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Quick Take



Taking aim at Bush

George W. Bush's GOP presidential rivals don't spare the criticism in their appearance in New Hampshire.

Nation / A2

Dairy farm review

Christian County wants more information about a controversial proposal for a large-scale dairy operation near Stonington.

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 / D1

H&R prep polls

Our first high school basketball 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: 3-5-3
■ Pick Three-Evening: 8-5-3
■ Pick Four-Midday: 3-5-3-3
■ Pick Four-Evening: 6-9-4-3
■ Little Lotto: 11-13-16-25-29
■ Lotto jackpot: \$5 million
■ Big Game jackpot: \$9 million

Central Illinois

Weather

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

Details / B8

Inside

Ann Landers D3
Business C1-3
Classifieds C4-10
Comics D6
Lifestyle D1-5
Movies D3
Obituaries A9
Opinion A8
Puzzles C7, B, 9
Sports B1-7
Television D7



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Origins of high school fight described

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

By TOM COLLINS
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — The Sept. 17 fight at Eisenhower High School was actually the culmination of an argument begun two weeks earlier 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 in the fight during the MacArthur-Eisenhower football game. That fight resulted in controversial expulsions for three defendants and four others and

eventually brought civil rights leader Jesse 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 felony mob action stemming from the Sept. 17 fight. Fuller faces additional charges of felony aggravated battery and misdemeanor resisting 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 under cross-examination that the investigation was based on often-conflicting accounts of the fight. The fight, he said, was prompted by an earlier argument between

Howell and Shawn Honorable. Over strenuous objections from the defense, Taylor identified both as gang members — Howell as a member of the Gangster Disciples and Honorable as a member of the Vice Lords.
Howell and Honorable, he said, moved their argument from school to the parking lot of a nearby drug store, each taking with him several companions. Though Howell brandished a baseball bat, Taylor said, the incident was largely uneventful. Feelings simmered, however, and Taylor said the pair recruited several friends to show up with them, fully prepared to brawl, at the Sept. 17 football game.

Testimony from Taylor and fellow

FIGHT

Continued on A4



DAY IN COURT: Attorney Ronald Draper, right, discusses the morning's developments Thursday outside a courtroom in the Macon County Courts Facility. Draper is one of the attorneys representing Coryell Spates, background, left, Courtney Carson, Roosevelt Fuller and Gregory Howell.

WORLD TRADE CONFERENCE

Trade minister blasts process

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.



WTO OMC 99

EDITOR'S NOTE: Paul Brinkmann, Herald & Review staff writer covering agriculture, is attending the World Trade Organization's meetings this week in Seattle. Brinkmann will file daily reports from the event, focusing on how the issues affect Central Illinois.

Child labor

Clinton lauds agreement as model for business and labor.

Nation / A2

PROCESS

Continued on A4



CYCLE OF PROTEST: What was billed as a peaceful march by World Trade Organization protesters proceeds to downtown Seattle on Thursday. WTO officials opened serious negotiations after two days of disruptions by demonstrators.

'Sea of humanity' turns Seattle into surreal scene

SEATTLE — As I walked up Sixth Street in downtown Seattle on Tuesday, it quickly became clear that I might never make it to the Paramount Theater.

The opening ceremony of the World Trade Organization was set for 10 a.m. at the theater. Journalists were told to arrive for tickets at 8 o'clock. I was 15 minutes early.

But maybe not early enough. A sea of humanity — chanting and carrying signs — was quickly coming toward me. Angered by the WTO's rulings on matters that affect the environment and labor, thousands of activists as

COMMENTARY



• BRINKMANN •

press credentials that hung around my neck and ducked through the leading

edges of the large parade. Their battle cry rang through the air: "WTO has got to go!"

Approaching the Paramount, I was confronted by a wall of buses surrounding the building. A man at the head of the crowd behind me noticed the buses at the same time and yelled, "Go down the hill! We'll just go around."

The march turned right and I went left to slip behind the buses.

SURREAL

Continued on A4

Computers may skip over leap year

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

By TONY REED
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — The Y2K computer bug has a nasty little sidekick, the Y2K leap year.

And some experts think it could be the knockout punch waiting to disrupt older computer systems that limp past Jan. 1 but then get baffled completely by the extra leap-year day in February.

"Those computer systems might get by at first, but Feb. 29 isn't going to exist at all for them, and then you're in trouble," said Pat Pettit, director of academic technology for Millikin University. The problem stems back to the original Y2K bug, which was inadvertently built in by program-

mers of yesterday who, looking to save memory space, told computers to recognize years by their last two digits. Calculating forward from 1900, the machines had no difficulty knowing what year it was — and predicting leap years — until 2000 rolled around.

A computer not adjusted to deal with Y2K could process the double zero digits and read them as 1900 rather than 2000, putting itself instantly a century out of date. The year 1900 wasn't a leap year, by the way, and so there is no way an unadjusted computer could allow for that extra day — it would just skip over it and move to March 1.

Pettit said the leap-year phe-

nomenon 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-proofed. "And any organization with important computer systems — banks, hospitals and municipalities — obviously needs to upgrade their equipment, too," she added.

Millikin has already done just that, checking out this whole Y2K and leap-year headache by running a test that made upgraded computers think it was Feb. 29, 2000, and seeing how they reacted.

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 RON 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 lies not just in the displaced employees finding new jobs but in maintaining their mental health while undergoing a stressful period of adjustment, said Elise Sorenson, executive director of the

Macon-DeWitt Job Training Partnership Act program.

There have been other times when major layoffs or permanent work force reductions took place in the community, said Sorenson, whose office helps displaced workers get new jobs through retraining or upgrading of job search skills. "The difference between many of those past times and today is a lot of them involved basic manufacturing shut-downs," Sorenson said. "In the case of Illinois Power, many of the people are highly skilled with degrees or technical certificates. We've had greater

JOBS

Continued on A4

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