

WCBU Issues and Programs Report July-September 2019

Business and Economy

The following issues were addressed during WCBU Newscasts during MORNING EDITION from 6 to 9 am M-F and during ALL THINGS CONSIDERED from 3-6PM, M-F, The story lengths range from 54 seconds to 45 minutes.

[South Side Staple Looks to Leave Peoria, Citing Unfriendly Business Climate](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 21, 2019

Just two years after Ernie's Dairy Dream re-opened on Peoria's South Side, the business is looking to pick up and leave the city.

[Pekin's Maurie's Candy Store Is Rebooting in Eureka](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 18, 2019

A recently closed Central Illinois confectionary institution is coming back under new ownership.

[Flash Index: 3rd Month Of Decline, But State Economy Still Growing](#)

By JIM MEADOWS • JUL 2, 2019

The June numbers for the University of Illinois' Flash Index show the Illinois economy's growth rate has fallen for two months in a row. But the economist who compiles the index isn't too concerned. The Flash Index measured the health of the state's economy at 105.6 in April, 105.4 in May and 105.2 in June.

Education and Family

[Peoria Public Schools Board President Dan Adler Stepping Down At End of Term](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 23, 2019

Peoria Public Schools Board of Education President Dan Adler is declining to run for another term. Adler has served on the board since July 2015. Adler said he's confident in Superintendent Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat's leadership of the district. He said he feels it's time to step down and pass on the torch to new leadership so he can spend more time with his family.

He works as an engineer at Caterpillar. Adler represents District 3 on the school board. Anyone looking to fill the seat must submit their nominating petitions between Oct. 28 and Nov. 4.

[Kits Could Help Kids Survive Life-Threatening Injury](#)

By DUSTY RHODES • SEP 10, 2019

Over the summer, public schools across Illinois received kits designed to help staff members respond in the event of life-threatening injuries. Each kit contains Nitrile gloves, a MicroShield mask, QuikClot bandages, and a tourniquet — just enough supplies to help save one person from bleeding to death. Schools can receive up to five more free kits if they train more staff on a curriculum called [STOP the Bleed](#).

[Bradley Makes the Grade in Annual College Rankings Report](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 9, 2019

Bradley University is high on the list in a new Best Colleges Rankings from U.S News and World Report. The publication ranks Bradley as the 4th best regional university in the Midwest, and the best in Illinois. Bradley was also ranked as the most innovative school and the best school for veterans in the Land of Lincoln. The school also had the best-rated undergraduate engineering program in the state. “It’s so nice to have an outside source like this to recognize all the work that we’ve put into what we do here at Bradley, said spokeswoman Renee Charles.

[‘Nearly Every District Is Looking For Teachers’: Teacher Shortage Still A Struggle In Illinois](#)

By LEE V. GAINES • SEP 3, 2019

This year, lawmakers approved a slew of new legislation intended to address Illinois’ teacher shortage. But Mark Klaisner, the new president of the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools, said school districts across the state are still struggling to fill open teaching positions.

[Peoria Park District Pursues Forest Park Nature Center Purchase](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 13, 2019

The Peoria Park District is working to buy Forest Park Nature Center.

[‘This Is All Of Our Fight:’ Confronting White Nationalism In Illinois Schools](#)

By LEE V. GAINES • AUG 13, 2019

A progressive Jewish organization is [hosting a workshop](#) in Champaign on Thursday evening to help educators identify and counteract white nationalism in schools. It’s one of a series of events hosted by Bend the Arc:CU focused on increasing community safety.

[Pritzker Signs Bill Requiring Illinois Schools Teach LGBT History](#)

By LEE V. GAINES • AUG 13, 2019

Beginning next year, Illinois schools will be required to include the positive contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals in their history curriculum.

[New Law Will Require Illinois Students To Apply For Financial Aid](#)

By LEE V. GAINES • AUG 6, 2019

Illinois is now the third state to require graduating high school seniors fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, otherwise known as the FAFSA form.

[New Law Will Require Illinois Students To Apply For Financial Aid](#)

By LEE V. GAINES • AUG 6, 2019

Illinois is now the third state to require graduating high school seniors fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, otherwise known as the FAFSA form.

[U of I Study: Disparities In Discipline For Black And White Students May Start With Teacher Warnings](#)

By LEE V. GAINES • AUG 5, 2019

A recent study from the University of Illinois found that black middle school students were less likely to be warned by a teacher about misbehavior than their white peers.

[Innovators Gather For Some Serious Food Talk](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 1, 2019

Entrepreneurs met Wednesday in Peoria's Warehouse District for some serious food talk. The inaugural Greater Peoria Food Innovation Meetup at Sous Chef attracted a large crowd of people who make food their business across Central Illinois.

"There's a whole different slew of products in the food arena that really qualify as innovation, but maybe not innovation as we would usually define it," said Tory Dahlhoff, the rural development coordinator for the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council.

[Peoria's Mr. Basketball, Howard Nathan, Dies At 47](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 29, 2019

Illinois' former Mr. Basketball, Howard Nathan, has passed away at age 47.

[Mayor's Youth Program More Than Just Work Experience](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 26, 2019

Community leaders came together today to celebrate the young people who helped make Peoria a bit more beautiful this summer in the Mayor's Youth Program.

[Peoria Public Schools Hires New Athletic Director](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • JUL 17, 2019

A former local basketball standout is the new Peoria Public Schools District 150 director of athletics. A.J. Guyton's appointment was announced Wednesday. He's responsible for primary and middle school sporting activities.

[Peoria Public Schools Takes Aim At Cellphone Distractions In the Classroom](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 16, 2019

Peoria Public Schools is adopting a new policy aimed at distracting cellphone usage in the classroom.

[Composting Could Be Coming to More Schools Near You](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 8, 2019

One Central Illinois company wants to make it easier for schools to recycle food waste. Better Earth Logistics is rolling out a new composting program for schools in Peoria and Tazewell counties. Co-founder Luke Rosenbohm said he wants to teach future generations how to cut down on wasted food.

[Test Review: ISBE Wants Exams Aligned](#)

By DUSTY RHODES • JUL 8, 2019

The Illinois State Board of Education has decided to review the slate of standardized tests students take, to try to make sure the exams align with each other.

Currently, kindergarteners are evaluated by one test, then elementary students with another, and high school juniors with a third. All those tests measure different concepts, making it difficult to see where the curriculum needs to be improved.

Amanda Elliott, legislative affairs director with the state board, says the current system causes many districts to implement additional tests.

Election 2020

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It's National Voter Registration Day. Are You Ready To Head To The Polls?

By DANA VOLLMER • SEP 24, 2019

Today is National Voter Registration Day, an annual reminder to register for the first time or update your voter information.

Tazewell County Clerk Says Your Vote is Safe Amid Election Security Concerns

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 5, 2019

Concerns have been raised about election hacking in the wake of the 2016 elections. As the next presidential race approaches, Tazewell County Clerk John Ackerman said there's no need to worry about somebody changing your actual vote.

Health and Medicine

[Central Illinois Transgender Community Benefiting from Closer Hormone Therapy Access](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 30, 2019

It's often a battle for transgender people to get access to healthcare services. That's especially true in Central Illinois, where gender-affirming hormone therapy only recently became available. Dana Garber is the transgender intake coordinator for Planned Parenthood of Illinois in Peoria and Pekin. She began her own hormone therapy in Chicago, the nearest place that offered it at the time. But that option wasn't available to everyone.

[Reducing the "Financial Toxicity" Linked to Cancer Treatments](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 30, 2019

A University of Illinois College of Medicine doctor in Peoria is leading research on reducing the "financial toxicity" of cancer treatment. Dr. Carl Asche is the director for the Centers for Outcomes Research at UICOMP. He said out-of-pocket repercussions linked to cancer treatment include bankruptcy, drained retirement savings, conditions like depression, and skipped medications and therapies. Asche knows of these hardships first-hand from his wife's cancer treatments.

[Caterpillar Insurance Contract with OSF Expires Monday](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 25, 2019

OSF and Caterpillar have only a few days left to come to an agreement on continued hospital and home care coverage for Big Yellow's employees.

[Why Higher STI Rates in Peoria County Might Actually Be a Positive Indicator](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 24, 2019

The 2018 Peoria County Sexually Transmitted Infection Report found chlamydia and gonorrhea rates are 1.5 to 3 times above the Illinois average. Syphilis rates have spiked by 80 percent.

[Stigmas Around Addiction Treatment Breaking Down, But More Work to Be Done, Expert Says](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 18, 2019

The past president of the Illinois Association of Addiction Professionals spoke Wednesday in Pekin for a National Recovery Month networking luncheon.

[Expert: Talk To Your Kids About Vaping Risks](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 17, 2019

The FDA is weighing a crackdown on flavored vapes as more people are suffering from respiratory illnesses linked to e-cigarette usage. Seven people are now reported dead, including one from Illinois.

[Lawmakers Aim to Cap Monthly Insulin Prices at \\$100 For Some Patients](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 16, 2019

A group of Illinois Democratic lawmakers want to cap insulin prices at \$100 per month.

[Dementia Care Site Coming To Pekin](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • SEP 11, 2019

Tazewell County will be home to one of 40 new dementia care sites in Illinois.

[Peorians Plea For Tough Coal Ash Regulations at Illinois EPA Hearing](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 10, 2019

A small but vocal group of local residents came out Tuesday to offer their input to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency on new coal ash regulations.

[Kits Could Help Kids Survive Life-Threatening Injury](#)

By DUSTY RHODES • SEP 10, 2019

Over the summer, public schools across Illinois received kits designed to help staff members respond in the event of life-threatening injuries. Each kit contains Nitrile gloves, a MicroShield mask, QuikClot bandages, and a tourniquet — just enough supplies to help save one person from bleeding to death. Schools can receive up to five more free kits if they train more staff on a curriculum called [STOP the Bleed](#).

[Federal Food Program May Be Inequitable For Rural Child Care Providers, New U Of I Study Finds](#)

By CHRISTINE HERMAN • SEP 9, 2019

The federal [Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) reimburses child care providers for serving up nutritious foods to children in their care. It serves more than [4.2 million U.S. children each day](#), according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

[How One Rural Town Plans to Buck the Food Desert Trend](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 9, 2019

A Logan County town's new grocery store may provide a model other rural food deserts can follow.

[Non-Profit Warns Of Fake Xanax In Peoria Area](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • SEP 6, 2019

At least one person in the Peoria area has been hospitalized after taking what they thought was Xanax, but turned out to be bath salts.

[City Buys One Technology Parking Deck From Caterpillar](#)

By H. WAYNE WILSON • AUG 28, 2019

OSF HealthCare employees will have available parking when its new mission headquarters opens in downtown.

[UnityPoint Pekin Hospital Touts Renovated Facilities](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 23, 2019

UnityPoint Health - Pekin celebrated the completion of major renovations at the hospital with a ribbon cutting Friday.

[Environmentalists: Vistra Power Plant Closures Favor Dirtier, Cheaper Facilities](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 22, 2019

Environmentalists are blasting Vistra Energy's coal-burning power plant closure announcement as a cynical cost-cutting move.

[Illinois Lawmaker Is Optimistic New EpiPen Law Will Lower Costs, Despite Critics' Concerns](#)

By CHRISTINE HERMAN • AUG 22, 2019

Illinois will soon [require insurers](#) to cover EpiPens and similar devices for children 18 and under. But questions remain about whether the law will really lower costs for consumers.

[Pritzker: Illinois Stands With Planned Parenthood on New Abortion "Gag Rule"](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 19, 2019

Governor J.B. Pritzker says Illinois will join Planned Parenthood in turning down millions of dollars in federal Title X funding for reproductive health services as long as a new "gag rule" remains in effect.

[How OSF HealthCare is Tackling Health Issues at Their Roots, Outside the Hospital](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 15, 2019

We think of hospitals as places one goes to receive medical treatment. OSF HealthCare is exploring ways to prevent people from ending up there in the first place.

[Woodford County Moves To Ban Recreational Cannabis Sales and Cultivation](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 15, 2019

Woodford County is drafting an ordinance to ban recreational cannabis cultivation and sales.

[The Recipe for Ending Hunger: Attacking Poverty at Its Roots](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 8, 2019

Diabetes. Heart disease. High blood pressure. Depression. These are some of the factors the CDC found were constants among people suffering from food insecurity.

[Koehler: Filling Peoria's Food Gap Will Require New Ideas](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 30, 2019

Shrinking Peoria's food deserts might require thinking differently about grocery stores.

[National Publication Ranks Peoria Hospitals](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • JUL 30, 2019

Peoria's largest hospitals have earned distinction in an annual health care review. U.S. News and World Report's Best Hospital analysis says OSF Saint Francis Medical Center is the sixth-best hospital in Illinois. UnityPoint Health in Peoria is ranked 18th.

[Red Cross Issues Regional Blood Shortage Emergency](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • JUL 29, 2019

The American Red Cross is urging Illinoisans to roll up their sleeves and donate blood to help address a regional shortage.

[Advocates Push For Medication Access Amid Spike In HIV Among Young People](#)

By MAUREEN MCKINNEY • JUL 29, 2019

A measure awaiting Governor J.B. Pritzker's signature would allow minors who are at least 12 years old to get access to an HIV prevention drug without a parent or guardian's permission.

[OSF Weighing New Partnership With Princeton Hospital](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 23, 2019

OSF HealthCare and Perry Memorial Hospital in Princeton are eyeing "a variety of partnership options."

[Lawyers Cry Foul On State Deal With Sterigenics](#)

By SAM DUNKLAU • JUL 19, 2019

Illinois reached an agreement this week with a suburban Chicago cleaning facility that was releasing toxins into the air at unsafe levels. But attorneys representing residents who live near the plant aren't happy with it.

[UICOMP Awarded Cancer Research Grant](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • JUL 18, 2019

The University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria's cancer research program has earned a financial boost.

[\\$50M In Donations Unlocks Major Medical Research Expansion In Peoria](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 17, 2019

A medical research partnership between OSF HealthCare and the University of Illinois is getting a big boost.

[Dangerous Heat Predicted Through Weekend](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • JUL 17, 2019

Forecasters warn dangerously hot temperatures and oppressive humidity will persist through the weekend. An excessive heat warning is in effect through Saturday evening.

[Central Illinois Friends Making Strides on Sex Education and STD Prevention](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 16, 2019

One local organization is working to break down barriers around testing for and even talking about sexually transmitted diseases with teenagers.

Deric Kimler is the executive director of [Central Illinois Friends](#). The group was started in 1990 by a group of local citizens concerned about the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Since then, the group has expanded into sex education and STD testing, prevention and treatment referrals throughout the 16 Central Illinois counties they serve.

[Tri-County Area Sees Higher Rates of Suicide, Obesity and Cancer Than State Average](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 15, 2019

The area's major health providers are working to assess and address the community's biggest health needs.

[Overdose Deaths Plunged In Peoria County in 2018](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 10, 2019

Proactive measures by community health organizations helped make a dent in Peoria County's overdose death numbers last year.

That's according to Peoria City/County Health Department Administrator Monica Hendrickson. The 2018 Mortality Report shows that Peoria County saw a 22 percent drop in overdose deaths from 2017. Hendrickson says there are a few factors at work.

[Peoria Fire Department Developing Policy To Combat Cancer](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 9, 2019

Peoria Fire Chief Ed Olehy is working to craft policies to cut down on firefighter exposure to carcinogens.

[Composting Could Be Coming to More Schools Near You](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 8, 2019

One Central Illinois company wants to make it easier for schools to recycle food waste. Better Earth Logistics is rolling out a new composting program for schools in Peoria and Tazewell counties. Co-founder Luke Rosenbohm said he wants to teach future generations how to cut down on wasted food.

[Summertime Parasite Outbreaks On The Rise](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • JUL 8, 2019

Public health officials are warning pool-goers about an uptick in infection from a water-based parasite.

[UPDATE: No Conflict On Breastfeeding At Public Pools, IDPH Says](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 5, 2019

A recent incident in Chillicothe now has the park district asking: just what are the state's rules for breastfeeding in or near a public pool?

On Tuesday, a woman was breastfeeding her daughter while dipping her feet in the water at Shore Acres Pool. An employee asked her to cover up or go somewhere else. The woman claimed this broke the law.

Chillicothe Park District Executive Director Kevin Yates said mothers are allowed to breastfeed at all of their facilities. But he said there's a discrepancy in Illinois law when it comes to nursing near a pool.

Higher Education

[Enrollment Exodus: When Western Illinois University Struggles, So Does The Whole Region](#)

By PETER MEDLIN • SEP 27, 2019

As part of our statewide “Enrollment Exodus” collaboration, WNIJ’s Peter Medlin spoke with Tri States Public Radio News Director Rich Egger. They talked about Egger’s reporting on Western Illinois University and how enrollment decline affects every part of their community.

[ICC Leading New Workforce Equity Initiative](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 23, 2019

Illinois Central College is leading a nearly 19-million-dollar effort aimed at helping people in high unemployment, low-income areas obtain living wage jobs.

[U Of I Police Investigating Report Of Noose Found In Student Dorm Elevator](#)

By CHRISTINE HERMAN • SEP 3, 2019

Officials at the University of Illinois are investigating a report of a noose found in an elevator at Allen Hall, a student dorm in Urbana.

[With Data Breaches Soaring, Community Colleges Launch Cybersecurity Programs](#)

By PETER MEDLIN • AUG 23, 2019

More than [four billion private records were exposed](#) by data breaches in the first half of 2019. Illinois residents have seen their fair share of information compromises. In July, [the state received a share](#) of the Equifax settlement.

These information hacks continue to dominate the headlines. The business of ensuring online privacy is also booming. Right now, there are [nearly 3 million unfilled positions](#) in cybersecurity.

[‘Our Life Turned Upside Down’: Family Of Yingying Zhang Creates Fund To Help Others](#)

By CHRISTINE HERMAN • AUG 20, 2019

The family of University of Illinois visiting scholar Yingying Zhang has created an [endowment fund](#) in her memory. The money will be used to support international students in crisis and their families.

At a press conference Monday, U of I officials thanked the Zhang family for their initial gift of \$30,000 to the fund. An additional \$24,000 in contributions have poured in from more than 440 donors.

[Lawmakers Question University, State Officials About Misuse Of Need-Based Financial Aid System](#)

By LEE V. GAINES • AUG 9, 2019

State lawmakers expressed outrage during a legislative hearing Thursday over the issue of affluent families from Chicago suburbs transferring guardianship of their children to another adult in order to qualify them for need-based financial aid they otherwise wouldn't receive.

[New Law Will Require Illinois Students To Apply For Financial Aid](#)

By LEE V. GAINES • AUG 6, 2019

Illinois is now the third state to require graduating high school seniors fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, otherwise known as the FAFSA form.

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Illinois is now the third state to require graduating high school seniors fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, otherwise known as the FAFSA form.

[‘It’s Just Wrong’: U of I Takes Action To Prevent Wealthy Families From Accessing Need-Based Aid](#)

By LEE V. GAINES • AUG 2, 2019

University of Illinois officials say they will take extra steps to vet financial aid applications from students involved in guardianship cases. The decision comes after university officials identified 14 instances in which parents had a student put under the guardianship of a friend or relative so they could qualify for more financial aid.

[UICOMP Awarded Cancer Research Grant](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • JUL 18, 2019

The University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria's cancer research program has earned a financial boost.

[ICC Receiving \\$9M For New Workforce Development Center](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 16, 2019

A new Workforce Development Center at Illinois Central College's East Peoria campus will receive a total of \$9 million in government funding.

[White Supremacist Propaganda Surges On Illinois College Campuses](#)

By MAUREEN MCKINNEY • JUL 15, 2019

White extremist propaganda surged by almost 60 percent on Midwestern college campuses last year. That's according to a new [report](#) from the Anti-Defamation League.

Police and Courts

[Alexis Scott's Mother Weighing Legal Options Two Years After Daughter's Disappearance](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 25, 2019

The Alexis Scott Campaign came out in force to the Peoria City Council meeting Tuesday to mark her two year disappearance.

[Woman Shot in Head in Peoria's 20th Homicide of 2019](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 22, 2019

A woman was fatally shot on Peoria's South Side in the city's 20th homicide of 2019.

[West Peoria Man Arrested in North Valley Stabbing](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 20, 2019

The Peoria Police Department has made an arrest in connection with yesterday's stabbing in the North Valley neighborhood.

[Peoria Police Officer Arrested For Domestic Battery](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • SEP 20, 2019

A Peoria police officer was arrested yesterday on domestic battery charges.

[Oyler Wants To Submit Polygraph As Evidence, Despite Doubt From Science Community](#)

By TIM SHELLEY & DANA VOLLMER • SEP 18, 2019

Peoria At-Large Councilman Zach Oyler is trying to submit polygraph readings as evidence in his domestic battery case.

[Yes To Cannabis: East Peoria Votes To Allow Recreational Pot Sales](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 17, 2019

The East Peoria City Council rolled out the welcome mat for recreational cannabis Tuesday.

[Semi Driver Cited in I-155 Crash That Hospitalized 10](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 17, 2019

The truck-tractor driver involved in an accident with a charter bus Monday faces multiple citations.

The Illinois State Police said a semi driven by 39-year-old Daniel Fitzgibbons of Dubuque, Iowa rear-ended a charter bus headed northbound on Interstate 155 near Delavan around 10 a.m.

Ten of the 29 occupants of the charter bus went to area hospitals to get checked out. None suffered life-threatening injuries.

[Suspect Arrested for Murder of Eddie Wren](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 14, 2019

The Peoria Police Department has made an arrest in the shooting death of 42-year-old Eddie Wren.

[UPDATE: Peoria Man Killed in East Bluff Shooting](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 12, 2019

A 42-year-old man is dead after he was shot in the neck Thursday evening in Peoria's East Bluff.

[Former Dunlap Music Teacher Exchanged 41K Texts With Underaged Student: Report](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 11, 2019

A former Dunlap music teacher arrested on sexual abuse charges in Colorado allegedly sent more than 41,000 texts to an underaged female student over a six-month period.

[Councilman Oyler Pleads Not Guilty To Domestic Violence Charges](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • SEP 11, 2019

Peoria At-large City Councilman Zach Oyler has pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor domestic battery charges.

Oyler's jury trial is set for Jan. 13. He's next due to court for a status hearing on Oct. 16.

Oyler's trial was pushed back because his attorney, Robert Hanauer, has a federal trial to attend to this fall.

The councilman was arrested at his home in July. He's charged with domestic battery and interfering with a report of domestic battery. Both are Class A misdemeanors.

Hanauer and Oyler declined to comment after Wednesday's hearing.

[Marshall County Man Pleads Not Guilty to Tiffini Murphy's Murder](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 10, 2019

A rural Edelstein man pleaded not guilty Monday to the murder of a Peoria County woman.

[State To Fully Fund Probation Officer Salaries, Alleviating Burden On Counties](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • SEP 10, 2019

The Illinois Supreme Court will fully fund the salaries of county probation officers for the first time in over a decade.

[East Peoria Man Dies In Electrocution Accident](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 9, 2019

An East Peoria man was fatally electrocuted in an accident involving a bucket truck on Saturday.

Tazewell County Coroner Charles Hanley said East Peoria firefighters and Tazewell County Sheriff's deputies responded to the 300 block of Terminal Road in rural East Peoria just before 11 a.m Saturday to find a tree-trimming bucket truck on fire after it touched an overhead electrical wire.

[Two Attorneys Apply to Fill Hoos' Judicial Vacancy](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 9, 2019

Two Central Illinois attorneys have applied to fill the vacancy left on the bench by newly appointed Peoria County State's Attorney Jodi Hoos.

Attorneys Christopher Doscotch of Princeville and Gabriel Casey of Morton have applied to serve as a judge in the Tenth Judicial Circuit.

Hoos resigned as a circuit judge at the beginning of this month to take over the top prosecutor's job formerly held by the late Jerry Brady.

[Peoria Man Killed in City's 18th Homicide of 2019](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 9, 2019

A Peoria man is dead in the city's 18th homicide of 2019.

[Judge Rejects Sentencing Cap For Zaveon Marks, Temporarily Returns Him To Juvenile Court](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • SEP 6, 2019

A judge denied a request to scale back the sentencing exposure for Zaveon Marks, the 14 year old accused of murdering fellow Peoria teen Zarious Fair in June.

[Peoria Councilman Zach Oyler Formally Charged With Battery](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 4, 2019

Peoria At-large City Councilman Zach Oyler was formally charged Wednesday with domestic battery and interfering with a report of domestic battery in Peoria County.

[Peoria Officer Involved in East Bluff Shots Fired Incident](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 1, 2019

A Peoria police officer is on administrative leave after returning fire during an incident in the East Bluff early Sunday morning.

[Man Found Dead in Illinois River Near Murray Baker Bridge](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 31, 2019

Tazewell County Coroner Charles Hanley said a man was found dead in the Illinois River in East Peoria on Saturday.

[Woman Killed When Car Drives Through Farmington Apartment](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 31, 2019

A woman was killed Friday after a vehicle drove into her apartment in Farmington. Farmington firefighters and police responded to Farmington Manor Apartments just after 10 a.m. to find a vehicle that had driven through a wall. Emergency responders began to treat the woman injured in the incident, but she died before a LifeFlight helicopter could arrive. The driver of the vehicle in the incident told police his foot slipped off the brake pedal and hit the gas, according to a release from the Fulton County ESDA.

[Public Defender Calls Foul On Zaveon Marks' Arraignment](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • AUG 30, 2019

An attorney for Zaveon Marks, the 14-year-old accused of shooting Zarious Fair, argues he can't be sentenced to more than 40 years in prison.

[Man in Life-Threatening Condition After Central Peoria Shooting](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 29, 2019

An adult man is in life-threatening condition after he was shot Thursday morning in Central Peoria. Peoria police responded to the 3200 block of N. Isabell just after 7:45 a.m. Officers found a vehicle in the 3100 block with gunfire damage. A man seen near the vehicle fled after spotting police.

Witnesses said they saw a suspect vehicle fleeing the area after the shooting, according to police.

Police spread out to look for the fleeing man. A gunshot victim was found in the backyard of a house in the 3100 block of N. Twelve Oaks. He was taken to the hospital.

[Woodford Deputy Struck By Wrong-Way Driver](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 29, 2019

A Woodford County Sheriff's Deputy is OK after their vehicle was struck by a wrong-way driver on Interstate 39.

Chief Deputy Dennis Tipsword said deputies responded to several 911 calls around 4 a.m. Thursday reporting a driver heading south in the northbound lanes of I-39.

One deputy stopped northbound traffic as the other attempted to find the wrong-way driver. The deputy found the driver near Minonk, and their vehicle was struck head-on by the driver, 69-year-old Stephen C. Vogler of Granville, as the deputy was coming to a stop.

[Mackinaw Man Found Dead in California](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 27, 2019

Police in California are investigating the murder of a Mackinaw man.

The Lake County, Calif. Sheriff's Office received information on Saturday regarding a stolen vehicle related to Grant David Whitaker, 25, of Mackinaw. The vehicle was found at a Dollar General in Clearlake Oaks, Calif., about two hours northwest of Sacramento.

Whitaker's family said they believe he got into a fight with his traveling companion, 21-year-old Mavrick Fisher of Elko, Nevada. They hadn't heard from him since.

[Peoria Man Drowns at Lake of the Ozarks Shootout](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 26, 2019

A Peoria man drowned Saturday at the Lake of the Ozarks Shootout in Missouri.

[Heart of Illinois ABC Anchor Donnie Tillman Arrested for DUI](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 26, 2019

Heart of Illinois ABC morning anchor Donnie Tillman was arrested Saturday for driving under the influence of alcohol.

[Remains Found in Rural Peoria County May Belong to Missing Woman](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 24, 2019

Remains found near Edelstein in far north Peoria County on Tuesday may be those of missing Peoria County woman Tiffini Murphy.

[Murder Charges In Death Of Peoria Teen Raise Questions About Controversial State Laws](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • AUG 23, 2019

As Peoria grapples with gun violence among youth, criminal justice advocates argue the county is resorting to controversial measures.

[Peoria Man Pleads Not Guilty to Murder Charge](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • AUG 22, 2019

Twenty-seven-year-old Breon Jones has pleaded not guilty in the murder of 38-year-old Marshawn Tolliver.

Jones, of Peoria, is charged with two counts of first-degree murder, and unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon. He's accused of shooting 38-year-old Tolliver multiple times on August 6. Tolliver died from his wounds Monday, marking the city's 17th homicide of the year.

[Peoria 14-Year-Old Pleads Not Guilty to Murder Charges](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • AUG 22, 2019

Fourteen-year-old Zaveon Marks has pleaded not guilty to the murder of 16-year-old Zarious Fair.

[Autopsy Results Released in Recent Homicides](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 21, 2019

Peoria County Coroner Jamie Harwood is releasing preliminary autopsy results in two recent homicides in the city of Peoria. Harwood said Theresa Simmons, 63, suffered blunt force trauma to her head, which caused fractures and severe brain bleeding. Simmons died on Aug. 17 after she was found in her home in the 700 block of W. Loucks Ave. on Aug. 12. Her son, Jeremy Simmons, is charged with her death. He's being held on \$2 million bond in the Peoria County Jail.

[Washington Man Sentenced to 13 Years on Federal Child Porn Charges](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 20, 2019

A 31-year-old Washington man was sentenced to 13 years in prison today by a federal judge in Peoria.

[Peoria Firefighters Union Hopes City Will Discuss Labor, Back Pay Issues](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 20, 2019

The president of the Peoria firefighters' union says he hopes the recent Illinois Labor Relations Board ruling in their favor coaxes the city to head to the bargaining table.

[14-Year-Old Charged As Adult in Peoria Murder Case](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 20, 2019

A 14-year-old Peorian faces first degree murder charges in adult court [for the June shooting death of 16-year-old Zarious Fair](#).

Zaveon Marks faces two counts of first-degree murder and one count of unlawful possession of a firearm in connection with the murder in the 700 block of E. Frye in Peoria's East Bluff neighborhood.

[Why Peoria Received a \\$1.2M Federal Counter-Terrorism Grant](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 20, 2019

With no discussion, the Peoria City Council recently approved spending more than \$47,000 to buy the city's firefighters and police officers some heavy-duty protective gear.

[UPDATE: Bayview Gardens Man Arrested in Gas Station Robbery](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 19, 2019

The Woodford County Sheriff's Office arrested a Bayview Gardens man in connection with an armed robbery at a Germantown Hills gas station.

[UPDATE: 83-Year-Old Pekin Man Reported Missing Is Found, OK](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 19, 2019

UPDATE: 83-year-old Lloyd Tennison was found and is OK.

[Woodford County Jail Death Lawsuit Settled for \\$490K](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 19, 2019

Woodford County settled a 2017 wrongful death lawsuit stemming from the county jail with the estate of David Brown for \$490,000.

[Galesburg Hires New Police Chief from Within](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 16, 2019

The city of Galesburg is bumping a police captain up into the chief's office.

[Brian Fengel Retires from Bartonville Police Department](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 16, 2019

Bartonville Police Chief Brian Fengel is retiring after 29 years with the village of Bartonville.

[Man Rescued from North Peoria Storm Drain](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 15, 2019

Peoria firefighters rescued a man stuck in a storm drain in north Peoria on Thursday afternoon. Firefighters were called to 830 W. Trailcreek Drive just after 2 p.m. to find a man unable to get out of a storm drain. Crews used crowbars and rope to remove the drain cover, pulled the man out and administered medical care. The man was then taken to a local hospital by ambulance. It's unclear how the man became stuck in the storm drain. His current condition isn't known.

[Peoria Man Arrested for Attempted Murder](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 15, 2019

A Peoria man was arrested Thursday for attempted murder in connection with a shooting earlier this month. Peoria Police Lt. Michael Boland said an investigation led them to believe Breon Jones, 27, was the suspect in the August 6 shooting of a 38-year-old man in the 2900 block of N. Peoria Ave. The victim suffered life-threatening injuries. The Illinois Department of Corrections issued a parole violation warrant.

[As East Bluff Gun Violence Grows, Peoria Police Field Pointed Questions From Residents](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 12, 2019

The frustration and anxiety about a recent uptick in violent crime on the East Bluff was palpable during a policing update for the neighborhood on Monday.

[One Critically Injured in Peoria Riverfront Shooting](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 10, 2019

One person is in the hospital in critical condition after shots rang out along Water Street early Saturday morning.

[Court Rules Illinois Facebook Users Can Sue Over Facial Recognition Tech](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 9, 2019

The U.S. Ninth Court of Appeals [ruled yesterday that Illinois residents have the right to file a class-action lawsuit](#) against Facebook over its facial recognition technology.

[Peoria Firefighters May Get Body Armor](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 8, 2019

The Peoria Fire Department may receive body armor in the wake of recent mass shootings.

[New Community Resource Center Opens at Harrison Homes](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • AUG 5, 2019

Peoria's Harrison Homes residents have a new place to seek assistance.

Located within a former apartment, the Harrison Homes Resource Center will evaluate resident needs and provide appropriate solutions. Peoria Police Chief Loren Marion III said a civilian city employee assigned to his department will staff the office a few times a week. The goal is to connect residents with a wide range of needed resources, such as transportation.

[Peoria County Names First Female State's Attorney](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • AUG 5, 2019

Peoria County officials have named a new state's attorney.

[Pekin Woman Struck And Killed By Vehicle](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 4, 2019

A 55-year-old Pekin woman is dead after her motorized scooter was struck by a vehicle on Saturday night.

[Marquette Heights Man Pleads Guilty For Role In Funks Grove Murder](#)

By RYAN DENHAM • JUL 30, 2019

A central Illinois man pleaded guilty Monday for his role in the 2017 murder of his friend's mother whose bloodied body was found near the Sugar Grove Nature Center.

[Volunteers Needed To Advocate For Kids' Welfare In Court](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • JUL 29, 2019

Volunteers in the greater Peoria area are needed to help represent kids in the child welfare system during their court hearings and make sure they're placed in safe homes.

[Illinois Gun Dealers Made to Play By New Rules, Without the Rulebook](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 26, 2019

Some Illinois gun dealers say the lack of guidelines governing them under a new state law that requires them to obtain a state license and implement a variety of security procedures is driving them out of business or across state lines.

[Two Federal Lawsuits Filed Against CityLift](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 25, 2019

Two federal lawsuits were filed Wednesday in Peoria after two teenagers with special needs were reportedly dropped off at the wrong location by the CityLift transit service in separate incidents last month.

[Victim Robbed At Gunpoint Near Bradley](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 23, 2019

A person said they were robbed at gunpoint near Bradley University late Monday evening and forced to drive the robber to South Peoria. The Bradley University Police Department said a man in his 20s approached the victim near Bradley and Duryea around 10 p.m. The man pulled a handgun, demanded the victim's property, and made the victim drive him to Peoria's South Side. The suspect was last seen at Madison Park Terrace and Wiswall. The victim was uninjured. The suspect was 5'3" and wearing a red shirt and black pants.

An investigation is continuing.

[Killer Of Yingying Zhang Sentenced To Life In Prison](#)

By TANYA KOONCE • JUL 19, 2019

The man convicted of murdering University of Illinois visiting scholar Yingying Zhang will spend the rest of his life in federal prison "without release". That was the sentence imposed by U.S. District Judge Jim Shadid Thursday, after a jury spent about nine hours deliberating before determining they could not reach a unanimous verdict on the death penalty for Brendt Christensen.

[Jury Continues Deliberations On Life Sentence Or Death Penalty For Brendt Christensen](#)

By TANYA KOONCE • JUL 18, 2019

The jury is deliberating on the question of sentencing for the man convicted of the 2017 kidnapping and murder of University of Illinois visiting scholar Yingying Zhang. Jurors received Brendt Christensen's capital case about 1:40 p.m. Wednesday afternoon.

[Closing Arguments Set For Wednesday in Christensen Trial Sentencing Phase](#)

By JIM MEADOWS • JUL 17, 2019

The sentencing phase of Brendt Christensen's federal death penalty trial will go to the jury Wednesday. There's only one question the jury at the federal courthouse in Peoria needs to answer, and that's whether Christensen will receive the death penalty or life in prison, for the 2017 kidnapping murder of University of Illinois visiting scholar Yingying Zhang.

[Christensen's Mother, Sister & Jailers Testify In His Defense](#)

By JIM MEADOWS • JUL 16, 2019

Brendt Christensen's mother and sister say they still love him, even after learning he kidnapped and murdered U of I visiting scholar Yingying Zhang in 2017. Both family members testified Monday in the sentencing phase of Christensen's federal trial in Peoria.

[U Of I Colleagues Describe Christensen As Promising Student Who Lost His Way](#)

By TANYA KOONCE • JUL 12, 2019

The sentencing phase of the Brendt Christensen trial enters its fifth day Friday. Federal public defenders called eight witnesses Thursday in their effort to save him from the death penalty.

[UPDATE: 1 Dead After I-74 Semi Crash](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 10, 2019

One person is dead after a semi tractor-trailer struck another semi broke down on the side of Interstate 74 on Wednesday afternoon.

[Police Traffic Stop Data Reporting Requirement Made Permanent](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • JUL 9, 2019

Local police will permanently have to report data on the race of people they pull over or search under a new law signed by Governor J.B. Pritzker.

[Prosecutors Say Christensen Deserves 'Extraordinary Punishment' For Zhang Murder](#)

By TANYA KOONCE • JUL 9, 2019

The penalty phase of the trial of the man convicted of kidnapping and killing a University of Illinois visiting scholar is underway. Prosecutors began making their case Monday that Brendt Christensen should be put to death for causing the death of Chinese scholar Yingying Zhang.

Politics and Government

[Bustos: Trump Comments 'Unconscionable'](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • SEP 30, 2019

Congresswoman Cheri Bustos is joining a chorus of lawmakers condemning President Trump's demands to talk to the whistleblower who lodged a complaint against him.

[Peoria County Board OKs Recreational Pot Businesses](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 26, 2019

The Peoria County Board approved recreational cannabis business zoning and sales taxes at a special meeting Wednesday.

[Civic Center GM Rik Edgar Receives Praise, Questions from Peoria City Council](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 25, 2019

The Civic Center saw \$14.9 million in combined ticket sales in fiscal year 2019. That's the venue's best take in years. More than 600,000 people attended events at the Civic Center.

[Peoria Council Narrowly Approves Pension Fee Call Center](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 25, 2019

The Peoria City Council narrowly approved a \$90,000, six month contract with the Group O call center to answer questions about public safety pension fee bills that will be sent out soon to property owners.

[As Ukraine Scandal Unfolds, Durbin Calls for Trump's Impeachment](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 24, 2019

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin is calling on the House of Representatives to begin a formal impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump.

[Yes To Cannabis: East Peoria Votes To Allow Recreational Pot Sales](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 17, 2019

The East Peoria City Council rolled out the welcome mat for recreational cannabis Tuesday.

[Lawmakers Aim to Cap Monthly Insulin Prices at \\$100 For Some Patients](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 16, 2019

A group of Illinois Democratic lawmakers want to cap insulin prices at \$100 per month.

[Bustos Announces Hiring of New DCCC Director](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 15, 2019

U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos has hired the first Latina executive director to head the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

[New Fire Station Coming to Peoria's South Side](#)

By H. WAYNE WILSON • SEP 11, 2019

The City of Peoria should have a new fire station on the city's South Side a year from now.

[Peoria Council Takes Partial Step Towards Cannabis Sales](#)

By H. WAYNE WILSON • SEP 11, 2019

The Peoria City Council last night took a partial step toward the legal sale of recreational cannabis.

[Two Attorneys Apply to Fill Hoos' Judicial Vacancy](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 9, 2019

Two Central Illinois attorneys have applied to fill the vacancy left on the bench by newly appointed Peoria County State's Attorney Jodi Hoos. Attorneys Christopher Doscotch of Princeville and Gabriel Casey of Morton have applied to serve as a judge in the Tenth Judicial Circuit. Hoos resigned as a circuit judge at the beginning of this month to take over the top prosecutor's job formerly held by the late Jerry Brady.

[Tazewell Dems Choose Biden, Warren in Informal 2020 Straw Poll](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 9, 2019

The Tazewell County Democrats gauged interest in the party's 2020 presidential candidates at this year's Pekin Marigold Festival. More than 50 percent of the 153 voters who participated opted for former Vice President Joe Biden or U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts in an unscientific straw poll. "Many people were a little overwhelmed by the number of choices on the table, but they were excited to have an opportunity to weigh in, however informal it may be," said Tazewell County Democratic Central Committee Chairwoman Brittany Miller.

[Tazewell Board Chair David Zimmerman Running for 5th Term](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 9, 2019

Tazewell County Board Chairman David Zimmerman is running for a fifth term. Zimmerman, a Morton Republican, was first elected as board chairman in 2008 after serving 12 years on the board. He touts keeping Tazewell County's tax rate low, trimming county employment by 10 percent and capping the Pekin landfill among his successes. Zimmerman, 58, is an Illinois State University graduate. He's worked as a pharmaceutical representative for 32 years.

The election is next year.

[Illinois At the Crossroads of Railroad Staffing Dispute](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 9, 2019

Illinois has become involved in a national debate over minimum staffing ratios on freight trains.

[Washington Council Set to Vote on Tres Rojas Winery](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • SEP 1, 2019

The Washington City Council is set to open the doors to Tres Rojas Winery.

[Perdue Says Trump To Act On Ethanol Waivers](#)

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • AUG 28, 2019

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue says President Donald Trump will take action to soften the effects of oil refinery exceptions for blending corn-based ethanol in motor fuel.

[Peoria City Council Opens Talks on Movie Theater Liquor Sales](#)

By H. WAYNE WILSON • AUG 28, 2019

You may be able to enjoy an alcoholic beverage while at a movie theater in the near future.

[City Buys One Technology Parking Deck From Caterpillar](#)

By H. WAYNE WILSON • AUG 28, 2019

OSF HealthCare employees will have available parking when its new mission headquarters opens in downtown.

[Peoria City Council Urged To Make Haste on Recreational Cannabis Decisions](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 24, 2019

There is considerable pressure on Peoria city council members to decide where the city will stand on recreational cannabis sales and cultivation sooner rather than later.

Like other local governments throughout the state, Peoria is deliberating whether to allow the sale and cultivation of recreational marijuana within the city's borders. Possession of up to 30 grams and usage in most private spaces becomes legal in Illinois on January 1.

[Peoria To Discuss Recreational Cannabis Businesses on Saturday](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 21, 2019

The Peoria City Council will hold a special meeting on Saturday to determine the city's direction on recreational cannabis businesses. The new state law legalizing recreational cannabis usage goes into effect on Jan. 1. But the law also allows municipalities wide leeway on whether or not to allow the cultivation and sale of recreational cannabis within their communities.

[Four Illinois Coal-Burning Power Plants Closing](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 21, 2019

Vistra Energy announced Wednesday it is closing its coal burning power plants in Canton, Havana, Hennepin and Coffeen.

[Illinois AG, House Majority Leader Vow Action Against Gun Violence](#)

By SAM DUNKLAU • AUG 21, 2019

In the wake of two high profile mass shootings this month, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office is making gun violence prosecutions a priority. A leader of the Illinois House, meanwhile, said new gun legislation will be on the table during the next legislative session.

[Report Finds Bullying, Intimidation In Speaker's Office](#)

By ASSOCIATED PRESS & SEAN CRAWFORD • AUG 21, 2019

Power in Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan's office has been too centralized and its environment has fostered an atmosphere that condones bullying, intimidation, hazing and long work hours with inconsistent direction, according to an investigative report released Tuesday.

[East Peoria Expected To Make Cannabis Sales Decision Next Month](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 20, 2019

There is no dearth of opinions for East Peoria city commissioners to weigh as they decide whether to allow the sale of recreational cannabis next year. The city council held a public forum on the issue on Tuesday evening. Residents fell on both sides of the issue. Some called for East Peoria to follow Morton and El Paso in banning recreational cannabis sales within its borders, while others said it presents an opportunity to create new jobs and tax revenue.

[Peoria Firefighters Union Hopes City Will Discuss Labor, Back Pay Issues](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 20, 2019

The president of the Peoria firefighters' union says he hopes the recent Illinois Labor Relations Board ruling in their favor coaxes the city to head to the bargaining table.

[Report Finds Bullying, Intimidation in Speaker Madigan's Office](#)

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • AUG 20, 2019

An investigation of sexual harassment in House Speaker Michael Madigan's office found that control has been too centralized and discourages complaints about mistreatment.

[East Peoria Hosting Public Forum on Recreational Cannabis Sales](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 19, 2019

The city of East Peoria will hold a public forum Tuesday to gauge where citizens stand on recreational cannabis sales.

[Barickman Awaits Impact Of New Law To Help Sexual Assault Victims](#)

By CHARLIE SCHLENKER • AUG 19, 2019

State Senator Jason Barickman concedes a new law he co-sponsored to prevent further trauma to some sexual assault victims might not be enough to assuage victims' concerns.

[LaHood: Hard to Gauge President's Stance on Blagojevich Commutation](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 16, 2019

U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood (R-Peoria) said it's hard to tell which way the president is leaning after he again mused about commuting the sentence of former Governor Rod Blagojevich yesterday.

[Galesburg Hires New Police Chief from Within](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 16, 2019

The city of Galesburg is bumping a police captain up into the chief's office.

[Illinois Seeking to Bar Ex-Gov. Rod Blagojevich From Practicing Law](#)

By ASSOCIATED PRESS • AUG 15, 2019

Eight years after former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich was convicted of corruption, the state of Illinois seeking to bar him from practicing law.

[Woodford County Moves To Ban Recreational Cannabis Sales and Cultivation](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 15, 2019

Woodford County is drafting an ordinance to ban recreational cannabis cultivation and sales.

[Frerichs Endorses Elizabeth Warren In Democratic Primary](#)

By SAM DUNKLAU • AUG 15, 2019

State Treasurer Mike Frerichs is among the first Illinois officials to endorse a candidate in the 2020 Democratic presidential primary, and he's backing Elizabeth Warren. Frerichs made the announcement seemingly out of the blue this week. Other statewide officeholders — including Governor J.B. Pritzker — have so far kept out of the crowded Democratic primary. He said Warren “stands out” among the 20-plus candidates — and particularly likes her plan to cancel student loan debt for a large swath of Americans, paying for it with a wealth tax.

[Mendoza Bolsters Prevailing Wage Protections For Union Construction Workers](#)

By SAM DUNKLAU • AUG 14, 2019

Illinois' 45 billion dollar infrastructure plan is expected to attract a lot of outside contractors to help complete the work. But union worries over whether those contractors will pay the required salaries has spurred action from the Comptroller's office.

[Peoria City Council Approves New East Bluff Housing, School Officers](#)

By H. WAYNE WILSON • AUG 14, 2019

There will soon be 30 new houses built in Peoria's East Bluff neighborhood.

[As East Bluff Gun Violence Grows, Peoria Police Field Pointed Questions From Residents](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 12, 2019

The frustration and anxiety about a recent uptick in violent crime on the East Bluff was palpable during a policing update for the neighborhood on Monday.

[McCall Announces State's Attorney Run](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • AUG 11, 2019

Attorney Chris McCall announced he's running against recently appointed Peoria County State's Attorney Jodi Hoos in the March primary.

[Durbin Pushes For More Federal Agricultural Research Funding](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • AUG 8, 2019

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin wants to spend more money on agricultural research.

[Peoria Firefighters May Get Body Armor](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 8, 2019

The Peoria Fire Department may receive body armor in the wake of recent mass shootings.

[Expert: North Korea is Using Trump Talks to Normalize Itself as Nuclear Power](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 7, 2019

An expert on Korean affairs says North Korea is far closer to its goal of normalizing itself than the U.S. is in its aim of denuclearizing the autocratic international pariah.

[The City of Peoria Launches Online Budget Challenge](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • AUG 7, 2019

The city of Peoria is challenging residents and business owners to balance the city's 2020 budget.

[Kinzinger Weighs In On Shootings While Touring District](#)

By SARAH JESMER • AUG 7, 2019

Congressman Adam Kinzinger toured parts of his northern Illinois district on Tuesday. The Republican offered comment on next steps forward after recent shootings in Ohio and Texas. America is grappling with issues of racism and gun control in the wake of gun violence. Kinzinger said the gun control debate, specifically as to whether assault weapons should be available to civilians, is valid but he isn't optimistic it will be promptly solved. He said mass shootings stem from mental health issues.

[As Trade War Ratchets Up, Farmers Plead For Return to Normalcy](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 6, 2019

China's decision to cut off purchasing American agricultural products could make an already bad situation even worse. "We're going to have way less of a demand, way oversupplied. That's going to drive these market prices potentially further down than they already are. That's a potential more of a crisis for farmers," said Malena Wheeler, the manager of the Woodford County Farm Bureau. Wheeler said Woodford County farmers are telling her they're concerned and would much rather be able to sell their products on the market than continue to receive government aid.

[Boot: No Clear Path Out of U.S.-China Trade War](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 6, 2019

Foreign policy expert and Washington Post columnist Max Boot said he isn't sure how the escalating trade war between the U.S. and China will ultimately be resolved.

[Pritzker Bans Employers From Asking About Salary History](#)

By DAISY CONTRERAS • AUG 1, 2019

[Bustos Aims to Tackle DCCC Diversity Critiques While Remaining Focused on 2020](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 31, 2019

U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-Moline) said she's tackling the recent problems at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee she chairs with eyes open.

[Sexual Assault Victims Shielded From Arrest Under New Law](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 30, 2019

A new law will protect victims of sexual abuse from potential arrest while reporting the crime.

[Governor Signs Debt Collection Reform](#)

By MAUREEN MCKINNEY • JUL 30, 2019

Gov. J.B. Pritzker on Monday signed into law a debt collection reform package.

[Illinois Gun Dealers Made to Play By New Rules, Without the Rulebook](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 26, 2019

Some Illinois gun dealers say the lack of guidelines governing them under a new state law that requires them to obtain a state license and implement a variety of security procedures is driving them out of business or across state lines.

[New Leadership Coming to Dirksen Congressional Center](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 26, 2019

Frank Mackaman is handing the reins of the Dirksen Congressional Center to Tiffany White next year.

[Londrigan Responds to "Fake Reporter" Incident](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • JUL 26, 2019

A self-described unpaid volunteer for Illinois Congressman Rodney Davis' campaign crashed a news call being held by a Democrat running for Congress in 2020. Betsy Dirksen Londrigan's campaign called the incident "underhanded."

[Biweekly Recycling Services Ahead For All Peoria Residents](#)

By H. WAYNE WILSON • JUL 24, 2019

All residents of the city of Peoria will have every other week pickup of recycled materials beginning in August.

[Indiana DOT Deputy Tapped as Next Peoria Public Works Head](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 17, 2019

The City of Peoria has hired Indiana Department of Transportation Deputy Commissioner Rick Powers to lead the city's public works department. Powers currently heads the Indiana DOT's LaPorte Division, with a staff of 500 employees and annual budget of \$300 million. Powers was previously the head of the Indianapolis Code Enforcement Department and Co-Chair of the Super Bowl Host Committee. He previously worked in Virginia and served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

[What They Said: Local Lawmakers Weigh In On Trump Tweets on Democratic Congresswomen](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 15, 2019

Local congressional representatives are speaking out about a string of President Trump's tweets aimed at four Democratic congresswomen of color.

[Pritzker Celebrates Peoria-Area Infrastructure Plans](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • JUL 11, 2019

Governor JB Pritzker joined Department of Transportation employees in Edwards today to talk about infrastructure projects planned for the Peoria region.

[Police Traffic Stop Data Reporting Requirement Made Permanent](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • JUL 9, 2019

Local police will permanently have to report data on the race of people they pull over or search under a new law signed by Governor J.B. Pritzker.

[Test Review: ISBE Wants Exams Aligned](#)

By DUSTY RHODES • JUL 8, 2019

The Illinois State Board of Education has decided to review the slate of standardized tests students take, to try to make sure the exams align with each other.

Currently, kindergarteners are evaluated by one test, then elementary students with another, and high school juniors with a third. All those tests measure different concepts, making it difficult to see where the curriculum needs to be improved. Amanda Elliott, legislative affairs director with the state board, says the current system causes many districts to implement additional tests.

[Advocates Hope Closing Massage Parlor Loophole Helps Combat Human Trafficking](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 5, 2019

A bill currently awaiting Governor J.B. Pritzker's signature would close a loophole in state law that allows some massage parlors to operate without state licensing.

Science and Technology

[Report Signals Positive Signs for Illinois Innovation Growth](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 28, 2019

Illinois' recent innovation bump could be a sign of bigger trends to come.

[Illinois Chemists Work To Make Environmentally Friendly Materials For Mattresses, Paints & More](#)

By CHRISTINE HERMAN • AUG 27, 2019

A team of Illinois chemists are developing a more environmentally friendly form of polyurethane, a hard-to-recycle polymer that's used in a variety of everyday products.

[Environmentalists: Vistra Power Plant Closures Favor Dirtier, Cheaper Facilities](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 22, 2019

Environmentalists are blasting Vistra Energy's coal-burning power plant closure announcement as a cynical cost-cutting move.

[How Scientists Are Partnering With Indigenous Communities For Genomics Research](#)

By CHRISTINE HERMAN • AUG 12, 2019

Many scientists are interested in studying the DNA of Indigenous populations in an effort to reveal the "human migration story" and contribute to our understanding about the genetic basis of disease.

[Durbin Pushes For More Federal Agricultural Research Funding](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • AUG 8, 2019

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin wants to spend more money on agricultural research.

[Illinois American Water Celebrates 130 Years of Peoria Service](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • JUL 31, 2019

Illinois American Water is touting its technology as the utility celebrates its 130th year of service in greater Peoria.

[One Small Step, One Giant Celebration Of 50th Moon Landing](#)

By TIM SHELLEY & DANA VOLLMER • JUL 16, 2019

It's been half a century since Neil Armstrong stepped foot on the moon. The Apollo 11 program was the only time the U.S. put astronauts on the surface of another planet. Armstrong is one of just 12 people in all of human history to do so. But NASA is using the 50th anniversary to promote it's new project, called Artemis.

[Researchers Engineer Tobacco Plants To Churn Out Useful Enzymes In Field Studies](#)

By CHRISTINE HERMAN • JUL 9, 2019

A study published Monday in the journal [Nature Plants](#) shows that plants genetically engineered to create large amounts of useful industrial enzymes can be grown under field conditions without hurting their yield.

Civil Rights

[Kids Of Color In Illinois More Likely To Live In Impoverished Areas](#)

By MAUREEN FOERTSCH MCKINNEY • SEP 27, 2019

Nearly 90 percent of the children living in concentrated poverty in Illinois are nonwhite, according to a [recent report](#) by a child advocacy group.

[IDOC To Implement New Policy To Prevent Arbitrary Censorship Of Books](#)

By LEE V. GAINES • SEP 9, 2019

The Illinois Department of Corrections will implement a new publication review policy in October. The change comes after staff at the Danville Correctional Center [removed more than 200 books](#) from a college-in-prison program's library at the facility earlier this year.

[Rockford Woman Challenges License Rule](#)

By SARAH JESMER • SEP 5, 2019

A Rockford woman has filed a federal lawsuit against the Illinois Secretary of State. The action is done in partnership with a Chicago organization, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR.

[U Of I Police Investigating Report Of Noose Found In Student Dorm Elevator](#)

By CHRISTINE HERMAN • SEP 3, 2019

Officials at the University of Illinois are investigating a report of a noose found in an elevator at Allen Hall, a student dorm in Urbana.

[Minority Companies Get Fewer Loans Than White Peers — Is That Racism?](#)

By MAUREEN FOERTSCH MCKINNEY • AUG 29, 2019

A recent report illustrates just how much harder it is for people who aren't white to get small-business loans.

[Illinois Reinforces Prison Voting Rights, Expands Inmate Education](#)

By SAM DUNKLAU • AUG 26, 2019

A package of bills signed into law by Governor J.B. Pritzker is aimed at helping newly-released Illinois prisoners find their way back into the democratic process.

[Illinois Condemns Trump Administration Rule Allowing LGBTQ Discrimination In Healthcare](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • AUG 12, 2019

Illinois is joining a chorus of states condemning a Trump administration proposal to rollback protections for transgender people under the Affordable Care Act.

[Report Finds Racial Inequity In Illinois Small Business Lending](#)

By MAUREEN FOERTSCH MCKINNEY • AUG 7, 2019

Banks in Illinois are more likely to lend to white-owned small businesses as opposed to their minority counterparts — to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars. That's according to a report released Tuesday by the Woodstock Institute, a social justice and research think tank.

[ACLU Warns Illinois Communities To Repeal Panhandling Bans](#)

By LEE V. GAINES • JUL 22, 2019

The American Civil Liberties Union sent letters to eight Illinois municipalities last week urging them to repeal their panhandling bans. The nonprofit organization warned of legal action if community officials don't heed their warning.

[Sick Migrant Kids Sent To Illinois](#)

By NIALA BOODHOO & ANNA CASEY & LIBBY FOSTER & ALAN MONTICELLO & JIM MEADOWS • JUL 17, 2019

Hundreds of immigrant children who originally came to the southern border are sick, with illnesses like fever, strep throat, and even tuberculosis. Now, they're being sent alone to Illinois shelters.

[White Supremacist Propaganda Surges On Illinois College Campuses](#)

By MAUREEN MCKINNEY • JUL 15, 2019

White extremist propaganda surged by almost 60 percent on Midwestern college campuses last year. That's according to a new [report](#) from the Anti-Defamation League.

[Organizers Dedicate Friedan Memorial, At Long Last](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • JUL 10, 2019

Peoria native and feminist icon Betty Friedan received a tribute across the street from her childhood home.

[UPDATE: No Conflict On Breastfeeding At Public Pools, IDPH Says](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 5, 2019

A recent incident in Chillicothe now has the park district asking: just what are the state's rules for breastfeeding in or near a public pool? On Tuesday, a woman was breastfeeding her daughter while dipping her feet in the water at Shore Acres Pool. An employee asked her to cover up or go somewhere else. The woman claimed this broke the law. Chillicothe Park District Executive Director Kevin Yates said mothers are allowed to breastfeed at all of their facilities. But he said there's a discrepancy in Illinois law when it comes to nursing near a pool.

[Advocates Hope Closing Massage Parlor Loophole Helps Combat Human Trafficking](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 5, 2019

A bill currently awaiting Governor J.B. Pritzker's signature would close a loophole in state law that allows some massage parlors to operate without state licensing.

Technology

[Report Signals Positive Signs for Illinois Innovation Growth](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 28, 2019

Illinois' recent innovation bump could be a sign of bigger trends to come.

[How OSF HealthCare is Tackling Health Issues at Their Roots, Outside the Hospital](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 15, 2019

We think of hospitals as places one goes to receive medical treatment. OSF HealthCare is exploring ways to prevent people from ending up there in the first place.

[Court Rules Illinois Facebook Users Can Sue Over Facial Recognition Tech](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 9, 2019

The U.S. Ninth Court of Appeals [ruled yesterday that Illinois residents have the right to file a class-action lawsuit](#) against Facebook over its facial recognition technology.

[Innovators Gather For Some Serious Food Talk](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • AUG 1, 2019

Entrepreneurs met Wednesday in Peoria's Warehouse District for some serious food talk. The inaugural Greater Peoria Food Innovation Meetup at Sous Chef attracted a large crowd of people who make food their business across Central Illinois. "There's a whole different slew of products in the food arena that really qualify as innovation, but maybe not innovation as we would usually define it," said Tory Dahlhoff, the rural development coordinator for the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council.

[\\$50M In Donations Unlocks Major Medical Research Expansion In Peoria](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 17, 2019

A medical research partnership between OSF HealthCare and the University of Illinois is getting a big boost.

Transportation

[Corn Growers, Oil Refiners At Odds Over Ethanol Waivers](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • SEP 5, 2019

The Trump administration is caught in the middle of growing tension between farmers and the oil industry.

[New Community Resource Center Opens at Harrison Homes](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • AUG 5, 2019

Peoria's Harrison Homes residents have a new place to seek assistance. Located within a former apartment, the Harrison Homes Resource Center will evaluate resident needs and provide appropriate solutions. Peoria Police Chief Loren Marion III said a civilian city employee assigned to his department will staff the office a few times a week. The goal is to connect residents with a wide range of needed resources, such as transportation.

[Two Federal Lawsuits Filed Against CityLift](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 25, 2019

Two federal lawsuits were filed Wednesday in Peoria after two teenagers with special needs were reportedly dropped off at the wrong location by the CityLift transit service in separate incidents last month.

[CityLink Awarded \\$2.3 M Federal Electric Bus Grant](#)

By KRISTIN MCHUGH • JUL 24, 2019

The Greater Peoria Transit Authority will add more electric vehicles to its fleet soon. The Federal Transit Administration has awarded CityLink a \$2.3-million Low or No Emission Bus Program grant. Doug Roelfs, general manager of the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District, says the new buses advance the transit's environmentally conscious mission.

[Hot Days And Heavy Rains Make Illinois Roads Explode](#)

By SAM DUNKLAU • JUL 15, 2019

A hot and unusually wet summer has stretches of Illinois roads at the breaking point. Drivers are being warned to watch out for road buckling.

[Pritzker Celebrates Peoria-Area Infrastructure Plans](#)

By DANA VOLLMER • JUL 11, 2019

Governor JB Pritzker joined Department of Transportation employees in Edwards today to talk about infrastructure projects planned for the Peoria region.

[UPDATE: 1 Dead After I-74 Semi Crash](#)

By TIM SHELLEY • JUL 10, 2019

One person is dead after a semi tractor-trailer struck another semi broke down on the side of Interstate 74 on Wednesday afternoon.