



Peoria Rivermen release 2025-26 SPHL schedule

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Peoria man sentenced to 85 years in prison

Tramier J. Pate, 25, killed 14-year-old boy in botched 2023 robbery

Zach Roth

Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Peoria man was sentenced to 85 years in prison for killing a 14-year-old boy during a botched robbery attempt in

June 2023.

Tramier J. Pate, 25, had been found guilty of first-degree murder in May for killing Omarius Gates while he was walking along North Molleck Drive on June 26, 2023. The Peoria County State's Attorney's Office said that Pate received the maximum sentence during Wednesday's hearing, with Circuit Judge Paul Bauer saying that Gates "deserved more consideration than you gave him."

The teen had been walking from the

Woodlands apartment complex to a nearby store following a basketball game that night when Pate stuck a gun in his back and demanded he hand over a gun he thought Gates had been carrying.

When that didn't happen, Pate fired a single shot into the teen's back, killing him. What Pate thought was a gun ended up being a toy version that was wrapped in black tape. Pate said the gun had accidentally fired.

During Wednesday's hearing, the

teenager's mother addressed the court, saying that Pate tore apart the lives of both her and her fallen son, saying that no words could capture the heartbreak that came from losing a son in such a violent way.

"Pate didn't just commit a crime," she said in a press release from the Peoria County State's Attorney's Office. "He tore apart lives, a family's peace, and a mother's heart."

Pate must serve 100% of his sentence.

Washington's bridge mural almost complete



Jay Allen's design for Washington's viaduct bridge includes the city's bicentennial logo and the words "Celebrate Washington." PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JAY ALLEN

New artists expected to finish painting by Aug. 6

Christina Avery

Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

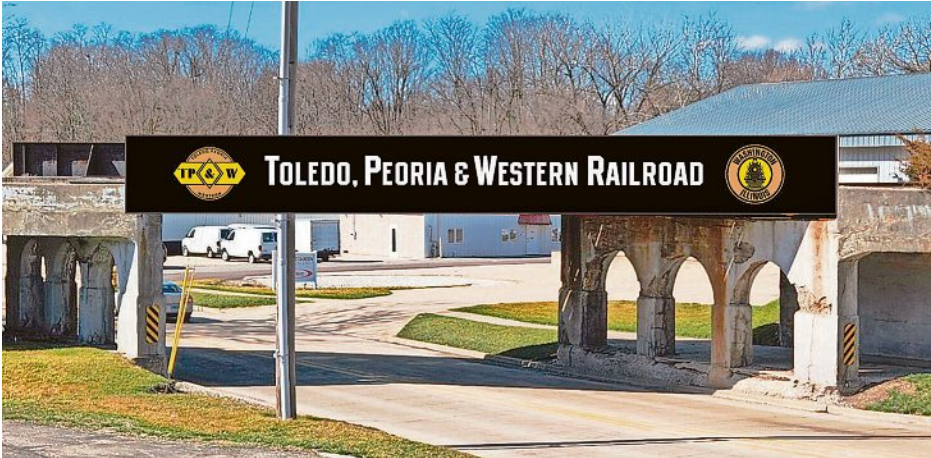
Work to beautify Washington's historic railroad bridge ahead of the city's bicentennial celebration is nearing completion.

The Toledo, Peoria & Western railroad bridge has been primed and painted black in preparation for upcoming mural work, which will begin Aug. 2. The city announced road closures near the viaduct on Route 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting July 28.

Painters from Machesney Park-based ShawCraft Sign Co., owned by Jay Allen, are projected to finish painting by Aug. 6, at which time road restrictions are expected to be lifted.

The project faced years of permit delays with the Illinois Department of Transportation, and Highway Commissioner Scott Weaver said he is proud to see it come to fruition after many, including the railroad, doubted it would ever get done.

The delays ultimately meant the orig-



A mockup of Jay Allen's design for Washington's viaduct bridge commemorates the railroad on one side, with the words "Toledo, Peoria & Western Railroad."

inal artist, Anat Ronen, could not complete the mural during her scheduled visit to the city. The bridge would have been the fifth mural Ronen has done for Washington, after she completed a prairie-themed painting on the 173-foot-long retaining wall near the Washington Historical Society on June 20.

Facing schedule conflicts with Ronen, the township found another artist in Allen, whose team has painted 50 murals across eight states and Australia

since ShawCraft opened in 1988.

He and Ronen previously worked together on a mural of blacksmith William Holland, the first white settler who laid out the town of Washington in 1834.

Allen and Ronen are part of The Walldogs, a traveling mural troupe of artists from around the globe that began painting around the city in 2020 in

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U.S. threatens nations as tariffs loom

Francesca Chambers

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump introduced last-minute stumbling blocks for several nations seeking reprieves on trade. Trump's reciprocal tariffs were slated to go into effect just after midnight Aug. 1.

Irrked by Canada's support for Palestinian statehood, India's purchases of Russian oil and Brazil's prosecution of its former president, Trump threatened to punish those nations with higher tariffs, regardless of whether the actions directly harm U.S. exports or exacerbate existing trade deficits.

In a Truth Social Post just after midnight July 31, Trump linked Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's announcement that his country would recognize Palestinian statehood to the negotiations with Ottawa to stop a 35% tariff from going into effect at 12:01 a.m. ET on Aug. 1.

"Wow! Canada has just announced that it is backing statehood for Palestine. That will make it very hard for us to make a Trade Deal with them. Oh' Canada!!!" Trump said, referencing the northern country's anthem.

Trump made a flurry of deals with America's trading partners as his Aug. 1 deadline approached, including agreements with South Korea and Pakistan and a trade pact with the European Union. Other countries that had been paying a baseline tariff of 10% and did not enter into a separate arrangement with the United States may see their duties go up.

After speaking by phone to Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum on July 31, Trump extended Mexico a further reprieve of 90 days – or possibly longer – to continue negotiations, which he said were complicated by the countries' shared border.

Mexico had been facing a 30% tariff on nonexempt goods. Instead, for now, "Mexico will continue to pay a 25% Fentanyl Tariff, 25% Tariff on Cars, and 50% Tariff on Steel, Aluminum, and Copper," Trump said on Truth Social. He said Mexico agreed to "immediately terminate" all its nontariff barriers, without providing further details.

However, Trump officially moved forward July 30 with a previously announced 50% global tariff on copper products aimed at reducing what his administration described as an "unsustainable dependence." Copper, the White House said, is the Defense

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