

Sportsmanship is what counts at Peoria Pinewood Derby.



HEARTLAND, F1 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



COUPONS WORTH AT LEAST \$153 INSIDE

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2007

\$2.00

The SUNDAY OUTTON A COPLEY NEWSPAPER SERVING CENTRAL ILLINOIS SINCE 1855

www.pjstar.com



INSIDE TODAY

NEWSMAKERS



TAKING CONTROL Gen. David Petraeus becomes the third commander in the Iraq war, trying to help Iraqis 'gain the time to save their country.' NATION, PAGE A2

SPOTLIGHT



GRAMMY TIME Producers hope to steal spotlight back from 'American Idol' with tonight's show. PAGE C1

DATELINES

OGLESBY: James Einhaus, a 19-year-old student, won't let his age stop him from running for mayor. PAGE B1 MACOMB: About 250

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



We are one presidency

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





INDEX

Advice/Horoscope	F7
Births	B2
Classified	G2, H1
Lottery	B1
Movies	C5
Obituaries	B6
Opinion	A4-5
Outdoors	D12
Puzzles	F7
Sports	D1
Television	C4
Weddings/Social	F3-5



TO SUBSCRIBE CALL 686-3161

Vol. 151 No. 78 104 Pages Copyright 2007, The Peoria Journal Star Inc., Peoria, Illinois 1 2 in 1858.

for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination.

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.

BY DANIEL PIKE OF COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

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

The announcement, amid a Springfield Police Department estimate of 15,000 to 17,000 people, took place one day be-

people, took place one day before the 146th anniversary of Lincoln's departure for Washington, D.C., and two days before Lincoln's birthday.

Democrat evokes spirit of Lincoln

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."

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

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

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

"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-andwhite signs, peppered Obama's remarks with peals of "I love you" and "O-ba-ma" chants,

Please see **OBAMA**, Page A18



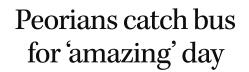
INSIDE

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.

A18 Page A19



ADAM GERIK/JOURNAL STAR

BY JOHN SHARP OF THE JOURNAL STAF

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

Please see **PEORIANS**, Page A19

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