



XENIA DAILY GAZETTE

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Xenia board not thrilled with PARCC

By Scott Halasz
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XENIA — The Xenia Board of Education issued a statement denouncing the much-publicized Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests.

The statement was passed unanimously by the board during its regular March meeting and called for the Ohio Board of Education to return control to local school boards with regards to assessments.

“This is something that’s going on across the State of Ohio,” Xenia Superintendent Denny Morrison said. “You’ve got entire school districts that are opting out of the test. I certainly don’t want to do that. I believe that the test provides very valuable information.”

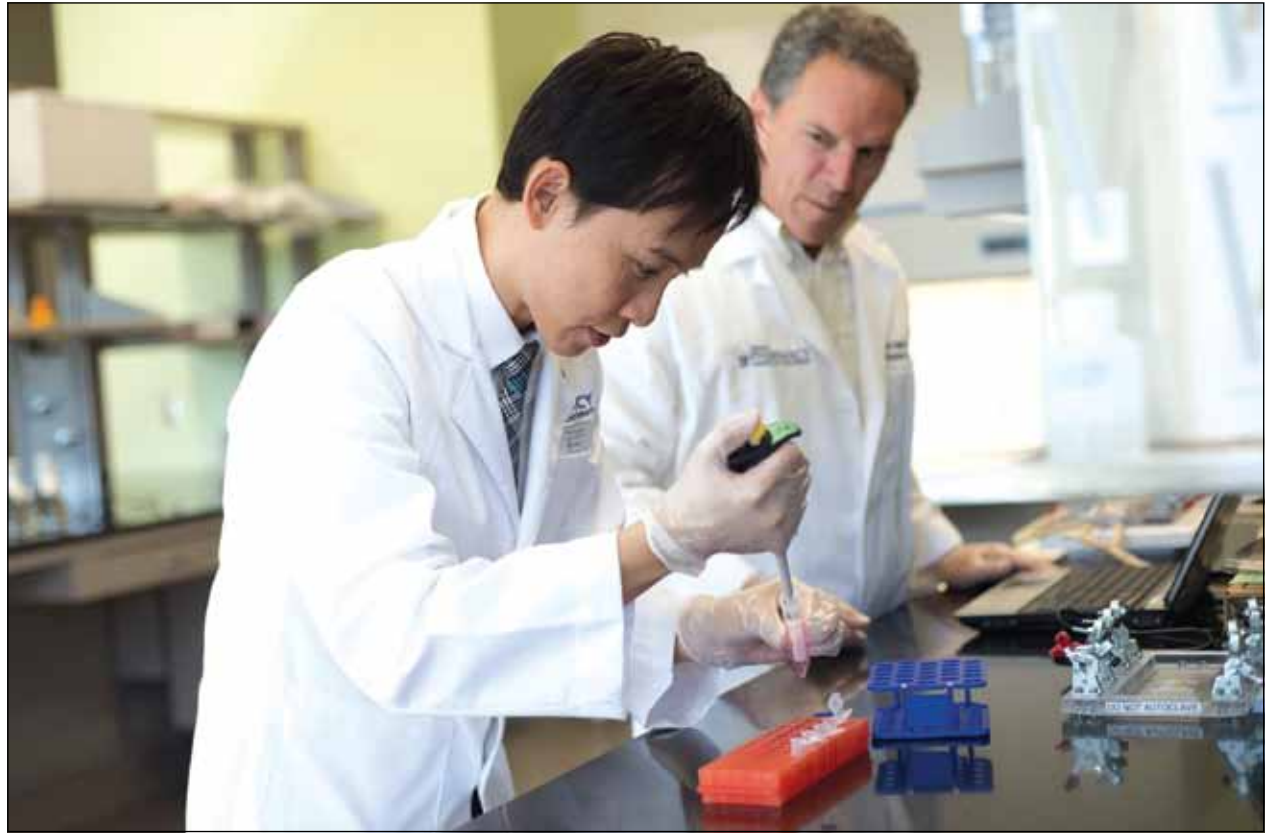
But what Morrison and the board don’t like is the time frame for receiving results, the amount of time preparing students for the test and the time spent on the actual test itself.

Morrison said Xenia spent six weeks of a 36-week school year focusing on the PARCC test. “I’m a firm believer in classroom instruction,” Morrison said.

“There’s nothing more important to me than what’s going on in the classroom. If we are testing, that’s time that our teachers are not able to be working and providing instruction for the students.”

The tests are computer-based, and use interactive questions to determine whether students have mastered the fundamentals, as well as higher-order skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and analyzing sources to write arguments and informational essays – skills not easily assessed by traditional multiple-choice tests, according to the

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Improving program access

CU changes pharmacy entrance requirements

By Anna Dembowski
For Greene County News

CEDARVILLE — Cedarville University’s School of Pharmacy has changed the entrance requirements for its professional program in an effort to increase its applicant pool.

Associate Dean of the School of Pharmacy Jeff Lewis said students having not yet earned a bachelor’s degree may now apply to the professional program as long as they have completed at least 72 credit hours, taken core science and math classes, and completed general education classes.

“I anticipate that most of our students will have bachelor’s degrees,



Photos courtesy of Cedarville University

Pharmacy students work in the lab. Students receive their white coats during a special ceremony at the university.

partly because students who have earned a bachelor’s degree compete for admission more effectively than students who have not earned

a bachelor’s degree,” Lewis said, “But we didn’t want to preclude

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IN BRIEF

Salt available

GREENE COUNTY — The next issue of Salt, provided free to our home delivery subscribers, is available in today’s edition of the Xenia Daily Gazette and Fairborn Daily Herald. Discover regional places that make and sell moonshine; learn the secrets of raised-bed gardening; get the scoop on the details of the Salt Homemakers Show set for April 30 and enjoy reading the many other fabulous feature stories included in this issue. Salt magazine is published six times a year by Civitas Media.

OBITUARIES

Helen J. Hicks, 86, of Xenia
Vernon E. Thompson, 83, of Wilmington
William P. Burchett, 64, of Fairborn

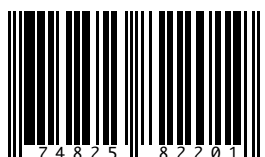
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Sentencing date for former deputy set

By Nathan Pilling
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XENIA — Former Greene County Sheriff’s deputy Eric Spicer will be sentenced Monday in federal court for two convictions related to his possession of a machine gun, according to a dock-

et entry filed Thursday. Spicer will be sentenced by Judge Michael Barrett in Dayton’s U.S. District Court.

Spicer was found guilty in December on two charges relating to the possession of a machine gun first acquired for use when Spicer was

employed at the Greene County Sheriff’s Office. Spicer was found guilty of possessing the machine gun after being terminated from the sheriff’s office and of possessing a firearm not registered to him.

After Spicer was terminated from the sheriff’s

office, he kept the HK416 machine gun he had originally purchased with his own funds for official use. Spicer has maintained he was authorized to make the original purchase, but Sheriff Gene Fischer testified in court that he never

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Summit Academy hosting Literacy Night

By Nathan Pilling
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XENIA — Xenia’s Summit Academy, a non-profit community school for alternative learners, will host its annual Literacy Night Thursday. The school, which is specifically designed for

students with AD/HD, Autism Spectrum Disorders and other related disorders, will host the special event from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at 1694 Pawnee Drive, Xenia.

“The purpose behind it is to help students realize why they need to read and that reading is in

everything they’re going to do throughout the rest of their lives,” said Summit teacher Cheri Bailey. “It really doesn’t matter what career they choose or what direction they go, they’re going to have to know how to read.”

The event will be based on the Dr. Seuss book

“Oh, the Places You’ll Go” and will feature various locations from a mock city for the students to experience. Locations will include a post office (where students will write letters and address envelopes), a job services

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NYC celebrates, remembers



Mary Altaffer | AP

Firefighters carrying 343 American flags representing each of their colleagues who died during the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, march up Fifth Ave. during the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Tuesday in New York City. The parade included the first-ever gay contingent marching under its own banner — a group representing gay employees of the broadcaster NBC, a major parade sponsor — but gay activists called the group's participation an empty gesture. Brendan Fay, who has been pushing for gay inclusion in the parade since the early 1990s, said his Lavender & Green group applied for a permit. "We didn't even get a response," he said.

Program

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students who have met at least the minimum requirements that we have determined were necessary to be successful in our program to not apply. There's some outstanding students out there, and maybe the bachelor's degree in and of itself is not that helpful to them. They were really pursuing their first professional degree in pharmacy, so we're hoping that this opens up the opportunity for them to do that."

Previously, the professional program would only accept students from other institutions who had completed a bachelor's degree said Marc Sweeney, dean of the School of Pharmacy.

"We want to improve the access of the program," Sweeney said. "We also recognize that in pharmacy education, there's not a lot of programs that require a baccalaureate program, and many schools do not require an undergraduate degree, so we want to be more consistent with most other programs."

Students completing both undergraduate and graduate programs at Cedarville earn a bachelor's degree in the process of receiving their doctorate of pharmacy. But now those students beyond the 'Ville that have not yet earned a bachelor's degree are eligible for acceptance into Cedarville's professional program.

Lewis said the previous

entry requirement was Cedarville's own; it was not a national mandate. The new requirements include pre-pharmacy courses equivalent to 58 hours of the required 72 hours, which leaves 24 credit hours for general education classes to round out the student, Lewis said.

"We haven't prescribed what those (general education classes) are, but we wanted to have a sufficient number of credit hours associated with general education so that we were comfortable that the student was taught how to think, essentially. It wasn't so much the content, but the process of learning that we wanted to make sure students went through," he said.

Though the entrance requirements for the professional program allow more students to apply, Sweeney said there won't be much of an increase in the number of students in the professional program because it caps off at 65 students per year. Thus, this change in entrance requirements has no effect on current students and the university as a whole, he said.

"We have a cap on our program," Sweeney said, "so it's (the change is) to improve our applicant pool to see a diversity of different students consider our program."

Lewis said the number of applications for the professional program is expected to increase. And so, too, is the number of qualified applications.

Presently, between one quarter and one third of

students in the professional program come having earned bachelor's degrees from other institutions, Lewis said. The majority of students come from within Cedarville's program, moving from the pre-pharmacy program to the professional program after a series of interviews and committee reviews.

Lewis said Cedarville's professional program was designed to draw its students internally from the university's pre-pharmacy program. But as the program has developed, a change was needed, Lewis said.

"It was only about two years prior that we determined that we were going to be relying on a fair number of external students to fill our professional classes," Lewis said. "Up until that point, we had a sense — a hope, part of our plan anyway — that the professional classes would be filled by students coming through the undergraduate program here. That model just wasn't panning out."

And Lewis said the change in entrance requirements is just one way the School of Pharmacy is reaching out to qualified students.

"When it became quite clear that we were going to need students outside the institution, we needed to start creating opportunities to recruit those students," Lewis said. "This is just one of the several possible prongs that allow us to reach the most amount of qualified students possible."

Anna Dembowski is an intern with Greene County News.

PARCC

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PARCC website. These state tests serve students of all achievement levels — advanced, average, and struggling — by identifying where they have areas of need, as well as where they are excelling.

Xenia board members feel the district already provides enough of its own assessments which render the PARCC repetitive.

"Our students are assessed using standards which local school districts played no role in creating," the statement reads. "Neither teachers

nor students or parents receive these results in the same school year, which prevents our teachers from immediately intervening and helping our struggling students in an effective and efficient manner. Therefore, we feel these unfunded state mandated (sic) tests are redundant and serve no purpose but to take away time and resources from other more valuable local initiatives."

The statement also criticizes the financial burden placed on the districts. The cost for substitute teachers — who in most cases covered for regular teachers who were proctoring the exams — will exceed \$17,500 after the tests are completed in

April, Morrison said. The board said it will continue to "dutifully and successfully do everything the state has required us to do in implementing the PARCC assessments" but it does not believe the test is the best for Xenia students.

The statement called for citizens to join their board of education and open a dialogue with the Ohio Board of Education. "We do have the ear of our legislators right now," Morrison said. "If we continue to work through proper channels, let them know what are concerns are, hopefully they'll be able to address those concerns."

Scott Halasz can be reached at 937-502-4507.

Literacy

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office (where students will fill out job applications), a college/career center (where students will learn requirements needed to obtain a degree), a bank (where

students will write checks and count money), a grocery store (where students will learn about making healthy choices), a library (where students can check out books and get a library card), among other options.

"I just want to place a huge emphasis on the importance of reading,"

Bailey said. "To me, it is like breathing, because without it, your quality of life is going to be hindered drastically... It's in everything you do."

For more information about the event, contact the Xenia Summit Academy at 937-372-5210.

Reach Nathan Pilling at 937-502-4498 or on Twitter @XDGnatePilling.



File photo

Spicer will be sentenced in Dayton's U.S. District Court Monday.

Spicer

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approved the purchase. A few weeks after he was terminated, federal investigators seized the weapon — which was registered to the Greene County Sheriff's Office — from Spicer's home.

During Spicer's trial in December, he was found not guilty of five other charges filed against him relating to the machine gun. Four of the not-guilty charges were related to Spicer's use of Greene County Sheriff Gene Fischer's signature to purchase the machine

gun. The jury also found Spicer not guilty on a charge relating to a claim that Spicer made a false representation of his status as an officer of the Jackson Township Police Department.

In a sentencing memorandum, U.S. prosecutors in the state's case against Spicer previously recommended a sentence of 41-51 months, saying, "The nature and circumstances of this case involve a long-time law enforcement official who believed he was 'above the law' ... He abused his position of trust and authority for personal benefit. This is an individual who

clearly knew better, yet ignored the rules that apply to everyone else in the GCSO and society in general.

"Whenever a law enforcement official, particularly one holding a leadership position scoffs at basic departmental rules and policies, let alone federal gun laws, this becomes an exceptionally serious matter," the memorandum said.

In February, Barrett ruled against motions for acquittal and for a new trial made for Spicer and his attorneys.

Reach Nathan Pilling at 937-502-4498 or on Twitter @XDGnatePilling.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 3/18	Thu 3/19	Fri 3/20	Sat 3/21	Sun 3/22
53/27	48/34	47/36	54/38	59/32
Cloudy skies early, followed by partial clearing. High 53F.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 30s.	Cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 30s.	Cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 30s.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise 7:44 AM Sunset 7:44 PM	Sunrise 7:42 AM Sunset 7:45 PM	Sunrise 7:41 AM Sunset 7:46 PM	Sunrise 7:39 AM Sunset 7:47 PM	Sunrise 7:38 AM Sunset 7:48 PM

For the best local weather coverage, visit XeniaGazette.com

Ohio At A Glance



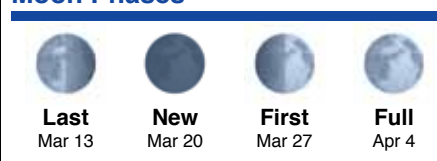
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Akron	44	26	rain	Columbus	52	27	pt sunny	Marion	47	25	pt sunny
Alliance	46	26	rain	Coshocton	50	27	pt sunny	Mt. Vernon	47	27	pt sunny
Ashtabula	39	21	rain	Defiance	44	26	pt sunny	New Philadelphia	49	28	rain
Athens	55	28	pt sunny	Findlay	46	27	pt sunny	Newark	52	26	pt sunny
Bellefontaine	46	24	pt sunny	Fostoria	45	27	pt sunny	Portsmouth	56	30	pt sunny
Bowling Green	46	27	pt sunny	Gallipolis	58	30	pt sunny	Sandusky	42	27	pt sunny
Cambridge	53	27	cloudy	Lancaster	53	26	pt sunny	Toledo	44	28	pt sunny
Chillicothe	54	27	pt sunny	Lima	47	26	pt sunny	Troy	50	26	pt sunny
Cincinnati	56	29	pt sunny	Mansfield	45	26	pt sunny	Xenia	53	27	pt sunny
Cleveland	41	21	pt sunny	Marietta	55	29	cloudy	Youngstown	46	25	rain

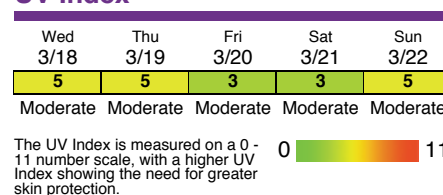
National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	75	49	pt sunny	Houston	80	64	cloudy	Phoenix	86	62	mst sunny
Boston	49	24	rain	Los Angeles	80	61	cloudy	San Francisco	68	51	pt sunny
Chicago	47	30	pt sunny	Miami	83	66	pt sunny	Seattle	60	47	rain
Dallas	80	60	t-storm	Minneapolis	47	29	sunny	St. Louis	55	36	pt sunny
Denver	63	43	pt sunny	New York	56	30	rain	Washington, DC	68	34	pt sunny

Moon Phases



UV Index



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