



Circleville Herald

WEDNESDAY
September 26, 2007

50 cents



79/62
For weather details
turn to B6



**TIGERS DEFEAT
TEAYS VALLEY**
B1

**LOCAL STOCKS TAKE
A DIP**
A5

Nursing home boss quits; alleged abuse

RAVENNA (AP) — The administrator of a county-owned nursing home in northeast Ohio where state investigators determined that a frail female resident was sexually assaulted resigned on Tuesday, a county commissioner said.

Portage County commissioners accepted Gary Borrelli's resignation and placed Berea-based Generations HealthCare Management in charge of operations at The Woodlands at Robinson facility.

"Since we are going to use Generations, his services are no longer needed," county Commissioner Chris Smeiles said.

Also, the home's director of nursing, Diane Goodwin, was placed on a paid leave while commissioners continue their investigation into the Aug. 4 assault.

Home numbers for Borrelli and Goodwin could not be found.

Ohio Department of Health investigators visited The Woodlands at Robinson facility in mid-August to look into the abuse allegation and concluded that a male visitor sexually abused the female resident in her room.

The woman has difficulty moving her arms and legs and is forgetful, a state report said.

The health department has recommended that the facility be fined \$4,250 a day and that Medicare and Medicaid funding be cut off for new patients until compliance issues are resolved.

"The allegations and concerns have been distressing," Smeiles said on Tuesday. "We believe that the new management team will work to restore the stellar reputation of the Woodlands."

Authorities have said that criminal charges were being considered in the case. A message was left with the Portage County prosecutor's office Tuesday evening.

City considers pay raises for employees, officials

By WAYLON STRICKLAND
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Circleville City Council is considering raises for the city's non-union employees and elected officials.

Council's Finance Committee discussed two ordinances at last night's meeting, one which would give non-union employees a 1.5 percent raise, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2007, as well as a 2.75 percent raise for 2008.

The other ordinance would give raises to all city elected officials, including city council members and president, mayor, auditor, law director and treasurer.

The proposed raise for elected officials except treasurer would commence in 2008 with a 1.5 percent increase. The three subsequent years, from 2009 to 2011, would see raises of 2.75 percent each of those years. The raise for the treasurer's office would

commence in 2010 and follow the same schedule.

"I believe the auditor and law director are very under paid. Their salaries aren't commensurate with their responsibilities," said Mayor Jean Droste.

The ordinance as originally presented did not include raises for council members or council president, through a recommendation from Finance Committee Chair Barry Keller.

Committee member Bruce Bell motioned to give raises to council members and council president, which was backed by committee member Bob Bensonhaver. In a vote, Bell and Bensonhaver voted 'yes' to Keller's 'no.' The vote amended the ordinance to appropriate raises for council members and president at the same rate, commencing in 2008 and running four years to 2011.

See RAISES A2



Matthew Forte/Herald

Pumpkin Show book for kids put to music

Patsy Lea Artrip and Travis Brown sing a strum Artrip's Pumpkin Show song. The two produced a cd on which Artrip sings the words of her book written last year.

Last year Circleville's Patsy Lea Artrip, right, wrote a children's book about the Pumpkin Show. This year she put the book to music

"I really like the cd because I've had a nice response from kids on the book," she said. "It's not a hard book to read, but it's something they've been to."

The cd features two tracks — both with guitar played by Travis Brown guitar instructor at Hippie Hut. Artrip sings her book on the first track and the second track is just guitar so a child can sing along. The book and cd are available at the Pickaway County Visitor Center, Hippie Hut and Cami's Corner, both on Main Street or at Artrip's Whittier's Corner in Stoutsville.

Lawmakers seek home day care standards

COLUMBUS (AP) — Call it ignorance, denial or trust. But most Ohio parents believe home day cares are policed more rigorously than they are.

Many are alarmed to learn that Ohio is among a handful of states remaining with virtually no oversight of the smallest in-home baby-sitting operations, those that parents often view as the most desirable because they care for between three and six children.

"When you tell parents these facilities aren't inspected and caregivers don't get a basic criminal records check, they're shocked," said Elaine Ward, chief operating officer of Cincinnati's 4C for Children, a referral agency for parents.

Lawrence Hall and his wife, Jennifer Koski, learned the hard way that the facilities weren't monitored. Their 5-month-old daughter, Madelyne, died in 1998 in a home day care where another child had choked to death eight years earlier. Under Ohio law at the time, they were never told of the incident and never thought to ask.

Hall and Ward are among those backing a new bill that calls for the small private home day care operations to be licensed by the state. Getting a license would require a provider to submit to safety, health and home inspections and to pass a criminal background check.

"Will licensing help? Will it make a difference?" Hall asked at a news conference. "I can tell you with 100 percent certainty that it will."

Only four states have looser day care regulations, according to data from the National Child Care Information Center. South Dakota begins licensing home day care facilities that care for 13 children, while home day cares aren't licensed at all in Idaho, Louisiana and New Jersey. In Ohio, home day cares caring for seven or more children must be licensed.

Sen. Steve Stivers and Rep. Jon Peterson, the bill's Republican sponsors, say legislators have worked for years with child care providers and advocates to bring the voluminous proposal together.

PPG Industries donates \$15,000 to Pickaway Progress Partnership

SPECIAL TO
CIRCLEVILLE HERALD

PPG Industries has donated \$15,000 to the Pickaway Progress Partnership (P3) to fund the "Progress to the Power of 3" campaign designed to engage in economic development activities for Pickaway County.

"We are very pleased to receive support from PPG for the campaign," said Nathan V. Green, economic development director, P3. "This funding will help P3 to help Pickaway County create 1,500 new jobs, \$45 million in new payroll and \$450 million in new capital investment in the next five years following a detailed strategic plan."

Green said the plan encompasses efforts in marketing, new business recruitment, support and expansion assistance for existing industry in Pickaway County and special projects.

David Moss, plant manager for PPG's automotive coatings manufacturing facility in Circleville and member of the P3 board of directors, said, "PPG is strongly committed to supporting the communities where its employees work and live. We are proud to support P3 in promoting Pickaway County and encouraging more economic development here."

About Pickaway Progress Partnership

P3 is the economic development agent for Pickaway

County and its municipalities, and a non-profit corporation with a board of directors comprised of public- and private-sector leaders.

It started in 1967 as the Circleville Pickaway Community Improvement Corporation (CIC), a committee of the Pickaway County Chamber of Commerce, then became independent of the Chamber of Commerce in 2004.

In 2006, the CIC board made a strategic decision to do business as the Pickaway Progress Partnership (P3) to better reflect the organization's goals and mission.

P3 has three main objectives: promote and market the advantages of locating business in the county; pro-

See PARTNERSHIP A2

QUICK INDEX

Deaths

Gary Lee Spangler, 54

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News tips

474-3133

Key

2 Sections, 12 Pages
Volume 121, No. 229

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Classified / B3-4
Comics / B5
Daily Advice / A6
Lifestyles / A6
Lottery / A5
Obituaries / A5
Opinion / A4
South Central / A3
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Brad Morris/Herald

Cool shade at Hargus Lake

Circleville's Brad Liston gets some running time in the shade Tuesday at Hargus Lake during the Pickaway County cross country meet. The Tigers prevailed in both races on a summer-like day. For more details, turn to B1.

