

## They've Got Game



Murray Ridge Raider Team 1 member **DJ Overall** faces off with a member of the Cuyahoga Rockets.

Murray Ridge Basketball Team 1, which won the Special Olympics Ohio State Basketball Championship for the Open Division in 2009, and took second place at the North Section Tournament in 2010, is hoping for another successful season

this year. On Saturday January 29, 2011, the team, known as "the Raiders," faced a tough

opponent, the Cuyahoga County Rockets, in an edge-of-your-seat game that was broadcast on radio station 930 AM WEOL.

Having lost a game to the Rockets earlier in the season, the Raiders, with a pre-game record of two wins and four losses, were anticipating a challenging game. Veteran team member Charles Johnson, Jr. was nervous, but hopeful before the game began "the Rockets are tough, but we just always do our best and try to win. If we don't win, we just try again next time," he said.

However, the Raiders had an energetic, strong start, scoring 12 points in the first quarter compared to 13 points by the Rockets. Leading the scoring for the game overall was Jon Torres. Other top scorers in the game were DJ Overall and Carl Jeans, with 11 points each. While the Raiders ultimately did not win the game, the final score of 45 to 60, was impressive, considering this formidable opponent and is something they are proud of.

Adding to the challenge against the Rockets, is the fact that the Raider's have made some changes this season, with two veteran players not returning and three new players joining the team. New Raiders player Jeremy Foster wasn't disappointed in their loss "they're a tough team. We played hard," he said smiling.

Judy Hartung, Murray Ridge Habilitation Manager of Recreation, said "They are still working on their offense and trying to find ways to make it click. Their defense is very intense and they do very well when they are matched with evenly-sized squads."

This exciting home game was recorded live by WEOL for broadcast at noon the same day. WEOL has shown tremendous support over the years, providing Murray Ridge Center with the opportunity to communicate with Lorain County citizens through Public Service Announcements donated by the station. These announcements have enabled Murray Ridge to talk about such things as the causes of developmental disabilities, the accomplishments of staff and consumers, and the programs and services it provides to more than 2,000 individuals with developmental disabilities.



Above: The Raiders prepare to use their strong defense.

Coordinated by Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board member Kurt Koepf, the recent broadcast of the game was yet another show of support for our agency and for the individuals we serve, and was made possible through the additional support of local companies Bay Mechanical & Electrical, Express Lane Oil Change, Harvest Café and Nick Abraham Auto Mall.

The Raiders look forward to the upcoming 16th Annual Special Olympics North Section Basketball Tournament to be held at Lorain County Community College February 25-27. There are four Murray Ridge basketball teams and all will be competing at this important event. For details on teams and game times, visit our website at [www.murrayridgecenter.org](http://www.murrayridgecenter.org).

## Spinning Round and Round



Pictured above: Murray Ridge School students **Danny Bader, Steven Fosdick, Evey Rodgers, Henry Alexander** and **Deja Sherman** enjoy clapping to the music in their Dancing Wheels class.

For the second year in a row, students with various developmental and physical disabilities at Murray Ridge School have the opportunity to learn the art of dance through Dancing Wheels, a non-profit organization dedicated to making dance accessible to persons of all abilities. Dancing Wheels was established 30 years ago by Mary Verdi-Fletcher, the first wheelchair dancer in the United States.

Once each week, approximately 20 students practice swaying, clapping, waving, turning and reaching to the sound of music with the guidance and direction of professional dance instructor, Emma Parker. This class, which is provided free-of-charge to the school, is a wonderful opportunity for students to gain positive exposure to the performing arts, while also engaging in physical activity and important social interaction.

## Special Visitors



Recently, Murray Ridge Center was honored to give a tour of our School to Domestic Relations Court **Judge David Basinski** and his wife, **Ellen Basinski**. While visiting, they had an opportunity to learn about the various programs, activities and therapies offered to students with a variety of developmental disabilities. Judge Basinski, middle, and wife Ellen, left, are pictured with **Superintendent Amber Fisher**, right.

## Twists and Turns



Recently, some students in Murray Ridge School teacher **Leah Buzzelli's** class took a field trip to Auntie Anne's Pretzels at Midway Mall where they were able to try their hands at pretzel-making. Afterward, the students enjoyed tasting their own "handmade" treats.

Pictured above: Murray Ridge School student **Kyle Orozco**, right, creates the perfect pretzel.

## Bring Your Appetite!



The Annual Spaghetti Dinner, sponsored by the Murray Ridge Support Group, will be held this year on Saturday, March 12 from 3:00-6:30 p.m. at the AmVets Post 55, 530 Abbe Road in Sheffield Lake.

This Italian feast, which includes spaghetti with meatballs, fresh bread, salad, desserts and beverages, is being generously donated by the AmVets Post 55. Activities will include a gift basket auction and a 50/50 raffle. Proceeds will go toward programs and services for Lorain County citizens impacted by developmental disabilities.

Tickets are \$8 for persons 6 years of age and up, and free for kids 5 and under. Sponsorships are available. Call Andrea Elek for more information, 440-323-2741.

Buon Appetito!



## DD Month Volunteers Needed!

Every March, during Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Murray Ridge is pleased to share information about the lifelong programs and services it provides to more than 2,000 Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities. For example, did you know that in 2010, 828 children were helped through our Early Intervention, preschool and school-aged programs. More than 900 adults received vocational and habilitation assistance through our Work/Activity Centers, Community Employment program or both. Residential services were provided to 421 individuals, many of whom require this care due to elderly or deceased family caregivers, and 697 families were assisted through our Family Support program.

This March, Murray Ridge needs help spreading the word about these services and supports to local business, community organizations and places of worship. If you would like to help us get the word out during Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month by distributing fliers, please contact Racheal Seibert at 329-3734 or [rseibert@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:rseibert@murrayridgecenter.org).

## Tasty Fundraising

Did you know that potatoes are the 4th most prevalent crop in the world after wheat, rice and corn? Americans eat more than 140 pounds of potatoes every year. And with so many ways to prepare them—from fried to mashed to baked to boiled—one is sure to find a way to enjoy this tasty source of carbohydrates. Recently, potatoes were also prevalent at the Elyria Work/Activity Center when seniors in the Young-At-Heart program held their 7th Annual Potato Bake which raises funds for activities. This much-anticipated culinary event succeeded in selling 80 baked potatoes with many delicious toppings to Murray Ridge staff, raising \$360 for the group. Young-at-Heart is a community-based seniors' program that enables participants 55 years of age and older to maintain physical fitness and socialization skills, and such fundraisers ensure that they may continue to stay active in their later years.



## Support the Raiders!

Come cheer for the Murray Ridge Raiders Basketball Teams at the Murray Ridge School as they compete in another exciting season!

**Remaining Home games** this season are as follows:

- 2/9/11—Lady Raiders vs. Summit, 6:00 p.m.
- 2/10/11—Team 2 vs. Medina 1, 5:00 p.m.
- 2/10/11—Team 3 vs. Medina 2, 6:15 p.m.
- 2/15/11—Lady Raiders vs. Medina, 5:30 p.m.

**And don't forget to cheer our Raiders at the Special Olympics North Section Basketball Tournament at Lorain County Community College February 25-27. Contact Judy Hartung for details about game times, 284-2720.**



If you would like to receive The Murray Ridge Courier via email, contact Racheal Seibert at (440) 329-3734 or email her at [rseibert@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:rseibert@murrayridgecenter.org).

## "Exceptional Service Award" Nominations Sought by Board

If you are a consumer, parent, guardian, sibling or other relative, or a community member and would like to participate in recognizing a Murray Ridge Center employee whose work efforts reflect remarkable dedication in meeting the needs of Murray Ridge consumers, you are encouraged to nominate those staff members who, in your opinion, have made significant contributions to the lives of those we serve. The nominating criteria are purposefully wide to reflect the diversity of staff duties and contributions, but in general, the nominees will reflect a standard of service that exceeds, *in the opinion of the one making the nomination*, the already high standard of service set by the agency.

Nominations for this award should be submitted to Racheal Seibert, Community Education and Volunteer Manager ([rseibert@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:rseibert@murrayridgecenter.org)) by March 11, 2011. When making a nomination, it is requested that you write a brief narrative (of at least one paragraph), outlining your reasons for nominating the employee.

All nominations will be forwarded to the Board for selection at its discretion.

It is the intention of the Board to present this quarterly award to its recipient (s) at one of its regularly scheduled meetings, which will normally be held on the last Friday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

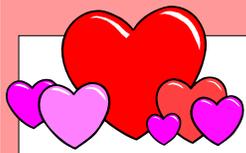
If you have any questions, contact Racheal Seibert, Community Education and Volunteer Manager, or Tim Donohue, Director of Communications, at 440-329-3734.

## BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

### The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on January 28, 2011:

At the **Organizational Meeting**, the Board re-elected Michelle L. Hunt, President, Kurt Koepf, Vice President, and Bob Gajdos, Secretary. President Hunt then made all sub-committee appointments.

At the **Regular Meeting**, Superintendent Fisher requested that the Board approve the annual resolution to provide educational services to children ages 6 through 21 at Murray Ridge School. The Board unanimously approved the resolution. The Director of Business, John Bonko then updated the Board on 2010 expenditures, which had been adjusted to reflect the actual vs. anticipated figures. In other business, Director of Communications, Tim Donohue, reviewed the status of recommendations made in 2010 by the agency Risk Management Committee, and identified areas to be addressed in 2011. Following this, Dr. Fisher asked the Board to approve Rescissions to both the Adult Services Staff Policy & Procedure Manual and the Early Intervention Handbook Policy and Procedures, and the Board unanimously approved. This will enable procedural changes to be made, as necessary. The Board also unanimously approved Dr. Fisher's request to revise the Public Records Policy to reflect the Records Custodian name change. Finally, the Board unanimously approved a draft of the 2011 Annual Action Plan/Programs and Expenditures for public review, and gave a 30-day notice of public forum on the document, which is scheduled for 12 p.m. on February 28 at the Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria. The document will be available for inspection at all Work/Activity Centers, Murray Ridge School, the Service and Support Administration Building, the Administration Building and at each of the six residential facilities of the Board.



# February 2011

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					

## Activities & Events

- 2/3—Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Work/Activity Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 2/10—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 2/11—Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 2/17—LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 2/21—Agency Closed in Observance of Presidents' Day**
- 2/23—Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 2/24—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 2/25—LCBDD Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 2/25-27—Special Olympic Ohio North Section Basketball Tournament, Lorain County Community College; call Judy Hartung for game schedule, 284-2720



## Lunch Menu

Cost Per Day: Youth = \$2.80, Adults = \$2.90

**January 31-February 4**

**February 21-25**

**March 14-18**

**Monday-** Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Scaloped Potatoes, Corn, Peaches, Cookie

**Tuesday-** Turkey or Bologna with Cheese on Wheat Bread, Peas & Carrots, Pears, Nutri-Grain Bar

**Wednesday-** Meat Lasagna, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie

**Thursday-** Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar

**Friday-** Fish Patty, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Apple Slices, Wheat Bread, Cookie

**February 7-11**

**February 28-March 4**

**March 21-25**

**Monday-** Ham, Wheat Bread, Rice Pilaf, Diced Carrots w/Herbs, Applesauce

**Tuesday-** Hamburger on a Bun, Potato Wedges, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie

**Wednesday-** Chicken Patty w/Gravy, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit, Wheat Bread, Cookie

**Thursday-** Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar

**Friday-** Macaroni & Cheese, Cooked Carrots, Diced Pears, Cookie



**February 14-18**

**March 7-11**

**March 28-April 1**

**Monday-** Chicken Patty on a Bun, Potato Rounds, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie

**Tuesday-** Meat Lasagna, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Diced Peaches, Nutri-Grain Bar

**Wednesday-** Rigatoni w/Meatballs, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie

**Thursday-** Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Fresh Fruit, Nutri-Grain Bar

**Friday-** Meat/Cheese Burrito, Spanish Rice, Cole Slaw, Applesauce

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

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Visit our Web site  
[www.murrayridgecenter.org](http://www.murrayridgecenter.org)



If you have a news item that you would like to include in the Murray Ridge Courier, please email relevant photos, stories or event information to Racheal Seibert at [rseibert@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:rseibert@murrayridgecenter.org).

Submissions are due by the 20th of each month for the following month's newsletter.



### Further News You Might Use...

We are often in receipt of information from external sources on offerings designed for people with DD. Some examples include summer camps and special interest classes. Many such offerings have an associated cost to the participant. Although we are not in a position to "vouch for" or promote such offerings, we recognize that these opportunities may be of interest to our consumers, their families and/or guardians. If you are interested in learning more about such consumer-oriented events and opportunities, please contact Albert Sprague, Director of Residential Service & Support Administration. You may reach him by telephone at 440-324-2366.

### Calling all Artists!

Murray Ridge Center will be adding a Consumer Art page to its website soon and is looking for entries. If you paint, draw, sculpt, or have some other artistic visual talent and would like to have your work featured on the Murray Ridge website, submit a photo of your masterpiece to Racheal Seibert at [rseibert@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:rseibert@murrayridgecenter.org). Submissions must be in a specific format (jpeg) and emailed as an attachment. If you need assistance, call Racheal at 329-3734.



Vincent van Gogh