

Herald & Review

Serving Central Illinois Since 1873

Tuesday
November 9, 1999
Decatur, Illinois

Compromise rejected

Quick Take



Join the gang in learning about the nutty life of squirrels. **Shortcuts** C8

Symphony of Trees

Decatur again ready to deck trees out in holiday style.

The Field of the Dogs

Chapter 7
Celebrated / C1

1999 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Goal \$2.5 million
Raised \$2,114,403.74
Needed \$385,596.26
Days left 10

Lottery
Here are the winning numbers selected Monday:
■ Pick Three-Midday: 3-8-1
■ Pick Three-Evening: 6-0-0
■ Pick Four-Midday: 4-3-4-2
■ Pick Four-Evening: 4-3-3-4
■ Little Lotto: 05-13-16-19-27
■ Lotto jackpot: \$5 million
■ Big Game jackpot: \$62 million

Weather
■ Today: Sunny, mild. High 65.
■ Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low 52.

Details / B6

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countdown:

53
Celebrate 2000

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School officials, Ryan, Jackson meet for more than 7 hours over expulsions

Board to decide today if high schools will remain closed for second day

TOP-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS: The Rev. Jesse Jackson shares a few words with Gov. George H. Ryan before they made a joint statement to members of the media Monday evening at the Keil Administration Building. The two men spent about seven hours in negotiations with officials from the Decatur School District.

McGee: Decatur should offer alternative program to students

BY JOHN C. PATTERSON
H&R Springfield Bureau Writer

SPRINGFIELD — The Macon-Plain Regional Safe Schools program, designed specifically for problematic students on the verge of being expelled. For those students, it is an alternative last chance.

It is unclear, however, whether school officials legally are required to offer students one last opportunity to stay in school. "A student who is subject to suspension or expulsion ... may be eligible to transfer to an alternative school program," McGee said.

McGee's opinion is backed by a 1998 court decision out of DuPage County. An expedited high court hearing interpreted the Hinsdale Township High School Board's decision. In siding with the students, the circuit court judge ruled that it was required to offer the alternative school program before expelling the student, McGee said.

The sponsor of the legislation that created the Illinois safe schools law said the situation in Decatur is why the schools were created. "There is no safe school site run by the 45 regional offices," he said.

McGEE

Continued on A8

Greens fees to cost more green in 2000

Park district says increases on season passes will be a fair way to cover golf costs:

BY BRETT WILCOXSON
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — Playing golf on Decatur Park District courses will cost a bit more when the 2000 season begins.

Keeping in line with a one-year plan to increase greens fees, increases that was formulated in 1999, the Decatur Park District Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Monday to raise greens fees by 50 cents for 18 holes and 25 cents for nine holes at the four district courses.

The golf car rental fees will

see identical increases.

Season pass holders also will pay more. Adults will pay \$45 more, seniors \$30 and juniors \$20.

However, special weekly season passes will be available at last year's season pass rate.

And those who buy these passes will be able to play on weekends on weekdays, said Rick Anderson, district director of golf.

Anderson said the weekday passes will target seniors who don't often play on weekends.

"This is a way to give them an opportunity to play the same amount," he said.

Judy Locke, park board president, said that seemed fair.

"I think that's an excellent

idea," she said.

Anderson said the season pass cost will not necessarily be implemented because pass holders are playing more rounds of golf, cutting the revenue per round to zero.

He said pass holders get too large a price break.

During the 1999 season, adult season pass holders paid an average of \$7.78 per round, compared to the \$14.22 average paid by non-members, a 45 percent savings, Anderson said. He said a 30 percent savings would be more equitable.

"This is getting closer to a reasonable mark," he said, adding that the district's rates are still lower than those at most other area courses.

Many studies over the years

have shown the importance of specific habits such as kicking cigarettes or cutting out saturated fat. But Harvard researchers say that is the first to show what happens when people do everything they are supposed to.

That, however, also shows this isn't easy. The research was done on middle-aged female nurses, who presumably are fairly health-conscious. Yet just 1 percent of

STUDY

Continued on A4

Expulsions shortened, but Jackson says it's not enough

**BY BRAD MUDD,
BILLY TYUS & KEN DICKSON**
H&R Staff Writers

DECATUR — The Decatur school board Monday night shortened the expulsion terms of six students, and Gov. George H. Ryan opened the door for them to attend an alternative high school.

But the Rev. Jesse Jackson said that compromise isn't enough.

■ Timeline of controversy

A heavy series of activities in a two-month span.

Jackson said he intends "to take the children back to school" and is expected to be at Eisenhower High School this evening with the students.

Decatur Park District Superintendent Kenneth Arndt said he will decide early this morning if high school will remain closed today after being closed Monday.

"I'm obviously disappointed that we've met a stalemate," Arndt said. "These students need to have the opportunity for their own actions."

Terry Robinson and Jackson, Rev. Jackson and the board members to vote against reducing the expulsions from two years to one. They also said the only board members to do so were before the length of punishment for a fight at a Sept. 17 football game at Eisenhower is too long. Seven students were suspended for one year for expulsion, but one withdrew before board voted to expel him.

Board member D. R. Roberts, the only board member in the majority who spoke during the meeting, said the arguments against the original two-year expulsions involved the students having no opportunity to complete their education since the students will have that opportunity at an alternative high school for two, he said he would vote for the one-year punishment.

Jackson said lawyers with his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition will file a federal suit seeking an injunction against the school district which would allow the students to return to school. The suit could be filed today in Urbana.

"These children deserve to be in school and the high schools don't have the validity suggested here," Jackson said.

REJECTED

Continued on A8

Study: Following rules can yield healthy benefits

Women can reduce risk of heart disease by 82% with lifestyle changes.

WILMINGTON (AP) — Women who actually follow all of the standard health advice — eat sensibly, don't smoke, get some exercise, keep the weight down, have an occasional drink — can reduce their chance of heart disease an astonishing 82 percent, according to a study released Monday.

Many studies over the years

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