

The Lebanon Local

Local Sports...Local Business...Local Schools...Local Events...Local People



Lebanon home values up 6 plus percent YTD!

FROM
THE
PUBLISHER



RAY MILLER

WOW!
Lebanon is leading the area in increased home values.

Why is this, you might ask?

Maybe I can shed some light on the issue.

After talking to many local real-estate agents, I found that questions concerning the area's local schools are some of the first questions asked by potential homebuyers.

Studies have shown that having overcrowded and outdated schools can destroy home values within that district.

Because the voters and home owners in the Lebanon School District understand the importance of keeping their major investments' value up, a recent levy was passed to update and build some new schools.

Realtors can now show interested buyers in the Lebanon area plans for the new schools. This information becomes very instrumental in closing the sale.

Could it be that your supporting vote to the district's levy last fall is the reason for property values in our area to increase at **three times** the rate of Mason's this year?

Per Zillow, if you own a \$200,000 home here in Lebanon, the market value of your home has increased \$12,000 this year alone.

If you remember the article in November 2013 Issue of the Lebanon Local, I stated that if your home dropped one percent in value it would cost you more than 15 years of the proposed increased tax.

Good news for today is that because of our high market trend, we have all gained over five percent in the first seven months alone!

Good business decision? You bet ya!

This good decision made by the majority of us, leads me into part two of my editorial.

We have Issue 1, an operating renewal, coming up this month on August 5th.

There are NO additional taxes to pay. This money from this levy is used to keep our schools running the way they are.

To compare what this levy money is used for lets compare it to basic

homeowners terms.

The levy passed last fall would be somewhat like the homeowner's mortgage. It is being used to purchase the home and/or remodel the existing areas.

The operating levy which is up for renewal every three years is used to pay the cost of keeping the schools up and running. Just like a homeowner, school buildings have operating costs to keep it habitable.

School districts must pay:

The gas and electric bills generated each month to heat, cool and light the buildings;

The water, sewer and trash bills generated each month so students can go to the bathroom, wash their hands, get a drink, be fed and have a place to discard their trash;

Transportation cost of maintaining buses to bring students to school and back home;

Furnishing needs like desk, chairs and computers;

And teachers' services. Without the teachers, the building is just a building not an educational facility.

Our current Lebanon School District leadership has done,

what I believe to be, an excellent job of "running the household".

The district's annual Per Student Expenditure has been reduced to the lowest four percent in the state, while the high school is ranked in the top six percent in the state according to US News and World Report.

The school district's success or failure will have a direct impact on this community.

By voting for Issue 1, our current funding and revenue will stay the same for the next three years potentially generating an increase in the value of our homes.

In making your decision on how to vote, ask yourself... why are so many people seeking homes in Lebanon? And, why are our home values increasing two to three times the rate of neighboring districts?

Could it be our excellent schools that help make us this quaint, scenic, safe thriving community we call home?

So why do you live here? Let us know!

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Area Events for August

Lebanon Christmas for Tots Rummage Sale

(Aug. 1-2) 9am-2pm Lebanon Presbyterian Church, 123 N East St. Details or to make a donation contact Jenny 513.932.1180 or Paula 513.304.0527

Lebanon Blues Festival

(Aug. 2) 11am-11pm Mulberry Street Downtown Live music, food and adult beverages. Free Admission Details 513.588.0321 lebanonbluesfestival.org/

Bonnybrook Farms Chuck Wagon Dinner Ride

(Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30) 5pm-9pm at 3779 SR 132, Clarksville, OH Details & Reservations: 937-289-2500 or www.BonnybrookFarms.com/ChuckWagonDinnerRide

Lebanon Rail Study Presentation

conducted by Stone Consulting (Aug. 5) 6:30pm City Building Council Chambers, second floor. Opened to Public. A presentation has been scheduled to share the results from the Lebanon Rail Study. Randy Gustafson, a principal author of the study, will make the presentation and address City Council's questions.

Community Open House Day

(Aug. 6) 10am - 5pm. Explore American Indian culture and history as both Fort Ancient and SunWatch open their doors to the public with hands-on activities that are fun for learners of all ages. Admission is FREE and open to the public.

Concerts in the Park

(August 7) 7:00 pm Hosted by the Lebanon Rotary Club The Guitar Man, Jim McCutcheon (classical guitar, bluegrass, country) Bicentennial Park (Cherry and Mulberry Street).

31st Annual Germanfest Picnic Carillon Historical Park in Dayton

(August 8, 9 10) There are many ways to enjoy a culture; food, drink, music, the crafts, and an appreciation of the history. Find your German roots with the German Genealogy Group. Sounds of Alphon Gruezie, Prost, Alpen Echoes,

Chardon Polka Band and Organ Grinder Ted Guillian for your listening and dancing pleasure. Huge 50/50 Raffle and daily Mini-Raffles. Best Bier selection this side of Munich and amazing homemade German food. Admission is free, and on-site parking is just \$2.

Sacred Heart Festival

(Aug. 8, 9, 10) 400 Nilles Rd.

Peach Daze

(Aug. 9 & 10) Hidden Valley Fruit Farm-5474 N SR 48 Details & Info; 513.932.1869 or www.hiddenvalleyfruit-farm.com

Ride the train with Clifford

(Aug 9-10 & 16-17) Visit with Clifford, various games and activities. Departure Times: 10am, 12:45pm,

Shelly Brown, a prevention and education specialist with Warren County Educational Service Center. Call for reservation 513.588-0321 or email: lebanonoptimist@gmail.com

Friends of the Warren County Park District Summer Meeting

(Aug. 13) 6:30pm The public is invited to attend this summer monthly meeting in the pavilion at Armco Park 1223 N. State Rt. 74. The guest speaker is John Zimkus, Warren County Historian, who will talk about the Shakers in Turtlecreek Township and the "Struggle of Tears".

Coffee with the Chamber

(Aug. 14) 7:45am - 9am The Golden Lamb - Speaker is Esther Larson from the Lebanon Alumni Association Cost: \$5.

Concerts in the Park

Hosted by the Lebanon Rotary Club (Aug. 14) 7pm Lebanon Grand Opry at Bicentennial Park (Cherry and Mulberry Street)

3rd Friday on Mulberry St

(Aug. 15) 5pm-11pm Featuring: Out on Bond. Food by The Golden Lamb, Historic BBQ, The Nook, & The Patriot Steakhouse. Beverages by Dickerson and Valley Vineyards Free Admission.

6TH Annual Cemetery Restoration & Preservation Workshop

(Aug 15) 9am to 4pm at the Caesars Creek Friends Burying Ground located on the banks of Caesars Creek Lake in Wayne Twp. Training to document, preserve and restore cemeteries in a step-by-step fashion. The workshop will be conducted by the Graveyard Groomers, "Walt" & Micki Walters, preeminent graveyard restoration professionals. Cost \$40 per person and includes a picnic lunch. Please call Terry Easton at 513-294-8752 or the WCGS at 513-294-8752 with questions or for reservations.

Current Events Cont. page 3



Wings 'n Wheels

August 16th 2014
7:30am - 2pm

Pancake Breakfast, Car Show & Fly-In

Wright Brothers Airport

4th Annual




Wings 'n Wheels is a car show, fly-in and all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast fundraiser.

Hosted by the Lebanon Band Parents Association all proceeds benefit the Lebanon Band Programs in grades 6 through 12 including the drum line and color guard!

The event features cars and planes of all types, and is held at the Dayton Wright Brothers Airport, in the Commander Aero hangar.

The airport is located just north of Springboro in Miamisburg at 10550 Springboro Pike.

There will be raffles, door prizes, and several trophies.

While admission is FREE and open to the public, tickets must be purchased for the breakfast. And with each breakfast purchase receive a chance for door prizes.

Registration is required for the car show, and includes one free breakfast and a chance to win door prizes.

Space is limited so register early!

Also, the Wright Brother's Museum will be opened during the event where the Wright B Flyer is on display.

For more information or to register for the car show or to purchase breakfast tickets visit:
www.wingsnwheelslebanon.org

Fairfield Adult Gambling, Food & Drinks, Grand Prize, Rides, Split-the-Pot, Bid-N-Buy, rides, & entertainment

Girls' Night Out

(Aug. 9) Enjoy a fun day of shopping, sales and gifts. Details 513.228.0333 or www.historicdowntownlebanon.com

3:30pm. Event Length: 1 hour & 45 min. <http://lebanonrr.com/clifford.html>

Optimist Club Luncheon

(Aug. 11) 12:00 Come join us for lunch. Menu: Signature Salad, Roast Pork Loin with onion sage dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy. \$12.00 Speaker is



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Saturday Night • August 9 4:00pm-9:00pm

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August 16, 2014, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. \$25, reservations in advance.

Cont. pg 2 Events...

SunWatch Flute & Art Festival
(Aug. 15 – 17) location is SunWatch Indian Village/Archaeological Park, 2301 West River Rd. Dayton. Enjoy performances by flutists from throughout the region, and sample American Indian foods including Indian tacos, bison burgers and corn. View beautifully crafted flutes and other offerings from arts and crafts vendors on the scenic grounds.
For more info: 937.268.8199
E-mail: sunwatch@sunwatch.org

26th Annual Midwest Black Family Reunion
(Aug. 15 – 17) Sawyer Point Cincinnati. The event continues to grow and is one of Cincinnati's largest family-focused events drawing over 50,000 patrons. For more info: http://www.midwestbfr.com/2014_bfr_events.html

Downton Abbey Tea
(Aug 16) Warren County Historical Society 105 S Broadway. Details 513.932.1817 or www.wchsmuseum.org

OCVN-Led Nature Programs in the Warren County Park District
(Aug 16) 9:30 – 11:30am Hisey Park. (5443 Middletown Road, Corwin, Ohio) Come join us for a walk to learn about the Trees of Hisey Park. (Bring insect repellent!)

Hispanic Heritage Festival
(Aug. 16) Dayton Ohio - Riverscape Metro Park 111 E. Monument Ave. The exciting Hispanic Heritage Festival is back with hot Latin Music and spicy, delicious Latin Food. The sounds of Salsa, Merengue, Mexico, Latin Jazz, Cumbia, and Bachata music will come alive in the biggest 'FIESTA' in downtown Dayton! Admission is free.

Summer Genealogy Class
(Aug. 20) 2 pm to 3 pm. A genealogy class by Dana Palmer. Online Research Using the Ancestry.com Website. Session is \$5. To register: contact us at 513 695 1144 or wecs@co.warren.oh.us

Concerts in the Park
Hosted by the Lebanon Rotary Club
(Aug 21) 7pm Bicentennial Park (Cherry and Mulberry Street). Known for his acoustic rock style of music, Mr. Akimbo will be the entertainment for the evening.

Festival and Auction

St. Francis de Sales Parish



The annual festival kicks off Friday, August 15 starting at 5 pm and goes till 11 pm that night. There will be games, rides, adult games and a beer garden along with great food and entertainment.

On Saturday the festivities began again at 4 pm with the auction starting at 7 pm.

This year, just like every year, there are some really great items that are scheduled to be auctioned off, said Mike Smith of St. Francis de Sales.

Things such as an Acrobatic Air Ride, a week in a cabin down in Gatlinburg, a grill out prepared by the Father Bernie and Deacon Jay, car detailing, 4-rounds of golf at Shaker Run, Carpet cleaning and much more.

There are a total of 67 items to be auctioned that evening.

All the proceeds from the auction go back into our parish and our community, Mike explained.

It's always a great time and very family oriented, he added. To learn more about the auction and the festival visit:

<http://stfrancisdesales-lebanon.org>.

Ribbon Cutting Countryside YMCA Crossfit Affiliation
(Aug 21) 4pm 1699 Deerfield Rd.

Ribbon Cutting and Open House Celebration
Acorn Counseling Center
(Aug. 22) 5pm - 9pm 212 N Broadway. Ribbon Cutting, followed by open house Appetizers and Beverages

Grill & Chill IV
(Aug. 26) Anytime Fitness, 1525 Genn-town Dr (across from Wal-Mart) 11am-7pm Food, prizes, games and more!!
Details: 513.228.7771

Grape Escape
(Aug. 30-Sept 1) Hidden Valley Fruit

Farm 5474 N SR 48. Details & Info; 513.932.1869 or www.hiddenvalleyfruit-farm.com

Ohio Renaissance Festival
(Aug. 30 – Oct. 19) Thrill...Feast... Watch...Shop...Explore...Enjoy! Step back in time to this 30-acre re-created 16th Century English village and enjoy over 400 years of fun in a single day! The festival offers something for everyone featuring nearly 100 shows daily on 11 stages, over 135 unique arts and crafts shops, hearty food and drink, games of skill and human-powered rides to amuse all ages. 10542 East State Route 73, Waynesville, OH 45068. Phone: 513.897.7000

Warren County Park District

Triathlon	8/02 - 03
Triathlon at Amrco Park	
Night Glow Golf	08/09
6:30 PM Armco Park	
Concert Series	08/10
6:00PM Landen Deerfield Park	
Trees of Hisey Park	08/16
9:30-11:30 Hisey Park	
Movie in the Park	08/22
<i>Planes</i> dusk Landen Deerfield Park	
Night Glow Golf	08/23
6:30 Armco Park	
FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: http://www.co.warren.oh.us/parks/events/index.htm	

GUESS WHO OWNS THE TRAIN STATION?

by Beth Callahan
Editor

When driving into the city of Lebanon, it's almost impossible not to notice the charming yellow, brown trim building that sits on the corner of state Rt. 42 and 48. Surrounded by trees and manicured flower gardens, the long red train that sits beside the building blends in so well that the scene becomes a perfect picture from days past.

Known to many as the train station, the Lebanon Station wasn't always this picturesque.

"About 45 years ago, this corner looked much different. Rather than the quaint building that occupies the site today, this area housed a very rundown freight building owned by Penn Central," explained Mary Alice Leasure President of the Lebanon Council of Garden Clubs.

"With the dilapidated building, used cars and overgrown weeds on the lot, this was not the image Doris wanted people seeing when they entered Lebanon," said Mary Alice, adding that it was the late Doris Corson who spear-headed the cause to clean-up Lebanon's entry way.

In Lebanon Council of Garden Clubs Handbook published back in 2002, some of the station's history can be found.

According to the handbook, Mary Alice and Mary Pat Austing of Lebanon Council of Garden Clubs, it was back in 1971 when Doris began meeting with the property's owner, Penn Central.

"She offered to lease the land for one dollar a year for 25 years," said Mary Alice.

"Penn Central was not interested in leasing. They wanted to sell it for \$25,000," explained Mary Pat.

"The garden clubs couldn't afford that," said Mary Alice, adding that Penn Central would not sell or lease to an unincorporated group anyway.

To meet the requirements that Penn Central was requesting, Lebanon Garden Club, Cedar City Garden Club, Town and Country Garden Club and Seed-N-Weed Garden Club incorporated and formed Lebanon Council of Garden Clubs.

(According to Mary Alice, out of the four clubs, three are still active clubs with the Seed-N-Weed club now disbanded.)

After many negotiations, Penn Central dropped its asking price to \$4,500. By April of 1972, Council had raised the asking price and the deed for the dilapidated building and land was handed over to it.

With deed in hand, Lebanon Council of Garden Clubs was going to be able to do what it wanted to

do... clean up the corner.

The old freight station was torn down and plans were drawn to build a replica of the original passenger station that had been built on that site back in 1881.

Bids were received from \$24,000 to \$35,000 for the project.

"Council didn't have funds like that," said Mary Alice explaining that this did not stop the group

from pursuing its vision.

Council borrowed \$24,000 from the local bank, which was backed by \$200 individual promissory notes from 120 of the women on the Council. According to the handbook that was 90 percent of its membership.

This became a huge community project. Much of the materials, labor and cash for the undertaking were donations.

A gentleman in memory of his late wife donated the roof. Sod was donated and laid by high school boys. ODOT removed the dirt and cinders while a local businessman provide the topsoil so landscaping could be done.

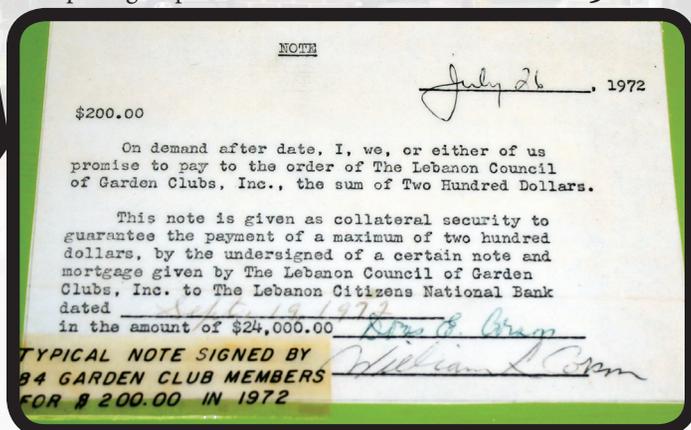
Council garden club members even got involved in the construction, as they were taught how to lay the donated bricks that make a portion of the walkway.

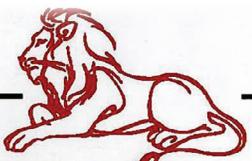
Kendricks local movers and wreckers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Top: Mary Alice Leasure
Middle: The late Doris Corson
Bottom: Typical note signed by one of the 120 women for the Lebanon Station.





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moved the five-ton watchman's tower from Reading, Ohio.

Even the Lebanon Correctional Institution donated its efforts as the iron structure of the tower was taken to LCI for the inmates to scrape and paint.

Jim Duff donated his time in restoring the wooden structure of the tower with many of the materials that were donated by local merchants.

Armco Steel Corp provided a 60 foot flagpole while the American Legion Auxiliary presented Council a flag that was raised at the Lebanon Station's Grand Opening in May of 1974.

"It really was a community project," said Mary Alice.

Today, the station is used by Council and the three garden clubs to hold their meetings, have activities and do projects.

Mary Alice noted that each garden area around the station has either a club, groups or individuals who maintain and take care of that portion of the Station's grounds.

Excursion trains returned to Lebanon back in 1995. According to the Handbook, The Turtle Creek Valley R.R. rented a portion of the building in 1995 so it could operate an excursion train out of Lebanon.

"The railroad took the top portion of the building and Council took the basement where they renovated and furnished it as a meeting room," said Mary Alice.

Today the L.M. & M Railroad (Lebanon Mason and Monroe) does not use the station, but rather, it sells its tickets across the street at a building connected to Brant's Hardware.

"We own the station, the City of Lebanon owns the tracks, and LM&M owns the



train cars and engine," Mary Alice explained.

It's through the collaboration of these three entities that has helped make this corner become one of Lebanon's most known landmarks... but it has been through the dedication and hard work of many individuals within this community that has made this corner a beautiful, vibrant, picture-perfect landmark!

Top: Garden Council women learned how to lay the donated bricks for a walkway.
Above: Corner of state Rt. 42 & Rt. 48
Left: The 5-ton iron structure tower.

Rail Study Open to Public

A presentation has been scheduled to share the results from the Lebanon Rail Study conducted by Stone Consulting. The presentation is scheduled for August 5, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers (second floor) of the City Building, located at 50 South Broadway.

Randy Gustafson of Stone Consulting and a principal author of the study, will make the presentation and address City Council's questions. This presentation is open to the public.

To read the study go to: www.lebanonohio.gov/Document-Center/View/2884

What happened to Penn Central?

Pennsylvania Railroad and The New York Central Railroad merged together in February of 1968 to create Penn Central.

By the end of 1968, Penn Central had acquired two more railroads by order of the Interstate Commerce Commission: New York New Haven and Hartford Railroad.

Even though this merger had been planned for several years, Penn Central was experiencing both financial and system problems such as incompatible computer systems and signaling systems between the railroads.

By June 21, 1970, Penn Central filed bankruptcy. Under Section 77 of the Bankruptcy Act, Penn Central was able to run trains while being protected from its creditors.

During this time period, the U.S. Government created the United States Railway Association since many other railways

were in bankruptcy. By April 1, 1976 Conrail was created to help save the rail systems in the eastern portion of the country.

The majority of the rail assets of Penn Central were bought by the government and placed into Conrail. The other portions of Penn Central Company, such as real estate and insurance, were left alone until March 25, 1994 when Penn Central Corporation changed its name to American Premier Underwriters (APU).

In 1995 American Financial Group (AFG) purchased APU. Because APU is a wholly owned subsidiary of AFG, it still owns Grand Central Terminal in New York City where it is under 110 year lease to New York Metropolitan Transit Agency.

Information found at <http://www.pcrhs.org/proto/corporate/>

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What's living among us here in Lebanon

The title of our column is "Nature Close to Home", and it appears in our favorite community newspaper, The Lebanon Local.

Home to me is the City of Lebanon. I live inside the city limits, but close enough to the edge of town that I feel almost like I live in a rural environment. I've lived here in Lebanon for nearly ten years and have explored many of the nooks and crannies of this nice town either on foot or by driving the roadways.

Being an admirer of anything that has to do with nature, I have a fairly good recollection of most of the wildlife sightings I've experienced within the city limits since taking up residence here.

I thought I would share these sightings with you in case you were wondering what critters have been quietly lurking under our noses and going undetected much of the time. Many of you could lengthen my list by contributing some of your own sightings.

Let's start with the mammals. Many of these won't come as too much of a surprise when you see their names listed, but after all, we're talking about wild animals living in the city! Let's see. We've probably all seen the deer, cottontail rabbit, and the gray squirrel.

But how about the coyote, chipmunk, fox squirrel, groundhog, possum, raccoon, meadow vole, red fox, muskrat, and white-footed mouse? Yep, they all live within the city limits, and they probably have a lot of

Nature Close to Home



DAVE WOHR
Ohio Certified
Volunteer Naturalist

friends that I haven't encountered yet and therefore aren't on my list.

We have a lot of birds, too. I don't have the space to list them all here, but they number well over 50 species.

Some of the more notable ones include the wild turkey, and great horned owl. Now remember, these are actual sightings within the city limits.

We also have reptiles and amphibians. Garter snakes, black rat snakes, box turtles, snapping turtles, American Toads, spring peepers, bullfrogs and Gray Treefrogs all call Lebanon their home. Even crawdads. (Yes, I know crawdads aren't reptiles or amphibians.) You would think we were living in a swamp!

And then there are the insects – too numerous to name individually. Some of the more interesting ones include the praying mantis, many attractive butterflies and moths, and even lots of species of dragonflies. Katydid and lightning bugs make their presence known at night along with the chirping crickets.

How about bears?

In light of the news in recent weeks that might be a fair question. There were sightings of a young black bear in Warren, Clermont, and Hamilton Counties this summer, and about five years ago another one was verified roaming here in Warren County.

I personally have never seen a bear in the entire state of Ohio, and they are reported to only number 50

to 100 animals statewide. They were undoubtedly very common in the 1700's and earlier before settlement and the clearing of forests.

They may be making a slow comeback. Anything is possible. When I was a kid it was almost unheard of to see a deer. Now we have over half a million of them statewide. Times have changed and will continue to do so.

I'm sure that I've forgotten to mention some of the animals that I've seen in town since moving to Lebanon. In fact, those discussed in these few paragraphs probably represent just a mere fraction of all the animal species here in the city. But the ones I've listed here from memory certainly do indicate that we have a wide variety of fauna in our community.



It is an indication that we have a healthy environment and ecosystem locally: good water quality, clean air, good soil, and pockets of undisturbed habitat. It is imperative that

we all do our part to protect this environment so that we can continue to live where the evidence shows that nature close to home is alive and well.



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LHS BAND BEGINS NEW SEASON



The request has gone out to LHS band parents for popsicles, fruit, water, and lots of food to supply the anticipated 103 members of the 2014-15 Marching Warriors during their two weeks of band camp!

The Memorial Day and Independence Day Parades are under their belts. Now they will begin their first week of band camp on July 21, 2014 to become familiar with new music, how to "learn their dots" for marching a show, and who to watch and listen to when making the show come alive!

It's an exciting and anxious time, but one the students and staff are looking forward to!

Three Drum Majors will lead the band this season. Kuan Jiang, a Senior, and Cassie Park, a Junior, already have a year of experience guiding the unit. They will be joined by Kenzie Wise, a Junior, who along with Kuan and Cassie attended the George N. Parks Drum Major Academy. They are equipped to lead the band to a season of excellence.

David Ianelli, LHS Band Director, comments that, "All of the students, whether they participate in the winds, percussion, or color guard are integral to the success of the ensemble. I am enamored at how well they handle their responsibilities and dedication to create excellence and life long memories! We expect to learn the bulk of an exciting competition show during band camp that will evolve and be enhanced through the fall.

Band Parents Association President Chris Slaughter, and Vice President Lori Spencer, Event Chairperson, are inviting EVERYONE to the "Wings n Wheels" Pancake Fundraiser at the Dayton/Wright Brothers Airport on August 16, 2015.

Many enjoy seeing the car show and watching the planes fly in and out while the band students happily serve the public a hearty pancake breakfast!

For ticket information, visit www.wingsnwheelslebanon.org.

Clouds didn't stop cars from the 1st Route 42 Car Show



Despite the dark clouds that sat above the city all day last July 19th, the Waynesville and Lebanon Lions Clubs held a success car show.

"We did well for the weather. All day it looked like it was going to rain, but never did," said Lebanon's Lions Club President Pat Bookman.

Along with the brand new 2014 Corvette, there were cars all the way back to the 1930's, Pat said.

"Everybody seemed to have a great time, and the car owners told us that

they will be back next year. They said they really liked the facilities," Pat added.

The show was held at Heritage Church on Route 42.

"It's a nice middle location for both the clubs," Pat noted.

"The volunteers, the participants, our two major sponsors REM Business Solutions and Acorn Construction along with our other sponsors really helped this be a successful show," Pat said, adding he sees the clubs holding the event again next year.

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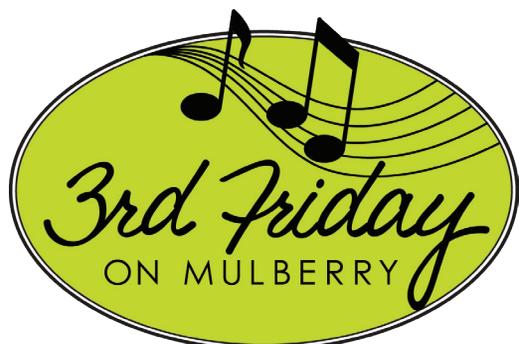


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(Aug 15) is the last Chamber street festival of the summer 2014. Music starts at 5:30pm with Out on Bond (featuring Lebanon resident Dan Berger). If you were with us July of 2013 Dan is the extremely talented musician who stepped in when at the last moment.

For 2014 we expanded the vendors to include: Historic BBQ, The Golden Lamb, The Nook, Patriot Steakhouse and Valley Vineyards.

Stop by between 5:00 and 11:00 for music, food and beer.



THE CHAMBER is here...

Promoting our members is our business and since June we have been partnering with Channel 6 to promote 2 of our members each month in a special segment called THE CHAMBER hosted by Dr Rich of Four Paws.

Upcoming episodes premiere during City Show: Tuesday, Aug 5—Episode 3/Nook Express Tuesday, Aug 22—Episode 4/Historic BBQ

Missed an episode go to Youtube.com and search The Chamber, hosted by Dr Rich.

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Not a member yet...thinking of starting a business?

(Aug 20) Steps to Starting Your Own Business, 2:00-4:00pm at the Monroe Community Room, Monroe Ohio. Topics to be discussed: Business plans, Business Name, Professional Service Providers, Taxes, Licenses, Permits, Legal Issues, Record keeping, Business Loans and Alternative Financing & much more...

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Looking to connect with local business leaders? Join us for Coffee with the Chamber (Aug 14) 7:45-9:00, networking begins at 7:45 followed by the speaker at 8:15, join us at The Golden Lamb as we discuss the Lebanon Alumni Association with LHS Alum Esther Larson.



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GOING OUT IN STYLE CAN LEAVE

Last month I was invited to attend something very special. Something I didn't even know existed and no longer does.

It was the farewell dinner to the Lebanon Farmers Club.

After 116 years the club decided to disband due to several reasons.

"Young families are too busy. And the older ones... well they're just too old to get out... some of our members are in their 80's and 90's," explained Myron McClure who stopped by the office to invite me to the special occasion.

"Farmers don't need each other for support as they did in days past. Today, they get their information from technology... and also farming here in Lebanon isn't the same. Most of the farmers in Warren County are south and east of Lebanon," he added.

"We didn't want to have a meeting and no one show up... we wanted to go out in style... it will be our last meeting... I guess it's a good example of bitter sweet."

Rather than me explaining what the Lebanon Farmers Club was or stood for, please read the letter below that Myron handed me the day he stopped in the office....

Just a thought



Beth Callahan

THE LEBANON FARMERS CLUB

On June 25, 2014 the Lebanon Farmers Club will celebrate almost 116 years of existence. This will be the last regular meeting of the group.

Lebanon Farmers Club was organized on February 2, 1989 at the home of J.M. Earnhart. At the time, there was a Franklin Farmers Club and Geroge Riley of Franklin was invited to assist with the organization of a similar club in the Lebanon area. The goals of this organization were to provide opportunity for cooperation at harvest and other times as needed, a chance to share information and to provide a social outlet for farm families. The first officers were elected as follows: J.M. Earnhart, president; Samuel Irons, vice-president; and M.C. Drake, secretary/treasurer.

By the seventh meeting, August 28, 1898, it was

agreed that everyone should come for dinner (noon meal). This idea developed into having special dishes, silverware, table paper and tables, which were transported each month to the host family's home.

The host family prepared at length for the occasion of entertaining Farmers Club. Barns and homes were cleaned and polished from roof to basement. Members would arrive right after morning chores with their horses and wagons, have the meeting, enjoy dinner, then entertainment, leaving for home just in time to do evening chores.

Early topics for discussion were: *Country Fairs, Electricity, The Social Side of Farm Life, The Hussien Fly, Are all the Current Magazines the Proper Thing for our Young People to Read, Should We Educate the Farm Boy, The most Profitable Hogs, How much of a Farmer's Time can Profitably Devoted to Amusement?* and *Can*



The last group photo of the Lebanon Farmers Club taken June 25, 2014 at The Pavillion Otterbein. Photo by Jamie Leisz

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....A BITTER SWEET FAREWELL

Crop reports were given. Wheat yields of 26 to 33 bushels per acre were reported in 1905. The yields in Warren County in 2013 averaged 55 to 75 bushels.

The club became involved in political and social issues. In 1899, the club resolved to contact the Honorable Seth W. Brown to urge his support of the Davidson Bill, which proposed a 10-cent per pound tax on oleomargarine, when colored yellow to resemble butter. In 1902, the Lebanon Farmers Club expressed its displeasure of taking the Warren County Fair from Lebanon to Franklin, thus

spending county money on a fair held where it is inconvenient for the greater part of the people in the county to attend.

In 1912 the secretary was instructed to forward letters to our U.S. Senators and Members of the House of Representatives stating the Club's strong desire for a reasonable parcel post system. In the early 1900's, gramophones provided music. Popular songs were: *The Farmer's Life*; *Marriage Bells* and *Mocking Birds*. Members often provided musical entertainment, readings, and essays, as did their children and grandchildren. The Farmers Club was a real family activity.

In 1929, Mrs. Charles Guard became the first woman president of the group. Since that time Lebanon Farmers Club has had eight female presidents. Ruth Miller, a great grandniece of the founder, J.H. Earnhart, is currently serving as president.

At one time there were three Farmers Clubs in Warren County: Franklin, Waynesville, and Lebanon. The first united meeting of the three groups was held on August 24, 1910 at the county fairgrounds. This united meeting became a yearly event.

Members continued to meet at their homes until the late 60's. Then some chose to host their meeting at a church or other venue. By the mid

70's almost all meetings were held away from private homes, continuing as a covered dish carry-in. By 2000, due to the difficulty of preparing carry-in dinners for many of the members, it was decided that a restaurant could provide a convenient alternative. The men missed the home cooked food, but the ladies were happy that they didn't have to cook!

In 1998, the Club celebrated its 100 anniversary with a picnic at Ruth Miller's Farm on Pekin Road... a great event. In connection with the anniversary, the Club compiled a cookbook and chronicle containing member's recipes, member's history of their time in Warren County, and readings and poems by J.M. Earnhart... a very interesting and informative collection.

As farming has evolved with: mechanization; many farmers and their families working additional jobs off the farm; information readily available thru the Internet and publications; and with many outlets for socializing, the goals of the Farmers Club are being met elsewhere.

As we disband our formal organization, we will continue to treasure our friendships and memories that were developed in Lebanon Farmer's Club.



I want to thank all of you for allowing me to attend your last formal meeting. It was an honor and privilege I will always cherish, Beth.



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The cloud covered misty morning turned into a beautiful afternoon for the Lebanon community on July 3rd. Hundreds of people of all ages and sizes headed to downtown to watch the annual 4th of July Parade and then onto Colonial Park for fireworks. Sponsored by Lebanon Community National Bank and HDLI, Lebanon's 4th of July Celebration was packed with family-fun entertainment. Sarah Chandler opened this year's celebration with the singing of the National Anthem while Mayor Amy Brewer was Parade Marshal.

During the parade, announcers Bucky Fullan, VP of Berry Insurance Group, and his wife Debbie shared this year's Best Float and Best Vehicle winners.

Float winners were: 1st Place - Warren County Democratic Party; 2nd Place - A Child's Hope International - Hands Against Hunger; and 3rd Place - 4U Cowboy Gathering Cowboy Church.

Vehicles winners were: 1st Place - Warren Republican Party 1959 Chevy Biscayne, owned by Dave Walker; 2nd Place - Lebanon Christian Schools - 1992 Cadillac; and 3rd Place - 1965 Dodge Coronet, owned by Carl L Aleshire.

After the parade many spectators headed over to the city's Colonial park.

At Colonial Park West, families enjoyed live music, blowup rides, food, and games while in Colonial Park North gathers enjoyed picnics, tailgate gatherings, kickball, Frisbee and much more while waiting for the annual firework display.





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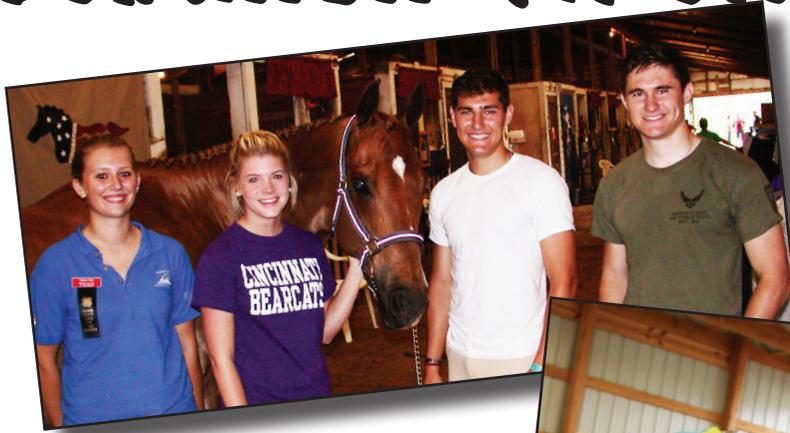
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Lebanon 4H Clubs well-represented



Taylor Cox, Aiden Dilbeck, Zach Mount and Alex Mount, all of Lebanon, spent a lot of time preparing for equestrian competition at this year's fair.



Grace Elam is a Lebanon High cheerleader during school, but in July she turns her attention to her pigs.



Dean Baugh, with his rabbit, and his cousin, Aaron Baugh, found chickens to be the most fun to show at the fair. Both are members of the Odyssey 4H Club.

While most people associate county fairs with rides and games, make no mistake it was agriculture first on the scene at fairs more than 100 years ago. To this day children in 4H proudly display their animals and crafts. And Lebanon residents walked away with more than their fair share of ribbons and trophies. Listed below are local residents who finished FIRST in their competitive categories:

BEEF: Hailee Deger, Zach Back, Allie Steiner, John Kirby and Steven Welty.

LAMBS: John Wehrle, Wesley Wehrle, Butch & Sherry Schappacher, Emily Couch, Jenna Wehrle, Amber Phillips, Paul Johnson, Danielle Wehrle and Jenna Wehrle.

HOGS: Ryan Kolb, Brooke Fornshell, Colin Truett, Blaine Engle, Reed Kolb, Rachel Gray and Cole Engle.

EQUINE: Joey LaCroix, Claire Monroe, Krista Havens, Lily Journey, Kerry Frommling, Richard Kolb, Taylor Cox, Kayla Langston, Ethan Wright, Grant Boggs, Chloe Larson, Krista Havens, Brianna Sorum, Emilie Brunks, Faith Bollinger, Melissa Gallacher, Amelia Mason, Allison Bishop, Emily Couch, Rachel Davis, Zachary Mount, Reed Kolb, Natalie LaCroix, Russell Kolb, Kayla Boggs, Roselen Rotello and Kerry Frommling.

GOATS: Dana Bullock, Alexis Whitney, Paige Barton, Isaac Bendel, Bailey Miller, Jillian Egbert, Elizabeth Sams, Charlie Leisz, Dana Bullock, Ben Wehner, Ryan Kolb, Emily Osborne, Jamie Leisz, Amanda Osborne, Clayton Rothenbush, Melissa Emery, Alexis Whitney, Mark Hehlhope, Whitney Kenline, Amber Phillips and Megan McMannon.

LLAMAS: Sarah Couch.

POULTRY: Sarah Couch, Evan Kahrs, Ethan Michna, Isaac Couch, Spencer Swinehart, Evan Kahrs, Adam Creech, Whitney Kenline, Troy Myers, Jamie Leisz, Charlie Leisz, Megan Elliott, Matthew Siefker, Emily Osborne and Jacob Creech.

RABBITS: Molly Couch, Amy Couch, Isaac Kurtz, Sarah Couch, Britney Yaekle, Madison Mannon, Tyler Winders, Hannah Wolfenbarger, Reilly Hoover, Molly Couch, Andrea Chaillet, and Hannah Yowler.

SWINE: Dana Bullock, Sadie Creech, Brooke Fornshell, Jillian Egbert and Reed Kolb

DOGS: Amy Hummel, Arden Kamentz, Klarysa Kamentz, Helena Flake, Regin Cooper, Krista Havens, Brycen Havens, Jera Jordan.

LLAMAS/ALPACAS: Molly Couch, Alexander Wood, Alexandra Yaekle, Garrett Reynolds, Chelsey Younkman and Sarah Couch.

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ROCKETS: Dawson Siebert, Pete Siebert and Reed Kolb.

BICYCLES: Arianna Bush

SEWING: Ellie Abshire

CLOTHING: Rachel Bowling and Katie Karnes

ART: Arianna Bush, Isabelle Davis and Liz Hicks.

COMPUTERS: Matthew Barrett

ROPE: Hannah Wolfinbarger

WELDING: Pete Siebert

TRACTORS: Pete Siebert

FAMILY LIFE: Arianna Bush

BEGINNING PROJECTS: Norak Kaaskocsak, Hannah Wolfinbarger and Sarah Couch.

NUTRITION: Hannah Wolfinbarger, Anja Bally, Jera Jordan, Evan Kahrs, Ethan Bally, Sarah Couch and Molly Couch.

CONSERVATION/FORESTRY: Russell Kolb

HEALTH: Elizabeth Shulz

PHOTOGRAPHY: Reilly Hoover

ARCHERY: Jillian Egbert

SHOTGUN: Joshua Gwynne

MUZZLE LOADING: Brittany Jones

VETERINARY SCIENCE: Jera Jordan

WOODWORKING: Cheyenne Wolfinbarger, Alton Albright and Brooke Fornshell.

WRITING: Cheyenne Wolfinbarger



Bethanie Brown (below) is a member of the Warren County Rabbit 4H Club.



Missy Emery (above) runs track and plays soccer at Lebanon High. She is also a member of the Warren County Dairy Goat Club, which has 20 members.



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FROM FIREMAN TO DRIVER TO AUTHOR

Never in Terry Susong's wildest dreams did he see himself writing a book, let alone an inspirational one.

After retiring as a full time firefighter for the City of Middletown, Terry and his wife Connie decided to move back to Tennessee, his birth state.

Terry applied for a part-time job as a limo driver once they got to Knoxville. The job had been taken. But after he spoke with Tony, the man doing the hiring, Tony was impressed with the fact Terry had served in the military. "I served for two years, where in one of the two I was a combat medic," Terry explained.

Tony offered Terry another position. He had a company that was contracted by the government to drive the newly enlisted military people to "their final destination from freedom to service" is how Terry explains it.

The first few months of driving these young new service men and women from Knoxville, Tennessee to go either south to Fort Jackson or Parris Island (both in South Carolina) or north to Fort Knox in Kentucky, the rides were lighthearted conversations.

"These drives were anywhere from six to nine hours. A lot of funny situations would happen," Terry said.

Terry, who is known for his sharp wit and good sense of humor, would share these stories with friends and family. After hearing the stories, many of them would tell him, "You need to write a book!"

"I thought about it and decided, why not? I would

love to write a funny book!"

But thoughts began to change for Terry.

"It hit me that I was taking them to their final

destination before they left to serve. I had been there before. God spoke to me that I needed to prepare them spiritually," Terry said.

Terry explained that he never pushed his faith on anyone. He just gently shared a book about God's shield of protection and a cross pin with the image of the American flag and a prayer, if allowed.

"Most were happy to talk and wanted to share during that long drive. Some didn't though, and I respected that," he said.

Over the years, Terry kept being reminded he needed to write a book about those three years of driving.

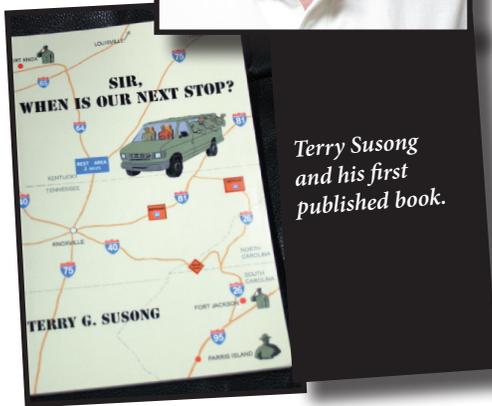
"I really did want it to be funny," he said, but with pen in hand, Terry's funny book began to take a twist. As he tried to write the funny stories, the stories while entertaining would turn into stories with spiritual meanings.

In 2012 Terry's Book was published "Sir, When is our Next Stop?"

Written with humor and love, Terry shares stories to help inspire us all.

You can meet Terry, who now lives here in Lebanon, for a book signing on Wed. August 13 from 5 pm to 7 pm at Chapters located in Colony

Square, or he can be contacted by email at Terrysusong@aol.com. Terry is available to speak to local churches and service organizations.



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**THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX....
SHOP INSIDE THE SQUARE**

New brewery to share crops, site with Hidden Valley

by Doug Graves

The marriage of locally grown food with trends of locally brewed beers will result in a new brewery opening next fall in Warren County.

An 1880s barn at Hidden Valley Fruit Farm located just north of downtown Lebanon will house Crafted Pints Brewing Company.

An ideal location for such a venture, Hidden Valley Fruit farms will also make use of one-quarter acres of hops that are grown on the premise, as well as six acres of grapes. The farm already supplies Angry Orchards with cherry cider.

"I've grown hops for breweries in Cincinnati before, so we've done that sort of thing," said Hidden Valley Fruit Farm owner Bob Ullrich. "We also grow our own grapes right here. We're pretty fortunate as we're the type of farm that can produce and use its own grapes, apples, blueberries and more."

Ullrich is no newcomer to such production. He and a partner each invested \$40 thousand in a similar venture, but found the undertaking too much for a partner of two.

Not long after, a trio of homebrewers (Jerrod Fisher, Mike Meholick and Greg Cason) were looking to set up shop in downtown Dayton, but were led Hidden Valley Fruit Farm's unique landscape.

"We realized there was a truly unique opportunity at the farm," Fisher said.

Hidden Valley Fruit Farm can stand on its own, actually. It is home to the Strawberry Spectacular, Apple Daze and Ohio Cider Festival. Having a brewery on site,



Grapes at Hidden Valley Fruit Farm are healthy and plentiful. Bob Ullrich tends to six acres of grapes, which he says will be used in the brewing processes. (Doug Graves photos)

Ullrich says, is an added attraction. In the meantime, the brewery can use ingredients grown right outside its doors (hops, fruits, pumpkins and more) in making its beers.

Hidden Valley already makes apple cider from its farm-grown apples, so Crafted Pints Brewing is planning a line of hard ciders.

"The location is convenient for distribution to Cincinnati and Dayton, and the

farm's festivals will introduce visitors to the brewery," Fisher said.

Crafted Pints will use a few different areas on the farm. The brewery itself will be in one barn. Another barn will have a large cooler that will be used to house kegs waiting for distribution to area bars and restaurants. Tanks, stirrers and heaters are already in place.

An on-site taproom will serve the brewery's full lineup of beers and hard ciders to drink there or take home. By 2015 they hope to add an outdoor beer garden that can support live music.

Fisher said they've finalized recipes for several stouts, IPAs, pale ales, brown ales, saisons and wheat beers. Anywhere from four to six beers will be available year-round, and they'll offer seasonal and limited releases. Once under way, they hope to begin canning their beer and cider.

Hidden Valley was founded in 1951 and today comprises 82 acres of various fruits. It is the home to 52 varieties of apples. There are 19 acres of apple trees, six acres of peach trees.

Plums, blueberries, grapes, raspberries, corn, melons, rhubarb, gooseberries, peas and strawberries dot the landscape, but apples remain the dominant crop.

Having a brewery on site that covets



This 1880s barn at Hidden Valley Fruit Farm has hosted Strawberry Spectacular, Apple Daze and Ohio Cider Festival. It will now be home to Crafted Pints Brewing Company with production slated for this September.

the farm's apples brings a smile to Ullrich's face.

"We plan on using our party barn for the processing and we'll use our cider because our apples use no preservatives," Ullrich said. "With our natural cider it will ferment on its own."

And nothing will go to waste in this process. Ullrich plans on feeding the production residue to the animals on the farm.



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Lebanon's Got Talent

Who wants to stay home and sleep in during summer break? Not these campers! Several students participated in *Summer Lebanon Theatre Camp* spending a week learning about the stage and what it takes to put on a play. *Spotlight on Kids* camp has been part of the Lebanon Theatre Company for the last 17 years. At the end of the week the campers present a short play and a musical number. The camp is a great way to foster interest in the theatrical arts. Many campers become involved in LTC productions outside of camp. Currently one of the board members Kurt Percy, was a camper ten years ago and has been active with LTC ever since. The counselors at the camp are Amy Edington-King, Carol Rickey and Paula Whitaker.

Below: A scene from their performance the last day of camp. Bottom right: Students performing at the *Rotary Concerts in the Park*.



Back row standing: Amy Edington-King, Sarah Secrest, Zach Cox, Rachel Molnar, Sarah Griffin, Alexis Adams, Kolby Miller, Josh Campbell, Carissa, Paula Whitaker *Front row standing:* Carol Rickey, Amanda Burns, Jenna Campell, Isabelle Oen, Amelia Anderson, Kylie Paul, Mattie Spoelker, Sam Duncan, *Kneeling:* Faith Duncan, Magi Johnson, Natalie Wilson, Katelyn Griffin, Shelby Shah, Jaelyn Oen *Sitting:* Katie King and Faith Martin.



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Sales Director

Along with her experience in sales and marketing, Rebecca Angelastro understands the importance of community newspapers, and its means of providing businesses a successful way of reaching their potential customer. This is why Rebecca has joined the Lebanon Local Team!



Editor/Graphics

Beth Callahan has worked 30 years in the media doing everything from producing a live television show, radio, reporting for weekly and daily papers as well as publishing her own magazine. She is an award winning journalist and has lived in Warren County the majority of her life.



Sports/Agriculture

From the Cincinnati Enquirer, to the Dayton Daily News and just about every weekly newspaper in between, Doug Graves has been covering sports in the Miami Valley for 38 years. Doug also writes for Farmworld, covering agriculture news in southwest Ohio, eastern Indiana and northern Kentucky.

The Lebanon Local is distributed monthly free of charge through the US Mail. When

available extra copies can be picked up at the office located at REM Business Solutions,

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Ray E. Miller
President and Publisher



WARRIOR SPORTS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY LEBANON FORD

A league full of Gnats, Dogs & Grasshoppers

You have to love some of the names coaches give to their teams. For instance, names of teams in the boys coach pitch (8 and under) of the Lebanon Youth Baseball League include Sand Gnats (remember, these boys are small), Muck Dogs, Rockhounds, Tumbler Rattlers, Grasshoppers, Scrappers, Dragons, Storm, Bulls and Hooks. Top teams in this league were the Bats and Rivercats.

I WROTE a feature on the Lynx baseball team for 13 year-old boys (see page 18) and surprisingly officiated the bases a month earlier during this team's game with in-town rival Lebanon Bombers at Runyon Field. Also had the pleasure of officiating the Lebanon Raptors softball team for 12-year-olds at the Milford tournament. The talent on these two teams is simply amazing.



Tommy Carroll is proof that it's not the size of the dog in the fight that matters, rather the size of the fight in the dog. Tommy kept his drives straight and inbounds. Tommy was one of 25 who participated in the Junior Golf League. (Doug Graves photo)

SPORTS in the Lebanon area are second to none, and that's because the coaches care. Tim and Sue Ellis, cross country coaches at Lebanon High (Tim is assistant girls track coach as well) formed the Lebanon Track Club for kids ages 7-12. Want to build a great sports program? Do as the Ellis' did, get the kids started at an early age.

This club holds 10 practices in May and June with three meets in June. This past season meets were held at Mason, Washington Court House and in Lebanon.

Those competing in this season's Lebanon Track Club included Ellie and Gabby Bevan, Bladen Brown, Iyanna Brown, Hope Carr, Avery and Alexa Centers, Thomas Clark, Josh and Madison Corbett, Cailin Cornell, Sophie Cropper-Lily,

Across the Board



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Blake and Brett Dixon, Olivia DuBard, Jillian Enris, Ethan Fett, Emma and Ethan Finch, Joe Geers, Elizabeth and Emily Glover, Brady and Kacee Gluntx, Shaelynn Hegarty, Emily and Anna Johnson, Kelly Morgan, Mazie Monroe, Korinne Narog, Hudson Newman, Adam and Lauren Patterson, Abby and Ashley Robison, Anderson and Jiliana Rohrs, Jacob Rothwell, Luke Saunders, Gage, Carter and Addi Shinski, Jackson Siddall, Griffin and Mackenzie Snarr, Sydney Stegeman, Aubrey Stegemiller, Sydney Stekete, Jacob and Matthew Sutton, Emma and Jackson Taylor-Abigail, Max Walker, Luke and Sam Webster, Westyn Woodard and Lucas Wortylko.

WHILE that roster sounds huge you have to tip the hat to Lebanon High football coach Shawn Lamb and his staff for getting 215 boys ages K to 8 out for the Warrior Football Camp. What was special was seeing the high school players pitch in to offer help to the younger athletes.

Perfect timing for this camp was that the temperatures and humidity were low.

Photos from the camp can be found on page 16.

OH, if I could only turn back the hands of time. Given that chance I think I would have taken up golf at a much earlier age.

I spent a few days following the junior golfers at the Harmon Golf Club. Driving the cart from hole to hole I was amazed at the responsibility given to the young foursomes as they traversed the course for nine holes of play.

You're teaching them well, Tony!

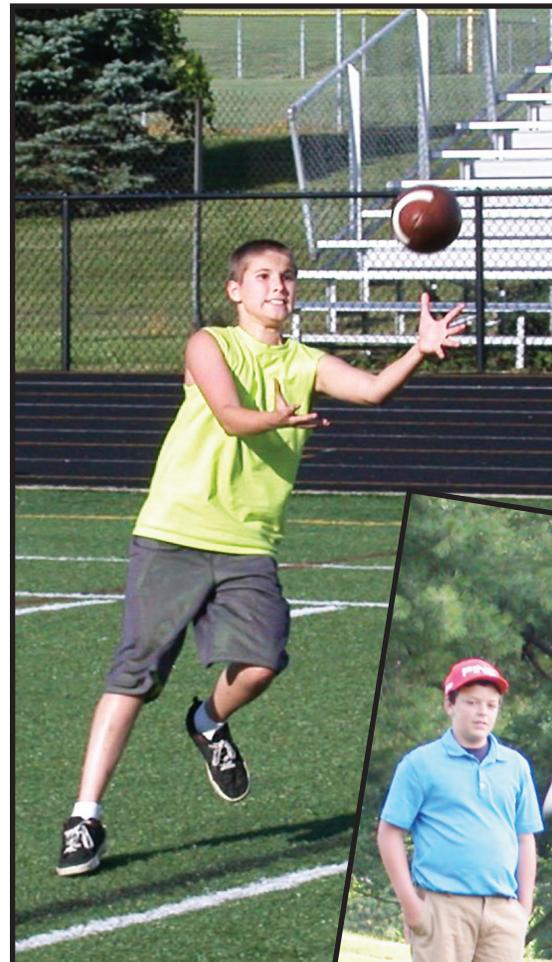
BY THE time this issue hits the mail boxes high school and junior high coaches will be preparing for the fall season. Seems like only yesterday that school was just getting out for the summer.

MY THANKS to Deborah Delp of Warren County Extension for her help in compiling the results from this year's Junior Fair. I realize 4H is not a sport, nor are livestock athletes, but the kids involved in 4H are just as dedicated to their animals.

Not surprising, many of the exhibitors at this year's county fair participate in sports.

Fun in the Sun

Nicholas Santee (at left) snares a pass during last month's Warrior Football Camp for boys in grades K through 8. There were 215 participants at this year's camp.



Cole Pinkerman, right, drives from the first tee while partner Lucas Rottello waits his turn. The two were among 25 youth golfers competing in the Junior Golf League at Harmon Golf Club.



Sarah Hamrick (left) and the other 12U Raptors captured tournaments in Milford in June and right here in Lebanon during the July 4 weekend.



Doug Graves photos

Lebanon fastpitch: 19 successful years

by Doug Graves

When the Lebanon High girls softball team finished in the top four in the state in Division-I softball it should have come as no surprise. While Lebanon may think of itself as a football powerhouse, softball in this city takes a back seat to no sport.

“Obviously, the most recent success of the high school program with two final four appearances in the last three years helps, but there has been a long history of excellence with this sport,” said Jim Hamrick, coach of the highly successful Raptors 12U squad. “Lebanon started a youth fastpitch softball program in 1995. Jim Wuennemann started the program and we honor him by naming our annual tournament in July after him.”

There are 170 girls in the program, ages 7-14, from coach pitch through 14U. There are 15 teams in all.

“The softball program in Lebanon got going strong in 1997 and prior to that the girls’ helmets were hand-me-downs,” Wuennemann said. “In the infancy of our program we didn’t have much good equipment and baseball was the sport of choice in the area. Just one year in all this time did we form a select teams and traveled, but we found it better to keep things right here in Lebanon.”

The Lebanon fastpitch program was initially part of the Lebanon Youth Baseball program, but recently separated from baseball to become an independent entity.

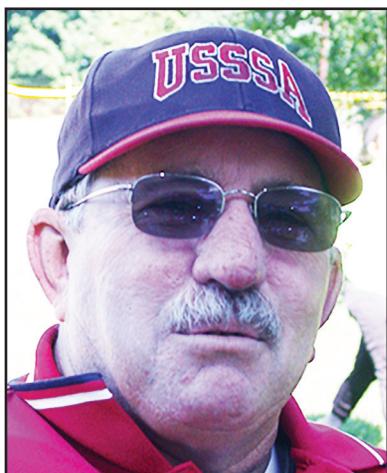
“We also administer the junior high program that plays in the GWOC,” Hamrick said. “Believe it or not, softball is not a school sponsored sport here in Lebanon. What we have started in the last five years is a fall program. Roughly 50 percent of the kids who play in the summer compete in the fall season. This basically doubles the games that kids play in a season.”

“Overall, we have had growth over the past few years in raw numbers but that is somewhat hard to define as we have many kids who start out in our recreational program and then as they develop a passion for the game, they decide to find a more competitive fit at the select level. We are proud when our kids make that jump as we feel that we played a part in introducing girls to the sport and developing the desire to play at the highest level they can.”

All those on this year’s Lebanon High varsity softball roster came through the Lebanon youth softball ranks.

“What was really neat was looking on the field at Firestone Stadium in Akron at the Final Four in June and noting that every Lebanon player on the roster played at some point in our recreational program,” Hamrick said. “They all start somewhere. Coach (Brian) Kindell and his high school staff are very supportive of our program. They put on an annual clinic for our kids in the winter and are often at the fields talking to the kids and watching them play.”

According to Hamrick, there will



Jim Wuennemann was instrumental in getting girls softball off the ground in 1995. The tournament held in Lebanon each year during the July 4 weekend is named in his honor.



Another person spearheading the rich softball program in Lebanon is Jim Hamrick, who has coached many fastpitch teams to the top.



The 12U Raptors are one of many talented softball teams in the Lebanon area. Savoring their success at this year’s Milford tournament for 12U teams were Riley Vunak, Grace Gressly, Kaitlyn Tucker, Logan Mueller, Faith Howell, Elana North, Sarah Hamrick, Alyssa Langston, Megan Pittman, Piper Jenkins, Savannah Hines, Emily Gibson and Annie Marr. The squad also won the Wuennemann July 4 Tournament a few weeks later. (Kris Marr photo)

through October. After a six-week rest weekly hitting sessions start indoors and progress to indoor practices through March until players can hit actual fields.

This year’s Lebanon July 4 tournament was host to 31 teams from ages 7 to 17. The numbers were down slightly as Hamrick’s group moved the event up a week to accommodate the District-9 Little League tournament. Normally between 40 to 55 teams from across the state converge at Colonial Park East and Colonial Park West.

“There’s a quote in the varsity dugout that reads ‘Tradition Doesn’t Graduate,’” Hamrick said. That sums up the expectations

that are placed on Lebanon softball players if they want to play at the varsity level in high school.”



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Future receiver?

Lebanon High football coach Shawn Lamb passes to Sam Stoller during the Warrior Football Camp for boys in grades K to 8. There were 215 participants at this year's camp. (Doug Graves photo)



Members of the U8 Bats include, front row from left: Ryker Jones, Kyle Lennon, Carson Dwire, Brian Sims, Brayden Swank; second row: Trey Hicks, Rylan Blinkiewicz, Van George, Cameron Sellers, Evan Weilnau, Brody McKinney, Ryan Miller; back row: coaches Brannon Hicks, Brett Weilnau, Brian McKinney and Chris Swank.

The Lebanon Local is on the lookout for the unsung athletes, whether they're highlights of the playing field or doing something special in the community. Drop a line to Doug@lebanonlocal.com.

Bats thump 'Cats for U8 league title

Sometimes good things come in small packages. Just ask any member of the Under-8 Bats.

This season the Bats, an U8 baseball team in the Lebanon Youth Baseball League, finished their regular season at 10-1. The only blemish

was loss to the Rivercats in a game played early in the season.

In a battle for that coveted first place spot, the Bats hammered the Rivercats 32-1 to win the title of this 12-team league.

Lebanon High School to hold its 3rd Annual Career and College Day

September 15, 2014 will be the third annual College and Career Day for students at Lebanon High School. The students will attend the fair with over 100 different business, career, college and trade representatives.



The goal of the Career and College program is to assist in creating a student

population ready for the work force by finding appropriate education and to explore graduation options in one location. Last year the two sessions were attended by over 2500 students and parents. The career and college day will provide two opportunities for students and their par-



ents to attend and meet prospective business, career, college or trade representatives.

The day event will run from 9:30 to 11:30, the evening session will run from 5:30 to 7:00 with workshops on: Career and College Planning, Athletic Recruiting, Financing College, and Finding a Career Path.



The evening event is open to all students and parents in the Warren County Area.



Lebanon High School and Warren County Graduates receive Certification

Lebanon High School and Warren County Career Center graduates received a Workforce Development Grant for Microsoft and ITIL training (Computer Security Training).

Workforce Development representative, Brandy Hermann, and Bunny Brooks, a Lebanon High School teacher, teamed up to pilot the grant with the New Horizons Computer Education center. The students were selected for the program by the Workforce Development Department. The requirements were a computer career interest and graduation from high school for the pilot program. The students completed a 3 week training program and upon passage of the certification exams received job opportunities and a free Surface Laptop.

Congratulations to the following students: LHS Students: John Gray, Austin Huddleson, Shawn Rydalch, Kevin Schmitt, and Justin Wegford. WCCC Students: Left to Right Austin Nicholas, Kevin McNally, Taylor Edens, Dylan Sleeth, Tristen Chilton, Shawn Rydalch, Joel Agad, Jerritte Davis.

Don't Miss Lebanon High School's Career and College Day!

Torpedoes sink competition in



Competing in the 800 meter freestyle at the season-ending event were, from left: Andrew Krueger, Noah Worobetz, Austin Theobald and Jacob Peloquin.



Torpedoes coach Brad Isham gives final instructions and a pep talk to his swimmers prior to the season-ending league championships. His team finished first.

by Doug Graves

Last month the Torpedoes faced 14 other members of the Southwest Ohio Swim League in the season-ending championships held at Miami University in Oxford. There the Torpedoes finished first overall with 6,062 points. A distant second with 4,121.50 points was M.E. Lyons YMCA (Cincinnati). Powel Crosley YMCA (Cincinnati) was third with 2,814.50 points and Blue Ash YMCA was fourth with 2,797.50 points.

Comprising the Torpedoes this season were 100 girls and 63 boys.

"It's a pretty large team," head coach Brad Isham said. "We actually have more members in the winter season and our roster gets up to 235. We have grown to this point over the last couple of years."

Isham became head coach of the Countryside Torpedoes in the fall of 2001. He led this unit to multiple league titles and YMCA National runner-up finishes. He serves on the Southwest Ohio Swim League executive committee and the YMCA National Coaches Advisory Committee.

The regular season of summer competition was a breeze for the Torpedoes, as

they captured all six dual meets.

According to Isham, seeing improvement in his swimmers is so key.

"Regardless of the level of the swimmer, ultimately the goal is to help them improve in all of their skills whether it be technique, speed, goal setting or mental approach," Isham said.

"I feel a successful season is seeing improvement in all of these areas by all of the swimmers."

"We have a great team that really works hard and commits a lot to the sport. That is not just the kids, but also the parents and coaches who work to support the team and help make it a great experience for the kids."

Countryside swimmers competing in the 15-and-over group include Elizabeth Brewer, James German, Corinne Baber, Allison Clough, Sally Clough, Marisa

Crisci, Elizabeth Davis, Tim Dickman, Tara Fears, Kevin George, Kyle Glennon, Rollie Grinder, Olivia Hare, Isabel Journey, Marianne Kahmann, Allison Kinross, Andrew Krueger, Alyssa Lewis, Margaret Liberti, Jessica Longheinrich, Alisabeth Marsteller, Jacob Peloquin, Emma Otten, Rebecca Nissen, Alex Nucерino, Grace Robinson, Genevieve Rice, Carl Schlehr, Edward Schlehr, Kate Scrimizzi, Grant



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House, Megan Sichterman, Emily Slabe, Matthew Slabe, Emily Smith, Tyler Sosnowski, Gracie Storm, Greg Theobald, Connor Voorhies, Austin Roberts, Ross Westrick, Nestor Worobetz and Noah Worobetz.

Those in the 13-14 age group include Piper Arneson, Thomas Batt, Jonathan Bernard, Isabelle Boggs, Stephen Bopst, Allyson Carlin, Emilee Carlin, Sophie Carlin, Savannah Cross, Brice Dixon, Bryn Ericksen, Julianne Ford, Bryce Forren, Jordan Harkins, Mary Kaleta, Shannon Jelley, Claire Meyer, Sam Nucerino, Isabella Miller, Hannah Rhodenbaugh, McKenzie Rice, Cameron Rutz, Lauren Sallee, Anna Seuberling, Alexis Widenhouse, Noah Young, Kelsey Farrell, Allyson Wilson and Allyson Zwelling.

The 11-12 age group includes Molly Arneson, Simon Bakos, Wiatt Boggs, Meilli Browne, Abigail Ciesiak, Maggie Clough, Bryce Davis, Sarah Dorizas, Avery Ericksen, Kamryn Floss, Isabelle Grngadin, Kate Gordon, Claire Hall, Madeline Holdcraft, Sarah Kaleta, Alex-

ander Keith, Cameron Kircher, Ben Lacey, Lillian Lentine, Leah Luckett, Isabella Matesa, Aubrey Matheus, Alyssa McKellop, Jacob Merkle, Lucy Monroe, Megan Palmer, Shiloh Prewitt, Emma Ranney, Lucy Short, Sarah Slabe, Elizabeth Vasse, Jake Young and Wesley Vert.

Those in the 9-10 age group include Jeff Arneson, Annemarie Bakos, Dennis Cieslak, Faith Duncan, Colleen Farrell, Jackson Farrell, Makayla Ferrell, Connor Gibson, Kevin Glennon, Aiden Hart, Cole Hauser, Haylee, Howes, John Kaleta, Aiden Leamer, Luke Lentine, Madeline Luckett, Jackson Moore, Matthew Nucerino, Colin Peat, Jordan Patterson, Ethan Otten, Logan Otke, Hannah Pratt-Blahay, Jackson Rachal, Jeidi Rhodenbaugh, Caleigh Rodway, Jillian Ruffner, Melanie Schwelkert, Margaret Short and Delaney Widenhouse.

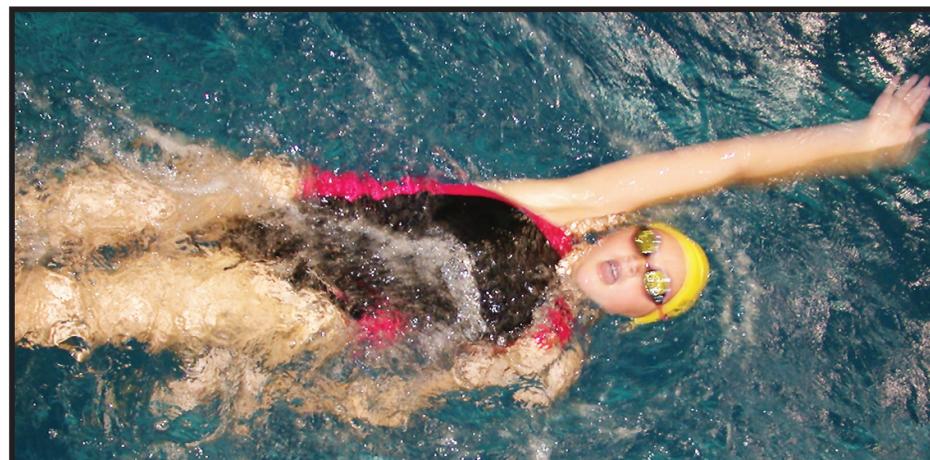
Competing in the 8-and-under group are Tyler Cukovecki, Chelsea Flynn, Katie Gibson, Cate Freeman, Isabella Gilatti, Maddie Guibord, Sophie Guibord, Maura Hart, Olivia Hastings, Carson Hauser, Peter Hojnacki, Olivia Holland, Airy Isham, Ocean Isham, Evan Lacey, Ryder Lakes, Ethan Leamer, Kate Luckett, Dylan Moore, Chloe Otten, Michael Ruffner, Faith Rudowski, Kieran Rodway, Kasey Rivers, Cooper Tinsley, Zaida Wagner, Caeden Woeste, Leland Woeste and Abby Yoder.



Grant House awaits the start of a race in the pool at Miami University.



Competing in the 800 meter freestyle relay at the Southwest Ohio YMCA Swim League Championships were, from left: McKenzie Rice, Nevie Rice, Rollie Grindler and Alyssa Lewis.



Emily Slabe made the most of her experience in the backstroke at this season-ending championship in Oxford, Ohio last month.

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From Consignment to Vintage..... Pat Brady and Kathy Crane started *Old 2 New* December 1st, 2012. having shared a booth at the Antique Mall. These ladies decided that they would take a leap of faith and open a store. They started a consignment store, and recently decided to change their theme to a Vintage Botique.

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Twenty-five attend first-ever Junior Golf League

A.J. Steketee (below) shows perfect form and follow through on his drives during Junior Golf League action. Action took place for six weeks at Harmon Golf Club.



Above, Wyatt Woodard, Joey Dennis, Westyn Woodard, Evan Schuler may look like models wearing clothes from Dick's Sporting Goods, but they're just golf enthusiasts who love the game and dress for the occasion. (Doug Graves photos)

Madelyn Flannery (below) is one of the more happy-go-lucky students of the game, but when putting she had no problem putting her "game face" on.



Clayton Rothenbush (below) chose to carry his 14-club bag as opposed to using a pull cart.



Cole Pinkerman (above) drives from the first tee while partner Lucas Rotello watches.



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LYNX BASEBALL PROGRAM NEARLY UNSTOPPABLE

by Doug Graves

So much has been made of softball in the Lebanon area, but baseball has its roots deeply planted here as well. There's plenty of players to be found, and an abundance of success.

Lebanon Youth Baseball (LYB) is comprised of 66 teams and 652 registered players from ages 5 to 18. The majority of the City's teams compete in Little League, with five of them competing in the Midwest Ohio Baseball League. In addition, there is Tee Ball, Coach Pitch and Kid Pitch and several levels of competition.

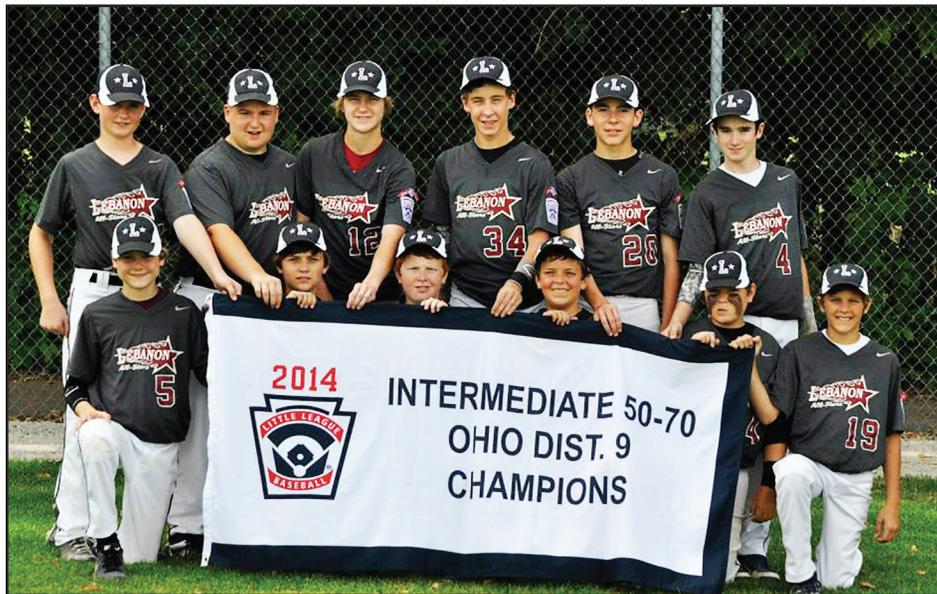
"It can be a bit confusing, but the simplified version is there are three levels: Little League, the Lynx Program and Select Baseball," said Chris Short, head coach of the Lynx and All-Stars of the 13-year-old bracket.

Little League teams comprise 56 of the 66 teams and play a Little League-only schedule, mostly against other teams from inside the LYB.

"We play a couple of games against Warren County Little League and the older kids (13 and up) will play against teams from other Little Leagues inside our district because there aren't as many teams at the older levels," Short said.

The Lynx program was created in 2011 by Short in order to play a more competitive schedule against other Little League teams inside the district. That first year the Lynx played teams from Mason, West Chester, Loveland, Middletown and Anderson Township. The Lynx teams, like Short's, will also play between 10 and 12 games outside of Little League.

"The third level of play is what it typically referred to as select baseball," Short



Members All-Stars proudly display their District 9 Little League title are: kneeling, from left: Jim Myers, Noah Schneider, Billy Crago, Lucas Rotello, Jonathan Mitchell, Connor Davis; standing: Graham Solmos, Ethan Demitt, Matthew Belongia, Kyle Blake, Kyle Short and Christian Bugher. The coaches are Chris Short, Steve Belongia and Dan Crago. All but two of these players participate in the Lynx baseball squad.

said. "We have teams from 9U to 14U who will compete in either the Midwest Ohio or Southwest Ohio League."

Short's Lynx team of 13 year-olds played dual schedules this season: a 13-game Little League schedule and a 35-game Midwest Ohio schedule.

"Ultimately we want to make sure we have something to offer every kid in Lebanon who wants to play baseball regardless of his skill level or commitment," Short said. "Seasons will range from 14 games to 50-plus games, depending on

what team or division you play in.

"We are growing rapidly. Enrollment this year was up almost 20 percent, mostly at the younger levels. We had 16 Tee Ball teams and 12 Coach Pitch (8U) teams. The future of baseball in Lebanon is looking very good. Our biggest problem right now is finding field space for every team to be able to get enough practice time."

Short has also guided the All-Star teams in the past. In 2011, the 10U All-

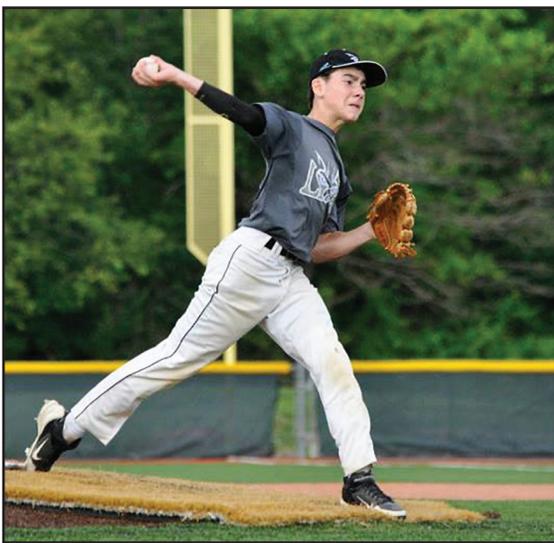


Christian Bugher pitched as needed but let his bat do most of the talking for this team.

Stars won the Interleague championship going 18-1, before losing the District title game to Hamilton. In 2012 the 11U team won the Interleague title. As a 12U team the All-Stars lost once again to Hamilton in the District title game. And in 2013 the All-Stars won a District title but lost in the state tournament.

This season the 13U Lebanon All-Star team captured the Interleague Division title with wins over Anderson (15-1) and Mason (15-4 and 9-7). At state play in Maumee, Ohio the team blanked District 3 Green Little League in the opener before falling to Boardman in the finals of the winners' bracket and Maumee in the losers' bracket.

The Lebanon All-Star team never lacked power at the plate. In the 15-4 win over Mason the local team belted six home runs.



Kyle Short pitched three perfect innings in the 10-0 opening win over District 3 Green Little League in the state tournament, striking out eight of nine batters. Short was also two-for-two at the plate with a home run and three runs batted in.

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Blocking drills were plentiful and at times grueling. Fortunately, there was no actual contact and no gear was worn. Ideal temperatures made this year's camp bearable.

GRIDIRON FUN



Above, young athletes practiced the art of rushing the quarterback. Current LHS players helped prop the dummies. At left, camp attendees practice the art of snaring a loose ball and turning it into a score.



One of the guest speakers at this year's Warrior Football Camp was Zach Burns (below), a 1995 LHS graduate who went on to play tight end at Brown University. Burns earned All-Decade honors at Brown and then had a tryout with the Pittsburgh Steelers before an injury sidelined his career.



Derrick Allen (above) shows the set of hands he has with this grab of a high pass.



Doug Graves photos

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"Lebanon City Schools has been a leader in providing quality education for our youth. This renewal levy will not raise taxes. Let's continue the support of the children in our community." – **Judy Conrad**



"The continued success of our schools makes Lebanon one of the greatest communities to live in Ohio. The success of this renewal will have a positive impact on the Lebanon community." – **Doug Sibcy**

"This renewal levy will not increase taxes with property values or growth. Taxes will not go up with this renewal. Please vote for Issue 1." – **Tyler Tepe**



"Our district's expenditure per student is already in the lowest 4% in the state. Reducing another \$4.2 million would be devastating to our education program." – **Dave Siebert**

