

Bexley schools chief a finalist for state job

By Catherine Candisky
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Bexley schools superintendent Michael Johnson is among five educators vying to become Ohio's next superintendent of public instruction.

The state Board of Education will interview the candidates at meetings in Columbus on Sunday and Monday.

- The other four candidates:
- Deborah S. Delisle, superintendent of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District.
- Patricia Brenneman, superintendent of the Oak Hills School District near Cincinnati.
- Donna Durno, executive

director of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit in Pittsburgh, an education service unit that serves 42 school districts.

• Catherine Cross Maple, deputy secretary of education with the New Mexico Public Education Department.

The candidates will interview with a subcommittee of the 19-member board headed by President Jennifer Sheets. The panel includes Gov. Ted Strickland's chief of staff, John Haseley.

The interviews will be conducted in an executive session that is not open to the public.

Sheets said "there is a sense of urgency" to replace Susan



Michael Johnson is one of five finalists in the running for Ohio superintendent of public instruction.

T. Zelman, who leaves Oct. 31 after nearly 10 years on the job.

"We need someone in place to lead the department and help craft our plan for the future of education in Ohio in conjunction with the governor," Sheets said.

The five candidates were among 39 to submit applications during a six-week na-

tional search by Worthington-based search firm Hudepohl & Associates. The firm distributed resumes and other candidate information to board members yesterday.

Johnson said the biggest challenge for school districts in Ohio is finances. In the current economy, prioritizing how best to spend available money is critical. He said he's had experience in his two previous superintendent jobs where revenue quickly dropped because of souring local economies.

"Given my experience in two communities where cash flow was suddenly reduced, I can hopefully help people through it," he said.

Among his top priorities, Johnson said, is ensuring that all students receive a world-class education so they can compete in the global economy. He said all high-school students need to take rigorous coursework, including calculus and physics.

"This is the harsh reality. Students that don't have that standard as a minimum won't be able to live a middle-class existence," Johnson said.

In addition to overseeing the 2,100-student Bexley district since 2001, Johnson has been superintendent of an urban district in Wisconsin and a suburban one in Colorado. He was superintendent of the Kenosha (Wis.) Unified

School District No. 1 from 1996 to 2001, and the Pueblo (Colo.) School District No. 70 from 1986 to 1996.

Ohio's next superintendent will replace Zelman, 62, who resigned in May after Strickland announced he wanted to appoint an education czar to oversee the Department of Education and promote his yet-to-be-released education-reform plan.

The move would have stripped authority from Zelman and the 19-member board and shifted control of schools to the governor. However, Republican leaders in the General Assembly refused to adopt the proposal. ccandisky@dispatch.com

McCain, Palin plan stop in Columbus

The Republican presidential ticket, Sen. John McCain of Arizona and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, will appear at a rally Monday morning in Columbus.

McCain, however, will not be in town Sunday morning, as previously scheduled, to appear on ABC's *This Week with George Stephanopoulos* before a live audience at the Westin Great Southern Hotel. McCain instead will do the show from Washington.

McCain and Palin will appear Monday at a "Road to Victory Rally" at the Capital Center, the athletic complex at Capital University. Doors open at 9 a.m. for the event, expected to begin about 11 a.m. Free tickets can be obtained from various McCain-Palin and GOP offices in Columbus, Lewis Center, Lancaster and Heath.

McCain's scheduled appearance in Columbus this afternoon to address a banquet of the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance at the Aladdin Shrine Temple appeared in doubt but had not been canceled as of late yesterday. The event is closed to the public.

— Joe Hallett
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SHARI LEWIS | DISPATCH

The Ohio Wildlife Center took in 44 wounded eastern gray squirrels and 24 wounded American goldfinches. Most animals, such as this baby red squirrel, were youngsters confined to nests.

CRITTERS

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University, said flying insects weren't blown into Canada by the storm but had the smarts to get low when the winds picked up.

"If they sense they are being blown off course, they try to accelerate," he said. "If they still can't make headway, they just fall to the ground."

And even when the wind is howling, Phelan said, bugs can find sufficient shelter amid ground-level vegetation.

In addition, insects feel the drop in barometric pressure that accompanies storms and high winds, he said, giving them a head start on taking cover.

"They don't wait for the wind to start before they stop flying."

That was true for 2.7 million bees in 45 colonies kept by Canal Winchester beekeeper Barry Conrad. The bees weathered the storm from the comfort of their hives.

"The population looks fine. I didn't need to count them."

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About the center

► The Ohio Wildlife Center, a volunteer organization funded through donations, operates a hospital at 2661 Billingsley Rd. (in the lower level of Animal Care Unlimited near Sawmill Road), and an education center at 6131 Cook Rd. in Powell. For information about animal rehabilitation, call 614-793-WILD (9453) or visit www.ohiowildlifecenter.org.

How to help

► The center's annual fall festival — featuring wagon rides, wild-animal encounters, food, games and other activities — will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. next Saturday at the Powell location. The festival costs \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 4 to 12. Preceding the event at 9:30 a.m. is a 5-kilometer run (\$25 registration fee) benefiting injured and orphaned wildlife.

SHINGLES

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Ahron Leichtman, who lives in Amberley Village near Cincinnati, had heard the horror stories about shingles and was hoping to avoid experiencing it when he started a frustrating quest for the vaccine.

Leichtman, 65, said he's so far been successful only in getting on three waiting lists.

Those who work with senior citizens said it's common that once a person gets shingles, friends and relatives are quick to sign up for the shot, which costs about \$200 or more, depending on the provider.

The disease, also called herpes zoster, creates a blistering skin rash that usually goes away after about a month. It also can cause lasting nerve pain, scarring and loss of vision or hearing. The vaccine is available to

people 60 or older, including those who have had shingles before, and is about 50 percent effective, officials say.

In those who are vaccinated but come down with shingles, the vaccine can shorten the course of the illness and lower the risk of nerve pain, said Dr. John Weigand, who practices in Granville and is director of geriatric services for the Mount Carmel hospital system. mcrane@dispatch.com

E-MAILS

FROM PAGE B1

e-mail with one of his own. "Don't send me news articles about party politics," he wrote. "This comes across as promoting party lines. I view this to be inappropriate."

Brown replied to all: "No problem, Richard. Although this is a news article, not a political statement. I totally respect your request."

Michael D. Reese, the Democratic mayor's chief of staff, then closed the discussion with an e-mail to staffers that read: "Please refrain from

sending and forwarding e-mails from or to City of Columbus e-mail accounts that are focused on partisan politics. ... If you are unsure whether an e-mail would qualify as too political to send ... please err on the side of caution and do not send it."

Dan Williamson, the mayor's spokesman, said the four e-mails were the extent of the exchange.

Brown's job includes sending informational e-mails, and the city does have an environmental office, he said. However, given Weiner's reaction, Reese wanted to

amendment will help prevent lawsuits by clarifying discrimination law for employers.

The lawsuits that do follow the amendment likely will better define just what constitutes discrimination and what constitutes a reasonable effort to accommodate those disabilities, he said.

Many cases that would have clarified those issues never made it to a court-room because they were dismissed under the previous definition of what was a disability. mcrane@dispatch.com

ADA

FROM PAGE B1

small accommodation and they get told, 'No,'" said Michael Kirkman, an attorney and the executive director of the Ohio Legal Rights Service.

Historically, many of those people have left with the news that the ADA was unlikely to be of any help, Kirkman said.

In many cases, people may ask for minor concessions from employers, such as a brief respite from the workday to recover from side effects of epilepsy medication, said John Connelly, executive director of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission.

Those with mental-health problems, including depression and bipolar disorder, often fear sharing their health status with employers or potential employers for fear of discrimination, said Steve Ostrander, spokesman for the commission.

Before the amendment, those people had essentially no hope for ADA protection, Connelly said.

"Hopefully, more and more employers will be open to hiring persons with disabilities. ... these are some of the most motivated workers they have," said Connelly, whose office helps Ohioans with disabilities find and keep jobs.

Kirkman, of the Legal Rights Service, said his optimistic side thinks the

Top complaints

In the past decade, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission has fielded 7,861 discrimination complaints under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Most — 7,278 — aren't categorized by disability. Among those that are, several conditions are likely to be newly recognized under the act, which was amended this week and will go into effect in January.

Some of the top conditions for which complaints were filed:

- Depression: 58
- Back injury: 52
- Diabetes: 44
- Heart disease: 39
- Hearing impairment: 35
- Bipolar disorder: 30
- Cancer: 29

Source: Ohio Civil Rights Commission data from July 1998 through June 2008

ARSON

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justice and tampering with evidence. Daniel Fansler, 22, was charged with receiving stolen property.

Brothers Nathaniel Reed, 18, and Casey Reed, 17, and Zachary Davis, 16, were charged previously. Nathaniel Reed was charged with breaking and entering and theft, and the juveniles face delinquency counts of the same charges.

Court records show that Nathaniel Reed told police that he and others intended to break into a safe at Mason's Furniture. He said he stood outside as a lookout

One of seven people arrested in connection with a burglary at the store told police he was a lookout while others set the blaze.

during the burglary while the fire was set by others.

The fire destroyed the building at 121 N. Court St., which housed the American Hotel until it closed in 1974. The upper floors were used for storage. rludlow@dispatch.com

Trash colors

- Monday gold
- Tuesday gray
- Wednesday navy
- Thursday pink
- Friday ruby

Ohio Lottery

Numbers for Friday, Sept. 26

MEGA MILLIONS

6 13 14 31 36

THE KICKER | MEGA BALL

8 3 6 1 1 5 | 36

ROLLING CASH 5

1 6 8 22 27

DAYTIME PICK 3 | DAYTIME PICK 4

3 2 2 | 8 1 0 4

NIGHTTIME PICK 3 | NIGHTTIME PICK 4

0 4 9 | 1 2 0 1

► For results of the Ohio Lottery's new Ten-Oh! midday and evening drawings, see Dispatch.com/lottery or call the lottery's hot line at 1-800-589-6446.

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