

# CYCLONES CRUSH CRIMSONS

SPORTS, PAGE 25



# 'THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK' OPENS FRIDAY

A&E, INSIDE

TODAY FRI SAT  
83°/61° 83°/60° 85°/64°  
Complete forecast, P32

Cat dealer plans westside facility  
BUSINESS, PAGE 13

# THE STATE Journal Register

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## NATION/WORLD

### Obama: Balance between isolation and intervention

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Seeking to redefine America's foreign policy for a post-war era, President Barack Obama on Wednesday declared that the United States remains the only nation with the capacity to lead on the world stage but argued it would be a mistake to channel that power into unrestrained military adventures. **P2**

### Ukraine sees Russia as source of insurgent threat

DONETSK, Ukraine — As separatists conceded that militants from Russia's province of Chechnya had joined the rebellion, a Ukrainian government official cautioned Wednesday that its borders had become a "front line" in the crisis. **P2**

## LOCAL

### House of Rainbow owner appeals zoning decision

The owner of the House of Rainbow parolee housing is appealing a city code hearing officer's opinion that the operation on North 10th Street violates Springfield's zoning code. **P9**

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## STATE BUDGET

# Some money for back wages in bill

By Doug Finke and Tobias Wall  
State Capitol Bureau

Some money to make good on back wages owed to unionized state workers since 2011 is included in a capital bill the Illinois House approved Wednesday.

House Bill 3793 contains

\$50 million that will be used to pay workers at five state agencies who saw their scheduled pay raises canceled in 2011. They've been owed the money ever since.

However, the amount is less than half of what is owed to the workers. Gov. Pat Quinn's administration puts the total amount at \$110

million. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees puts it at \$112 million. Most, but not all, of the affected workers are members of AFSCME.

"This is a partial payment, but it's a step forward and long overdue," AFSCME spokesman Anders Lindall said. "We're pleased. It's

payment on what is the state's oldest back bill. We understand in these very difficult budget times there are constraints on what's possible. We're going to continue to work until every penny earned is paid to state employees."

Quinn in July 2011 canceled raises due to

thousands of state workers because he said the General Assembly did not provide money to pay them. Since then, workers at some state agencies did receive the raises they were due when those agencies found money through other savings.

SEE WAGES, P5

## TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL



Trinity Lutheran School teacher Russell Benning visits his classroom Tuesday for supplies before assisting his already graduated eighth-graders at Springfield's Inner City Mission with service hours. Benning, 77, is retiring today after working the past 26 years at Trinity Lutheran. PHOTOS BY DAVID SPENCER/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

# 3 longtime educators retiring

By Jason Nevel  
Staff Writer

Trinity Lutheran School will turn 155 next year, but principal Trip Rodgers says it's going to be a much different place.

As the 2013-14 school year comes to an end today, so do the teaching careers of Russell Benning, Laura Filter and Rhonda Goeres.

Benning, 77, taught a variety of subjects in his 26 years at Trinity, 515 S. MacArthur Blvd., but was most known for teaching junior high social studies. His teaching career spanned 46 years.



Trinity kindergarten teacher Laura Filter, left, and teacher's aide Rhonda Goeres also are retiring today.

Filter, 55, has taught at Trinity for the past 15 years, most recently in kindergarten.

Goeres, 65, started 13 years ago as a kindergarten teacher before retiring in 2006. She returned the

same year as a teacher's aide.

Rodgers said three teachers haven't retired in one year since he started at Trinity.

The school, with a staff of 11 teachers, serves preschool through eighth grade and has an average yearly enrollment of 150 students.

"In the 19 years I've been here, we have lost very few teachers," Rodgers said. "It's really going to be a different place because these people are such a crucial part of the ministry we do here."

SEE RETIRING, P8

## SPRINGFIELD SCHOOLS

# Funding cushion built into next year's budget

By Jason Nevel  
Staff Writer

As state lawmakers debate how much money to devote to education, the Springfield School District should be able to soften any more budget blows thanks to a built-in \$2.7 million cushion, school officials say.

Joe Bascio, the district's budget manager, said the school board ended up approving spending cuts in March in anticipation of a new contract with teachers and uncertainty over state funding.

With the district facing a \$4.7 million shortfall heading into next school year, the board ended up cutting about \$5.5 million, including 43 teaching positions.

Bascio said the district was able to shift \$2 million from operations and maintenance to the education fund because debt the district has carried for the commons areas at the three high schools since 1997 was paid off this year and two bricklayers and a labor position were eliminated.

However, Bascio acknowledged operations and maintenance will be running a deficit as a result of juggling the money.

"It's a better number

SEE BUDGET, P8

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