



Capitol Monitor

The **ONE SOURCE** for **HUMAN SERVICE** and **NONPROFIT** news in Ohio's Capitol

News Clips

Strickland supports cap on lending
House to go back to work on measure.
Akron Beacon Journal – 4/27/08

Smoke ban costly for health agencies
Fines failing to cover expense of enforcement.
Toledo Blade – 4/27/08

Legislator resigns over nude photo
A state lawmaker from Lorain County who inadvertently flashed the image of a topless woman during a talk to a high school government class last fall suddenly resigned Thursday, stunning his fellow Democrats.
Cleveland Plain Dealer – 4/25/08

Kids go uninsured in eligibility gap
Family incomes too high, too low for aid.
Columbus Dispatch – 4/22/08

Ohio anti-tobacco group nearly alone in money battle

As a court date approaches in a case that may determine the future of smoking-prevention efforts in Ohio, the anti-tobacco group challenging the governor might find itself wondering where all its friends have gone.

Cleveland Plain Dealer – 4/22/08

Hallett: Those much-loved tax cuts mean Ohioans lose services

Let's muzzle all the no-tax-is-a-good-tax demagogues and have a rational discussion about taxes.

Columbus Dispatch – 4/27/08

Suddes: Payday lenders have a friend in the General Assembly

You don't think Ohio should let payday lenders gouge borrowers with 391 percent annual percentage rates?

Columbus Dispatch – 4/27/08



IRS Seeks Comments on Draft Form 990 Instructions

The Internal Revenue Service recently released for public comment the draft instructions to the 2008 Form 990, which is the return most tax-exempt organizations must file annually. The instructions apply to the redesigned Form 990 that organizations will file for their 2008 tax years (returns filed in 2009). The final version of the redesigned Form 990 was unveiled in December 2007. (See *The Capitol Monitor*, 12/24/07.)

"Tax-exempt organizations provide tremendous benefits to the people and communities they serve, but their ability to do good work hinges upon the public's trust," said **IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman**. "The new Form 990 will foster this trust by greatly improving transparency and compliance in the tax-exempt sector. Public comment on the draft instructions will help the IRS to minimize the reporting burden on tax-exempt organizations, which is another important goal."

The IRS seeks public comment on the draft instructions to ensure that the final instructions meet the needs of the tax-exempt community. The public comment period will run until June 1.

The IRS also released a list of special "highlights" with the draft instructions, in the hope that public comments give particular attention to those details. The IRS will post comments on its website as it did with comments about the draft redesign of Form 990 last year.

The draft 2008 Form 990 instructions include a general overview that explains its purpose, an explanation of who must file particular schedules, and line-by-line instructions. The draft instructions also include new tools to assist organizations in answering certain questions and facilitating uniform reporting.

"We were immensely gratified by the amount and quality of public comments we received on the Form 990 redesign," said **Lois G. Lerner**, director of the IRS Tax-Exempt Organizations division. "Public input resulted in a form that meets the needs of tax-exempt organizations, the public and tax administrators. We hope for similarly thoughtful and useful comments about the draft instructions."

The draft Form 990 instructions are on the tax-exempt organizations part of the IRS website. Comments on the instructions can be emailed to the IRS at Form990Revision@irs.gov. To facilitate posting on the IRS website, email comments in a text (not picture) format.

cont'd on p. 2

Hannah News Service, Inc.

21 West Broad Street, Suite 1050

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone - 614.228.3113

Fax - 614.228.5897

www.CapitolMonitor.com

Comments can also be mailed to the following address:

IRS
Draft 2008 Form 990 Instructions, SE:T:EO
1111 Constitution Ave., NW.
Washington, DC 20224

Benefit Bank Assists Ohioans to Claim Stimulus Payment

Gov. Ted Strickland announced that the Ohio Benefit Bank is offering an online service that could help at least 640,000 eligible senior, veteran and disabled Ohioans claim an economic stimulus tax rebate through Oct. 15 without having to file for an extension.

The service is available to individuals who typically are not required to file annual federal income tax returns because they receive non-taxable income such as Social Security.

"I encourage Ohioans to reach out to friends and community members who would not otherwise be required to file their 2007 federal income tax returns - they are still eligible to receive a \$300 rebate from the federal government if they file returns before Oct. 15," Strickland said. "Through the Benefit Bank, these individuals can claim their payment through a 10-minute, easy-to-use online service."

Only those Ohioans who did not file their 2007 federal income tax returns can benefit from the Benefit Bank's tax rebate service. Anyone who has already filed a federal tax return, including those who were not required to, will receive the stimulus payment automatically if they are eligible.

The economic stimulus filing program is available online at the link for the free tax preparation service.

To qualify for the economic stimulus rebate, individuals must have at least \$3,000 in qualifying income - such as wages, Social Security, railroad retirement benefits, veterans' pension and benefits, and non-taxable combat pay - for 2007 and cannot be claimed as a dependent on anyone else's 2007 tax return.

Strickland also encourages local Benefit Bank sites and other organizations across the state to recruit and train counselors who can assist individuals in filing for the economic stimulus payment.

"Together we can work to make sure that all Ohioans get the benefits they deserve," Strickland said. "This rebate will greatly assist Ohioans who are on fixed incomes, as well as help stimulate our economy."

The Ohio Benefit Bank is a web-based computer program to connect low- and moderate-income Ohioans with public benefits as well as free tax preparation services. The Benefit Bank is offered through a public-private partnership between the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, and more than 400 faith-based, nonprofit, governmental and private-sector partners.

Ohio to Participate in Early Childhood Symposium

As part of an effort to build states' capacity for developing science-based policies that enhance children's learning, behavior and health, 14 states have been selected to participate in the National Symposium on Early Childhood Science and Policy. The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center), Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child and the National Conference of State Legislatures, which comprise the Partnership for Early Childhood Science and Policy, will jointly convene the symposium at Harvard June 26-27.

Besides Ohio, the other states participating include Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and Washington. The states' teams, which include legislators, lieutenant governors, gubernatorial policy advisors and business and civic leaders, were selected based on their diverse composition; the clarity of their goals; the capacity of team members to advance state early childhood policy; and the potential for new policies or investments to move forward in a collaborative, bipartisan manner with public-private support.

"Governors' offices around the country embrace this opportunity to learn and work together with the legislative branch, early childhood experts and business leaders to improve the lives of children in their states," said **John Thomasian**, director of the NGA Center. "Many governors have made early childhood issues a high priority, and that's reflected in the number and quality of teams coming to the symposium."

The symposium will bring the state teams together with world-renowned researchers to learn about recent advances in neuroscience, molecular biology, medicine and developmental psychology, which collectively form an integrated science of early childhood development.

Symposium plenary sessions will address the science of early childhood and its implications for state birth-to-age-five policies and practices as well as lessons from states working to incorporate science into their policies, including discussions on how private initiatives can leverage public investment. In addition, state teams will participate in breakout sessions to focus on specific needs in their states; delve deeper into specific scientific, programmatic or policy issues; and develop early childhood action plans for their states.

By providing a forum for exchanging knowledge and working together, the symposium aims to help state leaders develop policies that enhance children's well-being and long-term outcomes while laying a solid foundation for economic prosperity, healthy lives and strong communities. The event is supported by the Buffett Early Childhood Fund.

Additional information is available online.

Ohio's delegation, according to **Alicia Leatherman**, director of the governor's Early Childhood Cabinet, includes herself plus **John Stanford**, executive assistant to the governor for educa-

cont'd on p. 6

This Week in the Capitol

This is both National Volunteer Week and Cover the Uninsured Week. As such, there are a number of events emphasizing those issues.

And with the ink yet dry on the last hot button bill – energy dereg (**SB221**) – the Legislature and governor appear ready to move on to the next one: payday loans. A Republican response to an outright cap is being introduced this week and heard in the House Financial Institutions, Real Estate and Securities Committee on Wednesday – along with the three payday bills already in the hopper.

This is also the week **Gov. Ted Strickland** and **Chief Justice Tom Moyer** host the two-day **Ohio Summit on Children** on Thursday and Friday, May 1 and 2 at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. The purpose of the conference is to build on existing initiatives and foster new collaborative efforts to provide permanent homes for Ohio's children caught up in the child welfare system.

Meeting Announcements

Wednesday, April 30

Gov. Ted Strickland speaks at the 28th Annual Governor's **Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony** at noon in the Statehouse Rotunda.

Thursday, May 1

The **Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council** at the Ramada Inn Plaza, 4900 Sinclair Rd., Columbus. Also on Friday, May 2.

Ohio Civil Rights Commission, Rhodes State Office Tower, 30 E. Broad St., 5th Floor Hearing Rm., Columbus.

Public Health Council at 10 a.m., Ohio Department of Health, 246 N. High St., 8th Fl., Columbus.

Gov. Ted Strickland speaks at the **Ohio Summit on Children** at 10:15 a.m., Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus.

Former Assistant Surgeon General of the U.S. Marilyn Gaston and Ohio Department of Health Director **Alvin Jackson** speak the Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio's (UHCAN Ohio) **'Lend Your Voice -- Health Care for All!'** event from 5:30-7 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 404 S. Third St., Columbus.

Legislative Hearings

Tuesday, April 29

HB248 (Civil litigation) and **SB174** (Human cloning) – Senate Civil Justice at 11 a.m.

HB365 (Increased prison terms/funding) and **HB311** (Unemployment benefits) – House Finance & Appropriations at 1 p.m.

SB57 (Special education scholarship program) – Senate Education at 4 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30

Payday bills – House Financial Institutions, Real Estate & Securities at 9 a.m.

SB115 (Health coverage for dependent children) and **HB404** (Viatical settlements) – Senate Insurance, Commerce & Labor at 3:30 p.m.

HB7 (Adoptions) – House Health at 4 p.m.

Thursday, May 1

HB264 (Castle doctrine) – House Criminal Justice at 9:30 a.m.

SB289 (Dept. of Veterans Affairs), **SB260** (Immigration), **HB477** (English only) and **HB475** (Childhood cancer awareness) – House State Government & Elections at 9:30 a.m.

HB456 (Ohio CARE) – House Healthcare Access & Affordability at 10 a.m.

HB351 (Prisoners in adjoining counties), **HB173** (Judges) and **SB281** (Bankruptcy exemptions) – House Judiciary at 10:30 a.m.

Monday, May 5

Controlling Board at 1:30 p.m.

Legislative Actions

CSRAB Ups Rates for Underground Parking Garage

The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB) Wednesday approved fee increases for parking in the underground garage. The daily rates go up effective May 1 while the monthly/reserved rates increase July 1, 2008.

Under the new fee schedule, the following are the new rates:

<u>Hours</u>	<u>New Rate</u>	<u>Old Rate</u>
0-1/2	\$1	\$1
1/2-1	\$2	\$2
1-2	\$4	\$3
2-3	\$5	\$4
3-4	\$6	\$5
4-5	\$6	\$5
5-6	\$7	\$6
6-7	\$8	\$7
7-8	\$9	\$7
8-9	\$10	\$8
9-10	\$11	\$8
10-11	\$12	\$9
11-12	\$13	\$10

Evening rates go up \$1 from \$2 to \$3 for 0-4 hours and from \$3 to \$4 for 4-12 hours. Monthly parking rates go from \$180/month to \$190 while the monthly reserved rates go from \$205 to \$220.

It is expected the increases will bring in about \$565,000 more/year to offset deficits the garage has been running. So far this year, its expenses are outstripping income by \$241,170.

HOUSE

Barrett Gone after Nude Photo Flap Returns

Freshman Rep. Matt Barrett (D-Amherst) was gone in a flash on Thursday after Democratic House Leader Joyce Beatty (D-Columbus) demanded and received his resignation, which was officially tendered on Monday, April 28.

Beatty put out a statement Thursday morning saying Barrett had admitted that he wasn't truthful about the accidental showing of nude photos to a Norwalk High School civics class last year.

Barrett had been giving a presentation on how a bill becomes a law when he inserted a portable flash drive into his computer and a picture of a nude woman flashed on the screen.

He told media at the time that he did not know how the image appeared on the drive that he had checked out from the State Library, but a Highway Patrol investigation later put the incident on one of Barrett's children.

The issue seemed to die shortly after - until Thursday.

"It became clear that Rep. Barrett had not been forthright with me and his colleagues," said Beatty.

Beatty did not provide any other details. House Democratic caucus spokesman Phil Saken said "the statement speaks for itself" when asked for more information. He did say that Beatty asked for the resignation Wednesday evening.

One unnamed Democratic legislator told the *Plain Dealer* that members of the caucus were briefed on a conference call about the resignation and were told there were nude photos of two women from Barrett's district on the drive used during the presentation. Neither was Barrett's wife, the member told the Plain Dealer.

Meanwhile, the *Chronicle Telegram* of Elyria reported that an investigation by Norwalk police into the incident had been completed and that Law Director Stuart O'Hara was seeking a special prosecutor from outside Barrett's district to decide if he should face charges.

Barrett was one of seven pickups for Democrats in 2006 in a heavily Republican district. He was to face former Huron County Commissioner Terry Boose in the November election.

Beatty said no timetable has been set for naming a replacement for Barrett.

Bills Introduced

HB530 SAVENOW PROGRAM (Hottinger) Implement the linked deposit savings program.

HB534 PHASE OUT INCOME TAX (Adams) Phase out the state income tax over 10 years.

HB536 HEALTHY FAMILIES ACT (By Initiative) Provide for paid sick leave.

HB537 RETIRED JUDGES (OELSLAGER) Permit a civil action referred to a retired judge for consideration and adjudication to be tried and determined by a jury presided over by the retired judge.

HB538 GPS DEVICE MONITORING (PATTON) Require imposition at sentencing or upon release from prison of lifetime active global positioning system device monitoring for Tier III sex offenders/child-victim offenders.

HB540 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FUNDING (FENDE) Create the Public Transit Funding Task Force to study Ohio's public transportation funding and issue a report.

HB541 VEHICLE REGISTRATION (COMBS) Require person who is not a US citizen to submit documentary evidence proving that the person is present in this country in accordance with federal law when obtaining a vehicle certificate of registration.

Resolution Introduced

HCR43 BANKRUPTCY (YATES, T) To support legislation that would enable bankruptcy judges to modify mortgage agreements of households under Chapter 13 bankruptcy proceedings.

Bills Passed

HB130 (DYS operations) - *Passed 89-6.*

SB163 (Foster caregivers) - *Passed 94-1.*

SB221 (State energy policy) - *Passed, as amended, 93-1.*

Referred to Committee

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

HB538 (GPS Monitoring/Tier III sex offenders/child-victim offenders)

SB184 (Castle doctrine)

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, REAL ESTATE & SECURITIES

HCR43 (Bankruptcy/modify mortgage agreements)

INFRASTRUCTURE, HOMELAND SECURITY & VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB540 (Public Transit Funding)

STATE GOVERNMENT & ELECTIONS

SB260 (Immigration)

SB289 (Dept. of Veterans Affairs)

SCR16 (Federal immigration laws)

WAYS & MEANS

HB534 (Phase out personal income tax)

Action on Bills Listed Previously

HB26 (Urban Homestead Zones) - *Substitute bill accepted* by House State Government & Elections.

HB154 (Mayors' courts) - *Reported out as amended* by House Judiciary.

HB320 (Booster seats) *Reported out* by House Infrastructure, Homeland Security & Veterans Affairs.

HB428 (School employees misconduct) - *Substitute bill accepted* by House Education.

HB450 (Handgun purchase) - *Reported out* by House Criminal Justice.

SENATE

Bills Introduced

SB318 CONCEALED CARRY LAW (FABER) Allow a concealed carry licensee to carry concealed handguns in buildings that are owned or leased by the state or a political subdivision, to alter the requirements for renewing a concealed carry license.

cont'd on p. 5

SB319 CHECK-CASHING BUSINESSES (GRENDALL) Create a statewide database of loans by check-cashing licensees, to modify the terms for making a loan under the check-cashing loan act, to create a small loan linked deposit program.

SB321 RESIDENTIAL CAMP VOLUNTEERS (STIVERS) Require criminal records check conducted by the BCII to be completed for each employee of a residential camp and to require S.S. number criminal records check for volunteers of residential camp.

SB324 NEW AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS COMMISSION (STIVERS) Establish a New African Immigrants Commission to advocate for the development and implementation of policies and programs to address the needs of the State's sub-Saharan African population.

Bills Passed

HB392 (BMV next-of-kin database) - **Passed 31-0.**

SB184 (Castle doctrine) – **Passed 31-0.**

SB260 (Immigration) – **Passed, as amended, 31-0.**

SB289 (Dept. of Veterans Affairs) – **Passed 31-0.**

Resolution Adopted

SCR16 (Federal immigration laws) - **Adopted 31-0.**

Referred to Committee

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

HB130 (DYS operations)

SB318 (Concealed carry revisions)

SB321 (Residential camp volunteers)

FINANCE & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

SB319 (Payday loans)

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT & VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB327 (Boards of health)

Action on Bill Listed Previously

SB270 (School employees misconduct) – **Substitute bill accepted, amended and reported out** by Senate Education.

Administrative Actions **Ohio Selected For Health Care Quality Improvement Institute**

Ohio will focus on cancer screening, preventive care and chronic disease management as it joins eight other states in an effort to improve performance across targeted health care quality indicators.

“Continuous quality improvement in health care leads to a better quality of life for Ohioans,” **Cynthia Burnell**, director of the Office of Healthy Ohio, stated in a release. “This will allow us to better focus our efforts in screenings, preventive care and management of chronic diseases such as diabetes.”

Ohio will focus on two health care indicators: 1) increasing the percentage of Ohioans 50 and older who receive recommended screenings, such as colon cancer screenings, mammograms; and preventive care, such as flu shots, and 2) helping Ohioans with diabetes receive the recommended preventive care to help

them manage their disease and prevent or delay complications.

Ohio was selected, along with Colorado, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont and Washington, through a competitive. States will also implement new quality improvement initiatives geared toward achieving a high performing health care system in the United States, according to AcademyHealth and the Commonwealth Fund, backers of the State Quality Improvement Institute.

Bills Signed

HB429 DESTINATION-BASED SOURCING (GIBBS) To authorize a vendor required to utilize destination-based sourcing to determine the appropriate sales tax jurisdiction to convert to origin-based sourcing on or after January 1, 2009.

SB219 MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE (SCHURING) Make period of limitation for criminal prosecution of a person for an offense of a public servant the same as the period of limitation for the criminal prosecution of that public servant.

Appointments

The **Ohio Advisory Council for the Aging** reviews plans, budgets and issues that affect older Ohioans and advocates specific administrative and legislative actions.

* **Elaine Altstaetter**, Wapakoneta, serves on the boards of directors for the Lima YWCA and the Auglaize County Council on Aging. Altstaetter is retired, but currently studying at the Ohio State University Lima campus to earn certification to complete tax returns for the AARP. She received an associate's degree in accounting from Northwestern Business College in 1953.

* **Lois Foster**, Akron, has served as the vice president of community impact for the United Way of Summit County since 1985. Foster has served as the program development chair for the Summit County Older Adults Coordinating Council and as the evaluation chair for the Foster Grandparent Program Advisory Council (Akron Summit Community Action). She received a bachelor's degree from Tuskegee University and a master's degree from the University of Akron.

* **Martin O'Connell**, Girard, is the president of the District 11 Area Agency on Aging and chairman of the Trumbull County Senior Advisory Board. He served as the chairman of the Trumbull County Senior Levy Campaign in 2005 and the city of Girard Senior Levy Campaign in 2007.

* **Molly Varner**, Cutler, is retired and most recently served as the director of the Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District/Area Agency on Aging. She also served as a field representative and case-worker in the office of then-Cong. Ted Strickland. Varner has been involved as a board member of the Greater Marietta United Way and the Washington County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

* **Donelda McWilliams**, Defiance, is a retired funeral director. She serves on the auxiliary boards of Defiance County Senior Services and the Area Agency on Aging. She previously served three years as the chairperson of the AARP legislative committee. McWilliams received a bachelor's degree from Defiance College in 1942 and a mortuary science degree from Wayne State Mortuary School in Detroit.

The **Chemical Dependency Professionals Board** regulates the licensure and certification process of chemical dependency counselors and specialists, approves educational coursework and investigates ethical complaints against licensees. The board also regulates the prices of chemical dependency counseling and alcohol and other drug prevention services.

* **John Ellis**, Olmsted Falls, has 22 years of experience in the field of

cont'd on p. 6

Appointments *cont'd from p. 5*

addictions treatment and prevention. He is currently the director of program services for the Drug Addiction and Alcohol Services Board of Lorain County. Ellis received a bachelor's degree from Cleveland State University in 1994 and a master's degree in social work from Cleveland State in 2001.

The **Public Health Council** is the primary rule-making body for the Department of Health. It adopts, amends, and rescinds rules pertaining to public health.

* **Gail Long**, Shaker Heights, served as the executive director of the Merrick House, a multi-purpose settlement house serving several neighborhoods on the West side of Cleveland, from 1987-2006 and previously served as the assistant director. She received a bachelor's degree from Willamette University in 1965 and a master's degree from Case Western Reserve University in 1967.

The **State Employment Relations Board** studies representation and negotiation problems in employment relations, recommends legislation, and studies employment conditions in the state. It also organizes collective bargaining units, hears and determines charges of unfair labor practices, and oversees negotiations between public employers and public employees.

* **Eugene Brundige**, London, is arbitrator, mediator and labor relations consultant. He served as the chief negotiator and deputy human resources director for the city of Columbus from 1998-2000 and the director of classified personnel for Columbus Public Schools from 1996-1998. Brundige graduated from Ohio University in 1966, and received a master's degree in educational administration from Ohio University in 1968.

Judicial Actions

Ohio Supreme Court Opinion

State ex rel. Cincinnati Enquirer v. Jones-Kelley

Mandamus - Public records - Absent evidence showing that a list of names and addresses of certified foster caregivers discloses which, if any, is a public assistance recipient, the list is not excepted from disclosure under federal and state law - Section 671(a)(8), Title 42, U.S. Code - Section 205.50, Title 45, C.F.R. - R.C. 5101.27(A) - A judicially created "good sense" rule does not except a public record from disclosure under R.C. 149.43.

Attorney General

Opinion Request

FROM: Erie County Prosecuting Attorney

A series of nine questions regarding the authority of a board of township trustees to take a variety of actions in the event of a pandemic for the purpose of ensuring the orderly continuation and administration of township government:

1. Townships may enter into mutual aid agreements for the provision of fire, ambulance and police protection services. Do townships have the express or implied authority to enter into mutual aid agreements for the provision of road maintenance services?
2. Do townships have the express or implied right to assign elected officials' duties to designees, such as other township trustees or fiscal officers, in order to conduct business within the township in cases of medical emergency?
3. Do townships have the right, in times of pandemics, to hold meetings by teleconference or some other means which would

prohibit or limit the public from attending in person?

4. Do townships have the right to limit public attendance at meetings during a pandemic?

5. Do townships have a right to set up an emergency plan for paying wages, invoices and other bills through an electronic system which would not require approval of bills prior to payment? If so, what authority would have to be in place prior to setting up such a system?

6. In the above case, would a plan component for subsequently authorizing payments of wages and payments meet the requirements of state law?

7. What provisions may be made if none of the elected officials of a township is able to perform township duties either through death, disability or closure of public thoroughfares, thus limiting authorized travel?

8. In answering the above questions, would the answers to the posed questions differ if the declaration of emergency is done by the local government, the state of Ohio or the federal government?

9. In answering the above questions, does it matter whether the emergency is a medical one, i.e., pandemic, or armed forces conflict, or threat of terrorism or bioterrorism?

Childhood Symposium *cont'd from p. 2*

tion policy; **Susan Zelman**, state superintendent of public instruction; **Dr. Alvin Jackson**, director of the Ohio Department of Health; **Rep. Vernon Sykes** (D-Akron); **Liz Connolly**, deputy chief of staff of the Ohio Senate; **Marcia Egbert**, George Gund Foundation; and **Gayle Channing-Tenenbaum**, of Public Children Service Association of Ohio (PCSAO) and Voices for Ohio's Children.



Happenings Weeks of April 14 and 21

Week of April 14, 2008

Elections

Franklin County Commissioner and Democrat **Mary Jo Kilroy** raised more money in the last quarter and has more money on hand than Republican **Steve Stivers**, but her rival is not far behind in the amount of money he brought in last quarter. According to Kilroy's campaign, she reported to the Federal Elections Commission having raised \$290,767 in the Feb. 14 to March 31 reporting period and \$411,932 since Jan. 1, and has \$944,326 cash on hand. Stivers meanwhile reported \$279,417 in contributions to the campaign during the same period and \$382,667 since Jan. 1. His campaign said he has \$599,689 cash on hand. Including the year-end and pre-primary reports, his campaign said Stivers has raised nearly \$800,000 in less than 150 days since he announced his candidacy for the 15th Congressional seat on Nov. 5, 2007.

New numbers posted on the Federal Elections Commission (FEC) website show that while Republicans still control Ohio's congressional delegation 11-7, Democratic officeholders and challengers are catching up in their **fundraising**. FEC statistics show that more than \$25.5 million has been raised by congressional candidates in Ohio for 2008, with about \$12.5 million being raised by Republicans. Democrats reported having nearly \$5.8 million in cash on hand, compared to \$5.4 million by Republicans.

With time running short for Ohio to switch completely to paper ballots for the November election, **Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner** hinted over the weekend that she may order more back-up **paper ballots** while continuing the push for a permanent move away from electronic voting machines.

Two freshman Democrats continue to pull in **campaign donations** that could help the caucus in its efforts to retake the House in the fall. **Armond Budish** (D-Beachwood) reported raising \$198,960 in his post-primary filings Friday, in addition to the nearly \$500,000 he reported raising in his annual filing earlier this year. Budish now has cash on hand of \$522,086. He was followed by fellow freshman **Matt Szollosi** (D-Toledo), who reported having raised \$195,820. He reported \$269,569 on hand.

In the battle for the **Republican House leader**, **Rep. William Batchelder** (R-Medina) led in the recent fundraising period, having raised \$72,290. He reported having \$137,844 on hand. **Rep. Matt Dolan** (R-Novelty) reported raising \$53,900 and has about \$96,481 on hand.

Ballot Issues

Proponents of **HB536**, which mandates seven **paid sick days** for full-time workers, got the hearing they were promised, but not under conditions they liked. **Brian Dunn**, leader of the campaign for the Ohio Healthy Families Act, said he got notice Monday of the Tuesday hearing before the House Commerce and Labor Committee. The General Assembly got the bill in early January after **Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner** certified the petition signatures supporters collected under the

initiated statute process. If lawmakers fail to act within four months – by May 8 – or pass an amended version, bill backers can gather more signatures and put it on the November ballot.

If **Sen. Gary Cates'** (R-West Chester) **SJR6** is approved, voters will have an opportunity in November to vote on an amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would revise the **redistricting** process for the General Assembly and Congressional districts.

General Assembly/Statehouse

The Lottery Commission's **Keno rules** cleared the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) on Monday. The next step is the Controlling Board for funds to purchase the machines to have the game in place by July 1, 2008.

The Senate unanimously approved **SB289** sponsored by **Sen. Bob Spada** (R-North Royalton) to create a cabinet-level **Department of Veterans Services**, per the recommendation of a study council created by **Gov. Ted Strickland**.

Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) joined the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants and the Ohio Grocers Association to outline legislation, **SB320**, that targets **organized retail theft rings** in the state. Retail stores in Ohio lost \$1.3 billion in 2007 to these "gangs," and the state has lost \$88 million in sales tax. The gangs of thieves target items such as baby formula, pain relievers, electronics, allergy medications, CD's, dietary products, over-the-counter drugs, video games, hand tools and small appliances that are then sold on the Internet or "out of the backs of pickups." Included in the bill are criminal penalties, civil penalties of "treble damages" and the forfeiture of profits. The racketeering designation helps with the multi-jurisdictional nature of the crimes.

The House Public Utilities Republican Committee members reported out **SB221** (R-Schuler), 11-0, on Monday. Democratic members had walked out in protest before the vote was taken. The bill was to have been voted on by the House Tuesday. However with continual stops and starts to discussions among House leadership, Senate leadership and **Gov. Ted Strickland**, the vote was postponed until Wednesday and then again until Tuesday, April 22. **House Speaker Jon Husted** (R-Kettering) released a statement saying that work continues through the weekend.

In House action, floor debate focused on a last-minute provision added to a rehabilitation bill for ex-felons in committee that requires **county prosecutors** to have practiced law for five years in Ohio to be eligible to run for that office. The provision was enough to lead some Republicans to vote against **HB130** (White, Yates) on the floor, but it still passed overwhelmingly because Democrats who had raised issues with the amendment encouraged the legislation's passage. The bill overall is focused on a set of comprehensive reforms for Ohio's prison and youth services systems.

In a unanimous vote, the House also adopted **HB215**, which would label **Salvia divinorum** as a controlled substance com-

cont'd on p. 8

Happenings/Week of April 14 *cont'd from p. 7*

parable to marijuana. Sponsor **Rep. Thom Collier** (R-Mount Vernon) told the chamber that he hadn't heard of the herb until constituents who lost a young son because of the actions of a 12-year-old under the influence of the herb brought it to his attention. He said it has been labeled by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration as the "most potent naturally occurring psychoactive compound available today."

A bill, **SB184** (Buehrer), that addressed when a **homeowner** can shoot an intruder, debated fervently in committee in past weeks, ended up passing unanimously Wednesday in the Senate.

Advocates for mental health, addiction treatment, and public children services all came to the House Insurance Committee to urge legislators to adopt **HB384** (Celeste), which they said would go much further than legislation passed in the 126th General Assembly in prohibiting **discrimination for the treatment of mental illnesses and substance abuse**.

A new round of amendments was enough to get the House Judiciary Committee to send legislation abolishing **mayors' courts** to the full House. The latest version of **HB154** (Wolpert) still had its detractors. Despite the bill's being scheduled for amendments and a vote and no witnesses, **Chairman Louis Blessing** (R-Cincinnati) took testimony, but only after the committee had voted on the bill. The amendments made the bill silent on how magistrates are chosen and refer to Ohio Supreme Court rules on the qualifications for magistrates who would serve on community courts, allowing cities, villages and townships to choose who they want. The amendments also allowed two adjoining townships to have a community court; eliminated the requirement that a local police officer would have to attend court hearings; and changed procedures on how fines would be reimbursed to help clarify that municipalities wouldn't lose fine money for abolishing or losing their courts under the bill.

Sen. Tim Grendell (R-Chesterland) and 13 cosponsors introduced **SB319** on Tuesday to modify Ohio's **payday lending** law, "making it harder for these businesses to take advantage of Ohioans." It is a companion to **HB333** (Batchelder, R. Hagan).

Thursday saw a marathon session of testimony in a packed hearing room as the House Financial Institutions, Real Estate and Securities Committee played host to supporters and critics of the three **payday lending** bills – **HB333**, **HB337** and **HB358**. Many of the lengthy witness statements were indicative of testimony in earlier hearings, offering the contrasting portrayals of payday lenders as conscientious and generally accommodating providers of a service needed by people in a pinch, or as nefarious peddlers of a product that drops already vulnerable people into a debt trap. Witnesses ran the spectrum from academics and the president of a payday lending trade group to small payday lending operators and people who themselves had sought the loans.

Main points of contention were whether payday lenders could stay in business with an interest rate cap of 36 percent or 25 percent – detailed in **HB333** and **HB358**, respectively – and

whether average payday borrowers are helped or hurt by the service. Also debated was why banks and other "traditional" financial institutions don't operate in neighborhoods where payday lending is prevalent and don't offer more small-loan services.

Executive Branch

Gov. Ted Strickland, joined by consumer advocates, announced that he would veto **SB221** after **House Speaker Jon Husted** (R-Kettering) introduced the latest changes to the bill on Thursday, April 10 to the House Public Utilities Committee. Strickland said that the latest changes would threaten the state's ability to both keep and create jobs in Ohio.

The **Ohio Housing Finance Agency** (OHFA) announced that borrowers now have the option to receive 3 percent of the home purchase price as **down payment assistance**. The change will allow more flexibility for borrowers trying to purchase a home in an ever-changing financial environment. OHFA previously offered down payment assistance at 2 percent of the home purchase price, but found that current conditions required additional help for borrowers.

The Ohio Inspector General announced that a five-month **investigation of the Ohio Industrial Commission** (IC) has found "no basis or substantive evidence" to support all but one claim against its Equal Employment Opportunity administrator, and instead pointed to a "climate of fear" among rank and file employees toward the commission's personnel department and upper management. **Inspector General Thomas Charles** has given IC's executive director 60 days to answer recommended reforms, including the correction of "numerous deficiencies" cited by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services' Equal Opportunity Division (EOD).

The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) received another \$13.6 million in federal funding for its **Home Weatherization Assistance Program** (HWAP), bringing the state's total 2008 allocation to \$36.5 million.

Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC) Executive Director **Kitty Burcsu** told attendees at the council's annual meeting Monday that after three years, creation of a "volunteer" license plate, **SB259** (Padgett), is moving ahead with a hearing scheduled Tuesday morning in the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee. She told the several hundred in attendance that the license plate would promote volunteerism; recognize the key role volunteers play in communities all around the state; and has the potential to provide the council income to fund mini-grants or other volunteer-related programs.

The Ohio Department of Development announced that the **Central City Economic Development Council** has been designated the community action agency for Richland County effective April 1.

Ohio Supreme Court/Other Courts

The Ohio Supreme Court issued a split decision upholding the right to a **grand jury indictment free of defects**, a right that **Chief Justice Thomas Moyer** says traces all the way back to the legal system brought to America by English colonists,

cont'd on p. 9

Happenings/Week of April 14 *cont'd from p. 8*

and which had protected their own system of justice from abuses by the Crown. The chief justice held that a simple robbery indictment of **Vincent Colon** in the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas had failed to cite a mens rea calculation or "guilty mind" in the commission of the crime, and therefore caused a fundamental error in the entire criminal proceeding, invalidating the conviction.

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear **Ohio lethal injection challenge** *Cooley v. Taft/Cooley v. Strickland* less than a week after affirming Kentucky's use of the death penalty protocol. The ruling, however, does not address the merits of the case but rather the fact that it was filed outside the statute of limitations.

Other Statewide Offices

Late Monday, **Attorney General Marc Dann's** office released approximately 2,200 **email messages** between him and his scheduled **Jessica Utovich** from September, October and November, 2007. At the same time, his office noted that Ben Espy, a deputy attorney general who is leading the internal investigation into sexual harassment charges in the office, reports the investing is "going well" and he expects to have a final report in "a week to 10 days."

In an ironic move, **Attorney General Marc Dann** and the attorneys general of 18 other states and Puerto Rico asked the U.S. Supreme Court Wednesday to rule that employers cannot retaliate against an employee involved in an employer's investigation of sexual harassment. The amicus brief, or "friend of the court," filing supports a woman who was fired after participating in a company investigation of sexual harassment.

The Supreme Court of Ohio released for public comment new **rules on the employment of suspended or disqualified attorneys**. The new language moves away from the current, broader prohibition against "the practice of law" to a more detailed set of guidelines for censured members of the bar and their supervising attorneys. Current rules mandate registration of a suspended attorney's employment and supervision by the employing attorney. There are no rules regulating the employment of a disbarred attorney or an attorney who has resigned from the practice of law with disciplinary action pending.

Federal Government

Ohio's participation rate comes in at 68 percent of those persons with incomes low enough to qualify for **Food Stamps** – only three points above the national average of 65 percent. This means many "either go hungry or end up relying on other federal and state assistance programs," according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which administers the program.

Other Organizations

Nationally known wellness expert from the Cleveland Clinic, **Dr. Michael Roizen**, called **Gov. Ted Strickland** "stupid" for his decision to use \$230 million of the tobacco settlement fund for the state's stimulus package – a decision supported by action of the General Assembly. However, \$40 million was left in the fund for use by the **Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation**.

Neither the foundation nor the state can access the money at this time, pending a second hearing on the lawsuit brought by the foundation against the state that is set for next Thursday, May 8.

The intended recipient of the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation's (OPTF) attempt to purge its endowment fund before **Gov. Ted Strickland** and the General Assembly could take \$190 million for the economic stimulus package asked a judge Monday to allow it to intervene in the lawsuit to stop the move.

Week of April 21, 2008

General Assembly

After months of testimony and weeks of intense negotiation, the energy bill, **SB221** (Schuler) cleared the Legislature – first passing the House 93-1 on Tuesday and then being agreed to by the Senate on Wednesday 32-0. Among provisions in the bill is net metering, solar benchmarks, due process for an Electric Security Plan, deletion of duplicative language, risk price management, alternative energy cost cap language, an electric distribution utility's return on common equity, governmental aggregation, hydropower, solid waste as an advanced energy, reliability of a utility's distribution system, clean coal technology, renewable energy provisions and guidelines for utilities to go to the marketplace to set their distribution rates. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) will play a major role under the new law.

The Legislature finally wrapped up work on a two-bill reform of the state's **foster care system** by passing the second bill, **SB163** (Niehaus), last week 94-1. The other bill, **HB214** (Wagner), passed earlier this year.

The House State Government and Elections Committee held its first hearing on **Rep. Robert Mecklenborg's** (R-Cincinnati) **'English only'** bill, **HB477**, for spoken and written language records of all deliberations of public bodies and for "each official action of any state agency or political subdivision."

Executive Branch

Gov. Ted Strickland likened the rollout of **broadband** and related technologies to the efforts to put electricity into every home in a speech marking the start of the national Connect! tour sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Connect Ohio and Connected Nation. Strickland also received a check for \$200,000 from the Ohio Telecom Association to further the state's Connect Ohio efforts to connect every home. He said the first major project of Connect Ohio is the detailed mapping of where broadband already exists, which will be released June 27.

Ohio's **unemployment rate** was 5.7 percent in March, up from 5.3 percent in February, according to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). The U.S. unemployment rate for March was 5.1 percent, up from 4.8 percent in February.

The state's final **tangible personal property tax** returns are due from businesses Wednesday, April 30. These returns will cover the 2008 tax year – the last for the tangible personal property tax (TPPT) here in Ohio. The TPPT has long been the

cont'd on p. 10

Happenings/Week of April 21 *cont'd from p. 9*

source of irritation for Ohio business owners and its abolishment was part of the 2005 tax reforms.

The **Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendations Panel** is seeking candidates for two judicial vacancies: one on the Wayne County Municipal Court and the other on the Pike County Court of Common Pleas, Probate and Juvenile Division.

Gov. Ted Strickland got involved in the **disciplinary action** for two State Highway Patrol troopers charged with staging a mock Ku Klux Klan photo while on duty by calling for their firing.

The **Bureau of Workers' Compensation** approved a 10 percent **cut in premiums** for state agencies, universities and university hospitals. Effective July 1, this is the first decrease since 1999.

Gov. Ted Strickland, in a letter to the Ohio Coalition for Responsible Lending (OCRL), **supported an "all-inclusive" 36 percent annual percentage rate cap** for payday loans. At the same time, the House committee chairman came up with his own alternative bill, to be introduced the week of April 28 as the "Small Loan Act," which substitutes a loan origination fee for the interest.

Ohio Supreme Court/Other Courts

A five-member commission of the Ohio Supreme Court issued a **formal censure** and fines against former Republican **Lorain County Judge Paulette Lilly**, the former co-chair of its Privacy and Public Access Subcommittee, an advisory body on developing final standards for public records and the courts, for implying she was the incumbent judge in campaign materials when she was not.

The Ohio Supreme Court unanimously found prohibitions against an **animal** that "howls, barks or emits audible sounds that are unreasonably loud or disturbing which are of such character, intensity and duration as to disturb the peace and quiet of the neighborhood or to be detrimental to the life and health of any individual" are not unconstitutionally vague.

Other Statewide Offices

It was a good news/bad news week for **Attorney General Marc Dann** aide **Anthony Gutierrez** – first, the Columbus police said that no criminal charges would be filed after Cindy Stankoski, an employee in Dann's office, filed a criminal complaint against Gutierrez over an incident at the Gutierrez/Dann/**Leo Jennings** condo. However, later in the week, the Department of Administrative Services began investigating a report that Gutierrez got into an accident in a state vehicle while intoxicated and failed to report it.

"The current system of individual jurisdictions battling among each other to offer progressively more aggressive tax incentives is viewed by many, and I agree, as an unproductive use of resources," **State Treasurer Richard Cordray** told the House Local and Municipal Government and Urban Revitalization Committee when he appeared in support of **HB521**. The bill proposes creating the Ohio Commission on Local Government

Reform and Collaboration to develop recommendations for restructuring and streamlining local governments.

Federal Government

President Bush declared an **emergency** for Ohio stemming from the March 7-9 snow storms that led to record snowfalls. This makes federal funds available for Ashtabula, Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Crawford, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Geauga, Greene, Hardin, Huron, Lake, Morrow, Richland, Union and Wyandot counties.

Other Organizations

Ohio is one of 12 states to receive a \$10,000 grant from the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) to support its **early childhood advisory council**, in an effort to bolster and support early childhood learning.

The intended recipient of the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation's (OTPF) attempt to purge its endowment fund before **Gov. Ted Strickland** and the General Assembly could take \$230 million for an economic stimulus package – the **American Legacy Foundation** – asked to be allowed to intervene in the lawsuit to stop the move. In addition, the court hearing that had been scheduled for April 24 was delayed until May 8.

The **Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids** said that the governor and General Assembly should consider raising tobacco taxes instead of raiding the endowment of the state's tobacco prevention organization, noting that a 75-cent increase would raise \$390.8 million in the first year alone, saving the \$230 million that has been proposed to be funneled to the stimulus package. Strickland and legislative leaders expressed little interest in raising the cigarette tax, however.



Governor Issues Workplace Domestic Violence Policy

Gov. Ted Strickland recently issued domestic violence guidelines for all state departments, setting the example for a workplace phenomenon which he says is becoming increasingly common in American society. Declaring the problem a major “public health issue,” Executive Order 2008-08S creates the Barbara Warner Workplace Domestic Violence Policy and the Barbara Warner Committee on Workplace Domestic Violence in memory of the Ohio Department of Health employee who was killed by her husband in 1997.

Strickland said the policy will guide state agencies in addressing and reducing occurrences of domestic violence and their impact on the workplace.

“Domestic violence in and outside of the workplace has become increasingly prevalent,” the governor said. “As an employer, the state must foster a safe working environment for all employees and provide the resources necessary to assist a worker who may be the victim of a domestic violence situation.”

The domestic violence committee, chaired by an official from the Ohio Department of Health and comprised of representatives from the governor’s office, Department of Administrative Services, Department of Public Safety, Department of Health, Employee Assistance Program, and other individuals appointed by the governor, will meet on a quarterly basis starting January 2009. The committee will help implement the policy in all state agencies, boards and commissions by July 1, 2009 and report to the governor every July thereafter on the progress of domestic violence prevention.

Strickland said studies show domestic violence can compromise the workplace through increased absenteeism, increased employee turnover, reduced productivity and excessive health care costs. The language of the executive order expands on this observation.

“While domestic violence between family or household members is alarmingly prevalent, domestic violence in the workplace, as well as its impact on the workplace, has also become increasingly more common,” the executive order states. “The impact of domestic violence in the workplace includes conduct that interferes with an individual’s capacity to safely and securely perform their work duties and, ultimately, affects an employee’s job performance and attendance. Consequently, both actual and threatened domestic violence from within and outside of the workplace can affect an employee’s morale and productivity.”

Under the policy, each state agency will perform the following:

- a. Maintain, publish and post a list of resources for survivors and perpetrators of domestic violence.
- b. Within established personnel policies, give due consideration and accommodation to employees who are victims or survivors of domestic violence by
 - i. modifying their work duties, assignments or work sites when the perpetrator and victim are employed at the same work site;

- ii. granting leave requests if an employee needs to be absent from work due to current or past domestic violence;
- iii. working collaboratively with the Ohio Employee Assistance Program when considering corrective actions related to the job performance of a victim of domestic violence.

c. To the extent permitted under established personnel policies, refer an employee who is a perpetrator of domestic violence to the Ohio Employee Assistance Program for services and/or short-term counseling.

d. Take necessary corrective action, up to and including termination, and contact appropriate law enforcement personnel regarding employees who commit acts or threats of domestic violence while on state property, conducting state business at a state-sponsored event, or when using state resources.

e. Not discriminate, penalize, or discipline a state employee, solely for acts resulting from being a victim or survivor of domestic violence.

f. Respect the confidentiality and autonomy of the reporting employee and the victim or survivor, by informing others about facts associated with the domestic violence incident only to the extent necessary to protect safety or comply with the law and/or applicable collective bargaining agreements. Whenever practicable, advance notice will be given to the reporting employee if the state agency needs to inform others about the domestic violence situation.

“This policy will ensure that state agencies offer the necessary services and flexibility to employees who may be dealing with the physical and emotional distress caused by a domestic violence situation,” said the governor, who noted the policy will also ensure that victims of domestic violence do not face discrimination in employment decisions and that their identity will remain confidential.

All state employees will receive training on the domestic violence policy per the executive order:

“The state’s employees are a vital part of creating and fostering efficient governmental practices and ensuring that all Ohioans receive the support and services that they need. Consequently, the state is committed to working with cabinet agencies, boards and commissions ... to create and foster safe working environments, while also working with employees to prevent abuse, harassment and discrimination that may be the results of domestic violence.”

The executive order was signed on Wednesday, April 16. It may be viewed in full at the governor’s webpage for executive orders.



Spotlight on People/Agencies

***Scott North**, former special assistant to **Gov. Ted Strickland** on regulatory reform, has re-joined the Columbus office of Porter Wright Morris & Arthur as a partner in its Litigation Department and chair of the firm's Government and Regulatory Affairs Practice Group. While with the governor, North led the "Advantage Ohio" initiative which was created to improve Ohio's business climate and eliminate unnecessary, redundant and inefficient regulations and regulatory practices that were determined to constrain business and development in the state. The effort culminated in the governor's signing an executive order in February which put into place a "common sense" reform of regulatory rules that would, among other things, create an ombudsman position in all regulatory agencies to help businesses navigate state rules, and require that electronic notification of proposed or adopted rule changes be sent to those interested. (See *The Capitol Monitor*, 2/18/08.)

*Former Ohio Supreme Court Justice **Blanche Krupansky** died. She was 82. Krupansky was the second woman to serve on the Court when she was appointed by **Gov. James A. Rhodes** in 1981 to fill the unexpired term of **Justice Paul W. Brown**. She served from Sept. 10, 1981 to Jan. 10, 1983. Krupansky also served on the Cleveland Municipal Court, the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas and the Eighth District Court of Appeals.

***Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher** and his wife **Peggy Zone Fisher** received Distinguished Leadership Awards from the Cleveland Chapter of the American Jewish Committee for their leadership in civic and community service.

***Treasurer Richard Cordray's** office announced that he has been appointed to the Legislative Committee of the National Association of State Treasurers.

***Attorney General Marc Dann** announced that **Michael Deemer**, his current chief deputy attorney general for government affairs, is being promoted to deputy first assistant attorney general. Deemer will share duties with **Tom Winters**, the first assistant attorney general and will continue his duties in governmental affairs.

***Sen. Kevin Coughlin** (R-Cuyahoga Falls) received the Cancer Advocacy Award from the American Cancer Society for his sponsorship of legislation mandating health care coverage for colorectal cancer screenings.

*The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) named **Megan Gordon-Lakey** regional economic development director of the Central Ohio region. In addition, former department spokeswoman **Nikki Jaworski** was promoted to director of outreach, reporting directly to department director, **Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher**.

*The *Cincinnati Business Courier* reports that former Ohio congressman and White House budget director **Rob Portman** has joined the board of Ohio State University's John Glenn School of Public Affairs. In addition, he will be co-teaching a public budgeting class in the spring. Besides being mentioned as a possible candidate for governor, Portman is now believed to be on **Sen. John McCain's** list to run for vice president.

*The **Ohio Community Service Council** (OCSC) awarded the President's Lifetime Volunteer Service Award to **Dr. Edward T. Bope** for his establishing a free clinic and to Uta Papke for her volunteer activities in the arts and international "Sister City" efforts. These awards were presented at OCSC's annual conference by the council's luncheon speaker, Henry Lazano, deputy assistant to the president and director of the USA Freedom Corps. Also honored were the Ohio Humanities Council and Alan Penn with the OCSC's own STAR Award.

***George Forbes**, a former member of the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Oversight Commission who resigned in 2005, has agreed to a public reprimand by the Ohio Supreme Court for ethics charges stemming from undisclosed trips and meals he received from two vendors.

***Wendy Simpkins** has been promoted to senior director of corporate communications for the **American Cancer Society**. In addition, both **Susan Jagers** and **Tracy Sabetta** have struck out on their own, opening Initiative Consulting.

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