



## Who's the high school boys basketball MVP so far?

SPORTS, 1B

# JournalStar

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FORMER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

## Jacob remembered for service, leadership

JJ Bullock

Peoria Journal Star  
USA TODAY NETWORK

PEORIA — A former Peoria City councilman known for his business acumen and wide influence across the city died on Jan. 11.

George Jacob, 61, served on the Peoria City Council from 2005 to 2010 but had to leave his position after suffering a traumatic head injury in a motorbike accident.

He died peacefully on Sunday, according to his obituary.

On Tuesday night, the Peoria City Council paid tribute to Jacob at its meeting. Mayor Rita Ali said his “legacy of

service and commitment will long be remembered.”

“Our thoughts are with George’s wife, Jeannine, their children and the entire Jacob family during this time of loss,” Ali said at the end of the council’s tribute to Jacob.

During his career, Jacob was president of Brewers Distributing Company and a member of the board of directors of the Associated Beer Distributors of Illinois.

Former Peoria Mayor Jim Ardis said Jacob would be remembered, among other reasons, for the business acumen he brought to the City Council.

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Former presidential candidate Ross Perot greets George Jacob, center, and Eileen Downing, far left, as Perot helps officials rename the Peoria airport in honor of his old friend, General Wayne Downing, during ceremonies in 2008.

FRED ZWICKY/  
JOURNAL STAR FILE



The Illinois American Water facility at 100 E. Lorentz Avenue in Peoria. MATT DAYHOFF/JOURNAL STAR

## Elevated lead levels found in some water samples

Company said it ‘is taking multiple steps’ based on testing results

Cassidy Waigand Peoria Journal Star | USA TODAY NETWORK

PEORIA — Routine water testing from the latter half of 2025 found elevated levels of lead at some test sites, according to a message from Illinois American Water.

Between July 1 and Dec. 31, 2025, the company collected 111 water samples — focusing largely on buildings with lead service lines. The results found more than 10% of samples exceeded 15 parts per billion. Those affected have been notified, according to the email sent to customers.

### How is Illinois American Water responding?

When such results occur, American Illinois Water said it “must notify all customers in the water system and complete public education, treatment evaluations and lead service line replacements.”

The company said it “is taking multiple steps” based on testing results. This includes:

- Water sampling and monitoring

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, “Young children, infants, and fetuses are particularly vulnerable to lead,” as impacts can occur from lower levels of lead compared to adults.

- Lead service line inventory and replacement
- Corrosion control

An interactive map showing what materials service lines are made of can be found at <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4997839853a040a8bf330523b8d929b/>. Some addresses are listed as “unknown.” American Illinois Water’s website includes information on how to identify service line material in a home and the option to self-report what the line

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## Student accused of bringing gun to school

Authorities arrest 10-year-old after safely securing the weapon

Zach Roth

Peoria Journal Star  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A 10-year-old student at Charter Oak Primary School was arrested Wednesday and accused of bringing a firearm into the building.

According to the Peoria Police Department, officers responded to the school at 10:30 a.m. after they received a report of a student with a firearm. When officers arrived on scene, they met with school staff who had already detained the student armed with a handgun.

Police were able to safely secure the weapon, transporting the boy to police headquarters for questioning. He was later charged with unlawful possession of a weapon.

Peoria Public Schools District 150 said in a statement to the Journal Star that administrators had been made aware of the incident at Charter Oak earlier Wednesday, noting that the situation was handled immediately with no risk to students or staff. District spokesperson Marjorie Kauth said that the gun was on the student’s person and not in a book bag when it was discovered.

The district lauded the work of staff, students, administrators and local law enforcement in quickly defusing the situation. Superintendent Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat said in a statement that the district’s buildings could not become a place where students could bring firearms for “show and tell.”

“We want to be very clear: firearms have no place in schools,” Desmoulin-Kherat said. “The safety and well-being of our students and staff remain

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