



ADVERTISEMENT



Chase Van Busker, left, David Hoag, Evelyn Lamb and Vanessa Donato, of the North Ridgeville trap shooting team, shoot clay targets at Sportsmen's Gun and Reel Club in Lorain May 17.

Trap shooting a prime activity for social distancing, North Ridgeville coaches say



Dylan Reynolds
The Chronicle-Telegram

May 18, 2020 6:00 AM



apart at all times. But that is the case for the sport of trap shooting, and North Ridgeville High School team coach Ben Gommel said these days of social distancing offer a perfect opportunity for the activity.

“The (shooting) stations are well over 6 feet apart,” he said. “We’re trying to keep distancing as best as we can.”

ADVERTISEMENT

The North Ridgeville team held its first practice of the season Sunday at Sportsmen’s Gun and Reel Club on Middle Ridge Road. After getting the go-ahead to practice, the team will participate in a modified season without a state or national championship.

Despite the shortened season, team member Rhiannon Vance, a sophomore, said the fact that she and her teammates can continue shooting at all is a good reminder that activities can go on with the proper safety precautions in place. Vance is the fall 2019 varsity state ladies champion.



North Ridgeville is a member of the USA Clay Target League, composed of more than 32,000 students across the country. Twelve schools in Ohio participate; Gommel and coach Mark Meincke said North Ridgeville is the only one in Lorain County. There are 45 members of the team this season.

In addition to giving athletes a chance to improve their marksmanship with clay targets, the league also puts a heavy emphasis on proper firearm handling and safety. This year, firearm safety includes the additional step of regularly disinfecting the guns and coaches avoiding getting too close to team members during instruction.

Team member Vanessa Donato, a freshman, said she had never shot a gun before joining the team as an eighth-grader out of “pure curiosity.” In her first year on the team, she earned her way to becoming the spring 2019 varsity State ladies champion.



the trap team this spring.

“When softball was canceled, I was bummed out,” she said. “But I also could spend more time shooting and getting better.” Besides winning the state championship medal, her greatest achievement in the sport thus far was hitting 99 out of 100 clay pigeons in a session.

Senior Patrick Casselberry has been on the team since it was founded in 2017, and he said it’s been a privilege to see more students interested in joining the team after seeing many of its members achieve success at the range.

That sentiment was echoed by senior Chase Vanbuskirk, who said he was excited for the opportunity to shoot on his school team and has stuck with it throughout high school.

As the team has doubled in size, Meincke said they’ve received great support from Sportsmen’s Gun and Reel Club, both financially and in offering a space to shoot that allows team members to stand at an acceptable social distance from each other.

“Our team is like a big family. We have moms and dads, grandpas and grandmas out here all the time,” Gommel said. “It’s a great group of people.”

Contact Dylan Reynolds at (440) 329-7123 or dreynolds@chroniclet.com. Follow him on Twitter [@drey1357](https://twitter.com/drey1357).

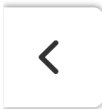
ADVERTISEMENT
ADVERTISEMENT



Lorain Veterans Council to honor Pearl Harbor Day on Monday

Scott Petrak: Browns in good position but still have work to do to make playoffs

Boys basketball: Open Door comes back strong but can't sustain rally, falls to Cornerstone Christian



school sports: Area conferences, schools to stay paused for at least another week



ADVERTISEMENT

COVID Q&A: Lorain County Health Commissioner talks vaccines and viral spread

Add holiday debt stress to the pile: Lorain County families struggling to put presents under the tree

Santa Claus is coming to Amherst, and answering children's letters

Medina Community Band Virtual Holiday Concert



City leaders in Elyria look to tackle tough year ahead

ADVERTISEMENT

Back

[SUBSCRIBE](#) [CONTACT US](#) [TERMS OF USE](#) [PRIVACY POLICY](#)

COPYRIGHT © LORAIN COUNTY PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO.

