



# CLALLAM CONNECTION

Volume 2, Issue 3

May—June 2010

## LOOK WHO'S GOT TALENT!

You'll laugh, you'll sing, you'll cry and you might even want to tap your toes! Join us for a fun afternoon of a live radio show when Snap performs **KSNAP Radio Variety Show** on **June 19, 2010 at 1:30**. (The location will be announced.)

Here's a peak from a recent rehearsal.



To be yourself in  
a world that is  
constantly trying  
to make you  
something else is  
the greatest  
accomplishment.

~  
Ralph  
Waldo  
Emerson



## CHRISTI AND AUSTIN

People dream of finding true love, marrying and living happily ever after. Christi was no exception. She watched her brothers and sisters marry and wished she would have her own wedding too.

"I kept saying, 'Boy, I wish I had a husband who loves me,'" said Christi, 31 who has Down syndrome.

As she grew up, Christi's family helped her do many things: finishing high school, attending community college, performing in plays, working at Safeway and volunteering at the hospital.

They encouraged her to join the National Down Syndrome Congress, where she could socialize and become a self-advocate. It was through this group that Christi met the love of her life: Austin from Dallas, who also has Down syndrome.

"I went to this convention in Minneapolis in 2003 and I fell in love with Austin," Christi says.

A handsome, outgoing young man with a playful sense of humor and a love of dancing, Davenport was attracted to Christi's fun personality, blonde hair and dance moves.

The pair lived more than 1,700 miles apart, but kept a long-distance relationship for several

years. Christi lived in an apartment above her parents' California home and Austin lived in Dallas.

They talked on the phone and visited each other as often as possible, but realized they wanted to be together for life. They got married on October 10.

At the reception, Christi and Austin danced to the Elvis song "I Can't Help Falling in Love With You." Later, Christi sang a tribute to her parents: Celine Dion's "Because You Loved Me."

Since their wedding, Christi and Austin have talked about their time together, showing that it is possible for men and women with Down syndrome to be married.

Austin works in the mailroom in a law office and Christi volunteers at a school.

Christi says "Austin is the most important thing in my life. He has a great personality. He's always kind and loving and very special to me. He has such a beautiful heart."

Austin, 32, said he is happy to be able to spend the rest of his life with his bride. "I want Christi and I to share things," he said. "I love her."

To see more about Christi or Down syndrome, Google "We're More Alike Than Different".



## WHAT'S UP WITH DATO?



Looking for something to do? Looking for a way to be more involved in your community? Come check out **DATO** – Disabilities Assistance Trust Organization. Their next meeting is **Monday July 12 at 2:00** in the Terrace Community Room at 114 E. 6th Street in Port Angeles.

DATO has been doing some remarkable community work with financial assistance for repairs to electronic wheelchairs and scooters. DATO appreciates any cash donations or items to be sold at their annual rummage sale in October. DATO welcomes all who wish to work with them.

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO? LAST MONTHS' ANSWER



Julie and Mike have been dating for two years. Julie tells Mike what to do all the time. She picks out his clothes, decides what they will eat and chooses what they will do. When Mike tells Julie he doesn't want to do something she gets angry and yells at him. She will call him "stupid" and tell him he is "too dumb" to know what he wants. Sometimes when she is mad at him she will hit him.

What should Mike do?

Here is what Readers say:

- Get away from her!
- Don't let her hit you! You are a good person.
- Tell someone. Talk to a counselor.
- Ask her to take turns.

### 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)

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO? NEW PROBLEM

Read the following story. Then write and tell us what you would do. The best answers will be printed in the next newsletter along with a new problem.

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?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Don't Forget : Dates to Remember

#### Thursday May 6, 2010

Clallam County DDAC Meeting - SEQUIM  
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at Pioneer Park  
387 East Washington, Sequim, WA

#### Monday, May 31, 2010

Memorial Day Holiday

#### Sunday, July 4, 2010

Independence Day

#### Monday, July 12, 2010

DATO (Disabilities Assistance Trust Organization)  
2:00 PM in Terrace Community Room at 114 E. 6th St. in Port Angeles.

Did you know that the Month of June is National Fruit and Vegetable Month?

How about checking out your local Farmer's market !



## ABOUT STUTTERING



Doctors are starting to understand stuttering.  
A new study found that anxiety does not cause it.

**Myth:** *People who stutter are not smart.*

**Reality:** **There is no link whatsoever between stuttering and intelligence.**

**Myth:** *Anxiety causes stuttering.*

**Reality:** **Nervousness does not cause stuttering.**

**Myth:** *Stuttering can be “caught” by hearing another person stutter.*

**Reality:** **You can’t “catch” stuttering.**

**Myth:** *It helps to tell a person to “take a deep breath before talking,” or “think about what you want to say first.”*

**Reality:** **This advice only makes a person more self-conscious. It is helpful to listen patiently.**

**Myth:** *Stress causes stuttering.*

**Reality:** **Stress does not cause stuttering, but it can sometimes make it worse.**

Did you know that Tiger Woods had to overcome his stuttering?

## THIS EDITION OF THE CONNECTION LOOKS AT APARTMENT LIVING



The Connection recently sat down with a young woman, C.J., to find out what it’s like to live in her own apartment. C.J. says she likes being on her own and being independent. Before living in her own apartment, C.J. lived with her parents. C.J. also lived in a group setting where she shared a bedroom with another woman. They shared a house with several people.

Now, C.J. has her own apartment complete with her own kitchen, living room, bedroom and bath. She likes how quiet it is and that she can make her own decisions. She has a cat that she loves to spend time with.

C.J. has support with doing some things in her apartment like cleaning and shopping. She has help with paying her bills and with transportation. Her apartment complex has fun activities like music programs, games, and holiday celebrations. There is a meal prepared once a day that C.J. enjoys when she has time.

Many people live in their own house or apartment and it works well for them. Sometimes it just takes a little help. There is support available to help with bill paying, meals, shopping, employment and transportation.

## TEXTING UNLOCKS A WORLD (CONTINUED)

...Continued from the last *Connection*...

In the Last Connection we told you about a young man who did not talk and his mother's search for a way to communicate with him.

Let's finish the story.

Vera bought herself a new cell phone. As she was learning to use it, she came up with an idea: Why not teach Jonathon to text-message? All he would need would be a cell phone that was appropriately programmed. She hoped he would text her a message then show it to her to convey his thoughts.

She had already turned in her old phone to Verizon and it wasn't possible to retrieve it.



When the sales rep learned what she wanted it for, they donated a phone to Jonathan. His sapphire blue phone, with its large screen and slide-down QWERTY keyboard, is a Verizon Blitz.

Vera taught him how to move through the series of screens that would give him a blank screen where he could type in a message.

One night two months ago, Jonathon was playing games on his computer. After awhile, he came over to his mother, cell phone in hand. He held it out so she could read it. On the screen was typed this message: "Big Pac Man ate Blue Ghost." Vera glanced over at the computer screen and knew immediately

what he was trying to tell her.

"It was the first time he told me anything that I didn't have to fill in the blanks!" she said.

## MORGAN'S WONDERLAND OPENS - FINALLY, AN AMUSEMENT PARK FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS !

The World's first accessible fun park has opened in San Antonio Texas. It is on 25 acres and has rides, playgrounds and other amusement activities designed for people with special needs. Now families and friends can enjoy an amusement park together in a fun and safe place.

The \$32 million Park is called [Morgan's Wonderland](#) and it is fully-accessible. It was designed by Gordon Hartman whose daughter, Morgan, has a disability.

At the Park people can do things that they haven't been able to do before.

One ride is an off-road adventure where people sit in vehicles that hold wheelchairs while traveling through the twists and turns of rocky terrain. People can ride in a swing or sit on a carousel or they can ride with their family in a train.

The park also has a sensory village, a lake for fishing, a water play area and a garden complete with calming music and art. Safety features like wristbands enabled with tracking devices are also available.

Admission is free for visitors with special needs, but everyone else pays \$5. Reservations are required for the park and you must make them by phone or online or before your visit to the Park. For information call toll free (877) 495-5888

For reservations call (210) 637-3434 or email [info@morganswonderland.com](mailto:info@morganswonderland.com)



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