

The beat goes on

10-year-old keeps up the tempo for Adelphi community band

By JILL ZEGER
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LAURELVILLE — When Adelphi Band member Dave Hinton died, his 10-year-old buddy made sure the drum roll continues.

Jarrad Mathew, a fifth-grader at Zane Trace Middle School, has been keeping the beat for the 111-year-old band since last spring. Mathew knew Hinton through his father, Jeff, who has played the trumpet for the band for 25 years.

"When I march, Dad holds the drum and I hit it," Mathew says.

Mathew grew up with the band. His uncle, John of Marion, played the trombone and his great-uncle, John Cryder of Illinois, plays when he is in town. From the time Mathew was a toddler, he dabbled with different instruments while watching his Dad practice and perform in the band.

"I liked listening to them," he says. "I guess I wanted to join to be with them and actually get to play."

Being the youngest member of the band is not a cross to bear, Mathew says. The fellows closest to his age are 12 and 15, he adds.

"When I make mistakes they don't

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laugh and tease," Mathew says. "When I do well they congratulate me."

The hardest part of his job, for which he is paid \$5 a performance, is wearing the band uniforms when the band season begins in September. As the temperature cools down through the season, that is no longer a problem.

The job is mainly a matter of reading music, watching the band director's signal and attending the Monday rehearsal during the Adelphi Band season, the boy says.

Mathew also plays baritone horn in the Zane Trace Fifth and Sixth Grade Band. Additionally, he has played duets on the horn while his father, Jeff, played trumpet at a couple of area churches.

The boy also participates in Cub Scouts of America and his bedroom boasts ribbons he won for ceramics entered in the Ross County Fair and certificates garnered for high grades. His mother, Sherry, says after school he likes to read comic books and stories about animals in his spare time.



10-year-old Jarrad Mathew is the youngest member of the Adelphi Community Band.

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