



**TODAY'S WEATHER**

HIGH 75  
LOW 55



**TUESDAY'S WEATHER**

HIGH 71  
LOW 60



FORECAST PAGE 2

**INSIDE**



**AUTO**

New Acura SUV is high tech, but not designed for off-road use. Page 7



**LOCAL**

Ohio gubernatorial candidate Ken Blackwell spent Saturday campaigning in Delaware County. Page 2



**Tussic Street Road** will be closed between Maxtown Road and Park Bend Drive for a road construction project. The road is scheduled to reopen Sept. 22. For more information call 740-833-2400.

**Hyatts Road** will be closed between Section Line and Steitz roads beginning Tuesday for a bridge replacement project. The road is scheduled to reopen Oct. 28. For more information call 740-833-2400.

**Orange Road** will be closed at the railroad crossing between South Old State Road and U.S. 23 beginning Tuesday for a rehabilitation project. The road will reopen Friday. For more information call 740-833-2400.

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50 CENTS

## Kid power



Gazette Amy Allan

Buckeye Valley West third-grader Brendan Mercier jumps over other Delaware Tae Kwon Do members, from left, Jacob Slaughter, Tim Steinberger and Alex Zourdous, to break a board with his foot as his instructors Gilles Mercier, left, and Jeff Conley hold the board tight, during Saturday's Kids Talent Show next to the Brown Jug Restaurant in Downtown Delaware.

## All-Horse Parade is Sunday

### Equine event is held annually as kickoff to Delaware County Fair

By DON E. BRUCE  
Staff Writer

As volunteers sifted through the remains of last year's All-Horse Parade, the head of the parade's committee made an unwelcome announcement: "Congratulations. And in 364 days we start all over again."

As the last few words escaped her mouth she took off running. It's an annual tradition.

"I know they're going to want to kill me," Diane Winters-Barker said last week.

Winters-Barker will start preparing for the 2007 All-Horse Parade as soon as this year's parade wraps up, and the planning will continue throughout the next year.

The parade, which began in 1986 as a kickoff to the Delaware County Fair, has grown steadily. It hit an all-time high last year, with more than 500 horses

“Some of the people we've gotten to know so well over the years, they're part of the family. We tell people to get involved and come expand their family, as we say in the horse world.”

— Diane Winters-Barker, All-Horse Parade committee head

es from across the country participating. This year's parade, scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday, could be even bigger.

Horses from as far afield as Oklahoma will clomp and stomp their way through the streets of Delaware. It takes a mountain of letters and phone calls to pull horse owners from across the country to Central Ohio.

"Some of the people we've gotten to know so well over the years, they're

part of the family," Winters-Barker said. "We tell people to get involved and come expand their family, as we say in the horse world."

That closeness makes it difficult when she needs to find replacements for longtime participants.

"Since we've been having the parade for so long, we have had some horses pass away and some people pass away," she said.

That inevitability, and the occasional group that simply can't make it for one year, drives her as she seeks replacement wagon teams and mule hitchers.

Sometimes she'll have ample time to seek out replacements, but sudden losses in her "family" can happen anytime. One year, a participant with a pair of draft horses lost both of them in a lightning storm the Friday before the parade.

Members of the parade's organization committee make annual pilgrimages to horse shows around the state, including the Ohio State Fair, where they seek out riders and horses, draft horses and more to add to the parade.

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### OUR NEIGHBORS

## Delaware's George Bray is a regular 'Mr. Fix It'

By CONNIE E. CURRY  
Special to the Gazette

"He can fix anything!"

That's what people say when they speak of Delaware's George Bray. A spry 84-year-old, Bray was born in Hills Grove, Pa. to Frank and Mary Brey and learned his fix-it skills at a young age.

"I asked for a one-bit saw for Christmas when I was 8, and I got it," Bray said with a smile as he reminisced about days gone by.

Growing up, George and his four brothers shared chores. Coal was too expensive and the family relied on wood for heat. "My job was cutting firewood and filling the wood box daily for the cook stove," he said. "To this day, I still heat with wood."

George's father worked as a photographer and painted church steeples. When work got slow, Frank and Mary Brey moved the family so Frank could find work. Delaware became home in 1938. George began his sophomore year at Willis High School, worked part time at Sunray Stove and graduated in 1940. After high school, George worked for Valves and Presses on Peachblow Road before deciding to join the Army. He served 33 months as a Staff Sergeant in radio communications during World War II in Germany. He received an honorable discharge and earned a Bronze Star for his communication during heavy artillery fire and

Please see BREY, Page 3



Gazette Matt Emmons

George Bray, a Delaware resident since 1938, has been a regular "Mr. Fix It" since he was 8 years old. Bray, seen standing outside his family's repair shop, has no plans to slow down as he approaches his 85th birthday.

## Memory Walk often a family affair

By HANNAH MAYES  
Staff Writer

An estimated 4.5 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, and that number is expected to continue to grow.

Mary Price, nurse coordinator at the Delaware office of the Alzheimer's Association, said nearly 900 Delaware residents have Alzheimer's, and 24,000 people in Central Ohio have been diagnosed.

To raise both awareness of and money for the cause, the Alzheimer's Association holds an annual Memory Walk.

Ouida "Cedi" Siler and her family plan to participate in the local Memory Walk, at 11 a.m. Saturday at Mingo Park.

This is the seventh year the local chapter has held a Memory Walk.

Last year, 180 people participated locally. More are expected this year because the Marion chapter has joined the Delaware walk.

Amanda "Weed" Thompson, Siler's mother, is an Alzheimer's patient living at Willow Brook Christian Village's Alzheimer's Care Center.

Siler and Tracey Roush, Thompson's granddaughter, decided that Willow Brook would be the best place for Thompson to receive care.

Thompson, formally of Collinsville, Miss., was previously cared for by Siler and Roush at Siler's home. The family decided it was time to move Thompson to Willow Brook where she could be supervised 24 hours a day.

Roush said, "I think the hardest part (of the disease), for me, is I want her to understand like she used to. You want them so badly back to where they were (mentally)."

According to the Alzheimer's Association Web site, www.alz.org, "Alzheimer's disease is a progressive brain disorder that

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# Delaware's got talent



Gazette Amy Allan

**Erik Lindman, a junior at Hayes High School, performs his juggling act Saturday afternoon on the lawn of the Brown Jug Restaurant in Downtown Delaware. Lindman said he's been juggling since he was in sixth grade.**

## BREY

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for getting men out safely.

After the war, he returned home and was rehired at Sunray Stove. He worked there for three years until he became employed at Ranco, a well-known Delaware Company that prospered for years. There, George acquired his love of tools and working with his hands.

He became a licensed tool and die maker while at Ranco. With his sharp eyes and his master hands, George began fixing anything that people needed repaired. From working on small motors to Harley motorcycles and special unique tool and die products, his side business flourished.

In 1948, George's family built a home on Coover Road. By 1953, a shop was added and a home-based, full-time business began. Frank, George and George's brother, Carl, started the Brey Machine Shop, which still stands today. In addition to the machine work, all five boys — who inherited their dad's love of Harley Davidson motorcycles — repaired motorcycles at the shop.

### Some unexpected repairs

It wasn't long after that that Brey met Ida Mae Longhenry from Powell, at a Worthington square dance. She became his wife, and mother to their four children. Sadly, Ida Mae died in 1956 while giving birth to their youngest son, Harold. George suddenly found himself with something else that needed his mending touch ... his family.

"There I was. I had a 3-year-old, 2-year-old, 1-year-old and a new baby. I had to work and I couldn't find a dependable housekeeper and baby-sitter," said Brey, becoming emotional. "People offered to take some of the kids. I wanted them all together. We moved in with my parents and my mom watched them while I worked."

As his home business grew, Carl left to go to college to get his engineering degree and his father died, leaving the business for George to run solo.

### A booming business

From welding to using milling machines, drill presses and lathes, work blossomed for George. He managed to stay close to his children as he worked, and he even recruited them for some minor jobs. "As the kids got older they stenciled parts and packed them for me to mail out," he said.

Work was plentiful. George made brake parts for F-60 Shooting Star jets for Troy-based company, and made fire equipment holders and nozzles for fire hoses for the Komunale Company of Chicago. George did custom work for various local businesses as well as individuals. He has repaired stools at the Hamburger Inn, made trap doors for Independent Print Company and made potato racks for McDonald's. He made many mount plates for test racks for buses. He made parts for backyard swimming pool pumps.

"I never lost a finger after all

## FAMILY

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gradually destroys a person's memory and ability to learn, reason, make judgments, communicate and carry out daily activities."

Siler said when it comes to treating the disease, "The resources (available) in Delaware County don't exist everywhere."

She said she couldn't say enough about how the Council for Older Adults and the Alzheimer's Association have helped with her mother.

Several years ago, Siler was a social worker at the Alzheimer's Association. She said her experience helped her notice warning signs in her mother three to four years ago, but up until April her mother was able to live on her own in Mississippi.

Siler said, "I think it's important that families educate themselves on the disease." She also stressed that the caregivers need to communicate.

According to Price, families have a hard time accepting that a parent has Alzheimer's because they have good days where they act normal.

Siler said if you are not around her mother for a long period of time, then it is hard to notice her memory loss. Siler said one day her mother didn't recognize her; she knew she had a daughter with Siler's

daily and still mows the lawn. "I just like to stay busy."

"We can hardly get him out of the shop," said his daughter, Connie Kartak, who cooks him dinner and lives in the house her grandparents built.

"Vacation to me is camping and being outside away from televisions and phones," George said.

So when his grandson, Chris Kartak, called from Michigan wanting to come home to see his grandpa, it was off to the Delaware State Park to camp for a few days. "This was the first year I couldn't sleep on the ground in our tent. I had to use a cot, but we cooked over the fire and I got to use the old cook stove. It was fun."

George has 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. When he was 70, he built a huge tree house on Coover Road that his grandchildren called a condo. "It had everything in it," said Connie. "The kids loved it."

When asked why he never remarried, his answer was simple. "I couldn't find anyone that treated my kids right, and I knew it was a lot to expect of a woman. I knew I couldn't have both and I chose my kids."

"Dad did a good job raising us, along with my grandma. We had a good Christian background, too," Connie said.

George attributes his good health to never drinking alcohol and always sleeping with a window open. "I never catch a cold. I smoked a little and quit when I was 16. My brothers and I would roll homegrown tobacco into our school tablet paper. I never inhaled it, though. It would have knocked me silly," he said, laughing.

"I never tried to do anything wrong," he adds, "and if I did ... I didn't mean to."



Gazette Amy Allan

**Tracey Roush, Amanda "Weed" Thompson and Ouida "Cedi" Siler plan to participate in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk Saturday at Mingo Park.**

name, but said she lived in Mississippi.

Currently one in 10 individuals over the age of 65 has Alzheimer's, and almost half of seniors 85 and older are affected. Rare, inherited forms of Alzheimer's disease can affect people as early as their 30s and 40s.

With no current cure, Alzheimer's is a fatal disease.

## HORSE

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We walked and we talked, and we walked and we talked," Winters-Barker said. "We spoke to everyone we could to replace some of the people who had family emergencies or couldn't make it this year."

The driving force behind the parade is a tight-knit group of five women that meets year round to keep the event on track. The group is made up of Winters-Barker's sister, Debbie Winters-Bergandine, and friends Becky Farmer, Deb Peirsol and Linda Penzera. Each woman puts in hundreds of hours of work each year pulling the parade together.

The group starts by sending out color-coded mailers to each of the previous year's attendees. The mailers, which list each horse's spot number at the fairgrounds, are printed on either green, orange, pink or yellow paper. "If they forget their paperwork, we can just ask what your color was," Winters-Barker said. "Everything is cross-referenced so we can get you set pretty quickly right there in the parking lot."

The group also ensures that they run free advertisements in several horse publications.

Attendees are asked to return their registration forms by Aug. 10. By that

The illness starts as the destruction of cells in the part of the brain that are used for memory. The loss of cells in other parts of the brain causes other essential systems in the body to fail. People with Alzheimer's usually have other illnesses common in senior citizens.

For more information about Alzheimer's or the Memory

Walk, visit [www.alzheimer-scentralohio.org](http://www.alzheimer-scentralohio.org) or call 740-363-1365.

The Alzheimer's Association hosts monthly caregiver support groups from 1 to 3 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at the Andrews House, 39 W. Winter St.

[hmeyes@delgazette.com](mailto:hmeyes@delgazette.com)

traffic, while a veterinarian from the Ohio State University vet college mans a horse ambulance that is on hand throughout the parade.

By 2:30 p.m. the participants begin lining up their horses according to the organization committee's detailed plan.

At 3 p.m. sharp Sunday, the first horse will hit the streets of Delaware. Less than 24 hours later, Winters-Barker will be thanking and congratulating her volunteers ... and running for her life one more time.

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