

The Register-Mail

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75 CENTS

MIDWEST EARTHQUAKE

Shake, rattle and quake?

Local dispatchers get 50 calls after quake; no damage reported

BY MATT HUTTON
The Register-Mail

GALESBURG — An earthquake that started in southern Illinois early this morning was felt by many Galesburg residents.

The quake, which was measured at 5.2 by the U.S. Geological Survey, was one of the strongest ever recorded in Illinois. It happened around 4:37 a.m. and was centered six miles southeast of West Salem, Ill., and 45 miles west of Evansville, Ind.

In Galesburg, 911 dispatchers at the Public Safety Building received about 50 phone calls soon after the earthquake. No injuries or structure damage were reported as of 8 a.m. today. According to dispatchers, many callers thought the earthquake was an explosion of some sort.



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SOURCES: ESRI; USGS

5.2-magnitude quake rocks most of Illinois

WEST SALEM (AP) — A 5.2-magnitude earthquake centered in southern Illinois rattled homes and skyscrapers across the Midwest early today, causing little damage but surprising residents unaccustomed to such a powerful temblor.

The quake — one of the strongest ever recorded in Illinois — occurred just before 4:37 a.m. and was centered six miles southeast of West Salem, Ill., and 45 miles west of Evansville, Ind.

Initially pegged as a 5.4 earthquake, the U.S. Geological Survey revised its estimate to give it a value of 5.2. Two aftershocks during the next three hours measured 2.6 and a 2.5, the agency reported.

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AT A GLANCE

SPORTS



BILL GAITHER/The Register-Mail

Galesburg High School senior Mark Mason delivers a pitch in the top of the third inning Thursday afternoon in the Streaks' home game against Woodruff at Jim Sundberg Field.

Streaks knock off Warriors

Galesburg High School's Caleb Weaver came through with a badly needed base hit to lift the Silver Streaks to a 4-3 victory over Peoria Woodruff on Thursday. Galesburg raised its season record to 7-7 and ended a two-game losing skid. **Page B1**

Fire, Scots ready for twinbill

The records aren't impressive but that never seems to matter when teams from Monmouth and Knox colleges meet. The baseball teams from the longtime rivals will meet at Knox on Saturday and Monmouth still has its sights set on an eighth straight Midwest Conference South Division title. **Page B1**

LOCAL & STATE

Bomb threat startles NIU

Two buildings at Northern Illinois University were evacuated after a note was found indicating a bomb would go off in one of the buildings Thursday afternoon. The buildings were reopened within about two hours after officials determined the threat was not credible. Classes continued as normal during the incident. On Feb. 14, a gunman killed five students and himself in an NIU lecture hall. **Page A7**

NATION & WORLD

Pope to address United Nations

Pope Benedict XVI turned his attention today to the original purpose of his first U.S. visit as leader of the Roman Catholic Church, delivering an address today to the General Assembly of the United Nations, taking his first opportunity to truly talk globally. The setting will contrast dramatically with the intimacy of a meeting Thursday, in which he prayed with weeping victims of childhood sexual abuse by priests. **Page A3**

Poll: Obama passing Clinton

Hillary Rodham Clinton is clearly suffering more from the dents and dings of the lengthy presidential fight with Barack Obama as Democratic voters no longer see her as the party's strongest contender for the White House, according to an AP-Yahoo News poll. While Obama's positive ratings have climbed as voters get to know him better, Clinton — widely known since the early 1990s — has been less able to change people's views of her. **Page A3**

DEATHS

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OUTSIDE

TONIGHT
LOW 47
Mostly cloudy with a thunderstorm

TOMORROW
62/49
Cloudy with a passing shower

HIGH COST OF LIVING



BILL GAITHER/The Register-Mail

Knox College sophomore Greta Egge fills up before hitting the road Thursday afternoon from the Circle K gas station on East Main Street. Though prices had fallen from \$3.46 to \$3.44, many people still feel a financial pinch because essentials, including gasoline, eggs and milk, are at all-time high prices.

Inflation eats up paychecks and economic optimism

The shoppers who crowded around the egg section Wednesday afternoon in Econofoods might have thought time warped back to 1975.

And that's not because Glen Campbell's "Rhinstone Cowboy" was playing over the store's speaker system. Eggs — cartons of 18 Grade A eggs, to be precise — were on sale for the low price of 49 cents.

That's not a common sight in 2008. The prices consumers pay for basics like eggs,

milk and cheese have climbed over the last 18 months. Increased fuel costs coupled with corn and grain shortages have formed a kind of perfect storm — it costs more to produce food and more to ship it. The costs have been passed on to you, the consumer.



TOM LOEWY

Those paying \$3.45 a gallon to drive to supermarket are looking at \$3.69 for a gallon of milk and over \$5 for 24 slices of Kraft sliced-and-wrapped cheese product.

People in Galesburg have something in common with folks in Los Angeles and Boston and all points between. The United States is in the throes of the worst food-price inflation in more than a decade. Prices of food rose 4 percent last year and are climbing the charts this year. The cost of food rose 0.5 percent in February and

1.2 in March.

Over the course of the 15-year span before 2007, food prices increased an average of 2.5 percent annually.

So 49-cent cartons of eggs gave a shopper some creative ideas.

"Fried eggs for breakfast, egg salad sandwiches for lunch and, I don't know, I'll think of something with eggs for dinner," one woman said. "My family might be getting sick of eggs in the next few days."

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TRAIN NOISE

Citizens make another pitch for quiet zone

Citizens group backs effort, despite multi-million dollar cost

BY MATT HUTTON
The Register-Mail

GALESBURG — A group of concerned citizens made their pitch for the city to adopt quiet zones to silence train whistles.

Citizens for the Quiet Zone,

a grass roots group of residents who have been going through the city passing out pamphlets and gathering signatures in support of, hosted an informational meeting Thursday at the Community Center which drew a few

NEXT

► The quiet zone issue will be discussed at the next city council meeting.

7:30 p.m. Monday

the measure, The Federal Railroad Administration passed the final rule on quiet zones in 2005, following a study of whistle bans in

parts of Florida that showed accidents were much higher on tracks with the bans. The FRA established a nationwide standard for quiet zones as well as a pattern and decibel minimum for train horns.

Trains must blow their whistles at all public grade crossings at a minimum of 92 decibels for 15 to 20 seconds

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