

METRO&STATE

The Columbus Dispatch
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Top education job

Bexley superintendent among five finalists | **B2**

Coming Sunday SURPLUS OR SAPPED?

A look at county's finances



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DOZENS OF CRITTERS TO SPEND WINTER IN SHELTER



SHARI LEWIS | DISPATCH

Lisa Fosco, director of animal care at the Ohio Wildlife Center, feeds a baby red squirrel. In the three days after the Sept. 14 storm with hurricane-force winds, the center took in 167 squirrels and birds. "Many of them are going to have to be here all winter," Fosco said.

Ike's winds strand wild things

By Jeffrey Sheban
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

They can't go home again. Dozens of orphaned birds and squirrels find themselves in just such a predicament two weeks after the remnants of Hurricane Ike blew through central Ohio. The Ohio Wildlife Center, which provides emergency medical care for wild animals, is making plans to board some of the injured or homeless critters in its care.

"Many of them are going to have to be here all winter," said Lisa Fosco, director of animal care at the nonprofit hospital on the Northwest Side.

In the three days after the Sept. 14 windstorm, the center

"People were finding them in ... soccer fields and everywhere. The wind just blew them away."

DR. DONALD L. BURTON
veterinarian and the center's founder

took in 167 squirrels and birds — most of them juveniles confined to nests.

Eighty-three of those arrived the day after the storm — by far a one-day record in the center's 25-year history.

"People were finding them in the middle of soccer fields and everywhere," said Dr. Donald L. Burton, a veterinarian and the center's founder.

"The wind just blew them

away."

Among the wounded: 44 eastern gray squirrels and 24 American goldfinches, he said.

Some had broken legs or wings and needed surgery, but most escaped with bumps and bruises. All were separated from their parents during the storm and will need tender, loving care until they can be released back into the wild.

Although some birds soon will

be let go, Fosco said, the squirrels likely will be boarders until springtime.

One of the more exotic victims was a large juvenile male peregrine falcon with a shattered wing, picked up near Pataaskala. The damaged bone is in too many fragments to repair, Burton said, but possibly could heal itself over time.

Burton estimated that for every injured animal the center has seen, 10 others died during the storm.

Insects probably fared much better, thanks to built-in sensors and natural instincts.

P. Larry Phelan, an entomology professor at Ohio State

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INCREASE IN DEMAND, SLOWDOWN IN PRODUCTION

Vaccine for shingles in short supply

By Misti Crane
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Shingles is awful.

Ask anyone who has had the painful disease, which is caused by the same virus that causes chicken pox and usually appears in adults who were infected as children.

Good news came two years ago when a vaccine was approved to protect against infection in older adults.

The trouble is that nobody can get it right now.

Increased demand and production slowdowns at vaccine-maker Merck & Co. have left health-care providers empty-handed

and patients frustrated.

Merck spokeswoman Deb Wambold said she expected distribution delays of the vaccine, Zostavax, to go on for "the coming months."

This year, the company had to use some of the virus used in Zostavax to make more of its chicken-pox vaccine for children, Wambold said.

In July, Merck told the Franklin County Board of Health that the delay would last 12 to 16 weeks.

The department is still waiting, Health Commissioner Susan Tilgner said. The waiting list started to get long, so her staff members stopped taking names and plan to

announce the arrival of the vaccine once it shows up.

The waiting list for LifeCare Alliance, a nonprofit organization that provides home health care and operates Meals on Wheels locally, was 22 deep as of yesterday afternoon, said immunization director Kathy Papp.

"I think they underestimated the demand," she said. "If you've ever had shingles, it's very nasty."

About a million people in the United States get shingles each year, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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City Hall to strip e-mails of partisan appearance

By Martin Rozenman
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Global warming turned up the campaign heat, if only briefly, at City Hall this week.

Mayor Michael B. Coleman's chief of staff told city employees to refrain from e-mailing partisan articles on city networks after Mike Brown, the mayor's urban ventures coordinator, sent a Sept. 23 *Washington Post* article as a mass e-mail to staffers.

The article, bearing the headline "Palin, McCain disagree on causes of global warming," said that Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin "stands in sharp contrast to the views of her running mate, Sen. John McCain, and place her to the right of the Bush administration."

Sgt. Rich Weiner, a police spokesman, responded to Brown's

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Circleville fire was arson, investigators say

By Randy Ludlow
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

CIRCLEVILLE, Ohio — Sometime on Monday morning, an accelerant was splashed around the first floor of Mason's Furniture & Floor Coverings.

With the flick of a lighter or toss of a match, the resulting fire gutted the historic 1880s-era building.

Circleville police spent the rest of the week rounding up four adults and three juveniles who are charged in connection with a burglary that preceded the fire.

No one has been charged with arson as the investigation continues.

State Fire Marshal Michael Bell and Guy Thomas, special agent in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives national response team, yesterday announced the finding of arson.

Officers were picking up suspects as fire investigators dug through the rubble of the three-story brick building on Thursday, said Police Chief Wayne Gray.

Richard Foppiano, 16, was charged with delinquency counts of breaking and entering, theft and possession of criminal tools. Whitney Haddox, 18, was charged with receiving stolen property and obstruction of justice.

Breanna Shields, 18, was charged with receiving stolen property, obstruction of

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SHARI LEWIS | DISPATCH

Longtime Circleville resident Dave Dawson photographs the ruins of the Mason's Furniture & Floor Coverings building. State and federal investigators say the landmark was set ablaze. Circleville police have arrested seven people in connection with a burglary that directly preceded the fire.