

Dalsin and Robinson win at bocce at 2022 Special Olympics

Special to Pelahatchie News

The 2022 Special Olympics USA Games was held in Orlando, Florida, June 5-12. Over 4,300 athletes, over 1,300 coaches, over 10,000 volunteers, over 125,000 families, friends and spectators and 67 Delegations from the United States and Caribbean participated.

The Exploria Stadium was the location of the Opening Ceremony for the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games.

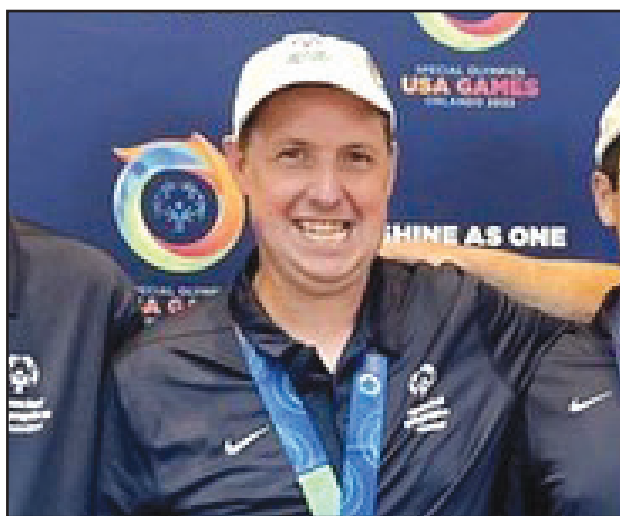
There were 19 Olympic-style team and individual sports. The sports included were: Athletics (track & field), basketball, bocce, bowling, cheerleading, equestrian, flag football, golf, gymnastics, open water swimming, powerlifting, soccer, softball, stand up paddleboard, surfing, swimming, tennis, triathlon and volleyball.

Luke Robinson, who plays football and bocce, and Lisa Dalsin, who plays bocce, both from Pelahatchie, participated in the event. Competing in Football and Bocce, the two represented the State of Mississippi.

Dalsin stated, "It was a long bus ride but an amazing week. We had some wonderful team leaders and unified partners. We had a week of wonderful experiences, and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat if I could. Wonderful team mates! A week I will cherish!"



Lisa Dalsin



Luke Robinson



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Dalsin and Robinson, along with their unified partners, won the gold in bocce doubles. Pictured (l to r) are: Joe Robinson, Luke Robinson, Connie Robinson and Lisa Dalsin. Dalsin and Luke Robinson also won in teams and singles.

Experience farm life at any age at Strong River Equine in Rankin County

Special to Pelahatchie News

Strong River Equine is locally owned and operated by Bryan and Dana Jones. Located just 9 miles from Brandon on Highway 18, Strong River Equine offers the fun farm life experience for all ages.

Owner Bryan Jones is very familiar with the care of horses. When the opportunity arose to purchase the property, he and wife, Dana, imagined many future possibilities. Having now owned Strong River Equine for three years Dana says, "we never imagined how fast this would grow."

Bryan's day begins before dawn. Doing a walk through to make sure all his horse guests had a good night, then he is off to his next job. Bryan also works as a bus driver for Puckett Schools in the Rankin County School District. Between morning and afternoon bus runs, Bryan can be found walking horses, mucking stalls, working in the barn, and more. In the afternoons after the last child is home safely and the bus is parked, the day of farm life continues, and Bryan is back to the barn feeding animals, exercising horses, and a variety of other usual chores.

Dana serves as bookkeeper for several agencies, as well as the farm. Along with horse boarding, Strong River Equine (SRE) is open for riding lessons, birth-

day parties and fundraisers. While working for others in their bookkeeping, Dana has much to do for SRE, too. The couple says life is busy most days, but this is a life that brings their family together.

The Jones have two children still at home. Lyndi works outside the home but is found most afternoons and evenings at the barn helping with the animals. Jacob is a student at Puckett High School. He is active in sports but helps on the farm when time allows. Bryan and Dana also have their parents, grown children, and grandchildren who all love to come out and enjoy time together at the farm.

Strong River Equine offers horse riding lessons for individuals of all ages. The trained instructors are knowledgeable on how to ease the most anxious of riders to feel the comfort of riding and the enjoyment it brings. Riding lessons can be booked by calling Strong River Equine, 601-813-4128.

This past year Strong River Equine "opened the barn doors" to various ac-



Special to Pelahatchie News

Bryan and Dana Jones

tivities. During the Spring and Easter seasons, SRE offered special picture days. Spring backgrounds were accompanied by live animals. Not only does Strong River Equine have horses, but they have bunnies, goats, lambs, chickens, the occasional pig, and the usual barn cats and dog.

Strong River Equine offers a unique birthday experience. Birthday parties include horse rides, bounce houses, petting zoo, corn hole and other outdoor games. The covered party area has picnic tables for eating, outdoor chairs for relaxing, and other party accommodations. Parties also include the newest attraction to Strong River Equine, the train. This fun little train ride will take the kiddos on a tour around the farm while remaining in view for the parents to see. Overall, it is a guaranteed experience to remember.

The Jones are active members of Puckett Baptist Church. The Puckett BC Youth group have been making plans to travel to New Mexico this summer

for a mission trip. With a trip this size, expenses are evident. Bryan and Dana were happy to help. Strong River Equine "opened the barn doors" for something new. A fundraiser was held in early May to help these young people. Over 300 people enjoyed face painting, train rides, petting animals, feeding goats, corn hole, bounce houses, and more. The Puckett youth offered a dunking booth, snow cones, and popcorn for a small donation. The Puckett Volunteer Fire Department was on hand with the fire truck for pictures. And it would not be a complete church fundraiser without the baked goods. Church and community ladies provided cakes, cookies, brownies, and more to sell. The parking lot, aka pasture, was full of cars from Rankin, Scott, Hinds, Madison and more.

Dana says, "we had no idea this many people would come." Puckett Baptist Church and the Jones family would like to thank God for the beautiful day and thank everyone who came, supported, and worked to raise needed funds.

Events book fast for this up-and-coming venue. To reserve a party, inquire about riding lessons, or ask questions, give Strong River Equine a call.

Contact Strong River Equine at 601-813-4128 or follow them on Facebook at Strong River Equine, LLC.