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THE PLAIN DEALER

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FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2012

★★★★

ELECTION 2012

Obama campaign bus winds way across Ohio, with frequent stops



JOHN KUNTZ | THE PLAIN DEALER

President Barack Obama greets supporters before his campaign speech at James Day Park in Parma on Thursday, which capped the first day of a two-day bus tour of northern Ohio and Pennsylvania.

From Maumee to Parma, contrast is theme

HENRY J. GOMEZ AND CASEY CAPACHI
Plain Dealer Reporters

President Barack Obama kicked off the first bus tour of his re-election year by eating, drinking and shopping his way across Democrat-rich northern Ohio.

He ate a cheeseburger in Oak Harbor, bought some fresh produce in Danbury Township and stopped for a couple of beers with former Gov. Ted Strickland at an Amherst tavern.

Along the way, Obama continued an attack he has sharpened in recent weeks, one that contrasts his administration's values with those of his expected Republican challenger, Mitt Romney. Not to be outdone, Romney dispatched two top surrogates, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and former Minnesota Gov.

Tim Pawlenty, to cover roughly the same swing-state ground and press their own case against the president.

It was another dose of the political theater Ohioans have seen since Romney tightened his grip on the GOP nomination and will continue to see for another four months.

"I know you're probably already sick of all the commercials and all the nastiness and foolishness and the reporting of my polls," Obama told about 1,000 supporters who turned out at James Day Park in Parma, his final stop of the day. "But, look, I want you to understand that nothing could be bigger right now than the choice you're about to make.

"It's about two fundamentally different visions and how we move forward."

SEE OBAMA | A6

Inside: Romney rally in Parma



SCOTT SHAW | THE PLAIN DEALER

Al Neal of Canton shouts "Pawlenty go home" at a GOP rally in Parma as Romney supporter Richard Brysac, of Parma, tries to silence him with a bottle of water. Brysac gagged Neal with a handkerchief when the bottle did not hush him. Story, Page A6.

Kasich signs bill that could double tourism budget

RACHEL DISSELL
Plain Dealer Reporter

Gov. John Kasich chose one of Cleveland's largest tourist attractions, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, to sign a bill Thursday that could double the amount spent each year promoting Ohio tourism — the state's fourth-largest industry.

The legislation jump-starts a five-year experiment to determine whether Ohio's tourism industry can support its own marketing fund using a portion of sales tax revenue, which officials expect to increase.

Kasich — who signed the legislation in front of a crowd of downtown business owners, statewide tourism officials and museum visitors — was introduced by Rock Hall President and Chief Executive Terry Stewart as "the biggest rush fan I know."

As speakers blasted the band's hit "Tom Sawyer," about a modern-day rebel, Kasich quipped, "That's no way to get more money."

But the governor promised that Cleveland would benefit from the ability to better market itself — which he hopes will help finally eradicate the dreadful "Cleveland jokes."

SEE KASICH | A4

Ontario St. ramp onto I-90 West to close for a year

TOM BRECKENRIDGE
Plain Dealer Reporter

The latest traffic annoyance will be a long one for thousands of drivers headed west out of downtown Cleveland.

The Ontario Street ramp to Interstate 90 West is scheduled to close around July 22, because of work on the new Inner Belt Bridge. It is expected to remain shut for the next year.

Twenty drivers per minute blow out of downtown on the Ontario ramp during evening rush hour.

Those drivers — as well as those leaving Progressive Field, The Q and the Horseshoe Casino Cleveland — will need to find alternative routes to I-90 West for the next year.

Options will include the East 14th Street ramp to I-90 West. It has been closed for a year and will reopen when the Ontario ramp closes.

The bridge contractor expects congestion the first few days after the Ontario ramp shuts down, as drivers find their best detours, said Cathie Farroll, spokeswoman for the design-build team.

SEE ONTARIO | A5

Charter amendment would allow judges to appoint clerk

LAURA JOHNSTON
Plain Dealer Reporter

Cuyahoga County judges want to wrest control of the clerk of courts, over objections from the county executive, the County Council and reformers who made the previously elected post an executive appointment.

Under a charter amendment proposed last week, the clerk would be appointed by administrative judges of the Common Pleas Court, domestic relations division, and the 8th Ohio District Court of Appeals. The change would make the courts more efficient, Common Pleas Administrative Judge Nancy Fuerst contends.

"It's under the wrong arm of the government," Fuerst said in a recent interview. "The clerk only works for the courts."

But County Executive Ed FitzGerald — who has reorganized the clerk's operations since taking office in January 2011 and devised a plan to collect \$63 million in delinquent court costs — said the executive branch has a better record of good management.

SEE CHARTER | A4

Today's News

METRO



GUSCHAN | THE PLAIN DEALER

Jane Scott memorial unveiled at Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

Jane Scott is in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. She hasn't been inducted, but a memorial to The Plain Dealer's late beloved rock writer was unveiled Thursday afternoon in the Rock Hall's lower lobby. The cast-bronze statue of Scott, above, complete with a replica of her signature red eyeglasses, is seated on an oak bench. **Details, B1**

Heat, humidity continue: A dangerous combination of high heat and humidity will keep Northeast Ohio under a heat advisory through Saturday. But on Sunday, air from central Canada should hold temperatures closer to normal, with a high around 80. **Details, B1**

Guilty plea: A Cleveland accountant pleads guilty to fraud and money-laundering charges related to the collapse of the St. Paul Croatian Federal Credit Union. **Details, B1**

Health assurance: After the Supreme Court's ruling on the health care reform law, President Barack Obama said, "If you're one of the more than 250 million Americans who already have health insurance, you will keep your health insurance." PolitiFact Ohio checks his claim. **Details, B1**

WORLD

Six accused of terror plot

Police arrested five men and a woman in London on Thursday on suspicion of preparing terrorist strikes against targets in Britain. Scotland Yard said the suspects were "part of a preplanned intelligence-led operation" that was not linked to the Olympic Games. **Details, A4**

Crisis called preventable: The nuclear accident at Japan's Fukushima reactor was a preventable disaster rooted in government-industry collusion and the worst conformist conventions of Japanese culture, a parliamentary inquiry concluded Thursday. **Details, A2**

BUSINESS

Banks are on the mend

Low interest rates, higher account fees and more mergers have given U.S. banks a boost, and fewer of them are failing than at any time since the financial crisis erupted in 2008. **Details, C1**

Leader looks to change field: Carter Strang, the new president of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, has designed a program to encourage kids from poor neighborhoods to study law. Its motto: "Changing Lives, One Student at a Time." **Details, C1**

SPORTS

Tribe, Tomlin top Tampa Bay

Josh Tomlin pitched seven strong innings and solo home runs from Shin-Soo Choo, Michael Brantley and Travis Hafner helped the Indians beat the Rays, 3-1. **Details, D1**

4-HOUR FORECAST

Full report: **B8** or cleveland.com/weather

6 a.m.	10	2 p.m.	6	10	2 a.m.
73°	86°	95°	92°	85°	78°

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