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GOOD TASTE



WHAT IS MISO?
Answer inside.
Page 11.

STATE OF THE STATE

Quinn: Speech will focus on jobs

BY SOPHIA TAREEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS
Jobs and economic growth will be the main focus of Gov. Pat Quinn's State of the State address at the state capitol today.
"That's foremost on the minds of everyday people in our state," Quinn said Tuesday in Chicago.

"We have to have robust economic growth and jobs in order to be a good state."
The Democrat said he will lay out an agenda that includes tax relief for families, among other proposals, and detail programs that his administration has implemented. Quinn declined to give

▶ WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE YOU SEE FACING THE STATE? GO TO FACEBOOK.COM/JOURNALCOURIER AND TELL US.

tem and state pension reform.
His State of the State address follows a dire report on state finances earlier this week that said Illinois' backlog of unpaid bills could nearly quadruple — from \$9.2 billion to \$34.8 billion —
STATE OF THE STATE, see Page 19

Warm winter likely to continue

▶ A LOOK BACK AT WHAT THE AREA WAS EXPERIENCING LAST YEAR ON PAGE 3.

BY JAKE RUSSELL
JOURNAL-COURIER

Although springlike temperatures might have fallen short of breaking records, no one in west-central Illinois seems to be complaining.

That's good, because an abnormally warm winter is likely to continue at least through the weekend.

A high Tuesday of 66 was a few degrees off from the 69-degree record set in 1989, according to the National Weather Service in Lincoln.

But it was a stark comparison to this time last year, when a massive winter storm was just starting to roll into Illinois. By the end of the storm, the state would be blanketed by snow.

This year's above-average temperatures are a combination of two weather phenomena, meteorologist James Auten said.

The first is La Nina off the west coast of South America in the Pacific Ocean, when waters are colder than normal and steer the flow of larger storm systems into two separate tracks — one in the Northern Plains and Canada and the other in the southern

WARM WINTER, see Page 9



Musical youth

ABOVE: Benjamin Ferraro, 5, a home-schooled student from Jacksonville, rests his head on the balcony of MacMurray College's Annie Merner Chapel while watching the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra perform Tuesday in Jacksonville.

LEFT: Megan Turner of Springfield plays the violin with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra during the first of two performances for area youth Tuesday at MacMurray College in Jacksonville.

JOURNAL-COURIER PHOTOS BY NICK TURNER



Barr appears in court, formally charged with manufacturing meth

BY MARIA NAGLE
JOURNAL-COURIER

A South Jacksonville man has been formally charged in the alleged manufacturing of methamphetamine and with fleeing police.

Joseph P. Barr, 45, of 1626 Hardin Ave. appeared in court Tuesday on single felony counts of unlawful participation in methamphetamine manufacturing and ag-

gravated fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer.

Prosecutors also took steps to protect two children who were living with him.

The charges filed by State's Attorney Chris Reif accuse Barr of producing a substance containing methamphetamine of almost two pounds and driving a motor vehicle in excess of 21 mph over the speed limit while trying to

elude police officers.

Barr is accused of manufacturing meth while he was out on bail stemming from a similar offense in Macon County.

If convicted of the Morgan County methamphetamine crime, Barr could face imprisonment of between 15 and 60 years. Barr is to appear in court Feb. 14 for

METH, see Page 19

Our Saviour students attend anti-bullying assembly

BY JAKE RUSSELL
JOURNAL-COURIER

"I am a peacebuilder. I pledge to praise people, to give up put-downs, to seek wise people, to notice and speak up about hurts I have caused, to right wrongs and to help others."

"I will build peace at home, at school and in my community each day."

Our Saviour Grade School students read this pledge at an anti-bullying assembly Tuesday after-

noon before the assembly was interrupted by a teacher flash mob.

The assembly was a kick-off for Peacebuilders, a program that aims to teach students how to deal with difficult situations effectively when they arise.

It is a preemptive measure to serious situations that have come to light recently — not in the school or the community, but that could just as easily happen in either.

PEACE, see Page 9

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▶ WILL FACEBOOK DELIVER IPO SURPRISE? BUSINESS, PAGE 13.



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MOSTLY SUNNY
Highs in the mid-50s.
Partly cloudy tonight with lows in the lower 30s.
See Back Page.

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