



THE PLAIN DEALER

Community News Briefs

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AKRON

Proposed tax hike goes on ballot

The city would have the fourth-highest income tax in Ohio if voters approve a proposal to raise it to 2.58 percent. Mayor Donald Plusquellic asked City Council to place the 0.33 percent increase on the May ballot during his State of the City address Thursday. The \$17 million it would generate each year would be used to add police officers, replace fire, police and maintenance vehicles and pay for community learning centers, he said. Akron's current 2.25 percent income tax generated \$122 million in 2006.

CLEVELAND

Final Four short on volunteers

With less than two months until the NCAA Women's Final Four event in Cleveland, organizers are only about halfway to their volunteer goal. The Greater Cleveland Sports Commission will need the help of more than 1,000 people from March 26 to April 4. Positions range from greeters at the airport to assistants at a fan festival downtown. To apply online, go to www.womenrockcleveland.com. Volunteers must be 18 by April 1, work a minimum of three shifts and attend a training session on March 9 or 11 at Cleveland State University's Waetjen Auditorium. For details, call the sports commission at 216-621-0600.

Monument to be unveiled

Representatives of Milano Monuments will unveil a memorial to fallen Akron Marine Brad Squires at 11 a.m. today at the Cleveland Home and Garden Show at the International Exposition Center. Squires died on June 9, 2005, while conducting operations with the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force in Haqlaniyah, Iraq. The monument will be part of a memorial at 7575 Old Oak Blvd. in Middleburg Heights, which will be dedicated by Squires' family June 2.

Free legal advice offered

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is offering two free legal advice sessions this month: today at the Spanish American Committee, 4407 Lorain Ave., and Feb. 24 at the Murtis Taylor Multi-Service Center, 13422 Kinsman Road. Both will run from 10 a.m. to noon. Volunteer attorneys will give advice to low-income families having problems with predatory loans, housing, immigration status, divorce, bankruptcy and public benefits. Receive free assistance weekdays by calling the downtown office at 216-687-1900.

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