

# Ohio

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to three, and they want the type of fuel BAARD will create. In addition to the thousands of construction jobs, 400 jobs within the plant have already been proposed, Wilson said.

Wilson said people tend to view the word coal as a "dirty, four letter word." But to him, the word coal reminds him of another four letter word: gold.

"Right now, the people we buy our oil from don't like us too much," Wilson said. "If fuel is \$3 a gallon, I'd rather it be our fuel than theirs."

Wilson said that to rebut the naysayers, Ohio needs the help of the residents who understand the truth about Clean Coal production. To add an extra incentive to the deal, he said the state has recently passed a coal tax credit in the budget, which essentially puts coal on sale.

By making coal cheaper in Ohio, a coal buyer would find an economic value in purchasing Ohio coal, which in turn gives local coal companies incentive to continue operation. The coal tax credit would extend the current tax credit.

Wilson also spoke of a link deposit program, in which qualified small business owners can acquire a \$250,000 grant for a two year start up program, which would be given to them at three percent below prime value, saving them thousands of dollars in the long run. "It's not a hand out or a gift," explained Wilson. "It's an incentive and share. We need to create an environment in Ohio where people want to create industry and jobs and keep them here."

Friday night's dinner also marked the first time the annual Man of the Year was coupled with a Woman of the Year.

For her numerous contributions to local and state government and her time spent as a Columbiana County Commissioner,



**Bill and Vicki Roberts received the Community Service Award Friday at the annual Wellsville Chamber dinner. (Photo by Jeremy Lydic)**

Penny Traina was recognized as the first ever Wellsville Woman of the Year. When presented with her plaque, Traina said that for the first time ever, she was speechless.

"If I had red high heels on, I'd click them and say 'There's no place like home,'" Traina said as she thanked the audience. "And there really is no place like this to call home. I'm proud to be a daughter of Wellsville."

Chair of the Chamber of Commerce and current Interim Director of Justice Studies at Kent State University East Liverpool, Paul Blevins was awarded Man of the Year.

"Being an adopted son of Wellsville, I

know I am truly blessed. Thank you," said Blevins, who also reminisced fondly of his time spent with the children at Garfield Elementary as an administrator.

Bill and Vicki Roberts of Roberts Funeral Homes were awarded the first annual Community Service Award, as their recently engaged daughter and future son-in-law looked on with pride.

"Wellsville takes care of Wellsville," Bill Roberts said. "To be Wellsville, every citizen does what they can do to take care of their community."

Rev. Bruce Ballentine presided as Master of Ceremonies, and early evening music was provided by pianist Mary Stone.

■ WELLSVILLE

# Sen. Wilson confident in Ohio energy

By JEREMY LYDIC

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WELLSVILLE — The 30th District State Senator Jason Wilson was the guest speaker at the annual Wellsville Chamber of Commerce dinner Friday evening in place of his father Congressman Charlie Wilson, who was having health issues. The exuberance of Wilson was apparent as he spoke in great detail about the steps the government was taking to turn Ohio into one of the biggest energy producing states in the nation.

“Our nation’s energy independence is literally right beneath our feet,” Wilson said. “We have the tools, we just have to put it together.”

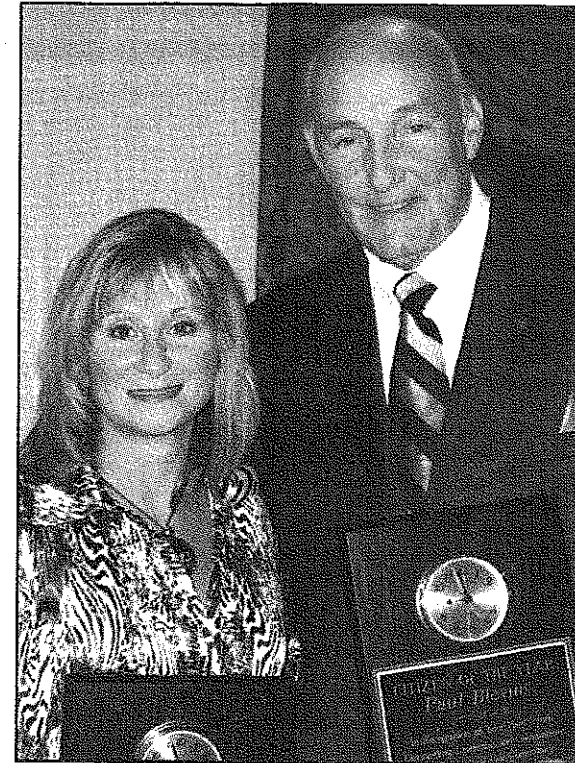
With AEP modernizing their plants and the BAARD facility employing groundbreaking new technologies, Wilson said Ohio will be able to produce energy in forms of electricity, fuel and ethanol in the cleanest and most efficient ways possible. He said the politicians have been pushing

hard to pass certain measures that will give investors from small businesses all the way up to the big corporations incentive to create exceptional jobs in Ohio.

Wilson said BAARD and the Ohio EPA have been working together every step of the way to ensure the facility opens and operates in the area, but also operates with the environment in mind. He said that by utilizing the Clean Coal processing of carbon capture, not only would the plant be environmentally friendly, but would provide a breath of fresh air for industry as a whole.

“Environmental challenges equal economic opportunities,” Wilson said. “The carbon capture pipeline will generate more steel and sheet metal jobs in addition to keeping with the standards of the EPA.”

The Senator said the fuel plant will be the first step in our country’s energy independence. The Air Force has issued a demand that they want their current nine types of fuel used whittled down



Penny Traina and Paul Blevins were named Citizens of the Year by the Wellsville Chamber of Commerce Friday. (Photo by Jeremy Lydic)

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