



**Special Olympics**  
Alaska  
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Tanana Valley Community

# Newsletter

July-September 2010

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## Summer marked by success, celebration



By *Debbie Hall*

So much has happened since we sent out our last newsletter. In May, we had a huge turnout for our Law Enforcement Torch Run and, with the help of our athletes, their families and the law enforcement community, we raised more than \$10,000. A special thank you goes out to the Chena Kiwanis Club for our picnic afterward and the folks at Eielson Air Force Base for their volunteer efforts. Also in May, community members participated in the 2010 Visitor Industry Walk for Charity, which brought in \$415 to Special Olympics.

In June, we were off to Anchorage for the 2010 state summer games with about 30 athletes. Again, this

### Director's corner

would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our coaches, assistant coaches, unified partners and chaperones. Within a week of being back, bocce season started and is going strong. Stop by and see them in action at Pioneer Park on Thursdays from 6:30 - 8 p.m.

In early July, Special Olympics athletes and volunteers had the opportunity to visit Eielson Air Force Base to see the F-16s, tour the new athletic center and have lunch together.

What a special treat that was for those of us who were able to go. Thank you, once again, to Eielson for making this possible.

Finally, inside this newsletter I am including a feedback sheet for family members, coaches, chaperones and care providers to fill out and return before Aug. 15 to help the management team plan for the upcoming year. Your thoughts, suggestions and concerns will help make Special Olympics Alaska, Tanana Valley Community stronger and better.



Virginia Damron, Stacey Hall and Sharon Lee find shade under the wing of an F-16.

### Upcoming events

#### **MANDATORY BOWLING MEETING**

Soon, bowling season will begin. This year, we have two new bowling coaches: Val Benedetti and Barbara Cornwall. They have been busy this summer getting things ready and have scheduled the first meeting for **Wednesday, Aug. 4 from 6-7 p.m.** at Noel Wien Library for all bowlers, care providers, home providers, transportation providers and families. This is a **MANDATORY** meeting if you plan on bowling this year.

#### **Aug. 14**

1-3 p.m., Arctic Bowl  
First bowling practice

#### **Aug. 19**

6:30 p.m., Pioneer Park  
Local bocce games

#### **Sept. 11**

Bowling practice changes to:  
2 p.m., Arctic Bowl

#### **Sept. 11-12**

Anchorage  
SO-AK fall tournament

#### **Sept. 18**

7 p.m., Elks Lodge  
First dance of the season

## **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**

## **Local athletes excel at state summer games**

Athletes from the Tanana Valley recently competed at the 2010 Special Olympics Alaska Summer Games.

Following are results:

### **Basketball**

Unified team (Andy Bunten, Dan Bunten, Jonathan Fleeman, Stacey Hall, Steven Laszloffy, Alexis Lewis, Joel Lewis, Blake Maier, Bill Powell Sr., Bill Powell, Luke Scheuerer, Rachel Scheuerer, Jack Zachgo) – Bronze

Collette Riedman – Gold, basketball skills; Gold, speed dribble

Thomas Scheuerer – Gold, basketball skills; Gold, speed dribble

### **Powerlifting**

Connor Casady – Silver, bench press; silver, dead lift; silver, squat; silver, combination

Kenny Howard – Participation, bench press; fourth, dead lift; fourth, combination

Keith Johnson – Gold, bench press; silver, dead lift; participation, squat; bronze, combination

Pete Neubert – Gold, bench press; silver, dead lift; bronze, squat; silver, combination

William Nicholi – Fifth, bench press; fifth, dead lift; gold, combination

Ernie Titus – Participation, bench press; bronze, dead lift; bronze, squat; bronze, combination

Nic Togayak – Silver, bench press; silver, dead lift; participation, squat; silver, combination

Scott Wood – Gold, bench press; gold, dead lift; gold, squat; gold, combination

Karl Woodruff – Fourth, bench press; bronze, dead lift; fourth, squat; bronze, combination

### **Swimming**

Katie Castleberry – Gold, 25M breaststroke; gold, 25M freestyle; gold, 50M breaststroke

Kalen Cornwall – Silver, 25M backstroke; gold, 25M breaststroke; gold 50M breaststroke

Alex Lee – Silver, 10M assisted swim; silver, 15M flotation; silver, 25M flotation

Amy Murrills – Fourth, 50M freestyle; gold, 100M freestyle; gold, 200M freestyle

Maryann Simmerman – Bronze, 25M freestyle

Guy West – Fifth, 25M backstroke; participation, 25M butterfly; fourth, 50M freestyle

Colin Juday – Gold, 50M freestyle; silver, 100M freestyle; gold, 200M freestyle

### **Track & field**

Dede Huraux – Silver, 800M; silver, 1,500M; gold, softball throw; bronze, standing long jump

Sue Lamb – Gold, 50M; bronze, 100M

Sharon Lee – Bronze, 50M; fourth, 100M; gold, softball throw

Cindy Oligney – Fourth, 400M; silver, 800M; silver, softball throw

*Contact us via e-mail at [tananavalley@specialolympicsalaska.org](mailto:tananavalley@specialolympicsalaska.org)  
or call 907-385-7123.*