

METRO&STATE | B1

**DELAWARE ORDERED TO PAY STILLWAGON'S FAMILY \$6.5M**

SPORTS | D1

**JACKETS LOSE LATE TO JETS**

LIFE&ARTS | C1

**'DEATH CAFE' OFFERS TALK ABOUT MORTALITY**



Friday, February 1, 2019

High: 30 Low: 26 Details, B16 | dispatch.com | \$3

## Brennan named new bishop

By Danae King  
The Columbus Dispatch

The new bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus brings with him a passion for the Hispanic community, Catholic education and encouraging young people into the priesthood.  
The Rev. Robert J.



Brennan

Diocese of Columbus by Pope Francis, the Vatican announced Thursday.

Brennan, 56, an auxiliary bishop on Long Island, was appointed as bishop of the

He replaces Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, who has served the diocese for 14 years and submitted his resignation to the Vatican when he turned 75 in August, as required by church law.

Born in the Bronx and raised in Lindenhurst, New York, Brennan will be

formally installed March 29 at St. Joseph Cathedral.

Brennan has served as a priest in New York for almost 30 years and is admired in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, said Sean P. Dolan, director of communications there.

See BISHOP, A6

## Ginther's priorities include housing

By Daniel Hughes  
The Columbus Dispatch

Mayor Andrew J. Ginther pointed to a future Columbus that is growing and affordable while highlighting the city's past successes in his State of the City address Thursday.



Ginther

In the next year, the city plans to invest millions in affordable housing, help bring internet access to residents in poor neighborhoods and launch apps that consolidate trip planning across modes of transportation and make it easier for pregnant women to arrange rides.

See ADDRESS, A6

## Strauss-case figures oppose Title IX changes

By Jennifer Smola  
The Columbus Dispatch

A group of former Ohio State University students who have presented themselves as sexual-assault victims of the late university doctor Richard Strauss submitted a formal comment opposing federal Title IX rule changes, saying the proposal would return universities "to a time when they could sweep sexual assault and harassment under the rug."

See TITLE IX, A8

## Frigid to fair in a snap



The confluence of the Olentangy and Scioto rivers forms an ice pathway to the city of Columbus on Thursday morning. Fortunately, the temperature should reach the 50s by Sunday. (ERIC ALBRECHT/DISPATCH)

## Snow, then rapid thaw to follow polar blast

By Tammy Webber and Jeff Karoub  
The Associated Press

In Illinois, temperatures could rise by 80 degrees within days. In Michigan, melting snow and rain and a 17-mile ice jam on the Muskegon

River could lead to flooding. And across the Midwest, the warmer forecast is sure to bring more broken roads and busted water mains.

The polar vortex that brought many cities to a standstill is expected to come to a swift end with a rapid

thaw that experts say could be unprecedented. But the sudden swing from long johns to short sleeves could create problems of its own.

"I don't think there's ever been a case where we've seen (such a big) shift in temperatures" in the winter,

said Jeff Masters, meteorology director of the Weather Underground firm. "Past record-cold waves have not dissipated this quickly. ... Here we are going right into spring-like temperatures."

See WEATHER, A8



# WEATHER

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Central Ohio also will warm significantly in the next few days, but 2 to 4 inches of snow overnight followed by possible freezing drizzle could turn the morning commute Friday into an adventure for motorists.

The good news is that the high temperature Friday is forecast to be 29 degrees — a 33-degree increase from the overnight lows recorded at John Glenn Columbus International Airport on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Highs this weekend are expected to be 42 on Saturday and 53 on Sunday.

The system of cold air marched east Thursday, spreading arctic conditions over an area spanning from Buffalo to Brooklyn. In western New York, a storm that dumped up to 20 inches of snow gave way to subzero temperatures and face-stinging wind chills. In New York City, about 200 firefighters battling a blaze in a commercial building took turns getting warm on buses. The number of deaths that could be blamed on the cold climbed to at least 15.

For the nation's midsection, relief was as close as the weekend.

Rockford, Illinois, was at a record-breaking minus 31 Thursday morning but should be around 50 on Monday. Other previously frozen areas could see high temperatures of 55 degrees or higher.

The dramatic warm-up will offer a respite from the bone-chilling cold that canceled



The American Falls, as viewed from Niagara Falls, Ontario, on Thursday, was a winter wonder. [TARA WALTON/THE CANADIAN PRESS]

schools, closed businesses and halted trains. But pot-holes will appear on roads and bridges weakened by the freeze-thaw cycle. The same cycle can crack water mains and homeowners' pipes. Scores of vehicles will be left with flat tires and bent rims.

The thawing of the pipes can sometimes inflict greater damage than the initial freeze. Bursts can occur when ice inside starts to melt and water rushes through the pipe, or when water in the pipe is pushed to a closed faucet by expanding ice.

Elsewhere, a bridge in the western Michigan

community of Newaygo, 40 miles north of Grand Rapids, was closed as the ice-jammed Muskegon River rose above flood stage. Officials in Buffalo, New York, watched for flooding on the Upper Niagara River because of ice.

In other signs that the worst of the deep freeze was ending, Xcel Energy on Thursday lifted a request to its Minnesota natural-gas customers to temporarily lower their thermostats to ease concerns about conserving gas.

Earlier in the day, several cities set record lows. Rockford saw a record-low temperature of minus 31

Thursday. Cedar Rapids, Iowa, set a daily record low of minus 30.

Chicago's temperature dropped to a low of around minus 21 degrees Thursday, slightly warmer than the city's lowest-ever reading of minus 27 in January 1985. Milwaukee's low was minus 25 degrees, and Minneapolis recorded minus 24 degrees.

In Michigan, efforts to conserve heat during the extreme cold reduced usage by 10 percent following a fire at a major natural-gas facility, officials said. Consumers Energy, the state's largest supplier of natural gas, asked

its 1.7 million customers and others to continue to set their thermostats at 65 degrees or lower until late Thursday.

"In our 130 years, we've never experienced this kind of demand or these kinds of temperatures," CEO Patti Poppe said.

Masters, from Weather Underground, said the polar vortex was "rotating up into Canada" and not expected to return in the next couple of weeks. If it does return in late February, "it won't be as intense," he said.

Dispatch Reporter Jim Woods contributed to this story.

# TITLE IX

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The comment, which attorneys for the former students said was submitted Wednesday, is signed by 21 former students, including Steve Snyder-Hill, David Mulvin, Will Rieffer, William Brown, Kurt Huntsinger, and numerous John Does.

"We had to live through this when we were students at OSU," the comment said, "and we don't want future generations of students to suffer similar trauma."

Wednesday marked the deadline to submit comments on the U.S. Department of Education's proposed new rules for enforcing Title IX, the 1972 gender-equity law. U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos has said redeveloping the rules is necessary because guidelines put in place by the Obama administration pushed

schools to overreach and diminished due-process rights for the accused.

Commenters came out in full force in the final days of the public-comment period. Since last Friday, the number of submitted comments jumped from about 72,000 to nearly 103,000. Some advocates complained about problems with the federal website used to submit comments Wednesday as the deadline loomed.

Some critics say the new guidelines would erode protections for survivors of sexual assault and leave schools with less responsibility. Others say the changes are necessary to protect students' due-process rights and are in line with recent federal court decisions and case law in the Title IX realm.

The former Ohio State students said they take particular issue with proposed guidance that would require schools to investigate sexual harassment only when certain university

personnel — typically those in the Title IX office — are informed of the harassment. That means if a professor, resident adviser or coach were told about sexual misconduct but never passed it on to the school's Title IX officials, the school might not be responsible for addressing the case.

The alleged Strauss victims said many of them discussed the doctor's misconduct with coaches, athletic directors and others who wouldn't have been Title IX officials.

"Sexual assault and harassment are already hard enough to talk about," they wrote. "The proposed regulations ... would mean that, even when students find the courage to tell a school employee they trust, schools often would have no obligation to respond."

But in a formal response to the proposed Title IX rules, also submitted Wednesday, Ohio State President Michael V. Drake said the university currently requires

all university employees to report sexual assault immediately.

It was one of several Ohio State measures Drake outlined that he said aligned with key areas included in the proposed Title IX regulations.

Drake also wrote that Ohio State uses and will continue to use the "preponderance of evidence standard" when making findings of policy violations. That is generally a lower standard of evidence than the "clear and convincing evidence" standard, which the proposed rule changes also would allow.

In addition, the university sought additional clarification on parts of the proposed rules, outlining dozens of questions on various definitions, evidence, hearings, grievance procedures and other areas of the guidance.

Ohio State is "committed to preventing sexual- and gender-based harassment and assault in the campus community," Drake wrote, adding

that the university will implement any changes to Title IX regulations in "a deliberate and thoughtful manner."

OSU is awaiting the conclusion of an independent investigation into the allegations against Strauss, who killed himself in 2005. Officials have repeatedly said the university is committed to uncovering what happened and what university personnel at the time knew.

The alleged victims in the Strauss case said some of them dropped out of Ohio State, never obtained a college degree, suffered dips in grades or altered their education plan because of Strauss' abuse and "OSU's failure to address it."

"But we survived," they wrote, "and we are asking you not to weaken Title IX's protections by giving schools carte blanche to ignore the vast majority of students' complaints of sexual harassment."

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