

SECTION G

# STAYING ACTIVE

Many seniors retain friendships and keep involved thanks to retiree organizations



## PREP FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD

► Complete details and stats: SPORTS D1, D6, D8

Richwoods	26	Woodruff	49	Metamora	66
Quincy Notre Dame	7	Central	0	Limestone	12
Dunlap	48	IVC	40	East Peoria	28
Canton	7	Kewanee	7	Pekin	24

SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 6, 2007

\$1.00

# Journal Star

A GATEHOUSE NEWSPAPER

SERVING CENTRAL ILLINOIS SINCE 1855

OUTLOOK  
92 67  
Complete forecast Page B8

www.pjstar.com

# PHA units fail inspection

Federal agency finds 53 Peoria dwellings didn't meet required housing quality standards

BY KAREN McDONALD  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — A recent analysis of the Peoria Housing Authority's Section 8 voucher program showed the conditions of housing units and the timeliness of inspections was inadequate, according to the Office of Inspector General.

Of the 59 housing units selected for inspection, which previously had

passed PHA inspections, the OIG found 58 did not meet federal housing quality standards, including 28 with health and safety violations that have since been corrected. The violations will cost the housing authority \$107,000 and prompted an inspections reorganization, PHA Executive Director Brenda Coates said Friday.

Though the PHA generally agrees with the findings, it disputes some

deficiencies such as broken windows, debris, torn carpet, or problems with railings or porches that may have happened after the units passed its inspections.

"Also the tenant has responsibility to report repairs or problems, and we need to really increase the education for our clients and emphasize the fact that if there's a problem at your home, contact us and we can help you work with a landlord to get the repair completed," Coates said.

"... We're only out there once a year to do inspections, and we don't have the manpower to increase the number of inspections we do past one per year."

The federal inspections were conducted between May 15 and June 1 on units that previously passed inspections by the PHA between January and March. Landlords were notified of the problems as federal inspections were being conducted and ordered to correct them.

A bulk of the violations involved security, window, stairs/railings/porches and lead-based paint, while others involved electricity, hazards, debris, walls, floors, heating equipment and ventilation, plumbing, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and more, according to the report.

Please see PHA, Page A9

# Victim faces her attackers once more

24-year-old recalls brutal gang rape as two men receive lengthy sentences for crime

BY ANDY KRAVETZ  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — The victim of a brutal carjacking and subsequent gang rape wondered aloud Friday if she would ever feel normal again.

Testifying at the sentencing hearing of two of her attackers, the victim, now 24, said she felt used, dirty and wondered if she would ever marry and have children, which had been her dream.

"It's like being in jail," she said, responding to Assistant State's Attorney Suzanne Patton. "I will have to deal with this for the rest of my life."

Willie Wells, 19, didn't react when he was sentenced to 61 years in prison. But his family and friends cried in despair. They left the second-floor courtroom before Peoria County Circuit Judge Michael Brandt finished the hearing. Later, they were standing outside the courtroom, still upset.

Deandre Baskin, 18, slumped when Brandt sentenced him to 36 years — the maximum under his plea agreement. Just minutes before, he had struggled to speak, telling Brandt he was sorry for his actions in the early morning hours of Feb. 2, 2005. He finally broke down after a minute, sat down and slumped low in his chair.

The hearing was emotional for both

Please see SENTENCE, Page A10

## GHOSTS, GHOULS AND CRAZY RABBITS USHER IN HAUNTED HOUSE SEASON



PURCHASE THIS PHOTO AT PJSTAR.COM

ADAM GERIK/JOURNAL STAR

Kari Schmidt of Chillicothe tries to cool off Friday night during the Spider Hill haunted house festival at Three Sisters Park in Chillicothe. Schmidt, who said that she was "soaking wet" dressed in a horrific Easter bunny costume, said the costume hadn't gone over very well with some attendees. "People are freaking out," she said. "I feel bad when little kids see me." ■ RELATED STORY, PAGE B8

# Teacher surprised by state award

Eureka educator-coach earns \$10,000 prize from Wal-Mart

BY CLARE JELLIK  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

EUREKA — Eureka High School teacher Matt O'Hanlon might just wear his lucky pants every day from now on.

The science teacher and assistant football coach wears them on game days and other times when he feels like he needs some extra luck.

When he wore them Friday, O'Hanlon found out he had won a state teaching award and \$10,000.

"This morning I woke up and I thought the best thing that was going to happen to me today was we were going to win this football game (tonight)," O'Hanlon said Friday, upon being named Wal-Mart's Teacher of the Year for Illinois.

The 34-year-old teacher receives \$10,000 for use within the school and will move on to compete for the national title. He previously received \$1,000 as a local winner.

Please see TEACHER, Page A9



MATT O'HANLON

# All is not lost for Cubs



KIRK WESSLER  
CHICAGO

If you think watching your favorite Cubs fan in central Illinois has become a case study in How To Lose Your Mind Over Baseball, you should get a load of their Chicago cousins.

They are way past meltdown here. "A national embarrassment," one Chicagoland radio talk jock on Friday repeatedly called the Cubs' performance this week in Arizona. The parade of callers to the show echoed his condemnations.

You can feel the angst, hanging in the

warm and humid air. It is oppressive, almost suffocating. This is not the way October is supposed to feel; not cool and breezy and ablaze with the exciting possibilities of baseball glory.

A week ago, beer and joy spilled from the pubs of Wrigleyville, as thousands jammed the streets to celebrate the Cubs' National League Central Division title — only their fourth regular-season crown in 62 years — and to anticipate the postseason to come.

Please see CUBS, Page A6



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paul Hoeckelberg hangs bunting on the wall at Wrigley Field in Chicago on Friday in preparation for today's National League Division Series game.

► INSIDE: Cubs need to rattle bats in today's game. Page D1.

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

GAME 2 Cleveland Indians 2  
New York Yankees 1

GAME 2 Boston Red Sox 6  
Los Angeles Angels 3

## INSIDE TODAY

Advice/Horoscope	C3	Lottery	B1
Business	A8	Movies	B7
Classified	E1	Obituaries	B4
Comics	C4	Opinion	A8
Crossword	C3, E2	Sports	D1
Local/State	B1	Television	TV Week

54837 22222  
TO SUBSCRIBE CALL  
686-3161