

GAMES

From A1

Marietta High School students, staff, Rotary club members and other district officials.

When Harris arrived at the district, she pitched the idea to Marietta Superintendent Grant Rivera for an inclusive, Special-Olympics-type day of games for students. With help from Rotary, the team celebrated their first Adapted Games in 2019, becoming a hit among families and schools in the district.

Rotarian Mark Barbour said the club was delighted to see the positive reception from parents and students.

"I think the significance is that these are wonderful students," Barbour said. "(We are) making sure that everybody feels included, everybody feels cared for, everyone can participate. It's not about limitations, it's about participation."

Jonathan Brown, a first grader at Dunleith Elementary School, celebrated his third Adapted Games this year by waving and playing underneath a colorful parachute with other kids. His mother Jailine Brown, said she wants to put together a collage of photos from previous Adapted Games.

"He's been loving it," she said.

Claire Chance, a teacher support specialist at Lockheed Elementary School, said events like the Adapted Games mean a lot to her students.

"I think it's a chance for them to be included and appreciated and understand that they are loved and they mean as much as anybody does in this world," she said. "They deserve to be here and they can be successful and do anything they want to do."

The popularity of the Adapted Games has spawned additional activities for the district. On January 31, 2025, students will gather at The Foxglove in Marietta for the district's first ever Adapted Dance.

"The fact that we've come full-circle not only is heartwarming but also it's inspiring because I feel like we can do more," Harris said.



Jack Lindner

Students across Marietta City Schools found their inner Olympian Friday during the district's fourth annual Adapted Games.

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Ninety students from Marietta City Schools were welcomed with cheers and bubbles Friday for the fourth annual Adapted Games.

PENSION

From A1

Mays had failed to complete 100 hours of community service she was sentenced to after pleading guilty to a reckless driving in 2013. She was arrested in September 2012 on DUI charges.

Laying out the facts of the case in her decision, Judge Kimberly Schroer wrote that Coleman attempted to "intimidate, coerce, and otherwise persuade various Municipal Court and Probation Office personnel to

assist him in his scheme," reminding employees that the City Council would soon be voting on their compensation.

Though Coleman was convicted on the felony charge in May 2016 and sentenced to five years probation, a \$1,000 fine and 500 hours of community service, he managed to delay "final conviction" by keeping a motion for a new trial pending.

That allowed him to continue collecting pension benefits from the city, racking up nearly \$25,000, according to Schroer's decision.

His total economic impact on the city was measured to be over \$200,000, including \$117,000 in legal fees and \$58,000 in compensation, benefits and perquisites paid to Coleman from the time he committed the crime to when he was removed from office.

Per state law, Coleman's pension is to be reduced by three times that amount, \$610,000. That means he won't be able to collect a pen-

sion again until his forfeited monthly benefits, listed at \$1,465, add up to \$610,000.

That would take roughly 416 months, or 34-and-a-half years.

According to the ruling, Coleman's deadline to file a motion for reconsideration was Sept. 26.

Speaking with the MDJ last week, the former councilman said he was unaware of the decision.

"I haven't even received anything, you got the news before I did," Coleman said. "... I haven't received anything, so let me find out what's going on."

Coleman did not respond to additional requests for comment.

He has until Oct. 16 to file a petition for judicial review, per the ruling.

"I hate it for Anthony. But the hard reality was that it would come down soon. Hopefully he can adjust from here," Mayor Steve Tumlin said. "... This has been hanging over us ... I'm glad it's over."

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