

Householder calls campaign 'war'

House speaker is seeking money to fight attack ads his opponents have aired

By Lee Leonard
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Using both verbal and photographic images of war, House Speaker Larry Householder has launched a new money-raising drive to fund a counteroffensive against "vicious personal attacks" by his enemies.
"I'm planning an outreach campaign

that will help set the record straight," the Perry County Republican wrote in a letter sent last Thursday seeking donations of \$50 to \$500 to his personal campaign fund, Citizens for Householder. "It will span the next several weeks and will cover the entire state."

Householder declined to discuss the fund-raising letter. A candidate for an unspecified statewide office in 2006, he had \$1 million in his campaign fund in January.

"We'll let the letter speak for itself," said spokesman Dwight Crum. "We're not going to discuss any internal cam-

aign strategy."

But Householder made it clear in his letter that his planned "outreach campaign" comes in response to January television ads describing him as "King Larry."

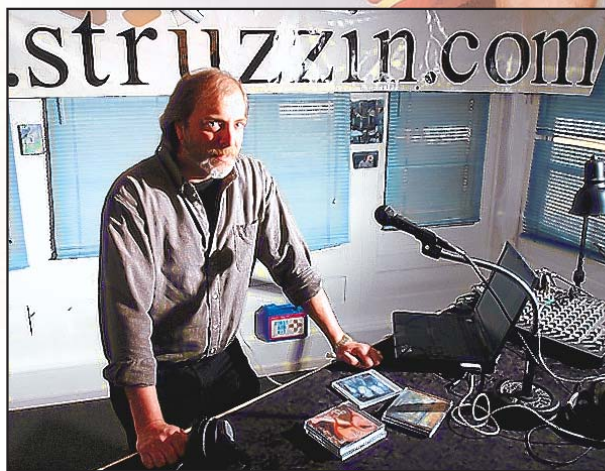
An attached color brochure has the words *Weapons of War* emblazoned across a photo of smoke billowing from large explosions, saying that's what "liberal Democrat extremists and radical trial lawyers" are using in an attempt to intimidate "one of Ohio's top Republican leaders."

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A brochure that House Speaker Larry Householder is sending to potential campaign donors depicts an explosion.

Last year, the Struzzin Co. began broadcasting Johnstown Johnnies basketball games live on the Internet, reaching fans throughout the world, including military personnel overseas.



MATT SULLIVAN | FOR THE DISPATCH

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No matter where they are, Johnnies fans will be able to follow their team — which includes Buddy Dowell, above right — tonight thanks to an Internet broadcast. Johnstown businessman Kristen Kropat, left, provides the game coverage through his company.

Winning connection

Web site gives **JOHNSTOWN** high-school fans something to cheer about

By Tom Sheehan
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

JOHNSTOWN, Ohio — In 80 years, the Johnstown Johnnies hadn't made it to the regional playoffs.

This year, they did. And every groan, every cheer during tonight's boys high-school basketball game will be heard by alumni Lee and JoAnn Wright — 1,000 miles away in their Florida home.

How in the world? The Internet.

"Oh, you bet I'll be listening," Mr. Wright said yesterday. "No way I'm going to miss it. All my life, I've always

followed Johnstown."

The Wrights both graduated from high school in Johnstown in the late 1940s, and they remain avid fans.

They've caught the action of the undefeated Johnnies this year from their winter home in Fort Myers Beach.

Last year, Struzzin Co. began broadcasting Johnnies basketball games live on the Internet, reaching fans throughout the world, including military personnel overseas.

This is the first time Johnstown (24-0) has reached a state regional. They will go up against a 21-2 Chesapeake team from Lawrence County at 8 p.m. at Ohio University in Athens.

Struzzin, a local business founded by Kristen Kropat, concentrates on graphic design, photography and Web documentation.

The company branched out to sports broadcasting last season with the Johnnies, operating from a booth in the media section.

This year, www.struzzin.com will log about 2.5 million hits, including those from Johnstown high-school sports fans. More than 1,215 hits in February were by military personnel, Kropat said.

"We are proud to be playing a role in

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Franklinton, Short North may lose clinics

Health network has its funding cut

By Encarnacion Pyle
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The Columbus Neighborhood Health Centers might close clinics in Franklinton and the Short North to make up for a \$500,000 cut from the city.

Patients from the Franklinton and St. Mark's clinics would be absorbed by two of the group's remaining five clinics.

"We're being hit by a triple whammy: Funding by the city is going down, equipment and pharmaceutical prices are going up and we're seeing a higher percentage of poor, uninsured patients," said Dr. Doris E. Walzak, the network's medical director.

"We're not going to be able to take the people who need us most if we don't do something soon."

The board is expected to vote Monday night on the closings after receiving an analysis on the proposed cost savings.

Walzak would not say how much the group hopes to save. Patients would be informed of the board's decision during the next two months and told where to go if the centers are shuttered.

The seven nonprofit clinics provide medical, dental and other care, primarily to low-income residents who have few options except hospital emergency rooms.

They served 18,844 patients last year, 20 percent more than in 2002. About 63 percent are uninsured, and a majority have chronic illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and lung problems,

she said.

This year, the group received \$5.4 million from Columbus as well as money from the federal and state governments, grants and patient payments. A budget has not been finalized for this year, but last year's was \$13.8 million, Walzak said.

To make up for the \$500,000 cut in city support, the group laid off three physicians, three nurses, three medical assistants and a social worker in the fall. It also froze hiring and dropped 1,000 of its newest adult patients.

Remaining staff members at the Franklinton and Short North facilities would be transferred to the other clinics. No additional layoffs are expected.

"Even though the CNHC will have fewer health-center sites, it is our intention to provide the same level of services to as many patients as we did in 2003," board chairwoman Carol Stewart said.

Walzak said that starting in late June, patients likely will be steered to the East Central Family Health Center, 1180 E. Main St., and Northeast Health Center, 3433 Agler Rd. — the group's two largest clinics. They also would be given the choice of going to the Hilltop, John R. Maloney South Side or St. Stephen's health centers.

Still, several patients said the closings would make it difficult to see a doctor.

"Where are they going to send us now? Cleveland?" John Mauck asked.

Mauck, 56, of the Far West Side was one of seven people

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OSU lands noted cancer researcher

By Alice Thomas
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

A cancer researcher whose side business uses DNA to trace the African ancestry of blacks will join a handful of academic entrepreneurs bringing million-dollar grants to Ohio State University.

Rick Kittles is a professor and co-director of molecular genetics at Howard University's National Human Genome Center in Washington. His research focuses on the genetics of hereditary prostate cancer among blacks.

When he arrives in May, he will bring more than \$1 million in research grants with him. His annual salary was set at \$120,000, with half expected to come from grants by his third year.

That puts him in an elite group: Only 21 researchers at Ohio State have brought in \$1 million or more in grant money, said Caroline Whitacre, associate vice president for health sciences.

Despite efforts to make entrepreneurship a priority at OSU, such ventures are rare. It was Kittles' cancer research that landed him the job, Whitacre said.

"He was identified as a top



Rick Kittles, who specializes in prostate cancer, will bring more than \$1 million in grants with him to OSU.

researcher in prostate cancer. That's really what we were going after, his credentials," she said. "When you look at the prostate risks in this country, it's mind-boggling in terms of the number of men it will impact."

Eight companies have been formed as spinoffs from research at OSU, three at its medical center, Whitacre said.

Kittles' company is called African Ancestry. Using a database of mitochondrial DNA and the Y chromosome of blacks, the company can trace an individual's genetic sequence to an ethnic group or region.

The company sells testing kits for \$349 each. Customers are sent a cotton swab and plastic package and procure their DNA with a swab of the cheek.

Kittles said his interest in

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Grove City expecting banner growth in '04

Mayor sees city as regional destination

By Kirk D. Richards
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Mike Stevens moved to Grove City in 1967 after serving in the U.S. Army. Back then, neighbors grew their own vegetables.

No one needed the produce department at a Wal-Mart Supercenter.

"People used to come around and sell eggs," Stevens said yesterday.

But the farming town that longtime residents once knew is changing into a big city with more businesses and houses.

State Rep. Larry Wolpert, a Hilliard Republican, recently predicted Grove City could become central Ohio's largest suburb by 2010, citing census projections that say the town will add 11,000 new residents for a total population of about 40,000.

Among the many developments to come this year is the Parkway Centre, a retail complex featuring restaurants, specialty stores and a 205,000-square-foot Wal-Mart Supercenter.

Stevens, who lives on Grant Avenue, doesn't mind the growth as long as it stays away from his home.

So far, it has, although he has noticed the neighborhood ambience slowly shifting through the years.

"You used to be able to hear chickens in the morning," Stevens said. "Now all you hear are barking dogs and people going to work."

Creating more jobs in town is part of the vision of Mayor Cheryl Grossman, who is pushing for developments that stimulate the city's economy and

Getting bigger

Grove City is poised to become Franklin County's most-populous suburb by 2010, with about 40,000 residents, one state lawmaker says. The current rankings:

SUBURB	POPULATION JULY 1, 2002
1. Gahanna	33,502
2. Upper Arlington	32,944
3. Westerville*	29,484
4. Grove City	28,979
5. Dublin*	28,294

* does not include population outside Franklin County
Source: U.S. Census Bureau



THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

provide people with more services they can use.

Grossman, who was re-elected to a third term in November, will review the accomplishments of the past year and share details of projects on the horizon during two State of the City addresses today.

The 7:30 a.m. and noon presentations are to take place at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3220 Columbus St., and

are open to members of the public who made reservations.

In Grossman's view, the Parkway Centre will offer regional shopping for folks as far away as Ashville, Circleville and Washington Court House.

"There's been a strong need for retail in the area," Grossman said. "Not everyone wants to go to Columbus to get what they want."

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