

news

New Athletic Training Center, Home Turf, opens in Hayesville

BROOKE YOUNG Reporter

Home Turf Training Center is officially open for business. Located outside of Hayesville, at the corridor of U.S. Route 30 and State Route 60, the 15,000 square foot facility offers training for soccer, baseball, softball and lacrosse in particular, along with speed and agility training.

Ben Ferguson, local businessman and founder of Home Turf said the facility is “open to a variety of lessons, classes and sessions.”

Among these possibilities are pilates, yoga or tumbling courses. Although nothing is “carved in stone yet,” Home Turf will be offering a few indoor leagues next fall. Ideas for the leagues includes dodgeball, adult kickball and more, and they are planning to offer both adult and youth leagues.

He also cites his children’s “need for indoor turf training spaces to continue training and progressing in the colder months” as a need he saw in the community that he wanted to address.

“I have the vision of making the overall area better. And by better, I mean helping to offer opportunities that are often only found in bigger cities,” Ferguson said.

One distinction that Ferguson wants to make is that Home Turf does not serve as a recreation center, but rather, while they are open and inclusive to all, there should be

a specific sport or training in mind prior to coming to Home Turf.

Mike Volz, a local coach of 14U travel baseball team, JABC, Johnny Appleseed Baseball Club, said Home Turf provides “a good opportunity for local teams to be ahead of, or at least at the level of teams in much larger areas. Teams in smaller areas are usually at a disadvantage because there are very limited spaces in a small community that provide opportunities like Home Turf does.”

With his baseball team beginning to participate in scrimmages and games in the early spring months, he stressed the importance of having an area where players can work and get prepared for the upcoming season.

At the moment, 11 teams are already using the Home Turf facility, with many more preparing to begin.

According to Ferguson, the reviews for the facility have already been immensely positive, and he urges those with athletic needs to inquire about the facility.

The hours of operation throughout the school year are Monday through Friday 3-9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information about the facility, you can visit: <https://www.facebook.com/HOMETURFTRAINING/> or call (419) 651-2070.

Mamma Mia!

CONTINUED FROM A1

“I have seen this movie and I have known it since I was a kid so I was ready to go,” she said. “I was like whatever happens, I’m ready to learn all the songs and I’m ready to be in it.”

Campbell relates to her character as they are both 20-year-old women.

“I think she’s really fun and it’s cool to watch her grow from being kind of childish at the beginning to maturing at the end of the show,” she said.

With 28 songs in the entire musical it seems it could become tedious, but not for Campbell.

“The songs are my favorite part,” she said. “Everyone’s going to have so much fun watching and I’m having so much fun singing and being in it.”

Mamma Mia! has reminded Campbell how much she loves theatre and why she has chosen it as a career path.

“It’s all about having fun and experiencing new things with new people,” she said.

Durbin-Ames recognizes that putting on a musical asks a lot from the performers.

“The biggest challenge for everyone in the show is getting the dances and song lyrics down,” she said. “Your brain is trying to get the dance steps but you also have to remember that there are words to the song and you’re supposed to be singing particular notes.”

Despite this challenge, Durbin-Ames is rewarded when everyone is in sync and having a good time.

“It’s gonna be a fun evening, you’re gonna be tapping your toes and smiling and hopefully on your feet by the end of the show,” she said.

Campbell is nervous for the upcoming show but excited to perform for everyone.

“I hope the audience has fun because it’s really a feel-good musical,” she said. “Come see the show it’s going to be amazing.”

Tickets can be purchased online, in the box office or at the door. They are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens, AU faculty, staff and alumni, \$8 for groups of 10 or more, \$5 for non-AU students and \$2 with an AU ID.



A member of the crew for Mamma Mia! painting a set piece.

BELLA PACINELLI

A new way of reporting in Ashland

LEAH BURTSCHER AU-Live Assistant Editor

On Jan. 27, the Ashland YMCA housed a new type of community hearing, put on by the Richland and Ashland Source.

Future of Ashland was an event held and designed for journalists to hear out the public in a new way. The event was hosted by editor and coordinator, Doug Oplinger journalist from the Ashland Source and Richland Source.

The community-wide event was a town hall meeting, but with a new twist: for journalists to hear the voices and opinions of average, everyday members of the community.

The idea by having a large group discussion is that people have a more welcoming environment and have a less pressuring, more open discussion.

When a reporter is interviewing, it is most often on a one-on-one basis. This modern way of interviewing citizens allows people to voice their opinions by having a discussion with each other.

The session ran as one big group discussion. As people walk in the room, they are greeted by Source journalists and given name tags with stickers specifying whether they agree to having their picture

taken. People then choose a seat at a small table where they are put into small groups.

The discussion begins with a prompt: what makes a happy community. People write down their response to the prompt, discuss their answers and the discussion opens up to the entire room. Answers are written down on a white board displayed in the front of the room.

This process went on for a couple rounds as people were encouraged to switch up their table groupings after each prompt. At the end of the session, the room was tasked to come up with a “plan” to take steps on what will make the community better.

The unique aspect behind the idea is that everything said during the meeting is on the record but is anonymous unless given permission.

The meeting had a large turnout with a constant lively discussion on what could be done to improve the community of Ashland. A wide demographic from residents of 60 plus years, to middle aged married couples, to young 20-year-olds trying to make a home, all came to crack down on improving their town. Mayor Matt Miller was in attendance.

One issue addressed during the

meeting was third shift accessibility, specifically for child care. One resident brought up how one of the town’s biggest concerns should be child care and providing a proper living area for growing children and families. According to the residents, it is incredibly hard for parents to provide care for their kids when working a third shift due to the lack of services available.

“One of Ashland’s biggest issues is child and foster care, we need to prioritize our children,” one concerned citizen said.

Another hot topic was the issue with ex-felons finding work after being released.

“It is almost as if they have a scarlet letter placed on their back,” another Ashland resident said.

Many other topics of issue came up, including keeping college students here after graduation, providing entertainment and shopping, living a non-faith based lifestyle in a faith-based town, providing proper wages and available, affordable health care.

“The key to a successful community is unity,” a vocal citizen said.

The goal behind this system of reporting is to not only to listen to the bad but listen on how the bad can be fixed.



Ashland Source reporter displays suggestions for creating a happier community.



Citizens discuss in small groups what they think is lacking in Ashland.



Local residents participate in group wide discussion on improving their community.

March for Life

CONTINUED FROM A1

Boggs was also able to tie experiences from the march back to what she has been studying as a history major during her time at Ashland.

“In studying history and politics... to have politicians who openly got up there and were pro-life, I feel like so often I don’t hear from those politicians,” Boggs said. “To hear that some states do have those politicians that so passionately fight for those who can’t fight for themselves... was really encouraging.”

While the march made an impact on the students that went from AU, it also drew in interest from various groups and age ranges across

the country.

“I really enjoyed seeing the different families from literally all over that came with their little kids,” Balasko said, “it was very universal.

Students used this opportunity provided to them by Catholic Campus Ministries to go be a part of something bigger than themselves and participate in something that lets them show their beliefs alongside others who share them.

“I must fight for the dignity of mankind, what it means to be a human made in the image and likeness of God and I have to fight for those who cannot do that,” Boggs said. “I know deep down they are the tiniest image of God.”

A handful of AU community members went to be a part of the bigger cause, bringing their own

viewpoints and values to the bigger cause of March for Life.

“I often feel like I’m just one person, what can I do?” Paydo said. “But everybody had that thought process and then there were so many people that ended up being there because we all decided to stand up for what we believe in.”

For their senior year, these students jumped into a new experience that showed those around them they are willing to take a stand for what they believe.

“I want my voice to be heard,” Boggs said. “I want people to know this is what I believe and truly feel.”

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