



Millikin graduates

'Don't stop learning,'
130 are told/A3



Cutler comes through

Returns triumphant
with 3 TDs/B1

Herald & Review



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MONDAY

DECEMBER 16, 2013

Rocking socks



Rockford woman gets expert help in building sock, doll business. **Money A5**

Mandela funeral



The iconic freedom fighter is revered once more before burial in his native hills. **World A9**

WWII executions

Decatur military historian chronicles the almost 100 American soldiers sentenced to death for desertion, murder and other crimes. **Life A7**

County basketball

Tournament shows Warrensburg-Latham, Argenta-Oreana will be forces this year. **Sports B1**

today's deal

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Lake Decatur level watch

Normal winter pool level612.50
Normal summer pool level . . .614.40
Yesterday's level610.54

YOUR WEATHER



HIGH 30 LOW 22

Today: Mostly cloudy
Tonight: Continued cloudy
Details/B10

INDEX

Classifieds B6-8
Comics B9
Dear Abby A7
Horoscopes B9
Life A6,7
Lottery A2
Money A5
Obituaries A6
Puzzles B7,8
Sports B1-6
Television B5



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Gun permits must be sought online

Supporter says it may be hurdle for rural residents

KURT ERICKSON
H&R Springfield Bureau Chief

SPRINGFIELD — Illinoisans soon will be able to apply for permits to carry loaded weapons in public, but the application process will be online only. The lack of an option for turning in a request for a concealed-carry permit

on paper has the chief sponsor of the state's new gun law concerned.

"We want the ability to have a choice," said state Rep. Brandon Phelps, when asked about the decision by the Illinois State Police to develop a paperless application system.

"You've got people in some rural areas who don't have access to computers or who might not understand the technology," the Harrisburg Democrat added.

Beginning Jan. 5, people wanting to carry concealed weapons can begin filling out applications. A state police

website outlining the process and the requirements is at <https://ccl4illinois.com>.

Illinois State Police spokeswoman Monique Bond said there is no procedure in place for applicants to send in a paper application.

"At this time, we will only be accepting applications online," Bond said. "It is more efficient, cost-effective and easier for other agencies to communicate throughout the application process."

While Phelps said he understands the state police reasoning and agrees

a paper application could slow the approval process, he said the option should still be available for people who don't have computers or Internet access.

"It's a big deal that needs to be addressed," Phelps said.

The debate comes as much of government is transitioning to an online marketplace. While problems with the federal health insurance website have bogged down the rollout of the Affordable Care Act, several Illinois agencies

PERMITS/A2

ENERGY REVOLUTION

Aiding a movement



Herald & Review, Jim Bowling

Jordan Industrial Controls senior engineer Mark Shelby maneuvers the custom transport tool via remote control.

Decatur's Airfloat helping to realize promise that is fusion

DECATUR — Building the USS Enterprise that stars in Star Trek's glittering view of tomorrow still lies in our future.

But, when we do, there's a good chance the heavy bits of the warp engines will be moved around their factory on something dreamed up by Decatur firm Airfloat.

Airfloat, a division of Align Production Systems, specializes in building platforms to shift hefty things about easily on a column of air, like a hovercraft. Its customer



TONY REID

base includes firms that build train locomotives, oceangoing ships, booster rockets for space vehicles and, now, giant magnets used to generate the magnetic fields

needed to corral plasma in nuclear fusion reactions burning at temperatures hotter than the sun.

You read that right: We may not have matter/anti-matter bubbling away in protective magnetic fields at the core of our warp drive just yet, but a fusion reactor power station, working on the same principles that power our nearest star, is being built right now amid the green fields of southern France.

The six giant magnets, weighing 200 tons each, that

form the "central solenoid coil" of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor or ITER are being constructed by General Atomics in California. They were shopping for a company that can make stuff capable of moving around the magnets during the building phase and manipulating them up and down to tolerances of within 10,000ths of an inch, or the thickness of three sheets of paper, and they naturally beamed themselves

ENERGY/A2

Obamacare lambasted in AP poll

Those already covered unhappy

JENNIFER AGIESTA RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press/Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans who already have health insurance are blaming President Barack Obama's health care overhaul for their rising premiums and deductibles, and overall 3 in 4 say the rollout of coverage for the uninsured has gone poorly.

An Associated Press-GfK poll finds that health care remains politically charged going into next year's congressional elections. Keeping the refurbished Health-Care.gov website running smoothly is just one of Obama's challenges, maybe not the biggest.

The poll found a striking level of unease about the law among people who have health insurance and aren't looking for any more government help. Those are the 85 percent of Americans who the White House says don't have to be worried about the president's historic push to expand coverage for the uninsured.

In the survey, nearly half of those with job-based or other private coverage say their policies will be changing next year — mostly for the worse. Nearly 4 in 5 (77 percent) blame the changes on the Affordable Care Act, even though the trend toward leaner coverage predates the law's passage.

Sixty-nine percent say their premiums will be going up, while 59 percent say annual deductibles or copayments are increasing.

Only 21 percent of those with private coverage said their plan is

POLL/A2

World loses flamboyant actor O'Toole

'Lawrence of Arabia' star was 81

GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — Known on the one hand for his starring role in "Lawrence of Arabia," leading tribesmen in daring attacks across the desert wastes, and on the other for his headlong charges into drunken debauchery, Peter O'Toole was one of the most magnetic, charismatic and fun figures in British acting.

O'Toole, who died Saturday at age 81 in a private

London hospital after a long illness, was nominated a record eight times for an Academy Award without taking home a single statue.

He was fearfully handsome, with burning blue eyes and a penchant for hard living which long outlived his decision to give up alcohol. Broadcaster Michael Parkinson told Sky News television it was hard to be too sad about his passing.

"Peter didn't leave much of life un-lived, did he?" he said.

A reformed — but unrepentant — hell-raiser, O'Toole long suffered from ill health. Always thin, he had grown wraith-like in later years, his

famously handsome face eroded by years of outrageous drinking.

But nothing diminished his flamboyant manner and candor.

"If you can't do something willingly and joyfully, then don't do it," he once said. "If you give up drinking, don't go moaning about it; go back on the bottle. Do. As. Thou. Wilt."

O'Toole began his acting career as one of the most exciting young talents on the British stage. His 1955 "Hamlet" at the Bristol Old Vic, was critically acclaimed.

International stardom came in David Lean's epic "Lawrence of Arabia." With

only a few minor movie roles behind him, O'Toole was unknown to most moviegoers when they first saw him as T.E. Lawrence, the mythic British World War I soldier and scholar who led an Arab rebellion against the Turks.

His sensitive portrayal of Lawrence's complex character garnered O'Toole his first Oscar nomination, and the spectacularly photographed desert epic remains his best-known role. O'Toole was tall, fair and strikingly handsome, and the image of his bright blue eyes peering out of an Arab headdress in Lean's film was



The Associated Press

Peter O'Toole's behavior sometimes was as attention-grabbing as his acting.

O'TOOLE/A2

Winning numbers selected Sunday:



www.herald-review.com/lottery

LuckyDay Lotto Midday
06-18-33-34-38

My 3 Midday
0-7-6

Pick Three-Midday
0-4-4

Pick Four-Midday
6-5-3-9, Fireball: 5

Lotto jackpot
\$8 million

Powerball jackpot
\$50 million

Lucky Day Lotto
03-11-14-24-28

My 3 Evening
2-4-9

Pick Three-Evening
8-3-2, Fireball:

Pick Four-Evening
9-5-3-9

Mega Millions jackpot
\$550 million

Events

Dancing

Country Line Dance Class, 7 p.m., Knights of Columbus, Decatur. \$6. (217) 764-3070.

Etc.

Christmas Light Show, 6 p.m., LIFE Foursquare Church, Decatur.

The Asian Indian Experience in McLean County, noon, McLean County Museum of History, Bloomington. (309) 827-0428.

Exhibits

Anne Lloyd Gallery, Madden Arts Center, Decatur. XMAS ARTICLES. (217) 423-3189.

Decatur Airport Gallery, Decatur Airport. Artist Sharon Zimmerman.

Gallery 510, Arts Gallery, Decatur. Rae Nell Spencer, watercolors.

Schaub Floral Display Center, Decatur. Holiday Showcase. (217) 421-7550.

Second Floor Gallery, Decatur

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY

Public Library. Artist Michael Delaney.

Nightlife

Bluegrass Jam, 8 p.m., Donnie's Homespun Pizza, Decatur.

Health

Art as Therapy, 8 a.m., Cancer Care Center of Decatur Complementary Medicine Art Rooms. (217) 876-4700.

Meetings

Barn Colony Artists, 7 p.m., Madden Arts Center Second Floor, Decatur. (217) 853-9608.

Tomorrow's highlight:
The Sky's the Limit, 4:30 p.m., Mount Zion District Library.

Seniors

Decatur-Macon County Senior Center. (217) 429-1239. Fitness Class, 10a.m.; Cards, 1 p.m.

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous: Mustard Seed, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Decatur. Closed meeting with discussion. Non-smoking and handicapped accessible. (217) 422-3766.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Road

to Recovery, noon, St. John's Episcopal Church, Decatur. Open discussion meeting. (217) 422-3766.

Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m., St. Mary's Hospital Room 561, Decatur.

Renewal, 6 p.m., Cancer Care Center Complementary Education Classroom, Decatur. (217) 876-4750.

Contact us

Submissions of items for the Herald & Review calendar must be in made in writing and received by noon Monday the week prior to publication. Mail items to Calendar, Herald & Review, 601 E. William St., Decatur, IL 62523-1142 or email jmathefly@herald-review.com. Phone calls will not be accepted.

Plan your week with our calendar every Thursday



MORE EVENTS:

www.herald-review.com

ENERGY

Continued from A1

over to Airfloat.

That was all about a year ago, and now Airfloat is pretty much done with the construction of the tuning fork-shaped magnet transporter. It weighs 25,000 pounds and measures 18 feet long by 13 feet 7 inches wide with a sophisticated control system supplied by Jordan Industrial Controls in Mount Zion. The "Coil Transport Tool," to give its formal title, is set for a Christmas delivery to General Atomics but was recently drift- ing across the floor of the Airfloat factory while showing off its "float like a butterfly, alight like a bee" capabilities.

The transport tool will make the magnets possible, and the magnets will make the fusion reactor possible, opening the way for limitless amounts of clean energy that could rewrite the course of history. It's heady stuff, and it takes some getting used to. "I don't even know if we've been conscious of what we're involved in," said Jason Stoecker, Airfloat's president. "We've just been heads down, doing our jobs, but then we kind of look at it and go, 'Holy cow; we're part of something that is changing the world, something that is absolutely revolutionary.'"

Transport yourself to the ITER.org website and you discover that fusion offers clean, boundless power from steam heated by a plasma reaction cooking at 150,000,000 degrees Celsius or 270,000,032 degrees Fahrenheit. Without getting too far down in the intellectual thicket that is applied physics, if you super-heat hydrogen atoms, they whiz about and smash into each other, fusing to form helium while losing



Herald & Review, Jim Bowling

Jason Stoecker, Align Production Systems president, shows the air bearings that are installed on the bottom of the custom transport tool.

bits of their mass at the same time and causing them to emit great bursts of energy.

It's what Einstein talked about with his elegant E=mc² equation, where the tiny bit of lost mass, "m" multiplied by the square of the speed of light "c²" results in a very large figure "E," which is the amount of energy created by a fusion reaction. At least, that's how it goes in the technical gospel according to ITER. Previous attempts at fusion power stations haven't gone well because they required more power going in than was coming out. But now those problems have been solved in test reactors, and the \$20 billion ITER project will give it a real-world trial on the grand scale. If all goes well, it will be on stream by 2020 with enough power to light 230,000 homes.

Stoecker said the whole idea came out of a brainstorming session 28 years ago as the Cold War was winding down and President Ronald Reagan, former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher were looking for a symbolic way to beat their swords into

plowshares.

"They said, 'What is something we can do as countries that is productive instead of fighting?' ... and they decided to solve the energy problem in the world," Stoecker said.

More than 30 countries are involved in the project, each supplying chunks of the technology required and each freely sharing what they know in a fusion of brotherly love almost as remarkable as the reactor itself. Construction work finally began in 2010 and is now proceeding fast at the 444-acre French site to create one of the most complex machines ever built. The ITER pioneers are boldly going where no one has gone before, and Airfloat's skill in assisting them looks set to assure the Decatur firm of at least a footnote in the story of mankind.

"We're one of Decatur's better-kept secrets," said Gary Mollohan, Airfloat's marketing manager. "A lot of people drive by and say, 'I wonder what happens inside Airfloat?' And it turns out it's some pretty cool stuff."

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PERMITS

Continued from A1

have been moving in that direction without incident in recent years.

The Illinois Department of Employment Security, for example, has been promoting an online portal for jobless

benefits, while the Department of Natural Resources is working toward a fully online system for various licenses.

Some agencies, however, still require face-to-face, paper-based transactions.

At the Illinois Secretary of State's Office, for example, new drivers must show up at a driver's license facility to get

their license.

Phelps said he's discussed the issue with the state police and Gov. Pat Quinn's office, but the no-paper philosophy has not yet changed.

Officials expect as many as 400,000 people to apply for the new weapons permits.

kurt.erickson@lee.net | (217) 782-4043

O'TOOLE

Continued from A1

unforgettable.

Playwright Noel Coward once said that if O'Toole had been any prettier, they would have had to call the movie "Florence of Arabia."

In 1964's "Becket," O'Toole played King Henry II to Richard Burton's Thomas Becket, and won another Oscar nomination. Burton shared O'Toole's fondness for drinking, and their off-set carousing made headlines.

O'Toole played Henry again in 1968 in "The Lion in Winter," opposite Katharine Hepburn, for his third Oscar nomination.

Four more nominations followed: in 1968 for "Good-bye, Mr. Chips," in 1971 for "The Ruling Class," in 1980 for "The Stunt Man," and in 1982 for "My Favorite Year." It was almost a quarter-century before he received his eighth and last, for "Venus."

Seamus Peter O'Toole was born Aug. 2, 1932, the son of Irish bookie Patrick "Spats" O'Toole and his wife Constance. There is some question about whether Peter was born in Connemara, Ireland, or in Leeds, northern England, where he grew up, but

he maintained close links to Ireland, even befriending the country's now-president, Michael D. Higgins.

After a teenage foray into journalism at the Yorkshire Evening Post and national military service with the navy, a young O'Toole auditioned for the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and won a scholarship.

He went from there to the Bristol Old Vic and soon was on his way to stardom, helped along by an early success in 1959 at London's Royal Court Theatre in "The Long and The Short and The Tall."

The image of the renegade hell-raiser stayed with O'Toole for decades, although he gave up drinking in 1975 following serious health problems and major surgery.

He did not, however, give up smoking unfiltered Gauloises cigarettes in an ebony holder. That and his penchant for green socks, voluminous overcoats and trailing scarves lent him a rakish air and suited his fondness for drama in the old-fashioned "bravura" manner.

A month before his 80th birthday in 2012, O'Toole announced his retirement from a career that he said had fulfilled him emotionally and financially, bringing "me together with fine people, good companions with whom I've shared the inevitable lot of all

actors: flops and hits."

"However, it's my belief that one should decide for oneself when it is time to end one's stay," he said. "So I bid the profession a dry-eyed and profoundly grateful farewell."

The 1980 "Macbeth" in which he starred was a critical disaster of heroic proportions. But it played to sellout audiences, largely because the savaging by the critics brought out the curiosity seekers.

"The thought of it makes my nose bleed," he said years later.

In 1989, however, O'Toole had a big stage success with "Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell," a comedy about his old drinking buddy, the legendary layabout and ladies' man who wrote The Spectator magazine's weekly "Low Life" column when he was sober enough to do so.

The honorary Oscar came 20 years after his seventh nomination for "My Favorite Year." By then it seemed a safe bet that O'Toole's prospects for another nomination were slim.

O'Toole graciously accepted the honorary award, quipping, "Always a bridesmaid, never a bride, my foot," as he clutched his Oscar statuette.

He had nearly turned down the award, sending a letter asking that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences hold off on the honorary Oscar until he turned 80.

POLL

Continued from A1

expanding to cover more types of medical care, though coverage of preventive care at no charge to the patient has been required by the law for the past couple of years.

Fourteen percent said coverage for spouses is being restricted or eliminated, and 11 percent said their plan is being discontinued.

"Rightly or wrongly, people with private insurance looking at next year are really worried about what is going to happen," said Robert Blendon, a professor at the Harvard School of Public Health, who tracks public opinion on health care issues. "The website is not the whole story."

Employers trying to control their health insurance bills have been shifting costs to workers for years, but now those changes are blamed increasingly on "Obamacare" instead of the economy or insurance companies.

Political leanings seemed to affect perceptions of eroding coverage, with larger majorities of Republicans and independents saying their coverage will be affected.

The White House had hoped that the Oct. 1 launch of open enrollment season for the uninsured would become a showcase of the president's philosophy that government can help smooth out the rough edges of life in the modern

economy for working people.

Instead, the dysfunctional website became a parable for Republicans and others skeptical of government.

At the same time, a cresting wave of cancellation notices hit millions who buy their policy directly from an insurer. That undercut one of Obama's central promises — that you can keep the coverage you have if you like it. The White House never clearly communicated the many caveats to that promise.

Disapproval of Obama's handling of health care topped 60 percent in the poll.

With the website working better and enrollments picking up, Democrats are hoping negative impressions will quickly fade in the rearview mirror. The poll found that Democrats still have an edge over Republicans, by 32 percent to 22 percent, when it comes to whom the public trusts to handle health care.

But other potential bumps are just ahead for Obama's law.

It is unclear whether everyone who wants and needs coverage by Jan. 1 will be able to get it through the new online insurance markets. Some people who have to switch plans because their policies were canceled may find that their new insurance covers different drugs, or that they have to look for other doctors.

In the poll, taken just after the revamped federal website was unveiled, 11 percent of Americans said they or

someone in their household had tried to sign up for health insurance in the new marketplaces.

Sixty-two percent of those said they or the person in their household ran into problems. About one-fourth of all who tried managed to enroll. Half said they were not able to buy insurance, and the remaining quarter said they weren't sure.

Phyllis Dessel, 63, of Reading, Pa., believes she is finally enrolled after 50 attempts online. The retired social worker, a political independent, currently has her own private insurance.

When Dessel described her experience, she jokingly asked, "Do you mind if I cry?"

Thanks to tax credits available under the law, she was able to save about \$100 a month on the monthly premium for her new coverage. But she had to switch carriers because staying with her current insurer would have cost more than she was willing to pay. She hasn't gotten an invoice yet from her new insurance company.

The premiums she found on the new insurance marketplace were "not at all" what she expected, said Dessel. "They were much, much higher."

A supporter of Obama's overhaul, she believes changes are needed to make the coverage more affordable.

"I think with a lot of amendments or updates, it could be very, very helpful and beneficial," said Dessel.

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