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Memorial services set for Causey

Mother of 5 was killed in shooting incident

Mike Kramer

Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

A homegoing service for a Peoria woman killed Oct. 5 in a South Peoria shooting incident will take place Friday. The service for Dionna Causey, 30, will begin at 11 a.m. at Grace Apostolic Assembly at 1523 Laramie Street, Peoria.

Bishop James Ware will host, and assistant pastor James Foster will present the eulogy. A visitation will precede the service and will begin at 10 a.m. Causey died at OSF HealthCare St. Francis Medical Center at approximately 5:22 p.m. Oct. 5 after she was shot twice in the legs and once in the torso near the 1900 block of West Antoinette Street, according to Peoria County Coroner Jamie Harwood. Not long after being shot, she crashed an SUV into a business at the intersection of Western Ave-



Causey

nue and Howett Street. Born March 18, 1996, to Wendell McNeil and Dionne Causey, Dionna graduated from Peoria High School before going on to obtain a certified nursing assistant license, according to her obituary. She was employed with Arcadia Care Peoria Heights and was working on her licensed practical nurse certification. Causey was preceded in death by one brother, Kendall McNeil, and her grand-

parents. She is survived by her parents; children Damien Irby Jr., Ameer Barnes, Armani Barnes, Amiri Hall, and Jayde Hall; siblings Deshawnda Causey, DeMarcus (Nicole) McNeil, Wendell McNeil Jr., Rodregas (Brittany) McNeil, Destiny Young, and Stephanie Still; and a host of uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins and friends. Brandee Dibler of Peoria launched a GoFundMe campaign last week to help support Causey's family. To date, the campaign has raised \$4,066 of a \$9,000 goal.

GUBERNATORIAL RACE 2026



Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, left, and Republican gubernatorial opponent Darren Bailey are shown. PHOTOS BY THOMAS J. TURNEY/STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER



Drive-thru marijuana sales being considered

JJ Bullock

Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

PEORIA — City officials are set to look into a measure that could allow drive-thru cannabis sales in Peoria. The Peoria City Council on Tuesday night saw for the first time recommendations drawn up by city staff on how the city could approach the potential for drive-thru cannabis sales and extended hours at pot shops after changes were made to state laws that opened the door for such measures. Gov. JB Pritzker signed a law in June that would allow recreational cannabis dispensaries to sell marijuana via a drive-thru or curbside point of sale, while also allowing for shops to stay open until 2 a.m.

On Tuesday night, city staff laid out some options for the council to consider, which did include disallowing drive-thru cannabis facilities in the city all together. City staff did recommend Peoria not extend cannabis sale hours past the currently allowed 10 p.m. deadline. Councilmember Denis Cyr and John Kelly both voted against receiving and filing the memo from city staff, both citing their historical opposition to recreational marijuana. Councilman Zach Oyler also voted against the receipt of the memo. The city could allow the drive-thru dispensaries but require a special-use designation for them, which would require any facility to get approval from the city before adding drive-thru

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Pritzker, Bailey spar in only campaign debate

Ben Szalinski

Capitol News Illinois

Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker and Republican Darren Bailey spent an hour talking over and accusing each other of stretching the truth in their only planned meeting of the campaign on Oct. 13. The WTTW forum was supposed to be a question-and-answer session, but

Bailey quickly revealed his strategy to interrupt Pritzker on nearly every question, launching the event into a full-blown debate. The candidates were asked about their plans on a variety of policy issues and Pritzker often listed his previous accomplishments while Bailey used his time to slam Pritzker's leadership. "I wish you'd stop interrupting," Pritzker said midway through the de-

bate. "I do think people ought to hear what we have to say." The pair met for two debates in 2022 ahead of Pritzker's 12-point victory. Four years later, many of the positions for the two candidates remained the same, and the relationship remained heated. The candidates sparred on state

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