



Special Olympics

Montana

Spirit

Spring 2005



Special Olympics Mission

Special Olympics is a nonprofit, international program of year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

*Aaron Borino
of the
Bitterroot
Stars*

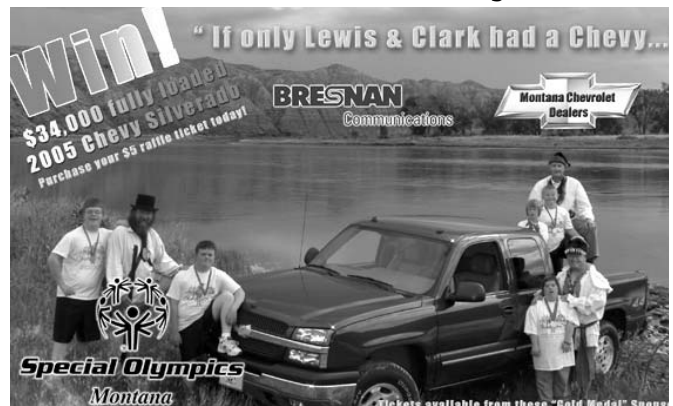
11th Anniversary Bresnan Communications/Chevy Raffle

"If Only They'd Had a Chevy..."

Lewis and Clark could have used one.
We would all love to drive one.
And for the 11th straight year, someone will win one
— a brand new 2005 Chevy Silverado!

\$5 tickets are available at Town Pump, Bresnan Communications, Pizza Hut, Chevy dealer, County Market, Tidyman's, or Knights of Columbus.

*Drawing May 20 during State Summer Games
Closing Ceremonies in Missoula.*



President's Message



SOMT President/CEO Bob Norbie with Great Falls athlete Davey Crevier.

Dear Friends of Special Olympics:

In this issue of Spirit you will find numerous examples of the Special Olympics mission at work...and a mission that has worked for 36 years. You will find a mission that touches the lives of thousands across this state – athletes, families, coaches, volunteers, donors and sponsors – in profound, life-giving ways. You will also find people, organizations and businesses recognized in this newsletter who go about doing more mission better, hoping to remain nameless as much as they are selfless.

In all instances, the stories featured in this issue of Spirit serve the greater good and bring into focus what we need to do globally based on what we achieve locally. Let it be known that Montanans are enriching the lives of some very deserving athletes who want nothing more than to be welcomed, respected and appreciated!

While the good news is that Special Olympics Montana serves approximately 2,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities across the state, we remain restless knowing that thousands more could be served if we only had sufficient human and financial resources at our disposal. When you consider that about 1.9% of the U.S. population is people with intellectual disabilities, Special Olympics Montana could be serving upwards of 16,000 more eligible athletes.

Indeed, our work is far from complete. Indeed, our fun has just begun. And, indeed, the joy we can bring to the world has much room to grow. Thank you for making a world of difference by making a personal difference.

With much appreciation,

Bob Norbie
President/CEO

Athletes Featured

Jennifer Bodner

Portfolio brimming with photos of her work, Jennifer Bodner arrived at the SOMT office recently to talk about her art. Since a January show at Great Falls' Gallery 16, Jennifer has become some-



Jennifer and Pat Bodner with "Basket of Spring Pastels"

thing of a celebrity who quietly says, "I like to paint, yes I do." And paint she does – with softly intense oils that transform canvas into remarkable scenes of mountains and waterfalls, vibrant flowers and birds.

Now 28, Jennifer asked for paints as a young

child. Pat Bodner saw to it that her daughter had art supplies and books but was unable to give her much help. Two years ago, Jennifer and Pat learned about instructor Bonnie Flaherty's painting classes at a local craft store. There, Jennifer discovered oil paint, canvas and a budding talent longing to express itself.

Jennifer sparkles when she says that others sometimes "...ask me for my autograph". She has certainly earned the recognition. One of her paintings was selected from 2200 applicants for permanent exhibit in the Washington, D.C. offices of the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. Easter Seals in Great Falls has featured Jennifer's work in an art show. She also won the 2003 People's Choice Award at the Montana State Fair.

An enthusiastic competitor with the Great Falls Hornets, Jennifer bowls, golfs, plays basketball and rides her bike on Rivers Edge Trail in Great Falls. She has fond memories of her 1991 trip to the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Minneapolis where she earned gold and bronze medals in gymnastics.

Jennifer has a busy life with lots of nieces and nephews to visit, a job at Outsources, Unlimited, friends to hang out with and now an exciting future as an artist. She says, "I like to learn new things. I am very happy."

Ray Nose, Griz Fan of the Year

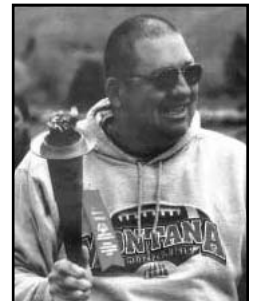
Ray Nose, Missoula YMCA athlete, was recently named Griz Fan of the Year in a competition organized by *The Missoulian*. Ray was awarded the honor after tallying the most votes in a field of ten nominees.

Ray and his notebooks have known Grizzly athletics for "a whole buncha years." He is a fixture at Montana football and basketball games.

"I keep the scores and who makes 'em and how much we win by. That's what I always do," says Ray. His love of numbers has turned Ray into quite the prognosticator. According to his uncle, Leon Stalcup, "He is fascinated by numbers and he's pretty good at predicting them." Friend George Scott says, "He'll let you know the score before the

game. He loves to do that. And he stays very close to being accurate."

Ray has been a Special Olympics competitor since 1968. He bowls four times a week, carries a 145 average and, according to his friends, won't miss bowling for anything. Ray also competes in the 100 meter walk and throws the shot-put during spring and summer competition. Congratulations, Ray Nose!



Ray Nose carries the torch.

— as reported by *The Missoulian*

On Being Significant: The Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation

The Washington Companies displayed a unique entrepreneurial spirit, guided by Dennis R. Washington, becoming extremely successful in rail and marine transportation, construction and mining, heavy equipment sales, aviation technology, and real estate development. The legacy, however, does not end here.

Dennis and Phyllis Washington believe that "the greatest long-term benefit to society is realized by uplifting individuals." To this end, the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation was established in 1988 to "invest in people, especially those less fortunate, to improve the quality of their lives."

Special Olympics Montana is one of Dennis and Phyllis' primary passions. For over 15 years, they have funded opportunities so athletes can train for life, developing the confidence and skills to be valued and respected members of our communities.

When the State Summer Games began a three-

year stay in Missoula (2003-05), the Washington Foundation enthusiastically embraced the Games as premier sponsor, donating \$30,000 in cash plus nearly \$20,000 in gifts-in-kind annually.

During each State Summer Games, the Foundation also hosts a wonderful family barbecue. Families and friends enjoy great food and gracious hospitality in a spectacular setting when Phyllis Washington welcomes more than 400 guests at their Canyon Creek Ranch.

As State Summer Games completes a third and final year in Missoula, Washington Companies President/CEO, Larry Simkins, recently noted that they were eager to help host the best Games ever, and create a memorable experience for all athletes, their families and guests. Applause goes to Washington Companies and the Foundation for being significant in the lives of some very special, and most deserving athletes.

Celebrate the Joy!

State Summer Games in Missoula

May 18-20, 2005

photo by Greg Edelen c 2004



photo Laura Lane Studios c 2004



Theresa Cox and Jeff Vandergrift of Missoula finish out as State Summer Games co-chairmen leading a tremendously talented games management team. They all bring broad experience and dedication to Special Olympics athletes, and are committed to making this third and final year in Missoula the best yet.

New in 2005 is an exciting gymnastics competition staged at the recently-opened MISMO Gymnastics where staff will host the venue and spectators can

expect excellent seating and viewing.

The Motor Activities Training Program (MATP) athletes will have a new location, as well. MATP coach Deb Bishop of Butte and Risë Pelloni from the SOMT staff will stage the event.

The Games are sure to deliver top quality competition, food and fun. Come to Missoula to cheer on the athletes and *Celebrate the Joy!*

The 2006 Games In Ames

An exciting new competition is in the works! Special Olympics North America hosts the first official USA National Games in Ames, Iowa July 3-8, 2006.

Special Olympics Montana athletes will be selected from those who have won gold medals at the 2005 State Summer Games or State Basketball Tournament. Selection will be determined by a lottery draw of those nominated.

Note: Athletes receiving gold medals in *any* event within the sports noted here are eligible for nomination to the National Games. If selected, athletes

will then compete in that same event.

Coaches who would like to be considered must be certified in their sport. Contact SOMT for more information.

SOMT has been allotted the following quota for The Games in Ames:

sport:	males	females	coaches
Aquatics:	3	3	2
Athletics:	3	3	2
Bowling:	2	2	1
Powerlifting:	2	2	1
Basketball:	*	*	3

* 1 same-gender Unified Sports team (age 16-21 or 22-older)

Volunteer Feature: Thad Huse

When asked to take on competition co-directorship of State Summer Games in Missoula, Thad Huse's response was, "This is exactly what I've wanted to be involved in." He had thought about working with disabled athletes, and as a former Griz defensive tackle, it was a logical way to share his talents. But he was a little uncertain because he had no personal knowledge of disabilities – just the belief that Special Olympics was "a lot of good people trying to do good things."

The uncertainty didn't last long. He now wishes for even more time to connect with the athletes and is straightforward in saying, "It just doesn't matter that they are disabled. They are my friends and my neighbors. It's an amazing experience."

Thad's going stronger than ever into the third and final year of the Games in Missoula, carving out time from his busy

law practice with Datsopoulos, MacDonald & Lind. He is emphatic in pointing out that "the Games are a social and competition environment for the athletes, but an event for the community, too. Everyone touched by the Games takes something home, something I can't describe."

Thad urges others to get involved who, like him, do not have family members in Special Olympics. "More volunteers without family need to be involved and see what this is about. It really does touch your life." Strong words from a dedicated volunteer ... from a real friend of Special Olympics.



Thad Huse of Missoula

SOI Strengthens Coaches' Training Rules

Special Olympics, Inc. (SOI) has strengthened its rules so that all coaches must have Level I certification by yearend 2006. All head coaches will also need to be certified in their specific sport. Except for *General Session/Protective Behaviors* (Level I), which does not need to be renewed, certification is good for four years and becomes valid when the Coaches Training form is returned to the SOMT office.

Level I : General Session/Protective Behaviors

For Level I, coaches receive *General Session and Protective Behaviors* training. This one-time only training must be completed before a coach can be certified at a

higher level. SOMT requires all coaches and assistant coaches to be certified at Level I by the end of 2005.

We also request that chaperones and parents accompanying athletes be certified. SOMT offers various opportunities for coaches to be certified at Level I:

- A one-hour training session, first offered at 2005 State Winter Games, will take place at State Summer Games prior to the coaches' meeting May 17.

- The same training session will be offered at upcoming sport-specific coaches' training sessions throughout the state, as well as the Fall Leadership Conference September 30 to October 1.

- The *General Session/Protective Behaviors* video, handbook and pretest are available from SOMT for coaches unable to attend an on-site session.

Sports Training

All head coaches and assistant coaches must complete Level II training, *Sports Skills*. In 2005, SOMT plans five clinics in basketball and bowling.

- Bozeman, August 1:

- Basketball at MSU's Shroyer Gymnasium
 - Bowling at MSU Strand Union Rec Center

As dates are finalized, Area Directors and nearby Local Program Coordinators will be advised.

- o Helena
- o Sidney
- o Shelby
- o Whitefish

Note: A recent change allows completion of the required 10 hours practicum (training athletes) prior to taking the skills class.

Those individuals who are already trained in a sport through a school or university sports program, or who are certified in therapeutic sports training, may be "fast-tracked" to Level III by attending a *Training the Special Olympics Athlete* session. Contact SOMT to schedule a training session.

Sport certification can be automatically renewed by taking a higher level course, or by completing a certified first aid and CPR course. Send copies of the certification to SOMT, along with the Coaches Training Form.

Higher Levels of Coaches Certification

A coach who has completed Level II can take *Principles of Coaching* or *Coaching Special Olympics Athletes* to automatically renew the coaches' skills certification, and advance to Level III.

For Level IV, a coach must take a sports tactics course, an advanced skills training. Level V is the *Comprehensive Mentoring Program*.

Information on Levels IV and V will follow in 2006.

2005 Montana State Winter Games



State Winter Games = Springtime In The Rockies!

The winter sports season was brief this year. Athletes who arrived at The Big Mountain near Whitefish for the 10th Anniversary State Winter Games got a good look at the effects of drought. Large patches of rock showed through the snow on south-facing ski slopes, already closed for the season. The Big Mountain is a big place, however, so the runs needed

by alpine skiers were in better shape, as were the cross-country and snowshoe courses.

Big Mountain staff did a great job of grooming and no one complained about competing in sunny, spring conditions.

To mark Big Mountain's 10th Anniversary as hosts of State Winter Games, the Whitefish community staged a celebration parade featuring the Games' 225 athletes. A gala mood carried up the mountain that evening during Opening Ceremonies. There, the Big Mountain Ambassadors brought torches down the slopes, the Demonstration Team skied synchronized patterns down the mountain, and the Valley Voices Choir provided upbeat tunes. A grand fireworks display started the Games with a bang for the athletes who competed over the next two days.



2005 State Winter Games Sponsors and Donors

Gold Medal Sponsor

Big Mountain Resort

Silver Medal Sponsor

Glacier Bank

Plum Creek

Bronze Medal Sponsor

Columbia Falls Aluminum Co.

KCFW-TV

Montana Tom's Chocolate Factory

Rocky Mountain Contractors

Sportsman & Ski Haus

Whitefish Credit Union

Patron Sponsors

Big Mountain Ski Club

Flathead Valley Orthopedics

North Valley Hospital

SemiTool

Wal-Mart

West Coast Hospitality

Year-Round Sponsors

Bresnan Communications

CARQUEST

Dex

First Interstate BancSystem

Knights of Columbus

Law Enforcement Torch Run

ShopKo

Town Pump

Venue Sponsors

Brownstone Capital

Costco

Daily Inter Lake Newspaper

Flathead Bank of Bigfork

Flathead Electric Cooperative

Mountain West Bank

Roseburg Forest Products

Snappy Sports Senter

State Farm

Teletech

Tidyman's

Western Building Center

Our apologies to any donors or sponsors who may have been overlooked in this acknowledgement.



The World Winter Games in Nagano Japan

February 26 - March 5, 2005

Emily Williams-Green

Emily Williams Greene, Anaconda, went to Japan and came home with gold and bronze, two coveted World Winter Games medals for her performances in giant slalom and novice downhill, plus a sixth place in the novice slalom. Though focused on competition, Emily savored everything at the Games. Her mother, Gail Greene, was especially touched when her shy, hearing-impaired daughter bravely made her way onstage for an impromptu performance with a troupe of Japanese drummers. Emily took Japanese culture in stride, loving the food, using bamboo sticks and surprising her hosts by graciously insisting that she would help clear dishes!

Emily and her family, along with interpreter Jo Foley, had a tremendous trip to Japan filled with phenomenal experiences and unforgettable memories.

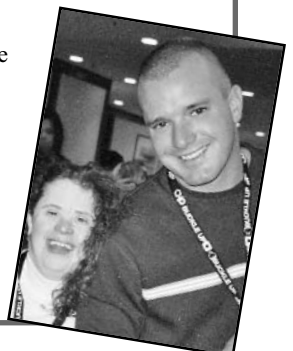
Coach Chuck Kohut

"Japan was a fantastic experience," says Nordic coach Chuck Kohut of Great Falls about his trip to World Winter Games. "The people were even more helpful and friendly than we had heard." He said the cultural exchange was a real high point. "We stayed in a small villages and joined host families for meals." Chuck says the athletes adapted quickly to sleeping on futons and unusual foods, though he and his team politely declined the octopus!

As a mid-distance Nordic coach for TeamUSA, Chuck was concerned about his skiers' preparation because snow has been in short supply across the US. But his team made good improvement over ten days, performed well and came home with more than their share of medals. With Japanese hospitality and breathtaking mountains as backdrop, Chuck says the World Winter Games were a spectacular opportunity for everyone.

Torch Runner Jason Johnson

Cpl. Jason Johnson, Ravalli County Sheriff's Office, ran the Final Leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run in Japan and was deeply moved by the experience: "It's difficult to put into words ...it changed my life," he said. He shares these journal entries: "I gave my speech today in Japanese. Tatashi, a Japanese torch runner, came with tears in his eyes saying my speech was great. This is a proud moment in my life." At an elementary school he hears "...a very beautiful song today sung by hundreds of children. I didn't look at my teammates from around the world because I knew we would lose it. I can't believe I am here." And about the Torch Run: "This is such an important movement. Japanese dignitaries tell us we are bringing the world together."



"If Only They'd Had a Chevy..."

11th Anniversary Bresnan Communications/Chevy Raffle

Lewis and Clark could have used one. We would all love to drive one. And for the 11th straight year, someone will win one — a brand new 2005 Chevy Silverado!

The 11th Anniversary Bresnan Communications / Chevy Raffle, featuring Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery, is off to a fast start. Following a



highly successful raffle in 2004, all dedicated sponsors are back on board. Premier Sponsors include Bresnan Communications and participating Chevy dealers. Bresnan Communica-

tions is instrumental in advertising the raffle with the production of three 30-second commercials that air 50,000 times on 260 Bresnan cable stations. Bresnan Communications also hosts several raffle ticket sales events during the campaign.

Gold Medal Sponsors include Pizza Hut, Knights of Columbus, County Market and Tidyman's plus a new sponsor in 2005. Town Pump convenience stores and hotels are selling raffle tickets from 80 locations. SOMT is proud of these partnerships that are certain to be financially beneficial for all SOMT programs and athletes.

As in previous years, participating Chevy dealers donate to the purchase of the grand prize 2005 Chevy Silverado valued at \$34,000. Pizza Hut again donates five "Pizza For A Year" giveaways. New this year is an additional drawing for an Old Town Penobscot 16-foot canoe valued at \$1,100, donated by Scheels All-Sports in Great Falls.

All raffle drawings take place May 20, 2005 at State Summer Games Closing Ceremonies in Missoula.

Town Pump "Pumps It Up!"

It is fitting that a homegrown Montana business increasingly gives support to Special Olympics athletes, who themselves are so willing to spread neighborly warmth and good will. The Town Pump Corporation has long been a member of the Special Olympics Montana family. In 2005, the connection has lengthened with Town Pump's commitment to sell thousands of Bresnan Communications/Chevy raffle tickets from their 80 outlets statewide, with proceeds enriching the lives of countless deserving athletes.

Town Pump's benevolence is not new. The organization's giving history includes long-standing support of the annual State Basketball Tournament. In 2004, Town Pump increased its support by donating \$10,000 to help underwrite opportunities for athletes at State Summer Games. Stores in the Five Valleys area also partnered with SOMT in 2004 to pilot a Krispy Kreme Donut



promotion that generated gross sales in excess of \$60,000.

Cheers to the Town Pump family for their extraordinary generosity. Neighbors helping neighbors ... a celebration of the human spirit!

Reflections from 2005 Athlete of the Year

Being named Athlete of the Year makes me feel like being on "top of the world". It has been my dream and, quite honestly, to even be considered for this award was great.

Getting to this point in my life has been a long hard road — but I made it. I had to prove to many people to have faith and trust in me. There are many in the SOMT program who never gave up on me, who truly care about me.

Participating in Special Olympics is so great. Being Athlete of the Year is more than just training and competition. Other athletes look up to you with respect so you have to be a role model for them and act accordingly. The Athlete of the Year has the huge responsibility of being the spokesperson for all athletes, and reinforces the values of honesty and caring about others.

I like being Athlete of the Year because I can do a lot of neat things such as ski down the Big Mountain with a torch and lighting the cauldron at State Winter Games. I am really looking forward

to running the torch into Adams Arena at State Summer Games. It is such a privilege and honor to lead the athletes in for Opening Ceremonies.

I owe my achievements to many people for their love, guidance and support. Thanks to Special Olympics Montana, my life has been enriched in so many ways.



— Tawny Gray, Missoula

2004-2005 Distinguished Service Awards Winners

Athlete of the Year

Tawny Gray / Missoula

Outstanding Coach

Joe Ouert / Great Falls

Outstanding Adult Volunteers

Jeff Fauque / Cut Bank

Jack Allen / Great Falls

Outstanding Youth Volunteers

Alyssa Northrop / Missoula

Thomas White / Columbus

Outstanding Family

The Zier Family, Stevensville

Outstanding Local Program

Great Falls Lions / Great Falls

Outstanding Media Support

Clear Channel Radio / Billings

Outstanding Business or Corporation

Business Statewide:

Town Pump, Inc / Butte Statewide

Business Local:

Karl Tyler Chevrolet / Missoula

Organization Local:

Icedogs Hockey / Bozeman

Spirit of Special Olympics

Jerry Williams / Butte

Hall of Fame

Robin Pambrun / Cut Bank

5th Annual World Of Winners (W.O.W.) Online Auction

November 7-11, 2005

Special Olympics Montana

gears up for the 5th Annual World of Winners (W.O.W.) Online Auction, a unique and fun way to support SOMT athletes and programs. With donations from across Montana, there is something for everyone.

The 2004 W.O.W. Online Auction featured over 600 items and more than 7,000 bids. The 2005 auction is sure to be loaded with even more. Proceeds directly benefit SOMT athletes through program growth, and participation in statewide games events. Items include vacation packages, clothing and accessories, home décor, sports memorabilia and much more. Mark your calendars so you can log on to www.somt.org, bid and support SOMT!

WISH LIST for SOMT Office

- ☛ Digital camera(s), 4.0+ mega-pixels; with view screen, zoom and memory card
- ☛ New color printer(s)
- ☛ 19-21" computer monitor
- ☛ Warehouse space in Great Falls
- ☛ Enclosed trailer, minimum 5x7
- ☛ New vehicle (sedan or SUV)

Tom Scott of First Interstate BancSystem



Tom Scott, First Interstate BancSystem Chairman of the Board, along with Michelle Hardy, Brandy Peterson, Randy Scott and Charmaine Crooks.

Resolute in his commitment, Tom Scott of First Interstate BancSystem enters a ninth year of support for Special Olympics Montana athletes. No where will an organization find a supporter who believes more strongly in the pursuit of human acceptance, nor one who acts on his belief more generously. In his quiet way, Tom Scott has made a profound difference to the athletes of Special Olympics Montana.

As First Interstate BancSystem's Chairman of the Board, Tom first stepped up with a \$5,000 sponsorship in 1997 to establish exclusive sponsorship of the Breakfast with Champions. In the years since, Tom has sustained that commitment and in times of greater need, increased the donation. In 2005, the total financial impact from direct FIB sponsorship, and from Tom's help in encouraging the support of others, exceeds \$250,000.

First Interstate BancSystem is not only a successful banking institution, but also a corporation that values its connection to community. Bank employees are among the most active leaders in their locales. They embrace their institution's core values by regularly volunteering at state and area Special Olympics games, giving valuable guidance and enthusiasm to the events.

Tom and his family model the true spirit of community service and philanthropy, contributing to a more humane world where athletes with intellectual disabilities experience the joy of acceptance and understanding. Special Olympics Montana is proud to acknowledge Tom Scott, the Scott Family, the First Interstate BancSystem and all its employees as esteemed friends.

New SOMT Board Members

Welcome to recently-elected members of the SOMT Board of Directors:
Kathy Leikam, Billings
Darrell Tucker, Great Falls

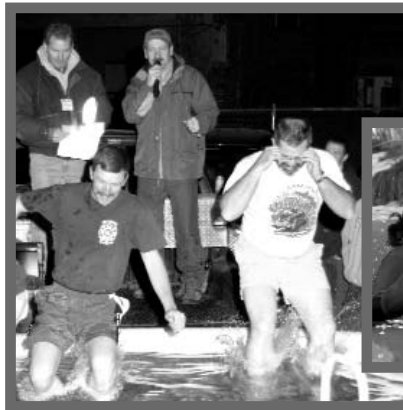
Chosen to be Frozen

6 LETR plunges + 467 plungers = \$104,000 in 2004-05!

To make a big splash, where do the bravest souls go in their most outrageous costumes? To a Law Enforcement Torch Run plunge, of course, in Bozeman, Columbus, Helena, Missoula, Whitefish, or Butte! The "coolest" sponsors were:

Stillwater Mining Company of Columbus;
Capital Family Mortgage of Missoula;
First Interstate Bank of Whitefish;
Mountain West Bank of Helena;
and Dick Walter Auto of Bozeman.

Rich Cowger - Columbus Fire Dept and Sheriff
Cliff Brophy - Stillwater County take the plunge at the Stillwater Polar Bare Plunge on December 8, 2004.



Employees from Mountain West Bank take the plunge at the Sweetheart Passion Plunge in Helena on February 5, 2005.

SOMT Board of Directors

New Chairman: Mark Kossler

Mark Kossler, recently-elected chairman of the SOMT Board of Directors from Gallatin Gateway, says he is energized by the attitude of the athletes. His motivation to get involved began with a summer games in Billings where he "was encouraged by the comradeship of the athletes." Daughter Andrea, an SOMT athlete since third grade, "looks forward to the area and state competition, a high point of her year." Mark goes on to say, "Andrea's involvement has always been a positive experience. I felt it was a way to give back to a movement that has helped her."

As chairman, Mark intends to guide the Board in strengthening SOMT infrastructure so that local teams are well supported and provided more viable ways to secure funding. He hopes

that will reduce volunteer turnover, making it possible for local teams to serve more athletes. With those goals in mind, Mark has been instrumental in guiding the Board's long-range planning.

Mark and his wife, Pat, have three daughters. Becky, an MSU graduate, plans to pursue a career in medicine. Andrea attends Bozeman High School where she is a senior, and Jennifer is a sophomore at Belgrade High School. Mark and his family live at Gallatin Gateway where he is general manager of the Flying D Ranch.



Chairman of the Board Mark Kossler, Board Member Josh Anderson and immediate Past Board Chairman Tricia McKenna

Outgoing Chairman: Tricia McKenna

Noted as a tenacious advocate for SOMT athletes and quality programs, Tricia McKenna of Belgrade recently completed her term as SOMT Board Chairman and wrapped up a stellar tenure on the Board that began in 1997. Under her watch, Tricia helped SOMT achieve unprecedented quality growth. She led with a vision that assures future funding and athlete growth.

Tricia chaired the Board Development and Fundraising Committees, was elected as vice chair and most recently, as Board chairman. She also serves a larger role as Northwest Region representative to the US Leadership Council. There, she has been recognized for her commitment to excellence with an appointment to the

North America Leadership Council representing Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and the US.

She continues as chairman of this advisory body.

Tricia began volunteering for SOMT in 1997 as co-director of the State Summer Games Special Events Committee in Bozeman. In the time since, she has not wavered in her belief that a job well done makes a meaningful difference in the lives of Special Olympics Montana athletes. Heartfelt thanks go to Tricia for exemplary leadership and a job done exceedingly well.

Please remember Special Olympics Montana in your wills and trusts.

Memorials

Deep appreciation is extended to those who have made recent donations to Special Olympics Montana in memory of friends and loved ones.

Leif Babcock

Patricia R. Johnson; W.J. and L.L. Karcher; Mike & Dee Koury; Barbara Mall; Susan Phillips; David & Justine Tobin

Mel Bloom

Jeffrey & Amy Bell; William & Colleen Green; Sandra Herme; William & Sandra Roof; Jane & Lloyd Rousin; Marvin & Sylvia Sell

Frank Castiglioni

Quentin & Donna Hoff

LaRue Freund

Karla and Jeffrey Allan; Michael Alvord; Mr. & Mrs. Al Bertelsen; Sheryl Bollinger; James & Jacqueline Cavanaugh; Kathryn & Mike Colbrese; Bruce & Nancy Colton; Clark Coover; Robert Dantic; Doug & Donna Dierenfield; Pete Dunbar; Mary Eschler; Sarah & John Etchart; Kim & James Fadrhonc; C.E. & Martha Fink; Leo & Erlys Fink; Gordon & Marlene Forster; Dan Freund; Doris Gillispie; Thomas & Judith Grace; Gretchen Heller; Fred Huntington; Edis Kjelstrup; William & Mary Klein; Tammy Lacey; Wells & Joan Lamey; Wayne & Sherry Lersbak; Duane & Carol Long; Dennis & Laurie Maag; Monte Malnaa; James & Peggy Malone; Ashley Mares; Donald & Shirley Miller; Steve Myers; Edward & Deborah Neuman; Kara Olsen; Ambrose Purkett; Vernon & Sharen Robertson; Robert & Carol Ross; Terry & Kathleen Sather; Gordon & Pamela Schmid; Dick & Jean Shay; John & Cindy Short; Terrie & Steve Shure; Kenneth & Kristi Spain; Bill and Bonnie Twilling; Elden & Gerry Ungefug; Donna Wagner; Cecil & Bonnie Warren; Steven & Nita Wheeler; Tom & Gail Wilson; Sharon Yaeger

E.K. "Red" Hudson

Gary D. Rebal

Lois McMeekin

Richard and Francine Bankert; George & Shirley Battershell; Barbara Buda; Charles Day; Elizabeth & Kenneth Gibson; Lucile Hanson; Vera Clarke & Marti Johnson; William & Ellen Mudro; Patricia Lightbody; Arthur & Joy Shellenberg; Clarice Smith; Robert Solomon; Delores & James Sparing; Everett & Carlene Starman

Ken Noland

Eric & Kathleen Anderson; Roland & June Bach TTEE; Larry & Cynthia Debus; Masonic Lodge No. 109; James & Rebecca McCabe; Merrill Richey Meredith; Charlie & Laurel Noland; Warren & Marcia Patrick; Ronald & Cheryl Schreiner; Shipton's Big R; Barbara Stanton

Lester "Lefty" O'Neil

Butte Sliver Bow Good Sams; George & Stella Myott

Our apologies to recent donors whose names were unavailable at time of publication.

We Remember

The Special Olympics Montana family mourns the recent deaths of athletes Leif Babcock, Rosie Pat Massey and Darren Hazelton.

Rosie Pat Massey

Rosie Pat Massey attended Lewis & Clark Middle School in Billings at the time of her death.

She is remembered fondly by family and friends, including her father, Tim, who reflects on Rosie's life here:

"Rosie was her own person. Whatever the challenge, she faced it with courage, determination and one unique sense of humor. The courage began the first day of her life. Others told us to give up on her but she fought so hard. 'Never learn to eat or even breathe on her own.' She fought back and showed the world. 'Never walk or even hold her head up.' She proved everyone wrong. Whenever we felt she had realized her ultimate potential, she would show us how wrong we were.

"Wheelchair races at Special Olympics were so fun with her. No matter what lane she started in, she headed for the crowd to chat as she raced.

"Rosie taught us about life and love. She showed the true meaning of not living your life outside of the fire. Her spirit will live forever."

Darren Hazelton

Darren Hazelton had a great sense of humor and loved to tease people. He enjoyed participating in Special Olympics, riding his bike, playing video games and going to the movies with friends. Darren was proud of his independence and accomplishments which included working in maintenance and cleaning carpets. He also said that meeting Miss Rodeo was his biggest achievement.

Darren was born in Billings and attended schools in Roundup. He lived with his family until 1990 when he attended REM



Darren Hazelton continued

and moved into a group home. Later he moved to Glasgow where he attended Milk River Inc. and also lived in a group home. In 1998, he was able to move into his own apartment.

Darren is survived by parents Vincent and Derinda Hazelton, sisters Jamie and Lindsey, and grandparents Gaylord and Mary Upchurch and Gladys Hazelton.

Leif Babcock

Leif Babcock, Bozeman, attended Special Olympics events with a light-up-the-room smile and his trademark oxygen tank trailing behind. He made countless friends, each of whom was attracted by his warm sensitivity and wonderful sense of humor.

Active in Special Olympics, Leif participated in gymnastics, bowling, track and field, baseball, basketball and skiing. He was awarded the 2000 Bitterroot Winter Games Spirit Award for the support of his fellow athletes. Leif also participated in the Eagle Mount Program and in Boy Scouts. He served as a model for special education programs in Patagonia, Argentina.

Leif worked at the Garage and the Valley Ice Gardens in Bozeman. He was very involved in the art program at the Beall Park Arts Center.

Leif saw the positive in everything and was able to overlook hardships. Despite his medical challenges, he remained spirited and gave hope to many. He leaves behind his immediate family; many cousins, aunts and uncles; friends all over the world; and the community that helped raise him.



*"Captain Leif"
Self-Portrait by Leif Babcock*

Rosemary Kennedy Dies at age 86

Rosemary Kennedy, oldest sister of former President John F. Kennedy and inspiration for Special Olympics, died January 7. Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver always saw Rosemary's potential, despite her sister's mental retardation. Mrs. Shriver expected Rosemary to do her best and sought to include her in family activities. These values have been the foundation of

Special Olympics since its start in 1968.

The family said, "Rosemary was a life-long jewel to every member of our family. She was always a loving presence in our lives. Her mental retardation was a ... powerful source of our commitment to do all we can to help persons with disabilities live full and productive lives. Millions of people of all ages have greater hope today because of Rosemary."

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Special Olympics MT Calendar of Events

April

Bresnan/Chevy Raffle Month at Pizza Huts - Statewide

30 Bresnan/Chevy Raffle Promo at Tidyman's Cty Markets

May

18-20 State Summer Games - Missoula

August

1 Basketball & Bowling Coaches' Training - Bozeman

15 Online Auction Items due to SOMT - Statewide

September

24 Law Enforcement Torch Run Truck Convoy - Nationwide

30-1 Fall Leadership Conference - Great Falls

October

1 Distinguished Service Awards Banquet - Great Falls

26-30 International Torch Run Conference - Minneapolis, MN

November

3-5 State Basketball Tournament

7-11 Annual Online Auction - Statewide

July 2006

3-8 US National Summer Games in Ames, IA

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Special Olympics: Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation. Authorized and Accredited by Special Olympics Inc. for the Benefit of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.

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