



# The Madison Express

Since 2000



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Members of the Tigers squad included (front, left) Thomas Cunningham, Dustin Pruitt, Jessica Wiggins, Dakota Little, (back, left) Terry McClain, Jeff Horn, Paul Hiles, Mikal Stanley, Taz Hamilton, Waymond Harris

## Special Olympics

### Tigers hoopsters make Final Four

At the beginning of the college basketball season, reaching the Final Four is the goal of the 200-plus hoops squads across university campuses throughout the country.

The Madison County Tigers have made a habit of getting themselves to their Final Four.

And this year has been no exception.

Even though the Tigers were not able to successfully defend their state title from a year ago (they finished in fourth place) they certainly fulfilled the expectations set forth by their coach.

“Coming into the season I really tried to keep our players’ expectations in check,” said Tigers coach Lincoln Comer, who also serves as the Recreation Coordinator for Madison County Board of MR/DD. “I had no idea we would be back in the Final Four again this year.”

Despite losing some key members off of last year’s squad, as well as being bumped up a division, according to Comer, the Tigers have been able to keep pace with a combination of new faces (Mikal Stanley and Dustin Pruitt), matured athletes (Jessica Wiggins and Thomas Cunningham) and crafty veterans (Waymond Harris and Paul Hiles). Other key members of the team include Terry McClain, Jeff Horn and Taz Hamilton.

Then, there was the loss of Little. Losing their leader on both offense and defense could have been devastating, but the Tigers showed a lot of character by turning the situation into a challenge.

A challenge they were up to as a team.

“Though it would have been easier to quit – or make excuses – they went on to win nine of their next 11 games,” Comer said. “To say I’m proud of what this team has accomplished would be a major understatement.”

While not capturing the top prize, they are already champions in their coach’s eyes.

“This group of athletes have established themselves as true winners.”

## **Client Rights**

According to the Ohio Revised Code, the following are Rights of Ohioans with Mental Retardation and/or Developmental Disabilities ...

- The right to be treated at all time with courtesy and respect and with full recognition of their dignity and individuality.
- The right to an appropriate, safe and sanitary living environment that complies with local, state and federal standards and recognizes that persons' need for privacy and independence.
- The right to food adequate to meet accepted standards of nutrition.
- The right to practice the religion of their choice or to abstain from the practice of religion.
- The right of timely access to appropriate medical or dental treatment.
- The right of access to necessary ancillary services including, but not limited to ... Occupational therapy, physical therapy, and behavior modification and other psychological services.
- The right to receive appropriate care and treatment in the least intrusive manner.
- The right to privacy, including both periods of privacy and places of privacy.
- The right to communicate freely with persons of their choice in any reasonable manner they choose.
- The right to ownership and use of personal possessions so as to maintain individuality and personal dignity.
- The right to social interaction with members of either sex.
- The right of access to opportunities that enable individuals to develop their full human potential.
- The right to pursue vocational opportunities that will promote and enhance economic independence.
- The right to be treated equally as citizens under the law.
- The right to be free from emotional, psychological, and physical abuse.
- The right to participate in appropriate programs of education, training, social development, and habilitation and in programs of reasonable recreation.
- The right to participate in decisions that affect their lives.
- The right to select a parent or advocate to act on their behalf.
- The right to manage their personal financial affairs, based on individual ability to do so.
- The right to confidential treatment of all information in their personal and medical records.
- The right to voice grievances and recommend changes in policies and services without restraint, interference, coercions, discrimination, or reprisal.
- The right to be free from unnecessary chemical or physical restraints.
- The right to participate in the political process.
- The right to refuse to participate in medical, psychological, or other research and experiments.

Ohio Legal Rights Services ... 1-800-282-9181

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities ... 1-877-464-6733

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### **Madison County Board of MR/DD — Available to Assist**

If you are interested in policies related to ...

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION OF COMPLAINTS, BEHAVIOR SUPPORT, OR MEDICAID DUE PROCESS**

... please contact the Madison County Board of MR/DD Central Office  
at 740-852-7050

## Beach Day at Fairhaven School

On Thursday, March 26, Fairhaven School's Melonie Fisher and Sue Reeves planned a "Day at the Beach" for students. They visited each classroom and read "beach" books. Then, all the classes gathered together to watch "Barney At the Beach" DVD together. Debbie Morris, kitchen helper, dressed in her hula skirt, led students — along with Barney — in the hula dance.

Melonie was teaching the children about healthy snacks while playing a ball toss game. They all had lots of fun when she took turns throwing a ball to them while having them name the healthy snack that was pulled out of a sand bucket.

Their lunches were served in "beach buckets". The students all thought this was very exciting! Above, Eleanor Heisler and Tony Jason enjoy the scenery.



## 'Clowning Around' at the Circus

For some, it is the most anticipated day of the year.

Once again it was an exciting adventure at the Aladdin Shrine Circus — this year held April 19 at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus.

There were a great variety of acts ranging from dancing bears to leaping monkeys to high-flying trapeze artists to a human cannonball.

Add to that motorcyclists driving in a big steel ball and the graceful elephants prancing about, it was an action-packed day.

But of course, there were also clowns. Pictured at left, Sophie Brand takes time to make friends with a pair of the show's stars.

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## Madison County Board of MR/DD Monthly Board Update by Betsy Dodds

- The Regular Monthly Board Meeting was held Thursday, March 19, 2009 at the Administrative Office. Board members attending were Tonya Keaton, Blaine Brockman, Julie Brand, Beverly Headings, Sue Mosier, and Mary Hopkins.
- The Board was informed that the city waterline project has been completed.
- The Board approved the revised Section 401 of the Title XX Policy in our Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual.
- The Board was informed that Accreditation Training was held for Organization Services division staff and other key agency staff on February 27.
- The Board approved to adjust the mileage reimbursement rate from \$.45 to \$.40 effective April 1, 2009.
- The next Regular Monthly Board Meeting of the Madison County Board of MR/DD will be held Thursday, April 16, 2009 at the Administrative Office at 4pm.

The *Madison Express*, your monthly newsletter produced by the Madison County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, is now online!!



### Just follow these easy steps

- Visit the Madison County, Ohio website — [www.co.madison.oh.us](http://www.co.madison.oh.us)
- Scroll down the page and click on 'MR/DD' in the far left column
- Then, you will see options to which newsletter you'd like to see — displayed in **FULL COLOR**