

LOCAL NEWS

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— READ THE REVIEW —
Jackie Demaline reviews Twelfth Night. B2

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News Briefs

LUNKEN AIRPORT

Enola Gay pilot

Tibbets visits

Paul Tibbets, 89, the pilot of the plane that dropped the first atomic bomb during World War II, will be at Cincinnati's Lunken Air Show this weekend. The show is 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$12. Attractions include a sky-diving team, fly-bys, a car show and the plane used during the Berlin Airlift. Tibbets attended the University of Cincinnati and now lives in Columbus. He flew the Enola Gay, a plane named after his mother, over Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945. He will also be signing his book, *Return of the Enola Gay*, over the weekend.

DOCS WANTED

Web site set up for specialists

A health group concerned about specialist shortages in Greater Cincinnati has launched an Internet project to attract more doctors to town. According to a recent study, Greater Cincinnati has fewer physicians per capita than several other regional cities, especially in 14 specialties, including anesthesiology, cardiology, general surgery, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery and radiation oncology. The Health Improvement Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati has launched cincinnatiadobcs.com, a job posting service.

HAMILTON

Hydrant flushing

Coalition lobbies for more tax

Health, social service agencies fear cuts

By Tim Bonfield
Enquirer staff writer

Be it higher taxes on cigarettes or beer, maintaining a "temporary" statewide sales tax, eliminating corporate tax loopholes or all of the above, Ohio needs to raise more money to pay for the rising costs of health-related services.

So says the Campaign to Protect Ohio's Future, a coalition of more than 300 health and social service agencies that met Thursday in Cincinnati. The group is launching an early lobbying campaign against budget cuts that it expects will be proposed this fall and early next year as part of Ohio's budget for 2006 and 2007.

When Ohio's current budget was passed for 2004 and 2005, non-profit organizations helped defeat several controversial proposed cuts, including calls for:

- Cut Medicaid health coverage to more than 60,000 low-income adults.
- Eliminate optional vision and dental benefits.
- Reduce spending on mental health services.
- Slow spending on home support services for the elderly.

The coalition predicts that the proposed cuts will be worse in the next budget, because the cost of services keeps rising, the economy isn't improving fast enough and the state has already used several one-time sources of money to plug budget holes.

Members insist that the United Way and other private non-profit organizations can't cover cuts the state might force cutting services.

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Ex-POWs | 25th anniversary 'could be the last hurrah'

Former military captives gather

By Howard Wilkinson
Enquirer staff writer

WEST END - There was a high price of admission to the luncheon gathering Thursday of 25 men in a banquet room of the Museum Center at Union Terminal.

Each of them paid that price some 50 or 60 years ago in North Korean prison cells or Nazi stalags scattered across Europe as American soldiers, airmen and Marines who were prisoners of war.

The reunion lunch is an event the men of the OKI Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization have held once every five years since the organization was formed 25 years ago.

Because all but a handful of the former POWs are men who served in World War II,



Kentucky water permit criticized

By Dan Mleplal
Enquirer staff writer

Delores Burke remembers a time when she watered her garden and filled her swimming pool with water from Gumpowder Creek. That was about 40 years ago.

Burke told officials with the Kentucky Division of Water that she remembers even more clearly last winter when snowfall on the creek bank turned black from pollution running through it.

She was one of about 30 people to testify Thursday during a public hearing for a permit that, if approved, would allow the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport to continue discharging deicing fluid into Gumpowder and Elijah creeks.

Burke, 76, said the chemical smell coming from Gumpowder is so strong that she has to keep her windows closed during summer and doesn't