



YOUR FAMILY, C6

CHECKING IN

East Peoria child care facility lets parents watch kids via Web cam



FOUR TEAMS LEFT

Eli Manning's Giants move on, Peyton Manning's Colts upset in playoffs, D1, D3



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OUTLOOK
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Candidates stake their claims



JOHN MORRIS

AARON SCHOCK

JIM McCONOUGHEY

A closer look at statements made by those vying for 18th Congressional District

BY KAREN McDONALD
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — Candidates make many claims during the months leading up to an election. Generally, the public takes these claims at face value. In the heated race for the 18th Congressional District, Republican

INSIDE STORIES

- ▶ Races heat up for Woodford state's attorney, Peoria County coroner. **Page B1**
- ▶ More area election coverage. **B3, B5**

candidate John Morris, a former Peoria City councilman, Jim McConoughey, CEO of the Heartland Partnership, and state Rep. Aaron Schock, R-Peoria, all have made certain claims about their voting records and accomplishments dozens of times at various meet-and-

greetings, forums and debates.

Here, we take a closer look at those claims and explain how they came about.

Jim McConoughey

Claim #1: 26 years of business experience. (McConoughey is 46 years old, which would put him at 20 when he got his first business experience.)

Reality: McConoughey purchased his first piece of real estate — a

Please see **CLAIMS**, Page A5

Will strains on economy lead to a recession?

Government searches for ways to boost consumer spending as forecasts grow more bleak

BY JEANNINE AVERSA
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The unemployment rate leaps to a two-year high, record numbers of people are forced from their homes and Wall Street nose-dives again. Such is the fallout from a housing meltdown that threatens to slingshot the country into a recession.

The big economic question these days is whether the weakening economy will survive the strains or collapse under them.

The odds have grown that the economy will slip into a recession. At the beginning of last year, many economists put that chance at less than 1-in-3; now an increasing number says it has climbed to about 50-50. Goldman Sachs, the biggest investment bank on Wall Street, even thinks a recession is inevitable this year.

Hopeful it can be avoided, President Bush and the Democrat-controlled Congress are exploring economic rescue measures, including possible tax rebates. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke pledged to lower interest rates as needed.

The idea is to induce people to boost spending, especially on big-ticket items such as homes and cars, and

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BEN BERNANKE

CURTAIN CLOSES ON MUSICAL



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ADAM GERIK/JOURNAL STAR

Nick Butler, 21, of Pekin is swarmed by cast members during the curtain call for "High School Musical" at Eastlight Theatre on Sunday afternoon. Butler, playing the role of Zeke Baylor, and others were onstage as part of the Penguin Project, a program that gives children with disabilities an opportunity to display their creative talents. This was his last performance in the program.

From left, actresses Liv Roach, Liz Rice and Skye Mayo pose for a quick photo after the final performance of "High School Musical."

ADAM GERIK
JOURNAL STAR



Penguin Project's 'High School Musical' offered children with disabilities a chance to perform

BY ED McMENAMIN
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — For many participants in the Penguin Project's "High School Musical" production, the hardest part wasn't learning the dance moves and song lyrics, it was saying goodbye when the curtain closed.

"These are kids that I wouldn't have met if it had not been for the show," 18-year-old Danielle Webster said. "But they've

had the biggest impact on my life."

The Penguin Project was created by Peoria developmental pediatrician Andrew Morgan to give children with disabilities an opportunity to display their creative talents.

The organization has performed a musical each of the last four years, and Sunday evening marked the final

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Scientists use cells to grow rat heart in lab

Researchers hope work leads to advances in heart transplants

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Researchers seeking new treatments for heart disease managed to grow a rat heart in the lab and start it beating.

"While it still sounds like science fiction, we've hopefully opened a new door in the notion that we can build these tissues and one day provide options for patients with end-stage disease," said Dr. Doris Taylor, director of the Center for Cardiovascular Repair at the University of Minnesota. "We're not there yet, but at least now we have another tool in our tool belt."

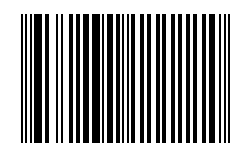
Taylor led the team whose research appeared in Sunday's online edition of the journal Nature Medicine.

Scientists have worked for years for ways to grow body parts. Many efforts have focused on heart valves as an alternative to the plastic or animal valves that wear out after being implanted in humans.

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