

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

January 2018 Edition Designed by Vanessa Lombard; Edited by Cynthia Tierney

TV PERSONALITY, ENTREPRENEUR,

MATT ROLOFF

Matt Roloff, an individual with dwarfism, pictured with his former wife, Amy, from the TV program Little People, Big World, understands what it's like to travel all day



lugging heavy bags, negotiating airports and ground transportation, only to arrive at his hotel room exhausted, unable to climb into bed because it is too tall for him to navigate. Often the least inconvenient way to get some sleep is to simply pull the bedspread from the luxury mattress and sleep on the floor.

Besides working on his reality show, Roloff is chairman of Hillsboro, Ore.-based Direct Access Solutions. He has a form of dwarfism called diastrophic dysplasia, which requires him to walk with the aid of crutches. He sometimes uses a motorized scooter.

Having to sleep on the floor of a fully furnished hotel room is just one of numerous challenges for travelers with disabilities.

Necessity being the mother of invention, Roloff decided to practice Habit 1 of Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, BE PROACTIVE. Together with his company he created the Short Stature Accessibility Kit. The kit includes a custom step stool (known as the Roloff stool) an ergonomic reach grabber, a door security-latch adapter, an extension or push-pull tool and a specially designed closet rod adapter.

He's been marketing the kit to hotel chains for several years.

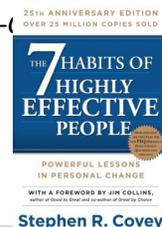
With the Roloff kit individuals with dwarfism no longer check into fancy hotels only to:

- Stand on overturned wastebaskets to reach the sink
- Balance on the edge of the bathtub to adjust the shower head
- Stand on the toilet to reach a towel or washcloth
- Climb up armoire drawers to grab the TV remote
- Teeter on phone books or their luggage to fasten the security latch
- Sleep on the floor because the bed is too high

Content in this article from the following:

<https://www.roloffstools.com/hotels-motels-need-roloff-stools/>

<http://www.travelweekly.com/Jeri-challenges-for-little-people/>



Stephen R. Covey

January 15th ACCS will be closed to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Safety Meeting: 1:30PM until 2:30PM on the 3rd Wednesday of every month (January 17th and February 21st) A must meeting for anyone working on the LEVEE, CORPS OR SOCIAL SECURITY (federal contracts).

NOTE: The Safety Meeting will no longer be recorded on a separate line of your timesheet under the CORPS column. The hour of the meeting will be recorded on the date of the meeting under LEVEE, CORPS OR SOCIAL SECURITY depending upon where you most often work.

This is a change, as before all hours for safety meeting were recorded under CORPS which paid slightly more than LEVEE and SOCIAL SECURITY. Per federal contract, safety meeting hours should be recorded under the dominant contract for each worker.

WAGE INCREASES 2018

As of January 1, 2018, the Washington minimum wage will increase to \$11.50 per hour. That means if you are earning wages on non-federal contracts, you will receive an additional .50 cents per hour on your paycheck for the month of January.

Also increasing on January 1, 2018, the health and welfare benefit paid to workers on federal contracts (CORPS, LEVEE, SOCIAL SECURITY) goes from \$4.27 per hour to \$4.41 per hour. As a result, federal contract workers will see an increase in their hourly wage.



OVERCOMING OBSTACLES



Long before the neurodegenerative disease ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) became more well-known thanks to the Ice Bucket Challenge, it was very much a part of physicist Stephen Hawking's life. In fact, it's been a big part of Hawking's life for 51 years, which is astounding given the debilitating nature of the disease and the fact it is usually fatal within five years of a diagnosis.

From the time he was diagnosed until today, Hawking has not let his condition stop him from achieving his goals. "I am quite often asked: 'How do you feel about having ALS?' The answer is, not a lot," Hawking said. "I try to lead as normal a life as possible, and not think about my condition, or regret the things it prevents me from doing, which are not that many." Although it would be easy to think about what this disease has cost him, Hawking has chosen to focus on all that he still has. His brilliant mind remains unaffected by ALS, so he can continue to enjoy the benefits of that. Hawking has 12 honorary degrees and has received multiple awards, medals and prizes. He has even appeared on a number of television shows, including *Trek: The Next Generation*, *The Simpsons*, and *The Big Bang Theory*. There have been documentaries about his life and a new film called [The Theory of Everything](#) has been released in theaters. He also co-authored a children's book with his daughter called [George's Secret Key to the Universe](#) to educate young children about the universe and black holes.

It is not known why Hawking has defied the odds and lived with this deadly disease for so long, though the fact he contracted ALS at such a young age is thought to contribute to his ability to survive longer than those diagnosed over the age of 50. Generally, fewer than 10 percent of ALS sufferers live longer than ten years, however. "I have been lucky that my condition has progressed more slowly than is often the case," Hawking says. "But it shows that one need not lose hope."

Hawking's life story serves as an inspiration to children and adults, especially those who are struggling with a chronic or serious illness. His lessons of positive thinking, focusing on what can be accomplished, taking advantage of the time provided, and ignoring the difficulties, can be taught in all areas of life. Content from: <https://www.learningliftoff.com/overcoming-obstacles-stephen-hawking-defies-the-als-odds/>

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. We will make every attempt to correct the error before the fifth of the month. Errors discovered too late for correction will be adjusted in the next pay period.