



GROUNDBREAKING WIN

Danica Patrick's victory at Indy Japan 300 is a dramatic first for female driver that pushes her into the record books. **SPORTS, D1**

A SOLEMN VISIT

Pope Benedict XVI prays with families during visit to Ground Zero on final day of his visit to United States. **NATION, A5**



MONDAY
APRIL 21, 2008

\$1.00

A GATEHOUSE NEWSPAPER Journal Star

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Teens look to keep water clean

Pontiac students' project to dispose of leftover prescriptions garners widespread praise

BY TERRY BIBO
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PONTIAC — Paul Ritter remembers the first moment he was confronted with the problem of drugs in the water supply.

It was Dec. 17. He was getting ready to go out for his wife's 36th birthday. She was looking through their bathroom supplies.

"OK, Mr. Ecology Guru," said Jodee Ritter. "What are you going to do with all these vitamins and pills and leftover prescriptions in our cabinet?"

"My exact words were: I don't know," said the 37-year-old Pontiac Township High

School science teacher.

So he posed the question to his students. They logged onto their laptops. And one month to the day later — a month that included Christmas break — his ecology class had developed the Pontiac Prescription Drug Disposal program. With the cooperation of local pharmacies and officials, they had set up a simple way to collect drugs before they get into the water.

"We started just doing research on the



Internet," shrugged Karisly Ambrose, a 17-year-old junior. "And made PowerPoints."

Within six weeks, The Associated Press broke a series of articles about pharmaceuticals in the nation's water supply that showed as many as 41 million people might be exposed to trace amounts. At that point, the program the kids dubbed P2D2 was the only one of its kind from Illinois to San Francisco.

Now, barely four months in, the high school is getting inquiries from around the

Please see **P2D2**, Page A7



SAVING OUR WATER

Clean Water Celebration encourages youths to protect water resources. **Page B1**

How do you pick a winner?

Undecided superdelegates say primary wins matter less than probable victory in November

BY STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Many of the Democratic superdelegates who are still undecided say the most important factor in their decision is simple — they just want a winner in November.

Problem is, after nearly four months of primaries and caucuses in 46 states, territories and the District of Columbia, they still aren't sure who that is, don't seem to be in any hurry to make up their minds and aren't interested in any artificial process that might force them to choose between Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Most of the more than 100 undecided superdelegates who discussed their decision-making with The Associated Press in the past two weeks agreed that the primaries and caucuses do matter — whether it's who has the most national delegates or the candidate who won their state or congressional district. But few said the primaries will be the biggest factor in their decision.

"I think it's really important that we keep our eye on the prize, and the prize is the win in November," said Gail Rasmussen, an undecided superdelegate from Oregon.

That's good news for Clinton, who cannot catch Obama in delegates won in the few remaining primaries and caucuses.

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DECISION 2008

- Democrats trade blows before Pennsylvania primary. **Page A2**
- Illinois legislation could hurt candidates picked after primary. **Page B1**

INTO THE WILD BLUE YONDER

The 24th-annual Prairie Air Show concluded its two-day run on Sunday at the Greater Peoria Regional Airport.

The Blue Angels, back for the first time since 2004, were the marquee draw, and Saturday's clouds gave way to Sunday's bright skies for a crowd-pleasing performance.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE AIR SHOW?



"The Blue Angels are the best of the best, they're elite. This is our first time at the air show. We've watched them practice, we live about three miles from here." **BART FUNDERBURK, MAPLETON**



"I like the A-10 Warthog and the virtual Army Experience. You drive in a humvee and shoot on top of the turret. It's a 3D environment." **SAM SMITH, PRINCETON**



"We haven't seen it yet, but we're looking forward to The Blue Angels. This is my first air show." **ANNA HOUSER, PEORIA**



"Our favorite was Shockwave. It's fast — 357 miles per hour. We came for the Blue Angels. We're from Bartonville, so we've watched them for all the years." **GREG SEWELL, BARTONVILLE**



The six F/A-18 Hornets of the Blue Angels Navy flight demonstration squadron spiral out of the sky Sunday afternoon during their performance at the Prairie Air Show at the Greater Peoria Regional Airport. Organizers hoped that the appeal of the Blue Angels and the squadron's mid-air feats would help boost attendance at the show, which is in its 24th year. The Blue Angels performed at the Prairie Air Show for the first time since 2004.

Military gun deal questioned

As Colt contract nears renewal, senator doubts effectiveness of rifle, especially in desert combat

BY RICHARD LARDNER
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARTFORD, CONN. — No weapon is more important to tens of thousands of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan than the carbine rifle. And for well over a decade, the military has relied on one company, Colt Defense of Hartford, Conn., to make the M4s they trust with their lives.

Now, as Congress considers spending millions more on the guns, this exclusive arrangement is being criticized as a bad deal for American forces as well as taxpayers, according to interviews and research conducted by The Associated Press.

"What we have is a fat contractor in Colt who's gotten very rich off our wars

THINKING DIFFERENTLY

- List details alternative weapons. **Page A9**
- Rifle fares poorly in test. **Page A9**

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AIR SHOW BY THE NUMBERS

400 Volunteers who worked to put the show on this year.

15 million Number of Blue Angels spectators nationwide in 2007.

120 Gallons of diesel fuel burned by the Shockwave Triple Engine Jet truck per run.

Compiled by **ED McMENAMIN** ♦ Photograph by **ADAM GERIK** ♦ of the Journal Star

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