

A1

Herald & Review

Saturday

December 11, 1999

Decatur, Illinois

60PF

Serving Central Illinois Since 1873

Quick Take

Scores

■ Cerro Gordo	65
□ Findlay	62
■ Tipton	88
□ Shelbyville	57
■ St. Anthony	78
□ St. Elmo	64
■ Arthur	60
□ Tuscola	51

Details, more prep's B1,3



SENDING A MESSAGE A Russian soldier paints 'For Basayev' on a bomb for use in Chechnya. Basayev is the name of a prominent Chechen rebel commander.

Chechen assault

As refugees fled the shelling in the Chechen capital on Friday, Russia appeared to back off its ultimatum to clear the city by today.

World / A2

Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the Illinois State Lottery:

- Pick Three-Midday: 5-1-3
- Pick Three-Evening: 6-8-7
- Pick Four-Midday: 7-4-2-8
- Pick Four-Evening: 7-4-7
- Little Lotto: 04-05-12-21-22
- Big Game: 18-24-25-26-32
- Big Money Ball: 13
- Big Lotto jackpot: \$7 million
- Big Game jackpot: \$1 million

Weather

■ Today:	Sunny, High 47.
■ Tonight:	Partly cloudy, Low 32.

Details / B8

Inside

Ann Landers	D4
Business	A9
Classifieds	C1-10
Deaths	D9
Lifestyle	D1-7
Movies	D5
Obituaries	A6
Opinion	A8
Politics	C2-3
Sports	B1-7
Television	Section Inside

countdown:
21
Celebrate 2000

Sponsored by:
Archer Daniels Midland Co.
Decatur Hospital
Birch Power Co.

50 cents
Our 126th year
Issue 345 • Four sections



7 02138 00001 2

Delivery...421-6990 **Newsroom...421-6979** **Classified...421-6960** **Advertising...421-6920** **Outside Decatur...1-800-437-2533** **Online...http://www.herald-review.com**

NAACP pulls out of Chamber

Local president says group should have consulted with members before taking stand in expulsion dispute.

By ARVIN DONLEY H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — Unhappy with the Chamber of Commerce for Decatur and Macon County's public show of support for the school board during the recent student-expulsion controversy, the Decatur Branch of the NAACP has canceled its membership.

Jeanelle Norman, president of the NAACP's local branch, said members received a voice in the decision to end their 10-year association with the Chamber. A letter informing the Chamber of the NAACP's decision was received by Chamber President Julie Moore.

Norman said the NAACP was disappointed that the Chamber took a side in the matter of seven African-American students who were expelled for fighting in the black school's football game at Eisenhower High School.

Six of the students were expelled — one withdrew from school — for two years in

January by the school board. The expulsion was eventually reduced to one year after the Rev. Jesse Jackson and other Rainbows of PUSH, a local advocacy group, said the punishment was too harsh.

However, there was no further compromise on the length of the expulsions, and the NAACP was unhappy with some degree along racial lines, over the issue.

Norman said she wished the Chamber would have consulted the NAACP and other minority members before taking a stand on the Nov. 13 news conference to announce its support for the school board and believed the announcement served to fur-

ther divide the city.

"It sent out a negative message to the community," she said.

Tom Swartz, chairman of the Chamber's board of directors, said the press conference in Central Park was intended to restore the Chamber's consistent desire for quality education, safe schools and excellent race relations in Macon County schools.

"We were not taking a stand in favor or against zero tolerance, and we were not

NAACP

Continued on A5

WILDLIFE WONDERLAND



Nine-year-old Derek Stanton takes a chippy train evening through Scovill Zoo on the miniature train. Derek is familiar with all of the holiday happenings at the zoo. His father, Shawn, works as education coordinator there.

Story at A3

Mount Zion names new administrator

Paris native Paul Ruff will take helm on Jan. 3

By BRETT WILCOXON
H&R Staff Writer

Mount Zion — Mount Zion once again has a village administrator.

After nearly three months of managing village business without its top

administrator, the Mount Zion village board voted unanimously Friday to hire Paul Ruff.

A lifelong resident of Paris — a community of about 9,000 east of Charleston near the Indiana border — Ruff had been Mount Zion's city administrator from 1989 until late October of this year.

Without dissent, the board also opted to appoint Rick Bright as a village board member. He will replace Jeff Buchanan, who resigned on Monday.

Ruff said that during his time at Paris, he spearheaded a time managing the city's industrial development. And during his final few months, he was beginning to deliver an economic development plan focused on how they affect residents' quality of life.

Such issues are a major concern in

RUFF
Served as Paris administrator for many years

Continued on A5

On hold for the holidays

Child support foul-up has mom depending on friends, family for children's Christmas.

By VALERIE WELLS
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — If it weren't for Bo Peep Cross, two children wouldn't have a very merry Christmas.

Srooge, in this instance, appears to be the new centralized child support disbursement system in Illinois that has experienced glitches since it started

operating in October.

Cross, a Decatur resident, estimates she's about \$365 behind. She received one emergency payment from the state in October and one in November. She said she has not received the check dated Nov. 30. On Dec. 4, she received one dated Dec. 2, but

SUPPORT

Continued on A4

It was very skewed toward young black men, with 72 percent saying they've been stopped because they're black, she said.

"The police stop, which did not result in an arrest or citation, was motivated by his color," a practice called racial profiling.

"It really burned me up," said Robinson.

He's not alone in seeing a pattern.

A majority of Americans, regardless of race, believe that racial profiling is widespread in this country, says a new Gallup poll. And three-fourths of young black men in the survey say they believe they have been pulled over just because they are black.

The practice is illegal, but not a crime.

"It has been reported that police officers stop motorists of certain races or ethnic groups because they believe that these groups are more likely than others to commit certain types of crimes — and then arrest them," Robinson said.

More than four out of 10 blacks of all ages and both genders said they believed they had been stopped because of their race, said the poll, part of Gallup's annual social audit of black-white relations.

It was very skewed toward young black men, with 72 percent saying they've been stopped because they're black, she said.

"The police stop, which did not result in an arrest or citation, was motivated by his color," a practice called racial profiling.

"It really burned me up," said Robinson.

"If you have a nice car, they pull you over and think you're selling drugs. They don't think a black man can work and have enough money for a nice

PROFILING

Continued on A7

Curtain coming down for Beanie Babies

By SUSAN REEDY
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — Creatures like "Chipster," "Goatee," and "Honks" will soon be rendered scarce.

Production of Beanie Babies, the popular bean-stuffed toys, will stop Dec. 31, the Oak Brook-based toy-maker Ty Inc. announced on its Web site this week. Warehouses will be cleared of all but 100,000.

The message was included in a daily Internet "diary" entry by "TB," the president of Beanie Babies, who posted Wednesday night. An entry Thursday morning added, "We're all a little sad today since we heard that there would be no more Beanie after they retire. They

are going to start cleaning out the nursery today."

Decatur merchants say it's been a good run, but they look forward to Ty's new creation, which is as yet unknown.

"As far as our company is concerned, this has been the biggest item in our store," said Steve Haines, president of Haines & ESSIC. "There's been nothing (else) that has been that good to go to market." The product did not go to many merchandisers. It was only sold to smaller stores.

"I think something is going to happen," he said. "We wait until the new year to find out."

Many thought an announcement in August that all the Beanie babies

"retired" by the end of the year was a marketing ploy to pick up waning sales.

Ty did not give a reason for stopping production, but some retailers speculate it could be because the craze has died down.

"Kids got tired of them when they could not afford to buy them. Girls seem to have moved onto charm bracelets, and there's also 'Folktronica,'" said Gail Stogner, owner of Claire's Bears at 121 N. 22nd St. in Decatur, who carries Beanie Babies for almost four years. "People are still buying them, but it's not like it used to be."

BEANIES

Continued on A4

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Claire Stogner, owner of Claire's Bears at 121 N. 22nd St. in Decatur, says the company is retiring all current Beanie babies by Dec. 31, 1999.

BEANIES

Continued on A4

Copyright © 2026 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.