

A6 CENTRAL ILLINOIS Decatur, Illinois • Tuesday, December 28, 1999

## Y2K: Extra staff to be on call

**Continued from A1**  
The company said Monday it "anticipates no disruption of service due to rollover issues." All critical components and applications that could be affected by Y2K were reviewed and replaced or repaired if problems were found.  
If the power goes out around midnight due to the weather, it would be natural for many people to believe the outage was Y2K-related, Stengel said.  
"We will be communicating with the media after the rollover period so we will rely on the media to get the word out on what happens," he said.  
The length of an outage depends on the extent of the damage, Stengel said. He wasn't aware of any extended outages in the area during the January 1999 storm.  
"We're always prepared for weather, that's just part of what we do," Stengel said. If a big storm was coming that had the potential for causing power problems, extra staff could be called in, he said.  
As part of its Y2K contingency

plan, the company will have key personnel on site during the rollover, an extra coal supply available and three times the generating reserve capacity that is normally required.  
"Our readiness efforts were completed several months ago," Stengel said. "Now it's just a matter of New Year's Eve coming and getting through it."  
In case of a power outage, the weather service recommends closing off unneeded rooms, stuffing rags or towels in cracks under doors and covering windows at night.  
It's important to continue to eat and drink because food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat. Wearing layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing is also important.  
Some basics to keep on hand to prepare for a winter storm include: a warm coat, gloves or mittens, hat and water-resistant boots for each family member; extra blankets, and kitty litter for temporary traction. Emergency heating equipment such as space heaters and wood or

coal stoves should also be considered.  
Sales of generators, flashlights, lanterns, kerosene heaters and other items that would be useful during a power outage have been up throughout the year, said Terry Weiss, manager of the home improvement department at Sears.  
Some are just very skeptical thinking everything is going to shut down," Weiss said.  
In the past two weeks, Kenney's Ace Hardware in Mount Zion has had a run on batteries and all types of flashlights, said Mike Houran, store manager.  
Gas-powered heaters and battery-powered lanterns also have been popular.  
"People are preparing for the weather and they're preparing for anything that may happen on New Year's Day. Both have got people pretty spooked," Houran said.  
Sales of shovels and snow blowers have also been great, Houran said. People who found themselves knee deep in snow last January don't want to be caught off guard again.

## LAWUIT: Superintendent returns to stand today

**Continued from A1**  
expulsion is merited. These include the age of the student, the severity of the offense and whether the student is enrolled in special education.  
Where facts are concerned, he said, board members generally defer to the findings of the hearing officer, rather than investigate incidents themselves.  
Arndt said the board does this to avoid conflicts of interest and because state law affords them few days to make a decision.  
Fast boards, he said, look it upon themselves to investigate cases and "the results were disastrous."  
"So to the best of your knowledge," Myers said, "no one from the school board saw the video (footage from the Sept. 17 fight) before recommending expulsion?"  
"To the best of my knowledge, no," Arndt said.  
Arndt also said that in 4½ years as Decatur's superintendent, he couldn't recall any board members asking him for audio tapes or written transcripts from similar hearings.  
Myers seized upon these facts and accused Arndt and the board of neglecting to determine who did

what during the Sept. 17 fight.  
He also cited a report Arndt once generated for the board, showing the dispositions of some 50 cases where expulsion was considered.  
Myers noted that in virtually all cases, the school board opted against expulsion — even when weapons were involved — yet opted for expulsion in the weaponless Sept. 17 fight.  
Myers finished his questioning late in the day, leaving attorneys for the school district little time to cross-examine. Arndt returns to the stand at 8 a.m. today.  
There is no jury in this case, leaving it to McCuskey to decide whether the students were improperly discharged.  
The six student plaintiffs include Gregory Howell, who was permitted to withdraw, but not Bruce "B.J." Manns, who was expelled. Myers had said previously that Manns was left out of the action when Rainbow/PUSH lawyers couldn't find him.  
McCuskey promised a decision by 10 a.m. Jan. 11. He is giving lawyers just three days to complete their cases, noting that his wife is in surgery Thursday and Friday is a federal holiday.

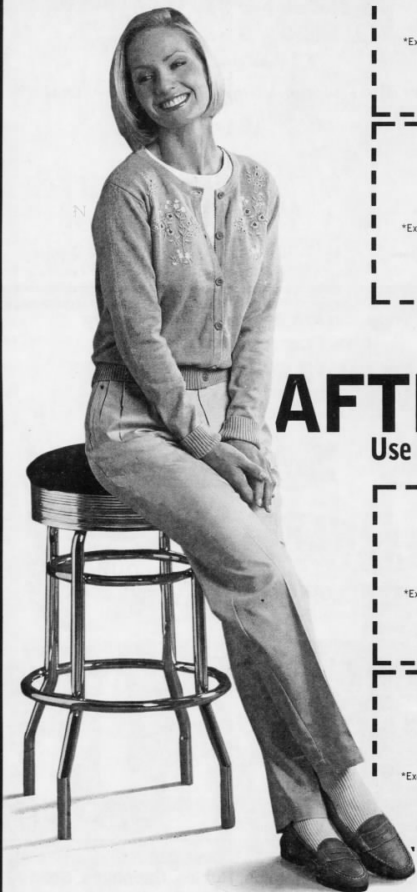
## Decatur authorities investigate shooting of 14-year-old

DECATUR — A 14-year-old boy was shot twice in the right leg Friday.  
The shooting took place between 10:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday near the intersection of Stone

and Whitmer streets in Decatur. Police recovered six 9mm shell casings at the scene.  
The suspect was described as a black male between 20 and 25 years of age, wearing a yellow

Starter-type jacket. Police are still investigating.  
The victim's condition was not known, but police said his wounds were not believed to be life-threatening.

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