



Greater Houston/Beaumont Area eNews Dreams Do Come True!

SOTX – Beaumont area athlete, Bailey Elliott, is celebrating a milestone! She graduated from Lumberton High School on May 29! She was able to "walk" with the 2010 Senior Class but will remain in school until she is 22 because of her intellectual disability. Bailey has been with the same group of students all through school and they recently pulled together to not only vote her onto the royal prom court, but to also crown her Prom Queen! [Read on.](#)



Houston and Beaumont Area Athletes to Compete in National Games

The 2010 National Games will be held July 18-23 in Lincoln, Nebraska. SOTX athletes will compete in aquatics, bocce, basketball, bowling, golf, and eight other sporting events. Among the more than 3,000 competitors attending National Games are 44 Greater Houston and Beaumont area athletes representing Team Texas. [Click here](#) to read more.

Families Resource and Health Fair

The Families Resource and Health Fair is set for September 11th. This free event is open to anyone in the Greater Houston area with intellectual disabilities and will offer Healthy Athletes initiatives, including Special Smiles for dental screenings, Healthy Hearing for auditory screenings, and Fit Feet for podiatry screenings. It will also provide vision and health screenings in addition to sports physical examinations so that everyone will have a chance to participate in Special Olympics Texas activities.

In addition to the health screenings, groups and advocates for individuals with intellectual disabilities will give presentations on various topics such as Estate Planning, IDEA, Guardianship, Community Resources, and more. There will also be an area for these groups to hold private sessions and distribute information.

The Families Resource and Health Fair is a great opportunity for individuals with intellectual disabilities to receive free health screenings, learn how to become a Special Olympics Texas Athlete and get information on SOTX programs and services. If you have any questions or would like to know more about this event, please contact Hillary Nyert at hnyert@sotx.org or 713.290.0049.

Go Over the Edge for SOTX

Special Olympics Texas will host an event unlike any other in the organization's history. Over the Edge will offer a unique experience that stands high - pun intended - above the rest! Not only will daring participants raise funds for SOTX, they'll also rappel down buildings or toss their bosses over the edge. Subaru of America has partnered with Special Olympics



Texas as a statewide presenting sponsor for the Over the Edge events scheduled in Dallas - October 27; Houston - October 30; Austin - November 2; and San Antonio - November 5. Be on the lookout for more details at www.specialolympicstexas.org.

Athletes Shine at Summer Games

More than 3,000 athletes made free throws, long jumped, hit tennis balls and back flipped at the Summer Games held May 27-30 at the University of Texas at Arlington. The 2010 Games was an awesome show of phenomenal strength, skill and sportsmanship and even ended up being a record-breaking year.



Wellness Park, a Healthy Athletes program, offered Opening Eyes and Healthy Hearing at the Games. A new record was set, as 369 athletes had their eyes examined and 284 athletes had their hearing screened.

Volunteers supplied an amazing 450 pairs of glasses to athletes who had their vision checked, the most ever donated during the event!

Missed out on Summer Games? Check out the [1st](#), [2nd](#) and [3rd](#) editions of The TORCH today!

The Summer Games Equestrian Competition was held May 21-23 at the Brazos County Expo Center in Bryan. Athletes from across the state competed in several sporting events, including English Equitation, Western Equitation, Figure 8 Stake Race, and Barrel Racing, to name a few.

Torch Run Kick Off

The Final Leg of the Torch Run marked the start of the Summer Games. On May 26, SOTX - Greater Houston, Beaumont and Gulf Coast area Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) members ran from Galveston to Tomball and passed through Navasota, College Station and Brenham before arriving at Maverick Stadium in Arlington for the ceremonious torch lighting, which officially kicked off the four-day event. During a press conference held just after an inspiring Opening Ceremonies, SOTX collected more than \$2 million in donations from its loyal supporters and sponsors.

100+ Compete in PISD Track Meet

Special Olympics Texas - Beaumont/Golden Triangle Area and Port Arthur ISD joined forces on May 19 to host a track competition for local special education students. The meet was attended by Superintendent Dr. Johnny E.



Brown and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mark Porterie, along with Mayor Delores Prince and Master of Ceremonies Dwayne Diamond. The event kicked off with Opening Ceremonies, coordinated by the Memorial High School boys' and girls' track teams under the leadership of Coach Darryl Granger and Coach Sandra Bradford. SOTX thanks Officer Nathan Mingo from the Port Arthur Police Department, Laurie Hampshire, PISD Athletic Coordinator and Sharon Boutee, Director of Special Education, and all of her staff. Thank you all for making this event special for more than 100 PISD students.

Training Day in the Beaumont Area

The Beaumont area recently held a Summer Sports Training School during which two new sports were introduced: tennis and athletics. The day kicked off with a general session to introduce the new coaches to the Sports Information Guide (SIG). A few new teams have emerged from this training: Legendary Riders - Equestrian, Stable Spirit Pony Club - Equestrian, and Orangefield ISD - Athletics. During the Sport Specific Training Session, new basketball clinician, Bryan Whitmire, received a hearty welcome. Whitmire is currently the head varsity coach at Buna High School.

Bayou City Brings Gymnastics Back!

This Spring marked the return of gymnastics in the Greater Houston area. Biron's Gymnastics hosted its first Gymnastics Competition in more than 15 years. Special Olympics Texas would like to thank April Sawyer and Biron's Gymnastics for coaching and hosting the program. We would also like to thank Above and Beyond Gymnastics team for traveling to Houston to take part in this year's event.

If you are interested in getting your child into SOTX gymnastics, please contact April Sawyer at 281.497.6666 or Renee Klovenski in the Greater Houston area office at 713.290.0049. If you would like to start a gymnastics program for SOTX athletes at your facility, please contact Renee Klovenski. Gymnastics coach's trainings are free.



Meet in the Middle Wrap Up

In March, Spring High School hosted the Basketball Skills and 3 on 3 Tournament for Dueitt Middle School, Twin Creeks Middle School, Bailey Middle School and Spring High School students. More than 85 athletes strutted, slammed and rebounded their way to a gold medal. We would like to thank Curtis Alford, M.J. Carvel and Chris Gereke for their leadership and setting up this day of competition for Spring ISD students/athletes.



Christian Cisneros played for the Dueitt Middle School 7th grade boys' basketball team. He worked hard and had a fantastic attitude. Christian averaged six points a game. He would start the game, drive to the basket and score a two-pointer, driving the crowd wild. He would then start the second half and drive coast to coast and score again. Then the last few minutes of the game he would go back in and drive to the basket and score. The opposing teams in Spring ISD would get the rebound and pass the ball back to him and make sure he scored.

Tourous Cloud is an 8th grader at D.M.S. He has participated in Special Olympics Texas for three years. Last year, the Dueitt track coaches noticed Tourous as he practiced and competed with SOTX. They asked him to try out this year and now Tourous is on the track team and doing very well. He is competing in the 1,500M and anchors the mile relay. Tourous has placed in each track meet. He recently won the gold medal in the pentathlon in an SOTX event in The Woodlands. He will begin competing in high jump events.

Dueitt Middle School closed out the school year with a Meet in the Middle Bocce Tournament on May 12. MIM students from Dueitt participated, along with students from Spring High School and Twin Creeks and Dueitt Middle Schools. Various classes attended the event and showed their support by being fans in the stands.

Meet in the Middle had a successful year in Houston with four brand new schools participating and two returning for the "Super" Meet in the Middle program. No school was alike this year in the projects that they completed, but all were spectacular. [Click here](#) to read about some of the favorites from the 2009-2010 academic year.

Pasadena ISD Future Stars Day

During the winter, more than 250 Pasadena ISD Young Athletes participated in the 3rd Annual Future Stars Day. Two sessions were offered for the students, each featured an Opening Ceremonies and Parade of Stars, five skills stations and an awards presentation. All Success Classes that have students involved in SOTX are encouraged to volunteer so that families will have an idea where their child will be physically and socially once they enter high school.



SOTX would like to thank Delores Whiteside and the STARS team for organizing and coordinating with all the schools. This is the largest YA day in Houston and we are so proud and grateful for their work. Also, thanks to everyone in Pasadena ISD that makes this day happen each year!

3 on 3 and Individual Skills Competition

The Greater Houston area hosted Basketball Individual Skills and 3 on 3 competitions in Houston. The Individual Skills competition took place on February 20 at Aragon Middle School in Cypress Fairbanks ISD. Close to 100 athletes registered for the event. Many thanks go out to the 2010 leadership team: Marcy Bratton, Cindy Macha and Wendy Wheeler. Their organization skills made this the best ever Skill Competition day! 3 on 3 competitions took place at Bondy Elementary in Pasadena ISD and all Houston area teams participated. Huge thanks go out to the Houston Bar Association for recruiting volunteers and stepping into leadership roles for both events.

Be a fan of SOTX on your next visit to Denny's!

Denny's has launched a national fundraising promotion to raise support for Special Olympics athletes at home and around the world. Visit your nearest participating Denny's restaurant through July 31, 2010 and make a donation at checkout. By doing so, you'll be a fan of Special Olympics. One hundred percent of the amounts raised will benefit Special Olympics and will allow us to provide greater services and programs for the 3.4 million athletes who are part of the Special Olympics movement around the world. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Cool, New Merchandise in the SOTX Store!

Visit the SOTX online store to see our cool, new summer merchandise. Use coupon code SUMMER to receive 10% off our new "I Heart SOTX" Bling shirt! Coupon expires July 31, 2010. Click [here](#) or go to <http://shop.sotx.org> to start shopping.

Donate Your Ride

Did you know that an unwanted car or truck makes a great gift? It does if you donate it to Special Olympics Texas. Your donation supports year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. For more information, [click here](#) or call 866.628.2277.

Get Social with SOTX

Did you know that SOTX and all of our 19 areas are on Facebook? That's right; your area has a Facebook page, so be sure to invite your friends and family to get social with SOTX! Keep up with all things Special Olympics Texas - from competitions to fundraisers to trainings - [by regularly checking out SOTX's, Greater Houston's](#) and [Beaumont's area pages](#).



Tweet with SOTX Today

Have you joined the conversation on Twitter? Follow our moves as we "tweet" on Twitter, one of the fastest growing social media networks. Not already a member of the Twitter society? Sign up for free and just answer the question "What are you doing?"



Click <http://twitter.com/SOTexas> to start tweeting with SOTX today!

Job Corner

Looking for a meaningful career that helps others reach their dreams? Special Olympics Texas currently has openings for the following positions:

Development Director - Events – Houston

Area Director – Midland

Project Unify Coordinator – Austin

For more information on these positions, [click here](#) or contact the Shared Services Department at 1.800.876.JOIN. Resumes should be emailed to jobs@sotx.org.

Mark Your Calendar

[Click here for more information on upcoming events and competitions in the Greater Houston area.](#) [Click here for more information on upcoming events and competitions in the Beaumont area.](#)

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