



October 2023 News

National Disability Employment Awareness Month



Working With Brian

by Melissa Thiessen

Dependable, hard-working, ambitious, and persistent – these are the first four descriptors that come to mind when I think of my team member, Brian Hough. Brian has been working part-time alongside me at our ranch since early this year.

Our primary work here at Thiessen Ranch is raising and selling Angus beef direct to consumers both locally and across the country. Read more [here](#).

A Note From Parent to Parent...

October is National Disability Employment Month and we celebrate our Employers, Employees and our Employment Providers in the Walla Walla Valley. Did you know that there are 5 employment providers in Walla Walla and Columbia Counties that provide Employment Services such as job development, job preparation, job coaching and job marketing? This can look like exploring different environments that may be of interest to your young adults, preparation for employment with resume building and job skills training, job coaching while working and long term follow along support.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) offer contracts to provide these services. You can sign up for DVR services as early as 14 years of age for Pre-employment services, and DDA will start at age 21 for employment services.

Walla Walla High School and College Place High School offer a transition class for those ages 18-21 to explore different job experiences in our community and work on life and job skills in the classroom.

If you want to learn more about these programs, please contact Angie at 509-540-9880 or p2p@admin.org or Ysabel at 509-301-0679 or p2pespanol@wvvdn.org. To contact DVR call them to set up an intake at 509-527-1815. To reach your case manager at DDA, contact 509-394-1069.

Your Parent to Parent Coordinators, Angie Witt and Ysabel Fuentes

Trust Funds & ABLE Accounts

Tuesday, Oct 3, 6:00 pm

YOU'RE INVITED

Learn about Endowment Trust Funds and the ABLE Account Plan with Lawson Knight

Tuesday, October 3
6:00 PM-7:30PM

at the Center for Children & Families
1150 W. Chestnut St.
Walla Walla

RSVP at: wvvdn.org

If you have questions, please contact Angie Witt at 509-540-9880 / p2p@wvvdn.org or con Ysabel Fuentes 509-301-0679 en Español

PARTICIPE:

Aprenda sobre los Fondos Fiduciarios de Dotacion y Plan de Ahorro Able con Lawson Knight

Martes 3 de Octubre
6:00 PM-7:30PM

en el Centro de Niños y Familias
1150 W. Chestnut St.
Walla Walla

Confirme su asistencia en: wvvdn.org

Para hacer preguntas comuniquese con Angie Witt al 509-540-9880 / p2p@wvvdn.org o con Ysabel Fuentes 509-301-0679 en Español

Did you know adults who receive benefits like SSI (Supplemental Security Income) can have those benefits reduced or even cut if they have more than \$2,000 in assets? There are ways to protect those you care for by opening an ABLE account or starting a trust fund (Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund or DDETF in Washington State).

[Learn about Trust Funds & ABLE Accounts](#)

Last Chance to Join the Welcome to Holland Series

Fridays, Oct 6 to Nov 10 at 9:30 am



Do you care for a child with special needs and feel like you are alone? Are you adjusting to a new diagnosis of your child? Do you have questions about services and resources but don't know who to ask? Would you like to meet other parents who are also raising children with special needs?

[Register for Holland Series](#)



SOAR Oct Events - For age 13 and over

Oct 10 - Arcade Night (Registration closes Sunday, Oct 8 at 6pm)

Oct 16 - Bowling

Oct 24 - BINGO Night

Oct 28 - Corn Maze

[Register for October SOAR Events](#)

Check your inbox for a reminder email with dates, times, and locations after you register.

Sign Up is Now Open for those age 18 and over who wish to join the Whitman Buddy Program.

[Whitman Buddy Program](#)



Kids Playgroup

age 0-12, caregivers & siblings

Klicker's Pumpkin Patch

Tuesday, Oct 10, 4:00 pm

Join us for Fall fun - one free pumpkin per family

2023 Harvest Party & Chili/Cornbread Contest

Saturday, Oct 28, 5:00 - 7:00 pm



Fun for the whole family! We will have carnival games such as bean bag toss, cupcake walk, bowling etc. and a costume contest and prizes. Please RSVP and indicate if you will be bringing chili/cornbread for the contest. If you have questions or if you would like to volunteer, please call or email Angie at p2p@wwvdn.org (509) 540-9880 or Ysabel p2pespanol@wwvdn.org or (509) 301-0679

RSVP for Harvest Party



Monthly Activities & Events October

Mamás Especiales

- Oct 17, Centro para niños y familias - 5:00 pm

Parent to Parent Walla Walla

- Oct 16, Senior & Caregiver No Host Dinner - 6:00 pm

- Oct 26, Autism & Behavior Support (Topic: School Behavior Plans) - 6:30 pm

Parent to Parent Columbia County

- Oct 20, Meeting location to be determined - 5:30 pm

[See Calendar of Events](#)

SAVE THE DATE - November 7 at 6pm

Meet with your legislative representatives - Representatives Skyler Rude & Mark Klicker, Senator Perry Dozier, & Walla Walla County Commissioners.

Community News & Activities

Order Free At-Home Covid Tests Now

Beginning September 25, every U.S. household can again place an order to receive four more free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered directly to their home. To order from covid.gov, click [here](#) and to order from usps.com, click [here](#).

YMCA Adaptive Swim Lessons

Class size limited to 4 participants

Registration Ends Oct 5



Session Dates: Oct 9 to Oct 19, 2023

Lesson Time: 6:20-7:00 PM (Mon - Thurs)

Cost: \$50 for the 2-week session

Dance Class - Registration open



Open to all ages, this class is designed for individuals with physical and developmental disabilities. Please contact Rhonda with any questions.

Registration for the next session is open. The session runs October 2 to November 9, 2023, Tues & Thurs, 6:30 to 7:15 pm. The 6-week session (12 classes) is \$66.00 per student.

In Step Dance Studio is located at 2200 Melrose St #6, Walla Walla.

Register at: <https://www.gomotionapp.com/team/waids/page/system/classreg-shopping>

City of Walla Walla Residents



Deadline to submit a request is **OCTOBER 1**

If you have a disability that makes it challenging for you to clear the snow berm (example pictured above) from your driveway during winter weather, the City of Walla Walla has instituted a Berm Reduction Program as a reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.

[Details & Application here](#)

Walla Walla Parks & Recreation

Comprehensive Plan 2024

Give Your Input

Give YOUR input on the current state of the City's Parks and Recreation facilities and programs as well as your vision for the future.

[Take the Survey](#)

Blue Mountain Therapeutic Riding

5th Annual Fall Fundraiser

Oct 15 at 6:30 pm

Where: SonBridge Center (1200 SE 12st St, College Place)

Join them for an evening of fun - desserts, bingo, silent auction, raffles & more

Dan Thompson Employment Rally

Online or In Person on Oct 19, 2023

The 2023-2024 Dan Thompson Employment Rallies are coming to Washington State! Please join us to celebrate, share the history of our movement, and work together to define a vision and create a plan to move Employment forward through 2030. Come Rally with us!

[More Information & Registration](#)

Blue Zones Project

October Events

September events include: Walk & Roll Moai at Southgate Providence, Reduce Stress with the MELT Method, Purpose Workshop, Toxic-Free Cleaning for your Home, Book Discussion

[Details & Registration for Events](#)

VRS Cooking & Craft Classes

Please visit their [Facebook page](#) for more information or call 509-540-0935 if that works better for you.



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