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■ 'AIN'T NOBODY PERFECT IN THIS WORLD'

Leo Cardenas gets record cleared

By Kimball Perry
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Despite being a five-time All-Star, former Cincinnati Reds shortstop Leo Cardenas was bothered in the last decade by his felony criminal record.

Those concerns disappeared Monday when Gov. Ted Strickland pardoned Cardenas. His 1997 felonious assault conviction will be erased as if it never happened.

"That's good. I'm glad to see that," Cardenas, 70, of Madisonville, said Monday.

Strickland clemency list includes former Reds All-Star

His son Mario said Cardenas was convicted of breaking out a car window and assaulting a man in the company of Mario Cardenas' mother.

"Ain't nobody perfect in this world," Leo Cardenas said. "I'm not a bad guy. I want to have that cleared."

Strickland granted Cardenas' pardon with one condition - that Cardenas pay the hospital bills of his victim.

Cardenas is from Cuba and became a U.S. citizen, his son said.

"I had a pretty decent career," said Cardenas, a grandfather of 31.

He played in the majors for 16 years, including nine years with the Reds from 1960-1968 when he was a four-time All-Star and won a Gold Glove. Overall, he hit .257 with 118 homers and 689 RBI.

He appeared in one World Series - in 1961 with the Reds - and also appeared in the American League Championship Series in 1969 and 1970 with the Minnesota Twins,

where he also was an All-Star.

He also played for the Texas Rangers, Cleveland Indians and California Angels.

Cardenas still attends Reds games and, when the team asks, mingles with fans and signs autographs. He also helps with clinics for young players.

"Right now, (fans) are giving me more respect than when I was playing ball," Cardenas said.

Cardenas was one of 78 who

Strickland granted clemency. They included 15 others with Hamilton County convictions.

Perhaps the most noteworthy clemency Strickland granted Monday was the commutation of the sentence of Willie Knighten Jr. to the 12 years in prison he's already served.

A Lucas County judge convicted Knighten, 37, of murder in 1996, but wrote a letter just before he died in June noting he believed his verdict was wrong. The clemency decision, Strickland said, was supported by the prosecutor. Knighten will be released today.

■ BY FBI

More hate crimes noted

USA Today
and The Associated Press

The number of hate crimes against blacks and religious groups increased in 2008 over the previous year, the FBI reported Monday.

Hate crimes overall increased by 2 percent, to 7,783 incidents, according to the report.

Brian Levin, director of the Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, said it is difficult to make a yearly trend analysis from the data because the number of agencies that report the crimes - and the way they report them - can vary each year.

In 2008, 2,145 police agencies reported hate crimes, compared with 2,025 last year.

A hate crime is defined as an incident motivated by a person's race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity or disability.

Other statistics from the report:

■ The number of incidents against blacks increased 8 percent to 2,876. Crimes against blacks made up 72 percent of racially motivated crimes in the U.S.

■ Bias incidents based on religion increased 9 percent, to 1,519 incidents. The majority of those, two-thirds, were anti-Jewish hate crimes.

■ Hate crimes against gays went up by 3 percent to 1,297 incidents, while the number of people who were victims of hate-crimes based on sexual orientation went up 13 percent, to 1,706.

■ Half of all hate crimes are motivated by race, according to the FBI. One out of every five is driven by religious bias, and one out of every six is based on sexual orientation bias.

The new statistics come less than a month after President Barack Obama signed a bill expanding those covered by the federal law against hate crimes.

The new law covers crimes based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

NEW SCPA WON'T BE NAMED FOR KUNZEL



The Enquirer/Michael E. Keating

SCPA graduates Robbie Todd and Traci Isaacs-Gibson react after the Cincinnati school board rejected a proposal to name the school after the late Erich Kunzel.

Building, not school, might bear moniker

By Ben Fischer
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CORRYVILLE - The new School for Creative & Performing Arts will not bear the name of Cincinnati Pops founder Erich Kunzel, the Cincinnati school board decided Monday - but its building might.

In a 4-3 vote, the school board rejected a proposal to rename the new school, which will combine the Schiel arts primary school

and the current SCPA, after Kunzel, who died Sept. 1 of cancer.

Students and alumni who opposed the name change erupted in loud cheers, applause and hugs after the vote.

"Half the battle's done, because we still want to honor Maestro Kunzel, as we've said all along," said Robbie Todd, a 1982 graduate and president of the alumni group. "So once we get that done, then we can rejoice, be-

cause we've always said, without him, we wouldn't have this new facility."

Susan Cranley, Eve Bolton, Catherine Ingram and Chris Nelms voted against the proposal. Melanie Bates, Eileen Cooper Reed and Michael Flannery voted "yes."

After the vote, Cranley introduced an alternative proposal to add Kunzel's name only to the physical building now under construction just

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300 city jobs may be gone

Fire, police would take brunt; trash fee sought

By Jane Prendergast
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More than 300 Cincinnati workers could be laid off - including 112 police officers and 47 firefighters - under a plan pitched Monday by the city manager, who also suggests a \$10 monthly trash fee to help make up for the worst budget deficit in the city's history.

It's not possible to close a projected \$51 million gap without staff cuts or equal concessions, Milton Dohoney said; the deficit is just too big. Public safety layoffs weren't unexpected, as police and fire make up two-thirds of the city's \$332 million operating budget for 2010, and 80 percent of those budgets pay for personnel. Next to police and fire, the biggest staffing hits would be taken, he said, by health and recreation.

"This budget has been a very hard pill to swallow," Dohoney said, "but then we knew it would be."

He asked the presidents of city unions, with whom he met before his public announcement, to consider taking unpaid days to save however many jobs they choose. He asked for their decisions in writing by Dec. 7.

Layoffs would begin Jan. 3.

Dohoney's proposal, which goes to Mayor Mark Mallory for his changes, also includes:

■ Closing 20 pools, cutting the pool season by two weeks and cutting hours at recreation centers.

■ Collecting recycling twice monthly rather than every week.

■ Cutting funding for litter control, poison control, the Cincinnati Film Commission and other programs.

■ Borrowing \$10 million from other city funds, including \$4.1 million from a savings account on which bond agencies judge the city's financial health. Agencies have assured the city, Dohoney said, that this one-time loan won't jeopardize the city's ratings.

■ Deferring a \$2.5 million payment due in October to Cincinnati Public Schools, which was part of the deal to build the riverfront stadiums. The other 2010 payment would be paid in May, but this one would be deferred two years. Some council members suggested this several months ago, but the school board rejected the idea. The school board Monday night approved a tentative deal with the county to do a similar deferral next year, of \$5 million.

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■ HOLIDAY TRAVEL SEASON LAUNCHES

25,000 to test new layout at CVG

Fare cuts expected to draw fliers

By James Pilcher
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HEBRON - The new security checkpoint at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport will get its first major test this Thanksgiving holiday, as more than 25,000 travelers are expected to pass through in the coming week, a big jump from last year.

The new \$23 million screening area opened this month in Terminal 3, and after a few glitches, federal security officials say they're ready for this year's annual travel rush.

"I'm not going to go out on a limb and say everything will be sweetness and light, but I

feel that we're about 90 percent there when it comes to learning the new layout and changing things as we go to make it more efficient," said Paul Wisniewski, federal security director for the Transportation Security Administration's CVG operation. "This has been a non-event for the last three years, and I don't see any reason to expect any different this year."

Wisniewski said he expects more than 16,000 passengers to pass through the checkpoint Monday through Wednesday, including 6,400 on the day before Thanksgiving. And there could be as many as 8,000 on Sunday alone.



The Enquirer/Patrick Reddy

Transportation Security Administration officers Emma Walker (left) and Mary Lee Smith examine baggage at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport.

reach 30 minutes, but unless something breaks down, they shouldn't be any longer than that, Wisniewski said. Security officials expect to process up to 1,800 travelers an hour through the checkpoint that

now sits on the ticketing level instead of downstairs.

Jenn Dougherty of Clifton, an operations manager who travels about once a month

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■ IN SPORTS, C1

UC Football

Coach Brian Kelly said quarterback Tony Pike will start in Friday's noon game against Illinois at Nippert Stadium.

UC Basketball

Yancy Gates set the tone for UC's 67-58 win over No. 24 Vanderbilt at the Maui Invitational. His focus - and 12 points in an 18-2 first-half run - helped the Bearcats advance.

Bengals regroup

The numbers were good: 348 yards of total offense, 177 on the ground, and possession of the football for 38 minutes, 24 seconds. But four turnovers, three sacks and six penalties outweighed the good in the Bengals 20-17 loss at Oakland Sunday.

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