



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE... FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

March 2020

Murray Ridge Special Olympics Athletes Successful at State Winter Games

Scarlet Team Wins Silver Medal in Basketball

Congratulations to the Murray Ridge Scarlet Team for a great showing at the recent State Winter Games. Below is a recap courtesy of Special Olympics Coordinator **Shawn Hatcher**.

"The Murray Ridge Scarlet Team (members) traveled to the 2020 Winter Games February 21-23 at Bowling Green State University to make a run at a State Championship. They opened up on the 22nd with a hard-fought 60-51 win over the Hamilton County Hoopsters. With only a few players dressed and playing for the Raiders they were definitely outnumbered, but not outgunned!

Advancing Sunday, the next day, to the State Division 2 Championship game, only five players were available and dressed for the game! Worn out, worn down, outnumbered and outgunned, our Scarlet Team (members) never quit. They fell to the eventual State Champion Lucas County by a respectable score of 46-30. Congratulations to **Ray Behner**, **Ryan Eliason**, **Jeremy Foster**, **Demetrius Overall** and **Logan Yatson** for their improbable Silver Medal run at the Winter Games!"

See Page 2 for more results and photos from the State Winter Games.



Top left: **Ryan Eliason** dribbles away from a defender as **Logan Yatson** looks on.
Top right: **Ryan Eliason** inbound the ball.
Below: **Demetrius Overall** (35) prepares to lead a fast break.

March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Every March, Murray Ridge Center joins local, state, and national agencies to recognize **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month** — a time for all of us to celebrate the unique and vital contributions that individuals with developmental disabilities make in our communities.

Murray Ridge is a provider of services; and plans, funds, and monitors services provided by other agencies and individual providers to people with developmental disabilities.

Through the services and support offered by Murray Ridge Center, more than **2,000 children and adults** with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to develop critical skills, expand their vocational horizons, and receive necessary care.

More From the Special Olympics State Winter Games



Top left and center: **Melissa Figula** in the pool and displaying her medal.

Top right: Cheerleading was a recognized Special Olympics sport for the first time, and our squad took 4th place honors. Shown (from left) are: **Stephanie Bastock, Zoey Moore, Alyssa DeAngelis, Michelle Lott and Tori Ambers.**

Far left: **Doreen Alaksa**

Left: **Dylan Stearns**

Below: The Raiders Basketball Skills Team - Front row: **Dustin Mitchell** and **Mark Vanek**; 2nd row: **Charity Anderson** and **Nicholas Perez**; 3rd row: **Tim Stewart** and **Spencer Reynolds**; 4th row: **Billy Sherrard, Dennis Johnson** and **Casey West.**

2020 Winter Games Swimming Results

Athlete	Event	Place
Martha Lombeida	25M Backstroke	4 th
	50M Freestyle	4 th
Dylan Stearns	25 M Backstroke	4 th
	25 M Freestyle	1 st
Kenny Martin	25M Backstroke	5 th
	100M Freestyle	2 nd
Richard Smith	25M Backstroke	1 st
	100M Freestyle	3 rd
Amy Trigilio	100M Freestyle	3 rd
	50M Freestyle	3 rd
Melissa Figula	50M Freestyle	2 nd
Doreen Alaksa	25M Freestyle	3 rd
Kayla Stearns	25M Freestyle	4 th
	50M Backstroke	1 st
Raider Relay Team:		
Martha Lombeida, Kenny Martin, Dylan Stearns and Amy Trigilio		
2 nd Place in the 4x25M Freestyle Relay		



Basketball Skills Results

Athlete	Place
Dustin Mitchell	3 rd
Mark Vanek	2 nd
Nicholas Perez	6 th
Charity Anderson	2 nd
Tim Stewart	2 nd
Billy Sherrard	2 nd
Spencer Reynolds	1 st
Tim Quisenberry	2 nd
Casey West	2 nd



Consumer Profile: Meet Marlon Wallace



Marlon outside his apartment.

Marlon moved back to Lorain County in 2018 after finishing school at the Pressley School for the Deaf Residential Program in Pennsylvania. Marlon is supported by his **Murray Ridge Service and Support Administrator (SSA)**, Maria Santana, and his **SSA Behavior Analyst**, Sherry Lacko-Chutes. Maria and Sherry help Marlon with the development of his Individual Service Plan that identifies the services and supports that help Marlon live his best life. Maria and Sherry also monitor his services, keep his plan up-to-date as Marlon's desires change, and help Marlon's staff learn and understand the best way to work with and help him throughout his day. Marlon has an Individual Options (I.O.) Waiver.

Marlon now lives in his own apartment in Elyria. He receives supports from **Lomeda Services LLC**. Lomeda Services is an agency that supports people with daily life tasks such as cleaning, personal care, cooking, taking medication, scheduling medical appointments and supporting behavioral needs. When Marlon is at home, he likes his routine. He enjoys watching TV, throwing around the football, playing basketball, playing games and going shopping. Marlon takes great pride in his appearance.



Marlon attends The Learning Farm in Amherst Township.



Marlon assists with taking care of the animals.

During the week, Marlon attends **The Learning Farm** in Amherst Township. The Learning Farm opened in 2016, "with the desire to offer people with disabilities an opportunity to work and gain valuable job skills as a stepping stone towards competitive work opportunities in the community." The Learning Farm is a 20-acre working farm with a retail store for individuals to work in and practice retail job skills. While working at the farm, individuals have the opportunity to take care of animals and, during the summer months, the individuals also work in the gardens planting, tending and harvesting crops. Marlon enjoys socializing at the Learning Farm and he also enjoys working at the farm store, cleaning tables and sorting cans.



Marlon enjoys learning a variety of skills at The Learning Farm.



One benefit of working at The Learning Farm is meeting new friends.

Marlon also enjoys being a part of his community and going out with his residential and day staff. Marlon is a member of the YMCA and likes going to the gym to work out. He also likes shopping, bowling, going to see movies and going out to eat. He really enjoys heading out for Chinese food, Pizza Hut and going to Wendy's for a bacon cheeseburger! Marlon would like to learn how to do Karate/Martial Arts one day.

With the help of his residential and day staff, Marlon is doing what makes him happy. He is living his life and doing what he chooses to do!

Triumph through the Challenges Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Who should attend?

This course series is for nurses, social workers, counselors, physicians, educators, parents, and caregivers who work with individuals that may have had prenatal exposure to alcohol/drugs.

Learn about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and how to best work with those affected in order to reach his/her fullest potential.

Gather useful tips and local resources!

Discover ways to succeed!

2020 Spring Course Series

Evening Sessions:

April 21, 2020: Section 1, 6-9 p.m.

April 23, 2020: Section 2, 6-9 p.m.

April 28, 2020: Section 3, 6-9 p.m.

April 30, 2020: Section 4, 6-9 p.m.

Location:

Murray Ridge Center LCBDD
Lorain County Board of Developmental
Disabilities Service & Support Administration Bldg.
9740 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, 44035
Building at the rear of Murray Ridge School
*Evening parking available at Murray Ridge SSA
lot. Please enter in back door.

Register

Contact : Kathy Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD
(440) 284-3655
e-mail: kbevaque@murrayridgecenter.org

No fee to attend. Space is limited.

Bring your own personal refreshments and food.

Facilitator:

Kathleen Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD



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Series Details

- **Section 1:** FASD Basic Facts; Characteristics; Chronological vs. Developmental Age
- **Section 2:** Neurological Issues & Behaviors of FASD: Coping Skills
- **Section 3:** Developing Effective Strategies for FASD: Advocacy & Finding Resources
- **Section 4:** Advocacy in Schools; Behavioral Strategy; Daily Living & Future Planning for Individuals with FASD

Contact Hours Available

- Social workers, counselors, and chemical dependency RCH: provided by the ADAS Board of Lorain County
- Developmental Disability hours provided by Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities, now including EI .
- Certificate of Attendance for contact hours
- Ohio Approved Specialized Training for Early Childhood SUTQ, ODE, ODH (pending)



Weather-Related Announcements Reminder

Murray Ridge program closing information will be available on **TV station Fox 8**, on the **Fox 8 website (fox8.com)**, and on **radio stations WEOL 930 AM** and **WOBL 1320 AM**, as it has in the past.

There will be two separate listings for Murray Ridge Center:

- **Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers**
- **Murray Ridge School**

REMINDER: In 2018 there was a change made as to how the information for our Adult Activities Centers is displayed by Fox 8 on its website and on television.

- **On fox8.com**, the information will be under the 'Daycare' tab in the School Closings section.
- **On Channel 8**, information about the status of our Adult Activities Centers will now scroll from left to right beneath the School Closings information at the very bottom of the television screen under 'Daycare.' These listings are in alphabetical order by county; however, no county names will be listed due to the limitations of Fox 8's computer systems. Therefore, if you choose to use the TV to determine the status of the Adult Centers, you must continue to monitor that 'Daycare' listing until it has run a complete cycle.
- **NOTE:** You can also sign up with Fox 8 to receive text alerts on Murray Ridge School and Adult Activities Centers closings. To do so, click on 'Closing Text Alerts' in the School Closings section of the Fox 8 website.

Parents and caregivers of school students should disregard the "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers" listing, and follow only the listing for "Murray Ridge School." Conversely, **adult consumers** who attend our Opportunity/Vocational Centers and their parents/caregivers should disregard the "Murray Ridge School" listing, and follow only the listing for "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers."

If "Open - No Transportation" follows the announcement for "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers," parents/caregivers are welcome to transport adult consumers to their day service sites. Regular programming will be provided. Consumers should be dropped off no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and must be picked up by 3:45 p.m.

In the event of bad weather, the decision to transport individuals to Murray Ridge Center will be based on the ability of our buses to travel safely on city and county roads. Regardless of whether or not transportation is available through Murray Ridge Center, if our Opportunity/Vocational Centers are open, but there is an individual concern about the weather, adult consumers should feel free to stay home. Likewise, parents/caregivers of Murray Ridge School students who have individual concerns regarding the weather should feel free to keep their child at home, even if school is in session.

Please be aware that **transportation to enclave sites** is generally available even if transportation to the Opportunity/Vocational Centers is cancelled. Murray Ridge Center does not broadcast the status of enclave transportation on the television or radio. Consumers should assume that enclave transportation will be available unless they receive a phone call from a member of our Supported Employment Department.

First Student bus company can be reached at 288-2222.



New Elyria Mayor Visits Murray Ridge School



Elyria Mayor **Frank Whitfield** recently visited Murray Ridge School. During his visit, he stopped by the school dance, viewed a Black History Month door display (in which his photo was featured) and also helped make some cookies. Pictured with Mayor Whitfield (from left) are students **Alexis Throckmorton** and **CJ Martin**, teacher **Chuck McGuire** and student **Zachary Rader**.

Nominations Sought for Exceptional Service Awards

Do you know a Murray Ridge staff member whose work efforts reflect remarkable dedication and have significantly contributed to the well being of people with developmental disabilities? Nominate that staff member for an Exceptional Service Award! If you are a community member; consumer; or parent, guardian, sibling or other relative of a Murray Ridge program participant, submit your nomination to Chris Vasco, Community Education/Volunteer Director. Please include a brief paragraph outlining your reasons for nominating the staff member. All nominations will be forwarded to the Board for consideration. The Board presents Exceptional Service Awards on a quarterly basis. If you have any questions, contact Chris at (440) 329-3734 or at cvasco@murrayridgecenter.org

Exceptional Service Award Presented to Natalie Skiba



Pictured (l-r) at the recent Exceptional Service Award presentation are: SSA **Natalie Skiba**, Superintendent **Amber Fisher** and Board Member **Dan White**.

The latest recipient of Murray Ridge's quarterly Exceptional Service Award is **Natalie Skiba** of our Service and Support Administration (SSA) Department.

"Natalie is a GREAT asset to your team!," began the nomination by the former social services director of Oak Hills Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. "She is a patient advocate who cares with her whole heart. She does whatever is necessary for the well-being of her patients. She continually goes above and beyond. Thank you Natalie for all you do for our patient."

Murray Ridge to Operate a Point of Distribution in the Case of Certain Emergencies

In the event of a county-wide health emergency requiring the distribution of medicine or treatment, Murray Ridge Center, in conjunction with Lorain County Public Health, will operate a temporary Point of Distribution (POD) to provide medicine or treatments to consumers (people with developmental disabilities who have been determined eligible for services from the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities), and their immediate caregivers.

Family members who live in households with children and adults with developmental disabilities will be eligible to receive medication/treatment from the Murray Ridge Center closed POD. Caregivers assigned at the time of POD operation to work with individuals with developmental disabilities who do not live with family will also be eligible to receive medicine/treatment from the Murray Ridge Center POD for themselves and members of their immediate households.

Should the need to operate a Murray Ridge Center POD occur, specifics will be communicated on the Murray Ridge Center Facebook page, on our website, and/or through other local media and other communications.

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 	12	13	14
15	16	17 	18 	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 	28
29	30 	31				

Activities & Events

- 3/11- Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
 - 3/18 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 1 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
 - 3/27 LCBDD Adult Dance, 7-9 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria*
- *A Statement of Understanding with required signatures CURRENT WITHIN THE LAST 12 MONTHS is an admission requirement for the dance. Contact Jill Camp at 282-2831 with any questions..***
- 3/30 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on February 24, 2020:

Board President Vassie Scott appointed new Board member Cathie Leimbach to several committees. Superintendent Fisher provided an overview of 2019 agency spending, as compared to the 2019 and 2020 budgets and 2018 spending. Dr. Fisher then informed the Board about a joint project being discussed by the Lorain County Children & Family Council; a goal of the project would be to identify barriers to receipt of Early Intervention services by children ages zero to three who are eligible for these services. Potential 2020 training topics for Board members were discussed. March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month! Dr. Fisher summarized activities planned by the agency to celebrate DD Awareness month, including a presentation and visit by several program participants at a March 11 meeting of the Lorain County Commissioners.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Standard Presort
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 146
Elyria, OH 44035

Work at the Ridge!

Check out our website murrayridgecenter.org
to see our current open positions!

Interested Parties Invited to Help With School Wellness Policy

As part of the National School Lunch Program, Murray Ridge School has a Local School Wellness Policy. If you are interested in being involved with the development, implementation, periodic review, and/or updating of this policy, please contact Dann Swift, Director of Educational Services at (440) 329-3760 or dswift@murrayridgecenter.org.



News You Can Use

Check out these two upcoming Connecting for Kids Resource Fairs designed to highlight local providers and services for families who have a concern about their child.

- **6th Annual Lorain County Resource Fair**
(Formerly known as the Lorain County Special Needs Resource Day) / **Thursday, March 12** / 6-8 p.m. / Lorain County Community College, Spitzer Conference Center/1005 N. Abbe Rd., Elyria
For more information or to register, visit connectingforkids.org/lorain-resource-fair
- **9th Annual Meet and Greet/Wednesday, April 8** / 6-8 p.m. / Don Umerley Civic Center, 21016 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River
For more information or to register, visit connectingforkids.org/meetandgreet