



Upfront

Jennings park \$10 Grand Giveaway tix available

The Fort Jennings Park Board still has tickets left for the \$10 Grand Giveaway. Tickets are \$20 each and can be obtained from any Fort Jennings Local Schools student, who will get credit for sales and be entered into prize drawings; or from Park Board President Jerry Siefker at 419-233-2560. All entries will be assigned numbers from 000-999, with the possibility of more than one ticket with the same number. Beginning Jan. 31, ticket numbers matching the Ohio Lottery Pick 3 evening drawing will be \$300 weekly winners, with the possibility of more than one winner. On July 23, the park board will hold a "Grand Prize Party." All paid entries will be put in a ticket drum and at 8 p.m., one entry will be drawn. If the entry-holder is present, they will receive \$2,500. If they are not present, they will receive \$1,250. If the \$1,250 is awarded, a new entry will be drawn every half hour, receiving \$250, if present. The student-seller of the grand-prize entry will receive \$50 and top sellers in three brackets will win \$250 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$50 for third place. Entry sellers of weekly Pick 3 winners will receive \$5. Proceeds from the fund-raiser will support park upkeep and projects.

Fair boards sets corn hole tourney

Fair Director from York Township Mike Patterson had announced the Van Wert County Fair Board will hold its annual Corn Hole Tournament on Jan. 29. Starting time will be 10 a.m. in the Jr. Fair Building on the Van Wert County Fairgrounds. The contest is open to the general public and any teams who wish to participate. Entries will be taken on the day of the event and the cost will be \$20 per team. For additional information, call Patterson at 419-203-1418.

Sports

TODAY

Girls Basketball (6 p.m.): Marion Local at St. John's (MAC); Jefferson at Paulding (NWC); Fort Jennings at Continental (PCL); Crestview at Spencerville (NWC); LCC at Lincolnvlew (NWC); Elida at Kenton (WBL); Columbus Grove at Allen East (NWC); Van Wert at Celina (WBL). Wrestling (6 p.m.): Bath at Elida (WBL); Van Wert/Kenton at Ottawa-Glandorf (WBL).

Forecast

Mostly cloudy Friday with high 10-15. See page 2.

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RTA sees uptick in Delphos riders



Nancy Spencer photo

Diana Carder boards the RTA transit at Vancrest Healthcare Center this morning. She is employed at the Marimor Workshop and uses RTA to get to work Monday through Friday.

BY NANCY SPENCER nspencer@delphosherald.com

LIMA — With gas prices at more than \$3 per gallon, many who travel

from Delphos to Marimor Workshop find cost-effective transportation difficult to find. That's where Rural Transit Authority comes in. RTA began pro-

viding a transit bus from Delphos to Lima and back last January. According to Marketing Manager Charles Robinson, when the route started, 5-6

passengers rode the transit from Delphos to Lima but 15-20 now take advantage of the service. "We are very pleased with the increase in passengers over the last year," Robinson said. "There was a real need for those in Delphos who work at Marimor for affordable transportation that also gets them back home at a decent time." Diana Carder boards at Vancrest Healthcare Center each weekday at 7:30 a.m. and returns at 4 p.m. "I really like riding the bus. They come right to Vancrest to get me and then drop me off in the afternoon," Carder said. "I like to go to Marimor. I need to work." Robinson said the majority of Delphos passengers travel to Marimor. "We stop at Bio-Life just the other side of Elida and the transit center in Lima but about 10 of our riders are people are going to Marimor," he said. The bus also stops at Franklin and First streets and the Delphos Senior Citizens Center in the morning and for the return trip in the afternoon. Round-trip bus fare is \$4 or \$2 one way. Monthly passes and reduced fares are not honored for the route. "At \$4 for a round-trip

ride, that's a bargain. An individual can't drive it for that," Robinson said. "RTA is a safe, reliable and affordable way to get from Delphos to Lima and back for those who need it. That's what we're here for." Robinson said the route was made possible through a New Freedom Funding grant RTA received in 2009. With increased demand, the grant will likely carry over in the future. "The grant was to boost cost-effective transportation in small, rural areas," Robinson said. "RTA is a not-for-profit. We have to cover our costs but we're not geared to make money. We provide a service to the community." The bus stops at Vancrest at 7:25 a.m.; First and Franklin streets at 7:45 a.m.; and the Delphos Senior Citizens Center at 7:55 a.m. The bus stops at Bio-Life at 8:30 a.m. and at Marimor around 8:45 a.m. In the afternoon, passengers are picked up Marimor at 2:30 p.m. and Bio-Life at 3:15 p.m. Delphos riders return to the Delphos Senior Citizens Center at 3:40 p.m.; First and Franklin streets at 3:50 p.m.; and Vancrest at 4 p.m. A long-term goal is to have an RTA shuttle in Delphos four times a day.

Giffords able to stand up as she readies for rehab

By SUSAN MONTOKA BRYAN and MARILYNN MARCHIONE The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Rep. Gabrielle Giffords stood up and looked out the window of her hospital room, the latest milestone in the Arizona congresswoman's recovery as her family prepares to move her to Houston for extensive mental and physical rehabilitation from a bullet wound to the brain. Her swift transition from an intensive care unit to a rehab center is based on the latest research, which shows the sooner rehab starts, the better patients recover. Giffords' family hopes to move the Arizona congresswoman on Friday to TIRR Memorial Hermann hospital in Houston, where her husband lives and works as an astronaut. "I am extremely hopeful at the signs of recovery that my wife has made since the shooting," Mark Kelly said in a statement released

by Giffords' congressional office. The staff at University Medical Center in Tucson "has stabilized her to the point of being ready to move to the rehabilitation phase." Her progress was evident Wednesday as she stood on her feet with assistance from medical staff, hospital spokeswoman Janet Stark said. During rehabilitation she will have to relearn how to think and plan. It's unclear if she is able to speak or how well she can see. And while she is moving both arms and legs, it's uncertain how much strength she has on her right side. A gunman shot Giffords and 18 other people Jan. 8 as she met with constituents outside a grocery store in Tucson. Six people died and the other wounded. All survivors have been released from hospitals except Giffords. The suspect in the attack, Jared Loughner, 22, of Tucson, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Tucson Wednesday, accused of attempting to assassinate Giffords and trying to kill

two of her aides. It does not include two murder charges listed in an earlier criminal complaint for the deaths of Giffords aide Gabe Zimmerman, 30, and U.S. District Judge John Roll, 63. Those are potential death penalty charges and prosecutors said they require a more painstaking process. Additional charges are likely. Loughner is in federal custody. He is set for a preliminary hearing on Monday in Phoenix. Though Giffords remains in serious condition, her recovery has amazed her family and impressed her doctors. Dr. John Holcomb, retired Army colonel and a trauma surgeon at the Houston hospital, praised the care she received in Tucson and said Giffords would "move quickly toward a tailored and comprehensive rehab plan." Over the weekend, Giffords was weaned off the ventilator and had her breathing tube

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Dollar General passes on Van Wert

BY KIRK DOUGAL Herald correspondent

VAN WERT — A story that has been talked about behind closed doors since last summer came to a close Wednesday when Family Dollar announced it had chosen Ashley, Indiana for a new distribution center with approximately 350 employees. Ashley and Van Wert were the final sites in consideration after several others had been dropped during the months-long process. "Although we are deeply disappointed, we are confident our location is second to none," said Van Wert County Economic Development Director Nancy Bowen. "The tide is turning and in the very near future, particularly with the development of the super-site, we expect big dividends in jobs and investment for

our community, region and state." She is in the process of contacting the company for the specific reasons why Ashley was chosen. "This will be Family Dollar's tenth distribution center," she said. "This one will meet the needs in targeted markets of the Midwest including Michigan." Company officials indicated to Bowen the decision was based on geography, fixed costs and operating costs. Location may be the biggest indication of why Ashley, north of Ft. Wayne on I-69 at the Steuben and Dekalb county borders, was chosen. At the time the decision was being made at the highest corporate levels, reports were issued predicting \$100 per barrel oil and \$5 per gallon gasoline. Every mile between the center and its primary

distribution zones would cost Family Dollar more money in transportation costs. Bowen said the Van Wert package offered by local and state officials was very aggressive. The electricity costs in Ohio were reportedly lower and the state's expensive workman's compensation system did not play a part since the company planned on self-insuring. At different times during negotiations, the state's prevailing wage system came into question as well as construction costs. Since Honda chose Greensburg, Indiana over Van Wert in June 2006, a steady number of companies have chosen the Hoosier State over the Buckeye State. As recently as last year, Continental Structural Plastics announced the move of a facil-

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File photo

The Chik'n House at Fifth and Jefferson streets features bone-in fried chicken and more.

Chik'n House not just chicken for long

Staff reports

DELPHOS — Because a group of restaurateurs believe there is local demand for fast food specializing in fried chicken, a new business has opened at Fifth and Jefferson streets. The Chik'n House has approximately 17 employees and is owned by a group that includes Derek Dempsey, his wife, Jill, and Topp Chalet owners John Pimpas and his sister, Penny Gerdeman, and their spouses Erika and Charlie. With decades of restaurant experience behind the group, they saw a need for a restaurant specializing in chicken since a well-known franchise left the area. "It worked well in town before, so we thought we'd give it a shot. We think there's a market for it — there's Lee's in Lima and Van Wert has nothing," John Pimpas said. Pimpas added the chicken is Dempsey's own recipe. True to its name, The Chik'n House serves chicken but will not be

limited to that menu item for long. "We have fried chicken on the bone, chicken tenders, chicken chunks, chicken wings, mashed potatoes, cole slaw, green beans and macaroni and cheese. We also have daily specials. We'll expand the menu down the road after we get our core menu established," Derek Dempsey said. Food can be pre-ordered for dine-in or carry-out or patrons can come in and order or use the drive-through. Custom catering for all types of events and benefits is also available. "We can do steak, pastas, traditional wedding fare, really anything you can think of for small to large groups," Dempsey said. "We do delivery and set up for those events." The doors are open but a grand opening will take place at a later date. "We had a soft opening Dec. 14 and we're open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day," Dempsey said. "We've seen a really good response so far."