

# The Delaware Gazette

Delaware County's only daily newspaper

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FORECAST PAGE 2



MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2011

## Delaware City Schools eyeing \$2.5 million in budget cuts

MELISSA MACKEY  
Staff Writer

The Delaware City School Board tonight will consider slashing \$2.5 million from its budget in preparation for a potential double-digit percent cut in state funding, Craft said.

Superintendent Paul Craft said budget cuts could include cutting teachers, administrators and support staff, putting restrictions on field trips and making more cuts to building and department operational budgets.

"We really hoped to do all position cuts through attrition," Craft said. "It just doesn't look possible with the size of cuts we have to make. People we really want to keep on our team and people who want to stay won't be able to."

Ohio school districts are all anticipating major cuts in state funding when Gov. John Kasich unveils the state budget this week. The Delaware School District is preparing for a 25-percent decrease in state funding, Craft said.

"We received more projections on what we can expect from the state cuts," Craft said. "We're really being driven by those projections. It's frustrating. We've been cutting all along. Even without the large state cut, we have a large projected deficit."

Craft's proposal comes after \$1.43 million in cuts to address the district's projected deficit in fiscal year 2012. Those cuts eliminated seven

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The Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant reactors stand in line intact in Okumamachi in Fukushima Prefecture (state), northeastern Japan.

## 180K flee as Japan's nuke-plant reactor crisis intensifies

ERIC TALMADGE  
MARI YAMAGUCHI  
Associated Press

KORIYAMA, Japan — Japanese officials warned of a possible second explosion at a nuclear plant crippled by the earthquake and tsunami as they raced to stave off multiple reactor meltdowns, but they provided few details about whether they were making progress. More than 180,000 people have

evacuated the area, and up to 160 may have been exposed to radiation.

Four nuclear plants in northeastern Japan have reported damage, but the danger today appeared to be greatest at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex, where one explosion occurred over the week-end and a second was feared. Operators have

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GAZETTE | MELISSA MACKEY

Stratford Ecological Center Education Director Christa Hein flips pancakes for the 11th annual pancake breakfast.

## Stratford hosts annual pancake breakfast

MELISSA MACKEY  
Staff Writer

Jason Fisher's mouth was singing Saturday morning after tasting his pancakes and maple syrup.

Fisher, a Columbus resident, wasn't eating just any type of pancakes, but the all-organic, fresh ones offered at Stratford Ecological Center's 11th annual Maple Days Pancake Breakfast.

Fisher's wife, Kristin Fisher, and his son, Jacob Fisher, 2, came along for the all-you-can eat breakfast complete with whole-wheat pancakes, wood-fired maple syrup and organic sausage.

"I've never had fresh syrup like this," Kristin Fisher said. "It's great."

Jason Fisher had to agree. "It makes your mouth sing," he said.

Thousands of pancakes are poured and flipped Saturday

morning starting in the early hours of the morning until around noon, said Louise Warner, the center's founder. The breakfast's proceeds all go back into the nonprofit organic farm that hosts both child and adult programming.

Breakfast participants could take a hike to the Sugar Shack where the syrup is made. The syrup season has been a bit slow so far, said Chris Byerly, the center's operations manager.

"It hasn't been a poor season, but we've produced 18 gallons of syrup," Byerly said. "At this point, we've generally had a little more than that. It's all weather-dependent, and it's been a little on the warm side. We're hoping for a few more days of sap flow."

Typically, a good sap day is when the temperatures are

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(Top) Two-year-old Jacob Fisher of Columbus eats his pancakes at the annual Stratford Ecological Center breakfast. (Bottom) Stratford Ecological Center Operations Manager Chris Byerly and founder Louise Warner mix up whole wheat pancakes for the breakfast.

## First-ever Delaware MS support group forms

MELISSA MACKEY  
Staff Writer

It was nothing but stress, or so Thom DeMeo thought when he began experiencing blurry vision and fatigue when he was a New Jersey state trooper; and then one day, he fell off a ladder.

About four years, several doctors and a battery of tests later, DeMeo, 40, finally can attach a name to the disease he shares with 2.5 million people world-

wide — multiple sclerosis (MS), an autoimmune disease that affects the central nervous system.

Now a Sunbury resident, DeMeo and his family moved to a more MS-friendly house, and he makes his career in being a stay-at-home dad with his son. Soon, he will act as facilitator of the newly-formed Delaware Area Multiple Sclerosis Self-

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Delaware resident Olivia Ballard, standing, and her former Hayes High School geometry teacher Polly Searfos, are participating in the annual Multiple Sclerosis Walk slated for 8:30 a.m. April 16 at the Columbus Zoo, 4850 W. Powell Road, Powell.

GAZETTE | MELISSA MACKEY

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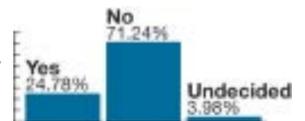
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### ONLINE POLL at delgazette.com

What do you think of The Ohio State University's decision to give Buckeyes Coach Jim Tressel a two-game suspension?

Not adequate punishment Too severe Other

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS:  
Would you support the Olentangy school district's planned 7.9-mill property tax and bond issue?



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