



INSIDE:

- Track and Field
- VRS Prom
- Special Olympics Banquet
- VRS Graduation
- VRS Last Day of 2023/2024
- AND MORE!

SCDD Celebrated DD Awareness Month in March

Several events were held in Scioto County to Commemorate DD Awareness Month



Pictured are: Hardwood Heroes Celebrity Players, and the SCDD Special Olympians, and Coaches.

Scioto County Developmental Disabilities and Scioto County Special Olympics held their annual Hardwood Heroes Celebrity Basketball game on March 28. The game saw local celebrities tip off against a team of athletes from the Scioto County Special Olympics adult and student teams.

March was Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and there were many activities scheduled to celebrate with Scioto County Developmental Disabilities. Some of those events included: DD Day of Advocacy, Scioto County Commissioners DD Proclamation, SCDD participated in the

St. Patrick's Day Parade, SCDD First Annual Charity Race, Rock Your Socks Day for Down Syndrome Awareness, Vision and Hearing Impaired Supports Education held at the Scioto County Library and presented by self-advocate Chris Cooley.

Other events around the community included an all-school invite for Special Olympic basketball teams that was hosted by Northwest Schools, The Knights of Columbus hosted their annual Foul Shooting Contest at the Vern Riffe School, along with several Special Olympics basketball games made March a fun and busy month

for DD awareness throughout the community. "DD Awareness Month helps shine a light on the individuals that we serve, and not only allows the community to know what SCDD does but also lets them see how our individuals are integral members of this community," said SCDD Outreach Coordinator Theresa Rowland.

For more information about the programs and services at Scioto County Developmental Disabilities call 740-353-0636 or visit online at www.sciotocountydd.org, and like and follow them on Facebook and TikTok.

Spring is in the air at Vern Riffe School

Events and Celebrations Galore Filled the Month of May.

The month of May kicked off with the annual Scioto County Special Olympics Track and Field event on Friday, May 3. The event was open to all county student Special Olympic teams and held at the Portsmouth West High School track. Mike Glockner, of the Glockner Family of Dealerships, sponsored the event and was present on the field with the athletes. Glockner could be heard expressing how much he had been looking forward to the day. Each athlete brought their “A” game to the event and the competition was truly memorable. A picnic at the park immediately followed the field events. There was much fun in the sun to be had; though, the forecast had called for poor weather conditions, the day actually saw near perfect temperatures without a drop of rain.

Track and field marks the end of the Scioto County Special Olympics regular season for students. A banquet was then held to celebrate each Olympian. This year's banquet was to be held at Shawnee State University, but was rescheduled due to an unexpected school closure. The student banquet was then held at Vern Riffe School. Students and staff enjoyed lunch from Ollie's Burgers and BBQ: pulled pork, mac and cheese and baked beans were on the menu, and an award ceremony followed in the VRS gymnasium. Athletes received their trophies and/or medals during the ceremony.



Pictured are: Mike Glockner and George Jewell at track and field 2024.

May 10th was Vern Riffe School's prom. This year's prom was held in the ballroom at Shawnee State University. The attendees began the day preparing for the Grand March with the assistance of VRS staff and students from Scioto County CTC's cosmetology program. Once the students were prom ready, the grand march was held and streamed live on VRS 110 media's Facebook page. Following Grand March student Jasmine Yinger was crowned prom queen and Caden Murphy was crowned prom king. Kevin Hoops graciously captured the event. Dinner was served compliments of McManus Catering followed by decadent desserts baked by Trisha Schmidt. The attendees danced the afternoon away with music provided by SCDD's own Jeff Horner. The theme of the 2024 VRS prom was "Prom a la Paris" and the SSU ballroom was magically transformed into a small replica of The City of Light.

Less than two weeks after prom, two students, Jasmine Ann Yinger and Caden Murphy, graduated from the Vern Riffe School during its ceremony in the Shawnee State University Ballroom on May 22, 2024, at 1 p.m.

Yinger is a resident of Portsmouth, Ohio. She is the daughter of April and Eddie Yinger and granddaughter of Gary Fowler. She likes the character Stitch of Disney's Lilo and Stitch and enjoys going to the gym and working out. She is a very outgoing person who enjoys the outdoors and being with her family. After graduation she wants to work with children.

"We are sad that Jasmine won't be in the classroom after graduation, but we are excited to see the wonderful things she does next," said Vern Riffe School Intervention Specialist Brenda Macdonald.

(CONT TOP OF NEXT PAGE)

Spring is in the air at Vern Riffe School

Celebrating endings, looking forward to new beginnings.

Murphy lives in Wheelersburg, Ohio, with Annie and Matt Murphy. He enjoys watching Shrek and spinning his toys, and his favorite foods include pizza and Slim Jims. After graduation Caden plans to attend the STAR workshop, hang out with his family, and attend family activities.

“Caden made excellent progress and was a wonderful student to have in the classroom. We know he will do well on his journey and he will be missed,” said Vern Riffe School Intervention Specialist Melissa Gampp.

“This year’s ceremony was small compared to our large graduating class of last year. Both graduates greatly enjoyed school and had good attitudes about their school work and enjoyed socializing with their friends during the school day,” said Tom Koch, an intervention specialist for the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities (SCDD).



Pictured are: VRS Graduates Caden Murphy & Jasmine Yinger

The end of the school year is always bittersweet. The end this year was certainly no different. Students hurried to get all of their work completed and turned in, their desks cleaned out and packed, while teachers, their assistants, and aides all worked tirelessly to see that every "i" was dotted and every "t" was crossed in order to ensure a smooth transition for the upcoming, fast approaching, new school year.

After all the "end of school year" work was completed, the traditional last day of fun was honored with joy and laughter. Each classroom had an end of year party then boarded their buses for the final ride home

of the school year. SCDD staff cheered and waved goodbye to the students as they headed home to begin their summer break. Water blasters may have been involved, as is tradition. Lol



Last day shenanigans



Donna & Julianna



VRS staff wave goodbye to students to end the 2023-24 school year.



Molly & Jeremiah



Shooting Stars Sports Banquet

Celebrating Our Special Olympians.

The Shooting Stars, SCDD's Adult Special Olympics team, housed at STAR Inc. and coached by Angel Journey celebrated their athletic achievements with a banquet on May 20, 2024. Athletes and their staff enjoyed a luncheon, compliments of Ollie's Burgers and BBQ consisting of pulled pork, macaroni and cheese along with baked beans and topped off by cupcakes. Following the lunch, trophies were awarded to the athletes and a moment of silence was observed in honor of athlete David Fyffe who recently passed. Athletes are looking forward to participating in more activities and sporting events in the upcoming months. Congratulations to all our Shooting Stars, we are all proud of your effort and ability



Jacee



John



Tommy



Jacob



Scott



Tony



Trophies were awarded to each adult athlete.



Staff serving lunch at the banquet.



Connie



Angie



Jon



Ashley



Brandi



Robin



Jessica



Justin



Michael



John

SCDD Celebrated Educators and Administrative Professionals

National Educators Week was May 5-11.



We appreciate our staff.



MEMBERS OF THE SCDD FAMILY



National Educators week was celebrated the week of May 5-11, 2024. Scioto County DD honored our educators-teachers, therapists, school nurse, classroom aides, 1-on-1 aides, and cafeteria manager-by presenting each with a gift of appreciation. We honored our valued administrative professionals on April 24th. Bus drivers were also recognized on May 6th, School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in Ohio, with breakfast. A special thank you goes out to all of you for doing what you do each and every day. Our staff is second to none.



Welcome the newest faces around SCDD!



Karen Thornton

SSA

Karen lives in Franklin Furnace. She has two sons and two cats (Oscar and Felix). She has a masters in education from Shawnee State University. She enjoys outdoor adventures, traveling to historic places and loves to go on train rides.



Ian Lavender

SSU STUDENT INTERN

SCDD welcomes SSU senior student intern Ian Lavender. Ian fell in love with the DD field after starting work at STAR, Inc. and plans on remaining in the field following graduation in summer of 2024. Ian's hobbies include spending time with his two dogs-Molly and Sampson, his family, and volunteering in the community. He enjoys spending time outdoors and Ohio State is his favorite sport's team.



SCDD Staff Birthdays!



April

- Eddie Davis
- Cassie Clark
- Tammy Guthrie
- Andrea McClellan
- Anthony Brock
- Alma White
- Sherri Adams

May

- Loretta Cooper
- James Davis
- Cale Hagen
- James Hudson
- Penny Wheeler
- Stormy Chevalier
- Beth Arthurs
- Karen Thornton

June

- Eddie Davis
- Cassie Clark
- Tammy Guthrie
- Andrea McClellan
- Anthony Brock
- Alma White
- Sherri Adams

Our Community Support

Updates from our Provider Liaison:

Kristi Cyrus, provider liaison, is happy to share with the DSP community that she now has a provider desk in her office located at 1112 Gallia St (Carousel Center) for provider use. The desktop workstation gives providers an extra option in order to complete trainings, complete recertification paperwork, and for documentation purposes. In order to reserve time for the use of the provider desk you can call Kristi at 740-354-3803 or via email at kcyrus@sciotodd.org. Over the course of the past few months, the provider liaison has hosted three CPR and first aid trainings, Kristi will schedule additional CPR trainings based upon request. Kristi also hosted



Kristi Cyrus

the ARC of Ohio at a meeting for providers where the unwinding of appendix K and parent providers were discussed. GTI completed a training regarding the services they offer-how to apply, and what providers need to do in order to complete the registration process for their services. At the 3rd Annual SCDD Summer Cook-out, we will offer providers the opportunity to have their picture taken for an Independent Provider ID.

And a new mentoring program is in the works. Stay tuned to social media for information regarding upcoming provider events and trainings!

**Thank you to two of our many community partners.
Our community partners are the best and we
appreciate all you do to support our individuals.**



Ollie's Burgers and BBQ

1619 Chillicothe St. Portsmouth

740-529-0035



Emc2 Party Rentals & Inflatables

24 Hudson Road

West Portsmouth, Ohio 45663

740-821-1920

www.emc2partyrentals.com

NOTES FROM THE MAINTENANCE TEAM:



RECAP OF 2023 PROJECTS/IMPROVEMENTS:

- Bus garage repairs/renovations after an untimely water break.
- Replacement of basketball backboard/structure/hoist to improve safety and ease of use.
- Improvements to ADA door hardware and access control for VRS blue awning entrance.
- Seal-coating and re-stripping/numbering of parking spaces at VRS and CC.
- Created emergency exit plans for VRS classrooms and group spaces.
- Replaced mulch on VRS playground with premium shredded cypress and added a monthly inspection of playground equipment for the maintenance team.
- Installed 2 new air conditioners at Carousel Center in rooms currently occupied by KidzConnect.



2024 PROJECTS/IMPROVEMENTS TO DATE:

- Added improvements to door hardware and access control systems at Carousel Center.
- Added improvements to VRS front entrance/porch area.
- Added new perimeter fencing and gates to VRS campus.
- Restoration Project for VRS masonry-new masonry installation is underway on the north exterior of VRS to replace some aging exterior components. This project will enhance the weather resistance on the exterior as well as enhancing the safety for building occupants. Expected timeline for completion is August 2024.



3RD ANNUAL KICK-OFF TO



SUMMER

COOKOUT



Scioto County
Developmental
Disabilities
Serving People for a Lifetime.



RSVP:
THERESA ROWLAND:
TROWLAND@SCIOTODD.ORG
(740) 354-3803
BY: 06/13/24



FOOD & FUN

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 10AM-3PM

FREE TO SCDD SERVICE
RECIPIENTS, THEIR FAMILIES,
THEIR STAFF, AND ALL
MEMBERS OF SOAG

• INFLATABLES • HAMBURGERS & HOTDOGS • WATER GAMES •
• KARAOKE • ADVOCACY •

EARL THOMAS CONLEY PARK
WEST PORTSMOUTH, OHIO

SCIOTOCOUNTYDD.ORG

Upcoming Events:

June

- 11th-Summer program begins at VRS Tues-Thurs
- 18th-Summer Cook-out at Earl Thomas Conley Park in the large shelter house-10:00am-3:00pm
- 19th-AGENCY CLOSED-Juneteenth Holiday
- 25th-Goodwill will be at VRS to complete intakes for Summer Youth Work Experience-9:00am-12:00pm

July

- 3rd-Last day of Summer Program at VRS
- 4th-AGENCY CLOSED-Independence Day Holiday
- 29th-Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities at Carousel Center all day

August

- 5th-10th-Scioto County Fair
- 19th-Vern Riffe School staff report
- 22nd-Vern Riffe School Open House
- 26th-1st Day of School for Students

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities
2619 Gallia Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662-4898

Telephone: 740-353-0636

Fax: 740-353-0780

24-Hour Emergency Line: 740-353-4677

*You can also find us on Facebook,
YouTube, and Tik Tok, and online at
www.sciotocountydd.org*

In Memory

David Fyffe



David was born in Portsmouth Ohio on March 13, 1974, to Mike and Rita Dalton Fyffe. He was a lifelong resident of Lucasville, Ohio, and was proud to call himself a Valley Indian. He loved his hometown. David lived

Every day to the fullest. He cared deeply for his family and if you knew him, you loved him. He lit up every room he entered. David unexpectedly passed on Sunday, May 19. He will be sadly missed.

Brian Andrews



Brian William Andrews, a long-time service recipient, passed away on Saturday, May 4, 2024, with his family by his side. His obituary remarked, "Brian was known for his genuine kindness and perpetual happiness. He had a

remarkable ability to connect with others and loved meeting new people. His presence brought comfort and joy to those around him, leaving a lasting impression on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him."

Debra Rideout



We are sad to announce that on March 11, 2024, at the age of 67, Debra Ridout of West Portsmouth, Ohio, passed away. Visitation was held on Monday, March 18th 2024 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Roberson Funeral Home

A funeral service was held on Monday, March 18th 2024 at 1:00 PM at the same location. Debra was served by the SSA team. Current SCDD staff that have served Debra as SSA through the years are Barbara Davenport, Thomas Book, and Becky Mault. We mourn her passing.