

Rockford Register Star

NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCK RIVER VALLEY ★ RRSTAR.COM



Living on commission means peaks and valleys

See **Business**, 5A

Foster fallout: Could Manzullo, other Republicans be ousted?

See Chuck Sweeny's column, **Local&State**, 1B



TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008

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ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 75¢

Today		Wednesday		Thursday	
HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
48°	26°	48°	32°	52°	29°

Closer to spring: High may soon top 50. 2A; melt could pose problems, 4B

YOUR COMMUNITY

Restaurant data going online

The Winnebago County Health Department plans to put the results of its restaurant inspections online next year. **Please see 1B**

Board member killed by tree

North Boone School Board member Michael Lindberg was killed Monday when a tree collapsed on him at his family farm along Illinois 173. **Please see 3B**

\$256,000 OK'd to paint tower

Loves Park will pay a Palatine-based company up to \$256,000 to repaint the water tower that overlooks I-90 white with a heart, the City Council decided Monday. **Please see 3B**

S. Beloit debates open campus

South Beloit police and school leaders are still debating whether South Beloit High School should keep its campus open during lunch. **Please see 2B**

Mayor demands school action

He's ordering police to ticket truants despite administrators' concerns about breaking federal law.

ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR
Mayor Larry Morrissey wants police officers in schools to get ahead of violence, not react to it. So in defiance of school

officials' wishes, he's ordering officers to enforce the truancy law by writing tickets for kids who are absent from class but remain at school, roaming

the grounds. School officials say issuing those tickets could violate federal privacy acts, but Morrissey is ready to defend the prac-

tice in court, if need be. "At the end of the day, what has to come first is the safety of our children?" he said. **Please see 1B**

"... Some days, it's like you only think about her maybe 50,000 times, and then there's other days it's like every second."

— Barbara Carlson, mother of arson fire victim Jennifer Carlson



CHRISTINA N. ELBERS | ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR

Barbara Carlson of Belvidere holds a candle and balloon with the name of her daughter, Jennifer Carlson, and the date she died, as she stands with her husband, Michael Carlson, outside the Wrigleyville apartment that was set on fire by an arsonist one year ago, killing Jennifer and her three friends.

◆ To see more photos and watch a sound slide of the event, go to rrstar.com/multimedia.

Fire victims' memorial

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A year ago Monday, an arsonist's fire in Chicago snuffed out the lives of Jennifer Carlson and three of her friends, all of whom had attended Belvidere High School.

Early Monday, members of

Carlson's family gathered outside the charred remains of the Chicago apartment for a time of remembering. The mourners held candles, wore green T-shirts with Jennifer's likeness on them and listened to her favorite music through the stereo

system of her red Mustang. They launched four white balloons, one for each of the victims.

Later, the entourage stopped at the Poplar Grove Cemetery, where Carlson is buried, and left sunflowers, clovers and a mug for St. Patrick's Day. **Please see 1B**

N.Y.'s turn: 3rd tri-state governor scandal in 4 years

REGISTER STAR WIRE REPORTS

A dynamic young governor near the New York media spotlight is suddenly derailed by scandal. In 2004, it was Connecticut's John Rowland, followed quickly by New Jersey's Jim McGreevey.

On Monday, prostitution allegations against New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer threatened to make him the third governor in the tri-state area to lose his job in shocking, humiliating fashion in less than four years.

"It's troubling," said Gary Rose, politics

professor at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. "They were all rising stars — all three of them. I think it could cause some voters to really look below the surface. You wonder what lies beneath a lot of the imagery."

Spitzer's involvement in a prostitution ring was caught on a federal wiretap as part of an investigation opened in recent months, according to a law enforcement official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing inquiry. **Please see 3A**



Eliot Spitzer

Gas prices up a dime, likely to go higher

ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR

Gas prices shot up more than 10 cents a gallon throughout Illinois this weekend, passing the national average after almost a week of lagging.

While the national average was within a fraction of a cent of its record level of \$3.227 Monday, the Rockford metro area (\$3.263) was 20 cents behind its all-time high, according to AAA's fuelgaugereport.com.

At least one analyst expects prices to hit between \$3.40 and \$3.60 by spring or summer. **Please see 5A**

New grocer opens at S. Main Gray's site this weekend

ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR

Residents in southwest Rockford will have closer access to a grocery store starting this weekend when Familia Fresh Foods opens its doors.

The business, run by a family with urban grocery experience, will operate out of the old Gray's Foods location at 1414 S. Main St. Gray's closed in January and was supposed to be the centerpiece of redevelopment in that area, but further commercial growth never materialized.

Familia will have a soft opening this weekend and a grand opening closer to Cinco de Mayo. **Please see 5A**

YOUR SPORTS

Senior leads Icemen to finals

Senior Jon Feuillerat notched a hat trick as the Rockford Icemen beat Evanston 5-1 Monday in the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois semifinals. The Icemen will go for their 12th straight title Wednesday. **Please see 1C**

YOUR BUSINESS

Gunite health premiums higher

One of the things included in the new contract for Gunite workers is higher premiums for health insurance.

"It was maybe not all we wanted, but it is a contract we can live under," United Auto Workers Local 718 President Rick Kardell said Monday. **Please see 5A**

Down day on Wall Street

Wall Street sank Monday as oil surged above \$108 a barrel, and there were more worrisome signs for the financial sector.

The Dow fell 153.54 to 11,740.15, and the Nasdaq dropped 43.15 to 2,169.34. **Market report, 6A**

Eager to start windsurfing



"I can't wait to relaunch my windsurfing board on Lake Sule just east of Rochelle. Even if it means putting on the wet suit. Looking forward to spring warmth and wind."

— Leo Wehner, Byron

9 days

Spring begins March 20

◆ Can't wait for spring to get here? Neither can we. Send us your garden photos, vacation shots, poems or anything else that puts you in a springtime frame of mind. E-mail them to onlinenews@rrstar.com and we'll publish them in the paper or on our Web site.

28 pages

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