

Coming Tuesday

CITY COUNCIL WARDS

Group seeks ballot measure

Lottery sales up

Department of Education nets \$771 million | B3

Online  
A LOOK BACK  
Dispatch.com/blogs

POWER OUTAGES

Heat wave eases as electricity returns

Some residents finally reconnected, but 25,000 in state wait

By Josh Jarman  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Elation tinged with frustration.

That sums up the conflicting feelings of some of the 200 or so American Electric Power customers who live just west of I-71 and south of E. Broad Street whose power was restored about noon yesterday. It had been knocked out in the June 29 storm that ravaged Ohio and other parts of the Midwest and the East Coast.

“I’m Downtown. I can walk outside and see (Downtown buildings) from my house,” said resident Stan Harris, wondering why it took so long to restore power lines felled by a tree that also has been completely blocking his street.

Not so lucky are more than 25,000 other AEP customers who are still waiting for the repair workers to arrive. Maps on AEP’s website indicate that they might not get their electricity back until midnight tonight or later.

While Harris’ wife and 9-month-old daughter sought

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Concerned doctors raise funds for Syrians

Natives in U.S. want to send medical help

By Lucas Sullivan  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Dr. Anas Al Kassem’s voice projects little emotion as he talks about the 11-year-old Syrian girl shot in the head by a sniper.

A Canadian doctor and native of Syria, Al Kassem has seen firsthand the atrocities committed in his homeland amid a rebellion against the government over the past 15 months.

Yesterday, he told about 200 Syrian and Muslim immigrants gathered in Hilliard that he has helped set up operating rooms in kitchens and triage areas in living rooms filled with victims like the little girl.

“We need your help,” he said. “The regime is blowing up hospitals and killing innocent people.”

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# Board to push seniors levy

County commissioners expected to advance measure to fund program of Office on Aging

By Josh Jarman  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The Franklin County board of commissioners is expected to take the first step on Tuesday toward putting a senior-services levy before voters.

Commissioners received a recommendation last week to place a five-year, 1.3-mill operating levy on the fall ballot on behalf of the county’s Senior Options program. The levy would replace a 0.9 mill property tax that expires at the end of this year.

The levy, which brings in about \$23.6 million a year for the county’s Office on Aging, pays for

home-delivered meals; transportation; personal and day care; and, for the first time this year, a program that brings homebound senior citizens together to eat and socialize.

The program provided 550,000 home-delivered meals last year and carried seniors more than 1 million miles to appointments, according to information provided by the office.

The 0.4-mill increase would raise the amount collected by the levy each year to about \$34.1 million, according to an estimate provided by Franklin County Auditor Clarence Mingo’s office. That would increase the cost of the levy for homeowners to about \$40 a year per \$100,000 of property value, up from the nearly \$28 a year they pay now — a difference of about \$12.

The current property tax, which voters last approved in

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“We’re just fascinated with life stories and what happens to people.”

ROBERT SIZELOVE | Ohio Tombstone Photo Project manager



ERIC ALBRECHT | DISPATCH PHOTOS

Ron Cruikshank, 62, is photographing every grave in the Pataskala Cemetery for a free online collection of genealogical information.

# GRAVE SIGHTS

Licking County man is on a mission to document each tombstone in a local cemetery for easy online research

Cruikshank dug through court records and visited cemeteries to trace his roots to the 1300s.



By Lori Kurtzman | THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

**P**ATASKALA, Ohio — He likes it out here because it’s quiet, serene, just him and 6,000 tombstones and a curious breeze that never sways the trees.

He passes through the cemetery methodically, pausing at each stone. This one reads “ANDERSON. Boyd and Ruth.” Boyd died in 1974, Ruth might still be alive. The dash after her birth date hangs there like a paused thought.

He brushes grass off the marker and pulls out his digital camera.

Click.

He heads to the next grave.

Click.

Ron Cruikshank, 62, of Pataskala, has a thing for the past. To him, our ancestors aren’t just dead things; they’re human beings with rich stories and real emotions, people who fought in wars and fell

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# New code could force removal of un-Occupied tent

By Emily Wilkins  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The Occupy Columbus movement began with several tents in front of the Statehouse. It is down to one, and that might soon change.

A new permit code pertaining to streets, parks and public property will be in front of the Columbus City Council tonight. The code would require a different type of permit for non-commercial structures on public rights of way.

This probably would include the unoccupied Occupy tent along High Street in front of the Statehouse. Nine months after being pitched, it now mostly shelters folding tables and chairs, boards, and signs.

The sponsor of the measure, Councilwoman Eileen Paley, said the city



A pedestrian passes the Occupy Columbus tent outside the Ohio Statehouse. A new city permit code, if approved, probably would lead to removal of the often-vacant tent.

FRED SQUILLANTE | DISPATCH

welcomes the Occupy movement, and the permit rule is not meant to end it. Protests and demonstrations are legal without a permit, Paley said, but people have to be present.

“I don’t want to thwart their ability to have freedom of speech,” Paley said. “I don’t think it does. They’re not there. We have substantial complaints about an empty tent on the right of way.”

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