

# Happy Thanksgiving Herald & Review

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Decatur, Illinois

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## Quick Take

### Tuscola may be site of new Pamida

Tuscola officials are looking forward to a Pamida discount store to be built north of U.S. 36 near the Factory Stores at Tuscola. The city council approved a plan on Monday, but Pamida officials declined to comment on the venture until the final documents are in place.

Business / A7

### Illinois bound for Miami

The University of Illinois got a jump on the building bowl frenzy Wednesday when it accepted an invitation to play in the Miron-Pe.com Bowl on Dec. 30 at Pro Player Stadium in Miami, Illinois' opponent will not be known until after this weekend.

Sports / D1

### Tourney continues

Mount Zion will face Peoria Central in Friday's Decatur Thanksgiving Classic semifinals after beating MacArthur 41-38 on Wednesday night.

Sports / D1

### Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Wednesday:  
■ Pick Three-Midday: 1-5-8  
■ Pick Three-Evening: 9-2-4  
■ Pick Four-Midday: 3-8-4-8  
■ Pick Four-Evening: 4-5-2-2  
■ Little Lotto: 01-12-14-25-29  
■ Lotto: 02-14-15-33-39-45  
■ Lotto jackpot: \$3 million  
■ Big Game jackpot: \$5 million

### Weather

■ Today: Sunny, High 52.  
■ Tonight: Clear, Low 34.

Details / B6

### Inside

Ann Landers ..... E6  
Business ..... A7  
Classifieds ..... C1-10  
Comics ..... E4  
Lifestyle ..... E1-6  
Movies ..... E6  
Obituaries ..... B2-3  
Opinion ..... B4  
Puzzles ..... C3, E8  
Sports ..... D1-6  
Television ..... E7

countdown  
37  
Celebrate 2000

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Issue 329 • Five sections

## Police overtime costs top \$54,000 during expulsion protests

By BRAD MUDD  
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — The Decatur Police Department spent more than \$54,000 on overtime pay for police security at the rallies and demonstrations surrounding the Decatur school expulsion controversy.

More than 1,700 overtime hours were worked by city officers during planning and actual events between Nov. 8 and 21, Cmdr. Rich Ryan said Wednesday. Those figures do not include more than 400 hours by police management staff, who are salaried, and hundreds of hours worked by police auxiliary officers, who aren't paid, Ryan said.

The 1999-2000 police budget has about \$600,000 allotted for overtime, with much of that intended for court appearances, report writing after shifts and security for Decatur Celebration.

Spending about 9 percent of that overtime budget in a little more than two weeks will affect the department's budget, but how remains to be seen.

The overtime budget is based on some expected expenses. Obviously, no one could predict this happening, Ryan said. "The \$54,000, that's a chunk of money that has an impact to a budget that doesn't have any fat in it to begin with."

Officers were deployed during two marches organized by the Rev. Jesse Jackson and his Rain-  
bow/PUSH Coalition and during several days of protests at Decatur high schools.

Jackson and his supporters attempted to reinstate seven Decatur high school students. Six of the students were expelled for their involvement in a Sept. 17 fight at a football game. Another student withdrew from school before being expelled.

## MERIDIAN'S CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON Working as a team



MOTHER BIRDS: When the Meridian Hawks take the field Friday, they'll be backed once again by townsfolk and, of course, their moms. On Wednesday, Peggy Ryder, left, and Kim Wilson were painting banners to show their support. Peggy is the mother of No. 25, Neil. Kim is the mother of No. 7, Clint. Volunteer Pam Mathias is also pictured.

### Meridian's march to championship game reflects spirit of reconciliation

By BRETT WILCOXSON  
H&R Staff Writer

MERIDIAN — William Shakespeare once asked, "What's in a name?" Residents of Blue Mound and Macon might answer that a community's identity is.

With the Meridian Hawks playing in the Class 2A state championship football game at Memorial Stadium in Champaign on Friday, some say the lingering wounds of consolidation might finally be healing as

the communities unite in victory. But others say those wounds were only beginning to mend and are being reopened as the Illinois High School Association and the media constantly refer to the highly touted team as Macon Meridian — omitting Blue Mound for the sake of clarity.

As those who've driven through Macon lately already know, the 1999 Hawks varsity football squad is 13-0, a fact posted on signs in nearly every

yard in town, along with offers of support such as "Go Hawks," "U of I Bound," and as one extreme fan put it "on the eighth day God created the 1999 Hawks Football Team!"

Nearly all of the businesses in town have painted their windows with similar messages such as "The word is out, the Hawks are flying high" and "Hawks #1."

One of those establishments is the Clinton administration and the European

### If you go

WHAT: Class 2A state championship game. Meridian High School (13-0) vs. Stillman Valley (11-2).  
WHERE: Memorial Stadium, Champaign.  
TICKETS: 1 of 1 ticket office, 333-3470.  
TELEVISION: Live broadcast on FOX Sports Net.  
WEATHER: Partly cloudy, high of 57 degrees.

MERIDIAN  
Continued on A6

## Students learn physics of pumpkin pitching

Lessons help propel Tower Hill youths into World Champion Pumpkin Chunk contest.

By AMY BURCH  
H&R Staff Writer

TOWER HILL — A small technology class at Tower Hill High School recently discovered a new use for pumpkins — launching them several hundred feet until they splatter into a texture almost perfect for pie.

"It's different," senior Keith Crouch, 17, "It's not every day you go out and shoot a pumpkin."

Crouch worked with two fellow students and teacher Norman Wilson to create the "Perpetual Velocity Chunker" which is used to "chunk" a pumpkin record distances.

They put the machine to the test this fall in the World Champion Pumpkin Chunk competition in Delaware. The competition, in its 15th year, has become a craze on the East Coast and is growing in popularity worldwide.

The contest is said to have initiated between a



WHERE NO PUMPKIN HAS GONE BEFORE: The Tower Hill High School Pumpkin Chunkin team can toss your pumpkin more than 600 feet away with their Perpetual Velocity Chunker. The crew, from left, includes Keith Crouch, Jake Koons, physics teacher Norman Wilson and Chris Kucinski.

PUMPKINS  
Continued on A9

## Unions plan protest at WTO talks

As delegates are discussing global trade, AFL-CIO chief promises 'confrontation' to push for equal rights for workers.

By Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — When delegates from 135 nations gather in Seattle next week to discuss the World Trade Organization's future, an army of union workers will be outside banging on the door, demanding to be heard.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney vows that "tens of thousands" of union workers and their leaders from more than 200 countries will march outside the WTO conference. He promises a "confrontation in Seattle," where mass protests in the streets are likely to overshadow the drawing talks on global trade inside the convention hall.

Sweeney's goal is nothing less than to force the world's governments to shape and enforce rules guaranteeing minimal rights to workers — just as they guarantee legal protection to corporations — when they negotiate new terms for trade in the global economy. The WTO session in Seattle is designed to kick off a three-year round of talks on new world trade rules for the new millennium.

China and most developing nations are against Sweeney. Big business accepts that trade's impact on global workers should be studied, but little more.

The Clinton administration and the European

WTO  
Continued on A4

## Computer owners warned to beware of hidden Y2K bugs

Problems may range from electronic glitches to debilitating computer viruses.

By BILLY TYUS  
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — Although many home computers are ready for Jan. 1, some users could discover at the end of this year that their machines have been infected with debilitating viruses.

And those waking up on Jan. 1 expecting their morning cups of coffee could be in for an unexpected awakening — or non-awakening, as the case may be.

Users of some electronic equipment — from computers and televisions to coffee makers and compact disc players — could face operational difficulties at the new millennium because of the "Y2K bug," a computer glitch. Some of those problems could be fatal — causing a complete shutdown — while others may simply make normal operations more difficult and listing incorrect dates or times on displays and outputs.

For example, certain fax machines may work but print the incorrect date at the top of output pages.

Home computers may bear the brunt of the at-home Y2K problem. And those problems may be

Y2K  
Continued on A8

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