



Clallam Connection

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January-February 2013

TO WORK OR NOT TO WORK, THAT IS THE QUESTION?

Some people in society say, "Why should a person with a disability work, when they may be receiving SSI benefits?" Maybe the question should be, "Why should a person be content with SSI when he/she could be earning much more?"

SSI payments for 2013 will total \$8,529.32; far below the poverty line. Would most Americans be content with this annual income? Not likely? So, why do we think an individual with a disability, should live in perpetual poverty?

One of the biggest concerns SSI beneficiaries have about going to work is the possibility of losing Medicaid coverage. Section 1619(b) of the Social Security Act provides some protection for these beneficiaries.

This means that SSI beneficiaries who have earnings too high for a SSI cash payment may be eligible for Medicaid if they meet requirements. Someone earning more than \$28,802.00 may still meet the threshold requirement and remain eligible.

Another concern is: "What if I lose my job; how do I get my benefits back?" The answer: Social Security has an Expedited Reinstatement of Benefits program that doesn't require re-application when criteria are met.

In addition to earning an income, there are other benefits to being employed, such as, inclusion in the work place; a sense of belonging to a team. A network of co-workers is established and one's social life is expanded. Self identity is also enhanced. Some of the first questions people ask each other when they meet, is: "What do you do?" or "Where do you work?" For an individual to give a bone fide answer other than, "play video games, or "watch T.V.", gives them a real sense of self worth. There is self value in working!

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**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**



*The will to win,
the desire to
succeed, the urge
to reach your full
potential...
these are the
keys that will
unlock the door
to personal
excellence.*

- Confucius

TO WORK OR NOT TO WORK, THAT IS THE QUESTION? (CONT.)

Also, as more citizens are working, the community becomes more inclusive in other aspects of community living. This enriches all citizens of the community and helps eliminate the isolation some individuals may feel.

As earnings rise, so does consumerism and paying taxes. This gives individuals purchasing power and a sense of contribution.

All citizens need to be viewed by society, and themselves, as capable of working. This view is held by the Washington State Legislature. Washington is a "Work First" state, which provides Employment Support programs. These programs are designed to assist individuals in appropriate job placement, job training and long term supports for job retention.

Therefore, let's join with our state leadership and promote the Work First mission, so that the obvious answer to the question of whether individuals should work or not; is a resounding YES!

- By Mary Clifton, Clallam County Health & Human Services Developmental Disabilities Case Manager

☞ More details to come in the next issue!

Legislative Reception

The Community of People
with Disabilities of Washington State
will hold the 33rd annual Legislative Reception

Wednesday, January 23rd, 2013

5:30-7:30 pm

Legislative Building's Columbia Room in Olympia

Hosted by the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council, The Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment, The State Independent Living Council, Parkview Services and The Washington State Rehabilitation Council

For reasonable accommodations and interpreters, contact
Debbie Himes at dhimes@esd.wa.gov

Courthouse Closures

January

1st—New Year's Day

14th—Furlough

21st—Martin Luther King Jr.
Day

28th—Furlough

February

18th—President's Day

DON'T FORGET

-  **DDAC Meeting** — Thursday January 3rd, 5:30 - 7:30pm at the Board of County Commissioners Board Room, Clallam County Courthouse and Videoconferencing: District Court, Forks.
-  **BLAC Meeting** — “Business Leadership Advisory Committee”, a subcommittee of the DDAC ,will be held on Thursday January 10th, 5:15–7:30pm at the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, Clallam County Courthouse. Business Leaders interested in helping hire persons with developmental disabilities are encouraged to attend.

AND AROUND TOWN



Port Angeles Symphony Chamber Orchestra Concert #2 — Friday, January 11th, 7:00pm at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 301 E. Lopez, Port Angeles and Saturday, January 12th, 7:00pm at the Sequim Worship Center, 640 N. Sequim Ave, Sequim. Go to www.portangelessymphony.org or call 457-5579 for more information

COASST Training— Saturday, January 12th, Feiro Marine Life Center, 315 N. Lincoln Street, Port Angeles. COASST volunteers systematically count and identify bird carcasses washed ashore along ocean beaches from California to Alaska. Volunteers need no experience with birds, just a commitment to survey a specific beach (about 3/4 mile) each month. Join a COASST staff for a full 6-hour training session. Contact: coast@uw.edu or 206-6893. Fee \$20.00.



At the Movies—showing “Mama Mia” - Saturday, January 26th, 2-4pm; and “Ted” Saturday, February 23rd, 2-4pm, Olympic Theatre Arts, 414 N Sequim Ave., Sequim. Admission: \$5.00. Contact Karen Kuznek-Reese for more information at 360-681-3428 kkuznek@sequimwa.gov

First Friday Reception—Every first Friday of the month, 5-8pm, Blue Whole Gallery, 129 W. Washington Street, Sequim. View original art by local artists. Free admission. Call 360-683-8110 for more information.



The mission of Sibling Leadership Network is to provide siblings of individuals with disabilities the information, support and tools to advocate with their brothers and sisters and to promote the issues important to them and their entire families.

Visit their website at: <http://siblingleadership.org/>

Mosaic Winter Quarter 2013 Class Schedule



Mosaic Mission ~ *To enrich, encourage and empower people with developmental disabilities toward achieving independence, social skills, and community inclusion through the arts, education, and social activities.*

Empowering People with Developmental Disabilities for a More Viable Community

Welcome back to a New Year with more opportunities for rekindling friendships and meeting new people. Mosaic has an exciting line-up for Winter Quarter 2013. A new class in Port Angeles, free, to enhance your work skills at 10 a.m. Fridays, check it out. Outreach will be back in the Spring. The Theater Arts class is building the set for the play May 18 presented at the Olympic Theater Arts. Join in the healthy living exercise and cooking classes or see the world through the Voyagers class. Tell your friends and see you in January. —Bonne Smith, Mosaic Program Director

Mosaic Vision ~ *A community of individuals working together to improve the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities.*

To register for classes email Program Director Bonne Smith at bonnesmith.bs@gmail.com with your address for a mailing or for an electronic registration form, a PDF attachment file. Return mail to Mosaic, P.O. Box 3081, Sequim, WA 98382 or bring to class.

2013 Winter Quarter Classes

Recreation

Sequim Recreation Club ~ 10 classes ~ \$40

Tuesdays ~ 3 – 5 p.m. ~ Sequim High School Classroom

January 8, 15, 22, 29; February 5, 12, 19, 26; March 5, 12

Living & Healthy Choices

Exercise ~ 10 classes ~ \$ 30

Wear loose fitting clothing

Wednesdays ~ 10 - 11 a.m. ~ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles

January 9, 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 20, 27 March 6, 13

Healthy Eating & Cooking ~ 10 classes ~ \$45

Includes ingredient fee

Fridays 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. ~ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles

January 11, 18, 25; February 1, 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8, 15



Soft Employment Skills ~ 8 classes ~ Free
Fridays 10-11 a.m. ~ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles

January 11, 18, 25; February 1, 8, 15, 22; March 1

Culture & Science

Voyager Traveler's ~10 classes ~ \$36

Wednesdays ~ 2:30- 4 p.m. ~ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles

January 9, 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 20, 27 March 6, 13

Music & Dance

Drumming with Dave ~ 10 classes ~ \$36

Thursdays 3:30 - 5 p.m. ~ Sequim High School Classroom

January 10, 17, 24, 31; February 7, 14, 21, 28; March 7, 14

Saturday Dances ~ 3 potluck Dances and Show ~ \$8

Saturdays ~ 2 - 4 p.m. ~ Olympic Vineyard Church, Port Angeles

Jan. 26 ~ Winter Ball; Feb.16 ~ Valentine's Dance; March 16 ~ Luck of the Irish,

Arts

Exploration of Home Arts ~ 10 classes ~ \$34 *Includes supplies fee*

Wednesday 1 -2. ~ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles

January 9, 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 20, 27 March 6, 13

Theater

Theater ~ Snappy Players Troupe ~ 10 classes ~ \$40

Tuesdays ~ 10-Noon ~ Olympic Theater Arts, Sequim

January 8, 15, 22, 29; February 5, 12, 19, 26; March 5, 12

Theater ~ Design & Create ~ 10 classes ~ \$36

Wednesday ~ 11-12:30 p.m. ~ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles

January 9, 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 20, 27 March 6, 13

Theater ~ Show Performance ~ 3 performances ~ \$ 20

Saturdays ~ 1- 3 p.m. ~ Olympic Vineyard Fellowship, Port Angeles

VOLUNTEER HONORED BY CITY COUNCIL

PORT ANGELES — Bill Angehrn, a 29-year Port Angeles resident who spends his days beating the pavement around the city dutifully picking up trash, has been honored for his efforts in ceremonies during Tuesday's City Council meeting.

"We have an opportunity to say thank you, and 'thank you' are two of the most important words in the English vocabulary," Port Angeles Mayor Cherie Kidd said.

"We're here to say thank you to Bill."

Angehrn was awarded a community service medal from the city and a new city-issued safety vest to keep him safe on his self-appointed rounds.

Angehrn moved to Port Angeles in 1983 and started walking the city picking up errant trash in 1991, said John Brewer, Peninsula Daily News publisher and editor. Brewer is a longtime admirer of Angehrn's unsolicited devotion to the community and participated with Kidd in the ceremonies.

Angehrn, who is developmentally disabled, now walks 20 miles per day on average, Brewer said, and is well-known around the community for his efforts to keep Port Angeles clean and litter-free.

Brewer read a letter that had been sent to the PDN "on behalf of grateful citizens of Port Angeles" that lauded Angehrn "as a one-man show dedicated to keeping our city streets clean of the litter we tend to leave in our wake."

'In the open and free'

In an interview after the council meeting, Bill Bellows, Angehrn's caretaker, said he has worked with Angehrn for about three years and has never known him to shy away from his daily ritual.

"I think he just likes being out in the open and free," Bellows said.

Bellows described Angehrn as a "man of few words" who is fully capable of making himself clear when he wants to.

City Public Works Director Glenn Cutler, whose department has provided Angehrn with safety vests over the years, applauded his efforts, saying Angehrn is "an excellent example for other folks."

- Peninsula Daily News, December 7, 2012



DO YOU WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE?

DO-IT is actively recruiting students for our capstone college-preparation program, DO-IT Scholars. There is no cost for program participation.

Free Laptops and Assistive Technology!

DO-IT Scholars are loaned computer equipment and adaptive technology needed to participate in electronic mentoring and Internet support year-round.

Free Summer Camps at the UW!

For up to three summers, DO-IT Scholars attend a 1-2 week, live-in summer program on the University of Washington Seattle campus, where they learn about college selection, challenging careers, self-advocacy, and adaptive technology.

DO-IT publishes information about the outcomes of its evidence-based practices at: <http://www.washington.edu/doi/Research/index.html>

For the Scholars program, we are seeking students who:

- * are sophomores or juniors in high school in Washington state;
- * have an aptitude for and interest in attending college;
- * have a disability such as a mobility impairment, learning disability, sensory impairment, or health impairment; and
- * are interested in interactions with other students with disabilities.

Students are encouraged to apply by January 10, 2013, but enrollment continues until all positions are filled.

You may contact DO-IT to request application materials at 206-685-3648 (voice/TTY) or download forms at:

<http://www.uw.edu/doi/Programs/scholar.html>.



DO-IT (Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology) serves to increase the participation of individuals with disabilities in challenging academic programs and careers. It is directed by Sheryl Burgstahler, PhD.

Yearly Survey

We will be sending out our yearly survey soon. Please help us better serve our community by replying to the mail or phone survey.

Thank you,

Clallam County Health & Human Services, Developmental Disabilities

Clallam County Health & Human Services
Developmental Disabilities
223 E 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

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