



What former Daytonians miss most

ACTIVE DAYTON, PAGE 14

STORM CENTER 7 FORECAST



Today **41°/25°**

Partly sunny with morning snow flurries

Full forecast. C6

Radio: Continuous updates on WHIO AM 1290 and 95.7 FM



Saturday **42°/28°**



Sunday **41°/26°**



Monday **41°/25°**



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unemployment benefits and the payroll tax cut that would cost a person making \$50,000 a year about \$40 per paycheck if it expired as planned on Jan. 1.

After days of wrangling that even House Speaker John Boehner acknowledged "may not have been politically the smartest thing in the world," the West Chester Twp. Republican changed course and dropped demands for immediate holiday season talks with the Senate.

Boehner said he expects both

the House and Senate to pass a bill by Sunday that would renew the tax break while congressional negotiators work out a longer-term measure that would also extend jobless benefits for millions of Americans and prevent doctors from absorbing a big cut in Medicare payments.

Payroll tax continued on A10

age Global economy

European debt crisis cost Ohio jobs

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Machinist Michael Hodgin runs machining vise jaws at TE-CO in Union. In Ohio, manufacturers of factory equipment, chemicals, computer and electronics products would be most effected by a European recession, an economist said. STAFF PHOTO BY TEESHA MCCLAM

to tip the U.S. into recession, but it may cause growth to be a little slower than folks expect in 2012," he added.

The European Central Bank earlier this week said it would loan more than \$640 billion to European banks at super low interest rates to encourage the banks to help bail out governments drowning in debt.

Exports continued on A6

Ohio's links to EU

Ohio is the eighth largest exporting state with \$41.1 billion in exports in 2010.

European countries accounted for 19 percent of Ohio's exports.

Total shipments to Europe were up 12 percent in 2010 compared to 2009.

LATE DEVELOPMENT

Judge frees man in prison 20 years

State has until July 1 to retry Gillispie for 1991 rape, other charges.

By Lou Grieco and
Brandon Smith-Hebson
Staff Writers

LONDON, Ohio — The first place Roger Dean Gillispie went after 20 years in prison was a bowling alley. There in the worn-out, rain-soaked foyer, he danced with-out music in his mother's arms while his father and dozens of supporters watched Thursday night.

"We did it, Daddy," he said. Gillispie, convicted of rape and other crimes in 1991, has fought for his freedom since his conviction. U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael R. Merz, ordered him released on electronic home detention after declaring Gillispie's trial unfair.

State officials refused to allow the media and supporters on the prison grounds, so the reunion was moved to the bowling alley.

Gillispie continued on A6

Judge says trial was unfair

Gillispie

continued from A1

There, the U.S. Marshals lashed a tracking bracelet to Gillispie's ankle. He was turned over to his family to make the journey to his family's home in Fairborn.

Less than two hours after his release, the 46-year-old Gillispie stepped off the limo bus parked in front of the house he hadn't seen in 20 years, got on the ground and kissed the wet street before grabbing his parents and hugging them.

"I was expecting to lay down tonight in the prison," Gillispie said. "What else can you say? It's unbelievable."

Merz's order granted the state's request for a stay, pending an appeal, of his decision last week that Gillispie did not get a fair trial in 1991 when he was convicted of rape, kidnapping and aggravated robbery.

Merz had ordered the state to either retry him by July 1 or free him from prison, but any retrial would happen after review by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals.

"This is the best Christmas present we could have or need," said Gillispie's mother, Juana. "I turned on my Christmas music for the first time in years."

Gillispie will have to remain within the Southern District of Ohio, made up of the state's 44 southern counties, Merz wrote.

"Assuming he is innocent, as he has consistently claimed, staying the case without bond would cause him the irreparable injury of deprivation of his liberty for at least as long as the appellate review takes," Merz wrote. "If he is guilty, as two juries have unanimously found, he has nonetheless been severely punished up to this point in time."

The Ohio Attorney General's Office filed a notice of appeal on Dec. 16, one day after Merz issued his order.

"For him to be home at Christ-



Roger Dean Gillispie looks shocked and overwhelmed Thursday as he steps off a bus at his parents' Fairborn home after serving 20 years in prison. STAFF PHOTO BY TEESHA MCCLAM

mas, this is kind of a dream come true," said Mark Godsey, director of the Ohio Innocence Project. Godsey and former Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro have represented Gillispie for the past several years.

Neither Petro nor Godsey were at the Gillispie home, which was packed with friends and relatives. A sign that states "We Love You Dean," with signatures, was stapled to the garage.

That sign dates back to a wedding where Gillispie was supposed to be best man, Gillispie said.

He noted that he was meeting his friends' children for the first time, children he had watched grow up in pictures.

Gillispie thanked the Ohio Innocence Project, a group that works to release people in prison it believes were wrongfully convicted, and his family and friends, who never stopped supporting him. He noted that someone accused of such heinous crimes could usually expect to lose friends.

"I never lost a single one," Gillispie said. "They never flinched one time."

In a statement released Thursday afternoon, the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office said, "We continue to support the three victims in this case, who all positively identified Gillispie as the man who raped them."

Merz's decision last week said the prosecution improperly withheld from the defense, and the jury,

the fact that the original investigating Miami Twp. police detectives eliminated Gillispie as a suspect.

Quoting case law, Merz said that information "could reasonably be taken to put the whole case in such a different light as to undermine confidence in the verdict."

The three victims in the case testified that Gillispie was the perpetrator, but there was "absolutely no physical evidence that connected Mr. Gillispie to the crimes," Merz wrote.

Gillispie's attorneys claim Gillispie, who was about to be married, was "plucked out of normal life," charged with crimes he didn't commit and wrongly imprisoned.

The defense has identified another man it contends was the likely perpetrator.

Gillispie was given sentences totaling 22 years to 56 years after a jury in February 1991 convicted him of nine counts of rape, three counts of kidnapping, three counts of gross sexual imposition and one count of aggravated robbery, some of which carried firearms specifications.

The crimes occurred in August 1988 in Harrison Twp. and Miami Twp.

Gillispie has fought his conviction for two decades. Merz overruled a state appellate court, which had determined that the withheld evidence likely would not have changed the outcome of the trial.