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SPRINGFIELD NEWS-SUN

LOCAL & STATE, B1
**ENON WINERY'S EVENT
TO BENEFIT HONOR FLIGHT**

LOCAL & STATE, B1
**RESIGNATIONS BRINGING
TRANSITION IN TREMONT CITY**



LOCAL & STATE, B1
**SPRAYGROUND
IN SPRINGFIELD**

CONTINUING COVERAGE

OHIO SENATE OKS MEDICAL POT

Bill would legalize marijuana for Ohioans with several conditions, including cancer, chronic pain.

By **Laura A. Bischoff**
Columbus Bureau

COLUMBUS—Looking to head off a more expansive ballot issue, state

lawmakers gave final approval Wednesday to a bill that legalizes medical marijuana for Ohioans suffering from more than a dozen conditions, including cancer

and chronic pain, but maintains a ban on home grow and smoking pot.

The bill passed the Senate on a 18-15 vote, which brought applause from supporters in the Senate chambers. The House was expected to agree to Senate changes late Wednesday and then

send it to Gov. John Kasich's desk.

Senators found a variety of reasons to support it: compassion, political strategy, states rights and more.

State Sen. Bill Seitz, R-Cincinnati, said he likes the bill because it encourages the federal government to send power to the states.

"Uncle Sam should not be controlling everything. And in this bill, we are calling on Uncle Sam

Marijuana continued on **A6**

ALSO INSIDE

» What some in Springfield think of the proposal, **A6**

CLARK COUNTY

COMING SUNDAY

The Springfield News-Sun digs into important national news to show how it affects local families. Coming Sunday, we talk to school leaders across southwest Ohio about how they will respond to the recent federal mandate on bathroom usage by transgender students.



Elizabeth, 7, and her twin brother, Logan, play at Moorefield Family Park. Elizabeth is transgender and started out life as Landon, a boy. Her mother said Elizabeth always acted more like a girl and actually told her mother that she is a girl. BILL LACKEY / STAFF

Legal battles concern Clark County family of transgender 7-year-old

Local districts handling school bathroom use on case-by-case basis.

By **Katie Wedell**
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — The national debate over transgender rights could affect the future of a local

7-year-old who just finished first grade at Rolling Hills Elementary School in Clark County, but the current frenzy goes largely unnoticed by her.

A federal directive this month about bathroom use by transgender students in public schools has sparked outrage from some Republicans and prompted 11 states to sue the Obama administration.

Elizabeth

Elizabeth was born Landon and transitioned to a girl at the beginning of the school year. Most of the community has been supportive, her mother Katie Flesch said, but they've also gotten some pushback from people they were the closest with.

Transgender continued on **A6**

SPRINGFIELD

Panel calls for city finances review

Springfield officials told study needs to be done before seeking tax hike.

By **Michael Cooper**
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — The city of Springfield should complete an in-depth study of its expenses and possible cuts if it hopes to pass a tax increase in November, members of an advisory panel said.

Andy Bell and Mark Robertson presented the Community Financial Advisory Committee's findings to the Springfield City Commission at a work session on Tuesday night.

"I know timing is an issue here, you'd like to get this on the ballot, but I think it will be awful tough to get this passed without some good solid information and some good plans on what we're going to do to decrease expenses," Bell said.

The advisory group was chosen earlier this year to analyze the city's budget, which has a projected \$930,000 deficit.

The committee — a panel of business leaders and residents — made several recommendations to commissioners in a eight-page report released this month,

BY THE NUMBERS

\$37.9M
Springfield's projected general fund revenue this year

\$38.9M
Projected general fund expenses this year.

\$930,000
Projected deficit this year

COMPLETE COVERAGE

The Springfield News-Sun provides unmatched coverage of important stories at Springfield City Hall, including stories on the mow-to-own program and parks funding.

including increasing the income tax rate from 2 percent to 2.4 percent for five years.

The committee also wants a bench-marking and performance

Tax increase continued on **A6**

COLUMBUS BUREAU

Director of prison oversight group resigns 'under protest'

By **Josh Sweigart**
Staff Writer
and **Laura A. Bischoff**
Columbus Bureau

State lawmakers appeared poised Wednesday to abolish the state committee tasked with inspecting conditions at Ohio's prisons and replace it with some-

thing criticized as weaker and easier to control unless the agency director agreed to resign.

Correctional Institution Inspection Committee Director Joanna Saul tendered her resignation Wednesday evening "under protest" in exchange for preserving her agency.

"CIIC's work and prison over-

sight in general is critically important," her resignation letter says.

In return, her letter said lawmakers agreed to scale back proposed legislation that would have replaced the bi-partisan agency with another effectively under Republican control. The new agency wouldn't be mandated to conduct inspections, wouldn't

inspect private prisons, would have a limited scope of inspections, and would face requirements some say would make it more difficult for inspections to take place at all.

The amendment was proposed Tuesday and set for a vote late

Prisons continued on **A7**



Inmates walk through a security check at Lebanon Correctional Institution in Lebanon. BYRON STIRSMAN / STAFF



NATION & WORLD, A5
Official audit criticizes Clinton for email setup

Hillary Clinton ignored federal guidance that her setup didn't meet standards, an audit finds.



LOCAL & STATE, B1
Springfield, other drive-ins won't open

Three movie theaters owned by a Springfield company will stay closed this season.

LOCAL & STATE, B2
Solar plane leaves area to resume global trip

Solar Impulse 2 headed off Wednesday for its expected 17-hour flight to Allentown, Pa.

LIFE, D1
Raising funds for Springfield Symphony

Flavors, coming this Saturday, will offer a variety of food from Springfield restaurants.



LIFE, D1
Clark State hosting student songs' debut

Ten students will introduce songs they wrote and recorded, performing them in concert.

LIFE, D1
New Carlisle school hosting arts institute variety show

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