



SEARCH

PJStar.com Archives

NEWS

- Front Page
- Random Acts of Kindness
- Local
- Regional & State
- Hotline
- Enduring Freedom
- Spring Storms

Matters of Record

- Births
- Obituary Lists
- Death Notices
- Marriages
- Divorces
- Bankruptcies

Illinois Lottery Calendars

GOVERNMENT

- Illinois links
- Federal links
- Health Inspections
- March-April
- February-March
- January-February
- December-January

SPECIAL SECTIONS

Two bridges to close for I-74 work

Lane shifts also planned next week on Gale Avenue

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By **OMAR SOFRADZIJA**
of the Journal Star

PEORIA - Bridges carrying Broadway and Ellis streets over Interstate 74 will close and lane shifts will go into effect on a stretch of Gale Avenue next week as part of the overhaul of I-74 in Peoria.

Starting Monday, the northwestbound lane of Gale will be closed at I-74, with traffic shifted onto a temporary middle lane through November. Two-way traffic will be maintained, the Illinois Department of Transportation said.

Starting Friday, traffic will be barred from the Broadway and Ellis bridges through next spring to allow for overpass replacement work.

The spans will be the second and third I-74 overpasses closed to all traffic, joining the Armstrong Avenue overpass, which is permanently closed for removal work.

On I-74 itself, there will be intermittent daytime lane reductions between University Street and Sterling Avenue next week. In eastbound lanes, the reductions will be from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily, while in westbound lanes reductions will take place from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily, IDOT said.

Also on I-74, there will be short-term overnight lane closures between Sterling and War Memorial Drive around the middle of next week. Specific dates will be announced, IDOT said.

Elsewhere in the Peoria area, new or newly extended



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20 Years Later
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Heimdal's Jungle**

FRONT PAGE

WEATHER

SPORTS

OPINION

BUSINESS

ENTERTAINMENT

FEATURES

SPECIAL SECTIONS

MULTIMEDIA

CLASSIFIED

**Announcements
Auctions
Automotive
Employment
Farm & Ranch
Garage Sales
Homes/Apartments
Merchandise
Mortgage Rates
Personals
Public Notices
Recreation**

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work zones next week include:

- Downtown Peoria, where traffic shifts are scheduled on Knoxville Avenue between Illinois and Armstrong avenues; Berkeley Street and Spalding Avenue between Monroe Street and Glen Oak Avenue.
- Along Riverfront Drive in East Peoria, where there will be continued brush removal and dirt work that IDOT said should not affect traffic.
- In various locations where crews will be installing detour signs, including I-74 from Kickapoo to Interstate 474 and from East Peoria to Morton; I-474; Illinois Route 6 from U.S. Route 150 to I-474; U.S. Route 24 in Peoria and Bartonville; Illinois Route 29 in North Pekin and Creve Coeur; and Airport Road in rural Peoria.

For more information on the I-74 project, call a toll-free project hotline at (866) 474-6397 (or I74-NEWS) or by dialing #74 on a U.S. Cellular phone, or access the I-74 project's Web site via the Journal Star's Big Fix/Upgrade74 link at www.pjstar.com/news.

