



# A TRIP BACK IN TIME

From farming exhibits to schoolhouses from a bygone era, Princeville and Chillicothe are embracing agritourism. **BUSINESS, C1**

# WILL PANTHERS POUNCE?

Washington, Sterling meet at DeKalb supersectional tonight. We preview competition there and at the other seven games tonight. **SPORTS, D1, D3**



**PLUS:** A look at the Panthers' defensive game.

**New York governor caught up in prostitution scandal, faces calls to resign/A2**

**TUESDAY**  
MARCH 11, 2008

**\$1.00**

# A GATEHOUSE NEWSPAPER

# Journal Star

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## Methodist plans north facility off Allen Road

Hospital proposing state-of-the-art outpatient site with room to grow

BY FRANK RADOSEVICH II  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — Methodist Medical Center will once again look north to establish a new outpatient medical facility as residents and businesses continue their expansion to Peoria's outer limits.

The hospital filed a certificate of need Monday for the 79,500-square-foot, \$27.7 million project with the Illinois Health

Facilities Planning Board, the state agency that reviews proposals for new medical facilities. Methodist hopes for state approval of the certificate in April, with construction expected to begin sometime in August and finish late next year.

The building would provide a variety of health care services, including physical therapy, a retail pharmacy, laboratory testing, physician offices and diagnostic imaging with MRIs, CT scans or X-rays. However, no surgical procedures would be provided on site.

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RENDERING SUPPLIED BY METHODIST MEDICAL CENTER

**This rendering shows one view of a 79,500-square-foot building Methodist Medical Center is proposing to build on Allen Road just north of Route 6. The three-story facility would incorporate state-of-the-art technology and offer medical and diagnostic treatment, though no on-site surgical procedures.**

## 'It was just a tragic accident'

Family of dead BU student mourns, supports 19-year-old friend facing charges in death

BY ERINN DESHINSKY AND ANDY KRAVETZ  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — As family and friends grieved for Robert M. Hurt, who died Sunday after being hit by a car, they also lent their support to his childhood friend, Brandon Gish, who is facing a charge of reckless conduct for allegedly pushing him into oncoming traffic.

Gish, a 19-year-old freshman at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, was charged Monday afternoon in Peoria County court with the felony offense that, if convicted, could send him to prison for up to three years, though the charge is also one eligible for probation.

The charge states Gish, "while acting in a reckless manner," pushed Hurt at about 11 p.m. Saturday, causing him to fall into oncoming traffic on University Street, where he was struck by a vehicle. Hurt, 21, a junior mechanical engineering major at Bradley with a passion



ROBERT HURT



BRANDON GISH

**INSIDE**

► Phil Luciano sounds off on college drinking. **Page B1**

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## MORE THAN A DASH OF SALT



PURCHASE THIS PHOTO AT PJSTAR.COM

ADAM GERIK/JOURNAL STAR

**Lance Moyer with East Peoria Materials loads up pink road salt Monday that was shipped by rail from Canada to Scharf's pit in East Peoria. Both Tazewell County and Cincinnati Township picked up salt Monday, with Peoria set to pick up the majority of it today. Multiple areas ran out of salt this winter, forcing entities to buy the commodity from wherever they could find it.**

Big shipment helps area road crews replenish their supplies after long, snowy winter

By **MIKE MACIAG**  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

**W**hile other areas of the country were buried by snowstorms over the weekend, area road crews were able to relax. On Monday, they received even more help when 11 railroad cars filled with 100 tons of road salt each were unloaded in East Peoria.

A Tazewell County truck wobbled as Lance Moyer, an employee at East Peoria Materials, dumped a load of salt into it with his bulldozer. Cincinnati Township dump trucks also arrived Monday morning, and Peoria Public Works crews are expected to pick up the rest today.

With a shortage of salt, crews have needed to treat less-traveled roads sparingly.

### EAST PEORIA

"We've been trying to stretch it just as far as we can," said Peoria Public Works Director David Barber.

City road crews have also mixed sand with road salt to save money.

"I don't think it's quite as effective, but it takes care of the major intersections and hills," Barber said.

The Peoria Public Works Department has dumped more than 16,000 tons of salt this winter. That's more than all of last winter and about twice as much as the two previous years.

Ironically, the National Weather Service in Lincoln is calling for a warming trend to begin today.

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### COSTLY WINTER

Peoria has used more than 16,000 tons of salt this winter.

The new order, providing Peoria with about 1,000 tons (the rest going to other municipalities) was mostly shipped in from Canada at a cost of \$94.75 per ton — more than two and a half times the cost per ton the city paid for its initial order this year.

Though it's expected to warm up starting today, there may be some snow late this week or into the weekend.

## New library, old building

Surveys: People don't want new construction for North Peoria branch; K's Merchandise, Festival Foods sites likely top contenders

BY SCOTT HILYARD  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — Constructing a new library from an old building is the preferred option over building from scratch, according to the architects hired by the Peoria Public Library to find the best spot for the library on the city's north side.

"It appears that adaptive reuse of an existing building is what the public favors and it's the option we favor as an idea for a new library," said Dan Gavin, the head of the Farnsworth Group. "We think people will really get behind that. While it's not off of the table, new construction is not a favorable option at this time."

Reusing an old building was the clear favorite of those who attended a meeting on the topic last month. Of the 233 people who attended the meeting, 159 people filled out and turned in surveys that solicited opinions and



**INSIDE**

► Check out some of the feedback from the surveys. **Page A5**

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### INSIDE TODAY

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