



# DECISIVE VICTORY

Cardinals top Cubs 5-3 as they take two of three games in series against Central Division rivals. **SPORTS, D1**

# TIME FOR SCHOOL

Kindergarten kick-off events help get kids — and parents — ready to head off to school this fall. **YOUR FAMILY, C6**



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## SPIFFING UP IRAQ

U.S. plan envisions high-end urban renewal in Green Zone

BY BRADLEY BROOKS AND QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA  
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD — Forget the rocket attacks, concrete blast walls and lack of a sewer system. Now try to imagine luxury hotels, a shopping center and even condos in the heart of Baghdad.

That's all part of a five-year development "dream list" — or what some dub an improbable fantasy — to transform the U.S.-protected Green Zone from a walled fortress into a centerpiece for Baghdad's future.

But the \$5 billion plan has the backing of the Pentagon and apparently the interest of some deep pockets in the world of

international hotels and development, the lead military liaison for the project told The Associated Press.

For Washington, the driving motivation is to create a "zone of influence" around the new \$700 million U.S. Embassy to serve as a kind of high-end buffer for the compound, whose total price tag will reach about \$1 billion after all the workers and offices are relocated over the next year.

"When you have \$1 billion hanging out there and 1,000 employees lying around, you kind of want to know who your neighbors are.

Please see **IRAQ**, Page A6



International Village at U.S. Embassy

ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Is it all about style?

Attitudes of McCain, Obama on campaign trail offer glimpse into their unconventional appeals

BY LIZ SIDOTI  
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The differences couldn't be more striking — and they go well beyond older, white and Republican vs. younger, black and Democratic.

John McCain, more spontaneous and accessible, and Barack Obama, more disciplined and remote, are two unconventional presidential candidates, each with styles all their own.

Contrasts on the campaign trail run the gamut, from the way they stage events and draw crowds to how they court voters and handle reporters.

The two men even carry themselves differently.

McCain, 5-foot-9 and spry at age 71, has a ramrod posture, quick movements and clenched fists; he darts from here to there as if spurred forward by jolts of energy. The combination can make him come across as stiff, despite his remarkably informal and off-the-cuff approach.

Obama, age 46 and lanky at 6-foot-2, seems to glide, his head held high, his gait long and his arms swinging freely at his sides if not buried in pockets. His laid-back mannerisms can seem overly casual, and they belie his highly scripted and picture-perfect appearances.

Please see **STYLE**, Page A7

## RACERS VIE FOR FIRST PLACE AT ST. JUDE DOWNHILL DERBY



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ADAM GERIK/JOURNAL STAR

ABOVE: Jason Morris, 13, of Peoria, center, barrels down Main Street Hill during the 4th annual St. Jude Downhill Derby on Sunday afternoon. Morris, who placed first in 2005 and 2006 but sat out last year, said he's discovered the secret to winning: "Don't turn." RIGHT: With a derby car overhead, Brad Johnson of Peoria bolts up the hill to the starting ramp Sunday afternoon.



## RACING FOR THE CURE

St. Jude Downhill Derby lets racers show off their skills while raising money for medical research

BY BRIAN FELDT  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA

Squatting in the tiny confines of his ocean-blue painted No. 17 derby car, 9-year-old Isaac Barnes could only think of one thing as he stared down a distant finish line — hot, nasty speed.

His focus was locked, his competitors were set and the only thing left to do was race.

Barnes and more than 100 other aspiring racers participated in the 4th annual running of the St. Jude Downhill Derby on Sunday down Main Street Hill. The event benefits the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and offers racing enthusiasts a chance to show their skills.

"It's fun because I get to go down the hill really fast," he said, as his father put the finishing mechanical touches on his

derby car behind him. "I picked No. 17 because that is my birthday, March 17, and hopefully I do the family proud today."

Nearly a quarter-mile stretch of Main Street was blocked off — from North Street to Perry Avenue — for the event, which helped St. Jude in its fight against cancer and pediatric diseases.

Please see **DOWNHILL**, Page A8

## Local 974 getting new leadership

President of UAW unit is retiring after 9 years; 2 vying to replace him in vote Tuesday

BY PAUL GORDON  
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

EAST PEORIA — For the first time in nine years, there will be a different name atop the leadership at Local 974, United Auto Workers.

But there may be little change in philosophy, if the current leadership's picks win the election of officers on Tuesday.

Opponents are in place, however; that will try and make changes.

Rick Doty, executive vice president of Local 974 the last two terms, is running for president to replace Dave Chapman, who chose not to seek a fourth term. Chapman has endorsed Doty, who is running under the Union Builders party that elected Chapman the three previous terms.

Doty is being challenged by Terry DeFrates, a grievance committeeman at Caterpillar Inc. facilities in Mossville, where he has been employed for more than 30 years.

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DECISION 2008

► Obama, Clinton trade barbs ahead of Indiana, North Carolina primaries. **Page A5**

► Obama weighs change to ethanol policy. **Page A5**

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