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RH RESOURCES

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Week in Review

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As a service to the clients and friends of Governmental Policy Group, Inc. and RH Resources we would like to extend the following weekly update of events happening around Capitol Square.

ADDICTION/SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine is calling attention to preliminary indicators for his START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma) Pilot as part of a larger push for full-state funding of an intervention program supporting drug addicts and their families. DeWine announced the initiative's expansion one year ago and this week published an interim report on START's early successes. The program has grown from the original 14 counties from Spring 2017, with a focus on counties hard hit by the opioid crisis in southern Ohio.

AGING

Former Speaker of the Ohio House William G. Batchelder III (R-Medina) was among 12 older Ohioans from around the state who were inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame on Thursday, May 31, at the Statehouse Atrium in Columbus. This year's inductees, who range in age from 63 to 97, also included the following: Richard P. and Frances H. Anderson, Maumee; Sister

Sally Duffy, Cincinnati; Ronald Dwinnells, M.D., Poland; Dorothy J. Gackstetter, Graytown; Mary L. McDonald, Mansfield;; Gary G. Miller, Cincinnati; Carolyn Nelson, Sunbury; John A. Ruthven, Cincinnati; Gail J. Rymer, Little Hocking; and Bertalan Szabo, Munroe Falls.

AGRICULTURE

The least costly way to cut nearly half of the phosphorus seeping into Lake Erie is taxing farmers on phosphorous purchases or paying farmers to avoid applying the nutrient to their fields, according to a new study from Ohio State University (OSU).

ATTORNEY GENERAL

To mark National Missing Children's Day, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's office Friday released 2017 Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse report. It shows that 20,043 children were reported missing last year. Of those, 19,623 were recovered safely. There are currently 736 children still missing.

BALLOT ISSUES

In a quick meeting, the Ohio Ballot Board certified a proposed constitutional amendment that would set new limits on payday lenders, allowing backers of the issue to begin collecting signatures to put in on the ballot. Ohioans for Payday Loan Reform brought the issue after complaining that the Ohio Legislature had moved too slowly on reforms for the industry. Backers announced later in the week that they are aiming to get the issue on the 2019 primary or general election ballot. That means that the number of signatures they need will be based on the total votes cast in this fall's gubernatorial election.

EDUCATION

Under federal law passed in 1975, children with intellectual disabilities are supposed to spend as much time as possible in general education classrooms. But a new study from Ohio State University (OSU) suggests that progress toward that goal has stalled.

After subpoenaing digital records of the defunct Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT), Auditor Dave Yost is now asking to officially be named as a party to the lawsuit in which court-appointed attorneys are settling the online charter schools affairs. Outside counsel appointed for Yost, Maria Armstrong and Federico Barrera of Bricker & Eckler, filed a motion to intervene Friday.

The Ohio Department of Education announced Tuesday that it awarded a combined \$33 million-plus in federal grants to dozens of school districts or consortiums of school districts to improve student literacy. The awards follow an application process for the \$35 million Ohio received from the U.S. Department of Education's (USDOE) Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Grant program. About 95 percent of that amount was earmarked for distribution to local schools.

A group that helped to craft graduation flexibility for the class of 2018 is meeting again to develop a new system for this year's freshman and classes beyond, though the fate of classes in between is bogged down in the General Assembly. Superintendent Paolo DeMaria's Advisory Committee on Graduation gathered for a second time Wednesday following a meeting in early May. The group last

met in early 2017 to approve a 2018 framework that the State Board of Education and lawmakers later ratified, with some tweaks.

ELECTIONS 2018

The Ohio Democratic Party (ODP) this week continued releasing snippets of a recent Public Policy Polling (PPP) survey conducted on ODP's behalf just before the May 8 primary election, this time showing Democrat Rob Richardson and Republican Robert Sprague tied in the race for Ohio treasurer.

Liberty Township Trustee Melanie Leneghan is planning to request a recount in several precincts after losing the primary in the 12th Congressional District to Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville), Cleveland.com reported.

Jenna Knepper has replaced Mike Dittoe as Sen. Troy Balderson's (R-Zanesville) congressional campaign manager. Knepper most recently worked for U.S. Rep. Luke Messer's (R-IN) unsuccessful U.S. Senate candidacy in 2018. Before that, she worked on the campaign of U.S. Sen. Todd Young (R-IN), who was elected in 2016.

Supporters of Dennis Kucinich's run for governor are still being asked for campaign contributions weeks after the former congressman lost the Democratic primary to Richard Cordray. "Now that the campaign has concluded and all the bills are in, we have an urgent need to cover about \$38,000 in late expenses for printing, postage, media and contractual services. May we once again call upon your generosity for assistance in retiring our debt? Please help if you can," Kucinich wrote in a fundraising email.

The boards of elections for Tuscarawas County and Holmes County will recount votes in the race for the seat currently held by Rep. Al Landis (R-Dover), according to the *New Philadelphia Times-Reporter*. In the contest for the Republican nomination, Uhrichsville Law Director Brett Hillyer leads Dover Council President Shane Gunnoe by 12 votes, the newspaper reports. The recount is scheduled to occur on Monday, June 4. The winner will face Democrat Jeremiah Johnson in the general election.

Bowling Green City Councilman Daniel Gordon is dropping out of the race for the 3rd House District for health reasons, the Democrat announced on Facebook. However, Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) will still have an opponent in the fall, Ohio Democratic Party (ODP) spokesperson Kirstin Alvanitakas told *Hannah News*.

The following endorsements were made over the week:

- FreedomWorks for America endorsed Jim Jordan for Congress.
- The International Union of Operating Engineers endorsed Mike DeWine for governor and Jon Husted for lieutenant governor.
- The NFIB OH PAC endorsed Mary DeGenaro and Craig Baldwin for the Ohio Supreme Court.
- Freedomworks for America endorsed Warren Davidson for Congress.
- The Ohio Society of CPAs endorsed Mike DeWine for governor and Jon Husted for lieutenant governor; Dave Yost for attorney general; and Robert Sprague for treasurer.

ENERGY

The country's largest bank joined forces with Walmart and Case Western Reserve University Tuesday to call for investments of more than \$26 billion in Ohio's clean energy economy. Twenty-one thousand new jobs depend on it, according to JPMorgan Chase. The bank's vice president of global philanthropy, Alex Derkson, gathered with partners near Capitol Square to announce the release of the report "Powering Ohio," which focuses on the development of solar and wind energy, energy efficiency, 21st century transportation, and needed corporate leadership to make it happen.

Two Duke Energy leaders have new roles beginning Friday, June 1: Jim Henning, Duke Energy's Ohio and Kentucky state president, becomes senior vice president of customer services while Amy Spiller, vice president of Ohio government and community affairs, succeeds Henning as president of Duke Energy Ohio and Duke Energy Kentucky.

ENVIRONMENT

A study of drinking water in Appalachian Ohio has found no evidence of natural gas contamination from recent oil and gas drilling. Geologists with the University of Cincinnati (UC) examined drinking water in Carroll, Stark and Harrison counties, a rural region in Northeast Ohio where many residents rely on water from private underground wells, according to the university. The time-series study was the first of its kind in Ohio to examine methane in groundwater in relation to natural gas drilling, UC said. The results were published in the journal *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*.

FEDERAL

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) enlisted the help of Franklin County Sheriff Dallas Baldwin Wednesday in pressing legislation to provide law enforcement with electronic screening devices for fentanyl and other opioids. Sens. Brown, Rob Portman (R-OH), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Ed Markey (D-MA), Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Charles Schumer (D-NY) introduced the Providing Officers with Electronic Resources (POWER) Act last month in an effort to build on a similar program for customs and border protection agents under the INTERDICT Act, signed by President Donald Trump this year.

GAMING/GAMBLING

The Ohio Lottery Commission (OLC) and the Ohio Casino Control Commission (OCCC) are prepared to implement rules allowing sports betting if they're directed to do so by the governor or the General Assembly, agency representatives told *Hannah News*. The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that the federal ban on sports betting was unconstitutional, opening the door for states to legalize it. However, Jon Keeling, a spokesperson for Gov. John Kasich, said expanding gambling is not currently a priority for the administration.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

There are 160 bills that have been passed out of a House committee and are awaiting action as the House speaker's seat remained vacant for another week. Five sessions have been cancelled as the House Republican Caucus continues to debate who should replace former Speaker Cliff Rosenberger

(R-Clarksville) for the rest of this session and House Speaker Pro Tempore Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) tries to secure 50 votes for a candidate.

With the House speaker's race still at an impasse, House Speaker Pro Tempore Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) Tuesday outlined two scenarios for proceeding for House members to choose from: Call a session and vote until they have a speaker, or call a session to amend the House rules and allow him to oversee the full duties as speaker while remaining speaker pro tempore. He set a Friday, June 1 deadline for members of both parties to let him know their preference which will determine the process followed the next time the House is in session on Wednesday, June 6.

Meanwhile, several House Republicans held two separate news conferences this week on Tuesday and Wednesday, calling on their fellow Republicans to back Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) for speaker and urging Speaker Pro Tem Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) to call a vote. Smith said on Wednesday that he is "frustrated" and "perplexed" by Schuring's two options for resolving the speaker's race that Schuring laid out on Tuesday.

The upper chamber plans to move forward with two sessions in June, Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) told reporters Tuesday. "My expectation is ... that we'll be here June 6 and probably again on the 27th," Obhof said following a non-voting session. "My anticipation would be that we'll have a pretty steady stream of work going over the summer, even for the month or two that we're not here." Among bills that could receive action during the June sessions, Obhof said, are regulation reduction legislation SB293 (Peterson-McColley), Ohio Public Safety Officers Death Benefit Fund revision SB296 (LaRose-Hottinger) and Lake Erie protection measure SB299 (Gardner).

In legislative action this week, the House Aging and Long Term Care Committee reported out HB572 (Scherer-Howse) which deals with OPERS credit for nonteaching employees of county boards of developmental disabilities; and the House State and Local Government Committee reported out HB552 (LaTourette) which deals with chemical capture and euthanasia of animals.

GOVERNOR

The following appointment was made during the week:

- Eileen M. Sheil of Bay Village (Cuyahoga County) to the Ohio University Board of Trustees for a term beginning May 24, 2018, and ending May 13, 2027.

JUDICIAL

The Ohio Supreme Court has both a video and pamphlet on the role of the grand jury available to all Ohio judges, courts and schools as a way to educate potential grand jury members and the public. This is the result of a recommendation from the Task Force to Examine Improvements to the Ohio Grand Jury System in 2016.

What is considered the state's largest surface mining company says one Cleveland suburb is playing fast and loose with city ordinances to stop the firm from expanding a 165-acre mine in the middle of a zoned residential area. Officials for the city say they have a right to preserve its aspirations as a major bedroom community by enforcing their vision for municipal planning -- one approved by city council. The dispute will be resolved by the Supreme Court of Ohio, which accepted the company's appeal last week.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Attorney General Mike DeWine says the city of Cleveland and its lower courts are once again trying to sidestep the General Assembly's efforts to bar municipalities from placing residency requirements on public workers -- restrictions mirrored by most of Ohio's largest cities, notes DeWine. The Ohio Supreme Court has accepted his appeal of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and 8th District's decisions to override 131-HB180 (Maag) as an unconstitutional violation of home rule powers.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

The state government should have an office dedicated to supporting and promoting state and federal investment in Ohio's military installations and infrastructure, according to recommendations released Tuesday by the House's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and Military Affairs Task Force.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Ohio hunters checked a total of 22,571 wild turkeys during the 2018 spring seasons from April 21 through May 27, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

POLLS/STUDIES

If you have a task or meeting looming in the near future, you're probably less likely to be getting the full value of your time until then. That finding is the result of a new study coming out of Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business. The study, "When an Hour Feels Shorter: Future Boundary Tasks Alter Consumption by Contracting Time," shows that people are less likely to use a full hour of their time if they have an appointment immediately afterward.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Ohio State Highway Patrol reported 15 deaths on Ohio roadways during the 2018 Memorial Day weekend according to provisional statistics. There were 15 traffic deaths during the 2016 and 2017 Memorial Day weekends. Two of this year's fatalities were the result of not wearing a seat belt when available and two were OVI-related. The four-day reporting period began Friday, May 25 and ran through Monday, May 28.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio recently approved a plan to overlay a new area code over the existing 937 area code. The 937 area code is expected to run out of available phone numbers in the third quarter of 2020, according to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA). All current 937 area code subscribers will continue to maintain their current number and 937 area code.

VETERANS

Ohio may be 23rd best among states overall for veterans, a report by personal finance site WalletHub found, but it is ninth when it comes to the hot-button issue of veterans' health care. WalletHub noted that even after 20 years of service, officers and nondisabled enlisted personnel

alike are generally still in their 40's and so military retirement is far different from that of civilian careers. The report looks at a range of factors, including job markets, tax policies, numbers of veterans per capita and, of course, health issues.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY:

SENATE:

No legislative activity to report.

HOUSE:

No legislative activity to report.