



Scioto County Board of DD

Barnett, Thoroughman Sworn In Board votes unanimously to keep officers same as 2016

The Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities conducted its 2017 organizational meeting on Thursday, Jan. 19, and voted unanimously to keep the current officers in place for another year.

This means Rodney Barnett will remain as president and Mike Thoroughman will stay as vice president. Both members were also sworn in for an additional four-year term by Scioto

County Commissioner Bryan Davis. The Scioto County Commissioners appoint local citizens to serve on the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities in accordance with requirements set by state law. In addition to Barnett as president and Thoroughman as vice president, fellow board member Mike Arnett will

See **BOARD**, Page 3



Rodney Barnett and Mike Thoroughman are sworn in for new four-year terms on the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities by Commissioner Bryan Davis.

Sowkulech Named Medicaid Services Manager

The Medicaid Services Manager works closely with the Service and Support Administration and Finance departments to provide technical assistance and monitoring pertaining to all Medicaid services. This position also provides quality assurance on billable services and assists administration with program development to maximize efficiency and revenues.



Steve
Sowkulech

"I look forward to putting new systems into place to further enhance the agency's ability to manage and allocate Medicaid funds," Sowkulech said. "This will, in turn, provide more focus for efficient use of funds and service delivery for the individuals that we serve."

Sowkulech previously served as the Community

See **SOWKULECH**, Page 2



Photo submitted by Melissa Gamp

Emma Lauder with the members of the Vern Riffe School cheer squad in their new uniforms. Lauder and fellow classmates at Notre Dame High School raised more than \$600 for the VRS Cardinals cheer squad's new red, white, and blue uniforms.

NDHS Students Raise Funds for New VRS Cheerleading Uniforms

The Vern Riffe School Cardinal Cheerleaders are sporting a new look this season thanks to a little help from some friends.

"When I heard that Vern Riffe (School) didn't have a cheer squad because they didn't have uniforms, I felt like my school could help," said Notre Dame High School student Emma Lauder. "I feel that students at Vern Riffe

deserve to cheer and if uniforms are all that's holding them back, then we could help them fill that need."

Students at Notre Dame raised more than \$600 to outfit the squad with new red, white, and blue uniforms. The VRS cheerleaders wore the new uniforms for the first time at the

See **UNIFORMS**, Page 2

UNIFORMS, Cont'd from Page 1

Cardinals' first home game of the season on Jan. 12 against Jackson City.

It's a big deal, according to VRS teacher and cheer squad adviser Missi Wolfenbarker, who started the squad in 2012 with simple outfits of T-shirts, skorts, shoes, and pompoms.

"The girls were so excited to get their new uniforms. Once I passed them out, they tried them on and came down to my classroom to show me how they fit. One of them walked in with their uniform on and did a jump," Wolfenbarker said. "The pride, excitement, and smiles on their faces were just priceless."

Modeling them for the first time, VRS student and cheerleader

Jaycee Yearwood called the new uniforms: "Perfection."

Emma and her classmates raised money through donations and staged a beauty contest for senior boys at their school. Students voted with donations.

"Our students love interacting with their peers from other schools, and we are honored that Emma and Notre Dame's student body took this on as a project," said VRS Principal Tammy Guthrie. "This is a gift from the heart that directly affects the lives of several of our students, and we deeply appreciate the spirit of kindness and community partnership shown by our friends at Notre Dame."

The VRS Cardinals' next home basketball game is 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 26, against Buckeye Hills.

SOWKULECH, Cont'd from Page 1

Employment Team Leader at Vocation Station, another Board program. In that position, he oversaw the Community Employment Program, which strives to match adults served by the Board with local employers for meaningful employment. During his tenure there, more than 65 individuals were successfully placed with Scioto County employers.

He recently celebrated his 12th year working for the Board.

"We are excited for Steve to join our department and bring his experience and perspective as the Medicaid Services Manager for the Scioto County Board of DD," said SSA Director Chad Phipps. "The increased focus on quality and the fiscal monitoring of Medicaid services will allow us to further our mission as an agency."

The Medicaid Services Manager is under the auspices of the Service and Support Administration Department.

Birthdays and Workiversaries



BIRTHDAYS

22: Becky Mault
27: Carlisa Baker

WORKIVERSARIES

2: LeAnn Shultz
7: Janet Barber
18: Kim Miller; Brian Hannah
25: Tammy Nelson



February Calendar

1

IMPACT: Maintain Camp Oyo (9:45-2:30)

STAR: Bowling (3-4:30)

2

IMPACT: Salvation Army (9:40-12:45)

3

IMPACT: Music at SRS Hab (12:20-2:30)

STAR: Bowling (12:30-2:30)

6

IMPACT: Music at Country Living (12:15-2:30)

7

IMPACT: Salvation Army (9:40-12:45)

IMPACT: Meeting in the Multipurpose Room (1 p.m.)

8

PEOPLE FIRST: Bake Sale and Meeting (1 p.m. at STAR)

STAR: Bowling (3-4:30)

9

IMPACT: Salvation Army (9:40-12:45)

10

IMPACT: SOMC Laundry (9:45-Noon)

STAR: Bowling (12:30-2:30)

13

IMPACT: Salvation Army (9:40-12:45)

STAR: Library

14

STAR: Valentine's Day Party and Birthdays of the Month Party

15

STAR: Bowling (3-4:30)

16

SCBDD: Regular monthly meeting (4:45 p.m.), STAR, Inc.

IMPACT: Salvation Army (9:40-12:45)

17

IMPACT: Music at Edgewood 2 Lucasville (9:45-Noon)

STAR: Bowling (12:30-2:30)

20

SCBDD CLOSED/Presidents Day

22

IMPACT: Salvation Army (9:40-12:45)

STAR: Bowling (3-4:30)

PROJECT STIR: Bake Sale at STAR

23

IMPACT: Salvation Army (9:40-12:45)

24

IMPACT: Music at Crystal Care Portsmouth (12:30-2:30)

STAR: Bowling (12:30-2:30)

27

IMPACT: Music at Heritage Square (12:20-2:30)

STAR: Library

28

IMPACT: Salvation Army (9:40-12:45)

From the Directors

New Opportunities Abound for Students at Vern Riffe School

A new opportunity for VRS students was implemented this month with special interest classes available one hour a week. Teach-

ers and classroom aides have collaborated to develop different activities students may select from including book club, instrumental music, choral music, yoga, jewelry making, candy making, hair and nail designs, building with Legos, exploring model cars, "Get Your Body Moving," and 4-H Club.

Students will change their course selection every six weeks to offer experiences in more than one area. The activity classes will provide social growth and development as well as vocational exploration for students. This new program will continue to develop with support from the dedicated staff at Vern Riffe School.

Basketball season is under way with several Special Olympics teams traveling the region to keep the Cardinal tradition strong under the direction of Coach Rita Arthur. When the team

arrives back to school from an away game, students and staff cheer them on throughout the hallway. Intramural basketball for younger

students led by Adaptive Physical Education teacher Cindy Coriell teaches the game of basketball to those interested in the sport and the possibility of playing on the Special Olympics team someday.

Programs related to the development of curriculum aligned with Ohio's Extended Learning Standards and full implementation of PBIS continue at VRS. In addition, the staff recently received professional development on meeting student needs and writing results

driven IEP's. Policy review and the development of procedures for specific topics remains a focus for the school program as the staff will soon make plans for the start of another school year.

(Guthrie is the Director of School Programs for the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities. She can be reached at ext. 34120)



Tammy Guthrie
Director of
School Programs

BOARD, Cont'd from Page 1

continue as recording secretary.

"We are very fortunate to have such dedicated board members as Mr. Barnett and Mr. Thoroughman continuing to serve on the Board, and appreciate all that they and the Board as a whole has done for our program," said Superintendent Julie Monroe.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Board will be at 4:45 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 16, at STAR, Inc., 2625 Gallia St., Portsmouth.



Job Placements

■ **Joey Sutherland** is working as a lobby attendant at After the Game in Lucasville.

■ **Kyle Cunningham** is working at JAK Productions cleaning in the evening on Mondays.

Congratulations to both Joey and Kyle!



Cardinals Flying High! Team wins against Open Door



FAR LEFT: Allison pumps a fist while making the traditional post-game journey down the hall at VRS on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

LEFT: Mr. J welcomes Gabby and the team back home after their victory.

February Basketball Schedule

February 2

VRS at Open Door 10:30 a.m.

February 7

Adams County DD at VRS (STAR A-team) 11 a.m.

February 9

Jackson City at VRS 10:30 a.m.

February 10

Highland at VRS (STAR) 11 a.m.

February 16

VRS at Buckeye Hills 11 a.m.

February 21

STAR B-team at Adams County 11 a.m.

February 23

Jackson City at VRS 10:30 a.m.

February 28

Buckeye Community at VRS (STAR) 11 a.m.



Photo submitted by Tracy Cordle

The Shooting Stars were victorious against Adams County at Peebles High School on Tuesday, Jan. 10. The two teams will face off again on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at Vern Riffe School.



Stay Connected! Is Your One-Call Info Up-To-Date?

The Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities uses a one-call system to notify subscribers about changes in program scheduling, especially during weather events. Subscription forms are available in program offices and the Business Office for individuals served by SCBDD, as well as caregivers, providers, and staff.



Superintendent's Office
Scioto County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

2619 Gallia Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662