

Sports  
'Bago faces  
balanced foe. 1D



GO  
The Bear is in  
the house.



Life&Style  
TV's stability  
a thing of past. 1C

# Rockford Register Star

FRIDAY, March 12, 2004

NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCK RIVER VALLEY [rrstar.com](http://rrstar.com)

Rockford, Illinois 50¢

**TODAY**  
High 37 Low 15  
Sunny, chilly: NW winds 10 to 15 mph.  
Wind chills minus 2 to 8 degrees. **2A**

**SATURDAY**  
High 47 Low 21

**SUNDAY**  
High 43 Low 37

## Your Community

### State bars drinking water from well in Page Park

The Illinois Department of Public Health has forced the Rockford Park District to ban public drinking of water from an artesian well in Page Park.

State regulators said possible contaminants in the water pose a potential health risk. **Please see 11A**

### Insight names district chief

Scott Behn has been named district vice president of Insight Communications, the largest cable television service in the Rock River Valley.

The 43-year-old Wisconsin native succeeds K.C. McWilliams, who left the company in January to join another cable firm in Florida. **Please see 1B**

### Ogle dog plan toned down

A committee of the Ogle County Board voted Thursday to water down several proposed changes in ordinances relating to stray dogs.

Local dog owners complained that proposed fines of \$250 for violations of the county's leash law were too steep. **Please see 11A**

## Your World

### Former Moseley Braun aide accused of working for Iraq

A former journalist who once served as press secretary to then-U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois was arrested Thursday and charged with being a paid Iraqi intelligence agent.

Susan Lindauer of Takoma Park, Md., was accused of accepting \$10,000 for her work on behalf of the Saddam Hussein regime. **Please see 3A**

### Calif. ruling, Mass. vote target same-sex marriages

The California Supreme Court ordered a halt Thursday to same-sex marriages in San Francisco pending a later decision on whether such arrangements are legal.

Meanwhile, the Massachusetts Legislature gave preliminary approval to a state constitutional amendment banning gay marriages. **Please see 3A**

### House votes to increase fines for indecency on radio, TV

The U.S. House, prompted by the controversy over Janet Jackson's performance at the Super Bowl, voted overwhelmingly Thursday to sharply increase the fines for indecent programming on radio or television.

The measure calls for maximum penalties of \$500,000 for each violation.

### Bombings keep stocks falling

Stocks took another big hit Thursday as mostly good economic news was overshadowed by bombings in Madrid.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 168.51 to 10,128.38. The Nasdaq composite index was down 20.26 at 1,943.89.



The Associated Press

**New blooms:** Emi Reiner introduces her daughter, Sophia, 7 months, to a blooming tulip Thursday at the Spring Flower Show in Madison, Wis.

# Bombs kill 192 in Spain



The Associated Press

Firefighters carry out a body on a stretcher from a bomb-damaged passenger train Thursday after a series of explosions on trains in Madrid. The blasts occurred three days before Spain's general elections.

### Terrorists target rush-hour trains

At least 192 people are killed and more than 1,400 wounded as bombs rip commuter trains during rush hour Thursday in Madrid. **Please see 3A**

### 9-11 exactly 30 months ago

Attacks on Spain, a United States ally, come exactly 2½ years after the terrorist assaults on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. **Please see 3A**

### Muslim group takes responsibility

Spanish government initially blames Basque separatists, but a shadowy Muslim group later claims responsibility for attacks. **Please see 3A**

## McFerrin, Galway on symphony list

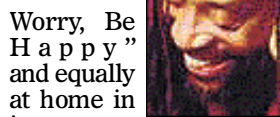
Rockford Register Star

Eclectic vocalist Bobby McFerrin and Irish flutist James Galway head the lineup for the Rockford Symphony Orchestra's 2004-2005 season.

The schedule was announced Thursday night at a party at Giovanni's restaurant.

The season will open at the Coronado Theatre on Sept. 29 with a performance by Galway, whose offerings range from Celtic to classical.

McFerrin, best known for his hit recording of "Don't



Bobby McFerrin

Worry, Be Happy" and equally at home in jazz, pop and classical genres, will appear with the RSO at the Coronado on April 12, 2005.

Another headliner on the schedule is 10-year-old pianist Kit Armstrong, who will appear Oct. 9.

The RSO lineup also includes notable musicians Rachel Barton, Kurt Elling and Buddy Wachter. **Please see 1C**

## Wind factor in semi crash

Rockford Register Star

A 62-year-old truck driver from downstate Atlanta was injured Thursday when his rig collided with another truck whose driver lost control amid strong winds on U.S. 20 in Cherry Valley.

Jim Mitchy was airlifted to OSF Saint Anthony Med-

ical Center, where he was reported in serious condition. The driver of the other truck was treated for minor injuries and released.

"It sounded like thunder," said Corey Coyne, a Cherry Valley resident who heard the impact from his home a block away. **Please see 9A**

## IRS audit more likely for higher earners

Rockford Register Star wire reports

In an effort to get the most bang for its buck in light of limited resources, the Internal Revenue Service is concentrating its audits on high-

income taxpayers.

A report released Thursday showed that audits of taxpayers earning more than \$100,000 increased last year by 24 percent. Criminal pros-

ecutions against taxpayers were up 32 percent.

But the odds remain low — about 1 percent — that a taxpayer's return will be selected for an audit.



“It's safe to say there's going to be some change in the central office.”

— Dennis Thompson, incoming Rockford school superintendent

## Schools chief expected to overhaul staff

Rockford Register Star

Incoming Rockford School Superintendent Dennis Thompson, who signed a three-year deal this week, is likely to shake up the district bureaucracy when he takes over in early May.

Thompson already has commitments from two people with whom he worked in Nashville, Tenn., to join him in Rockford — Martha Hayes as chief instructional officer and Mary Ann Gemmill as assis-

tant superintendent for human resources.

The futures of seven high-level administrators in the Rockford district are unclear. Thompson said he will talk with the people involved and treat them with "respect and dignity."

The new 49-year-old superintendent says he's aware that he faces daunting financial and academic challenges in Rockford. **Please see 9A**

## Parent charged in gun accident

The count involves allowing a child access to the weapon.

Rockford Register Star

The stepfather of a 7-year-old Rockford boy who accidentally shot himself with a handgun he found in the bedroom of his home was charged Thursday with a misdemeanor for allowing the youngster access to the weapon.

David B. Hoffman could face a fine of at least \$1,000 if convicted.

The victim, Kyle Ulrich, was upgraded Thursday from critical to stable. He was being treated for a head wound at Rockford Memorial Hospital.

The incident occurred Tuesday night at a home in the 700 block of Third Avenue. Police said the weapon was a .25-caliber Beretta, which accidentally discharged while the boy was handling it. **Please see 9A**



Eddy Montville/Register Star

Pat Patterson works Thursday at S&B Jig Grinding in Loves Park, one of the companies that disagree with Council of 100 figures.

## Execs say Council of 100 stats overstated

Rockford Register Star

Officials at four of the 13 companies listed in a report on last year's activities by the Rockford Area Council of 100 say the economic development agency overstated job and sales figures for their firms.

But council leaders say most of the companies they assisted were pleased with their experiences with the agency.

Council board members will meet today at a local hotel to discuss the agency's future. **Please see 1B**

80 pages



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