



Circleville Herald

SATURDAY
August 15, 2009

75 cents



Values for Living

Dr. Doyne Wiggins discusses "Our God-given rights"

Forum, A4



LE boys place 2nd in invitational

Logan Elm boys golf team finishes second at Bloom-Carroll Invitational. Braves senior Blaine Hardin takes medalist honors with a 72

Sports, B1

Amtrak delays Ohio study

Two-week pause tightens time to get stimulus funds

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS — An Amtrak study on restoring passenger train service among Ohio's major cities will be delayed two weeks, giving the state a tighter deadline to apply for money from President Barack Obama's stimulus package.

Amtrak is juggling new requests and congressional mandates to evaluate service in other states, pushing back its study of trains connecting Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati, agency spokesman Marc Magliari said.

The study's conclusions on ridership, revenue projects and station locations — originally expected at the end of August — figure to play a key part in Ohio's application. State officials working on the project

downplayed the delay.

Other studies demanding Amtrak's time include establishing passenger service in Montana between Billings and Missoula and potentially reopening a line that once ran from St. Paul, Minn., through Montana and onto Seattle, Magliari said.

States are competing to get a slice of \$8 billion in stimulus money that Obama set aside for rail projects in the U.S., which he sees as a down payment for a future high-speed network.

The first round of stimulus applications need to be filed with the Federal Rail Administration by Aug. 24.

Amtrak will deliver a draft of its Ohio study on or about Sept. 15, giving the state about two weeks to put together a bid during a second round of applications due Oct. 2.

"There's a lot to do, and I'm very confident we're going to get it done," said Matt Dietrich, executive director of the Ohio Rail Development Commission, the state agency in charge of submitting the application.

Gov. Ted Strickland's administration is seeking as much as \$400 million in stimulus money to buy railcars, build stations and make neces-

On the Net

Ohio Rail Development Commission: www.dot.state.oh.us/Ohiorail/

See Rails A2

See Rails A2

AGRICULTURAL NEWS IN PICKAWAY COUNTY



With Ohio farmers growing more corn on less land, this picture of Jack and the Beanstalk taken along Hagerty Road is not out of place in Pickaway County.

NANCY RADCLIFF/Circleville Herald

USDA shows high corn yields

STAFF REPORTS

Farmers plant more corn on fewer acres

Farmers are set to produce a record-level abundance of corn for food, feed and fuel use, according to new reports from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The USDA has increased its estimate of corn production and yield with the 2009 crop. If realized, the two numbers represent the second-largest harvest ever in the U.S. and the total corn supply will be the greatest on record.

An estimated 3.2 million acres of corn is likely to be harvested in Ohio this fall, decreased slightly from the USDA's spring estimate of

“ We have gone from 135 bushels of corn per acre to 165 bushels per acre in one year.

— Dwayne Siekman, executive director of the Ohio Corn Growers Association ”

3.3 million acres. But, Ohio farmers are still growing more corn on less land because of increased technology.

While that number has decreased slightly from the estimated planting acre numbers released by the USDA in March, Ohio has increased its

number of bushels per acre by 19 percent. Mild temperatures and adequate soil moisture supplies provided favorable growing conditions that have contrasted with exceptionally dry conditions last year.

“We have gone from 135 bushels of corn per acre to

165 bushels per acre in one year,” said Ohio Corn Growers Association Executive Director Dwayne Siekman. “Family farmers have accomplished this by using 30 percent less fertilizer than they did 20 years ago.

Modern seed and precision planting technologies have made this possible to feed the world with less environmental impact.”

OCGA is proud of the state's growers and is thrilled by these estimates because they reflect a lot of hard work and represent the high pro-

See Corn A2

Ohio Food Policy Council Progress Report

The Ohio Food Policy Council released its progress report, “Bringing Everyone to the Table,” which includes recommendations and details on how the state is maximizing the health, environmental, and economic benefits of Ohio's \$98 billion food and agriculture industry.

“On the second anniversary of the Ohio Food Policy Council, I am proud to acknowledge this group for their progress in planning and recommending best practices for our state's food and agriculture industry,” said Governor Ted Strickland. “This council is doing its part to help support local producers and communities, create jobs, and provide nutritious food to Ohioans.”

The council set 15 final recom-

mendations and eight overarching goals to help improve the local food system in Ohio and advance access to healthy food for all Ohioans. They include:

- * Implement a mobile poultry processing unit in the state.
- * Incorporate the Farm Bill Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program in Ohio elementary schools.
- * Create a directory of existing low or no interest loans, grants, and tax incentive programs available for agricultural businesses focused on local food systems.
- * Increase support of agricultural economic development in the state.
- * Direct resources toward improving the Ohio MarketMaker program to encourage more producer participation that will facilitate

local food business development.

The Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council, created by Gov. Strickland in August 2007, is charged with analyzing food production, processing, and consumption in Ohio; linking producers and consumers in local food systems; and ensuring that citizens in need have greater access to fresh and nutritious food. The council also assists local farmers and businesses to effectively market their products.

The council is a public and private partnership chaired by Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Robert Boggs. Its membership is composed of representatives from government, the food and agriculture industry, and individuals from various regions of the state.

YMCA director moving upward

Westenheffer to be replaced by program director

By TRISH BENNETT
STAFF WRITER

After more than five years as executive director of the Pickaway County YMCA, Paul Westenheffer will move up in the ranks of the central Ohio organization later this month as a district executive overseeing the Hilltop, Canal Winchester and



WESTENHEFFER

Pickaway County branches.

Doug Stickel, currently the senior program director for the Pickaway County branch, will replace Westenheffer at the local helm effective Aug. 28.

“I'll basically be the executive director at Hilltop and retain supervision over the Pickaway County and Canal Winchester branches,” Westenheffer said. “I was the senior program director at Hilltop for about 10 years before coming here, so in a way it will be like going back home.”

In another way, though, he said his departure will be like leaving a little bit of home behind.

“The best part of working here is the relationships and friendships that I've been able to make here, and they're lifelong,” Westenheffer said. “As the reality settles in, this is tough. I feel a part of this community, and it's tugging on the heartstrings quite a bit.”

He said he hopes to leave the county YMCA with a community presence and awareness much better than it was when he arrived, Westenheffer said, one of his main goals when taking the reins five years ago.

“I didn't get the sense in my first six months or so that everyone knew what the YMCA was all about,” he said. “This is such a great community, though, and it embraced me as a new professional as well as the Y. That was worthwhile, because the YMCA and the community have a lot to offer each other.”

See YMCA A2

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2 Sections, 16 Pages

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Good Day, Ethel Galloway

Thank you for subscribing to the Circleville Herald



Circleville Herald | Community

Free flight rally to be held today

SUBMITTED
COLUMBUS — Area young people ages 8-17 will have a chance to take to the skies, weather permitting, today as Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 9 hosts a Young Eagles Flight Rally at Bolton Field Airport, located at 2000 Norton Rd.

The rally is part of the EAA Young Eagles Program, created to interest young people in aviation.

"Free airplane rides are just part of the Flight Rally," said Chuck Hoisington, spokesman for the event. "We hope to build one-to-one relationships between pilots and young people, giving a new generation a chance to learn more about the possibilities that exist in the world of aviation."

Following the flight each young person will receive a certificate making them an official Young Eagle and a color photo. Their name will then be entered into the "World's Largest Logbook," which is on permanent display at the EAA Air Adventure Museum in Oshkosh, Wis.

The Logbook is also accessible on the Internet at www.young eagles.org. Those attending the flight rally are asked come to the airport starting at 10 a.m. to register for their flight. Flights will begin at 10 a.m. with registration closing at 2 p.m.

For further information such as a flyer, requirements including a mandatory signed parental consent and waiver, and more please visit Young Eagles at www.eaa9.org or www.young eagles.org. There is no charge to participate in the program.



Paul Westenheffer will leave the Pickaway County YMCA for a promotion that puts him in charge of three branches.

Revenue short for new game

SUBMITTED

COLUMBUS — The Ohio Lottery's newest game fell far short of revenue projections in its first full year, another blow to Gov. Ted Strickland's plan to balance the state budget.

Strickland said the Keno game would show a profit of \$73 million as a way to prevent deep cuts in education funding. Lottery figures show that the game yielded \$30 million during the 12 months preceding July 31.

The projections assumed that 2,000 retailers would carry the bingo-like Keno game, but only about 1,200 retailers have signed up, said lottery spokeswoman Jeannie Roberts.

Some retailers were reluctant to sign on, preferring to wait and see how well the game caught on. Other factors in the revenue shortfall included the time it took to educate people on how to play the game and the tanking economy, Roberts said.

The announcement comes as Strickland is counting on another gambling plan to prop up Ohio's budget. The governor hopes to raise \$933 million by putting video slot machines at racetracks.

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YMCA

Continued from A1
Westenheffer also is pleased with the site improvements recently completed at the Nicholas Drive facility, making it accessible to more people with its handicap upgrades.

He also takes pride in the successful partnership between the YMCA and the city of Circleville in operation

of the city pool.

"I'm really proud of that relationship," he said. "It's really rare that a non-profit agency and a government agency can come together and pull something like that off without a hitch, but it really has been a smooth operation."

Stickel, who has spent more than a year of his 11-year tenure at the YMCA of Central Ohio at the Pickaway County branch, said he looks forward

to building on the work Westenheffer has done.

"I just want to make sure the transition goes well and we carry on building new relationships and collaborations within the community to serve Pickaway County the best we can," Stickel said.

Jill Puthoff, currently employed by the Hilltop branch, will transfer to Pickaway County to replace Stickel as senior program director.

Corn

Continued from A1
duction many farmers are seeking in their fields, he said.

In addition, the USDA revised estimates of corn demand nationwide. Corn use for 2009 is projected to increase because of the strong supply and lower-than-expected prices.

Despite reduced prospects for livestock production, feed and residual use is raised to 5.3 billion bushels with the higher yield and production expected to add to residual food. Food, seed and industrial use is raised to 5.475 billion bushels with higher expected use for ethanol (4.2 billion bushels) supported by favorable ethanol-producer returns and strong incentives for ethanol blending.

Exports are projected to be 2.1 billion bushels, 150 million bushels more, reflecting reduced foreign production prospects and stronger-than-expected import demand from Mexico and Taiwan. Ending stocks are projected at 1.621 billion bushels (an increase of 71 million bushels) and the marketing-year average farm price is projected at \$3.50 per bushel, decreased 25 cents from the

July report.

The Ohio Corn Growers Association represents the interests of more than 20,000 corn growers in the state. OCGA works in Washington and at the Ohio Statehouse to ensure government participation in legislation is beneficial to Ohio's growers. Farmers provide food, feed and fuel to power Ohio. For more information, visit http://www.ohiocorn.org.

Rails

Continued from A1

track upgrades on existing freight tracks so that passenger trains traveling up to 79 mph can start running in 2011.

About 6 million people live along the 250-mile route from Cleveland to Cincinnati, making it one of the most densely populated corridors without rail service in the Midwest.

Strickland and seven other Midwest governors have decided to coordinate stimulus bids and lobbying efforts, saying a high-speed network would help reduce road congestion and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Under the plan, the Cleveland-

Cincinnati route would be part of a Chicago-based Midwest rail corridor, with trains eventually running up to 110 mph and branches connecting other parts of Ohio.

Despite the delay in Amtrak's study, work continues on other data needed for Ohio's application, Dietrich said.

Norfolk Southern Corp. and CSX Corp., two companies that own most of the rail lines on the route, are reviewing a preliminary analysis of traffic flow so that passenger and freight operations don't conflict.

The state is also developing management plans, Dietrich said. Strickland has estimated that Ohio would need about \$10 million a year to operate passen-

ger train service. Some of the money would come from fees that restaurants, hotels and gas stations pay to advertise on blue highways exit signs.

Private train service from Cleveland to Cincinnati ended in 1971.

Ohio has studied the idea of restoring passenger service throughout the past 30 years, a factor that should help the state as it puts together its application, said Ken Prendergast, executive director of All Aboard Ohio, a nonprofit group promoting passenger rail.

"We know a lot about this route already," he said. "Ohio is more than capable of pre-writing the application and filling in the blanks once they get new data."

Table with columns for SATURDAY and AUGUST 15, listing broadcast stations and their respective programs.

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