



# Circleville Herald

**THURSDAY**  
March 6, 2008

50 cents



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## Village water high in nitrates

Officials: Don't give tap water to your infants

By WAYLON STRICKLAND  
STAFF WRITER

LAURELVILLE — The Village of Laurelville is warning residents to not give village tap water to infants because of high levels of nitrates.

High levels of nitrates in drinking water are extremely dangerous for infants under six months and may be dangerous for pregnant or nursing women and people with specific health concerns.

The advisory is expected to run through at least through March 11, pending results of water test samples that were taken Wednesday and Monday, according to Ron Stephens, Laurelville's water consultant.

"The water is safe to drink as long as it's not being consumed by infants," he said.

The problem is most likely in the village's source water, according to Stephens. Nitrates can seep into the water source from agricultural or sewage runoff, according to Ohio EPA.

The higher nitrate levels are not dangerous to adults and children older than six months, because adults process nitrates in the body in a different way than infants.

Water for infants should not be boiled, according to Ohio EPA, as boiling concentrates the nitrates. Ohio EPA recommends using bottled water or other water low in nitrates when preparing infant formula.

Consumption of nitrates by infants could result in rapidly developing symptoms over a period of days, including shortness of breath, vomiting and a blue tint to the skin.

See **Water A3**



Trish Bennett/Circleville Herald

Sarah Wilkins, an 8th grader at McDowell Exchange School, works in the school library each day in lieu of taking a study hall. Sarah will be recognized with a national "Yes I Can" award for academics in Boston April 4.

## McDowell student wins national award

Wilkins honored for academic achievements

By TRISH BENNETT  
STAFF WRITER

Sarah Wilkins of Circleville has never let Down Syndrome stand in the way of her success. An athlete and consistent honor roll student, Sarah has met challenge after challenge in her 15 years with a "yes I can" attitude.

It seems only fitting that she is now being honored with a "Yes I Can" Award from the Council for Exceptional Children, a national organization for special educators that recognizes children with disabilities.

Sarah is one of 28 students nationwide being honored this year by CEC, one of three in the state of Ohio. Her award is in the area of academics.

"For a student with Down Syndrome to not only participate in general education classes but actually lead the

"Because Sarah is who she is, she has paved the way for others with cognitive disabilities to follow."

— Lynda Van Kuren, spokesperson for the Council for Exceptional Children

way in some of them, that is just remarkable," said Lynda Van Kuren, spokesperson for CEC. "It becomes an instance when students without disabilities actually look up to the student with disabilities. They see her not complaining, doing the work and often mastering it and think, 'How can I complain?' That's what happened with Sarah."

Van Kuren said the selection committee looks at the student's disability and what they have achieved. They also look at the impact those achievements have, not only on the student but on the com-

munity.

Sarah, she said, has helped pave the way for other students with disabilities.

"Sometimes teachers who don't have experience working with students with disabilities, they can be a little wary of working with them in general education classes," Van Kuren said. "Because Sarah is who she is, she has paved the way for others with cognitive disabilities to follow."

Lisa Wilkins, Sarah's mother, said Sarah started off through the Brooks-Yates early intervention program in preschool, but then went straight into general education classes at Logan Elm Local schools. Now in eighth grade at McDowell Exchange School, Sarah has consistently made honor roll with straight A's and B's and has been fully included in school since the day she started kindergarten.

"McDowell has a one-on-one aid with her the whole school day that helps her stay on track," said Wilkins. "She has some problems with vision

See **Wilkins A2**

## Calamity days keep coming for schools

Snowy weather also has city's salt supply low

By TRISH BENNETT  
STAFF WRITER

Heading into March, schools continue to rack up calamity days and salt supplies continue to dwindle as wave after wave of wintry weather batters Pickaway County.

Teays Valley and Westfall canceled classes Wednesday after calling two-hour delays due to slick roads. The road conditions affected primarily the northern part of the county after an unexpected snowfall overnight.

"It's a challenge being a superintendent sometimes," said Jeff Sheets, superintendent of Teays Valley Local School district, which has now

used its seventh calamity day of the year. "By 9:30 or 10, the roads seemed to be a lot better, but at 8 a.m., the side roads weren't any better than they were at 5:30 in the morning."

Sheets said the district's transportation director had a strong concern about the safety of the buses on the roads Wednesday, which aided his decision to close for the day.

"We have to consider that we'll have teenage drivers on the road, too, trying to get to school," Sheets said. "If we err, we're always going to err on the side of caution."

Salt supplies at the county engineer's department are dwindling as well after a February full of winter weather. But Jim Bingman, superintendent of the Pickaway County Highway Department, said they are not in crisis mode yet.

See **Weather A2**

## Administrator settles into job

Stoutsville man started Monday in county position

By TRISH BENNETT  
STAFF WRITER

In his first week as the new Pickaway County administrator, Ryan Scribner has spent much of his time just meeting and connecting with the people he will help serve in his new position at the county commissioners office.



SCRIBNER

Scribner, a Stoutsville resident, assumed the administra-

tor's role Monday from Dan Bradhurst, who retired from public service after holding the position with the commissioners for more than five years.

"Dan was the first administrator for Pickaway County," said Jay Wippel, county commissioner. "He will be missed at the commissioners' office and other Pickaway County agencies, as well."

Scribner is now learning the ropes from Bradhurst, Wippel said, who will remain on board a few more days to show his replacement the ins and outs of the job.

"The administrator position is valuable to the county because it provides day-to-day leadership in the budgeting process for the county,"

See **Scribner A2**

## OPEC blames Bush for gas prices

By TRISH BENNETT  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VIENNA, Austria — OPEC on Wednesday accused the U.S. of economic "mismanagement" that it said is pushing oil prices to new record highs and rebuffed calls to boost output, laying the blame on the Bush administration.

Oil prices surged for the first time past \$104 a barrel after the OPEC announcement and the

release of a U.S. government report showing a surprise drop in crude oil stockpiles.

The 13-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said it would maintain current production levels because crude supplies are plentiful and demand is expected to weaken in the second quarter.

OPEC President Chakib Khelil told reporters the global market is being affected by

what he called "the mismanagement of the U.S. economy," and that America's problems were a key factor in the cartel's decision to hold off on any action.

"If the prices are high, definitely they are not due to a lack of crude. They are due to what's happening in the U.S.," Khelil said. "There is sufficient supply. There's plenty of oil there."

Khelil's comments came one

day after U.S. President George W. Bush lashed out at the organization, warning Tuesday: "I think it's a mistake to have your biggest customers' economies slowing down as a result of higher energy prices."

White House spokesman Dana Perino said Wednesday that Bush was "disappointed" OPEC didn't do more to rein in prices, which some say are pushing the U.S. economy into recession.

## Cleanup time



Waylon Strickland/Circleville Herald

Sheriff Dwight Radcliff said he had more than 500 signs around the county, and his people began work Wednesday removing all of them. Each city or village has its own time limit when political signs must be removed.

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**Deaths**

Wilma 'Louise' Anderson, 88  
Ruby J. Boyse, 82  
Leda L. Cromley, 82  
Billy F. Gregory, 69  
Wilma Jean Knisley, 57  
James W. Redman, 73

**News tips**

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**Good Day, Ed Gifford**  
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Scribner

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Wippel said. "But it also covers human resources and health benefits administration, which is the primary purpose of that position. That leadership was needed, especially as benefits packages get more complex and the budget becomes larger."

Scribner, a graduate of Marshall University, was chosen for the position largely due to his background in government affairs, Wippel said.

"He has managerial experience, excellent computer skills, and a long list of capabilities in communications and working with legislative issues," he said. "He was just what we were looking for."

Scribner said he worked with the Ohio Board of Regents as a legislative liaison in government relations prior to coming on board in Pickaway County.

He was also a legislative aid to Clyde Evans in the Ohio House of Representatives serving southeastern Ohio, and has even worked with the Pickaway County Commissioners in the past, helping to establish the Pickaway Helps college access program.



Trish Bennett/Circleville Herald

Pickaway County Commissioner Ula Jean Metzler confers with new county administrator Ryan Scribner.

Coordination will be the key to his new position, Scribner said.

"It will take a lot of coordination between all the different departments and interests and groups with their own individual needs and responsibilities," he said. "It's about doing my best to advance the policies and initiatives of the

commissioners and work with the other departments to do the work of the people and serve Pickaway County."

Scribner said he finds the commissioners to be very proactive, and he looks forward to assisting them in their work.

"I'm excited to be here," he said.

"He was just what we were looking for."

— Jay Wippel, county commissioner on Ryan Scribner, new county administrator

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Wilkins

Continued from A1

and hearing, so the aid makes sure she's hearing and understanding everything the teacher teaches."

Wilkins said Sarah is very independent, and she credits the Logan Elm district as a large part of her success.

"We wanted Sarah to be able to experience everything just like our other two daughters," Wilkins said. "We wanted her in regular classes as much as possible, and they've done well as a school district making sure that happened for Sarah. She's

always been right in there with her peers, and I think that's why she does so well."

In addition to her academic achievement, Sarah also participates in sports through the Pickaway County chapter of Special Olympics, playing softball and basketball as well as running track. Her basketball team will play in the state tournament March 28-29 at Bowling Green State University.

In school, she works in the library in lieu of a daily study hall because she likes to stay busy.

"I hate study halls," Sarah said. "I hate them."

Of all her sports activities, Sarah said she enjoys track the most because she loves to run. She enjoys softball, too, she said, but "only a little bit."

Sarah will be honored at a luncheon by the Ohio CEC on her birthday, March 15, as one of the three Ohio students chosen for the 2008 "Yes I Can" Awards.

From there, she and her family are invited to attend the national CEC ceremony April 4 in Boston, where she will receive her award in a ceremony similar to the Academy Awards.

"They'll get a little red carpet ceremony and a statue like the Oscars," Van Kuren said. "They're all called up on stage one by one to receive their award in front of an audience of between 500 and 600."

Sarah will also be treated to a reception following the ceremony, along with a field trip to the Boston science museum the following day.

Van Kuren said the CEC pays for two nights in a hotel for the ceremony but unfortunately does not have the resources to provide travel or food expenses for Sarah's trip. They have also set up the Sarah L. Wilkins Fund at the Savings Bank in Circleville for donations.

Sarah said she was excited to win the award, but she is even more excited over the possibility of seeing the ocean in person.

"I've never been to the ocean before," she said.

Clinton: Wins make it a new race

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton declared Wednesday that her primary victories in Ohio, Texas and Rhode Island had reordered the Democratic presidential race in her favor. A resilient Barack Obama countered with fresh pledges of support from superdelegates and said his lead remained intact.

One day after his worst showing in a month, Obama blamed negative attacks by the former first lady for his defeats and quickly made good on a promise to sharpen his criticism of her.

But there was no disputing he had missed a chance to drive her from the race. Or that in contrast to the Republicans, who have settled on Arizona Sen. John McCain as their nominee, the Democrats face the prospect of a potentially divisive campaign lasting deep into spring.

"I'm concerned about unity. That's the major reason I've stayed out of this," said Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, who is neutral. "The longer this campaign goes on, the more difficult it will be to unify and heal."

Returns from Texas caucuses showed Obama reclaiming some of the ground in the delegate competition that he lost Tuesday night as Clinton's victories piled up. Overall, she showed a gain of 12 delegates for the contests on the ballot, according to The Associated Press count, with another dozen to be awarded. In all 370 were at stake. Texas Democrats were still counting ballots from the Tuesday night caucuses.

McCain gets Bush endorsement

WASHINGTON (AP) — John McCain got a White House embrace from President Bush on Wednesday, along with the party perks that go with sewing up the Republican nomination. The endorsement has baggage, though, reminding voters of the drawn-out Iraq war and the nation's economic woes under an unpopular GOP president.

Bush, who defeated McCain in a bitter 2000 primary campaign before winning the presidency, said the Arizona senator's "incredible courage and strength of character and perseverance" carried him to the nomination this time.

Those characteristics, Bush said, are what the nation needs in a president: "somebody that can handle the tough decisions, somebody who won't flinch in the face of danger."

The words held special resonance as the president who ordered the Iraq invasion five years ago stood outside the White House alongside one of the war's most resolute supporters. Neither man mentioned Iraq, though Bush said McCain would be "sitting in there behind that desk making decisions on war and peace."

Even that mention was coupled with Bush's lighter statement that "I'm going to be in Crawford with my feet up."

Chavez: Venezuela doesn't seek war

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Hugo Chavez charged Wednesday that Colombia and its allies in Washington are responsible for the intensifying crisis in this region — and said perpetual conflict with the United States is inevitable.

"It must be said: They, the empire and its lackeys, are war. We are peace. We are the path to peace," Chavez said in a televised speech, his first since Colombia alleged that documents found in a leftist rebel's computer show the Venezuelan leader has been supporting Colombian guerrillas for years.

Chavez, who ordered 10 battalions of troops to reinforce Venezuela's border with Colombia after Colombian troops entered Ecuador on Saturday to attack a rebel hideout, spoke as diplomats struggled to defuse the crisis.

In Washington, the Organization of American States approved a compromise resolution drafted jointly by Ecuador and Colombia that declared the raid a violation of Ecuador's sovereignty. It also called for OAS Secretary-General Jose Miguel Insulza to lead a delegation to both countries in hopes of helping them calm tensions.

The United States was the only nation in the OAS to offer Colombia unqualified support. Many other countries worried openly about the attack inside Ecuador, despite Colombia's complaints that Venezuela and Ecuador have both provided refuge to leftist Colombian guerrillas.

THURSDAY MARCH 6 BROADCAST STATIONS CABLE STATIONS. Table listing various TV channels and their programming for Thursday, March 6, 2008.