

The Register-Mail

THURSDAY, Sept. 20, 2007

75 CENTS

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

2 local districts, 1 school failing

Abingdon, West Central, Williamsfield High School don't meet federal standards

BY CIGI ROSS
The Register-Mail

GALESBURG — Area school districts have received results of state standardized tests students took in March and districts contacted this week within Knox and Warren counties showed that Abingdon District 217, West Central District 235 and Williamsfield High School failed to meet federal standards to make "adequate yearly progress."

ROWVA District 208, Williamsfield District 210, Galva District 224, United District 304, Knoxville District 202 and AlWood District 225 all met federal standards for 2006 testing. Monmouth-Roseville District

238 Superintendent Martin Payne said administrators hadn't had a chance to review the scores and wouldn't release the data yet.

Students are required to take state tests each year to determine whether they meet federal standards in No Child Left Behind. School and district performance is measured by the percentage of students who "meet or exceed" a standard set by the government on two tests: the Illinois Standards Achievement Test in grades 3 through 8 and the Prairie State Achievement Examination in 11th grade.

A school or district makes "adequate yearly progress" if

students in nine subgroups, including low-income and special education, meet federal standards or they may eventually face sanctions. This year schools had to meet or exceed an average of 55 percent on math, reading and science per NCLB to make AYP.

West Central

West Central District 235 met AYP in the elementary school. Superintendent Ralph Grimm said the middle school failed to meet AYP because one of its subgroups, special education students, did not have 55 percent of students meet or exceed standards. At the high school, Grimm said, students

did not meet standards in math or reading.

Grimm said the district has been trying to align its curriculum with state standards for testing for the past three years.

"With any major change you're not going to see immediate, overnight results," Grimm said. "It's going to take a minimum of three years for us to be able to say a change in our math curriculum made a difference."

To help the district improve scores to meet federal guidelines, the district has implemented school improvement teams, begun assessing freshman and

See **SCHOOLS**, Page A12

AT A GLANCE

SPORTS



Associated Press

Chicago Cubs left fielder Alfonso Soriano, left, and manager Lou Piniella celebrate Wednesday's 3-2 win over the Cincinnati Reds at Wrigley Field.

Wild win moves Cubs into first

Another day, another change in the NL Central Division standings for the Chicago Cubs. The Cubs moved from a first-place tie with the Milwaukee Brewers into sole possession of the lead with a 3-2 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday. **Page C1**

Titans still learning about soccer

The first season for Monmouth-Roseville High School's soccer team has been a learning experience for players and fans. The Titans picked up their second win of the season Wednesday by beating the Sherrard-Orion junior varsity 5-0. **Page C1**

Streaks face road test at Quincy

The Galesburg Silver Streaks will travel to Quincy for a Western Big 6 Conference game and Stark County will visit AlWood-ROWVA in a battle between the Noard brothers in high school football action scheduled for Friday night. **Page C1**

LOCAL & STATE

Flu shots start in late October

The first flu shot clinic in Knox County will be from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 29 at the health department. The county has received its full shipment of about 4,500 vaccines, but is waiting until October to begin the clinics in order to make sure the shots are in effect during peak flu season, February through April. **Page A5**

Knox stands by argument

An attorney for Knox College argued once again Wednesday that the Galesburg school could not have prevented the murder of one of its students nearly a decade ago with a few more light bulbs. It's the theory the school has stood by ever since the family of Andrea Racibozynski, who was 19 when she was beaten to death with a brick in Seymour Hall in 1998, won a \$1 million wrongful death suit against Knox College in May 2006. Oral arguments for an appeal of the civil suit were heard Wednesday in Third District Appellate Court in Ottawa. **Page A5**

NATION & WORLD

O.J. makes bail, returns home

O.J. Simpson left Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in an SUV after arriving in Florida early this morning, tailed by a pack of cameras and reporters. At his arraignment today on charges he led an armed holdup of sports memorabilia collectors, Simpson did not enter a plea as he was released on \$125,000 bond. **Page A3**

DEATHS

- Margaret Bruce/Rio
- Rhonda Nance/Galesburg
- Robert Dotson/Macomb
- Alice Tolbert/Galesburg
- Verna Hollinrake/Keithsburg
- Peggy Foster McDonald/Redlands, Calif.

OBITUARIES: Page A11

HIGHWAY DRUMMER



BILL GAITHER/The Register-Mail

Knox College student Eric Ratzel, who uses the name Sun Moriarty, rocks out on a drum set Wednesday near the westbound lane of U.S. 34, approximately 2½ miles west of Galesburg. Moriarty said he's a regular performer near highways, adding, "I started doing this because I lived in an apartment where I couldn't play my drums. Too much noise. So I found a place where there was no chance anyone would hear me — I went to the side of a highway." For more of the story, see Tom Loewy's column, Page A6.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD

No administrator in county budget

Finance committee wary of projecting too much revenue

BY MATT HUTTON
The Register-Mail

GALESBURG — The 2008 budget will not contain funding to hire the second ever Knox County administrator.

County Board member Paul Stewart, D-District 2, brought up the idea of hiring a county administrator at Wednesday night's finance committee meeting. He hoped additional revenue that State's Attorney John Pepmeyer said he could generate by increasing court fines and penalties would allow the county enough money to hire someone. Pepmeyer said last month he thought his changes could generate about \$335,000 a year, based on collecting from about 60 percent of violators.

However, Finance Committee chairman Wayne Saline, R-District 4, as well as the other members of the committee, said they were uncomfortable projecting that much revenue into next year's budget.

"I hate to inflate revenue

"It's like trying to have school board members run a school district without a superintendent."



— County Board member Paul Stewart, on Knox County not having an administrator

and not have it come and base expenses on that," said committee member Stephen Johnson, R-District 5.

The committee eventually decided to project \$125,000 of additional revenue for the general fund.

"I'd like to see him be able to hit his target," Saline said. "But I'm not comfortable going with the full \$300,000 that John Pepmeyer talked about."

Stewart said he raised the idea of hiring another county administrator to generate discussion. He added that he thought the administrator would increase the county's efficiency.

See **FINANCE**, Page A12

LOCAL JOB CUTS

Foreign competition takes rap at Carhartt

Company official says 96% of workwear made outside U.S.

BY JOHN R. PULLIAM
The Register-Mail

GALESBURG — Foreign competition is causing a Dearborn, Mich., firm to convert its sewing plant here to a distribution center.

Shortly after 9 a.m. Wednesday, Carhartt Inc. officials told workers that 33 employees will be laid off, effective Dec. 31. Of the 25 jobs that will remain here, 17 are union jobs and eight are management personnel.

"We regret that the need to convert this facility resulted in job losses but are glad the Galesburg facility will remain open as an important link in our chain of U.S. production and distribution," said Phil Edlin, Carhartt's vice president of manufacturing. "We have been in Galesburg for 29 years and are very appreciative of the hard work and dedication of all the people who've worked in our facility there over the years."

Joe Costigan, treasurer of the Chicago and Midwest



BILL GAITHER/The Register-Mail

The Galesburg Carhartt facility announced Wednesday that 33 employees will be laid off Dec. 31.

Region of UNITE HERE, the union representing Carhartt employees, said Wednesday was a sad day.

"This isn't of the magnitude of Maytag leaving Galesburg, but to our workers who spent 30 years on the job — some of these women have spent much of their working lives here — it's very tough to deal with."

Costigan said the union has fought hard here.

"We've been in discussions over a number of years as to what should happen at the plant in Galesburg," he said. "Six years ago, we had a big struggle to save the plant."

See **CARHARTT**, Page A12

INSIDE

- 3 sections • 30 pages**
- Advice/Almanac B5
 - Agriculture & Business A8
 - Classified C6-12
 - Comics C5
 - Editorial A4
 - Entertainment B1-6
 - Home & Handyman A10
 - Local & State A5-7, C6
 - Obituaries C1-4
 - Record A11
 - Sports C1-4
 - TV/Movies B2

Vol. 138 • No. 259
The Register-Mail
Galesburg, Illinois

OUTSIDE



TONIGHT
LOW 64
Partly cloudy, warm



TOMORROW
90/61
Partly sunny, breezy