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XENIA DAILY GAZETTE

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Anna Dembowski | Greene County News
Cooley Turner, 68, custodian at Cedarville University for the past 28 years has a love for art.

Custodian dabbles in art

By Anna Dembowski
For Greene County News

CEDARVILLE — He identifies himself as a potter. “I said, ‘You’re an artist.’ He said, ‘Yes, I’m a potter,’ and we began talking,” said Chuck Clevenger, senior professor of music at Cedarville University. Cooley Turner, 68, of Springfield, Ohio, has driven 22 miles to Cedarville University every workday for the past 28 years. He works on

the custodial staff and has cleaned Clevenger’s office more than a few times while also discussing their common love for art. Clevenger’s love for art lies in watercolor and music, he said. Turner has never obtained a college degree. But he’s climbed from poverty in the hills of Kentucky, spent time in the Peace Corps, earned a plaque on the wall of Cedarville’s Dixon Ministry Center and dabbled in the arts — from painting to pottery to

poetry — for most of his life. “You don’t have to have an art degree to have that be a part of your life or to enrich other people’s lives,” said Turner’s daughter, Jeananne Turner Smith, a kindergarten teacher in Yellow Springs. And enriching lives, including his own, is exactly what Turner has used his artistic talents for. But as it enriches, each piece also tells a story. “I like to give a story behind everything,” said

Turner, as he pulled a note from his photo-album portfolio of art pieces. Clevenger said Turner’s work comes out of his own experience. “Maybe it comes out of struggle, maybe it comes out of an expression of his faith, maybe it comes out of just whatever theme is going on in his life,” Clevenger said. “I just notice that whatever — it just kind of bubbles up.”

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WSU graduate named to panel on policing

For Greene County News

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Wright State University alumnus Cedric Alexander, president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, has been selected by President Obama to serve on a White House task force to study ways to improve community policing. Alexander was named to the Task Force on 21st Century Policing, which will examine how to strengthen public trust and build strong relationships between law enforcement and the communities they protect while promoting crime reduction. Alexander, director of public safety in DeKalb County, Ga., is a 1997 graduate of Wright State’s School of Professional Psychology. He spoke at the school’s convocation on Aug. 22, fresh from a visit to riot-scarred Ferguson, Mo., to help ease racial tensions there.

“To have the opportunity to train here at Wright State, to be educated here at Wright State, was probably one of the most profound decisions I made throughout the course of my career.”
— Cedric Alexander, president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives

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Restoration on the covered bridge near Stevenson Road is expected to begin in the spring.

Nathan Pilling | Greene County News

Bridge project moves forward

By Nathan Pilling
npilling@civitasmedia.com

XENIA TOWNSHIP — Plans are moving ahead to renovate one of Greene County’s remaining historic covered bridges, as county commissioners recently approved a request by Greene County Engineer Bob Geyer to advertise and take bids to restore the covered bridge near Stevenson Road in Xenia

Township. The initiative aims to restore the covered bridge to as close to original condition as possible. The covered bridge, which spans Massie’s Creek in Xenia Township, is now little more than a historical display, as traffic crosses the creek via a modern, concrete bridge. Once restored, it will be load rated for only pedestrian traffic. Partial funding for the

project comes from a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation in 2012. The federal funds (\$520,000) will pay for about 80 percent of the project (in total estimated to be \$660,000). The county will pay for the remaining 20 percent. The federal funds come as part of the National Historical Covered Bridge Preservation Program. Work done on the

bridge will be both aesthetic and structural. “They’re going to have to go in and take out any old rotten members,” Geyer said. “They’ll take the siding off, the roof off, they’ll take all the rotten members out, replace the rotten members, put in a new floor, put in new siding, a new metal roof.” Geyer estimated that the restoration of the

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OBITUARIES

John W. VanDine Sr., 72, of Xenia
Dr. R. David Warner, 90, of Xenia
Wanda Rebecca Johnson, 84, Yellow Springs
Priscilla Drew Tyler, Fairborn
Genevieve P. Wickliffe, 76, Fairborn
More Obituaries Inside

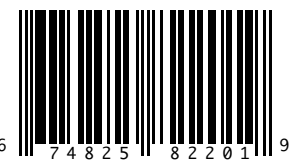
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Bellbrook named ‘A School to Watch’

Greene County News report



Sixth grade engineering and STEM students in the classroom.

BELLBROOK — Bellbrook Middle School submitted the required documents recently for the year three re-designation as an Ohio School to Watch. The self-study process provides ongoing reflection on the challenges and progress made over the last three years. Addi-

tionally Bellbrook Middle School received a site visit to verify the data in the re-designation application. The letter received by the school said, “Congratulations to staff and leadership for being redesignated as both an Ohio School to Watch and a National Forum School

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Greene Memorial Hospital
is a
full service hospital

When minutes count, get to the closest Emergency Room — The Trauma Center at Greene Memorial Hospital in Xenia. Our Level 3 Trauma Center staff of skilled experts are ready to listen to your concerns, ready to move in case of a heart attack, and ready to act when you have stroke symptoms.

GREENE Memorial Hospital.
Kettering Health Network
ketteringhealth.org/greene

Watch

From page 1

to Watch. This redesignation of Bellbrook Middle School recognizes the continued dedication of your staff and leadership."

As a re-designated Ohio School to Watch, Bellbrook Middle School will be recognized by The Ohio Middle Level Association at its state conference Feb. 11-13 at the Kalahari Conference Center, in Sandusky and The National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform at the National Schools To Watch Conference June 24-27, 2015 in Washington, DC.

The visiting team consisted of Jen Bicknell, Donna Lauver,

Nicole Hindersman, Dan Barnum, John Vander Meer, Deb Tully. The team reported being "very impressed with the school."

Items in the report included: • SWD are performing well since there has been inclusion of the students in regular classes with some extra intervention. Reading 180 includes both students on IEPs and gen ed students that need intervention.

• The counselor's role is wide and focuses on activities that are student centered like overseeing the Eagle and peer tutoring.

• Writing across the content areas is a new initiative that is improving student writing skills as well as helping to learn the content in more depth.

• Scheduling is flexible and designed to allow adjustments to be made for the betterment of the students.

• Use of technology is exemplary – each eighth grader has a Chromebook; they are headed toward being paperless; Chromebooks are used in classes to support interactive activities.

One goal is to create more Flip classwork. The goal is for every student to have a Chromebook in the near future. One class has a 3-D printer and the students do projects using it.

• All students are exposed to STEM classes. The STEM classes observed were highly interactive and engaging for the students.

• Numerous times students mentioned how challenging classes

are and spoke about it in a positive way. They emphasized that teachers go above and beyond and are always available for extra help. Students are pushed to achieve, but it engages them in a way that makes them strive for the best. They have definitely created an atmosphere of learning.

• Discipline is not an issue. They have an average of 5 suspensions a year. Responsible behavior is emphasized school-wide. When incidences of bullying occur the students feel they have adults to support them and intervene, eliminating the problem.

• Their philosophy in the school is that no child will fail and is demonstrated through implementation of programs and policies to support student success.

Bridge

From page 1

bridge would begin in the spring.

In this project, Greene County will be preserving a piece of history. The bridge near Stevenson Road is classified as a Smith Truss Bridge, and according to Geyer, it's one of very few left in the country.

"I think it's important to save transportation history," he said.

Restoration of the Stevenson Road Bridge follows the restoration of the covered bridge on Engle Mill Road a year ago and precedes plans to restore the covered bridge on Ballard Road in 2017.

"Then the three old, existing covered bridges



Nathan Pilling | Greene County News

Restoration of the covered bridge near Stevenson Road is expected to begin in the spring.

in Greene County will be preserved and there for everybody's kids and grandkids to go see," Geyer said.

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

Turner

From page 1

Turner has dabbled in writing music, singing and playing the Autoharp. However, Clevenger said Turner's experience in the craft of pottery runs deeper.

"He's an amateur in music; he is a past master in ceramic art," Clevenger said. "What he doesn't know about it isn't worth knowing."

Turner's artistic abilities first came as he took an interest in drawing, courtesy of his older sister. But Turner soon discovered a greater artistic love.

"I wanted to make things," Turner said, "and so clay was my big love even when I was little, and (my sister would) bring me home colored clay to play (with)."

Turner was given the opportunity to work more substantially with clay while at Berea Foundation Academy, a school in Kentucky for kids from broken homes and the impoverished Appalachian region. When he was 15, Turner and his three siblings became orphans.

Turner attended high

school at Berea, and at age 16, he made his first pieces of pottery.

He said he would visit the "pot shop" to learn about how to pull the clay to make bowls and other pieces of Greek-and-Roman-design pottery. Turner's teacher was a 24-year-old ex-convict employed by the school, but lacking a high school education. Turner put some of his pottery up for sale in a shop in the mountain area, and the money he received from the sales went towards his tuition at Berea.

Though he didn't finish high school until later in life, Turner did a two-and-a-half year stint with the U.S. Peace Corps upon dropping out of Berea his senior year.

"It was a means of being able to take care of myself, because I had no place to go when school was out," he said.

Turner did pottery demonstrations as the group traveled. He said the Corps worked with the Appalachian people and the mountaineers to learn industry, as at the time, the only hope this people group had was to work in the coal mines or become a drunk.

"I'd do pottery demon-

strations on the wheel and show they could start an industry, and there was a lot of clay in the hills," Turner said.

He said today Berea is considered one of the largest craft towns in Kentucky.

"And that's kind of neat," Turner said. "Some of those mountaineers came down and started making stuff, and I don't know if I influenced them or not."

After the Peace Corps, Turner came to Ohio to be nearer to his sister. At age 25, he married his wife of now over 42 years.

Smith said Turner enrolled himself in local pottery classes so that he could keep learning the different techniques of the craft.

But after experimenting more with pottery, Turner moved on to sculpture, photography, music and poetry and songwriting.

"I graduated a bit from pottery because I got bored, and I decided to start doing different things," he said.

He's challenged himself to paint on leaves and feathers.

"I took my granddaughter for a walk and she was five years old I think," Turner said. "And she

started collecting leaves in the park and she brought them to me and she said, 'See, Poppy, God paints on leaves.' And I says, 'Sure he does, doesn't he?' because they were all different colors. So when I got home, I kept thinking, 'Well, I can paint on leaves. I can't make a leaf as good as God, but I can use what God gave me and paint on leaves.' So I started painting on leaves."

What's more, Turner gives away nearly all of his pieces of art, keeping just photos of them for his portfolio.

Clevenger said, "Cooley will give his art as gifts. He really, really, really considers this a part of himself, so he is giving you a part of himself."

Smith said this speaks to how generous her father is.

"Most of everything he makes he gives away, so there's that kind of generous spirit that he has, that like all of his friends or family have something in the house that he's made," she said, "so that's kind of special."

But while Turner's art experience is extensive,

he said he has plans to keep working with pottery, specifically that of an Asian design, which he loves exploring.

"I'm not done yet," Turner said. "I have some ideas. I just haven't been over to the pot shop because I haven't had time."

And he said he's thankful for the opportunities, artistic and other, he's had in life.

"It's been an enriched life that I've had," Turner said.

Anna Dembowski is a Cedarville University student and intern with Greene County News.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast				
Tue 12/30	Wed 12/31	Thu 1/1	Fri 1/2	Sat 1/3
38/26	32/19	24/17	35/24	34/31
Partly cloudy skies. High 38F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 30s and lows in the upper teens.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 20s and lows in the upper teens.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 30s and lows in the mid 20s.	Chance of a few snow showers. Highs in the mid 30s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise 7:55 AM Sunset 5:19 PM	Sunrise 7:56 AM Sunset 5:20 PM	Sunrise 7:56 AM Sunset 5:21 PM	Sunrise 7:56 AM Sunset 5:21 PM	Sunrise 7:56 AM Sunset 5:22 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	34	25	mst sunny	Columbus	39	25	pt sunny	Marion	35	24	mst sunny
Alliance	34	25	mst sunny	Coshocton	38	26	pt sunny	Mt. Vernon	36	26	pt sunny
Ashtabula	32	26	pt sunny	Defiance	35	23	sunny	New Philadelphia	38	25	pt sunny
Athens	41	27	pt sunny	Findlay	34	24	sunny	Newark	38	26	pt sunny
Bellefontaine	34	23	mst sunny	Fostoria	33	23	mst sunny	Portsmouth	41	27	cloudy
Bowling Green	34	23	mst sunny	Gallipolis	43	28	cloudy	Sandusky	32	25	mst sunny
Cambridge	38	26	pt sunny	Lancaster	40	27	pt sunny	Toledo	33	23	mst sunny
Chillicothe	39	26	pt sunny	Lima	37	27	mst sunny	Troy	37	24	mst sunny
Cincinnati	40	27	pt sunny	Mansfield	33	24	mst sunny	Xenia	38	26	pt sunny
Cleveland	33	27	mst sunny	Marietta	41	28	cloudy	Youngstown	35	25	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	61	45	pt sunny	Houston	58	47	mst sunny	Phoenix	58	38	sunny
Boston	40	24	pt sunny	Los Angeles	60	47	sunny	San Francisco	55	44	pt sunny
Chicago	30	19	cloudy	Miami	81	67	pt sunny	Seattle	40	26	pt sunny
Dallas	56	38	pt sunny	Minneapolis	12	-7	pt sunny	St. Louis	41	29	sunny
Denver	18	-4	sn shower	New York	43	31	pt sunny	Washington, DC	46	37	cloudy

Moon Phases



First Dec 28

UV Index

Tue 12/30	Wed 12/31	Thu 1/1	Fri 1/2	Sat 1/3
2	2	2	2	1
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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Alexander

From page 1

"To have the opportunity to train here at Wright State, to be educated here at Wright State, was probably one of the most profound decisions I made throughout the course of my career," Alexander said during his visit to Wright State. "During my study and time here, I was able to learn a lot about myself. More importantly, though, I was able to learn a lot about people."

Alexander started his policing career in 1977. After receiving his doctorate in psychology from Wright State — where he did his dissertation on police stress and burn-out — he went on to the University of Rochester Medical Center, doing clinical work and serving on the faculty. He later served as federal security director for the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

Alexander became a key peacemaker in Ferguson, which was rocked with civil unrest after an African-American teenager was shot and killed by a white police officer. Alexander traveled to Ferguson on Aug. 16 and spent two days there, meeting with community leaders and Ferguson Police Chief Thomas Jackson.

Alexander said com-

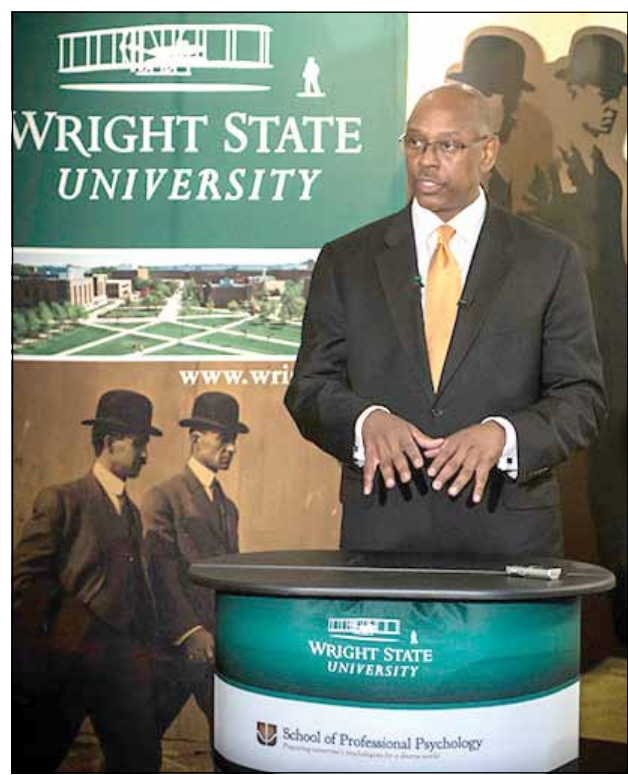


Photo courtesy of WSU

Cedric Alexander, a 1997 graduate of Wright State's School of Professional Psychology, was selected by President Obama to serve on a White House task force to study ways to improve community policing.

munities and their police departments must support each other to have good public safety.

"I am very optimistic that in light of all of the negative images that we've witnessed over the last couple of weeks, I truly believe quite frankly that those present opportunities for this community to grow and for the police department to grow and for us as a nation to grow," he said.

Obama signed an executive order creating the White House task force on Dec. 22.

The panel will engage

with federal, state, tribal and local officials; technical advisers; young leaders; and nongovernmental organizations to provide a transparent process to engage with the public.

It will also hold listening sessions to hear testimony and recommendations from invited witnesses and the public. The first session will be held in Washington, D.C., in mid-January. The task force's initial report and recommendations will be presented to the president in March.

Story by Jim Hannah, Wright State University.

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