

**TODAY'S FORECAST**



Cloudy  
High of 77°  
Weather, 19A

**FRIDAY**

July 17, 2009

Vol 2 No 240



**NOTEWORTHY**

**New Student Orientation**

New Student Orientation (NSO) is a full-day event which is the beginning of your life at Central State University. The orientation will take place July 17. The day will begin at 8:30 a.m. with registration and end at 4 p.m. NSO is important to a successful transition to college. Register for fall classes, secure housing and meet other students. Take care of the fees and tuition process without standing in long lines. Parents will also have the opportunity to learn more about Central State University. Campus housing and classes are filling up fast, so don't delay!

To suggest a Noteworthy candidate, email [editor@greencountydailies.com](mailto:editor@greencountydailies.com)

**INDEX**

- Beavercreek/Bellbrook.....7A
- Business.....8A
- Classifieds.....15A-18A
- Comics.....13A
- Lifestyle.....10A-11A
- Lottery.....4A
- Movies/TV.....14A
- Opinion.....5A
- Record.....6A
- Outdoor.....6B
- Sports.....3B-5B
- State/Nation/World.....9A
- Weather.....19A

**DEATHS**

- Patricia A. Pierson, 79, Xenia
- Florence M. Turner, 96, Xenia
- Otto Albert Zink, Jr., 91, Fairborn

Page 6A >

**50 Years Ago** in  
Greene County

July 17, 1959

# GAZETTE NEWS-CURRENT

Big Picture, Local Focus.



## CHAOS IN THE PARK

Benefit set for television legend Dr. Creep Saturday in Springfield. Xenians Reverend Tommy Gunn, Mr. Unstable and other bands to perform.

Page 4A >

XENIA ■ BEAVERCREEK ■ JAMESTOWN ■ CEDARVILLE ■ YELLOW SPRINGS ■ SPRING VALLEY ■ BELLBROOK ■ WILBERFORCE

## USA WEEKEND

Sports heroes and Hollywood can't get enough of each other.

INSIDE >



## DONE DEAL

Columnist Bob Robinson has questions about state budget.

OPINION, Page 5A >



## NEW DAY AND LOOK

To help buyers and sellers our Real Estate section will run Fridays.

REAL ESTATE, Page 1B-2B, 7B-8B >



Charles Caperton/Greene County Dailies

Phyllis Pennewitt, Mayor of Xenia, announced that she will not run for re-election. The announcement was made at the Xenia Area Community Theater.

# Pennewitt not running for re-election

To date, three candidates have filed papers to run for mayor

By AARON KEITH HARRIS  
Staff Writer  
[aharris@xeniagazette.com](mailto:aharris@xeniagazette.com)

XENIA — Xenia Mayor Phyllis Pennewitt will not seek re-election for a second four-year term, she announced Thursday afternoon.

"I have a health problem and I felt it necessary to share that with the citizens," said Pennewitt, who said she has hypertension, but that it is "under control."

She said she wished to make the public announcement because people had begun to ask her why she hadn't filed to run for re-election as the Aug. 5 deadline approached.

Pennewitt, who has attended more than 1,200 public meetings in her four years as mayor and six years on city council, credited her husband Don and the citizens of

See Mayor, Page 2A >

Part II in a series

# EPA: Studies wouldn't likely get settlement

By BRANDON SMITH

BEAVERCREEK — Studies could be done, said Tim Fischer, site manager of Lammers Barrel Factory for U.S. EPA. But they aren't likely to link local illness to pollutants at the site — at

least conclusively enough for a court, he said.

In fact, in his many years with U.S. EPA, Fischer said he hasn't heard of any cases where pollution has been linked to health problems in court — even regarding Superfund sites, the

most toxic sites in the U.S.

Superfund sites are so named because of the "super"-sized trust fund Congress appropriated to clean them up in the early 1980s. Lammers is one of these sites.

"It's very difficult to tie it

back to the site. Occasionally you can find a direct correlation but it's very rare," Fischer said, because people tend to move to and from different areas every few years. Also, causes of illness are simply hard to pin down, he said. Countless behavior patterns

need to be analyzed to make a connection.

How could a study get done? Fischer said that "in most cases ... communities [themselves] go to the health agencies

See Site, Page 2A >



Brandon Smith for BNC

An old truck axle found on the Lammers Barrel factory site. A truck missing a grounding chain was determined to have caused the fire that destroyed the factory.

# Site

Continued from Page 1A

or to elected officials” to voice a concern about concentrated health issues. Apparently the Woodhaven community has not formally requested a study yet.

Kessler is on the brink of doing just that, but he may have to first explain the nearby pollution to his neighborhood.

## A community in the dark?

An afternoon walk around the Woodhaven subdivision — and conversations with about 10 residents of streets nearest the pollution — revealed that many people nearby had not heard of the Lammers site. Most residents this reporter spoke with were not familiar with the site or its pollution of nearby groundwater.

The EPA’s so-called community involvement panel has not been contacted by EPA in at least three years, said Kessler. The EPA’s “Information Repository,” kept about a mile from the site at the Beaver Creek Community Library, has not been updated since mid-2006. And EPA’s website on the Lammers pollution features a November 2006 update as its latest.

Fischer said that EPA plans to host public meetings about the site in Beaver Creek this fall.

## Pace of cleanup and responsible parties

Whether the pollution has

had any effect on public health may never be known, because of the lack of illness studies. But the pollution itself remains, and likely will for some time to come.

Fischer says that the average Superfund site takes about 10 years to clean up, from the initial addition to the Superfund list to the end of cleanup work. Lammers was suggested as a possible list addition in 2001, and was added in 2003. EPA has known about Lammers since around 1985.

“It’s fair to say this [site] has taken longer than usual” to get its cleanup process going, said Fischer. “In this case, there was a lot of front-end work” involved to determine the responsible parties, said another EPA spokesman.

EPA offers incentives for cleanup to occur in a timely fashion, said Fischer, but Lammers is considered a “longer-term project.” With those, he said, “speed is relative.”

Luckily the community won’t get stuck with the bill. In cases of pollution involving Superfund sites, any person or company that generated, transported, stored or disposed of toxic waste at the site can be held legally (and monetarily) responsible. That includes paying for research on the pollution, the cleanup itself, and often times reimbursement of EPA for its oversight of the whole operation, as is the case

at Lammers Barrel.

According to EPA documents, responsible parties include the following companies and people: Alcoa Inc., Borden Inc., BP Products North America Inc., Chemcentral Corp., Copeland Corp., DaimlerChrysler Corp., Ford Motor Co., General Electric Co., General Motors Corp., Goodyear Tire & Rubber, International Truck and Engine Corp., Lamson & Sessions, United Technologies Corp., Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co., PPG Industries, ArvinMeritor Inc., Sherwin Williams Co., Sunoco Inc. and Anthony Kohlen.

In a later report, several more entities were listed: Monsanto, Specialty Papers Company, Aluminum Company of America, and Virginia Lammers.

Anthony Kohlen was co-owner of Kohlen and Lammers Chemical Company, and is still alive according to Dayton obituary records. An Ohio EPA official and the site’s current owner say Mr. Kohlen resides in a nursing home. Paul Lammers was the other co-owner, and likely had died before 2001 because his next-of-kin, Virginia Lammers, was named in a legal settlement in that year. Virginia Lammers died in 2006 according to obituary records.

**Next week: Current owner innocent victim, she says.**