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# Loudonville Softball Tournament Kicks Off with Strong Performances

By Kinah Yoder

The summer heat didn't slow the action June 20–22 as 8 teams in the 10U division and 16 teams in the 12U division took the field at the Loudonville softball tournament. Over the course of the weekend, the 10U division played 19 games, and the 12U division played 39. The highlights below cover the championship matchups that concluded bracket play, along with selected standout performances from earlier rounds.

In the 10 and under division, the Ohio Panthers captured the championship with a 2–1 victory over the GC Gators 2014. The Panthers were led by catcher Kayzlee Denney, who batted .481 with seven RBIs over the weekend. On the GC Gators' side, pitcher Emery Cline threw a no-hitter against the New London Wildcats during pool play. Vikings Elite 10U and Ohio Storm 10U Graham rounded out the top four with strong runs to the semifinals.

Although the Ohio Lady Gators did not advance to the final four, several players earned MVP recognition during pool and bracket play. Peyton Hunsicker, playing second base, snagged four hard-hit line drives to prevent scoring threats. Layla Davenport went 2-for-2, hitting a go-ahead RBI double and later scoring, while Hailey Wolfe added a double and an RBI.

In the 12 and under division, Ohio Thunder Fastpitch '12 secured the championship with a narrow 5–4 victory over the Ohio Wolfpack 2013, the reigning 10U champions from 2024. Thunder's endurance was evident in the intense final. "12 hours in 130-degree temperatures — least it felt like that," said Ryan Stubenrauch, coach of Ohio Thunder Fastpitch '12. "I can't believe they're still standing. Somehow, they won."

Sandusky Bay Tornados – Keegan and Force McCoy shared third place honors in the 12U bracket after strong performances throughout the weekend.



The Ohio Panthers, coached by Blake Picklesimer and based in South Bloomfield, won the 10U division at the Loudonville Fastpitch Softball Tournament on June 22.



Ohio Thunder Fastpitch '12, based in Lewis Center and coached by Ryan Stubenrauch, won the 12U division at the Loudonville Fastpitch Softball Tournament on June 22.

Players from Buckeye Elite 12U Walton were among those whose MVP performances were reported. Lea Burger earned MVP honors in Game 1, and Amelia Tidaback stood out in Games 2 and 3 with consistent, high-level play.

Pitcher Bristol Weidrick from Wicked Fastpitch 2012 made a strong impression throughout the tournament, recording 25 strikeouts over three games, including 15 in a single outing. She received 3 MVP pins for her effort. Although Wicked fell to Thunder 9–8 earlier in the day, the team's performance left a strong mark on the tournament.

The MVP pins are a new addition for the 2025 tournament season. Each team is issued three pins per pool game to award to standout players from the opposing team. The initiative promotes sportsmanship and celebrates individual excellence. While many pins were distributed over the weekend, only a selection were reported to the Shopper.

Tournament play was scheduled to continue June 27–29 with the 8U and 14U divisions, after press time. The 18U division plays July 11–13. Programs are available at local businesses with schedules, team information, game locations, and coupons.

## Loudonville Police Calls

**During the week of June 16–22**, police conducted 15 business checks and issued 14 warnings following traffic stops.

**June 15, 10:29 a.m.** Police responded to a report of a juvenile causing a disturbance inside a business in the 300 block of W. Main St. The individual was issued a no-trespass order.

**June 16, 1:25 a.m.** Police investigated an obstruction in the 800 block of S. Mt. Vernon Ave., where a tree had fallen across the roadway. It was removed, and the electric company was contacted to address a related power outage.

**June 16, 12:47 p.m.** Police cited an 85-year-old Loudonville man in the 200 block

of S. Adams St. for feeding feral cats. It is believed to be contributing to a nuisance in the area.

**June 16, 8:51 p.m.** Police enforced a junk ordinance violation in the 600 block of N. Market St.

**June 16, 11:30 p.m.** Police were notified of a fawn standing in the roadway at the intersection of S. Market St. and Wally Rd. The animal was safely directed away from the area.

**June 17, 12:09 a.m.** Responding to a suspicious person report in the 1000 block of S. Market St., police picked up two walkaways from the Mohican Young Star Academy and turned them over to ODNr officials.

**June 17, 4:54 p.m.** Police cited a 19-year-old Wooster man for a red-light violation at Main and Market Streets.

**June 17, 7:43 p.m.** Police assisted ODNr officers during a traffic stop in the 1100 block of S. Market St. Assistance was requested due to the driver's agitated behavior.

**June 17, 8:15 p.m.** Police assisted in a personal property accident in the 800 block of S. Market St. Parties exchanged information.

**June 18, 9:21 a.m.** Police enforced a tall grass and weeds ordinance violation in the 400 block of E. Main St.

**June 18, 10:13 a.m.** Police enforced a junk ordinance violation in the 600 block of N. Market St.

**June 18, 3:09 p.m.** Police attempted to enforce a tall grass ordinance violation in the 100 block of S. Adams St. The resident did not answer the door.

**June 18, 5 p.m.** Police continued an ongoing investigation into a case of fraud in the 300 block of S. Wood St.

**June 18, 5:34 p.m.** Police investigated property damage involving a broken window at a residence in the 100 block of N. Spring St. The cause of the damage was undetermined.

**June 19, 10:58 a.m.** Police cited a 24-year-old Wooster female at E. Main and Pleasant St. for failure to display license plates. She was also warned for speed and loud exhaust, both repeat offenses.

**June 19, 1:04 p.m.** Police cited an 82-year-old Loudonville man at S. Mt. Vernon Ave. and S. Market St. for driving under suspension.

**June 19, 8:37 p.m.** Police assisted the emergency squad with loading a patient in the 200 block of S. Market St. The patient was transported to the hospital.

**June 19, 11:40 p.m.** Police investigated a suspicious vehicle backing up to a business entrance in the 200 block of N. Union St. The driver was identified as the business owner.

**June 19, 11:53 p.m.** Police assisted the Ashland County Sheriff with a mental health incident in the 100 block of E. Pleasant St. in Perrysville. The individual was hospitalized.

**June 20, 4:15 p.m.** Police assisted the Holmes County Sheriff with a disturbance involving intoxicated individuals on CR 23 near the Spellacy Bridge. No arrests were made.

**June 20, 8:54 p.m.** Police assisted the emergency squad on a call to the 300 block of N. Spring St.

CALLS cont. to Pg.3



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




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## Tessie's tidbits...

Hi everyone! Thank goodness we're getting a break from all that heat and humidity.

When I was a youngster, I gave my mom quite a scare during a heat wave — she found me lying on the kitchen floor and thought something terrible had happened. I was just trying to stay cool!

I came across the following tidbits and thought you might enjoy reading some heartwarming news for a change, instead of the constant stream of negativity we often hear.

### Strangers Take an Impromptu Road Trip Together

What do you do when your flight is canceled but you absolutely need to get to your destination? If you're Alanah Story and her mom, Renee, you rent a van, pile in as many stranded passengers as you can fit and hit the road.

After their Frontier Airlines flight from Orlando to Knoxville was abruptly canceled, they — along with many other frustrated travelers — headed to the help desk. When the airline offered no solutions, Renee took matters into her own hands. "My mom just turned and said, 'We're headed downstairs to get a van — come on, people!'" Alanah said in a now-viral video.

Thirteen strangers took her up on the offer. Together, they traveled 650 miles in 10 hours, arriving just in time to

get one passenger to an important college interview. "It was not a quiet ride — no one was getting any sleep," Alanah recalled. "I think I slept around 20 minutes." Several of the passengers formed strong bonds and still keep in touch. "I really couldn't have picked a better group of people to make the trip with," she said.

### Teen Returns a Lost Purse and Inspires Hundreds of Strangers

When Eliana Martin accidentally left her purse in a California grocery store parking lot, she didn't expect to see it again. But 17-year-old Adrian Rodriguez not only found it — he delivered it to her home, leaving it with her roommates. Everything was intact, not a single item missing.

Deeply moved by his honesty, Martin used images from her Ring doorbell to track him down and thank him. Wanting to share his good deed, she launched a GoFundMe campaign — and nearly 800 strangers contributed more than \$17,000 to support him.

Rodriguez was shocked by the outpouring of kindness. "My mom always told me, since I was little, to always do the right thing when nobody's around," he told NBC San Diego. "I didn't expect anything back, honestly. If someone found my stuff, I'd want them to bring it back to me."

### Honeymooners Save 20 Babies from a Nursery Fire

While honeymooning in Barcelona, Spain, David Squillante and Doran Smith walked past a crowd watching a building that was clearly on fire. Without hesitation — and despite the language barrier — they jumped into action after hearing people were trapped inside.

They ran through the smoke-filled entrance and found a nursery full of sleeping infants. "Instinct took over," Squillante told Today. "I found myself looking at 15, 20 babies sleeping. We just started grabbing them, putting them into cribs and moving them out."

Although the ordeal only lasted about 10 minutes, it felt like an instant. Thanks to their quick thinking, all the babies were safely evacuated, and no one was harmed. The experience left such an impact on Squillante that he's now training to become a volunteer firefighter.

+++

The Fourth of July is almost upon us, and of course, everyone with a special vehicle is busy polishing up their gem to bring to Loudonville for one of the biggest car shows in Ohio.

When this event first started, I helped out with it, and I can tell you — there's no sound quite like the deep purr of those engines as they roll into town.

I hope you can make time to attend, because it truly is something special!

+++

Finally — "Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance." — *Theodore Roosevelt*

Tessie

## Gardener's Guild Members Learn About Paw Paws

By Jim Brewer

Sixteen members of the Gardener's Guild of Loudonville gathered Monday, June 2, to hear a presentation on paw paws.

Jim Dingus, a Perrysville resident who has been growing paw paws for 17 years, explained his planting process. He starts by chilling the seeds in a cold environment for 90 to 120 days before planting them the following year. Because seedlings grow slowly, it can take three to four years before the trees begin to develop.

Dingus described the paw paw as "a Renaissance plant, once popular, then forgotten, and now making a comeback." The trees produce fruit that grows singly or in clusters of up to six, with a taste and aroma similar to bananas.

"I grew up in North Carolina, and when I smell bananas, it reminds me of my childhood, when my family raised paw paws," said Gardener's Guild member Sylvia Adrian.

The natural range of the paw paw stretches across much of the eastern U.S., from Ontario, Canada, south to the Gulf Coast, with Kentucky at its center. The fruit is also the focus of research at Kentucky State University.

According to a fact sheet published by Kentucky State University's Cooperative Extension, paw paws are native to Kentucky's forest understorey and have a flavor described



Jim Dingus uses paintings to illustrate his presentation on paw paws during the Gardener's Guild of Loudonville meeting Monday, June 23. Dingus raises more than 1,000 paw paw trees on his rural Perrysville property.

Photo by Jim Brewer

as "a tropical blend of mango and banana." The fact sheet notes that paw paw trees can be grown in full sun orchards and are emerging as a unique crop for Kentucky farmers. Early Americans such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Daniel Boone, and Lewis and Clark reportedly enjoyed the fruit.

Paw paw trees grow 15 to 20 feet tall and should be planted 8 to 10 feet apart. Seedlings take seven to eight years to bear fruit. Generally pest-resistant, the trees rely on flies and beetles for pollination and produce fruit from late August through October.

The fruit is best eaten fresh and is high in antioxidants and nutrition. It can substitute for bananas in recipes and is popular in ice cream and jam.

Dingus also shared the story of the zebra swallowtail

butterfly, Tennessee's state butterfly. This rare black-and-white butterfly depends on paw paws for nesting and feeding, much like the monarch butterfly relies on milkweed.

An active member and leader of the North American Paw Paw Growers Association, Dingus participates in several paw paw festivals, including one in Ohio. He said paw paw fruits can weigh up to two pounds, and he typically eats two seg-

ments for breakfast. While the fruit can be frozen, it is best enjoyed fresh. Its short shelf life helps explain why it is rarely found in grocery stores.

There are about 150 paw paw cultivars. Dingus said he has roughly 1,000 trees in his nursery.

The meeting took place at the home of Guild President Pam Tuttle. The next meeting will be Monday, July 14, at Lavinder Trails near Orrville.




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### CALLS cont. from Pg.2

**June 20, 10:44 p.m.** Police assisted the emergency squad on a call to the 200 block of S. Market St.

**June 21, 2:21 p.m.** Police cited a 17-year-old Elyria female at E. Main St. and Young's Terrace for speed, 50/35.

**June 21, 5:11 p.m.** Police assisted the Holmes County Sheriff in responding to another disturbance involving a fight on CR 23 at the Spellacy Bridge. No arrests were made.

**June 21, 6:20 p.m.** Police were called again to CR23 at the Spellacy bridge for a disturbance on the river. No one was arrested.

**June 21, 6:39 p.m.** Police investigated a 911 hang-up call from the 800 block of S. Market St. The source of the call could not be located.

**June 21, 7:21 p.m.** Police assisted the emergency squad on a call to the 600 block of E. Washington St.

**June 21, 8:42 p.m.** Police responded to a report of possible animal neglect in the

900 block of Pearl Dr. Upon inspection, the animals were found to be in good condition.

**June 22, 2:32 a.m.** Police assisted an out-of-state motorist in the 100 block of N. Water St. who was lost and low on fuel. The individual was able to contact family for assistance.

**June 22, 1:44 p.m.** Police received a report of a reckless driver traveling toward Loudonville on OH 3 East. The vehicle was located, but no violations were observed.

**June 22, 3:09 p.m.** Police responded to a report of juveniles jumping off the OH 3 / S. Market St. bridge into the Black Fork. The individuals were located and determined to be adults. No arrests were made.

**June 22, 6:07 p.m.** Police responded to a disturbance in the 1000 block of S. Market St., where a group of intoxicated individuals was arguing in a parking lot. One person was arrested for disorderly conduct and taken to the Ashland County Jail.


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- 1 pinch assorted sprinkles, or toppings of your choice

**Directions:**  
Halve and peel each banana. Insert a popsicle stick into each banana half.

Dip bananas into yogurt, using a spoon to coat each banana evenly. Let excess yogurt drip off.

Add sprinkles or topping of your choice.

Place bananas on a plate covered in wax or parchment paper. Freeze until the yogurt has hardened, about 2 hours. (Allow for more time if you would like the banana to be frozen through).

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- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 12 slices bacon
- 1 1/4 pounds chicken cutlets
- 1 package (1 ounce) Hidden Valley Ranch Salad Dressing and Seasoning mix
- 2 slices Swiss cheese, cut into thirds

**Directions:**  
Preheat oven to 425 degrees F.  
Heat 1 tablespoon of oil in a skillet over medium heat. Saute green beans and carrots until tender. Add garlic and saute for 1 minute longer.

Lay bacon strips on a cutting board. Top with chicken cutlets. Sprinkle Ranch seasoning mix over chicken and divide the vegetables over chicken cutlets. Lay a strip of cheese over each cutlet.

Roll so each cutlet is wrapped in bacon.

Place on a baking sheet covered with parchment paper.

Roast for 20 minutes until bacon is crispy and chicken is cooked through. Serve.

This recipe by Webstop.  
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# A Stroll Through Our Mohican Garden:

## Helping Your Rhubarb Reach Its Full Potential

By Eric Larson

I recently received a question from a reader about her rhubarb—Rheum rhabarbarum. The stalks were thinner and weaker than usual, even though the plant had previously been a reliable producer. Ideally, rhubarb should have thick, sturdy stalks, especially if you're making a strawberry-rhubarb or rhubarb pie.

The first step in troubleshooting is to test the soil. Rhubarb is a fast grower and can quickly deplete the nutrients in the surrounding soil. A soil test will help you identify what's missing and how to amend it to support healthy growth.

While the reader didn't provide details about how she cares for her plant, I can share general guidance based on my research and experience. Start by feeding rhubarb regularly. Apply organic compost at least once every four weeks to encourage healthy stalks. Boost phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) with an organic fertilizer to help increase stalk size. Organic fertilizers won't burn the plant and are less likely to cause other issues.

Top-dress the area around the crown and out to the edge of the leaves with 1 to 2 inches of compost. Later in the season, I recommend using three organic boosters. Spread vermicast compost (worm castings) around the plant base. Apply compost tea made with unsulfured molasses as a soil drench. Separately, mix 2 tablespoons of Epsom salt per quart of water and spray it directly onto the leaves or

pour it onto the soil. These treatments help improve nutrient uptake and support strong stalk growth.

When planting rhubarb, mix in a balanced fertilizer—something like an 11-15-11 formula—at about 2 cups for every 100 square feet of garden space. In early spring, apply a smaller amount of the same fertilizer just before the plant starts growing again. After harvesting the stalks, switch to a nitrogen-rich fertilizer (such as 16-0-0) to encourage leafy regrowth, using about half a cup over the same area.

Rhubarb performs best in full sun but will tolerate partial shade. Less sunlight generally leads to smaller plants and thinner stalks. Like most vegetables, rhubarb needs about 1 inch of water weekly during the growing season. Optimal soil temperature is around 75 degrees. After the first hard frost, leaves naturally die back.

Plant rhubarb in rich, well-drained soil with plenty of organic matter. Avoid heavy clay soil, which can stunt growth and lead to rot — one of rhubarb's most common problems. Keep composting annually after the last harvest to maintain plant vigor.

Divide rhubarb every six to 10 years to prevent decline. Leave at least a foot between crowns and make clean, sharp cuts with a spade to rejuvenate the plant. Be aware that exposing roots during division may increase the risk of disease from the surrounding soil.



A healthy rhubarb plant shows large, sturdy stalks and vibrant leaves, ready for harvest.

Photo by Eric Larson

To plant new crowns, set them 2 to 3 inches deep and give each plant a 3-foot-by-3-foot space to spread. Because rhubarb is a perennial vegetable, it benefits from a layer of mulch around the base to conserve moisture and suppress weeds.

Rhubarb is a low-maintenance and rewarding plant once established. With the right conditions and a bit of attention, you'll enjoy a bountiful harvest year after year.

Have you noticed how well the flowers are doing this year? I've especially enjoyed my roses, poppies, Shasta daisies and mock orange this week. I hope you have a pleasant stroll through your garden. If you run into any gardening issues, feel free to email me at [ericlarson546@yahoo.com](mailto:ericlarson546@yahoo.com).



Bright red rhubarb stalks freshly harvested and ready for cooking or preserving.

Photo by Dieter Weber, CC BY-SA 3.0

## Area Students Named to Ashland University Dean's List

By Amanda Chambers

Several students from the Mohican area have been named to the Dean's List at Ashland University for the spring semester.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must be enrolled full time and earn a grade point average of 3.50 or higher for the semester.

Students recognized include:

**From Loudonville:** Macy Bernard, Elizabeth Chambers, James Henley, Chloe Smith, Mason Smith, Corri Vermilya, Baylor Weiser, Brock Weiser

**From Perrysville:** Bryn Grabowski, Kalem Warner

**From Danville:** Broegan Staats

**From Lucas:** Logan Toms

**From Butler:** Josiah Bailey, Jayden Bowman-Rasmus, Leah Mortimer, Kaden Riddle

**From Jeromesville:** Elizabeth Arnold, Mya Bowles, Klaire Meyer, Kegan Moore, Gabriel Murawski

**From Glenmont:** Jack Marmet

## The Ohio State University Names Area Students to Dean's List

By Amanda Chambers

Several students from the Mohican area have been named to the Dean's List at The Ohio State University.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must complete at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher for the semester.

Students recognized include:

**From Loudonville:** Aidan Neibert, Tyler Wolf

**From Perrysville:** Matthew Baumberger, Colin Bowman, Madelyn Denslow, Katelynn Smeltzer

**From Jeromesville:** Gabriel Stack

**From Danville:** Alayna Wittel, Jaylyn Workman

**From Butler:** Grace Mel-lott, Joe Sieving, Joe Stupka

**From Lucas:** Ryan Culler, Alexis Ohm, Rhea Oswalt

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# Ashland Event Offers Youth a Chance to Learn Fishing and Conservation

Submitted

The Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District will host a free youth fishing event, Something Fishy Conservation Chat, on Saturday, Aug. 9, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Tom Kruse Wildlife Conservation Park, 748 County Road 1754, Ashland.

The event, presented in partnership with the Ashland County Park District, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Rural Action, is open to children and teens ages 18 and under. Volunteers will be on hand to assist participants with fishing, and both poles and bait will be available. Attendees may also bring their own gear.

“Our goal is to inspire a love and respect for these resources in young people,” said Jane Houin, administrator of the Ashland SWCD. “The Something Fishy Conservation Chat is a fantastic way for kids to get outdoors, learn about nature, and maybe even discover a lifelong hobby.”

For more information, contact Zoey Dudte at 419-281-7645 or zoeydudte@ashlandswcd.com, or visit somethingfishy.eventbrite.com.



A family fishes together during a previous family fishing day event hosted by the Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District.

Submitted Photo

# Classic Cars, Antiques and Fireworks: Loudonville Set for Big Weekend

By Jim Brewer

One of the village’s biggest annual events, second only to the Loudonville Street Fair, returns this weekend: the Loudonville Car Show.

With favorable weather, the event typically draws more than 500 cars and an estimated 8,000 attendees to downtown Loudonville and Central Park. The show has earned a reputation as one of the top car shows in the country.

This year’s event is scheduled for Saturday, July 5. Although the official start time is listed as 9 a.m., vehicles are expected to begin arriving earlier in the morning.

The car show will once again coincide with the antique festival, which takes place in Central Park on both Friday and Saturday.

In addition, Loudonville’s traditional fireworks display is set for Friday, July 4, at dusk. Fireworks will be launched from Riverside Park.

All events are organized by the Loudonville Chamber of Commerce, with support from the Loudonville Fair Board for the car show.

The event continues to attract attention across the state. Ed Arnholt of rural Perrysville, a regular car show participant,



The 25th Annual Loudonville Car Show is set for Saturday, July 5, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will feature more than 500 cars, along with food vendors, live music, a raffle and downtown shopping.

Submitted

praised last year’s event. “I am a car show expert. I go to them all over the country. Yet I have never been to one any better than the one we have right here in Loudonville,” he said. “This is a fantastic show.”



Eloise Burd paints her rendition of Claude Monet’s “The Japanese Bridge” during the Loudonville Public Library’s “Masterpiece Makers” event Thursday, June 26, as part of the summer reading program. In keeping with the “Color Our World” theme, participants explore a different famous artist each week and create their own version of an iconic work. For more information about upcoming events, visit loudonvillelibrary.org.

Photo by Amanda Chambers



Flags are appearing across Loudonville as part of a fundraising effort by the L-P Athletic Boosters to support the Loudonville High School girls soccer program. The leased flags are placed in yards and will remain on display until Veterans Day in November. For more information or to lease a flag, contact Coach Bill Longsinger at 740-623-1833 or Coach Jeff Frankford at 419-606-8178.

Photo by Amanda Chambers

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# Crown Jewel’s Owner Started at 12 Years Old

Submitted

Jeff Smith, owner and operator of the newly relocated Crown Jewel Automotive — now based in Perrysville’s Pottery Street Warehouse — began working on cars 22 years ago, at the age of twelve.

“My first job was at Upstairs Downstairs Automotive in Mansfield,” Smith recalls. “That’s because my dad and I went to Michigan in 1999, when I was just a kid, and bought a 1955 rose-and-white Ford Crown Victoria. We restored it together. That’s when I fell in love with cars, and I’ve been working on them ever since,” he explained.

Smith spent years working at various automotive repair and restoration shops before opening his own business in Mansfield in 2023. He recently moved the shop to Perrysville in early 2025.

“We moved here mainly for the people of the Mohican area,” Smith said, referring to the honesty and good-naturedness of the locals. “And because here in Perrysville, we’re nicely centered between Wooster, Ashland, Mansfield, and Mt. Vernon,” he added.

The new Perrysville facility features a full showroom, paint booth, lift, state-of-the-art paint mixing system, and a complete rotisserie for full-frame restorations. Five full-time employees, including Smith, keep the business running smoothly — turning out four to five current-model collision repairs per week and completing six to seven full antique restorations per year.

“That includes everything from deer collision repairs to rust repair, antique car restorations, and service work on all makes and models — both old and new,” Smith said. “We accept all insurance companies, which allows us to apply our experience to any car.”

Currently, the company is restoring a 1967 Chevy Corvette convertible, which is being prepared for the prestigious Barrett-Jackson Car Auction in Scottsdale, Arizona.

In February 2024, Smith lost his father, who had been his biggest inspiration. The Crown Victoria they restored together all those years ago had long since been sold. But just two months after the funeral, with the help of his girlfriend, Jennifer Settles, Smith was able to track it down and buy it back.

“She’s my rock,” Smith said of Settles. “Without her and without my employees, I’d be nothing. They keep me going.”

The couple’s Crown Victoria was parked on the square during the Loudonville Car Show in the past but won’t be this year — they’re in the process of restoring it again.

“But next year it’ll be there!” Smith exclaimed, beaming.

“This move to Perrysville has been a very good thing for us,” he reflected. “I believe my father led us here,” he added. “I see signs of him everywhere.”



Jeff Smith and Jennifer Settles's restored 1955 Ford Crown Victoria on display at the 2024 Loudonville Car Show.

Submitted Photo



A 1971 Chevy Corvette in primer awaits its next coat of paint inside the booth at Crown Jewel Automotive in Perrysville.

Submitted Photo

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# Ohio Researchers Track First Female Black Bear with GPS Collar

Submitted

Wildlife researchers in Ohio have outfitted a female black bear with a GPS tracking collar for the first time, marking a key step in efforts to monitor the species' return to the state.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife, in partnership with the University of Dayton’s Gantchoff Lab, captured and collared the bear June 3 in Ashtabula County. The bear, estimated to be between 5 and 10 years old and weighing 198 pounds, was released unharmed at the capture site after being fitted with the collar.

The collar will collect and transmit location data for approximately 18 months before detaching. Researchers hope to learn more about bear habitat use, home range sizes, survival rates and reproductive patterns.

“This is an important step in learning how female black bears establish territories and potentially contribute to a permanent population in Ohio,” ODNR officials said in a statement.

Researchers plan to collar 10 to 20 resident bears as part of a broader study tracking black bear movement, reproduction, habitat

suitability and human-wildlife conflict across Ohio. A male bear was previously collared in northeast Ohio in July 2024.

Black bears were once common in Ohio but disappeared from the state in the mid-1800s. In recent decades, they have slowly recolonized from neighboring states. Though still listed as a state-endangered species, sightings have increased, particularly in northeast and southeast Ohio.

Although the recently collared bear was found in Ashtabula County, officials note that black bears have been reported in other parts of the state. In June, a male black bear was fatally struck by a vehicle near Bellville in Richland County. The Mohican region — known for its dense forests and public lands, including Mohican State Park and Mohican-Memorial State Forest — offers suitable habitat as the species continues to expand its range.

The Division of Wildlife relies in part on public reports to monitor black bears and other elusive species such as gray foxes, badgers and bobcats. Residents can report sightings via the HuntFish OH mobile app or at wildohio.gov.



A female black bear was captured in Ashtabula County using a special trap. She was fitted with a tracking collar and released unharmed. Researchers will monitor her movements to learn more about the species in Ohio.

Submitted Photo

## Readers Add to Earlier Tales

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.

Nearly all of the chapters in this book first appeared as columns in the Loudonville Times. In the weeks following publication, readers frequently questioned or supplemented material which had been printed.

Several were quick to note that, in a column about the flour milling industry in Loudonville, no mention had been made of the Beabout family.

It had operated the mill for nearly a half century of its existence (180 years at that point), and built it into a major force in this field.

Senior member H.J. Beabout found time to participate in nearly all public service fields, serving on both the school board and the village council in the early part of this century.

His son Larry moved into the business immediately after high school, and spent his entire working lifetime at the mill. Mr. and Mrs. Noel Shaffer recalled Larry and his wife as friendly East Main Street neighbors.

\*\*\*

Jake Fuller, whose ancestors include several generations of Loudonville physicians, dropped by from Marion, Ohio with a front page from the Loudonville Advocate of March 30, 1883, which included a complete biography of Judge G.H. Stewart. A column had mentioned earlier that he was instrumental in bringing what is now Conrail through Loudonville in the 1850s.

The judge spent 50 years of his life here, although Loudonville was his second choice as a destination when he came west.

At the ripe age of 23, he already had seven years of experience in the mercantile business in Pennsylvania. While still in his teens he had graduated to bookkeeper and clerk in a wholesale house in Pittsburgh.

By 1833 he had accumulated enough money to buy a stock of goods, and had decided to go west and start a business of his own. He had his eye on Mansfield as a good location.

But when he arrived there he could find no place to display his wares except in the barroom of Smart’s Hotel, and it was not near the business section of town.

He hired a horse at the outrageous price of 25 cents a day and ventured into the countryside.

In Loudonville he found a small frame building on a downtown corner for rent, and prepared to move his stock here.

At that time goods were hauled from Pittsburgh in huge vehicles known as Pennsylvania wagons. When purchased from further east, merchandise was delivered to lake and canal ports like Milan, Sandusky or Huron. From there it was transshipped to farm wagons that had made the journey to the lake from inland towns carrying wheat and other local produce.

Even before all his merchandise could be unloaded on the mud street of the village, Stewart had opened a bag of coffee beans on the wooden walk in front of his building, and was selling to the crowd of onlookers who had gathered to watch the arrival of the huge wagons from Pittsburgh.

He cleared enough money in just a half-hour to pay the wagoners’ fees before he even opened the doors to his store. Stewart had learned his trade well; the business was a success and drew customers from Knox County, and from as far east as Millersburg.

After he closed out his initial stock of goods, he went into partnership with Nathaniel Haskell and Abel Strong. They opened an enlarged store on West Main Street at the present location of the Farmers and Savings Bank parking lot.

Stewart did most of the buying for the firm, riding horseback to Pittsburgh once or twice a year, with the cash for his purchases tucked in a traveling bag which the biographer described as a portmanteau.

He married Emeline Chapel of Loudonville in 1837. The couple had four daughters and two sons surviving at the time of his death in 1883.

Stewart laid out the Wales addition to Loudonville in 1845 in partnership with Arvine Wales, and left the dry goods business for several years in 1846 to operate a tannery here. At this point he began spending much time in Columbus, lobbying for the creation of Ashland County. Loudonville had been part of Richland County until that time.

He succeeded both in getting the new county, and in getting himself appointed as associate judge in the new district by the impressed state legislature.

He also found time during this period to become a charter member of the Masonic Lodge here, help Haskell found the Loudonville Academy, and to be active first in Whig, then in Republican politics while also securing land in Holmes, Ashland, and parts of Wayne and Richland counties for the proposed Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad.

Almost as an afterthought, he bought some land for himself in Wayne County adjoining the proposed railroad right of way, and laid out the town of Shreve.

Appointed station agent in Loudonville when the railroad reached this point, he held that position for 10 years. He served in the district office of the provost marshal during the Civil War, and was later the first assessor of internal revenue.

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SERVICES

Access the Shopper anytime at [ohioprogamsolutions.com](http://ohioprogamsolutions.com) and up to two days early each week! Simply go to [ohioprogamsolutions.com](http://ohioprogamsolutions.com) as early as Saturday or Sunday. No charge, no hassle, no strings, no junk. Email distribution has been paused. Online viewing or downloading is always available and just as easy! Nearly 8,000 Shoppers will continue to be printed, delivered and distributed to mailboxes and local stores throughout the Mohican Area.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Call Betti Weimer - 419-651-6158

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NURSES’ RUMMAGE SALE

Moving? Downsizing? House/Garage Cleaning? Looking for Bargains?

Friday, July 11, 11am-6pm, Saturday, July 12, 9am-1 pm, Christian Community Center. Small items sold by donation. Large items priced. No early sales. Proceeds support charities in Loudonville-Perrysville area.

Donations of clean, gently used items can be dropped off at the Community Center, 807 Valley View Dr., Loudonville, June 30 thru July 9. If no one present, please leave items beside back door. No donations after JULY 9. For pickup of large items or large quantity, contact Sue Brightbill, 419-565-1978.

COMMUNITY MEAL

at Perrysville United Methodist Church, Tuesday, July 8th, 5-6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall, 139 East First St., Perrysville.

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Welcome to Grace Fellowship Church, 2150 T.R. 585, Loudonville. Join us Sundays @ 10am as we study God’s Word together!

THE OHIO THEATRE

Movie: “Jurassic World Rebirth” July 4th, 5th at 7:00 & 6th at 2:00. [www.theohiotheatre.com](http://www.theohiotheatre.com)

HEFFELFINGER SERVICE

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MOHICAN AREA FORECAST

4-Day Forecast as of June 13th | Source: National Weather Service

Monday: A chance of showers after 2pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 82. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Monday Night: A chance of showers before 8pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tuesday: A chance of showers between 8am and 2pm, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 82. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Tuesday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. Chance of precipitation is 30%

Wednesday: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Partly sunny, with a high near 85. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Wednesday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 69. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Thursday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 83. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Advertising Deadline:

Wednesday 3:00 pm