

### Commitment; being all that you can be and more

Story and photo by Bonne Smith

Whether it's a blustry fall afternoon or a sunny summer morning Patrick McFarland knows how the weather affects his job at the Port Angeles WalMart store.

"On rainy days I have dry carts, wiped down and ready to go. On sunny days we put them outside to keep the aisle clear," he says, pointing to the space along the two cashier stations.

Jo Ann Locke, a WalMart cashier and fellow employee said she is immensely appreciative of Patrick's work ethic.

"I'd like to keep him back here," she said. "Patrick is a big help, he's also our secretary."

Patrick's work ethic is recognized by his co-workers, "Working here is a true commitment for him," said Diana Schneider.

"This is a three-season department, Patrick says about his job." Patrick explained that he has many responsibilities as an employee and in helping customers.

"I help get ready for the seasons. February to September is garden season. In September we start Halloween and holiday shop. Now we're in the Christmas shop,"

Part of the seasonal set up is removing the cardboard containers and boxes from the sales floor. Patrick collects all the cardboard and takes it back to the compacter. He said he also helps customers who buy large or heavy items and loads them in their cars.

One of Patrick's other duties to customers is as an entrance greeter in the garden, holiday



*Patrick McFarland is a seven-year employee of WalMart; a gold-medal athlete on the Orcas Special Olympics team and a leader in the People First organization.*

and Christmas department.

"Good morning and welcome to WalMart," Patrick says to a customer who accepts the flyer that Patrick hands her. He smiles, she smiles and Patrick nods a yes confirming the acceptance.

Without missing a beat, Patrick begins a list of duties associated with being a greeter.

"I follow the 10 front rules. Greet, smile and meet every customer," Patrick says as another person enters the store. "Yep, this is my job. My greatest joy is being happy and having my job," Patrick said.