



Circleville Herald

TUESDAY
July 31, 2007

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RESULTS**
B2

Intermodal gets Earnhart Hill water

By **WAYLON STRICKLAND**
HERALD STAFF WRITER

LOCKBOURNE — Work on the Rickenbacker Intermodal took a major step forward yesterday with the completion of a water line project to supply the area.

Earnhart Hill Regional Water & Sewer District (EHRWSD) recently completed the North Pickaway Duvall Area Water Line Extension Project. This project will supply potable water and fire protection service to the Norfolk Southern Intermodal Facility and the Northern

Pickaway County Joint Economic Development District (JEDD).

"This is a unique project, and I hope Pickaway County people realize this is for them," said Rep. David Hobson, R-Springfield. "I was in favor of this project as long as it didn't destroy the county and helped keep the county's identity and services."

At a cost of \$1.3 million, the 24" water line extends from a connection point at Alum Creek Drive at the Franklin County/Pickaway County line, southeast to the intersection of Ashville Pike and Alum Creek Drive. The project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget

according to Dennis Williams, EHRWSD general manager.

From this intersection, an 18" water line extends east along Alum Creek Drive for approximately 6,500 feet to the intersection of Lockbourne Eastern Road and south along Ashville Pike for approximately 8,000 feet to the intersection of Duvall Road.

"This project represents being one step closer to making mid-Ohio the premier logistics area in Midwest. This is an example that regionalism can work," said Glen Reeser, president, Pickaway County Commissioners.

See **INTERMODAL A2**

Rep. David Hobson (right) opened the valve on a new water line to serve the Rickenbacker Intermodal development area. Also on hand were Lt. Col. Matt Orenstein, acting commander, Huntington district, U.S. Corps of Engineers and Dennis Williams, general manager, Earnhart Hill Regional Sewer and Water District.

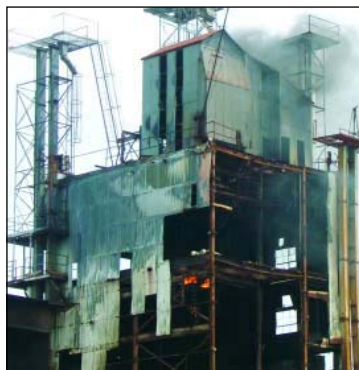


Waylon Strickland/Herald



Waylon Strickland/Herald

An aerial crew work to extinguish burning rubber at the former Purina Mill Monday.



Waylon Strickland/Herald

Flames are evident in the upper level of the mill.

Demolition crew ignites Mill fire

By **WAYLON STRICKLAND**
HERALD STAFF WRITER

The former Purina Mills site on South Court caught fire Monday afternoon as a demolition crew worked to tear down the structure. At 3:14 p.m., Circleville Fire Department responded to the scene.

Black smoke, caused by burning rubber, rose from the highest remaining part of the structure, but the fire was contained.

The cause of the fire was accidental, according to Circleville Fire Chief Tim Tener.

Two men were in the structure using cutting torches to remove metal when they inadvertently began cutting on a rubber conveyer belt, which sparked the fire.

"There were two men in the structure. Initial reports were that they were trapped, but thankfully they were not. They were able to climb out themselves," Tener said.

Two units from Circleville Fire Department, as well one each

See **DEMOLITION A2**

Allen Koker named VFW teacher of year



Submitted

Allen Koker of Westfall School District was named Pickaway County Teacher of the Year by VFW post 3331. From left VFW Post 3331 Commander Terry Brown, Allen Koker, VFW Post Quartermaster Gary Hempker.

By **MATTHEW FORTE**
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3331 selected a teacher in the Westfall School District (WSD) in the middle of his teaching career as Pickaway County Teacher of the Year.

Allen Koker, 41, teaches Career-Based Intervention, a satellite program of Pickaway-Ross Career and Technology Center (PRCTC), at Westfall High School.

Koker has taught for 16 years, starting in Athens County teaching adapted physical education for the mental retardation development disabilities agency there.

For three years he taught physical education at the former Jackson and Monroe elementary schools in WSD.

Koker started his current job in 1995. As part of the PRCTC satellite program, Koker is an employee of the vocational school, but works at the high school.

The program works with between 20 and 27 at-risk students and concentrates on teaching life skills, Koker said. For two periods a day, he teaches on interviewing, resume writing, banking and taxes. If a student needs tutoring help for the Ohio Graduation Test, Koker

helps with that too.

"Basically, I work with 20 to 25 kids who just need help," he said.

After being in school for a couple periods, students go to work in the community where they receive school credit. Koker talks with the students' bosses and students are graded on their job performance.

From 1996 to 2000 Koker was Westfall's head basketball coach and is an assistant volleyball coach. For the last seven years Koker has acted as student counsel advisor.

Koker will serve in a role this school year — Westfall athletic director.

He earned his bachelors in physical education and health from Ohio University in 1990 and his masters in athletic administration in 2005 from OU.

"I really enjoy working with the students I have," he said. "It's an honor to see students who may not have graduated, then you see them go across that stage. That's what makes it all worthwhile."

"I would also like to thank VFW Post 3331 for their contributions to education in Pickaway County. It was very nice to see all the scholarships they gave out the night of the banquet."

— Staff Writer Matthew Forte can be reached at 474-3133 or mforte@circlevilleherald.com.

Program aimed at stemming kids in sex trade

COLUMBUS (AP) — Authorities must do more to ease the flow of children forced into prostitution and other jobs by making local law enforcement, parents and others more aware of such activity, federal and state officials said Monday.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is teaming up with state and local officials in Ohio — the 21st such coalition nationwide — to identify and help victims of human trafficking, said Maureen Lydon, the agency's regional director.

In addition to law enforcement, dozens of government and private service agencies around the state are joining the effort, Lydon said at a

**Good Day,
Michael
Spriggs**
Thank you
for subscribing
to The Herald

QUICK INDEX

Deaths

Charles D. Rideout, 76
April Sparks, 72
Charles W. Warner, 92

Home Delivery

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News tips

474-3133

Key

2 Sections, 12 Pages
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Classified / B3-4	Opinion / A4
Comics / B5	South Central / A3
Daily Advice / A6	Sports / B1
Lifestyles / A6	Stocks, grains / A5
Lottery / A5	Weather / B3
Obituaries / A5	World / A2

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See **PROGRAM A2**

Circleville Herald | World

Stand Up n Sing! Vocal Competition

Preliminaries will be on **August 25th at 10:00 a.m. at the Nazarene Church, 2264 Walnut Creek Pike**

All types of family friendly music accepted. SOLO auditions only (Sorry no groups or duets.)

Obtain entry forms and rules by sending self addressed stamped envelope to: **2007 VOCAL COMPETITION**
c/o 6133 Ludwig-Dresbach Road, Circleville, OH 43113

Registrations will also be accepted at the door until 10:00 a.m. Entrants must live in Pickaway, Fairfield, Franklin, Fayette or Ross County, and must be at least 16 years old or older.

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Intermodal

Continued from A1

A \$992,000 grant from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, with the remaining \$343,000 coming from Earmhart Hill, funded this project which provides potable water service and 3,500 gallons per minute fire flow to the northern portion of Pickaway County bounded by U.S. 23 on the east, Walnut Creek Pike on the west and Duvall Road on the south.

"This is not a pork barrel project. We're about improving quality of life," said Hobson.

The water line will be owned and operated by EHRWSD and the potable water to supply via the extension will be purchased via a master meter from the City of Columbus, Division of Water.

For the past two years, the city of Columbus, Harrison

Township, Madison Township, the Village of Ashville, and Pickaway County have been working together to develop the Rickenbacker area and attract jobs to Central Ohio through the formulation of the JEDD. The historic JEDD agreement could spur the creation of an estimated 69,000 new jobs and \$9 billion in new capital investment over the next 30 years for the area around Rickenbacker Airport.

The first phase of the Norfolk Southern Intermodal facility will bring investment of \$33 million and create up to 300 jobs. The new infrastructure will assist in the development of the Heartland Corridor Project, which will increase Norfolk Southern's ability to handle double-stack trains from Norfolk to Columbus. The intermodal is expected to be completed late this year.

Demolition

Continued from A1

from Pickaway and Green Townships responded to the incident.

The demolition crew working on the site is affiliated with property owner Angela M. Smith of Winchester, Adams County, and is currently working without a contractor's license.

The structure sustained heavy damage in a fire in February. The structure as it stands doesn't pose a public safety hazard, according to City Safety Director Terry Elliot, as long as the demolition is done correctly.

"Until we put some teeth into our building codes, there's nothing we can do about the situation," said Councilman David

Martin. "It's frustrating and I don't know what to do about it. We just have to hope there are no more problems."

Other than not having a contractor's license, the crew has been in compliance with city building and safety codes and acquired all necessary permits.

Slow work and mechanical and financial problems have caused the work to progress slower than city officials would have liked and a 90-day deadline for demolition of the site recently passed with the job being only 50 percent complete.

Program

Continued from A1

Statehouse news conference a few feet away from a plaque honoring Abraham Lincoln.

Lydon was joined by U.S. Rep. Deborah Pryce, a Republican from suburban Upper Arlington who has championed the cause in Congress.

Human services and law enforcement officials estimate that 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international boundaries each year, including 14,500 to 17,500 brought into the United States. Many are from Southeast Asia, Latin America, countries of the former Soviet Union and Africa.

"For far too long, we were in denial that it doesn't happen here. Well, folks, we were wrong," Pryce said.

The number of people trafficked into Ohio is not known because the issue is just now being studied. A report on the numbers is in progress and should be released in September, said Jennifer Brindisi, spokeswoman for Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann.

Bush, Brown show common ground

CAMP DAVID, Md. (AP) — President Bush and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown found a unified stand on Iraq Monday, aiming to head off talk of a splintering partnership in the face of an unpopular war.

"There's no doubt in my mind he understands the stakes of the struggle," Bush said of Brown after two days of talks at the tranquil presidential retreat in Maryland's Catoctin Mountains.

The visit was closely watched for any sign of daylight between the president and prime minister after four years of unwavering support by Tony Blair, Brown's predecessor. Blair was saddled with the nickname "poodle" by critics at home he felt he was too compliant with Bush's policies, particularly in Iraq.

Brown told Bush that he shares the U.S. view of gradually turning over security of Iraq to its own people, based on signs of clear progress and advice from military leaders.

"We have duties to discharge and responsibilities to keep in support of the democratically elected government," Brown said of Britain's commitment to Iraq.

Taliban claim to kill 2nd South Korean

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — A purported Taliban spokesman claimed the hardline militia killed a second South Korean hostage Monday because the Afghan government failed to release imprisoned insurgents. Afghan officials said they hadn't recovered a body and couldn't confirm the claim.

The Al-Jazeera television network, meanwhile, showed footage that it said was seven female hostages in Afghanistan.

Militant spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said senior Taliban leaders decided to kill the male captive because the government had not met Taliban demands to trade prisoners for the Christian volunteers.

"The Kabul and Korean governments are lying and cheating. They did not meet their promise of releasing Taliban prisoners," Ahmadi, who claims to speak for the Taliban, said by phone from an undisclosed location. "The Taliban warns the government if the Afghan government won't release Taliban prisoners then at any time the Taliban could kill another Korean hostage."

Glazni Gov. Manjuddin Pathan said officials were aware of the Taliban's claim but hadn't recovered a body. He said police were looking but he couldn't say when they might find anything.

Iraqi parliament adjourns for August

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's parliament on Monday shunned off U.S. criticism and adjourned for a month, as key lawmakers declared there was no point waiting any longer for the prime minister to deliver Washington-demanded benchmark legislation for their vote.

Speaker Mahmoud al-Mashhadani closed the final three-hour session without a quorum present and declared lawmakers would not reconvene until Sept. 4. That date is just 11 days before the top U.S. military and political officials in Iraq must report to Congress on American progress in taming violence and organizing conditions for sectarian reconciliation.

The recess, coupled with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's failure to get the key draft laws before legislators, may nourish growing opposition to the war among U.S. lawmakers, who could refuse to fund it.

Critics have questioned how Iraqi legislators could take a summer break while U.S. forces are fighting and dying to create conditions under which important laws could be passed in the service of ending sectarian political divisions and bloodshed.

Chief Justice Roberts falls near home

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chief Justice John Roberts was taken by ambulance to a hospital on Monday after a fall on a dock near his summer home in Maine.

Supreme Court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg said she did not know how he fell or what injuries he might have suffered. She said he was taken to the hospital as a precaution.

Roberts, 52, bought a home last year in Port Clyde on Maine's Hupper Island. Port Clyde, which is part of the town of St. George, is about 90 miles by car northeast of Portland, midway up the coast of Maine.

The incident occurred around 2 p.m. EDT, said St. George Fire Chief Tim Polky. Roberts was taken by private boat to the mainland and then transferred to an ambulance, Polky said.

Lack of progress undermines U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Slow progress in Iraq is undermining U.S. credibility and emboldening Iran's regional ambitions, says President Bush's nominee to head the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In written answers to prepared questions from the Senate Armed Services Committee, Navy Adm. Michael Mullen said those concerns can be eased by successes on the ground in Iraq. While there's been steady progress on that front, there's been only limited headway in achieving reconciliation among Iraq's political factions, according to Mullen.

Resolving this internal conflict among Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds "remains the precondition to an Iraq that can govern, defend and sustain itself and be an ally in the war on terror," Mullen said in answers to the committee's questions obtained Monday by The Associated Press.

"Achieving progress in Iraq and furthering broader U.S. regional interests are inextricably linked," he added. "Slow progress in Iraq is undermining U.S. credibility and weakening efforts to achieve regional objectives."

Asked by the committee what role, if any, he had in the January plan to send as many as 30,000 additional U.S. forces into Iraq, Mullen said he and the other joint chiefs met personally with Bush and Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

Court-martial begins in Iraqi rape

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) — A Fort Campbell soldier accused of acting as a lookout while his colleagues attacked and killed a 14-year-old Iraqi girl and her family pleaded guilty to some lesser offenses Monday as his court-martial began on rape and murder charges.

Plt. Jesse Spielman pleaded to conspiracy to obstruct justice, arson, wrongfully touching a corpse and drinking.

He still faces trial on the more serious charges in the March 2006 attack on Abeer Qasim al-Janabi and her family. Under military law, a soldier present when a crime occurs can be found guilty if prosecutors can establish that the soldier had prior knowledge.

Three other soldiers have pleaded guilty for their roles in the crimes and received sentences as long as 100 years. Another soldier was discharged from the military before he was charged and could face the death penalty if found guilty in federal court in Kentucky.



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