

E CARDS



Birdie Atkins' and Hughes' "lucky elephant" might hold more cash if jackpots rise.

Tracy Pabst, a bingo-hall operator and special-events manager for Junior Achievement of Central Ohio, said the law comes at a bad time. Attendance has dwindled in bingo halls across Franklin County and many of them barely can afford the \$3,500 payout, she said.

She and other bingo-hall owners wonder how their games will survive. Many of them don't want to raise prize amounts but fear others will, she said.

"It's a big slap in the face," Pabst said. "We're all dying right now, especially the small bingos that have been struggling for a long time. If they have to go against big bingos that do increase their payouts, they're done."

Pabst said bingo revenue makes

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lated the separation of powers by supplanting the classifications assigned by judges.

Reverting the majority of Ohio's 26,000 sex offenders to their former classifications, and sending notices to both sheriffs and offend-

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COMMENTARY

Small-town museum's charms live on

ASHVILLE, Ohio — To the woman who poked her head in the door of Ohio's Small Town Museum last week, the answer to one simple question seemed capable of either making or breaking her day:

"Is there an admission charge here?" she asked volunteers Charlie Morrison and Dennis Blaney.

"No," Blaney responded.

"I'll be right back," she said, encouraged. "I got a busload of seniors from Obetz."

"It's a great place for seniors," Blaney



MIKE HARDEN

said Friday.

The historical attraction at which Blaney and Morrison volunteer was called the Ashville Museum until it was decided that small-town museums have so much in common that Ashville, Ohio, could be Anywhere, Ohio, when it comes to preserving and displaying the artifacts of Midwestern villages.

Ashville has a great number of historical claims to fame. TV cowboy star Roy Rogers wasn't born in Ashville, though, before stardom, he is said to have followed the Scioto River north from Portsmouth to a job in the town's canning factory. Depending on the story one chooses to believe, Rogers might or might not have been fired from the cannery for distracting his fellow employees with his warbling.

See **HARDEN** Page **B2**

delivery to be 7 days

adds to elderly

— Sherrie t one good

Monday

ays, when doesn't d healthful apartment, ." Lung breath and there to fix a

ust your- she said. gy than I

elcomed , begin- on Coun- ogram will each



COURTNEY HERGESHEIMER | DISPATCH

Volunteer Mary Stierhoff, right, delivers food to Leona and George Burton at their Marysville home. The couple is homebound.

Friday to get her through the weekend.

The meals will be frozen but healthful, and she can heat them in the microwave or oven when-

ever she gets hungry.

Others say the additional delivery will meet a critical need.

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Monday pink
 Tuesday ruby
 Wednesday gold
 Thursday gray
 Friday navy

Ohio Lottery

Numbers for Saturday, July 24

POWERBALL DRAWING

20 30 38 46 59

POWERBALL

27

POWER PLAY

2

CLASSIC LOTTO

1 3 4 5 26 47

ROLLING CASH 5

3 17 25 26 37

DAYTIME PICK 3

0 9 8

DAYTIME PICK 4

5 6 2 2

NIGHTTIME PICK 3

6 4 8

NIGHTTIME PICK 4

2 6 2 4

► The Ohio Lottery's Classic Lotto jackpot will be \$5.2 million for the drawing on Monday. There were no tickets with the correct combination for yesterday's drawing.

► The Mega Millions jackpot will be an estimated \$24 million for the drawing on Tuesday. There were no tickets with the correct combination for the drawing on Friday.

► For results of the Ohio Lottery's Ten-Oh! midday and evening drawings, see Dispatch.com/lottery or call the lottery's hot line at **1-800-589-6446**.

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FROM PAGE B1

Ashville is said to have supplied the cinematic masterpiece *The Wizard of Oz* with its lone "Ohio-born Munchkin" (How embarrassing it might otherwise have been to hail from a state that could not claim even one Munchkin).

An Ashville native and one of the hamlet's chief keepers of local history, Morrison recalled, "My parents had a grocery store at Scioto and Main. I took it over in the late '50s, had it for 30 years. This was a booming town at one time. There used to be 12 groceries, three grain elevators, and a gas station on practically every corner."

The Ashville of the Great Depression was captured by Farm Security Administration photographer Ben Shahn. Morrison said that,



Charlie Morrison

know their images were being snapped.

It is the Ashville preserved by Shahn's images — a village not always aware that its photo was being snapped — that is most faithful to the roots of the place.

I'm less interested in the museum's life preserver from the sunken U.S. battleship Maine than I am in the price list of Ashville's long-time physician, Dr. Ralph Hosler. A consultation could be as inexpensive as 50 cents or as pricey as \$2. Setting a fracture might set a patient back \$10.

visits to photograph Ashville, Shahn often used a camera fitted with a disguised right-angle lens so subjects would not

seum is home to what a museum brochure describes as "America's most unusual traffic light," an odd contraption that looks more like a 1950s sci-fi Martian head than a stop-and-go-signal. The light is said to have directed traffic at the intersection of Ashville's Long and Main streets for more than 40 years. One of the most unusual aspects of the light is that it provided motorists with a visual gauge of the length of time remaining before the light changed.

If your small niche of Ohio lacks its own museum, Ashville will be happy to let you borrow theirs, free, six days a week. Visit www.ohiosmalltownmuseum.org.

Retired columnist Mike Harden writes Wednesday and Sunday Metro columns.
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MEALS

FROM PAGE B1

"The reality of it is, these people who are isolated and need some help are literally surviving on crackers on the weekends," said Charles Gehring, president and chief executive of LifeCare Alliance, the Meals on Wheels provider in Franklin and Madison counties — one of the largest such agencies in the country.

LifeCare delivers about 2,000 meals each weekday to homebound seniors and between 1,500 and 2,000 each Saturday and Sunday. Gehring said his agency's meals are fresh and hot, even on the weekends, because that better suits the clients his agency serves. Less than half even own a microwave.

Still, the packaged meals will make a difference to people, he said, and Union County is going beyond what most agencies can do these days.

"They are expanding while programs everywhere else are cutting," Gehring said. "A lot of programs can't even afford to deliver hot meals weekdays anymore, so adding on would

"For some, the adult children, grandchildren or neighbors can help on the weekends. For others, there is just no other way to get food."

DICK DOUGLASS

director of Union County Senior Services

be unthinkable."

Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota and Oregon are among states where deep budget cuts have reduced Meals on Wheels programs across the board. In Ohio, local programs are increasingly turning to private fundraising to avoid service cuts.

The added meals in Union County are possible because voters there approved a 0.25 percent sales-tax increase in 2008. This year, Union County Senior Services is collecting about \$79,000 each month from that tax, and an equal amount goes to the county engineer for roads and bridges.

When the tax passed, Senior Sservices expected to supplement losses incurred by the meal program, which is based out of Memorial Hospital of Union County, by as much as \$100,000 each year. But so far, it has needed

to give only about \$60,000 annually to the hospital.

So Senior Services Director Dick Douglass surveyed the 225 mobile-meal clients to see whether weekend meals would help them. About 30 percent said yes. His agency will cover the \$28,000 additional cost.

For senior citizens and the chronically ill, the food isn't just an extra meal, Douglass said. Proper nutrition is crucial for many medicines to work. For people with ailments such as dementia, vertigo or bad joints, just standing to prepare a meal can be downright dangerous.

"For some, the adult children, grandchildren or neighbors can help on the weekends. For others, there is just no other way to get food," he said. "We have a responsibility to help where there is a need."

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