

# Herald & Review

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Decatur, Illinois

## Quick Take



### 'Outsiders' team up

Presidential hopefuls Bill Bradley and John McCain crossed political lines Thursday to pledge 'genuine campaign finance reform.'

Nation / A2

### Thumbs up



After a year in which Decatur's race relations were sometimes strained, the spirit of unity displayed at last week's Kwanzaa celebration earns a thumbs up. Jeanelle Norman's African-American Experiences class, which sponsored the event, deserves credit.

Opinion / A8

### Hot shooting

Meredian High School rolled to an 85-59 victory over Maroa-Forsyth in the Macon County Tournament.

Sports / B1

### Lottery

Here are the winning numbers Thursday in the Illinois State Lottery.

- Pick Three-Midday: 1-6-7
- Pick Three-Evening: 0-5-7
- Pick Four-Midday: 2-5-8-1
- Pick Four-Evening: 2-5-9-5
- Little Lotto: 04-07-17-22-28
- Lotto jackpot: \$9 million
- Big Game jackpot: \$23 million

### Weather

■ Today: Cloudy, High 32.  
■ Tonight: Clearing, Low 16.

Details / B8

### Inside

- Ann Landers ..... D3
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countdown:



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## Ryan airs gun compromise



### General Assembly stays in session to break Safe Neighborhoods deadlock

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — Gov. George H. Ryan floated a compromise late Thursday aimed at ending the Statehouse stalemate over an anti-crime package but made it clear its fate depends on the reaction of Senate Republicans.

Under the plan, unlawful possession of a weapon would be a felony — and not the misdemeanor it has been since Dec. 2 when the state Supreme Court struck down the 5-year-old Safe Neighborhoods Act.

But, in a new twist, a judge would be empowered to order probation instead of prison time for a defendant with no prior criminal history and

then later expunge the conviction from the person's record.

Ryan indicated the proposal was an outgrowth of a task force chaired by Attorney General Jim Ryan that included Cook County State's Attorney Richard Devine and DuPage County State's Attorney Joe Birkett.

Caucuses representing House Republicans and Democrats, as well as Senate Democrats, have basically agreed to the concept, the governor said.

"The Senate is in the process of looking at that bill," he said of the GOP-controlled chamber. "They've indicated some interest in it that could be what we end up with when this program is over."

Senate President James "Pat" Philip said he was skeptical that the proposal would even pass the House.

### How they voted

SPRINGFIELD — The Senate voted down a crime control plan Thursday that would have given state's attorneys discretion in sentencing people charged with illegal gun possession.

The vote was 31-25, but a super-majority of 34 votes was needed to pass.

Five members voted "present," which has the same effect as a "no" vote.

YES — LARRY C. BORKER, R-Springfield; ROBERT A. MATHIAS, R-Lenox; JUDITH A. MYERS, R-Danville; N. DUANE WILSON, R-Blue Mound; FRANK WATSON, R-Greenville; STANLEY R. HANCOCK, R-Urbana.

NO — VINCE DEMUSIO, D-Carlinville.

PRESENT — WILLIAM L. O'DANIEL, D-Mount Vernon.

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## EXPULSION FALLOUT



IN COURT: The Rev. Jesse Jackson, joined by the Rev. James Meeks, newly appointed vice president of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, arrive at court on Thursday. Jackson was arraigned on charges of criminal trespass and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

## Jackson pleads innocent to misdemeanors

By BRAD MUDD and TOM COLLINS  
H&R Staff Writers

DECATUR — The Rev. Jesse Jackson returned to Decatur on Thursday to plead innocent to misdemeanor charges and continue his campaign against the Decatur school board's zero-tolerance stance against violence.

During his brief visit, Jackson also met with members of the Decatur chapter of his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition at the Church of the Living God, P.O. Temple 3, to make plans for a Dec. 27 federal court hearing in Urbana.

In a short news briefing at the Macon County Courts Facility, Jackson

talked about a recent study that shows African-American students are suspended more often than other students.

"The issue of zero tolerance has been exposed as an ugly, expensive and uneducational policy," Jackson told reporters after his court appearance.

"The Decatur case reveals a pattern of extensive expulsions around the country. There is also a pattern of racial disparity, and this national pattern must stop."

Jackson pleaded innocent to three counts of criminal trespassing and three counts of contributing to the

What's next

Dec. 23 — Hearing in Macon County Circuit Court on the request by the Decatur School District for a temporary restraining order against the Rev. Jesse Jackson and his supporters to prevent them from demonstrating on school property.

Dec. 27 — Hearing in U.S. District Court in Urbana on the request by the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition for a temporary restraining order blocking the expulsions of six students and allowing them to return to their original high schools.

Jan. 24 — Hearing in Macon County Circuit Court on a motion by lawyers for Jackson seeking to quash his arraignment and dismiss the charges against him.

Continued on A6

## Cars, appliances seem OK for Y2K

Number of small exchange carriers raise concerns about telephone system.

By BILLY TIVIS  
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — Chances are your new Ford Mustang won't cough out at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve. And you probably won't get stuck between floors in the unfortunate event that you're forced to bring in the new year on an elevator.

Cars and elevators are two of the often-used products that experts expect are immune to the

Y2K bug, a computer dating glitch.

"The factory has been telling us that there will be no problem with cars at all and they've already taken that into account and say that it's not anything to worry about," said Larry Grishow, who leads Bob Ridings Lincoln-Mercury-Jeep-Eagle in Decatur. "The computers in cars affect things like timing in the engine where date isn't really a factor."

According to local dealers, the

same is true of other car makes and models.

The Y2K bug comes as a result of computer designers encoding equipment to recognize only the last two digits of a date. When the year 2000 rolls around, noncompliant equipment may read the year to be 1900.

Experts agree that there are few systems with computer parts that are certain to operate properly, although analysts don't expect major problems from cars, elevators, air conditioners and some heating systems, among

Continued on A4

## Brain scan offers promise of test for attention deficit disorder

LONDON (AP) — For the first time, brain scans have revealed measurable biochemical differences in people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, a discovery that could reduce the number of children mistakenly diagnosed and put on drug treatment, researchers say.

The diagnosis of ADHD, usually made in school-age children, is commonly based on observed behavior and some experts believe it is highly subjective — essentially just an educated judgment.

Some say the condition is

being over-diagnosed in the United States, exposing children unnecessarily to medication, while others argue it is not treated often enough.

Earlier studies have shown scans can detect structural differences in ADHD sufferers' brains, as well as abnormalities in brain activity, and scientists suspect that defects in genes relating to the brain chemical dopamine probably are involved.

The latest study, conducted at

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