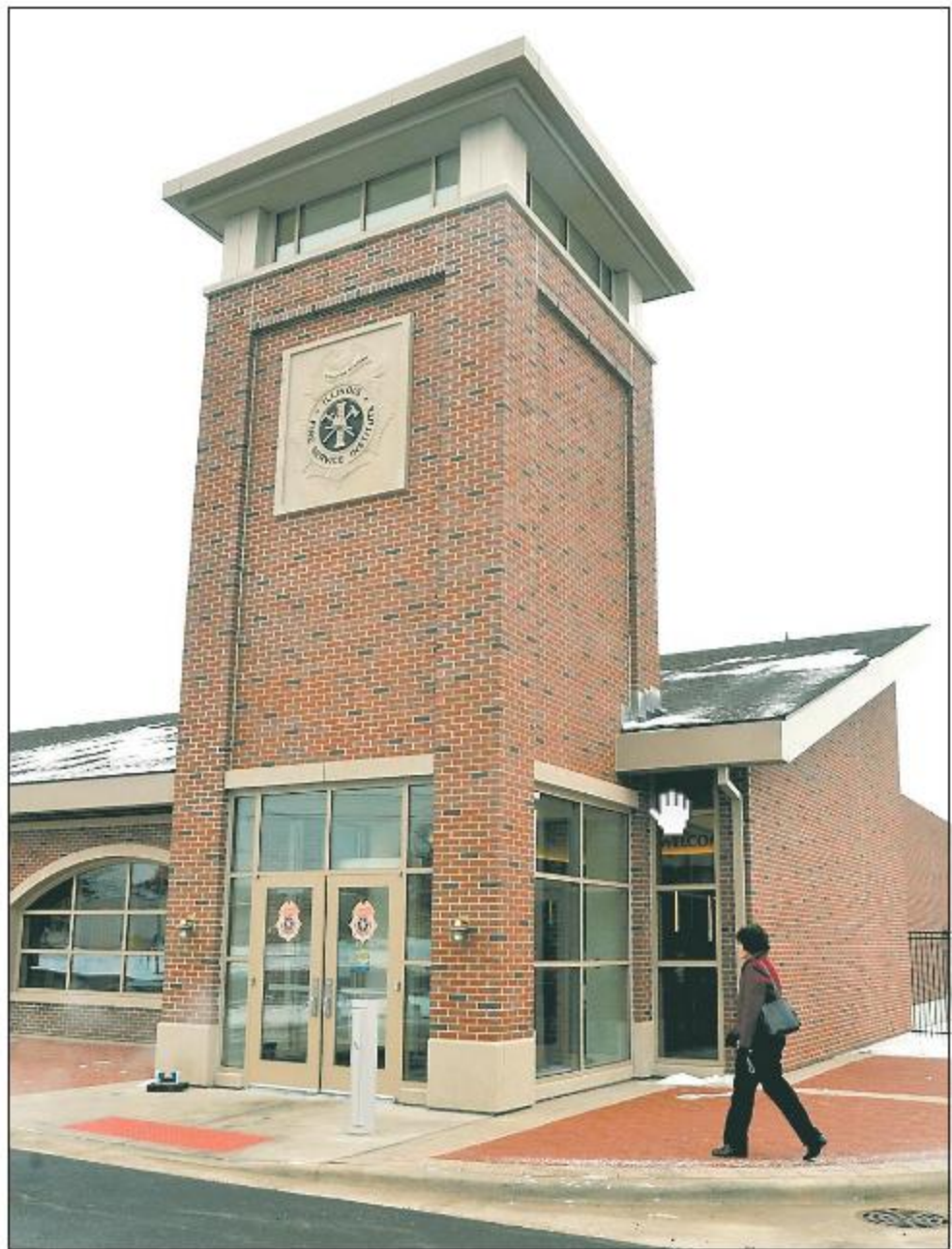


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Robin Scholz photos/The News-Gazette

A woman enters the new Learning Resource and Research Center Building during Friday's dedication at the Illinois Fire Service Institute on the University of Illinois campus, Champaign.

# State seeking to keep rapist behind bars

## AG aims to block parole by having convict declared sexually violent

By MARY SCHENK  
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URBANA — The state of Illinois wants to keep a convicted serial rapist, who terrorized women in Urbana more than 30 years ago, locked up indefinitely.

Clarence King Jr. was 19 when his spree began. His victims were young and old. Some were choked to unconsciousness until they coughed up blood, then raped and robbed.

Now 53, King is set to be paroled today, having been in custody since November 1976, for four rapes and one attempted rape that occurred in 1976.

Although King was convicted in four cases, then-State's Attorney Tom Difanis, now the presiding judge in Champaign County, wrote to the Department of Corrections that King "has admitted to raping at least seven or eight and more likely 10 to 15 women in the Urbana area. He shows no remorse or repentance whatsoever for his crimes, and threatened the Champaign County State's Attorney and another member of his staff during the course of his trial."

sons commitment proceedings, both at the trial level and on appeal. Kuehl said he'll be meeting King for the first time Monday, although he recalled sitting in on a portion of one of his trials in 1977.

Department of Corrections records show King has most recently been in the prison at Pinckneyville in southern Illinois. Typically, sexually violent persons petitions are filed on the eve of an inmate's parole date. Inmates are then trans-



KING

ferred from their prison to a Department of Human Services secure treatment facility in Rushville in western Illinois to await resolution of the civil proceedings.

An evaluation of King by DOC-hired psychologist Vasiliki Tsofias of Chicago concludes that he suffers from "paraphilia" — a condition that describes several sexual deviations or perversions — and "personality disorder not otherwise specified with antisocial features" and that there is a "substantial probability" he will engage in sexually violent acts in the future unless treated.

Tsofias came to his conclu-



Robin Scholz photos/The News-Gazette

A woman enters the new Learning Resource and Research Center Building during Friday's dedication at the Illinois Fire Service Institute on the University of Illinois campus, Champaign.



At left, the center's new library is seen through the display windows in the entrance hallway. The library features more than 18,000 items in its multi-media collection.

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On Thursday, Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office filed a petition in Champaign County Circuit Court seeking to have King declared sexually violent.

The state has to show that King suffers from a mental disorder that makes it substantially probable he will commit further acts of violence if free. If a jury or judge agrees, King could be kept in a Department of Human Services facility until he's no longer at risk to reoffend.

King is set to appear before Judge John Kennedy Monday for a probable cause hearing. Kennedy appointed veteran Urbana defense attorney Jim Kuehl to represent him.

Kuehl has represented about 10 men in sexually violent per-



KING

... treatment facility in Rushville in western Illinois to await resolution of the civil proceedings.

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Tsofias came to his conclusion after interviewing King and examining numerous documents, including King's Corrections master file

Among facts he gleaned that were not directly related to the sex crimes:

— King has had more than 80 disciplinary tickets in prison, many for "major" violations including fighting and assaults against inmates and staff.

— In 1987 he was convicted in Randolph County for aggravated battery to a correctional officer.

— He has been disciplined for having sex with other inmates.

— He has never participated in sex offender treatment in prison although he reported he was willing.

BIG 12 BASKETBALL

# STATEMENT GAMES



Urbana's Persevald Blissit (23) leads his team's celebration next to Lawrence McMillion (12) and Jerrod Webster (11) after Friday's 69-63 win against Centennial at Oscar Adams Gym.

**NORMAL COMMUNITY 61, DANVILLE 60**  
**Vikings fail to finish what they started**  
By FRED KRONER



**URBANA 69, CENTENNIAL 63**  
**Tigers look terrific in finally solving rival**  
By JEFF MUTH

DANVILLE 60

# fail to finish they started

three free throw attempts, two of which were the first shot of a one-and-one by senior fourth-year lettermen:

— With a double-digit lead, five of the team's first six fourth-quarter shots were wayward three-point attempts.

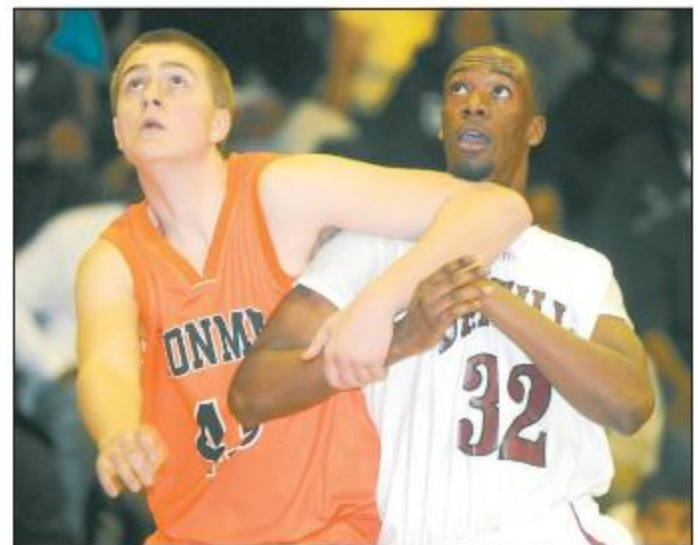
"You can have a lot of experience, but when you get to last-minute clutch situations, that's different and there's a lot of pressure," Danville coach Gary Tidwell said.

Perhaps Danville lost more than a game. Justin March, who recently committed to Akron for football, suffered a pregame warmup knee injury. He will be checked to see if it's a torn meniscus.

"I just heard it pop," he said of the non-contact injury.

D'Lando Carter scored a game-high 26 points, including 11 in the third period when the Vikings gained their first lead at the 4:41 mark. Dennis High tower had 12 points. Clark scored nine, plus a team-high six rebounds, all on offense.

Normal's winning shot was by Anthony Goodar, who had 14 points, on a drive to the basket with 1.5 seconds to play.



Rick Danz/The News-Gazette

Normal Community's Trevor Seibring and Danville's Jaron Cunningham fight for rebounding position Friday. The Ironmen rallied in the fourth quarter in a 61-60 Big 12 win at Danville.

## What it all means

We asked prep sports coordinator Fred Kroner for his take on the Big 12 race after another wild Friday:



"A changing of the guard in the Big 12 is nearly complete. A Normal Community squad with a combination of height, quickness and tenacity — as well as being at full strength for just the second game — is in a position it has never faced since leaving the now-defunct Capitol Conference. The Ironmen lead the Big 12 race by two games with six remaining, four at home. Danville and Centennial will play Tuesday to determine which school will finish as the runner-up. The Vikings will be either hungry or demoralized after self-destructing at home against the Ironmen on Friday, the same night Centennial found out just how improved of a team coach Vashoune Russell has at Urbana."

URBANA 69, CENTENNIAL 63

# Tigers look terrific in finally solving rival

By JEFF HUTH  
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URBANA — As Urbana Tigers basketball fans jubilantly stormed the court Friday night at Oscar Adams Gym following a long-awaited victory against a Twin City rival, Deonta Jones had another stop to make before joining in the celebration.

"I had to talk to my mom first," the senior guard said. "I've got to see the lady that gave birth to me. I got priorities."

The Good Son was a Terrific Tiger, too, in Urbana's 69-63 Big 12 victory against two-time defending conference champion Centennial. Jones scored 11 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter — including eight in a row — to lead the Tigers to their first victory against the Chargers since Jan. 26, 2007.

"It's a huge win for this program," second-year Urbana coach Vashoune Russell said after the Tigers ended a 10-game losing streak to Centennial. "It means a ton to this program."

Said Jones: "It means a lot to us and to Urbana as a program. This gives us a lot of confidence

to finish out the season and turn the program around."

Centennial had beaten Urbana by nine points when the teams met earlier this season.

"They took it to us," Chargers coach Tim Lavin said. "Give them a lot of credit. They got us into their game and we got out of our game and they deserved to win."

Forward Devin Carter, who led Urbana in scoring with 24 points, came up big in the decisive fourth quarter with nine points.

Jones had been limited to seven points in the first three quarters before going on a late tear.

"He turned into a warrior," Russell said. "Early in the game he was kind of sporadic. He was all over the place."

"I told him, 'Just relax. You're the senior, you're the man. This team goes as you go. You need to relax.' And he took over the game there at the end."

Forward Corvon Butler had a team-high 17 points for Centennial, which committed 17 turnovers.

"We turned the ball over way too much," Lavin said.



HOUSING AUTHORITY OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

# Agency making plans to buy, dev

By CHRISTINE DES GARENNES

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CHAMPAIGN — The Housing Authority of Champaign County is planning to increase the amount of affordable housing options in the county by buying a building once run by the Urban League and by potentially partnering with a developer on upcoming projects.

A deal has been in the works for several months for the housing agency to purchase Urban Park Place, a two-building apartment complex in Champaign, from the bank that holds the mortgage from the now-defunct Urban League of Champaign County.

Ed Bland, the executive director of the housing authority, said the purchase has been approved and the funding obtained; however, it may take 60 to 90 days for the deal to close. The agency will buy the buildings, which have a total of 24 units, for about \$650,000.

Rather than watch the apartment complex be sold to a company that would rent apartments at market rates, “we went after it because wanted to make sure we as a housing authority were able to provide affordable housing to the community,” Bland said. “We were given the opportunity to increase our inventory and we are able to do that,” he said.

Park Place, 302 E. Park St., C, has a combination of one- and two-bedroom units.

“It’s in good shape. The Urban League put a lot of money into rehabbing it,” Bland said.

The complex is full, “and it’s a good group of tenants. A lot of them have been there for a long



Robin Scholz/

The Housing Authority of Champaign County is buying the two-building Urban Park Place apartment complex in Champaign.

time,” said Sandi Jones, who has been acting as the Urban League’s interim director and taking care of any remaining issues, including the sale of various properties, following the League’s closure in 2008.

The housing authority also recently put the

call out to developers to find out what the agency could work to create “a new development program” to develop more housing around Champaign County, according to a request for qualifications.

“The demand for affordable housing

# plans to buy, develop properties



Robin Scholz/The News Gazette

Authority of Champaign County is buying the two-building Urban Park Place complex in Champaign.

Jones, who has been acting as the interim director and taking pending issues, including the sale of properties, following the League's request. The authority also recently put the

call out to developers to find out with whom the agency could work to create "a mixed-finance development program" to develop multiple sites around Champaign County, according to the request for qualifications.

"The demand for affordable housing is great,"

Bland said, referring to a county study that found over the next five years the county would need 800 additional units of affordable rental housing.

One of the most recent affordable housing projects was Crystal View Townhomes, which replaced the old Lakeside Terrace community just off North Broadway in Urbana. There the authority leased the land to Homestead Corp. and Brinshore Development, which built the units. The authority has the option to buy the buildings from the developer in 15 years, Bland said.

For the upcoming project, the idea is also to possibly arrange ground leases with development companies who would build the affordable housing. Bland said the authority envisions mixed-income communities similar to Crystal View where households of various incomes live.

The authority's request includes information on redevelopment of two existing public housing communities in Champaign-Urbana: the Dunbar Court Family Homes at 1208 N. Wright St., U, and the Dorsey Family Homes at 1301 N. McKinley Ave., C, both of which date back to the 1950s; development of a new mixed-income community in Rantoul; and a possible new development near the Church of the Living God on Bradley Avenue in Champaign.

The housing authority has not finalized a timeline or a specific plan yet for which project would happen first, Bland said.

The deadline for developers to respond to the agency's request for qualifications is Feb. 10.