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## NEED TO KNOW

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### ASK US YOUR QUESTION

Please send us an email with your question about a recent news item, proposed bill or issue.

#### LOCAL

##### Kendle Making Moves

Kendle International, the Cincinnati-based clinical research and testing company, added global clinical pharmacology capabilities with the acquisition of DecisionLine Clinical Research Corporation. The acquisition supports Kendle's strategic initiative to drive growth in its early phase business. This news comes after Kendle posted a first quarter profit of \$5.6 million, up 38% from \$4.2 million a year ago. It also had record net service revenues of \$114 million in the first quarter, which led to earnings per share of 38 cents, an increase of 36% from 28 cents in the first quarter of 2007.

##### GOP Crossover 28,000 +

More than 28,000 of the Democrats in southwest Ohio who voted in the March 4 presidential primary previously voted Republican. Four out of five voters who switched parties in the election went from Republican to Democrat. Statewide, about 8% of the Democrats who voted in the presidential primary previously cast Republican ballots.

##### Sebelius to Give Keynote Address

Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius will give the keynote address this Saturday at the 2008 Ohio Democratic Party "Family Reunion" State Dinner. Sebelius, daughter of former Ohio Governor John Gilligan of Cincinnati, is rumored to be on the short list of possible vice presidential candidates.

#### STATE

##### Local Government Reform

"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.

##### Senate Approves Special Education Scholarship Measure

A limited number of special education students could obtain scholarships that would allow them to move to private school settings under a pilot program created in legislation that won Senate approval on a 17-15 vote (SB 57). The bill establishes a voucher program for a five year period, then requires an evaluation at the end of that time frame. However, Governor Strickland appears likely to veto the bill.

##### Local Governments Not Liable for Icy Roads

In a 5-2 ruling, the Ohio Supreme Court found that while State law says local governments may be found negligent for roadway "obstructions," ice doesn't fit the definition.

#### NATIONAL

##### Producer Price Index Up

The Labor Department reported recently that its Producer Price Index, which measures the cost of goods before they reach store shelves, shot up 1.4% in May. That number is up from a modest 0.2% rise in April and marked the biggest increase since November.

##### Midwest Flooding to Result in Higher Prices

Consumers are likely to see higher grocery prices into next year due to disruptions in corn production resulting from the tragic floods in Iowa and other parts of the Midwest. Corn futures hit a record intra-day high this week as traders tried to estimate the damage to the corn harvest. Experts say the biggest impact might be seen in meat and dairy products, since nearly half the nation's corn crop is used for animal feed.

##### Power Lines for Wind Energy?

It was revealed at the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee this week that a recent U.S. Department of Energy study estimated that as much as 20% of the nation's electricity could come from wind. The only problem is that there are apparently not enough transmission lines to actually carry the wind energy from where it is produced to the cities that consume it. Renewable energy of all types now supplies less than 3 percent to the nation's energy grid. Among other reasons, wind energy experts say that the long process of siting transmission projects ("not-in-my-backyard" mentality) complicates power line construction.

# WANT TO KNOW

## State Treasurer Cordray Endorsed for Attorney General – Opponent Uncertain



Nineteen months after winning election to a four-year term as State Treasurer, Democrat Richard Cordray received Governor Ted Strickland's endorsement as nominee for attorney general in the November 4 election. The Ohio Democratic Party will formally nominate Cordray on Saturday. Cordray will run to serve out the remaining two years in the term of Attorney General Marc Dann, who resigned after complaints of sexual harassment against a top aide led to an ongoing investigation of his office.

The Ohio Republican Party has not identified an attorney general candidate but is expected to make a formal selection shortly. However, Delaware County Prosecutor Dave Yost, who was expected to run, decided to withdraw his name yesterday citing a lack of time to run a successful campaign. The Republican Party has until August 20 to nominate a candidate for the position.

## Ohio Lawmakers Secure Federal Funds

Ohio lawmakers put \$305 million into 2008 federal spending bills for projects they deemed vital to their constituents. The four House of Representative members who secured the most money are all members of the House Appropriations Committee which writes the federal budget (Springfield Republican David Hobson, Toledo Democrat Marcy Kaptur, Niles Democrat Tim Ryan and Navarre Republican Ralph Regula).

Overall Rank (out of 435 House members and 100 Senate members)	Lawmaker	Party	Amount
22	Rep. David Hobson	R	\$87,702,650
25	Rep. Marcy Kaptur	D	\$76,878,000
143	Rep. Tim Ryan	D	\$28,677,850
146	Rep. Ralph Regula	R	\$28,641,180
212	Rep. Michael Turner	R	\$22,432,100
333	Rep. Steve Chabot	R	\$10,677,000
410	Rep. Jean Schmidt	R	\$4,365,420
434	Rep. John Boehner	R	\$0
48	Sen. George Voinovich	R	\$162,009,530
72	Sen. Sherrod Brown	D	\$110,913,530

## The Future of Clean Ohio Fund Looks Bright

The Ohio General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution 5 earlier this month, which will place a \$400 Million bond issue on the November ballot- \$200 Million for greenspace conservation projects and \$200 Million for brownfield revitalization projects.

The Ohio Department of Development announced last week that it will be having two funding rounds to be funded in December 2008 and May 2009. Each round will provide approximately \$17 Million in grant funding, with individual projects receiving up to \$3 Million.

There has been one significant revision to the brownfield program. Whereas projects always had to have an identified end user, ODOD has created a new "Ready Track" to allow projects that are marketable and ready for redevelopment consistent with a community plan or master plan — in other words, without a known end user — to seek up to \$2 Million for cleanup and demolition.

This new "Ready Track" is a result of many stakeholder meetings that ODOD held throughout the state. GSG participated in those sessions and has successfully worked with CORF recipients in the past. Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions about the Clean Ohio Fund or for assistance with a potential application.



CleanOhioFund