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REEL WORLD

✓ = Film opens this week in our area. Movies showing in Jacksonville and Springfield are listed only under Jacksonville. Highest rating is four stars unless otherwise noted. Reviews by Roger Ebert unless otherwise noted.

ILLINOIS THEATER

✓ **THE RAVEN** (Thriller, R, 111 minutes). John Cusack stars as Edgar Allan Poe, in an overwrought serial killer melodrama having only the most tenuous connection to the great writer. Starting with one fact, that Poe was found wandering delicious in Baltimore in 1849, the movie concocts a plot that depends much more on sensational acting than on suspense or atmosphere. With Luke Evans as a detective who teams up with Poe.

✓ **THE CABIN IN THE WOODS** (Horror, R, 105 minutes).

✓ **21 JUMP STREET** (Comedy, R, 106 minutes).

✓ **AMERICAN STREET** (Comedy, R, 113 minutes) — Colin Covert, MCT.

✓ **WARRIORS OF THE TITANS** (2-D, 3-D, Action fantasy, PG-13, 98 minutes).

RMC STADIUM CINEMAS

✓ **THE PIRATES BAND OF MISFITTS** (2-D, 3-D, Animated, PG, 98 minutes). There's an inviolable law of animated films — the more "names" you have in the voice cast, the weaker you know your film is. Animated, those meticulous Brits who build clay models and painstakingly animate them into Wallace & Gromit cartoons and the hit "Chicken Run," tip their hand that way with "The Pirates Band of Misfits." A pirate picture that's entirely too late to the party to have much in the line of fresh pirate gags. It is stuffed with name voice actors, from Hugh Grant as the Pirate Captain to Salma Hayek, Brendan Gleeson, Imelda Staunton, Anton Yelchin and Jeremy Piven. And all of them sat in a recording booth and struggled to find funny things to say or funny ways to say the not-so-funny



things in the script. Amusing in small doses, "Pirates" is the first Aardman film to suffer a serious shortage of sight gags, the first where the whimsy feels forced and the strain shows. Those of us who love Aardman will appreciate the gorgeous attention to detail. But "Pirates" plays like a fussy film made by fussy little fustibudgets, clever chaps all wrapped up with making perfect Plastilene trees, but who lose track of the forest — the funny movie that is supposed to be animated around all this detail. Where's the invention of "Wallace & Gromit," the gorgeously gleeful "Chicken Run"? Fans know that the weakest Aardman films ("Pushed Away" wasn't a laugh riot either) are still richer and more rewarding than any "Shrek," "Cars" or "Ice Age" picture. But as long as those films take to make, so expensive as they are to do, it's almost tragic when they spend their efforts rounding up big-name misfits, and then give them so little mischief to get into. — Roger Moore, MCT

✓ **SAFE** (Action, R, 95 minutes). The worst Jason Statham movie since the last Jason Statham movie is carrying on the bargain-buget action star's tradition of building a body of work out of, well, dead bodies. Wise-director Boaz Yakin proves the ideal enabler for Statham's brand of mindless car-

nage. Together, they turn Manhattan into little more than a shooting gallery, stacking up corpses in service of a supposed story about one man's path to redemption. But really, all they care about is stacking up corpses, as many as they can, flopped apart by as many bullets as possible, with a few snapped necks and other more intimate moments of savagery to break up the repetitive tedium of the gurgling. Statham has some charisma and can convey a sense of quiet gravity even in silly action roles. But his moments with newcomer Catherine Chen, which are a big hunk of the movie, are mostly awkward. — David Germain, AP

✓ **THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT** (Romantic comedy, R, 124 minutes). This movie plays like a five-episode, Rated story arc from "How I Met Your Mother." With more profanity and more explicit sex. And considerably less drinking. And no Neil Patrick Harris. Jason Segel feeds us two hours-plus of repeated gags and bits that might have been in the sitcom, but were too expensive. They layer the soundtrack with music by Van Morrison, whose love songs are used so often in the movie that they're collected on a CD, "Van Morrison Goes to the Movies." And all that adds up to is an occasionally engaging roman-

tic dramedy that never blows away that "where have I seen this before?" feeling. As with every just-Apostow production, there's nothing here that wouldn't have been better at a shorter length and quicker pace. At two hours, the drawn-out gags, scenes that leisurely run far past their punchline or payoff, and the overdose of supporting players burden the film. — Roger Moore, MCT

✓ **THE LUCKY ONE** (Romance, PG-13, 101 minutes). Shameless love story about a Marine (Zac Efron) whose life is saved by a photo he finds in a file. A smooth, pretty adaptation of a smooth Nicholas Sparks novel, if incredible coincidences and romantic clichés don't bother you, it's mid-level Sparks, done well.

✓ **THINK LIKE A MAN** (Comedy, PG-13, 122 minutes). All-star cast, promising premise, dour behavior. Tiresome cycling through the couples; might have been better as satire.

✓ **THE THREE STOOGES** (Comedy, PG, 92 minutes).

AMC PARKWAY 8

Movie listings for this theater were

unavailable at press time Wednesday

AMC SHOWPLACE 12

✓ **CHIMPANZEE** (Documentary), 64 minutes). Disney's 2012 movie offering for Earth Day is a gorgeous and technically dazzling look inside the world of chimpanzees. But "Chimpanzee" is also a throwback, a documentary that follows a baby chimp named Oscar as he struggles to learn the wits of his tribe and to survive in the dense rain forests of Africa's Ivory Coast. It's moving and entertaining as well as informative. And as Tim Allen narrate and the chimps themselves provide moments of low comedy and high pathos, you might be reminded of the studio's popular "True Life Adventures" nature docs of the last century. Allen's narration makes this kid-friendly film even more so, though the script does tend toward undercooking that which is so obvious to the images on the screen. Nature itself makes a glorious set as we're treated to stunning shots of fluorescent mushrooms and dazzling wet falls. After the omnibus documentary "Earth" and the broader "Mission: Disney" may have hit on just the right mix of information and entertainment with "Chimpanzee," the best Disney nature film yet. — Roger Moore, MCT

✓ **THE HUNGER GAMES** (Sci-Fi Action, PG-13, 142 minutes).

✓ **21 Jump Street**: American Reunions: Safe; The Cabin in the Woods; The Five-Year Engagement; The Lucky One; The Pirates Band of Misfits (3-D); The Raven; The Three Stooges: Think Like A Man.

AMC SHOWPLACE 8

✓ **LOCKOUT** (Action, PG-13, 95 minutes).

✓ **MIRROR MIRROR** (Fantasy adventure, PG, 106 minutes).

ALSO: The Cabin in the Woods; The Five-Year Engagement; The Hunger Games; The Lucky One; The Pirates Band of Misfits (2-D, 3-D); The Three Stooges: Think Like A Man.

'Joe Golum and the Drowning City,' an illustrated novel

"Joe Golum and the Drowning City" by Mike Mignola and Christopher Golden; St. Martin's Press (\$25.99)

BY TISH WELLS
 McClintock News Service

Stir in a little Lovecraft and magic, season it with apocalyptic gloom, and you have "Joe Golum and the Drowning City."

Horror author Christopher Golden and artist Mike Mignola, creator of the comic "Hellboy," have collaborated on an illustrated novel.

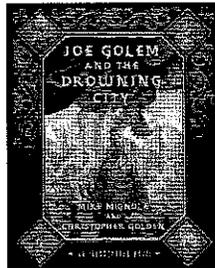
New York is "The Drowning City" set in an alternate world where earthquakes in 1922 start disasters that culminate with half of Manhattan under water.

"New York became divided between weather-glimmering Uptown and the struggling poor who remained in the drowning Downtown because they had nowhere else to go." There inhabitants live a miserable water-based existence of crime, survival and sewerage.

Felix Orlov, an elderly magician who can talk to ghosts is kidnapped by gas-masked men working for a Dr. Cocteau. His self-assigned teen assistant, Molly, is determined to rescue him — if only she can save herself from the same attackers.

She's rescued by Joe Golum, a towering hulk of a man, who works for the long-lived scientist Frank Church who explains that Orlov was taken because of the circumstances of his birth — a mixture of black magic and anti-flood world evil.

The chase to rescue Orlov and the final resolution are purely out of the comic books. "Joe Golum" reads very much like an adapted-to-print graphic novel with the



same leaps of faith that you need when reading comics — such as miraculous escapes and submarines that navigate water-filled subways.

You may also need a strong stomach. "The ghostly Orlov weeps tears of anguish and fury, for he can do nothing to help the woman splayed grotesquely on the yellow marble altar, his surface cut through with runnels to capture her blood and other fluids."

Despite the gruesome beginning, "Joe Golum" tells a lively story with characters make you want to find out what happens next. For example, "On the threshold, 14-year-old Molly McHugh beamed at him, all freckles and red hair and youthful vigor that always made him feel more alive."

Like many comics and graphic novels, it does not shy away from death. Major characters pass away — some peacefully, some not — and death is definitely not the

end for most. The culmination reshapes the drowned city of New York, the city of a million stories, yet again. Just in time for a sequel.

A new transmission line to meet our need for reliable, cost-effective and safe energy

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The MVPs will facilitate the delivery of renewable energy, improve reliability, and provide economic and efficiency benefits. The Illinois Rivers Project is directly aligned with Ameren's strategic goals of providing our customers with reliable, efficient and environmentally responsible energy.

We need your help

ATXI invites you to attend an Open House

Thursday, May 17
 Meredosia-Chambersburg High School
 840 Main Street
 Meredosia, Illinois

Stop by anytime between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

At this Open House, we will explain why this new transmission line is needed and what it will look like. We will answer your questions.

By sharing your thoughts and concerns with us on May 17th, you will help us determine the best possible routes for this new transmission line.

For more information, please visit our Web site at riverstransmission.com or call us at (800) 229-9280.



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CODE: RT



A Special Invitation
 To Hear
Rod Nicholson
 Share the Word
 Through Music

Sunday, April 29th at 9:00 am
 Grace United Methodist Church
 400 West Morgan, Jacksonville, IL (217) 245-9521

CHARTER SCHOOL: 8 Points sees successful first year as learning experience

► Continued from Page 1

for ways to change the curriculum to meet the needs of the fifth-through-seventh-grade students it serves, who are called leaders.

Students could express their frustrations and concerns and could set their own goals.

Since then, many students realize it's OK to be who they are while still learning what they can to be a part of the community — a hard thing to accomplish at that age, Schwiderski said.

"Watching the academic and social-emotional growth of some of the students has been the best part of the year," she said. Students are placed in classrooms according to measure of academic progress test scores, Slaughterback said. It's a cohort system; in essence, the entire school is a differentiated classroom.

This allows accommodations for the "talented and gifted" child to move in a direction that always keeps him or her challenged, Slaughterback said.

For goals, teachers added a half-year to the national norms to make them more rigorous.

One in five students in the school now is reading at a high school level.

"When you use a data-driven program, it always connects back to the question: 'What skill am I trying to build here?'" Slaughterback said. "You teach the skill, assess for the skill and then you know if you're proficient in that skill or not."

Using data up to this point, the school's academic performance has seen a seven-percent increase in students reading at grade level and a 10 percent increase in students at grade level in math.

Teachers worked on academic goals with students to determine the growth of a student from August to May.

When 30 percent of the students exceed their reading goal by December, 30 percent their math goal, 35 percent their general science goal and 41 percent their language goal, the teachers had to set new targets for May.

The year-end goal is to have 52 percent of the students reach their goal by May.

"When you can focus on the group and the skills they need, you are certain to hit the cure standards you need to hit," Schwiderski said.

What it takes to be a leader

In the social studies and speech classroom, where teacher Jan Williams combines the two subjects into one, she explains how she asked a question on the first day expecting no students to raise their hands. Every student raised his or her hand.

"The leaders at 8 Points Charter School are not afraid to speak in front of people," Slaughterback said.

Faculty and staff hit the ground running when the Jacksonville School District 117 board approved the charter school in late April 2011, recruiting students and getting teachers, said Jaime Klein, president of the 8 Points Charter School board of directors.

The group also didn't get full access to the building until the Friday before school opened.

"It was a lot of 'hope for the best,' a lot of hard work, a lot of prayers and tears and all sorts of joy going into it," Klein said.

The first year has given the staff time to

look at what really works and what needs to be tweaked, Schwiderski said.

For example, the school has a better handle on what it takes to be an 8 Points Charter School leader, Klein said.

Leaders are proud of the school and proud of themselves for their accomplishments, Klein said.

"A leader is someone who can still have some of that desire and be OK with having to do a little extra, like wear a uniform and stay longer," Klein said. "That's a big commitment for some of these kids. We want someone who believes all that is worth it for them and has a family that believes the same."

Students wear burgundy uniforms unless they make progress in three of the five measure of academic progress tests and then receive a blue uniform that says "Academic leader."

Active in the community

Because the school is smaller, the staff can better accommodate student needs, giving children more freedom, Klein said.

This includes multiple field trips in the first year, many of which were free and the rest mostly sponsored by the school's parent-teacher organization.

"It's important to realize as we go out in the community, the more we represent us as you have been, the more we'll push for them to happen," said Slaughterback during Friday's town hall meeting.

Students are required to engage in a minimum of five service learning hours with the intent of reflecting and discussing it.

This gets them involved in the communi-

ty, whether it's serving at Knobloch Retirement Village, New Directions' Emergen Warming/Cooling Center at Grace Unit Methodist Church, Lincoln School for the visually impaired or working with college mentors from Illinois College, MacMurray College and Lincoln Land Community College.

Students also have two enrichment periods a day, one in the morning and one in the evening. These include things like art, coding, photography, American Sign Language and Hawaiian culture.

"Young people need a context in life for learning and for growing personally," Slaughterback said. "That's what the community and leadership program is working to do."

Next year, the enrichment periods will be scheduled throughout the day. This is large due to the influx of community support, we people who want to come in during an enrichment period but can't because of the current time frames, Slaughterback said.

On target for success

About 90 percent of the 70 attending students are planning to return next year.

Slaughterback had no estimates for how many students might enroll next year, but if school can increase its numbers to 135 students, almost double its enrollment this year.

The school anticipates meeting all of its one-year goals it set for itself and is in line with its accountability plan with Jacksonville School District 117, Slaughterback said.

"We can see what successes we had and still carry on," Schwiderski said. "I'm very excited for year two and to continue it all."

CIGARETTE TAX: Would additional Ill. increase curb smoking habit?

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22 percent in 2009, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

The governor tried to raise the cigarette tax before, as did his predecessor, Rod Blagojevich. The two most recent proposals passed in the Illinois Senate but died in the House. The cigarette tax was last increased in 2002, from 58 cents to 98 cents, under Republican Gov. George Ryan.

Quinn's proposal to fix the state- and federally funded health insurance program, which serves about 2.7 million poor and disabled Illinoisans, also includes \$2 billion in cuts to services and care-provider rates.

"We've got to use our heads here," Quinn said Friday. "We want to use this (cigarette tax) strategy to get revenue for Medicaid and

also prevent bad things from happening in the first place. That's what a good health wellness system is all about."

Illinois' current 98-cent tax on cigarettes ranks 32nd highest among states, according to a 2012 survey by the Federation of Tax Administrators. But that ranking jumps into the top five for those who buy their smokes in Chicago and have to fork over a 68-cent city tax and \$2 tax for Cook County. The suburb of Evanston also imposes a 50-cent tax in addition to the Cook County tax.

"We feel that we're being singled out and picked on unfairly," said David Kuceman, a Midwest spokesman for The Smoker's Club, an advocacy group.

He said smokers already bear an unfair tax burden and that state legislators should

look to taxing alcohol.

A tax hike in Illinois could increase sales in nearby states, experts say. Indiana's tax is slightly higher than Illinois' and ranks 32nd, but it doesn't have the same county or city taxes. Meanwhile, Missouri's tax is 17 cents, which is the lowest in the nation.

Illinois customers come into County Market Express in Taylor, Missouri, every day just for cigarettes, says 20-year-old clerk Aeric Steward. A pack of Camel's totals \$4.66 compared with \$4.11 in a nearby Quincy convenience store.

"When people get paid they come over and get cigarettes and buy by the carton," he said.

However, economists say a boost in cross border sales wouldn't affect major metropolitan centers like Chicago or trump the other benefits.

"If the price of something goes up, we've got a lot of evidence showing you've got a lot of smokers who will try to quit smoking," said Frank Chaloupka, an economist at the

University of Illinois at Chicago. "It's bad economics."

He estimates that some 60,000 smokers Illinois would give up the habit for good if tax goes up \$1. The American Cancer Society has placed that estimate even higher, at nearly 70,000.

Karyn Smoter is skeptical. The life-long Chicagoan, 40, has a pack a day habit. Her husband smokes almost double that. They drive 20 miles to neighborly DuPage County each week to avoid paying the Cook County tax, her Virginia Slims Menthol Lights run around \$7 a pack (she compared with \$10 in Chicago).

"I'm not happy about (the proposed tax but I understand)," said Smoter, who works a downtown law firm. But she doubts whether it would actually give her incentive to kick the habit for good. She quit for a year once but relapsed, saying smoking is how she copes with stress.

"It would be \$100 a pack and some people wouldn't quit," she said.

EDITORIAL: Workers' comp a mess

► Continued from facing page

People being paid by the state to decide contested claims often have given hefty compensation to other state employees, even without any medical evidence or standards to back up those decisions.

It's clear that the arbitrators and the state employees are benefiting from the state's workers' compensation system, but what about the taxpayers? What are they getting out of it? After all, they are the ones footing the bill for these awards, as well as the salaries of the arbitrators themselves. Who is watching out for the taxpayers' interests in these cases?

If this kind of sloppiness and possible fraudulent activity were to be detected in privately run workers' compensation sys-

tems, such as the kind used by many private employers, there's no doubt that heads would roll, and some people might even go to jail.

These issues received an airing in the media and in legislative debates last year. But the auditor general's report is even more specific in uncovering problems that should trouble state officials as much as they do taxpayers. At this point, our elected officials no longer have any excuse for failing to work toward ensuring that workers' compensation claims in the state system are medical in nature.

It's time the state does everything possible to reduce the amount of money taxpayers must shell out for what too often seems like a shell game.

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We need your help

ATXI invites you to attend either of the following Open Houses:

Monday, May 14th Hamilton's 110 North East Jacksonville, Illinois 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Monday, May 14th The American Legion 136 East State Street Waverly, Illinois 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
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At these Open Houses, we will explain why this new transmission line is needed and what it will look like. We will answer your questions.

By sharing your thoughts and concerns with us on May 14th, you will help us determine the best possible routes for this new transmission line.

For more information, please visit our Web site at amtrntransmission.com or call us at (800) 229-9280.



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Before you head out for your weekend shopping get your copy of the Journal-Courier each Saturday for 18 valuable coupons from area businesses.

Starting Saturday, May 5th!

Living alone with Alzheimer's tough choice for all

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

Elaine Vlieger is making some concessions to Alzheimer's. She's cut back on her driving, frozen dinners replace once elaborate cooking, and a son monitors her finances. But the Colorado woman lives alone and isn't ready to give up her house or her independence.

Some 800,000 people with Alzheimer's, roughly 1 in 7 Americans with the disease, live alone in their communities, according to surprising new data from the Alzheimer's Association. It's a different picture of the mind-destroying disease than the constant caregiving that eventually these people will need.

Many such as Vlieger cope on their own during dementia's earlier stages with support from family and friends who keep in close contact.

"I'm still pretty healthy," says Vlieger, 79, who sought a neurology exam after realizing she was struggling to find words. "I'm just real careful."

But support or not, living alone with a disease that gradually strips people of the ability to know when they need help brings special safety concerns, and loved ones on the sidelines agonize over when to step in.

"We don't want to have to force it before it's time. But how do we know?" asks Marla Vlieger of Denver, Elaine Vlieger's daughter-in-law.

There's no easy answer to that, and it's a challenge that only will grow as Alzheimer's surges in the coming years. Already, an estimated 5.4 million people in the United States have Alzheimer's or similar dementias. That number is expected to reach up to 16 million by 2050 because the population is aging so rapidly.

Census figures show that nearly one-third of all people 65 and older live alone, and by their 80s more than half of women do. Most older people say they want to stay in their homes as long as possible, and



In this photo taken on April 23, Elaine Vlieger, 79, walks near her home near Denver, Colo. Vlieger is making some concessions to her early stage Alzheimer's, but isn't ready to give up her home or her independence. She stays active with yard work and daily walks.

developing cognitive impairment doesn't automatically mean they can't, says Beth Kallmyer, a social worker who heads consultant services for the Alzheimer's Association.

The association's new analysis illustrates the balancing act between a patient's autonomy and safety. People with dementia who live alone tend to be less impaired than those who live with caregivers. But they are impaired, and studies show they have a greater risk of injuries, even accidental death, than patients who don't live alone.

There's no one to check that the stove wasn't left on or to notice right away if the person gets lost or has a fall.

Marla Vlieger, who lives nearby and is her mother-in-law's primary caregiver, worries about those possibilities. She attends Alzheimer's support groups to learn from other families' experiences. But unlike her mother-in-law, the patients she's met have a spouse who can spot problems in a way that even regular visitors such as the younger Vlieger and her husband cannot.

Moreover, surveys suggest that as many

as half of those with dementia who live alone can't identify anyone as their caregiver, someone who at least checks in periodically to see how they're faring, the association reported. Too often, those are the people whose dementia is discovered in an emergency, such as when neighbors call police to check on a senior who no one has seen in days, Kallmyer says.

Specialists struggle with how to advise patients who show up with no one to help. Like the 78-year-old man who drove himself to Maine Medical Center for a memory evaluation and said he's not close to his only relative.

"He couldn't draw a clock. He couldn't complete a check correctly. And he couldn't make change for a \$5 bill," geriatric physician Dr. Laurel Coleman, who diagnosed the man, told a recent meeting of the government's Alzheimer's advisers.

The first National Alzheimer's Plan, due to be finalized this month, could help. It aims to increase screening of older adults to catch dementia earlier. It also urges doctors to help patients plan ahead for their future

care needs while they still can. Kallmyer says that's absolutely critical for those who live alone.

Elaine Vlieger had been her late husband's caregiver during a long illness and knew the importance of that planning. After her Alzheimer's diagnosis 18 months ago, she designated power of attorney and who will help make her health care decisions, and added a son to her bank accounts.

For day-to-day living, Vlieger makes reminder lists. A friend accompanies the avid hiker on a daily neighborhood walk, and neighbors check on her. She's considering wearing a monitor to call for help if she falls.

Transportation is a key part of planning care for people with Alzheimer's. Vlieger insists her driving is fine, and sticks to small familiar roads and avoids rush hour as a precaution. Daughter-in-law Marla, however, says the doctor wants her to quit.

The younger Vlieger says her mother-in-law generally copes well but is finding it harder to handle the unexpected. Family members get tearful phone calls over small crises such as a toilet overflowing. Email has become frustratingly hard because the provider updated the program so it no longer looks familiar.

Then there's the planning about housing.

"The family was split," Elaine Vlieger says.

One son is researching assisted living options, but Vlieger protests. "I'm more active than those people are. It makes me feel old when I go in there."

She likes her daughter's suggestion of in-home services that could be added over time. Daughter-in-law Marla wonders if a geriatric care manager could offer professional advice "to help us decide what we need, and when we need it."

The trickiest part, Kallmyer says, is when to overrule someone with Alzheimer's and start making decisions for them.

"Alzheimer's is not a linear process. Somebody has a bad day and the next several days will be good," she says.

Elaine Vlieger has started cleaning out her home of 35 years. But she says firmly, and not in a hurry.

CLOSER LOOK: What's behind rhetoric on Illinois health care, pensions?

► Continued from Page 1

let the state cut back on what it is scheduled to pay for pensions in the years ahead.

Here's a closer look at some questions that raise:

Q: Could Medicaid really "collapse" if the system isn't reformed, as Quinn claims?

A: Yes, according to Laurence Msall, president of the nonpartisan Civic Federation.

That would mean doctors refusing to accept Medicaid patients, safety net hospitals closing because of unpaid bills and poor people going without health care, he

said. Social service providers that serve the elderly and developmentally disabled could close their doors.

In addition, the state could face further downgrades in its credit ratings, making it difficult or impossible for the government to borrow money.

"It would be a financial disaster for anyone who does business with or interacts with the state of Illinois, not just for our most vulnerable, but also for school districts, local governments and participants in other state programs," Msall said.

Illinois has used "accounting gimmickry" to delay paying for Medicaid services, perhaps more than any other state, he said. Perhaps no other state has allowed its unpaid bills to pile as high. The pile could possibly grow \$21 billion by 2017 unless the state takes action.

Q: Could fighting fraud be the answer?

As Sen. Kirk Dillard, R-Hinsdale, has argued for years, much of Illinois' Medicaid problem could be solved by rooting out waste and abuse. He says experts believe 10 percent of Medicaid money is spent improperly, which would amount to nearly \$1.5 billion in Illinois.

Unfortunately, there's little evidence to support that claim.

Dillard attributes the figure to the New York Times. He doesn't specify, but he may be referring to a series of stories in 2006 on fraud in the New York state Medicaid program. The 10 percent figure popped up for two different kinds of fraud and abuse. One was an estimate of the problem in New York's badly run Medicaid program, and the other was an estimate of losses in all health care nationwide, not just Medicaid.

Neither figure says anything about fraud and abuse in the average state Medicaid program.

A 2010 report by the National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association said a conserva-

tive estimate of fraud in the nation's health spending — not Medicaid alone — would be 3 percent, although it also notes the FBI had put the rate at somewhere between 5 percent and 10 percent. A spokesman for the group recently put national fraud loss at "tens of billions of dollars but wouldn't be any more specific."

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services says it's not aware any 10 percent fraud estimate and does consider it to be accurate. The department's fraud recovery each year amounts to tens of millions of dollars — not close to the hundreds of millions that Dillard envisions.

Q: How much ground should Illinois make up with its retirement systems?

At right now, the state's retirement systems have only 43 percent of the money they'll have to pay out to state employees in the decades ahead. That's a shortfall of about \$83 billion.

Quinn wants to get to 100 percent funding in 30 years.

Experts differ about whether that is the appropriate goal. After all, the retirement systems don't have to pay all their obligations at once, so they don't literally need all that money available at any given time. The rate at which the state tries to catch up affects the size of potential benefit or the state's annual contributions to the retirement systems.

An Illinois legislative commission recommended a 90 percent goal last year. (Ten, 80 percent funding is cited as the dividing line between a healthy retiree system and an unhealthy one. The National Association of State Retirement Administrators reports that 100 percent funding is considered a "best practice" for public pension systems.)

So the amount of pain felt by Illinois retirees and taxpayers will depend on which target state officials decide to shoot for.

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Monday, May 14th Hamilton's 110 North East Jacksonville, Illinois 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Monday, May 14th The American Legion 136 East State Street Waverly, Illinois 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
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At these Open Houses, we will explain why this new transmission line is needed and what it will look like. We will answer your questions.

By sharing your thoughts and concerns with us on May 14th, you will help us determine the best possible route for this new transmission line.

For more information, please visit our Web site at www.transmission.com or call us at (800) 229-8280.



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CODE 101

SERVICE: Illinois College group stresses community involvement

► Continued from Page 1

self-respect and healthy lifestyles through participation in running programs.

For APO member Maddie Ericson, a sophomore from Bohlers, the thanks of people APO helps goes a long way.

"I went to a lady's house. She had just had surgery and was unable to tend to her garden," Ericson said. "I helped weed the garden and pulled dead ivy from a lattice. It was rewarding to get the interpersonal relationship. We saw how excited she was about having her garden back to the way it used to be."

Ericson said she joined APO so she could be active in the Jacksonville community. "It's nice to have all the close friends that come along with it, too," she added.

Sophomore Krysten Odle of Litchfield,

APO's fundraising chairwoman this semester, said several Jacksonville residents have given APO members positive feedback about their service weekend work.

"The service weekend was successful and we definitely plan to do it again in the future," said Ericson, who will serve APO's service vice president for the fall semester. She added that APO hopes to expand its service efforts in Jacksonville next school year.

"APO started out as a way to network with people and build my resume, but has become more than that for me," Odle said. "I have made so many close friends and have become passionate about our service."

golden@myjournalcourier.com

finding

REEL WORLD

✓ = Film opens this week in our area. Movies showing in Jacksonville and Springfield are listed only under Jacksonville. Highest rating is four stars unless otherwise noted. Reviews by Roger Ebert unless otherwise noted.

ILLINOIS THEATER

✓ **THE RAVEN** (Thriller, R, 111 minutes). John Cusack stars as Edgar Allan Poe, in an overwrought serial killer melodrama having only the most tenuous connection to the great writer. Starting with one fact, that Poe was found wandering delirious in Baltimore in 1849, the movie concocts a plot that depends much more on sensational acting than on suspense or atmosphere. With Luke Evans as a detective who teams up with Poe.

✓ **THE CABIN IN THE WOODS** (Horror, R, 105 minutes).

✓ **21 JUMP STREET** (Comedy, R, 109 minutes).

✓ **AMERICAN REUNION** (Comedy, R, 113 minutes) — Colin Covert, MCT.

✓ **WRATH OF THE TITANS** (2-D, 3-D, Action Fantasy, PG-13, 95 minutes).

INCL STADIUM CINEMAS

✓ **THE PRINCES BAND OF MISFEITS** (2-D, 3-D, Animated, PG, 88 minutes) There's an inviolate law of animated films — the more "names" you have in the voice cast, the weaker you know your film is. Andman, those meticulous Brits who build clay models and painstakingly animate them into Wallace & Gromit cartoons and the hit "Chicken Run," tip their hand that way with "The Princess Band of Misfits." A pirate picture that's entirely too late to the party to have much in the line of fresh pirate gags. It is stuffed with name voice actors, from Hugh Grant as The Pirate Captain to Sainsi Hayek, Brendan Gleeson, Imelda Staunton, Anton Yelchin and Jeremy Piven. And all of them act in a recording booth and suggested to find funny things to say or funny ways to say the not-funny



things in the script. Arriving in small doses, "Pirates" is the first Andman film to suffer a serious shortage of aight gags, the first where the witless feels forced and the strain shows. Those of us who love Andman will appreciate the gorgeous attention to detail. But "Pirates" plays like a fussy film made by fussy little aesthetebudgets, clever chaps all wrapped up with making perfect Plastiline trees, but who lose track of the forest — the funny movie that is supposed to be animated around all this detail. Where's the invention of "Wallace & Gromit," the genre-defining glaze of "Chicken Run"? Fans know that the weakest Andman films ("Flushed Away" wasn't a laugh riot either) are still richer and more rewarding than any "Shrek," "Cars" or "The Age" picture. But as long as these films have to make, as expensive as they are to do, it's almost tragic when they spend their efforts rounding up big-name misfits, and then give them so little mischief to get into. — Roger Moore, MCT

✓ **SAFE** (Action, R, 95 minutes) The worst Jason Statham movie since the last Jason Statham movie is copying on the bargain-budget action star's tradition of building a body of work out of, well, dead bodies. Writer-director Boaz Yakin proves the latest snafu for Statham's brand of mindless car-

riage. Together, they turn Manhattan into little more than a shooting gallery, stacking up corpses in service of a supposed story about one man's path to redemption. But really, all they care about is stacking up corpses, as many as they can, ripped apart by as many bullets as possible, with a few snapped necks and other more intimate moments of savagery to break up the repetitive tedium of the gunplay. Statham has some charisma and can convey a sense of quiet gravity even in silly action roles. But his moments with newcomer Catherine Chan, which are a big hunk of the movie, are mostly awkward. — David Germain, AP

✓ **THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT** (Romantic comedy, R, 124 minutes) This movie plays like a five-episode, treated story arc from "How I Met Your Mother." With more profanity and more explicit sex. And considerably less drinking. And no Neil Patrick Harris. Jason Segel lends us two hours-plus of required gags and bite that might have been in the sitcom, but were too expensive. They layer the soundtrack with music by Van Morrison, whose love songs are used so often in the movies that they're collected on a CD, "Van Morrison Goes to the Movies." And all that adds up to is an occasionally engaging roman-

tic dramedy that never blows away that "Where have I seen this before?" feeling. As with every Judd Apatow production, there's nothing here that wouldn't have been better at a shorter length and quicker pace. At two hours, the draw-out gags, scenes that leisurely run far past their punchline or payoff, and the overuse of supporting players burden the film. — Roger Moore, MCT

✓ **THE LUCKY ONE** (Romance, PG-13, 101 minutes). Shameless love story about a Marine (Zac Efron) whose life is saved by a photo he finds in Iraq. A smooth, pretty adaptation of a smooth Nicholas Sparks novel, if incredible coincidences and romantic clichés don't bother you, it's nukelevel Sparks, done well.

✓ **THINK LIKE A MAN** (Comedy, PG-13, 122 minutes). All-star cast, promising premise, doofus behavior. Tiresome coddling through the couple's night has been better as sex.

✓ **THE THREE STOOGES** (Comedy, PG, 92 minutes).

unavailable at press time Wednesday

AMC SHOWPLACE 22

✓ **CHIMPANZEE** (Documentary, 6.84 minutes) Disney's 2012 movie offering for Earth Day is a gorgeous and technically dazzling look inside the world of chimpanzees. But "Chimpanzee" is also a throwback, a documentary that follows a baby chimp named Oscar as he struggles to learn the ways of his tribe and to survive in the dense rain forests of Africa's Ivory Coast. It's moving and entertaining as well as informative. And as Tim Allen narrate and the chimps themselves provide moments of low comedy and high pathos you might be reminded of the studio-popular "True Life Adventures" nature docs of the last century. Allen's narration makes this kid-friendly film even more so, though the script does tend toward underlining that which is no obvious by the images on the screen. Nature itself makes a glorious set as we're treated to stunning shots of its resident mushrooms and dazzling wet falls. About the credits documentary "Earth" and the broader "African Day" Disney may have hit on just the right mix of information and entertainment with "Chimpanzee," the best Disney nature film yet. — Roger Moore, MCT

✓ **THE HUNGER GAMES** (Sci-fi action, PG-13, 142 minutes).

ALSO: 21 Jump Street; American Reunion; Safe; The Cabin in the Woods; The Five-Year Engagement; The Lucky One; The Princess Band of Misfits (2-D, 3-D); The Three Stooges; Think Like a Man.

AMC SHOWPLACE 8

✓ **LOCKOUT** (Action, PG-13, 95 minutes).

✓ **MIRROR MIRROR** (Fantasy adventure, PG, 105 minutes).

ALSO: The Cabin in the Woods; The Five-Year Engagement; The Hunger Games; The Lucky One; The Princess Band of Misfits (2-D, 3-D); The Three Stooges; Think Like a Man.

AMC PARKWAY 8

• Movie listings for this theater were

'Joe Golem and the Drowning City,' an illustrated novel

"Joe Golem and the Drowning City" by Mike Mignola and Christopher Golden; St. Martin's Press (\$25.99)

BY TISH WELLS
MOONBEAM REVISOR

Stir in a little Lovecraft and magic, season it with apocalyptic gloom, and you have "Joe Golem and the Drowning City."

Horror author Christopher Golden and artist Mike Mignola, creator of the comic "Hellboy," have collaborated on an illustrated novel.

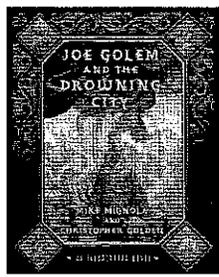
New York is "The Drowning City" set in an alternate world where earthquakes in 1922 start disasters that culminate with half of Manhattan under water.

New York became divided between wealthy, glittering Uptown and the struggling poor who remained in the drowning Downtown because they had nowhere else to go. "There inhabitants live a miserable water-based existence of crime, survival and scavenging."

Felix Orlov, an elderly magician who can talk to ghosts is kidnapped by gas-masked men working for a Dr. Cocteau. His self-designed teen assistant, Molly, is determined to rescue him — if only she can save herself from the same attackers.

She's rescued by Joe Golem, a towering hulk of a man, who works for the long-lived scientist Frank Church who explains that Orlov was taken because of the circumstances of his birth — a mixture of black magic and out-of-this-world evil.

The chase to rescue Orlov and the final resolution are purely out of the comic books. "Joe Golem" reads very much like an adapted-to-print graphic novel with the



same leaps of faith that you need when reading comics — such as miraculous escapes and submarines that navigate water-filled subways.

You may also need a strong stomach. "The ghostly Orlov weeps tears of anguish and fury, for he can do nothing to help the woman splayed grotesquely on the yellow marble altar, his surface cut through with tunnels to capture her blood and other fluids."

Despite the gruesome beginning, "Joe Golem" tells a lively story with characters make you want to find out what has happens next. For example, "On the drosshole, 14-year-old Molly McLaugh beamed at him, all freckles and red hair and youthful vigor that always made him feel more alive."

Like many comics and graphic novels, it does not shy away from death. Major characters pass away — some peacefully, some not — and death is definitely not the

end for most. The culmination reshapes the drowned city of New York, the city of a million stories, yet again. Just in time for a sequel.

A new transmission line to meet our need for reliable, cost-effective and safe energy

Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI) proposes to construct new 345 kilovolt transmission lines that will interconnect Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. The project, known as the Illinois Rivers Project, is part of a portfolio of Multi-Value Projects (MVPs) that has been approved by the Midwest ISO, a regional transmission organization.

The MVPs will facilitate the delivery of renewable energy, improve reliability, and provide economic and efficiency benefits. The Illinois Rivers Project is directly aligned with Ameren's strategic goals of providing our customers with reliable, efficient and environmentally responsible energy.

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Meredosia Chambersburg High School
830 Main Street
Meredosia, Illinois

Stop by anytime between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

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Through Music

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Grace United Methodist Church
400 West Morgan, Jacksonville, IL (217) 245-9521

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HMC STADIUM CINEMAS

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THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT

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★★ **THINK LIKE A MAN** (Comedy, PG-13, 122 minutes). All star cast, promising premise, doofus behavior. Tiresome cycling through the couples; might have

been better as satire.

★★★ **THE THREE STOOGES** (Comedy, PG, 92 minutes).

AMC PARKWAY 8

★★★ **TITANIC** (3-D, Epic, PG-13, 194 minutes). The 1997 masterpiece remains all of its original power and is still a magnificent motion picture.

For me personally, the 3-D doesn't add anything necessary, but at least it provided a reason for this sparkling restoration and re-release, and director James Cameron knows what he's doing. This time, it especially occurred to me that Kate Winslet, in wading through all that ice-cold water to save Leonardo DiCaprio, should have had chattering teeth — or maybe be dead of hypothermia.

• Full listings for this theater were unavailable at press time Wednesday.

AMC SHOWPLACE 12

★★★ **CHIMPANZEE** (Documentary, G, 84 minutes) After the omnibus documentary "Earth" and the broader "Milton Cat," Disney may have hit just the right mix of information and entertainment with "Chimpanzee," its best Disney nature film yet. — Roger Moore, MCT.

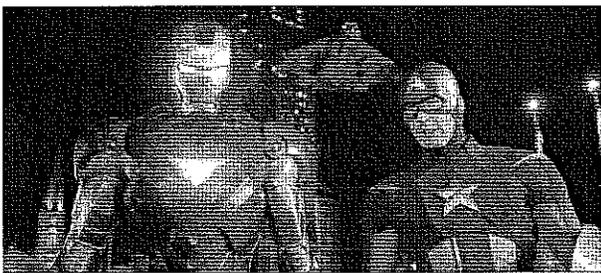
★★★ **21 JUMP STREET** (Comedy, R, 109 minutes).

ALSO: The Avengers; Safe; The Five-Year Engagement; The Lucky One; The Pirates Band of Muskets (3-D); The Raven; The Three Stooges; Think Like A Man; The Hunger Games.

AMC SHOWPLACE 8

The Avengers; The Five-Year Engagement; The Hunger Games; The Lucky One; The Pirates Band of Muskets (2-D, 3-D); The Three Stooges; Think Like A Man.

'AVENGERS': Almost too much of a good thing — ★★★



Iron Man, portrayed by Robert Downey Jr., (left) and Captain America, portrayed by Chris Evans, are shown in a scene from "The Avengers."

D Continued from Page 11
Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) has created S.H.I.E.L.D., his super-secret superhero agency, mainly on paper. But when his minions recover the magical cube, the Tesseract, from where Captain

America buried it last summer, Loki (Chris Hemsworth) and The Other (Alexis Denisof) plot Loki's vengeful conquest of the Earth. Fury has to get the band together, get them to work as a team.
In an ensemble piece,

Downey's brilliant touch is showcased to its best effect. He calls Thor "Point Break" and "Shakespeare in the Park."
The earnest Evans gives just enough gravitas to the Captain, who understands how their special gifts are

"a terrible privilege."
Loki turns a couple of S.H.I.E.L.D. agents — the bow-and-arrow-wielding Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) and Professor Selvig (Stellan Skarsgard) — into his hunkies, and sets about creating a means for an army

of aliens to show up and ensue lunacy.
Hiddleston grows into the part that seemed like a weak link in "Thor," and makes the most of this guy's megalomania and bad-guy bravado.

The real fun here is in the fractious nature of the superhero team — Iron Man sniping at and brawling with Thor, Iron Man's quarrels with Captain America, the "issues" between the assassins Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) and Hawkeye, and the "Serenity Now" ethos that Bruce Banner embraces lest "The Other Guy" (The Hulk) break out and make a mess of things.

Ruffalo gives Banner/Hulk a wonderful, almost massive "Nobody really should mess with me" pose, and he can trade wisecracks with the best of them.

Whedon manages to give a staggering number of characters their "moments," from Clark Gregg,

the long-suffering agent whose thankless job it is to ride herd on the superheroes, to Gwyneth Paltrow/sassy paramour/assistant Tony Stark, Pepper Potts. She's all cut-off pans and come-hither come-ons in their scenes together.
As you might expect from a movie with this many characters and that many zingers, "Avengers" is safely too long and entirely too chatty. The 3-D adds nothing to it, and we lose the urgency every time we lose track of the meta and the villain.

But Whedon has managed a feat akin to last summer's "Thor," smiling the fun in what should be, by any rights, an exhausted genre. "Avengers" isn't deep (yes, we really should all work together) and it doesn't reinvent the comic book movie. But it is fun, and if it's an indicator of a season of cinema to follow, this summer is going to be epic.



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Sibelius - Finlandia, Op. 26

Liszt - Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6
Ana Ferrara, piano, 2012 Talent Among Us Grand Prize winner

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