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■ BUILDINGS, EQUIPMENT WOULD HELP BALANCE BUDGET

Beshear suggests selling state-owned assets

By Amanda Van Benschoten
avanbenschoten@nky.com

FRANKFORT – With a looming \$1.5 billion budget shortfall over the next two years, Gov. Steve Beshear has proposed selling all non-essential state-owned buildings, land and equipment, including vehicles and airplanes.

The proposal is part of a "Smart Government" initiative aimed at paring down the size and cost of state government. It also includes pay cuts

for top officials and a comprehensive review of key areas of state spending.

"As a result of this initiative, we will be left with a stronger, leaner, more muscular, more sustainable, reinvented government, so that when the economy does turn around, we will have even more money for priorities like education, health care, public safety and economic opportunity," Beshear said.

He has ordered comprehensive reviews of three areas

of spending: state-owned and leased property, business services delivery and procurement.

The reviews will target non-essential assets and costs, from state-owned vehicles and airplanes to postage and cell phone use.

Beshear also plans to review lease agreements and renegotiate state contracts.

An internal committee chaired by State Budget Director Mary Lassiter will oversee the reviews.

Beshear said state officials are still drafting an estimate of potential cost savings, but "the scope of what we're tackling suggests the benefits could be substantial," Beshear said.

In addition, cabinet secretaries have volunteered to take a 10 percent pay cut this year. Last year's 10 percent pay cuts for Beshear, Lt. Gov. Dan Mongiardo and Beshear's senior staff will also be extended through 2010.

"These are tough, tough

economic times, unlike any times we've seen in our lifetime," Mongiardo said. "We want to do our part as leaders of this state, as other people are going through this at home as well."

The administration and legislature have cut nearly \$900 million in spending and 1,600 executive branch jobs over the past two years.

Cost-cutting measures in the administration have included restructuring bond debt, limiting travel by state

employees and implementing energy efficiency standards for state buildings.

But revenues have continued to decline, and the state faces an \$890 million revenue shortfall over the next two years, which could grow as much as \$1.5 billion.

Beshear will make his budget recommendations to the legislature on Jan. 19.

He said Wednesday he hopes to avoid layoffs and furloughs for the state's 34,000 full- and part-time employees.

'I can still hear people screaming outside'

Local volunteers plead for help for Haiti



The Associated Press/Jorge Cruz

People gather Wednesday outside Haiti's National Palace, which was damaged by Tuesday's quake. Tens of thousands were believed dead, and relief efforts began to help survivors left homeless, many badly injured, living on streets filled with rubble.

Groups, churches get word of quake devastation and need

By Dan Horn

dhorn@enquirer.com

Dispatches from quake-ravaged Haiti poured in to Cincinnati churches and relief organizations Wednesday as missionaries there sent out desperate pleas for help.

A group from Eastside Christian Church in Milford described scenes at a medical center where water was in short supply and staff members used duct tape to stop the bleeding from severed limbs.

The First Church of Christ in Burlington received a report from a group they work with of patients dying at their gates because of a

shortage of supplies.

Missionaries from St. John the Baptist Church in Maria Stein in western Ohio had to close a clinic because it was heavily damaged and so many workers there had lost family members to the quake.

And volunteers from Sharonville United Methodist Church told of collapsed brick houses and a heavily damaged orphanage.

"I can still hear people screaming outside," Betsy Bell, a Sharonville missionary, said in an e-mail to her husband. "And there is not much food and water around."

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Latest developments

- Predictions are the death toll could reach 500,000.
- Bodies were everywhere in the capital Port-au-Prince: children adjacent to schools, women in the streets, men hidden beneath plastic tarps and cotton sheets.
- The first C-130 plane carrying a U.S. military assessment team arrived Wednesday. Cargo planes with food, water, medical supplies, shelter and sniffer dogs are on the way.

Inside and at NKY.com

- Thousands feared dead, many trapped. **A4**
- Ohio attorney general warns to beware of scams. **A4**
- Tips on how you can help. **A4**
- **Enquirer essay:** An Enquirer reporter fears for Haitian friends. **A10**
- **Online:** Photo galleries from Haiti and more coverage.

■ SPANKING BLAMED

8-year term for kid porn

Mullikin was party leader for Dems

By Jim Hannah

jhannah@nky.com

COVINGTON – The former Campbell County Democratic Party chairman apologized before being sentenced for downloading child pornography.

Kenneth Lester Mullikin Jr., 58, of Fort Thomas was sentenced to eight years and one month in prison.

"I would like to apologize, say I'm sorry to the children in the images," said Mullikin, the father of an adult daughter. "No child would volunteer for such a thing."

After his release, Mullikin will have to register as a sex offender and be on parole for life. The lengthy and stringent rules he must comply with include not owning any device that records images and getting prior permission to use the Internet.

Mullikin had been held at the Boone County jail since he pleaded guilty in June to a single charge of receipt of child pornography via the Internet.

When investigators raided his home in July 2008, they found 704 pictures and 98 videos of child pornography on a computer. Court records described what was found as sadistic and masochistic images of children being raped.

Ed Connor, a clinical psychologist who evaluated Mullikin, testified at the sentencing hearing. He attributed Mullikin's addiction to child pornography to being sexually confused after becoming aroused while being spanked by a nun in fifth grade.

Mullikin's attorney, Dennis C. Alerding, had asked for five years, the minimum sentence allowed by law. He said there was no evidence that his client had committed any sexual abuse.

Mullikin had been Campbell County's Democratic party chief since 2004. He also operated a political consulting business and was a Newport city commissioner in late 1970s and early 1980s.

Law enforcement officers began investigating Mullikin after he communicated with a police officer posing as a child mo-

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Mullikin

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■ ESQUIRE, MARIEMONT OPERATOR INVOLVED

Movie theater planned for Kenwood

By Laura Baverman

lbaverman@enquirer.com

The operator of the Esquire and Mariemont theaters has plans to convert retail space across from Kenwood Towne Centre into an eight-screen movie theater.

It could open as early as

Thanksgiving, pending approvals from Sycamore Township.

Midland Atlantic Development and operator Theater Management Corp. have presented plans to the township's trustees. Developers hope to convert 28,000 square feet in Kenwood Place, a two-story, 74,000-square-foot retail cen-

ter that Midland Atlantic built in 2006 on the site of the old Frank's Nursery and Sterling Cut Glass on Kenwood Road. Henredon and Drexel Heritage furniture stores are in the process of closing there.

The six-screen Esquire Theatre in Clifton and three-

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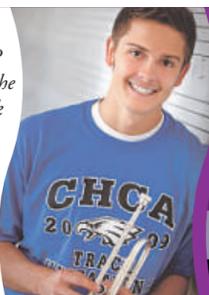


Rendering provided

An eight-screen movie theater would be built in Kenwood Place, across the road from Kenwood Towne Centre.

"I am learning about the function of markets in AP Micro-Economics. I run the 4 x 100 relay for the track team and performed with the honors jazz band at a homeless shelter in Puerto Rico on a mission trip..."

"I am CHCA"



Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy

All Campus OPEN HOUSE

Preschool - Grade 12
Saturday, January 23, 2010
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Symmes Township and Downtown Locations

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