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GALESBURG

The Register-Mail

SATURDAY, Sept. 10, 2011

galesburg.com

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NICHOLAS SHELEY MURDER TRIAL

State: Sheley wasn't here long

Court under way after three years of motions

BY JENNIFER WHEELER
The Register-Mail

GALESBURG —After three years of countless hearings and questions surrounding what transpired during an eight-day period in which eight people were murdered, the public was able to piece together what possibly occurred as the

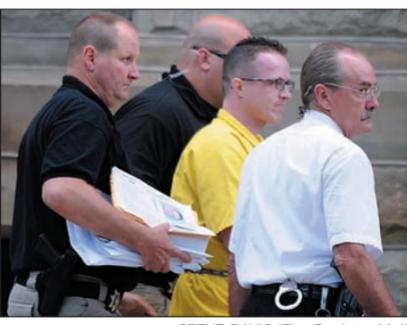
murder trial of Nicholas Sheley began Friday in Knox County Court.

Prosecution alleged during opening statements that Sheley's time in Galesburg was short, lasting 30 minutes. Within that time they allege he bought gas, killed 65-year-old Ronald Randall, abandoned the body, bought booze and cigarettes and drove toward Rock Falls, said Assistant Attorney Gen-

eral Bill Elward. However, defense attorney Jeremy Karlin reminded the jury that they must base their decision only on evidence presented during the trial. He said a terrible crime occurred in the community and the natural reaction is to put blame on the person sitting in the defendant's chair. These feelings are only intensified the more violent the crime.

"I'm going to depend on

See SHELEY, Page A9



STEVE DAVIS/The Register-Mail

Accused spree killer Nicholas Sheley arrives at the Knox County courthouse early Friday morning.

IN THE MAIL

SPORTS



The Register-Mail

Knoxville's Kenny Lee wraps up Havana Ducks quarterback Jay Stinauer during Friday's game in Knoxville.

Blue Bullets pluck Ducks, improve to 3-0

The Knoxville Blue Bullets improved to 3-0 with a 44-8 win over the Havana Ducks on Friday in Knoxville. Dakota Cox rushed for 137 yards to lead the Bullets' offensive attack. **Page B1**

Silver Streaks fall 34-14 to Peoria High

The Peoria High School Lions defeated the Galesburg Silver Streaks 34-14 in a non-conference football game Friday in Peoria. The Silver Streaks fell to 1-2 with their second straight loss, while the Lions improved to 2-1. **Page B1**

LOCAL & STATE

Plan would nix state Amtrak service

Despite projections that Amtrak ridership will top 30 million passengers for the first time ever when the current fiscal year ends Sept. 30, the U.S. House Republican transportation plan would eliminate all state-supported Amtrak service, beginning Oct. 1. Half of Galesburg's eight daily Amtrak trains are state-supported trains, with twice daily stops by the Illinois Zephyr and the Carl Sandburg. **Page A6**

DEATHS

- Brenda F. Bush/Galesburg
- Betty Chase/Middlegrove
- Eileen F. Davis/Morton
- Mary Anna Hays/Monmouth
- James "Bob" R. Skillman/Galesburg
- Kenneth L. Unger/Galesburg
- Mary Whitehead/East Galesburg
- Shirley M. Yesitis/Galesburg

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40TH NATIONAL STEARMAN FLY-IN | AIR SHOW

Even brief air show impresses

Pilots laud stunt flyer
John Mohr

BY GARY TOMLIN
The Register-Mail

Rain cut short the Friday air show at the Stearman Fly-In, but not before the parade of Stearmans gave a visual presentation of the history of the plane and stuntman John Mohr thrilled the crowd of about 700 people.

Stearman owners are in awe of what Mohr can do with his 250 horsepower, stock, (the way it was delivered to the Army in 1942) Stearman.

"This is as good as it gets. There is no better air show," said Karl Vacek, a Stearman owner from Riverside. "I'd walk from home to see this. He's doing things that are impossible to do in a Stearman. It's a big, heavy airplane that doesn't have a lot of power."

Mohr's show has a wide variety of loops, rolls, dives, figure 8s. At one point, he was upside down at the top of a loop and then charged the ground in a straight dive pulling up about 10 feet before the ground.

Even the unlearned can see the finesse in Mohr flying. The plane doesn't have the fuel line and carburetion modifications to keep fuel flowing to the seven radial cylinders when the plane is flying upside down (inverted), and gravity is pulling in the fuel flow away from the engine.

Several times his engine died in mid-stunt, but it was like he knew exactly when it would and at that point the stunt would change direction, the fuel



STEVE DAVIS/The Register-Mail

Stunt pilot John Mohr of Minnesota dives straight down toward the runway during the 40th Stearman Fly-In air show at the Galesburg Municipal Airport on Friday.

See SHOW, Page A12

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

Jobs plan met with call for cooperation

Area Republicans like some aspects of president's proposal

BY JOHN R. PULLIAM
The Register-Mail

GALESBURG — President Obama's American Jobs Act, outlined in a speech Thursday night, was received with cautious optimism by area gov-

ernment leaders. Republicans, however, cautioned against increasing the national deficit to pay for the program.

State Sen. Darin LaHood, R-Peoria, said there are parts of the proposal he can support, as long as they are not tied to more government spending. The president's plan carries a price tag of \$447 billion, although Obama will call on the Joint Committee to find additional

deficit reduction necessary to pay for his Jobs Act.

"I think everything needs to be viewed as to how much is this thing going to cost, through the prism of our national debt," LaHood said.

LaHood said a National Infrastructure Bank is a good idea. What he doesn't want is another massive stimulus program.

"I think adding to our deficit

is not the right place to go," he said. "My experience is, at least in my district, people bought into the stimulus package and here we are, a year and a half later and we're arguably worse off. We've seen that it didn't work."

Obama called for cutting the payroll tax in half for 98 percent of businesses, a complete pay-

See JOBS, Page A12

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