

WEEK

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A strike by the United Auto General Motors Corp. was over as the union and GM reached a tentative agreement on a

General Motors

contract. Though details were not in the representation of the contract to GM did reveal that the pact calls for a union-managed retiree program that would take off the company's health care obligation estimated at \$1 billion (see related editorial, Page 10). The agreement was announced in the week-end morning, less than two full days after UAW members went out on strike

Local foundations and civic groups are putting up \$175,000 for an index to measure the costs of government and how much of that cost is due to the region's splintered governance. The study is headed by Chris Thompson, director of communications and civic outreach for the Our Economic Future, which is putting up \$100,000 for the study. The study is supported by the Western Regional Chamber, the Maria Miller Foundation, the Foundation and the Greater Cleveland also are expected to contribute to the study which will be rolled out in stages during the week.

Imaging technology development in Cleveland raised \$5.1 million in preferred stock purchased by a group of 20 investors. Imalux plans to continue clinical validation of its technology, which uses near infrared light for the visualization of tissue structure. The technology is being used by medical institutions worldwide. Lead investors included Imalux Early Stage Partners LP of Cleveland and a local medical device developer.

PM International Inc. said its unit acquired Star Maling, a company that makes specialty coatings for offshore and marine uses. The acquisition, which it paid for Star, which is a joint venture partner of Imalux, said Star Maling has annual sales of \$10 million and complements Imalux initiatives by expanding its Scandinavian market.

REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

BEHIND THE NEWS WITH CRAIN'S WRITERS

Hey, brain — your 20-minute nap is up

PowerNap provides the benefits of deep sleep in just 20 minutes for the low, low price of \$9.99 — and it might actually work.



He must have listened to a PowerNap CD.

PowerNap LLC in Beachwood is winning some believers even though its product sounds like something that would be sold on late-night infomercials. A California company is building the PowerNap recording, which is supposed to induce sleep, into a line of chairs, including some that will be part of a new sleep station at San Francisco International Airport.

Jonathan Husni invented the PowerNap recording four years ago to help sleepy engineers at his Beachwood computer consulting and services firm, Acendex Inc. He started selling PowerNap CDs online a year later when he noticed they were still using it.

Mr. Husni said he believes PowerNap could be more than just a side business that pulls in about \$1,000 per month in revenue, noting how he took 173 orders two Saturdays ago, when it was featured on AOL.com.

"We've never seen a day in four years like Saturday," Mr. Husni said.

Cleveland investment firm Glengary LLC has considered putting money behind the product but hasn't done so yet because no

clinical trials have proven the effectiveness of the recording, which consists of white noise on top of inaudible frequencies that reportedly lull the brain to sleep and wake it up 20 minutes later.

Still, Glengary managing director Steve Haynes said it has worked on him and others who have used it.

"I haven't talked to anyone who's done it who says it doesn't work," he said. — Chuck Soder

Sticking its head in the mouth of the subprime lion

A new subprime loan company has gone into business in Strongsville, even as the mortgage sector continues to struggle with fallout from bad loans.

CapFund Lending LLC opened its doors last Monday, Sept. 24, said vice president Zenon Zorij. The firm employs two at its office at 13477 Prospect Road.

"We want to pick up market share that's comes up from the challenges in our industry," Mr. Zorij said, referring to layoffs and closings that have hit some subprime lenders during the past several months.

Mr. Zorij said CapFund will stay away from "crazy" loans such as those that lend money to borrowers without requiring proof of income.

Those taking the loans are likely to be individuals with elevated debt levels, past collections on their record, or other credit problems.

"We want to make sure the ability to repay the loan is there," Mr. Zorij said. — Shawn A. Turner

Cleveland schools to boost biz involvement

The Cleveland Municipal and City Year Cleveland partnership program for schools that will focus on preparing Cleveland high schoolers for college.

A Success Center is slated for both Lincoln West and South and achievement centers will be K-through-8 feeder schools, said David Anderson, director of the partnership program.

The centers will be run by nonprofit community service staffers Monday through Thursday and will help students pass the ment tests and the Ohio Gradwell as show them what opportunities after high school graduation take advantage of them, Mr. Anderson said.

The staffs of the centers also will provide tutoring of students by local and will provide a space for students with college recruiters, said Kathleen, director of post-secondary education in the Cleveland school district.

Ms. Thompson said a career/business/school partnership program has existed since the 2005 closing of the land Initiative for Educational businesses will offer more opportunities for students to do career shadowships in fields they might study.

"My hope is that every business to provide at least one internship," she said. — Shannon Mortland

WHAT'S NEW



COMPANY: OurPet's Co., Fairport Harbor

PRODUCT: SmartScoop self-scooping litter box

Sure, kitty's cute and all, but cleaning a smelly litter box makes your feline friend a little less charming at the end of a long day.

That's why the folks at OurPet's worked with the development team at Nottingham

STOCKS

10 BEST PERFORMERS

COMPANY	CLOSE 9/28	WEEK'S % CHANGE	52-WK HIGH
1. Sifco Industries Inc. (SIF)	15.75	10.45	26.26
2. Oglebay Norton Co. (OGBY)	34.20	9.97	34.50
3. DataTrak International (DATA)	2.85	8.37	6.67
4. Goodyear Tire & Rubber (GT)	30.41	4.32	36.90
5. Preformed Line Products (PLPC)	52.02	4.04	58.26
6. Brush Engineered Materials (BW)	51.89	3.57	61.82
7. CBiz Inc. (CBZ)	7.95	2.85	8.10
8. Chart Industries Inc. (GTLS)	32.16	2.49	33.20
9. Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. (CLF)	87.97	1.96	92.06
10. Forest City Enterprises (FCEA)	55.16	1.87	73.84

10 WEAKEST PERFORMERS

COMPANY	CLOSE 9/28	WEEK'S % CHANGE	52-WK HIGH
1. Invacare Corp. (IVC)	23.38	-7.48	25.66
2. Nacco Industries Inc. (NC)	103.48	-6.74	174.49
3. Park-Ohio Holdings (PKOH)	25.95	-6.15	32.00