

A1 *45PA*

Herald & Review

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Friday
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Decatur, Illinois

Quick Take

1999 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Victory!
Central Illinois / A3

Peer group

Lifestyle / D1

Open house
Students show visitors how they get a jump-start on college and a career at the Decatur Area Vocational Center open house.

Central Illinois / A3

Big play man
Meridian fullback Jason Trotter has developed into a game-breaker.

Sports / B1

Lottery
Here are the winning numbers Thursday in the Illinois lottery:

- Pick Three-Midday: 4-4-7
- Pick Three-Evening: 4-0-7
- Pick Four-Midday: 6-4-7
- Pick Four-Evening: 0-0-7-9
- Little Lotto: 07-09-12-15
- Lotto jackpot: \$2.5 million
- Big Game jackpot: \$10 million

Weather
■ Today: Rain possible. High 56.
■ Tonight: Cloudy. Low 36.

Details / B8

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Celebrate 2000

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Our 12th year
Issue 323 • Four sections

DECATUR EXPULSIONS

A step toward school

FIRST STEP: Roosevelt Fuller, one of the expelled students, enters the Macon-Piatt Regional Office of Education on Thursday to begin the process of enrolling in an alternative education program. The six students are expected to begin classes on Monday.

Expelled teens begin enrollment in alternative education

By BRAD MUDD, TOM COLLINS, RON INGRAM, SUSAN REEDY & KEN DICKSON
H&R Staff Writers

DECATUR — The Rev. Jesse Jackson left Decatur Thursday, but only after he'd sat six students at the center of the expulsion controversy to begin enrolling them in an alternative high school.

As he did so, Jackson ignored a group of white supremacists who had gathered to confront him.

Later in the day, in Macon County Circuit Court, Circuit Judge Jerry Patton continued a hearing for a requested temporary restraining order against Jackson, his supporters and the expelled students. The hearing will resume at 10 a.m. Friday.

The agency's chief spokesman, Everett Nicholas, attorney for the Decatur School District, wanted to postpone the hearing, but Jackson and the Rev. PUSH Coalition said there will be no public demonstration.

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Later in the day, in Macon County Circuit Court, Circuit Judge Jerry Patton continued a hearing for a requested temporary restraining order against Jackson, his supporters and the expelled students. The hearing will resume at 10 a.m. Friday.

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■ Suggestions
Black lawmakers offer their alternatives to zero tolerance.

■ Expulsion
Author Sharon Daloz Parks says a firm foundation is vital to a child's development.

Stories / A4

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Lawmaker denounces school board as 'criminals'

By ANTHONY MAN
H&R Springfield Bureau Chief

SPRINGFIELD — The Legislative Black Caucus entered the fray Thursday over the case of the expelled Decatur students. One state representative after another said the board members were "criminals."

Other Black Caucus members charged that the Decatur school board violated the students' rights by denying them due process before expelling them.

The legislators were vague about the sources of information they relied on for this assessment. When pressed for specifics, one senator mocked the question and most of the 16 legislators did not answer and walked out of the news conference. As

sources cited news reports, the students' lawyer, the Rev. Jesse Jackson's PUSH Coalition, said in a radio interview with one expelled student's mother.

State Rep. Monique D. Davis, D-Chicago, said that the Decatur

CONFRONTATION: Jay Dee of Decatur, right, was one of the people who stopped to confront members of the World Church of the Creator on Thursday outside Eisenhower High School. The Peoria-based organization, a white supremacist group, was in Decatur to protest the Rev. Jesse Jackson's involvement.

Continued on A4

Autumn dry spell could haunt farmers

By RON INGRAM
H&R Staff Writer
and The Associated Press

DECATUR — Outdoor enthusiasts are loving it, but Central Illinois farmers are uneasy over the same phenomenon: lots of sunshine and little rain.

From the southern tip of the state, which has seen one-third of an inch of rain this month, to the north, where it hasn't rained a trace, the state is experiencing one of the driest autumns on record.

Those conditions have prevailed since June, when the Decatur weather reporter above average precipitation of 7.6 inches, said James Angel, state climatologist with the Illinois State Water Survey in Champaign.

Since then, rainfall amounts have been below normal, with the autumn months being especially dry, Angel said. Decatur's rainfall total for September was 2.79 inches, compared with the normal of 3.4 inches.

November's rainfall in Decatur has been 0.02 inches, compared with the normal of 2.87 inches for the entire month, Angel said.

The reason for the lack of moisture is uncertain, Angel said.

"High pressure has been a lot more of a dominant factor in the weather in the last few months."

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Decatur rainfall

Month	1998 (inches)	1999 (inches)
July	2.79	2.79
Aug.	5.5	1.2
Sept.	2.79	0.5
Oct.	2.79	0.5
Nov.	2.79	0.5

Source: Illinois State Water Survey

He said: "We've had more sunshine and clear days than normal in Central Illinois and throughout."

November is typically one of the cloudiest months, but not this year. Central Illinois has seen very few cloudy days, Angel said.

The lack of a low pressure system that is keeping cold air sitting in Canada instead of roaring through Illinois is keeping the moisture away as DRY

Continued on A5

Biotech critics issue call for labels on gene-altered foods

Scientists, experts support industry at FDA hearing.

By PAUL BRINCKMANN
H&R Staff Writer

CHICAGO — Critics of genetically modified food attacked the government's lack of mandatory regulation of the industry's products and pleaded for a labeling law on gene-altered food ingredients.

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Scientists, biotech industry

Scientists expressed faith in genetic manipulation and in the Food and Drug Administration's regulation process, but public concern was obvious during the hearing at the Metcalfe Federal Building in Chicago.

The hearing was the first of three nationwide by the FDA amid growing controversy over biotechnology, the practice of

inserting a gene from one organism into another to derive various benefits. The agency spent most of the day listening to the public's concerns. Later in the afternoon, it heard from about 80 people who were given two minutes to speak.

The issue was brought home to Central Illinois agribusiness concerns this summer when Archer Daniels Midland Co. requested farmers separate their genetically altered crops from others. ADA said concerns from overseas consumers prompted the move.

On the other hand, the confusion by many area farmers, who are not sure whether to continue using the genetically altered varieties, despite the benefits.

Many critics of the technology said they appreciate the benefits.

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