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# XENIA DAILY GAZETTE

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Friday, May 8, 2015 • \$1

## Wilberforce University graduation set for Sunday

By Anna Dembowski  
For Greene County News

WILBERFORCE — Wilberforce University will graduate 132 students 10 a.m. May 10 in the University Alumni Multiplex. The commencement ceremony will celebrate Wilberforce's dedicated students, Vice President of Institutional Advancement Jeff Sellers said. "We have some dedicated students that have seen their way through some turbulent times at the university, and this is going to be their celebration," he said. "We have students that are graduating across the curriculum, and we're very proud of our students that they've stuck with the university and will now be receiving their degrees."

Students from 22 states and one foreign country — Nigeria — will be receiving bachelor and master's degrees. And four of those students are Greene County residents.

Seven students from the graduating class

will receive master's degrees, 43 students will receive bachelor of arts degrees and 82 students will receive bachelor of science degrees.

Harvard Professor and 1958 Wilberforce Alumnus William Julius Wilson will speak at commencement and receive an honorary doctorate from the university.

Sellers said Wilson is an expert on race and economics in the U.S. and is one of the university's most accomplished alums.

Eleven other individuals will also receive honorary doctorates, according to the university's commencement press release:

- Dr. Jamal Bryant, noted AME pastor and community activist
- Dr. Thelma B. Thompson, noted educator and innovator
- Dr. Mabel P. Phifer, founder of The Black College Satellite Network
- Dr. James Ammons, former presi-

See GRADUATION | 8



Scott Halasz | Greene County News

The former Perkins restaurant, vacant for nearly two years, is being torn down and will be replaced by an O'Reilly Auto Parts store later this summer.

## O'Reilly Auto Parts coming

Greene County News Report

XENIA — O'Reilly Auto Parts is coming to Xenia.

The Missouri-based business will be located where the former Perkins restaurant was on South Allison Avenue west of downtown. Demolition of the building, which was built in 1985, began this week and O'Reilly will be opening near the end of summer, according to company officials.

Perkins went out of business in mid-2013 and the property was purchased by O'Reilly Auto Enterprises, LLC on June 20, 2014 for \$475,000



according to county records. "We sure are looking forward to opening a store there," said Mark

Merz, O'Reilly spokesman. Once it's complete, O'Reilly will be the fourth major auto parts chain in

Xenia, joining Advance Auto Parts, AutoZone and NAPA.

Greene County News report compiled by Scott Halasz.

### IN BRIEF

#### Water-boil advisory lifted

BEAVERCREEK — The Greene County Sanitary Engineering Department has lifted a water-boil advisory issued Tuesday for houses on Homeway and Southfield Drives in Beavercreek. The advisory was originally issued due to a drop in water pressure because of a broken water main. Those with questions should call 937-562-7450.

### OBITUARIES

- Winfred Robbins, 82, Fairborn
- Goldie M. Taylor Crawford, Yellow Springs
- William Teti, 78, Fairborn
- David W. Shawhan, 68, Xenia
- Roger G. Johnston, 81, Lewis Center
- Diana M. Barker, 68, Medway
- Karla Dale Anderson, 64, Fairborn
- Clyde B. Blanton, 75, Fairborn

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JOIN THE CONVERSATION

What's your take on today's news? Go to [xeniagazette.com](http://xeniagazette.com) and visit us on Facebook to share your thoughts.



## Merriman retires from Xenia Police

Greene County News Report

XENIA — Gerald Merriman retired from the Xenia Police Division after making his last run April 30.

Merriman, a graduate of Xenia High School, is a 28-year veteran of the police force, beginning his career as a police officer with the XPD on April 6, 1987. Merriman accepted many assign-



Merriman

ments during his career, serving as detective with the Criminal Investigation Section, member of the Special Events Team, the first Perimeter team member and team sniper, Property Room manager, and bicycle patrol officer. "Officer Merriman will be missed by everyone

in the Police Division," Chief Randy Person said. "Jerry exemplifies the servant leader that is the heart and soul of the philosophy of service that the Xenia Police Division feels our community deserves. Officer Merriman's integrity, quiet demeanor, work ethic, and dedication to

our community have been a guiding example to his peers and the younger officers he has helped train over the years."

In August 1983, Merriman earned an associate's degree in law enforcement from Sinclair Community College then successfully completed the Ohio Peace Officer

See MERRIMAN | 8

## Police chase ends in two crashes, arrest

Greene County News Report

BEAVERCREEK — A Dayton man was arrested Thursday after a high-speed chase on Interstate 675 resulted in two crashes.

David Jashawn Gullatte, 28, was taken to Fairborn City Jail and charged with speeding,

failure to comply, hit/skip, violating traffic control devices and driving under suspension.

According to a release from Beavercreek police, an officer running stationary laser on I-675 south near



Gullatte

U.S. 35 captured Gullatte driving 86 mph in a 65 mph zone. The officer pulled out to stop Gullatte but did not catch up to him until Gullatte was observed exiting the highway at Indian Ripple Road, where he

allegedly struck two vehicles as he attempted to re-enter the highway.

As the officer continued back onto the highway, dispatch received two calls from drivers whose vehicles were struck by the truck as it

See CHASE | 8

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# Caesar Creek Lake Marina Project on schedule

By Larry S. Moore  
Moore Outdoors

One of the most discussed items for fishermen and boaters this spring has been the Caesar Creek marina project. The lake levels were lowered to thirteen-feet below the normal winter pool to allow construction work in the lake for the marina. The plan called for the lake valves to be closed by the end of April. The work was completed slightly ahead of schedule and the valve closed on April 25.

The lake levels can be found online at the US Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District (<http://lrl-apps.lrl.usace.army.mil/wc/reports/lkreport.html>). I found the Caesar Creek level just under eleven-feet below the normal summer pool on the May 4, 2015 report. It appears the lake has risen about two-feet in little over a week. While the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) plan project the lake to be full by the busy Memorial Day boating weekend, that is totally dependent on the amount of rainfall in May. If rainfall remains light boating will be impacted. Currently the best boat ramp to use for launching is the southern Wellman Boat Ramp.

Talking with fishermen around the lake a number of other questions about the project were discussed. I contacted Phil Miller, Deputy Chief Capital Improvements Administrator ODNR, Ohio State Parks and Preserves, to get the latest project status.

Phase 1 of the marina project will be completed in time for the opening of the 2016 boating season. Phase 1 includes the



ABOVE, last week the boat ramp at the campground was not accessible. While the water appears only slightly past the dock, with the area of the lake to fill it may be some time before the launch ramp can be used. RIGHT, a view of the marina construction in the lake bed with the State Route 72 bridge in the background.

Photos by Larry Moore

north marina area which is the boat docks, floating wave attenuator and fishing pier and personal watercraft docks. The total docks for Phase 1 is 120 slips. The public should be able to reserve dock slips sometime in late 2015. That information will be on the ODNR website. The plans show the marina building as included in Phase 1. This includes the harbormaster which houses the



restrooms, concession area, showers and laundry facility. Other services include the gas dock and the pump out station for boats that have operational heads. There will be parking area added for the north marina. There should be no additional lake level impacts for the

remaining marina construction.

The next major step is to develop a private partnership for the marina operations. The request for proposal should be released this summer. It will be available on the ODNR website. One of the frequently asked

questions about the project is will there be alcohol available at the marina? Mr. Miller advised, "The state may allow the operator to serve alcohol in approved designated areas. The local operator will be responsible for obtaining any licensure associated with serving

alcohol."

Many fishermen seem to think the marina is not needed. Fishermen and recreational boaters have, for many years, become accustomed to having a full tank of fuel and necessary supplies before launching at the lake. How many of the typical fishermen or the day boaters will use the marina remains to be seen. Certainly the 120 slips will add flexibility for those boaters who do not wish to trailer their boat to the lake. There are often long lines at the launch ramp on busy weekends. Impaired boat operators, just as with automobile drivers, concern me. However beer has been available for many years at several gas stations and quick stops in the lake region. Whether you are reading the marina for possible additional boat traffic or anxiously awaiting the convenience, the development is on schedule.

## Cowan Lake 10-HP Limit Petition

My last article addressed the situation at Cowan Lake with the ODNR dropping the proposal to remove the 10-HP limit and replace it with a idle no wake rule for larger motors. Since then organizers have started a petition initiative to ask ODNR to lift the restriction.

The no wake idle rule has worked well at Knox Lake, Burr Oak Lake and Acton Lake. There is no reason it will not be just as safe and effective at Cowan Lake. Anyone wishing to sign the petition can find it online at [www.cowan2015.epetitions.net](http://www.cowan2015.epetitions.net) or on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cowanidleonly>

## LOCAL CENTRAL STATE GRADUATES

Greene County News Report

XENIA — Central State University announced a list of Greene County residents that will receive degrees at Saturday's commencement:

**Xenia**  
Augustus M. Adeg-

boruwa - business administration; Matthew O. Adegboruwa - business administration; Cody W. Brannum - mathematics; Tyra D. Brown - business administration; Ciera F. Ciers - accounting; Frank J. Clardy - social work; Reginald T. Conway - multi-age education;

Waltarious J. Dudley - recreation; Natasha F. Erkins - business administration; Cary L. Fultz - recreation; Courtney C. Gee - recreation; Carol R. Igress - psychology; Ivanski Justin T. - computer science; Chandace C. Lesure - intervention specialist; Austin E. Moses -

business administration; Justin J. Norman - intervention specialist; Anthony M. Roberts - business administration; Frederick M. Robertson - broadcast media; Marissa A. Sims - early childhood education and Damonique L. Watkins - business administration.

**Jamestown**  
Dustin J. Bryan - business administration and Jeanna M. Miller - early childhood education.  
**Beavercreek**  
Monique T. Foster - business administration; Evelyn M. Gordon - administrative special

higher education and Gabriel A. LeCaros - history.  
**Fairborn**  
Brandon C. Mooty - psychology and Jamall L. Porche - manufacturing engineering.  
Greene County News report compiled by Merrilee Embs.

## Chase

From page 1

crossed Indian Ripple. The Officer tried to catch up to Gullatte but did not get his vehicle into sight until he was observed swerving onto

the exit ramp to Wilmington Pike. Gullatte was then observed striking vehicles in the intersection, according to police. As the Officer approached the intersection, Gullatte exited the truck on foot and ran north on Wilmington Pike, surrendering when he saw the officer

right behind in a cruiser. One driver was transported to the hospital by Washington Township medics with non-life threatening injuries. There were no injuries in the crashes on Indian Ripple Road.

Greene County News report compiled by Scott Halasz.

## Merriman

From page 1

Basic Training Program in May 1984. Merriman received many commendations recognizing his professional conduct and performance throughout

his career. In February 2005 he was presented with the F.O.P.A. Officer of the Year Award at the F.O.P.A.'s annual awards banquet and received a certificate of recognition from the Chicago Police Department for his work and assistance with a suspect wanted for mur-

der. In 2007, the Ohio House of Representatives presented Merriman with the Neighborhood Beautification Award for exemplifying excellence in his profession and dedication to his community.  
Greene County News report compiled by Scott Halasz.

## Graduation

From page 1

dent of FAMU and consultant  
• Mr. Gerald Frederick Poe, aviation and business pioneer, decorated veteran  
• The Honorable Mar-

sha J. Bayless, mayor of Xenia, priceless friend to Wilberforce University  
• Mr. Allen J. Singleton, friend to higher education, philanthropist  
• Colonel William R. Lee, (Ret.), former chairman Wilberforce Board of Trustees, decorated veteran  
• Mr. Trent Cole, Xenia

High School graduate, current NFL linebacker  
• Mr. Edward Lewis, co-founder "Essence" magazine, author  
• Rear Admiral Larry L. Poe, USN (Ret.), distinguished intelligence officer, US Navy, decorated veteran  
A baccalaureate program will be held 5 p.m.

May 9, featuring Jamal Bryant as the event's speaker.  
Wilberforce University President Algeania Freeman said the graduating students have been leaders on the campus.  
"This class I think has done an exceptional job as student leaders," Freeman said. "They worked

to help create a transformation at Wilberforce, and they are truly stellar leaders, and I believe that they will help to make our world a better place."  
Local students graduating from Wilberforce include: Fairborn - Ronald J. Hightower, rehabilitation counseling and Tyesha A. Johnson,

rehabilitation counseling bot of Fairborn will receive masters of science degrees. Marlon Lucias McDowell, organizational management of Xenia and Nicole Ronée Nutter, information technology of Beavercreek will receive a bachelor of science.  
Anna Dembowski is a freelance writer with Greene County News.

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