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LOCAL & STATE, A3

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The Vindicator

Kasich fires more salvos during Valley fundraiser

By DAVID SKOLNICK
skolnick@vindy.com**BOARDMAN**

The state government has to "stop being sloppy and lazy, and we've got to be focused," said John Kasich, the Republican gubernatorial nominee.

When asked Monday by *The Vindicator* who he specifically meant,

Kasich said: "The state and the leadership of the state. The people that work in the government are too slow."

Kasich spoke to the media after speaking at a rally at Mahoning County Republican Party headquarters in Boardman and before attending a fund-raising event for his campaign at the Warren home of businessman Sam Covelli.

Kasich criticized Gov. Ted Strickland, a Democrat, for failing to move

Ohio forward.

"Stop making excuses for why we keep failing and accept personal responsibility," Kasich said of Strickland.

When asked what Strickland policies would be among the first to go if he's elected next month, Kasich said, "I don't have two hours to answer that question."

Responding for the Strickland

See KASICH, A4



John Kasich, the Republican nominee for governor, spoke to fellow Republicans at the Mahoning County GOP headquarters in Boardman. Kasich told the crowd that "it's a nasty time in American politics."

WILLIAM D. LEWIS
THE VINDICATOR*Breast-cancer survivor from Warren perseveres*

HEATHER'S HOPE

WILLIAM D. LEWIS | THE VINDICATOR
Breast-cancer survivor Heather Kish of Warren holds two photos of herself. The photo at left is from her senior year of high school, and the one at right was taken during her six months of chemotherapy treatment.By KRISTINE GILL
kgill@vindy.com**WARREN**

WHEN HEATHER KISH learned she had breast cancer three years ago, she knew there was one thing she could control.

"My hair was going to come out when I wanted it to," Kish said.

And so, just weeks after her diagnosis in October 2007 and days before

♦INSIDE: St. Elizabeth Health Center will have three education events. A4

♦COMING WEDNESDAY: Breanna Rohrman of Struthers was a 20-year-old YSU student when she was diagnosed.

her first chemotherapy treatment, the 38-year-old Warren resident had her head shaved.

Kish is just one of 178,480 women in the country diagnosed with breast

cancer in 2007, according to the American Cancer Society. As a resident of the Mahoning Valley, she also is from an area where late-stage diagnosis and breast-cancer mortality rates are some of the highest in the state, according to a study done by Susan G. Komen for The Cure.

St. Elizabeth Health Center won a grant through the Susan G. Komen

See HEATHER, A4

The Vindicator**INDEX**

Business A9

Classified C3-5

Comics C6

Courts, Police ... A5

Crossword C4

Editorial A10-11

Lotteries A2

Society..... C2

Sports..... B1-5

Tributes..... A6-7

TV Grid B6

Valley Life..... C1

Weather..... B6

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WILLIAM D. LEWIS | THE VINDICATOR

A supporter of Gov. Ted Strickland exchanges words with those who back John Kasich for governor outside Mahoning County Republican Party headquarters in Boardman.

KASICH

Continued from A1

campaign, state Sen. Joe Schiavoni of Canfield, D-33rd, said: "That's typical of the whole campaign Kasich is running. People want some facts. He just rails on Strickland. That's not an answer to the question."

Kasich also declined to say which programs he would cut with the state expecting a significant financial

shortfall.

"We don't know what the revenues are, so it's impossible to run a program without" that knowledge, he said.

But Kasich, a former congressman, pointed out that he's "written 13 budgets in my lifetime, and the crown jewel was the 1997 [federal] balanced-budget amendment."

Schiavoni said he understands Kasich's not mentioning specific cuts be-

cause the budget shortfall is "uncertain. But he could at least give ideas on fixing the budget."

Kasich was well received by the Republican crowd at party headquarters.

"It's a nasty time in American politics," he said. "Trash as much as you can our Republican candidates. I see it wherever I go. We are a party that has ideas now. The reason why we're being trashed is when you associate with

a group that's lost almost 400,000 jobs, you don't want anybody talking about your record."

Kasich also said that if Democrats win in November, "they'll raise taxes."

The goal should be to make government more efficient and effective, and reduce taxes, Kasich said.

Outside Republican headquarters, a group of local Democrats had a protest rally against Kasich.

HEATHER

Continued from A1

Foundation to further breast-cancer education in the area just in time to have screenings for Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October.

Nancy Gantt, a surgeon at the hospital, said she recently treated five women between age 25 and 30 for signs of the disease.

"It frightens me that they're all from the Valley," Gantt said.

Women diagnosed with Kish's stage and type of cancer are given an 85 percent chance of survival.

"It's the worst news you'd ever want to hear," said Kish's husband, Michael. "The worst thoughts go through your head, and that's the first 10 seconds. Then it's, 'What do we have to do to beat it?'"

For more than a year, Kish had felt a pinching pain in her chest right over the sternum. Doctors dismissed it as stress, a pulled muscle or anxiety. She was too young to be considered for breast cancer.

But while lying down one day, Kish noticed a newly formed tumor the size of a golf ball protruding from her chest.

Kish told her three chil-

dren—Michael, 17, Nick, 15, and Emma, 9—soon after her Oct. 25 diagnosis.

"We just kept it at facts," Kish said. "We tried not to get emotional."

Then, on Oct. 30, Kish found herself on the operating table undergoing a radical mastectomy where doctors removed her breast and lymph nodes under her arm.

Kish was just months away from finishing the two-year nursing program at the Trumbull Career & Technical Center at the time. Her first doctor told her to put school on hold while she battled her disease, but that wasn't an option for Kish.

"I spent two years on bloody knuckles crawling through nursing school with three kids," said Kish, who returned to class Nov. 5 "tubes and all" and began chemotherapy a few weeks later.

Her husband kept up with the kids at home and took to remodeling the kitchen and dining room by tearing down a wall when he needed release.

Their middle child, Nick, took to selling homemade candy at school to raise money for a Relay for Life Team called Heather's Hope that his family started.

"It's been hard at different

times, Nick said. "During chemo, my mom was super tired."

Twice, her reactions to the chemotherapy landed Kish in the hospital where she joked she likely had earned frequent-flyer miles.

"She was a on a first-name basis with all the nurses," Michael said.

Kish graduated from nursing school in January 2008 and walked across the stage wearing a wig rather than a scarf for the first time and being sure to divert attention from her disease. She finished chemotherapy that spring, and her hair began to grow back soon after.

Kish will be labeled as "in remission" Oct. 25, 2012, five years after her diagnosis. In the meantime, she attends regular doctor appointments with fingers crossed that nothing comes up in her tests.

Things are going well

these days, but Kish worries her condition could have been caught sooner. Because she was only 35 at the time, breast cancer wasn't on the radar for her or her doctors. The recommended age to begin yearly mammograms is 40.

"Cancer doesn't know how old you are," said Kish, who already has made breast-cancer awareness her new

life's work.

As clinical coordinator at Warren West Community Health Center, Kish facilitates free access mammograms and breast-health education.

She is looking to start her own foundation, Heather's Hope, to ensure that grant money is always available for the program.

She said what frustrates her the most as a nurse and a survivor is that some women can't afford screenings or don't have insurance.

Kish still gets emotional when she remembers the day she said goodbye to long locks of her hair.

"I never let anyone see me without a scarf or a hat," Kish said. "Not even family."

It wasn't until talking with a photographer at her daughter's dance studio that Kish decided to capture her new look on film.

After taking several shots of Kish wearing different scarves, the photographer was ready to wrap up.

Kish wasn't.

"I said, 'There are a few more photos I think we have to take,'" she said.

And for the first time in public, Kish untied her scarf.

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CHAMBER

Continued from A1

for Humphries, but as the head of the chamber he went too far by co-hosting the Kasich event, Betras and Zoldan said.

Zoldan had a fund-raising event Oct. 4 in his Canfield house for Gov. Ted Strickland, a Democrat, with Vice President Joe Biden.

Zoldan also attended Kasich's Monday event at the Warren home of another prominent businessman, Sam Covelli.

Zoldan said William A. Weimer, B.J. Alan's vice president and general counsel, invited Humphries two times to the Strickland and Biden event, but the chamber president didn't attend.

"It's important the chamber board get the message that our community comes first and we should have friendships" among Democrats and Republicans, Zoldan said. "We need bipartisan support."

Zoldan said he's had

fundraisers at his home for Democrats and Republicans.

Humphries said among the major issues he has with Strickland's administration is it didn't hire his company, Data Voice Systems Review, in 2007 for a contract with the state lottery commission.

Humphries said his company's proposal would have saved the state more money than the company that was awarded the contract, and his firm was the only Ohio-based business seeking the job.

"It's a personal issue" for Humphries, and that shouldn't be the case for someone who is the face of the chamber, Zoldan said.

The resignation of B.J. Alan is being done "very politely and very respectfully," Zoldan said. "I hope mine is a temporary resignation."

Zoldan said he's a long-time supporter of the chamber and just gave the organization \$5,000 last week for economic development.

ARTS

Continued from A1

region's economy, he said.

An economic-impact study would put that impact in writing and document the information.

"That would open the door for us to apply for grant funding," DePoy said.

The group is in discussions with an organization to conduct the study of arts in Mahoning and Trumbull counties.

Before formation of The Power of the Arts, the arts community was fragmented, organizers said, and now-defunct arts groups tended to leave out more grass-roots artists.

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