



# BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT

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## Wiretap tied to ESL worker's complaint

Sexual harassment alleged at City Hall

By MIKE FITZGERALD  
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An FBI wiretap caught a conversation on former East St. Louis City Manager Robert Storman's phone that led agents to get involved in a sexual harassment complaint, said a city employee and her lawyer.

The complaint, which is one of two against Storman, came about three weeks before Storman surprised colleagues at City Hall by retiring with one week's notice.



**Storman** Storman could not be reached and previously declined comment on the harassment allegation.

Police Department records clerk Shantez Lockett, 28, said that late on the morning of Dec. 2, she met Storman in his City Hall office to discuss changes to her work schedule.

During their conversation, Storman "walked over to the refrigerator in his office and got a Sunkist orange soda and closed the door to his office," according to a complaint Lockett filed with East St. Louis Police.

While the door was closed, Storman exposed himself to her and made sexual advances, the report stated. Lockett said she pushed Storman away, opened the door and jogged out of the outer office.

Soon after the alleged encounter, an FBI special agent listening in on Storman's phone line overheard him discuss the incident with someone else, said both Lockett and her lawyer, Brian Polinske. During that conversation Storman made a threatening statement about Lockett, she and Polinske each said they were told by FBI agents.

Polinske said he is trying to get the FBI tape recording of Storman for use in a civil suit.

A pair of FBI special agents were already waiting for Lockett when she arrived at her

Please see **SEX, A2**



## Crime lab technicians are vital to solving complex local cases

By BETH HUNDSORFER  
News-Democrat

**S**gt. Jay Zuber doesn't work with beautiful actresses or solve crimes in an hour in his version of CSI.

But sometimes he sees the danger. "I've arrested killers who return to the crime scene when I've been alone there processing evidence," Zuber said. "Every few months it happens. If they were smart, I guess they would stay away. But killers do return to the scene of the crime."

Although he works as a crime scene technician for the Illinois State Police — a job glamorized by the "CSI" television shows — Zuber maintains his job is based on tedious, methodical processes of collecting and documenting evidence.

"If you can function in that capacity, you can handle doing this job. You want to effectively protect and preserve the evidence at the crime scene," Zuber said. "It's different from a street officer who arrives at the scene, questions witnesses and suspects and then goes on."

Zuber's job begins when he arrives at the crime scene by questioning the police already there.

Please see **CSI, A7**



TIM VIZER/News-Democrat

**Sgt. Jay Zuber, an Illinois State Police crime scene investigator, photographs evidence during a recent investigation.**

## Block grants for projects endangered

Metro-east leaders lobbying Congress

By PATRICK J. POWERS  
AND NICKLAUS LOVELADY  
News-Democrat

Mark Kern and Alan Dunstan are on a mission.

The county board chairmen in St. Clair and Madison counties are rallying local support to salvage more than \$8.2 million in federal funding for the metro-east. President Bush is cutting the funding in his most recent budget proposal and targeting the funds to the poorest communities.

"It would be devastating if they were to somehow eliminate this," said Dunstan, who last week traveled to Washington, D.C., with county leaders from across the nation to champion the cause. "Over time, every community would suffer if this were to be eliminated."

While the county leaders cannot say exactly how much they will lose, they believe the funds will be virtually eliminated.

The annual funding — funneled through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant program — ordinarily goes to low- to moderate-income communities throughout the metro-east.

It pays for streets, storm sewers, senior centers, low-interest loans and local housing needs. Communities have been able to depend on these funds since 1974 when President Ford started the program.

Bush last month proposed cuts to the \$4.71 billion program to alleviate the burden of a growing federal deficit. Bush suggested consolidating the program along with 17 others into one large community development initiative and cutting their combined budgets 30 percent, from \$5.3 billion to \$3.7 billion.

Bush supports community development, but said he expects programs to prove their worth and is unclear as to the block grant program's value.

"In order to sustain our economic expansion, we must continue pro-growth policies and en-

Please see **GRANTS, A2**

### Community Development Block Grants

**\$4.71 billion**

Amount to be spent nationally through the Community Development Block Grant program

**\$8.2 million**

Metro-east's share of the money this year.

**\$80 million**

Amount received by St. Clair County since 1975.

**\$82 million**

Amount spent in Madison County on housing developments, producing 876 apartments since 1998.

**\$5.7 million**

Paid for streets, waterlines, storm sewers, sidewalks, demolition, fire equipment and fire station repairs during the past three years in St. Clair County.

### Local projects



**\$220,000**

Park improvements along Illinois 159 in Belleville.

**\$125,000**

Senior center in Collinsville Township.

**\$95,000**

Sewer hook-ups in Centreville.

**\$60,000**

Fire equipment in Canteen Township.

**\$50,000**

Street improvements in Swansea.

Source: St. Clair and Madison counties

### Coming Monday

**BANKRUPTCY:** Legislation passed by the U.S. Senate last week would make it more difficult for people filing bankruptcy to have their entire debt—including credit card balances—wiped off the books.

**REMEMBERING THE LADIES:** Learn more about the contributions of three women who played a key role in American history. In Lifestyle.

## Granite City abuse suspect not on list of Illinois sex offenders

Former Florida man not required to sign up

By JENNIFER KAPIOLANI SAXTON  
News-Democrat

**GRANITE CITY** — Despite his prior kidnapping conviction in Florida, a Granite City man was not required to register as a sex offender in Illinois.

Kenneth M. Lawson, 36, was charged last week with two

counts of aggravated battery of two children. Police also looked at whether he had failed to register as a sex offender after he moved from Florida, but differences in the two states' laws did not require that Lawson register in Illinois, Granite City Police Chief Dave Ruebhausen said.

He remains registered in



Lawson

Florida. and his sex offender profile was updated last week to reflect his incarceration in the Madison County Jail.

The initial abuse charge against Lawson was filed Tuesday after his girlfriend's 3-year-old daughter, Bianca L. Canup, was dipped in

a bathtub filled with scalding water. Police filed the second charge Thursday after investigators determined Lawson's infant son, Zachary Lawson, had previously suffered seven broken ribs and a broken leg.

Lawson was convicted of kidnapping a child in 1990 in Florida and was in custody until 2003. The conviction required him to register in Florida as a sex offender for life.

Illinois also requires those convicted within the state of kidnapping a child to register as sex offenders, but only for 10 years after the conviction.

Ruebhausen said after investigating Lawson's past conviction, they found he was not required to register in Illinois when he moved because of the

Please see **ABUSE, A2**

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**LOTTERY FOR ILLINOIS**

Pick 3-Midday: **7-4-2**  
Double Draw: **8-8-0**  
Pick 3-Evening: **1-0-9**  
Pick 4-Midday: **5-5-6-2**  
Pick 4-Evening: **4-2-3-7**  
Little Lotto: **14-16-31-33-35**  
Lotto: **8-13-15-28-30-32**  
Jackpot: **\$24 million**

**FOR MISSOURI**

Pick 3-Midday: **0-3-7**  
Evening: **8-2-3**  
Pick 4-Midday: **6-9-9-5**  
Evening: **9-2-8-2**  
Show Me 5-Midday: **19-20-32-33-44**  
Show Me 5-Evening: **4-14-17-27-41**  
Lotto: **15-19-29-35-40-42**

**POWERBALL:** Game: **40-23-52-46-07** Powerball: **41** Jackpot: **\$12.4 million** Power Play: **05**

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