

LATENEWS

OHIO HEALTH CHOICE
CHOOSSES NEW HEAD

Ohio Health Choice, the preferred provider network owned by Summa Health System and Mercy Medical Center in Canton, has hired Bryan Kennedy as its new president. Mr. Kennedy most recently was director of sales and manager of underwriting services at AultCare, a preferred provider organization in Canton.

— Shannon Mortland

COUNTY MAY RENT
SPACE AT TRI-C WEST

Cuyahoga County commissioners are considering moving the county emergency operations center to Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus in Parma from its location downtown. The emergency center currently is in 12,000 square feet at 1255 Euclid Ave., but it needs to expand into 27,000 square feet. Tri-C and the county are negotiating a lease for space in the Crie building.

— Shannon Mortland

PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM
PLANS OHIO CITY MOVE

Mutual Capital Partners' leasing days are numbered. The Cleveland private equity firm is planning a move in April to a 2,000-square-foot office on Bridge Avenue in Ohio City that the firm will own. Two-year-old Mutual Capital had been leasing a 900-square-foot office on Lorain Avenue.

— Shawn A. Turner

CLINIC PICKS HEAD
OF DIVERSITY EFFORTS

The Cleveland Clinic has named Deborah Plummer as its new director of diversity to oversee diversity programs throughout the Clinic's health system. Dr. Plummer most recently was a professor and director of the Diversity Management Program at Cleveland State University.

— Shannon Mortland

FIVE FIRMS OBTAIN
\$2.1M IN SBA LOANS

Five Cleveland-area companies have been approved for U.S. Small Business Administration loans by Growth Capital Corp., an affiliate of the Greater Cleveland Partnership business advocacy group. The loans, totaling \$2.1 million, will be used to spur \$4.3 million in brick-and-mortar expansions that are expected to create 40 jobs. The largest loan, \$742,000, will go to Orbit Industries Inc. of Middleburg Heights, which provides testing services for aircraft and aerospace components. The loan will allow Orbit to pursue a \$1.8 million expansion, which will include the purchase of a 71,000-square-foot building.

— Jay Miller

CRAIN'S

CLEVELAND
BUSINESS

NASA Glenn to make big pitch

Brook Park center's future could lie with service module project

By BRANDON GLENN
bglenncrain.com

Hundreds of jobs at struggling NASA Glenn Research Center could hang in the balance as the center in Brook Park tries to land desperately

needed work on the vehicle that is slated to replace the space shuttle.

This week could be a critical one for Glenn as deputy director Rich Christiansen travels to Houston's Johnson Space Center to try to convince officials there to recommend

awarding Glenn work on the service module of the crew exploration vehicle, which is expected to travel to the moon and Mars within about a decade.

The service module, which would contain the vehicle's propulsion,

power and communications systems, could provide years of work for Glenn, and it likely would save numerous jobs at the research center, which has seen its budget slashed dramatically in recent years.

"It's important that we get the work and we get it soon," said Larry Ross, who served as Glenn's director

See GLENN Page 21

"If you want the aesthetics of Bally's ... don't come here."

— Tim Robertson Jr., co-owner of Speed Strength Systems Inc.



JASON MILLER

Speed Strength co-owners Tim Robertson Jr. (from left) and Eric Lichter time David Thomas, former linebacker for the University of Toledo, while he trains at their Euclid facility.

Training day

NFL draft prospects flock to duo's Euclid complex to prep for the league combine

By JOHN BOOTH ■ jbooth@crain.com

IN THE BACK SECTION OF A MAMMOTH Euclid industrial complex, past a landscape of rusting storage tanks, crumbling loading docks and hollow buildings peppered with shattered windows, NFL hopefuls such as former Ohio State football standouts Nate Salley and Rob Sims are in serious training.

These Draft Day prospects are holed up

See TRAINING Page 12

DFAS office
readies to fill
rush of open
positions

By JAY MILLER
jmillercrain.com

New jobs at the Cleveland Defense Finance and Accounting Service office should start arriving in June and will continue to flow into Northeast Ohio until the fall of 2008.

According to a "workload migration" plan shared by the Defense Department with the American Federation of Government Employees but not yet approved by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, work now done at eight DFAS sites that will be closed will be brought to Cleveland between June 2006 and October 2008.

The transfers are part of a Defense Department downsizing that is expected to bring between 400 and 700 DFAS jobs to Cleveland. The current 20 DFAS centers will be reduced to five. The work of the closing centers will be distributed among centers in Cleveland; Columbus; Indianapolis; Limestone, Maine; and Rome, N.Y.

DFAS management is not yet prepared to discuss the hiring timetable.

"We're developing a plan at corporate for the hiring," said Zanell Osowski, a DFAS spokeswoman in Cleveland. She declined to comment further "until we get something locked in."

See DFAS Page 9

SPECIAL SECTION

TECHNOLOGY

Researcher's GPS software helps companies

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