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Governor carves up budget

Blagojevich uses veto to cut \$463 million from spending plan

BY ADRIANA COLINDRES
AND DANA HEUPEL
GATEHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

SPRINGFIELD — After operating for three weeks without a budget, state government got most of one on Thursday when Gov. Rod Blagojevich filed his anticipated veto of portions of a \$59 billion spending plan. The budget covers the fiscal year that started July 1. A temporary budget had been in effect for the month of July.

Blagojevich used his veto powers to cut \$463 million in spending from the legislation that the General Assembly sent him earlier this month. Lawmakers still could vote to override some or all of his cuts, although that seems unlikely unless Senate President Emil Jones, D-Chicago, backs off his pledge not to seek an override. The patterns of the cuts prompted several observers to wonder whether at least some

were driven by politics. "It appears there may be political motivations behind these cuts," said Patty Schuh, spokeswoman for Senate Republican Leader Frank Watson of Greenville. "Worthwhile community projects have been cut in what some may consider an ill-conceived plan to curry favor with certain legislators." No matter what, though, the

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ASSOCIATED PRESS
Governor Rod Blagojevich cut \$463 million from the \$59 billion state budget.

Cancer center funds survive

But governor cuts other central Illinois projects

BY KAREN McDONALD
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — Nearly a half million dollars for a cancer center at the University of Illinois College of Medicine survived Gov. Rod Blagojevich's sweeping vetoes Thursday.

But millions of dollars in other member initiatives — such as

money for road work, technology infrastructure, water main replacement and emergency sirens — did not.

"The governor has portrayed these as frivolous spending; pork has such a bad connotation. These are legitimate projects that have come to me," said state Rep. Mike Smith, D-Canton, who had all of his projects potentially cut. "I think

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TRUE DEVASTATION



ADAM GERIK/JOURNAL STAR

Bradley University freshman Packy Amundsen of Peoria, center left, gets a friendly pat from senior Stephen Brust of Arlington Heights, center right, at the end of Thursday's media day at Shea Stadium in Peoria.

Bradley soccer coach and team try to carry on after sophomore player's death in house fire



KIRK WESSLER

INSIDE

► Ryan Johnson, one of three Bradley soccer players charged with aggravated arson in the death of teammate Danny Dahlquist, has quit the team. **Page D1**

When will it be OK to feel normal again?

Jim DeRose wants to know. The Bradley University soccer coach is accustomed to having answers, and mostly right ones. For 11 years, he has led the Braves, and they have followed, winning three Missouri Valley Conference championships. He has been tough and demanding, compassionate but ever sure. A rock.

But now the rock is cracked. Twelve days ago, redshirt freshman Danny Dahlquist died in a house fire in West Peoria. Eleven days ago, three other team members — David Crady, Ryan Johnson and Nick Mentgen —

and a friend, Daniel Cox, were charged with aggravated arson, for allegedly firing Roman candles into Dahlquist's bedroom in what prosecutors have called a prank gone bad.

And Jim DeRose weeps. "It's been as bad as you think it could be," DeRose says.

It is DeRose's nature to talk fast. But when he does that now, he stops himself and stammers. He knows what he wants to say, but he's less confident the words will come out right. So he stops and restarts, slower this time, and then his eyes mist over and his voice thins, and he pauses to collect himself. To breathe.

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ADAM GERIK/JOURNAL STAR

Bradley University soccer coach Jim DeRose speaks about the difficulties he and the team have faced the past 12 days in dealing with the death of Danny Dahlquist, who was killed in a West Peoria house fire.

Ex-teacher receives probation

Deal spares Illini Bluffs educator prison time for affair with student

BY ANDY KRAVETZ
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — A former Illini Bluffs teacher agreed to give up his teacher's license and spend four years on probation for having a months-long sexual relationship with one of his students last year.

Ian McDonald, 32, of Glasford spoke very little during the Thursday afternoon hearing in Peoria County Circuit Court except to answer Circuit Judge Stuart Borden's questions. The former history teacher pleaded guilty to criminal sexual assault for having sex with the girl, then 17, 15 to 20 times in 2006.

He was given credit for 162 days spent in the Peoria County Jail after his arrest in March. Without the plea agreement, McDonald faced up to 15 years in prison — a punishment he still could face if he violates his probation.

Borden clearly had trouble accepting the agreement, noting McDonald was in a position of trust as the girl's teacher at the time. The judge was also troubled by

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IAN McDONALD

Strong storm hits Galesburg

Victoria man killed by falling tree; Thousands left without electricity

BY SUSAN KAUFMAN
OF GATEHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

GALESBURG — The severe storm that blasted Galesburg on Thursday afternoon killed a man in Victoria and injured several others while sweeping through Knox County and a number of other area counties.

The fast-moving storm hit Galesburg just after 1 p.m., uprooting trees and bringing down branches and power lines with straight-line winds estimated at 60 to 80 mph.

Emergency officials were called at about 2:20 p.m. to rural Victoria, where

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