



Scioto County Developmental Disabilities

Serving People for a Lifetime.



Special Olympics photo spread!
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'It's Like 24-Karat Magic' Building Relationships Key to Success for Bloomer

John Bloomer is a familiar face around the Scioto County Developmental Disabilities offices in Portsmouth, where he delivers interoffice mail. He is proud to discuss the success he has had in his 36 years with Vern Riffe School and, now, STAR, Inc.

"I can't change the world, but I can make a world of change and with people like Stephanie and the staff here. It has to be a special blend of people to work with people like us," Bloomer said. "People outside of here don't know how to work with us. They don't know me. You can't teach what Stephanie and the staff have. It's like 24-karat magic in the air."

Bloomer has been involved in SCDD programming for 36 years, starting in childhood with attendance at Vern Riffe School. He knows that building relationships is a key to success, and that's something he and Vocation Station staffer Stephanie Mullins have done since her first day



Vocation Station Vocational Specialist Stephanie Mullins and John Bloomer, who attends STAR, Inc., have struck up a friendship at STAR. Bloomer says Mullins has a "genuine gift" for working with people who have disabilities.

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The newly remodeled Learning Center at STAR has more computers and Internet access, things specifically addressed by individuals who responded to surveys requesting feedback. STAR now has six PCs in a lab made from formerly under-utilized space.



STAR offers increased access to computers, online services in remodeled Learning Center

Responding to requests from individuals who receive services at STAR, Inc., the program has created a new learning center equipped with six PC's, all with ready access to the Internet, in a remodeled space that Adult Services Director Kelly Hunter says was formerly under-utilized.

The renovation project had a budget of \$5,000, which was

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Birthdays

March 6

Lori Morton
Misti Shepherd

March 8

Kayla Stone

March 11

Bill Pennington

March 12

Christy Rolfe

March 13

Tom Sherman

March 23

Jordan Cantwell

March 29

Alma Whitt

March 30

Jeff Horner
Erica Wallace

Work

Anniversaries

March 1

Shawn Blower

March 6

Tracy Cordle

March 8

Nancy Conkel

Birth Announcement

Jack Lawson Nelson was born Thursday, Feb. 8, to Kelsey and Michael Nelson. Proud grammy is **Tammy Lawson Nelson**, SCDD's director of intake and early childhood services.

Jack's 14-month-old brother Will is just trying to figure out what Jack is and why he keeps making those weird sounds! Will and Jack both "fill Grammy's heart to the brim with joy."

Congratulations to the Nelson family on their new family member!



If you have a birth, marriage, or other major life announcement you would like to share, please email information and photos to Imcnelly@sciotodd.org.

Calendar

THURSDAY, March 1

- STAR: SSU exercise from 12:45 to 2 p.m.
- SPECIAL OLYMPICS: VRS vs. Jackson City at home; Game starts at 10:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, March 2

- STAR: Bowling 12:30-2 p.m., \$1.75 per game.

TUESDAY, March 6

- STAR: SSU exercise from 12:45 to 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, March 7

- STAR: Bowling from 3-4 p.m., \$1.75 per game.

THURSDAY, March 8

- STAR: SSU exercise from 12:45 to 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, March 9

- STAR: Bowling 12:30-2 p.m., \$1.75 per game.
- SPECIAL OLYMPICS: STAR vs. Venture Hawks at Manchester High School. Game starts at 10:30.

TUESDAY, March 13

- STAR: SSU exercise from 12:45 to 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, March 14

- STAR: Bowling from 3-4 p.m., \$1.75 per game.

THURSDAY, March 15

- STAR: SSU exercise from 12:45 to 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, March 16

- STAFF HALF-DAY TRAINING; all SCDD programs will dismiss two hours early.
- VRS: End of the third grading period.

TUESDAY, March 20

- STAR: Bowling from 3-4 p.m., \$1.75 per game.

WEDNESDAY, March 21

- MISMATCHED SOCKS DAY: Wear your mismatched socks to celebrate World Down Syndrome Awareness Day, take a photo, and we'll feature it on the SCDD Facebook page!
- PROJECT STIR: Graduation ceremony at Gatti's at 11 a.m.
- STAR: Bowling from 3-4 p.m., \$1.75 per game.

THURSDAY, March 22

- STAR: SSU exercise from 12:45 to 2 p.m.
- SPECIAL OLYMPICS: VRS vs. Open Door School in the RIVALRS GAME at Ironton High School. Game starts at 10:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, March 23

- STAR: Bowling 12:30-2 p.m., \$1.75 per game.
- STAR: Birthdays of the Month party

TUESDAY, March 27

- STAR: SSU exercise from 12:45 to 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, March 28

- STAR: Bowling from 3-4 p.m., \$1.75 per game.
- PROJECT STIR: Bake sale at STAR, Inc.

THURSDAY, March 29

- VRS: Easter break

FRIDAY, March 30

- GOOD FRIDAY: All SCDD programs are closed.

RELATIONSHIPS, continued from Page 1

on STAR's music unit.

"Our personalities just clicked," Mullins said. "He's been my buddy – always and no matter what. I treat John just like I treat everyone else."

Mullins began working at STAR five years ago as an individual support facilitator assigned to the music unit. She said there's a freedom of expression in the unit with the concentration on music that allows people to be more laidback and share more about themselves.

That connection is incredibly important, according to Bloomer, who says some individuals spend just as much time every day with staff members as they do family or at home; sometimes more.

"I call her a gift," Bloomer said. "She's got that genuine gift. [Without STAR] truthfully,

'Everybody wants to look at the disability before the person, and that's what holds a lot of people back.'

~ Stephanie Mullins, Vocational Specialist

it would be awfully boring. Although I do have some people at home, this serves a great purpose for me and all the consumers. I really rely on this place."

Mullins enjoys working with the population served by Scioto County Developmental Disabilities. Prior to STAR, Inc., she specialized in home health care of people with disabilities.

"There's just something about them," Mullins said. "They make your day ... it makes you feel positive. It's not for everybody, and that's completely OK."

As for her job at Vocation Station, Mullins works with individuals and their caregivers to match them with jobs in the community that interest them and makes use of their particular skills. She says she acts as an extension of the caregivers in that she protects, guides, and pushes individuals to try new things and pursue their interests in the community workforce.

"Everybody wants to look at the disability before the person," Mullins said, "and that's what holds a lot of people back."

COMPUTERS, continued from Page 1

allocated after input on the strategic plan indicated individuals served by STAR have communicated a need and desire for increased access to computers and Internet services.

In an increasingly connected world, it just makes sense.

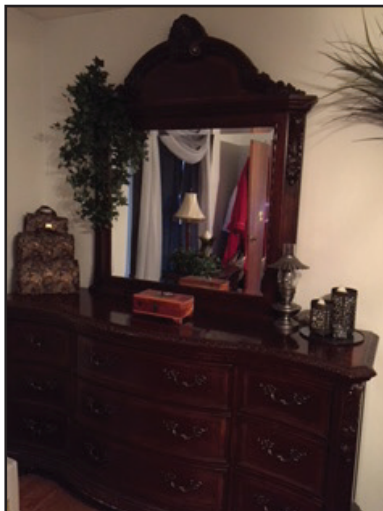
The new learning center is designed

specifically as a learning space for people with disabilities, and is staffed with two individual support facilitators ready to assist individuals working in the lab. The main focus of the new learning center is development of computer skills and classroom skills. Six computers are available, as well as a networked printer.

"We felt it was in keeping with our mission to expand services for individuals while also being good stewards of tax dollars," Hunter said. "That room was painted and remodeled. We feel that this remodel will serve the next generation of individuals who receive services through Scioto County Developmental Disabilities."

For Sale

Three-piece bedroom suite for sale. Original price over \$2,000; asking \$550 for the whole set. A few minor flaws, but those can be easily fixed. Mattress and bedding are not included. Buyer must pick up in Portsmouth. For more info, call (740) 821-4506..



Have something you need to sell? Put it in the newsletter! Send info to lmcnelly@sciotodd.org

“Mr. Leonard’s generous gift is a reminder of how large an impact a single gesture can have on an entire population of people.”

~Superintendent Matt Purcell

Journalist Donates Piece About Late Speaker to VRS

Retired Columbus Dispatch reporter Lee Leonard has a long history of capital city journalism, having covered the Statehouse during his career. One of the people he worked alongside was the late Speaker of the House and Scioto County native Vern Riffe. Leonard visited Vern Riffe School Wednesday to donate a framed copy of a Dispatch front page featuring a story he had written about Riffe’s passing.

An assembly was held for the presentation and Leonard met students and staff. He also toured the 104-year-old school building and met with members of the Riffe family.

Leonard said he wrote many stories that involved Riffe and, while they didn’t always get along because of the nature of their respective jobs, he admired the Speaker’s ability to solve problems without regard to political affiliation. He advised the students to always look for the common ground with people they might disagree with so they can find solutions to problems.

“It is an honor that Mr. Leonard thought of us for this beautiful donation, and we are incredibly grateful,” said Principal Tammy Guthrie.

“The Cardinals are proud to add this to the school’s collection of items about the Speaker.”

The piece will be put on public display in the school lobby near a sculpture of Riffe, the State Seal of Ohio, and a glass case with historic



Retired Columbus Dispatch reporter Lee Leonard donated a framed copy of an article he wrote about the passing of Ohio House Speaker Vern Riffe to Vern Riffe School Wednesday. Pictured in the school lobby are Leonard, Principal Tammy Guthrie, SCDD Superintendent Matt Purcell, VRS student Justin Sanford, and members of the Riffe family.

school memorabilia.

“Any time we have the opportunity to remember and honor the people who have made our community and county the wonderful places they are, we embrace it,” said Scioto County

Developmental Disabilities Superintendent Matt Purcell. “Mr. Leonard’s generous gift is a reminder of how large an impact a single gesture can have on an entire population of people.”



Happy 100 Day, Trenton!

Vern Riffe School student **Trenton Risner** was the 100th person to enter the school on the 100th day of school, which was Thursday, Feb. 18. He was welcomed with a blast from the confetti cannon. Students and staff recognized the day by having classroom events to mark the successes they’ve had during the 2017-2018 school year.

100


Congratulations, Cindy!



Cindy Newman has retired from Scioto County Developmental Disabilities after 30 years as a nurse and serving in the Adult Services Program. The Board recognized her efforts with a reception and a signed proclamation. Cindy will continue to be a familiar face, as STAR, Inc., has hired her to serve as Nurse and Plan coordinator. She is responsible for nursing and a caseload of 75 individuals for planning coordination.

LEFT: Superintendent Matt Purcell reads the Board's resolution recognizing Newman's service at the Thursday, Feb. 15, Board meeting.

Call ext. 34300 by 10 a.m. to get your lunch order in!

Menu subject to change		The Lunch Box March, 2018			 Every Day at Break Time ICE CREAM • Small 50¢ • Medium 75¢ • Large \$1.00	
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>		
			1 Fried Bologna Sandwich \$1.75 Macaroni Salad 1.00 Cole Slaw 1.00	2 Pizza - slice \$1.25 1 slice Pizza & Drink 1.75 2 slices Pizza & Drink 3.00 Sub Sandwich 2.50		
5 Tomato Soup & Grilled Cheese Sandwich 3.00 Extra Grilled Cheese Sandwich 1.50	6 BBQ Rib Sandwich \$2.00 Potato Salad 1.00 BBQ Baked Beans 1.00	7 Chicken Fajita w/Chips & Salsa 3.00 Rice 1.00 Refried Beans 1.00 Extra Chips & Salsa 1.00	8 Hot Dog - Plain \$1.00 Hot Dog - w/Sauce 1.25 Mac & Cheese 1.00 Tater Tots 1.50	9 Pizza - slice \$1.25 1 slice Pizza & Drink 1.75 2 slices Pizza & Drink 3.00 Sub Sandwich 2.50		
12 Turkey Slice Order (Turkey, Mashed Potatoes or Bread with Gravy) Green Beans \$4.00 1.00	13 Couscous w/Cheese Sandwich 3.50 1.00 Extra Cheese Sandwich 1.00 Chocolate Pie 1.00	14 Chicken & Broccoli Fettuccine \$3.50 Alfredo w/Garlic Bread 1.00 Cucumber & Tomato Salad 1.00 Extra Garlic Bread 1.00	15 Fried Bologna Sandwich \$1.75 Macaroni Salad 1.00 Cole Slaw 1.00	16 Pizza - slice \$1.25 1 slice Pizza & Drink 1.75 2 slices Pizza & Drink 3.00 Sub Sandwich 2.50		
19 Tomato Soup & Grilled Cheese Sandwich 3.00 Extra Grilled Cheese Sandwich 1.50	20 BBQ Rib Sandwich \$2.00 Potato Salad 1.00 BBQ Baked Beans 1.00	21 Chicken Fajita w/Chips & Salsa 3.00 Rice 1.00 Refried Beans 1.00 Extra Chips & Salsa 1.00	22 Hot Dog - Plain \$1.00 Hot Dog - w/Sauce 1.25 Mac & Cheese 1.00 Tater Tots 1.50	23 Pizza - slice \$1.25 1 slice Pizza & Drink 1.75 2 slices Pizza & Drink 3.00 Sub Sandwich 2.50		
26 Turkey Slice Order (Turkey, Mashed Potatoes or Bread with Gravy) Green Beans \$4.00 1.00	27 Couscous w/Cheese Sandwich 3.50 1.00 Extra Cheese Sandwich 1.00 Chocolate Pie 1.00	28 Chicken & Broccoli Fettuccine \$3.50 Alfredo w/Garlic Bread 1.00 Cucumber & Tomato Salad 1.00 Extra Garlic Bread 1.00	29 Fried Bologna Sandwich \$1.75 Macaroni Salad 1.00 Cole Slaw 1.00	30 Good Friday Holiday Workshop Closed		

AVAILABLE DAILY

Sub Sandwich \$2.50
Chips 75 cents
Snack Cakes 75 cents
Soda/Water 75 cents
Tea 50 cents

SALADS

(Ranch, Red French, Honey Mustard, Italian dressings)
Small Garden Salad \$2.00
Small Chef Salad \$3.00
Large Garden Salad \$4.00
Large Chef Salad \$5.00

FRIDAY PIZZA SPECIAL



1 Slice & Drink \$1.75
2 Slices & Drink \$3.00

LET ME WIN

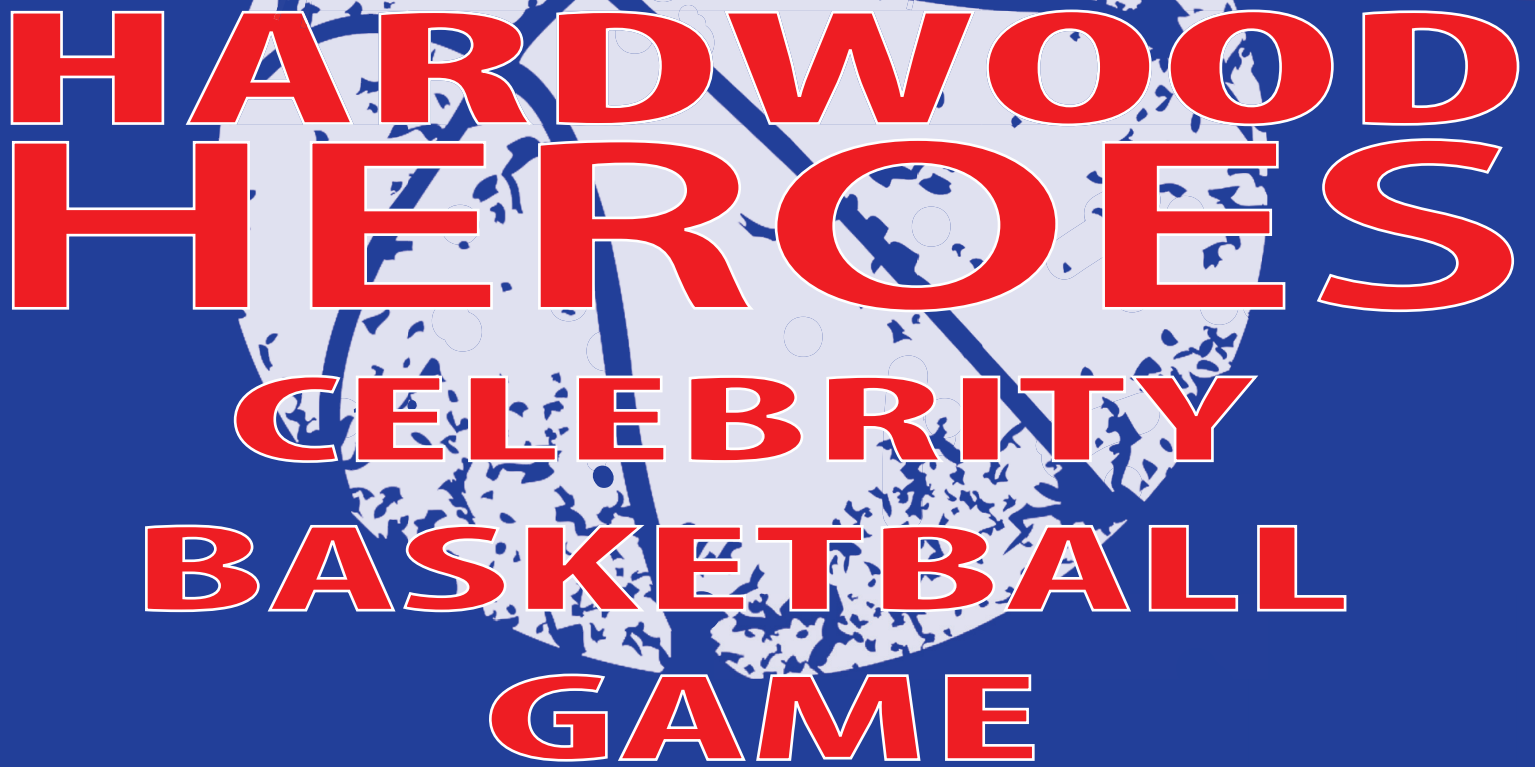
BUT IF I CANNOT WIN

LET ME BE

BRAVE *IN THE*

ATTEMPT





**HARDWOOD
HEROES
CELEBRITY
BASKETBALL
GAME**

**Noon Saturday, April 7
SSU Rhodes Athletic Center**



Special Olympics
Scioto County, Ohio



**Scioto County
Developmental
Disabilities**
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