

A1

Herald & Review

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Decatur, Illinois

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Quick Take



Rams dump 49ers

The Rams' 23-7 victory over the team that had dominated them demonstrates how times have changed in the NFL.

Sports / B1

All about the Illini

■ Excitement runs high for tonight's men's basketball showdown with Bradley.
■ Women fall from undefeated ranks.
■ Football bowl bid can be traced to another "B" player believing in each other.

Sports / B1



Danger zone

Be careful making your way around a guy's college dorm room. Dave Barry warns — it's a jungle.

Opinion / A10

Crime rate decline

The FBI reports 10 percent fewer serious crimes over the first half of the year.

Nation / A2

Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Sunday in the Illinois State Lottery:
■ Pick Three-Evening: 0-5-6
■ Pick Four-Evening: 7-5-0-5
■ Lotto jackpot: \$3 million
■ Big Game jackpot: \$13 million

Weather

■ Today: Chance of rain. High 65.
■ Tonight: Showers. Low 50.

Details / B12

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Expulsions pose state problem

Decatur district's pace runs much slower than Illinois as whole.

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — Even before the video of the fight was released, before his arrest, before the lawsuits were traded in county and federal courts, the Rev. Jesse Jackson made clear a primary reason he marched on Decatur.

graduate, they can't attend college, they can't get a decent job, they tend to make babies they cannot raise or end up in jail."

Since then, that message has been repeated by those following the issue longer than Jackson. Expulsion can be an academic black hole.

Few have precise answers as to why. "That's a good question; I have no clear answer," said Elmhurst Police Chief John Miller, a juvenile justice expert.

Where there are more than 200 expulsions a year in Decatur, there are only 10 in the state. Expulsions have exploded by nearly 150 percent since the 1989-90 school year. Suspensions have increased dramatically, too, jumping more than 45 percent in the same time period.

Statewide enrollment has grown by only about 11 percent during that time.

in 1994, but have stayed steady since then. Suspensions actually have declined 22 percent since 1990, to 3,703 in 1998. Nonetheless, Kenneth Arndt, superintendent of the 11,300-student Decatur district, is willing to discuss concerns.

There are lots of issues to be discussed, and that will happen if there's no conflict," Arndt said earlier this month. "We have developed a mind-set that we have to have winners and losers, and what disturbs me the most is we're putting our kids right in the middle."

EXPULSIONS
Continued on A4

THANKSGIVING FEAST COSTS



GOOD BIRD BUYS: Jim Gorman, Cub Foods meat department manager, is ready for the Thanksgiving turkey demand. Besides a display case full of turkeys, he has many more in the store room, too.

Competition slices turkey prices locally

Decatur store was buck national trend toward higher birds.

By SUSAN REEDY
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — Although turkey prices are expected to be higher this year, competition is keeping prices at some local grocery stores below the average.

Prices at Decatur's grocery retailers range from 19 cents to 99 cents per pound. Some promotions require minimum purchases or the use of a "customer loyalty" card to get the low prices.

Brand names such as Butterball, which is a top turkey processor, are still at a premium in Decatur. Prices range from 88 cents to 99 cents with promotions. Other brands like Honeyuckle and Jennie-O are lower than the ERB average.

is up 32 cents this year to \$14.23 nationally, accounting for most of the increase.

The meal as calculated by the Farm Bureau includes turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls with butter, peas, cranberries, a relish tray of carrots and celery, pumpkin pie and coffee and milk.

Iguanas find their Decatur champion

Woman researches, tells would-be owners to beware.

DECATUR — Chub Chub the iguana ought to be in the movies.

He certainly knows how to make a dramatic entrance: Bright green, with a ridge of spikes running down his scaly 40-inch-long body and tail, Chub Chub looks like a table-top version of Godzilla; all that's needed to complete the picture is some white-coated Japanese scientists armed with a poor script in badly dubbed English.

But while Godzilla usually torches the opposition and emerges in stop-motion triumph, the story of pets like Chub Chub often ends in tragedy.

"Iguanas look like dinosaurs and have become a very trendy pet, but a lot of the people buying them have no idea how to take care of them," says Chub Chub's owner, Lisa Hensley of Decatur.

"The result is the animals get diseased or injured and, because iguanas are quite hardy, they linger and die a miserable death."

Hensley and a group of 400 fellow iguana-lovers across the nation are on a crusade to stop the scaly carnage with a public education campaign.

She's an Illinois coordinator for National Iguana Awareness Day — set for Sept. 9, 2000 — and is working hard to spread the gospel of humane lizard.

IGUANAS
Continued on A4

Internet, e-mail may rejuvenate frail elderly

Geriatrics expert cites help for loneliness, helplessness.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Is the fountain of youth available at the click of a mouse?

Experts say nursing home residents, even the frail ones, take to computers quickly and can revitalize their lives through e-mail and the Internet.

"The Internet is a window to life," said David Lansdale, a geriatrics expert from Stanford University. "It's an elixir for these people."

Lansdale, who believes every nursing home should be equipped with the communal e-mail and Internet access, is one of several academics raising the issue here at a weekend meeting of the Gerontological Society of America.

Lansdale said mastery of e-mail and Internet techniques can help overcome what he termed the four plagues of institutionalized elders: loneliness, boredom, helplessness and decline of mental skills.

"The end result is we want to promote relationships," he said. "Getting connected is bringing people back to life."

He directs a program called LinkingAges that teaches nursing home

INTERNET
Continued on A7

Arrests follow anti-racists' clash with Decatur police

The group attempted to confront World Church of Creator demonstrators.

By BRAD MUDD
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — Four anti-racism protesters were arrested after a confrontation with police at a white supremacist rally Sunday afternoon in Nelson Park.

The protesters, from the Chicago-based Anti Racism Action group, were taken into custody after allegedly assaulting a park ranger while attempting to confront Matt Hale and his mob members of the white supremacist group sought refuge in a park bathroom while the protesters were apprehended.

arrested on preliminary charges of resisting arrest, aggravated battery of a law enforcement officer and mob action, said Decatur police Cmdr. Rich Ryan. The altercation happened as police were arriving at the park for security detail about 30 minutes before the rally was scheduled to start, he said.

A line of 10 Emergency Response Team officers — dressed in black and armed with canisters of pepper spray — separated about 20 protesters from the white supremacists and their supporters. About 50 people stood away from the protesters to listen to Hale speak from the pavilion with a bullhorn more than 200 feet away.

The groups traded taunts and insults while about 40 police officers stood nearby.

"We're here to show white people we're here for them. We



SHOOTING AT HALE: A member of the Anti Racism Action group of Chicago shouts over members of the Decatur Police Emergency Response Team Sunday at Nelson Park as Matt Hale, leader of the white supremacist World Church of the Creator, was speaking to an assembled crowd of 50 people.

don't wear masks," Hale said, referring to many of the protesters who had their faces covered.

"If Jesse Jackson and his mob come back, we might demonstrate again."

Benjamin Smith, a former member of Hale's organization,

Herald & Review/Kathy J. Hunt

captured nationwide attention during a two-state string of shootings that ended with his suicide in July. Among his victims

CLASH
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