

CLALLAM CONNECTION

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September—October 2011

HELP JOB COACHES GET IT DONE



We all know that coaches on a sports team try to help their players do their best. They help them with skills, give them encouragement and help them grow. *Job Coaches* do this, too! If you or someone you know is in a supported employment program, chances are you've had a Job Coach. What is a Job Coach?

A Job Coach helps with skills and job training before a person gets a job. And a Job Coach might also go to work with you and help you learn the duties of the job. Sometimes a Job Coach stays on the job with you. If you learn the job well enough, a Job Coach might only go in to work with the you once in a while.

Job Coaches have a very important role to play in supported employment, but they need help, too. If you are in a supported employment program, you can help your Job Coach by having a positive attitude. Are you willing to try different jobs? Are you willing to do your best? A helpful outlook can help a Job Coach open up more employment possibilities during a tough job market.

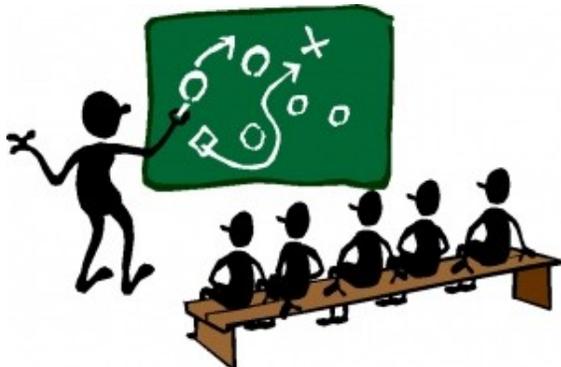
Communication is important, too—it's good to tell your Job Coach what kind of job you'd like and what you wouldn't like at all. Do you like to work in the morning, or afternoon? Is an outside job fun or would you prefer inside work? Can you work on the weekends? Be sure the Job Coach knows your "rules of the game." What do you like about your job? What are you having problems with? It's important to let your Job Coach know these feelings.

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."

~ Wayne Gretzky

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JOB COACHES (CONTINUED FROM PG. 1)



The Connection asked Dawn Barrett of Concerned Citizens how supported employees can help a Job Coach. She suggested that you “check in with us and let us know what your schedule is each week. We need to know your availability, so we have to be aware of any appointments you have or if you are going to be out of town or unavailable for any reason.”

Also, first impressions mean a lot to potential employers. Dawn said that it helps when you arrive on time and dress

appropriately when you are doing any job exploration or turning in job applications.

With good communication, and the right attitude and effort, Job Coaches and the people they help support can make a terrific team!

OCTOBER 2011: NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH



National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign held each October that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is “Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities,” which promotes the valuable role people with disabilities play in America's workplaces and economy.



During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Office of Disability Employment Policy plans activities and materials to increase the public's understanding of the contributions and skills of American workers with disabilities. Many programs held throughout the month also talk about employment barriers that still need to be addressed and taken away.



National Disability Employment Awareness Month began in 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year “National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.” In 1962, the word “physically” was taken out to recognize the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress changed the week to a month to create National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Reference: U.S. Dept. of Labor - Office of Disability Employment Policy.

DON'T FORGET



DDAC Meeting — Thursday, September 8, 2011; 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Board of Commissioners Meeting Room, Clallam County Courthouse and Videoconferencing: District Court, Forks.

Emergency Preparedness Trainings — Tuesday, August 30, and Monday, September 12, 19, and 26 at the Clallam County Courthouse, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Sandwiches will be served during the break. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Randi Jones of Pierce Jones & Assoc. at (360) 582-9965.

Snap Classes and Events — Snap offers a wonderful collection of classes and events this Fall for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Classes are open to everyone in Clallam and Jefferson Counties. Fall catalogs are available now. Sign up early. Classes include: Theater, Recreation Club, Drumming, Movement and Voyagers. What are you doing this fall? Dances will be held on 9/10, 10/29, and 12/10 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Olympic Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Port Angeles—come on and dance! Please check out our website at www.snapforall.org for more information. Or contact Jenell DeMatteo, Executive Director at dematteo@olyphen.com or 360-379-8934.

AND AROUND TOWN



Elwha Dam Removal Festival — September 16 - 18. Presented by Olympic National Park, partner agencies and area businesses. It's a multi-day festival to celebrate the Elwha River Restoration project. For more information, visit <http://celebrateelwha.com>



Dungeness Crab & Seafood Festival — October 8 - 9. Come celebrate our delicious local bounty from the sea like salmon, oysters, and lots of crab, plus tons of arts and crafts at the Port Angeles City Pier.



MAKING YOUR CASE

The goal of Partners in Policymaking is to educate people to be active partners with those who make policy. The idea is to develop partnerships that are based on positive relationships.

Partners in Policymaking offers a three-hour, self-study course designed to help people with disabilities and their families create positive change through advocacy. The course helps participants understand the legislative process, the essential elements of good advocacy, identify and research personal issues, then advocate for systems change as individuals and as part of larger community efforts. It includes opportunities to put what has been learned into practice through a series of interactive exercises.

Check out the online class at www.partnersinpolicymaking.com/makingyourcase

MORE MUSIC FROM THE HEART

Country Music singer and writer Darius Rucker sang with participants at the American Country Music *Lifting Lives Music Camp* at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee. Rucker and the campers, who have Williams syndrome and other developmental disabilities, will perform a song the campers wrote this year, as well as "Music From the Heart," which they performed at the ACM Awards in April.

The campers wrote the new song with Gary Allan, Odie Blackmon and Brett James. Other camp activities included a visit from Carrie Underwood during the campers' recording session; an art-inspired evening with Little Big Town that blends music and self-portraits; and a karaoke night with Wynonna.

ACM Lifting Lives funds the camp for the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. The medical organization improves the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through research, training and service.

For more information, go to <http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/site/services/page.aspx?id=11>



WASHINGTON GROUP LAUNCHES DISABILITY RIGHTS GALAXY



Disability Rights Washington recently created a new informational website called DisAbility Rights Galaxy. The website will serve as a resource for the disability community.

Not only will it provide information on a large number of topics, it will allow people to become content contributors to the site.

For more information about the new site, go to www.disabilityrightsgalaxy.com

END THE “R” WORD ON TWITTER—TAKE THE SOCIAL CHALLENGE



Have you heard of Twitter? It’s the Internet site that lets you “tweet” quick messages on the Internet to your friends, family and just about everyone else, too. Sometimes people use this site to spread discrimination about disabilities. A new website called The Social Challenge tracks Twitter messages that contain the word “Retarded” or “Retard” and then gives the public the opportunity to speak out against it.

If you would like to help, go to www.thesocialchallenge.org and create an account. You can see how many times people tweet the “R Word.” You can then post a message and make your voice heard about discrimination.

The Social Challenge is sponsored by LifeMyWay, a disability advocacy group in Illinois.

SPROUT FILM FESTIVAL TIME!

Snap  A Community with Heart Includes Everyone

SPROUT FILM FESTIVAL
making the invisible visible

October 15, 2011
Olympic Theatre Arts in Sequim

Free Film Presentations at 1 & 3:30 PM

Gala Benefit for Snap
Auction, Food, Wine, & Movies
6 PM
\$25 admission
Private Showing
Wretches & Jabberers

We are inviting you to a very exciting event Snap is bringing to the Olympic Peninsula, **The Sprout Film Festival**. We are especially excited because Sprout Films are world-class movies made by, for, and about people with developmental disabilities.

The goal of Sprout Films is to make *The Invisible Visible*. By presenting films of artistry and humanity, the festival reinforces accurate portrayals of people with developmental disabilities. The festival will provide an entertaining and enlightening experience that will help promote a greater acceptance of differences and awareness of similarities.

Our intent is to create an experience that will educate, touch hearts, inspire ideas, and connect audiences.

For Gala tickets & info contact: Jenell DeMatteo at 360-379-8934 or dematteo@olypen.com

Thank you to our generous sponsors

The Arc of WA State
Olympic Peninsula Title
Farleigh Wada Witt

www.snapforall.org





Sprout Film Festival 2011

BREAKING BARRIERS

Saturday October 15, 2011 at Olympic Theatre Arts, Sequim, WA.

Special Ticketed Benefit Event for Snap.

Auction & Delicious Appetizers by **Kokopelli's.**

No Host Wine Bar, 6 - 9 p.m.; Tickets: \$25.

Tickets available at **Pacific Mist Books** in Sequim & **Port Book and News** in Port Angeles.

Private showing of:
WRETCHES & JABBERERS
Sponsored by Olympic Peninsula Title



SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES WIN MEDALS IN SOFTBALL AND GOLF

By Wendy Bonham

On July 30th, our softball team played three games in a tournament that was held in Tacoma. They were all very close, exciting games. We won the first two and then in a real nail biter, lost the third to the defending State Champions. Our Silver Medal is particularly amazing since we moved from playing tee ball to softball this year, which is a pretty big leap. Michael Rudolph, in his debut as a pitcher (both for our team and in his life!!!) is outstanding. All members of our team worked hard, under the great coaching skills of Jan Isett and Fred Petty.

On Sunday we had local athletes participate in the Regional Golf Tournament, which was held at Meadow Park Golf Course in Tacoma.



Bonny Cates received a Bronze Medal for her efforts in the Individual Skills Competition. We also had five 9-hole Unified teams compete.

Ursula Schletter with her partner, Matt Eveland received a Bronze Medal; Michael Reif with his partner, Grant Smithson received Silver and the last three each won Gold and will be heading to the Summer Sports Classic, the State Competition, later this month.

The Gold Medalists are David Carver and his partner, Bill Shea; Amanda Forbes and her partner, Garet Smithson and Kimberly Wing with her partner, Mike Johnson.

We'd like to give a big thank you to all who donated their time, prize items and to everyone who attended!

GET CONNECTED AT THE LIBRARY

Don't have Internet access? Try the library!

The North Olympic Library system has computers with Internet access for public use. Computers are available for 30 or more minutes at a time. All you need is a library card. For more information on using computers at the library, or how to get a library card, call your local branch at the numbers below.

Port Angeles — (360) 417-8500
 Forks — (360) 374-6402
 Sequim — (360) 683-1161
 Clallam Bay — (360) 963-2414

LET'S RING IN THE FALL



Snap invites you to a Potluck Social & Dance

Saturday, September 10, 2011

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Admission is \$3.00

At Olympic Vineyard Christian Fellowship,
 3145 S. Peabody St, Port Angeles, WA



Choose Work, They Did.



Thousands of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries have learned how to stay in control of their benefits while enriching their lives through employment. You can too.

Work Incentive Seminar Events (WISE) provide you and your family the opportunity to learn how to take advantage of Social Security Work Incentives, including Ticket to Work.

*****Announcing*****

**October 6, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at:
Vern Burton Community Center
308 East 4th Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Hosted by Plan to Work**

Register online at www.socialsecurity.gov/work
866-968-7842 / TDD 866-833-2967

Space is limited, so please call our toll free number or register online today!



Clallam Connection
223 East 4th Street, Suite 14
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Got a Story? Got News? Contact Tim Bruce at
360-417-2428 or tbruce@co.clallam.wa.us

SPREAD THE WORD
TO END THE WORD
www.r-word.org