

Herald & Review

Wednesday
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Decatur, Illinois

Serving Central Illinois Since 1873

'It's not going to end in Decatur tonight. We're coming back again and again and again.'

The Rev. Jesse Jackson

Quick Take



WALTER PAYTON

1954 • 1999

Chicago bids farewell

Flags at half staff whipped in the cold November wind outside Soldier Field on Tuesday. But the day after his death, many spoke more of Walter Payton the man than Walter Payton the running back.

Sports / B1

Indestructible legacy

Walter Payton's legacy will include the courage and dignity with which he faced death.

Opinion / A8

Getting a lift

When Debbie Zimmernan found her weight creeping up, she decided to experiment with a different approach to weight loss — pumping iron.

Lifestyle / C1

1999 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Goal \$2.5 million
Raised \$2,007,221.97
Needed \$492,778.03
Days left 15

Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Tuesday.
■ Pick Three-Midday: 6-0-2
■ Pick Three-Evening: 1-7-8
■ Pick Four-Midday: 4-0-3-7
■ Pick Four-Evening: 4-7-9-3
■ Little Lotto: 03-11-19-21-26
■ Lotto jackpot: \$3 million
■ Big Game: 6-10-30-31-35
■ Big Money Ball: 14
■ Big Game jackpot: \$46 million

Weather

■ Today: Sunny, High 52
■ Tonight: Clear, Low 30.

Details / B6

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countdown:
59
Celebrate 2000

Sponsored by:
Anchor Daniel Memorial Co.
Decatur Memorial Hospital
Illinois Power Co.
50 cents
Our 120th year
Issue 307 • Four sections



GET INVOLVED:
The Rev. Jesse Jackson urges parents at a town hall meeting Tuesday at the Church of the Living God Temple 3 to get to know their children's teachers, exchange phone numbers and get involved in their children's education.



1,000 join call for reinstatement



COMING TOGETHER: Feeling the spirit of the town hall meeting Tuesday, Barbara Smith, Tacora Williams and Harold Johnson applaud the introduction of the Rev. Jesse Jackson. Some 1,000 people packed the Church of the Living God Temple 3 sanctuary in support of the seven Decatur high school students expelled for two years for fighting.

Jesse Jackson says a march will be held if school board does not reconsider expulsions

By BRAD MUDD
and BILLY TYUS
Herald Staff Writers

DECATUR — There will be a march through the streets of Decatur on Sunday with participation from throughout the state if a group of expelled high school students aren't reinstated by the end of week, the Rev. Jesse Jackson said Tuesday.

In an address that was part down-home church, part parenting course and part call to action, Jackson aroused the crowd of about 1,000 people gathered at the Church of the Living God Temple 3 in an effort to raise awareness of the expulsions and garner support for the students. There was singing, shouting and familiar chants of "Keep hope alive" and "I am somebody," along with ardent requests to "Return these students to school" by the crowd, composed of men, women and children of all ages and races.

The Decatur school board voted to expel seven students for two years after a Sept. 17 fight during a football game at Eisenhower High School. The school board has said the expulsions could be reviewed at the end of the school year and the students' reinstatements would be based upon participation in a community service program.

School board members say they are enforcing the district's zero tolerance for violence in issuing the

JACKSON

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School board president vows 'the expulsions stand'

Goetter says there's nothing Jackson can say to alter decision.

By KEN DICKSON
Herald Staff Writer

DECATUR — Decatur school board President Jackie Goetter let the Rev. Jesse Jackson know he was wasting his time even before he got off his plane at Decatur Airport.

"The expulsions stand," Goetter said. "As president of the board of education, there is nothing that the Rev. Jackson can say or do during his visit to Decatur that would make me change

my mind."

Seated next to Superintendent Kenneth Arritt in the board room at the Keil Administration Building, Goetter read a statement Tuesday that said "there is little to be served in further discussing and debating the recent action taken by the school board."

The board expelled three Decatur high school students Oct. 1 and four more on Oct. 4 as the result of a Sept. 17 fight at an intracity football game at Eisenhower High School. The expulsions are in force until Sept. 17, 2001.

Goetter cited "physical violence, physical confrontation, behavior that

endangered the lives of others and ganglike, mob action activity" as the reasons for the expulsions.

"The young men clearly initiated and were centrally involved in this horrific brawl," Goetter said. "Innocent bystanders, young and old, who were attending a school football game became victims in this melee. Picture, if you will, a grandmother protecting her young grandchildren by shielding them with her body."

Goetter said she is puzzled why an

GOETTER

Continued on A4



EXPELLED STUDENT: Courtney Carson applauds the remarks of the Rev. Jesse Jackson Tuesday evening.

Chapter One Josh

The Field of the Dogs

By KATHERINE PETERSON
Illustrated by EMILY ARNOLD MCCULLY



I wonder where he's going in all this snow, thought Josh, as he pressed his nose against a small pane in the porch door and watched his dog bound up the road. March would take a great leap and land, and then, instead of sinking into the depths of the snow, the small, brown body would bounce up again as gracefully as a deer on the Nature channel. Where could he be headed? After that stupid Wes Rockett's house, there was nothing at the end of the road — some fields, a bit of woods. Josh had wandered up the road himself last week before the snow came. It seemed strange his mother hadn't stopped him. In Virginia she would hardly let him go to the mall with his buddies. But now with a new husband, a new baby, and an old farmhouse at the other end of nowhere, she didn't seem to care whether he lived or died.

"Did you let March out again?" His mother had come to the door with the baby on her left hip and a diaper in her right hand.

"He was asking to go out," Josh said.

"In all this snow? Josh, that fool dog will get lost and freeze to death. I told you to walk him on the leash. He hasn't lived here long enough to find his way home."

Josh sighed, got his jacket, and stuck the leash in the pocket. As he opened the porch door his mother called from the bathroom. "Have you got your boots on?"



He went back for his boots. The boots were new. Greg, his stepfather, had bought them for him last Saturday — so he could be "a real Vermont."

What a laugh. He yanked off his old sneakers and then pulled on the boots. They had huge rubber bottoms and leather tops that had to be laced up practically to his belly button. At this rate the dog would be miles away before Josh even got off the porch.

"Don't stay out too long, now," his mother called again. "If you can't find him right away, just come on home, hear?"

JOSH

Continued on A4

Shelbyville woman part of pioneering heart study

By ARVIN DONLEY
Herald Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — Marie Ross and Bryan Evans would have little in common if it wasn't their misfortune to suffer from heart disease.

But Ross, who lives in Shelbyville, and Evans, a Mount Vernon resident, share a bond as the first two Central Illinois residents to take part in a Food and Drug Administration study of intracoronary radiation therapy.

Both underwent balloon angioplasty in late September at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, but only one received the radiation therapy, designed to inhibit the growth of scar tissue inside the

STUDY

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