

# CLALLAM CONNECTION

Volume 2, Issue 4  
July—August 2010

## TRANSITION FAIR

The 11th annual Clallam County High School Transition Fair was a great success! Over 70 students from all over Clallam County attended along with parents and school personnel. There were 22 business and agency booths for the students to explore. Students were able to check out different types of jobs and get information on resources.



The Literacy Council's booth is a favorite with the students. They love being able to pick out a book and take it home. The Literacy Council watches all year for books to come in that they think the students will enjoy.

This year the students were given a special reason to participate. Jamestown S'Klallam 7 Cedars Casino made it possible for there to be 2 drawings for an iPod "Touch" music and video player. Anyone who has a hard time with the typical iPod loves how easy it is to use the Touch and the students were excited for the chance to win. Many thanks to the Jamestown S'Klallam tribe!

A special thank you goes out to all the school personnel who made it possible for the students to participate. We know it takes a lot of "behind the scenes" work to make it all go smoothly. You folks rock!

In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends.

~  
Martin Luther King Jr.



## DON'T FORGET

### SAVE THE DATE!

What: Sprout Touring Film Festival  
When: Saturday October 16, 2010  
Where: Port Angeles High School Auditorium

[www.gosprout.org](http://www.gosprout.org)

Making The Invisible Visible

**Thursday July 8, 2010**  
**Clallam County DDAC Meeting - Forks**

5:30 to 7:30 DNR Conference Center  
Dinner served at 5:00  
411 Tillicum Lane in Forks  
Paratransit to Transport –  
Reserve a seat with Willie: 360-417-2428.

**Monday, July 12, 2010**  
**DATO (Disabilities Assistance Trust Organization)**

2:00 Terrace Community Room  
at 114 E. 6th St. in Port Angeles.

## GLEE



How many people have watched the new TV show “Glee” on the Fox network? Maybe you recognized Lauren Potter from the movie “Mr. Blue Sky”.

Lauren has Down syndrome and is a member of The Down Syndrome Association in Los Angeles. The association has an in-house talent agency, Hearts and Hands. Directors can call the agency when searching for an actor with Down syndrome.

Lauren was called to audition. She got a call-back and then got the role.

Lauren, 19, plays the character Becky Johnson, a 16-year-old sophomore at McKinley High School who tries out for the cheerleading squad. The coach is really tough on her, but she makes the squad.

Lauren uses a trick when playing her part. “I become that person.” she said. “I practice my script a lot and learn every single line.”

Lauren enjoyed the two-day shoot but said it bothered her when people looked at her and they first saw the Down syndrome. “It’s really hard for me when people see me as a Down syndrome kid,” she said. “I want them to see me as typical.” Lauren did say it was a lot of fun filming it. “I love ‘Glee’ and it was a great experience meeting all the characters.”

Lauren has plans for the future. She’ll be going into a program called Project Team, which is a transition program for students with disabilities. It offers job training and life skills basics. She has also recently tapped into another talent — cooking — and wants to take some classes in that subject as well.

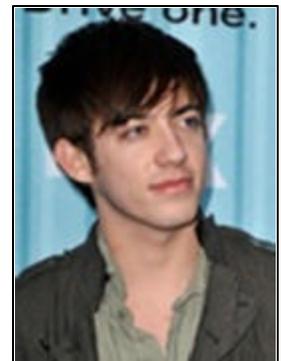
And, she plans to keep working in TV and film. “I really love performing and acting,” Lauren said.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK? IS IT OKAY FOR ACTORS TO PLAY SOMEONE WITH A DISABILITY WHEN THEY DON’T HAVE ONE THEMSELVES?

In the Fox TV show “Glee” there is an actor, Kevin McHale, who uses a wheelchair for his role. Kevin plays Artie Abrams. Artie is paralyzed from the waist down from a car accident when he was 8 years old. In real life, Kevin doesn’t use a wheelchair.

So what’s the problem? What’s all the fuss about?

When the TV show first aired, it took a lot of criticism from actors with disabilities. They felt that the role should have gone to an actor who actually lives with a disability.



Actors with disabilities feel they are not always given equal opportunity to play characters where disabilities are not an issue. They say they are only called for roles where the person has a disability and it is part of the story. They want to be chosen to play main characters in mainstream shows where disabilities are not the focus.

So that’s the debate in Hollywood. What do you think?

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

It must be summer! Look at all that's happening around the County:

Concerts on the Pier have started – Yea!

Wednesdays from 6:00 to 8:00 on the City Pier in Port Angeles

Admission is free – Bring a blanket, Bring a picnic, Have some fun!



Don't forget the 4th of July – Parades, fireworks and picnics. July 4th is a Sunday this year so many businesses will be closed on Monday, July 5th

July 16th through the 18th is the 14th Annual Lavender Festival in Sequim. Visit a farm or the Street Fair in sunny Sequim



Arts in Action is gearing up for the weekend of July 23 through July 25 down on the City Pier in Port Angeles. Check out the sculptures. This year's theme is "Legends of Science Fiction". There is free musical entertainment and a great craft fair.

The 27th Annual Joyce Daze Wild Blackberry Festival is on August 8th this year. Go get yourself a slice of homemade Blackberry Pie!



The Clallam County Fair will be held from August 19 through August 22 at the Clallam County Fairgrounds in Port Angeles. The theme for the fair this year is: "A cluck, a moo, a carnival too!"



Did you know dolphins sleep with one eye open?

## ABC NEWS - WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Recently ABC News put hidden cameras in a grocery store in Brooklyn, N.Y. They wanted to see **what would happen** when a hard-working supermarket clerk, with a developmental disability, is bagging groceries and a customer starts to get impatient.

Josh Eber, an actor who has Down syndrome was hired to play the clerk. Josh has spent his life acting. For two days he played the part of a grocery clerk while actors played the part of the impatient customer in the checkout line. Josh and the actors followed a script but what were the real customers in the line going to do? Will they say something to the rude customer or let it go? Check out the following to see how one customer reacted. Remember, **both the clerk bagging the groceries and the impatient customer are actors.**

The actor playing the customer begins to criticize:

- "You're absolutely retarded, dude! You have to go faster," our actress yelled as Josh bagged her groceries. Behind her, a woman's jaw dropped.
- The woman was clearly disturbed, but she stayed quiet until our actress engaged her.
- "They shouldn't hire these people, right?" our actress asked.
- "I don't know," the customer responded sheepishly. "I think they more, like, try to help them out."
- "But it's like their reactions are slow." the actress pressed.
- Even though she didn't like what happened the woman customer gave in. "Right," she said, "I know what you're saying."
- Later when ABC talked with this customer, she said she thought it was horrible, but didn't want to risk a making the impatient woman mad at her.



Sadly, this was a pretty common reaction over the 2 days ABC had their cameras hidden. **Would you stand up and say something** if you witnessed this cruelty?

Rude customers are nothing new, especially in a busy grocery store. In real life, in this same store, there is grocery clerk named Elvis who has a developmental disability. Elvis has been stocking shelves there for more than 10 years. His boss calls Elvis "the best," and holds him up as a standard for all other employees. Unfortunately, sometimes customers scold Elvis, using words like "stupid," "idiot" and -- the most hurtful -- "retard."

Madeline Will of the National Down Syndrome Society knows how this word damages people with special needs.

"It makes them feel less valuable, makes them feel less human," she said. "It's important to say, again and again, this is wrong, this is not fair, and this is not how we treat other people."

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Now, what happens when a customer **does** take a stand when they see a person with special needs being verbally abused?

The same script is played with the impatient customer and our actor playing the clerk:

- "Oh no," our actress said as she put her groceries on the counter. "I didn't see this was the retarded line."
- Now meet **Linda** who was behind her in line.
- "Did you just say that?" Linda asked. "I can't believe you just said that!"
- "If that was my child I'd deck you!" she shouted. "You're a crime! You're a crime."
- That's when ABC's hidden cameramen came out. No one was more proud of Linda than our actor, Josh.
- "It's not right to treat people with Down syndrome like that," he told us. "No one puts us down. No one."

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO? LAST MONTHS' ANSWER



Last month in **What Would You Do** this was the story:

Megan was standing in line at a fast food place. Some kids she knew from school came in. They started teasing Megan by pretending to walk with a limp. They called her "fatso" and "stupid". What should Megan do?

**Here's what readers said:**

- Don't pay attention to them.
- Call her mom.
- Ask for help.



Do you know what the kids are doing by being mean to Megan? It is called **bullying**. Bullying can happen to anyone and anywhere. It can happen at school, it can happen at work, it can happen when you are out in the public and, it can happen on the internet. (This is called "cyberbullying".)

Have you ever been bullied? What did you do? Here is what some experts say to do if you're being bullied:

- Change the subject – ask them a question – then you are making them think about something else.
- Make a joke or be ready with something funny to say back to them.
- Sometimes the best thing to do is just agree with what they are saying – then they look silly.
- Ask for help – ask your boss, ask your caregiver or ask a friend.



**Got a Problem? Want Advice?**

Send questions to The Connection and watch for your letter to be chosen.

Email: [TheConnection@co.clallam.wa.us](mailto:TheConnection@co.clallam.wa.us)



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Got a Story? Got News? Contact Aimee Barton at  
360-417-2407 or [TheConnection@co.clallam.wa.us](mailto:TheConnection@co.clallam.wa.us)

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