



# WANTING TO WALK, NOT RUN

Running Central owners hope city can make Main Street more pedestrian friendly to help boost business along revitalized corridor. **BUSINESS, C1**



# KANSAS IS KING

Jayhawks take NCAA championship, beating Memphis 75-68 in OT. **SPORTS, D1**

**\$97,000 raised to aid ill Farmington Central Junior High School student/B1**

**TUESDAY**  
APRIL 8, 2008

**\$1.00**

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Complete forecast **Page B6**

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# Hinton: Loucks-Edison may close



**KEN HINTON**

## Superintendent presents board 'menu' of possible cuts to slash newfound deficit

**BY TERRY BIBO**  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

**PEORIA** — Thanks to a budget slash from Springfield, Loucks-Edison Junior Academy may close and some Peoria School District 150 staff may lose jobs. "This is not easy, but it has to be done," Superintendent Ken Hinton told board members Monday in announcing a \$3 million 10-item "menu" of potential cuts. "It seems to be a tenor of the times."

Instead of a \$2 million surplus for 2008-09, Treasurer Guy Cahill told the board that reduced revenues will leave the district with a \$2 million deficit. About \$200,000 of that is from higher-than-anticipated costs to restructure Manual High School. Another fraction is in dispute with the state. But the main reason the district will have \$145 million rather than the anticipated \$147 million for next year's operating budget is cuts by the state of Illinois.

The potential answers to that \$2 million gap include cuts to cafeteria, custodial, maintenance and security staff. It may mean consolidating to one athletic director for the entire district. And it almost certainly means closure of a school, at least for a while.

**WHAT'LL IT SAVE?**

► List details savings from each potential cut that Hinton outlined to School Board for consideration. **Page A5**

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page A5

# Dogs attack 2 boys at homes

Separate incidents send 4-year-olds to hospital; animals turned over

**BY LESLIE FARK**  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

**PEORIA** — Dogs mauled two 4-year-old children in separate attacks over the weekend, leaving one boy with part of his ear bitten off and the other requiring surgery and more than 150 stitches to close bite and scratch marks.

In the first attack, Peoria County sheriff's deputies responded about 10:35 p.m. Friday to 5210 N. Koerner Road, where James Blaire II lives with his wife and her parents.

Blaire, who has weekend custody of his son, James Blaire III, was not home when his son was "seriously mauled" by the family's two American bulldogs, police said.

Upon returning home from work, the boy's father found his son covered in blood and "whimpering" on his bed. The boy's stepgrandparents, Paul and Susan Brown, were home at the time of the attack, according to police, but said they didn't hear growling, crying or any sort of commotion.

James Blaire III sustained more than 30 puncture wounds and cuts to his head and face. Some of the gashes he received in the attack "were open to the skull," police said, prompting immediate surgery and examination for fractures. The boy's upper body and legs also were covered with bruises. He was listed in good condition Monday at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center.

The boy's father declined comment Monday but voluntarily turned the dogs over to the Peoria Animal Welfare Shelter.

Please see **DOGS**, Page A5

# CHIEFS FANS AGREE, 'LET'S PLAY BALL'



PURCHASE THESE PHOTOS AT PJSTAR.COM ADAM GERIK/JOURNAL STAR

**ABOVE:** Mike Daniel of Bloomington kisses Tina Rothery of Mahomet as the couple and Tina's son Toby, 11, watch the Peoria Chiefs home opener at O'Brien Field on Monday night. **BELOW:** Elli and Charis Short show Homer, the Chiefs mascot, some love during the team's home opener Monday night. The Chiefs lost to Beloit, 8-0.

## Despite the slight chill in the air, home opener draws excited crowd to welcome baseball back

**BY ADAM DUVAL**  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

**PEORIA**

Thoughts of March Madness were replaced Monday by America's pastime as the Peoria Chiefs opened the 2008 season.

The 2,311 fans looked to forget about college hoops for a night and get in the minor league baseball mood.

Just an hour and a half before the NCAA men's basketball national title game between Memphis and Kansas tipped off, the Chiefs were taking the neatly manicured O'Brien Field for their opening day contest against the Beloit Snappers.

"I'm glad to see the spring baseball here," said David Gerjets of Toluca. "Actually, I scheduled this night probably about a month ago. Got it on the calendar, so nothing else could have (taken its place)."

David and his son, Ryan, try to make it Downtown four or five times a year, especially for the Father's Day game in June.

Please see **CHIEFS**, Page A5

**INSIDE:** Full details on the team's 8-0 loss to Beloit. **Page D1.**



# 'ORDER UP!'

Pekin teens bring home national prize for complex burger-maker in Rube Goldberg contest

**BY KEVIN SAMPIER**  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR


**PEKIN** — Pekin Community High School students are eating up the accolades after creating one of the most complicated ways to build a burger and winning first place in the national Rube Goldberg Machine Contest.

**WATCH VIDEO REPORT**  
Link to video of Pekin students demonstrating their award-winning Rube Goldberg machine at [pjstar.com](http://pjstar.com)

"We didn't think we'd get this far," said senior Cody Jablonski, 18, of Pekin, a member of the high school's investigative physics class and co-captain of the winning team.

The Pekin team won first place Saturday at Purdue University during the contest that takes a simple task — in this case, assembling a hamburger with two condiments and two vegetables — and completes it with an extremely complicated machine that sets off a series of chain reactions.

Please see **BURGERS**, Page A6



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