

Herald & Review

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Decatur, Illinois

Quick Take

Tourney finale

Mount Zion took third place and Peoria Central clinched Springfield to win the Decatur Thanksgiving Classic.

Sports / C1



Gift guide

Columnist Dave Barry has spared no expense in bringing you this year's Holiday Gift Guide. And he's not making this up.

Lifestyle / C1

Growing pains

St. Mary Catholic School in Taylorville has a problem many private schools would like to have — it's growing too fast. The school's fund-raising drive is nearing its goal, and a new school is rising in a lot next door.

Central Illinois / B1

Lottery

Here are the winning numbers Saturday in the Illinois State Lottery.

- Pick Three-Midday: 7-4-4
- Pick Three-Evening: 6-7-5
- Pick Four-Midday: 3-1-6-4
- Pick Four-Evening: 7-4-1-3
- Lotto: 03-04-19-21-38-50
- Lotto jackpot: \$3.5 million
- Big Game jackpot: \$7 million

Weather

■ Today: Partly cloudy. High 52.
■ Tonight: Clearing. Low 31.

Details / B8

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Celebrate 2000

Sponsored by
Archdiocese of St. Paul
Decatur Memorial Hospital
Illinois Power Co.
\$1.75
Our 120th year
Issue 332 • Seven sections



DECATUR EDUCATION



ONE ON ONE: Linda Hasenmyer, director of the Macon/Platt Regional Safe School, takes time for a discussion with 15-year-old Steven Austin. Hasenmyer said Safe School has lost seven kids 'to the streets' but has returned 45 others to regular public school.

Board hopes to broaden alternatives

Dispute over expulsions highlights need for options to help troubled students.

By KEN DICKSON

H&R Staff Writer
DECATUR — School officials say someone would have to pick up the tab if all students eligible for expulsion were given the opportunity to attend alternative education programs.

As the dispute between the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and the Decatur School District Education

unfolded over the past few weeks, the Rev. Jesse Jackson made it clear he sought change in the way school districts throughout the state and the country deal with troubled students.

Jackson focused on the seven students expelled for fighting at a Sept. 17 football game at Eisenhower High School but broadened the scope of his argument, insisting that children not be "cast into the streets" but continue to

SCHOOLS
Continued on A5

Counties: 911's OK for Y2K

Despite assurances, just 4 of 15 systems say they're 100% ready

By NANCY CHESLEY

H&R Springfield Bureau Writer

SPRINGFIELD — Only four of 15 Central Illinois 911 emergency telephone systems report 100 percent compliance for the so-called year 2000 bug, but managers of the systems say there is no need for alarm come Jan. 1.

System operators in Central Illinois and elsewhere say their systems will work as long as telephone and electric services operate. A state official says he is not as confident.

Records obtained from the Illinois Commerce Commission show half the state's 201 emergency telephone systems report they will be ready come Jan. 1. The records show the others reported percentages of compliance as low as zero or have not filed reports.

The commission list shows Macon County at 56 percent compliance in June, the last report received. Decatur police Cmdr. Michael Buckley said he was out of the city for three months and reports may not have been filed.

Buckley directs the police emergency communications division and countywide 911 service. He said the county's emergency system will be ready for 2000.

"The computers we're using will be OK," Buckley said. Two newer, faster computers were installed last week, and Buckley said all

911
Continued on A6

Compliance

H&R Springfield Bureau

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Commerce Commission records show these Central Illinois 911 systems, their Y2K compliance percentages and the date of their last reports if less than 100 percent compliant:

Crawford County, 100 percent	Edgar County, 100 percent
Platt County, 100 percent	Richland County, 100 percent
Marion County, 96 percent, November 1999	Cumberland County, 10 percent, January 1999
Jasper County, 0 percent, June 1999	Christian County, 15 percent, June 1999
Macon County, 56 percent, June 1999	Logan County, 99 percent, June 1999
Coles County, 25 percent, June 1999	Montgomery County, 75 percent, June 1999
Douglas County, 85 percent, June 1999	DeWitt County, 86 percent, August 1999
Clark County, 99 percent, September 1999	

Decatur School District numbers, 1998-99 school year

Total enrollment	11,168
Number of students who were suspended	1,731
High school students involved	828
Elementary and middle school	903
Number of suspension cases	3,984
Half-day to three days	3,171
Four to 10 days	813
Number of expulsions	7

Area has large stake in WTO talks

Opening up markets could mean bonanza for farmers, agribusiness.

By PAUL BRINKMANN

H&R Staff Writer
DECATUR — Local farmers Emmett Setton and Dain Friend are among the throngs of people heading to Seattle

this week-end for a global trade conference that may have a large impact on agriculture in Central Illinois.

Friend and Setton will represent Illinois farmers at the 1999 World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, a gathering of trade officials from about 100 nations.

"This is a global market now," said Setton, of Dalton

■ **Trouble brewing**
Many groups are planning disruptions at this week's talks.
Story / D1

City. "We're not just dealing domestically. Our only salvation is to ship some crops overseas or grow less. The bottom line is we have to move our product."

Local agribusiness firms Archer Daniels Midland Co. and A.E. Staley Mfg. Co. have much at stake during WTO talks. As global food processors, ADM and Staley rely on international trade and U.S. subsidy programs for major portions of income.

It will be the first time since the WTO was conceived in 1994 that a new round of talks is started. The meetings will begin a three-year process, setting the tone and agenda for the future of global trade.

American farm interests hope to see progress made on global issues that hit farmers and grain companies in their pocketbooks, such as agricul-

WTO
Continued on A6

World Trade Organization

■ An international institution and a forum for negotiating, administering and enforcing a set of agreements to reduce trade barriers.

■ Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

■ Current membership is 135 nations. Although the United States dominates the group, Europe and Japan wield large influence. The largest nonmember nations are China and Russia.

■ Born in 1994 in Morocco out of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Formally authorized in 1996 by the member nations.

■ The WTO expanded on GATT, which was originally founded after World War II to reduce world tensions and economic woes caused by trade barriers, such as tariffs and subsidies.

■ The WTO maintains that its agreements help lower the cost of food and products worldwide and created a global economic boom. Critics of the WTO include labor and environmental groups.

■ The 1999 Ministerial Conference in Seattle is expected to kick off a new round of talks lasting three years. The two major economic sectors on the agenda include agriculture and services.

Sides reach breakthrough in Northern Ireland talks

Agreement could mean first coalition government in country's history.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Northern Ireland's biggest party cleared the way Saturday for the speedy formation of an unprecedented Protestant-Catholic administration, the long-elusive goal of last year's peace accord.

But Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble, who received just 36 percent support from his Protestant party's governing council, bought his breakthrough at a potentially heavy price.

Attempting to minimize opposition to forming a four-party administration Monday that would include the IRA-linked Sinn Féin party, Trimble told his party grass roots he would resign as the Cabinet's senior minister in February if the Irish Republican Army hadn't begun to disarm by then.

The motion, passed on a 480-349 vote, allows the Ulster Unionists to nominate candi-

dates Monday for the 12-member Cabinet, which would include two Sinn Féin members. It also commits the Ulster Unionist Council to reconvene in February "to take a final decision" on whether to keep governing in coalition with Sinn Féin.

Trimble presented a resignation letter to senior party officers, laying out the rules under which he would withdraw from the Cabinet in February, but the text wasn't made public.

"We've done our bit," a relieved Trimble announced after the result was declared at Belfast's new riverside concert hall, itself a symbol of changing times in this once bomb-scarred city.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair hailed the breakthrough. "It's taken a great deal of courage and leadership to get here and it will take further courage and leadership to build that lasting peace, but I remain of the view that we have the best prospect in a generation for

AGREEMENT
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