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COMPLETE IN-DEPTH DEPENDABLE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2013

LOCAL & STATE

# Judges must be 'part of the solution'

Justice says more diligence required to reduce prison crowding.

By Andrew Walsh-Huggins  
The Columbus Dispatch

COLUMBUS — Judges are "part of the problem" with Ohio's soaring prison population and have an important role to play in handling out sentences and reducing the number of people behind bars, the state's top judge said Thursday.

Justice says more diligence is required to reduce prison crowding. Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor of the Ohio Supreme Court said in a speech.

Not being as successful as hoped for, requiring more diligence, O'Connor said. Any attempt at reducing the number of offenders entering prison is directly tied to sentencing, she said.

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# Miners train for disaster, hope it never happens

More than 1,000 miners attend competition at Columbus center.

By Lori Kurtzman  
The Columbus Dispatch

Seven miners were missing. It was the rescue team's job to find them. And so they entered the mine, oxygen packs on their backs, checking for fire and explosive gas as they moved through the tunnels.



The Sago Mine White Team rescues a trapped miner during the National Coal Mine Rescue Competition at the Columbus Convention Center on Wednesday. Teams have 75 minutes to complete a series of rescue tasks on site.

Patrick Matheson and his rescue team emerged sweaty, breathing heavily. They ripped off their masks, seeking in the air conditioning of the cavernous hall. Matheson said they'd found a few lips.

Some, he said, "were not in real life. Matheson, a miner from Utah to Alabama, showed up to compete in simulation that tested their skills in administering first aid, using breathing equipment and identifying hazardous underground. The biennial event wraps up today.

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# Local governments lax with records, auditor says

Lack of formal procedures to track public requests the most common issue.

By Randy Lindrow  
The Columbus Dispatch

Ohio's local governments need to pick up their game when it comes to keeping the people's records and fulfilling public-records requests, state auditor Dave Yost said.

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# Ohio woman faked son's cancer, took donations

Alleged scam even had her 4-year-old son thinking he had cancer.

By Eric Lettis  
The Columbus Dispatch

NEWARK — A Licking County woman is accused of faking her son's cancer, bilking convincing donors of cash and goods.

Alleged scam even had her 4-year-old son thinking he had cancer. The prosecutor went through more than 20 blood tests and other diagnostic studies at Nationwide Children's Hospital. He spent about 100 hours over four months undergoing equipment electroencephalography monitoring and was prescribed medication for seizures. No test revealed any abnormality.

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## IN BRIEF

### COLUMBUS

#### Court leader pushes plan for interpreters

The Ohio Supreme Court is taking steps to ensure that non-English speakers and people who are hearing impaired have access to foreign and sign language interpreters.

### CLEVELAND

#### 3 indicted for alleged Oxycontin shipments

Federal authorities say two Ohio men and a California man have been indicted for their alleged participation in a conspiracy to distribute nearly 3,000 pills of Oxycontin.

### MONTEPELIER, VT.

#### Pentagon eyes site for missile interceptors

The Department of Defense is considering five sites, including one in Ohio, as the location for an anti-ballistic missile launch site.

### Send us your questions about health care reform

What questions do you want answered about federal health care reform? We have assembled a fact sheet of local health care experts to debate the law and tell you what you need to know.

### DETROIT

#### Thursday by the U.S. Attorney

Cleveland Steven Detterbach states the pills were shipped from California to Ohio and of ten packages in video message covers and plastic bubble-mailing envelopes.

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