

SPORTS, D1

TASTE, C1

HEALTH, C6

# SEASON SPLIT

Notre Dame and Richwoods poised to share M-S 6 title after 3-1 Irish win



# TIME TESTED

1888 cookbook is a real inspiration

Hacker recently broke into Commerce Bank's computer system, LOCAL, B1



# KEEP YOUR COOL

Got anger issues? These tips and tricks can help

WEDNESDAY  
OCTOBER 10, 2007

\$1.00

# A GATEHOUSE NEWSPAPER Journal Star

SERVING CENTRAL ILLINOIS SINCE 1855

OUTLOOK  
60 42

Complete forecast Page B6

www.pjstar.com

## Council dips into water hike plan

Members question the need for sudden 20 percent increase

BY JOHN SHARP  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — Illinois American Water Co.'s proposed 20 percent water rate increase for its Peoria customers faced criticism from members of the City Council on Tuesday.

Council members questioned the water company's need for the hike, which they claim is one of the largest the utility has proposed in recent memory.

Illinois American representatives attended the council's meeting to present the reasoning behind the increase and answered questions from council members.

"That is your largest rate increase in 27 years," 3rd District Councilman Bob Manning said. "You're outdoing yourself with this 20 percent increase. The good thing is that on the heels of AmerenCILCO (electrical rate increase), 20 percent is actually pretty good. Congratulate yourself on that."

Illinois American representatives, including President Karla Teasley, presented their case, saying it was needed to offset rising operations and maintenance costs and a "significant investment" in Peoria's water district.

Ed Grubb, the water company's manager of rates and regulation for the central region, said the increases are, in part, to help offset nearly \$16.5 million spent in Peoria since 2003, the last time a water rate increase went into effect. He also said the rate increase is to meet the company's targeted 11.25 percent return on equity.

Please see **WATER**, Page A6

## Want to cut your electric bill this year?

Program will allow customers to pay prices based on usage

BY ADRIANA COLINDRES  
OF GATEHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

SPRINGFIELD — Residential customers of AmerenCILCO, AmerenCIPS and AmerenIP now have the option of enrolling in a "real-time pricing" program, which would let them pay hourly, market-based prices for electricity instead of traditional flat rates.

The result could be lower electricity costs for some consumers, depending on how much power they use and when they use it.

The Ameren Illinois utilities unveiled the program, called Power Smart Pricing, on Tuesday.

"Bottom line is it is another tool, another option that I think provides our residential customers with the opportunity to take an active role in managing their electricity usage and

Please see **ELECTRIC**, Page A10

# DUI eye test under fire

Peoria County woman's case may determine if common method can be used in the future

BY ANDY KRAVETZ  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — The appeal of a Peoria County drunken driving conviction could determine whether prosecutors can pull a commonly used field sobriety test out of their arsenal at trial.

The Illinois Supreme Court recently found Peoria County Judge Jerelyn Maher improperly

allowed the results of a horizontal gaze nystagmus (HGN) test to be used at trial four years ago without first holding a hearing as to whether the test was based on sound science.

The test is based upon the premise that if a person has been drinking, his or her pupils would not follow a pen or a finger smoothly.

The unanimous Sept. 20 deci-

sion stopped short of throwing out Joanne McKown's conviction but sent her case back to Peoria County for a hearing where experts on both sides will testify as to whether the HGN test passes scientific muster.

HGN tests have been used for years and are considered a good indication of whether a person is drunk, but often they are accompanied by other field sobriety results or chemical tests. McKown's case, however, appeared to use the HGN test almost exclusively to find that she was intoxicated on June 8, 2002, when her car collided with

three motorcycles on Maher Road.

A hearing will be scheduled within 90 days, and a judge — either Maher or another one — will decide if the test is "generally accepted as a reliable indicator of alcohol impairment." Regardless of the decision, the matter goes back to the state Supreme Court, which will have the final say.

The high court's ruling could settle the dispute once and for all in Illinois.

"I am tickled to death not only for my client, but now we get to

Please see **TEST**, Page A10



JOANNE  
MCKOWN

## CENTRAL ILLINOIS FARMERS GET BUSY HARVESTING THEIR SOYBEAN CROPS



PURCHASE THIS PHOTO AT PJSTAR.COM

ADAM GERIK/JOURNAL STAR

Rodger Deppermann of Trivoli harvests soybeans Tuesday on the land of Keith Wagler a few miles west of Trivoli. Deppermann said he only had approximately 11 acres left to harvest, usually completing the 40 acres in just one day. This year's soybean crop in central Illinois looks to be average. Fewer acres of soybeans were planted in 2007 in Illinois and across the U.S. because of demands for corn to feed the nation's growing number of ethanol plants and the corresponding increase in corn prices. ■ RELATED STORY, PAGE B1

# Sewer upgrade won't solve river problems

Study finds water has high levels of bacteria separate from stormwater overflow

BY TERRY BIBO  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — Even if the city of Peoria spends millions of dollars to upgrade its sewer system, the Illinois River will have high bacteria levels.

"What we found is: There's something coming at us from upstream,"

says Public Works Director David Barber.

The city conducted tests of the Illinois River this past spring and summer as part of its efforts to meet environmental regulations. Peoria has a combined sewage/stormwater sewer system which sometimes sends outflows (CSOs) including raw sewage directly into the river at 15 locations from Spring Street to Darst Street. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been cracking down on such systems around the country, which has

cost some communities millions of dollars.

Information from the water study will be presented to The Clean River Committee from noon to 1:30 p.m. today at the Greater Peoria Sanitary District. The CRC was formed this spring to assist the city's Public Works Department as it comes up with a CSO plan before the December 2008 federal deadline.

Among other things, Peoria's preliminary test results show the Illinois River water has bacteria levels above

the state standards for safe swimming regardless of the CSOs. For example, water sampled above Detweiller Marina had high bacteria levels. All of the city CSOs are downriver from that point.

"Our CSOs aren't a contributor upstream from the marina," said Barber.

Even when it rains, Peoria's sewer system is only one factor in the bacteria level. The study included a June rainstorm which had three inches of

Please see **RIVER**, Page A10



## INSIDE TODAY

Advice/Horoscope	C3	Lottery	B1
Business	A8	Movies	C4
Classified	D6	Obituaries	B4
Comics	C5	Opinion	A4
Crossword	C3, D7	Sports	D1
Health	C6	Taste	C1
Local/State	B1	Television	C4