



Circleville Herald

SATURDAY
December 8, 2007

50 cents



37/32
For weather details
turn to B4



**LADY BRAVES TOP
TIGERS 58-55**

B1

LOCAL FARM NEWS

B3-4

Area leaders meet with Honda officials

Education key for new sites, automaker says

By **MATTHEW FORTE**
STAFF WRITER

Two officials from Honda of America talked to local and regional politicians about what it takes to attract a large manufacturer.

The auto supplier summit,

organized by State Senator John Carey and held Friday morning, was an educational meeting to discuss Honda's footprint in Ohio and the characteristics of a community Honda officials look for before deciding on a building site.

Honda's American manufacturing is clustered in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, with a growing concentration in the south, in Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina.

In 52 of Ohio's 88 counties there are plants that supply Honda

parts and the Anna Engine Plant is Honda's first and largest engine plant outside Japan, manufacturing 1.2 million engines each year.

Circleville's sites, TriMold and Florida Production Engineering, produce Honda parts, as do plants in Chillicothe, Washington Court



GREEN

House, Jeffersonville and Hillsboro.

Fred Braum of Honda said when looking for a plant site, Honda looks at local school districts' graduation rates and proximity of colleges and vocational schools to determining the work force's education.

Workers with higher levels of education, he said, usually mean more efficient workers.

His example was a Honda supplier downsizing by 30 percent and filling that gap with robots the

company already owned.

Goods are mainly transported by tractor-trailer and by airplane. Railroads aren't used, he said.

Pickaway County Economic Development Director Nate Green said the summit was beneficial for two main reasons.

"It gives us better contact with Honda," he said. "Up until today we didn't have contact with Honda. I will plan a visit to go and visit the Honda plant and may invite the mayor and some commissioners."

Also, Keith Conroy, an expert in attracting Asian businesses, spoke of ways to get in contact with foreign businesses.

Green said talking with Conroy gave him some new low-cost strategies, such as becoming involved in organizations including the Honda and Toyota supplier support networks and the Japan-America Society.

These groups enable business contacts that could lead to a local job site, Conroy said.

'Most fun I've had in ages'

Grandfather, 86, takes deer on hunt

By **MATTHEW FORTE**
STAFF WRITER

Hunting is often a tradition passed from father to son.

John Haimerl Jr. was able to stretch that link a little further and hunt deer with his grandfather Howard Thompson last weekend.

Thompson, 86, a U.S. Navy and Air Force veteran and resident at a Portsmouth retirement community, was able to take a button buck while hunting on a 40-acre piece of farm land outside Tarlton Nov. 30.

A hunter all his life, Thompson said he "was tickled to death to get out. It was the most fun I've had in ages."

Haimerl and Thompson went out at 6:30 a.m. and sat in a deer stand until 9:30, but didn't see any deer. They went back to the stand in the afternoon and at about 4:30, two deer appeared out of the woods.

"I punched John and he whispered 'I see them,'" Thompson said.

He shot one and they drug it out of the woods.

After Thompson spent time with his great-granddaughter, he wanted to purchase a small freezer before being taken back to Portsmouth. He needs somewhere to store the venison.



THOMPSON

Winter's beauty



Nancy Radcliff/Circleville Herald

A fluffy coat of frost adds beauty to the already snow covered trees Thursday morning. The calendar says winter arrives Dec. 22, but whether you like it or not winter has made its presence. For the weekend forecast see **Page B4**.

Storm forces blood drive cancellations

Donors needed to replenish county's supply

By **DAVID AMEY**
EDITOR

Snow and ice across Central Ohio have caused blood drive cancellations and stressed the already fragile supply of blood, according to Bea Dorman, executive director of the Pickaway County chapter of the American Red Cross.

Winter weather conditions over the last week have forced multiple blood drives to be canceled. Five major blood drives, which were expected to collect 235 donations, have been canceled since Tuesday.

The cancellations come at a time when blood donations generally decline because of the busy holiday season, she said. So far this December the Red Cross is down by nearly 10 percent of what it needs to collect to ensure a stable blood supply is available for patients at the 56 hospitals and medical facilities it supports.

"When winter weather causes even a single blood drive to be canceled, that could represent over 100 blood products that could not be collected for the local patients who need it," said Rodney Wilson, spokesperson for American Red Cross Central Ohio Blood Services Region.

"When the community blood supply is compromised, it's everyone's concern," Wilson

Extra incentive

Those who come to give blood in December can enter to win a travel package to the BCS Championship game to watch Ohio State take on LSU, or win a \$2,000 AAA vacation giveaway.

said, "because it could be someone you know, or even you yourself, who might need a blood transfusion next."

The continued snow on Friday further complicated the situation as donors are having difficulty traveling to keep their appointments to donate.

"We want donors to be safe, and urge the public to make and keep appointments to give blood in the coming days," said Wilson.

The Red Cross in Pickaway County will host a blood drive at the Circleville Kroger on Dec. 18 from noon to 6 p.m. and on Dec. 19 at the Community United Methodist Church from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dec. 21 from noon until 6 p.m. at the Harrison Fire Dept and Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 pm at the Saltcreek/Tarlton Fire Dept.

Blood donors of all types are encouraged to give, with a special need for O-negative, O-positive, A-negative and B-negative.

For information on open blood drives, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE, or visit the Central Ohio Region's Web site at BloodSavesLives.org. Blood donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in general good health.

Group collects for animals

By **TRISH BENNETT**
STAFF WRITER

A local animal advocacy group intends not only to make the holiday season bright for homeless dogs, but also to make a new dog shelter a reality in Pickaway County.

Partners for Paws, headed up

by Jeanie McDowell, has launched its "Operation Santa Paws" project to collect new, unused dog toys for the animals being housed at the Pickaway County Dog Shelter. Collection boxes for the new toys are located at the Subway restaurant on Lancaster Pike, the Subway restaurant inside Wal-Mart and

the lobby of the Kroger store.

"Around Christmas time, everyone thinks about their kids and all that, which is great," said Aaron Kerns, a Partners for Paws volunteer. "But people tend to overlook homeless animals that need some attention, too."

See **Shelter A2**

These three puppies are available for adoption at the Pickaway County animal shelter, which faces an overcrowding issue that leads to dogs being euthanized.

Trish Bennett/
Circleville Herald



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Deaths

George L. Aukeman, 77
William P. Roberts Sr., 79

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News tips

474-3133

2 Sections, 16 Pages
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Classified / B5-6
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Lifestyles / A6
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**Good Day,
Scott Skinner**

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