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Marijuana Dispensary Opening Pegged for this Winter Here

By Jim Brewer

A dispensary for medical and adult-use recreational marijuana will open in Loudonville this winter.

Louis Farkas, who operates Farkas Farms, a marijuana cultivation center in Grafton, Lorain County, Ohio, confirmed his plans in a phone interview with the Mohican Shopper the morning of Wednesday, Oct. 30.

“Aspen Management has purchased the building, and I will lease it from them,” Farkas said. The building most recently served as the office of Dr. David Tomchak and is located at the intersection of North Union Street (Ohio 60) and Loudon Avenue on the north side of Loudonville.

“My plan is to open a marijuana dispensary for medical and adult-use recreational marijuana in the building, with hopes of opening during the first quarter of 2025,” Farkas continued. “As we get closer to opening, we will begin to assemble a staff of 15-20 persons, involved in security, human resources, community outreach, management positions, and general staff.

“We also have plans to become active in the Loudonville community, involved in charitable and community service work,” Farkas added.

He said he has also made application to operate dispensaries in up to three other Ohio communities. He declined to name those communities.

He said he currently holds a State of Ohio Level 2 license to operate a 9,000 square foot canopy growing area at his Grafton facility.

The dispensary has been a topic of discussion and action by Loudonville Village Council for several months. In September, the council revised its zoning regulations to authorize such a facility and prohibited one in the village downtown.

Several village officials, including Police Chief Brian McCauley and Fire Chief Dan Robinson, paid visits to Farkas’ facility. Robinson advised the council that his department has dealt with problems caused by alcohol and stronger drug use

but not cannabis. McCauley praised the council decision to prohibit a facility in the village’s downtown but was not opposed to other locations in the community.

In August, Councilman Tom Young said he would be opposed to the North Union-Loudon location, “because it was too close to residential areas.”

The facility will generate significant new revenues for the village. At a meeting in July, Farkas indicated that if the dispensary generated \$10 million in sales in a calendar year, revenues to the village are estimated at \$360,000.

Mayor Jason Van Sickle said the prospect of additional village revenues was the primary reason he supported the dispensary.

Marijuana dispensaries for adult-use recreational marijuana were authorized by Ohio voters after approval of a constitutional amendment to legalize the substance in the fall of 2023.

A Stroll Through Our Mohican Garden: Are Our Bees Endangered?

By Eric Larson

On October 2, 2024, I attended a Master Gardener series on beneficial insects. During the five hours of lectures, I gathered information. Denise Ellsworth of the Entomology Department of Ohio State spoke on Native Bees.

To come up with an answer, we are going to several sources. We start with the Western Honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, our local honeybee, and the African Honeybee, *Apis mellifera scutella*.

Western honeybees came to the New World in the early 1600s. These are our traditional worker bees, doing most of the work on our continent. Six subspecies, all European in base, interbred with the Western Honeybee. The term Western Honeybee refers to all the western subspecies of *Apis mellifera*.

So far, experts have recognized 12 subspecies of *Apis mellifera* in Africa. One of the subspecies is *Apis mellifera scutellata*, the East African lowland honeybee. This East African lowland honeybee is found in Africa’s southern and eastern regions and is the ancestor of these African bees.

African Honeybee colonies have a higher rate of colony growth, reproduction, Varroa mite resistance, and swarming. For these reasons, as well as Western Honeybees’ failure to adapt to tropical regions, Brazilian scientists imported African Honeybees to Brazil in 1956 to improve production. These African Honeybees are limited to warmer climates and cannot adapt to our more northern climates.

A few queens escaped and mated with local European drones in Brazil, producing a hybrid called the Africanized Honeybee. These Africanized Honeybees are far more aggressive in defending their territory than the Western Honeybee. Our Western Honeybee will usually only defend the entrance to their hives, whereas the Africanized bees will defend their territory up to 40 feet within the area of their hives. After the escape, Brazil’s hybridized African

Honeybee population gradually expanded into northern parts of America, arriving in the southern United States in the 1990s. However, no one can find a pure African Honeybee in the population, and it is virtually impossible to distinguish the Western Honeybee from the Africanized Honeybee without genetic testing or rigorous morphometric analysis.

One of my friends told me that she had already started feeding her hive sugar water, preparing her hive for the winter. The problem she sees is that the drought we have gone through has reduced both pollen production and nectar in the flowers. Her bees had to travel farther to get their nectar and pollen, and their foraging patterns had to change. Our Western Honeybees are truly diversified as they pursue their nectar and pollen. Not all our native bees have that option.

While attending the Master Gardener lecture at the Ohio State extension in Wooster, I received some handouts that may help us care for beneficial insects. One was a guide on how to grow plants to help support native Bumble Bees. Honeybees will appreciate the use of this planting design. When redesigning your backyard, include water features of some sort. Here is a list of native plants that OSU would encourage us to use: Butterfly Milkweed, Caspian Blue Wild Indigo, Magnus; Purple Coneflower, Tall Blazing Star; Raspberry Wine; Scarlet Beebalm, Clustered Mountain Mint; Fireworks; Rough Goldenrod, Prairie Dropseed, and Bluebird; and Smooth Blue Aster. All these plants need to be planted in full sun.

In all the interviews I did last week and all the articles I have read, I have concluded that the drought and heat we experienced this summer are the real problems in our low bee population.

The aggressiveness of the Africanized Honeybees has not been a problem in Ohio because their genes have not adapted to our northern climate. With all the things that our native Western Honeybees have faced, maybe it has been more of the climate and normal weather patterns we have experienced that is the more serious problem.



Are our bees endangered? Columnist Eric Larson explores the plight of these important insects in this week’s gardening column.

Photo by Eric Larson

I hope you have a great stroll through your fall garden and enjoy the leaves. If you see a challenge let me know how I can help at ericlaron546@yahoo.com. I shall put a link to the blog I write on my website www.ohiohealthyfoodcooperative.org. Thank you for participating in our column.

Loudonville Police Calls

Oct. 22, 3:40 p.m. Police investigated a disturbance in the 100 block of West Main Street. Police determined the disturbance was caused by a person in crisis. No arrests were made.

Oct. 23, 6:26 p.m. Police responded to a report of a driver in a white Toyota suspected of being intoxicated while driving on North Union Street at the village limits, driving all over the roadway. Police investigated but could not locate the vehicle.

Oct. 24, 7:04 p.m. Police were advised of an obstruction, a tree, in the roadway on North Union Street at Burwell Avenue. The tree had been removed before the police arrived at the scene.

Oct. 25, 7:24 a.m. Police investigated a disabled vehicle on the side of Wally Road near the ball fields. The driver told police he had become sick and stopped beside the roads. No one was arrested.



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NOVEMBER 6TH
FREDERICKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
201 N Mill St, Fredericksburg, OH

NOVEMBER 8TH
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
124 S Market St. Loudonville, OH

NOVEMBER 13TH
KEIM HOME CENTER
4465 OH-557, Charm, OH

NOVEMBER 14TH
KILLBUCK VALLEY MARKET
130 N Main, Killbuck, OH

NOVEMBER 15TH
PREMIER METALS
1685 OH 39, Sugarcreek, OH

NOVEMBER 19TH
HOLMESVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST,
204 W Main St, Holmesville, OH

NOVEMBER 20TH
MT HOPE AUCTION
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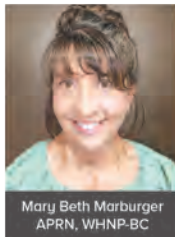
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Womens' Health Events - Clip And Save For Your Reference


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Tessie's tidbits...

Hi folks!

I cannot believe that October is over, and the wonderful weather we have been enjoying will soon be just a fond memory!

Hubby and I went on a much-needed mini vacation of about six days, and we traveled through five different states – Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia.

Our first stop was to visit my cousin in Ashland, Kentucky. Leslie and I are only six weeks apart in age and grew up together. She recently lost her husband of over 50 years, and I have not seen her in many years, so it was a great visit.

From there, we went to the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky, which is south of Cincinnati. After parking the car in huge lots, we got our tickets, and I still could not see anything that looked like an ark. Tour buses lined up to take us to the site, and we drove down winding roads, and I for one, was absolutely in awe of the size and magnitude of this structure when it appeared!

Most everyone knows the story of Noah and the Ark, but I was amazed at how big this structure is and why I did not

realize long ago what a massive job this was for Noah. He had no power tools, no heavy equipment, just his hands, his skills, and his belief!

There are three decks as well as the ground level. Every inch of this massive structure was used to sustain the lives of both humans and animals. There were hundreds of cages, pens, and coops to keep these animals. The inner hull of the Ark was fitted with huge clay pots for water, and there were workshops for the people to maintain life and safety for all.

Some of the cages held replicas of animals who are now extinct. There are living quarters for Noah and his family as well as work areas to tend to the animals, such as a blacksmith shop.

Every nook and cranny was earmarked to store some item for their survival. I could not imagine how long it took to build this gigantic ark and had to consider there were no power tools to use as well!

There is really no way to totally describe this amazing creation. I now have a completely different view of the story of Noah and the Ark. WOW!

From there, Rich and I drove to Virginia to see the Keystone Tractor and Truck Museum in Colonial Heights, Virginia. When we arrived at the site, the museum was not open for the day, but the facility also housed a restaurant, so we ate a delicious breakfast and then we started the walk through time with the history of some of these amazing machines.

Of course, Rich was quite smitten with the Oliver tractor display, but there was so much to see other than them! Every brand of tractor was on display as well as semi-trucks, wrecker trucks, buses – they even had a Flxible bus on the floor! There were garden tractors, fire trucks, early camping vehicles; this place is huge! One section was nothing but miniature replicas of the big machines, and I know I missed seeing some of the displays as it was overwhelming!

When we started back to Ohio, I thought about our visit to the Ark, and it really made me realize that although I go to church and believe in God, this was the reassurance that really touched me the most!

+++

By the time most of our readers receive this week's issue of the Shopper, the election will be over, and the results will be good for some and not so good for others.

After last year's November election, I asked folks if they were pleased with the outcomes, and many said, "I didn't vote," for all kinds of reasons. I certainly hope you did this year!

+++

Finally – I enjoyed our trip to the Ark and the museum of farm tractors, semi-trucks, and all. The mountains were beautiful, but when we got home, our area was the most beautiful of all!

Have a wonderful week everyone!

Tessie

Loudonville Library November Programs

During November, the library will offer a variety of unique seasonal, and Dinosaur themed programming called Dinovember, in addition to regular programs. Each day's activities can be followed on the library's Facebook page. There will be a dinosaur scavenger hunt, dino coloring sheets, and themed questions of the day. A 10 a.m. Dinosaur Party on Saturday, November 23, will have themed stations filled with crafts, games, digging, and tasty snacks.

The L-P Art Club is coordinating its 3rd annual juried art exhibition with the Loudonville Public Library. Art: Where Dreams Become Reality will feature works by Loudonville-Perrysville Exempted Village School District students in grades K-12 and will run through December 7. The L-P Schools Art Show opening and reception will be held Saturday, November 16 from 3 p.m.-5 p.m., at the library.

Award winning journalist and author, Vince Guerrieri, will share some of the unusual events that have occurred in Cleveland sports history from his book, "Weird Moments in

Cleveland Sports," on Saturday, November 16 at 11 a.m.

The Loudonville Public Library is welcoming Sarah Moreland as the new Circulation Manager. "She comes to our library with public library experience and an associate's degree in business management and entrepreneurship. We are happy to have her on our team," said Director Melissa Mallinak.

The library offers educational and recreational programming for all ages. Access library programs at www.loudonvillelibrary.org.



Sarah Moreland, the new Circulation Manager at the Loudonville Public Library. Submitted Photo

SWCD Hosting Follow Up Program on Forest Damages

By Jim Brewer

The Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will hold a follow-up program on damages to area forests caused by the derecho storm that devastated area forests in July of 2022.

After that storm, the SWCD held a Conservation Chat program to discuss options for helping the forest recover from the storm.

A follow up to that program will be held on Thursday, Nov. 14 at 5 p.m. at the Mohican Memorial Shrine at 1000 Ohio 97, rural Perrysville, where participants can see post-harvest recovery from the effects of the storm.

Jordan Thompson, certified forester, will speak on how to modify forest management plans when the unexpected, like the derecho, happens; review of harvest techniques and criteria used to clean up forest damage both in the Mohican Memorial State Forest and on private lands; and information on forestry cost-share practices and opportunities provided.

More information can be found on the SWCD website, ashlandswcd.com.

Neighbarger Thanked for 40 Years Running

By Jim Brewer



Betty Neighbarger was honored during the Redbird vs. Northmor football game Friday, Oct. 25. Photo by Jim Brewer

At the Redbird football game Oct. 25, Betty (Hardesty) Neighbarger was recognized for a special feat, running the flag up and down the sidelines after every Redbird touchdown for an amazing 40 years.

Betty is widely acclaimed as Loudonville High's No. 1 fan. She probably would have been an outstanding female athlete for the Redbirds in her time as a student at LHS, but she was born too soon, going to high school before competitive girls' sports were in place.

The recognition last week was well deserved. Thanks, Betty, for your ongoing cheers.

The Loudonville pickleball court was recently enhanced with the addition of a new shade structure over the seating area, donated by Shrock Companies. The shade screens were fabricated by Country Custom Tarp of Big Prairie.

No matter where one stands on the school bond issue cam-



The new pickleball shade structure, primarily donated by Joseph Shrock of Shrock Companies. Submitted Photo

paign, deserving thanks and praise are members of the school levy committee for their dedicated hard work in what, at times, seemed a thankless task of promoting

the levy. Your support and loyalty to the schools, and in extension, the community, is commendable.

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| 6 pk. | | |
| Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix | | \$4.49 |
| 8 pk. select asst. | | |
| Swiss Miss Cocoa Mix | | 2/\$5.00 |
| 12 pk. asst. | | |
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| IGA Gravy Mix | | 2/\$1.00 |
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| IGA Potatoes | | 4/\$5.00 |
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| 36.58-38.8 oz. asst. | | |
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| Murray French Toast Sticks | | \$3.49 |
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| Pepperidge Farms Puff Pastry Sheets | | \$5.49 |
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Gnat and Bee Offers Loose Leaf Teas, Body Care Products

By Jim Brewer

Downtown Loudonville's newest business is Gnat and Bee, which specializes in loose leaf teas and body care products made with locally sourced plants and herbs.

Owner/founder Natalie Friedrich formed Gnat and Bee five years ago, working out of her home in Wooster and selling products online.

She was attracted to her current location in Loudonville for two reasons.

"First, we wanted a place that offered a small retail area, and we needed more room for production activities," Friedrich said. "The building, at 222 West Main Street, Loudonville, had both of these. We have set up our retail displays in the front of the building, and have nearly 2,000 square feet of production area, including a space where we can prepare packages of product for shipping. Before, I had about 600 square feet of production space."

Friedrich said the products she makes and sells are primarily products she started making several years ago for personal and family use, "to take care of our health."

"I began studies as an herbalist, and the study made me aware of wild and domestic plants that had medicinal uses," Friedrich explained. "For instance, stinging nettle, I learned, is high in vitamins and minerals and is anti-inflammatory. Another plant, yarrow, is antibacterial, promotes wound recovery and can be used to regulate body temperature. Two flowers, calendula and chamomile, are both very effective in promoting skin treatment."

Friedrich and six associates produce products and help run the retail area of Gnat and Bee.

"Loose leaf teas can be used in many beneficial ways," she said. "For instance, a tea combination can help you sleep, support digestion or develop immunity."

In the meantime, she explained, "The skin care products we make from herbs, and other simple and effective ingredients, are very gentle, great for people with sensitive skin."

As she becomes established in her new location, Friedrich plans to offer a variety of classes and workshops "designed to educate people in the uses of our products, learn new skills and get creative," she said.

Friedrich said she used to work as the product manager at Local Roots in Wooster and was involved in that business's product sourcing from Ohio producers.



Natalie Friedrich puts together a loose-leaf tea combination in the new production area of Gnat and Bee, located at 222 West Main Street, Loudonville. Her products include a wide variety of teas, which can help users with issues like sleeplessness, and body care products, which she makes using locally grown or sourced herbs.

Photo by Jim Brewer

"I have a passion for supporting other local businesses," she said. "I discovered talented producers and their products at the farmers markets here this summer. From honey to pottery, flowers, bread, and even mushrooms, I'm excited to bring a diverse selection of locally made products to our shop. It's a great way to support our neighbors and offer our customers fresh and unique items. I am very happy to be part of the Loudonville community."

The Gnat and Bee is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

HOP Armaments Sends Four Veterans to Shooting Competition

By Jim Brewer

Part of the mission of HOP Armaments in Hayesville is to provide services and opportunities for veterans.

In achieving this mission, the firm sponsored four veterans in traveling to Grace College, in Winona Lake, Indiana, for a major Shooting Sports Fund Raising Competition, Mark Abel, HOP manager, reported.

Chuck Stamen of Big Prairie, who grew up in Loudonville and served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam in 1970-71; his son Jason, a Navy aviation maintenance technician attached to an F-14 squadron in Japan during Operation Desert Storm; Eric Walton of Hayesville, a Marine in the Desert Storm era from 1993-97; and Kurt Canfield, also of Hayesville, who was a submarine machinist in the Navy from 1988-94, were invited to compete at the Grace College Shooting event by Abel.

"I had a connection with Grace College that made the trip possible," Abel explained. "My daughter and her husband are assistant coaches for the Grace College shooting team, and she was heavily involved in the fund raiser, held on Sept. 27."

Daughter Ruth Abel is a shooting celebrity at Grace College, winning national shooting championships in two divisions at the

May 2023 National Shooting Competition, as well as the winner of several state and regional competitions. She has been shooting competitively since she was a sophomore in high school (2018), when she attended the Genesis Christian School in Ashland.

"My job at the competition was to back up the targets at one of the shooting stations," Ruth explained. "But I also saw to it that the four guys my dad brought received good treatment and had a good time at the event."

The four-man team from Hayesville didn't win the competition, "but we had a great time," Canfield stressed. "We were treated royally, with all of our shooting equipment provided for us. In the competition we got to fire 100 shots from 14 different ranges. There were over 30 teams in the competition, some of them extremely good! It was great fun, hanging out with all the guys."

Chuck Stamen agreed that the competition was fun. "It was really something. They furnished the hotel for us," he said. "I'd like to do it again. I've asked that they put me on their substitute list for next time." Both Stamen and Canfield admitted, "we don't shoot a lot." Stamen added, "I do a little sporting clays but not much."

The shooter of the group was Walton, who calls himself "an avid sportsman. While I don't hunt a lot, I shoot clays frequently and am in a clay league in the West Salem Gun Club."

He also said it was "gratifying, and built up my sense of pride, to be recognized and treated well as a veteran. It was also great that a local company, HOP, is willing to invest in area veterans."

Jason Stamen, Chuck's son, said he does some shooting with his dad and also shoots clays in clubs in Millersburg and in Richland County.



The HOP Armaments team at the Shooting Sports Fund Raising Competition at Grace College in Winona Lake, Indiana, Sept. 27, include, from left, Ruth Abel, Jason Stamen, Mark Abel, Eric Walton, Chuck Stamen and Kurt Canfield.

Submitted Photo

"The competition was a really good time, and the tournament, held in the Costco shooting park, was a really nice setup, and the staff was very nice to us," he said. "I thank Mark and HOP Armaments for making the experience possible."

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A Stroll Through Our Mohican Garden: To Roto-till or No-till - That is the Question

By Eric Larson

I have been reading releases about how sterile our soil is and that even the microscopic life in the soil has been seriously damaged. This is a problem because 59% of all life on our planet can be found in our soil. This life I'm talking about ranges from an insect feeding on the soil surface to a tiny microbe nestled in a soil pore. Estimates are that two million species of arthropods live in the soil, along with far more.

One of my friends said, "If I don't rototill, I will be overwhelmed with weeds!" The studies that I have read say just the reverse. Last weekend, I drove by my friend's place, who talked to me about the cereal rye he had just overwintered. He noted that there were very few weeds in that field. Covering gardens with cover crops, as he had done, is an excellent way to manage weeds because weed seeds don't find light to germinate.

I watched a video recently depicting a time-lapse recording of two pictures of a pile of leaves on two pieces of ground. One piece of ground was a beige color from top to bottom of the soil. The other piece of soil was stratified with different colors. The soil levels in both frames were approximately the same height, as were the leaf piles. This time-lapse video bothered me. As the video progressed on the one side, I saw little white darting light flashes. From what I saw, the light flashes were some small soil insects that could help break down the soil. I even saw what may have been a worm. The comparison between the two leaf piles shows that this darting white light kept working on the one pile through the entire time-lapse video. At the same time, nothing happened to the pile in the other video. The leaf pile on the side with the darting white light melted down to one-fifth or less by the time the video was over, yet nothing had changed in the leaf pile with the beige soil. There was no difference between the beginning and the ending frame. One pile contained black-rich soil full of life, and the other was dead. Plant debris left on live soil will break down.

If there is nothing in the soil to help break down the natural organic material you put on top of the soil, nothing will happen. If the leaves or other materials don't break down, how does this material benefit your garden? I came across this quote from the former president of No-Till on the Plains, Inc. He said, "The jury may be out on the effects of glyphosate, but the jury has been



Cover crops, like the one used in this field, enrich the soil and are preferred to deep tilling.

Photo by Eric Larson

in for 7,000 years on the use of tillage, and they have returned a guilty verdict. Tillage has been found guilty of ruining every civilization using it to produce food. It has left devastation in its path." TILLAGE KILLS INSECTS. We need to be concerned about the beneficial insects in the soil. Drop me an email, and I will send you a few tests.

We don't know how we are affecting our soil when we put pesticides, glyphosates, or salt-like fertilizers on the soil, and we don't know the ultimate results of our actions. My question to all of us is whether we are helping or harming the soil in our gardens or fields when we use traditional farming or gardening practices in our garden or field. If you have no life in the soil, are you doing good or harming your soil? In the long run, we need these microbes to break down the soil to help provide nutrients to all our plants.

Stroll through your garden well and enjoy the fruits of your efforts. Enjoy the leaf colors as long as you can. If you have any gardening questions, drop me an e-mail at ericlarrison546@yahoo.com, and I shall do my best to help you with an answer. You shall find our column on our blog soon: www.ohiohealthyfoodcooperative.org. Thank you for participating in our column.

"Folk and Nature" Exhibit Showing at Mohican Lodge

By Jim Brewer

Starting last Friday, Nov. 1, the Mohican Lodge was the stage for its very first art exhibit. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Ohio Arts Council (OAC) will host the exhibit "Folk and Nature." The exhibit is part of ODNR's Arts in the Parks program in collaboration with OAC and features 32 works of art from 29 different Ohio artists starting Friday, Nov. 1, 2024, and ending Friday, Jan. 3, 2025.

The art will be displayed throughout the main lobby and upper hallways of the lodge. The pieces include a variety of mediums including paintings, photography, mixed-media, drawing, printmaking, and woodworking.

Along with the exhibition, a reception is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 16, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., in the main lobby of the Mohican State Park Lodge and Conference Center to celebrate the exhibit.



Pinecone Painting is one of 32 works of art to be shown in the "Folk and Nature" Art Exhibit at the Mohican Lodge through Jan. 3, 2025.

Submitted Photo

Rotary Club of Loudonville hosts Euchre Tournament

The Rotary Club of Loudonville will host another progressive euchre tournament on Friday, November 15 at 7:00 in the Hans Building at 165 North Water Street in Loudonville. Progressive euchre tournaments feature a rotating partner style of play.

A \$20 entry fee includes light refreshments. Cash prizes are awarded to first through third places along with other participation awards. Eight rounds of euchre are played, each with a new mix of partners.

The November event will mark the third tournament hosted by the Rotary Club of Loudonville. Previous tournaments were held in May and August. The club intends to make this a quarterly event.

Now in its 99th year of existence, the Rotary Club of Loudonville contributes to the community through service projects and donations. The proceeds of the quarterly euchre tournaments fund annual scholarships to graduating seniors in the Loudonville-Perrysville school district.

To participate in the euchre tournament simply come to the Hans Building, 165 North Water Street, Loudonville as early as 6:30 pm and no later than 7:00 pm Friday November 15.

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Girls Soccer Team Improves After Winless 2023 Season

By Jim Brewer

The Redbird girls' soccer season came off a fresh start this season after a winless 2023 campaign, picking up three wins, including one tournament game, under a new head coach, Bill Lonsinger.

Coach Lonsinger came to Loudonville this fall after coaching in Mt. Vernon for seven seasons, inheriting a team that went 0-16-1. While this year's record of 3-14-2 was not impressive, it was a marked improvement.

Key to that improvement, Lonsinger said, "was the play of six or seven freshmen who really grew this season. Our record is misleading because we also lost five games by 1-0 scores. We were so close to winning we could taste it, with little mistakes, caused by inexperience, costing us."

He also said the schedule was grueling. "In the latter part of it, we played nine games against rugged soccer opponents like Mansfield Christian, Waynedale, West Holmes and Berlin Hiland, in just 21 days. We became so tough that we won our first tournament game. And we have 16 players, all of whom will be back next year."

Lonsinger said the lack of seniors on the team was very unusual. "I have never coached a team before with no seniors," he said. "Because of this, our juniors, including Emlyn Bitner, Maggie England, Addie Lowe, and Quinn Morris, had to step into leadership roles."

Emlyn Bitner, Lonsinger said, "stabilized our offense, logging five assists and serving as offensive captain as a steadying force. The remainder of our offensive front and midfield were freshmen, forwards Brynn Bitner and Laney Polen, midfielders Kate Frankford and Taly Miller, and midfielder Lina Brickheisen, "a very athletic, very strong defender who showed no fear on the field."

Keeper for the Redbirds was Amber Manchester, another freshman, who compiled 85 saves against some very tough competition, "going through a baptism by fire," Lonsinger said. The most experienced part of the team was the back row defense, starting with Maggie England, who earned all-district first team honors as right defender, "a super-fast player and our most skilled defender," Lonsinger said.

Defending the other side was three-year starter Addie Lowe, who Lonsinger called, "the vocal captain of our team."

Quinn Morris started the season as goalkeeper, "but we moved her to defender because we needed her speed on the field, and she responded, earning all-district and all-league honors."

Rounding out the back row was Laila Manchester, "who we usually put on the opposition's best player. Against North-western, Laila shut down one of the best offensive players in the area with her defense, helping us to a tie against one of the best teams in the area."

Lonsinger also used his team depth, five substitutes, regularly. They included sophomore Rebecca Carroll, "who we could plug into every position on the field as needed;" Emma Harris, a junior in her first year out for soccer who filled on at forward; Becca Shriver, a freshman who will become a starter and grew a great deal this season; Gabbi Frazier, who started well for us and scored some goals before an injury slowed her; and Kathryn Lepley, who Lonsinger called, "our most improved player. She never played before and showed a lot of growth this season."

Lonsinger concluded: "This was very much a rebuilding experience. We have some talent, but very little experience as we started. I am excited about our future!"

Young Volleyball Team Enjoys Successful Season

By Jim Brewer

Replacing six regulars lost to graduation appeared to be a daunting task for Redbird volleyball coach Jackie Arnold, but she handled the challenge successfully, blending a mix of experienced veterans and talented newcomers to forge a 14-10 regular season record this fall.

Arnold's team also earned a 10-4 mark, good for third place, in its first season in the Knox-Morrow Athletic Conference (KMAC).

"Playing in the KMAC was a bigger challenge than our former league, Mid-Buckeye Conference," Arnold said as she reviewed the season. "The entire league is tougher, and the two teams that finished ahead of us, Centerburg, which had a perfect 14-0 league record, and Fredericktown, 12-2, were great teams."

A key to the volleyball team's success was outstanding depth. Arnold used a 10-player deep lineup, with all the players significantly contributing.

"Two very young players had outstanding seasons, earning all-district second team honors," said the veteran coach, who has coached volleyball, basketball, and softball, at both Loudonville and Lucas for over two decades at levels from junior high to varsity.

"Our key setter was a freshman, Ella Vermilya, who logged 641 assists," Arnold said. "She took the place of her cousin, graduating senior Payton Van Sickle, who set a school career record with over 2,000 assists the season before. Her performance targets her as breaking that career

record if she continues to play. "She stepped in, became a team leader, and did a heck of a job out of junior high," Arnold said.

Another young leader was sophomore Sophie Shultz, who started as outside hitter and led the team with 266 kills, No. 2 in the KMAC in kills, and with her 5'10" frame, became a dominant hitter. She also was an outstanding server, first in the KMAC with 67 saves.

"This was amazing because Sophie never played a varsity game until this season," Arnold said.

Also playing outside hitter was Maya Hefelfinger, a senior who had 184 kills to earn honorable mention all-district honors, and who was a good server.

Two seniors filled middle hitter posts, Lily Carr, who accrued 30 blocks before her season was cut short with an injury; and Sophie Lee, who totaled 50 blocks and with amazing jumping ability, had 118 kills. "Making Sophie's story special was the fact she didn't play volleyball until her freshman year of high school," Arnold said.

Right side hitter was Chloe Ganson, who had 100 kills and was great on defense, compiling 101 digs and 36 blocks, Arnold said.

Filling the key libero slot was junior Addison Wolford, who Arnold moved from setter to libero this season, "because of her great quickness and ability as a great setter and passer," the coach said. "Her season was impressive, with 413 digs and 372 service receipts, and she was our leading server, logging 332 serves with only five errors all season."

"We also had three excellent back row players," the coach said, "making this the most solid back row I have ever coached here." These players included Maggie Vermilya, a junior, who had 131 digs and 204 serve receipts; Helaina Gray, 192 digs and 208 serve receipts; and Rylee Kline, 199 digs and 224 serve receipts.

Arnold praised her team for doing well in the tournaments, making it to the districts and then pushing highly seeded Kirtland to five matches in a tough loss in the district finals.

"We were young, and save a few mistakes caused by youth and inexperience, we would have beaten them," Arnold said with pride.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Call Betti Weimer - 419-651-6158

CHILI COOK-OFF

Mohicanville Community Church will be hosting its annual Chili Cook-Off at the Hayesville Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday, November 9th from 5-7 p.m. Open to everyone. Anyone can provide an entry of chili. Entries need to be at the fire house by 4:30 p.m. Prizes awarded for the best chili.

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

November 15 at 7 p.m. at Loudonville Fair Building (across from Ohio Theatre). Prizes: 1st Place \$75; 2nd Place; \$50; 3rd Place \$25, Refreshments, 50/50 Raffle. \$20 Entry. Arrive by 6:45. Sponsored by Rotary with proceeds benefitting School Scholarships. For Questions, contact Brian Hartzell at 567-215-3236.

THE OHIO THEATRE

Movie: **"Venom The Last Dance"** Nov 8th, 9th at 7:00, 10th at 2:00. 419-994-3750. theohiotheatre.com. **THREE CROSSES UMF** Veterans Day Spaghetti Dinner, Monday, November 11, 5-7 pm. 12 Cleveland St., Butler. All are invited!

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FOR RENT

2 Bedroom Apt in Perrysville. \$700 Deposit and first month's rent. Non-Smokers only and no pets. One year lease. Call 419-938-5851. 6 PM to 9 PM.

FOR SALE

Seasoned Firewood For Sale. \$70/Rick, \$200/Cord. (419) 651-7687

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HELP WANTED

Brad's Auto Body, Shop experience required, \$15 - \$25/hr. depending on skill. Full Time. 419-989-0561.

NOTICE

Village of Perrysville is accepting resumes for the fiscal officer position and will be accepted until 3 p.m. November 7th. Salary determined by experience. Resumes can be emailed to perrysvillepwd@gmail.com, mailed to Village of Perrysville, P.O. Box 250 Perrysville, or dropped off at 120 N. Bridge St., Perrysville.

NOTICE

A Notice of Election and Annual Meeting of the Loudonville Agricultural Society. Election will be held on November 11, 2024 from 3 pm

until 7 pm at the fair office along with an amendment to the Loudonville Agricultural constitution. To see the amendment in question, visit the website at <http://loudonvillestreetfair.com>.

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Boss Painting & Handyman, Perrysville. Free Estimates, Fully Insured, Contact Brian Sapp (419) 306-7342 or bosspainting1776@gmail.com.

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