

Herald & Review

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Tuesday
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Decatur, Illinois

Quick Take



Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Monday:
 ■ Pick Three-Midday: 3-8-1
 ■ Pick Three-Evening: 6-0-0
 ■ Pick Four-Midday: 4-3-3-4
 ■ 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 77.
 ■ Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low 52.

Details / B6

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Celebrate 2000

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50 cents

Our 126th year
 Issue 313 • Four sections



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

Compromise rejected



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 Macomb-Platt Regional Safe School was created in 1997 specifically for problematic students on the verge of being expelled. For those students, it is an educational last chance. It is unclear, however, whether school officials legally are required to offer students one last opportunity. State law says: "A student who is subject to suspension or expulsion ... may be eligible for a transfer to an alternative school program ..."

"If you need to remove a student from a school setting you ought to offer an alternative setting," said Lee Milner, spokesman for McGee. Milner said McGee asked Arndt to consider enrolling the students in the local alternative school. McGee's opinion is backed by a 1998 court decision out of DuPage County. An expelled high school student challenged the Hinsdale Township High School Board's decision. In siding with the student, the circuit court judge said the district was required to offer the alternative school program before expelling the student, Milner 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 are 126 safe school sites run by the 45 regional education offices throughout the state.

McGEE

Continued on A8

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.

Jackson said he intends "to take the children back to school" and is expected to be at Eisenhower High School this morning with the students. Decatur schools Superintendent Kenneth Arndt said he will decide early this morning if high school will resume today after being closed Monday.

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

Terry Robinson and Jeffrey Perkins were the only board members to vote against reducing the expulsions from two years to one. They are also the only board members to say they believe the length of punishment for a fight at a Sept. 17 football game at Eisenhower is too long. Seven students were recommended for expulsion, but one withdrew before the board voted to expel him.

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

Jackson said lawyers with his Rainbow PUSH Coalition will file a lawsuit in federal court 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. Alternative high schools don't have the validity suggested here," Jackson said.

REJECTED
 Continued on A8



Herald & Review/Joseph C. Garza



Herald & Review/Dennis Magee

▲ **SHOW OF SUPPORT:** Keela Carson, left, joins in singing "We Shall Overcome" with others in front of the Keil Administration Building.

▲ **CALL TO ORDER:** School board president Jackie Goetter addresses the crowd at an emergency meeting of the board.

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 five-year plan of incremental fee increases that was formulated in 1996, the Decatur Park District Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Monday to raise green 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 weekday season passes will be available at last year's season pass rate. And those who buy these passes will be able to play for half-price on weekends, 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 increase needed to be implemented because pass holders are playing more rounds of golf, causing the revenue per round to decrease.

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-pass holders — a 45 percent savings, Anderson said. He said a 30 percent savings would be more equitable.

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

Study: Following rules can yield healthy benefits

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

ATLANTA (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 by an astonishing 82 percent, according to a study released Monday.

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 theirs is the first to show what happens when people do everything they are supposed to.

However, the study 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

STUDY
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