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Gunner Hall brings home gold at Ohio State Junior PTO Championship, PAGE B1

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BY JENNIFER BAHNEY/ASSISTANT EDITOR

Pickaway Progress Partnership Executive Director Ryan Scribner presents Sofidel CEO Luigi Lazzareschi with a welcome basket during Monday's groundbreaking ceremonies.

Sofidel breaks ground in Circleville

BY JENNIFER BAHNEY ASSISTANT EDITOR

CIRCLEVILLE — Italian manufacturer Sofidel has broken ground on a \$300 million tissue paper factory in Pickaway County. The plant, which will be located at State Route 23 and Pittsburgh Road, entered its first building phase Monday with a ceremony that drew dozens of elected officials. They included Ohio Lt. Governor Mary Taylor, Congressman Steve Stivers, and State Representative Gary Scherer.

"Today, we celebrate the commencement of construction of the first Sofidel integrated paper mill to be built from the ground up in the United States," said Sofidel CEO Luigi Lazzareschi. "It's going to be a very big project for us."

Lazzareschi said his team

chose Pickaway County over 100 other potential sites in the United States.

"This is a very good location for us. Twenty-eight acres of relatively flat land," Lazzareschi said. "A good rail system connected to water and gas, a good airport, good logistically, lots of customer distribution centers, and a potential workforce of hard-working people."

Sofidel was founded in June 1966 by two Italian families, and today is the sixth largest manufacturer in the world of toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissue, and other specialty paper products. The company brings in \$2 billion a year and employs 6,000 people worldwide. The new plant is expected to bring an initial 300 jobs to Pickaway County.

"This doesn't happen every day," said Pickaway Progress Partnership (P3) Director

Ryan Scribner. "Projects like this are rare, the opportunity is rare, and the sites and communities anywhere that can accommodate them are rare."

Scribner said the effort to bring Sofidel to Pickaway County was made possible through a collaboration with local and state governments, and groups such as Columbus 2020, JobsOhio, and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

"President Obama himself mentioned us just recently multiple times in his keynote address to the Select USA Summit," Scribner said. "Notice has been served that things are happening in Pickaway County."

The Sofidel plant is expected to become operational by 2018. Sofidel's CEO said his company is committed to growing and flourishing along

SEE SOFIDEL ON PAGE A2



BY JENNIFER BAHNEY/ASSISTANT EDITOR

Officer Kory Yoder looks through some of the children's drawings that the Circleville Police Department received over the weekend.

Support keeps coming for Circleville police

BY JENNIFER BAHNEY ASSISTANT EDITOR

CIRCLEVILLE — The citizens of Circleville are continuing to show an outpouring of support for the police department in the wake of last week's Dallas shootings that left five of that department's officers dead and seven wounded.

Circleville Police Chief Sean Baer said that citizens brought bottled water to the department over the weekend, and some local children delivered drawings featuring American flags and the words, "Thank you. Be safe."

"That certainly raised the spirits of the officers," Baer said.

Officer Kory Yoder said that the department has been shaken by the Dallas shootings.

"It was a little bit of a hit. We're trying to rally together to stay strong," he said.

Citizens began contacting the Circleville Police

Department almost immediately after news broke about the attack on the police community last Thursday night. Chief Baer released a statement on Friday thanking locals for their support.

"Today the officers of the Circleville Police Department were truly touched by the compassion of our citizens," Baer wrote. "We received a bouquet of 12 blue flowers, one for each officer in Dallas, by the Gardner family. Someone anonymously planted flowers at our memorial beside the Police Department. Cash Max sent pizzas to the officers to say thank you for your service. The Administration for the City of Circleville showed great support and concern for our safety and encouraged the officers. We received dozens of phone calls and emails letting us know we were appreciated and that the community was concerned for our safety. The profession

SEE POLICE ON PAGE A2

Inmate kills 2 bailiffs at Michigan courthouse

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. JOSEPH, Mich. — A jail inmate trying to escape from a western Michigan courthouse wrested a gun from an officer Monday, killing two bailiffs and injuring two more people before he was fatally shot by other officers, a sheriff said.

People scrambled for cover inside the Berrien County Courthouse in St. Joseph, a city of about 8,300 people in the

southwestern corner of Michigan, about 100 miles northeast of Chicago.

"Our hearts are torn apart. ... I have known them for over 30 years. It's a sad day," Sheriff Paul Bailey said of the bailiffs.

The inmate, locked up on several charges, was being moved from a cell for a courtroom appearance when a fight occurred and he was able to disarm an officer, Bailey said. The sheriff did not say what charges the inmate was facing.

Ohio mom accused of locking son in basement gets 3-year term

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWARK, Ohio — An Ohio woman accused of regularly locking her young son in an unfinished basement for months has pleaded guilty to one count of child endangering and has been sentenced to three years in prison.

Thirty-five-year-old Angel Abram pleaded guilty and was sentenced Monday in Newark. Authorities said Abram and her boyfriend kept her 6-year-

old son in a 6-foot-by-8-foot room in the basement of their home when he wasn't in school and beat him with a belt.

The boy was forced to eat his meals in the dirty basement, authorities said, and he had to use a toddler potty that he emptied himself as a bathroom.

"He was the forgotten child, the disposable child," Assistant Licking County Prosecutor Paula Sawyers said.

The abuse apparently stemmed from the boy's attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and behavioral issues, according to Sawyers. Abram's attorney Kristin Burkett said her client has battered woman's syndrome and was unable to leave her boyfriend.

"She was not able to get herself out of the situation," Burkett said. "She failed to protect him, we don't disagree with that."



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