

Timely Matters

✓ **The Winchester American Legion will have its Ham and Bean Dinner at the American Legion Post 442 in Winchester Monday, Aug. 16 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.** It is an all-you-can-eat meal with apple-sauce, corn bread, coffee, tea and desserts. The cost is \$5. Dinners will be served on the third Monday of each month.

✓ **The First National Bank of Winchester will hold free blood pressure screenings in their**

Winchester lobby from 12:30-2:30 p.m. every Thursday. For more information please call the bank at 217-742-3134.

✓ **Seeking information on the Winchester Hotel.** We are asking anyone who can help provide any historical facts, year built, photo's, descendants of original owner (James Cheseldine) or memories of the early day's of the Winchester Hotel. Please call Mary at 217-652-8969 or email msbuilders.royer@yahoo.com.

✓ **The Book Ends unit will meet the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Winchester Public Library.** Everyone is welcome to attend.

✓ **Savage family reunion, Sunday Sept. 16, 1 p.m.,** Nimrod Funk Building. Meat, drink and table service provided. Please bring a dish to share. Call Tim (217-742-3524) for information.

✓ **Jacksonville Theatre Guild presents "All My Sons" Sept. 13, 14, 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Sept. 16 at**

2 p.m.

✓ **2012 Annual Barnard Family Reunion and Repast Sunday, Sept. 16 at Barrow Baptist Church Annex at 12 noon.**

✓ **The Winchester Public Library will host Story Hour for pre-schoolers the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m., starting Sept. 12.** During the months of October and April we will meet each Wednesday. There will be stories and a short crafttime for children.

Savage

(Continued from A1)
"Sometimes, you wonder how they can do it."
He also officiates over games at various locations.
"I do Calhoun, Bluffs, Griggsville-Perry, Pittsfield and some over in Barry," Savage said.
Savage pulled double duty Monday night as he not only offi-

ciated a volleyball game between Pittsfield and West Central, but he also drove the Cougars to Pittsfield for the match.
"I officiate first and then I drive the bus second," Savage said.
One of Savage's favorite moments was when he was officiating a North Greene basketball game and a fan came up to him

afterward and told him that the game was well officiated. He said he enjoying knowing that the fans were able to watch the game and not worry about the officiating. He said every once in a while someone will disagree with a call of his, but he said it comes with the territory.
"It is something you have to

expect," Savage said.
With 30 years under his belt, Savage said he expects to officiate for two or three more years before putting up the stripes for good.
Savage's love of sports has translated to his son, Doug Savage, who coaches track and field at Culver-Stockton College. He also has a wife, Peggy.

Homeschool

(Continued from A1)
school," ROE 40 Superintendent Larry Pfeiffer, who oversees Jersey, Greene and Calhoun counties, said. "Illinois has very limited requirements for homeschooling."
All of the ROEs, however, offer packets of information and recommend other resources to parents looking to homeschool their children. Pfeiffer said the Illinois State Board of Education's website offers myriad information to homeschooling families.
"We have a number of resources that we want to give to them," ROE No. 1, which covers Pike County, Superintendent Debbie Neiderhauser said. "Our ultimate goal is for that child to be highly, properly educated."
Valentin said she has adopted a curriculum developed by A Beka, which is devoted to providing resources to Christian homeschooling families nationwide. She said the academics are similar to that of a public school, and the children take tests, do homework, book reports and other projects. She said, while in Michigan, her oldest children attended a traditional school for one semester and tested above their grade level, which she credits to A Beka.

course work. She graduated nearly a year-and-a-half earlier than she would have in a public school, and entered Lewis and Clark Community College just a couple months after turning 17.
Valentin said her oldest children are eager to attend college. She said when the time comes, their homeschool education will have them ready.
"Our goal for our children is for them to go on to college," Valentin said. "I want them to experience everything, and at the same rigorous level, that they're going to have in college."
Assets many home-educating families find are various associations and support groups.
"It's very similar to a PTA in a school," Neiderhauser said.
DeVries said his family participates in the Pike County Christian Home Educators (PCCHE) group. The group meets every other month, and members take part in organized activities such as dinners, Pinewood Derbies, project fairs and even graduation ceremonies. The main purpose is to provide a sense of community.
"It's not like a co-op where you go to a group and maybe one person teaches several different families' children math," DeVries said. "We don't do anything like that."
Both Mellenthin and Valentin would welcome such a group, but said they're not aware of any in their area. Valentin said she was part of a support group in Michigan, before moving to Illinois in 2006.

"In Michigan there was a group and it was pretty big," she said. "The advantage of a homeschool group is you can take a field trip at that discounted price and have a group to go with. I don't think we have anything real close to here, but that would be great."
DeVries noted the PCCHE is part of the statewide Illinois Christian

ommend families submit documentation to the ROE and local school districts stating their intent to homeschool, it is not required. While Valentin is based in Greene County, of the 15 registered with ROE 40 none are from Greene County. Pike County had 20 registrants last year, Scott County had two. Four have registered with ROE 40 out of Jersey

Some facts on homeschooling in Illinois:

- Homeschool is legally considered private education.
- The state requires homeschoolers receive instruction in language arts, math, science, social studies, fine arts and physical development.
- There are no requirements on the number of hours or days a homeschooler receives instruction.
- Testing is not required.
- Homeschool programs, like other private schools, are not accredited by the state.
- Homeschool students may attend public schools on a part-time basis, including for special education services, with certain limitations.
- Homeschool students are eligible to take driver's ed through local public schools.

Home Educators organization, which hosts an annual convention that around 4,000 people participate in.
The numbers of families registering as homeschoolers with the ROEs don't seem to be moving up or down over the years, according to the superintendents covering Jersey, Greene, Calhoun, Pike and Scott counties.
Though the state and ROEs re-

County and the remaining 11 are from Macoupin. Like Greene, there are no registrants from Calhoun County, though Strauch believes there are a few homeschoolers in the county.
Because families are not required to, and often don't, file paperwork regional superintendents from Jersey, Greene, Calhoun, Pike and Scott counties all said it's hard to estimate how many students are

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actually being educated out of the home. There are certain times of year, however, when it seems more of the non-required registration forms get turned in to ROEs.
"We always see more toward the end of the semester, it seems like, when people are maybe unsure about public school situations," Jeff Stephens, the regional superintendent for ROE 46 which covers Scott County, said.
Stephens pointed out homeschooling is often more popular, and successful, with elementary aged students.
"Parents feel like they can maybe be home with those kids during that time frame, and quite honestly feel like they can handle the subject area a little bit better at that age," he said.
Mellenthin, like Valentin, said homeschooling might not be right for everyone. Mellenthin said it takes a great deal of parent involvement, and dedication of the student, for success.
"I can dig into a book, and if I'm interested in the topic then I can definitely care to learn," she said. "If I'm not, that's where the parent involvement comes in. I would definitely say it depends on the student and the parent and their relationship working together for a common goal."
Some students who are pulled from public schools to be homeschooled ultimately end up going back to the public institution. That situation can be problematic for both

the students and schools.
"At that point we have to do some testing, figure out what the abilities are and try to place them accordingly," Jersey County School District Superintendent E. Settles said. "There's minimal regulation [on homeschooling], and the child sits idle for a period of time, and here they come back and we have to adjust and help them."
As to which the children prefer, Valentin said her children do not express a desire to go to public school, though they are looking forward to college. DeVries said the idea of traditional school comes up from time to time, but the children are satisfied. Mellenthin, who has the perspective of traditional and homeschool experiences, said high school was much better at home. But, she did say her younger years in Jersey classrooms were positive.
"I liked the small, country school. I knew everyone and my classes were comfortable," she said. "My elementary years were most enjoyable."
Though there are certainly many instances where homeschooled children do not achieve the same level of devotion and success of those of the Mellenthin, Valentin or DeVries households, the initiative has the potential to pay off academical and relationship-wise.
"I think some students would excel a lot in homeschooling, and I could see situations where some would not," Mellenthin said.



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American Legion
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Thursday, September 27, 2012
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Thursday. For more information please call the bank at 217-742-3134.

✓ **Contact any Junior Class Member or the high school at 742-3151, class sponsors Candy (Coultas) Miller, ext. 217 or Jackie (Coultas) Kuchy, ext. 209.** Or order on the school website <http://winchester-schools.net/>. Funds will support 2013 Prom.

✓ **The Book Ends unit will meet the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Winchester Public Library.**

Everyone is welcome to attend.

✓ **Kathy Beasley and "Silver Wings" county band from Mexico, Mo. will return to the Pike Co. senior center located 220 West Adams in Pittsfield on Sat. Sept. 22 beginning at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. with sandwiches and concessions available. Admission is \$7.**

✓ **Fiesta de Otoño (Autumn Festival) Open to everyone! Saturday, Sept. 22, noon to 5 p.m. Big Bandstand in Community Park**

Food and activities. Sponsored by Jacksonville area United Methodist Churches.

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Letter to the editor

Constitution written to insure freedom

TO THE EDITOR:

As a Vietnam veteran in the Army, I swore an oath to defend the United States of America and the Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic. I believe this is the same or similar, sworn oath our state and federal legislators take when they assume office.

I do not believe the Constitution and Bill of Rights is an a la carte document. Yet some of our distinguished legislators continue to attack parts of the Constitution and various amendments, and misuse and hide behind other parts, to push toward their agenda as mapped in their twisted minds.

The First Amendment states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

"Freedom of religion" (not "freedom from religion"), or "prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Protesters have the right to stomp, burn, and spit on the flag and call this their right of free speech or expression. But if I express myself by kicking their butt, I will get arrested. I fought for that same flag halfway around the world. But I can't fight for my flag in this country, to uphold the oath I took many years ago, (and still strongly believe in today) without breaking the law.

If a law-abiding citizen wants to peacefully assemble they have to get a permit to do so. But when the "anti-jerks" assemble, with or without a permit, if they start destroying property, throwing rocks and bottles, and burning anything they can, "the peaceful assembly" is over. The police are paid to protect the lives and property of law-abiding citizens. The police should have the right and duty to move in and arrest those involved. If the protesters become violent, the police should have the right to protect themselves, (even using deadly force), if there is a threat of injury or loss of life from projectiles hurled at the police or others in the area.

The Second Amendment states; "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State,

the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Today some people refer to the militia as being the military or National Guard, but according to my teachers, when I was in school, the militia were the farmers, trappers, teachers, preachers, shop keepers, and other citizens with arms, to provide food and protect their families. As the need arose these militia would be called upon to protect their state or country as needed. I know my teachers were right about the meaning of militia, because I am sure at least a couple of them were there to proffread the documents a they were being written.

It does not mention the type of arm, pistol, rifle, or shotgun, or type of action used. It does not mention just for hunting or other recreational purposes. It states "Being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the 'people' to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Double-talking politicians try to twist the meaning of this document to further their agenda. Could it be they don't like the idea of free people, in a free state, in a free country? What are they afraid of, what is their motive? A law-abiding citizen walking toward you with a firearm shouldn't scare anyone near as much as a person driving toward you in an

automobile while talking on a cell phone.

Our politicians have bankrupted our country and are cutting the budgets of our armed forces. These brave men and women are our first line of defense of our nation. I don't like the fact many of them are in harm's way in other countries. But they, like I did, would rather fight those that intend to do us harm in their country than fight in ours.

The law-abiding armed citizen (militia) is the first line of defense in our homes and last line of defense against any enemy, foreign or domestic, to protect our lives, our families, our property, our state and our great country. This is what the framers of the Constitution intended, so our people would not become the subjects of tyranny again. These brave men lived under tyranny and fought to become free people. They designed this document to insure we would remain a free people for eternity.

God bless The United States and protect us from those trying to desecrate our sacred Constitution.

CHARLES PINE
Bluffs, Ill.

Health department into busy season; flu clinics soon

By ELMER FEDDER

Scott County Times

August was a busy month for the Scott County Health Department and September and October continue that trend, according to a report at the Monday afternoon meeting of the Scott County commissioners.

August saw the department busy with immunizations, lead screenings and TB testing. Commissioner Dave Killebrew said. The department also had several adults wanting the TDAP vaccine (tetanus and pertussis) because of recommendations from their doctor because of the prevalence of whooping

cough in the U.S. It is very expensive (\$190) but it can be obtained for those who want to pay for it. Killebrew said.

Pam Shireman from the Bluffs area is a new health department employee. She is working on the county's hazard vulnerability assessment.

Nurses will be going to schools this coming week to do head checks (for lice) to help prevent any cases from spreading. Bluffs school has had some reported cases of scabies.

Flu clinics have been scheduled for the first week of October and department personnel will be in Bluffs, Alsey, Manchester and Glasgow, as well as providing the school staffs with flu

vaccine. A clinic will also be held in the Nimrod Funk building in Winchester. Early reports indicate that there may be a higher percentage of flu cases this season.

Contractor is scheduled to complete the Hoots Road Bridge cleanup this week. Local traffic can expect closure through the week of Sept. 24. Clevenger Construction is scheduled to place bridge rail this week, according to County Engineer Matt Coultas.

The Highway Department will begin approach roadway work this week.

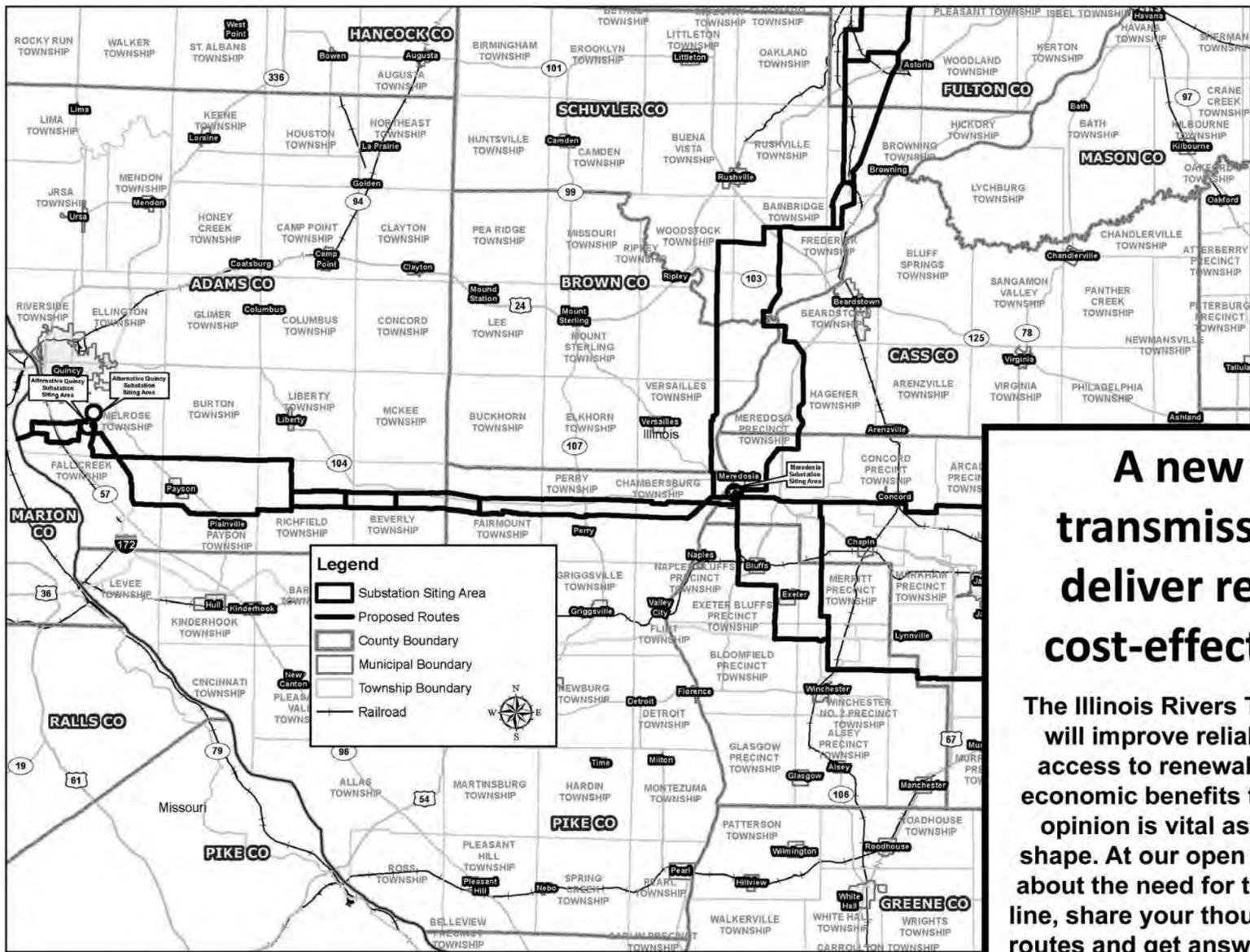
Coultas also said shoulder reclamation continues along county highways.

County Treasurer Donna Montgomery noted that the final payments of county Real Estate Taxes are due on Tuesday, Sept. 24.

Budget proposals from all of the county offices have been received. John Eyth has received the budgets and will work up a proposed county budget.

A resolution approved the reimbursement of \$229.97 to Jamie Merriman to replace a camera that was taken into evidence and was subsequently destroyed.

The current census at the Scott County Nursing Center is 39 residents.



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