



Peoria Riverfront Museum receives the largest donation in its history

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Journal Star

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The Lindenhof Echoes Alpenhorns perform during the annual Oktoberfest celebration on Sept. 21, 2024, on the Peoria rivefront. The horns are 12 feet long and crafted from alpine spruce. MATT DAYHOFF/JOURNAL STAR FILE

20 events to enjoy in Peoria this month

Annual festivals, comedy and more on calendar

Josh Jenke
Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

As summer ends and fall begins in central Illinois, the calendar is packed with special events and popular annual festivals.

Here are 20 things to do in the Peoria area in the month of September.

1. Bark in the Park 2026

The Peoria Humane Society’s 30th annual Bark in the Park will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at Tower Park in Peoria Heights. Animal lovers of all kinds will enjoy the Marvelous Mutt Show, cake walk, parade, souvenir photos, pet related exhibitor booths, dog rescue groups, raffle baskets, a cash raffle drawing and food vendors.

2. Peoria Art Guild Fine Art Fair

The 64th annual Peoria Art Guild Fine Art Fair will be Sept. 26-27 on the riverfront. As one of the oldest art organizations in the country, the art fair is nationally recognized and showcases national, regional and local artists. The Art Fair features original works of art



East Peoria artist Tracey Frugoli picks up paint on her brush as she paints a horse eye on a tiny canvas as she shows her art during the Peoria Art Guild Fine Art Fair on the Peoria riverfront in 2018. FRED ZWICKY/JOURNAL STAR FILE

will include jewelry, painting, ceramics, photography, digital art and so much more. This is the Peoria Art Guild’s major fundraising event of the year. All proceeds benefit the Art Guild’s community outreach and programming. For more information, visit www.peoriaartguild.org/fine-art-fair-event-info.

3. An evening of comedy with Michael Blaustein

Michael Blaustein, one of the fastest rising stand-up comedians working today, will bring “The Taste Me Tour” to

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Journal Star names Eminian new sports editor

Award-winning writer employed by the publication for 42 years

Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Journal Star has promoted award-winning sportswriter Dave Eminian to sports editor.

Eminian has worked for the Journal Star for 42 years. He is best known for his coverage of the Peoria Rivermen hockey team but has also excelled at covering a wide range of sports in the Tri-County area.

In recent years, he has been the lead reporter for Bradley basketball and the Rivermen. He also chips in to help with news coverage, most recently serving as the lead writer this summer for the Journal Star’s Content Creators Contest.



Eminian

“Dave is a dedicated journalist and a mountain of institutional knowledge,” Journal Star Executive Editor Romando Dixon said. “There isn’t a better person to lead sports coverage in this community.”

In his new role, Eminian will oversee the newspaper’s coverage of high school sports, Bradley basketball, Rivermen hockey and more.

Eminian has won many state and national awards during his career at the Journal Star. This year, he won three first-place plaques during the Illinois Press Association statewide newspaper contest.

He took home first place in categories for sports column, sports feature and obituary tribute. He also placed second in his division for the obituary category and second in the category for localized national stories.

The Journal Star’s sports editor position had been vacant since the unexpected death of Wes Huett in early February.

“The Journal Star has had great sports editors throughout its history, and I’ve had the pleasure of working for and learning from three of them in Wes Huett, Kirk Wessler and Paul King,” Eminian said. “To move into this role has long been a dream in my career, a fitting next step, and it’s a tremendous honor to follow them. I am thankful for this opportunity and the confidence shown in me from Romando. With his guidance, and accomplished colleagues on our staff, I look forward to serving our readers in a Peoria sports market that is special.”

Man charged in I-74 crash that left 2 dead in Knox Co.

JJ Bullock
Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

A 19-year-old man has been arrested and charged with aggravated DUI and

reckless homicide in connection with the deadly Interstate 74 crash that left two people dead in Knox County on Sunday.

Brian Boyer, 19, of Monmouth, was arrested by Illinois State Police on Mon-

day morning after he was released from a hospital. Police say Boyer was driving down the wrong side of I-74 early Sunday morning near Knoxville when he collided with a motorcycle, killing two people.

He is charged with two counts of aggravated DUI and two counts of reckless homicide.

The Knox County Coroner’s Office has not yet released the names of the victims.

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