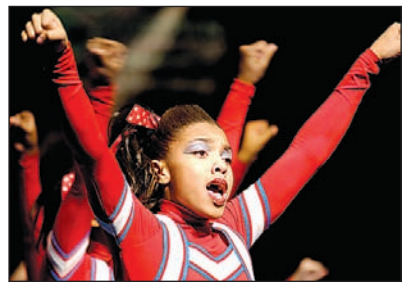


CHAMPION CHEERS

Dance, cheer teams from across Illinois converge on Peoria for state competition.



I DON'T WANNA!

Experts offer advice on stopping a tantrum

Firefighters face winter challenge of battling blazes, ice at the same time, B1



OFF THE RAMPAGE

'No offense on either side' as Rivermen fall to San Antonio.

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OUTLOOK
29 13
Complete forecast Page B6

A night of comebacks

Dixie Chicks, Mary J. Blige among the top winners at Grammy Awards

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

LOS ANGELES — The Dixie Chicks completed a defiant comeback on Sunday night, winning five Grammy awards after being shunned by the country music establishment over the group's anti-Bush comments leading up to the Iraq invasion.

The Texas trio won record and song of the year for the no-regrets anthem

"Not Ready to Make Nice." They also won best country album, which was especially ironic considering that the group says they don't consider themselves country artists anymore.

"I'm ready to make nice!" lead singer Natalie Maines exclaimed as the group accepted the album of the year award. "I think people are using their freedom of speech with all these awards. We get the message."

Mary J. Blige's comeback also was richly rewarded: She received three trophies for her double-platinum album "The Breakthrough." The Red Hot Chili Peppers won three as well for their double-disc "Stadium Arcadium."

The Dixie Chicks won all five awards they were nominated for, sweet vindication after the superstars' lives were threatened and sales plummeted when Maines criticized President Bush on the eve of the Iraq war in 2003. Almost overnight, one of the most successful groups of any genre was boycotted

Please see **GRAMMY**, Page A6



Mary J. Blige accepts the award for best R&B album for "The Breakthrough" at the 49th Annual Grammy Awards on Sunday in Los Angeles. She won three awards at the ceremony.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SLEDS TO SHOVELS



ADAM GERIK/JOURNAL STAR

Rhonda Hu of Dunlap and her son Connor Cai, 5, hold on tight as they sled down a hill at Detweiller Park on Sunday afternoon. Many people spent the day outside enjoying the slightly higher temperatures. The area is under a winter storm watch until Tuesday, with up to 8 inches of snow possible. **BELOW:** Darren Colwell, 13, of Chillicothe hits the air as he speeds down a hill Sunday afternoon at Detweiller Park. "It kinda comes apart sometimes," he said of his snow-packed ramp.

Central Illinoisans enjoy a respite from the cold as new snowstorm looms

BY FRANK RADOSEVICH II
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — As much as 8 inches of snow could fall on the Tri-County Area by early Tuesday, prompting the National Weather Service to issue a winter storm watch.

"Looks like most of that will be falling Monday night then into Tuesday morning," said meteorologist Kirk Huettle of the National Weather Service in Lincoln. "After supper on Monday the roads could start to get a little slick. It definitely bears watching."

The skies could blanket the area with anywhere from 6 to 8 inches of

snow, while parts of southern Illinois might see a wintry mix of snow and rain, though the exact strength and path of the storm was not known Sunday night.

That uncertainty, however, did not stop residents from preparing for the worst.

"Every snowfall there's more people shopping. We try to provide them with what they need," said Danny Eubanks, an assistant manager at the Wal-Mart Supercenter, 8915 N. Allen Road.

Shoppers have been raiding food

Please see **SNOW**, Page A5



Military: Iran sent Iraqis weapons

Presentation used to bolster long-standing claims insurgents have been getting outside aid

BY STEVEN R. HURST
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — U.S. military officials on Sunday accused the highest levels of the Iranian leadership of arming Shiite militants in Iraq with sophisticated armor-piercing roadside bombs that have killed more than 170 American forces.

The military command in Baghdad denied, however, that any newly smuggled Iranian weapons were behind the five U.S. military helicopter crashes since Jan. 20 — four that were shot out of the sky by insurgent gunfire.

A fifth crash has tentatively been blamed on mechanical failure. In the same period, two private security company helicopters also have crashed but the cause was unclear.

The deadly and highly sophisticated weapons the U.S. military said it traced to Iran are known as "explosively formed penetrators," or EFPs.

The presentation was the result of weeks of preparation and revisions as officials put together a package of material to support the Bush administration's claims of Iranian intercession to help militant Iraqis fighting American forces.

Please see **IRAQ**, Page A5

Obama expects questions on faith, race

Says people are curious but will soon look at his message and views

BY HENRY C. JACKSON
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IOWA FALLS, IOWA — Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama said Sunday he does not think voters have a litmus test on religion, whether evangelical Christianity or his childhood years in the Muslim faith.

"If your name is Barack Hussein Obama, you can expect it, some of that. I think the majority of voters know that I'm a member of the United Church of Christ, and that I take my faith seriously," Obama said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"Ultimately what I think voters will be looking



BARACK OBAMA INSIDE

► Obama rallies supporters in Chicago. **Page A6**

Please see **OBAMA**, Page A6

Public has dollar doubts

\$1 coin debuts Thursday; poll finds split decision on support for it

BY WILL LESTER
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Maybe Susan B. Anthony and Sacagawea should not take public rejection personally. It's not easy overcoming people's indifference to dollar coins, even those honoring such historic figures.

An AP-Ipsos poll found that three-fourths of people surveyed oppose

replacing the dollar bill, featuring George Washington, with a dollar coin. People are split evenly on the idea of having both a dollar bill and a dollar coin.

A new version of the coin, paying tribute to American presidents, goes into general circulation Thursday. Even though doing away with the bill could save hundreds of millions of dollars each year in printing costs, there is no plan to scrap the bill in favor of the more durable coin.

"I really don't see any use for it,"

Please see **COIN**, Page A5

INSIDE TODAY

NEWS DIGEST

HAVE A HEART

Area students showcase their Valentine's Day artwork and poems.

KJS, PAGE C1



6 54837 11111 0

Advice/Horoscope	C3	Lottery	B1
Classified	D7	Matter of Record	B2
Comics	C5	Movies/TV	C4
Crossword	C3, D8	Obituaries	B4
Local/State	B1	Opinion	A4

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2 3

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