

**YELLOW SPRINGS CHAMBER CHAT**

**YELLOW SPRINGS** — The Yellow Springs Chamber Chat will be held from 9-10 a.m. Thursday, May 16 at the Bryan Center, rooms A and B, 100 Dayton St. *Page 2A*

**Reds vs. Marlins, Page 14A**



# XENIA DAILY GAZETTE

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



## How To Kill DANDELIONS

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### Cedarville bookstore to close its doors

By **ZACH ANDERSON**  
Special Correspondent  
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**CEDARVILLE** — Sherman Mackereth has run The Christian Nook book and variety store for 12 years and he hasn't worked a day in his life.

"I play all day long," Mackereth said. "I've never had a job that was work to me. I refuse to have a job that's work to me."

At the end of May, Mackereth's work with The Christian Nook, which sells used Christian books and other miscellaneous items, will come to an end. The shop's last day is May 25. Mackereth says the shop's not doing well and because of the upcoming costs of paying for Obamacare, he says he can't afford both health care and the store.

"Then, the other reason: my children are the only reason I live here in Cedarville," Mackereth said. "And they're going to be moving in a couple of years anyways, so I

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The Christian Nook sells used Christian books. Owner Sherman Mackereth says he has sold a partial set of John Calvin's commentaries that dated back to the 1800s. He doesn't only sell Christian books. He says one of the most unique or interesting books he has sold is a Shakespeare book that he believes was from 1816.

Gazette photos by Zach Anderson

### Furlough to affect more than base employees

By **AMANDA CROWE**  
Fairborn Editor  
acrowe@fairborndailyherald.com

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE** — The 13,000 civilian employees at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base are expected to receive furlough notices around June 5 to allow for implementation on July 8.

Secretary of Defense Chuck Nagel announced a time-line for civilian furloughs Tuesday, reducing the number of days off from 14 to 11. Furlough days will begin July 8 and will be for one day a week.

"This is good news for our civilian employees here at Wright-Patterson AFB. It is unfortunate that we must do furloughs, but it is an improvement that DoD was able to reduce the number to 11 from the original 22," 88th Air Base Wing and Installation Commander Col. Cassie Barlow said Tuesday.

The DOD notified Congress in February that it planned to furlough civilian workers for up to 22 days by the end of the fiscal

See **FURLOUGH**, Page 2A ➤

## Celebrate the military with uncontrollable laughter

By **JESSICA GRAUE**  
Assistant Managing Editor  
jgrau@cvitasmedia.com

**BEAVERCREEK** — With Armed Forces Day coming up this weekend and Memorial Day in a few weeks, what better way to honor our country's military than to put them on stage and laugh uncontrollably at them.

This is what the Dayton Funny Bone plans to do, among other

hilarious events. The club will show its appreciation by hosting Military May. This is the first year the club has decided to honor the military by dedicating an entire month to raising awareness and money for military-centered groups and charities.

One military-inspired show is the Support the Troops Open Mic Night 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 22. Any active duty or retired service member will have a chance to get on

stage. The only requirement will be that they have at least five people call the box office at 937-429-5233, make reservations under the service member's name and come out to the show. They will receive complimentary admission by saying the name of the person they are supporting.

"We have never done an open mic night specifically for the military. We have done benefits for the military and other causes," said Dayton

Funny Bone Marketing Manager Rhenda Snyder. "We have been working with Wright-Patt to show our troops more support and we decided to make this month Military May to show them some extra support just like we do with our charities."

A comedy workshop will be held Sunday, May 19 from 2-4 p.m. at the club. Those wishing to participate in the show are highly encour-

aged to attend this workshop. The workshop helps the potential comedians write jokes and get ready for their performance.

Dan Dean of South Charleston has been in the military for 15 years as a marine and as a member of the Army National Guard. However, for the last two years, he has taken up comedy. After attending an open

See **MILITARY**, Page 2A ➤

### The Caring Place needs some TLC

By **DEBRA GASKILL**  
Special Correspondent  
editor@xeniagazette.com

**XENIA** — For the last 22 years, the needy, the elderly and the just plain lonely could gather at The Caring Place for a free meal.

Housed at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 287 W. Main St., The Caring Place feeds about approximately 100 people each Thursday night from 6-7 p.m.

Those who attend "always leave with a smile on their face," said former Mayor John Saraga. "We don't judge. We just try our best to provide a good meal. That's what this is about."

Now the place where so many have turned to for help needs a little help itself.

Saraga, who works with The Caring Place committee, says The Caring Place is seeking volunteers,

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Gazette photos by Jordan C. Terrell

### AAA keeping cars, kids safe

Above: AAA will conduct free 36-point car-care maintenance inspections and child passenger safety seat inspections on Wednesday at the AAA Tire & Auto Center, 3872 Kemp Road in Beavercreek. These events are free and appointments are not required and AAA membership is not required to participate. Another events will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 21 at The Greene in the parking lot near Mimi's. Top left: Tammy Baker shows Alicia Cormier the proper way to buckle her 1-week-old baby Drew. Bottom left: Charlie Cormier, age 2, helps demonstrate proper carseat installation with parents Alicia and Ben Cormier.



**St. Brigid Community Festival**  
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**Social media seminar**

**FAIRBORN** — Business owners and managers can get up to date with a review of the legal impact of social media in the workplace during a one-hour session to be held from 12-1 p.m. Monday, May 20, at the Hope Hotel, hosted by the Greene County Chambers of Commerce.

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce is providing Attorney Todd Sarver as the speaker who will cover the hiring process, employee monitoring, employee (mis)conduct and termination, protected employee on-line activities along with best practices and policy considerations for employers.

A \$7 registration fee covers the seminar and lunch! RSVP to the Fairborn Chamber Office at 937-878-3191 or email chamber@fairborn.com. May 17 is the deadline to register.

*YS Chamber Chat set*

**YELLOW SPRINGS** — The Yellow Springs Chamber Chat will be held from 9-10 a.m. Thursday, May 16 at the Bryan Center, rooms A and B, 100 Dayton St. The following officials will be on hand to make presentations and answer questions about zoning, building and fire codes for businesses in Yellow Springs: Yellow Springs Zoning Administrator Stephen Anderson, Greene County Building Department Al Kuzma, and Miami Township Fire Chief Colin Altman. Greene County Department of Development Pete Williams will also discuss their role in expediting the permitting process.

These codes apply to almost every business, large or small whether operating out of a small storefront, large office or a house. This meeting will provide valuable information to understand each process and how the departments work together to provide an important service for your business and the community.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Karen Wintrow at 937-767-2686 or email kwintrow@yschamber.org.



Gazette photo by Debra Gaskill

Former Xenia Mayor John Saraga stands in the basement kitchen of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 287 W. Main St., where every Thursday. The Caring Place hosts a free meal for anyone who wants it. The Caring Place is in need of donations and volunteers to keep the program going.

► **Military** continued from 1A

mic with a fellow service member, Dean decided to jump on stage.

"I was inspired by her (service member) and I thought that I can do that too. It's always something I've been interested in and I love making people laugh. Once I started, there was no looking back," Dean said.

Dean has traveled all over the United States and the world. He has been from Japan to Greece, as well as Iraq and Kuwait. He said that these experiences help to shape his routine.

"I focus on everyday events. I've seen a lot of things and been to a lot of places. I talk about raising my kids and relationships. There are also jokes about being in the military as well," he said.

Dean believes the Military May events are a great way to show your service members that "you've got their back."

"It's great, just the support. It's good to feel you are appreciated. It's a camaraderie thing as well. You get together with others that have been in similar situations. We like to support each other. They [Funny Bone] is helping a lot of great military projects and charities and it's fantastic," he said.

The Dayton Funny Bone will also be accepting donations to send to deployed service members in exchange for free admission for any non-special engagement show (excluding Saturdays) through Dec. 30. Comedians who perform at the club sometimes donate a CD or DVD to send over to deployed troops so they can get a much-needed laugh.

"Each month we chose a local charity to support. We find as many ways to show them support that brings awareness to their cause and the best ways we can raise the most funds. We do this with our drink specials, and we give special tickets for a donation. We sell

items such as make a wish stars or something similar," Snyder said.

The club will be accepting suggestions for a "fun and clean" idea for new Support the Troops T-shirts. These shirts will be sold through Moral, Welfare and Recreation program (MWR) and at the Funny Bone to help raise money for MWR programs for each branch of service.

There will be a contest box at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base that will give service members a chance to win dinner and show tickets (for two people) to an upcoming show. If any service members would be interested in getting a box for his or her branch, please contact rhenda@daytonfunnybone.com.

The club also shows support for the military throughout the year with Military Thursday Shows that are held every week. On this day, there is \$5 admission (special engagement shows excluded) for anyone who makes reservations (at least one day before the show) and has a military ID. This discounted ticket price is good for active duty service members as well as their dependents.

There will be a family show in Military May on June 1 at 1 p.m. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m. This will be a fun family-oriented comedy/magic show headlined by local Matthew David Stanley. The kitchen will be open and general admission seating is available for only \$5.

"The ultimate goal of Military May is to raise funds for our charities including the Wounded Warriors Project as well as bring all the branches together and give them the gift of laughter. We also want to make all branches aware of all the ways we are trying to show them support," Snyder said.

For details or to make reservations for any of the Military May events, please visit the club's website at www.daytonfunnybone.com.

► **Place** continued from 1A

food or cash to help the program continue.

"We have partnered with so many area churches and area organizations — a whole bunch of great people," he said. "But our budget, like everybody else, is tough and tight."

Churches such as St. Brigid, Xenia Nazarene and others, along with organizations like Rotary and Altrusa have helped The Caring Place over the years, Saraga said. Tudor's Biscuit World donated the food for last week's meal.

He also wants to let those in the community who aren't aware of The Caring Place, know they are welcome to come on Thursday nights as well.

The Caring Place volunteers help serve food to those at the meal. Eight volunteers are needed per night to help serve, Saraga said. Youth from Greene County Juvenile Court come set up the tables for community service.

The church basement is where the food is prepared and served from a kitchen that has four ovens, two fridges, a dishwasher and pantry.

There are 12 dates that need volunteers to help through 2013.

"It's neighbor helping neighbor," Saraga said. "That's what this is about."

If you would like to volunteer or donate to The Caring Place, please contact First Lutheran's Church office at 937-372-7421.

► **Furlough** continued from 1A

year on Sept. 30. In March, that number was reduced to 14. These furloughs come as a result of the nearly \$40 billion in automatic 2013 defense budget cuts known as sequestration.

The 13,000 civilian employees that make up approximately 60 percent of the workforce at Wright-Patt are facing a salary reduction 20 percent over the 11-week period. Fewer than 100 employees at WPAFB, including medics and firefighters, will be exempted from the furloughs.

"These have always been a measure of last resort as indicated by the reduction in the number of furloughs. As we move forward, we will continue to offer every assistance to our employees through community

and information fairs," said Barlow.

The base commander says the furlough will create a loss of \$55 million for the local economy as well. Residents, business owners and restaurants in Fairborn believe 11 furlough days will still have an impact on their finances.

"I was a little dissatisfied with the whole thing," said Sharmayne Thrower, who just retired from Wright-Patt. "I think there are a lot of people who are having trouble making it right now with the economy the way it is."

Tickets Pub and Eatery in downtown Fairborn believes it too will be impacted.

"It's really sad that they have to go through this," said Cheryl Abbitt, who works at Tickets.

► **Book** continued from 1A

thought this was a good time to get out."

In preparing to close the shop, Mackereth is offering 75 percent off everything in the shop. According to Mackereth, if people had come in to the shop before the sale like they have since, he wouldn't have to worry about money.

"But unfortunately, Cedarville is not the place I thought it would be for selling good, sound Christian books which is sad," he said.

Mackereth said he has had some regulars, although he says most of them are from out of town.

"In fact, because of the regulars I've had, I've given them even a more special deal than the 75 percent off," he says.

Mackereth came to Cedarville 12 years ago from Ithaca, N.Y., because of family in the area. In New York, Mackereth says he had operated a Christian bookstore out of the basement of his home. Also, when he moved to New York City as a tentmaker Christian missionary — a missionary that supports himself — he vendored books on the streets for a year.

"I've had a little bit of experience and have seriously researched Christian bookstores and stuff," Mackereth said. "So I knew what I was getting into."

Mackereth says he opened The Christian Nook a month after he moved to the village.

"I had to get this building in shape," he said of the little white and red brick shop on Main Street in downtown Cedarville. "It was a mess. It was a woodshop in the back and a quilt shop in the front. It took me the whole month just to get all the wood dust out of here."

The floor and ceiling also needed work, and Mackereth painted part of the bricks outside.

"I don't believe in painting bricks, but it was already painted, and so I painted it a little nicer color than it was," he says.

What Mackereth will miss about running the bookstore is just that: running the bookstore. "Being here," Mackereth said, "Enjoying the people that do come in and enjoying putting the books on the shelves and listing them on the computer and all that is involved in running a bookstore."

Though Mackereth may not be running The Christian Nook after May 25, he's not done working.

"I'm moving to Bradenton, Fla., where I'll live in a Christian village and I plan on getting a job," he said.

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