



TODAY'S WEATHER

HIGH 63
LOW 37



TUESDAY'S WEATHER

HIGH 66
LOW 43



FORECAST PAGE 2

COMING ATTRACTIONS



AUTO

The 2007 GMC Yukon Denali is a smooth, luxury ride.

INSIDE



SPORTS

Pacers slice through Rangers, take third in Fritz Daniel. Page 9



SPORTS

Ohio Wesleyan takes three events at All-Ohio Division III Championships. Page 10

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write things worth reading, or do things worth the writing.”

— Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)



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DELAWARE, OHIO
188TH YEAR
VOLUME No. 92



The Delaware Gazette



www.delgazette.com

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2006

50 CENTS



Gazette Amy Allan

The race was on Saturday at Mingo Park's Easter Egg hunt, an annual tradition at the park for more than a decade. Each year, Wal-Mart donates unsold Easter baskets and plastic grass for the city to hand out to residents. Pilsner's Five and Dime donated candy. Most of the 10,000 eggs "hidden" throughout the park came pre-filled with candy.

Weather clears for Easter Egg Hunt

By DANIEL BROWNSTEIN
Staff Writer

After a Good Friday and Passover marked with steady rain, clear skies and pleasant temperatures emerged Saturday morning for those who began Easter celebrations a day early.

Neighbors mingled. Children checked out their bounty. Families got together.

Many attended religious services over the busy holiday weekend, which contained significance for both Christians and Jews.

At the annual Delaware Easter Egg Hunt at Mingo Park, the thousands of candy-filled eggs seemed to disappear within moments. Children hurriedly sorted through brightly colored baskets, looking for their favorites.

Hundreds of families — neighbors — lingered until

Please see EASTER, Page 3

Fall from high rise kills Columbus arts leader

Associated Press

COLUMBUS — A man fell from the balcony of a high-rise condominium complex early Sunday and died, police said.

Raymond Hanley, 58, president of the Greater Columbus Arts Council, fell from a fifth-floor veranda of the Miranova Place condominium complex about 12:13 a.m., police said. He was taken to a local hospital, where he died about 30 minutes later.

Police said Hanley had been at the condominium visiting a friend.

Homicide detectives said the fall was accidental and there was no indication of foul play.

Hanley had served as president of the nonprofit arts council since 1985. He announced in November that he would step down in May 2007.

Palestinian suicide bomber blows himself up in commercial area in Tel Aviv

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up near a fast-food restaurant in a bustling commercial area of Tel Aviv during the Jewish holiday of Passover today, killing six people and wounding at least 35 others, police and medics said.

Israel's Army Radio, citing police, said six people including the suicide bomber were killed. Israel TV's Channel 2 said at least 15 of the wounded were in serious condition.

The bomber struck the same falafel restaurant that was hit by an attacker on Jan. 19, medics said. In that attack, 20 people were wounded. The restaurant is in the bustling Neve Shaanan neighborhood near Tel Aviv's central bus station, which was crowded with holiday travelers.

The wounded were treated on sidewalks. One man was lying on his side, his back covered by bandages. A bleeding woman was wheeled away on a stretcher. A dazed-looking man walked near the site, his white T-shirt splattered with blood.

The blast shattered the windshields of cars and blew out the windows of nearby buildings. Glass shards and blood splattered the ground.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

But on Sunday, the leader of Islamic Jihad, Ramadan Shallah, said the militant group was making "nonstop efforts" to infiltrate suicide bombers from the West Bank into Israel. "The nonstop crackdown against our resistance might limit this effort, but it's not going to stop it," he said in a statement posted on the group's Web site.

LAST CALL FOR TAXES

The following are lobby closing times for residents needing an April 17 postmark on tax returns.

Ashley	100 E. High St.	4:30 p.m.
Delaware	35 S. Liberty St.	4:45 p.m.
Dublin	6400 Emerald Parkway	midnight
Galena	34 W. Park St.	4:15 p.m.
Kilbourne	3922 Main St.	4:45 p.m.
Lewis Center	393 E. Orange Rd.	5 p.m.
Ostrander	11 W. North St.	4:15 p.m.
Radnor	4355 state Route 203	4:15 p.m.
Sunbury	267 W. Granville St.	4:30 p.m.
Westerville	617 McCorkle Blvd.	midnight

Since 1963



Gazette Matt Emmons

Ralph Martin has been repairing shoes at his Winter Street business for 43 years.

Ralph Martin's Winter Street shoe repair shop is a downtown mainstay

By CONNIE E. CURRY
Special to the Gazette

OUR NEIGHBORS

• Submit your nominee to newsroom@delgazette.com

Are shoe repair shops becoming obsolete? Today, shoe styles, shapes, colors and affordability allow consumers to buy more frequently, and many shoppers will simply buy a new pair of shoes before taking an old pair to a shoe repair shop.

At 28 W. Winter St. in Delaware is a sign that has stood since 1963, showing where Mr. Ralph Martin, a spry 75-year-old, goes to work daily to open his shoe repair shop.

Martin was born in Zanesville in 1931. Times were tough for blacks in those days, and Martin and his 10 siblings had to work to help their mother make ends meet.

Martin's first association with shoes came when he was 10 years old. On the corner of 6th and Main streets in Zanesville was a shoeshine shop. George Graphus, owner of the business, hired Martin and another boy to shine shoes. Martin knew in order to make money he had to learn how to converse well with customers and, of course, spit shine shoes to perfection. Graphus made 10 cents per pair

of shoes, and the boys' incomes came strictly from tips. Every day after school, Martin walked to 6th and Main to shine the shoes of wealthy businessmen.

Martin made it a habit to read the newspaper each night before going to bed. Keeping up on current affairs and news about sports helped him to converse with his customers while he shined their shoes until they gleamed.

There was a secret to spit shining shoes, and according to Martin, it wasn't spitting on them. Boston shoe crème was placed in an oilcan and squirted on the shoes while Martin buffed them to achieve the perfect shine.

In 1947, Martin started working for Clarence Sergeant, who owned a shoe repair business in Zanesville. From this point, Martin learned a trade that eventually would provide an income for his family, which included five children. Martin worked for Sergeant for about two years, learning how to repair shoes.

In 1951, he received a tele-

phone call from Dave Dixon, who owned another shoe repair business in Zanesville. "I will pay you twice the money if you come and work for me," Dixon told Martin.

Martin worked for Dixon until 1953. When Dixon's marriage crumbled, he left the shoe repair business to his ex-wife, who had little knowledge of the trade. Martin struggled working for her, but continued his employment until she eventually sold the business to her sister. Management did not improve and Martin grew more frustrated.

By 1961, Dixon had come to Delaware and opened another shoe repair shop. He called Martin to offer him a job and Martin jumped at the chance to work for Dixon again. The business was located on West Winter Street, near Gibson Florist. In 1962 Dixon moved his business across the street, where Martin Shoe Repair is located today.

In October 1963, a fire gutted the interior of Dixon Shoe Repair. Dixon decided to move to Florida and offered his business to Martin at a fair price.

"He came back six months later, wanting to buy the business

Please see MARTIN, Page 3

Ohio Marine killed in Iraq

COVINGTON, Ky. — A Cincinnati-area Marine died in Iraq when a rocket-propelled grenade hit the Humvee he was riding in, his father said.

Lance Cpl. Justin Sims, 22, was killed Saturday in Ramadi. His father, Beechie Sims, said Sunday that he was notified of his son's death by two Marines who visited his Cincinnati home Saturday night.

Justin Sims had lived with his mother, Alma Jones, in this city across the Ohio River from Cincinnati. He joined the Marines after graduating from Holmes High School in 2003, his father said.

EASTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

shortly before noon as the festivities wound down, exchanging pleasantries before heading home.

"It's amazing," said Delaware City Councilman Dave Berwanger, after waving to a few people he recognized. "No matter how many people you know, you always see people here that you've never seen before."

Darron Docie, who lives nearby on Union Street, chatted with some friends standing in the middle of one of the Mingo soccer fields.

"This was the first year we've ever done this in Delaware," he said. "It really was a lot of fun."

His 4-year-old son Robbie looked through his basket, which contained more plastic egg halves than candy. He chose a Tootsie Roll and bit into it.

"Yum," he said. "I love Tootsie Rolls."

The father and son began walking back home together, stopping for a moment to oblige a *Gazette* photographer.

Visual reminders of the holiday weekend — that, for many, included family meals, church services and traditional egg hunts — undoubtedly will make their way into photo albums and home movie collections. With just one glance at a photograph taken in a sunny neighborhood park, the memories will come racing back.

All it will take is a smiling child ... and the Easter Bunny.

MARTIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

back. I enjoyed working for myself and declined, and I am still here 43 years later," Martin said.

Using old machines that continue to get the job done, Martin still makes great repairs for residents. A stitcher machine, a 36 McKay stitcher, a Singer sewing machine and a nailer machine are used daily. Martin also makes use of a finisher machine that sands, inks and polishes to complete many repairs to items such as purses, luggage, saddlebags, horse blankets and, of course, shoes. Martin greets his customers with a smile and willingness to serve.

While still using older equipment, Martin acknowledges that times have changed. Shoe nails were given free when Martin did business with salesmen years ago. Today, a pound of shoe nails costs \$9.70.

"Shoes today are bad quality. Many are made in China and can't be repaired like shoes years ago. A lot of them have molded one-piece soles, which are difficult to repair," Martin said. "Shoe repair businesses are few and far between. My kids have good jobs. They are better off not getting into this line of work."

When it comes to some of his customers, Martin still

believes in the barter system. A recent customer walked in to pick up a shoe and Martin didn't charge him. "He has done many favors for me. It's worth it," he said with a smile.

At 12:30 p.m., Martin's "Out to lunch" sign gets placed in the window. What started 43 years ago as a daily lunch with his close friend (and another well-known businessman), Max Barger, has grown into a larger gathering. Bill Sheehy, Bob Pilsner and Bob Gray are among many of the friends with whom Martin and Barger share their lunch hour. And each Friday, the group is joined by five other local friends.

"It is written in stone," said Barger with a chuckle. "At 12:30 p.m. sharp we head to lunch. Ralph is a good friend and we have shared a lot of good times. I tell people he is my brother. We used to go to Lake Erie every summer for a day of fishing. I'll never forget the time he caught a wall-eye that was about 30 inches long and weighed about 10 pounds. Ralph was using a beginner's Zebco reel and he brought that big fish in on that little reel."

A picture of Martin holding the fish hangs in his shop, validating that big catch on Lake Erie.

Barger recalled another

fond memory involving Martin and a pair of Army boots.

"I had a old pair of Army combat boots from when I served in World War II," he said. "I had given them to Ralph to refinish. They were in bad shape. Shoot, I had forgotten I had given them to him. About a year later, as usual I met Ralph at the Brown Jug Restaurant for my 80th birthday. Bob Pilsner and Ralph had a big present wrapped for me. People watched as I tried to unwrap the gift. Pilsner must have used a lot of tape on it from the dime store. It took me a while to get that present open. Inside it was those old Army boots and Ralph had totally refinished them. They looked great and still fit me."

"(Ralph is) a great guy and

will help people with anything. I remember being down to his shop years ago and someone's car had broken down out in front of his shop. He didn't hesitate and went outside to help get the car running," Barger added. "That's just the kind of guy he is."

Martin said he isn't sure if retirement is in the near

future. "I have no idea how long I'll continue working. I still enjoy the work and I love the people. At 75, it is hard to do as much as I used to, but I'll keep working."

Besides, after 43 years of lunch almost daily with Barger, how could such a tradition be broken? It is written in stone at 12:30 p.m. sharp. "Out to lunch."



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