



Circleville Herald

TUESDAY
September 2, 2008

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contributing editorial cartoons

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Plane crash in county kills 3 people

By **TRISH BENNETT**
STAFF WRITER

Cargo plane headed to Rickenbacker

LOCKBOURNE — A commercial cargo plane heading for an emergency landing Monday never made it to the runway at Rickenbacker International Airport and crashed in a corn field near Shepard Road in northern Pickaway County.

All three people on board the empty twin-engine 1956 Convair 580, owned by local cargo transporter Air Tahoma,

died in the accident, according to Dwight Radcliff, Pickaway County Sheriff.

"One person was thrown out of it, and the other two perished inside the plane," Radcliff said.

Dead are Urs Andereeg of Miami, James Monahan, 57, of Plantation, Fla., and Sean Gardiner, 41, of Miami.

The Federal Aviation Administration was trying to determine which of the victims

was the pilot.

Radcliff said early reports indicate the aircraft was being worked on for mechanical problems before taking off from the Rickenbacker airport. The pilot turned the plane back and asked for immediate clearance for an emergency landing on a runway, but the plane went down before making it back to the airport.

Maureen DeFelice, a neighborhood resident, said she wit-

nessed the crash and immediately called 9-1-1.

"I was pulling out of the driveway and saw it flying just barely over the treetops," she said. "I thought, 'Oh, no, that plane isn't going back up.' Then it went down into the field, and there was an instant explosion and flames."

Bill Plants, another area resident, said he ran through the field to the crash site immediately

See **Crash A2**



TRISH BENNETT/Circleville Herald
Firefighters from eight departments were called to northern Pickaway County following the airplane crash Monday.

Sonic opens to long lines

Customers show
at 4:30 a.m.

STAFF REPORTS

Greeted by a line of potential customers parked along Court Street as early as 4:30 a.m. Sunday, Nicholas Saint began his first day as general manager of the Sonic Drive-In in Circleville.

While the actual opening wasn't until later Sunday, the new restaurant at the intersection of South Court Street and Crites Road stayed busy. Sonic Carhops have been serving up food and signature favorites since

1953.

"Sonic has a very prominent place in the annals of drive-in history," said Bruce Hillmertz, owner of the local facility. "Not only did Sonic develop innovations in the drive-in concept, but it is one of the few remaining drive-in chains left in America. ... Carhops still deliver food prepared-to-order right to your car."

The restaurant offers burgers and malts, plus signature items such as extra-long cheese coney and chocolate cream pie shakes.

It is the first restaurant for Saint, a U.S. Army veteran who served in Iraq.

"I am very excited, and can't believe the response here," he said.

Sonic will be open 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays, 6 a.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays.

The Circleville facility employs 63 workers.

Business news

Mexican restaurant opens in Wal-Mart Plaza.
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THIRD-GENERATION BARN BURNS



DAVID AMEY/Circleville Herald

Three fire departments worked to control the barn fire Saturday off state Route 104.

Fire kills 4-H project, destroys historic barn

One hog dies, 1 cow injured on Saturday

STAFF REPORTS

A third-generation barn came down quickly in a fire of unknown origin Saturday morning, destroying a 4-H project hog and injuring two 4-H project cows and a firefighter.

"The barn held plenty of memories," said John Stevenson, State Executive Director for Ohio's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and former Pickaway County Commissioner.

Killed in the blaze on Stevenson's state Route 104 property was a 4-H project hog owned by Thomas Hartsock.

The Hartsock family also



DAVID AMEY/Circleville Herald

Firefighters sift through the remains of an old barn to douse hot spots.

had an International tractor and two Angus cows in the barn. While both animals escaped, one was singed and had to be taken to a local veterinarian for treatment.

A firefighter also was treated for a burn to his arm.

"We were in the process of replacing the roof," said Stevenson, who said spring winds had torn off sections of the roof of the hay loft of the

two-story structure. "We had plywood and shingles in place on the ground, but they were not damaged."

Stevenson, whose residence is about 100 yards from the barn, said the fire burned quickly.

After the flames were extinguished, he used his front end loader to clear the smoldering debris from the area to assist the firefighters.

Council to vote on tax breaks for businesses

Plan expected to boost jobs in the city

By **WAYLON STRICKLAND**
STAFF WRITER

Circleville City Council has a full agenda for tonight's regular meeting, including a vote on a plan to give income tax breaks to businesses which is expected to boost jobs in the city.

The proposed "Job Creation Incentive Program" has been in discussion for about a month as Council hammered out the details.

It was drawn up by economic development director Nate Green, who has said the plan is essential to attracting business and helping the community to grow.

Under the program, a company locating in Circleville or an existing company that expands could be eligible for up to a 75 per-

City council meeting

When: 8 p.m. today
Where: City Hall on South Court Street.

cent refund of the employees 1.5 percent income tax withholding paid to the city.

To be eligible, companies must create a minimum of 10 new jobs that pay at least 175 percent of the federal minimum wage, which is about \$12 an hour.

A company creating 10 to 25 new jobs would get a 25 percent credit for three years; creating 26 to 75 new jobs would result in a 50 percent credit for five years; and creating 75 or more jobs would result in a 75 percent credit for five years.

Council is considering giving the same deal to businesses who relocate to Circleville and are required to pay the 1.5 percent net profit

See **Council A2**

Leader of the band



Mia Shea-Torres leads Ohio State alumni band members through one of the four Script Ohio's performed during halftime at the Ohio State game Saturday. Mia, the daughter of Jean Shea of Circleville and a 1985 graduate of Circleville High School, was assistant drum major at Ohio State in 1989-90.

NANCY RADCLIFF
Circleville Herald

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Good Day, Dorothy Walsh

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Ohio briefs

Bellingham company recalls salmon

BELLINGHAM, Wash. (AP) — A Bellingham seafood company is recalling 4-ounce packages of smoked salmon with pepper that were distributed in seven states. The recall of "Cracked Pepper Style Smoked Salmon" lot number 54933-2 made by Trans-Ocean Products Inc. was announced Friday. According to a Food and Drug Administration news release, the presence of listeria monocytogenes was found by the company in routine testing of a one package. No illness has been reported.

Eastern Ky. officer, wife killed in crash

ASHLAND, Ky. (AP) — An eastern Kentucky police officer and his wife were killed in a motorcycle accident in eastern Ohio. Ashland Police Sgt. Charles "Chuck" Leadingham and Denise Leadingham died when their motorcycle crashed on Interstate 77 near Marietta, Ohio on Saturday. The 44-year-old Leadingham was a 20-year veteran of the police department. The 42-year-old Denise Leadingham was an employee of the Federal Correctional Institute in Summit, Ohio.



The Church of God on Nicholas Drive is spending more than \$200 a month on truck rentals and gas so it can pick up food for its food pantry. The church is hoping someone will donate a box truck for the food pantry service.

Church seeks truck for food pantry

By TRISH BENNETT STAFF WRITER
Rising costs and a falling economy have not only created additional clients at area food pantries, but also have created additional strain on the pantries trying to serve the increasing need. That vicious circle has led the Church of God on Nicholas Drive to seek the donation of a box truck to help with its food deliveries. "We have to rent a U-Haul truck every two weeks to go to Columbus and pick up food,"

said Gene Kerns, director of the pantry. "It's getting to the point that it's costing us \$200 to \$300 a month just to rent the truck and put gas in it. We could really use our own truck." The pantry, in operation for at least seven years, has already served 10,557 people in Pickaway County this year. "We're seeing more and more all the time," Kerns said. "We had 24 new faces last week who hadn't been there before who signed up. The week before, we had seven new ones, so that's more than

30 just in the past couple of weeks." The church would like to find someone willing to donate a 24 to 26-foot box truck for the pantry's use. "There's got to be a truck just sitting around not doing anything," he said. "If anyone has one out there, we could sure put it to good use." The Church of God's food pantry uses guidelines set by Pickaway County Job & Family Services to qualify for assistance, Kerns said. Anyone needing help may contact the church directly to complete

the paperwork. "We were doing pretty good with U-Haul until the first of the year," he said. "Then, they were charging us 50 cents a mile plus rental. Now it's a dollar a mile plus rental. When you start adding that up, you see where you're at." Anyone interested in donating a truck for the pantry may contact Kerns at 474-2266. "We just need something that will let us get what we need and still be able to serve some people," he said.

Advertisement for Circleville Herald featuring the headline 'Your Life is Full of Action' and images of people. It includes a call to action: 'Click HERE to See and Buy Photos' and the website 'www.circlevilleherald.com'.

Crash
Continued from A1

after the accident, but the flames kept him back from the wreckage. "It all broke apart," he said. "The wings and tail were on one side, and the fuselage was out behind it. The corn wasn't burning, but that plane had to hit a quarter mile away or more from where it stopped.

There's a long black streak through the field between where it hit and where it ended up." Plants' wife, Brenda, said she constantly worries about low-flying planes in the area. "When they come over here, they fly so low, it scares me to death," she said. The accident is being investigated by the Ohio State Highway Patrol with assistance from the Rickenbacker

Airport Police and the Pickaway County Sheriff's Department. The explosion set off a grass fire which had to be controlled by eight area fire departments. Rickenbacker-based Air Tahoma flies often to the Philippines, Vietnam and the Caribbean, and also contracts with FedEx. The plane was headed to Mansfield in northern Ohio, Federal Aviation

Administration spokeswoman Elizabeth Isham Cory said. One of two crew members died in another Air Tahoma crash in 2004 near Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport in Hebron, Ky. More details of Monday's crash will become available as the investigation continues. — Staff Writer Trish Bennett can be reached at 474-3133 or bennett@circlevilleherald.com

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2
BROADCAST STATIONS: WCMH, WSVX, WBNS, WTTE, WOSU, WSFJ, WWHO, CABLE STATIONS: A&E, AMC, ANIM, BRAVO, CMT, CNN, COM, EI TV, ESPN, ESPN2, FAM, FNC, FOOD, FSPO, GOLF, HALL, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, MTV, NGE0, NICK, SOCFI, TBS, TCM, TDC, TLC, TN, TNT, TOON, TRAV, US, VH1, WE, WGN, PREMIUM STATIONS: DISN, HBO, MAX, SHOW

Council
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tax to the city. If a company doesn't stay in business or leaves Circleville before the term of the individual agreement is reached, the business must repay the entire amount of incentive payments. The proposal calls for Council to approve or deny entry into the program on a case-by-case basis and would require companies to invest the reimbursed money in local projects, such as capital investment or workforce development.

Council also is scheduled to vote on allowing the city service department to apply for state money to reconstruct Spring Hollow Road. Service director Terry Elliott has said outside funding is the only way to fix the street, which would include replacing water and sewer lines as well rebuilding the street. The total cost of the project is estimated at just over \$1 million. The city is seeking a grant for \$350,000 and a long-term, no interest loan for \$435,000 from the Ohio Public Works Commission. The city would cover the remaining 24 percent of the

project cost, about \$247,000, if the grant and loan are awarded. The city turned down funding from OPWC in 2006 to do the work because it would have required a local match of 49 percent, about \$435,000. Council will also consider the purchase of property at 722 S. Washington Street for about \$40,000 from the Savings Bank. The land is adjacent to the city transportation garage and is the last piece of property on the block the city doesn't own. — Staff Writer Waylon Strickland can be reached at 474-3133 or wstrickland@circlevilleherald.com

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