

*Al* 92 pp

# Herald & Review

Serving Central Illinois Since 1873

Sunday  
November 7, 1999  
Decatur, Illinois

**State champion**  
Shelbyville freshman Sarah Selby conquers all comers in Class A cross-country championship.  
**Sports / C1**

**Quick Take**  
**Bement board sued**  
A Bement police officer accuses the village board of conducting illegal closed meetings with the aim of firing him.  
**Central Illinois / B1**

**Loving the library**  
Whether it's bright, airy space or the ample, nearby parking, the new Decatur Public Library is the darling of the reading public.  
**Lifestyle / G1**

**Strikers' benefits**  
Bridgestone/Firestone workers are allowed to keep the unemployment compensation they received during a 1994-95 labor dispute.  
**Business / D1**

**1999 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN**  
  
Goal ..... \$2.5 million  
Raised ..... \$2,012,656.97  
Needed ..... \$487,343.03  
Days left ..... 11

**Lottery**  
Here are the winning numbers selected Saturday in the Illinois State Lottery:  
■ Pick Three-Midday: 3-0-0  
■ Pick Three-Evening: 0-3-3  
■ Pick Four-Midday: 2-0-0-8  
■ Pick Four-Evening: 1-3-3-0  
■ Lotto: 29-36-39-47-48-51  
■ Lotto jackpot: \$4 million  
■ Big Game jackpot: \$62 million

**Weather**  
■ Today: Sunny, mild. High 68.  
■ Tonight: Clear. Low 46.  
**Details / B6**

**Inside**

At Home	E1-E4
Ann Landers	D1-D4
Books	E5-E8, F2-F8
Classifieds	E5-E8, F1
Explore	G1-G3
Lifestyle	G4-G5
Movies	G6-G7
Obituaries	B6-B7
Opinion	B4-B6
Puzzle	F6
Sports	C1-C10
Television	G4

**countdown:**  
**55**  
**Celebrate 2000**

**Sponsored by:**  
Archer Daniels Midland Co.  
Decatur Memorial Hospital  
Illinois Power Co.

**\$1.75**  
Our 128th year  
Issue 311 • Seven sections

 7 02138 100002 9

**SPORTS SPECTACULAR**  
**Volleyball**  
Casey defeats Shelbyville, gets state tournament berth  
**Preps / C10**

**High school second-round action**  
Argenta-Oreana 50, Salt Fork 20  
Milledgeville 50, Cerro Gordo 23  
Freeport 38, Arcola 6  
Tuscola 35, Sesser 28  
**Preps / C10**

**SCHOOL Restructuring**

## The Edison effect

*Backers tout academic gains, foes worry about finances*



For the Herald & Review/Justin Warren

**GETTING THE BEAT:** Teacher Alison Rout makes music with two of her pupils at Williams-Edison School in Flint, Mich. Music, art and Spanish classes are integral components at Edison Project schools.

**By KEN DICKSON**  
HJR Staff Writer

**T**he effects on students, schools and teachers are major concerns by many in the Decatur School District if the schools are turned over to the Edison Project.

Edison says it will improve student achievement and decrease problems with attendance and mobility at the two schools. Superintendent Kenneth Arndt also hopes the introduction of Edison would increase and stabilize enrollment throughout the school district.

However, Decatur educators fear Edison will extract from other schools in town, with a negative financial impact. Specifically, they worry a grade school might need to be closed and teaching jobs eliminated.

Edison is a privately owned company based in Peoria, Ill., runs 79 schools in 16 states, including two that opened this year in Peoria. Edison is courting the Decatur school board for a chance to operate Williams-Edison and Williams schools in partnership with the district.

Arndt and some members of the school board promised that the district will not pay more than \$100,000 in operating expense per pupil to bring in the Edison

program.

The average operating expense per year is \$3,883, but educators say that it costs more to educate a high school student than a first-grader — classes are more expensive in high school, and there are many more costly extracurricular activities like band and football.

So, if Decatur pays the average, is that not a disproportionate amount?

"The Edison promise is to bring education at an earlier age," Arndt said. "It has been proven to have a greater impact on achievement. Traditionally, it's just the opposite and much more money is spent on high school students. It's that way in Decatur. High school students have many more electives and special programs like sports and labs."

Arndt says the Edison Project for Decatur because of its promise of increasing enrollment and student achievement at the two schools. "It will be very difficult

**EDISON**  
Continued on A6

**don't want to be waiting until the end of the year and wait until the last minute to stock up. I think it's going to be chaos at that time of the year, anyway.**

**SYKES' LINE** is that nobody really knows what's going to happen," Sykes said. "My son's timeline is, I think, 'Oh, is it really going to be that bad?' But I'm about as far as I can go with that."

The Y2K Problem is the anticipated failure of computers stemming from a programming glitch. Many computers will not be able to process the year 2000. Come Jan. 1, computer calendars will read "00" and have no way to distinguish between 1999 and 2000.

Y2K has inspired others, most of which government and industry leaders insist will never come to pass. Nuclear missiles will not launch. Power stations

**PLAN**  
Continued on A5

**EMERGENCY TOOL:** Macon County Red Cross volunteer Kelly J. Huff of Emergency Services Dan Groves unpacks the food storage containers in the agency's new emergency response vehicle. The new E.R.V. just arrived Thursday from Tennessee and will be used to store supplies in the event of a Y2K-related emergency. The American Red Cross however, has been quick to assure people that significant Y2K problems are not expected.

**EMERGENCY** Continued on A9

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

Copyright © 2026 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.