

LOCAL&STATE, B3

ITALIAN FESTA

Annual Dunlap event celebrates Italian-American culture



LOCAL&STATE, B1

Clinic set to open

Heartland facility readies for big day

Language teachers from China arrive in Peoria for District 150 assignment, B1

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Lucky 13

Woods wins 13th major at PGA Championship



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Easing into civilian life

Multiple deployments strain family, work

National Guard addresses the difficult transition of returning home from duty

SECOND OF TWO PARTS

BY DOUG FINKE
OF GATEHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

SPRINGFIELD — When Major Frank Bart was preparing to return to Illinois from Iraq in May, he wasn't sure exactly what to expect.

The Springfield native had gone

through redeployment in 2000 after a National Guard assignment in Kuwait. But this time was different. In 2000, Bart was single. This time, the Wauconda resident left behind a wife and 3-year-old daughter when he was sent to the Middle East.

"Coming back home was more difficult than I thought," Bart said. "I actually stayed in touch with my wife and child pretty regularly when I was gone. If I didn't call on the telephone, then I would send e-mails or I would try to get on the video e-mail. But that just doesn't take the place of actually being

here and taking care of the day-to-day activities that you have to deal with."

Recognizing the tough transition, the Illinois National Guard is beefing up efforts to help Army and Air Guard soldiers readjust to civilian life, a process it calls reintegration. Instead of a three-month break from the Guard — common to troops after overseas duty — soldiers are now back together 30 days after returning. Not to drill, but to discuss family and financial issues, benefits and anything else that returning military personnel

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Princeton police chief has been called upon many times over four decades

BY ADRIANA COLINDRES
OF GATEHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

PRINCETON — During his latest yearlong military duty in Iraq, Princeton Police Chief Tom Root stayed in touch with his department and family through electronic wizardry.

Occasionally, there were disturbing interruptions.

"There were times we were talking online and, (he'd say) 'Got to go. Rockets.' What do you do with that?" recalled Root's wife, the Rev. Laura Root.

When it came to the couple's online exchanges, Laura Root said she "always waited to hear from him first."

She explained: "If he was on a mission or unavailable, then

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Fire kills Bradley student

Budget gridlock frustrates workers

Teachers, advocates, state employees among those feeling anxiety

BY JOHN O'CONNOR
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD — At first, people rolled their eyes and cracked jokes about Illinois officials failing, and failing some more, to approve a new state budget.

Then August arrived.

A temporary budget expired. Talk of a government shutdown ran wild. As temperatures rose, so did anxiety over the impact of the bitter deadlock.

Will state employees get paid? What will happen to funding for public schools? Are people without health insurance going to get any assistance?

The longer the impasse drags on, the more is at stake for ordinary people.

The state employee

Ellen Reeder usually scans the ads, clips coupons and spends \$40 a week on groceries. Last week, she cut back to \$28, trying to save wherever she can in case her paycheck is late.

Reeder is a caseworker for the All Kids health insurance program. She began a belated state career 11 years ago, giving up a private-sector job she loved because it offered no insurance.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich's insistence on developing a universal health-care program helped cause the record overtime session. That produces mixed feelings for Reeder, who has to turn down uninsured applicants for All Kids because they have no children.

She sees "a huge need" for expanded health care but also understands why lawmakers want to keep a lid on spending. She suggests phasing in universal health insurance — and beginning the debate earlier so that state employees wouldn't be wondering in August when they'll get paid.

"I feel badly for the people with children who have to start school in a couple of weeks," says Reeder, 59, a single mother whose children are grown. "They face heavy expenses with possibly no paycheck."

Please see **BUDGET**, Page A6



ADAM GERIK/JOURNAL STAR

West Peoria firefighters investigate the scene of an early Sunday morning house fire at 2008 W. Laura Ave. that killed Bradley University sophomore Sheridan "Danny" Dahlquist, 19. Three of Dahlquist's roommates, all of whom are also on the Bradley soccer team, were being held in the Peoria County Jail on Sunday. Sheriff Mike McCoy said State's Attorney Kevin Lyons instructed him to hold the three men until today, when "proper charges will be determined."

BU soccer player dies in blaze; three roommates held in Peoria County Jail

BY CATHY BAYER
AND MICHELLE ANSTETT
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

WEST PEORIA — A Bradley University sophomore died Sunday in an early morning house fire off campus.

Sheridan "Danny" Dahlquist, 19, of West Peoria died about 5:10 a.m. in the emergency room at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria after a fire started about 4:30 a.m. in his second-floor bedroom at 2008 W. Laura Ave.

His roommates, fellow members

of the Bradley University men's soccer team, escaped without injury.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, and no further details were released Sunday night.

Three of Dahlquist's roommates were being held at the Peoria County Jail on Sunday night, though officials would not release any information regarding why.

"We are investigating. We have several young men in custody that are considered persons of inter-

est," Peoria County Sheriff Mike McCoy said Sunday evening.

"By statute, people can be held without charge for 48 hours before formal charges are filed."

The sheriff also said that State's Attorney Kevin Lyons instructed him to hold the three men until today, when "proper charges will be determined."

Dahlquist was a standout soccer player and 2006 graduate of Peoria Notre Dame High School. He was a redshirt freshman for the Braves' men's soccer team last season.

Bradley students Nicholas Mentgen, 22, Ryan A. Johnson, 22, David W. Crady, 19, and Travis English, 19, all lived at the house with Dahlquist, and were all home at the time of the fire, West Peoria Fire Chief Robert Stecher said.

Mentgen, a 2004 graduate of Notre Dame High School, Johnson, a 2005 graduate of Morton Community High School, and Crady, a 2006 graduate of Metamora High School, were held at the jail Sunday.

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SHERIDAN 'DANNY' DAHLQUIST

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MERV GRIFFIN DIES AT 82

TV icon who turned his "Jeopardy!" and "Wheel of Fortune" game shows into an empire succumbs to cancer. **PAGE C4**

DATELINES

WEST PEORIA: Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception hold special Mass. **PAGE B1**

CAMERON: Search continues to identify female pedestrian who was hit by train. **PAGE B2**



TOO POLARIZING FOR HER PARTY?

Democrats quietly fear that having Hillary Clinton at the top of their ticket may hurt candidates at the bottom. **PAGE A5**