



STARLIGHT

APRIL
2023

State Champs!

The Hancock County Special Olympics Division 3 basketball team captured the state championship on March 5 at the Special Olympics State Indoor Winter Games at Bowling Green State University.

The Hancock County Buckeyes entered the tournament as the reigning Northwest Regional champions, and rolled to the state crown.

The Buckeyes opened the tournament Saturday afternoon, walloping Butler County at BGSU's Stroh Center by a score of 68-34. Hancock County faced West Licking County on Sunday, cruising to the state title with a convincing 50-37 victory.

The team is coached by Austin Cornette and Lauren Warnement. The squad members are Javante Jones, Titus Nault, Ray Miller, James Schuler, Tyler Cooper, Cody Stahl, Corey Jones, John McCarley and Brian Wilkinson.

In addition to the basketball team participating in the state games, five Hancock County swimmers also earned medals, including a gold-medal performance by the relay team. Swimmers participating in the state games were Alex Beasley, Logan Beasley, Jayden Farmer, Liz Sopher and Trevor Mahler.



SO Golf Outing Set for May 13

The 19th Hancock County Special Olympics Golf Outing is set for May 13 at Hillcrest Golf Club in Findlay. The outing benefits Hancock County Special Olympics.

Last year, 23 teams participated and raised nearly \$14,000. All funds raised stay in Hancock County, supporting the 175 athletes that participate in Special Olympics.

To sponsor or to get your team registered for the outing, contact Melanie Williams at mwilliams@blanchardvalley.org or 419-422-6387.

DATES TO REMEMBER | VISIT WWW.BLANCHARDVALLEY.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

April 7
Good Friday
- BVC Closed
April 12 - 10am
Provider Training

April 12 - 6pm
Code of Conduct
April 17 - 4:30pm
Game Night
at Stevi B's

April 21 - 9am
Guardianship Training
April 24 - 11am
Tech Fest

April 24 - 5:30pm
Board Meeting

NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Another Great March!



We wrapped up another National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March and I couldn't be more proud of our community and everyone who make it such a great success.

I was so impressed with the engagement from the community. We had new school classes get involved with our reading program and several new organizations jumped on board with our new idea of pop-up popcorn stands.

Individuals receiving supports from Blanchard Valley Center read to more than 1,000 students. We donated more than 30 books to classroom libraries.

Our pop-up popcorn stand and crew made visits to 16 locations, giving out free popcorn to staff and visitors at businesses in Findlay and Hancock County.

Our March 28 Celebrity Basketball Game was another great success. Thanks to our local celebrities and our reigning Ohio State champion Hancock County Special Olympics basketball team for their participation.

Special thanks to sponsors who helped bring the basketball event to life – State Bank, Yocum Communications, Reg and Peg Routson, Premier Bank, and Keller Slough Team Key Realty.

Is anyone else ready for warm weather? I was ready the day after Christmas.

For me, the golf outing is always the kickoff to summer. It's still chilly in the morning, but by the afternoon we're thankful for the sun. I'm looking forward to another successful tournament for the benefit of our outstanding Special Olympics program.

Kelli Grisham, Superintendent

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Anastasia Baerlin

Elijah Pringle's Determination Pays Off with a Job

In life, it's important to keep your eye on the prize.

No one knows that better than Elijah Pringle. It took Elijah a while to find

a job after graduation, but he's now employed and loving it.

Elijah is a 2022 graduate from Cory-Rawson High School and receives supports from Blanchard Valley Center.

After graduating, Elijah had a hard time finding a job. He met with his Service and Support Administrator Liz Hager to discuss his options and chart out a path to reach his goals.

There was no lack of motivation on Elijah's part. He ramped up his search for employment, but still wasn't having any luck.

Liz connected Elijah with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, which assisted in the process of finding a job for Elijah.

And, this time it worked. Elijah started working at Culver's on Trenton Avenue in Findlay at the beginning of March. He is working part-time, making custard and running orders to customers, along with occasional cleaning duties.

He is saving his money in hopes of living independently.



BVC provides resources and supports that empower people with DD to live lives with meaning and purpose.



Blanchard Valley Center
Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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**Service & Support
Emergency Number**
419-722-9262

