

TODAY'S DEAL - SAVE 50%!
\$25 for Admission for Two
at The Creation Museum

get today's deal at
DealChicken.com



brought to you by
THE ENQUIRER

A GANNETT COMPANY

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

CINCINNATI.COM

K1

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2012

Social Security outlook worsens

Insolvency in safety net
forecast three years sooner

By **Stephen Ohlemacher**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Social Security is rushing even faster toward insolvency, driven by retiring baby boomers, a weak economy and politicians' reluctance to take painful action to fix the huge retirement and disability program.

The trust funds that support Social Security will run dry in 2033 — three years earlier than previously projected — the government said Monday.

There was no change in the year that Medicare's hospital insurance fund is projected to run out of money. It's still 2024. The program's trustees, however, said the pace of Medicare spending continues to accelerate. Congress enacted a 2 percent cut for Medicare last year, and that is the main reason the trust fund exhaustion date did not advance.

The trustees who oversee both programs say high energy prices are suppressing workers' wages, a trend they see continuing. They also expect people to work fewer hours than previously projected, even after the economy recovers. Both trends would lead to lower payroll tax receipts, which support both programs.

Unless Congress acts — and forcefully — payments to millions of Americans could be cut.

If the Social Security and Medicare

funds ever become exhausted, the nation's two biggest benefit programs would collect only enough money in payroll taxes to pay partial benefits. Social Security could cover about 75 percent of benefits, the trustees said in their annual report. Medicare's giant hospital fund could pay 87 percent of costs.

"Lawmakers should not delay addressing the long-run financial challenges facing Social Security and Medi-

See **BENEFITS**, Page A4



Ron Fine, of Dayton, Ohio, left, discusses his fossil find with UC geology professors Carl Brett, center, and David Meyer. The fossil was found in Kentucky last summer and has been painstakingly reassembled. PHOTOS BY GARY LANDERS/THE ENQUIRER

Giant fossil stumps the experts

ENQUIRER EXCLUSIVE: What was it?
NKY find is 450 million-year-old riddle



Cliff
RADEL

Time to play "Name that Fossil."

It stands 6 feet 5, measures 3.5 feet wide and weighs 150 pounds.

Nobody knows what it is. Plant. Animal. Mineral. Bacteria. It's anybody's guess.

But experts do know that whatever it is, it's history-making.

"This is the largest fossil that has ever been extracted from this age of rock in this

area or maybe even in the world," declared Carl Brett, University of Cincinnati geology professor.

"This is the ultimate cold case," said Ron Fine, who found this slab of mystery matter. "It's 450 million years old."

And it goes by the nickname, "Godzillus."

"I picked that name to make it sound more scientific," Fine said. "Like Godzilla, it's a primordial beast that found its way to the modern era."

Fine is a mechanical designer by trade and a fossil hunter by passion. "I've

See **FOSSIL**, Page A4



No one knows exactly what the fossil is, but experts do know it is 450 million years old.

IF YOU GO

The Dry Dredgers, an association of amateur geologists dedicated to discovering and examining fossils, marks the 70th anniversary of its founding 8 p.m. Friday in Room 201 of the University of Cincinnati's Braunstein Hall. Information: www.drydredgers.org.

Council divided on answer to violence

Chief urges investment; members have own plans

By **Mark Curnutte**
mccurnutte@enquirer.com

DOWNTOWN — Cincinnati Police Chief James Craig told City Council Monday night that, if it is serious about reducing violent crime, and particularly black-on-black violence, he suggests investment in youth programs and re-entry programs that help ex-offenders get and keep jobs.

"And not just putting up a basketball hoop," Craig said during the special session of council called by members Christopher Smitherman and Charles Winburn.

Craig, during the two-hour meeting, said that any money spent on violence prevention is money saved. He said a great deal is being done in the city in these areas, "but we have to do better."

About 150 people, most African-Americans, attended the session, and each of council's nine members and Mayor Mark Mallory thanked them for their interest and concern.

"You have a right to be concerned," Mallory said to citizens. "We are as well."

Winburn and Smitherman called this special meeting after Smitherman and council member Cecil Thomas, who chairs the Public Safety Committee, exchanged terse emails about the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV). Smitherman said the city does not have a comprehensive plan to fight the violence. He and Winburn want to raise the Crime Stoppers rewards and have introduced a motion to request \$300,000 in city money to pad incentives leading to arrests and prosecutions to solve homicides.

Asked by Smitherman if increased rewards would help, Craig agreed and said they would be "another tool in our tool belt."

Craig offered an assessment of progress made by the department in combating violent crime. Violent crime in the city was down 11 percent in 2011 com-

See **CRIME**, Page A4

US levies tech sanctions

President Barack Obama on Monday announced sanctions on people and entities in Syria and Iran that use technology to target their citizens and perpetrate human rights abuses. **Nation/World, A6**

SOME PAPERS DELAYED

Some readers may receive their papers later than usual this morning. The delay was caused by production difficulties. The Enquirer apologizes for the inconvenience.

High court to hear Arizona immigration dispute

Justices to decide states' power to regulate borders

By **Mark Sherman**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court will referee another major clash between the Obama administration and the states, this one over Arizona's crackdown on illegal immigrants. The

case could add fuel to the partisan split over tough state immigration laws backed by Republicans but challenged by the administration.

Like last month's arguments over President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, the immigration case is expected to be decided at the end of June.

Wednesday's arguments will focus on whether states can adopt their own measures to deal with illegal immigrants or whether the federal govern-

ment has almost exclusive authority. An estimated 11 million immigrants are in the country illegally.

Arizona was the first of a half-dozen states to enact laws intended to drive illegal immigrants elsewhere, a policy known as "attrition by enforcement." Even where blocked by courts, these laws have already had an impact on farm fields and school classrooms as

See **IMMIGRATION**, Page A4

Portions of today's Enquirer were printed on recycled paper

\$1.00 retail
Home delivery pricing on A2

INDEX Three sections, 172nd year, No. 15

Advice.....B5	Classified.....C6	Lotteries.....A2	Puzzles.....B5
Baseball.....C3	Comics.....B6	Obituaries.....B2	Sports.....C1
Business.....A8	Local.....B1	Opinions.....A11	TV.....B4, B5

WEATHER
High 63°
Low 40°
Warmer

THE XAVIER MBA
WHAT'S YOUR ROI?
CALCULATE YOUR ROI AT: XAVIER.EDU/ROI

www.uc.edu

UC CLASSROOM

UNIVERSITY OF Cincinnati