

Asotin County Community Services Employment Newsletter

Serving the Lewis-Clark Valley since 1973

All people living, working, learning and playing in a community based on abilities, not disabilities.

Our phone number: (509) 758-8349; Our website: www.asotincommunityservices.com

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Kids' Books Recognized For Disability Storylines

Three children's books are being honored alongside this year's picks for the Caldecott and Newbery Medals for focusing on the experiences of those with special needs. The books, aimed at kids and teens, will receive the American Library Association's Schneider Family Book Awards, the organization announced this week. The annual awards are designed to spotlight authors or illustrators for addressing the disability experience.

Winners are selected for each of three categories — one for works appealing to kids ages birth to 8, another for those ages 9 to 13 and a third category for books targeting 14 to 18-year-olds.

This year's pick for young children is "Six Dots" by Jen Bryant and illustrated by Boris Kulikov, which tells the story of Louis Braille who became blind at a young age and used French military code to invent an alphabet system for those with visual impairment.

"Bryant and Kulikov combine text and art to transport readers back in time to marvel at young Braille's genius and tenacity at inventing an alphabet system that has continued through the centuries," said Joanna Tamplin, chair of the Schneider Family Book Awards.

In the middle grades category, the book "As Brave As You" by Jason Reynolds follows brothers Genie and Ernie who spend a summer with their grandparents and learn about true bravery by watching their grandfather live without sight.

Emery Lord's "When We Collided" won the teen category for tackling the highs and lows that come with bipolar disorder.

Winners of the Schneider Family Book Awards will each receive \$5,000 and a framed plaque during the library association's annual conference in Chicago in June.

NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE BEGINS

Staff, clients and community members came together January 18, 2017 to learn about ACCS and the barriers of access to the community for people with disabilities. Advisory meetings are a forum based on interaction and input from all who attend. The perspective of many people help to make our agency transparent and effective. The next meeting is March 22nd at 4:30 pm at the ACCS office. Contact Cynthia or Stephanie at 758-8349 for more information.

At our first ever meeting we:

1. Discussed the services our agency offers to families with young children who may be experiencing developmental delays and to individuals with disabilities of working age and beyond.
1. Gathered a community of individuals willing to bring an advisory perspective regarding all aspects of delivery of services to persons with developmental disabilities.
2. Established a meeting schedule and format that is respectful of the enormous time constraints of busy, involved people.

Please join us on March 22! Help us move from good to great!

Staff Feature



Paula Reardon was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts. She has a grown daughter who still lives in Massachusetts, along with other members of her extended family.

Paula earned a Paralegal Degree and worked for a law firm from 1987 to 2003. In 2003, she moved to St. Helens, Oregon following her dream to live on a farm with horses. On the happy day a foal was born, Paula decided to raise her for the show ring. She nicknamed the baby Tivi, but her stage name was Sheza Star Leaguer. As Sheza Star Leaguer, Tivi grew up to be quite a hit!

When Paula moved to Clarkston, she brought Tiva along, but tragically had to give her up because of an illness. Paula found a great home for Tiva with other horses, close enough that Paula still gets to see her from time to time.

Paula began with Asotin County in 2012, as staff for supported living, and then moved to Community Services Employment in 2015. Her skills with horses were based on the same integrity, patience and grit that make her a fine direct support staff.

Check and Notify

It's a good idea to check your timesheet with your calendar or personal planner. If you believe you've found an error call us at (509) 758-8349 by noon on the 27th of each month. Errors called in later than noon on the 27th of each month will be corrected in

Let our staff help you develop your resume and fill out job applications. A good resume and neat application will give you an edge in the job market. When your great looking application and resume land you an interview, remember 3 important things:

- ⇒ *1. Be enthusiastic;*
 - ⇒ *2. Be flexible (when asked what shifts you would like to work, for example, always say "I am flexible");*
 - ⇒ *3. The time to negotiate hours and shifts is when the employer offers you a job. It is okay to tell the employer about how many hours you are able to work, and the days of the week you're available. It's okay to tell the employer you need to think over the job offer. Just be sure you get back to them by morning of the next day.*
- ⇒ *TIP: the more flexible you are, the better your job prospects!*

Safety Meeting: 1:30PM until 2:30PM on the 3rd Wednesday of every month (March 15, April 19th, etc.). A must meeting for anyone working on the levee, social security, or at the Corps.

Policy Reminder: If you have a question about your schedule, or you need to call in sick, or for any non-emergency, please call the office at (509) 758-8349. Leave a message if no one answers. Per page 12 of the ACCS handbook, do not call or text your crew supervisor or any specific person.

