

LOCAL&STATE, B1

# SLOW IT DOWN

Site gives motorists trying to avoid tickets the low-down on police 'speed traps'



SPORTS, D1

# THRILL RIDE

Henry Wiles holds off close challenger for his fourth win at Peoria TT track



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# Rubble traps U.S. troops

Suicide car bomb brings down major highway overpass outside Baghdad, sending soldiers scrambling

BY CHARLES J. HANLEY  
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**MAHMOUDIYA, IRAQ** — With a thunderous rumble and cloud of dust and smoke, an apparent suicide vehicle bomb brought down a section of highway bridge south of Baghdad on Sunday, wounding several U.S. soldiers guarding the crossing and blocking traffic on Iraq's main north-south artery.

There was no immediate U.S. Army confirmation on the number and severity of the casualties. An Iraqi civilian also was injured, said Donald Campbell, of the private security Armor Group International, who helped in the rescue.

Campbell, a 40-year-old from Inverness, Scotland, was among those in a passing Armor Group convoy who worked with a U.S. Army quick reaction force for some 45 minutes to pull trapped men from the rubble, scrambling over the fallen concrete.

U.S. armored vehicles provided cover fire from their cannons after the bombing, which occurred in the area dubbed the "triangle of death" for its frequent Sunni insurgent attacks.

The blast dropped one of two sections of the "Checkpoint 20" bridge crossing over the north-south expressway, six miles east of Mahmoudiya.

It appeared that a northbound suicide driver stopped and detonated his vehicle beside a support pillar, said Lt. Col. Garry Bush, an Army munitions officer who was in the convoy, which also carried an Associated Press reporter and photographer and arrived two minutes after the blast.

A U.S. Army checkpoint and a tent structure, apparently a rest area, fell into the shattered concrete. The crossing was believed to have been closed to all but military traffic at the time.

Armor Group security guards, all ex-military, and others in the convoy rushed to the ruins. They found a scene of confusion.

"When that size blast went off, everyone was in shock," said one of the first atop the rubble, Jackie Smith, 53, of Olathe, Kan., a former lieutenant colonel now working as a civilian Army munitions expert.

He said he saw what he believed was

Please see **IRAQ**, Page A7

# Woodford planning for future growth

County exploring options for economic development

BY JOHN SHARP  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

**METAMORA** — Kent Hodel farms 900 acres east of Metamora in an area rich for a profitable farming operation.

Trouble is, it could be coveted land for something else taxing bodies and development planners seek when they see the future of Woodford County: commercial, residential or industrial development.

"If economic development comes, we get more for our farm ground, but that is our livelihood," Hodel said. "If we sell our farm ground, we are out of business."

Hodel's concerns echo those of many longtime residents in what long has been a strong agricultural county but now faces a mix of possibilities and a slew of ideas from government officials when it comes to economic development.

Those targeted areas for increased development include Germantown Hills and Metamora, Interstate 39 near El Paso and Minonk, and Goodfield with its proximity to Interstate 74.

In addition, Woodford County residents could face the economic realities of wind farm developments, industrial warehousing along its interstates, an alternative fuel production plant and an eastern bypass "ring road" passing through many communities en route to North Peoria.

Please see **WOODFORD**, Page A6

## YOUNG CONCERTGOERS ENJOY SUMMERTIME SHOW IN PEORIA



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ADAM GERIK/JOURNAL STAR

With flowers surrounding them, Regan Reynolds, 4, at left, and her sister Sarah Reynolds, 8, of Morton lounge on a picnic blanket Sunday during a "Gigs in the Garden" concert at the Luthy Botanical Garden. The group Bogside Zukes performed Sunday, with two dates remaining in the season. Today's forecast for central Illinois calls for a mix of sun and clouds, with a high of 84 degrees.

# East Peoria awaits road projects

Extension will help connect isolated areas of city

BY MICHAEL SMOTHERS  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

**EAST PEORIA** — Traversing East Peoria's main roads is like driving up and down the fingers of an unlaced baseball glove. Only winding side streets, at best, connect isolated neighborhoods and business corridors.

That will change beginning next year, officials said, with a road extension that will give the city's commercially struggling Sunnyland area quick access to U.S. Route 24 and Centennial Drive residents far shorter trips into Washington and East Peoria's downtown.

But one of the city's biggest traffic bottlenecks will only grow worse as a result and remain so into the next decade.

Construction is scheduled to begin next summer to extend Summit Road, the city's borderline with

Please see **ROADS**, Page A7

# Do executions deter other murderers?

Studies claiming to settle the issue are creating new round of death penalty debates

## ANALYSIS

BY ROBERT TANNER  
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anti-death penalty forces have gained momentum in the past few years, with a moratorium in Illinois, court disputes over lethal injection in more than a half-dozen states and progress toward outright abolishment in New Jersey.

The steady drumbeat of DNA exonerations — pointing out

flaws in the justice system — has weighed against capital punishment. The moral opposition is loud, too, echoed in Europe and the rest of the industrialized world, where all but a few countries banned executions years ago.

What gets little notice, however, is a series of academic studies over the last half-dozen years that claim to settle a once hotly debated argument — whether the death penalty acts as a deterrent

to murder. The analyses say yes. They count between three and 18 lives that would be saved by the execution of each convicted killer.

The reports have horrified death penalty opponents and several scientists, who vigorously question the data and its implications.

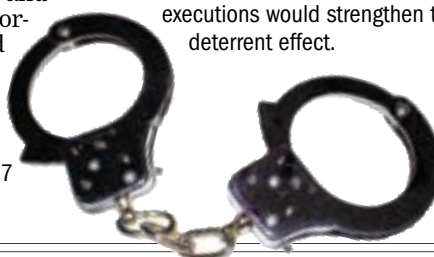
So far, the studies have had little impact on public

## MAKING THE CASE FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

► **According to study by professors at Emory University**, each execution deters an average of 18 murders. Other studies have estimated the deterred murders per execution at three, five and 14.

► **Another study found** speeding up executions would strengthen the deterrent effect.

Please see **DEATH**, Page A7



Then-Gov. George Ryan imposed a moratorium on executions in 2000, which was continued by Gov. Rod Blagojevich



## CHANGE OF HEART

Paris Hilton says she won't appeal her 45-day jail sentence and is 'learning and growing' from her time behind bars.

LEISURE, PAGE C4

## SHOWING THEIR LOVE

Central Illinois children pay tribute to fathers ahead of Father's Day holiday by showing off their best works of art and original poems and essays.

KJS, PAGE C1



## BEST BE PREPARED

Sen. Joe Lieberman says the U.S. should consider a military strike against Iran because of Tehran's involvement in Iraq.

NATION, PAGE A5

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