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# THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

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## ILLUSTRATOR CHOSEN FOR PRESIDENT'S BOOK FOR KIDS

### Long's work makes Obama book sing

By Lauren Bishop  
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In his 10 years of illustrating children's books, Madeira resident Loren Long, 46, has been able to add some pretty big author names to his résumé: Frank McCourt, Walt Whitman, Madonna.

But the author of the newest book he illustrated is the biggest: Barack Obama.

The president's new book, "Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters," arrives in stores and libraries today from publisher Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House Children's Books.

Long was unavailable for inter-

views, but he released a statement about the book through Knopf.

"When I illustrate any text, first and foremost I have to love it, I have to believe in it. In this case it was easy," he said. "This is a letter from President Obama to his daughters. It is also my message to my sons. And as a nation, it should be America's message to children everywhere. I'm humbled and honored to contribute to this meaningful book with my pictures."

The book is a tribute to 13 groundbreaking Americans. They include George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, painter Georgia O'Keeffe, baseball legend Jackie Robinson, Vietnam Memorial architect Maya Lin, astronaut Neil Armstrong, singer

#### Book signing

Loren Long is scheduled to discuss and sign "Of Thee I Sing" at 1 p.m. Dec. 11 at Joseph-Beth Booksellers in Norwood, currently his only scheduled local appearance.

Customers who buy the book at Joseph-Beth will receive line letters granting them a spot in line for the Dec. 11 signing, and people who come to the store on the day of the signing also will receive them, said Barb Hudson of Joseph-Beth.

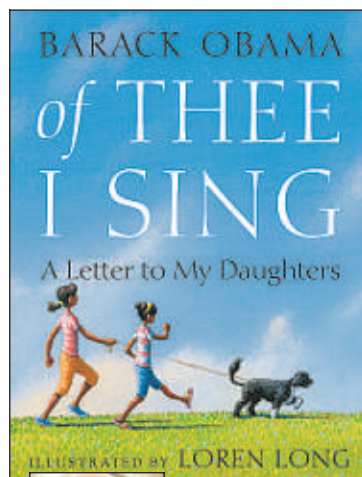
Billie Holiday and Hunkpapa Lakota chief Sitting Bull, most famous for his defeat of Custer at the Battle of Little Bighorn.

Obama wrote the manuscript between the 2008 election and the 2009 inauguration, but publication awaited "the beautiful illustrations" by Long, Obama's lawyer, Robert Barnett, told USA Today.

Knopf released only one image from the book in advance: The cover, which shows Sasha and Malia Obama walking their dog, Bo, along a grassy field.

The 31-page book has a list price of \$17.99, and proceeds will be donated to a scholarship fund for the children of fallen and disabled soldiers. It also will be released as an e-book.

Local bookstores anticipate high demand for "Of Thee I Sing," which has an initial printing of 500,000 copies.



Provided



Loren Long

**Online:** Go to Cincinnati.Com to see a gallery of Loren Long's work

## RHODES MAKES LAST-MINUTE \$120K REQUEST



The Enquirer/Michael E. Keating

At a surprise stop at a Kroger store in Norwood, county inspector Tom Woods checks the weight of packaged meat on a scale that he earlier had verified. The county used to have four inspectors; now it has two.

### Auditor: Inspector needed

Says weights and measures checks will be hit-or-miss

By Sharon Coolidge  
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The Hamilton County auditor said the proposed county budget jeopardizes the system that makes sure people aren't cheated when they shop or buy gas.

That issue arose just two days before Hamilton County commissioners are set to approve the county's 2011

budget.

In a memo to commissioners, Auditor Dusty Rhodes said his office needs \$120,000 – some of that to hire a person to make sure the county's more than 13,000 gas pumps, cash registers, scales, parking meters and taxi meters, among other devices, are accurate. That number doesn't include

cash register price scanners, which the office also checks.

"Weights and measures ensures an honest workplace," Rhodes said. "Without another inspector people's pocketbooks won't be protected."

The county has two inspectors, down from four in 2009.

Because of budget cuts,

the jobs weren't filled after one inspector took a job in another county and another was moved to a new job in the auditor's office.

Rhodes, a Democrat just re-elected this month, has long complained his office doesn't have enough money or staff, but it's the first time he's said weights and

See **AUDITOR**, Page A4

## Duke: Auction will save

Wants change in way it charges for electricity

By Mike Boyer  
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Duke Energy said phasing in market-based rates with its current rates over three years would mean lower rates for consumers in the short term.

The change to a competitive auction that Duke is seeking applies only to the electric generation portion of customer rates, typically about two-thirds of the total electric bill. Duke would remain responsible for transmission and distribution through its network of lines, poles and transmission substations, which accounts for the other third of a customer's monthly bill. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio would continue to regulate Duke's transmission and delivery under the company's proposal.

The company proposes the new market-based approach take effect on Jan. 1, 2012.

PUCO is expected to gather testimony on Duke's request. The company said it expects a decision within 90 days.

Cincinnati electric rates traditionally have been among the lowest in Ohio. But recently, in the face of weaker electric demand because of the recession and higher costs for coal (used to generate most of Duke's Midwest electricity) and environmental compliance, Duke's electric rates have risen to the state's highest.

PUCO, in its latest rate survey in October, said the typical Cincinnati residential customer pays \$105.28 a month for 750 kilowatt hours of electricity – about 18 percent more than the statewide average of \$89.55 for the same amount of power.

Anthony Rodriguez, spokesman for Ohio Consum-

See **DUKE**, Page A4

## LOCAL LIFE

### Victim's plea spares driver

Amber Schwartz's impaired driving cost Scott Lane his leg, but it was Lane's plea for mercy that kept Schwartz out of jail on Monday. **B1**

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## UC OPENS SEASON WITH WIN



The Enquirer/Gary Landers

The University of Cincinnati's Yancy Gates throws down a dunk Monday against Mount St. Mary's at Fifth Third Arena. Gates scored 15 in the Bearcats' 69-59 win. **Sports, C1**

## LESSONS LEARNED FROM ST. LOUIS

### City-casino alliance gets ugly when economic interests shift

By Alexander Coolidge  
[acoolidge@enquirer.com](mailto:acoolidge@enquirer.com)

**ST. LOUIS** – The Lumiere Place Casino & Hotels is exactly the sort of development any city would want downtown: A \$507 million investment that includes seven restaurants and bars, a high-end spa and expensive shops – even a coveted five-diamond rating from AAA for its Four Seasons hotel.

The upscale project is drawing its share of customers from a regional market with five competing casinos. But as local officials push for development of a seventh gambling hall, once-friendly business relations are fraying.

#### HIGH STAKES *for* DOWNTOWN

Part 3 of 4

Concerns over market saturation have soured the partnership between the city and casino. Now, St. Louis and casino owner Pinnacle Entertainment are suing each other over promises each claims the other side broke.

As Cincinnati prepares to break ground for a downtown casino of its own, the city and developers here are trying to avoid the

See **ST. LOUIS**, Page A7

#### About this series

Enquirer business reporter Alexander Coolidge visited downtown casinos across the Midwest to learn how their experiences might inform casino decisions being made here.

**WEDNESDAY:** Detroit: Even largest casinos can't always make the hoped-for splash.

**At CINCINNATI.COM:**  
**Part 1:** Betting on Cincinnati's casino.

**Part 2:** Pittsburgh: Unrealistic revenue projections.

**Video:** Cincinnati developers' vision.

**Photos:** From the three cities

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