



# Community Connection

Brought to you through a partnership of  
the Pickaway County Educational Service Center  
and The Circleville Herald

June 23, 2015

2050 Stoneridge Drive, Circleville, Ohio • (740) 474-7529 • www.pickawayesc.org

## Superintendent seeks to advance DD agency

"I'm definitely a career accident," says Mike Pelcic, superintendent of the Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Pelcic has spent more than 30 years working with children and adults with developmental disabilities. While he says that wasn't his original plan, perhaps a nurturing disposition played a role in his career.

After getting a bachelor's degree in landscape horticulture from Ohio State University, Pelcic was hired as the grounds maintenance program supervisor at the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

"I found so much joy working with individuals that I continued in my career path of servant leadership within county boards of developmental disabilities."

He began a climb up the agency's ladder and along the way returned to school for a master's degree in rehabilitation services administration.

He stayed with the Cuyahoga County

### Pickaway Profiles

A semi-regular feature on educators in Pickaway County schools.

board for 28 years and earned his superintendent's license. He was hired in 2011 to lead the Pickaway County agency, which serves clients from birth to death.

"We provide a lot of support services to meet the needs of children, adults and their families," Pelcic said, such as early intervention helping infants and toddlers overcome their developmental delays, to helping adults find employment or day services.

"An individual may be independent enough to live on his own, but need help doing laundry or grocery shopping," said Marie Wilbanks, director of Service & Support Administration, Medicaid and Compliance.

The Pickaway County organization serves about 350-400 people, Pelcic said.



Cindy Williams, administrative assistant, and Mike Pelcic, talk about the agency's services.

"In Cuyahoga County, we served more than 9,000," he said. "It's a lot more hands-on here. You get to know everybody. It's more personal and informal."

"I find it very refreshing."

That personal aspect helps the agency connect individuals with potential employers.

"After age 22, we shift our focus to finding employment for individuals," Pelcic said. "If we get them the skills when they're young, they are more independent."

Pelcic said the agency's mission is to empower individuals with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work and participate in the community.

"Even our Brooks-Yates School is in a planning process to achieve greater equity, better access and more success for students. To be welcomed into the community is the indicator of success for everyone."

"There is still more to do. It's always about moving things forward and improving services," he said.

## Educating educators



Todd Tomlinson, a technology teacher at Logan Elm High School, taught the ESC staff summer technology workshop this month. Topics discussed included digital portfolios and essential technology tips and shortcuts.

## Avenues stem learning loss

Summer break for kids may mean time away from learning but studies have shown that shouldn't be the case.

According to statistics from a Rand Corp. article cited in a policy brief by the Ohio Research Center (Issue No. 7, May 2013):

- Many students perform, on average, one month behind where they were at the end of the school year.
- The summer slide in reading can accumulate to a 1.5- to 2-year loss from the end of kindergarten to the end of fifth grade.
- Low-income students are disproportionately affected by summer learning loss.
- All students lose some ground in mathematics.

There are opportunities in Pickaway County to help children lessen summer learning loss.

To promote reading, learners of all ages can take part in the Pickaway County District

Public Library's annual summer reading program.

The library also offers book clubs for students on Wednesdays and a reading tutor, provided by Ohio University, on Fridays in the summer.

For more information, call the Youth Services Desk at (740) 477-1644, Ext. 236.

The library and the Pickaway County Family YMCA have partnered for several years with the library bringing "story time on wheels" to the Y's Nicholas Drive location and reading to pre-school age and younger children once a week.

The Y also collaborates with Circleville City Schools through a summer reading program. Circleville's Tiger Bus stops at the Y's summer lunch program on Tuesdays and children can check out books.

For more information, call the Y at (740) 474-1661 or go to <http://circlevillecityschools.org/ces>.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER: Seriously ill children enjoy being kids at Flying Horse Farms

Last month I had the pleasure of visiting Flying Horse Farms in Mount Gilead.

This camp for children with serious illnesses is an opportunity for children ages 7 to 15 from all over Ohio to enjoy a week being a kid and not have to think about their illnesses.

Campers may be battling cancer, heart conditions, rheumatoid arthritis, blood disorders, asthma, gastrointestinal disorders, kidney conditions and craniofacial anomalies.

But at Flying Horse Farms, campers only have to battle the occasional mosquito as they fish, run, play, climb, swim and make friends. Seeing everything the camp has designed to make kids feel like



Ty Ankrom

Flying Horse Farms promises to transform campers and, according to Kristy Eckert, the organization's chief communications officer, Yale University researchers have studied the camp for three years and proven they do exactly that.

kids really registered with me.

Flying Horse Farms is part of SeriousFun Children's Network, founded in 1988 by the late actor and philanthropist Paul Newman. Camp is free to all campers and families.

"The most recent set of results are astounding: Kids leave with greater self-confidence, better social skills, increased willingness to try new things and so much more," Kristy said.

Other findings from the Yale Child Study Center team survey of more than 600 families whose children attended Flying Horse Farms — or one of four other SeriousFun camps — in 2014 included:

- 77 percent of parents reported noticing an increase in their child's self-esteem
- 75 percent of parents reported noticing an increase in their child's maturity
- 74 percent of parents reported noticing an increase in their child's

independence

The nonprofit organization covers all operating costs through donations. But another type of donation that is needed is time. Flying Horse Farms has many opportunities for volunteers.

To get more information about volunteering this summer at Flying Horse Farms, go to [http://flyinghorsefarms.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Ultra-Camp\\_FAQ\\_Volunteers\\_v11.pdf](http://flyinghorsefarms.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Ultra-Camp_FAQ_Volunteers_v11.pdf). For an application to be a volunteer, go to <http://flyinghorsefarms.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/>.

Ty Ankrom is superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center.

## SPONSORS

Helping to ensure that the life you have built never has to change

- Life Insurance & Annuities
- Critical Illness Insurance\*
- Medical Insurance \*\*
- Mortgage Protection

**Nathan Fausnaugh**  
Registered Representative  
1931 Ohio Dr.  
Grove City, Ohio 43123  
Office 614.305.4606  
Cell 740.412.5344  
[nathan.fausnaugh@wslife.com](mailto:nathan.fausnaugh@wslife.com)

**Western & Southern Life**  
The Western and Southern Life Insurance Company  
Western-Southern Life Assurance Company  
Cincinnati, Ohio

**ROESE BROS. INC.**  
491-3571 983-2844  
COLUMBUS ASHVILLE  
**PAVING**

14360 State Route 104 • Ashville, OH 43130  
Fax: 740-983-9650

**B**

**BERGER HEALTH SYSTEM**  
[www.bergerhealth.com](http://www.bergerhealth.com)

**DU PONT**

in the  
**Circleville Community**

**OCU**

**OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

[www.OhioChristian.edu](http://www.OhioChristian.edu)

SERVING ALL OF PICKAWAY COUNTY

**Circleville Herald**

120 Watt St., Circleville • 740-474-3131  
Visit us on the Web at:  
[www.circlevilleherald.com](http://www.circlevilleherald.com)