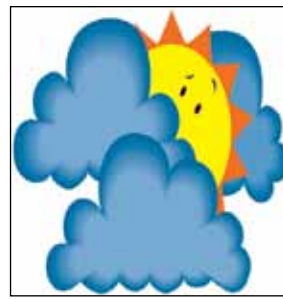




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XENIA DAILY GAZETTE

A Pulitzer Prize-Winning EST. 1868 Newspaper Serving Greene County

Issue 122, Volume 152

Breaking news at xeniagazette.com

Wednesday, November 5, 2014 • \$1

Ladies serve, leave together



Three Greene County Combined Health District employees have collectively given over 67 years of dedicated service, and the three are leaving together. From left to right, Kim Rickels, a 33-year employee, Patty Cafferty, an employee for almost 18 years, and Ethel Wilson, a 17-year employee, will all retire within a two-week span.

By Anna Dembowski
For Greene County News

XENIA — The Greene County Combined Health District (GCCHD) will lose more than a combined 67 years of womanpower when Patty Cafferty, the last of three long-time staff members retiring in a two-week span, retires Nov. 13.

“These three ladies cannot be replaced,” said Laurie Fox, public information officer for GCCHD. “We’re not a huge conglomerate here — we’re a staff of 70 — and so for us to lose three significant, experienced, talented individuals is detrimental to this organiza-

tion, and it’s very difficult to find someone with that kind of experience and that kind of dedication to replace that.”

Cafferty, a GCCHD employee for almost 18 years, works as a WIC clerical specialist. Ethel Wilson, a reception secretary for 17 years, and Business Supervisor Kim Rickels, a GCCHD employee for 33 years, joined Cafferty Oct. 31 in celebrating their retirement, effective that afternoon for Wilson and Rickels, with family and friends.

“I just think it’s time to pass the torch, after 33 years,” Rickels said. “I love what I’ve done, but it’s time to let someone else

take it over.”

Cafferty said she agreed, especially since she’s worked for almost half of a decade.

“I’ve worked for almost over 50 years, so it’s — it’s time,” Cafferty said.

She listed teaching English, working in the medical field and working at the health district among her nearly 50 years of work experience.

Despite the extensive work experience the three have racked up in their lifetimes, things have changed, particularly at the health district, since their first day on the job.

See LADIES | 5

The generosity of Ollie Davis continues

For Greene County News

XENIA — The largest gift ever bequeathed to the Greene Medical Foundation came from the estate of a modest local philanthropist, Ollie Davis.

Greene Medical Foundation, serving primarily Greene Memorial Hospital and Soin Medical Center, recently received approximately \$2.4 million to carry out its mission in advancing Greene County healthcare.



Ollie Davis

“This is our largest bequest ever in the foundation’s history. It’s quite an honor,” said Foundation Chair John Finlay.

Ollie Davis was dedicated to Greene County. She was one of the first women in real estate in the Dayton area and she had a great love for the county in which she resided.

“Mrs. Davis was a very unique lady,” recalled Pastor Randy Townsend, executor of her estate and her pastor. “Things touched her and she responded.” I witnessed that in every aspect of her life.”

Pastor Townsend knew the local developer and philanthropist for more than 40 years through their church.

“I feel honored about the donation,” said Pastor Townsend. “It humbled me when she first approached me to be her executor and to account for her final gifts to the community.”

See DAVIS | 5



Voters cast their ballot at one of the Greene County polling sites on Tuesday.

Scott Halasz | Greene County News

Voters turn out in person

XENIA — Midway through election day, 81 percent of the requested absentee ballots had been cast by mail and in person, according to Ohio Secretary of State John Husted.

Voters requested 998,201 ballots and 813,106 were cast. There were more than 3,000 military and overseas ballots requested with slightly less than 50 percent cast, Husted’s office said in a release.

Polls were open until 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and

results were expected to trickle in afterwards. Because of deadlines, complete results were not available for today’s print editions of the *Xenia Daily Gazette* and *Fairborn Daily Herald*.

Check our Twitter and Facebook pages along with our websites, www.xeniagazette.com and www.fairborndailyherald.com, for the most updated information.

Complete unofficial results will appear in Thursday’s print editions.



A voter signs in.

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What’s your take on today’s news? Go to xeniagazette.com and visit us on facebook to share your thoughts. Follow us on Twitter



Board to host suicide awareness

By Nathan Pilling
npilling@civitasmedia.com

XENIA — The Xenia Community Schools Board of Education will host a training session geared towards helping the public to understand the topic of suicide.

The session is open to the community and is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Nov. 8., at Xenia High School (303 Kinsey Road, Xenia).

“We’ll talk about ... the problem of suicide nationally, but especially in Greene County, and

talk about the number of deaths and share some data about what it looks like as far as risk factors and warning signs,” said Greta Mayer, director of prevention and community engagement for the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Clark, Greene

and Madison counties. Mayer is one of the session’s organizers. “We really focus on untreated depression and untreated substance abuse as being the greatest risk factors for suicide.”

See BOARD | 5

Welcome your baby at Soin.

Located on Soin Medical Center campus, **Advanced Women's Healthcare** is pleased to welcome **Dena Costa, MD**. Dr. Costa is now accepting new patients for deliveries at Soin Medical Center.

(937) 429-7350

Kettering Health Network

Ladies

From page 1

"The first day I walked in here and they threw all the paperwork at me for billing, I went home crying," Rickels said.

But Rickels said since that day 33 years ago she has learned to operate two billing computer systems — and the health district didn't even have any computers at the time she was hired. Additionally, Rickels trained Wilson in various job duties upon Wilson's employment, and Rickels said she's dabbled in a little bit of everything at the health district.

"There's not too many jobs in here I haven't done over the years," Rickels said.

She said the two percent of duties she's been assigned in addition to billing responsibilities sometimes seemed like 98 percent of what she did, but that's what's kept her job interesting for 30-plus years.

Cafferty said she came into the job knowing she'd have to take height and weight measurements and handle coupon (now EBT) issuances, but unaware of her responsibility to do an iron check on babies, children and mothers being screened for WIC eligibility.

"They didn't exactly prepare me, 'Oh, you're just going to have to do a little finger stick for the iron. It's no big deal,'" Cafferty said. "Yeah, trust me, it's a big deal. You've got kids yelling, screaming, kicking, biting."

And in 17 years, Cafferty said the only thing that has changed in this situation is her aptitude for giving iron checks.

"They're still biting, kicking, yelling and screaming," she said. "But you know what? You get through it day by



Kim Rickels was joined by her family — from her mother to her granddaughter — at the retirement celebration for Rickels, Cafferty and Wilson Oct. 31. Rickels leaves GCCHD after 33 years of service.

day."

But getting through it day by day also means serving the public, which Cafferty said is the best part of her job.

"I like working with the residents of Greene County," she said. "I like thinking that we're helping them in some way—that we're making a difference in their lives. That in and of itself — public service for the Greene County Health Department — is the best part of it for me."

Wilson also said the public has played a role in her job's highlights, which she considers to be sitting with and greeting guests. She said the past 17 years have taught her the importance of a pleasant attitude in doing her job.

"You never know what type of things people have been through coming in, and to see you first, you need to have a pleasant attitude around you, a smile and a greeting," Wilson said. "You don't know what they're going through or have been through, and so it's good to be pleasant sitting at the front desk, because you don't know how you might make someone feel."

Cafferty said her whole career has been centered on this very thing she loves — working with the public — so the daily interaction with the public will be the one thing she'll miss in retirement.

However, the three ladies said spending more

time visiting family is something they're looking forward to.

Rickels said she'll be spending more time with her two granddaughters, son and daughter-in-law. Cafferty said in addition to the beloved family dog, she'll be visiting plenty with extended family members. And Wilson named her six grandchildren and three sons as those she'll be traveling to see.

Cleaning the house is also at the top of the list of things to do in retirement for the three, but they agreed cleaning the house may not be checked off that list right away.

Wilson, Cafferty and Rickels have volunteered together at various festivals and fundraisers throughout the years, and as Cafferty said in reference to their retirement party invitation, "They leave together."

And the three will be sorely missed at the health district, Fox said.

"Their service here, you can't put a price on it," she said. "The good that they have done for the county as a whole can't be measured, because they've touched — their hands and their work — has touched so many lives along the way, in so many different ways, because they all do very different things. So in that way, they've pretty much served the entire county."

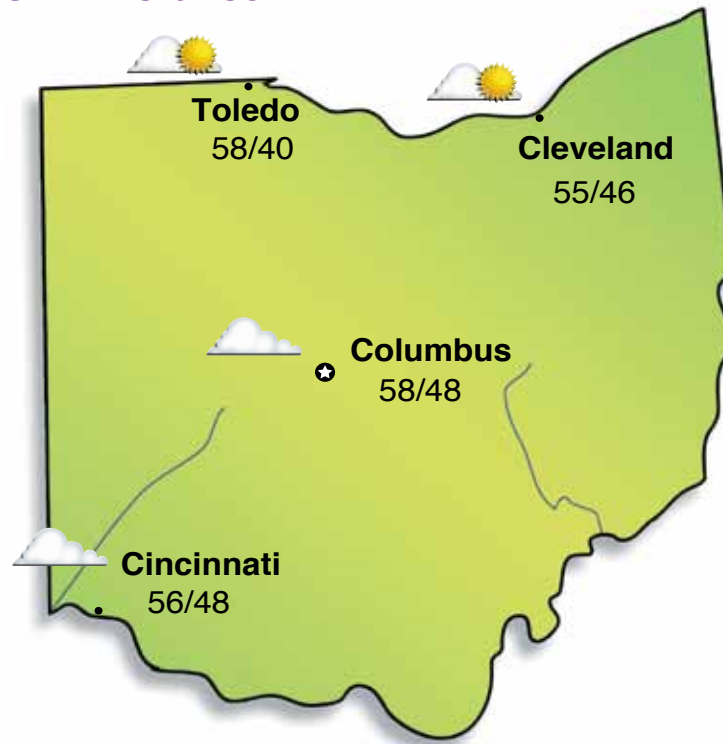
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 11/5	Thu 11/6	Fri 11/7	Sat 11/8	Sun 11/9
56/46	51/38	42/29	47/37	40/30
Cloudy skies. High 56F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph.	Chance of showers. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 30s.	Mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the upper 20s.	Showers possible in the afternoon.	Mix of rain and snow early. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise 7:08 AM Sunset 5:29 PM	Sunrise 7:09 AM Sunset 5:28 PM	Sunrise 7:10 AM Sunset 5:27 PM	Sunrise 7:11 AM Sunset 5:26 PM	Sunrise 7:12 AM Sunset 5:25 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	56	44	cloudy	Columbus	58	48	cloudy	Marion	56	43	cloudy
Alliance	56	45	cloudy	Coshocton	57	45	cloudy	Mt. Vernon	56	44	cloudy
Ashtabula	56	44	pt sunny	Defiance	58	40	pt sunny	New Philadelphia	58	46	cloudy
Athens	58	48	cloudy	Findlay	58	41	pt sunny	Newark	57	45	cloudy
Bellefontaine	54	42	pt sunny	Fostoria	57	42	pt sunny	Portsmouth	56	49	rain
Bowling Green	57	41	pt sunny	Gallipolis	59	48	rain	Sandusky	56	43	pt sunny
Cambridge	57	48	cloudy	Lancaster	57	46	cloudy	Toledo	58	40	pt sunny
Chillicothe	58	46	cloudy	Lima	57	45	pt sunny	Troy	56	44	cloudy
Cincinnati	56	48	cloudy	Mansfield	55	43	cloudy	Xenia	56	46	cloudy
Cleveland	55	46	pt sunny	Marietta	57	50	cloudy	Youngstown	56	44	cloudy

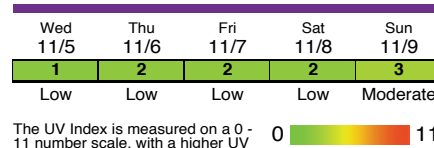
National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	70	58	cloudy	Houston	72	60	t-storm	Phoenix	81	55	sunny
Boston	63	48	cloudy	Los Angeles	83	58	sunny	San Francisco	75	55	sunny
Chicago	60	42	cloudy	Miami	81	71	pt sunny	Seattle	58	55	rain
Dallas	62	49	rain	Minneapolis	50	32	rain	St. Louis	64	45	mst sunny
Denver	62	35	sunny	New York	64	54	cloudy	Washington, DC	71	56	cloudy

Moon Phases



UV Index



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Board

From page 1

Sue O'Rear, one of the session's speakers, will speak from personal experience: O'Rear lost her only son to suicide in the mid-'90s. She and another mom who lost her child to suicide started a local chapter of the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program about three years after their losses. Since then, O'Rear has worked to raise awareness about the topic.

"I'll be sharing ... the warning signs and risk factors and some of the things that she and I were not aware of to help pro-

tect our children," O'Rear said. "What we want to do is to help parents protect their children, being able to have a dialogue with them about a serious subject like suicide."

The main training session will run from 9-11, with a question-and-answer session following from 11-12. The morning will include looks at case studies and small group discussions to help attendees apply the information they learn.

"I think that there's a lot of stigma to seek counseling and especially with suicide," Mayer said. "I think it's one of the most taboo topics really in our culture. We just try and strip away the cultur-

al level of discomfort. We can save lives if we can get people the help that is available sooner rather than later."

Several local groups and facilities will be represented at the session, including the Family Solutions Center, the Greene County Educational Service Center, the Family and Children First Council and the Greene County Juvenile Court.

The session is free and is designed for adults. Those wanting to attend should simply show up at the high school prior to 9 a.m. Saturday morning. No registration is needed.

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

Davis

From page 1

Ollie Davis was a realtor involved in building and managing some of the very first shopping plazas in the area. This transformed into the fortune that would later help build churches, schools and medical facilities.

"Construction was in her blood. She loved to build," said Pastor Townsend.

"I knew her personally," added Chairman Finlay. "She was a pioneering woman in her field. She was a person of faith. She believed in education and ensuring that health needs, particularly for the elderly, were met."

Her dedication to health care evolved throughout her life. When a few of her friends developed Alzheimer's, she realized

the need for an Alzheimer's care center. And wanting to serve the health needs of those close to where she lived, she built a medical center on Darst Road in Beavercreek.

Davis eventually donated that same medical center to the Foundation, which later transferred it to Greene Memorial Hospital. Previously home to some Wright State University physicians, the second floor of the building will house Kettering College's Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program next year.

"This will be the only school in the area that provides such a program and it's in Greene County," Finlay added. "Mrs. Davis was interested in medical education, too, so we are trying to continue her mission with a facility like this."

She also helped under-

write the Ollie Davis Pavilion at Soin Medical Center, accommodating physician offices and medical services associated with Soin.

"Soin is really ahead of schedule and booming, which benefits Greene County. She truly touched Greene County in a great way, and now the Foundation looks forward to stewarding well her gift and continuing to invest in Kettering Health Network's healthcare facilities in Greene County," said Chairman Finlay.

"She was a blessing to know," Pastor Townsend added. "I miss her every day."

Mrs. Ollie Davis lived 92 years and passed away on March 5, 2013.

Story courtesy of The Greene Medical Foundation - Greene Memorial Hospital and Soin Medical Center hospital within Kettering Health Network.

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Publishes Week of	Deadline
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October 6	Sep 24
November 3	Oct 22
December 8	Nov 19

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