

## Fourteen for the future

A class of 14 starts a seven-week training program aimed at increasing the number of women and minority members in the building trades. Check out the new look of Business.

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## Always a Titan

Tyler Trimberger is sidelined for the regular season, but he's helping his team however he can.

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## Under arrest

Prosecutors say they stopped a doctor's husband from fleeing to Africa to evade fraud charges.

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## Pirate King

"The Pirates of Penzance — In Concert" at the Hoogland will feature a well-known "Pirates" veteran, Rex Smith.

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THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

## Ryans return

Autograph book about history of the Executive Mansion

By **BERNARD SCHOENBURG**  
POLITICAL WRITER

Though former Gov. George Ryan may be headed to prison, he and his wife, Lura Lynn, got to see friends and chat about a home they loved Wednesday as they signed copies of a book about the history of the Executive Mansion.

The 73-year-old ex-governor, convicted in April 2006 of federal corruption charges stemming from his days in office and sentenced to 6½ years in prison, is free as he continues to appeal.

"We're doing very well," Lura Lynn told reporters as she briefly left a table at Springfield's Pasfield House, where she and her husband signed copies of "At Home with Illinois Governors: A Social History of the Illinois Executive Mansion."

"When you've got a clear conscience," the former first lady said, "and you're right with the Lord, I don't think too much can happen to you. ... My conscience is clear, and so is George's. So ... we get on with our life."

The Ryans live in Kankakee but made the mansion their primary residence during the governor's single term in office, from 1999 to 2003. Lura Lynn said that early on, John Trutter, then chancellor of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, prevailed upon her to have a book done to document the history of the

See **RYANS** on page 5

## Grown-up time at the movies

Kerasotes to restrict kids at late shows

By **NICK ROGERS**  
A&E EDITOR

Some potentially superb news for teens on a date or out with friends at a late-night weekend movie: If you're younger than 17, make room for Mom or Dad — even if it's a G-rated title.

Starting Friday, all Kerasotes Theatres locations in Springfield will take part in the chain's test of "Adult Friendly Shows."

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**NEWS POLL**  
Do you like this idea?

The program limits child admissions at Friday and Saturday late shows.

Regardless of a film's rating, all shows scheduled at 9 p.m. or later on Fridays and Saturdays at Parkway Pointe, ShowPlace East 8, ShowPlace West 12 and White Oaks will be designated for those 17 or older.

Children between the ages of 7 and 16 will be admitted only if a parent attends and sits with them during the film. Children 7 and

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Photographs by Justin L. Fowler/The State Journal-Register



Sophomore Curtis Sargent of Rushville lifts weights in The Recreation and Athletic Center at the University of Illinois at Springfield. The university will christen the new facility, nicknamed TRAC, during a ceremony Wednesday.

# CENTER OF ATTENTION

■ The cost of The Recreation and Athletic Center on the University of Illinois at Springfield campus is \$16 million, about \$3 million more than originally planned. The Hoogland Family Foundation of Charles and Kathleen Hoogland donated \$1 million for the project, and the grand atrium of the building will be dedicated in their name. The remainder of the funding will come from student fees, currently \$185 a semester.

■ The engineering firm of Woolpert Inc. of Fairview Heights and the architectural firm of Moody-Nolan Inc. in Columbus, Ohio, designed TRAC.

■ TRAC is 72,000 square feet, one-third of which is the gym that holds three full-size basketball courts. Seating is available for 3,000 spectators (up from fewer than 500 in UIS' old gym).

■ High-tech features include 17 televisions up to 50 inches in size; plugs for devices to listen to the televisions; a sensor system that

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**INSIDE THE FACILITY**  
Visit [sj-r.com](http://sj-r.com) for a photo gallery of The Recreation and Athletic Center.

can alter temperature and humidity depending on conditions; and another sensor system that turns off banks of lights depending on how much natural light is in the building.

■ There are eight locker rooms, including one for game officials. In the old athletic center, referees changed clothes in a laundry room. There are large women's and men's locker rooms, a family locker room and several locker rooms for sports teams that feature professional-style wooden lockers with individual Prairie Stars stools.

■ The bleachers in the gymnasium are electric. When the switch is thrown, seating for 3,000 unfolds in about five minutes.

■ The UIS school colors, blue and white, are repeated throughout TRAC in the floor tiles, wall paint, bleacher colors, fabrics and, maybe by coincidence, the coverings on some of the fitness equipment.

■ The clocks in all of the locker rooms are synchronized wirelessly with the clock on the court so teams know how many minutes are left in the halftime.

■ The north entrance faces campus and is meant to be used by students and employees. The south entrance is meant to be used by the public. Both flow into the atrium.

■ The building holds 64 new pieces of exercise equipment; the final total will be 80 to 85 pieces, not including weights, benches and other such items.

■ Spectators can see outside TRAC from everywhere on the second-story, three-lane track that measures one-twelfth of a mile in distance.

COMPILED BY STAFF WRITER SARAH ANTONACCI

SOURCES: CHERYL PECK, UIS SPOKESWOMAN; J.T. TIMMONS, DIRECTOR OF RECREATIONAL SPORTS; AND RODGER JEHLICKA, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

## Simulated hospital for SIU in Senate bill

\$4.2 million for convention center

By **CHRIS WETTERICH**  
STAFF WRITER

Springfield would be only the second Illinois city to have a simulated hospital to train doctors, nurses and other health-care professionals if the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine gets the \$10 million set aside in a capital spending bill passed this week by the state Senate.

SIU, in partnership with St. John's Hospital, Memorial Medical Center, Lincoln Land Community

## at the CAPITOL

► The spending plans may sound tempting, but the House may take its time considering them. **PAGE 5**

► Central Illinois' chances of snagging a new casino are not great. **PAGE 11**

College, the Springfield medical district and the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, plans to build the state-of-the-art facility within the medical district, said Phil Davis, SIU School of Medicine's associate provost for external and health affairs.

"You take an environment where there are these complex and invasive clinical procedures," Davis said Wednesday. "Then, using sophisticated simulation devices, you allow students to learn without putting patients at risk."

For example, the center would have computerized mannequins that could simulate a real human being's allergic reaction to a drug. Students would then treat the mannequin.

Chicago already has a similar facility, Davis said, and Springfield's could be constructed in about two years once the state releases the money. The medical school still has to draft construction plans and acquire land.

But the project, like all others in the capital legislation, faces an uncertain future. House Speaker Michael Madigan, D-Chicago, has said it is unlikely his chamber will pass the bill because it relies on funding from three new casinos in Illinois, including one in Chicago, and expansion of existing casinos.

Davis said the simulated hospital would have six modules, including an emergency room, an intensive-care unit, surgical suites and an obstetrics unit.

"This is akin to flight simulators for training pilots," he said. "You don't want to teach airline pilots how to fly 747s by taking them up in the air and flying."

"It's really going to be quite a state-of-the-art, cutting-edge facility."

Meanwhile, the bill passed by the Senate Tuesday also designates \$4.2 million for the Prairie Capital Convention Center, which probably would be used for maintenance, its operations director said Wednesday.

Brian Oakes said the center

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## WEATHER

**86**  
HIGH  
Mostly clear today and tonight. Winds 4-8 mph today and tonight.  
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**64**  
LOW

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