

# Herald & Review

Sunday

November 14, 1999  
Decatur, Illinois

Serving Central Illinois Since 1873

## Volleyball

Casey-Westfield  
4th / C1,10

Meridian's  
Shane Major

## Prep quarterfinals

Meridian 41, Argenta-Oreana 0  
Tolono Unity 32, Tuscola 14/C1,10

Argenta-Oreana's Kyle Rodgers

## Scores

■ FIGHTING ILLINI	46
□ Ohio State	20
■ Michigan	31
□ Penn State	27

Big Ten/C1,4

## Quick Take

### What America eats

Our tastes range far and wide, and today's Parade magazine covers many of them. For instance, see updates on Thanksgiving favorites and learn the smart way to eat chocolate.

Parade / section inside

## The Field of the Dogs

Chapter 9  
Lifestyle / G1

## 1999 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Goal ..... \$2.5 million  
Raised ..... \$2,139,471.09  
Needed ..... \$360,528.91  
Days left ..... 5

## Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Saturday in the Illinois State Lottery.  
■ Pick Three-Midday: 3-9-4  
■ Pick Three-Evening: 3-9-1  
■ Pick Four-Midday: 1-8-8-5  
■ Pick Four-Evening: 2-8-9-4  
■ Lotto: 16-23-35-38-41-42  
■ Lotto jackpot: \$6 million  
■ Big Game jackpot: \$7 million

## Weather

■ Today: Sunny, High 59.  
■ Tonight: Clear, Low 30.

Details / B6

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countdown:

48  
Celebrate 2000

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# Expulsions threaten racial split

Officials see wounds of 20 years ago reopening

"Decatur is a city of contrasting beauty, from its rolling green parks to its iron river of rails, from its scenic lake shore to its old industrial skyline. It is diverse and friendly, and it evokes a Midwestern hometown charm that will linger in your memory."

Introductory paragraph on the Web page for the Decatur Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

"In a scene reminiscent of the civil rights marches of the 1960s, Jackson led the crowd through the streets of Decatur in support of the students before gathering at Eisenhower High School."

— From front-page story in the Herald & Review on Nov. 8, 1999, after the Rev. Jesse Jackson led a march on behalf of a group of expelled Decatur high school students.

By KEN DICKSON

DECATUR — The issue that no one wants to talk about is bubbling to the surface of the dispute between the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Decatur school board.

"Not black or white, but wrong or right," Jackson has said on numerous occasions during the past two weeks. But race is becoming an issue in the controversy surrounding seven African-American high school students expelled as the result of a fight Sept. 17 at a football game at Eisenhower High School.

Community leaders who have fought on both sides of the issue are increasingly thinking about how to hold the lid on the racial issues being roiled since Jackson came to town Nov. 2 to begin a stand against the expulsions.

"This has been a very emotional, gut-wrenching issue for everyone involved," Decatur schools Superintendent Kenneth Arndt said. "But, we're losing sight of something: No one wants to hurt anyone."

Keith Anderson, vice president of the Decatur chapter of Jackson's Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, said a time of healing and coming together will be needed by the Decatur community when the issue is resolved.

"Some people are afraid there will be retaliation from the powers that be," said Anderson, founder of Homework Hangout, a successful Decatur program to



OPPOSITE SIDES: After their meeting Wednesday at a residence near Eisenhower High School, Decatur school Superintendent Kenneth Arndt and the Rev. Jesse Jackson discuss Jackson's request of leading a small group of Eisenhower students back into school without student identification. Jackson ended up walking the few with identification to the police line, where they were admitted into school.



Herold & Review/Dennis Mayne

**SPEAKING UP:** Tom Swartz, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce for Decatur and Macon County, said the dispute will not divert his organization's community improvement efforts.

## A local solution

After all the out-of-town protesters leave, it will be Decatur people who solve Decatur's problems.

Editorial / B4

motivate young people to get an education and stay out of trouble. "We hope not. There should be none of that for people exercising their rights. All people have a right to their opinions."

"We can all get along in this society. We care about the school

RACIAL

Continued on A3

## Chicago meeting rallies fight vs. 'injustice'

By MATT BARON

For the Herald & Review

CHICAGO — Frequently, those who gathered at the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition headquarters for a meeting Saturday morning stood up.

They came to their feet when U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush declared there's "a fight going on against injustice." Rush said he asked

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno to investigate whether federal law was violated when the records of what he termed the "Decatur Seven" were made public.

They stood when the Rev. James Meeks expressed outrage at the disproportionate number of blacks who are in jails and pris-

ons, and who are suspended and expelled from schools.

But the response was muted when Meeks asked who planned to journey to Decatur today for a march and rally. Roughly 10 percent of the 350 in attendance rose from their seats.

"The rest of you," Meeks noted, "have a few more hours to think about it."

Rainbow/PUSH held the meeting to give "the facts" about the "crisis in Decatur," Meeks, pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Chicago, was tapped to give a firsthand account.

The gathering was predominantly black, though Meeks asked a contingent of whites seated

toward the back where they were from. After the 15 told him they attend a college, they received polite applause and Meeks invited them to come aboard one of the buses today.

Coalition members have said today's march will be as much as three times the size of the one a week ago.

Some 20 buses are scheduled to leave Chicago at 10 a.m. today to travel to Decatur for the 2 p.m. march that will begin near the Franklin Street overpass at Water and Cerro Gordo streets.

Others are expected to arrive

PUSH

Continued on A3

## Jackson, Stockard, KKK set demonstrations

By TOM COLLINS

For the Herald & Review

DECATUR — Police are bracing for a busy Sunday, with at least three groups expecting to march or rally today in response to the Decatur school board's expulsion of seven high school students.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson is preparing a second march through the streets of Decatur at 2 p.m. today, with a staging area near the Franklin Street overpass at Water and Cerro Gordo streets. The theme of the march is "Save the Dream, and Leave No Child Behind." The NAACP has joined the effort, and members will march with Jackson.

Rainbow/PUSH officials said they expect more than 6,000 people at the march, including 2,000 NAACP members, Congressman Bobby Rush, D. Chicago, and the Chicago Urban League, The Asso-

ciated Press reported.

The march by the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, which Jackson founded, is expected to be even bigger than the one a week ago when hundreds of people came in from Chicago, Springfield and Champaign. Decatur police estimated last Sunday's crowd at 1,200, and organizers said there were thousands more.

But two other groups also will compete for the public's attention.

Decatur City Council member Betsy Stockard and her supporters will stage another march today along Eldorado Street. Similar to one she conducted a week ago, Stockard is holding her rally to "stop the violence." She has come out in support of the school

JACKSON

Continued on A3

## Boy in walker reaches his soccer goal

Cerebral palsy, safety concerns don't stop youth from taking the field.

LAWTON, Okla. (AP) — With his bright red metal walker before him like a shield, 9-year-old Ryan Taylor joined his soccer teammates Saturday after winning a court battle to get onto the field.

Ryan, who has cerebral palsy, came in early in the game and played to the end, smiling a lot and getting one good kick at the ball.

"I played three quarters, I'm tired," he said, panting, following the game that ended in a 0-0 tie.

The controversy emerged last month when the local youth soccer league barred Ryan from playing, saying his metal walker posed a safety risk. It took a lawsuit and a federal judge's ruling Friday to lift the ban.

"I find it very remote that there could be some injury from the walker," U.S. District Judge David Russell said.

Attorneys for Ryan's parents had argued that the field the Lawton Evening Optimist Soccer

Association leases from the Fort Sill Army post was a public facility under the Americans with Disabilities Act, so the league was obligated to accommodate Ryan.

League officials feared other children could trip over the walker and hurt Ryan or themselves. They offered other accommodations, but all stopped short of allowing the third-grader to play on his own with the four-wheeled device.

In his ruling, the judge recommended

SOCCER

Continued on A6



WHEEL EXCITEMENT Ryan Taylor, center, tries to stop the opponents from moving into scoring position on Saturday in Lawton, Okla.