

Herald & Review



Friday
December 3, 1999
Decatur, Illinois

380P

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Quick Take



Taking aim at Bush
George W. Bush's GOP presidential rivals don't share the criticism in their appearance in New Hampshire.

Dairy farm review
Christian County wants more information about a controversial proposal for a large-scale dairy operation near Stomington.

Central Illinois / A3


Love and war
A musical production this weekend at St. Teresa High School evokes the strong emotions between husbands and wives in wartime.

Lifestyle / B1
H&R prep polls
Our first high school football rankings have a distinct Teutopolis flavor for girls and boys. Lincoln gets the nod in Class AA.

Sports / B1
Lottery
Here are the winning numbers selected Thursday in the Illinois State Lottery.

- Pick Three-Midday: 3-5-0
- Pick Three-Evening: 8-5-3
- Pick Four-Midday: 3-5-0-3
- Pick Four-Evening: 5-9-4-3
- Little Lotto: 11-13-16-25-29
- Lotto jackpot: \$5 million
- Big Game jackpot: \$9 million

Weather
■ Today: Showers. High 57.
■ Tonight: Showers. Low 46.

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Celebrate 2000

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Archer Daniels Midland Co., Decatur Memorial Hospital, Illinois Power Co.

50 cents
Our 128th year
Issue 337 • Four sections



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Origins of high school fight described

Decatur police testify about the attack that prompted the school explosion crisis.

By TOM COLLINS
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — The Sept. 17 fight at Eisenhower High School was actually the second of two arguments between two rival gang members, a Decatur police officer testified Thursday.

Officer Doug Taylor took the stand during a preliminary hearing for four men accused of mob action and fighting during the MacArthur-Eisenhower football game. That fight resulted in controversial fights for three defendants and four others and eventually brought civil rights leader Jeannette Jackson and national attention to the city.

Coryell Spates, 19, Roosevelt Fuller, 18, Courtney Carson and Gregory Howell, both 17, each face two counts of first-degree assault stemming from the Sept. 17 fight. Fuller faces additional charges of felony aggravated assault and felonious assault against a police officer.

The four appeared for a hearing to determine whether the state has sufficient evidence to try them. The hearing resumes at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 9.

Taylor, one of the officers assigned to the investigation, conceded the investigation was based on often-conflicting accounts of the fight.

The fight, he said, was prompted by an earlier argument between Howell and Honorable.

Howell and Honorable, he said, moved their argument from school to the parking lot of a nearby drug store, each accompanied by several companions. Though Howell brandished a baseball bat, Taylor said, the incident was largely uneventful.

For the hearing to continue, Taylor said the pair recruited several friends to show up with them, fully prepared for a brawl, at the 11-13 football game.

Testimony from Taylor and felonies.

FIGHT
Continued on A4

EU official says secret discussions archaic, confusing

By PAUL BRINKMANN
H&R Staff Writer

SEATTLE — After weeks of riots and protests of its policies, the World Trade Organization faced stiff criticism from within on Thursday.

Pascal Lamy, trade commissioner for the European Union, said the WTO's negotiating structure is "medieval" and called for an entire conference of experts to revamping procedures.

On the second day of negotiations on the WTO's agenda for the next three years, Lamy acknowledged that the WTO's procedures are confusing and archaic.

"I am worried about the process, then we will have more at the top, then forward," Lamy said.

Every day at the WTO negotiations, high-level negotiators from around the world behind closed doors in hotels around Seattle. Information on negotiations struck job, food and commodities. The deals are then translated into official language to which each country must agree.

Trade ministers insist that such secrecy is necessary to obtain consensus, but WTO is trying to become more "transparent" in its procedures.

PROCESS
Continued on A4

Computers may skip over leap year

Y2K fixes may have missed problem, but home users have help on Internet.

By TONY REID
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — The Y2K computer bug has a pretty little sidekick: the leap year.

And some experts think it could be the knockout punch waiting to disable older computer systems that implemented Jan. 1 because it got baffled completely by the extra leap year in February.

"Those computer systems might get it to exist for the 29 leap years to exist at all for them, and then you're in trouble," said Pat Pettit, director of academic technology at Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.

The problem stems back to the original Y2K bug, which was inadvertently built in by program-

mers of yesterday, looking to save memory space, told computers to compute years by their last two digits.

Calculating forward to 1999, the machines had trouble difficulty knowing what year it was — and predicting what year it would be until 2000 rolled around.

A computer not adjusted to do that would add the double zero digits and read them as 1900 rather than 2000, putting itself instantly a century or more behind. That would cause a leap year, by the way, and so there is no way an unadjusted computer is programmed to fix that extra day — it would just skip over it and move to March 1.

Pettit said the leap-year phenomenon is another good reason for companies that rely on computers to handle date-sensitive tasks — like mailing invoices — to make sure their software has been fully Y2K bug-proof.

"And the organization with important date-sensitive tasks — banks, hospitals and municipalities — obviously needs to upgrade their equipment, too," she added.

Minimally, she suggested checking out this whole Y2K and leap-year headache by running a test that made upgraded computers calculate from Jan. 2, 2000, and seeing how they reacted.

"Generally, it went very well with only one or two small glitches, and all systems working on those," Pettit said.

Home users fretting about the fate of their own computers can

Y2K
Continued on A10

Illinois Power job losses pose possible mental health hazard

Denial and anger will be strong in some cases, counselor explains.

By ROB INGRAM
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — The loss of about 300 jobs at Illinois Power Co. next year may hurt Decatur but could be devastating to many of the people laid off.

"The biggest potential problem is that in the displaced employees finding new jobs but in maintaining their mental health while undergoing a stressful period of adjustment," said Elsie Sorenson, executive director of the

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JOBS
Continued on A4

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