

ON THE HOT SEAT
MARTZ SAYS HE WON'T QUIT

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NEWS-DEMOCRAT

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Parents: Hold onto smaller schools

Collinsville's get big vote of support

By ELIZABETH DONALD
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COLLINSVILLE — Some parents at Collinsville's smaller schools don't want to see their kids' schools consolidated.

Dana Metzger, whose son attends first grade at Jefferson Elementary, told the Unit 10 school board Monday that she and many other parents are concerned about any exploration into consolidating smaller schools.

"There are many advantages to children in smaller schools and we want what is best for the children," Metzger said. "At the smaller schools, the teachers know each child by name and their strengths and weaknesses.... Studies have shown that teachers in small schools tend to work more closely than those in larger schools."

Metzger cited several studies on the benefits of smaller schools, and said she believes the district can trim the budget without closing schools.

"By keeping the small neighborhood schools open, we will

Please see **SCHOOL, A2**

Man dies after Taser used on him

Columbia resident collapses in jail

By BETH HUNDSORFER
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COLUMBIA — A 35-year-old man died Friday five hours after he was struck with a stun gun by police — the second time such a death has occurred this year in the metro-east.

Lyle L. Nelson, 35, of 732 Pins Way in Columbia, died about 4 a.m. at Red Bud Regional Hospital on Friday after he collapsed at the Monroe County Jail in Waterloo.

Columbia Police responded to a 911 call from the Nelson home about 10:39 p.m. Thursday, Columbia Police Chief Joe Edwards said.

Edwards declined to say what the nature of the call was.

Three officers arrived at the home.

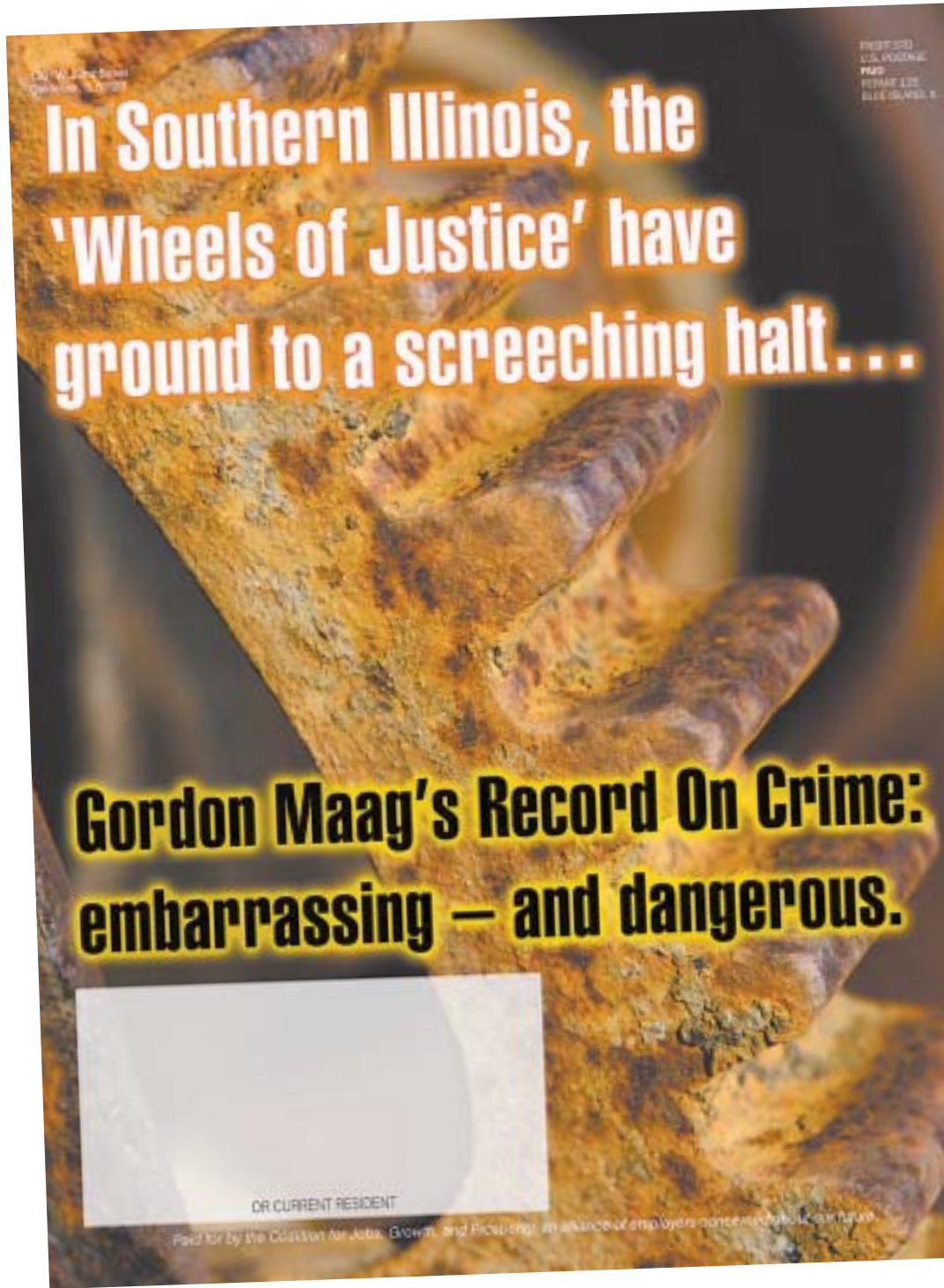
During a struggle with police, Nelson was hit at least once with a Taser stun gun, Edwards said, but he would not elaborate on how many times police used the stun gun on Nelson.

Nelson was taken to the Columbia Police Department,

Please see **TASER, A2**

\$110,000,000

Gordon Maag sues two groups behind campaign ads



The Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth and Prosperity published this campaign flier against Gordon Maag in the Illinois Supreme Court race.

By BRIAN BRUEGGEMANN
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EDWARDSVILLE — Gordon Maag wants the groups who tagged him as the poster boy for what's wrong with the court system to pay him for his election losses.

On Monday he sued for \$110 million in Madison County — which last week was again named the nation's No. 1 judicial hellhole. His attorney is Rex Carr, who counts himself among the top 100 personal injury lawyers in the nation.

Maag on Nov. 2 lost both the Illinois Supreme Court race and his race to be retained as a 5th District Appellate Court judge. His suit seeks \$10 million in actual damages, such as lost wages and benefits, and \$100 million to punish the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and its affiliate, the Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth and Prosperity, for a flier he claims cost him his seat on the appeals court.

Carr, of Belleville, said a big judgment is needed to deter the defendants and others from similar activity.

"What they did to Maag through absolute, 100 percent, easily proven lies can be done to any judge," Carr said. "Ten million is not going to stop them. You have to get their attention."

He added, "They're an association made up of a lot of big companies."

The flier criticizes Maag, a Democrat from Glen Carbon, as being soft on criminals and a reason employers have left the region.

For example, one paragraph states: "Judge Maag reduced a criminal's sentence for a brutal stabbing because he didn't think it was 'exceptional-



Maag

Karmeier

ly brutal' and 'wantonly cruel' ... the victim was stabbed in the face, neck and chest with a butcher knife."

Another paragraph states: "Judge Maag overturned a first-degree murder conviction because the jury was not given the correct instructions for a lesser crime ... huh?"

Republican Lloyd Karmeier, who defeated Maag in the Supreme Court race, also complained during the campaign that advertising paid for by Maag's supporters twisted his judicial record. In fact, both candidates were asked by an Illinois State Bar Association committee, which was monitoring the campaign, to disavow certain advertisements, but neither did so.

Cindi Canary, director of the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, said her group was concerned about campaign ads on both sides.

"It was an ugly election all around," Canary said. "Whether this particular piece was more egregious than the others, I can't say. But it was an ugly election all around."

She added, "I think, again, this shows you this is absolutely not the way to have a Supreme Court election."

Maag needed approval from 60 percent of the voters to retain his seat on the appeals court in Mount Vernon. He got approval from about 55 percent.

Carr said: "This defeat of

Please see **MAAG, A2**

Owner hurt in crash is worried about lost dog

Maryville woman remains in hospital

By JENNIFER A. BOWEN
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Jake and his owner survived a serious car crash Saturday night, and now his owner is hoping someone has found the big, shaggy, black mutt.

Jake's owner, Paula Wise, 45, of Maryville would comb the streets looking for her lost dog herself, but she's in the hospital with a broken leg, broken ankle, broken pelvis and broken collar bone. Her ankle is shattered and will require surgery to repair.

Her roommate, Lisa Phillipson, 43, would be out searching, too, but she's in Hawaii watching the Southern Illinois University Ed-

wardsville men's and women's basketball teams compete. Wise is scheduled to return from Hawaii today.

"Paula is so worried about Jake," Phillipson said from Hawaii on Monday. "If we can find Jake, it would make her feel so much better to know he is safe, and if she's not worried so much about him, she can concentrate on healing. She is so worried that he was injured in the accident and now he's out in the cold."

About 4 p.m. Saturday, Wise was involved in a crash at the intersection of Illinois 111 and Illinois 162 in Pontoon Beach when her truck collided with another vehicle. The Jaws of Life were needed to rescue Wise from her truck and she was airlifted to St. Louis University Hospital. The Pontoon Beach Police De-

Please see **DOG, A2**

Chill weather spurs wave of calls for help to metro-east agencies

By JAYNE MATTHEWS
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Cold weather tips

- When temperatures fall, home plumbing pipes can freeze and burst. For those who will be away from home during the holidays, a few tips can help avoid a soggy homecoming. They include:
- Keep home temperature at least 55 degrees.
- Have adequate insulation where pipes run along outside walls, floors and ceilings.
- Disconnect outside garden hose.
- Wrap exposed pipes and outdoor faucets with insulating sleeves or tape.
- Seal foundation cracks that allow cold air to freeze pipes in the crawlspace.

Source: State Farm Insurance

The arrival of cold weather has several metro-east agencies scrambling to help people keep heat in their homes.

More than 50 calls from people whose utilities are cut off or are about to be disconnected went in Monday to the Catholic Urban Programs in East St. Louis, said its coordinator, Joe Hubbard.

"They're calling constantly," Hubbard said. "A lot of these people are in old houses, substandard houses without insulation."

Hubbard's agency and others in St. Clair and Madison counties worked to help people negotiate a partial payment to keep gas, water and electric service working or to have it restored.

The temperature in the

metro-east today is expected to reach 46. But the rest of the week will drop temperatures back into the 20s, the teens and even close to zero, according to the National Weather Service.

The thermometer is expected to fall to 2 degrees Thursday night. A high temperature of 14 is predicted for Christmas Eve.

The forecast of the Weather Center at Madison, Wis., is a bit intimidating. It's predicting a low of 6 for Thursday and a high of 20 for Christmas Eve.

Many people without heat or who are at risk of having their services disconnected will be referred by various agencies to the Low Income Heat Energy Assistance Program.

In Madison County, the pro-

Please see **COLD, A2**

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LOTTERY FOR ILLINOIS

- Pick 3-Midday: **4-8-2** Pick 4-Evening: **5-9-5-6**
- Pick 3-Evening: **6-8-2** Little Lotto: **10-15-28-37-39**
- Pick 4-Midday: **5-6-6** Jackpot: **\$7 million**

FOR MISSOURI

- Pick 3-Midday: **0-6-6**; Evening: **5-4-3**
- Pick 4-Midday: **7-3-9-7**; Evening: **4-5-0-5**
- Show Me 5-Midday: **4-14-15-19-26**
- Show Me 5-Evening: **10-18-19-21-27**

C6-9 CLASSIFIED

