



# GREENE COUNTY DAILIES

Weather for Xenia

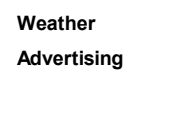
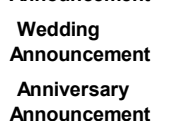
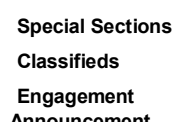
Clear  
Time: 9:30 pm  
Temp: 33  
RealFeel Temp: 34  
Humidity: 70.89763641357  
Winds: SW at 3 mph

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November 28, 2008

## The Legend of the Christmas Frog

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Barb Stone/Greene County Dailies Janice Ealey, Springfield, standing with Nancy Mellon, multi-media artist, surprises L'legs, the French frog with a kiss. They're seen beneath the Victorian Kissing Ball hanging in the foyer of the Villager Artisans gallery in the Corry Street Shops, Yellow Springs. "The Legend of the Christmas Frog," an amusing and whimsical part of the Yellow Springs holiday celebration, is a "product" of Nancy's imagination.

"The Legend of the Christmas Frog" penned by Nancy Mellon, Yellow Springs multi-media artist, reads, in part: Once upon a time, there was a French frog named L'legs. He lived by himself in a little backwater pond on the outskirts of Paris. The one thing L'legs dreamed of was Romance. Every night L'legs would croak out his longing in the moonlight. And every day would find him still alone. Each night he croaked louder and longer. Each day he grew more despondent. He couldn't enjoy eating bugs. He lost weight. Finally, he decided to go to Paris to find his true love. There had to be a lot of frogs in such a big city. And he had heard it was the City of Love. When he finally made it to Paris it was very confusing. Great big things were rushing around, and the noise was horrible. He felt very little and very lonely and he couldn't see a frog or a pond anywhere. When it got dark and quieted down, he began to croon with all his lonely heart, one rabbit after another.

Now, it happened this was Christmas Eve and L'legs didn't know the legend of Christmas Eve, but it worked anyway and tonight he could croak and people would understand him. So there he was calling out for love, quite expressively, with a fulsome heart and someone answered. It was a girl. Not a very attractive girl. She raised the window and said, "SHHH, What's the matter with you making such a such a ruckus?" L'legs was surprised but encouraged that a female someone had finally noticed him. He began to woo her. He told her all about his pond and all the bugs they could have for the asking. He told her he'd love her forever if she'd be his.

Now, Santa was flying over Paris right at that moment. He heard L'legs words and laughed so hard that he fell out of his sleigh. He landed in a pile of snow right next to L'legs. He looked at the astounded frog and said, "L'legs, you idiot, you're a frog and that's a girl, it would never work. What are we going to do about you?" "L'legs I'm going to make you the Keeper of Romantic Dreams. Anyone who kisses you will be lucky in love. You'll have to fight the girls off and who knows, maybe one day after this gets about, you might even be kissed by a frog and live happily ever after. Keep hopping around and bringing love and laughter to all who are brave enough to kiss the Christmas Frog." With that, Santa whistled down the reindeer and sleigh and took off ho, ho, hoing because he did think it was very funny. All this time the small girl had been listening in wonder and as soon as Santa took off, she started to climb out her window to kiss the Christmas Frog. And L'legs found that Paris was the City of Love after all. Though not quite what he had expected.

Now, L'legs (or a reasonable facsimile thereof), at the "bidding" of Nancy Mellon, a multi-media artist, is spending the holidays in the beautifully decorated foyer of the Villager Artisans' gallery in the Corry Street Street Shops in Yellow Springs. "Catch a kiss in the Springs," prompts Mellon and associates among the Villager Artisans. They're spreading Romance (just like L'legs did in Paris.) Eighty sprigs of mistletoe, the "kissing green", identified with a bright red bow and jingle bell, are waiting to be found in surprising places throughout the village. You'll find them hanging both in and outside the shops and businesses. The "reward" when found? Expect or be surprised with a kiss!

A lot of kissing has been going on under the mistletoe for ages. We find the source of "kissing under the mistletoe" in Celtic rituals and Norse mythology. The history of mistletoe-induced kissing goes back to ancient Scandinavia.





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