



## Williams Named BCBDD Superintendent



*Stephen L. Williams*

Stephen L. Williams of St. Clairsville has been named Superintendent of the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities, effective July 1, 2012.

Williams succeeds long-term Superintendent Monty L. Kerr, who took a position with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities in 2011.

Williams has been with the Belmont County Board for 23 years. During that time, he has been involved in nearly every aspect of Board operations, from service planning and delivery to business management and leadership. For the

last year, Williams has served as Director of Operations for the BHN Alliance, the collaboration between the Belmont, Harrison and Noble county boards wherein certain administrative functions are shared. He will serve as Superintendent of the Harrison and Noble County Boards of DD as well.

“Steve has demonstrated his commitment to the progress of the Board through his hands-on leadership,” said Jay Rodak,

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## Original Art, Home Décor Found in The New Corner Store

Those looking for original art for their home or office need look no further than The New Corner Store, an affiliate of Tomorrow's Corner that features artwork created by people with disabilities.

A grand opening of the store, located in St. Patrick's Alley, St. Clairsville, was held July 11th.

The whimsical, colorful canvasses and three-dimensional pieces are known as “outsider art” because they are created

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*While members of the St. Clairsville Chamber of Commerce look on, Tomorrow's Corner founder, Lisa Kazmirski, cuts the ribbon marking the grand opening of The New Corner Store, a gift shop that features art created by people served at Tomorrow's Corner. Helping her is Vera Swallow (center), an artist whose work is on sale there.*



# PLAY Provides Early Autism Intervention

The Belmont, Harrison and Noble County Boards will soon offer a new approach to address the needs of children with autism.

The P.L.A.Y. (Play and Language for Autistic Youth) Project is a national autism training and early intervention program that is designed to train parents and professionals so they can implement intensive, developmental interventions for young children with autism.

Aimee Craig, Early Intervention Specialist, attended an intensive training earlier this year. She is now a certified trainer who will use what she has learned to empower parents to playfully engage their children with autism in ways that promote social connection and language development.

“Helping parents connect with their children with autism is extremely important to the well-being of the entire family,” Aimee said. “P.L.A.Y. is a proven method that has seen incredible results and I am eager to begin working with local families.”



The process of selecting five children and their families for the initial project is currently underway.

The P.L.A.Y. Project was established by Richard Solomon, MD in 2004. The goal is to help parents become their child’s best play partner by providing effective, low-cost, and playful interventions at home.

In the spring of 2011, the Ohio Dept. of Developmental Disabilities selected the P.L.A.Y. Project to train and certify 50 interventionists in Early Intervention and early childhood programs throughout the state.

According to the DODD, this model fits well with County Boards, which support interventions that are positive, evidence-based and family-focused. It addresses the growing need for intensive early autism intervention.

For more information, contact Aimee at 740-695-0460, ext. 354, or email her at [acraig@bcbdd.org](mailto:acraig@bcbdd.org)

## New Corner Store *Continued from Page 1*

by those with little or no formal training.

Many of the people served at Tomorrow’s Corner are unable to work in traditional jobs or choose to spend part of their free time in creative pursuits. Art is one of the opportunities offered on a daily basis.

Lisa Kazmirski, founder and co-owner of Tomorrow’s Corner, noted that creative expression is a way for people to experience the pride and sense of accomplishment that comes from creating something beautiful and earning money as well. Royalties are assigned to the art pieces that are sold or reproduced for sale. Some designs are reproduced on greeting cards and other items.

The New Corner Store has watercolors and acrylics, three-dimensional art installations, wooden benches, wishing wells, garden baskets, and other home décor items handcrafted at TC by individuals with the help of their job coach. Custom projects are also available, including alphabet letters, personalized collages and wreaths. It also carries a popular line from Passion Works Studio in Athens.

The New Corner Store is open Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information, call 740-695-1110.

The New Corner Store is funded in part by a

Partnership Grant from the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities.



*Shannon paints one of the customized alphabet letters available for sale at The New Corner Store, a gift shop that features the work of artists with all types of abilities.*

## Go Paperless with Paramount Digital Imaging Services

Paramount Digital Imaging Services, a subsidiary of Paramount Support Services, is now open in St. Clairsville, offering a secure, cost-effective, space-saving solution that turns bulky paper files into streamlined computer files.

The ability to share information immediately has become a necessity in business today, yet many companies still store information on paper files in bulky file cabinets. Storing documents electronically eliminates the need for file cabinets, freeing up valuable office space. Per each customer's preference, the paper files can then be shredded.

Paramount Digital Imaging has the ability to scan all types of business files and then storing the information electronically. The electronic files are made searchable with state-of-the-art software so businesses can efficiently retrieve and then share any document electronically among co-workers or clients. User access to the files can be restricted because all information is stored on a password-protected DVD.

Brent Kovalski, President of Paramount Support Services, and Kathy King, Employment Specialist, noted that the goal is to tailor services to local businesses so they can save time, money and resources.

"Our customers can search their documents using their own individualized criteria," King said.

Paramount is a provider of services to adults with developmental disabilities and Paramount Digital Imaging Services employs two workers with disabilities trained to operate the scanner and computer.



*Scanning Operator Ann Swisk (right) and Production Supervisor Jody Kitchen are ready to help customers move information from paper to electronic files via state-of-the-art computer equipment at Paramount Digital Imaging.*

"Providing meaningful employment in the community for people with disabilities is an equally important aspect to our digital imaging services," King said.

Paramount Digital Imaging, which is funded in part by a grant from the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities, is open Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hour appointments to accommodate customer schedules can be made by calling 740-296-5025.

The new business is located at 152 St. Patrick's Way, St. Clairsville, and shares office space with The New Corner Store.



*Lance Marino shows good technique as the shot put leaves his hand at the 2012 Belmont Eagles Invitational held in June at St. Clairsville High School Stadium.*

## Williams *Continued from Page 1*

president of the Belmont County Board. "More importantly is his compassion for those we serve. I know he will continue to lead by example."

As incoming Superintendent, Williams said he will work to maintain financial stability, continue to break ground with new initiatives, and be an agent for positive changes in the lives of people with disabilities.

"I am pleased and humbled to have been chosen for this position," Williams said. "It is a privilege to work on behalf of people with disabilities in all three counties."

Williams holds a bachelor's degree in education from The Ohio State University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Ohio University. He and his wife, Penny, are the parents of two sons, Zachary, a student at West Virginia University, and Logan, a St. Clairsville Middle School student.

# Scott Earns 2012 Exceptional Student Award



*Scott Liston (center) is pictured with his mother, Paula Liston, and teacher, Dave Stahnke, upon receiving his Exceptional Student Award for 2012.*

Scott Liston was one of 11 Belmont County students recognized during the Exceptional Student Awards Banquet, hosted by the Belmont County Special Education Advisory Council. The event was held May 10th at the Belmont Career Center.

A student at the School of Hope, Scott was nominated for the Independence award by his teacher, Dave Stahnke, who wrote this about him:

*Scott has emerged as an independent young man who willingly works on the concepts presented by teachers and staff. Scott is in the small group of students who make up the combined classroom between the School of Hope and Union Local High School. This first-year arrangement helped Scott become increasingly more independent in daily activities and he has thrived. He has a new sense of self and self-confidence that will certainly take him far.*

Scott is the son of Paula Liston and Larry Liston.

# Belco Bocce Team Wins Trophy



*The Belco Bombers bocce team won second place at the Community Rehabilitation Program Bocce Tournament held at the Upper Ohio Valley Italian Festival in Wheeling on July 27th. Team members pictured in the front row, l-r, are: Tina Burdess, Pam Fabry, and Greg Hocking. Back row: Chris Ramsey and Coach Tracey Lewis.*



*Recognized for their participation was this second Bombers' team of, l-r: Alex Walls, Emily DeLong, Cassaundra Bailek, and Steven Thrash. They were coached by Kristen Ulrich and Donna Weaver, who are pictured in the back row.*

# Understanding the MUI Reporting System

An overview of the incident reporting system was the topic of Board training for members of the Belmont, Harrison and Noble County Boards in June. The presentation was given by Melanie Ritz, MUI Contact for the BHN Alliance, and Ben Porter, Director of Provider Development and Support.

Melanie explained that County Boards have a responsibility to ensure the health, safety and well-being of the people they serve and the Major Unusual Incident, or MUI, Reporting System is a way to ensure this responsibility is met.

“MUIs are reported for the purpose of identifying the cause and contributing factors leading up to the incident and developing prevention plans to reduce the likelihood of the incident occurring again,” Melanie said.

She noted that Ohio has one of the most stringent reporting systems.

A MUI is an alleged, suspected or actual incident where there is reason to believe the health and safety of an individual with disabilities may be adversely affected and placed at a reasonable risk for harm. It’s something that people in the DD field pay close attention to, especially those who work for the County Board and providers of service.

“The provider’s role in an MUI is to take immediate action to ensure the person’s health and safety and to report the incident to the County Board,” Melanie said. For some incidents, the Board



*Melanie Ritz, MUI Contact for the Belmont, Harrison and Noble County Boards of DD, is pictured in her office.*

must be contacted within four hours of the incident occurring. The provider must also notify an individual’s guardian, if he or she has one.

MUI categories include Abuse (Physical, Sexual and Verbal), Attempted Suicide, Missing Individual, Neglect, Theft, Misappropriation, Medical Emergency, Law Enforcement involvement, Death, Prohibited Sexual Relations, Known and Unknown Injuries, Unapproved Behavior Support, Rights Code Violation, Peer-to-Peer acts, Exploitation, and Failure to Report.

Melanie explained that upon notification of an incident the County Board immediately notifies law enforcement or child protective services (CPS) for incidents of Abuse, Neglect, and Theft. The County Board contracts with the Mid East Ohio Regional Council-MUI to conduct administrative investigations. When law enforcement or CPS has determined that a MUI meets criteria to be criminally investigated, they become the lead investigator and the MEORC Investigative Agent accepts and uses that investigation to complete his own. The report includes a summary of the incident and the cause and contributing factors. This is what the County Board team uses to develop a prevention plan.



## New Contracts Spark Upswing in Work

Belco Works’ employees are experiencing an upsurge in new work opportunities this summer. Thanks to efforts by the Belco Works’ team and its board of directors, Freeport Press and a new job from AEP have employees quite busy. Blueprints are being folded for AEP while magazine inserts, protective wrapping and labels are being placed on products printed by the Freeport Press.

Quality checks of numerous products are also being done for a local manufacturing company while standing contracts continue for Homer-Laughlin China Co., Liberty Distributors, Eastern States Packaging, Eagle Manufacturing and others.

The concentrated effort to locate and secure new contracts was the result of a period of “down time” in which there was a lack of

work for employees.

“Even though we develop training activities for periods when work drops off, we are not comfortable when it lasts longer than we want,” said Anne Haning, Executive Director. “I am impressed with the efforts of staff and our board members who helped get our employees back to work.”

Haning noted an upswing in all areas of contract work, including the woodshop where survey stakes are in high demand for the oil and gas industry.

Belco Works is a private, non-profit organization that provides meaningful employment and community opportunities for people with disabilities. For information, call 740-695-0500 or log onto [www.belcoworks.com](http://www.belcoworks.com)

# BCBDD Teams Up with UL for Autism Fundraiser

The Belmont County Board of DD and the Walk Now for Autism Speaks Team from Union Local joined together in May for a fundraiser that netted \$3,500 for autism research and awareness. Almost 700 students from Union Local Elementary School enjoyed a Trick Riding Extravaganza that featured brother and sister, Shadow and Dallas Montag.

It was Shadow Montag's idea to combine his trick riding talent with raising funds for autism research. Unfortunately, Shadow was recovering from an injury so his sister, Dallas, performed the tricks on her horse, while Shadow worked the crowd, posing for photos and providing a motivational message for youngsters with and without disabilities.

A message of acceptance, awareness, and inclusion of students with disabilities was delivered.

"Just because someone is different doesn't mean they can't accomplish things," Shadow said. "Work hard and make your dreams come true."

Students were also treated to a performance by Taylor Porter, winner of the Ohio Valley's X Factor competition and received autographed pictures from Travis "The Terror" Clark. His appearance was sponsored by Valley Harley-Davidson. Clark also donated the *Fight for Autism* t-shirts the students wore to the event.



*The hillside at the Belmont CBDD track was covered with students from Union Local who attended the Trick Riding Extravaganza, a fundraiser for Walk Now for Autism Speaks in May.*

***Just because  
someone is  
different doesn't  
mean they can't  
accomplish things.***

**-Shadow Montag**

The Belmont CBDD provided the site and offset the costs to transport the students to the BCBDD campus. Major sponsors were: Walmart, Outback Steakhouse, Coca-Cola, Mel's Imagination, Paradox Sports, Starbucks, Longhorn Steakhouse, Red Lobster, Tlaquepaque, Carmike Cinemas, Pizza Hut, Carpenter's Pizza, Gary Smith-Attorney at Law, DeFelice Brothers, Fast Lane Café, Domino's, Eat-N-Park, Boyle Insurance, Johnny's O's, Colbeth Farm/Bruce and Leslie Stiles, and Taco Bell.

Autism is a complex brain disorder that is the nation's fastest-growing developmental disability. To learn more about Autism Speaks, log onto [www.AutismSpeaks.org](http://www.AutismSpeaks.org).



*Shadow Montag paused to talk with Jesse Amos during the Trick Riding Extravaganza held May 10th to raise money for Walk Now for Autism Speaks.*



*Dallas Montag, performing one of the tricks from the back of her horse.*

# CALENDAR *of* EVENTS



- August 14** Back to School Fair at Union Local School District
- August 16** BCBDD Board of Directors' meeting, 4:30 p.m., Conference room
- August 22** Start of classes at the School of Hope
- September 3** Labor Day. No Board Transportation. School of Hope closed.
- September 5-9** Belmont County Fair
- September 6** BCBDD Board of Directors' meeting, 4:30 p.m. Conference room.
- September 12** Ohio Association of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) Recognition Event, Xenos Complex, Columbus. Details at [www.OADSP.org](http://www.OADSP.org) or call 1-800-862-2322.
- September 17-18** Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission DisAbility Jobs Summit: Connecting and Building Partnerships, Greater Columbus Convention Center. Information: [Chris.Glover@rsc.ohio.gov](mailto:Chris.Glover@rsc.ohio.gov) or 614-438-1430.
- September 19** Region 12 State Support Team Transition Fair, Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center, Cambridge. Information: Paula Norman, 740-695-9130 ext. 129 or [paula.norman@omeresa.net](mailto:paula.norman@omeresa.net)
- October 3-5** Synergy Conference sponsored by PAR/OSDA, Dublin. Information: [www.par-ohio.org](http://www.par-ohio.org) or [www.ohiosda.org](http://www.ohiosda.org)
- October 19** Belmont County Board of DD Fall In-Service
- October 26-27** Annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference, Columbus Airport Marriott. Information: [www.ohiosibs.com](http://www.ohiosibs.com).
- November 14-16** Annual OCALI Conference, Greater Columbus Convention Center. Information: <http://conference.ocali.org>

## Across the County Board

**Congratulations to Lavonne Meyer**, who earned her bachelor's degree with distinction from Wheeling Jesuit University in May. Lavonne is the administrative assistant for Children's Services and oversees Family Support Services.

**Congratulations to Transition Counselor Kara Shutler** and her husband, Zach, on the birth of their daughter, Leah, in March.

A shout-out to the BCBDD Transportation Team who had 100 percent participation in the Belmont County Employee Walking Challenge!

*Encouraging, Supporting and Respecting People on their Journey through Life*



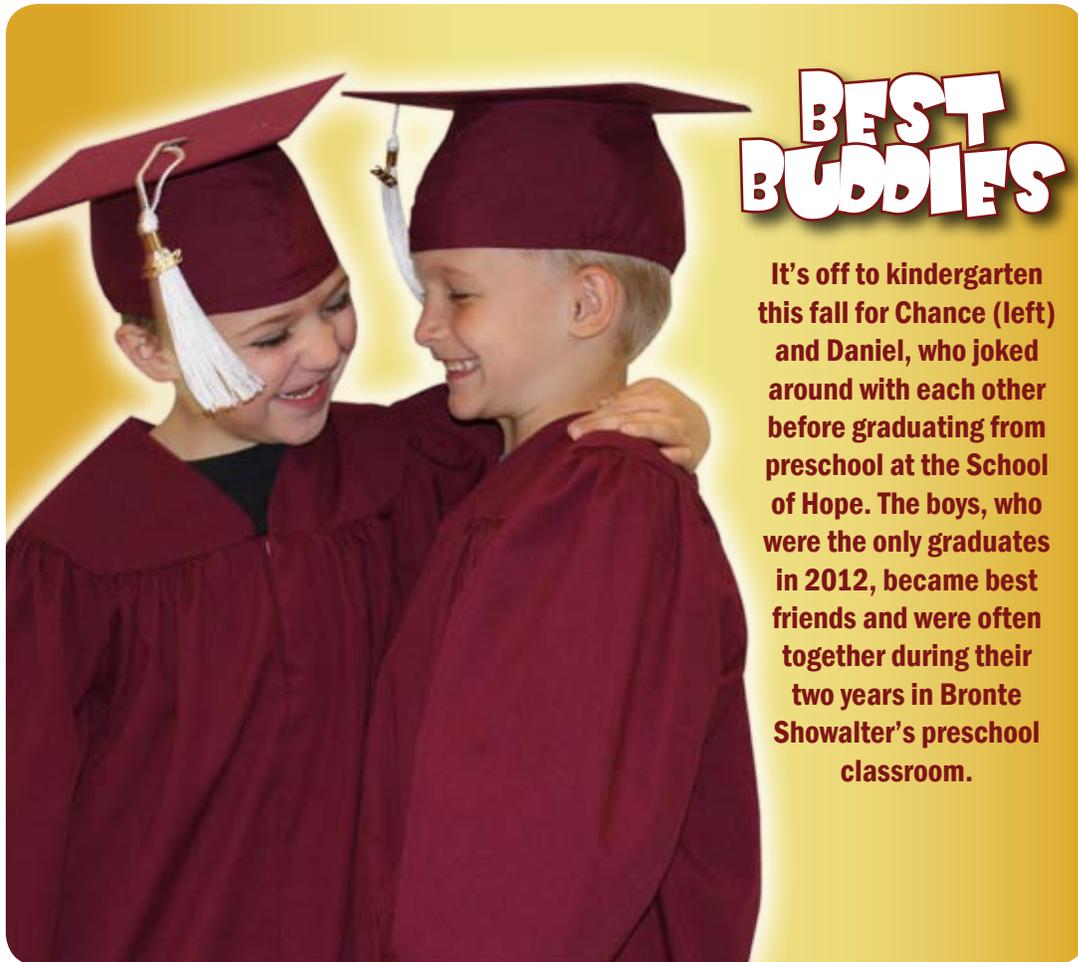
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## **BEST BUDDIES**

It's off to kindergarten this fall for Chance (left) and Daniel, who joked around with each other before graduating from preschool at the School of Hope. The boys, who were the only graduates in 2012, became best friends and were often together during their two years in Bronte Showalter's preschool classroom.



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