



Circleville Herald

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January 9, 2009

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS



Susan Hardman (seated) assists Darcy Johnson and Thomas Hollingshead with paperwork at the Pickaway County General Health District. Beginning this week, the department will be closed on Fridays until further notice due to budget constraints.

TRISH BENNETT/Circleville Herald

Cost-cutting begins

County agency shortens hours to meet budget

By TRISH BENNETT
STAFF WRITER

The Pickaway County General Health District took a painful step this week, cutting its hours of operation in the hopes of averting even more painful steps in the future, according to Tammy Ayers, director of operations.

The health department, located at 465 E. Ohio St., will be closed to the public on Fridays until further notice. Ayers said the department, which receives no money from the county government, has experienced a drop in revenues.

"Hopefully this is short-term," Ayers said of the cutbacks. "But the board of



Tammy Ayers, director of operations for the Pickaway County General Health District, posts a notice about the change in hours for the health department.

TRISH BENNETT/Circleville Herald

health decided on some measures we could take to reduce our expenses and still accomplish to fulfill our mission of protecting and improving the public health."

Initially, the measures

involve changes that will most dramatically impact the 13 employees of the health department, including a wage freeze, an increase in the employee share of health insurance costs and the implementation of a four-day, 32-

New hours

Until further notice, the Pickaway County General Health District will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The department is now closed on Fridays.

Hours of operation for the WIC program will not be affected by the change. The WIC office is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Both offices are located behind PICCA at 465 E. Ohio St.

hour work week.

"If things continue to get worse, other measures may be put in place," Ayers said. "For now, though, we want to make sure we're still open, we can

See Cutting A2

Projects aim for economic development

Intermodal 'has greatest potential'

By AARON R. WALTHER
STAFF WRITER

Economic progress is a goal of any community and Pickaway County is looking to the future with select projects aimed to drive job growth and attract new business.

One of those projects, the Norfolk Southern Rickenbacker



GREEN

Intermodal Terminal, has the potential of creating 15,000 to 20,000 jobs in 20 to 30 years, said Nate Green, economic development director at Pickaway Progress Partnership.

Progress Partnership, or P3 as it is sometimes known, is the economic development agent for Pickaway County and has three main goals — attracting new businesses and marketing, supporting existing industries, and product development, Green said.

The terminal, located in the northern part of the county, is a train-to-truck facility where cargo can be offloaded from trains directly onto trucks for distribution throughout the area.

"I've worked on that project since I have been here," Green said. "It has the greatest potential for economic growth in Pickaway County."

The Rickenbacker Intermodal Terminal is part of Norfolk Southern Railroad's Heartland Corridor Project that aims to improve the shipping route between Norfolk, Va.,

See Projects A2

Chamber looks to expand role

By AARON R. WALTHER
STAFF WRITER

The Pickaway County Chamber of Commerce will be taking a bigger role in economic development in 2009 in an effort to attract new businesses and retain ones already established.



ELSEA

Another is Network and Education Roundtables held the last Wednesday of every month. The roundtables will serve a two-fold purpose by

small businesses," she said. "Our focus will be on small business and trying to find ways to support them."

Some of the ways the Chamber is helping businesses or those wishing to start their own business include having a small business consultant available twice a month to educate entrepreneurs and explain different opportunities available to them.

Another is Network and Education Roundtables held the last Wednesday of every month. The roundtables will serve a two-fold purpose by

See Chamber A2

Obama: Economy needs government money

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FAIRFAX, Va. — President-elect Barack Obama warned of dire and long-lasting consequences if Congress doesn't pump unprecedented dollars into the national economy, making an urgent pitch Thursday for his mammoth spending proposal in his first speech since the election.

"In short, a bad situation could become dramatically

worse" if Washington doesn't go far enough to address the spreading crisis, the Democrat said as fresh economic reports showed an outlook growing increasingly grim.

Since his November election, Obama has deferred to President George W. Bush on foreign policy matters such as the Middle East. But, with the worsening of the economic situation, Obama has waded deeply into domestic issues as

he works to generate support for his plan to create jobs and jolt the economy into recovery.

In the speech at George Mason University outside Washington, Obama asked Congress to work with him "day and night, on weekends if necessary" to pass a



OBAMA

revival plan within the next few weeks so that it can be ready for his signature shortly after he takes office on Jan. 20. The U.S. Conference of Mayors said the president-elect's audience included several mayors, among them those from Akron and Columbus in Ohio.

As Obama spoke, his economic advisers were on Capitol Hill to brief Democratic lawmakers on

details of his economic plan. Senate Finance Committee members met privately to assess his proposals. The Senate Democratic caucus planned a late afternoon meeting, followed by a news conference by Majority Leader Harry Reid and other caucus leaders.

The president-elect cast blame on "an era of profound irresponsibility that stretched

See Obama A2

Obama officially next president

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama is the next president of the United States, Congress declared Thursday in fulfilling its duty to certify and tally the electoral college vote from each state.

Obama and next Vice President Joe Biden received 365 electoral votes while the Republican ticket of John McCain and Sarah Palin had 173 votes.

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Deaths

Ruby M. Arnold, 74
Lisa MacFadden, 42
Joyce Ann Ramey, 60

Home Delivery

474-3131 or 474-1041

News tips

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Kenny Valentine**
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Circleville Herald Community

Chamber

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providing not only networking opportunities, but educational opportunities as well, Elsea said.

Others include the Business after Business program, which is strictly a networking opportunity, on the first Tuesday of every month, and the Leadership Pickaway Program, a seven-month program designed to help people build leadership skills, Elsea said.

Even though the faltering economy has been a big issue for many, Elsea says she is hearing a lot of optimism and feels businesses in the area will survive.

"I think the economy has had the same impact here locally. From small businesses to major employers, they're all feeling something, from a minuscule pinch to a slap," she said. "A lot of business owners have been here before and they'll weather the storm again."

"I think the economy has had the same impact here locally. From small businesses to major employers, they're all feeling something, from a minuscule pinch to a slap. A lot of business owners have been here before and they'll weather the storm again."

—Amy Elsea, president of county's Chamber of Commerce

The Pickaway Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization whose mission is to support, advocate for and promote businesses in the county. Currently, there are about 325 members, Elsea said.

For more information call 474-4923 or visit www.pickaway.com.

Projects

Continued from A1

and the Midwest, Green explained.

Because of this link to Norfolk, Green is hopeful the future will bring new jobs in logistics, management, operations, inventory and warehouse work.

In addition, planning has begun to build a road from the terminal directly to U.S. Route 23.

About \$400,000 has been made available for the Rickenbacker Intermodal East-West Connector.

Transportation Study through the efforts of Sen. Sherrod Brown and George Voinovich, along with a grant from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and money from the county.

The first phase of the transportation study has been completed, Green said, and the rest should be finished by the middle of next year.

"Ideally, the road will be built in three to five years," he said. "It will open up the area and give us an opportunity to attract new businesses."

The March 2010 shutdown of the 167,000 square-foot RCA Thomson facility was "a huge boost to Circleville and Pickaway County," Green said, but in April of 2008 a national developer came in and purchased the property.

As part of its closing on the property, Industrial Realty Group signed a lease with Le Gourmet Chef, a retailer of kitchen products, to house its national distribution center there, Green said. Le Gourmet Chef currently employs about 35 people, he added.

But the long-range plan, Green said, is to better utilize all that space and develop the area into an industrial park with the potential of creating 1,500 to 2,000 jobs in 10 to 15 years.

Another project Green hopes brings new business to the area is the P3 LEED

P3 has also secured \$400,000 in Environmental Protection Agency grants for an environmental assessment project in Circleville.

Certified Industrial/Warehouse Building in Ashville.

P3 received \$1 million from the state, half of the money from a grant and half from 12,000 square foot "green" building, Green said.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building rating system is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings, according to the U.S. Green Building Council.

The building will provide a 40 percent to 50 percent reduction in energy costs, Green said, through such features as water efficient fixtures, low VOC emitting building materials and zoned heating and cooling systems.

"We hope to have it ready to lease in February or March and already have some leads to lease that space out," Green said. "Our intent is to help smaller companies in Pickaway County and Ohio grow."

P3 has also secured \$400,000 in Environmental Protection Agency grants for an environmental assessment project in Circleville.

The money, Green said, will be used to assess environmental problems at various sites in the city, such as old gas stations, to see if they could be used for future development.

"The goal is to take these sites that may have environmental problems and turn them into job-generating sites," Green said.

Obama

Continued from A1

from corporate boardrooms to the halls of power in Washington." But he added, "The very fact that this crisis is largely of our own making means that it is not beyond our ability to solve."

"I don't believe it's too late to change course, but it will be if we don't take dramatic action as soon as possible," he said.

Obama laid out goals of doubling the production of alternative energy over three years, updating most federal buildings to improve energy efficiency, making medical records electronic, expanding broadband networks and updating schools and universities.

"It's a plan that represents not just new policy but a whole new approach to meeting our most urgent challenges," Obama said.

Still, his remarks shed no new light on the details of his plan that could cost as much as \$775 billion over two years in tax cuts and spending. And, he said little about the unprecedented red ink and rising debt confronting the government, even after spending days reassuring the public and Congress that he is committed to tackling long-term deficits after the economy rebounds.

The speech marked Obama's highest-profile effort yet on an issue certain to define and dominate his early presidency. It was the fourth day in a row that he had made a pitch for a huge infusion of taxpayer dollars to revive the sinking economy he will inherit from Bush.

Throughout his remarks, Obama painted a stark picture, including double-digit unemployment and \$1 trillion in lost economic activity — that recalled the days of the Great Depression in the 1930s.

But he expressed confidence the country could meet the challenge, saying: "We are

still the nation that has overcome great fears and improbable odds. If we act with the urgency and seriousness that this moment requires, I know that we can do it again."

The economic news is, indeed, grim.

Consumers and companies are folding under the negative forces of a collapsed housing market and a global credit crunch. The recession, which started in December 2007, already is the longest in a quarter-century.

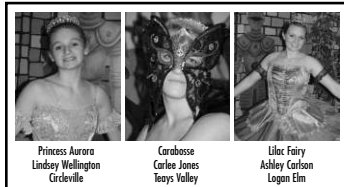
A report that came out the same day as Obama's speech showed that the number of people drawing jobless benefits rose last week to the highest level since 1982, demonstrating the troubles the unemployed are having in finding new jobs.

And broader unemployment figures due out Friday are expected to show that the U.S. lost a net total of 500,000 jobs in December. That would bring 2008's total job losses to 2.4 million, the first annual job loss since 2001 and the highest since 1945, though the number of jobs has more than tripled since then.

Obama's events have increasingly taken on the trappings and air of the presidency. Thursday's speech was a particularly showy move. Presidents-elect typically stick to naming administration appointments and otherwise staying in the background during the transition period between Election Day and Inauguration Day, but Obama has clearly made the calculation that a nation anxious about its economic outlook needs to hear from him differently and more frequently.

Speaking a day after the release of a stunning new deficit estimate — that the federal red ink will reach an unexpected \$1.2 trillion this year, nearly three times last year's record — Obama acknowledged some sympathy with those who "might be skeptical" of the stimulus.

Throughout his remarks, Obama painted a stark picture, including double-digit unemployment and \$1 trillion in lost economic activity — that recalled the days of the Great Depression in the 1930s.



Princess Aurora, Carobesse, Lilac Fairy, Lindsey Wellington, Carlee Jones, Ashley Carlson, Pickaway County YMCA Dance Academy, Leays Valley, Logan Elm

Pickaway County YMCA Dance Academy performs the Sleeping Beauty Ballet

The Pickaway County YMCA Dance Academy presents Tchaikovsky's fairytale ballet, 'The Sleeping Beauty,' on January 17th. There will be two shows at the Westfall High School auditorium, 2PM & 7PM. Our dancers have been preparing for their winter performance for many weeks now. And, it promises to be magical.

We've put our own spin on the Tchaikovsky's ballet so that all of our dancers could take part in the performance, from age 3 to 18. Our students come from many area schools. Our lead roles for these performances are: Princess Aurora is Lindsey Wellington, a sixth grader at Circleville; Carobesse is Carlee Jones, a senior at Leays Valley; Lilac Fairy is Ashley Carlson, an eighth grader at Logan Elm's Middlewood. We are pleased to announce that our Prince Shaposh is Corey Carey, a junior at Circleville.

We hope that you'll join us. Contact Julie Hardin for ticket information, 477-6099

Table with columns for Broadcast Stations, Cable Stations, and Program Listings for Friday, January 9, 2009. Includes channels like WYV, WWS, WTV, WOSU, WISN, WYHO, A&E, AMC, ANK, BRNO, CNN, CNBC, COM, E! News, ESPN, FOX, FX, GOLF, HALL, HGTV, HST, LIFE, MTV, NEOGO, NICK, SCI FI, TBS, TCM, THT, TLC, TNN, TNT, TVG, USA, VH1, W, WGN, WISN, WYHO, and various program titles and times.

Cutting

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still keep everybody here and still provide the services to our residents."

Ayers said she is not certain what additional measures would be, but the goal is to keep as many services as possible intact.

"To be fiscally responsible and better positioned for the economy in 2009, we need to take these steps now," Ayers said. "The economy is very unpredictable, and we're not sure yet how many more cuts we're going to make."

Surprisingly, the unstable housing and construction market has taken its toll on the health department's revenue, since much of the department's yearly income is generated through fees for site evaluations and permits.

"For instance, we've only

reached 35 percent of our projected revenue in the sewage program," Ayers said. "If people aren't building houses, they don't need sewer services, and that has strongly impacted our budget."

The state deficit also has impacted state subsidies which help fund the local operation, she said.

"We've already received cuts in some subsidies and grants," Ayers said. "If the state deficit continues, they're telling us things may be reduced by 25 percent, so we'll have to continue to monitor our revenue and expenditures very closely."

Though considered a county agency, the Pickaway County General Health District receives no direct funding from the county, according to Jay Wipfel, commissioner.

"We provide office space and pay the utilities for the health department," Wipfel said. "By

law, we're required to do that. But the health department doesn't receive any funding through the county's general fund budget."

Wipfel said he does not foresee other county agencies having to cut service hours in the year ahead.

"We talked about going to four 10-hour days a while back, but we decided against that," he said. "It wouldn't have saved that much money, and with us having to serve the public, it just didn't make a lot of sense for us."

Ayers said even with the reduced hours of public operation, the health department will continue to respond to public health emergencies no matter when they may occur.

"Law enforcement and emergency management can still contact us whenever they need to," she said. "That will never change."

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