

ACROSS THE RIVER

FRANKFORT

Bill proposes replacing Ky.'s student tests

Kentucky's student-testing system would be replaced by nationally standardized tests such as the ACT college-entrance exam, under a Senate bill that Republicans say could save the state \$10 million a year. Senate Bill 1, unveiled Feb. 19, would eliminate the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS), the key part of the 18-year-old Kentucky Education Reform Act. Republicans, who have long been critical of CATS, say replacing it would not only save money, but it would allow 21 additional days for instruction that are now spent on testing.

LOUISVILLE

Airport screeners brought in from N.Ky.

Some security screeners working at the Louisville International Airport are starting their shift each day in a van – some 90 miles away in Northern Kentucky. To meet the staffing needs at Louisville, federal officials said they had to recruit the imported screeners until enough local workers are hired. Since mid-February, 11 security workers normally assigned to Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport have been shuttled by van for five shifts per week, and are paid for the three-hour daily round trip, the Transportation Security Administration said. The reassignment is expected to last about two months until TSA hires and trains enough workers, to fill all shifts at the Louisville airport, TSA spokeswoman Lauren Wolf said. The temporary redeployment hasn't affected security at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, she said.

BOONE CO.

Ellis Mine boosters invite volunteers

The Ellis Mine site in western Boone County is getting closer to one day being the well-preserved green space that local conservation officials hope it can become. The Boone Conservancy bought the 45-acre site – a former sand and gravel mine – in 2005, and is working to restore it. On March 15, the conservancy and Boone County Conservation District invite volunteers to join them in planting trees and learning about the site.

POLICE

Law Enforcement Explorer program a hit

Many programs teach high school students on-the-job skills to help them choose a career. But most don't teach them how to analyze crime scenes, stop burglaries or make arrests. The Law Enforcement Explorer program is catching on in Northern Kentucky – five police departments have created Explorer posts since October.

NEWPORT

New Culinary Club catching on at school

A new club at Newport Central Catholic High School has students dishing up culinary creations while fostering relationships with food and each other. About 40 students are involved in the school's new Culinary Club, which began last month.

— Kari Wethington, Patrick Crowley, Amanda Van Benschoten, Sarah Hardee, The Courier-Journal and The Associated Press

Bullying: Increasingly moving into online realm

From Page B1

"A student can't focus on what a teacher is instructing if their basic need of safety isn't met."

The new law requires schools to have procedures for investigating and reporting incidents, a strategy for protecting the victim, written reports to parents of students involved and a disciplinary procedure for students guilty of bullying. Districts with Web sites must post summaries of bullying incidents twice a year.

Educators, social service professionals and law officers across Greater Cincinnati say traditional forms of bullying aren't increasing. It's cyberbullying that's on the rise.

Instead of fist fights, it's text-messaging, cell-phone videos and photos, instant messaging and social-networking Web sites that are packing the punches.

"Technology presents an avenue for bullying to occur where students can't really escape," said Susan Graham, director for education liaisons at Child Focus, a family services agency based in Clermont County.

Glen Este High School Princi-



Hicks

pal Dennis Ashworth sees cyberbullying as a larger problem now than traditional bullying.

"Every high school in America has cyberbullying. It's nonstop. We worry about cyberbullying spilling over into the building and getting physical. "It's so easy to get behind a screen at home at 9 o'clock at night with nobody around and really get in there and say those things you wanted to say forever, but the problem with that is now we're bringing copies of those things in, and everybody's going to be held responsible," Ashworth said.

Union Township police also are taking a tough stance on cyberbullying, pressing charges such as telecommunications harassment against students who use cell phones or other devices to harass others, said Jim Brown, a Union Township policeman and school resource officer for West Clermont schools. About five students have been charged this year, he said.

The new state law does not require schools to implement a bullying prevention program or other initiatives, but many have done so for years or are putting new programs in place.

For example, 14 Greater Cincinnati schools participated in January in an anti-bullying program called "No Name-Calling Week," sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. The program, aimed at students in grades 5-8, seeks to end name-calling and bullying of all kinds.

Among schools that presented the program were Allison and Sharpsburg elementaries in the Norwood School District. Students participated in anti-bullying lessons and activities. They also were surveyed about bullying. Results will be used to determine how the district can implement bullying intervention, said Deb Robison, the Family and Children First coordinator assigned to Norwood schools.

Meanwhile, West Clermont School District has embraced the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, placing it in Amelia high, middle and elementary schools

last year. The program also has been introduced to Glen Este high and middle schools, and next year, it will be taken to the remaining seven elementary schools.

The Olweus program enlists the school, classroom, individuals and the community in the effort to stop bullying.

As part of the program at Glen Este High School, a health class made an anti-bullying DVD and shared it with other students. Students who had been bullied gave testimonials to their peers in classrooms.

"There's a teachable moment where we help (bullies) understand how the victim feels," said Ashworth, who has been principal for six years. "Most bullies don't understand that, and they won't until they get bullied themselves."

Among those who gave testimonials were Rick Hicks, an 18-year-old senior, and Katie Stevens, a 17-year-old senior. Both helped make the DVD.

"The last time I've really ever experienced bullying in school was eighth grade," Rick said. "I was teased about physical appearances, teased because I played

the trumpet. I was also teased because I had danced earlier in my life. That would probably be the saddest time in my life, because I didn't have any friends."

Katie's worst times were in elementary school, where, she said, she was an outsider and no one really talked to her. She has a disability and wore leg braces. Kids called her names. She didn't feel comfortable confiding in any adults at school.

"I could not go to anyone. I would have to keep it all inside. It was hard," Katie said. "There was no one I could really trust or that would actually help."

Both students now are in the West Clermont Institute for Performing Arts, where they have friends and feel accepted.

Both students think the new law is good, because bringing constant attention to bullying might help diminish the power of bullies.

Still, they're realistic. "Bullying is always going to happen in school, whether it's on a very minor level or a big scale," Rick said. "I really think it's one of those things that will never go away."

GREATER CINCINNATI

Engineers pour efforts into African orphanage

Local group helping build water system in Rwanda

By Daniele Pfarr
Enquirer contributor

Sister Patricia Mukanyonga's orphanage in Muhororo, Rwanda, doesn't have running water.

Children have to climb a hill, the length of three football fields, four times a day to get water from a small spigot that drips slowly.

Providing a simple solution to this problem has become the mission of a team of Greater Cincinnati engineers.

In May 2006, Lebanon resident Peter Kube and others formed a local chapter of Engineers Without Borders, an international nonprofit group with 300 chapters in the United States working on 375 projects across the world.

The local chapter's first mission is to provide the Muhororo community with drinking water through sustainable engineering solutions.

"Sustainable projects help in a

way that won't wear out," said Kube, vice president of the chapter, which currently has 20 members. "They do the most good for the most people ... water projects fall into that category."

The solution the engineers hope to install in June will be a trenched groundwater collection system with piping that leads to a 10,000-liter storage tank. This system will supply water to about 200 families and three orphanages that house children affected by the Rwandan genocide.

"The idea isn't to go there with the materials and build it," Kube said. "It's about partnering with the community."

The total cost of the project – for materials, installation and some travel expenses – is \$23,000.

The Greater Cincinnati Professionals Chapter of EWB has raised some money from grants and engineering firms, and now they are looking for residents to get in-

involved with the effort.

It isn't just about the money, said Kube. The group wants to spread awareness about the situation in Rwanda and wants local volunteers, not just engineers, to share their skills, help with administrative duties or computer design, or simply spread the word.

"I sit and look around the table at meetings and I see bachelor's degrees, master's degrees and bright, talented people," said Kube, a 2002 University of Cincinnati graduate with a degree in civil engineering. "They aren't people that have nothing to do."

EWB is involved with a student chapter at UC.

Support for their chapter also comes from Bridge to Rwanda, a Kettering-based group founded in 2005 to support Mukanyonga's efforts to provide food, shelter and clothing to homeless children in Rwanda.



Provided photo

Steven Reese of Symmes Township, of the Greater Cincinnati chapter of Engineers Without Borders, discusses pipeline construction with Leo in Muhororo, Rwanda.

To get involved

■ Engineers Without Borders is working with Brownfield Charities Inc. to raffle off a 2007 Ford Edge. E-mail ewbcaraffle@hotmail.com to purchase a ticket. Tickets cost \$20 each and the drawing will be held in July.

■ The group meets from 10 a.m. to noon on the second Saturday of every month at the offices of Malcolm Pimie Inc., 8600 Governor's Hill Drive, Suite 210, in Symmes Township. For more information, visit www.ewbgcp.org.

FIBROMYALGIA RESEARCH STUDY

Real Pain.
Real Fatigue.
Real Concern.

An investigational drug for fibromyalgia pain and related symptoms

Millions of Americans, like you, experience real pain and real fatigue that doesn't go away... Real symptoms that affect every part of your life. Has fibromyalgia:

- Caused stiffness and body aches that make it hard to get out of bed in the morning?
- Brought on widespread muscle pain and fatigue that limit how much you can do in a day?
- Made it hard to fall asleep and stay asleep?
- Made areas around your neck and shoulders tender to the touch?
- Caused you to miss activities with family or friends because you were too tired or in pain?

This study is evaluating an investigational medication to see if it helps relieve fibromyalgia pain and fatigue and improves quality of life. To qualify you must be at least 18 years of age and have been experiencing widespread pain for three months or more (other criteria apply). Qualified participants receive all study-related care and study drug at no cost and may be compensated for time and travel.

Radiant Research
Blue Ash, OH
Toll Free 1-866-93-FIBRO
1-866-93-34276

www.FibroIsReal.com

TELL A FRIEND

— Cincinnati Voters —

On March 4th, Vote NO on Cincinnati School Tax!

- Our property taxes are already too high... We just can't afford more!
- Higher taxes do not mean better schools!
- CPS does not seem to manage their money very well now.
- WHY WASTE MORE???
- Voters just told them NO last November!

Enough is enough!!



Ed Rothenberg
Realtor
& Candidate for
Commissioner
513-321-6690
edroth@eos.net

Renovate or moving date?

As low as **4.99%** VARIABLE APR
Home equity line of credit
\$75,000 or more with a \$50,000 initial draw:
Prime - 1.01% for the life of the line

6.55% APR
30-year fixed rate mortgage**

A KeyBank home equity line of credit can help you:

- Renovate your home and increase its value
- Combine your credit card debt and pay less interest
- Create a cost-effective emergency fund
- Gain a tax deduction***

A KeyBank fixed rate mortgage lets you:

- Refinance at a competitive rate
- Plan on the same payment amount each month
- Choose payment terms from 10 to 30 years**

To learn more, visit your KeyBank branch, call 1-877-KEY-ONLY (1-877-539-6659) or visit key.com.

KeyBank

*Subject to credit approval. Rates for the home equity line of credit are based on The Wall Street Journal/Prime (Prime) and are as low as Prime - 1.01% (4.99% APR as of 03/01/2008). Your actual rate will be determined by product and credit qualifications. The promotional rate is available with a new Key Equity Options line of credit account of \$75,000 or greater, with a \$50,000 initial draw and use of the KeyBank automatic payment deduction plan from a new or existing Relationship Package Account. Refinancing of an existing KeyBank loan or line of credit is eligible with a \$20,000 line of credit balance increase. Line amounts of \$25,000 to \$74,999 are eligible for an APR as low as Prime - .76% (5.24% APR). An annual fee of \$99 will apply. Offer is available for financing up to a maximum 85% loan to value. Rates may vary but will never exceed 18.00% APR. Property and hazard insurance are required on property securing the line. Certain collateral restrictions apply. All origination fees will be waived on line amounts up to \$500,000 (\$250,000 in NY). For lines above \$500,000, title insurance may be required (cost ranges from \$12.50 to \$2,850). In New York, lines of credit over \$250,000 pay mortgage tax ranging from \$0.50 to \$2.80 per \$100 borrowed. If your line terminates for any reason within 36 months, a \$350 termination fee (\$450 in New York) will apply. Normal checking account service charges may apply; please refer to specific account disclosures for details. Offer is available until April 18, 2008 at any KeyBank branch and must close by May 23, 2008. Rates, fees, and terms are based on those offered as of the date of application and are subject to change without notice. Offer valid in CO, CT, ID, IN, KY, ME, MI, NY, OH, UT and VT only.

**Interest rates and/or points are subject to change without notice, and may be different based on credit quality, loan amount and property type. Loan repayment examples are as follows: The stated APR of 6.55% is based on a \$125,000 loan financed for 30 years at a rate of 6.375% with 0 discount points resulting in 360 monthly payments of \$779.84. A KeyBank checking account is required to obtain the stated rate. Add .25% to stated rate when a KeyBank checking account is not established. Stated APR assumes a loan-to-value ratio of 80% or lower, and a maximum loan amount of \$417,000 (\$625,500 in Alaska). The APR may not include all closing costs. A 10-year fixed rate loan with 120 payments of principal and interest of \$11,822 per \$1,000.00 borrowed results in an APR of 7.40%. Monthly payment examples are for principal and interest only and do not reflect amounts to be paid into escrow for taxes or insurance. All loans are subject to credit approval.

***Interest may be tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of interest.

Key.com is a federally registered service mark of KeyCorp. KeyBank is Member FDIC. ©2008 KeyCorp.