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SCAN TO SHOP GIFTS

Village Approves August 30 Truck Show

By Jim Brewer

Loudonville Village Council approved a new community event, a truck show, at its meeting Monday, June 2.

Council passed a motion allowing Gabe Griffith, a Loudonville native now living in Wooster and working in the trucking industry, to collaborate with the Loudonville Chamber of Commerce on planning the event. The show is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 30.

“The Chamber suggested that date to coincide with its craft show, figuring the two events can build on each other,” said Cathy Lance, the council’s liaison to the Chamber. Griffith had originally proposed a Sept. 13 date.

While many details remain to be finalized, Griffith emphasized the importance of announcing the event early so local truck owners can plan to participate.

“The truck show would be patterned on our successful car show,” he said, adding that he expects about 70 trucks in the event’s first year.

The event will feature tractor units only, with no trailers, and the trucks will be parked on village streets in a similar manner to the annual car show. Lance raised the question of whether the event could be held without closing Main Street, noting that about half of downtown merchants prefer to keep it open.

“What difference will it make?” asked Councilman Tom Young. “If there are crowds of people walking downtown, some are going into the businesses whether the streets are open or not.”

Council left the final planning of the event to the Chamber and Griffith.

Griffith said he now favors holding the event from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. instead of during the evening. While he had initially considered an evening show to allow for a lighted truck parade, he said the morning format would likely be more practical to coincide with the Chamber’s other scheduled event.

In other business, Mayor Jason Van Sickle presented certificates of appreciation to two local businesses for contributions to the village’s Block Camera System, a tool used by law enforcement to capture high-tech images of vehicles involved in crimes.

Farkas Farms, which operates the new marijuana dispensary in Loudonville, donated \$9,000, while River Run Canoe Livery contributed \$3,000. Police Capt. Sean Gorrell said each Block camera costs about \$3,000 per year to operate.

Gorrell also reported that the camera system helped solve a robbery in May. The technology captured images that led to the suspect’s arrest in Butler.

In response to a request from Ron Fetzer, representing the United Methodist Church of Loudonville, the council unanimously approved painting a pedestrian crosswalk across North Market Street at the north side of North Park Place. The crosswalk will provide safe passage between the church and Snyder Funeral Home.

Council also discussed a possible crosswalk between the Loudonville Public Library and Central Park. However, Mayor Van Sickle noted that the plan would require state approval, as Main Street is part of state Routes 3 and 39.

Village Administrator Garret DeWitt reported that the village did not receive a Community Development Block Grant for a sidewalk extension on North Union Street from Campbell Street to Stone Meadow Circle. He said he would seek other grant opportunities, while Councilman Brandon Biddinger encouraged the village to consider funding the project independently if necessary.

DeWitt also reported that the maintenance department will begin edging South Mount Vernon Avenue, started mosquito spraying last week, and will manage watering duties for downtown plantings this summer.

Councilman Young requested an update on the village’s street paving schedule. DeWitt said contractors have not yet provided a timeline.

Council heard the first reading of an ordinance to establish a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) downtown and approved an additional appropriations ordinance.

Council also approved a Farmers Market Yoga program during this summer’s markets; a banner for Farmers Markets; street closure for the July 5 car show; and use of the parks for the Bikes for Kids show on Tuesday, June 17.

Council member Hollie McCauley was absent from the meeting due to illness.

The next council meeting is Monday, June 16, at 6 p.m. in the council chambers, located upstairs in the village office building, 156 N. Water St. The chambers are handicapped accessible via the rear fire escape entrance.

All council meetings are open to the public.

Perrysville Council Maintains Sheriff Contract, Faces Infrastructure Costs

By Amanda Chambers

The Perrysville Village Council met Monday, June 2, deciding to continue its law enforcement contract with the Ashland County Sheriff’s Office while facing mounting challenges related to aging infrastructure, limited funding, and concerns from residents over rising service costs.

Ashland County Sheriff Kurt Schneider addressed council members to outline the services included in the village’s current law enforcement contract, which costs \$103,000 annually. The contract includes 40 hours of weekly deputy presence, as well as administrative support, evidence maintenance, inmate housing, and vehicle use — along with other services that the sheriff’s office provides without passing ad-

ditional costs on to the village. Schneider noted that the cost could increase next year due to upcoming labor negotiations with the union.

Council members questioned what services the village is currently utilizing under the agreement. After discussion, the council agreed it is not the right time to pursue forming a village police department. They opted to continue the existing contract with the sheriff’s office while also exploring regional partnerships and funding options to reduce costs.

Village Administrator Mike McCaskey reported that at least two businesses are considering relocating to Perrysville. Discussions are underway regarding potential sites, including the Pottery

Warehouse and nearby properties that could be annexed into the village.

McCaskey also said an individual is interested in establishing a canoe livery in the village. The council discussed possible riverfront launch areas that could serve both recreational and emergency rescue purposes. McCaskey plans to consult with nearby property owners.

The council discussed ongoing efforts to repair the road leading to the Step 2 facility. A grant application is in progress that could cover 75% of the estimated cost, leaving approximately \$118,000 to be funded. Options discussed included using permissive tax funds or requesting financial support from Step 2. The village currently has \$14,000 allocated for road repairs this year.

A local resident raised concerns about the rising costs and proposed tax increases, stating that many residents are already financially stretched and cannot afford additional burdens. In response, council members explained that long-overdue repairs and maintenance, postponed in previous years, are now becoming urgent and more expensive to address. They acknowledged the impact on families and individuals on fixed incomes and expressed sympathy for the situation. However, they emphasized that infrastructure costs must be covered somehow. Council members said they are actively exploring grants, partnerships, and opportunities to attract new businesses in an effort to reduce the financial burden on residents.

Several ordinances and resolutions were addressed during the meeting.

A proposed ordinance to eliminate the current 0.5% income tax credit for taxes paid to other municipalities was tabled for future discussion. Currently, Perrysville residents pay a 1% local income tax and receive a credit of up

to 0.5% for income taxes paid to other municipalities.

During the discussion, Mayor Steve Goines also raised the possibility of increasing the village income tax rate from 1% to either 1.25% or 1.5%, while keeping the 0.5% credit intact. No action was taken on these proposals, and council members agreed to revisit the matter at a future meeting.

Council approved an ordinance granting a 100% property tax abatement for a period of 10 years for residential developments that include at least twelve dwelling units. The abatement applies to new housing projects built within village limits or in areas eligible for annexation.

Council passed an ordinance to increase the annual water rate hike from 3% to 5%. However, Goines stated he would not sign it, prompting the council and McCaskey to review procedural steps in such cases. McCaskey said the increase follows recommendations from the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) but acknowledged concerns about its impact on residents as well as future grant eligibility. The sewer rate increase proposal was discussed but no vote was taken. The issue is expected to be revisited at a future meeting.

A resolution was introduced to limit the use of travel

trailers and motorhomes on village property. Under the proposal, residing in such vehicles for more than seven days without zoning board approval would be prohibited. The zoning board charges \$200 to convene for a variance request. Council members suggested exploring more affordable options, extending the allowable stay to 14 days, and possibly allowing the zoning inspector discretion in granting permits. The matter will be reviewed and revised by the planning commission before returning to council.

The council unanimously approved a resolution to add the Step 2 drive to the permissive tax map.

During the meeting, Goines introduced resident Josh Book, who expressed interest in supporting local economic development. Council members agreed to research the history of a previous economic development group and connect Book with individuals involved in past efforts.

McCaskey reminded the council that Bulk Curbside Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 21. More information is available at villageofperrysville.com.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 7, at 6:00 p.m. at the Perrysville Community Building. Meetings are open to the public.

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Tessie's tidbits...

Hi folks! As I begin this week's column, I'm hoping the latest weather forecast holds true. It's Tuesday, and the forecasters are predicting some 80-degree temperatures this week! I'm so tired of wearing sweatshirts just to stay comfortable.

I came across the following story and just had to share it with you. I hope you'll be inspired to pass it along.

The Touchstone

When the great Library of Alexandria burned, the story goes, one book was saved. But it was not a valuable book, and so a poor man, who could read a little, bought it for a few coppers.

The book wasn't very interesting, but between its pages was something very interesting indeed: a thin strip of vellum on which was written the secret of the Touchstone.

The touchstone was a small pebble that could turn any common metal into pure gold. The writing explained that it lay among thousands and thousands of other pebbles that looked exactly like it. But the secret was this: the real stone would feel warm, while ordinary pebbles were cold.

So, the man sold his few belongings, bought some simple supplies, camped on the seashore, and began testing pebbles. He knew that if he picked up ordinary pebbles and simply threw them down again, he might pick up the same ones hundreds of times. So, whenever he felt one that was cold, he threw it into the sea.

He spent a whole day doing this, but none of the pebbles was the touchstone. Still, he went on and on this way: pick up a pebble — cold — throw it into the sea. Pick up another — cold — throw it into the sea.

The days stretched into weeks, and the weeks into months. Then one day, about midafternoon, he picked up a pebble — and it was warm. But before he realized what he had done, he had thrown it into the sea. He had formed such a strong habit of throwing every pebble away that, when the one he wanted finally came along, he threw it away too.

So it is with opportunity. Unless we are vigilant, it's easy to fail to recognize an opportunity when it's in our hands — and just as easy to throw it away.

— Author Unknown

+++

Congratulations to all the area high school seniors who have graduated — or will be graduating in the next few days! Some will go on to college, some will marry their high school sweethearts, and some will begin new careers.

May each of you find remarkable success — and always remember to keep reaching for the stars!

+++

For the past few weeks, State Route 95 from Perrysville toward Wooster has been getting some much-needed attention. It was in pretty rough shape, but since the state began this project, the number of dump trucks hauling various types of roadway material has been incredible!

These trucks have been hauling away the old road materials, and now the new blacktop is being applied to the road surface.

It's been amazing to see — and hear — these trucks in action, and I can't wait to take a test drive over the new pavement!

+++

Finally — "If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito." — Betty Reese

Have a wonderful week everyone!

Tessie

Loudonville High School Graduates 55 in Class of 2025

By Jim Brewer

Under sunny skies, Loudonville High School held its commencement ceremony Sunday, June 1, recognizing the 55 members of the Class of 2025.

The event featured speeches from four valedictorians and one salutatorian, all of whom shared themes focused on effort, personal growth and faith.

Valedictorians Macy Bernard, Brady Gessner, Hanna Porter and Tess Shultz each graduated with a 4.0 grade-point average. Salutatorian Sophie Lee graduated with a 3.94 GPA.

Bernard, who has earned 55 college credit hours through the College Credit Plus program, said she always wanted to be a teacher, often playing school when she got home from elementary classes. She will pursue a degree in early childhood education at Ashland University.

She encouraged her classmates to pursue meaningful success — not just profitable success — by growing as individuals and serving others. "God will lead us in leading a successful life," she said.

Gessner, who plans to study mechanical and electrical engineering at Mount Vernon Nazarene University, urged his classmates "not to get hung up on the little things. Focus on what you can control and leave the rest to God."

"If high school has taught me anything," he added, "it's that effort and success are closely related. I was successful getting good grades by paying attention and putting in the work."

Porter, who will major in marketing at Ashland University, recalled her elementary school username, which ended with "25" — their graduation year. "It's amazing that we've reached that 25," she said.

She thanked God for His support during her education and humorously reflected on the high school teachers who helped her succeed. She closed by declaring, "It's a great day to be a Redbird."

Shultz, a multiple state qualifier and school record holder in cross-country and track, used her personal journey as inspiration. "As a seventh grader I was looking forward to playing basketball, but just before the season started, I broke my leg and couldn't play," she said. "I was belittled and bullied by former teammates. So, I decided to change direction and started running cross-country and track, where the clock was the only thing that evaluated me. And I succeeded."

She received multiple college offers and chose to major in marine biology at Florida Gulf Coast University. "My journey is what makes me who I am today. Opinions don't matter — only facts do. All you can do is work harder, keep trying. Success can come after 1,000 failures."

Lee said her 13 years in the Loudonville schools "passed in an instant, changing us from out-of-control kids to confident, hard-work-

ing young adults. While we have the drive to succeed, I feel we should also live in the moment, not just focus on the future or the uncontrollable," she said. "Among the most important things we've learned is to use our abilities to help others."

Principal Chrissie Butts announced that three graduates have joined the military: Jeff Cogar in the U.S. Marine Corps; Caleb Hammitt in the U.S. Air Force; and Dilan Waded in the Air Force National Guard.

She also reported the class collectively earned \$1,071,724 in scholarships, including \$149,000 in local awards. In addition, students raised \$6,676 for the Loudonville-Perrysville School Foundation through various senior projects.

Of the 55 graduates, 38% will attend four-year colleges, 11% will attend two-year colleges, 33% will enter the workforce, 7% are entering the military, 4% will pursue apprenticeships, and 7% are undecided.

Twenty-year alumni speaker Scott Underwood, a flight test operations manager for Boeing in St. Louis, offered a lighthearted message about success, which he called "The Scotty Method."

He explained: "S stands for silly — save a little silliness in your life to make it more fun. C is for communicate — the key to working with others. O means 'own it' — be responsible for what you do. T is for travel — see the world. And TY stands for 'take care of yourself,' and while you're at it, take care of the world."

Underwood said he's worked hard throughout college and his career but always made room for fun. "I enjoy playing in my rock and roll band — which I'm sure makes no money — and brewing my own beer," he said. "It's good to be back home. I'd love to hop in the river and go for a [canoe] ride."

Superintendent Jennifer Allering also addressed the class, saying, "I have only had



Members of the Loudonville High School Class of 2025 toss their caps at the conclusion of commencement exercises Sunday, June 1.

Photo by Jim Brewer

the privilege of working with the Class of 2025 for two years, but it has been my pleasure to cheer them on. I am impressed with the work the class has done for both our school and our community. Thank you for two great years of memories!"

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12 ct.	
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 - 3 teaspoons sugar
 - 7 fresh mint leaves
 - 1/2 cup club soda
 - 3/4 cup ice cubes

Directions:
Mash sliced lemons, the lemon juice, sugar and mint with a fork or spoon in a tall glass until the lemon and mint leaves are bruised. Add club soda and ice cubes; stir gently to blend.

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- Ingredients:
- 3 medium russet potatoes
 - 2 Tablespoons butter, melted
 - 1 teaspoon paprika
 - 3/4 teaspoon garlic salt
 - 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme, crumbled
 - 1/8 teaspoon ground red pepper

Directions:
Cut potatoes into 8 wedges. Arrange in single layer, skin side down, on a 9x13 inch baking dish.

Mix butter, paprika, garlic salt, thyme and pepper in a bowl; brush onto wedges. Bake at 450 degrees for 25 minutes or until golden, turning occasionally.

BOSTON BURGER

- Ingredients:
- 1/2 pound ground beef
 - 1/4 cup chopped onion
 - 1 can (22 ounces) baked beans
 - 1/4 cup chili sauce
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 - 8 hamburger buns, split, toasted
 - 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese

Directions:
Brown meat; drain. Add onion; cook until tender.

Stir in beans, chili sauce, salt and pepper. Cover and simmer for 20 minutes.

Fill buns with meat mixture and shredded cheese.

Please note that some ingredients and brands may not be available in every store.

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Opening Weekend!

Loudonville Man Charged After Violent Domestic Incident

By Jim Brewer

A 29-year-old Loudonville man was charged with felonious assault Thursday, June 5, in Ashland County Common Pleas Court following a violent domestic incident that occurred Tuesday, June 3.

Matthew Dewitt was taken into custody after police responded to a report of a domestic assault in progress in the 700 block of North Market St. just after noon, according to a news release from the Loudonville Police Department.

Bond was set at \$750,000.

Assistant County Prosecutor Matthew Metcalf said during a virtual bond hearing that additional charges may be filed as the investigation continues.

“Once Loudonville police got to the house, Mr. Dewitt was leaning on a fence in the front yard, shirtless and covered in blood,” Metcalf said. “He had aggressively beaten his mother

and was aggressive with law enforcement officers when they arrived on scene. They deployed two sets of tasers on him, while he was telling them to kill him.”

Medical assistance was requested from the Loudonville emergency squad while officers were en route. According to the release, the first two officers on scene deployed tasers to subdue Dewitt and took him into custody. The victim, identified as Dewitt’s mother, was located inside the home.

Loudonville EMS arrived within minutes and transported the victim to a nearby helipad. She was then flown to Summa Health in Akron with life-threatening injuries.

Dewitt was transported by a separate squad to University Hospitals Samaritan Medical Center in Ashland under police supervision. After being medically cleared, he was taken to the Ashland County Jail.

Due to the severity of the injuries, multiple outside agencies were called to assist with the investigation. Responding agencies included the Ashland County Sheriff’s Office, Ashland Police Division, Ashland County Prosecutor’s Office and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. These agencies assisted in executing a search warrant, processing the scene, interviewing witnesses and collecting evidence.

The Green-Perrysville Fire Department also responded to assist with medical support at the scene.

Metcalf stated that Dewitt has previously served four prison terms and that methamphetamine was found both on his person and in his room.

He also said the charges could be elevated to murder if the victim, who remains hospitalized, does not survive.

Foundation Awards 11 Teacher Mini-Grants

By Jim Brewer

The Loudonville-Perrysville School Foundation recently awarded 11 Teacher Mini-Grants to faculty and staff of L-P Schools.

The grants were awarded as follows:

- Jordyn Burnison, \$990 for a Medical Detectives Lab Kit
- Traci Cooper, \$638 for plaster projects
- Kelly Dye, \$990 for mobile student seating
- Jim Gale, \$1,000 for aerospace studies
- Jed Johnson, \$1,000 for shop improvements
- Jacqui Pollard, \$730 for enhancing literacy engagement
- Megan Sellers, \$500 for a classroom library
- Whitney Snyder, \$280 for daily writing materials

- Heather Wade, \$500 for playground equipment
- Chelsea Wheeler, \$675 for writing instruction supplies
- Seth Youngen, \$422 for indirect measurement using trigonometry

Grant funds must be used for materials, equipment, and other classroom expenses not covered by the school budget. The grants are awarded competitively and judged on their potential to make a meaningful impact on the educational process.

The \$7,725 awarded in teacher grants is part of a \$50,000 grant the foundation provided to the school district.



A portion of the L-P School Foundation’s \$50,000 grant for 2025 was awarded as Teacher Mini-Grants to support innovative classroom projects across subjects. LHS teachers pictured from left to right: Seth Youngen, math; Whitney Snyder, English; Megan Sellers, English; Jordyn Burnison, science; Jed Johnson, industrial technology; and Dennis Morgan, LPSF trustee. (Not pictured: Jim Gale, Science)

Submitted Photo

Loudonville Police Calls

May 27, 10:25 a.m. Police investigated a report that a juvenile was threatening other juveniles in Riverside Park. Police broke up the confrontation.

May 27, 1:13 p.m. Police cited a 36-year-old Wooster male for assured clear distance in a crash on North Union Street at Stone Meadow Circle.

May 27, 4:57 p.m. Police assisted the Ashland County Sheriff in dealing with a person with mental issues in the 700 block of Ohio 97.

May 27, 9:04 p.m. Police investigated a harassment complaint in the 300 block

of Riverside Drive.

May 28, 9:30 a.m. Police performed a death investigation in the 900 block of Mill Road.

May 28, 11 a.m. Police received a fraud report at the police station, where a person claimed he received a call from the Wayne County Court ordering him to pay a fine. The report was false; the person owed no fines to the court.

May 28, 11:24 a.m. Lost property found in the 200 block of West Main Street was turned in to police. The owner was contacted and the property was claimed.

May 28, no time provided.

Police responded to a report of a theft from a business in the 200 block of West Main Street. An investigation, including an appeal for witness comments on Facebook, along with video surveillance images, led to the arrest of a 59-year-old Butler man the next day. The man was taken to the Ashland County Jail and charged with theft, criminal trespass, possession of criminal tools and criminal mischief. Assistance in the investigation and arrest was provided by the Butler and Bellville police departments and the Richland County sheriff.

May 28, 7:10 p.m. Police removed debris from the roadway in the 500 block of North Union Street.

May 29, 8:12 a.m. Police received a report of suspicious

activity at a property in the 600 block of South Mount Vernon Avenue. The individuals turned out to be a roofing crew.

May 29, 4:06 p.m. Police performed a civil standby at McDonald’s for a child custody exchange.

May 29, 7:08 p.m. Police investigated a reckless operation report on Wooster Road. The suspect vehicle was located and stopped, but no impairment was detected.

May 29, 10:41 p.m. Police were advised of a suspicious person at Trail’s End Restaurant. Upon investigation, the person was found to be okay.

May 30, 8:47 a.m. Police took a report on a missing laptop in the 900 block of Pearl Drive.

May 30, 2:56 p.m. Police investigated a parking complaint involving a vehicle blocking a driveway in the 200 block of North Water Street. The owner was located, removed the vehicle and was issued a parking violation.

May 30, 4:19 p.m. Police investigated a dogs-at-large report in the 500 block of Vincent Drive. The dogs’ owner was issued a warning.

May 30, 4:45 p.m. Police handled a report of downed power lines on Young’s Terrace, which were blocking traffic.

May 30, 5:04 p.m. Police assisted with a disabled vehicle at Ohio 3 and 97. The vehicle was towed.

May 31, 2:08 a.m. Police investigated a case in which a man broke into a camper at the Mohican Adventures campground. A 45-year-old Oberlin man was arrested for criminal mischief and disorderly conduct-intoxication. He was taken to the Ashland County Jail.

May 31, 11:38 a.m. Police cited a 48-year-old Wooster female for speed, 50/25, in the 500 block of Wally Road.

May 31, 1:09 p.m. Police cited an 18-year-old Barber-ton male for speed, 50/35, in the 500 block of Wally Road.

May 31, 1:21 p.m. Police were advised that a person was sleeping in a vehicle parked in the 500 block of Wooster Road. The person told police he had become tired while driving, parked and took a nap.

May 31, 1:58 p.m. Police investigated a report of a woman who fell into the Black Fork near the Wally Road ball fields and cut her head. She was treated at the scene.

May 31, 10:15 p.m. Police assisted Mohican State Park rangers with an alcohol-related disturbance involving several people at the Mohican Lodge. Rangers arrested a woman, who was taken to the Ashland County Jail.

June 1, 12:50 a.m. Police assisted the Ashland County Sheriff in serving a court order to a resident in the 200 block of South Water Street.

June 1, 9:57 a.m. Police cited a 24-year-old West Salem male for speed, 70/50, on South Market Street at Wally Road.

June 1, 2:14 p.m. Police cited a 24-year-old Bellville male for expired plates at South Mount Vernon Avenue at South Market Street.

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A Stroll Through Our Mohican Garden: Help! My Dogwood Is Suffering

By Eric Larson

I recently received an email asking how to rejuvenate a struggling dogwood tree in the spring. If you have a tree that appears unhealthy, your first instinct may be to fertilize it — and often, that's a good starting point. But there may be deeper issues affecting your dogwood's health.

Over the years, I've worked with several types of dogwoods, including the native Flowering Dogwood, Kousa Dogwood, Red Twig Dogwood, Pagoda Dogwood, and Gray Dogwood. While each variety has its own preferences, some care fundamentals apply across the board.

Dogwoods thrive as understory trees, meaning they prefer partial shade and protection from harsh sunlight. They do best in loamy, well-drained soil. During the first year — and in times of drought — provide 1 to 2 inches of water per week to help establish strong roots. Consistency is key: keep the soil evenly moist, but not waterlogged, to prevent root stress and fungal problems. A layer of finely shredded bark or wood chip mulch will help retain soil moisture and protect the roots from extreme temperature swings.

Proper pruning plays a key role in dogwood health. I recommend pruning in late fall or winter, when the tree is dormant. Remove no more than 25% of the canopy to improve airflow and reduce disease risk. Always sanitize your tools — I dip my pruners in rubbing alcohol between each cut to prevent the spread of infection.

One common dogwood disease is anthracnose, also known as "Old Man's Disease." It originates in the soil and attacks the tree's circulatory system. Early symptoms include twisted leaves and brown spots on flower tips. If caught early, prune away infected branches, ensure the tree has good airflow, and consider using an organic fungicide. Maintaining a healthy

watering schedule and proper soil drainage also goes a long way in disease prevention.

Pests such as dogwood borers, twig borers, scale insects, club gall midges, aphids, sawflies, and Japanese beetles can further weaken an already stressed dogwood. To protect your tree, consider applying a systemic insecticide at the base of the trunk in early spring, which helps deter many common invaders. Yellow sticky traps, a method used successfully in greenhouses for over 40 years, are another effective tool for monitoring pest levels and catching problems early. For a chemical-free option, introducing beneficial insects like ladybugs or parasitic wasps can help control pests naturally.

Once you've identified which pests are affecting your dogwood, learning about their lifecycles becomes key. Knowing when they hatch, feed, or lay eggs helps you time treatments or physical controls more effectively, improving your chances of stopping damage. For example, dogwood borers lay eggs in late spring, so wrapping the trunk with breathable material during this period can prevent egg-laying and protect your tree.

A nutrient-rich environment helps a dogwood stay resilient. Apply a balanced organic fertilizer containing nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. For best results, perform a soil test to identify deficiencies and amend accordingly.

Rejuvenating a declining dogwood takes attention, consistency, and a little patience — but it's absolutely possible. With the right care, your dogwood can recover and thrive for years to come. Healthy trees always outlast neglected ones.

Enjoy your stroll through the garden this week — and don't forget to stop and smell the flowers. If you have questions about your garden, feel free to email me at ericlarrison546@yahoo.com.



Twisted dogwood leaf showing symptoms of Anthracnose, a fungal disease that distorts foliage and weakens the tree. Photo Eric Larson

McGuffey Lane and Allison Road bands to perform at Concert Night for the Community

Submitted

The bands McGuffey Lane and Allison Road will perform at the third annual Concert Night for the Community, hosted by CES Credit Union. The free event will take place Saturday, Sept. 13, at Ariel Foundation Park's Schnormeier Event Center, 201 S. Norton St. in Mount Vernon.

The concert begins at 6:30 p.m. with Allison Road, a band known for performing a mix of country, rock, classic rock and pop music.

McGuffey Lane, recognized for its blend of vocal harmonies, high-energy songs and ballads, will take the stage at 8 p.m.

The concert is part of CES Credit Union's ongoing community engagement efforts.

"Our concerts are free for everyone to attend and have become an annual tradition. It's our way to thank the community and our members for supporting CES Credit Union," said Sandy Coffing, CEO of CES Credit Union.

For more information, visit arielfoundationpark.org.



McGuffey Lane will be joined by Allison Road at the third annual Concert Night for the Community, hosted by CES Credit Union, on Saturday, Sept. 13, at Ariel Foundation Park's Schnormeier Event Center in Mount Vernon.

Submitted Photo

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A little rain couldn't dampen spirits during the send-off parade on June 5 for Loudonville High School Redbirds track athletes headed to the state competition. Braden Carr, Cooper Sage and Tess Shultz rode in the back of a pickup truck, escorted by police, fire trucks and an ambulance.

Photo Amanda Chambers

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Ohio Approves 2025-26 Hunting Seasons

Material provided by ODNR

The Ohio Wildlife Council has approved the 2025-26 hunting and trapping seasons for deer, waterfowl, and small game, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife.

Key deer hunting dates include archery season from Sept. 27, 2025, to Feb. 1, 2026, the youth gun weekend Nov. 22-23, the main gun season Dec. 1-7 and Dec. 20-21, and muzzleloader season Jan. 3-6, 2026. Notably, the antlerless deer limit on public land has increased from one to two.

Waterfowl seasons kick off with early goose and teal hunting Sept. 6-14. Youth, military, and veterans' waterfowl weekend is set for Oct. 4-5.

Fall wild turkey season runs Oct. 1-26, and grouse season is open Nov. 7-30.

For the full list of hunting and trapping seasons, visit wildohio.gov.

If you have a News Story or Event
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Redbirds Fall to St. John; Three Athletes Qualify for State

By Kinah Yoder

The Redbirds baseball team fell to Ashtabula St. John, 11-1, in the Division VII district semifinal on May 29, ending their season with an overall record of 8-19. Dilan Wade took the loss on the mound, while Dakota Wright recorded the team's only RBI, driving in Connor Whelan for the lone run.

In track and field, the OHSAA Division III Regional Championships were held May 28 and 30 at North Royalton High School, with three Redbird athletes qualifying for the state meet at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium in Columbus.

Braden Carr and Cooper Sage advanced in pole vault with top finishes. Carr, a junior, placed third with a vault of 14 feet, while Sage, a freshman, finished fourth at 13-4 to earn his first trip to the state meet.

Lina Brecheisen also competed in pole vault, placing sixth and earning a podium finish as a freshman. She tied her personal record of 9-0 and made strong attempts at setting a new mark.

Tess Shultz qualified for state in two distance events. She placed third in the 1,600 meters with a season-best time of 5:04.19, marking her third state appearance in the event. She followed with a second-place finish in the 3,200 meters, running 11:13.33—an-other season best.

Shultz, Carr, and Sage represented the Redbirds at the state meet. Shultz and Carr were returning qualifiers, while Sage made his state debut. Carr and Sage competed in pole vault on Friday, June 6, while Shultz ran the 1,600 and 3,200 on Saturday, June 7. Results were not available by press time.



Tess Shultz, fifth from left in the red jersey, stands on the podium after placing second in the 3,200-meter run at the OHSAA Division III Regional Championships on May 30 at North Royalton High School. Earlier in the meet, she also placed third in the 1,600 meters. Both finishes qualified her for the state meet in Columbus.

Submitted Photo

Sanderson Cards Two-Under 34 in Mohican-Apple Golf League

By Jim Brewer

Joel Sanderson shot a two-under-par 34, the lowest score of the season in the Mohican Men's Golf League at Apple Valley, during play Thursday, June 5.

Sanderson also recorded the most birdies of the evening with three. Larry Kauffman led in pars with eight and earned the highest points total at 19. Kevin Haggerty had the most bogeys with seven, while Joe Butler posted the lowest net score at 28.

Brennstuhl Construction continues to lead the league standings with 200 points. Team totals are as follows: Trails End Pizza, 185; Harris Automotive, 181; Stake's IGA, 176; Shriver's Pharmacy, 163; Van Horn Home Renovations, 156; Contact Industries, 154; and Doc's Duffers, 144.



Students at RF McMullen Elementary School celebrate the last day of school with smiles and fun during Field Day on June 3.

Submitted Photo

Oklahoma Runner Calls Mohican Course Toughest 50-Mile Challenge Yet

By Jim Brewer

For one experienced distance runner, the course through Mohican State Park and Forest proved to be the most challenging 50-mile race she has faced.

Francie Hamer, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, competed in the women's 50-59 age division during the Mohican 100 Trail Run, held Saturday, May 31. The event drew nearly 600 runners across three race distances.

Hamer said the Mohican course, which winds through forest trails southwest of Loudonville, was the toughest of the three 50-mile races she has completed. She previously raced 50-milers in Leadville, Colorado, and Lake Tahoe, California.

"While the Mohican course did not have the elevation gains that the other two, much higher-elevation, courses have, it was tougher because it was a single-lane track with many twists, turns, and elevation changes," Hamer said.

A combination of friendship and family connections to Ohio brought Hamer to Loudonville for the event. Earlier this spring, she was reviewing race options with close friend Diane Rusher. When Hamer mentioned a race in a small Ohio town named Loudonville, Rusher replied, "I have a cousin who lives in Loudonville!"



Francie Hamer of Tulsa, Oklahoma, rests at a station during the Mohican 50-mile run Saturday, May 31. Hamer, a cross country coach, was competing in her third 50-mile endurance race.

Submitted Photo

That cousin is Guinn Bandy of Loudonville. Hamer and Rusher arranged to stay at the Bandys' home during race weekend.

Another Ohio connection added to the appeal. Hamer's daughter, Emma, 22, recently graduated from Oberlin College, located about 50 miles north of Loudonville. Emma and friends joined Rusher and Bandy in cheering on Hamer along the course, meeting her at several aid stations along the race route.

A total of 598 participants entered the May 31 events, with 192 running the marathon, 205 in the 50-miler, and 201 in the 100-mile race.

Hamer finished first in the women's 50-59 division, eighth among all women in the 50-mile race, and 44th overall out of 205 runners in that distance.

She brings plenty of experience to long-distance running. Hamer teaches science and coaches cross country at Edison Preparatory School in Tulsa.

The Mohican 100 Trail Run, held annually in Mohican State Park, is a challenging ultramarathon known for rugged terrain and steep climbs, and serves as a qualifier for events like the Western States 100.

MOHICAN AREA FORECAST

4-Day Forecast as of June 6th | Source: National Weather Service

Monday: Showers likely, mainly after 2pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 75. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Monday Night: Showers likely, mainly before 8pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Tuesday: A chance of showers after 2pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tuesday Night: A chance of showers before 8pm. Mostly clear, with a low around 54. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 77.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 81.

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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!

HAYESVILLE OPERA HOUSE

Movie: "The American Miracle: Our Nation is No Accident" June 9, 10, 11 at 7:30 pm HayesvilleOperaHouse.org

HAYESVILLE OPERA HOUSE

Movie: "Finding Faith (Healed by Jesus)" June 16, 17 at 7:30 pm. HayesvilleOperaHouse.org

THE OHIO THEATRE

Movie: "How to Train Your Dragon" June 13, 14 at 7:00, 15 at 2:00. www.theohiotheatre.com

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