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LET IT SNOW

Dusting of flurries sends some scurrying for winter weather supplies.



YOUR FAMILY, C6

Twin blessings

Central Illinois group for mothers of twins, triplets celebrates 50 years of support and camaraderie.



SPORTS, D1

BEST HOPE FOR THE BEARS

Devin Hester's skill is all the team has going, Kirk Wessler writes.

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CELEBRATING THE SEASON



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Dressed as a wrapped gift, Sarah Pinkerton, 3, of Peoria stands with members of the "Get Lit" crafting group dressed as gingerbread characters on Sunday evening at Pekin's annual Winter Wonderland Parade.

Families flock to Pekin to take in the sights at annual Winter Wonderland Parade that kicks off monthlong festival

PEKIN Amber Williams and her husband, Dennis, both grew up in Pekin. She attended the Winter Wonderland Parade and Festival regularly as a child. He did not, but they have made it a tradition to bring their children. "We've been doing it for the last three years," Dennis Williams said. Like most of the other children in attendance, the Williams' 4-year-old daughter stood with a bag full of candy that she collected during the parade. Their other child, a 1-year-old girl, was bundled up in layers of winter wear. The parade, featuring floats, bands and area organizations, started at Eighth Street and Broadway Road and wound its

way to the Mineral Springs Park pavilion. "It used to be just Pekin-oriented," Amber Williams said. "Now there is a lot more stuff in it." Like the Williams' elder daughter, candy and Santa Claus were the main attractions for Chrystal and Chris Durand's 6-year-old daughter and 3-year-old son. The family drove from Mapleton to enjoy one of the first events of the Christmas season. "I like this parade, it's not as busy as Peoria," Chrystal Durand said. "It's a little easier to get around." "I like to see their faces, too, when they see Santa," she said of her children.

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Story by **ED McMENAMIN** ♦ Photographs by **ADAM GERIK** ♦ of the Journal Star



The Pekin High School marching band parades down Broadway Road during Pekin's Winter Wonderland Parade.

Be wary of e-danger in seeking e-deals

Experts warning buyers to stay cautious during their Cyber Monday buying sprees

BY FRANK RADOSEVICH II
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — As the rest of his family and friends fought through heavy traffic, crowded stores and long lines, Craig Riley shuffled out of bed and sat down in front of his computer.

Tapping his keyboard and clicking his mouse on Friday afternoon, Riley, 26, picked out a gift for Mom and Dad, his older brother and girlfriend and a little something for himself.

"I probably did the same amount of shopping (as my family did) in about half the time and with zero of the hassle," the Peorian said. "When I was done, I actually went back to bed."

Though Black Friday's early morning doorbusters still draw swarms of shoppers, online sales this holiday season are expected to grow and help buttress an otherwise less-than-robust economic outlook.

Today marks "Cyber Monday," a term cooked up by the National Retail Federation for the Monday after Thanksgiving.

Though not the biggest shopping day of the year, Cyber Monday serves as the supposed kickoff for the online

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Mideast summit gets small boost

Syria no longer holding back, will attend; 1 day from start, talks still need basic framework

BY ANNE GEARAN
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Arab holdout Syria agreed Sunday to attend a Mideast peace conference called by President Bush to restart talks to resolve the six-decade conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, yet expectations for the summit remained low. The two sides came to Washington without agreeing on basic terms for their negotiations.

Bush invited the Israeli and Palestinian leaders to separate meetings at the White House today to prepare for the centerpiece of his Mideast gathering — an all-day session Tuesday in Annapolis, Md.

It is to be the only time that Bush, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas meet together, and their three-way handshake is expected to be the conference's symbolic high point. Bush closes the U.S. effort with a second

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Remaining thankful despite continued pain

Christmas Fund basket offers measure of joy to Peorian fighting chronic conditions

BY ED McMENAMIN
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — After working and providing for herself for 40 years, Doris is stuck in an all-too-common limbo — she can't work because of her injury, and she can't get insurance because she can't work.

She suffers from spinal stenosis, a degenerative condition where the spine continues to narrow with age. Compounding her back pain are three dislocated discs that cause immeasurable pain even while sitting.

The 57-year-old Peorian, who requested to go only by her first name, also takes medication for diabetes, congestive heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

While her pain only gets worse, Doris is thankful for her family, especially her

parents, who now pay her rent, and her 38-year-old son who helps with other bills.

"I know there are people who have it worse than me," she said last week. "I'm fortunate to have parents still in good health. Thank God I've got them. They do it gladly. They don't begrudge me."

Doris wrote a letter to the Journal Star Christmas Fund requesting one of 5,085 food baskets that will be distributed

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TO DATE: \$18,824.44
GOAL: \$182,000

► Today's List: **A8**

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