



Weather drawing by Katie Cox,  
Clinton-Massie

## Sunny, clear

Sunny today, with highs in the upper 80s.

Clear tonight, with lows in the mid 60s.

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# Journal

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### Mary Houghtaling speaks out

By **BRANDON SMITH**  
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The voice of Wilmington's Mary Houghtaling was heard across the nation on a public news radio show Thursday morning — she got the chance Wednesday to ask John McCain about DHL.

McCain, who held a town-hall meeting in Portsmouth, has been reported by the Associated Press and Time magazine's website as giving

Houghtaling a "straight" answer.

Houghtaling herself thinks so, too.

"He was as honest as he could be," said the Hospice co-founder and DHL advocacy leader. "I thought he was very gracious and he seemed very sympathetic. ... He didn't blow any smoke, or give any false hope."

"This is a terrible blow," said the Senator in response to her questioning.

But he soon gave the part of the speech for which he's getting the most national media attention.

"I would be glad to ask for

any investigation or, uh, scrutiny, of what DHL is doing, okay?" said McCain.

"Mm-hmm," Houghtaling uttered into the microphone.

"But I gotta look you into the eye and give you straight talk. I don't know if I can stop it or not. Or, if it will be stopped," he said.

The Senator then spoke for another two minutes on his plans to increase the effectiveness of job training.

Houghtaling, a supporter of McCain, nevertheless concedes that like other politicians, he uses just about every

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## Investigation into rape ongoing

### WILMINGTON

By **BRANDON SMITH**  
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Police are not able to disclose much information surrounding an ongoing rape investigation, because both the suspect and the victim are juveniles.

The suspect is a teenage male from Blanchester, and the victim is a teenage female from New Vienna.

However, a 19-year-old Wilmington woman was arrested Wednesday evening

in connection with the incident, that, according to police, occurred at her residence: 10 Jodie Lane, Apartment D, in Wilmington. Brandy Jo Alexander was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

The alleged incident occurred around 8 p.m. Saturday, June 28.

Alexander's charge is a misdemeanor, unless she has prior contributing charges, which is unlikely, said police.

Further investigations are pending in the case.

# ■ McCain

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question to “start on one of their talking points, you know.”

McCain seems to think that current job training strategies are mis-managed.

He outlined taking away “some of this job-training money that’s being wasted” on programs that are “total failures that were designed for the 1950’s,” and doing something new with it: subsidizing income for those who enroll in job training.

“If someone has a high-paying job,” he said, “particularly an older worker, and that worker has to take a low-paying job, just to survive ... we would subsidize ... that worker’s salary, so that they can have an appropriate lifestyle while they’re undergoing the re-training and education programs. We’ve got to do that.”

A program such as this could be a welcome addition in Clinton County if 8,600 jobs are cut. But expanding the program nationally would likely also draw heavy criticism from Democrats, who already accuse McCain of planning to eliminate national debt without being specific about how this could be accomplished.

According to the Associated Press, McCain has visited Ohio significantly more than his political rival in the presidential race — presumptive Democratic nominee Barack Obama.

The trip to Portsmouth

Wednesday was McCain’s fifth visit to Ohio in four months, and he has a sixth visit planned for next week, to Cincinnati.

At Portsmouth, McCain touted his plan for solving the nation’s energy woes.

In a conference call, Ohio’s Governor Ted Strickland and former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack said McCain is too closely tied to the Bush administration to solve the country’s energy crisis. Strickland said a spate of huge Ohio job losses recently were all connected to higher fuel prices: DHL’s decision to hire UPS to transport DHL packages; General Motors’ closure of a sports utility vehicle plant in suburban Moraine; and Continental Airlines’ decision to cut back on flights in Cleveland. “I’m hearing nothing from [McCain] that he has a serious comprehension of our nation’s current approach on working class people,” Strickland said.

After McCain was applauded for speaking at the Portsmouth meeting, he left the podium and quickly found his way to Houghtaling.

“I thrust my business card into his hand,” said Houghtaling, “and I shook his hand, his right hand, and then he gave me this giant bear hug.”

She was able to give him a packet of relevant News Journal front pages and opinion pages, she said.

“You have to feel like you’re trying to do something. Even though there might be a brick wall at the end. But if you don’t try, you know there’s a brick wall at the end,” she said.