

C LOCAL & STATE

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MILITARY

Work backing up at Wright-Patt

Civilian worker furloughs cited.

Base leaders say backlogs will take weeks to clear out.

By **Barrie Barber**
Staff Writer

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE – Wright-Patterson could take weeks to months to catch-up on a work

backlog caused by the furloughs of thousands of civilian workers, and base leaders have started planning for the potential of a furlough again, the base commander said Wednesday.

“We don’t know what’s going to happen next year, that’s the concern,” said Col. Cassie B. Barlow, 88th Air Base Wing commander. “There’s a lot of uncertainty in general about sequestration and about the budget. ... It would be absolutely devastating to go

through another furlough.”

The Pentagon announced Tuesday 11-day furloughs for about 650,000 civil service workers, including 10,000 at Wright-Patterson, would be shortened to six days because the Pentagon found additional savings and Congress approved a request to reprogram where money is spent. The furloughs were ordered because of a mid-year cut to the Department of Defense budget of \$37 billion, a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Putting the army of civilian workers back to work at the base was welcome news, Barlow said.

“We’re happy about getting them back and getting their time back,” she said. The after effects of the work backlog in offices throughout the sprawling base will linger, though. For example, Barlow said, a civil engineering work order that once took a week now could take as many as four weeks.

“Once you ramp down, it

takes a little while to ramp up again,” she said. “We’ll be getting our noses back to the grindstone in terms of getting back to where we should be in terms of the amount of work we weren’t able to do.”

The base has put “heart and brain” priorities from flight line operations, force protection to firefighting and emergency response at the forefront, she said.

“We’re trying our best to

Backlog continued on C2



Darryl Bauer
WHIO Radio

Running event to also fight cancer

It might be hard to imagine being happy running 13.1 miles. Around 150 people will spend at least part of this Saturday doing just that, during the Second Annual Happy Half Trainer’s Half Marathon.

“The 2012 Happy Half was such a success, we are so excited to continue helping distance runners prepare for personal bests in the fall,” said Race Director Alex Loehrer. “Greater Springfield has great running courses and is a prime location to begin training for the fall marathon season.”

Loehrer stresses another reason for the event is to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

He points out in 2011, a group of local people were training for the Columbus Marathon to raise money for Mike Maloney, who was battling cancer. Maloney died in August of that year, and the Happy Half was started in his honor.

Loehrer says runners like the date of the Happy Half and its course, which starts at Springfield High School, and runs through historic Springfield to Yellow Springs, following the Simon Kenton and Little Miami Scenic Trails. He adds the course is flat, smooth and slightly downhill, combining both city and rural surroundings.

This year, finishers receive medals that are unique, hand-made glass sculptures created by local glass artist Doug Frates, who is a cancer survivor.

“He calls it an ornament,” Loehrer said, “and those who have seen it really like it.”

Loehrer also said the event stresses safety, with medical staff on-site, flaggers at intersections, signs and spotters on the course and 10 water stations, where “Gu,” a power gel nutritional supplement, also will be distributed. Shuttle service for the runners will be provided by United Senior Services between 9 a.m. and noon.

They’re still welcoming runners, volunteers and spectators “to cheer on the runners.” More information is available at HappyHalfMarathon.com and Facebook.com/HappyHalfMarathon.

Family and Children Services of Clark County holds its Fifth Annual “Summer Sky” event, Aug. 17.

Deputy Director Pam Meerams says the goals are “recruiting foster parents and to host a fun day to recognize families.”

Happy Half continued on C4

MILITARY CLARK COUNTY



Richard Jacobs, 90, holds a salute with his left hand during the Pledge of Allegiance at a Purple Heart Day luncheon Wednesday at the Springfield Air National Guard Base. Jacobs, a Purple Heart recipient, lost his right arm during World War II. BILL LACKEY / STAFF

Wounded vets gather for Purple Heart Day

Springfield chapter offers free membership to those hurt in war.

By **Andrew McGinn**
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD – The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles issued 10,827 Purple Heart license plates in 2012, according to state data obtained by the Springfield News-Sun, marking a huge jump from the 5,676 issued in 2008 to denote that the vehicle’s owner was wounded in combat.

But, privacy rules prevent local chapters of the Military Order of the Purple Heart from finding out who has them, said Jim Ryan, commander of Clark County’s Chapter 620.

“It’s frustrating for us,” Ryan said Wednesday as a small

Dedicated local coverage

You’ve told us that news and stories about local veterans and military units are important to you, and Springfield News-Sun reporter Andrew McGinn is dedicated to writing those stories.

number of combat-wounded local residents gathered at the Springfield Air National Guard Base to commemorate Purple Heart Day with an annual luncheon.

Ryan – a lifelong Springfield resident who took an enemy bullet during a bayonet charge in Vietnam’s Mekong Delta on May 31, 1967 – said the group merely wants to inform those awarded the Purple Heart for wartime wounds that a life-

time membership into the order in Ohio is currently free.

“We can’t get their names,” Ryan said. “It’s one of those things they don’t allow.”

Members of Chapter 620 have, at various times, resorted to chasing after cars with the special license plates.

“I’m serious. We’ve done that,” Ryan, 67, said. “I’ve done that personally. I had one guy join.”

Clark County’s chapter, established in 1995, has about 70 members. Those who gathered Wednesday for the annual luncheon earned that free meal the hard way.

“It’s not something anybody strives to get,” Ryan said of the Purple Heart, which can only be awarded to a service member wounded or killed in

Vets continued on C4

EDUCATION CLARK COUNTY

Clark State to provide coaches

College becomes part of statewide program.

Students in remedial classes recipients of mentoring initiative.

By **Meagan Pant**
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD – Clark State Community College will launch a program this year that pairs students in remedial classes with “coaches” to help them succeed.

Remedial classes can be “a huge hurdle for so many,” and 65 percent of Clark State students must take at least one before they are ready for college-level math or English, said Callie Cary-Devine, retention adviser.

This year, the school will pair those students with a coach to help guide them, motivate them and connect them with resources they need, Cary-Devine said. The program is new to Clark State but is in its second year and at 11 colleges statewide now with a \$329,000 grant from ServeOhio.

The coaches across Ohio will reach as many as 2,500 first-time college students.

“The whole idea behind this particular grant is to really help those students who need to have that extra motivation, that extra coaching, to help them figure out how to navigate college,” Cary-Devine said.

Many of the students, she said, have full-time jobs and families, and so “life challenges” get in the way of their studies. Remedial classes can be

Clark State continued on C4

FOCUS ON PUBLIC SAFETY SPRINGFIELD

Springfield buses clear 50-point inspections

Patrol checks city school district’s fleet before classes start.

By **Jessica Heffner**
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD – The Ohio State Highway Patrol on Wednesday inspected Springfield City Schools’ bus fleet to make sure the vehicles will be safe on the roads this school year.

Springfield is one of the final districts to be inspected by the state highway patrol this summer. There are 39 buses in the fleet, including four new ones. About 50 items outlined in the 2013 Ohio School Bus Inspection Manual need to be



Mark Howard, Springfield school district’s mechanic, works on an issue with the windshield wiper washer fluid discovered during a bus inspection Wednesday. JESSICA HEFFNER / STAFF

checked on a standard bus, including everything from safety lights, emergency exits, fans

and wipers to more critical items like steering and brakes, said Trooper William Dendler.

“We inspect every school bus in the state of Ohio. It has to have the patrol’s approval before it can run on the road,” he said.

Dendler starts up each bus, checking the systems inside, brake pedals and steering, while two inspectors work the outside of the vehicle. They use a rolling “shop creeper” to get under the buses, using a flashlight to visually inspect the integrity of the bus. Each bus takes a minimum of 10 minutes to inspect, Dendler said.

Carol White, transportation supervisor, said her team begins work in June doing their

Buses continued on C4