



Circleville Herald

THURSDAY
February 5, 2009

75 cents



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For weather details
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Sports

OCU woman breaks school's
single-game scoring record with 44 points

A7



Sports

Logan Elm girls basketball team
defeats Westfall

A10

City Council questions Berger terms

By **DAVID AMEY**
EDITOR

Circleville City Council sent its special attorney back to the negotiation table in the proposed conversion of Berger Hospital from a public hospital to a private, not-for-profit hospital to find out answers on

three key issues:

- Amount of the proposed lease,
- Definition of Berger's 600 North Pickaway Street location as an in-patient facility,
- More details on the voting membership population of the proposed Berger Health

System board.

Armed with a long list of questions, these issues surfaced as potential hurdles after council convened a Committee of the Whole meeting Wednesday night to seek answers and assistance from its attorney Donald Antrim of Dinsmore & Shohl.

"It's council's turn to voice their concerns about the terms," said Council President David Crawford, who instructed council members to tell Antrim what they didn't like or understand about the draft document. "His job will be to make the changes."

At the top of the list of City

Council concerns was the proposed lease fee of \$1 per year, which many members felt was alienating public support.

On a suggestion by Patty Fouch, Antrim will negotiate for a significant increase in the yearly lease payment of the multi-million dollar facility. The money would be used by

the city solely to promote health and wellness of its residents.

Also of concern to council was more specific assurances the facility would maintain its presence in the city as an in-patient facility.

"The city would loose a lot

See **Berger A2**

ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS LEAD TO BLAZE



TRISH BENNETT/Circleville Herald

Captain Eric Edgington, Harrison Township Fire Department, inspects the scene of a house fire Wednesday in Darbyville.

Fire destroys Darbyville home

By **TRISH BENNETT**
STAFF WRITER

A suspected electrical fire Wednesday destroyed a Darbyville home, according to Chief Bill Welsh, Harrison Township Fire Department.

"It's totally destroyed," Welsh said. "They had some

electrical problems in a panel, and it just went from there."

The residence, located at 16528 East Street, was a mobile home with several room additions covered by an outer shell, Welsh said.

The fire spread quickly from the fuse box where the blaze reportedly began, he said.

No injuries were reported in the incident, according to Deputy Todd Fortner, Pickaway County Sheriff's department.

Units from Harrison Township, Scioto Township, Mt. Sterling and Pleasant Township helped battle the blaze, which began at approx-

imately 11:49 a.m., Fortner said.

Both residents and most of their pets escaped without injury, but one cat remains unaccounted for, he said.

The Pickaway County Red Cross has provided assistance to the residents, according to Chief Welsh.

Pickaway economy near 'stable'

Manufacturers in county learned to operate leaner

By **DAVID AMEY**
EDITOR

Compared to the decaying world economy, Pickaway County's woes appear miniscule ... according to Nate Green, Pickaway County Economic Development director.

"We bottomed out in the late 1990s and early 2000s, losing 2,500 jobs, before any one else did," he said at the inaugural networking and education round table sponsored by the Pickaway Chamber of Commerce.

"As a result, the local manufacturing sector learned how to succeed after shedding the jobs, and now is working leaner," he said in his State of Pickaway County's Economy. "That makes our local economy almost stable."

Highlights of last year include the March opening of the Norfolk Southern intermodal terminal, purchase of



DAVID AMEY/The Herald
Nate Green, Pickaway County Economic Development director, delivers an address on the state of the local economy.

the former Thomson facility by Circleville Pickaway LLC, leasing of a 167,000 square foot warehouse by Le Gourmet Chef which created 35 new jobs, and the purchase of the former Wal-Mart facility by Grandview Outlets.

Circleville received a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. EPA to perform environmental assessments on properties in the city to turn them into

See **ECONOMY A5**

Woman declared incompetent

Congrove won't go to trial for shooting husband

By **TRISH BENNETT**
STAFF WRITER

The woman accused of shooting her husband in his sleep on Aug. 10 was declared currently incompetent to stand trial in the case Wednesday in Pickaway County Common Pleas Court.

Donna Congrove, 46, of Circleville, was ordered held for inpatient treatment at Twin Valley psychiatric hospital in Columbus, according to Judge P. Randall Knece.

According to the Netcare

psychiatric evaluation ordered by the court in October, Congrove may be competent to face the criminal charges following prescribed treatment at the facility. By state statute, Knece said, Congrove can be held up to one year at the facility, at which time she will either be competent to assist in her defense or the case will be reevaluated.

Congrove was arrested following the April 10 shooting, which she originally reported as an accident in a 911 call around 2 a.m.

Her husband, James Congrove, was hospitalized more than a month after the shooting. He continues to recover from the injury, according to Det. John Strawser, Pickaway County Sheriff's office.

Congrove pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to the crime after being indicted Oct. 3 by the Pickaway County Grand Jury.

According to Det. Strawser, James Congrove was granted a five-year civil protection order against his wife.

Open house in Commercial Point



TRISH BENNETT/The Herald

Stacey Sark (left), a Scioto Township trustee, talks with Don Metzler at an open house held Wednesday at the township center. The event has become an annual tradition at the Commercial Point-area facility in celebration of Ohio Township Day.



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Deaths

Philip "Dutch" Andrews, 84
Opal M. Draise, 77
Theodore E. Fox, 62

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Good Day, Charles Pockras

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