

Circleville Herald

WEDNESDAY
March 3, 2010

75 cents



34/24

For weather details turn to A2



A-C wins district semi

Abby Meyer held Central District Player of the Year Megan White to 14 points and scored 12 as Amanda-Clearcreek beat Heath 61-46 to advance to a district championship game.

Sports, A10

Viking shoots for victory

Teays Valley senior Tyler Luft — one of 5 area wrestlers to make the state meet — looking to win a match

Sports, A10

Deaths

• Philip G. Isom, 64

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Index

ClassifiedA8
ComicsA9
Daily AdviceA6
LifestylesA6
LotteryA5
ObituariesA5
OpinionA4
CommunityA3
SportsA7, A10
Stocks, grainsA5
WeatherA2
WorldA2

1 Sections, 10 Pages
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Good Day, Dale Gifford

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"I don't know how we'll do this, but I guess we will try to find a way."

Wayne Gray, police chief



"We'll have a tough time keeping up, but I suppose we'll have to find a way."

Tim Tener, fire chief



Firefighter/medic Dave Robinson calibrates one of the department's heart monitors in the North Court Street station.

CRAIG ALLISON/Circleville Herald

Stretched out

Police, fire chiefs unhappy about cuts

By CRAIG ALLISON
STAFF WRITER

Circleville city's slashed operating budget for the year, approved Tuesday, leaves the chiefs of the city's police and fire forces trying to stretch the budgets they have even tighter.

They also are worrying they may have those remaining budgets stretched too tight to provide adequate services to the city's citizens, or to provide a margin of safety to their personnel who deliver those services.

Police Chief Wayne Gray sat at his desk Tuesday morning and plainly said, "I don't know how we'll do this, but I guess we will try to find a way."

Gray's department will see a Lieutenant's position and a Sergeant's position become



Circleville police dispatcher Candy Fulton answers a cruiser over the radio in the police communications center.

CRAIG ALLISON/Circleville Herald

"unfunded" as well as two dispatcher positions. Coupled with job "bumping" back through the ranks, the laid off Sergeant will ultimately result in a trained police officer being bumped into the radio room at the police station.

The result, according to Gray, is where his department is now able to schedule four officers per shift on the street, the reality is that only three will probably make it, due to injuries, days off, illness, and vacations.

"From Sunday through Thursday we will have three officers on the street," said Gray. "From 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. on Friday-Saturday and Saturday-Sunday we'll have an extra officer on the streets. That's the reality," he said.

"I personally feel terrible," said councilperson Patty Fouch, who chairs the finance committee, "but this was something we had to do to balance the city budget. We as members of city council are charged with maintaining solvency. The budget simply gives each department the money to operate for the year. We can't tell the department heads how to use it."

Gray said probably the hardest hit part of the police department is the dispatching corps, which coordinates radio

See Cuts A3

"I personally feel terrible but this was something we had to do to balance the city budget. We as members of city council are charged with maintaining solvency. The budget simply gives each department the money to operate for the year. We can't tell the department heads how to use it."

City Council member Patty Fouch, who chairs the finance committee



Council passes revised 2010 budget

By CRAIG ALLISON
STAFF WRITER

More than \$1.6M cut from city's spending plan

As expected, Circleville city council Tuesday evening passed is revised budget for 2010, and in doing so cut over \$1.6 million from the budget it approved at the end of 2009.

The city department to take perhaps the biggest hit in the revised budget was the police department, which will see the "unfunding" of a Lieutenant, Sergeant, and a dispatcher. When job bumping is completed the police will have

three less dispatchers and may possibly have to use officers from the street to cover dispatching responsibilities on a part time basis.

The police showed their solidarity Tuesday evening, as just prior to the 8 p.m. meeting 15 uniformed officers filed into



TAYLOR

council chambers and sat silently throughout the proceedings.

Before the vote on the budget took place safety committee chair Barry Keller questioned Circleville mayor Chuck Taylor, asking him if he had reconsidered giving the police and fire chiefs the full use of their department cars, including driving them home at the end of their regular workday.

"I have not had a chance to think about it Barry," said

Taylor.

"Then we'll be sure to discuss it further at the safety committee meeting next Tuesday," said Keller.

When the vote came it was unanimous.

"This revised budget represents a great deal of hard work on the part of many people in the city," said finance chairwoman Patty Fouch.

"It is unfortunate and regrettable that it involves the layoffs of city employees," she said.

Stamper has long recovery ahead

Ashville teen in good spirits after accident

By TRISH BENNETT
STAFF WRITER

An Ashville teenager struck by a car last week remains in good spirits but has a long recovery ahead, according to his mother.

Jacob Stamper, 14, an eighth-grader at Teays Valley East Middle School, was walking home from the Marathon station at the corner of Long Street and state Route 752 about 8 p.m.



STAMPER

Feb. 25 when he was struck by a vehicle driving eastbound toward the high school, said Tami Stamper, Jacob's mother.

"He's still in the hospital and will be for a while," Stamper said. "It's going to take a good while to get him back to 100 percent."

Jacob suffered a skull fracture and concussion, four broken ribs, a broken hip and pelvis, a cracked tailbone, several fractures in his right leg, a chip out of his left knee and lacerations to his kidney and

See Stamper A3

Martin wins award

OCU senior has top business plan

By CRAIG ALLISON
STAFF WRITER

Senior Brittany Martin took top honors at the first Ohio Christian University business plan banquet held in the Learning Center on the OCU campus.

Students entering the competition were required to formulate a business plan and present it to a panel of local judges.

Martin took the first prize for her business plan of a new venture that would "provide advertising plastic wraps for vehicles, banners, and many other products," according to OCU business department chairman David Garrison.

Besides winning first place in the competition Martin also

See Martin A3



MARTIN

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