CONNECTIONS CASE MANAGEMENT

CONNECTIONS CHRONICLE

www.connectionscm.org

Customer Spotlight

"No matter the question, 'Make it accessible' is always a right answer" - Sheri Byrne-Haber

In late 2023, Jeremy, his family, and his Personal Agent began a journey that would be life changing. It took a long time to finish the process, but was well worth it. It was completed this March.

Jeremy has limited mobility and has been living with his family in a two-story house since 2023, when they moved from the Bend, Oregon area. Some of the home was designed with accessibility for Jeremy in mind (lowered countertops and widened doorways for electric wheelchair use). However, he had very limited access to the inside and outside of the house. Jeremy did not have any access to the second floor of their home. He had never even seen it!

After a long process of getting home modifications approved by the state and another long process of completing the actual construction, Jeremy and his family are very grateful for the changes that help him move around his home and do daily activities like bathing. These include a wheelchair ramp, the longest walkway ever approved by ODDS, a stair lift, and a ceiling lift with a track system.

Jeremy can now use the shower and bath, access the second level of his home, and get out into the neighborhood. As a big "rail fan," he uses what his family calls the "Train Track" to move around the house with more independence than before. He also enjoys going on walks with his family to see the train tracks nearby.

When asked about some of the other activities that Jeremy loves getting to experience, he mentioned doing things like taking a bath, pedaling his exercise bike, and getting to sit on the couch for the first time in years.

Jeremy and his family are so grateful for this new independence. Their happiness shows. The next goal: PT and tendon release surgery with the long-term goal of re-learning how to walk again. When asked to describe this experience in one word, Jeremy stated, "Awesome!"

We at Connections are also in awe of this story, and we hope it can inspire those reading it.

Meet our new Executive Director, April

Hi, I'm April - I'm really excited to join and lead the team at Connections.

I've worked with people with disabilities for over 10 years, including 4 years as a Brokerage Director supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Lane, Linn, and Benton counties. One of my more unique experiences was working with people during dolphin-assisted therapy in Mexico.

I grew up with an uncle who had Cerebral Palsy. I loved finding ways to make him laugh, and I learned how important it was for him to have people around him who truly cared. My grandmother was one of those many people–she lovingly cared for him at home and made sure he had a full and meaningful life.

That experience played a large part in shaping how I do my job. It's important to me that people can make their own choices and that we show dignity and respect in how we support them. My role–and our role at CCM–is to partner with our customers and help bring those choices to life. I also know how important the caregivers in someone's life are, and we work alongside them too.

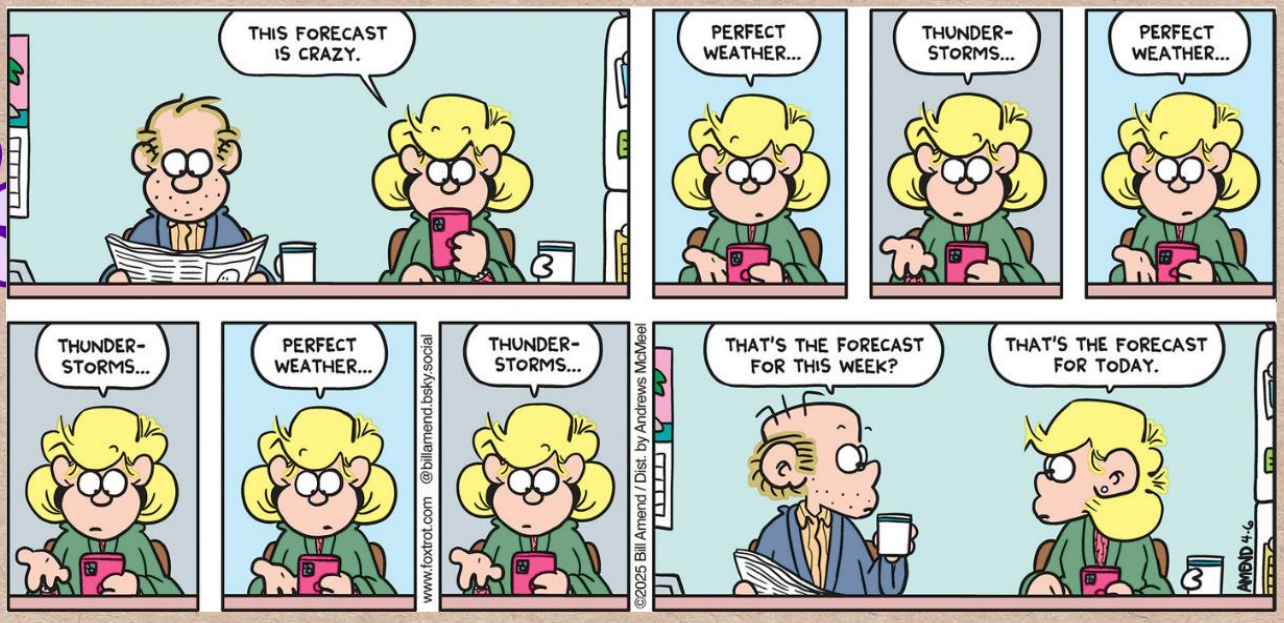
When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time with my pup and two cats, practicing yoga, cooking, and cheering for my favorite football team–Go Ducks! I also love spending time with my family and being a proud aunt.

I'm really glad to be here and look forward to getting to know you.

Looking Forward,

April Theberge

COMICS



SPRING WORD SEARCH

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APRIL	BASEBALL	BREAK
BREEZE	CLEANING	CLOUDS
JACKET	KITE	MARCH
MAY	PICNIC	PUDDLES
RAINBOW	RAINCOAT	SEASON
SHOWERS	SPRING	SUNSHINE
THAW	UMBRELLA	WINDY

SUDOKU

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Return Service Requested

Sudoku Answers:

7	3	2	5	8	6	4	1	9
6	9	5	4	3	1	8	7	2
1	8	4	9	2	7	3	5	6
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3	5	6	8	9	4	7	2	1
8	7	1	3	6	2	9	4	5
4	2	9	7	1	5	6	3	8

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www.connectionscm.org

Facebook: **Connections Case Mgmt**

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