



Special Olympics
Alaska
Be a fan.™

Tanana Valley Community

Newsletter

January-March 2010

tananavalley@specialolympicsalaska.org

Local team to compete at nationals

Three Fairbanksans will be among a contingent of nine Alaskans traveling to Lincoln, Neb. July 18-23 for the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games.

Fairbanks athlete Alex Cain and unified partner Warren "Woody" Woodland will represent Alaska in the unified bocce competition at the games. Athlete Athena Gabor and partner Kathy Williams, both of Ketchikan, round out the rest of the Alaska unified bocce team.

Fairbanksan Mary Bunten is coaching the team.

Cain, 26, has been competing in Special Olympics for 18 years in a



wide variety of sports. He has also served as an assistant swimming coach for the past two years. Cain works as a cashier at Home Depot. Woodland, 37, has been a bocce partner for three years. He coaches Special Olympics basketball and works as an equipment operator for the Alaska Railroad.

Summer kickoff celebration scheduled for Feb. 20



By Debbie Hall

This is an exciting time for our Special Olympics community. On Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Elks' Lodge, we are hosting a kickoff celebration for our summer sports

Director's corner

training. The event will take place in conjunction with our Valentine dance.

This is a great opportunity for new and returning athletes to sign-up for a summer sport and to meet this year's coaching staff. We also encourage all of our community volunteers, new and returning, to come and share some time with

our athletes, the coaches and one another.

Mark your calendars for Feb. 20 and bring a healthy snack or finger food to share. We will also be acknowledging the floor hockey athletes and coach for their hard work this winter. I hope to see you all at the kickoff celebration.

Upcoming events

Weekly on Friday
7-8 p.m., Jungle Gym
Powerlifting training

Feb.16
6:30 p.m.
Barnette Elementary School
Floor hockey local games
Tanana Valley Hawks vs.
Alaska Nanooks
Spectators welcome

Feb. 20
7 p.m., Elks Lodge
Valentine's dance and
summer sports kickoff
/registration

March 12-14
Anchorage
Special Olympics Alaska
Winter Games

March 20
7 p.m., Elks Lodge
March dance

Week of March 22
Summer sports training
officially begins

May 15
Law Enforcement Torch Run
Details coming soon!

Thank you!

Thank you to the following supporters for their generous donations this winter: Youth Sports Bingo, Campbell Bias, Norma Larsen and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

Management team

Debbie Hall
Community director

Gerald Damron
Sports & training

Marmian Grimes
Public relations

Angela Wittenberg
Volunteers

Barbara Cornwall
Family services

Marilyn Gentleman
Medical records

Joanne Howard
Outreach

Mandy Gentlemen
Athletes

Ken Hall
Fundraising

Virginia Damron
Finance

**Special Olympics Alaska
Tanana Valley Community
PO Box 82425
Fairbanks, AK 99708**

Community highlights longtime partnership



The Tanana Valley Community recently honored the Elks Lodge for its longtime commitment to local Special Olympics athletes. The lodge hosts a dance each month for athletes. Pictured, from left, is athlete Kenny Howard; Margaret Carpenter, Moira Westervelt, Chris Bean, Kathleen Thompson, Steve Rowe, all of the Elks; Debbie Hall, Tanana Valley community director; and athletes Billy Smart and Keith Johnson.

**Contact us via e-mail at tananavalley@specialolympicsalaska.org
or call 907-385-7123.**