

Suburbs in 60 seconds

Honor Flight send-off today:
A public send-off is planned at 11 a.m. today for the next group of Lake County Honor Flight participants. Signs and flags are welcome and registration is not required for the event at Foss Park golf course, 3124 Argonne Drive in North Chicago. Honor Flight celebrates veterans with a multi-day trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices. Vets will be welcomed home Sunday at about 9 p.m. at the North Chicago Veterans Memorial, 1815 Sheridan Road in North Chicago. Riders also are wanted for the escort to Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport and the return trip to North Chicago on Sunday. Visit the events tab at lakecountyhonorflight.org for information and details.

Dispose of unwanted drugs:
You can safely get rid of unwanted prescription drugs on Saturday in Des Plaines. Des Plaines police will accept unused or expired medication from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the police station, 1418 Miner St. The event is part of a national effort organized by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Officials hope to prevent misuse of medication, especially opioids. Learn more at dea.gov/takebackday.

Substance use discussion:
The Wheaton social services department is holding a community conversation to raise awareness about substance use. The educational event will happen from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, at the Wheaton Police Department, 900 W. Liberty Drive. Seating is limited. To reserve a spot and help organizers plan for the event, fill out an RSVP form at wheaton.il.us/CommunityConversations.

Steam locomotive tour:
The Canadian Pacific Kansas City railway is touring with its iconic Empress 2816 steam locomotive. The tour will stop from 3 to 8 p.m. May 8 in Franklin Park at 9748 Franklin Ave. After the train departs on May 3 from St. Paul, Minnesota, it will travel through LaCrosse and Milwaukee and head south through Gurnee, Deerfield and Glenview on its way to Franklin Park. After the May 8 stop, the train will travel through Bensenville, Roselle, Elgin, Pingree Grove and Hampshire on its way to Iowa. For a map, go to cpkcr.com/en/community/final-spike-steam-train.

Lottery
Thursday, April 25, results:
Midday Pick 3.....5-9-4 (4)
Midday Pick 4.....9-1-0-3 (7)
Evening Pick 3.....2-2-3 (2)
Evening Pick 4.....0-2-7-6 (5)
Midday Lucky.....8-12-17-31-32
Evening Lucky.....7-13-29-35-41
Lotto.....21-24-32-33-43-49
Extra Shot: 7 (\$3.8 million)
Million 1.....13-15-17-19-38-40
Million 2.....2-9-13-30-36-48

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DUPAGE COUNTY DAILY HERALD (USPS 032028) is published daily in Naperville by Paddock Publications Inc., 95 W. Algonquin Road, P.O. Box 280, Arlington Heights, IL 60006. Periodicals postage paid at Arlington Heights, IL, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to DAILY HERALD, P.O. Box 280, Arlington Hts., IL 60006.

ELGIN

Man pleads guilty to murdering his wife

BY SUSAN SARKAUSKAS
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An Elgin man pleaded guilty last week to murdering his wife in 2021.
Victor Ayllon, 38, of the 300 block of Heine Avenue, pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree murder on April 19. He will be sentenced on June 20.

According to Kane County

State's Attorney Jamie Mosser, a 4-year-old boy was found on the night of July 12, 2021, walking alone at the intersection of Lawrence and Aldine avenues. After determining he lived in the



Victor Ayllon
After determining he lived in the

300 block of Heine Avenue, police went there and found a 3-year-old boy and Wendy Ayllon, the mother of the two boys. The 33-year-old woman had been strangled.

Police found Ayllon at his parents' home.

They determined Wendy Ayllon had picked him up early that morning, and they returned home at 2:16 a.m. A camera in the home captured

the sound of arguing and Wendy Ayllon screaming, followed by a thud, according to Mosser.

Ayllon said he had accused his wife of infidelity and that they also argued about his drug addiction, according to Mosser.

Ayllon could be sentenced to 20 to 60 years in prison.

He has been in custody at the Kane County jail since his

arrest.
According to Wendy Ayllon's Facebook page, she attended Elgin High School, graduated from Robert Morris University, worked for Advocate Aurora Health, and sold Tupperware.

It says the couple married in 2008. A GoFundMe fundraising page for her funeral said she had one daughter and three sons.

WHEATON

Park district: No tax dollars will be spent expanding zoo parking

BY DAVE OBERHELMAN
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If the Wheaton Park District gets the green light to build a 93-space parking lot across the street from Cosley Zoo, the project would cost an estimated \$2.1 million, officials said.

However, the park district says no taxpayer dollars will be used to pay for the design and construction.

"The Cosley Foundation is covering the entire cost of the design and construction of the new parking area, which is estimated at \$2.1 million," the park district said in a written statement.

The announcement came this week as the Wheaton Planning and Zoning Board considers whether the city should approve the park district's plan for the

parking area.

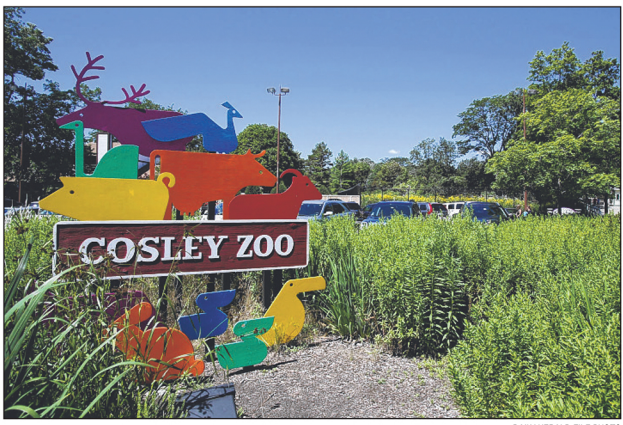
A public hearing on the parking plan lasted more than four hours on Tuesday and will resume at 6 p.m. on May 14.

The park district said it needs accessory parking to handle overflow from an 80-space lot at the zoo, 1351 N. Gary Ave.

Park district attorney Phil Luetkehans produced documents during a March 12 hearing that show the zoo lot reached capacity an average of 174 days a year over the last eight years.

If built, the new parking lot would be on the east side of Gary Avenue, across the street from the zoo.

However, residents strongly oppose the idea. They contest the validity of the claim that another parking lot is needed.



The Wheaton Park District is seeking permission from the city to construct a 93-space accessory parking lot for Cosley Zoo, 1351 N. Gary Ave.

Residents opposed to the plan has also voiced concern about the safety of patrons crossing Gary from the proposed parking lot.

The proposed parking lot would cover roughly an acre of the 6-acre property the park district owns on the east side of Gary Avenue. The rest of the site would remain green space.

The plan has changed several times since last July when the park district released an initial plan for a 258-space lot spanning the entire property.

A November revision reduced the number of parking spaces to 150. The following month, the district proposed a two-phase plan of an initial 73 spaces with the

potential to add 77 later.

The plan for a 93-space lot using permeable pavers was released in February and has since been tweaked.

It will be up to the planning and zoning board to recommend if the Wheaton City Council should approve or deny the park district's request for the accessory parking lot.



Kane County Government Center in Geneva.

KANE COUNTY

Why county is taking time on sales tax referendum

BY SUSAN SARKAUSKAS
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A Kane County Board committee has further delayed deciding whether to ask voters to approve a new sales tax. Dale Berman, chairman of the finance and budget committee, asked for the item to be removed from the committee's agenda on Wednesday because he "sensed" members weren't ready to decide.

Berman said he wants an ad hoc committee to review the idea.
The tax was proposed by Kane County Board Chair Corinne Pierog to fill in a gap between revenue and spending in the county's general fund. Spending has outpaced revenue for several years, with the difference being pulled out of reserves.

As work began last month on the 2025 budget, finance department officials projected an \$11 million deficit in that fund.

The general fund pays the salaries of most of the county's employees.

The proposed special county retailers occupation tax would be spent on public safety.

The county board was supposed to vote on the tax on April 9 but decided the finance committee should consider it first.

Pierog proposed a 1% sales tax.

Finance department officials say that could bring \$60 million a year to the county. The tax would be charged on general merchandise and gasoline, not groceries, medications, medical equipment or titled vehicles.

The county could ask for a rate as low as 25%.

Pierog suggested that the committee - be it a subcommittee of the finance committee or an ad hoc of the county board - also discuss what to do about the county's finances if voters don't approve the sales tax.

The county board has a deadline of Aug. 19 to decide whether to put a referendum question on the November ballot, according to the state's election calendar.

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