

# Okaw Valley schools continue to focus on math and reading in K-12

By Derek Pope  
Bethany Reporter

As the end of the first quarter for Okaw Valley schools grows near, teachers and administrators have set their sights on ways to continue the improvement of educational standards districtwide. From the elementary school all the way up to high school, improvements in reading and mathematics remained the primary curriculum concern for Okaw Valley's staff. Elementary school educators have already been teaching the new Common Core State Standards in their math curriculum, and this month elementary principal Doug McCausland cre-

ated a committee to review and propose new reading programs based on the Common Core State Standards. McCausland stated that new reading curriculum must focus on, not just reading skills, but comprehension as well, which has been an area of weakness for elementary students in recent years. Middle school educators set their formal school improvement goals for this year. The emphasis of this year's goals will be on improving reading skills through new reading strategies and, again, greater comprehension of the materials read. Improvements in mathematics will be sought in the areas of "com-

putation, estimation, proportion, ratios, percents, measurement, exponents, properties of single figures, and probability" through greater attention on them in the math curriculum. The high school is focusing on early intervention for students seen struggling in the areas of math and reading. Ascend Math, a web based math technology aimed at underdeveloped students, has been introduced to the high school curriculum. A new "Reading Plus" program has also been started at the high school, which educators believe will help better identify struggling readers earlier in their secondary education.

Members of the community will also have an opportunity to help shape Okaw Valley schools at the district level this school year. In April elections for the school board of education are to be held. Four spots on the school board are up for election, and anyone who resides within the district is eligible to be placed on the ballot. For persons interested in running for a position on the board of education, petitions may be picked up beginning Sept. 25 in the school unit office. Individuals must receive the support of 50 persons on their petition, file it by 5 p.m. Dec. 24 in the unit office and submit associated

paperwork to be put on the April ballot. Members of the school board are an integral part of conveying the local community's concerns to school officials. Board members also play a role in shaping the institutions that they help oversee through monitoring budgetary matters and voting on educational policies.

In other news, Okaw Valley mourned the passing of one of its teachers this month. Elementary educator, Sharon Rhoades-Wicker, passed away Sept. 7. Her 15-year career came to a close, but her legacy con-

tinues to live on. As per the family's request, memorials have been sent to the Okaw Elementary School for the purchase of classroom technology that will aid in the development of young minds. District officials have set up the Sharon Wicker Memorial Fund which currently holds enough resources to purchase five iPads for the use in the elementary school. Those wishing to express their condolences through donations are welcome to do so to Okaw Valley schools.

## Absentee voting, early voting and grace period registration/voting

Registered Voters who are not able to vote on Election Day November 6, 2012 are able to vote before that date either by Absentee Voting or Early Voting in the County Clerk's office, 10 S. Main, Sullivan.

**Absentee voting:** September 27 through November 5, weekdays between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with the Clerk's office remaining open until 5 p.m. on the last day of Absentee Voting.

**Early voting:** October 22 through November 3, weekdays between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with Special Sat-

urday hours on the last day of Early Voting. A voter must present valid identification when voting, but does not have to have an excuse to participate in either of these methods of voting.

**Grace period registration/voting:** October 10 through November 3, weekdays between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with Special Saturday hours on the last day of Grace Period Registration/Voting. Grace Period is an extension of regular registration in which a person may register to vote or transfer their registration due to a

name change or an address change. This method of registration is available only in the County Clerk's office during regular office hours; and if a person wants to vote in the upcoming Election, they must vote at the time of Grace Period Registration. Registration requirements: U.S. Citizen; 18 years of age by Election Day; resident of your precinct 30 days prior to Election Day; two forms of identification, one showing current address.

Special Saturday hours for absentee/early voting and grace period registra-

tion/voting only will be Saturday November 3, between 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the County Clerk's office.

The last day a signed absentee application can be accepted in the Moultrie County Clerk's office, for an absentee ballot to be mailed, is Thursday, November 1.

If you have any questions pertaining to Absentee, Early or Grace Period voting, please call the County Clerk's office at 728-4389.

## Training on law enforcement response to domestic violence Oct. 10

Nationally recognized law enforcement and domestic violence educator, Mark Wynn, is coming to east central Illinois for a workshop Oct. 10. Lead by the 5th and 6th Judicial Circuit Family Violence Coordinating Councils, many agencies have come together to bring Lt. Wynn to the region to focus community attention on law enforcement response to domestic violence. This event is planned to coincide with national Domestic Violence Awareness month.

Wynn's life's work is testament to his commitment to guarantee individual

civil rights as he motivates his audience to look at domestic violence through the eyes of a 20-year public servant and a 10-year survivor of domestic violence. The

Nashville Scene magazine said: "...what may make Mark Wynn so good at his job is his sense of righteous indignation? It is simply part of his character."

There is a chilling similarity, Lt. Wynn deftly shows, between the power and

Continued to Page 5



### Elect Jeremy Richey State's Attorney

- Criminal Law Trial Lawyer
- Former Assistant State's Attorney

[Electrichey.com](http://Electrichey.com)

Paid for by Friends of Jeremy Richey.  
A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections is (or will be) available on the Board's official website ([www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov)) or by purchase from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, Illinois.

**Jeremy A. Moxley**  
jeremy\_moxley@kcsommers.com  
Cell: (217) 246-7813



117 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Mattoon, IL 61938  
(217) 234-8863 

## TUNNEL OF TRADITION

### ATTENTION ALL SULLIVAN

### FOOTBALL LETTERMEN

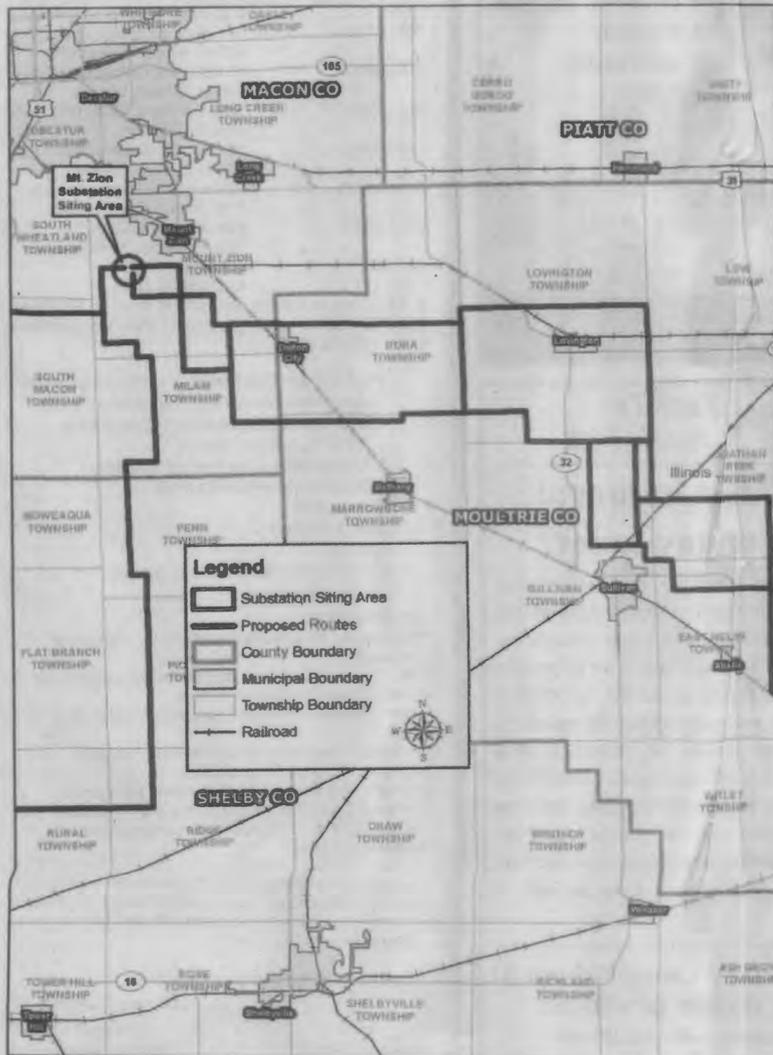
**MEET AT THE NORTH END  
OF THE FIELD FOR THE  
HOMECOMING GAME TO  
CHEER ON THE TEAM!**



**SEE ROGER  
& RICHARD  
GLAZEBROOK**

Learn more now at [ILRiversTransmission.com](http://ILRiversTransmission.com) or call 1.800.229.9280.

FOCUSED ENERGY. For life.



## A new electric transmission line to deliver reliable and cost-effective energy

The Illinois Rivers Transmission Project will improve reliability, provide more access to renewable power and bring economic benefits to our area. And your opinion is vital as this initiative takes shape. At our open house, you can learn about the need for this new transmission line, share your thoughts on best possible routes and get answers to your questions.

**American Legion  
11 a.m. -2 p.m. October 3  
8 East Strain Street  
Sullivan, Illinois**

**Allerton** from 6

of interpretive hiking trails, many natural areas including the Sangamon River, floodplains, lowland and upland forests, a meadow and a 30-acre demonstration prairie. What it doesn't have – at least any longer – is a gift shop nor a restaurant. Both are noteworthy for Monticello businesses to take advantage – with the park located just outside of the community.

Allerton Park has been around for decades and open to the public since the late 1940's when the family donated the Piatt County facility and farm to the University of Illinois. Generations have visited and have always been fascinated by the park. It may have even been some time since you last visited – so taking your children or grandchildren to the park again might again create great memories.

In the meanwhile, the open door policy Allerton presents in listening to ideas and suggestions from businesses and the community is encouraging – not that it hasn't always been that way – but a new emphasis on cooperation can't hurt either Allerton Park, Monticello or even historic neighbor Bement. Monticello does have a lot to offer with a beautiful downtown square area, a great variety of restaurants as well as offering a variety of shops and other businesses. Getting newcomers and tourists into town doesn't ever hurt and may open some people's eyes to visit more often a community that is far different than most other towns in East Central Illinois.

Working together to attract more visitors and events in Allerton and Monticello is a plus and can benefit both with the right promotional efforts. Sometimes we take things for granted - that may have been the case in recent years for Allerton Park and Monticello. What are the chances of getting 200,000 visitors next year or even more? This is a facility that could draw those kind of tourism numbers and more, but the key word is cooperation. Ideas are welcome.

**New Cisco water tower to be dedicated Saturday**

The Village of Cisco will be hosting a ribbon cutting at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22 at the site of the new elevated storage tank on the corner of North and Sherman.

The ribbon cutting will be followed by lunch at the Cisco

Center, 330 N. Eldon St. Lunch will be served by the staff of the Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies, Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) that aided the village with the project. The village will be celebrat-

ing the addition of the new elevated water storage tank that provides an additional 25,000 gallons of water storage and increases the water pressure throughout the village. This project started in

2008 with a community wide income survey to determine their eligibility for an Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity CDAP grant that provided the funds for constructing the new tank.

**Latest in improvements**  
 This is the newest addition to the Village Water Works, preceded with a new water plant constructed in 2003. The Village of Cisco invites all residents to enjoy this event.

**Bement officially closes well project**

By AMANDA JEAN  
 Journal-Republican correspondent

Larry Johnson of Foth presented Bement Village President, Mollie Stevens, paperwork that completed Well Project #4 at the Sept. 12 board meeting.

The board authorized Stevens to sign the documents several months ago. The Well Project #4 documents stated that the project has been completed, the grant money was spent and there will be a future public hearing.

The public hearing will allow the public to ask questions, comments and any concerns. A date has yet to be determined for the hearing.

Johnson also presented the board with an itemized sched-

ule for the water tower recoating process.

If the weather cooperates, Johnson expects the project to be done by the end of October. Weather conditions that might delay the project is high winds and rain. The workers plan to work every day, including weekends.

The board chose "Sour Grape" as the color for the lettering on the water tower. Sour Grape is a shade of purple and was selected 20 years ago when the water tower was painted.

Village Trustee Bob Stevens reported that there are extra funds available in the Garbage fund. He brought up the possibility of having a second clean-up day in October. The board will vote on it at next month's meeting.

**MTA presenting 'Foreigner'**

Tickets will go on sale on Sept. 21 for "The Foreigner", the MTA Fall production to be held at the Phoenix Theatre. Dinner theatre will be offered on Oct. 13 and Oct. 20. Those tickets must be ordered and paid for by Oct. 5. Dinner will start at 6:30.

Tickets for the play only at 7:30 on Saturdays will also be offered at a reduced rate for advance sales or at the door on performance evenings.

Tickets for the play on Sunday, Oct. 14 at 2:30 and Friday, October 19 at 7:30 can be paid for in advance at a reduced price or obtained at the door on performance dates. There will be no dinner theatre on these two dates.

For further information, go online to [www.monitcellotheatre.org](http://www.monitcellotheatre.org), or call Liz Mortland (762.9041) or Edwina Finet (762-9249) for details.

Tickets can be purchased on-line at the website.

**Prescription Drug Take-Back Day**

Walgreens is teaming up with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and local police departments to provide communities across Illinois with an opportunity to safely dispose of unused or expired medications. The fifth National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day happens from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29. Residents can drop off their unused medications free of charge at the Walgreens located at 108 N. Market in Monticello.

To find other Walgreens locations taking part, visit [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback).

"The importance of a drug take-back day is greater than removing unwanted or unused

drugs from a person's household," said Samantha Murphy, District Loss Prevention Manager at Walgreens.

Flushing medications down the toilet or throwing them in the trash threaten the safety and health of humans, pets, and the environment.

Recent studies have found a wide-range of pharmaceutical chemicals in rivers, groundwater, and drinking water throughout the country. These chemicals can kill bacteria needed to break down waste in sewage plants and harm fish and other wildlife. Storing unneeded medicines in the home is also the cause of thousands of accidental poisonings in children and pets each year.

"Pharmaceutical stewardship is based on proper use, storage, and disposal of medications. Single-day medicine take-back events like this one are a great way to prevent accidental poisonings, reduce drug abuse and diversion, and limit negative impacts on our environment," said Laura Kammin, pollution prevention program specialist at Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant.

This is the fifth DEA-led pharmaceutical collection day held since 2010. In that time, more than 1.5 million pounds of medication have been collected by law enforcement agencies and community partners nationwide.

For more information, visit [www.unwantedmeds.org](http://www.unwantedmeds.org).

Doors/Windows  
 Insulation  
 Basement  
 Finishing

Porch Repair  
 Handyman Services  
 Mold & Lead  
 Removal



*Professional Improvements*

Custom Building • Remodeling • Restoration • Repairs  
 (217) 762-8000 (217) 369-8534

Wind, Water, and Fire Damage Repair Specialists

50 Years of Experience in the Building Trades

Proud Member of  
 Monticello Chamber  
 of Commerce and  
 The Better Business  
 Bureau



**Savings on Hotpoint Laundry**

HTWP1200DWW  
**Washer \$399**  
 • 3.5 cu.ft.  
 • Power rinse



HTDX100EDWW  
**Dryer \$399**  
 • 6 cu.ft.  
 • 3 heat settings  
 • 4 cycles



**ARMSWORTH APPLIANCE**

205 W. Center, Monticello • 762-7121

M-F 8am-5:30pm • Sat. 8am-Noon • WE INSTALL & SERVICE WHAT WE SELL

We accept Visa, Mastercard & Discover - Financing Available

**ROAD RUNNER LOUNGE**  
 MONTICELLO, IL

**NOW OPEN SUNDAYS!**

**THIS WEEK AT ROADRUNNER**

**FRIDAY NIGHT!**  
 Freestyle Acoustic  
 9pm to 1am

**SATURDAY NIGHT!**  
 DJ/Karaoke! 8 to Midnight

**MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL**  
 All Domestic Buckets 5/\$11 and 49¢ Wings

**TUE** - Bloody Marys \$3

**WED** 5/\$5.50 Keystone Buckets

**THUR** - Craft Sample Day all Crafts \$3

219 W. Washington :: Monticello :: 631.1019  
[www.roadrunnerlounge.com](http://www.roadrunnerlounge.com) :: facebook: RoadRunner lounge Monticello  
 Hrs: Sun Noon to 10pm :: Mon-Thu 3pm to Midnight :: Fri 1pm to 1am :: Sat 11am to 1am

**PRATT HOME IMPROVEMENT**

Your local home improvement experts for  
**ROOFING SIDING WINDOWS**

**15% OFF**  
 Now through  
**September 30<sup>th</sup>**

**(217) 621-5176**  
 Monticello  
 Jim Pratt, Owner

A new electric transmission line: delivering reliable and cost-effective energy

Look for map of proposed routes in future ad!

**Please join us for an open house - because your input matters.**

The Illinois Rivers Transmission Project will improve reliability, provide more access to renewable power and bring economic benefits to our area. And your opinion is vital as this initiative takes shape. At our open house, you can learn about the need for this new transmission line, share your thoughts on best possible routes and get answers to your questions.

**Community Building**  
 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Wednesday, October 3, 2012  
 105 E. First Street, Hammond, IL 61929

Learn more now at [ILRiversTransmission.com](http://ILRiversTransmission.com) or call 1.800.229.9280.



FOCUSED ENERGY. For Life.

Code: IRT

1145158