

HAVE YOU LOGGED ON YET?

- Don't miss the latest blog entries.
- Catch an audio slideshow of the EIU versus U of I men's baseball game.



'A people of hope'

Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Mass in Washington and both praised and admonished Americans on Thursday as he continued his United States visit.

Nation, Page D1



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GOOD Morning

OUTSIDE

70/52

Mostly cloudy. See page A4.

Friday April 18 2008

LOCAL

'I was very, very shy'

Speaking at Eastern Illinois University on Thursday night, Brenda Edgar, wife of former Gov. Jim Edgar, revealed some of her challenges in leading a public life as the state's first lady.

Page A3



LOCAL

EIU student reports attack near campus

A group of men attacked a female Eastern Illinois University student about 1:15 a.m. Thursday, she told police, threatening her with sexual assault.

Page A3

NATION

It's official: The flu season is worst in years

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the current flu season is the most severe in four years, in part because this year's vaccine didn't work well.

Page A8

RELIGION

'All Bible verses speak to me in their own way'

Donna Satterfield of Charleston, a member of University Baptist Church in Charleston, shares what her faith means to her.

Page B3

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Q&A

SPORTS

Wave hopes for repeat of last year's success

"Everything will have to go right. Everything went right for us last year," says Mattoon boys' track coach Mike Shaffer as the Green Wave host the Mattoon Invitational.

Page C1

TOP THIS

Joke-playing neighbors probably got the point

DUBUQUE, Iowa (AP) — When known pranksters Rick and Marilyn Jones left town for a wedding, neighbors seeking payback eyed their property and decided to stick a fork in it — a few thousand forks, in fact.

Tom and Paula Tschudi planted 3,000 white plastic forks in the Jones' yard and dangled more from the roof, fence and garage.

"We just wanted to do something funny to them, because every time we leave, they pull some prank on us," said Paula Tschudi, who promised to help pick up the forks.

Over the years, the Joneses have strung beer cans like holiday lights around the Tschudis' home, put a for-sale sign in their yard and strung yellow crime-scene tape around chalk outlines of bodies on the sidewalk.

As the Tschudis, their two children and another neighborhood family planted the forks Sunday, one passer-by asked what they were doing.

"We told him we were aerating their lawn," Paula Tschudi said with a laugh.

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SATURDAY



In court

Matthew Depew faces sentencing for fatal shooting.



GIANT LEAPS FOR EARTH DAY

Across the state Thursday, about 1,000 students visited Illinois Department of Natural Resources parks like Fox Ridge State Park near Charleston to support a healthy environment at the second Earth Day in the Parks event, according to an IDNR press release. Officials at 25 state parks hosted events, giving students a chance to get outdoors and work in nature, IDNR leaders said. The idea behind the coordinated day of activities is to introduce students to environmental stewardship.

LEFT: St. Elmo High School freshmen Kase Stolte and Adam Mathis capture tadpole samples Thursday morning as they and their classmates volunteer at Fox Ridge.

BELOW: St. Elmo students dig in to enlarge a vernal pond at Fox Ridge to make more room for the pond's tadpole and frog population.

Ken Trevarthan/Staff Photographer



Volunteers already stepping up for panel to look at government

By HERB MEEKER Staff Writer

MATTOON — Ten people have volunteered so far for the steering committee to possibly change the city's form of government.

"It is very encouraging that the level of interest is out there," Mayor David Cline said Thursday afternoon.

The best way to volunteer for the governmental steering committee is to call the mayor's office at 234-4633 or the city clerk at 235-5654. Volunteers can join through next week.

The committee, authorized by city commissioners Tuesday night, will be appointed during the May 6 city council meeting, Cline said. Then the members will work to decide what form of municipal government is best for Mattoon. Their recommendation could end up as a referendum on the November ballot.

PANEL/A2

AP-Yahoo poll: McCain winning back unhappy Republicans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Growing numbers of people like what they see in John McCain, vaulting him into a tie with the two Democratic presidential contenders just a few months after Republicans faced a steep disadvantage.

The Arizona senator has made a race of the White House contest by attracting disgruntled GOP voters, independents and even some moderate Democrats who shunned his party last fall, according to an Associated Press-Yahoo News poll released Thursday. About two-thirds of them have grown disenchanted with President Bush despite voting for him in 2004, including many GOP-leaning independents, while the remaining third usually support Democrats but like McCain anyway.

While McCain's image with voters has progressed since

POLL/A2

2008 JEFFERSON AWARDS



Ken Trevarthan/Staff Photographer

Jefferson Award winner Landon Stuckey, center, his father, Jeremy Kolpin, left, and Mattoon Police Department Detective Travis Easton, right, share a St. Louis Cardinals joke Thursday evening during the Jefferson Award reception at the Charleston Country Club.

Local honorees accept awards for service

By HERB MEEKER Staff Writer

There were plenty of tears shed during the 2008 Jefferson Awards for Public Service dinner Thursday night at Charleston Country Club.

Thomas LeVeck paused at different times during his acceptance speech to wipe away tears to accept one of the glittering medallions recognizing people across the country for giving of themselves to others. An accomplished violinist, the Mattoon resident long has been a supporter and mentor of the arts over the years as well as a

"You have a better society when people are working together."

volunteer for a homeless shelter and an active member of the Mattoon Exchange Club.

"It is inspiring and uplifting to see all of these people doing so many things for others," said LeVeck, who will travel this summer to Washington, D.C. for Jefferson

AWARDS/A2



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