



Circleville Herald

WEDNESDAY
August 5, 2009

75 cents



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Westfall welcomes superintendent



TRISH BENNETT/Circleville Herald
Jim Brady (center), Westfall superintendent talks with district residents Tuesday at a welcome reception in Five Points.

By TRISH BENNETT
STAFF WRITER

Jim Brady's first days as superintendent of the Westfall Local School District brought a few unexpected complications, but Brady said he is still excited to begin his tenure as leader of the district.

"We had an issue with a hole in the gymnasium roof Monday," Brady said. "They were able to take care of that, though, so the hole's been fixed, the new bleachers for

Brady excited that his tenure has begun

the stadium showed up, and other than that, I've been meeting with staff and administrators. It was a pretty busy first day."

Brady officially took the reins of the district Aug. 1 from interim superintendent Jake Grooms, who was hired in March as a temporary replacement after Randy Cotner resigned the position amid announcements of

painful budget cuts and allegations of computer misuse.

The school board voted to keep Grooms on board temporarily as assistant superintendent on an as-needed basis at its last regular board meeting.

"He'll be on staff to help resolve a variety of different issues he was dealing with as interim," Brady said. "He will also be on call as a resource if

some of these things come to fruition or if I need his input."

Brady said he is ready to meet the challenges facing the district, from projected budget shortfalls to a possible influx of new students from the South Western City School District, which threatens to cut all extra-curricular activities and sports if a bond issue in Tuesday's special election is

See Westfall A2

Time to start thinking about school



NANCY RADCLIFF/Circleville Herald
Anna Crocker, left, helps pass out school supplies Tuesday at the Clothing Center. According to Crocker, director of the Clothing Center, people started to line up outside the store at 5:45 a.m. and when she arrived at 7 a.m. there were at least 20 families waiting in line for the doors to open at 9 a.m. "All the bookbags are gone, we are wiped out of a lot of items," said Crocker. Notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, scissors, rulers, glue, socks and underwear were some of the articles given out. By noon \$1,400 in shoe vouchers had been passed out and by the end of the day 130 families had shopped for school supplies. The center will be open until 3 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday.

Local project may receive \$2M jump start

Bill in Congress includes money for connector

By TRISH BENNETT
STAFF WRITER

The east-west connector project near the Rickenbacker Intermodal facility will receive a \$2 million shot in the arm this fall if Congress approves an earmark in



GREEN

the Senate Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations

bill, according to Nate Green, director of Pickaway Progress Partnership.

"It passed out of the appropriations committee and still has to go to the full Senate for a vote," Green said. "Then the House has to agree, and then it will go to the president for his signature."

If granted, the funds, announced Tuesday by Sen. George Voinovich, will be used for right-of-way acquisition for the construction of the east-west connector, a proposed four-lane roadway stretching three to four miles from the southern end of Rickenbacker Airport to U.S. Route 23.

The \$2 million is just a drop
See Project A2

Council starts work toward balanced budget

By DAVID AMEY
EDITOR

Wheels were set in motion Tuesday to reallocate approximately \$200,000 to keep the city operational for the remainder of the year by Circleville City Council.

First readings of two pro-

posed ordinances crafted by its finance committee to plug the financial deficit were passed by council for next readings at its Aug. 18 meeting. Problem is identifying a source of the money.

With three of its seven members absent, there was little discussion without a quorum of

members present.

The first proposed ordinance "changes the revenue flow," said City Auditor Gayle Spangler. It would authorize a change in the 50-50 split of incoming tax revenue to an approximate 58-42 split to free up the funds.

The second lowers city expenses to accommodate the

change.

The big question left unanswered was where the funds would be transferred from.

"We need to have a decision in the next 30 days," Spangler told finance committee members after dropping the shortfall bombshell last week. "We cannot operate the city in the red."

Finance committee chair Barry Keller and Spangler targeted the city's street department as a potential to quickly make the change.

"Under current economic conditions, it was easiest to take the money from the capital improvement budget because it

See Council A2



Finance committee chair Barry Keller must cut \$200,000 from 2009 city budget



TRISH BENNETT/Circleville Herald
Glenn Reeser updates guests on the state of the county's economy.

Commissioners look for better, stronger future

By TRISH BENNETT
STAFF WRITER

Pickaway County may currently be slashing its budget and tightening its belt, but officials kept their eye on the prize of a better and stronger future Tuesday at the annual county update at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission luncheon hosted by Ohio Christian University.

"We have an excellent team

of county elected officials and department heads who are working together to meet the challenges ahead," said Glenn Reeser, Pickaway County Commissioner. "We have to work through this economy, but not by sacrificing things that lead to a better future."

Reeser made no bones about the dismal state of the current economy that will force the commissioners to slash at least \$1 million in

county expenditures through 2010, the 11.5 percent county unemployment rate or local foreclosure figures that remain on the rise despite a statewide trend in the opposite direction.

Still, he said, the budget cuts will leave \$1.8 million in



WIPPEL

the bank at the end of the year, a comfortable cushion to carry Pickaway County through the first few months of 2010 until property tax revenues come in.

"Some counties will be at zero and will be borrowing money just to make payroll," he said. "We don't want to be in that situation."

While the immediate future holds its challenges, Reeser said the commissioners are concentrating on improve-

ments and development that will lead to growth and job creation in the long-term.

The commissioners also are looking toward the future of its facilities, according to Jay Wipfel, by making moves that will group similar offices together for more efficient operations and will eventually lead to desperately needed upgrades for county agencies.

The priority list, Wipfel
See Commissioners A2



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Irene Woodrum Harter, 72
Ira B. House, 62
Sylvia Jean Lewis, 80

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News tips
474-3133

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Good Day, Ruth Goodchild
Thank you for subscribing to the Circleville Herald

Circleville Herald | Community

Parking scam near State Fair costly

ASSOCIATED COLUMBUS — Vehicle owners complain they're getting conned into parking in the wrong place for the Ohio State Fair and are facing big towing costs.

grounds, say they were flagged down by people who directed them to park there and took \$5 as payment, the same as it costs to park in the fair's parking areas.

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Dorman, Powell speak to Noon Rotary

Circleville Noon Rotary Club President Larry Powell (left) is pictured with Bea Dorman of the American Red Cross and Don McIlroy of United Way.

Project

Continued from A1 in the bucket to the total amount of the project, estimated at \$44 million through the final construction phase, Green said.

Right of way acquisition is anticipated to begin in 2011 and construction is

tentatively scheduled for 2013. "We have no construction dollars confirmed right now, but this gives us momentum to get the project moving forward, Green said.

Commissioners

Continued from A1

said, includes the new dog shelter that was recently completed with nearly \$400,000 of privately-donated money.

"These things do take time and money," Wippel said. "Right now, we have more time than money, but these are our priorities on what we'd like to accomplish."

report on the local push to improve educational opportunities for county residents.

Metzler said programs like Pickaway HELPS (Higher Education Learning Partners for Students) must be a priority in the county, where just 11.4 percent of residents has earned a college degree.

"We need to make people understand the value of higher education and be able to link them to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed," she said.

Break-in attempt results in arrests

3 Columbus men cut open door at Sunoco station

By TRISH BENNETT STAFF WRITER

Three Columbus men were arrested early Tuesday while attempting to break into the Sunoco station on Clear Creek Road in Rockbridge.

Van B. Goble, 30, Shawn K. Holschuh, 27, and Randy S. Holschuh, 30, are charged with breaking and entering, complicity to breaking and entering and possession of criminal tools.

Deputies Barber and Woodgard interrupted the crime in progress when they responded to a call reporting a suspicious person behind the business and spotted a white GMC van parked on the lot.

As they approached, one man fled on foot but was caught by Barber; Woodgard took the other two into custody.

Deputies found the rear door of the business cut open and located a plasma cutter beside the suspects' vehicle. Although the door was heavily damaged, North said the three had not been able to enter the building before deputies arrived on the scene.

The three suspects were transported to the Southeastern Ohio Regional Jail for booking.

Council

Continued from A1

Westfall

Continued from A1

"We don't know what's going to come out of that election yet," Brady said Tuesday. "If it fails, who knows how many students may be coming into the surrounding districts, not just ours."

Currently, Westfall High School has about eight new enrollees from the area and a list of others interested in relocating if the bond issue fails, he said.

Of more immediate concern to Brady, though, is the state of technology at the district that caught him by surprise.

"One thing that has stood out for me thus far is the age of the technology that's available

here," he said. "With the kids of the 21st century so accustomed to their texting and PDAs and their ability to get on a computer with no training and navigate through it with ease, and then to see some of the equipment we have really caught me off guard. I hope there's some way to increase and improve in that area."

Despite the challenges, though, Brady said he is confident he will have a lot of support behind him.

"Every staff member I've met to date has been very welcoming and pleasant, and I think they will be exceptional to Brady, though, is the state of technology at the district that caught him by surprise.

"One thing that has stood out for me thus far is the age of the technology that's available

Television schedule table for Wednesday, August 5, 2009, listing various channels and their programming.

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