



The Madison Express

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Special Olympics

Unified Volleyballers Earn Bronze

Just call them the Bronze Tigers.

In May, the Madison County Special Olympics Unified Volleyball Team traveled to Minnesota — the land of the Golden Gophers — to earn some precious medals of their own by capturing third place in the 2009 USA Volleyball Championships at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

“The competition was fierce and most matches were decided by a third game,” said MCBMR/DD Recreation Coordinator Lincoln Comer who served as a partner on the team.

This was exemplified by the two matches the Tigers played in the medal rounds.

In the semi-final round against the eventual champion — the Allen (Texas) Spikers — Madison County dropped the first game 23-25, bounced back to gather the second 26-24, but lost 10-15 in the deciding game.



Members of the Tigers Volleyball Team who won bronze in Minnesota included (front, left) Dakota Little, Waymond Harris, Paul Hiles, Dustin Pruitt, Lincoln Comer (back), Jessica Wiggins, Libby Johnson, Alexis Evans, Coach Bob Johnson.

See VBALL, Page 4

Madison County Arts Council

Let Your Painting Take Center Stage

This summer, Madison County Arts Council is presenting the musical ‘Pippin,’ and they want your artistic help. In one scene of the play, 50-plus characters are wearing vests with uniquely-painted coat of arms on them.

That is where your help is needed. We are asking individuals served by the Madison County Board of MR/DD (and their families) to use their creativity to paint the vests.

The painting session will take place Thurs, June 18 starting at 6pm at Fairhaven.

This summer’s show is directed by MCBMR/DD Organization Services Coordinator Jeff Gates. MATCO Services’ Pam Smith is a member of the ensemble — playing a variety of roles. Fairhaven’s LES classroom teacher Wendy Webb stars in the show as Catherine.

For more information, please call Jeff Gates at 852-7050 or Cathy Goff at 740-505-2436.



Fairhaven School Happenings

By Vicki Thompson

A 'BOLD' Move Toward Fun

The BOLD students from London Middle School visited Fairhaven School to “play” with our students. They blew bubbles. The students drew chalk pictures on the blacktop. At the picnic table, the students mixed raisins, marshmallows, honey grahams, pretzels, and chocolate chips together for a healthy snack. There was an art stop where the students painted colorful butterflies. Everyone met together then in the grass to play with the parachute and swing on the playground to have a fun ending to a fun morning. Mr. Freed and his students had as much fun as our preschoolers did playing with them. Fairhaven students and staff appreciate the great time they spend with us!!!



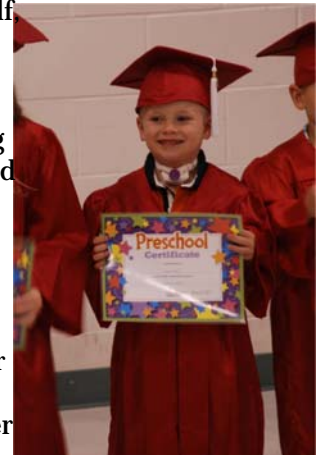
Family Day is Fun For All

On Friday, May 22, Fairhaven School held our Annual Family Picnic. It turned out to be a beautiful, sunny day! When the parents/guardians arrived, they each participated in a relay with their child. They had the choice of the shoebox relay which was the 3-legged race with a shoebox on their foot. They could do the egg relay. Also, a choice was the water balloon relay where they were supposed to pass the balloon without breaking it, but the fun was actually trying to see how wet they could get. The other choice was an obstacle course, kind of like survivor, with challenges along the way; putting together a puzzle, find a coin in the gooey, wet oatmeal, and link the chain. The day ended with a picnic lunch of hot dogs, baked beans, chips and Mel’s famous peanut butter chews! What a great summer picnic day!!!



POMP and CERTIFICATES

Fairhaven School student Timmy Hughes proudly shows the certificate he received from Madison County Board of MR/DD Superintendent Jim Canney as part of the Preschool Graduation Ceremony held Thursday, June 4 at the school. Hughes was one of 23 youngsters who were honored. Graduates were offered congratulations as well by MCBMR/DD Board President Tonya Keaton and MCBMR/DD Children Services Director Peg Johnson. Along with Hughes, the other students receiving certificates were Lee Adkins, Jenna Bailey, Ayden Cooper, Brady Fisher, Badar Edin Fram, Kenny Garverick, Eleanor Heisler, William Heisler, Kaylee James, Anthony Jason, Daniel Kimbler, Chase Manns, Alexa Metcalf, Olivia Metcalf, Colt Mills, John Otto, Caleb Powell, Ronnie Richmond, James Rickens, Rilynne Sadler, Wade Stonerock, and Donald VanDine. All preschoolers sang ‘You Are My Sunshine,’ and graduate Donald VanDine led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also recognized were Fairhaven students to graduate June 7 from London High School – Tyler Casey, Tiffany Kendall, Michael Long, Leah McCarter, and Micheal Parthemore. Former Fairhaven Preschooler (and current LHS senior) Libby Johnson was the guest speaker



Transportation Services

Working Together to Ride Safely

It is important to remind people of some bus safety issues that pertain to both children and adults. The following steps should be kept in mind when using county board or contracted transportation services:

- √ Always be careful when walking to the designated pickup spot, or walking from the drop off site to the individual's home.
- √ The bus or van will always pick up and drop off passengers on the right side of the road. No enrollee will be required to cross any road or lane of traffic.
- √ If you should happen to be going to or from the drop off or pick up site when it is dark outside, be sure to dress with light colored or reflective clothing to ensure being seen.
- √ If the bus or van is more than 5 to 8 minutes late, please return to your home/building and call the transportation cell phone at 614-395-4383. Please be patient.
- √ Do not approach the bus or van until the vehicle comes to a complete stop. Please stay seated and do not open the door until the vehicle has come to a complete stop before exiting.
- √ When riding the vehicle to your school, workplace or home, please talk softly and always stay seated and in your seatbelt if appropriate. Keep your belongings, hands, and feet to yourself while on the vehicle. Do not shout or scream while being transported. Please keep conversations with the driver to a minimum.
- √ Procedures for Emergency Evacuation from vehicles will be supplied annually (see below).



*Please respect the rights and privileges of the other riders on the vehicle
to ensure the safest, most enjoyable ride available.*

Procedures for Emergency Evacuations

- Please stay seated until you are instructed to move.
- Listen very carefully to the bus/van driver.
- Unfasten your seatbelt when the driver instructs you to do so.
- Leave all backpacks, lunches, or other articles on the vehicle.
- Quietly and quickly move to the exit door that the driver has instructed you to go to. Don't run or push. Don't go back to get anything you left on the seat.
- Stay in a line until the driver gets to the exit door at which you are waiting.
- When the driver helps you out the door, listen to where s/he asks you to go and wait.
- Go to the safe place the driver has chosen. Sit in the grass and wait quietly for further instructions from the driver.
- Always listen to everything the driver instructs you to do. Never go back to the bus until the driver communicates that it is safe to return.

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Mental Retardation and
Developmental Disabilities**

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Madison County Board of MR/DD

Monthly Board Update

by *Betsy Dodds*

- The Regular Monthly Board Meeting was held Thursday, May 21, 2009 at the Administrative Office. Board members attending were Tonya Keaton, Beverly Headings, Julie Brand, Sue Mosier, and Mary Hopkins.
- The Board was informed that the local 'Help Me Grow' office recently moved out of Fairhaven School and into the Madison County Department of Job and Family Services building.
- The Board agreed to provide funding requests by several families through Family Support Services as long as the budget supports the recommended amounts.
- The Board was informed that approval was given by the next round of ODOT vehicles. The grant request included two 18-passenger vans and a wheelchair unit for transporting six wheelchairs.
- The Board was reminded that the Accreditation Team from ODMR/DD will be in Madison County June 10-11, 2009.
- The next Regular Monthly Board Meeting of the Madison County Board of MR/DD will be held Thursday, June 18, 2009 at the Administrative Office at 4pm.

VBALL, Continued from Page 1



The Tigers bounced back in the bronze medal match against the Fayette County (Indiana) Falcons.

After dropping the first game 19-25, Madison County stormed back to sweep the final two games 25-10, 15-11.

Members of the Tigers squad that traveled to Minnesota included — Paul Hiles, Waymond Harris, Jessica Wiggins, Dakota Little, Dustin Pruitt, Libby Johnson, Alexis Evans, and Comer. The team was coached by Bob Johnson.

The others on the team who did not make the trip to Minnesota include — Mindy Morris, Terry McClain, Ashley Whitelow, Marlyn Zeeck, and Jordan Buschur.

Tiger athlete Little and partner Evans were named to the All-Tournament Team.

The Tigers participated in the same tournament in 2007, and finished fifth overall. That tournament took place in Texas.

“Through Special Olympics, many of our athletes get to go places and experience new things that would typically be impossible,” Comer said. “Overall the athletes had a wonderful time ... and a safe trip.”

Comer pointed out that none of it would have been possible without contributions from the following — Buckeye Ford, London Eagles #950, Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 194, United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Wilson Printing, CRSI, Schorr Architects, Inc, Flax Law Firm, Krazy Glue, Martin Painting, Mike Quilter, Stanley and Margaret DeTombe.