

Herald & Review

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Friday

November 5, 1999
Decatur, Illinois

Quick Take DIRECT LINE



Angela Bayler must wish she had a clone. The director is at the helm of Theatre 7's "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" and the Decatur Park District's Storyteller Theater production of "Thimbleina."

Lifestyle / D1

Shelbyville wins

The Shelbyville High School volleyball team outplayed Maraca-Foyth to win the Cero Gordo Sectional Thursday night and advance to the Tuscola Super-Sectional.

Sports / B1

1999 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Goal \$2.5 million
Raised \$2,012,656.97
Needed \$487,343.03
Days left 13

Lottery

Here are the winning numbers Thursday in the Illinois State Lottery:

- Pick Three-Midday: 7-8-4
- Pick Three-Evening: 3-4-8
- Pick Four-Midday: 0-2-8-9
- Pick Four-Evening: 0-5-4-8
- Little Lotto: 17-19-23-25-25
- Lotto jackpot: \$4 million
- Big Game jackpot: \$54 million

Weather

■ Today: Sunny, High 67.
■ Tonight: Clear, Low 39.

Details / B8

Inside

- Ann Landers D6
- Business B7
- Classifieds C3-10
- Comics D4
- Lifestyle D1-7
- Movies D7
- Obituaries A9
- Opinion A8
- Puzzles C4, E, 8
- Sports B1-6
- Television D5

countdown:



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Our 128th year
Issue 398 • Four sections



Fichter: 'Respect the process'

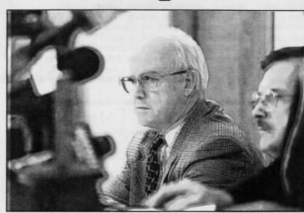
State's attorney, others say confrontation will work against expelled students

By BRAD MUDD
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — Local law enforcement officials are urging people to consider their actions before breaking the law in protest of the expulsion of seven high school students for a Sept. 17 fight.

During a Thursday afternoon news conference, Macon County State's Attorney Larry Fichter addressed a comment by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who said to have your kids at school on Monday (and) be prepared to get arrested.

As part of their two-year expulsions, the seven youths are barred from school property and could be arrested for trespassing, officials said. "The advice to show up (at school) puts them in further jeopardy," Fichter



BRIEFING: Jeffrey Taylor, attorney for the Decatur School District, listens to questions from members of the media Thursday afternoon at the Law Enforcement Center.

said. "Let the process work. Keep the peace and respect the process." "To violate the law and the process sends the wrong message to our youth," Jackson was in Decatur Tuesday and Wednesday, during which time he conducted a town hall meeting to garner support for the expelled students and met with school board President Jackie Goetter.

School board members say public has shown its support

By KEN DICKSON
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — Local residents appear to be taking sides over the expulsions of seven Decatur high school students. Some say the two-year penalties are too harsh, but most are supporting the school board.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, founder and president of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, was in Decatur on Tuesday and Wednesday hoping to lobby the board into reconsidering its decision and allow the seven young men to return to school. He is planning a march for Sunday afternoon, but the details have not been announced.

The expulsions came in reaction to a fight Sept. 17 at an Eisenhower football game. All seven youths also have been arrested on preliminary charges of felony mob action, but formal charges have not been filed.

subject, even if they are not affiliated with the Decatur School District, nor members of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

School board President Jackie Goetter said she had 16 to 18 calls at home and another 25 to 30 at work.

"I've only received two or three that expressed disappointment in me, or indicated I or the board was wrong," she said.

"The greater majority of the calls are in support of the board's action."

"I was at a dinner (Wednesday) night for the DMH Foundation and 20 to 30 people gave their support."

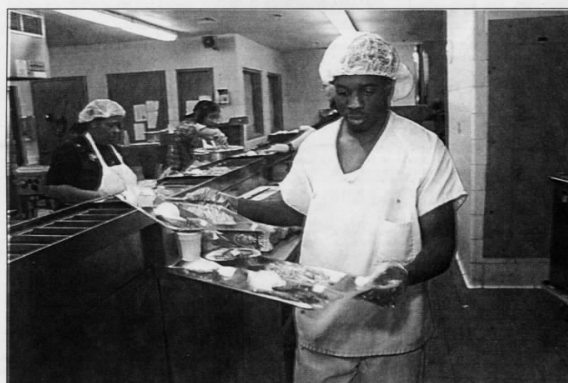
School board member Jan Mandernach said she's had 20 to 25 conversations about the expulsions.

"To date, all of them expressed support for the board," she said.

School board member D.R. SUPPORT

Continued on A4

INMATE OVERFLOW



BOOKED: Thirty-year-old Aldophis Cooper of Decatur, a trustee at the Macon County Jail, helps prepare dinner trays for other inmates on Thursday afternoon. The jail, built with space for 205 beds, has at times held as many as 300 inmates.

Sheriff seeks alternatives to ease jail overcrowding

By RON INGRAM
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — The Bivens-Whitten Juvenile Detention Center and the Macon County Jail have been running at or over capacity for most of this year, prompting county officials to consider expanding both facilities.

Although no firm steps in that direction have been taken, Macon County Sheriff Roger Walker said he would like to see the county look at alternatives for inmate housing or at a jail expansion. He said officials have discussed building a larger juvenile detention facility and moving the Bivens-Whitten center out of

the Law Enforcement Center, 333 S. Franklin St.

"We'd love to have the space they'd vacate here for a female cell block or segregation space" for problem inmates, Walker said. The jail crowding problem is a perennial one that has worsened in recent years, despite a declining local crime rate. Officials attribute the large jail population to successful police work and changes in state laws that have upgraded certain misdemeanors to felonies.

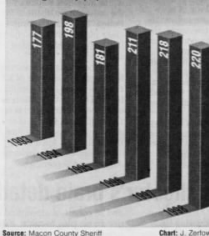
"The national average crime clearance rate for homicides is 60

JAIL

Continued on A4

Macon County Jail

Average daily population



Source: Macon County Sheriff

Chart: J. Zielinski

Smoking rate defies campaigns to quit during the '90s

ATLANTA (AP) — Despite years of anti-smoking campaigns, lawsuits and bans, the smoking rate among American adults has hardly budged during the 1990s — mainly because more and more 18- to 24-year-olds are lighting up. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday that 24.7 percent of adults smoked in

1997. As a result, the CDC expects to fall far short of its goal of reducing smoking to 15 percent of the adult population by 2000.

"During the 1990s we've made virtually no progress whatsoever," said Michael Eriksen, director of the CDC Office of Smoking and Health. "The fact that we can't get rates below 25 percent really

speaks to the addictive power of nicotine."

About 48 million adults smoked cigarettes in 1997, according to a CDC survey that year of more than 35,000 people nationwide. The rate was the same — 24.7 percent — in 1996. It was 25.5 percent in 1990. Among most adult age groups, smoking rates actually declined

from 1990 to 1997, but the percentage of smokers ages 18 to 24 increased during that period, from 24.3 percent to 28.7 percent.

"It's very disturbing to not only see no progress to reduce overall adult smoking, but when you see the lack of progress is caused by an increase in the youngest adults, you realize exactly how this epi-

demic plays out," Eriksen said. Joann Schellenbach, a spokeswoman for American Cancer Society, said: "That is a major concern. These are young people who started smoking mainly before the age of 18, before high school, continuing to smoke — a testimony to the terrible addictive power of nicotine."

Continued on A4