



Circleville Herald

TUESDAY
December 23, 2008

50 cents



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Economy prompts county budget change

Plan believed to allow flexibility for county finances

By **TRISH BENNETT**
STAFF WRITER

The Pickaway County Commissioners decided to institute a quarterly budget plan for the second time in county history Monday to allow flexibility in an uncertain economy, according to Glenn Reeser, commissioner.

"The rationale is that if you were to appropriate all the funds for all departments at the beginning of the year, which is

the normal process, you don't have any mechanism for taking those funds back if it would become necessary," he said.

The county, which relies on a 1.5 percent sales tax for nearly half its yearly budget, expects that revenue to fall substantially by the third quar-



REESER

ter of 2009.

"It's been holding up fairly well, but it's starting to show some deterioration," Reeser said. "About 20 percent of sales tax revenue comes from vehicle sales every year, almost \$1 million, and vehicle sales in Pickaway County are off about 40 percent from where they were a year ago. I don't think it will be possible for other retail businesses to offset that."

If the sales tax revenue

tapers off as expected, he said, that will be the time for the commissioners to consider reworking the 2009 budget.

"We've estimated what we think we need for the next year, but it's unclear what's going to happen in this economy," Reeser said. "We just want to have the ability to adjust our budget every 90 days if it becomes necessary. It's just a management tool that probably wouldn't even

See **ECONOMY** A2



TRISH BENNETT/Circleville Herald

The economy didn't stop Brad Dixon of Chillicothe from making the trip to purchase a new car from Barbie Wagner at Don Thompson Lincoln Mercury.

"It was one of those things I was determined I wanted during my life, to make sure I got my bachelor's degree. If it's important for my kids to get theirs, then I should have mine."

— **Stacia Conner**

IT'S SUPERMOM

Woman clears 8 lb. 6 oz. hurdle for college degree

By **TRISH BENNETT**
STAFF WRITER

When Stacia Conner entered the final stretch toward earning her bachelors degree from Ohio Dominican University, she thought the timing couldn't be more perfect.

With a baby due Dec. 19, she would have plenty of time to complete her final exam and graduate before the child's arrival.

How quickly plans can change.

"I had it worked out that I would finish my last class on Dec. 9, graduate on Dec. 14, and have my son on Dec. 19," Conner said. "But it just so happened I went into labor early, and we ended up having my son on Dec. 6."

After 13 years of on-again-off-again course work and the past two years in diligent pursuit of her bachelor's of science in business administration, Conner said she was determined to graduate this quarter no matter what it took.

What it took in her case was an understanding professor willing to go the extra

See **SUPERMOM** A2



TRISH BENNETT/Circleville Herald

Stacia Conner shows off the newest addition to her family after earning her bachelors degree at Ohio Dominican University. Pictured (from left, back row) are daughter Brittany, 13; Stacia with 2-week-old Evan; and husband Bill. In the front row are Madison, 4, and Mallory, 8.

Health program slow to reach Ohio children

Only 4 qualify for \$12.5M plan since April

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A health insurance program meant to help middle-income families who have youngsters with serious illnesses needs to be reworked to reach more people, officials said.

Gov. Ted Strickland signed an executive order in April creating the Children's Buy-In Program. Since then, four children have qualified and two have been enrolled.

Ohio set aside \$12.5 million for 2008 and 2009, anticipating coverage for as many as 5,000 children by June. About 215,000 Ohio children have no health insurance, with about 12 percent from families with incomes too high to qualify for federally funded programs.

Medicaid Director John Corlett said the state received applications for 335 children, but most families didn't have enough income to qualify. Corlett said the word needs to get out about the program in Ohio.

The program's monthly premiums that can exceed a car payment might be too much for some families.

Families must pay between \$250 and \$500 a

Premiums for Children's Buy-In program

Income guidelines for Children's Buy-In Program:

- **Family of 2**, \$42,000-\$56,000 income: \$252.58 monthly premium.
- **Family of 4**, \$84,800-\$106,000 income: \$378.87 monthly premium.

Source: www.jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/cbi

month per child, depending on the family income. Children also have to be without insurance for six months before they can qualify.

"That's not realistic for a chronically sick child," said Mary Wachtel, director of health policy for the advocacy group Voices for Ohio's Children.

Still, the program is important for families struggling in a tough economy, she said. "We know in these challenging economic times, folks are dealing with precarious family budgets," she said.

The program also has co-payments and deductibles, increasing the cost for participating families.

A family might be unable See **HEALTH** A2

Population estimates

Population estimates as of July 1, 2008, with the percent change from 2000:

Ohio	11,485,910	1.2
US	304,059,724	8.0

Bad economy slows population growth in South, West

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The nation's great migration south and west is slowing, thanks to a housing crisis that is making it hard for many to move.

Most southern and western states aren't growing nearly as fast as they were at the start of the decade, pausing a long-term trend fueled by the desire for open spaces and warmer climates, according to popula-

tion estimates released Monday by the Census Bureau.

The development could impact the political map when House seats are divvied up following the 2010 Census, with

Ohio looking to be the biggest loser. Southern and western states will still take congressional seats away from those in the Northeast and Midwest — Florida could gain as many as two House seats and Texas

could pick up four. But some seats hanging in the balance could stay put, and California could be in danger of losing a seat for the first time since it became a state.

See **POPULATION** A3

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Deaths

Betty Brill, 66
Anna Martha Brooks, 89
Robyn L. Easter, 58
Rev. David Frazer, 76
John P. Westfall, 75

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News tips

474-3133

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Economy

Continued from A1

come into play until the third and fourth quarters of the year, and by that time we'll have a much better idea of what the economic situation is going to be."

Rusty Davies, general manager of Don Thompson, said sales haven't been too bad at the local dealership. "We're very optimistic, and our sales haven't been affected a whole lot yet because of all the great deals out there," he said.

For the most part, the county's budget is comparable to 2008 with some minor adjustments here and there, he said. While elected offi-

cialists will not receive a pay increase next year, the county has allowed for a two percent increase for non-elected county employees.

"Health insurance for the county went up nine percent, though, and we couldn't afford not to pass the increase along to employees this year," he said. "The amount of the premium is going up, and employees will have to help us pay for it. It's unfortunate that on one hand, we're giving out pay increases and on the other hand we're taking it back, but that's just one of the adjustments we've had to make."

Capital improvements also have been placed on the back burner for 2009,

including a proposed purchase of additional office space, renovations of the county courthouse and the addition of a minimum-security pod at the Pickaway County jail.

"Nothing will happen on any of those projects in 2009, for sure," Reeser said. "There's just not enough money available for us to move forward right now. We will try to get back to it as soon as money allows, but if we can get even one of those projects completed in the next three years, I think we'll be doing well."

While the county is not anticipating any layoffs of its own, Reeser said Pickaway County is expected to reach the 10 percent

unemployment mark in 2009.

"We think we'll see a substantial increase," he said. "We have consistently for the past several years had the highest unemployment rate in the 12 central Ohio counties, and it's still true. We're right around eight percent right now."

Though Pickaway County traditionally approves an annual budget, the commissioners instituted a quarterly plan in 2001 during a financially uncertain period, Reeser said. The county returned to an annual budget the following year.

—Staff Writer Trish Bennett
 can be reached at 474-3133 or
 tbennett@circlevilleherald.com

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Offer good thru 01/31/09

SuperMom

Continued from A1

mile.

"My professor, Scott Palmer, was well aware of the fact I was pregnant and due any day," she said. "But he was awesome working with me."

Conner said she wrote the conclusion to her final paper on a laptop during her four-day hospital stay and e-mailed it in time to meet the deadline. Palmer then personally delivered her final

exam to her hospital room and waited with her while she completed the last step toward earning her degree.

"Not many professors would come to St. Ann's Hospital and sit with me to insure I got to graduate," Conner said.

Though still recovering from a C-section, Conner said she was released from the hospital on a Wednesday, attended commencement practice on Thursday and walked commencement Saturday to accept her diploma.

Though receiving her degree was not necessary for advancement in her career as an account manager for Checkfree Corporation in Columbus, Conner said it was something she wanted for herself as well as her three daughters and new son, Evan.

"It was one of those things I was determined I wanted during my life, to make sure I got my bachelors degree," she said. "If it's important for my kids to get theirs, then I should have mine."

Health

Continued from A1

to get conventional coverage because the child has a pre-existing condition or a chronic illness that has exhausted lifetime benefits, Corlett said. Medically disabled children also qualify.

Strickland believes the program is important because it provides access to needed health care coverage for children who otherwise wouldn't have health insurance, said spokesman Keith Dailey.

"Of course we hope participation will increase as word continues to spread about the program, but we also understand

that any new program takes time to get established," Dailey said.

He said many children were instead matched with Medicaid programs through use of the hundreds of applications received.

At Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Dr. Leona Cuttler said Monday that social workers have been briefed about the program and which families might be eligible.

Cuttler, who directs the hospital's Center for Child Health and Policy, said the program would benefit from greater public awareness and case workers who try to alert families of children nearing lifetime maximum

benefits.

Overall, enrollment in buy-in programs across the United States has been relatively low because of high premiums, according to the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute.

The Ohio program's applications started to creep up during the fall after the state held training programs and seminars, Corlett said. The state also could take a closer look at what changes may be necessary, he said.

"We're just going to have to figure out what we're going to do here. But I do think there is a great need out there for this program," Corlett said.

TUESDAY		DECEMBER 23											
		6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
BROADCAST STATIONS													
WCNH (7) 4	News (N)	NBC News	Extra (TVPG) 4	Access Hollywood	Law & Order: "Burn Card" (In Stereo) 4	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit 4	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Authority" 4	News (N)	Tonight Show				
WSYX (9) 6	News (N)	ABC World News	Entertainment Tonight 4	Be a Millionaire	Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas	Rediscovered (N) (In Stereo) 4	ABC's The List (N) (In Stereo) 4	News (N)	Sainfield "The Strike"				
WBNS (10) 10	10TV News HD at 6PM	Evening News	Jeopardy! (TVG) 4	Wheel of Fortune	Home for the Holidays: Faith Hill	INCS "Requiem" (In Stereo) 4	The Mentalist "Ladies in Red" (In Stereo) 4	10TV News HD at 11PM	Late Show-Letterman				
WTTE (8) 20	The Simpsons	Family Guy	Two and a Half Men 4	Two and a Half Men 4	House "It's a Wonderful Lie" (In Stereo) (PA) 4	Fringe "Power Hungry" (In Stereo) (PA) 4	News (N)	Everybody-Raymond	Family Guy				
WOSU (11) 60	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (In Stereo) 4	Business Rpt.	Wild Chronicles	Nova "Absolute Zero: The Race for Absolute Zero"	The Conquest of Cold/The Race for Absolute Zero" (In Stereo) 4	The Life a House Built: The 25th	As Time Goes By	Tavis Smiley					
WSFJ (2) 51	(5:00) Praise the Lord	*** Christmas Carol: The Movie (2001) Voices of Simon Callow.	The King of Queens	90210 "Games People Play" (In Stereo) 4	John Meyer	Privileged "All About Appearances" 4	News (N)	TMZ (N) (TVPG) 4	Malcolm in the Middle	The Bernie Mac Show			
WWHO (63) 63	Scrubs (In Stereo) 4	Friends (In Stereo) 4	According to Jim	The King of Queens	90210 "Games People Play" (In Stereo) 4	John Meyer	Privileged "All About Appearances" 4	News (N)	TMZ (N) (TVPG) 4	Malcolm in the Middle	The Bernie Mac Show		
CABLE STATIONS													
A&E (41) 41	Cold Case Files 4	CSI: Miami "Legal" (In Stereo) 4	The First 48 "In Cold Blood; Red Handed" 4	The First 48 "Snapped; Fallen Angel" 4	Manhunters	Manhunters	Runaway Squad	Jacked: Auto Theft					
AMC (54) 54	(3:30) *** The Right Stuff (1983) Sam Shepard. The training of the United States' first astronauts.	*** Ice Age (2002, Comedy) Animated. Ice Age animals find and travel with a human baby.	*** Prancer (1989, Fantasy) Sam Elliott, Rebecca Harrell. A troubled child nurses an injured reindeer back to health.	*** The Family Stone (2005) Dermot Mulrooney. A family introduces his uptight girlfriend to his family.									
ANIM (60) 60	It's Me or the Dog "Chaos, Mollie and Alfie"	Weird, True & Freaky (TVG) 4	Weird, True & Freaky (N) (TVG) 4	Weird, True & Freaky (N) (TVG) 4	Weird, True & Freaky (TVPG) 4	Weird, True & Freaky (TVG) 4	Weird, True & Freaky (TVG) 4	Weird, True & Freaky (TVG) 4					
BRAVO (53) 53	The Real Housewives of Orange County 4	The Real Housewives of Orange County 4	The Real Housewives of Orange County 4	The Real Housewives of Orange County 4	The Real Housewives of Orange County 4	The Real Housewives of Orange County 4	The Real Housewives of Orange County 4	The Real Housewives of Orange County 4					
CMT (47) 47	Nanny 911 (In Stereo) 4	Nanny 911 (In Stereo) 4	Extreme-Home	Larry the Cable Guy-Christmas	Redneck Cmas	Redneck							
CNBC (56) 56	Mad Money	CNBC Reports	On the Money	Michael Eisner	Mad Money								
CNN (28) 28	The Situation Room	Lou Dobbs Tonight 4	Brown-No Bias	Larry King Live (TVPG) 4	Anderson Cooper 360 (TVPG) 4								
COM (51) 51	RENO 911! RENO 911!	Scrubs (In Stereo) 4	Scrubs "My Monster" 4	*** Napoleon Dynamite (2004) Jon Heder. A gawky teen helps a friend run for class president.	*** Napoleon Dynamite (2004) Jon Heder. A gawky teen helps a friend run for class president.	*** Napoleon Dynamite (2004) Jon Heder. A gawky teen helps a friend run for class president.	Party Monsters: Cabo (N) (TVPG) 4	El News (TVPG) 4	Chelse Layla (N)				
E! TV (43) 43	Hulk Hogan & Family: The El THS	El News (N) (TVPG) 4	The Daily 10 (TVPG) 4	*** Can't Buy Me Love (1987) Patrick Dempsey. A desperate nerd hires a girl to pose as his girlfriend.	(N) (TVPG) 4								
ESPN (31) 31	SportsCenter (Live) 4	Bowl Break	College Football: Poinsettia Bowl -- Boise State vs. Texas Christian										
ESPN2 (32) 32	Horn Interrupt	NFL Live 4	College Basketball: Illinois vs. Missouri. (Live) 4	College Basketball: Texas at Wisconsin. (Live) 4	Strongest								
FAM (39) 39	*** White Christmas (1954, Musical Comedy) Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye. Four entertainers try to save an innkeeper from ruin.	*** White Christmas (1954, Musical Comedy) Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye. Four entertainers try to save an innkeeper from ruin.											
FNC (63) 63	Special Report 4	Fox Report	The O'Reilly Factor 4	Hannity & Colmes 4	On the Record	The O'Reilly Factor							
FOOD (44) 44	Holiday Feast	Challenge	Sth Christmas	Food	Unwrapped	Cakes	Cakes	Good Eats	Unwrapped				
FSPO (33) 33	Cavaliers	Cavaliers	NBA Basketball: Houston Rockets at Cleveland Cavaliers. (Live) 4	Cavaliers	Cribbs	College Basketball							
FX (64) 64	*** Home Alone (1990) Macaulay Culkin. A left-behind boy battles two burglars in the house.	*** Ice Age (2002, Comedy) Animated. Ice Age animals find and travel with a human baby.	*** The Family Stone (2005) Dermot Mulrooney. A family introduces his uptight girlfriend to his family.										
GOLF (34) 34	Drive, Chip & Putt	Top 10	Top 10	Top 10	Top 10	Top 10	Top 10	Top 10	Top 10				
HALL (23) 23	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Oak Ridge Boys Family	Walker, Texas Ranger	The Christmas Choir (2008, Drama) (TVPG) 4	Town-Christms (TVPG) 4							
HGTV (45) 45	To Sell	My House	My House	Property	My Kitchen	Secrets	Stagers	House	House	My House	Potential		
HIST (20) 20	Christmas Unwrapped: History-Christmas	Modern Marvels "Toys"	Modern Marvels "Measure It" (N) 4	The Universe "Living in Space" (N) 4	Extreme Trains "Circus Train" (N) 4	Modern Marvels "Christmas Tech" 4							
LIFE (42) 42	Reba (In Stereo) 4	Reba (In Stereo) 4	Still Standing	Still Standing	Reba "The Will" 4	Rita Rocks	A Diva's Christmas Carol (2000) Three spirits pay a holiday visit to a self-centered singer. (TVPG) 4	Will & Grace 4	Will & Grace 4				
MTV (49) 49	Whitney	The Hills 4	Parental	Parental	Parental	Parental	A Double Shot of Love	A Double Shot of Love					
NGEO (68) 68	Jesus: The Man	Lost Kings of the Bible	In the Womb: Animals	Explorer	In the Womb: Animals								
NICK (37) 37	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Sponge-Bob	Sponge-Bob	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	George Lopez 4	George Lopez 4	Family Matters 4	Family Matters 4		
SCI FI (52) 52	(5:00) *** 10.5: Apocalypse (2006, Suspense) Kim Delaney, Beau Bridges. A scientist assesses the threat of seismic activity. (TVPG) 4	ECW Best of ECW 2008. (Live) (TV14-LV) 4	Scare Tactics 4	Scare Tactics 4	The Roswell Crash: Startling New Evidence								
TBS (17) 17	Everybody-Raymond	Friends 4	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Funnies Commercials of the Year: 2008 (N) 4	The Office	The Office	Frank TV (N) 4	Commercials		
TCM (55) 55	The Shop Around the Corner (1940) Bickering Budapest co-workers fall in love as secret pen pals.	*** In the Good Old Summertime (1949, Musical Comedy) Judy Garland. (45) *** A Guy Named Joe (1943, Fantasy) Spencer Tracy, Irene Dunne. A pilot's girlfriend has a premonition of his death.											
TDC (40) 40	Time Warp	Time Warp	Time Warp	Time Warp	Time Warp	Time Warp	Time Warp	Cash Cab Special (N) 4	Time Warp	Warriors "Spartacus" (N) 4			
TLC (12) 12	What Not to Wear: Redo My Spouse 4	World's Smartest Boy	World's Smartest People (N) 4	Mystery Diagnosis 4	Dr. G: Medical Examiner "Old Wounds Run Deep" 4	World's Smartest People 4							
TNN (46) 46	CSI: NY (In Stereo) 4	CSI: NY "Love Run Cold" 4	CSI: Crime Scn	UFC Unleashed	UFC Unleashed	MANswers	MANswers						
TNT (30) 30	Law & Order: "Caviar Emptor" (In Stereo) 4	Law & Order: "American Jihad" (In Stereo) 4	*** The Bourne Supremacy (2004) Jason Bourne fights back when the CIA tries to kill him.	Leverage "The Miracle Job" (N) 4	Bones "Spaceman in a Crater" (In Stereo) 4								
TOON (36) 36	Grandma Got Run Over	Casper's Haunted Christmas (2000, Fantasy) 4	Johnny T	Johnny T	6teen	Total Dr.	Family Guy	Family Guy					
TRAV (58) 58	Bizarre Foods-Zimmerman	Bizarre Foods-Zimmerman	Bizarre Foods-Zimmerman	Living-Tribe	Bizarre Foods-Zimmerman								
TVLD (38) 38	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	The Cosby Show	The Cosby Show	The Cosby Show	The Cosby Show	Scrubs (In Stereo) 4	Scrubs (In Stereo) 4	3rd Rock-Sun	3rd Rock-Sun	
USA (29) 29	NCIS "Conspiracy Theory" (In Stereo) 4	NCIS "Honor Code" (In Stereo) 4	NCIS "Under Covers" (In Stereo) 4	NCIS "Under Covers" (In Stereo) 4	House "TB or Not TB" (In Stereo) 4	House "Humpty Dumpty" (In Stereo) 4	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Betrayed" 4						
VH1 (48) 48	(5:00) Wedding Sing.	Songs of '90s	Songs of '90s	Songs of '90s	Songs of '90s	Songs of '90s	Songs of '90s						
WE (66) 66	Women Behind Bars	Women Behind Bars 4	Secret Lives of Women	Secret Lives of Women	Sex Change Hospital 4	Sex Change Hospital							
WGN (16) 16	7th Heaven "Xmas" (In Stereo) 4	7th Heaven "Christmas" (In Stereo) 4	NBA Basketball: Chicago Bulls at Detroit Pistons. From the Palace of Auburn Hills in Auburn Hills, Mich. (In Stereo Live) 4	WGN News at Nine	Scrubs "My Philosophy" (In Stereo) 4	Scrubs (In Stereo) 4							
PREMIUM STATIONS													
DISN (35) 35	Phineas and Ferb	Phineas and Ferb	Zack & Cody	Hannah Montana	Mulan (1998) Animated. A Chinese maiden disguises herself as a man.	Wizards-Place	Wizards-Place	Life With Derek	Zack & Cody	Hannah Montana			
HBO (70) 70	(5:45) *** Mrs. Doubtfire (1993) An estranged dad poses as a nanny to be with his children. "PG-13" 4	(15) *** Die Hard 2 (1990, Action) Bruce Willis, Bonnie Bedelia. The Bucket List Dying men make a list of things to do before they expire.	Revolutionary	REAL Sports With Bryant Gumbel (TVPG) 4	Katie Morgans	Summer Hight							
MAX (75) 75	(15) *** Die Hard 2 (1990, Action) Bruce Willis, Bonnie Bedelia. The Bucket List Dying men make a list of things to do before they expire.	*** Miss Congeniality (2000) A clumsy FBI agent goes undercover at a beauty pageant. "PG-13" 4	Crank (2006) A poisoned man scurries to find an antidote within the hour.	(45) Name of King									
SHOW (73) 73	(5:45) * The Ex (2006) Zach Braff. "PG-13" 4	(15) *** Premonition (2007) A woman has a precognitive vision of her husband's death. "PG-13" 4	Brotherhood (TV) (In Stereo) (TVMA) 4										

Pickaway County Public Library

Beginning January 2009, the Pickaway County District Public Library will begin loaning video games for use on several major gaming consoles.

More than 180 games have been ordered for the main library in Circleville and the Floyd E. Younkin Branch in Ashville. Formats include Play Station 2, Play Station 3, X-Box

and Wii.

Games will be loaned for seven days with a limit of two per person; any age can check out the games which range in rating from E for Everyone up to T for Teen.

Gamers can begin placing holds on items now since they have been ordered through the library's online catalog.

Gaming activities will also become a part of the library's program. Young adults, ages 12 to 17, can visit the main library's meeting room on Jan. 20 for a drop-in gaming event.

At the Younkin Branch in Ashville, everyone can try out the Wii gaming system donated by Friends of the Library from 3-5 p.m., Jan. 26.

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