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The Loudonville High School Class of 1985 held its 40th reunion Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Black Fork Bistro, with 42 classmates attending. Members came from as far as Indiana, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and North Carolina.

From left, back row: Lauri (Rowat) Sellers, Susan Buzzard, James Schaffer, Amy (Stake) Kelly, Cynthia (Wolcott) McIntire, Diane Furno, Scott Gardner, Brian Hardin, Gary Buzzard, Ned Leedy, Mark Gooch, Michelle (Koch) Frasher, Nick Zuercher, Raymond Marlow, Dave Truax, Larry Juergens, James Komives, Bryan Fliger, Scott Algire, Paul Jones, Bill Morris, Dan Truax and Steve Weltmer.

Middle row: Sharon (Dobbins) Matz, Gretchen (Hughes) Fiocca, Don Walkerow, Karen Edgington-Philpott, Elizabeth (Arndt) Senderling, Kathy (Caudill) Cline, Craig Henderson, Kim (Garnsey) Spreng, Brenda (Dingus) O'Brien, Tammy (Caudill) Perkins, Lisa (Quay) Schumaker, Allen Bush, Laren (Ziegler) Wienclaw and Leslie (Lifer) Christine.

Front row: Wende (Gribble) Lance, Kara (Hughes) Cappellano, Lynn (Byerly) Schaffer, JoAnne (Kline) Schaffer and Jon Snyder.

Submitted Photo



Photo banners honoring Mohican Area veterans hang in Loudonville's Central Park as part of the annual Veterans Day tribute. The display features more than 100 banners and is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.

Photo by Amanda Chambers



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Eight LPS Staff Members to Retire

By Jim Brewer

Retirements were approved for eight Loudonville-Perrysville School District staff members at the Nov. 10 school board meeting.

Seven of those retiring work at Loudonville High School, including Principal Chrissie Butts and Assistant Principal Ed Honabarger. Also retiring from the high school are David Lance, school counselor; Jackie Arnold, French; Aimee Ross, English; Dan Weber, chemistry and physics; and Jim Gale, eighth grade science. Laurie Weber, a kindergarten teacher, is also retiring.

“We are losing a lot of knowledge here,” board member Judy Briggs said.

Superintendent Jennifer Allering discussed several costly maintenance issues the district is facing, beginning with work to descale and insert liners into the sewer lines between buildings at the high school.

“These lines are old. The high school opened in 1964 and the pipes are subject to corrosion, which has caused leaks and breaks,” Allering said. The cost to descale and add the liners will be about \$50,000.

Allering also reviewed options to repair or replace bleachers at Redbird Stadium. “My initial thought was to use part of the home-side bleachers for the away side, but we found that it will cost just as much to do that as to build new,” she said. “The cost of new visitor and home bleachers, including ADA-compliant seating, is well over \$900,000. Due to the high cost, we are looking to complete work on the visitor section project and save for future seating for the home section.”

Board member Bruce Davis agreed on the need for replacement, noting that the visitor seating was in poor condition.

Plans to reseed and install an irrigation system for the soccer fields behind McMullen Elementary School are also expected to be costly, with an estimated price of \$100,000 to \$110,000. Work must begin soon, Allering said, because the new grass will need about 100 days to establish before it can be used.

Administrative actions included approving new dental and vision insurance plans. Treasurer Christine Angerer said the plans were separated from the district’s medical insurance to save money. They will cost about 8 percent more than last year but would have been higher if kept in the medical package, she said.

The board also approved the purchase of two new school buses, an agreement with Specialized Education of Ohio for special education services, and an extension of the probationary period for a maintenance position from 15 to 45 days.

Other personnel actions included hiring a cafeteria aide and classified substitutes, approving a temporary substitute teaching license, and naming spring sports coaches. A cafeteria aide’s resignation was also accepted.

Donations accepted by the board included contributions from individuals, parent groups, and community organizations for classroom supplies, flexible seating, extracurricular activities, and memorial funds. Notable donations included \$10,000 from the FFA Alumni to the district, \$1,000 from the Legion Auxiliary to Budd School, and several smaller gifts to support student programs.

Allering also recognized the high school band for their excellence, as well as several fall sports athletes for postseason honors.

In boys soccer, Kaden Luyster earned first team North Central District honors, Brayson Youngen was named to the second team, and Ethan Hess and Dylan Hammitt received honorable mention. In girls soccer, Maggie England earned first team honors, Laila Manchester was named to the second team, and Brynn Bitner and Emlyn Bitner received honorable mention.

Mid-Buckeye Conference awards went to Luyster, first team, and Youngen, honorable mention for boys soccer, and to England, Manchester, and Brynn Bitner, first team, and Emlyn Bitner, honorable mention for girls soccer.

In volleyball, Addison Wolford and Sophie Shultz earned first team Knox Morrow Athletic Conference (KMAC) honors, Ella Vermilya was named to second team, and Maggie Vermilya received honorable mention. Helaina Gray earned all-academic honors.

In football, Josiah Hersberger was named to the KMAC first team defense, Drew Robinson and Collin Caley to second team, Gavin Eikleberry received honorable mention, and Zeb Brecheisen earned all-academic honors.

Landon Barnett was named KMAC first team in golf, and Nora Lance earned KMAC second team in cross country.

At the close of the meeting, the board went into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

The next school board meeting will be held Monday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. All board meetings are open to the public.



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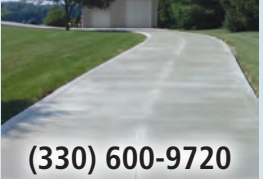
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Property Tour:
November 18TH at 3:00pm. Private showings available.

Tessie's Tidbits will return.

Need for Banks Brought Change

Excerpts from the 1985 book "Tales of the Mohican Country" by the late author, local historian, and Loudonville Times editor Lee Cavin. Printed by permission of copyright holder Sally Truax.

The first settlers coming into the Mohican country didn't have to worry much about where to stash their surplus cash. "Hard money" was a rare commodity on the frontier. Barter and swapped labor was a way of life.

When a pioneer did need a place for safekeeping, he often left his cash temporarily with the proprietor of a local store or tavern. Though there were no roads and few towns, early settlers seem to travel a lot... to Zanesville to find a government office... all the way to New Orleans to locate a market for produce.

It was only natural that when a bank was opened on the frontier, it was often a local merchant who started it. Almost all early financial establishments were private businesses, often owned by one man, and there were no state or financial regulations beyond the granting of charters.

When the Mohican area was first settled, the nearest operating bank was the Owl Creek Bank in Mount Vernon. It provided safekeeping, letters of credit, and even printed its own money for a time. In the immediate area, Owl Creek dollars were accepted by most people, but few outlying merchants wanted them. When they did take them, they discounted the bills, often paying only 50 percent of the face value.

John Goodwin, of the First National Bank in Ashland, researched the early banks of the county several years ago.

He believes that the second bank in Ashland County was opened in Loudonville by Nathaniel Haskell.

The first bank, by the way, was the predecessor of the First National Bank of Ashland, whose directors purchased Luther, Crall and Company in 1864. Luther, Crall had been founded as a private bank in 1852.

Nathaniel Haskell opened his private bank at the south-east corner of Main and Water in Loudonville.

Haskell had opened a dry goods store in Loudonville 30 years before. Like many early settlers, he was a man of many parts. He had served as village clerk shortly after the town was incorporated; opened and taught at the village academy for 13 years. He sensed that the community was ready for a place where merchants could have banking services, money could be safeguarded, and capital raised for more ambitious projects than could be financed by individuals.

Goodwin points out that many private banks existed for only short periods of time. Sometimes they had difficulty filling the positions of key officers when the founders died or retired. Sometimes a local business failure started a run on the bank's limited resources; banks were then forced to close because they could not call existing loans and mortgages in time to meet depositor demands, and there was then no access to interbank loans.

J.L. Quick was cashier of the Haskell Bank, and continued in that position after the death of the founder in 1875.

Haskell's nephew George inherited his uncle's interest in the bank, and reorganized it as the Loudonville Banking Company. Later it received a charter as the First National Bank of Loudonville, and continued in business here until just before the depression of the 1930s.

The interval between the Civil War and World War I was a heyday for private banks in Loudonville. Spurred perhaps by the death of pioneer banker Haskell, Adam Ullman Sr., and other local investors organized the Farmers Bank of Loudonville in 1875, and in 1905 the Citizens Bank was founded. At the turn of the century, Goodwin notes, Loudonville was being served by three separate, privately owned, commercial banks. There are five separate commercial banks in the entire county today.

Attrition set in during the depression of the 1930s. The First National had ceased business a few years before, and the Farmers Bank and Citizens Bank combined to create the Farmers and Savings Bank of today.

The Perrysville Bank, founded in 1890 as a private bank by S.A. Raridon, became a state bank in 1914 when private banks came under the supervision of the Ohio Banking Commission. It was taken into liquidation at the request of the owner in 1931.

Today a branch of the Farmers and Savings Bank serves Perrysville. Banking practices and demand for capital have so changed that Farmers and Savings itself later became a part of a banking complex known as Centran. Since then it has united with a Knox County institution.

From surviving for 60 years with no bank at all, to having three banks in the early years of this century, Loudonville returned to having just one commercial bank for almost 50 years. Then, with the easing of laws regarding branch banks, First National of Ashland opened an office in a new building here in the late 1970s.

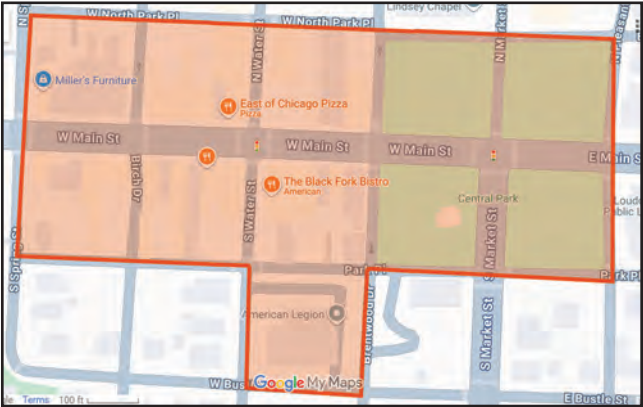
A few years before, Loudonville had acquired a branch of the First Federal Savings and Loan of Mount Vernon. This institution bought the Ullman Hotel building and remodeled the lower floors for its operation. In 1991 its assets were purchased by the First Federal Savings and Loan of Wooster.

Today, with accounts handled by computers, and check and credit cards more common for most transactions than cash, there are over 30 people employed in the three local financial institutions.

It's a far cry for when local settlers left their money in a tin box behind the counter at the store any time they found it necessary to float downriver and must leave the cabin unprotected.

Loudonville DORA Launches in Downtown District

By Amanda Chambers



A map outlines the boundaries of Loudonville's new Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, shown in red, covering the downtown corridor and Central Park.

Submitted Photo

American Legion Post 257, Beano's Buckeye Ballroom and Fraternal Order of Eagles 2275 currently offer DORA beverages. Participating sellers display a blue DORA sticker, and patrons may not reenter those establishments with a DORA beverage.

Businesses within the district will also display green or red DORA stickers. Green indicates DORA beverages are allowed inside while red indicates they are not.

The DORA operates every Friday and Saturday from

noon to 10 p.m. except during the Loudonville Street Fair. Additional signage marking the district's perimeter is expected to be installed.

If you have a press release please contact
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The Downtown Loudonville Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) launched Friday, Nov. 14. The program allows visitors to carry and consume alcoholic beverages within a defined section of the village.

The DORA covers the downtown corridor, including shops, restaurants, salons, wellness businesses and Central Park. Beverages must be purchased from approved establishments and carried in single use cups marked for the program.

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 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - 3 egg whites
 - 1/4 cup granulated sugar

Directions:
Melt chocolate in double boiler or microwave oven. Remove from heat.

Combine egg yolks and cream and gradually add chocolate, stirring rapidly. Add vanilla and mix well.

Beat egg whites with sugar until soft peaks form. Gently fold egg whites into chocolate mixture.

Spoon mousse into decorative mold or individual dessert cups. Chill at least 2 hours.

WHITE TURKEY
CHILI

- Ingredients:
- 1 1/2 cups onion, coarsely chopped
 - 2 cloves garlic, minced
 - 1 Tablespoon olive oil
 - 1 jalapeño pepper, minced
 - 1 can (4 ounce) chopped mild green chilies
 - 1 teaspoon ground cumin
 - 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
 - 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
 - 1 cup reduced sodium chicken bouillon
 - 1 can (19 ounce) white kidney beans (cannellini), drained and rinsed
 - 2 cups cooked turkey, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
 - 1/4 cup fresh cilantro, coarsely chopped
 - 1/2 cup reduced fat Monterey Jack cheese, grated

Directions:
In 3-quart sauce pan, over medium-high heat, saute onions and garlic in oil 5 minutes or until onion is tender. Add jalapeño pepper, chilies, cumin, oregano, cayenne pepper, and salt. Cook 1 minute.

Stir in bouillon, beans and turkey. Bring to boil; reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, 20 to 25 minutes or until slightly thickened. Stir in cilantro.

To serve, ladle into bowls and top with 2 Tablespoons cheese.

Recipe and image Source The National Turkey Federation

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Local Program Distributes Fresh Produce to Hundreds of Families

By Amanda Chambers

A local program is helping families access fresh produce and other food items twice a month, serving hundreds of community members in need.

The program, supported by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, operates on the first and third Friday of every month. Each distribution serves between 200 and 250 families, totaling approximately 500 to 700 individuals. Most of the items are fresh fruits and vegetables, though bread products such as loaves, bagels, and English muffins are occasionally included.

There are no financial or regional requirements for families to receive food. Organizers emphasize that the distributions are open to all who need assistance.

The drive-through distributions begin at 10 a.m. at the Loudonville High School Fieldhouse and continue until the food runs out, though the event usually lasts about 30 minutes. Recipients can start lining up earlier in the parking lot, and food is loaded directly into their vehicles on a first-come, first-served basis.

Diane Cawood, who coordinates the third Friday distributions through Ashland's First Church of the Brethren, said community needs have grown over the years. "The third Friday has been serving for 17 years, and I believe the needs in the community are getting greater," she said.

Volunteers play a critical role in the program. Each distribution averages 20 to 25 volunteers, who help bag produce, load vehicles, and manage cleanup. Students from Mohican Young Star Academy and Loudonville High School's Agri-Science classes occasionally participate.

Organizers said extreme weather can sometimes affect attendance, but a core group of volunteers helps keep the distributions running smoothly. Bethany Paterson of Loudonville's New Hope Community Church oversees the first Friday



Volunteer Jack Heller and others load food from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank into cars during a recent produce giveaway. The distributions are held the first and third Fridays of each month, rain or shine.

Submitted Photo

distributions and said volunteers can simply show up to help. They arrive at the LHS Field House between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. and are assigned tasks, according to Paterson.

Paterson also clarified that the distributions always occur on the first and third Fridays of the month, rain or shine, except in rare cases such as holidays when the food bank is unavailable.

For more information, contact Bethany Paterson, Bethanypaterson@gmail.com for first Friday distributions or Diane Cawood, 330-636-1914 for third Friday distributions.

Fair Book Contest Winner Announced

By Amanda Chambers

Angela Spreng has been named the winner of the 2025 Loudonville Fair Book local history contest.

Spreng, who enters the contest each year with her husband, said she was surprised to receive the call announcing her win. She said participating has become a family tradition.

When asked what her favorite part of the fair was, she said, "My favorite part is watching the excitement and looks of pure amazement on our kids' faces when we visit the fair. They enjoy showing their projects, seeing friends, riding the rides, and eating their favorite fair foods."

Spreng is originally from Bellevue, Ohio, and moved to Loudonville in 2014 to become the band director at the high school. She met her husband soon after moving, and the couple married in December 2015. They have four children, including 10-month-old twins.



Angela Spreng, winner of the 2025 Loudonville Fair Book local history contest, poses with her husband and four children. She received \$300 in gift certificates from Fair Book advertisers. Back, from left: Zeke, Scott, Angela and Anna Spreng. Front, from left: Nora and Claire Spreng.

Submitted Photo

Spreng received \$300 in gift certificates from Fair Book advertisers. The contest is sponsored by Ohio Program Solutions in partnership with the Cleo Redd Fisher Museum.

AREA WORSHIP

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Loudonville Police Calls

Between Nov. 3-8, police conducted 18 business checks and five traffic stops where warnings were issued.

Nov. 3, 10:03 a.m. A 25-year-old Perrysville man was cited for expired vehicle registration on N. Jefferson St. near Haskell St.

Nov. 4, 2:46 p.m. Police stopped a vehicle on W. Main St. at Market St. for a traffic violation and arrested a 31-year-old Massillon man for driving under an OVI suspension. He also was cited for a right-of-way violation while turning left and taken to the Ashland County Jail.

Nov. 4, 10:09 p.m. Police and Ashland County sheriff's deputies arrested a Loudonville woman on a Medina County warrant at a residence in the 500 block of N. Market St.

Nov. 5, 4:53 a.m. Police investigated a car-deer crash on Ohio 3 near the south village limits.

Nov. 5, 1:05 p.m. Police responded to a fight in the 400 block of Campus Ave. The case remains under investigation.

Nov. 5, 2:39 p.m. Police investigated a harassment report in the 100 block of N. Water St. A Loudonville man was warned to cease the harassment. No arrests were made.

Nov. 5, 4:55 p.m. Police assisted the Ashland County Sheriff's Office with a medical emergency on Township Road 2946.

Nov. 5, 6:08 p.m. Police were advised of downed power lines in the roadway in the 200 block of W. Campbell St.

Nov. 5, 6:19 p.m. Police responded to a custody dispute in the 100 block of E. Main St. and helped mediate the issue for the night.

Nov. 6, 3:12 a.m. While checking local businesses, police discovered a broken window at a business. They initiated an investigation and contacted the business owner.

Nov. 6, 9:04 a.m. Police took a found property report in the 500 block of Wooster Rd.

Nov. 6, 1:34 p.m. Police initiated an ongoing investigation into illegal drug activity.

Nov. 6, 4:49 p.m. Police responded to a possible drug or medical issue in the 500 block of Kettering Dr. and assisted the emergency squad.

Nov. 6, 6:26 p.m. Police assisted the emergency squad with a medical emergency in the 400 block of S. Market St.

Nov. 7, 7:52 a.m. Police assisted with a disabled vehicle on E. Main St. near Banks Ave.

Nov. 7, 10:36 a.m. Police, Ashland County sheriff's deputies and Mohican State Park rangers assisted the Galion Police Department with a missing person case. The person was later found, and the case remains under investigation with criminal charges pending in multiple jurisdictions.

Nov. 7, 11:03 a.m. Police issued a Loudonville man an ordinance violation notice after a parking complaint in the 400 block of N. Wood St.

Nov. 7, 5:23 p.m. Police delivered a message in the 100 block of E. Bustle St.

Nov. 7, 5:39 p.m. Police assisted Mohican State Park rangers with a disturbance in the state park.

Nov. 8, 1:32 p.m. Police responded to a hit-skip accident in the 100 block of E. Main St. The case remains under investigation.

Nov. 8, 2:05 p.m. Police responded to downed power lines in the roadway in the 200 block of N. Water St.

Nov. 8, 4 p.m. Police investigated a vehicle vs. building hit-skip accident in the 400 block of Rose Ct.

Nov. 8, 4:25 p.m. A 31-year-old Loudonville woman was arrested for OVI and driving under a 12-point suspension in the 400 block of Rose Ct.



Taylor Runge, third from left, shows the \$600 in groceries he collected in the first Mohican Area Community Fund Grocery Grab last week. Also pictured are Jeannie and Tom Stake, owners of Stake's IGA, who partnered with MACF on the promotion; Stake's IGA General Manager Matt Fliger; and MACF board members Matt Armstrong, Michelle D'Amico, Jill Charlton and Doreen Edmondson. MACF sold 800 tickets for the event.

Submitted Photo

European Tradition Coming to Loudonville

By Amanda Chambers

The first Mohican Christkindlmarkt will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 5, 6, 12 and 13 along North and South Water streets. The outdoor market, organized by the Cleo Redd Fisher Museum, is inspired by traditional European Christmas markets.

The event will feature vendor cabins, food trucks, handmade gifts, baked goods, imported German decor, traditional holiday items, fire pits, lights and decorations.

It will coincide with the annual Loudonville Christmas Parade at 5 p.m. Dec. 6. Loudonville's designated outdoor refreshment area will also be active during the event.

Organizers said they hope the Mohican Christkindlmarkt will become an annual community tradition. More information is available at crfmuseum.com/christmasmarket.

Pomerene Names Director of Human Resources

Pomerene Hospital is pleased to announce the appointment of Jenna Jacobs, SHRM-CP, as the new Executive Director of Human Resources.

Jacobs joined Pomerene in March 2024 as a Human Resources Generalist and has most recently served as the hospital's Physician and Provider Recruiter. During her time with Pomerene, she has demonstrated strong leadership, strategic insight, and a collaborative approach that has made a lasting impact across the organization.

As Executive Director of Human Resources, Jacobs will guide Pomerene's HR initiatives with a focus on employee engagement, organizational culture, and workforce excellence.

A lifelong resident of Holmes County, Jacobs lives in Millersburg with her husband and two daughters. She holds a bachelor's degree in Organizational Communication from Kent State University and a SHRM-CP certification. She is also pursuing a Master of Business Administration with a specialization in Human Resource Management from Ashland University, expected to graduate in December 2025.

Prior to joining Pomerene, Jacobs worked for several years as a recruiting manager, bringing extensive experience in talent acquisition and employee relations.

Pomerene Hospital congratulates Jenna on this well-earned promotion and looks forward to the continued leadership and vision she will bring to the organization.



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Redbirds Girls Basketball Sets Sights on KMAC Title

By Kinah Yoder

The Loudonville Redbirds girls basketball team begins the new season with its sights set on a KMAC championship after finishing 16-9 and reaching the district finals last year. With several key returners and new contributors, the Redbirds aim to build on that momentum and take the next step.

Senior guard Addison Wolford enters her final season as a key leader.

“She put in time and worked hard over the summer to get ready for her leadership role on the court in this, her final year in our program.” Head coach Daryl Young said.

Wolford earned second-team All-KMAC honors and was named to the All-District and Times-Gazette All-Area teams last season. She led the conference in steals and ranked among the leaders in assists and free-throw percentage.

Junior forward Elly Hensel returns to the starting lineup. “Elly has put in offseason work to improve her post play around the basket and also has the ability to knock down outside shots,” Young said. “On the defensive end, Elly brings strength and toughness to the interior of our defense.”

Junior Mya Vermilya also returns after missing last season due to injury. Vermilya was an All-Ohio performer as a freshman. Young described her as a player whose “offensive and defensive skills, her competitive drive and her passion for her team will make her a huge impact player this season.”

Young said senior leaders Kylar Staten and Abby Eikleberry will provide leadership, toughness, and scoring for the Redbirds this season. He emphasized that their passion, hustle, and competitive drive make them important contributors to the team.

He also noted that sophomores Jordyn Johnson and Sylvia Spangler have made significant progress in the offseason and are expected to play key roles on the varsity squad this year.

The Redbirds plan to emphasize pace and defensive pressure.

“We will be looking to push the ball up the court with purpose and play fast, pressure defense for 32 minutes,” Young said. “Ball movement and attacking the basket will be an emphasis to help improve scoring, both in transition and

from set plays. Learning to maintain defensive pressure on our opponents in various types of defenses will also be a key focus.”

Young outlined the team’s postseason goals: making a deep run in the OHSAA tournament by advancing through the sectional, district, and regional rounds on the way to the state tournament.

Last season, Loudonville tied for second in the KMAC. This year, the team is aiming for a conference championship.

“We look to bring home the first team sport KMAC championship in the school’s second year in the conference,” Young said. He identified Fredericktown, Centerburg, and Northmor as strong opponents.

Young expressed appreciation for community support. “We really appreciated all the community support we received last year and hope for it to continue and maybe even more this season,” he said. “It is truly a blessing to be a part of the Loudonville community.”

The Redbirds open their season against Wynford in the Barn Ball Classic at Smithville High School on Friday, Nov. 21.

Loudonville Wrestling Team Builds on Last Year’s Experience

By Kinah Yoder

The Loudonville Redbirds boys wrestling team is preparing for the upcoming season with several returning district qualifiers and new athletes joining the roster.

“We’re returning a solid group of wrestlers with some new, exciting additions,” assistant coach Bryce McCaskey said.

Leading the team are seniors Brayden Marotta, who finished last season with a 27-13 record, Brady Smith with a 36-16 record, and Trevor Dawson with a 26-18 record. All three are returning district qualifiers and bring experience to the lineup.

The team also welcomes back junior Josh Brown, a district qualifier, along with sophomore Wyatt Denslow.

Both are expected to continue building on their success from last year.

Several underclassmen are set to make an impact as well. Waylon Harris, who posted a 20-14 record last season, and Coltin Caley are among the younger wrestlers looking to contribute.

The Redbirds open their season at 9 a.m. Dec. 6 at Tuslaw.

A Stroll Through Our Mohican Garden: How to Spot and Stop Whiteflies

By Eric Larson

A reader near Mohican State Park wrote to me after a frustrating gardening season. Her zucchini, cucumbers, and tomatoes were badly damaged. The photos she sent showed clear signs of a whitefly infestation on the zucchini leaves.

Whiteflies are small, winged insects that feed on the sap inside plants. They attach themselves to the plant’s circulatory system, weakening it and leaving behind a sticky residue. This residue often leads to black sooty mold, which can further harm the plant. If left untreated, whiteflies can kill squash, cucumbers, or tomato plants.

Each female whitefly can lay up to 400 eggs over a period of about two months. These eggs hatch into nymphs that feed on the plant for three to four weeks before maturing into adults. Because of their rapid life cycle, whiteflies can multiply quickly and become a serious problem in a short time.

If you see tiny white insects flying up when you brush a plant, or notice yellowing leaves, sticky surfaces, or black mold, it is likely whiteflies are present. You may also find small white dots on the underside of the leaves, which are often the eggs.

The first step is to remove and destroy infested plant material. Do not compost anything that may still contain live insects or eggs. I like to gather as much garden waste as possible and then go over the area with a lawn vacuum to collect any remaining debris. In some cases, I have used a lawn torch to kill off stubborn eggs.



Whiteflies feeding on the leaf cause damage that leads to chlorosis, or yellowing, weakening the plant and reducing its ability to thrive.

Photo by Eric Larson



A close-up of a whitefly feeding on a leaf, showing the delicate wings and tiny body of this common garden pest.

Photo by Eric Larson

To monitor the population, I place yellow sticky traps near the plants. Whiteflies are attracted to the color and become stuck on the surface. These traps help you see how serious the infestation is and whether further treatment is needed. A few insects might not require strong action, but larger numbers suggest it is time to act.

One effective approach is to release natural predators such as ladybugs, lacewings, or parasitic wasps. These beneficial insects feed on whiteflies and their larvae. They are available from garden suppliers. Supporting these predators by limiting pesticide use helps keep the population in balance.

If needed, you can also apply neem oil or insecticidal soap. Be sure to spray the undersides of the leaves, where the insects tend to gather. These treatments usually need to be repeated to catch the next wave of hatching nymphs.

Whiteflies are more than a nuisance. They can also spread plant diseases, including tomato yellow leaf curl, which can severely affect your harvest. Catching infestations early is the best way to protect your plants.

Some gardeners experiment with compost teas or certain plant combinations to repel or confuse pests. These methods can be helpful, though results may vary. Whichever approach you take, regular attention and a mix of strategies give you the best chance at success.

If you notice something unusual in your garden during your stroll this week, feel free to let me know. I am always glad to help if I can. Email me at ericlarrison546@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Call Betti Weimer - 419-651-6158

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
Welcome to Grace Fellowship Church, 2150 T.R. 585, Loudonville. Join us Sundays @ 10am as we study God's Word together!
HELPING HAND FOOD PANTRY NOTICE
Snap/Food Stamps recipients may come to Helping Hand twice in November & December

for full assistance, lower level Loudonville Youth Building, 200 North Union St. 2-4:30 pm Tuesdays.
LOCAL DAY OF SHARING
Tues. Dec. 9, 11-4 pm, Loudonville Church of the Nazarene. Food vouchers, new toys, items from The Store. To Register: www.surveymonkey.com/r/L65K7RC Call 419-827-8277 for phone

survey Mon-Fri. 1-3. Deadline to register is November 30 with no exceptions. Open to Families in L/P district.
THE OHIO THEATRE
World Premiere of “**A Christmas Carol: An Arts Alive Musical**” Nov. 20, 21, 22 at 7:00 & 23 at 2:00. Reserved Seating! www.ohiotheatre.com

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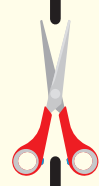
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