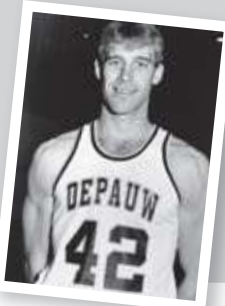


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THE REPUBLIC



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SOMETHING IN THE AIR



Camp Atterbury a drone test site?

By JOSEPH S. PETE
For The Republic

A slingshot-like launcher hurls a small plane toward the bright blue sky, and the pilot — who's hunched over a flickering screen in the back of a truck — guides it over Camp Atterbury as though he were playing a video game.

The unmanned aerial vehicle, or drone, soars over the treetops at the southern Johnson County military installation, recording the terrain below with a camera mounted on its belly.

The sight could become more common at Camp Atterbury, which is a key piece in a joint bid by Indiana and Ohio to become a center for drone testing. They hope to become one of six testing sites where the Federal Aviation Administration determines how drones can be flown safely over the United States.

Military leaders envision drone testing as a big part of Camp Atterbury's future when it's no longer sending troops to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The post has invested about \$1 million in a new runway and storage and maintenance building just for drones, Maj. Lisa Kocpczynski said.

If designated a test site, the post would lure thousands of visitors a year, who would stay at local hotels and eat at area restaurants. A NASA unmanned aerial vehicle competition, for instance, is expected to bring up to 8,000 visitors to Camp Atterbury next year.

The testing also potentially would attract drone developers or manufacturers to the area. Drone testing could create more than 1,000 jobs and result in more than \$200 million in economic development in Indiana by 2017, according to a study by the Association for Unmanned Vehicles Systems International.

The economic impact would be greatest while intensive testing would be done over the next five to seven years, said Richard E. Baker, a professor of aviation at Indiana State University's new unmanned aerial systems department, which helped orchestrate the state's bid. But Camp Atterbury and surrounding communities would continue to benefit over the long term because drone manufacturers would have to test every new make and model in restricted airspace at one of the six testing sites.

SEE AIR ON PAGE A4

"It's more than just the vehicles. They have to make other things, such as sensors and computer software. They'd have to do training and education."

Lt. Col. Matt Sweeney, of Camp Atterbury
On the impact of a drone research center



MIKE WOLANIN | FOR THE REPUBLIC

Above: Army Spc. Michael Phillips performs maintenance on an RQ-7 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle during annual training for Bravo Company 76th Brigade Special Troops Battalion. **Top:** An RQ-7 Shadow Unmanned Aerial Vehicle from Bravo Company 76th Brigade Special Troops Battalion passes over the Himsel Airfield during a training session at Camp Atterbury.

Nusun gets 2 months to shape up

Company must pay taxes, create plan for future jobs

By JOHN CLARK
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A local solar panel maker got a two-month reprieve to pay about \$22,000 in delinquent property taxes, file required reports and to come up with a workable plan to meet employment goals.

Nusun Inc. was called before the Columbus City Council Tuesday night to persuade the city not to require the company to begin making mortgage payments on its International Drive plant. Two years ago, Nusun promised city officials that it would have 80 employees by the end of 2012. In exchange, Nusun received nearly \$900,000 in state, regional and local incentives, including \$325,000 in city and county tax money. The city, which holds the mortgage on Nusun's plant, agreed to forgive the mortgage payments in return for the company meeting its benchmarks.

The company has only five employees, but CEO Ryan Stout said it is on the verge of significant growth. If the city were to force the company to begin paying its \$6,875 monthly mortgage, it would wreck Nusun's business plan, he said.

What's next
Nusun Inc. will have two months to pay its outstanding property tax bills of about \$22,000, then come up with a plan to meet employment goals. CEO Ryan Stout has been directed to meet with the council's incentive review committee and the Columbus Economic Development Board to get help and to establish a reasonable timeline going forward.

SEE NUSUN ON PAGE A3

Council rejects mayor's plan for park fees

Board says no changes are needed in fund stewardship

By JOHN CLARK
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The Columbus City Council showed no interest Tuesday in taking over a parks and recreation department fund collected from user fees, despite Mayor Kristen Brown's efforts to give the council oversight of \$1.5 million in annual spending.

Brown said the fund is the only city spending that is not approved by City Council members during their annual budget discussion and suggested that the council take back control of appropriations for the fund. She said it would give the council more oversight of how money from the fund is spent and help in her efforts to provide funding for large maintenance projects in the department.

But several council members said they did not see how having control over the fund, which is used to pay for parks programs and the employees who administer those programs, would help with capital expenses. Ultimately, the council chose to take no action on the mayor's suggestion.

Chuck Wilt, former director of the parks department, said the parks department needs the flexibility that the fund provides. It takes in mon-



KRISTEN BROWN

SEE PARK ON PAGE A3

Driving while suspended citations up 42 percent

By MARK WEBBER
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The number of Columbus-area motorists arrested for driving while suspended is on pace to surpass last year's total of 218 by the first week in September.

As of June 13, Columbus police had charged 139 people for driving while suspended this year. The rate of such citations per week is running at a pace that is 42 percent higher than each of the past two years, according to police statistics.

INSIDE

See how current citations measure up to previous years.
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Traffic stops in general also are well ahead of last year's pace, trending 70 percent higher than 2012.

What troubles Columbus Police Department spokesman Lt. Matt Myers is the number of motorists

who did not realize their license had been suspended or understand the various violations that could result in a loss of driving privileges.

The most common reason why many are unaware of a suspended license is that they've moved without notifying the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Myers said.

"If you move and don't notify the bureau, they will send the notification of suspension to your old address," Myers said. "That's not a defense. You are required to keep your license information current."

One of the most common, but least understood, reasons for a license suspension is a person's failure to pay or appear for traffic offenses, Myers said. He said many drivers don't understand that their first notification of a suspended license is the ticket itself.

"The date at the bottom of a ticket is important," Myers said. "You have to notify the court one way or another whether you will

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NEXT STOP HAUSER?

Columnist Harry McCawley muses, should a Korean War-era fighter jet go to Hauser High School, home of the Jets? A7



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HIGH: 86
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DAILY



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