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For now, LeBron
sits atop NBA
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TUESDAY
JUNE 5, 2007

The Advocate



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Newark man gets 12 years for molestation

By **KIMBERLY DICK**
Advocate Reporter

NEWARK — Judge Jon Spahr sentenced a Newark man guilty of molesting two girls to 12 years in prison Monday.

Loren L. Nethers, 38, was convicted by a Licking County Common Pleas Court jury in May of eight

counts of gross sexual imposition and two counts of sexual battery.

He was indicted on 15 total counts, including rape and other sexual battery charges, involving the molestation of three girls, two of which now are adults.

Nethers was convicted

of sexual contact with two girls, but not a third. But two of the victims were coerced into not giving complete testimonies because they didn't want Nethers to go to prison, Licking County Assistant Prosecutor Dan Huston said previously.

Carl McCoy, Nethers' at-

torney, said Nethers has maintained his innocence throughout his court proceedings and plans to appeal this conviction.

Nethers did plead guilty to the eight gross sexual imposition charges in January then withdrew his plea. He told Spahr he didn't know what he was

doing during the change of plea hearing.

The jury found him guilty of two more charges than he pleaded to originally.

Nethers' common-law wife, Adrian E. Wood, 39, of Newark, has been indicted on two third-degree felonies in connection with

Nethers' case.

Woods faces an endangering children charge for allegedly allowing Nethers to molest the youngest girl and perjury for allegedly lying during Nethers' trial.

Woods allegedly testified she hadn't spoken to the victims in regard to their testimonies. No trial is

scheduled on either of these charges.

Upon Nethers' release from prison, he will be on parole for five years and have to register as a sexually oriented offender.

Kimberly Dick can be reached at (740) 328-8543 or kdick@newarkadvocate.com.

REPAIRING VISION: LASER NOT THE ONLY OPTION



Dr. Shahin Shahinfar prepares a Visian Implantable Contact Lens during surgery Monday at the Bloomberg Eye Center in Newark, which is used as an alternative to LASIK surgery. (Morgan Wonorski, The Advocate)

open your EYES

By **MARK SZAKONYI**
Advocate Reporter

NEWARK — When Amy Geist woke up this morning, she could see the time on the alarm clock clearly without the help of her glasses.

She won't ever have to wear her contact lenses or glasses again, because on Monday contact lenses were implanted in her eyes at a Newark eye center.

The Bloomberg Eye Center's cutting-edge procedure of implanting Visian Implantable Contact Lenses (ICL) allows patients who can't have laser-assisted eye surgery remedy their nearsighted vision.

"I'm looking forward to getting up and being able to see," said Geist.

Geist, of New London, said she expects the procedure to save her money in the long run, because she will no longer have to buy glasses, contact lenses and all of the prod-

**"I don't have to
worry about contacts
drying out or
scratching my eyes."**

— Lisa Keaveney, recipient of
a Visian ICL implant

ucts required for their upkeep.

The procedure, which doesn't require removing tissue from the eye, works by making a microscopic incision and slipping the rolled-up Visian ICL inside, said Judy Mackey, the center's director of corporate services.

Once between the iris and the natural lens, the Visian ICL unfolds, said Mackey.

The lens is invisible to the patient and others, she said.

See Implants/8A

Senators act to freeze tuition, attract new scientists

COLUMBUS (AP) — College tuition would be frozen for the next two years under a budget proposal by Senate Republicans that they said Monday seeks to boost Ohio's educational level and promote an economy of high-paying science jobs.

The Senate GOP's higher education package, to be woven into the Senate budget bill due Tuesday, also would increase scholarships to students at two-year and technical colleges by \$10 million over the House-passed budget and provide \$50 million in state matching money for colleges and universities to

OSU to require fewer credits, but boarding costs rise 4.7 percent

COLUMBUS (AP) — This fall's incoming freshmen at Ohio State University will need just 181 quarter-credits to graduate, a decision school officials said would give students a better shot at graduating in four years.

The new credit requirement, approved by the board of trustees on Friday, is 10 fewer than what's been expected of previous classes.

It also puts the university in sync with other Big Ten schools such as

Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois, which also require about 180 hours.

"It's a four-year degree plan for our undergraduates," said Provost Barbara Snyder. "I don't think any students will be unhappy about it."

Five hours of general education and five hours of electives in a student's major are being cut — the equivalent of two fewer five-day-a-week classes.

The board also raised room and board rates by 4.7 percent, about

\$345 more for the average resident, raising the yearly average to \$7,581.

The trustees did not act on a tuition increase because they are awaiting the state's two-year budget.

Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland wants a tuition freeze the first year and a maximum 3 percent increase the second year, while the Ohio House wants the reverse.

The Ohio Senate plans to vote on its budget proposal June 13.

spectfully, but clearly, we would say that allowing tuition to increase in Ohio is too expensive for students and families."

He said the state will off-

set any losses institutions might experience due to the freeze with \$120 million in additional state subsidies.

See Budget/8A

City seeks police chief, three officers

Councilman: Replacements
should be hired more quickly

By **KENT MALLETT**
Advocate Reporter

NEWARK — The city should focus on filling police department vacancies instead of boosting the salary of a yet-to-be-named police chief, a city councilman said Monday night.

Doug Marmie, R-7th Ward, who voted against the \$5,000 increase in the advertised pay for a new police chief, also took issue with comments his vote showed lack of support for the police department.

City Council voted 6-3 last week to increase the chief's salary from almost \$75,000 to \$80,000 to attract additional candidates, as recommended by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police.

"I told the FOP it in no way, shape or form means we did not support the police," Marmie said. "It was called 'a token' for someone who is not there yet. How many of our current employees are deserving of a token, and we don't have the money to give them a token."

The department has had three vacancies since the beginning of 2006, with four more planning to retire this year, Safety Director Kathy Barch said. Two officers left last year and one this year. Of the four who've announced their plans, two will leave soon and two more in the

fall. "We're losing officers and not hiring new officers, and I don't know how good that looks," Marmie said. "I think we need to start hiring new police officers. That's going to have to start rather quickly or we're going to have a shortage of officers."

Barch responded it would have been nice to have the new chief swear in new officers, but that probably can't happen now. She said three will be hired quickly, after psychological exams, polygraph tests, physicals and background checks are completed.

"We have a standing civil service list, with a new test in the making," Barch said. "We've requested a second list to cover positions to be vacated, so we're ahead of the game."

In the past, Barch said, the list of candidates expired before a new list was compiled. This time, she said, the day one list expires, another will take its place, probably in July.

Another obstacle in the past, Barch said, has been surprise retirements, creating immediate vacancies and budget concerns for the large payouts.

"We've requested advance notice, so we can prepare and get ready," Barch said.

The new police contract will help alleviate the

See Police/8A



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■ WEATHER

Mostly cloudy

Today, highs around 70. Tonight, lows in the upper 40s.

Forecast/8A



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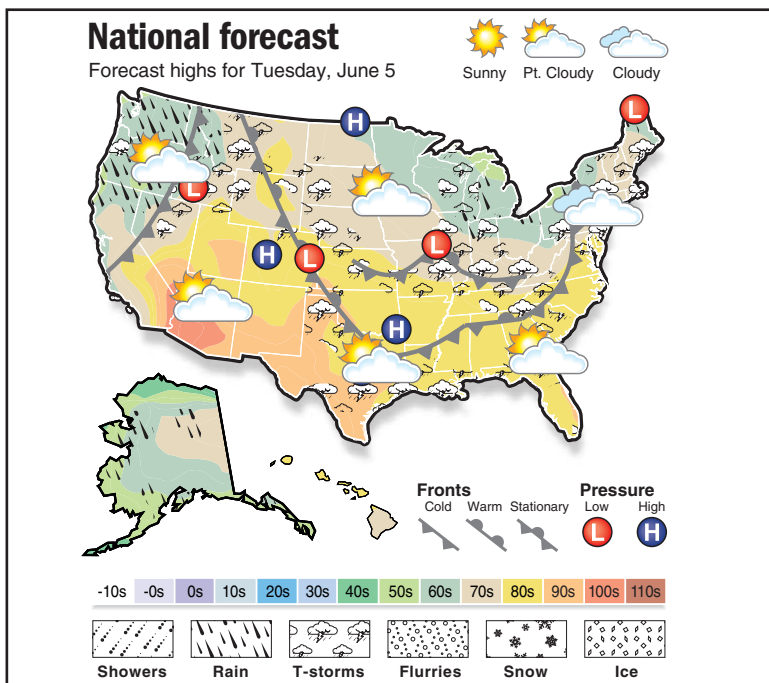
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Local forecast

Today

70

Tonight

48

Wednesday

78

55

Thursday

90

62

Friday & Saturday

87

66

Today, mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms in the morning. West winds 10 to 15 mph and a 20 percent chance of rain. Tonight, partly cloudy with north winds 5 to 10 mph.

Online updates

Weather updates, including latest temperature and local weather radar, are available every 30 minutes on NewarkAdvocate.com.

Almanac

Readings are for a 24-hour period ending at about 11 p.m. yesterday for the Newark area. Information is from the National Weather Service, Associated Press, www.WeatherUnderground.com and Newark Water Treatment Plant.

Precipitation (inches):	Temperatures:	Records for Ohio, June 4:
Yesterday0.17	High yesterday77	High 90 (1943)
Month to date0.89	Low yesterday62	Low 40 (1947)
Normal0.55	Normal high77	
Year to date16.32	Normal low52	
Normal17.27		
	Sunrise: 6:01 a.m.	Yesterday's highs and lows (AP)
	Sunset: 8:54 p.m.	High 114 at Death Valley, Calif.
		Low 32 at W. Yellowstone, Mont.

Regional observations

Information from the National Weather Service

City:	Location:	High:	Low:	Daily precipitation:
Heath	Newark-Heath Airport	77	62	0.17
Columbus	Port Columbus	80	64	0.01

Budget

Continued from Page 1A

While early reaction to the plan was positive, advocates for the poor were waiting anxiously to hear where the GOP-dominated Senate planned to get the money to pour into higher education. Senate President Bill Harris, an Ashland Republican, declined to share those details pending a Tuesday announcement.

"You can't pit one needy population against another," said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks. "To build a strong Ohio, we need to make sure the needs of our most vulnerable citizens are addressed first. I'm afraid if that doesn't happen, we will be leaving more Ohioans vulnerable."

Senate leaders joined a steady chorus of higher education advocacy that has permeated the Statehouse in recent months. Despite flat funding for colleges and universities for most of this decade, the Republican-controlled Legislature is now positioned to invest, Harris said.

He said lawmakers were not able to give more tax dollars to higher education previously because of an economic recession, an antiquated tax structure and

Senate higher education initiatives

■ \$120 million will be invested to freeze tuition at state colleges and universities for each of the next two years, rather than the one year proposed by Gov. Ted Strickland and the Ohio House.

■ \$10 million in seed money for scholarships to technical and two-year colleges. Named for former Gov. James A. Rhodes, the program ultimately would increase to \$65 million through private matching money.

■ \$50 million in state matching funds would be provided for the Ohio Innovation Partnership, to be added to \$100 million already allocated by the House. Colleges and universities would draw down the state dollars by offering a like amount to be used to bring world-class scientists and their graduate students to their institution. The program is intended to total \$200 million in state and private dollars over four years.

Source: Ohio Senate

the demands made on state budgets for primary and secondary schools.

"I would argue we are prepared now," he said.

Sen. Jeff Jacobson, a Dayton Republican, said the \$50 million the Senate budget will invest in attracting top notch scientists to the state is only a quarter of what senators hope will ultimately be invested in the Ohio Innovation Partnership Program.

He said universities competing for the state money would get donors, educational foundations and private companies that would benefit from more

science-savvy graduates to match the money. They envision the program extending into the next budget cycle as well, for a total of \$200 million in public and private investment.

Jacobson said the program is modeled after efforts in other states that led to the Texas Advanced Material Research Center, Georgia's Research Alliance, the North Carolina Research Triangle, and California's Institutes of Science and Innovation.

three vacancies and one upcoming retirement, so the city plans to hire four this year.

Kent Mallett can be reached at (740) 328-8545 or kmallett@newarkadvocate.com.

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CITY NOTES

Police

Continued from Page 1B

impact on the budget, Barch said, as retirement payouts are now spread out over multiple years instead of one lump sum. The fire department also has

Cleveland fans snap up Cavs gear, get ready for NBA finals

CLEVELAND (AP) — Bill Baumann walked out of Quicken Loans Arena with two shopping plastic bags loaded with Cavaliers merchandise.

"I bought \$600 worth of T-shirts," he said. "We're in the finals. Wow, you know."

It still hadn't completely sunk in for Cavaliers fans Monday, two days after LeBron James brought home the franchise's first Eastern Conference championship.

Fans spilled out into the streets in celebration Saturday night after the Cavaliers beat the Detroit Pistons in Game 6 and the good feeling continued through the start of the work week.

People on the streets chattered about the Cavaliers and a "Beat Detroit!" shirt hung in a dry cleaning shop window with a "We" added to it.



Cleveland basketball fans look through merchandise Monday at the Cavaliers Team Shop in Cleveland. (AP)

Tony Farinacci of North Royalton sensed the vibe downtown. "Everyone is just really happy and positive. Everything seems to be OK today," he said.

Farinacci came to the Cavaliers' team shop at The Q to buy Eastern Conference champions T-shirts for his wife and two sons, ages 5 and 9.

The city hasn't won a championship since the Browns in 1964 and haven't competed for one since the Indians lost the World Series in 1997.

The team shop sold out of NBA finals gear by lunchtime Monday. Michael Thom, the Cavaliers' director of merchandising, said more was on the way.

The shop still had \$20 and \$24 shirts proclaiming the Cavs as Eastern Conference champions, which were being printed well before Daniel "Boobie" Gibson started sinking 3-pointers in the fourth quarter Saturday night.

"We were extremely aggressive on our buys with inventory if we won, and it's paid off," Thom said.

Implants

Continued from Page 1A

"With this procedure, you don't have to remove the natural lens to correct the problem," said Dr. Shahin Shahinfar. Shahinfar has performed about 10 procedures, and they take about 10 minutes each.

"It's a little tricky, because you have to make sure you don't touch the iris," said Shahinfar, the center's medical director and owner.

If the iris or cornea is manipulated accidentally during the procedure, inflammation can result, causing serious problems, such as cataracts, he said.

Shahinfar said it's not the most difficult procedure he performs, but it takes a good deal of concentration.

The technology has been available in Europe for the last two to three years, but it was made available in the United States about a year ago, he said.

The procedure is ideal for patients who can't get Laser-Assisted in Situ Keratomileusis (LASIK) surgery because their corneas are too thin or their corneas have irregularities or scarring, Mackey said.

Lisa Keaveney said she was interested in getting LASIK surgery but couldn't because her corneas are too thin.

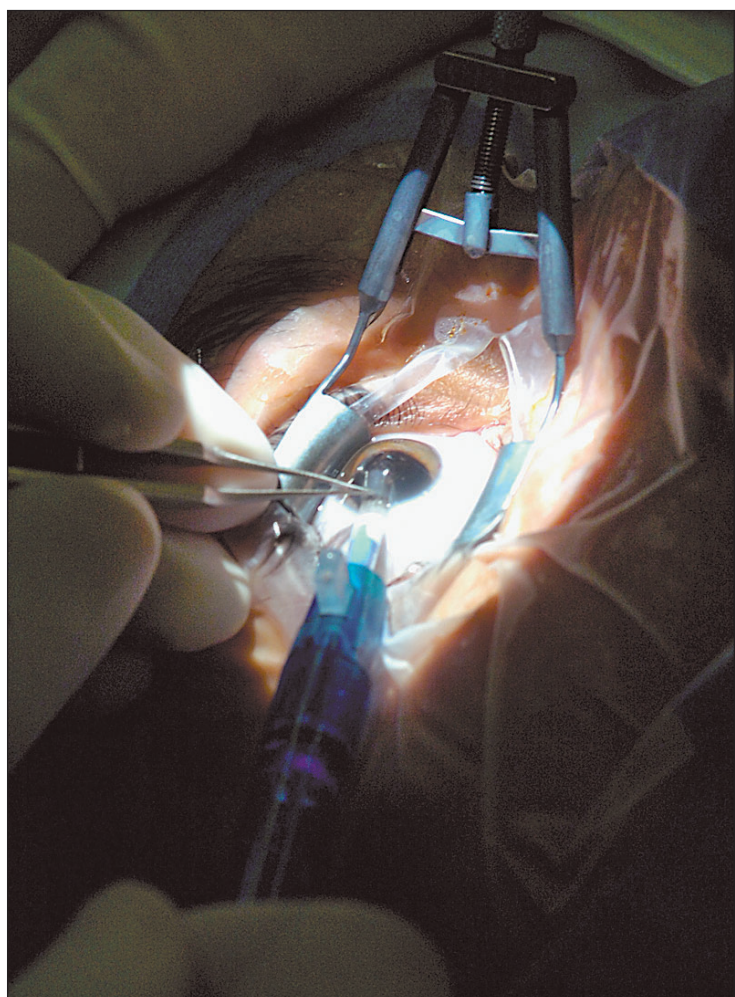
Last month, she got a Visian ICL placed on her right eye and plans to have another placed on her left eye in June.

"I can read signs on the street," said Keaveney, of Marietta. "It really helps to be able to see the street signs."

She said it will cost her about \$3,400 to have Visian ICLs placed on both eyes, but it is worth it considering they come with a virtual lifetime warranty.

There also is value in the convenience it brings, Keaveney said.

"I don't have to worry about



A patient stays awake and is responsive as the Visian Implantable Contact Lens is placed behind the iris of the eye. (Morgan Wonderski, The Advocate)

contacts drying out or scratching my eyes," she said.

Mackey said the procedure will help the center keep its reputation as one of the best eye centers in the area.

Unlike many medical facilities that lose patients to specialty facilities in big cities, Bloomberg Eye Center attracts patients from Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Michigan, Mackey said.

She said patients, including a tenor that performs with Luciano Pavarotti, have come from as far as Europe to receive treatment at the center.

The center, established in 1970, has been physician-owned and operated since its inception.

Mark Szakonyi can be reached at (740) 328-8546 or mszakonyi@newarkadvocate.com.

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