



Aces, Liberty top list of early 2026 WNBA power rankings

SPORTS, 1B

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Peoria Police Chief Eric Echevarria, seen in a Feb. 18 press conference, will retire May 15, City Manager Patrick Urich announced in a news release.

MATT DAYHOFF/JOURNAL STAR

Peoria police chief to retire

Dixon to be promoted to Echevarria's role in May

JJ Bullock
Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Peoria Police Chief Eric Echevarria will retire next month, ending a roughly five-year tenure leading the city's police department, according to a news release.

Assistant Chief Brad Dixon will take over for Echevarria.

"Brad Dixon has demonstrated a deep commitment to public safety and to the Peoria community throughout his career," City Manager Patrick Urich said in a release. "His experience, leadership, and understanding of this department make him well-suited to guide the Peoria Police Department forward."

Echevarria became Peoria's police chief in June 2021 during a year in which Peoria saw a record number of homicides and gun violence was on the rise. During his tenure both homicide numbers and gun violence figures have fallen. He joined the Peoria Police Department

after a long career with the Elgin Police Department.

Echevarria's last day with the department will be May 15.

In a letter penned to the city titled "A Love Letter to the City of Peoria" Echevarria said in part:

"Peoria is a special place. It is a community built on resilience, pride, and strong values, but more than that, it is a community full of heart," Echevarria wrote. "You showed that to me every step of the way. Wherever life takes me

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People walk near an anti-U.S. billboard in Tehran, Iran, on April 20. A two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran is set to expire on April 22. MAJID ASGARIPOUR/WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY VIA REUTERS

War negotiations on shaky ground

Talks uncertain after U.S. seizes Iranian ship

Kathryn Palmer, Adrianna Rodriguez and Francesca Chambers
USA TODAY

Iran is considering attending peace talks with the United States in Pakistan, a senior Iranian official told Reuters on April 20, following moves by Islamabad to end a U.S. blockade of Iran's ports, a major hurdle for Iran to rejoin peace efforts. However, the official stressed that no decision had been made.

With a two-week ceasefire set to expire on April 22, a senior Iranian official said Tehran was "positively reviewing" its participation but no final decision had been made. The comments conveyed a clear change of tone from earlier statements ruling out attendance and

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Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, left, seen here with President Donald Trump and Army Chief and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, said Pakistan remains "committed to its role" as a facilitator of talks between the United States and Iran. PROVIDED BY PAKISTAN'S PRIME MINISTER OFFICE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Former restaurant space in Peoria seeks new tenant

Cassidy Waigand
Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

A once-popular restaurant is permanently closed at 1810 W. War Memorial Drive in Peoria.

The eatery announced a temporary closure roughly one year ago. Earlier this year, however, the Peoria City/County Health Department received confirmation the shutdown was permanent.

Now, the former Perkins American Food Co. location is available for sublease for \$19.50 per square foot per year, according to an online listing by Joseph & Camper Commercial. At 5,944 square feet, this would equate to \$115,908 annually or around \$9,659 per month.

Broker Steve Reeves said a direct lease with the owner is also available.

"The main draw here, I think, is it's directly visible from both 74 and U.S. 150," Reeves said, with a brochure on the property noting that roughly 24,100 cars pass the property each day.

The goal, Reeves said, is to bring a new restaurant to the space. The listing describes the location as "turn-key" with prominent signage, multiple seating areas, a prep area, a vented dishwashing area and more.

"A restaurant would likely be the user, although we're not against other proposals if they came along," Reeves said.



The former site of Perkins Family Restaurant, at 1810 W. War Memorial Drive in Peoria, is up for lease.

MATT DAYHOFF/JOURNAL STAR

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