

TODAY'S WEATHER

HIGH 92  
LOW 72



WEDNESDAY'S WEATHER

HIGH 93  
LOW 72



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Is the good old boy system alive and well? Page 4



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VOTE ONLINE

Log on to The Delaware Gazette's Web site — delgazette.com — and take our weekly poll. Answers to our "Question of the Week" will be tallied over seven days and final results — as well as the next week's question — will appear in Saturday editions of the Gazette. Our current poll question: "Do you support the Delaware County commissioners' decision to lease the Hall's Furniture building?" Log on and answer now!

STORY LINE

Are our public servants really serving the public? Let us know about any experiences you've had — good or bad — with public officials (elected or appointed) in the City of Delaware and the surrounding townships and county.

Got a story idea? The Story Line is open. Readers can suggest stories they'd like to see by calling 740-363-1161, ext. 368, or e-mailing storyline@delgazette.com.

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# The Delaware Gazette

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2007

50 CENTS

## COUNCIL CHAMBERS

### The new Council for Older Adults facility shows the group's progress

By JEFF ROBINSON  
Gazette Editor

Things have come full circle for Bob Horrocks.

Nearly 15 years ago, the executive director of the Delaware County Council for Older Adults was juggling on the corner of Sandusky and William streets in an effort to draw attention to the fledgling organization and its desire to provide services to local seniors.

Today, he's juggling again, keeping a busy schedule while getting accustomed to his new, not-quite-finished surroundings at the Council's Senior Services on Cheshire Road.

"I hope this is my last move," Horrocks said, referring to the state-of-the-art facility, which features an 11,000-square-foot west wing that contains the COA staff offices and conference rooms, and a 40,000-square-foot east wing that, when completed in October, will contain a full-service kitchen and deli and provide an array of health, wellness and community services.

Council staff members started moving to their new digs from their old headquarters on Bowtown Road last Friday, and the office is expected to be operational today. The new building is a testament to how far the



Gazette Matt Emmons

Council for Older Adults Executive Director Bob Horrocks unpacks in his new office Monday after a weekend move to the organization's facility on Cheshire Road.

organization has come since its early days in 1992.

"A year or so before that, some people from social service agencies and churches came together with elected officials and local seniors," Horrocks said. "The feeling was, we were getting a lot of older people here and we were not prepared to serve them. The county was ready to put some money into senior services, but didn't know what was a priority."

From there, a task force was organized to do some further research, discussion and planning. That led to the organization of a board and an employee search that brought Horrocks where he is today.

"I was hired in May of 1992, and at that time I had been doing some consulting," said Horrocks, who previously had spent six years as the associate director of the Ohio Department of Aging. "The first couple years

were spent getting the board organized, learning what was needed here and what kind of system we would put together."

In those days, the Council for Older Adults was little more than Horrocks, a card table, a roll of quarters and a pay phone. He worked out of an office on Sandusky Street.

The Council launched its first levy campaign in 1994, and

Please see COUNCIL, Page 3

### CITY COUNCIL

## Ebersole not seeking re-election

By MARK A. CLAFFEY  
Staff Writer

Delaware City Council's Fourth Ward representative, Brad Ebersole, announced Monday he will not be seeking re-election this fall.

"I would like to formerly announce that I have decided not to seek election for the

City of Delaware, Fourth Ward City Council seat I currently hold," Ebersole said in a news release to the media. "My family is building a home outside of the city limits and, if elected in November 2007, I could not complete a full, four-year term."

Ebersole joins current Council member Dave Berwanger, Second Ward representative, who also announced he will not seek re-election.

Ebersole was one of four candidates interviewed in October of last year to replace former Fourth Ward council member Mary Jane Santos, who resigned last September. The other candidates were Harvey Guikema, member of the city's Board of Zoning Appeals; Andrew Brush, an employee with Digital Marketing Solutions; and Peter Newton, president and owner of Delaware Paint.

Santos resigned from council on Sept. 11 after being named the director of the Delaware County District Library.

Ebersole was the highest vote getter during the first round of voting during council's interview process, with six votes; Guikema came in second with three votes. Brush received two votes.

Please see SEEKING, Page 3



Ebersole

### COMMISSIONERS

## County engineer says area bridges are safe

### But Ward expresses concern regarding Orange Road bridge



Bauserman

By MARK A. CLAFFEY  
Staff Writer

Delaware County Engineer Chris Bauserman told Delaware County commissioners Monday night that county residents don't have to worry about a bridge collapse similar to what happened in Minneapolis, Minn. last week hap-

pening in Delaware County.

"Our bridges we have are safe," Bauserman said. "As long as the people pay attention to the load limits, then they have nothing to worry about."

Bauserman said Delaware County residents shouldn't compare any bridges here locally to the one that came down between

Minneapolis and St. Paul.

"None of our bridges here is as complex as what that bridge was, nor do we have any bridges of that design or height," Bauserman said. "There is no opportunity for a catastrophe here like there was in Minnesota."

Please see BRIDGES, Page 3

## Young inmates find hope

By DON E. BRUCE  
Staff Writer

On a hot, muggy Monday in the southwestern corner of Delaware County, a teenage girl dressed in a white cap and gown walked down the aisle of a half-filled gymnasium. Her hand covered her face in an attempt to hide the tears streaming down her cheeks, but those she passed could see the wet sheen on her face and called out words of encouragement.

It was the beginning of a new day for her, a day in which she would earn her general educational development diploma, but this morning she still awoke behind a curved black fence locking her within the grounds of the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility.

Please see HOPE, Page 3

## Donley Ford dealership purchased by Byers

### New owners plan on retaining all Donley employees

By MARK A. CLAFFEY  
Staff Writer

The Donley Ford-Lincoln-Mercury dealership, located at 1599 Columbus Pike, is now owned by Byers Automotive Group, 401 N. Hamilton Road, Columbus.

The deal to sell the dealership was approved by both Byers and the Donley family last week and was expected to be approved by Ford Motor Corporation.

The former Donley dealership has changed hands five times in the past 15 years and has been owned by the Ricart and Nourse families before being owned by Donley.

The new dealership will be known as Byers Ford-Lincoln-Mercury, according to the dealership's new general manager, John P. Curry.

Please see FORD, Page 3



Gazette Matt Emmons

Byers Automotive Group has purchased Donley Ford-Lincoln-Mercury and will be retaining the more than 20 employees currently working at the dealership.



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AROUND THE GLOBE

CAMP DAVID

**Bush, Karzai search for elusive stability in Afghanistan**

Beleaguered by a hostage crisis and insurgent violence, Afghan President Hamid Karzai is seeking fresh backing from a reliable ally: President Bush.

Karzai, Afghanistan's first democratically elected president, is awash in crises at home — civilian killings, a booming drug trade and the brazen resurgence of the Taliban.

His two-day visit to Bush's mountain retreat, which culminates Monday, is a time for the leaders to figure out how to improve Afghanistan's security.

Karzai wants support and reassurance from Bush, who in turn wants Karzai's government to exert and extend its power.

The deteriorating security and sporadic rule of law in Afghanistan set a tone for the summit — a point underscored by the ongoing captivity of 21 South Korean volunteers.

They were abducted by the Taliban on July 19 and are now believed to be in central Afghanistan. The captors took 23 people hostage and have shot and killed two of them.

The Taliban is seeking the release of prisoners; the Afghan government has refused, and the U.S. also adamantly opposes conceding to such demands. The crisis has put considerable pressure on Karzai and raised more doubts about his ability to usher in some stability.

Karzai arrived on a misty Sunday afternoon in the Catoctin Mountains. He was greeted by Bush and first lady Laura Bush, who led him through a cordon of Marines and Navy sailors.



Submitted

**On Monday, nine female juvenile defenders from Scioto Correctional Facility lined up to receive their GEDs, or high school diploma at a ceremony at William K. Willis High School.**

HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A total of nine young women, ranging in age from 16 to 18, graduated from William K. Willis High School at Scioto Juvenile yesterday. Eight of this summer's Willis Diamonds earned their GED and one her high school diploma.

Scioto officials said, on average, girls entering their Home Road facility are four grade levels behind in both reading and mathematics.

While all juvenile inmates at the facility must attend school classes, not all have the dedication or desire to earn their high school education, officials said.

One girl, Sofonda, 16, has already served her time, but remains at Scioto as she awaits placement with a foster family.

She was featured as the graduate speaker for the commencement ceremonies, where she expressed regret for previous actions and hope for the future.

"I'm going to show everyone I can make it," Sofonda said as she stood in front of Ohio's

First Lady Frances Strickland, herself a one-time juvenile counselor at a residential detention facility in Lexington, Ky.

Saying she has been kicked-out or expelled from numerous schools in the past, Sofonda told the assembled juvenile offenders in the audience they can overcome their current situation.

"You have made a mistake, but you can turn it around," she said.

Strickland, the guest speaker at the commencement, told the graduates Sofonda had touched on all three issues she wanted to highlight in her speech.

She said in her time as a juvenile counselor, she was always able to judge a child's success rate after their incarceration ended by whether they were able to identify with a staff person and build a bond, were eager to learn and were willing to accept responsibility for past actions.

She also lamented watching children with which she had developed a bond leave the facility.

"You know you will miss them, but you don't want them

to come back here either," Strickland said.

After the ceremony, a slideshow presentation offered the hopes and dreams of the graduates. Some wanted to be medical professionals, others business people and even one aspired to be the first woman to join the National Football League.

Those dreams may not have been possible before they were incarcerated, Sofonda said.

"It was worth it. I wouldn't change a thing. I'm a lot stronger then I used to be," she said.

With that, she smiled and turned to join the line of graduates as they filed out from the gymnasium for a reception. Following the reception, she would return to her room at Scioto and wait for the day her life will start anew outside the curved black fence that locks her away from the outside world.

*dbuce@delgazette.com*

*\*The last name of Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility inmates have been withheld.*

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Horrocks took to the streets, drawing the attention of passersby with his juggling skills before telling them of the ways the Council wanted to help the aging population in Delaware County. By that time, the Council consisted of Horrocks, Brenda Durfey (who still works for the COA) and the board members.

"There weren't many of us, but we knocked on doors and went to community events (to get people's attention)," he said. "That first levy passed with 58 percent of the vote."

After the success of the first levy, the Council for Older Adults moved to a building on Central Avenue that used to house a grocery store, just

across from Austin Manor. The office was there for six years before moving to Bowtown Road.

That team effort that helped the Council achieve its goals over the years is still there, though the team has grown substantially since the early '90s. Today, there are close to 40 employees and countless volunteers.

"I've always felt like no one person could have done this," Horrocks said. "People have stood up when we've asked for help, and this community has always supported us."

To learn more about the services provided by the Council for Older Adults, or what the new facility will offer to Delaware County residents, call the Council at 740-363-6677.

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BRIDGES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

County Commissioner Jim Ward questioned Bauserman about the county's oldest bridge, the Orange Road bridge, built in 1898, and whether it should be shut down immediately.

"School buses can't go over it, why don't we just block that bridge off?" Ward asked.

Bauserman said as long as motorists continue to monitor the 3-ton weight limit on the bridge, everything should be fine. More than 4,000 vehicles travel the bridge each day.

"Several vehicles crossing that bridge is fine," Bauserman said. "What we don't want is large vehicle with three axles. That could do some damage."

Bauserman said large vehicles with multiple axles and buses are unable to cross the Orange Road bridge because of a "headache bar" that makes it impossible for large vehicles to cross.

Ward said he's ready to close the Orange Road bridge whenever the county engineer's office gives the go-ahead.

"I would close that bridge whenever you give the say-so," Ward said.

Bauserman said the county has made great strides with its bridges in the past 10 years and has replaced 110 since 1998. Sixty-one bridges in Delaware County were considered "deficient" last year by the Ohio Department of Transportation, down from 130 in 1999.

Roughly half of the 61 bridges in need of improvements are scheduled to be replaced by Bauserman's office by 2010.

"We still got a lot of work to do, but overall I feel very confident with the bridges in Delaware County," Bauserman said.

In other news, commissioners approved a cooperation agreement between Brown Township and the county for the Kelly-McMaster Road pavement project.

The agreement states that Brown Township and the county will submit an application to the Ohio Public Works Commissioner for reclamation of the road and that Brown Township will provide funds totaling 18 percent of the cost of the project or \$50,000.

Delaware County, through the engineer's office, will also provide 18 percent of the cost or \$50,000.

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SEEKING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In the final round of voting, Ebersole received all six council member votes.

Ebersole has been a member of the city's planning commission for the past five years and has also served as the chairperson of the steering committee for the city's comprehensive plan.

Ebersole said, in his news release, that he will always have fond memories of his service to the city.

"My service on city council and planning commission has been rewarding and enjoyable, and I will look back with great pride on the many accomplishments the city and my fellow council members have been able to achieve," he said. "Some of the highlights include approval of the Zaremba project, set to take shape in the Fourth Ward; the finalization

of a 9-1-1 consolidation agreement; the refurbishing and opening of the new Jack Florence Pool; opening of the new skate park; purchase of the new Public Works Facility; and the initiation of the Safe Walk sidewalk repair project."

The deadline for filing petitions with the Delaware County Board of Elections is Aug. 23. Seats are up for grabs in the city's First, Second, Third and Fourth wards.

Among those taking out petitions include: First Ward council member Jim Moore and Third Ward council member Joe DiGenova; Matthew Dick and Mark Butler for the First Ward; and Jack Hollerman and Brush for the Fourth Ward.

DiGenova was appointed to his seat on council last fall to replace Dave Gotsil and announced in July that he intended to run for re-election.

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FORD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We thought it was a good fit,"

Curry said of the new Ford dealership. "Byers has its roots in Central Ohio and has been in the community for more than 100 years, and this works well for us."

Byers operates a Cadillac-Toyota-Chevy dealership at 1101 Columbus Pike.

The roots of Byers Auto date back more than 100 years, when George W. Byers, a renowned showman in Central Ohio and expert judge of horses, founded his Columbus-based business in 1897.

Byers Automotive now has car dealerships interspersed throughout Columbus and sells the following brands: Cadillac, Audi, Jeep, Mazda, Porsche, Subaru, Toyota, Volkswagen, Volvo, Jaguar, Dodge and Chrysler.

Curry said Byers will go after the Ford market aggressively.

"We want to make this work

and we intend to make this one of our premier locations in Central Ohio," Curry said. "We are committed to Delaware and we want to stay in Delaware."

Curry said Byers intends to bring plenty of new product to the 21,500-square-foot facility that the Donley family previously called home.

"Ford has given me special allocation to have 125 new cars and 150 used cars at the site within the next month," Curry said. "We are going to have enough product to suit everybody's needs and we intend to be very aggressive in the market."

Curry said the deal has no effect on Donley Ford's other four Ohio dealerships in Ashland, Galion, Mt. Vernon and Bellville.

He said the transition should be pretty smooth.

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"Donley has been real good people and have been great to work with during the change over," Curry said.

Byers intends to keep the more than 20 employees currently working at Donley, according to Curry.

With 25 years in the automotive industry and eight years with Byers, Curry said he is looking forward to taking over as general manager after spending time as the service manager at the Byers

Cadillac-Chevy dealership in Delaware just a few doors down.

"This is just the next step in my career," Curry said. "I have no desire to work anywhere else. I just want to make sure we get out quality product and provide the best service to our customers."

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I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY (PG-13) ...1:35 4:35 7:35 10:35  
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