



LOCAL&STATE, B1

GROWL-O-WEEN

Canines get in on Halloween fun at event at Three Dog Bakery in Junction City.



SPORTS, D1

SWEET SWEEP

Red Sox take second World Series title in four years with 4-3 win over the Colorado Rockies

Jacoby Ellsbury

Journal Star

A GATEHOUSE NEWSPAPER

MONDAY
OCTOBER 29, 2007

MONDAY
OCTOBER 29, 2007

\$1.00

www.pjstar.com

OUTLOOK
62 40

Complete forecast Page B6

SERVING CENTRAL ILLINOIS SINCE 1855

Police, parents focus on Halloween safety

The right preparation can keep real frights to a minimum

BY MICHELLE ANSTETT
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA HEIGHTS — Monsters, ghosts and ghouls are the most visibly present, albeit unreal, fears during the Halloween season.

With a few easy precautions, children can be protected from actual dangers and enjoy a safe, fun holiday.

Safety officials in every American

town give tips for parents on how best to protect their children from the hazards of a trick-filled, pedestrian-saturated holiday. Some of these include: Carry a flashlight, be sure costumes are flame-retardant, walk on sidewalks and exercise caution when crossing streets.

Many municipalities, including Peoria Heights, beef up the number of patrolling officers on the streets during All Hallow's Eve. That village will put a few officers on mountain bikes, allowing them a better chance to catch

pranksters and increase contact with trick-or-treaters. City of Peoria police officers will hand out candy to children while on their rounds from 3 to 8 p.m., but there will be no extra patrols.

The Illinois State Department of Corrections will increase its monitoring of paroled sex offenders surrounding the holiday as part of its Operation Safe Spirits campaign. Working with local law enforcement agencies, the IDOC will make sure that all conditions of parole are met, including that offenders

Please see **SAFETY**, Page A8

INSIDE

► Group hosts Halloween party for children with diabetes, including sugar-free snacks. **Page B1**

► Kids celebrate Halloween with art, stories. **KJS, page C1**

Operation Santa picks up steam

Fundraiser at Peoria eateries will help send Christmas stockings to troops

BY MICHELLE ANSTETT
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — The fare served at an Irish pub and Italian cafe normally do not have much in common.

But on Sunday afternoon, the two partnered to support one good cause: American troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Kelleher's Irish Pub and Eatery and Rizzi's on State joined together with Central Illinois Proud Families of Marines to raise money for Operation Santa's third annual Christmas stocking drive.

"It means so much that these people are doing all of this for our group," Patti Smith, Operation Santa's organizer and CIPFM president said.

Smith, of Peoria, developed Operation Santa three years ago with the idea to send Christmas care packages to her son's platoon. They ended up shipping 200 packages.

Since then, the program has grown. Last year, Operation Santa sent 10,000 stockings abroad.

This year, Smith said the program hopes to send holiday stockings to twice as many troops stationed

Please see **SANTA**, Page A8

BEARS SHAVED DOWN AT HOME



ADAM GERIK/JOURNAL STAR

INSIDE STORIES

► Bears head into bye week with stagnant performance. **Page D1**

► Mike Nadel says the Bears look like they're finished. **Page D3**

PURCHASE THIS PHOTO AT PJSTAR.COM

Bears superfan Danny Gasaway of Griffith, Ind., does the "sprinkler" move during Sunday afternoon's game against the Detroit Lions at Soldier Field in Chicago. "My buddy cuts it before we leave," Gasaway said, explaining the word "BEAR" shaved out of his chest hair. "That's what good fans we are. We never give up until the final bell sounds." The Bears lost to the Lions 16-7 to fall to 3-5 on the season.

Pediatricians urge autism screening by age 2

Doctors hope early therapy can reduce the disorder's severity

BY LINDSEY TANNER
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — The country's leading pediatricians group is making its strongest push yet to have all children screened for autism twice by age 2, warning of symptoms such as babies who don't babble at 9 months and 1-

year-olds who don't point to toys.

The advice is meant to help both parents and doctors spot autism sooner. There is no cure for the disorder, but experts say that early therapy can lessen its severity.

Symptoms to watch for and the call for early screening come in two new reports. They are being released by the American Academy of Pediatrics today at its annual meeting in San Francisco and will appear in the November issue of the journal Pediatrics and on the group's Web site — http://www.aap.org.

The reports list numerous warning signs, such as a 4-month-old not smiling at the sound of Mom or Dad's voice, or the loss of language or social skills at any age.

Experts say one in 150 U.S. children have the troubling developmental disorder. "Parents come into your office now

saying, 'I'm worried about autism.' Ten years ago, they didn't know what it was," said Dr. Chris Johnson of the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. She co-authored the reports.

The academy's renewed effort reflects growing awareness since its first autism guidelines in 2001. A 2006 policy statement urged autism screening for all children at their regular doctor

Please see **AUTISM**, Page A7

Peoria-based attorney to lead anti-gun initiative

Tate Chambers will head Project Safe Neighborhoods

BY ANDY KRAVETZ
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — After 23 years of taking on gangs, drugs and guns in the Peoria area, Tate Chambers has gone to Washington, D.C., to head up the national effort to reduce gun violence.

Chambers, an assistant U.S. attorney based in Peoria, was selected to head up Project Safe Neighborhoods, an initiative announced by President Bush six years ago that links local and federal law enforcement. He starts today.

"They could not have picked a better person," said Chambers' boss, U.S. Attorney Rodger Heaton, based out of Springfield, who jokingly added, "I made him swear a blood oath that he would return."

As the national coordinator, Chambers will be working with the 94 U.S. attorneys to set up national strategy on how to improve the program and also how to tailor it to fit each district's individual needs.

"It's a once in the lifetime opportunity. It's something I have been working on, gangs, drugs and guns, for 23 years, and now it is the chance to work on the national level," Chambers said. "A chance I couldn't pass up."

Please see **CHAMBERS**, Page A8

INSIDE TODAY

Advice/Horoscope	C3	Matter of Record	B2
Classified	D9	Movies	C4
Comics	C5	Obituaries	B4
Crossword	C3, D9	Opinion	A4
KJS	C1	Sports	D1
Local/State	B1	Television	C4
Lottery	B1	Your Family	C6

