned en masse.

Tony Ardis to Become Next Peoria Fire Chief - Nov. 7, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Peoria Fire Chief Ed Olehy is retiring.

Peoria Council Passes \$218M Biennial Budget by H. Wayne Wilson

The Peoria City Council approved next year's budget in less than one hour last night.

What They Said: House Impeachment Inquiry Vote- Oct. 31, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Congressman Darin LaHood says the House vote today formalizing the impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump is an attempted nullification of the 2016 elections.

Peoria City Council Gives Nod to 3 New Fees - Oct. 30, 2019 by H Wayne Wilson

The Peoria City Council last night gave an initial okay to three sources of income to help balance its budget for next year.

Peoria Business Community Offers Budget Balancing Proposals - Oct. 29, 2019 by H Wayne Wilson

The business community is offering its own suggestions for the city of Peoria's 2020 budget.

Mike Unes Stepping Down After 5 Terms in Statehouse - Oct. 24, 2019 by Tim Shelley

State Rep. Mike Unes (R-East Peoria) is not running for a 6th term.

Peoria Heights Greenlights Al Fresco Park Plans - Oct. 24, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The Peoria Heights Village Board unanimously approved developer Kim Blickenstaff's plans to revive Al Fresco Park on Tuesday.

Advocates Say Clean Energy Jobs Act Can't Wait Until Next Year - Oct. 23, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Four Central Illinois coal plants and a southern Illinois coal mine are slated to close by year's end.

Kinzinger Calls for Trump to Retract "Lynching" Tweet - Oct. 22, 2019 by Tim Shelley

U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-Channahon) is calling on President Donald Trump to pull down a tweet comparing the House impeachment inquiry to a "lynching."

GOP Presidential Candidate Mark Sanford Says Debt is Top Priority - Oct. 18, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Long-shot GOP presidential candidate Mark Sanford made a stop in Peoria today on the first leg of his campaign kickoff tour.

Krishnamoorthi: Mulvaney Made "Candid Admission" of Quid Pro Quo - Oct. 18, 2019 by Tim Shelley

U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-Schaumburg) said acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney's press conference yesterday is just the latest sign of wrongdoing with the Trump administration's interactions with Ukraine.

Bustos Raises Big in Third Quarter - Oct. 16, 2019 by Tim Shelley

U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos raised more than \$1.5 million in this third quarter of this year.

Peoria City Council Officially OK's Recreational Marijuana, Hears Budget Proposal - Oct. 16, 2019 by H Wayne Wilson

The City of Peoria could see the sale of recreational cannabis next year. The city council last night approved an ordinance to allow adult-use marijuana dispensaries.

Peoria Prepares to Roll Out Ring Doorbell Camera Subsidies - Oct. 15, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The city of Peoria is partnering with Amazon's Ring to distribute doorbell cameras at a steep discount.

Expert: Ukraine Whistleblower Process Puts Them, Search For Facts at Risk - Oct. 14, 2019 by Tim Shelley

An expert on whistleblowing said the way the president's Ukraine phone call scandal is playing out in public is undermining the investigation process.

Illinois Voters Support More Statewide Gun Regulation, Survey Shows - Oct. 14, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Illinois residents across the state, and across party lines, largely support more gun regulations.

Peoria Projects A Balance 2020-21 Budget - Oct. 10, 2019 by H. Wayne Wilson

The city of Peoria's budget next year will be 6.2 percent higher than this year's budget.

Unified Democratic Control Changes Illinois Veto Session Dynamics - Oct. 11, 2019 by Tim Shelley

State Rep. Ryan Spain (R-Peoria) said he expects the dynamics of the upcoming veto session to be a lot different than the last few years.

LaHood: U.S. Syria Withdrawal Set Up Kurds For "Slaughter" - Oct. 10, 2019 by Tim Shelley

U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood (R-Peoria) is criticizing President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. forces from northern Syria.

Redistricting Advocate Says Proposal Has The Votes, But Needs Pritzker's Blessing to Move Forward – Oct. 10, 2019 by Tim Shelley

A prominent redistricting reform advocate says he thinks the latest effort to change how the state draws legislative maps has enough support in the Illinois General Assembly to move forward.

Criminal Justice System Making Progress, But There's More Work To Do - Oct. 9, 2019 by Dana Vollmer

State and federal lawmakers are celebrating the relative success of recent criminal justice reforms. But they admit there's still a long way to go.

Science and Technology

Glasford Meteor May Have Played A Role in Ancient Ice Age - Nov. 19, 2019 by Tim Shelley

New research on a central Illinois crater suggests possible links to an Ice Age about 455 million years ago.

To Bring Back Birds, Lose the Lawn and Plant Native Species - Oct. 23, 2019 by Connie Kuntz

Wild Ones of the Rock River Valley and Natural Land Institute (NLI) have partnered to help people create yards that are environmentally friendly.

Could Trees Help Address the Midwest Farm Crisis - And Climate Change? Oct. 17, 2019 by Dana Vollmer

A Hanna City farm will soon serve as a model for how to incorporate trees into agriculture.

Exact Replica of Armstrong's Spacesuit Finds a Home in Peoria - Oct. 11, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Neil Armstrong's spacesuit is on permanent display at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. But Peoria Riverfront Museum officials say the next best thing is right here in Central Illinois.

Civil Rights

New Illinois Policy Bans Prisoners From Receiving Content Downloaded from the Internet - Nov. 12, 2019 by Lee Gaines

The Illinois Department of Corrections has revised its publication review policy to include a centralized appeal process for incarcerated people who feel they've been unfairly denied access to certain reading materials.

Reports of Bias Incidents on the Rise at the University of Illinois - Oct. 21, 2019 by Lee Gaines

Four swastikas were found on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus in the last two weeks.

Transportation

Peoria Doesn't Have Passenger Trains. Could More Bussing Be the Answer? Dec. 30, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Passenger trains last rolled into a Peoria train station in the early 1980s. But there may be a way to link the River City's residents to the rails once again.

Alternative Fuel Along I-80 - Nov. 11, 2019 by Herb Trix

Illinois and Iowa will work with four other states to study the availability of "alternative fuel" along Interstate 80.

Murray Baker Bridge Lighting Project is A Go - Oct. 22, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The five-year capital construction plan released by the Illinois Department of Transportation Monday includes \$3.5 million for relighting the bridge.

I-74 Pinecrest Overpass Set For Replacement Next Year - Oct. 22, 2019 by Tim Shelley

The Pinecrest Drive overpass above Interstate 74 in East Peoria is set for replacement next year.

Peoria Region Getting \$1.5B In Infrastructure Funding - Oct. 21, 2019 by Tim Shelley

Central Illinois will receive \$1.52 billion under the five-year capital improvement plan released Monday by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Lawmaker Wants To Ditch Red Light Cameras - Oct. 18, 2019 by Maureen McKinney

Amid a federal corruption probe, a suburban Chicago lawmaker wants to effectively ban red-light cameras.