

FALLING FLAT

DeKalb baseball gives up 12 runs, loses to Morris, 12-2 / B1



HIGH 61 LOW 37

Complete forecast on page A10

DAILY CHRONICLE

AMERICAN FLAG SERVING DEKALB COUNTY SINCE 1879

daily-chronicle.com Facebook.com/dailychronicle @dailychronicle

Seasonal sales spike



Photos by Danielle Guerra - dguerra@shawmedia.com

Oscar Hansen, owner of Glidden Campus Florist, puts a vase of red roses back in the cooler Friday after freshening the cuts in the DeKalb store just off of the Northern Illinois University campus.

Transit facility request OK'd

DeKalb joins search for state, federal funds

By BRETT ROWLAND browland@shawmedia.com

DeKALB - City and county officials seeking state and federal funds to build a \$16.75 million public transportation facility on Barber Greene Road.

The DeKalb City Council voted Monday to approve submitting a capital assistance grant application to the Illinois Department of Transportation for \$3 million to build the facility. The county is seeking a similar grant for \$550,000. The joint city-county project would rely on additional federal grant funding that local officials are working to secure, officials said. The new facility would stretch from Barber Greene Road to County Farm Road between the DeKalb County Highway Department and TAILS Humane Society.

The existing 13,000-square-foot DeKalb County Public Transportation Facility at 1606 Bethany Road in Sycamore was built in the late 1980s. The building is in good condition, but is deteriorating and doesn't have enough space to house and maintain the fleet of vehicles required to serve the area's public transportation needs, according to city and county documents.

At the time the existing facility was built, nonprofit transportation provider Voluntary Action Center had ridership of about 50,000 rides a year. Last year, the organization provided a record 228,192 rides. It is on pace to pass that number this year, Voluntary Action Center Executive Director Tom Zucker said.

"Public and community transportation services provide a vital lifeline for thousands of DeKalb County residents including several thousand city of DeKalb and city of Sycamore

See TRANSPORTATION, page A6

Northern Illinois University's graduation provides economic boost for local businesses

By BRETT ROWLAND browland@shawmedia.com

DeKALB - Local businesses are preparing for a bump in sales when Northern Illinois University students and their family members and friends come to town to celebrate graduation next weekend.

Restaurants, hotels, florists, grocers, liquor stores and others are stocking up for NIU's spring graduation weekend, which is expected to bring tens of thousands of visitors to the area. Graduate school ceremonies are planned for

May 8, with the bulk of the university's undergraduate ceremonies the next day.

"It's a big weekend with lots of overnight guests," said Debbie Armstrong, executive director of DeKalb County Convention & Visitors Bureau. "It's a huge event that brings a large number of people to the area and generates visitor spending. We look forward to it every year."

Local eateries are starting to fill up with reservations from graduating seniors and their families. For many restaurateurs, the combination of graduation and Mother's Day makes for an especially busy - and profitable - weekend.



Red and white roses, Northern Illinois University colors, line the cooler of Glidden Campus Florist on Friday in DeKalb just off of the NIU campus.

er's Day makes for an especially busy - and profitable - weekend. "It's one of our biggest weekends," said Gavin Wilson, who

owns the Hillside Restaurant in DeKalb with his wife, Mary.

See GRADUATION, page A6

Riot, looting prompt state of emergency, curfew in Baltimore

By TOM FOREMAN Jr. and AMANDA LEE MYERS The Associated Press

BALTIMORE - Rioters plunged part of Baltimore into chaos Monday, torching a pharmacy, setting police cars ablaze and throwing bricks at officers hours after thousands mourned the man who died from a severe spinal injury he suffered in police custody.

The governor declared a state of emergency and called in the National Guard to restore order, and Attorney General Loretta Lynch, in her first day on the job, said she would send Justice Department officials to the city in coming days. A week-

long, daily curfew was imposed beginning today from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., the mayor said. At least 15 officers were hurt, and about two dozen people were arrested. Two officers remained hospitalized, police said.

"The National Guard represents the last resort in restoring order," Gov. Larry Hogan told a news conference. "I have not made this decision lightly."

Officers wearing helmets and wielding shields occasionally used pepper spray to keep the rioters back. For the most part, however, they relied on line formations to keep protesters at bay.

Monday's riot was the latest flare-up over the mysterious

death of Freddie Gray, whose fatal encounter with officers came amid the national debate over police use of force, especially when black suspects are involved. Gray was African-American. Police have declined to specify the races of the six officers involved in his arrest, all of whom have been suspended with pay while they are under investigation.

Emergency officials were constantly thwarted as they tried to restore calm. Firefighters trying to put out a blaze at a CVS store were hindered by someone who sliced holes in a hose connected to a fire hydrant, spraying water all over the street and nearby buildings.

Later Monday night, mayoral spokesman Kevin Harris confirmed that a massive fire that had erupted in East Baltimore was also related to the riots. He said the Mary Harvin Transformation Center was under construction and that no one was believed to be in the building at the time. The center is described online as a community-based organization that supports youth and families.

The smell of burned rubber wafted through one neighborhood where youths were looting a liquor store. Police stood still nearby as people drank looted alcohol. Glass and trash

See BALTIMORE, page A6



A boy throws a brick at police Monday during unrest after the funeral of Freddie Gray in Baltimore. Gray died from spinal injuries about a week after he was arrested and transported in a Baltimore Police Department van.

MARKETPLACE One-stop shop Me Unique provides customers with dream come true dresses / A8



LOCAL NEWS Lending a hand Fairdale relief fund gets a donation from Sycamore's Sportsmen's Club / A3

SPORTS Not letting up O'Sullivan, Kaneland manage to blank Yorkville, 2-0 / B1

WHERE IT'S AT Advice... B4 Classified... B6-8 Comics... B5 Local News... A3 Lottery... A2 Nation&World... A2, 5-6

SHAW media with a barcode and contact information.

Advertisement for Window World, America's Largest Home Improvement Company, featuring windows, siding, doors, and gutter systems. Includes a phone number (815-395-1333) and a website (www.windowworldrockford.com).