



Circleville Herald

FRIDAY
January 25, 2008

50 cents



30/21
For weather details
turn to B3

Forum

Viewpoint
A4

Lifestyles

Dear Abby
A8

Churches

Area
listings
A7

Sports

Circleville wrestlers defeat Logan Elm
B1

Here's \$10, go help people

School Foundation starts with program to aid community

By TRISH BENNETT
STAFF WRITER

The Circleville City Schools Foundation launched its first community program Thursday with the help of seed money from a donor and Pat Colangeli's freshman honors English class.

The foundation donated \$200 for the students to spend on anything they choose to help the Circleville community.

"The foundation granted my class \$10 per student to go out and try to find a project that would make a difference for our community," said Colangeli. "They could do something individually or team up together and ask for matching funds from businesses. It's really up to the individual student."

She said the students did some brainstorming during Thursday's class and came up with several ideas for how their money could best be spent.

Many of the suggestions, like projects to benefit the American Cancer Society and Ronald McDonald House, stemmed from students' own experiences with family members who required those services. Students could also choose something as simple as helping a family in the grocery store line pay for their bill.

The class project is expected to run through March, although Colangeli said the end date will vary based on the individual efforts. Students will then write an essay about how they used their money to benefit the community.

"These students will learn that a little money, creativity and effort can make a big difference in our community," said

See Schools A2



Nancy Radcliff/Circleville Herald

Right size shovel for the job

It wasn't an enormous amount of snow that fell Thursday, but it was just enough for a little boy to scoop with his little shovel. Brodie, 6, son of Brian and Jeana Routt of Circleville, was busy clearing the snow from the sidewalk in front of his house yesterday afternoon. The weather conditions did cause Logan Elm schools to cancel.

Tax cuts keep Ohio budget in red

2005 reform hasn't worked, experts say

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Tax cuts given to Ohio businesses and individuals as part of a 2005 tax reform package can be blamed for the state's projected budget shortfall, critics of the tax changes said Thursday.

Others took shots at increased spending on Medicaid, the federal-state program that help pays for health care for the needy, disabled and low-income families.

Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland announced Wednesday that projections for the current two-year budget show a shortfall ranging from \$733 million to \$1.9 billion by the end of June 2009, depending

"Where is the economic growth we're seeing from this? Where are the jobs? Where's the income? I think this confirms the inherent wrong-headedness of the tax reform."

— Zach Schiller, research director at Policy Matters Ohio

how the economy fares.

State agencies have been asked to find ways to cut spending.

The tax breaks, which were intended to boost manufacturing investment and give citizens more money to pump into the economy, were adopted by the Republican-controlled Legislature and eagerly embraced by the Strickland administration when it took office last year.

Strickland and House Speaker Jon Husted continue to

defend the tax cuts, blaming the projected budget shortfall on economic factors outside the state's control.

But there is little evidence that the tax breaks have had the desired effect, said Zach Schiller, research director at Policy Matters Ohio, a Cleveland-based economic research organization.

"Where is the economic growth we're seeing from this? Where are the jobs? Where's the income?" Schiller asked. "I think

this confirms the inherent wrong-headedness of the tax reform."

He said the state has lost manufacturing jobs at twice the rate of the country as a whole since the tax breaks began taking effect in June 2005 and that overall employment has been stagnant.

The policies contained in the tax reform package were expected to lower state revenue in the current budget by \$1.3 billion, according to the Department of Taxation. Those policies included personal income tax cuts, tax relief for some businesses and the phasing in of a higher cigarette tax rate and a commercial activity tax.

They also helped lower the state income tax burden for an Ohio family making \$60,000 from \$1,824 in 2004 to \$1,474 in 2008. By 2009, the burden would be \$1,389, a roughly 21 percent decrease since the tax reform was initiated.

Business outlook slow, but improving

Lt. Gov. of Ohio offers support for Pickaway Co.

By WAYLON STRICKLAND
STAFF WRITER

Ohio Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher has pledged to help Pickaway County work on improving economic conditions in the county, but stressed that the rewards of economic development may not be seen for some time.

"Economic development is not for the faint of heart," Fisher said. "There is great news on the horizon, but we are going through tough economic development times."

Fisher, who jointly serves as the head of the Ohio Department of Development, as well as Nate Green, P3 economic development director, spoke about the economic development challenges for 2008 and how Pickaway County can continue to be prosperous in its economic development endeavors.

P3, the economic development agency for Pickaway County and its municipalities,

See P3 A2



Waylon Strickland/Circleville Herald

Ohio Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher visited Pickaway County on Thursday for the first time during his tenure.

No need to come in pairs on Sunday

Local church should be dry for services

By TRISH BENNETT
STAFF WRITER

Cold temperatures caused broken pipes and rising water for Shield of Faith Ministries this week, leaving the congregation praying for a dry-out in time for Sunday services.

"It was quite an experience walking into the church and the

place was flooded," said Ken Roark, pastor of the church at 28840 Logan Elm Rd. "I felt like Noah almost. Thought I'd better build an ark real quick."

Roark said the corner of a half-inch copper elbow blew out in the ceiling of the church's restroom, causing significant flooding throughout the building.

He believes the break occurred when temperatures dropped Sunday night, but the damage wasn't discovered until Tuesday.

"My son likes to play drums, and he went over there Tuesday night," said Roark. "He called

and said there was water everywhere a couple of inches deep."

The water was removed quickly, and Roark said dehumidifiers and air fans are working to dry out the damage so that repairs can begin. He expects insurance to cover the cost of repairing the damage, which includes some ceiling and dry-wall work, as well as replacing carpet throughout the building. The rest of the plumbing will also be inspected to make sure they don't have any more unpleasant surprises.

Shield of Faith Ministries

began seven years ago when eight people began gathering for services in Roark's living room, he said. Since then, the church has grown to more than 65 members, meeting first in Kingston before moving into their new church nearly three years ago.

Roark said he expects services to be held as usual this Sunday.

"We're hoping it will be dried out enough that we can at least get chairs back in there and have services," he said.

He anticipates repair work to be completed within the next five weeks.



Trish Bennett/Circleville Herald

Ken Roark, pastor of Shield of Faith Ministries, says the church should be dry enough for services on Sunday after a water leak earlier this week.

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Deaths

Paul O. Atwood, 82
Karen Sue Fenneken, 56

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News tips

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Good Day,
Donald S. Miller

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