



XCHS girls hoops
SPORTS • 6



Because you had a bad day
OPINION • 4



Cloudy skies
48/33
WEATHER • 5

XENIA DAILY GAZETTE

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Breaking news at xeniagazette.com

Wednesday, January 21, 2015 • \$1

Dollar General opens location in Cedarville

By Anna Dembowski
For Greene County News

CEDARVILLE — Amidst the locally-owned businesses, convenience store Dollar General unofficially opened at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 14 in Cedarville. Its grand opening ceremony will be held at 7:45 a.m. Jan. 31 with members of the village's Chamber of Commerce in attendance and gifts given to the day's first 200 customers.

With its illuminated sign and sizeable parking lot, the corporately-owned discount retailer mixes up the small-business village scene. But Sarah Farmer, manager at Dollar General's store in Cedarville and Dollar General employee for almost four years, said the company invests greatly in the communities in which its stores are placed.

"It's not family-owned and all of that, but I think Dollar General really

tries to focus on being community-oriented," she said. "If you have a store in your area, that store is going to focus on you, whereas some companies they have stores in communities, but they focus on the whole nation. We focus on the whole nation one community at a time."

Dollar General primarily invests in its communities via literacy programs, toy drives, and canned food and school supply donations. Dollar General made a large donation most recently to Cox Elementary in Xenia for its literacy program.

"The money really does stay in the community," Farmer said.

Dollar General's corporate communications coordinator Mary Kathryn Patterson said Dollar General's Literacy Foundation, founded in 1993, has raised \$97 million since its incep-

See STORE | 5



Anna Dembowski | Greene County News

Discount retailer Dollar General opened Jan. 14 in Cedarville. The corporate store stands among small-businesses, but store manager Sarah Farmer said Dollar General invests greatly in the communities it serves. A grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 7:45 a.m. Jan. 31 to welcome the store to the community.

Marching for unity



Amanda Crowe | Greene County News

Students, faculty and staff joined in the annual MLK Unity March and Rally Tuesday to commemorate the achievements of late civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Center hosts rally to honor accomplishments of Martin Luther King Jr.

By Amanda Crowe
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FAIRBORN — A message of peace and unity rang through the Wright State University campus Tuesday in honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center hosted their fourth annual MLK Unity March and Rally on Jan. 20 to commemorate the achievements of the late civil rights leader.

Participants carried signs with principles like

"Peace," "Be the Change You Want to Be," "Continue the Dream" and "We Must Learn to Live Together as Brothers and Sisters, or Perish as Fools," while chanting "Tell me what democracy looks like" with "This is what democracy looks

like" in response.

The singing and chanting students, faculty and staff marched from Millett Hall and made their way around campus, stopping at what they called the four "corners" of

See MARCH | 5

OBITUARIES

Dorothy L. Cordial, 87 of Fairborn
Israel Farley, 85 of Jamestown
Jackson L. Gorby of Xenia
Anna L. Heifner, 93 of Jamestown
Raymond C. Leadingham, 82 of Xenia
Robert D. Vanhooose, 32 of Xenia
Monna B. Wilson, 89 of Fairborn

NEWS

Obituary: 2
Opinion: 4
Weather: 5
Sports: 6-7
Classifieds: 8
Comics: 9
Television/Puzzles: 10



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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Hallmark store closing Jan. 25

By Scott Halasz
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XENIA — A card shop that has been a staple of downtown Xenia for decades is going out of business.

Ann's Hallmark store in the Xenia Towne Square will lock its doors for good at the close of

business on Sunday, Jan. 25, store owner Dave Adams said Tuesday.

"Like everything else, the economics came down to it," Adams said. "With our slumping sales we couldn't justify (staying open). That center when we moved into it

See HALLMARK | 5

Mediator will decide fate of Costco EMS

By Scott Halasz
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XENIA — A Greene County mediator will try to decide the future of fire and emergency services for the Cornerstone Development which now contains the new Costco store.

The owners/developers of the shopping center

and Sugarcreek Township officials Tuesday agreed to enter into mediation — which will begin Friday afternoon — to attempt to come to an agreement regarding fire and EMS. The City of Centerville will also participate in the discussion. A hearing was held in

See COSTCO | 5

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Hallmark

From page 1

was the Rite-Aid drug store, a Fulmer store and a Kmart. All three of them have left."

The departure of those three anchor stores caused a reduction in the number of shoppers, Adams said.

"There's not a lot of traffic being drawn into the center," he said.

Adams, who owns 20 other Hallmark stores in Cincinnati, northern Kentucky and Indiana, said he has been

approached to relocate within Xenia, but that isn't a viable option right now.

"A couple city council people have called me up," Adams said. "It's so expensive to equip ... one of those stores. Once you decide to exit, it's hard to come back."

Xenia Development Director Steve Brodsky said the city is "disappointed."

"I think that was a store that a lot of folks liked," he said. "It was a great contribution to the diversity of downtown. As I understand, it was purely a business decision."

Brodsky is hoping the space will not be vacant long.

"It would certainly be our hope that that space would be filled quickly," he said. "Our hope (is) that we'll be able to work with the landlord and try to attract someone that will be a good addition to downtown."

The vacant Fulmer space is the site of a proposed family entertainment center. The city is also looking into the possibility of bringing a movie theater to the Kmart space.

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

Store

From page 1

tion to provide grants to non-profits focusing on literacy in communities its stores serve.

"Our mission is serving others, so we invest a lot back into the communities in which we're located," Patterson said.

And most of those communities are rural, as Cedarville is.

"Seventy percent of the towns that we move into have populations of less than 20,000 people," Patterson said. "Kind of the bread-and-butter of our company is serving our rural customers. We want our customers to be within a three-to-five mile radius or a 10-minute drive."

And it's this convenience followed by low prices that has already made Dollar General a popular stop for students and villagers alike.

Farmer said there's been a positive response to the store from the community, contrary to the lack of acceptance for a corporate store that she expected residents to show. She said college students primarily made up the crowd the evening the store first opened, followed by a number of high school students making purchases the next afternoon.

Students have stopped to buy one-dollar snacks and drinks after classes, but the store's location also gives customers a quick place to shop if they're looking for just a

few things.

"Some people pass right by here either on their way to work or on their way home, so it's really convenient," Farmer said. "And we do have quite a bit of stuff in here, so there are very few items you should have to travel to find elsewhere."

Justin Hudgell, a sales associate at the Cedarville store, said he's enjoyed the stores' extensive candy aisle.

The store includes everything from sliced cheese and greeting cards to dog treats and jewelry.

Hudgell, a Cedarville resident and Wright State student, said a benefit of serving customers from the town he's grown up in is that he can relate to them.

"I know the community, and I know how (customers) want things," he said. "I know what they want from our sales associates here."

Hudgell said though he hasn't heard anything specifically negative from the community about Dollar General coming to town, he realizes there's a possibility the store's arrival could put the next-door gas station and mini-mart out of business.

"I would like to see them both succeed, because the gas station provides us with all of our gas — it's the only resource we have to go for our gas, and that's nice to have as a convenience as well," Hudgell said. "They (Dollar General and the gas station) both are kind of a necessity."

Cedarville Mayor Bob Fudge was out of town and couldn't give

extended comments on Dollar General joining the community, but wrote in an email that he expects Cedarville's small businesses to thrive alongside of the discount retailer.

"We're excited to welcome Dollar General to the Village of Cedarville and look forward to them becoming part of our community," Fudge wrote. "While this may have some impact on current businesses in the village, I expect that most of our local stores will continue to thrive while Dollar General will provide our residents an option to driving to Springfield or Xenia for things they can't currently get in the village."

Hudgell said with the community's support, he believes the village's businesses, locally- and corporately-owned, will keep their doors open for many years to come.

"As a very, very small town, we need, as a community, to come together and help people out with the business," Hudgell said. "I mean, that's what we've done since this town started, and that's what we're going to have to keep to continue to do if we want these small businesses and franchises to keep coming back."

Farmer said the store has hired five employees for the store. Dollar General is open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week and is located on North Main Street between the Shell gas station and Mom and Dad's Dairy Bar.

Anna Dembowski is an intern and freelance writer for the Greene County News.

March

From page 1

peace and justice to share some of King's principles of nonviolence.

"It's important to remember that we don't have to respond with violence," student and event organizer Gabriel Willis said.

They focused on six specific principles dealing with things like how one does not need to respond to violence in order to further their cause, how one must suffer non-violently for their cause, and how it's important to unite on the side of justice. They also talked about taking responsibility for each other.

"The key is changing the mindset of young people today. We often find ourselves agreeing with the negative stereotypes," said junior Erin Evans. "When we post something on social media we have to ask ourselves if this is how we want to reflect ourselves. There is no way to achieve a just end without just measures."

Participants discussed how they can help change their communities for the better.

"The four corners are about sharing how



Amanda Crowe | Greene County News
Students, faculty and staff joined in the annual MLK Unity March and Rally Tuesday to commemorate the achievements of late civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Wright State students can help this community gain an understanding of what measures they can take to make a difference and then taking that understanding home to our own communities," Evans said.

The Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center will show the documentary film "Letter

from Birmingham Jail" from 12-2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21 in the Millett Hall Atrium. A panel discussion of King's April 16, 1963 letter, defending nonviolent resistance to racism, will be held after the screening.

Amanda Crowe may be reached at 937-502-4532 or on Twitter @FairbornHerald.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 1/21	Thu 1/22	Fri 1/23	Sat 1/24	Sun 1/25
48/33	40/29	35/28	40/30	43/27
Cloudy skies early, then partly cloudy in the afternoon. High 48F.	Rain/snow showers in the afternoon.	Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s and lows in the upper 20s.	Sunshine. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the low 30s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the upper 20s.
Sunrise 7:52 AM Sunset 5:41 PM	Sunrise 7:51 AM Sunset 5:42 PM	Sunrise 7:51 AM Sunset 5:43 PM	Sunrise 7:50 AM Sunset 5:44 PM	Sunrise 7:49 AM Sunset 5:45 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	36	25	sn shower	Columbus	43	32	rain	Marion	39	30	mixed
Alliance	37	27	sn shower	Coshocton	42	30	mixed	Mt. Vernon	41	30	mixed
Ashtabula	27	17	sn shower	Defiance	34	26	sn shower	New Philadelphia	41	30	mixed
Athens	49	34	pt sunny	Findlay	37	27	sn shower	Newark	43	31	rain
Bellefontaine	39	30	mixed	Fostoria	34	25	sn shower	Portsmouth	52	35	pt sunny
Bowling Green	33	24	sn shower	Gallipolis	53	36	pt sunny	Sandusky	31	21	sn shower
Cambridge	43	30	rain	Lancaster	45	32	rain	Toledo	31	23	sn shower
Chillicothe	48	33	pt sunny	Lima	41	30	sn shower	Troy	45	32	rain
Cincinnati	51	34	pt sunny	Mansfield	39	28	mixed	Xenia	48	33	pt sunny
Cleveland	31	22	sn shower	Marietta	48	34	cloudy	Youngstown	36	27	sn shower

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	63	40	pt sunny	Houston	73	54	pt sunny	Phoenix	74	52	mst sunny
Boston	35	19	sunny	Los Angeles	68	52	cloudy	San Francisco	61	46	pt sunny
Chicago	36	31	cloudy	Miami	75	66	cloudy	Seattle	49	36	pt sunny
Dallas	67	43	pt sunny	Minneapolis	33	27	cloudy	St. Louis	53	35	cloudy
Denver	40	22	pt sunny	New York	39	25	pt sunny	Washington, DC	51	36	pt sunny

Moon Phases



UV Index

Wed 1/21	Thu 1/22	Fri 1/23	Sat 1/24	Sun 1/25
2	2	1	2	2
Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

The UV Index is measured on a 0-11 number scale, with a higher UV index showing the need for greater skin protection.

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Costco

From page 1

front of Greene County Magistrate Raymond J. Dundas after a lawsuit was filed by Cornerstone Development seeking a temporary restraining order requiring Sugarcreek Township to continue to provide fire and EMS to the shopping center.

The current protection, provided by Sugarcreek Township, was set to expire on Feb. 1 when a new township fire district goes into effect. The fire district — which excludes the portion of Centerville within Sugarcreek Township — was created because township officials felt the City of Centerville was not willing to pay its fair share of tax dollars to cover fire and EMS.

Centerville and Sugarcreek Township unsuccessfully negotiated in an attempt to come to terms on how much of its tax dollars the city will pay to the township for fire and EMS. Centerville thought an agreement was reached last summer only to see the township create the new fire district.

The lawsuit, filed last week, alleged that the fire district was created illegally and by termi-

"To bring all of the interested parties to the table and be able to talk numbers ... I think will speed the process up."

— Stephanie Hayden,

Sugarcreek Township legal counsel

nating fire and EMS to Cornerstone "Sugarcreek Township and its officials have intentionally interfered with Cornerstone Developers' and Oberer Companies' business relationships and ability to sell property within the Development."

Joe Trauth, legal counsel for Oberer and Cornerstone, declined comment other than to say Tuesday's ruling "speaks for itself."

Mediation will continue on Tuesday, Jan. 27 and Friday, Feb. 20. If the sides can not come to terms, a trial in Greene County Common Pleas Court is scheduled for March. 5.

Township legal counsel Stephanie Hayden said the township is "optimistic that we can find a solution."

"To bring all of the interested parties to the table and be able to talk numbers ... I think will speed the process up," Hayden said.

Centerville officials, who were named in a yet-to-be-served, third-party

suit by the township are anxious to get the dispute settled.

"We're certainly willing to be a part of the conversation," City Manager Greg Horn said. "I think today was a positive outcome. We're looking forward to where things go from here."

The township also agreed Tuesday to extend the effective date of the fire district so the parties can negotiate.

Centerville Mayor Mark Kingseed issued a statement asking the township to honor the June agreement.

"The City of Centerville, the Cornerstone developer, Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools and the Sugarcreek Township Trustees all agreed last June on how property taxes would be fairly shared going forward," he said. "We urge the Township to live up to their previous commitment.

The June agreement was fair and reasonable and should be implemented."

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