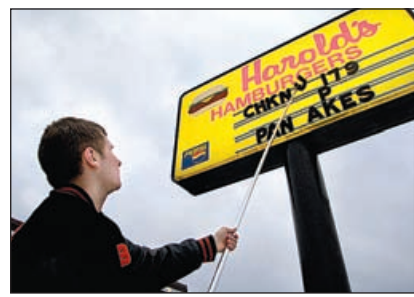


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# WAGE WOES

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# Bush faces challenge

# Olympia to put tax questions on ballot

District seeks to build new school

BY HOLLY RICHRATH  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

STANFORD — The Olympia School Board voted 6-1 on Monday to put two tax referendum questions on the April 17 ballot.

One will ask residents whether they would approve a permanent increase of 50 cents in the education fund tax rate from \$2.40 to \$2.90 per \$100 assessed valuation.

Of the six board members who voted to put the referendum on the ballot, none discussed it at Monday night's meeting.

The only board member opposed was Leslie Schmidgall. "I think it's going to be one of the biggest tax increases in our history."

Please see **SCHOOL**, Page A6

President will deliver his State of the Union address to a skeptical nation



ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Bush will lay out his domestic agenda tonight in a primetime speech.

Please see **BUSH**, Page A5

BY BEN FELLER  
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Bush will tell Americans tonight he has important plans for health care, education and other kitchen table topics that have little to do with Iraq. Yet if the state of the union is strong, so is the nation's skepticism that he can deliver.

For the first time, Bush will give his State of the Union address with Democrats in power and looking over his shoulder — literally, with

## INSIDE STORY

► Poll: Two-thirds of Americans think country is heading in the wrong direction. Page A5

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi seated right behind him. Most people have no confidence that Bush and a Democratic Congress can solve problems together, a troubling sentiment that has only deepened since the November election, an Associated Press-AOL News poll finds.

The 8 p.m. CST speech is a chance

for Bush to pull his domestic agenda out from the shadow of the Iraq war, if only briefly. So Bush will focus on issues he hopes will appeal to mainstream America — and to Democrats on Capitol Hill, shifting pressure onto them to govern.

"He's got to be convincing, so that the American people believe that he's serious about working in a bipartisan way," said Charlie Black, a longtime Republican strategist and informal

# SUPER BOWL SALES BLITZ



Trent Pierce, 9, looks for a Chicago Bears shirt in his size Monday night at Pro Image Sports in Northwoods Mall. Anything with a Bears logo or any connection with the team is selling very quickly since the Bears' NFC championship win. Trent seemed confident that his team will beat the Indianapolis Colts in the Super Bowl on Feb. 4 — "by a lot." ■ RELATED BEARS COVERAGE, PAGE D1

# Bears fans are out in full force grabbing up merchandise to celebrate success in style

If you are a believer in jinxes — and what true sports fan is not — and if the Chicago Bears were to lose the Super Bowl on Feb. 4, you might have some local fans to blame.

They would be the ones who dared call Pro Image Sports in Northwoods Mall asking about the availability of Bears NFC championship T-shirts.

On Sunday.

At halftime.

With the Bears holding on to a hardy-a-lock, 16-7 lead.

"People were jumping the gun a little bit. We didn't have them then," said

Jeff Grady, manager of Pro Image. "But we do now."

Pro Image owner Andy Nichols drove to Chicago shortly after the Bears pulled away in the second half and drubbed the New Orleans Saints to reach the Super Bowl for the first time in 21 years. He picked up the shirts in downtown Chicago at 8 a.m., and drove them back to Peoria, where Grady had them priced and racked in the front of the store by noon.

They sold 45 in little more than an hour.

Please see **BEARS**, Page A6



Indianapolis Colts merchandise sits right above Chicago Bears mugs on display at Pro Image Sports. The teams meet in the Super Bowl on Feb. 4.

Story by **SCOTT HILYARD** ♦ Photographs by **ADAM GERIK** ♦ of the Journal Star

# Students pay price for their activism

Somebody must have taught Walt Deehring's daughter to stand up for what she believes. Now they're teaching her it can cost you.

The varsity cheerleader at Peoria Notre Dame High School spent the last few days on a Teens for Life bus trip to Washington, D.C. She went to march with 41 school-mates, including two other varsity cheerleaders.

On the anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, the idea is to show that young people support alternatives. Although protests take place around the nation, Washington's event is one of the biggest, with an estimated 100,000 or more people attending last year.

"Of course, that's core to the education they've received at Peoria Notre Dame, along with being core to the Catholic way of life," Deehring explains.

True. Going on such a trip is not surprising for students at a Catholic high school, even if, like Walt's daughter, the kid earns the money to pay his or her own way. The surprise is what happens when the three cheerleaders get back to

Please see **BIBO**, Page A6



TERRY BIBO

# Climate study will contain dire warning

Much-anticipated report says global warming is here

BY SETH BORENSTEIN  
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Human-caused global warming is here — visible in the air, water and melting ice — and is destined to get much worse in the future, an authoritative global scientific report will warn next week.

"The smoking gun is definitely lying on the table as we speak," said top U.S. climate scientist Jerry Mahlman, who

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## PLACING BLAME

Report concludes FBI should have acted to protect teenage House pages when it learned of e-mails sent by Mark Foley. NATION, PAGE A3



## GETTING A FACE-LIFT

Initially left out of Peoria library's \$35 million makeover and expansion plans, the McClure branch will now get much-needed upgrades. LOCAL&STATE, PAGE B1