



Raiders still undefeated
PAGE 10



Sherrod Brown column
PAGE 4



Chance of Snow, 34/26
PAGE 5

XENIA DAILY GAZETTE

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

Issue 138, Volume 152

Breaking news at xeniagazette.com

Thursday, November 27, 2014 • \$1

Hometown Christmas features old, new



Downtown businesses were decorated for last year's Hometown Christmas.

Courtesy photo

By **Scott Halasz**
shalasz@civitasmedia.com

XENIA — Downtown Xenia will be transformed into a Winter Wonderland during the city's Hometown Christmas Saturday, Dec. 13.

Presented by Downtown Xenia Now, the event — which runs 4-8 p.m. — will have an old-fashioned feeling with some new twists. Santa Claus, the main attraction where kids are concerned, has moved his sleigh-landing spot to Xenia Station. Courtesy of Goodfolk & O'Tymes Biplane Rides, Santa will fly over Xenia before

making his entrance. Once he safely lands, Jolly Old St. Nick will be available to take pictures with kids. Children will receive bags of candy while 50 bike helmets and 100 soccer balls will be distributed to families as well. There will be giveaways for each family sponsored by Harworth Tire & Auto Service. Santa previously set up shop at Toward Independence, but the switch was made this year to keep with the overall bicycling theme of Xenia. "It's just to promote bicycling in downtown Xenia," said Sue

See HOMETOWN | 3

Meals on Wheels volunteer dedicated to helping others

By **Anna Dembowski**
For Greene County News

XENIA — Richard Mendenhall visits the senior center every Monday through Friday to pick up the meals he delivers for Xenia's Meals on Wheels program. But he regards the senior center as being more than just the place he stops every weekday morning.

It's the place he met his Nov. 8 bride, Phyllis (Smith) Mendenhall.

Richard Mendenhall, 73, of Xenia, began serving the community through Meals on Wheels in March 2013. He volunteered his time on Tuesdays to deliver meals to those clients on the first route. And this October, Richard Mendenhall took on the newly-created seventh route, in which he delivers meals five days a week.

"I like helping people," Richard Mendenhall said. "It's just a part of me to help anybody anywhere."

Since his first day of deliveries, Richard Mendenhall has delivered meals to clients on all seven routes both in his own assignments and in subbing for another driver.

"Whoever was off, I was their most available driver they had," Richard Mendenhall said. "I had nothing but time on my hands. It was good for me, it was good for them."

Richard Mendenhall said he began volunteering at Meals on Wheels because of his son's encouragement to volunteer after the death of Richard Mendenhall's wife of 43 years, Chloe, in August 2011.

"After she died, I was

See MEALS | 5

Xenia students celebrate Thanksgiving



Nathan Pilling | Greene County News

McKinley Elementary School's second and third grade students dressed up as Pilgrims and Native Americans Tuesday afternoon as part of a Thanksgiving celebration at the school. Students performed poems and songs, including "Pilgrim, Pilgrim, What Do You See?" "The First Thanksgiving," "The Turkey on the Farm" and the "Turkey Pokey." Afterward, students had their Thanksgiving feast with their families. More photos on Page 3.

County archivist to retire

By **Nathan Pilling**
npilling@civitasmedia.com

GREENE COUNTY — As Gillian Hill flips through a scrapbook of pictures and newspaper clippings, she's also flipping back through the years of her time working as the archivist for Greene County. This album is her "greatest hits": snapshots of the moments she's wanted to remember the most in her time with the county.

"And what's this..." she begins as she flips a page. It's another in a long line of memories she's made at the Greene County Archives.

There's a wide variety of topics and events included in the book, ranging from pictures of the county's old archives

location in downtown Xenia to an article about her when she first became the county's archivist back in 1996 to newspaper clippings of her helping to withdraw a time capsule from the Greene County Courthouse back in 2001.

At the end of the year, Hill won't collect any more memories for such an album — at least not in an official capacity — as she'll be retiring from the position she's held for 18 years at the end of December.

"A bit of a state"

Back when London-born Gillian Hill first started as Greene County Records and Information Manager and Archivist on July 1, 1996, the county's records were, in

her words, "in a bit of a state."

"They were all over the place: in basements and attics and near leaky pipes and some horribly moldy basements, lots of really dirty stuff," she said. "Because people didn't really understand what they should keep and what they could throw away, there was a mixture of things that were really valuable historical records, mixed with junk, plain and simply, junk."

Under her leadership the archives were transformed from an attic-garage-basement-based collection of papers and historical items, into a well-kept, professional collection that Greene County can be proud of. And not only that,

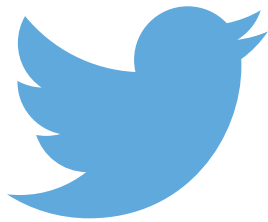
residents and other interested parties can now sift through the items contained in the archives easily in the space the county agency moved into in 2011 under Hill's watchful eye.

Even moving into the space that the archives now occupy is a bit of a story and likely represents one of the most stressful periods of time in Hill's career with the county.

Before the archives were moved into their current facility at the county's Ledbetter Road services complex, they were housed in a building on East Main Street in downtown Xenia. When a large crack in the ceiling of that building

See RETIRE | 5

INDEX
Opinion: 4
Weather: 5
Religion: 6-7
Sports: 10
Classifieds: 11
Comics: 12-13



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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







Teleflora's Celebrations by Radko®
Starry Ornament Bouquet T14X400A

Open House
Sat., Dec. 6th, 10-4
Sun., Dec. 7th, 12-3

1625 N. Detroit St., Xenia 372-2461

• New Designs • New Ideas • Save \$ • Refreshments

Meals

From page 1

lost," he said. "I had nothing to do."

Richard Mendenhall had gone from being his wife's caregiver and advocate to being alone. He said the loneliness he experienced allows him to empathize with the people he meets on his daily route.

"I see a lot of lonely people, and boy do I understand that," Richard Mendenhall said. "Loneliness is awful."

As he got involved with Meals on Wheels, Richard Mendenhall said he found out just how many people in the community are lonely.

"I had one of my customers tell me that she hated to see me leave, because I was one of only two drivers out of five that would take time to talk to her, say something to her," he said. "That's important. That's very important to these people, because a lot of times, we're the only person they see, and that's terrible."

Richard Mendenhall said he and his new wife have helped each other get through the lonely periods.

Though the two remember briefly meeting this March at a dinner hosted at the senior center, Phyllis Mendenhall said she began taking notice of Richard at a grief program hosted at the senior center in June.

"He talked a little while and he said he just wanted a friend, (because) he was so lonesome, and I was too," said Phyllis



Phyllis and Richard Mendenhall at the Xenia Adult Recreation & Services Center, 130 E. Church St.

Mendenhall, 77, who was married to her late husband for over 50 years. "He got up and he said, 'Well, maybe someday I'll get married.' Well I didn't know it was going to be me."

The two talked more extensively July 1 during another function at the senior center.

"He didn't know I was watching him," Phyllis Mendenhall said.

She said she walked over to where Richard was sitting, and he looked startled as she began talking to him for a while.

Richard Mendenhall said it was during that same conversation that he asked her out.

"We got to talking, so I just asked her straight up, 'Would you go out with me?'" he said. "She thought for a minute, and she said, 'Oh, I'll have to think about that.' She talked to me a little longer and she said, 'Yes.' And we've been together almost every day since then."

Phyllis Mendenhall said she rides with Richard every day he delivers meals, and she marks each stop off on the clip-

board. "I enjoy being with him," she said. "It gets me out of the house. I just enjoy doing it."

And delivering meals together has helped both of them, Richard Mendenhall said.

"(Phyllis) was in a very dark cloud when we first met there in July, and it was in about three weeks she was just like a flower, opening up and blossoming just because she was out of the house for one thing; she had somebody to talk to was another thing," Richard Mendenhall said. "And she said she was helping me, and I kept thinking about that when she said that (and) I realized, actually, she was right. She was helping me, so we're helping each other. It's been a good thing. And I think we're going to be pretty good for each other."

The Meals on Wheels Program in Xenia is run out of the Xenia Adult Recreation & Services Center, 130 E. Church St. Call 937-376-4353 for more information.

Anna Dembowski is a freelance write for Greene County News.

Retire

From page 1

made it clear that the old building's structural integrity had been compromised, it became clear that a new location for the county's archives would have to be found. The old building was shored up temporarily with iron girders and the archives staff were moved out.

"That was very stressful, because we weren't allowed to get into the records and sometimes people come here and they need something desperately," Hill said. "It was extremely difficult."

But soon enough the new facility was selected and the archives were moved into their new temperature-humidity-light protected facility with space enough to allow the county's historical records to breathe. While perhaps that move took a few years off Hill's life because of its strain, it was a move few would argue wasn't for the better.

The first person

Her favorite moment during her time with the county?

"The most thrilling thing for me was when we found the time capsule under the cornerstone of the courthouse back in 2001," she said. The time capsule she is referring to is the one placed under the cornerstone of the Greene County Courthouse when it constructed in 1901. The capsule was searched for and subsequently opened as part of Xenia's centennial celebration in 2001.



Hill holds up a book she worked on about the time capsule extracted from the Greene County Courthouse in 2001.

It took a lot of searching for it, and finally we couldn't get to it from the outside," she said. "Finally they went into the probate court judge's room and did it from the inside."

Hill said she stayed late one night when those searching for the capsule were getting close to extracting it.

"They finally found it, and they called me," she said. "I was the first person to touch this copper box. It was just so exciting to find the stuff and to be the first person to touch that for a hundred years, two world wars and countless other things that had gone on since then."

That box and the records it contained are in the Greene County Archives today.

The Future

Now that her time as

the archivist for Greene County is nearly over, Hill is beginning to think about what she might do next. What memories might fill the pages of her next scrapbook?

"Everybody says the same thing when they retire, but I want to travel more, get back home more often, not get up so early in the morning," she said. "I'm sure I'm going to be busy, because there are lots of things I want to do." Joining the Dayton Hiking Club is one possibility.

Another prospect? "I do foresee sometime I'll come back here and do some volunteer work myself," she said. "Be able to play instead of work at it."

Better not close that scrapbook just yet.

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

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 11/27	Fri 11/28	Sat 11/29	Sun 11/30	Mon 12/1
39/23	36/31	53/48	58/45	46/33
Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s and lows in the low 20s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s and lows in the low 30s.	Showers possible. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 40s.	Light rain. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 40s.	Morning showers. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise 7:32 AM Sunset 5:12 PM	Sunrise 7:33 AM Sunset 5:12 PM	Sunrise 7:34 AM Sunset 5:12 PM	Sunrise 7:35 AM Sunset 5:12 PM	Sunrise 7:36 AM Sunset 5:11 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	cloudy	Columbus	40	24	pt sunny	Marion	37	21	pt sunny
Alliance	37	24	cloudy	Coshocton	40	25	pt sunny	Mt. Vernon	38	24	pt sunny
Astabula	36	26	sn shower	Defiance	36	21	sn shower	New Philadelphia	40	26	pt sunny
Athens	42	24	pt sunny	Findlay	37	21	pt sunny	Newark	39	24	pt sunny
Bellefontaine	35	20	pt sunny	Fostoria	37	21	sn shower	Portsmouth	48	25	pt sunny
Bowling Green	37	20	sn shower	Gallipolis	44	26	pt sunny	Sandusky	36	24	pt sunny
Cambridge	40	25	pt sunny	Lancaster	40	25	pt sunny	Toledo	37	21	sn shower
Chillicothe	42	24	pt sunny	Lima	36	23	cloudy	Troy	38	22	pt sunny
Cincinnati	42	25	pt sunny	Mansfield	36	22	pt sunny	Xenia	39	23	pt sunny
Cleveland	36	27	sn shower	Marietta	42	26	pt sunny	Youngstown	38	25	cloudy

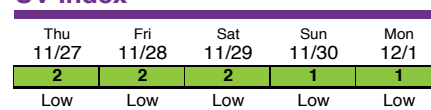
National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	48	29	mst sunny	Houston	67	47	sunny	Phoenix	82	52	sunny
Boston	38	26	mixed	Los Angeles	82	60	sunny	San Francisco	69	54	mst sunny
Chicago	28	20	pt sunny	Miami	73	56	sunny	Seattle	56	52	rain
Dallas	62	43	sunny	Minneapolis	15	12	mst sunny	St. Louis	35	28	pt sunny
Denver	60	37	cloudy	New York	40	28	cloudy	Washington, DC	41	27	sn shower

Moon Phases



UV Index



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



Browse Our **Holiday Gift Guide** Online Now

Great gift ideas, last-minute shopping tips, budgeting advice and more... Our **Online Holiday Gift Guide** is here to help you through the season of giving!

A special online magazine of xeniagazette.com

FRS Help Me Grow
www.hchmg.org

888-734-7235



WESTVIEW MOTORS
westviewmotors.com

695 Wycliffe Dr.
Xenia, OH 45385-7254
937-409-0061
Fax: 937-372-3062

LEGACY VILLAGE

National Church Residences

www.nationalchurchresidences.org
www.facebook.com/LegacyVillageHomes