



# BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT

CARDINALS 5



TIGERS 4

## ONE MORE LEFT TO GO

### Cards rally to take 3-1 lead

Three down, one to go.

The St. Louis Cardinals rallied from a 3-0 deficit to beat Detroit 5-4 in Game 4 of the World Series on Thursday night.

The Redbirds, who lead the Series three games to one, can win their 10th championship with a victory in Game 5 at 7:27 p.m. today. It would mark the team's first title since 1982.

The Cardinals trailed 3-0 before scoring solo runs in the third and fourth, two in the seventh and one in the eighth before a towel-twirling crowd of 46,470 at Busch Stadium.

St. Louis took the lead with two runs in the seventh, scoring the first run on reliever Fernando Rodney's throwing error, and the second on Preston Wilson's two-out RBI single.

After Detroit tied the game on Brandon Inge's RBI double in the top of the eighth, David Eckstein doubled off the glove of Craig Monroe to score Aaron Miles with two out in the bottom of the inning.

St. Louis starter Jeff Suppan allowed three runs on eight hits in six innings, with two walks (one intentional) and four strikeouts. Reliever Adam Wainwright got the last four outs for the victory.

Jeff Weaver will pitch for the Cardinals tonight, facing the Tigers' Justin Verlander.

— Joe Ostermeier



The Cardinals' David Eckstein rounds first base with an eighth-inning double to drive in Aaron Miles and the game-winning run in Game 4 of the World Series on Thursday in St. Louis.

### INSIDE

**ABOUT THE GAME:** Clutch hitting by the Cardinals and shoddy fielding by the Tigers have put the Cardinals ahead 3-1 in the 2006 World Series. **Page D1**

**DAVID ECKSTEIN:** David Eckstein may be short in stature, but he comes up big by going 4-for-5 and hitting the game-winning RBI. **Page D1**

**JOE OSTERMEIER:** The Cardinals are now just a game away from their 10th World Series crown. Aren't you glad it didn't rain? **Page D1**

**NEUTRAL SITE:** Moving the World Series to a warm-weather site isn't a popular idea for the participants in this year's Fall Classic. **Page D1**

**ABOUT THE TIGERS:** Errors have proved costly for the Tigers so far in this World Series. **Page D3**

**WEB EXTRA:** Visit the News-Democrat Web site for special reports from the World Series: [bellevillenewsdemocrat.com](http://bellevillenewsdemocrat.com).

## Actor Billy Bob Thornton cheers on Cardinals in the World Series

By ROD KLOECKNER  
News-Democrat

ST. LOUIS — The list of St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa's celebrity friends is lengthy.

Pulitzer Prize-winning authors, Grammy Award-winning singers, Academy Award-winning actors and coaching legends have loitered around the batting cages at Busch Stadium as La Russa's guests.

This week, actor Billy Bob Thornton is in town for Games 3, 4 and 5 of the World Series to see the Cardinals take on the Detroit Tigers.

"I got to be here for the Cardinals," Thornton said late Tuesday evening inside the victorious Cardinals' locker room following their 5-0 win in Game 3. "They're my boys."

Thornton — who won an Academy Award in 1997 for his screenplay for the film "Sling Blade," where he played the main character, Karl Childers — has been a lifelong Cardinals fan.

He grew up near Little Rock, Ark., the former home of the Cardinals' Class AA affiliate, the Arkansas Travelers. That's where his bond with the Cardinals started.

Thornton has become close friends with La Russa, who got him tickets to the three games in St. Louis. It's the first World Series game Thornton has witnessed in person.

"It's two things," Thornton said.



Actor Billy Bob Thornton watches batting practice before Game 3 of the World Series in St. Louis.

"It's the greatest time I've ever had in my life, and it's the most nerve-racking time I've ever had in my life. Me and all of my friends are such big fans that we almost take it as seriously as the organization does. It's really bad. It's an obsession.

"When I'm home watching the games on TV, you know how baseball players have superstitions? Well, I've got mine, too. In the last half of the season, I've gotten to the point where I can't watch the other team bat. I have to walk out of the room and come back when it's about time for

Please see **ACTOR, A2**

## ELECTION 06

### Early voters turn out at polling sites

About 3,000 have cast ballots

By JAYNE MATTHEWS  
News-Democrat

EDWARDSVILLE — Nearly 3,000 early voters have lined up in Madison and St. Clair counties to vote instead of waiting until Nov. 7.

"I'd call it a big success," Madison County Clerk Mark Von Nida said.

In Madison County, about 2,500 have taken advantage of in-person early voting at the clerk's office in Edwardsville and 15 other sites around the county.

Some 253 early voters have cast ballots at the clerk's office in Belleville, the only site for early voting.

Both clerks' offices will be open Saturday for early voting. The last day to vote early is Nov. 2.

Madison County early voters can cast ballots at any early voting center in the county, regardless of the precinct in which they live. Photo identification will be needed.

Absentee voters must give a reason for voting by mail or in person. Early voters do not have to have a reason.

With absentee ballots and other early ballots combined, more than 6,000 of Madison County's 170,000 registered voters already have made their choices, Von Nida said.

In St. Clair County, a total 2,409 people already have voted, Deputy Clerk Patty Shevlin said. They county has 144,533 registered voters.

Madison County is able to allow its voters to

**INSIDE:** Where to vote early. **PAGE A2**

Please see **VOTERS, A2**

**WEB EXTRA:** Keep track of our 2006 election coverage at [bellevillenewsdemocrat.com](http://bellevillenewsdemocrat.com).

## St. Clair clerk hopefuls tout credentials

One has no political experience

By MIKE FITZGERALD  
News-Democrat

EAST ST. LOUIS — The Nov. 7 race for St. Clair County clerk pits Bob Delaney, the Democratic incumbent, against Matthias "Matt" Hawkins, a Republican newcomer.

Delaney, 47, has served as county clerk since June 1999, when the county Democratic Central Committee picked him to succeed Sam Flood. A Collinsville resident, Delaney stepped into a job once held by his mother Janice.

Hawkins, 39, is a five-year Navy veteran who lives in East St. Louis and goes to school full time as a university graduate student.

Mindful of the problems with vote fraud that have long plagued St. Clair County, both men cite election reform as the No. 1 challenge facing the county clerk's office.

Delaney described his top priority if re-elected is the passage by the Illinois General Assembly of a law requiring voters to present photo identification to judges on Election Day.

"This law will improve efficiency at the polls, combat vote fraud and legitimize the election results in the minds of voters," Delaney wrote in a questionnaire submitted to the News-Democrat.

Hawkins wants to battle vote fraud by increasing the amount and types of voter educa-

Please see **CLERK, A2**



Delaney



Hawkins

## Game warden pleads guilty to illegally baiting geese

Union wants captain removed from post

By GEORGE PAWLACZYK  
News-Democrat

A top ranking metro-east game warden who taught fellow officers and was Illinois' representative to a federal waterfowl commission has pleaded guilty to illegally baiting wild geese.

Capt. Mark Ottis, of the Department of Natural Resources

Region 4 office in Alton, last month paid a \$525 fine for violating the federal Migratory Bird Act by hunting geese too close to a wheat field. Ottis did not have to appear in court and was required only to mail a ticket and the fine to a federal court agency in San Antonio for what was listed as a petty offense.

It is a violation of federal law to use bait, such as wheat or corn, to lure migratory game birds close enough to shoot.

Ottis said Thursday he arrived

at the site when it was dark and said he didn't know the wheat field was there. A person can be convicted even if he argues that he was unaware of the bait.

An executive committee of the Conservation Police Lodge, part of the 6,500-member Illinois Police Benevolent Association, or union, sent a letter in September to Gov. Rod Blagojevich asking that Ottis not be reappointed as a conservation police captain. Top officers must be reappointed every four years.

A spokeswoman for Blagojevich on Thursday did not return a call concerning the union's request.

Also on Thursday, Conservation police officer and union steward Kevin Bettis, who works for Ottis, filed a complaint with the Illinois Labor Relations Board. The complaint alleges that Ottis retaliated for the letter to the governor by improperly reprimanding Bettis for using two hours of

Please see **WARDEN, A2**