

Business and Economy

[Peoria May Not See Same Unemployment Rate Swell As Other Cities, GPEDC Says](#) – March 30, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Illinois unemployment claims skyrocketed from 10,000 the week ending March 14 to more than 114,000 the following week.

[Peoria Distillery Switches To Hand Sanitizer Production](#) – March 23, 2020 by Tim Shelley

A nascent Peoria whiskey distillery is now switching to hand sanitizer production.

[IHSA Cancels March Madness Tournament Due To COVID-19 Concerns](#) – March 12, 2020 by Tim Shelley

The Illinois High School Association canceled all remaining winter activities Thursday evening, including the Boys Basketball Tournament in Peoria.

[Old Big Box Stores Could Soon House Indoor Storage Units](#) – March 6, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Vacant big box stores in Peoria may soon find new life as indoor self-service warehousing.

[After 7 Years of Delays, Peoria's Largest Hotel Reopens](#) – Jan. 28, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Peoria's largest hotel is finally open once again.

Education and Family

[Crittenton Centers Offers Free Diapers And Formula For Curbside Pickup](#) – March 23, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

The Peoria-based child welfare organization Crittenton Centers is offering free curbside pick up of formula and diapers for parents in need.

Dunlap Teachers Bring 'Royal Road Rally' To The Students – March 23, 2020 by Kristin McHugh

Staff of Dunlap Grade School found a way to connect with students Monday.

School Board Allows Embattled Glen Oak Teacher To Keep Job – March 10, 2020 by Tim Shelley

It appears an East Bluff middle school teacher will get a second chance.

Parents Lend Extra Set Of Eyes, Ears To Peoria Teachers – March 5, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

Some students need extra help in the classroom and, much as they try, sometimes teachers can't do it all. The non-profit [Peoria Friendship House](#) has begun a mentorship program with the idea that some of the best teachers are parents.

OSF Children's ER Now Open 24 Hours – Jan. 27, 2020 by Tim Shelley

A children's emergency room at the OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois is now open 24 hours a day.

Election 2020

Tazewell Voters Choose New Auditor After Bitter Race – March 17, 2020 by Tim Shelley

It appears Tazewell County has a new auditor.

Peoria County Voters Opt To Keep Incumbents – March 17, 2020 by Tim Shelley

It appears most Peoria County voters prefer to keep the incumbents currently holding the state's attorney and county clerk's offices.

Responding to Virus Concerns, Peoria County Moves Several Polling Places – March 10, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Peoria County is moving three polling places as a precautionary measure to protect vulnerable people from the flu and COVID-19.

Authorities Say Voting By Mail Is An Option to Avoid Germs at the Polling Place – March 5, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Local election authorities are reminding people that voting by mail is an option as fears about the coronavirus, the flu, and other illnesses dominate the headlines in the lead-up to March 17's primary.

GOP Senate Candidate Backtracks on Claim She Brought Gun Into School – Feb. 21, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Republican U.S. Senate candidate Peggy Hubbard is calling media reports on her claim she brought a gun and ammunition into a suburban Chicago high school "fake news."

Health and Medicine

Peoria On Waitlist for Expanded COVID-19 Testing Resources – March 31, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Drive-thru COVID-19 testing similar to what rolled out in McLean County this past weekend isn't here in Peoria - yet.

Bustos, LaHood Support \$2T Coronavirus Relief Package – March 27, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-Moline) is applauding the passage of the CARES Act - the single largest relief package in American history.

Heartland Health Rolling Out Mobile Clinics for the Homeless – March 25, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Heartland Health Services is rolling out a mobile clinic this week to provide medical screening and care to local shelters.

Reducing Risk For People Who Use Drugs During COVID-19 – March 24, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

People suffering from substance use disorder may be unable to find supply or a safe way to use during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Red Cross: Blood Donations Needed Now – March 24, 2020 by Tim Shelley

The Red Cross says blood donations are badly needed as COVID-19 forces the cancellation of blood drives across the country.

Funeral Directors Recommend Only Small Graveside Services For Now – March 19, 2020 by Tim Shelley

The Illinois Funeral Directors Association says services should be limited to 10 or fewer people for the time being.

Higher Education

Online Classes Start For Bradley University Students, Triggering Struggles For Some – March 30, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

Bradley University students have returned from spring break. But for the rest of the semester their classes will take place online.

Bradley Student Studying Abroad Program Tests Positive for COVID-19 – March 27, 2020 by Tim Shelley

A Bradley University student enrolled in the Semester Abroad program has tested positive for COVID-19.

Bradley Orders Students To Go Home, Implements Hiring and Spending Freezes – March 17, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Bradley University is taking additional measures as part of its COVID-19 response.

Bradley Taps Butler University Dean As Next President – March 12, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Bradley University has named Stephen Standifird as its 12th president.

Former Bradley Baseball Star Among Victims in Lincoln Plane Crash – March 4, 2020 by Tim Shelley

A former star Bradley baseball pitcher was the pilot in [Tuesday's fatal plane crash](#) near Lincoln.

Police and Courts

Hours-Long Standoff Ends With Suspect's Apparent Suicide – March 31, 2020 by Tim Shelley

A four-hour long standoff with the suspect in a pair of incidents over the weekend died Tuesday with his apparent suicide by gunshot in a North Valley home.

Peoria Police Seek Suspect Believed Armed and Dangerous – March 29, 2020 by Tim Shelley

The Peoria Police Department is asking for the public's help to find a suspect considered armed and dangerous.

Peoria County Jail Adjusts Procedures in the Wake of COVID-19 – March 23, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Peoria County Sheriff Brian Asbell said he's working to reduce the number of inmates in close quarters at the jail in the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Help Still Available For Domestic Abuse Survivors During 'Stay-At-Home' Period – March 23, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Peoria County Sheriff Brian Asbell says he's seen an increase in domestic violence cases as people are forced to spend more time cooped up with each other in close quarters.

Koehler Advocates Permanent Funding Fix For Police Training Centers – March 6, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Illinois police training centers are struggling to stay open after reforms to traffic fines and fees took a major bite out of their only revenue stream.

Politics and Government

Tazewell Board Approves Bonus Pay For Election Judges – March 26, 2020 by Tim Shelley

The Tazewell County Board approved a \$35 pay increase for election judges who worked the recent primary election.

Peoria Council Grants Mayor Ardis Emergency Powers – March 25, 2020 by Kathy Rynearson

With half of the council attending via phone, the Peoria City Council updated the emergency powers of the mayor last night.

Knox County Activates Emergency Operation Center – March 19, 2020 by Tim Shelley
Knox County is launching its emergency operation center to better respond to COVID-19.

1-On-1 With Gov. J.B. Pritzker on the COVID-19 Response – March 16, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Governor J.B. Pritzker says the federal and state governments are working to blunt the blow of a two-week bar and restaurant closure as much as possible.

EP Mayor: State of the City is Strong – March 6, 2020 by Tim Shelley

East Peoria Mayor John Kahl said the state of the city is "one of confidence and promise."

Public Guardian Blasts DCFS For Silence on Tate Thurman Case – March 3, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Cook County Public Guardian Charles Golbert said DCFS isn't being transparent about its potential involvement with the family of a 4-year-old East Peoria boy who died last month.

Tazewell County Clerk John Ackerman Censured After Board Reconsideration – Feb. 26, 2020 by Tim Shelley

The Tazewell County Board reconsidered its vote not to censure county clerk John Ackerman last month, and voted almost unanimously to reprimand him over employee pay raises.

Science and Technology

Preparing For A Future of Smart Mobility Requires Coordination Now, Experts Say – March 13, 2020 by Steve Tarter

Preparing for the transportation needs of the future—whether through autonomous vehicles, electric power or ride-sharing—is going to require coordination.

NASA Names Spacecraft For Bradley Alum, First Black Astronaut – Feb. 7, 2020 by Tim Shelley

NASA is naming a spacecraft after a Bradley University graduate who was [the first African American](#) chosen to be an astronaut.

Native Illinois River Fish Are Dying Younger. "Why" Isn't an Easy Question to Answer – Jan. 28, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Sportfish in the Illinois River are dying younger.

