

GROWING FEARS

Service sector report increases recession worries. **A2, A6**



ILLINOIS STATE CAN'T HOLD ON

Drake stays perfect in Missouri Valley with 73-70 win in Normal, **PAGE D1**

PEORIA POLICE MAY START MAKING 'SURPRISE' APPEARANCES AT TAVERNS TO ENFORCE SMOKING BAN/B1

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DECISION 2008

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McCain commands GOP lead

Clinton, Obama locked in battle for Democratic nomination



Obama routs Clinton to take Illinois spoils

BY DENNIS CONRAD
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Barack Obama used his favorite son status and a message of change to thump Hillary Rodham Clinton in Illinois — a rich Super Tuesday prize that used to be the heart of Clinton country. John McCain defeated Mitt Romney on the Republican side.

Obama, an Illinois senator, beat Clinton in practically every category Tuesday, according to exit polling for The Associated Press and the networks. Whether voters were male or female, old or young,

Please see **ILLINOIS**, Page A11

BY DAVID ESPO
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sen. John McCain seized command of the race for the Republican presidential nomination early today, winning delegator-rich primaries from the East Coast to California. Democratic rivals Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama traded victories in an epic struggle with no end in sight.

Clinton won the biggest state, California, for the Democrats, capitalizing on support from Hispanic voters.

McCain's own victory in the Republican race in the Golden State dealt a crushing blow to his closest pursuer, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

"We've won some of the biggest states in the country," McCain told cheering supporters at a rally in Phoenix, hours before California made his Tuesday Super. An underdog for months, he proclaimed himself the front-runner at last, and added, "I don't really mind it one bit."

In the competition that counted

the most, the Arizona senator had 522 delegates, more than 40 percent of the 1,191 needed for the nomination — and far ahead of his rivals.

Even so, Romney and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee said they were staying in the race.

Neither Clinton nor Obama proclaimed overall victory on a Super Tuesday that sprawled across 23 states, and with good reason. Obama won 12 states and Clinton eight plus American Samoa. But with wins

Please see **BATTLES**, Page A11

ILLINOIS Primary at Glance

PRESIDENT

Republicans

As of 1:15 a.m.

Romney..... 31%
Paul..... 4%
 McCain..... 47%
Huckabee..... 18%

Democrats

As of 1:15 a.m.

Obama..... 64%
Clinton..... 36%

CONGRESS: 18TH

Republicans

100% Reporting

Morris..... 12%
 Schock..... 71%
McConoughey..... 17%

CONGRESS: 11TH

Republicans

(100% reporting)

Baldermann..... 62%
Lee..... 17%
Heenan..... 21%

Democrats

100% reporting

Halvorson..... 99%
Wallace..... 1%

STATE HOUSE: 91ST

Democrats

100% Reporting

Smith..... 81%
Bainter..... 19%

STATE HOUSE: 92ND

Democrats

100% Reporting

Mayer..... 48%
 Gordon..... 52%

STATE SENATE: 38TH

Democrats

(100% reporting)

Martin..... 36%
 Stout..... 64%

PEORIA COUNTY

Coroner

(143 OF 146 precincts reporting)

Ingersoll (R)..... 72%
Blackburn (R)..... 28%

TAZEWELL COUNTY

County Board Chair

(130 OF 130 precincts reporting)

Church (R)..... 26%
 Zimmerman (R)..... 38%
Hagaman (R)..... 5%
Unsicker (R)..... 31%

REFERENDUM

Issue \$4 million in bonds for new Morton swimming pool?

Yes..... 61%
No..... 39%

WOODFORD COUNTY

State's Attorney

(45 OF 45 precincts reporting)

Stroh (R)..... 55%
Harrod (R)..... 45%

9TH JUDICIAL

(225 OF 225 precincts reporting)

Mangieri (D)..... 55%
Harrell (D)..... 45%

Schock claims victory

26-year-old will face yet-to-be named Democrat in contest to replace LaHood in 18th District

BY KAREN McDONALD
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

EAST PEORIA — Crediting a grassroots campaign, devoting time and energy to all 20 counties in the 18th Congressional District and the desire for something positive in the Republican party, Aaron Schock was sailing to victory Tuesday in a three-way GOP race to replace outgoing U.S. Rep. Ray LaHood.

Schock, 26, a Republican state representative from Peoria, outpaced his two GOP opponents in the polls, with about 71 percent of the votes cast in the 20-county district. Challenger Jim McConoughey, 46, had about 17 percent of the vote, while John Morris, 39, trailed Schock with about 12 percent. The winner will face a yet-to-be named Democrat in the November general election.

"Our party is yearning for something positive and somebody who stands for something, and I think I gave them that," Schock said Tuesday night from his election event at East Peoria's Embassy Suites Convention Center. "Quite frankly, I'm shocked, but humbled by the support tonight. Tomorrow at 5 a.m. we're starting to kick off the general election campaign and reaching out to independent voters. It's not a responsibility that I take lightly."

Final but unofficial results at midnight in 18 of the 20 counties and partial results from the city of Peoria and Tazewell County showed Schock, a former Peoria School District 150 board member, had more than twice the votes of his two opponents combined, with 51,352 votes.

Please see **18TH**, Page A12



PURCHASE THIS PHOTO AT PJSTAR.COM

ADAM GERIK/JOURNAL STAR

Illinois Rep. Aaron Schock gives a thumbs up during a party at Embassy Suites in East Peoria after winning Tuesday night's primary race for the 18th Congressional District.

ELECTION UPDATE

Americans living across the world flock to the polls and hope for change in foreign policy and other issues. **Page A3**

Peoria area sees an impressive increase in voter turnout. **Page B1**

Complete look at winners in central Illinois races, including winners and vote totals. **Page A7**



Ingersoll wins nomination for Peoria coroner

BY DAVE HANEY
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — Peoria County Coroner Johnna Ingersoll overwhelmingly won the Republican nomination for coroner Tuesday night, repeating a similar victory four years ago over former county sheriff's Lt. George Blackburn.

Ingersoll, 43, will face Democrat Steve

Schmidt, a retired sheriff's deputy, in the Nov. 4 general election. Ingersoll also defeated Schmidt in 2004.

With all 93 precincts counted within the city of Peoria and all of the 53 precincts reporting in Peoria County, Ingersoll garnered 12,611 votes, or 72.3 percent, to Blackburn's 4,822 votes, or 27.6 percent.

"I just want to say thank you to the vot-

ers for their continued support," Ingersoll said Tuesday night. "I appreciate serving as coroner, and I am so very excited and grateful."

The mother of six has worked in the Coroner's Office for nearly 20 years, serving the last four as coroner.

Please see **CORONER**, Page A11

Gordon narrowly wins 92nd contest

Race with Mayer has seen controversial moments

BY ADRIANA COLINDRES
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — Jehan Gordon eked out a narrow victory Tuesday night over Allen Mayer in the Democratic primary for the 92nd Illinois House District, according to unofficial results.

With all precincts reporting, Gordon had garnered 5,694 votes, or 51.6 percent. Mayer had 5,332 votes, or 48.4 percent.

Gordon, the first African-American woman to run from the 92nd District, said she thinks she was helped by the historic national candidacies of presidential contenders Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, which boosted voter turnout. Even more crucial, she said, "is my family's history of service in this community."

"I didn't know what to expect ... in terms of the numbers," she said. "I knew I had to work hard. I knew I had to work hard every day."

Mayer called Gordon to concede.

"It was obviously a very, very close race," Mayer said.

He attributed Gordon's win to "a large surge of new voters."

"I think younger voters, folks from the Democratic base ... feel more affinity to her," he added.

Gordon ran ahead of Mayer in the city of Peoria, while Mayer attracted more votes in the county.

Mayer, 35, has served on the Peoria County Board since 2004. He is on leave from his

Please see **GORDON**, Page A12



OUT OF A JOB

Former embattled District 150 Superintendent Kay Royster ousted from St. Louis-area school district after board votes to buy out the remainder of her contract. **PAGE B1**



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UNCORK A NEW HOBBY

Making wine is a lesson in creativity you can enjoy with others. Find out how to get started and check out some recipes. **TASTE, PAGE C1**

