



Victory slips away

Cardinals fall 2-1 in Game 2.

SPORTS, P21

Gadhafi killed

Libya's deposed leader is dead after being taken into custody by Libyan forces.

WORLD, P3

Today's Deal Page 3.

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THE STATE

Journal Register

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EDUCATION

District 186 works to help growing population of non-English-speaking students

Breaking the barrier



Benjamin Franklin Middle School students Omar Lopez, right, and Cynthia Seba laugh while discussing proper online etiquette during English as a Second Language teacher Toni Schrage's class Wednesday. **TOP:** Cynthia looks at her textbook, opened to a section on filing order forms and communicating online and by telephone. PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID SPENCER/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER/Purchase these photos at www.sj-r.com/reprints

Story by **RHYS SAUNDERS** | Staff writer | rhys.saunders@sj-r.com

The number of students speaking English as a second language has doubled in the Springfield public schools during the last decade.

There's no single reason, according to Diane Hess, who heads the Springfield School District's English as Second Language (ESL) department. The increase is partly because more immigrants have moved to the area for work or higher-education opportunities, although no single company is

hiring foreign workers, she said.

"We're holding onto them longer, and we're identifying them a lot quicker," Hess said of the students. "This may partially be from better testing and more strict state regulations for exiting students from the program."

In 2001, 40 to 50 ESL students were enrolled in the Springfield district. That number rose to 85 last year and 100 this year.

Statewide, the numbers also

SEE LANGUAGE, P4



ESL students

Illinois	Springfield
'01: 140,528	'01: 40-50
'11: 197-388	'11: about 100

Top languages

Spoken by Springfield ESL students: Spanish (26 students), Arabic (20 students) and Chinese (16 students)

Other languages

Spoken by Springfield ESL students: French, Gujarati, Korean, Russian, Telugu, Vietnamese, Urdu, Swahili

TOWN AND COUNTRY CENTER

State Board of Elections plans move

Executive director says additional responsibilities require more space

BY DOUG FINKE
STATE CAPITOL BUREAU
doug.finke@sj-r.com

State officials plan to move the Illinois Board of Elections from its long-time offices on South Spring Street to a vacant building in the Town and Country shopping center.

The Department of Central Management Services is in final negotiations with the Town and Country Group about leasing approximately half of the building at 2329 S. MacArthur Blvd. Once a National Food grocery store, the building most recently was occupied by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois.

CMS said lease costs for the new facility are still

being negotiated.

"We don't have a cost or potential savings information yet," said CMS spokeswoman Alka Nayyar in an emailed response to questions. "Once the negotiations process is complete, we will have more details."

The state currently pays about \$212,800 annually to lease the current Board of Elections office at 1020 S. Spring St. The building is leased from Ed-Vo of Springfield. That lease will expire at the end of January.

The new location will increase the amount of space available to the agency by about one-third, from 18,500 square feet to 27,000 square feet.

"There is no room for expansion (in the current building)," said Rupert Borgsmiller, executive director of the Board of Elections. "They keep adding

SEE BOARD, P6

CAMPGROUND TRAGEDY

Family settles suit over kids' deaths

BY CHRIS DETTRO
STAFF WRITER
chris.dettro@sj-r.com

A Sherman family whose two youngest children were killed when a tree fell on their tent while camping near the Quad Cities three years ago has settled its lawsuit against the campground for \$1.25 million, the family's lawyers said Thursday.

Four-year-old Dustin Stuebs and 9-month-old Savannah Stuebs were killed as they slept with their family in tents at Indian Trails Resort at

Colona. The tree fell during a severe thunderstorm in July 2008.

"This settlement was a great alternative to a jury trial for the Stuebs family," said Dan Kotin of the Chicago law firm Corboy & Demetrio, who along with James Dowd of St. Louis represented Jason and Christina Stuebs. "The tragedy of this event has scarred this family forever. Reliving it at trial would have been almost unbearable for all of them."

SEE LAWSUIT, P6

Correction

Andrews Landscapes Home and Garden Center in Thayer will hold its Christmas Open House on Nov. 19. The date was incorrect in a photo caption in Thursday's State Journal-Register.



8-DAY SERIES

The Associated Press and its members highlight the state's decision not to pay its bills on time and examine its effects.

POLITICAL INTERVENTION

Hardship appeals speed up payment

For state vendors, records show getting paid often depends on who you know

JOHN O'CONNOR
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you plan on doing business with the state of Illinois, you'd better learn to beg — preferably to an influential politician.

With the state billions of dollars behind in paying its debt, collecting on unpaid bills can be a torturous, confusing process in which how fast you get paid may depend on who goes to bat for you.

After receiving "hardship" appeals from businesses and community organizations awaiting payment from the

state, Gov. Pat Quinn's budget office asked to speed up the payment of \$1.1 billion on more than 21,000 vouchers in the last 13 months. That's an average of 83 each business day, according to an Associated Press analysis of state records.

But the rules for who gets

SEE PAYMENT, P5

ON THE WEB

Go to data-bases.sj-r.com to find a searchable database of the state's unpaid bills. Also, you can go to tinyurl.com/illbroken to use an interactive graphic detailing other aspects of Illinois' economic problems and other issues around the country.

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