



MISSION FAR FROM OVER

Dentists involved with free clinic say more must be done. PAGE C1



FOOTBALL BACK AGAIN

ISU bests Central Missouri as WIU blanks Valparaiso in opener. D1

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SEPTEMBER 3, 2010

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Chief accused of battery

Top Chillicothe officer arrested on domestic battery charge, posts bail

BY MATT BUEDEL
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

CHILICOTHE — The police chief has been arrested on a domestic battery charge and temporarily relieved of his duties as city officials investigate the matter. Steven R. Maurer, 53, was put

on paid administrative leave Thursday while he still was being held in custody at the Peoria County Jail. He did not appear in bonding court in the afternoon, but was released in the early evening after posting \$100 bail.

Sgt. Richard Marks will become the interim Chillicothe police chief while the city conducts an investigation into the incident that occurred outside Chillicothe, said Mayor Troy Childers. "Other than that, we just don't

know what's going on," Childers said. "He's been chief for a long time, and he's been a very good chief of police."

Maurer was first hired at the department in September 1979 and became chief in February 1983. He was arrested at Blarney Castle, 16006 N. Second St., after 8 p.m. Wednesday by Peoria County sheriff's deputies.

According to dispatch records, police were initially called at 7:39 p.m. to 9618 N. Brookview Drive,

a light blue ranch just off Illinois Route 29 about halfway between Peoria and Chillicothe. No one answered the door at the residence Thursday.

A report from the Peoria County Sheriff's Department said a woman there told deputies she had been living with Maurer but recently moved into the rental property because he has a problem with alcohol and had become



STEVEN MAURER

Please see **CHIEF**, Page A9

Dunlap teachers still lack contract

Educators returned to classrooms without new agreement, but more negotiations are scheduled

BY SCOTT HILYARD
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

DUNLAP — More than 170 full-time members of the Dunlap Education Association started the 2010-11 school year last week without a contract.

An indication that it's not a reason to panic came this week when the district's superintendent and the union's president agreed to interviews with the local media about the ongoing negotiations at the same time and in the same room.

"Collaboration, teamwork, shared leadership. That's become our motto, our mantra," said Machele Seiver, the president of the association. "There really is no animosity, no contention (in the negotiations)."

Superintendent Jay Marino finished the thought. "There has been no, 'We'll give you this if you give us that,'" he said. "We're all listening to different issues and different perspectives and we've been working outside of a traditional timeline that goes with more traditional contract negotiations. Hopefully we'll get it settled, and settled soon."

With the previous three-year contract set to expire July 1, the two sides first met last April. They met every couple of weeks during the next couple of months, but then summer hit and it became difficult to schedule meetings when all participants could attend.

Please see **TEACHERS**, Page A9

PHOTOGRAPHS HELP TELL THE STORY OF SLAIN CREVE COEUR MARINE'S LIFE



FRED ZWICKY/JOURNAL STAR

Photographs, mementos and flowers grace Deiters Funeral Home and Crematory in East Peoria on Thursday in remembrance of Lance Cpl. Robert "R.J." Newton. The 21-year-old Creve Coeur Marine was killed Aug. 23 in Afghanistan while serving with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines Regiment. [VIEW MORE MEMORIAL PHOTOS OF NEWTON AT PJSTAR.COM](http://PJSTAR.COM)

A vibrant life cut short

Friends, family photographs remember 21-year-old Marine from Creve Coeur

BY SCOTT HILYARD
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

EAST PEORIA — A small circle of friends of R.J. Newton — some who knew him from his Creve Coeur childhood, others from his high-school-era gig at Steak 'n Shake — stood outside Deiters Funeral Home on Thursday afternoon and smoked and reminisced

about their friend.

They seemed in no hurry to leave.

"A good friend, a good student, a good person," said a young woman from Creve Coeur.

The group shared stories about Newton, the 21-year old Marine who was killed Aug. 23 in Afghanistan, but not their names.

"Class clown," said another young woman. "Are you kidding me? Did you see the picture (inside the funeral home) of R.J. with half of his (rear end) hanging out? His goal was always to

make somebody laugh."

He was still making his friends laugh Thursday.

Newton's visitation was held from 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home on flag-lined Washington Street in East Peoria. A steady stream of mourners passed by several picture boards on their way into a second room that contained Newton's parents, Richard and Denise Newton, other family members and his closed flag-draped coffin with a Marine Corps flag standing on one end and an American flag on the other.

The parking lot was packed at 3 p.m. and stayed packed throughout the visitation as hundreds of people filed through to pay their respects.

Stoic and stiff-lipped on the way in, mourners left the funeral home dabbing at their eyes and noses with tissues. The music inside was country and a little rap.

Funeral services are at 10 a.m. Friday at Deiters. Burial follows in Glendale Memorial Gardens in Pekin, where full military rites

Please see **MARINE**, Page A9

Earl's winds, rain smash into the coast

Storm weakens but still powerful as it starts lashing North Carolina

BY MIKE BAKER
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUXTON, N.C. — The last ferry left for the mainland and coastal residents hunkered down at home as Hurricane Earl closed in with 110 mph winds Thursday on North Carolina's dangerously exposed Outer Banks, the first and potentially most destructive stop on the storm's projected journey up the Eastern Seaboard.

The hurricane's outer squalls began to lash the long ribbon of barrier islands Thursday night. Gusts above 40 mph made signs shake and the heavy rain fall sideways in Buxton, the southeasternmost tip of the Outer Banks.

Hurricane Earl's winds were slowing, from 140 mph early Thursday to 105 mph, Category 2 strength, by late Thursday. But forecasters continued to warn that it remained powerful, with

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GANG MEMBERS SAY POLICE UNFAIR

Current and former members of some of Chicago's most notorious street gangs hold an unlikely news conference to send their own message to the city's police force: You're not playing fair. **STATE, PAGE B1**



TAX CUT PLAN LOSES SUPPORT

Worried about the fragile economy and their own upcoming elections, a growing number of Democrats are joining the Republican opposition to Obama's plans to let some of the Bush administration's tax cuts expire. **NATION, PAGE A5**



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