

# READY TO RACE

Sportsmanship is what counts at Peoria Pinewood Derby.



# Stories of love

Celebrating Valentine's Day, we look at how children treat parents.

Columnist Paul Gordon bids farewell to retiring co-workers. BUSINESS, E1



# SHOOTING FOR 100

Bradley cruises to a 100-85 win over Drake.

COUPONS WORTH AT LEAST \$153 INSIDE

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**MACOMB:** About 250 students from 12 counties attend Western Illinois University's 20th annual Science Olympiad. PAGE B3

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BARACK OBAMA ANNOUNCES RUN FOR PRESIDENCY

# 'We are one people'

Before 15,000, senator makes bid official on steps of Old State Capitol



ADAM GERIK/JOURNAL STAR

U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., greets a large crowd gathered at the Old State Capitol in Springfield on Saturday moments before announcing his candidacy for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination.

## Democrat evokes spirit of Lincoln

BY DANIEL PIKE OF COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

**SPRINGFIELD** — To raucous cheers and to the surprise of no one, U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, on a sun-drenched but frigid Saturday morning, threw his hat into the 2008 presidential ring.

Proverbially speaking, that hat might as well have been of the stovepipe variety. The Chicago Democrat repeatedly channeled Springfield's favorite son during a 20-minute address today outside the Old State Capitol, the building where Abraham Lincoln delivered his famed "House Divided" speech

in 1858.

The announcement, amid a Springfield Police Department estimate of 15,000 to 17,000 people, took place one day before the 146th anniversary of Washington, D.C., and two days before Lincoln's birthday.

Obama, 45, cast himself as the person through whom the thousands who attended the speech can push for unity in a country that faces the Iraq war, terrorism, poverty, health care concerns and "the tyranny of oil."

"By ourselves, this change will not happen. Divided, we

are bound to fail," Obama said in a clear allusion to Lincoln's words.

"But the life of a tall, gangly, self-made Springfield lawyer tells us that a different future is possible. He tells us that there is power in words. He tells us that there is power in conviction. That beneath all the differences of race and region, faith and station, we are one people."

The gathering was spirited — supporters waved blue-and-white signs, peppered Obama's remarks with peals of "I love you" and "O-ba-ma" chants,

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### INSIDE

Quoting Obama: Read excerpts from the senator's speech announcing his candidacy. **Page A18**

Illinois Republicans weigh in on Obama's day at the Old State Capitol in Springfield. **Page A19**

## Peorians catch bus for 'amazing' day

BY JOHN SHARP OF THE JOURNAL STAR

**SPRINGFIELD** — Barack Obama might fancy himself as "the skinny kid with a funny name," but to Peoria-area Democrats who braved frigid temperatures to watch his formal entrance into the 2008 presidential race Saturday, "amazing," "wonderful" and "historic" seemed to better describe him.

"There was nothing imperfect about that speech," Katherine Timmes, a retired teacher from Peoria, said shortly after the speech was over. "He gave us hope. That is what we need right now."

More than 130 area Democrats loaded

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Peoria fire Chief Roy Modglin stands next to Engine 1 outside Central House, 505 NE Monroe. Modglin is a 36-year veteran of the Peoria Fire Department and is retiring on Friday.

MATT DAYHOFF JOURNAL STAR



# OUT OF THE FIRE

Peoria fire Chief Roy Modglin steps down this week after starting in 1970

BY ANGELA GREEN OF THE JOURNAL STAR

**PEORIA** — In a job that deals with life and death situations, there will be some days you never forget.

Two come instantly to fire Chief Roy Modglin's mind.

Jan. 23, 1983. Fire Capt. Vernon "Butch" Gudat was killed by a collapsing brick wall while fighting a Main Street apartment fire that later was deemed an arson. He is the only Peoria firefighter who died in the line of duty in the last 50 years. He also was Modglin's best friend.

"We were on different shifts at that time. It was

a big fire, and I was called back in. When I got to Central House to pick up my gear, I was told there was a good chance Butch was dead. The chief at the scene put me in Butch's place, as the captain of Engine 10. That was tough. That was tough."

And April 11, 1989. Seven children and two adults died when their Glendale Avenue apartment was set afire in the middle of the night. Modglin was a Central House battalion chief at that time and the first to the scene in what remains the worst house fire in city history. Firefighters outside rescued three people who

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