



HANNIBAL
Bob Richards was honored this week by the U.S. rail industry to commemorate his 100th birthday. PAGE 4A



STRONG OPEN

The QU men's and women's basketball teams pulled out solid wins against William Jewell in the Great Lakes Valley Conference opener. PAGE 1B

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Congress approves 5-year road bill

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING: Plan cited as accomplishment, financing still unresolved

By JOAN LOWY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress has approved a 5-year, \$305 billion bill to address the nation's aging and congested transportation systems, loading down the measure with industry favors, parochial projects, safety improvements and union demands, to win overwhelming bipartisan support. The bill was approved 359-65 in the House, and 83-16 in the Senate. The bill that was passed on Thursday now goes to the White House for President Barack Obama's signature.

The bill boosts highway and transit spending and assures states that federal help will be available for major projects. It doesn't include as much money or last quite as long as many lawmakers and the Obama administration would have liked. Nor does it resolve how to pay for transportation programs in the long term.

Despite that, the 1,300-page bill was hailed by industry and public officials as a major accomplishment that will halt the cycle of last-minute short-term fixes that have kept the federal Highway Trust Fund teetering on the edge of insolvency for much of the past eight years.

Republicans leaders can point to the bill's passage as evidence of their ability to govern, and Obama can claim progress on addressing the nation's aging and congested infrastructure.

Rep. Darin LaHood, R-Dunlap, Ill., served on the conference committee that worked out differences between the House and Senate transportation bills. LaHood said the funding plan will provide "our cities and states with the tools and resources they need to plan and strategically execute transportation projects."

Rep. Sam Graves, R-Tarkio, Mo.,

CONGRESS continues on 5A

'A little close for comfort'

CALIFORNIA SHOOTING: Quincy man finds himself blocks away from place where 14 were killed

By DON O'BRIEN
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SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — When he saw the first fleet of emergency vehicles zip past the restaurant he was standing in during lunch Wednesday, Jason Dietrich wasn't too concerned.

"San Bernardino doesn't have the best reputation. There are things that happen here," the Quincy native said.

But as the emergency and law enforcement vehicles continued to zoom past the restaurant, Dietrich couldn't help but wonder what was happening down the road. The locals inside the fast-food place said the response was more than usual.

As it turned out, Dietrich was less than four blocks away from where a

mass shooting had taken place in the Los Angeles suburb. Fourteen people were killed and 21 injured as two people opened fire during a party at the Inland Regional Center.

"It was a little close for comfort," Dietrich said Thursday, 24 hours after the incident.

Dietrich, a 23-year-old who graduated from Quincy High School in 2010, had arrived Tuesday in San Bernardino. Wednesday was just his second day on the job at Cott Beverages, one of the world's largest beverage producers. He is in the manager training program for the company, which makes many store-brand sodas and energy drinks and juices. He graduated from the Missouri University of Science and Technology in May and joined Cott directly after graduating. He is a produc-

tion supervisor on the day shift and had been based in San Antonio before going to San Bernardino this week.

Once he realized a significant event was happening near the plant, he left the nearby restaurant and went back to work. The facility was put on lockdown for several hours as police searched for the suspects.

"I didn't realize until I got back to work how close it was and how big the news was," Dietrich said.

He knew that family and friends back in the Midwest would hear about what happened and wonder about his safety, so he sent text messages to his fiancée, Cari Swanson, a Quincy native who is a senior at Missouri S&T in Rolla, and his mother, Kristie



Dietrich
Was in restaurant when a larger-than-average police response began to move through the area

CLOSE continues on 5A

NIGHT LIGHT



Nick Willer of Quincy poses for a picture with his one-year-old son, Jonah Willer, at the Christmas tree in Washington Park. The District gathered some of the light displays from the Avenue of Lights and lit them during a special ceremony in the park. "Today's his first birthday," a proud Nick Willer said after snapping the selfie of him and his son. | H-W Photo/Phil Carlson

Quincy's oldest church looks to future on milestone

FIRST UNION CONGREGATIONAL: Fellowship that started in Lord's Barn now celebrates its 185th anniversary

By STEVE EIGHINGER
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QUINCY — By no means does the Rev. Chuck Hetzler mean to downplay a church milestone.

But even during the celebration of First Union Congregational's 185th anniversary, Hetzler admits he is looking more at the future than the past.

"Celebrating 185 years is a great thing, but what we're most concerned about is what we're doing today and how it will have an impact on tomorrow," said Hetzler,

a Quincy native who returned to town a little more than two years ago to accept the First Union pastorate. "We're proud of our tradition, but we're also proud of our recent revival ... we hope to be used (by God) to do something really special in the future."

First Union's actual 185th anniversary is Friday, but the church will celebrate it Sunday.

First Union Congregational is Quincy's oldest church, and Hetzler, its 25th pastor, said the building that supports the familiar steeple at 12th and Maine is in the midst of a rebirth, with the

congregation seeing a major uptick in attendance, outreach and spirit.

"We want God's power to be seen ... (and) we're seeing a new kind of life in the church," the 37-year-old Hetzler said. "I'm seeing a church that will be full again, and we're getting there."

First Union had fallen upon some tough times in recent years when membership fell off and interest waned. Hetzler said First Union is now in the midst of a complete 180, in part because of an influx of younger families and youth programs.

"Our future strength will be a mix of generations," he said.

Challenge is nothing new to First Union, especially when considering its roots, which are traced to a small group of Quincy citizens who in 1829 wrote to the American Missionary Society in New England.

According to the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County, those early Quincians "asked that a preacher with a good spirit, a small family, and a willingness to settle in a destitute place with



What we're most concerned about is what we're doing today and how it will have an impact on tomorrow."

The Rev. Chuck Hetzler,
First Union Congregational pastor

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AUTISM RESEARCH

WVGM TONIGHT AT 6 | Students at a local college are involved in research that aims to help kids with autism. Learn about the project tonight.

