

MARLINGTON'S MAGICAL SEASON

A new coach and a new outlook have helped propel the Dukes to a 4-0 start for only the fourth time in their history. **FIRST DOWN**



TRIBE SWEEPS TIGERS CLOSER TO THE BRINK

C.C. Sabathia pitches the Indians to victory over the Tigers, reducing the Tribe's magic number for clinching the Central Division title to three. **PAGE C-1**

THE REPOSITORY

THURSDAY, SEPT. 20, 2007 WWW.CANTONREP.COM

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Kindergarten fees questioned

Attorney General: Schools should not charge for all-day programs

BY MELISSA GRIFFY SEETON
REPOSITORY EDUCATION WRITER

Public school districts that charge parents for all-day kindergarten may be setting foot on shaky legal ground, according to the Ohio Attorney General.

The problem: Many parents want the all-day, everyday

option, but school districts are required to offer only half-day kindergarten, for which they get state money. The state offers additional kindergarten program funding to districts considered poor. That leaves some districts either unable to offer the all-day option, or asking parents to pay for it.

After getting numerous

DISTRICTS THAT CHARGE FOR ALL-DAY, EVERYDAY KINDERGARTEN

Green Local	\$225 per month, \$2,025 per year
Jackson Local	\$225 per month, \$2,025 per year
Lake Local	No monthly charge, \$2,025 per year
Marlington Local	\$150 per month, \$1,350 per year

questions from parents and school officials, the Ohio Department of Education requested a legal opinion from state Attorney General Marc Dann on whether schools have

the authority to charge tuition for all-day kindergarten.

Dann's opinion, issued earlier this month, is that no law allows school districts to charge for all-day kindergarten. How that

opinion will play out for the four area school districts that charge tuition for their all-day programs — Jackson, Lake, Marlington and Green — remains to be seen.

Kevin McIver, opinion section chief at the attorney general's office, acknowledged the office is aware of public school districts' financial constraints, but it looked to state law in offering the opinion.

SEE KINDERGARTEN A-8

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Are you a parent who is paying kindergarten tuition? The Repository wants to hear your views. E-mail Melissa Griffy Seeton at melissa.griffy@cantonrep.com with your comments. Please include your name and a phone number where you can be contacted. She also can be reached by phone at (330) 580-8318.



REPOSITORY JULIE VENNITTI

SHE FLIES THROUGH THE AIR ...

Ami Haines of Canton gives her daughter Madison, 4, a push on a swing at Jackson Community Park on a warm Wednesday afternoon. The forecast calls for sunny weather through Monday with highs in the upper-70s to mid-80s. **SEE WEATHER ON PAGE A-9.**

Convicted murderer pleads for leniency

BY SHANE HOOVER
REPOSITORY STAFF WRITER

CANTON Justin L. Lucas told jurors Wednesday he wished they knew how he felt about Jason A. Halter's death.

"I think about why things happened, and I can't come up with any explanation," Lucas said. "All I can think of is how sorry I am, how his family must feel, and how I can't imagine how my mom would feel about my death."

A day after a jury convicted him of aggravated murder with a death-penalty specification and aggravated robbery, Lucas was back in Stark County Common Pleas Court fighting for his life.

The jury can recommend one of four sentences for the 20-year-old Coventry man: Death, life in prison without parole, or life in prison with parole eligibility after 30 or 25 full years.

A recommendation of death must be unanimous, and Judge John G. Haas can adopt it or impose one of the life sentences.

Lucas shot Halter, 26, three times during a robbery on July 10, 2006, according to testimony.

PROSECUTOR SEEKS DEATH

Assistant Stark County Prosecutor Dennis Barr said death is the appropriate sen-



LUCAS

Flu vaccine plentiful

Health officials want everyone protected

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON Come one, come all: After years of shortages and confusion, this fall promises plenty of flu vaccine to go around — up to 132 million doses, more than the nation has ever produced.

Canton Health Commissioner Robert Pattison said the vaccine supply is ample locally. "We have already gotten a third of our vaccine that we've

ordered, which is very early for the state vaccine," he said. "We'll get at least as much as last year, and we had plenty last year."

The ample supplies have the government urging vaccinations not just for people at highest risk of dying from influenza, but for anyone who wants to avoid a week of aching misery. "Flu is a formidable foe," Dr. Julie Gerberding, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said Wednes-

day. "It is not an illness we should be complacent about."

But new CDC data show only a fraction of people who need flu shots the most get them, including just one in five babies and toddlers.

STARK COUNTY READY

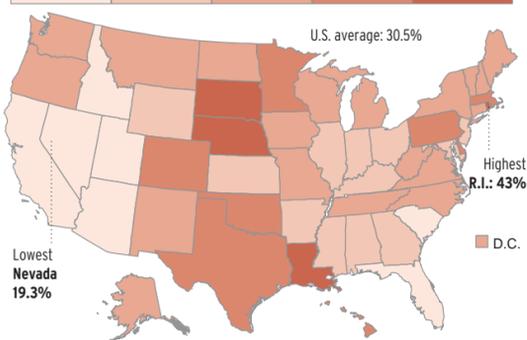
Stark County Health Commissioner William Franks said he expects the Stark County Health Department will

SEE FLU A-8

Few adults get flu vaccine

Less than a third of adults age 18 to 49 received flu vaccinations during the 2005-2006 season.

Percentage of adults age 18-49 who received flu vaccination



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

AP

COMING FRIDAY

CAMP: FIRE BURNING

You won't hear Christian singer-songwriter Jeremy Camp's music much on the radio. But you can read about his remarkable success and his upcoming concert at Canton Baptist Temple in **TICKET**



CANTONREP.COM EXCLUSIVES

INDIANS SWEEP TIGERS

Three is now the magic number. Check out the Indians Photo Gallery at **CANTONREP.COM**

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

See this week's athlete of the week video in the sports section at **CANTONREP.COM**

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