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Transforming Lives, Including Your Own

By Tea Hill

“Special Olympics is about transforming lives, including your own.” Little did I know just how true that phrase was before my experiences with this organization. My passion for Special Olympics sparked when I was in seventh grade. I remember watching my sister as a unified partner at the state basketball games in Yankton. They stopped the clock towards the very end of one game so an athlete could make a basket. At the time, I didn’t quite understand why. What were they doing stopping the clock? Isn’t the other team going to be upset?

Since that game, I learned a lot about why they stopped that clock and why the other team was so understanding. Special Olympics is such a unique organization that focuses on making every single athlete feel special and accepted.

Soon after I started volunteering I realized that these incredibly special people stole my heart. I witnessed first hand what these athletes were like. They laughed, loved, and cared more deeply than I ever thought humanly possible. So genuine. I thought I would be helping the athletes, and doing them a favor, but little did I know that I would learn life’s most important lessons through them.

I learned to see the best in others. I learned to accept others without passing judgement. I learned to laugh at myself. I learned patience. I learned to enjoy the simple things.

Although Special Olympics is built around competition, the athletes aren’t concerned with the scoreboard as much as they are with creating lasting friendships and memories. Some of my favorite memories come from being a unified partner. Last year I was watching a basketball game at the state tournament. A shorter athlete had a difficult time shooting the ball high enough up in the air, so a unified partner from the other team lifted him up to score. Everyone started cheering from both teams - it was an incredible experience to witness.

The relationships I built while volunteering for Special Olympics and being a unified partner will always be ones I will cherish. Some of my favorite memories come from all the Special Olympics dances. I remember meeting an athlete named Levi one minute and the next singing “Save a Horse, Ride a Cowboy” at the top of our lungs while he played his air guitar. It was moments like those where I was so grateful to be part of such a wonderful organization.

It’s amazing watching the athletes getting up on the podium to receive their ribbon. It doesn’t matter what place they got, they still are beaming with excitement. They have this enthusiasm and love for life that is so refreshing - something everyone needs.

Special Olympics involved late nights of playing jenga in the hotel lobby, long car rides filled with junk food and laughter, and endless teasing and joking (Always out of love, of course).

My absolute favorite experience with Special Olympics is watching the athletes after they bowl a strike, make a basket, or win a race. The excitement on their face reminds me why I do what I do. The high fives, cheers, and hugs afterwards are incomparable to anything else. The enthusiasm is contagious and I love being amidst all of the excitement, encouragement, and love.

I’m the happiest when I’m at Special Olympics.

Tea is now studying at the University of Wyoming. Tea spends a lot of her time with the Belle Fourche Special Olympics program. She offers genuine friendship and time to all of the athletes. She has been an integral part of the goal to play/live unified in the Belle Fourche school because she is in a position to positively influence others. Tea is committed to serving individuals with special needs throughout her life.

Please share your story ideas with us! Contact Chad VanderPoel
FALL CLASSIC

Rapid City was the host city for the debut of the Fall Classic. This event consists of a one day bocce tournament followed by a two day softball tournament.

Bocce took center stage on Friday, September 16, 2016. We were blessed with beautiful fall weather as 32 traditional bocce doubles teams and 68 Unified doubles teams threw down.

Softball took center stage over the weekend, featuring 11 slow pitch teams, 5 tee ball teams and 7 Unified teams.

After three wonderful years in Rapid City, the Fall Classic will be moving to Mitchell in 2017. SOSD is grateful for the contributions of the many volunteers who tirelessly worked to make this tournament a success... we appreciate you!

Thank You Organizing Committee
Michelle Barrett
Brett Distel
Cathy Grubb
Jody Grubb
Myles Kennedy
Kristy Lintz
Todd Tucker
Charlie Unterbrunner

Our Sponsors
...May someone be as kind to you as you have been to us.

First Interstate Bank
Dakota Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club

Thank You!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH DAKOTA

Slow Pitch 1
1st SF Fireworks Poppers
3rd RC Storm Thunder
1st SF Fireworks Pyro Bombs
4th SF Fireworks Explosion
4th Yankton Red Devils

Slow Pitch 2
1st Mitchell
2nd Spearfish Peaks A
3rd SF Fireworks Rockets
4th Sturgis-BHSS Atlas

Slow Pitch 3
1st Rapid City Flame Junior
2nd RC Storm Blizzard
3rd Spearfish Peaks B

Tee Ball
1st RC Storm Lightening
2nd Yankton Walking Dead
3rd Yankton Dark Shadows
4th Mitchell
5th SF Fireworks Sparklers

Unified
1st Brandon Sprinters
2nd SF Fireworks Parachutes
3rd Mitchell
4th Yankton River City Mashers
5th RC Flame Senior Unified
5th Huron Heartland Hunters

Myles & Jeanette Kennedy
Jerry Dunn 70 @ 70
Dr. Mark & Micki Harlow
SOSD - Rapid City Flame

Regional Health
Walgreens

Black Hills Urgent Care
Over 500 athletes, representing 27 delegations attended this tournament in Aberdeen held on November 4 - 6, 2016. Singles, doubles, and team events were contested. This was our 29th annual event.

In addition to our competitive events, athlete's enjoyed the Friendship Banquet and the Victory Dance. A highlight of the dance was the naming of the 13th Annual Gert Lutz Memorial Spirit and Sportsmanship winner. For many years, Gert Lutz was an unheralded, behind the scenes supporter of the State Special Olympics

Tournament Hosts
Village Bowl
Donna, Al & Staff

Organizing Committee
Kim Benning  Peggy Heermann
Amy Buechler  Missy Hill
Cate Diede  Al Waltman
Tevan Fischbach  Michele Zahn

Bowling
Kim Benning - Announcer
Amy Buechler - Medical

Facilities
Wright & Sudlow - Barriers

Saturday Dance
Aberdeen ABATE - Security
Celebration Entertainment (Kory Erickson)
Academy Trophy - Spirit Award
Golden Eagles Parents

Volunteer Hospitality
Ken's Superfair Foods - Kessler's Inc.
Avera St. Luke's Hospital

Volunteer Groups
NSU - Simmons Middle School
SDSBVI  Wells Fargo Auto Finance

Our Sponsors

...May someone be as kind to you as you have been to us.

Thank You!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH DAKOTA
The State Unified Bowling Tournament was held at the Eastway Bowl in Sioux Falls. Doubles were rolled on November 19 and team on November 20, 2016.

Participation in this event remains strong and featured 284 bowlers from 12 delegations representing all corners of the state.

A hi-lite of this event was dinner and karaoke held at the Unify Center on Saturday night. This was our first athlete event held at our beautiful new facility.

A huge thank you to Abbie Benz, Sadie Benz and Lisa Claus for being amazing volunteers. We would also like to extend a special thank you to the staff at Eastway Bowl for once again being such gracious hosts. We appreciate you!

Our Sponsors...May someone be as kind to you as you have been to us.

Thank You!
Christmas arrived early at SOSD in the form of a $10,000.00 check. These funds will be used to grow Project Unify / Unified Champion Schools and Unified sports programming. “The Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation has been tremendously supportive over these many years of growth,” said President/CEO Darryl Nordquist. “We really appreciate the ongoing trust and support. Thank you to everyone in the community that supports the SFACF!”

Pictured L to R: Darryl Nordquist & Jessica McNamara representing SOSD and Patrick Gale representing SFACF

Estate Planning
Are you aware of the many ways you can give the joy and pride of Special Olympics even when you are gone? Please consider Special Olympics South Dakota as a beneficiary in your will, insurance policies and IRA’s. Contact Darryl Nordquist, President/CEO for more information.

“I would love to help Special Olympics athletes for many years to come.”

Modern Woodmen Night
The Modern Woodmen of America, in partnership with the Sioux Falls Stampede, will be hosting their annual Matching Funds Project this spring. We are once again honored to be the recipient of these proceeds. Please join us for an exciting night filled with great hockey, athlete participation and amazing financial support for SOSD!

Modern Woodmen Night
March 11, 2017

Modern Woodmen Night
Sioux Falls athlete Micah Kallhoff Showing his appreciation for the Stampede and Modern Woodmen
Volunteers do everything there is to do in Special Olympics and more. They are fundraisers, cheerleaders, administrators, food handlers, chauffeurs, chaperones, trainers, coaches, publicists, policy makers, trash collectors, friends, comrades and supporters of Special Olympics. They serve without salary, without recognition, without honors or awards. Special Olympics could not do without them - their devotion, their work and their love.

Each year it is the pleasure of Special Olympics South Dakota to recognize our Outstanding Award Winners. These individuals and groups contribute their time, talents and resources in support of SOSD. They are the driving force behind our success.

So “thank you” volunteer! You represent the highest values of the human spirit. You get your thanks, not in money or words or praise, but through what you do for Special Olympics.

2016 AWARD WINNERS

Spirit of a Champion Award - Rich Riter, Sioux Falls

Rich is quiet and unassuming. He is gentle and he is kind. He is also an outstanding athlete who believes in training and playing as hard as he can. But when the game is over, he will be the first to shake your hand and congratulate you on your effort.

Rich has been a multi-sport athlete for over 30 years. He is also a fine wine. At age 45, his time in the 100 meter dash this year was almost a second faster than it was 10 years ago. He has represented South Dakota at two USA Games and represented the United States at the 1995 World Games, held in Connecticut.

If you are looking for someone who epitomizes a Special Olympics athlete, look no further than our Spirit of a Champion award winner, Rich Riter.

NOMINEES:
- Garet Alickson, Spearfish Peaks
- Todd Fossen, Spearfish Peaks
- Mike Turner, Rapid City Storm

Don Baker Award - Myles Kennedy, Spearfish

Myles has been involved with Special Olympics for over 16 years. He was instrumental in bringing State Summer Games to Spearfish and building a partnership with Black Hills State University. Credit for our relationship with the city of Spearfish and all it’s good people is in large part due to Myles’ leadership.

He is also a fundraiser extraordinaire, annually garnering $30,000 in support of State Summer Games. He has served on the SOSD Board of Directors for 6 years and was Chair of the board for 4 of those years. Myles could spend his time and use his talents to help a multitude of other organizations and people. We are grateful and honored he chooses to work and play with us.

NOMINEES:
- Jody & Cathy Grubb, Belle Fourche
- Mike Hilbrands, Sioux Falls
- Kouri Family, Sioux Falls

Ron Stewart Award Coach of the Year - Brent Steinbach, Spearfish

Brent is everything you would want and expect from a coach. He has a passion for his sport of powerlifting and he puts his heart and soul into working with his athletes whom he unquestionably loves and respects. He has planted the seed from which successful athletes grow: technical skill, confidence and work ethic. But to thrive, every plant needs sun… and Brent is just that. He exudes enthusiasm and joy and his athletes thrive under his guidance.

We are proud to call Brent a member of our Special Olympics family.

NOMINEES:
- Joe Burmeister, Rapid City Storm
- Cort Hansen, Sioux Falls Fireworks
- Brenda Hendricks & Jennifer Bierman, Spearfish
- Gary Maffett, Brookings

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH DAKOTA
Michelle has been the shot put coordinator for the SE Area for the past 6 years. She also runs this event whenever State Summer Games are in the area. Michelle was an accomplished shot putter herself, and runs the event exactly as you would find at major college meet. At last years games, a parent commented, “The shot put event is always well organized, professionally run, and a lot of fun to watch!”

Michelle does a great job interacting with the athletes, giving high fives and providing encouragement. She recognizes athletes and they recognize her from year to year. There is just something extra special about the events she runs.

**NOMINEES:**
- Tealayna Hill - Belle Fourche
- Rachel Proffit - Rapid City
- Linda Rutledge - Huron
- Mike Streff - Spearfish

**D. J. Mertens Award “Champion” of the Year - SD High School Coaches Association**

For the past 36 years, the Coaches Association has graciously included us in their awards presentations. This partnership has afforded us an exposure to the sports world we would otherwise have never obtained.

Not only have they served as our big brother, but they have also provided us a significant amount of financial support estimated at close to $50,000 over the lifetime of our partnership. These dollars have provided equipment for our tournaments, paid for athlete medals, and supports each and every one of our participants in their endeavor to succeed and prosper as athletes and contributing members of society. There have certainly been some lean financial years at SOSD. In those days of uncertainty, one thing we could rely on was the support of the Coaches Association. Here’s to another 36 years!

**NOMINEES:**
- Black Hills Gold Swim Club - Spearfish
- Culver’s - Spearfish
- Dakota Provisions - Huron

**Family Of The Year - The Eeten Family, Sioux Falls**

Art, Fern, Roy and Stacey Eeten have been actively involved with the Sioux Falls Fireworks for many years in support of their son and grandson, Nick Mills.

The Eetens are involved in all areas of Special Olympics, coaching basketball, soccer, track and softball. Roy is also Nick’s Unified bowling partner. The Eeten’s help at fundraising events and will give a lending hand where ever needed. They often have a car load after each practice helping those athletes that do not have transportation.

This past spring, at the last minute and without hesitation, Art and Roy took over the Firework’s soccer team.

The entire family are amazing volunteers that can always be counted on.

**NOMINEES:**
- The Duerr Family - Brandon
- The Fossen Family - Spearfish
- The Rutledge Family - Huron
- The Young Family - Belle Fourche

**2017 SOSD OUTSTANDING AWARDS**

Please show your love for Special Olympics by nominating the deserving people in your life for a 2017 SOSD Outstanding Award!

Nomination forms are due in the SOSD office by May 23, 2017. Look for a nomination form at your Area and State Games. Forms can also be found on our homepage at www.sosd.org.

Categories include:
- Spirit of a Champion Award
- Don Baker Award (the highest honor presented by SOSD)
- Family Of The Year
- Outstanding Coach (Ron Stewart Award)
- Volunteer Of The Year (Lyle Farrand Award)
- Champion Award (D. J. Mertens Award)
2016 Pigskin Madness!

2016 was once again another successful year for the Pigskin Madness Raffle! 2,773 tickets were sold and over $55,345 was raised for Special Olympics South Dakota! With the 2016 professional football season winding down, we are excited to announce that we will be selling Pigskin Madness tickets again in 2017!

Pigskin Madness Raffle tickets can be purchased beginning in April and will be sold through the end of August. Tickets can be purchased for $20. Each ticket is randomly assigned four teams for each week of the regular professional football season. The final score for each week is determined by adding the point totals of the assigned four teams from that week.

The eight highest point totals and the lowest point total are awarded prizes each week with a grand weekly pay out total of $600. After week 17, the individual with the highest accumulated score over the 17 week period will win $500!

Prizes for 2016 included:
- Highest Team Total - $200
- 2nd Highest - $100
- 3rd Highest - $80
- 4th Highest - $60
- 5th Highest - $50
- 6th Highest - $40
- 7th Highest - $30
- 8th Highest - $20
- Lowest - $20

Prizes for 2015 included:
- Highest Team Total - $200
- 2nd Highest - $100
- 3rd Highest - $80
- 4th Highest - $60
- 5th Highest - $50
- 6th Highest - $40
- 7th Highest - $30
- 8th Highest - $20
- Lowest - $20

For information on all of 2017’s Polar Plunges across the state, please visit our website at www.plungesd.org.

2017 Polar Plunges

Polar Plunge season is back and will be sweeping across South Dakota with an icy boom! 2017 will be a busy year, with 9 Polar Plunges being hosted across the state by the Law Enforcement Torch Run!

In 2016, Polar Plunges raised over $363,000 for Special Olympics South Dakota and had over 1,700 brave participants take the Plunge into the icy waters. We want 2017 to be our biggest and best year ever – and we need your help to do just that!

For information on all of 2017’s Polar Plunges across the state, please visit our website at www.plungesd.org.

From July 1 - 6th 2018, the Special Olympics USA Games will showcase the awe-inspiring abilities of thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities, promote the ideals of acceptance and inclusion through sport, and celebrate the transformative power of Special Olympics.

Seattle will welcome 3,500 athletes from across the country as they compete in 16 different sports. 10,000 family members and 50,000 fans will join the athletes to cheer them on while taking in the sites and attractions of the greater Seattle region.

Stay tuned for application information as we begin the process of selecting Team South Dakota!

Visit us
www.sosd.org

SCARF PROJECT
It feels like knitting and crocheting season to me!
- Red is the primary color
- Crafters choice of up to two accent colors
- All winter wearables will be loved (scarves, hats, mittens, head bands)
- Our goal is 500 pieces
- Due date is March 1, 2017

Thank you to our amazing crafters… we appreciate you!
In 2016, the LETR hosted several Tip a Cop fundraisers across South Dakota. Here is a list of all of our amazing restaurants across the state and how much was raised at each location:

Texas Roadhouse (Sioux Falls) on August 31 - September 1, 2016 - $4,363.00
Applebee’s (Spearfish) on October 12, 2016 - $2,326.00
Red Robin (Sioux Falls) on October 22, 2016 - $3,253.00
Buffalo Wild Wings (Sioux Falls) on December 6, 2016 - $3,871.00

Tip a Cop allows law enforcement officers to put down their handcuffs for the night and volunteer as special “servers” at local participating restaurants. These officers, along with the help of local athletes, assist in serving drinks and clearing tables while working for “tips” for Special Olympics South Dakota.

The goal for 2017 is to host several Tip a Cop fundraisers at various restaurants across the state. These events are held throughout the year and are a great way to support Special Olympics South Dakota while enjoying a delicious meal!

If you have interested in hosting one of these events in your area, please let us know.

World’s Largest Truck Convoy

If you were at the Fall Classic in Rapid City, you heard the sound of dozens of big rigs as they honked their air horns in support of all of the athletes that came out to see them at the “World’s Largest Truck Convoy”.

The Rapid City’s event was held on September 16-17 and the Sioux Falls event on September 23-24. These annual events unite Law Enforcement personnel and truck drivers in an effort to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics athletes.

Sioux Falls had another record year with the event being held at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds in Sioux Falls. Along with the actual convoy, multiple activities were held during this two day celebration, including a Texas Hold’em tournament, lead truck bidding, truck show, live auction, raffles and award presentations. A record 188 registered truckers paid a minimum of $100 to participate in the 15 mile trek through the heart of Sioux Falls, and helped raise over $66,000 for Special Olympics South Dakota. This was our largest convoy to date in South Dakota.

The 3rd Annual Rapid City Convoy was held at the Central States Fairgrounds and was a huge success! A record 46 registered drivers helped raise over $15,000 for Special Olympics South Dakota. The route for the Rapid City Convoy drove right past the State Softball tournament, so the drivers made sure they made plenty of noise for all the athletes! We know everyone had a great time and can’t wait to make next year’s event even bigger, better and louder!

Thank you to all of the participants and their families, sponsors, Law Enforcement Torch Run officers, athletes and their families, and wonderful volunteers who helped make the 2016 World’s Largest Truck Convoy in South Dakota the 2nd largest Truck Convoy in the world!

For those interested in purchasing a World’s Largest Truck Convoy calendar, please contact the Special Olympics South Dakota State Office at 800-585-2114. The calendars are in and can be purchased for $15 each. Get them while they last!

For more information on the 2017 Truck Convos, please visit www.sdconvoy.org.

See you all next year!
We are excited to be bringing several Strikes for Special Olympics events to a mass of bowling alleys across South Dakota in 2017. Participants will be asked to pay or raise a minimum of $35 per person and in return will receive food and drink, a T-shirt, three games of bowling and shoe rental. The event also includes door prizes, music, fun and prizes to the top scoring bowlers!

Here are a few upcoming Strikes events already scheduled on 2017:

- Huron - March 12
- Madison - April 8
- Aberdeen - TBD
- Rapid City - TBD
- Sioux Falls - TBD

Hope that everyone can join us for a bowlin’ good time! For more information on these events, check out our website at www.firstgiving.com/sosd.

If you are interested in hosting a Strikes for Special Olympics event in your city, please reach out to Todd at tbradwisch@sosd.org for assistance. Happy bowling!

The 21st Annual event is a friendly holiday blood drive pitting the Sioux Falls Police Department against the Sioux Falls Fire Department to see who can recruit the most blood donors.

The contest kicks off December 27, 2016 and runs through January 6, 2017. The public is encouraged to visit either Sanford Medical Center (333-6444) or Avera McKennan Hospital (322-7111) donor rooms and designate their blood donation to the department of their choice. Donors will receive a specially designed “Police” or “Fire” t-shirt (while supplies last) and a $5 certificate compliments of Texas Roadhouse.

As the charity of choice for the Sioux Falls Police Department, Special Olympics South Dakota will receive a donation of $700.00 if they should win.

Last year, it was the Sioux Falls Police Department coming away with another close victory over the Sioux Falls Fire Department.

Donors must be at least 17 years old (16 years with a signed parent consent form), weigh 110 lbs. or more and be in good general health. It is recommended that a person eat and drink plenty of fluids prior to donating blood.

Please bring an ID with you at the time of donation. For more information call 605-331-3222 or visit www.cblifeblood.org.

Please come out and give a pint of blood and help save a life and help support Special Olympics South Dakota in the process.

**2017 Torch Run T-shirts**

The 2017 Torch Run T-shirts will be ready for sale in January 2017. The shirts are cotton, short-sleeved and will be $15 a shirt. Please contact Amy or Todd at the State Office at 605-331-4117 to order your shirt today.

**2017 Torch Run Contacts**

James Smit of Belle Fourche is our newly elected Director for the South Dakota LETR program for 2017-2018. Please feel free to contact the individuals below for anything LETR related.

**LETR Director**

James Smit
Belle Fourche (Retired)
5320jas@gmail.com

**Asst. Director**

Dave Stratton
Rapid City Police Department (Retired)
ltdstrattn@hotmail.com

Jon Cole
Vermillion Police Department
jcole@vermillionpd.org

**Torch Run Liaison**

Todd Bradwisch
TB Bradwisch@sosd.org

**Asst. Torch Run Liaison**

Amy Crawford
acrawford@sosd.org
Trevor Tridle powers his way to medal stand

Re-printed with permission from the Rapid City Journal

DEADWOOD | Trevor Triddle had a powerful weekend in Orlando, Fla., earlier this month, and he didn’t even see Mickey Mouse.

Triddle, 26, a high-functioning autistic young man with a penchant for hoisting incredible weights, and a national reputation as a Special Olympics powerlifter, competed in the World Open Powerlifting Championships on Nov. 13-19, and he brought home the hardware.

Competing with 255 athletes representing 39 nations in the contest hosted by the International Powerlifting Federation, Triddle weighed in at 255 pounds and bench-pressed 347 pounds, hoisted 407 pounds from a squat, and dead-lifted 474 pounds — good enough to earn two silver medals and a bronze medal. The efforts also garnered him a silver in the combined competition.

Those were all personal bests for him,” Triddle’s father, John, said last week after returning to South Dakota. “We were pretty proud, because it’s a great accomplishment and he’s worked so hard.”

The senior Triddle credited his son’s coach, Brent Steinbach of Spearfish, with teaching Trevor the proper techniques that led to his success in the world competition. Steinbach and his wife, Tracey, have long been instrumental in training a team of 20 athletes with disabilities to compete in Special Olympics competitions.

Steinbach, a technician for a communications company and a competitive powerlifter for a dozen years, said the bond he and Trevor had established over the past six years extended well beyond the normal coach-athlete relationship.

“Two nights before he lifted, I sat in my hotel room and wrote him a letter,” Steinbach recalled on Tuesday. “I told him how proud I was of him and I welcomed him to the big stage. I told him he was about to mingle with and compete against some of the best powerlifters in the world. Toward the end of the letter, I got a bit teary-eyed.

“He’s come so far as a man and I’m so proud of being his friend.”

Steinbach accompanied John, Deb and Trevor Triddle, as well as Trevor’s girlfriend, Natalia McCauley, to Florida for the competition.

On Nov. 19, a Saturday, Triddle’s big day in the competition, his coach told him, “You’ve worked your butt off in the gym, and today’s payday. He looked back at me when I asked what day it was and said simply, “Payday.”

That day Triddle flawlessly lifted the heaviest weights he’d ever attempted.

“He was lifting in front of the most critical judges on the planet,” Steinbach said. “He nailed all nine of his lifts and he did not get a red light (indicating a failed lift) all day. That’s unheard of in the IPF. He was perfection.”

A man of few words, unless it involves politics, Triddle was succinct when asked about his medals last week.

“It felt great,” he said. “I worked out hard for three months with my coach to get there, and I liked the intensity. I did all three events in one day, and I was very worn out, but I was surprisingly not sore.”

On the flight home from Florida, Steinbach said he and Triddle were reveling in his success when the coach brought up a new event in Special Olympics called “Unified Sports,” in which a competitive powerlifter and a Special Olympics athlete team up and compete together. Steinbach said Triddle’s first question was, “When do we start training for that?”

“I told him, ‘We’ll rest for a week and start planning our next adventure,’” Steinbach said with a laugh. “But for now, we’re just enjoying the moment.”

Last week, Triddle was back at work, shoveling snow and performing custodial duties for the Deadwood Parks Department, which recently hired him full time. But the young man’s weekend success did not go unheralded. “Trevor doesn’t get really excited and he’s not a braggy sort of guy, but he got three silvers and a bronze, and we were all pretty happy and excited,” said Scott Reif, who, as assistant parks superintendent, is Triddle’s supervisor.

“He’s incredibly strong, and he’s got the right coach, who has taught him the right techniques. Trevor is a pretty good kid, and we’re all so proud of him.”

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The World Summer Games 2019 will be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
World Winter Games Austria 2017

Congratulations to Watertown Area Athlete Justin Elliott on his selection to Special Olympics USA!

Justin will be participating in Alpine Ski events and will be attending the Special Olympics USA Training Camp in Killington, VT December 12-15, 2016.

Special Olympics USA is comprised of 150 athletes, 40 coaches and approximately 20 delegation members who support team operations, for a total delegation of 210. Team members will compete in seven sports: alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, figure skating, floor hockey, snowboarding, snowshoeing and speed skating.

Nearly 3,000 athletes and 1,100 coaches from 110 nations will compete at the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria. Competition and special event venues will be in Graz, Schladming and Ramsau.

Follow the action through these social media outlets.

Website: www.specialolympicsusa.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/specialolympicsusa
Twitter: @specialolyUSA
Instagram: @specialolympicsusa
Hash Tag: #Cheer4USA

Final Leg Runners Selected for World Winter Games Austria 2017

The Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg will kick off on March 9, 2017. A team of 133 members, including 10 Special Olympics athletes, will serve as Guardians of the Flame as they carry the Flame of Hope through Austria in advance of the Special Olympics World Winter Games.

The Final Leg event is an amazing opportunity for law enforcement officers from around the world to build excitement for the World Games and create awareness for Special Olympics by running on this unified team.

Representing South Dakota is Sgt. Steve Rehorst from the Watertown Police Department. This will be Steve’s first Final Leg.

From a pool of athletes from all over the world, one of the 10 athletes selected to participate in the 2017 Final Leg is our very own Brookings athlete Dawn Ruhlman. This is a huge honor for Dawn and we are extremely proud of her. Next time you see Dawn please congratulate her on this much deserved honor!

GAMES AT A GLANCE

When March 14th-25th 2017
Where Graz, Schladming-Rohrmoos, Ramsau
Who 2,700 athletes of 107 nations
1,100 trainer
3,000 volunteers
5,000 family members/friends
800 congress participants
800 media representatives
1,200 honored guests
Disciplines Figure Skating
Speed Skating
Floor Hockey
Floorball
Snowshoeing
Alpine Skiing
Nordic Skiing
Snowboarding
Stick Shooting
Opening ceremony March 18th 2017 in Schladming/WM-Stadium Planai
Closing ceremony March 24th 2017 in Graz/Merkur Arena

Programs
- Healthy Athletes Program
- School programs
- Inclusive programs and competitions
- Symposia, congresses
- Culture and Arts programs
- Host Town Program spread across Austria
On January 14, 2017, Special Olympics South Dakota and Augustana University will host a Special Olympics Unified basketball game against Northern State University.

The participants in this game will be Augustana students (Unified partners) teamed with Special Olympics athletes from Sioux Falls VS Northern State students (Unified partners) teamed with Special Olympics athletes from Aberdeen.

Teams will compete during half time of both the women’s and men’s basketball game.

Unified Sports is a program that combinations an equal number of partners (in this case it will be university students without an intellectual disability) and Special Olympics athletes on a team where they are able to build friendship, understanding, and inclusion. It has been proven time and time again, that sports unite people under the same common goals and training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. This event is designed to build a strong relationship not only between the students and Special Olympics athletes, but also the broader community who will be invited to watch the talents and abilities of all that are involved.

Northern State University will host this series in 2018.

Please Join Us!

What: Unified Sports Rivalry Series Basketball Game
When: January 14, 2017
Where: Sioux Falls Arena
Time: Halftime of both Augustana vs Northern women’s and men’s basketball games (Women 4:00 pm tip-off / Men 6:00 pm tip-off)

When you know better, you must do better.

Athletes Adrianna Bamsey - Sioux Falls Fireworks & Anthony Schweigert - Spearfish Peaks

What: The R-word hurts. Why? It is exclusive. It’s offensive. It’s derogatory. Our campaign asks people to pledge to stop saying the R-word as a starting point toward creating more accepting attitudes and communities for all people.

When: The first Wednesday in March annually is the date celebrated worldwide. In 2017, this date will be March 1. You are free to hold events at your convenience, but we encourage you to hold them during the month of March.

Other: Banners, posters, flyers, educational materials and more are provided to participating schools FREE OF CHARGE!

To participate: Contact Johna at SOSD.

In 2016, 98 South Dakota schools participated in this event. For more information contact Johna: jthum@sosd.org or 605.331.4117

This invite is being extended to all SOSD certified coaches. Your presence at this event is highly recommended.
Your generosity is humbling, appreciated, and we thank you!

Gold $1,000 and above

- A & A Express, Inc
- Advanced Asset Alliance
- American Electric
- Anthony P & L Inc
- Ashheim, Dan & Carol
- Austad's Golf
- Avera Health Foundation
- Baldwin-Debates Insurance
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- Carsforsale.com Inc.
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- City of Spearfish
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- Dakota Outdoor Living
- Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith, LLP
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- First Dakota Title
- Furniture Mart USA, Inc
- Gil Haugen Construction
- Grand Prairie Foods Inc
- Great Life
- Grubb, Jody & Cathy
- Home Federal Bank
- House of Glass
- Hull, Rick & Glenys
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- Intek Corporate
- J & W Diesel & Truck Service, Inc
- JDS Industries, Inc
- Johnson, Gary
- K & J Trucking, Inc
- Kennedy, Myles & Jeanette
- Kouri & Associates, Inc
- Lind, Cody & Janet
- Northwest Pipe Fitting, Inc
- Olympic Companies
- Plains Commerce Bank
- Reichling, Gary & Susan
- ReliaMax
- Riekes Equipment Company
- Risk Administration Services
- Rolo Express, Inc
- Sam’s Club
- Sands Drywall, Inc
- Sanford Health
- Schoenen’s
- Sercl, George & Jean
- Sioux Falls Specialty Hospital ,LLP
- Sioux Valley Energy
- Smit, James & Joanne
- Smith, Tina
- Swine Open
- Syverson Tile & Stone
- Sztapka, Joseph
- Thompson, Dr. Vance & Jana
- Velma L Vincent Trust
- Walmart Foundation
- Willey Painting
- Williams Insurance Agency, Inc
- Wiswall Endodontics, PC
- Woods, Fuller, Schultz and Smith, PC

Silver $500 - $999

- 1st Financial Bank USA
- Aberdeen Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Beaudion, LLC
- Bennett, LLC
- Bourne, Todd & Tisha
- Brookings Optimist Club
- Burger King
- Business Management Resources, Inc
- Canfields Business Interiors, LLC
- Catholic Foundation South Dakota
- Concrete Materials
- Dakota Pond of BGI
- Elgethoven Capital Management Inc
- Farmer, Sandy S & Cy J
- Feiok, Jeff & Anne
- First Interstate Bank
- First National Bank Of Omaha
- Goethals Trucking
- Heartland Glass Co
- Howalt McDowell Insurance
- Huether, Mike Cindy & Kylie
- Johnson Feed, Inc
- Larry J Smith
- Lintz Bros Pizza, LLC
- Midstates Transport, Inc
- Peterson Trucking, LLC
- Rapid City Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Redlinger Bros. Plumbing & Heating Co
- Rehorst, Steven
- Sayre Associates, Inc
- Schwan Financial Group, LLC
- Scull Construction Service, Inc
- SDN Communications
- Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation
- Site Work Specialists, Inc
- Smith Trucking, Inc
- South Dakota High School Coaches Assoc
- South Dakota Rodeo Association
- South Dakota State Council
- South Dakota State University
- Southern Electric Cooperative, Inc
- Spurs Therapeutic Riding Center
- Stan’s
- Stewart, Greg & Kari
- TBI, Inc
- The Diamond Room
- Thornton Carpet
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherns
- Tony’s Diesel Service, Inc
- Travis Trucking, Inc
- Wheelco Brake & Supply, Inc

Bronze $250 - $499

- Aaron M Smith Insurance Agency
- Alman, Derek
- Beds By Design
- Bob Willey Trucking
- Bradwisch, Leanne & Donald
- Burgess, Monica & Jim
- Cliff Viessman, Inc
- Cole, Lorilee A.
- D and H Delivery, Inc
- Dairy Queen - Madison
- Dakota Provisions
- Daws, Inc
- Eddie Truck Center
- Enders, Doug
- Eschen, Jeffrey & Tricia
- First National Bank - Pierre
- First Premier Realty, LLC
- Flack, Les
- FM Acoustical Tile, Inc
- Forthman Enterprises, Inc
- Friessen Construction Co, Inc
- Froiland, Paul & Trish
- G A Murdock, Inc
- G & C Trucking
- Grimmius, Justin
- H & H Enterprises
- Hagen Glass, Windows & Siding, Inc
- Hannahs, Jeff
- Helms & Associates
- Hildebrandt, Lance
- Hill, Jason & Melissa
- Hill’s Interiors, Inc
- Horner, Derek & Dawn
- Inland Truck Parts Company
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- Interstate Powersystems
- Jacobs, Faye
- Kleinschmit, John P & Jennifer L
- KN Construction, Inc
- Koneche, Phillip
- Kortan, Nick & Chelsey
- Kroghman, Chris & Susan
- Larson Brothers Construction
- Lehner, Nancy Sue
- Lux, Justin & Alexandra N
- M & W Towing & Recovery, Inc
- Michael Johnson Construction, LLC
- Miller, Timothy
- Musivend, Inc
- Nutz Trucking, Inc
- Palmier, Steven & Teresa
- Porter Apple Company “B”, Inc
- Prorate 48
- Roth Trucking, Inc
- Schenck Trucking
- Scott Peterson Motors, Inc
- SD State Penitentiary Employee Org
- Sioux Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Sioux Falls Express
- Sola Salon Studios
- Soukup Construction, Inc
- Stadium Sports Grill Madison
- Stratton, Dave & Barb
- Sunshine Food
- Thorson, Steven & Chris
- Underground Solutions, Inc
- United Tent & Convention, Inc
- Unum Group
- US Bank

In Memorium

- Robby Olson - Vermillion (Athlete)
- Jennifer O’Dell - Sturgis (Athlete)
- A.B. & Gae E. Crisman
- Charles & Barb G Williams
- Marla Soukup
- Kathleen A Cahalan & Donald B Ottenhoff

Dedications

- In Memory of Justin Elliott
  - Kenneth Kruthoff
- In Memory of Leroy Goering
  - Pam Evenson
- In Memory of Violet Goering
  - Pam Evenson
- In Memory of Maxine Konechne
  - Phillip Konechne
- In Memory of Davis Nordquist
  - Wiswall Endodontics PC
- In Memory of Larry Kracht
  - Elizabeth A Siegrist
- In Memory of Roy Crisman, Jr
  - Rapid City Regional Hospital
  - M & R Brunsing
  - Sandy J & Rebecca R Hale
  - David & Angela Victor
  - Window Shopping at Home
  - Palmer, Currier & Hoffert LLP
  - Clarks E & Sharon A Crisman
  - Glen & Dixie Hieb
- In Memory of Roy Crisman, Jr cont.
  - Charles & Barb G Williams
  - Marla Soukup
  - Kathleen A Cahalan & Donald B Ottenhoff
  - A.B. & Gae E. Crisman

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH DAKOTA
Please join us at Terry Peak Ski Area for our 2017 State Winter Games. From 02.28 - 03.01, approximately 50 athletes are expected to compete in Glide, Super Glide, Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super G and Snowshoe events.

For more information contact the state office.

Special Thanks To These Major Sponsors

Thank You To These Official Partners

Schedule of Events 2016

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<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Redfield</td>
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