



SPORTS



New owner, same old Reds

For the second consecutive year, the Chicago Cubs posted 16 runs on opening day as they pounded the Reds, 16-7... See Page B-1

NEWS

Former Burg EMT in trouble

Jason Schoeppner was one of many arrested in a sting operation in Greenville last week ... See Page A-7

Officials say DeLay will resign

The former U.S. House leader will reportedly retire this summer before the November election ... See Page A-2

Water tower to be fixed

By KATHLEEN FOX
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Some Urbana residents and businesses may see a dip in water pressure while a drain valve leak at the East Lawn water tower is repaired, but pressure won't go below minimum Ohio Environmental Protection Agency levels, according to city Water Superintendent Bob Munch.

"There will be no problem with water except people may experience lower than normal pressure," he said. "We're correcting a situation before it becomes a problem."

Munch said it's hard to say which customers may experience lower pressure, but that those who do generally will be south of Children's Home Road, east of Wood Street, north of Scioto Street and west of Jefferson Avenue. He said not all customers in that area will see a pressure drop.

"There's no way to fix the leak unless the tank is empty," Munch said, adding the tower will start being drained Friday. Work on the leak is expected to start April 10.

There will be no boil advisory since water to customers will continue throughout the process, however, bacterial testing must be done at the tower since it is being drained. That testing is expected to be on April 12 and 13.

"It's anticipated the tower will be back on line April 18," Munch said.

On March 28, the city council authorized a \$3,642 purchase order to ACT See 'Leak' on Page A-5

Another arrested in coke bust

Law enforcement still seeking 2 others

By RYAN BENNETT
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Champaign County Sheriff David Deskins and Champaign County Prosecutor Nick Selvaggio have released information on two remaining secret indictments surrounding the alleged organized sale of cocaine in the city of Urbana. Thirteen indictments were returned by a Champaign County grand jury on March 16 after an investigation by the sheriff's office and the local adult parole authority into the cocaine-distributing



Reese



Kitchen

network.

According to a press release from the sheriff's office on Monday, Lynnette M. Kitchen, 26, with a last known address of 503 Railroad St., Urbana, was indicted on 14 criminal offenses involving engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, seven counts of trafficking in cocaine, four counts of permitting drug abuse and two counts of endangering children. The other individual allegedly

involved in the cocaine network, known only to law enforcement by the nickname "D," was indicted as "John Doe a.k.a. 'D,'" according to the press release. He is charged with engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity and two counts of trafficking in cocaine, the press release states. "Based on the information gained during our investigation, we do not believe this person to be a native or resident of Champaign County," Deskins says in the press release.

"We are requesting the public's assistance in locating Lynnette Kitchen and 'D' so that they can be held to answer to their criminal indictments," Selvaggio says in the press release. "Anyone who may have information as to the true identity of 'D,' the whereabouts of either Kitchen or 'D' or knowledge about the organized drug activity itself should contact the Champaign County Sheriff's Office at 484-6091,"

Selvaggio states.

Stephen S. Reese, 38, of Urbana, was the 11th individual arrested in the alleged cocaine enterprise, the release states. This is the first announcement of Reese's arrest by law enforcement. He was indicted on charges of engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, permitting drug abuse and endangering children.

"Eleven of the 13 individuals have been arrested, taken into custody and arraigned. Judge Roger B. Wilson has initially set bond in the amount of \$300,000 to \$750,000, depending on their criminal history and their level of alleged participation in the criminal offenses," Selvaggio states. "We expect to schedule trial dates in the near future."

The following 10 individuals were previously arrested after the indictments were returned and are in custody: Michael A. Minkner, of See 'Bust' on Page A-5

UHS grad's job involves celebrities, U.S. president

By JENNIFER FEJES
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LOS ANGELES, Calif. -- Musician, Videographer, Editor, Sound designer, Songwriter. Studio owner.

Even the president's "audio guy."

Urbana native Gary McLaughlin seems to be doing it all.

McLaughlin is living the Hollywood dream that many Americans only fantasize about.

Born and raised in Urbana, Gary graduated from Urbana High School in 1969. He attended Kent State University for two years until the Kent State riots brought his college days to an abrupt end.

After returning to Urbana he soon realized that his dream to be a musician wasn't going to happen there so he packed up his drums and moved to Colorado.

There he "cut his teeth" in the music business with bands that kept him busy, playing mostly in the ski resorts of Vail, Aspen and Steamboat Springs.

He'd ski all day and play music at nights for the likes of Cher, Jack Nicholson and The Kennedy kids.



Submitted photo

Urbana native Gary McLaughlin adjusts the microphone of President George W. Bush prior to a recent TV appearance by the president in Hollywood, Calif.

"When I got to L.A., I realized that it was going to be rough to make it only as a musician, so I figured that I'd better diversify."

- Gary McLaughlin

From the slopes to the coast

When his roommate got a phone call one day in 1979 that his father had died and left him an Italian restaurant on the beach in Santa Cruz, Calif., he and McLaughlin packed up McLaughlin's 1957 Chevy pickup truck and headed west for California.

While working as an Italian chef in the restaurant, McLaughlin started MCCA, a musicians' contact service which put him in touch with practically every musician in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Through MCCA, he met the legendary drummer, Buddy Miles. Miles and McLaughlin played together one night and the chemistry was magic. Buddy invited Gary to come down to L.A. to record on Miles' current album project that he was creating in Stevie Wonder's IAM Studios. While living with Miles, McLaughlin said there were always well-known musicians popping in and out, such as Chaka Kahn, Sly Stone and Miles' good friend Stevie Wonder.

And on to L.A.

Two years later, McLaughlin officially made the move to L.A. from Santa Cruz, and that's when his career started to become what he'd always hoped it would be.

See 'Career' on Page A-3

WL-S renews Thompson

Bleacher project moves forward

By JOSHUA KEERAN
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WEST LIBERTY - The West Liberty Board of Education unanimously passed a motion here Monday night to recognize the services of first-

year Superintendent Steve Thompson with an evaluation of "satisfactory."

The decision came after an hour-and-a-half executive session in which board members not only evaluated Thompson, but also came to an agreement on his compensation.

The board agreed to move Thompson from step 1 to step 2 in administrative pay for the 2006-2007 school year. The one-year contract involves a pay rate

of \$332.80 per day for 260 days.

"We are very appreciative of all the hard work this year," Board President Jim Hoffman said of Thompson's service to the district. "You really hit the ground running."

See 'WL-S' on Page A-7



Thompson

DeWitt resigns as Burg officer

By RYAN BENNETT
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MECHANICSBURG - Robert K. DeWitt II, 29, of Mechanicsburg, who has had multiple charges filed against him in the Champaign County Municipal Court, has resigned his post as Mechanicsburg police officer.

"He (DeWitt) resigned the 29th (of March), the night he was arrested by our office," Mechanicsburg Police Chief Tim Bostic said. "He was arrested on the outstanding warrant on March 29 and jailed in the Tri-County Jail (in Mechanicsburg)," Bostic said. He did not turn himself in as previous reports indicated.

DeWitt was arraigned in Champaign County Municipal Court on March 30. He entered a plea of not guilty on a March 23 violation of a protective order charge, according to the municipal court's Web site. He was released on a \$1,000 bond.

The protective order was issued to help ensure the safety of the female victim of both a Feb. 2 assault charge and a Feb. 27 intimidation charge by DeWitt.

The female victim of all three first-degree misdemeanor charges said that DeWitt e-mailed her and sent text messages to her on a number of occasions in violation of the protective order, according to a Champaign County Sheriff's report. A message on the victim's cell phone, allegedly from DeWitt, was witnessed by Sgt. Christopher Copeland of the sheriff's office. The victim and DeWitt also had personal contact by meeting in a Columbus hotel, according to the victim's statement.

Champaign County Sheriff David Deskins said that a warrant had been issued for DeWitt's arrest on March 24 for the violation of a protective order charge.

He was charged with intimidation of a victim on Feb. 27 after he allegedly sent communications of an intimidating manner to the woman via a computer.

In the Feb. 2 assault charge against DeWitt, he allegedly struck the woman with his fist in the area of her left eye, according to a Champaign County Sheriff's report. DeWitt was charged with criminal damaging on Feb. 7 after spray-painting parts of a video camera that did not belong to him.

DeWitt has a trial date set for May 10 at 9 a.m. in Champaign County Municipal Court.



DeWitt

Triad meeting tonight

Special to the Citizen

NORTH LEWISBURG - Triad Local Board of Education will meet today at 7 p.m. in special session in the board room. Agenda items include personnel issues, including a rescinded resignation.