



Circleville Herald

TUESDAY
August 7, 2007

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A6

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INFORMATION**

B1

6 miners trapped in collapsed Utah mine

By PAUL FOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HUNTINGTON, Utah — Hundreds of rescuers broke through walls of rock Monday in a desperate race to reach six coal miners trapped 1,500 feet below ground by a cave-in so powerful authorities initially thought it was an earthquake.

Hours after the collapse, searchers had been unable to contact the miners and could not say whether they were dead or alive. If they survived, a mine executive said, they could have enough air and water to last several days.

Miners starting an evening shift joined the rescue effort.

"We're going to get them," said Robert E. Murray, chairman of Murray Energy Corp. of Cleveland, a part owner of the Crandall Canyon mine. "There is nothing on my mind right now except getting those miners out."

The mining crew was believed to be about four miles from the mine entrance. Rescuers were working to free the men by drilling into the mine vertically from the mountaintop and horizontally from the side, Murray said. Officials estimated that drilling vertically could take three days.

If they are able to open an old mine shaft, Murray said, rescuers believe they can get within 100 feet of where the men are trapped.

"The idea is to get a hole into where they are," Murray said. "They could be in a chamber 1,000 feet long or they could be dead. We just don't know right now."

Doug Johnson, director of corporate services at an affiliated company, UtahAmerican Energy, said rescuers had made "decent progress," but they were not much closer to the men.

See MINE A2

County approves tax break for Rickenbacker area

By WAYLON STRICKLAND
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Local officials are using their powers in an attempt to lure business to the Rickenbacker area in northern Pickaway County.

The Pickaway County Board of Commissioners yesterday approved a blanket agreement granting a 100 percent, 15-year real property tax abatement for 610 acres of land in Harrison and Madison townships owned by the Columbus Regional Airport Authority (CRAA), which manages Rickenbacker International Airport.

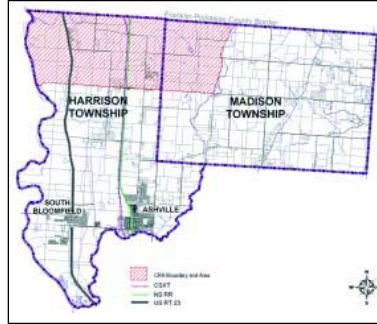
The 610 acres, known as the Rickenbacker Global Logistics

Park Intermodal Campus, is adjacent to Norfolk Southern Railroad's Intermodal Terminal, currently under construction in Harrison Township.

"This is truly an historic day as it will allow Pickaway County to capitalize on the growth opportunities in the logistics sector that have been witnessed by our neighbors in central Ohio over the past decade," said Glen Reeser, president, Pickaway County Commissioners.

The CRAA land is part of the 7,250 acre Northern Industrial Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) in Harrison and Madison Townships formed by the commissioners in July 2006.

See BREAK A2



The Pickaway County Commissioners approved a 100 percent, 15 year tax abatement for 610 acres of land owned by Columbus Regional Airport Authority in Harrison Township within the 7,250 acre Pickaway County Northern Industrial Community Reinvestment Area, shaded in red.

Submitted



Matthew Forte/Herald

Charlie Watts looks through his freezer where he keeps pie crusts and raw pies until the day he sells them. All his pies are baked the morning of the day they're sold.

Watts whips up pies for roadside sales

By MATTHEW FORTE
HERALD STAFF WRITER

LEISTVILLE — The pies sold quickly Monday afternoon so Charles Watts wasn't in Leistville long.

Watts, 36, and his mother, Margery, set up shop selling pies at the intersection of state routes 56 and 159 Wednesday through Sunday, 2 p.m. until 7 or the pies run out.

He usually sells about 25 each day. Normally Watts takes off Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, but since it rained Sunday, he took that day off and sold Monday.

He started making and selling pies last year as a way to make some extra money. They sold a lot

better than he expected and he started Charlie's Pies.

Watts makes cherry, peach, apple and pecan pies. By request he'll also make lemon meringue, banana cream and coconut creme pies and there is canned rhubarb in his basement.

After putting the pie together he freezes it raw. Then he bakes them the morning they're sold.

The freezing speeds up the process for him "Otherwise, I'd have to get up at 3 in the morning and start making them and then bake them," he said.

Freezing is one of Watts' shortcuts. He also cans his Jonathan and Granny Smith apples, which he buys locally.

See PIES A2

Montana fire crews brace for hot weather

By SUSAN GALLAGHER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SEELEY LAKE, Mont. — Residents who fled a large wildfire burning in southwestern Montana were briefly allowed to return Monday to check on their homes and gather belongings as firefighters braced for worsening weather.

Some 675 homes have been evacuated and more than 28 square miles have burned since the fire near Seeley Lake began Friday about 50 miles northeast of Missoula. The cause was under investigation.

More than 200 firefighters arrived to help the 70 already assigned to the blaze. Dry lightning was a possibility for Monday night, and humidity was expected to drop Tuesday, creating hot and dry conditions.

Firefighters were taking the unusual step of building containment lines in advance of the fire, rather than attacking it from the sides.

So far, one house has been destroyed and another damaged. A commercial building and seven outbuildings were also damaged.

Missoula County Undersheriff Mike Dominick said a few people chose to remain despite the order. Montanans tend to think of themselves as self-sufficient and some "believe that their resi-

dence won't be affected or that they can fight the fire," he said. Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer declared a state of emergency Sunday. More than a dozen large wildfires were active in the state.

A wildfire north of Thompson Falls in northwest Montana had charred an estimated 40,000 acres, or 62.5 square miles, by Monday morning.

Cool temperatures and favorable wind in California helped crews battling a huge wildfire in Santa Barbara County that was more than a month old and had flared during the weekend. Evacuation orders remained in effect for a handful of areas.

Southwesterly wind was moving the fire into wilderness and away from homes and buildings, fire spokesman Jim Lopez said.

That wildfire, in mountainous Los Padres National Forest about 100 miles northwest of Los Angeles, had covered about 67,000 acres, roughly 105 square miles. It was 68 percent contained Monday morning, with full containment expected Sept. 7, Lopez said.

A fire in a remote area of Michigan's Upper Peninsula pushed past fire lines and grew to about 14,000 acres or 22 square miles amid windy, dry weather with temperatures in the 80s, the state said Monday.

QUICK INDEX

Deaths

Anna Belle Creager, 86
Carl D. Spires Sr., 63
Brittany Nicole Steele, 11

Home Delivery

474-3131 or 474-1041

News tips

474-3133

Key

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**Good Day,
Homer
Dean**

Thank you
for subscribing
to
The Herald

North Court detour continues through week

By KEITH ARNOLD
HERALD STAFF WRITER

The City of Circleville Department of Public Utilities is expected to continue repair of a water leak under North Court Street between state Route 188 (Northridge Road) and Montclair Avenue through Friday.

However, a Public Utilities official said Monday the work may not take as long as expected.

A utility crew had anticipated having to cut through the steel rails of the former Scioto Valley Traction Co. It is believed the track lies beneath the modern street surface in the vicinity of the problem area.

But, the line was not located in either area where the street had to be excavated.

End result is work may be complete before the Friday deadline, an official said. Otherwise, work is scheduled daily this week from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Keith Arnold/Herald

From left, crew members Mack Wietelmann, Tom Bristow and Josh Anderson observe backhoe operator Kenny Parker's work as the project to stop a leaky water line progresses Monday afternoon, while light traffic moves through the detour in the background.

Northbound traffic should turn right onto East High Street left onto North Pickaway Street, and left onto state Route 188; this will put motorists back onto North Court. Southbound traffic should turn left onto state Route 188, right onto Pickaway and right onto High; the next

street is North Court.

Motorists are advised to call the Department of Public Service at 477-8224 with questions or concerns.

— Staff Writer Keith Arnold can be reached at 474-3133 or karnold@circlevilleherald.com.

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Circleville Herald | World

Break

Continued from A1

"Locations such as Indianapolis, Memphis and Louisville, places that we compete against for these operations on a regular basis, are pulling out all the stops to attract new jobs," said Robin Holderman, CRAA Vice President of Real Estate. "Location decisions are often determined by pennies on

the dollar cost differences. "This agreement allows us to effectively vie with our competitors for these projects and retain and create jobs in central Ohio."

A compensation agreement with Teays Valley Local School District will implement a 30-year tax increment financing (TIF) agreement to compensate the schools for the tax abatement.

A TIF is an economic development mechanism used to

finance public infrastructure improvements and, in certain circumstances, residential rehabilitation, according to the Ohio Department of Development. It works by locking in the taxable worth of real property at the value it holds at the time the authorizing legislation was approved. Payments derived from the increased assessed value of any improvement to real property beyond that amount are directed towards a separate fund to finance the construction of public infrastructure defined within the TIF legislation.

For the first 15 years of the TIF agreement, 100 percent of the payments will go to Teays Valley Local School District to make up for a 30 percent loss from the 15-year abatement. In the second 15 years of the 30-year TIF, the school will receive 60 percent of the TIF payments, with the remaining 40 percent going back to the county to be disbursed to county programs such as senior and veterans services and MR/DD, as well for public infrastructure improvements in the area. No tax exemptions will be allowed to commence after 2020 and will not extend beyond 2042.

"With 40 percent, everyone will be getting their fair share, maybe more, and be involved in economic development in the county," Reeser said.

"This agreement will bring positive attention to the area and shows that the county is willing to provide financial incentives to be competitive in attracting business," said Terry Frazier, director, Pickaway County Office of Development and Planning.

With the blanket tax abatement in place, the commissioners approved an agreement with Hyperlogistics Group to become

the first company to locate in the Rickenbacker Intermodal Campus.

The company plans to relocate to Pickaway County from its current location in Obetz. Approximately 40 jobs and \$1.4 in payroll will be transferred from the Obetz location. They plan to buy 29 acres of land in the CRA and build a 407,000 square foot warehouse and distribution facility.

"We are very pleased to welcome Hyperlogistics Group to Pickaway County and work with CRAA to create new job opportunities for residents of Pickaway County and central Ohio. We've been hit hard by globalization and now we have the challenge to rebuild our industrial base," said Reeser.

Founded in 1973 as Midwest Distribution Services, Hyperlogistics provides many services, including warehouse and distribution services, transportation services, outsourced production and warehouse personnel, kitting, assembly and point of sale displays, and fulfillment services.

"We are very excited to locate in Pickaway County and be the first business to locate in the Rickenbacker Global Logistics Park's Intermodal Campus," said Geoff Manack, co-owner, Hyperlogistics Group. "Locating next to Norfolk Southern's Intermodal Terminal will allow us to serve our customers more efficiently than ever before and capitalize on new business opportunities. This is a major change in emphasis for us. We are becoming an import warehouse with the global movement of goods."

—Staff Writer *Wayton Strickland* can be reached at 474-3133 or wstrickland@circlevilleherald.com.



Matthew Forte/Herald

Besides the intersection of state routes 56 and 159, Charlie Watts also sells homemade pies from his home at 7280 Tarlton Road.

Pies

Continued from A1

At one time, Watts will fill 75 quart-size jars.

He gives his customers stamped postcards with his address so he can receive their comments — all but one are positive.

Someone's lemon meringue pie had water dripped on it.

Margery said it was probably a piece of ice they use to keep the pies cool when selling them.

"If she had included her name and address on the postcard we would have refunded her," she said.

People interested in homemade pies made locally can stop and see Watts Thursday through Sunday, 2-7 p.m. in Leicestershire or stop at his house at 7280 Tarlton Road.

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Circle Lions Club Recognizes Community Support

Sight saving is the primary objective of the Circleville Lion's Club, but scholarships to deserving Pickaway County seniors are another. Without the financial support of individuals and businesses throughout Pickaway County, we could not achieve our goal.

The Following Business Contributed To Our Success:
 Upper Landsdowne Golf Club

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Dave Smith Team	Snyder Family Chiropractic Team	IOOF Team
Louis Weigand Team		Keith Young Team
Earl Palm Appraisal Services Team		Terry Campbell Team

Scramble 2008 date is June 26, 2008 98842

Minn. bridge replacement on fast track

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A plan to replace the bridge that collapsed into the Mississippi River last week is on the fastest of fast tracks: State officials want the span open by the end of next year, and contractors interested in the job must contact the state by dawn Wednesday.

State officials have an ambitious schedule to award contracts to replace the bridge next month, even as search crews remained stymied in their efforts to recover at least eight missing victims from the depths of the Mississippi River. Five people are confirmed dead.

A brutal winter could throw the state's rapid reconstruction schedule off. But other conditions are favorable — including a construction industry with plenty of available resources to take on such a daunting challenge.

"It is doable. It is a bit fast, but this is an emergency," said Khaled Mahmoud with the Bridge Engineering Association in New York. "And if we are ever good at anything, it's responding to emergencies."

It took only seconds Wednesday night for the eight-lane, 1,900-foot steel truss Interstate 35W bridge, which opened in 1967, to collapse. Three days later, the state had already begun looking for companies interested in erecting a new bridge in just 16 months.

Crisis grows; Sunnis boycott Cabinet

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's political crisis worsened Monday as five more ministers announced a boycott of Cabinet meetings — leaving the embattled prime minister's unity government with no members affiliated with Sunni political factions.

Meanwhile, a suicide bomber killed at least 28 people in a northern city, including 19 children, some playing hopscotch and marbles in front of their homes. And the American military reported five new U.S. deaths: Four soldiers were killed in a combat explosion in restive Diyala province north of the capital Monday, and a soldier was killed and two were wounded during fighting in eastern Baghdad on Sunday.

The new cracks in Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government appeared even as U.S. military officials sounded cautious notes of progress on security, citing strides against insurgents linked to al-Qaida in Iraq but also new threats from Iranian-backed Shiite militias.

Despite the new U.S. accusations of Iranian meddling, the U.S. and Iranian ambassadors met Monday for their third round of talks in just over two months. A U.S. embassy spokesman called the talks between U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and his counterpart, Hassan Kazemi Qomi, "frank and serious."

But it was al-Maliki's troubles that seized the most attention.

Israeli, Palestinian leaders hold talks

JERICHO, West Bank (AP) — In their first meeting on Palestinian soil, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Monday he hopes to launch negotiations "soon" on establishing a Palestinian state, his clearest promise yet to tackle a final peace deal.

The trappings of the three-hour session were perhaps as important as the content.

Olmert became the first Israeli leader to visit a Palestinian town after seven years of bloody fighting, and Israeli and Palestinian security forces worked together to protect him, blocking all access to the five-star hotel in the biblical oasis of Jericho where the meeting took place.

Abbas, in turn, gained some stature by hosting Olmert, at least symbolically leveling the uneven relationship of occupier and occupied.

Yet despite the good will, the two sides have very different ideas about what should happen next.

Flight delays worst in at least 13 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. flight delays are at their highest level in at least 13 years, and analysts say fliers can expect more of the same for the rest of the summer.

The Department of Transportation on Monday said the industry's on-time performance in the first six months of the year was its worst since 1995, the earliest period for which the agency has comparable data. In June, nearly a third of domestic flights on major U.S. airlines were late.

Part of the explanation for the worsening delays is that demand for air travel is rising, both on major airlines and on smaller regional carriers. In addition, the government said weather-related delays in June were up 7 percent from a year ago.