

Chamber Survey – Your Voice Matters

One of the Chamber's priorities this month was to develop

a business survey to learn both how you're doing as a business and how the Chamber is doing in meeting your

needs. We

are looking



Cynthia Mudge Chamber Executive Director

at what events we re-ignite and what new events would be most engaging to develop. We're evaluating our member services to see which ones are the most beneficial and to learn about new ideas to consider. We are already working on improvements to the website and our marketing efforts, but know we can do more and your input helps guide us in those decisions.

We want to hear from both members and non-members so we can see where the gaps in services are.

Using the QR code provided here takes you straight to the survey. If you are unable to use the QR code then email thechamber@chamberway. com to have a link sent to you or visit our website at www. ChamberWay.com to follow the link. We are keeping the survey open through June 15.



NMLS #1807751

In addition, a series of short surveys will be issued throughout the year to hear feedback on highly targeted subjects that will be limited to three or four questions. We encourage your participation!

Post Covid Summit

As we embark into a post-COVID era, much has changed in how we do business and how we measure our priorities, both personal and professional. The Economic Development Alliance of Lewis County is putting together the Post COVID Summit covering supply chain disruption, HR, logistics, changing times, and much more.

The Chamber also wants to hear directly from you! We're seeking business owners and leaders to share their personal COVID stories and how it has changed how you do business. You can either write an article or we can interview you and write the story for you. This is an opportunity to learn from each other as we continue to evolve our businesses. Call Cynthia at 360-748-8885 or email director@chamberway. com

Post Covid Summit

Date: June 15th, 2022 Time: 3:00 to 5:30 pm Topic: Supply Chain Disrupt ion, HR, Logistics, Changing times & more. Cost: \$25 per person or VIP Table for 8 – \$250

Why is the income tax on capital gains being kept on life support?

By Rep. Peter Abbarno

Despite having a \$15 billion surplus burning a hole in its pocket, the Washington State Legislature left Olympia on March 10 without delivering any meaningful broad tax relief for working families or small businesses. Investing in families and businesses through broad tax relief is about trust.

I believe my community members know their needs and priorities better than Olympia, which is why I advocated for using the record surplus for meaningful tax relief. Their needs and struggles are real. Unfortunately, instead of giving money back to the taxpayers, the governor and his majority party spent the historic surplus while continuing their fight for an income tax!

Last year, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 5096, which imposes a 7% tax on the amount of capital gains reported on an individual's federal income tax return. There is a standard exclusion of \$250,000 per year, and some other exclusions. As a reminder, Washington voters opposed various forms of an income tax no less than 10 times on the ballot and will likely have another opportunity in November.

On March 2, Douglas **County Superior Court** Judge Brian Huber ruled the new capital gains tax unconstitutional, saying it "shows the hallmarks of an income tax rather than an excise tax," as argued by some state lawmakers. The characterization of SB 5096 as an 'income tax' is also consistent with the United States Department of Revenue's definition. Immediately following the ruling, Attorney General Bob Ferguson pledged his office will appeal the judge's ruling.



Washington? I believe it is and that is how the income tax on capital gains would apply.

Despite Huber's ruling against the capital gains income tax, the Legislature drafted and passed an operating budget that assumes the revenue from the income tax just found unconstitutional. The 2022 operating budget increases spending 10.5% or \$6.2 billion over the last biennium -- the largest supplemental spending plan in state history.

The economic debate stems from whether an income tax on capital gains is necessary. First, there is an argument that Washington state has among the most "upside down and backwards" tax systems in the country. If Washington state's tax structure needs to be fairer, I propose increasing the Working Families Tax Credit, eliminating burdensome regulations for small businesses, and incentivizing economic development in rural and marginalized communities. Reducing the tax burden on the families that need the most relief makes the most economic senses.

Washington. According to Commerce, no income tax creates economic opportunities and investments in our state. I agree.

Finally, if there is ever a "right" time to increase taxes, this certainly is not the time. The top issues community members discuss with me are the skyrocketing cost of living, inflation, and taxes. Working families at the kitchen table are trying to balance their checkbook as the cost of gasoline eclipses \$4.50 a gallon. Last month, flour and prepared flour mixes were 14% higher than 2021, butter was up 14%, milk was up 13%, and some stores were beginning to ration infant formula.

In spite of Huber's ruling and the uncertainty of the income tax, the Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (ERFC) recently adopted an official outlook based on the 2022 supplemental budget that assumes capital gains tax revenue. Thankfully, two Republican legislators - Rep. Ed Orcutt and Sen. Lynda Wilson – requested an outlook that excluded revenue from the capital gains income tax so the public could see the accurate economic outlook. Ultimately, the Washington State Supreme Court may be the final voice on whether the income tax under Senate Bill 5096 is constitutional. But the constitutionality of an income tax is only one question that needs to be answered. The other question is whether the state should impose an income tax on capital gains, even if it can. The People may ultimately decide that questions, again. The insatiable appetite for more taxes and record spending must end and abandoning the push for an unconstitutional and unpopular income tax on capital gains should be the first step. The best investment our government can make right now is in you, your business, and your local community. I trust you with your money and so should Olympia. Rep. Peter Abbarno represents the 20th Legislative District in the Washington State House of Representatives. Rep. Abbarno is a local attorney and business owner with a Master of Laws in Taxation from the University of Washington.

Location: The Loft in Chehalis 547 NW Pacific Ave, Chehalis, WA 98532

*Register early-Limited

Seating*

Cynthia Mudge director@chamberway.com 360-748-8885

Join us for coffee and a review, and receive a free quote

Call for a quote 736-7601 Business • Personal • Home • Auto • Bonds • Flood • Life



118 West Pine Street, Centralia Also located in Olympia, Packwood & Vancouver 360-736-7601 www.nicholson-insurance.com The legal debate stems from the language in the Washington State Constitution, Article 7, Section 1, that states in part, "All taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of property within the territorial limits...." Is it unconstitutional to impose a non-uniform tax on the same class of property in the state of Second, Washington state was sitting on a \$15 billion budget surplus. Tax and fee increases remain unnecessary. There is sufficient revenue and projected revenue for tax relief and still fund the necessary programs passed by the Legislature.

Third, the absence of an income tax is an incentive to attract business to Washington state and create jobs. The Washington State Department of Commerce referred to the lack of an income tax as a "competitive advantage" and "great marketing" for



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Mailing: P.O. Box 1304, Chehalis



Sticklin Funeral Chapel:

Re-Imagining How We Honor Our Loved Ones

Cynthia Mudge **Executive Director** director@chamberway.com

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Cameron McGee Calypso

For many, the image of a funeral home is a somber one. Those who enter speak in hushed tones as they work with the funeral director and staff to take on the uncomfortable and emotionally sobering task of putting a loved one to rest.

Sticklin Funeral Chapel is committed to changing that experience. They recently hosted a Business After Hours to showcase their amazing newly remodeled Celebration of Life Center. It is a bright, warm space. Instead of pews,

there is comfortable seating around elegantly styled banquet tables. Their goal is to create an experience and service that truly honors the life being celebrated. They will do what they can to say "yes" to special requests, whether it is ensuring a beloved horse is there or a favorite hobby is honored. This has included allowing a dirt-bike to be placed front and center, along with other personal items that truly made those who entered feel the presence of their loved one.



Sticklin Funeral Chapel 1437 S Gold Street (Centralia) • (360) 736-1388

Job Recruitment Challenges & June Hiring Event

Finding employees has been one of the challenges facing many businesses in 2022. Whether you're a restaurant looking for servers and kitchen staff, a warehouse needing general laborers, a manufacturer seeking skilled workers, or an office recruiting administrative staff - finding candidates with the skills and experience necessary has become a formidable task.

COVID has changed how people view their jobs. The tools used to attract an employee in 2019 are very different from those needed today. Workers are seeking more than the standard compensation package (wage, benefits, vacation). Every industry needs to get creative with their recruitment and benefits. Some tips to consider as you plan your hiring process:

Flexible hours to accommodate child care, education pursuits, or even hobbies

Corporate culture -According to an article in Harvard Business Review, corporate culture must foster a sense of belonging. Whether working in administration or warehouse, corporate culture is important for recruitment. Candidates have choices about where to work and businesses need to put their best foot forward when recruiting.

Corporate values and mission. Do these align with your candidates? Today more than ever people want to work for companies that share common values to their own. Use those values to attract new employees by promoting it as part of your recruitment branding.

Competitive salary: This is still a key driver. Check with your competitors. If you cannot offer a better wage,

then consider other benefits such as a four-day workweek, flexible hours, paid time off and breaks during the workday, or continued education scholarships.

Referrals, referrals, referrals: This is a common theme among professional recruiters. Consider bonus pay or other compensation for referring candidates. Do you hear that? The Clue Phone is ringing! The happier your current employees are, the better the referrals will be. Answer the call!

Reference: Mahoney, Michelle (2022). How To Attract Top Talent in 2022. Harvard Business Review. https://hbr.org/ sponsored/2022/01/how-toattract-top-talent-in-2022

June Hiring Event

The Chamber is organizing another Hiring Event and vendor tables

Upcoming Events | Monthly Events

Chamber Forum

2nd Thursday of each month 11:30 am - 1:00 pm O'Blarney's Irish Pub 221 N Tower Avenue (Centralia)

are now available. Cost to members is \$50 per table and \$100 for non-members. The last event attracted 130 job seekers and we have challenged ourselves to bring even more.

Thank you Holiday Inn Express for sponsoring the venue! Event Date: Tuesday, June 21 • 1 to 4 pm Location: Holiday Inn Express at 730 Liberty Pl Vendor Table Deadline: June 10.

Guest Advisors Sought!

The Chamber is seeking business owners, HR professionals, or others involved in recruiting to provide advice and tips for recruiting staff in the post-COVID era. Email director@ chamberway.com or call 360-748-8885 to learn more. Our goal is to offer weekly tips in our May and June electronic newsletter to help employers attract great staff.

Business After Hours

3rd Thursday of each month 5:00 - 7:00 pm

May BAH

Fox Theatre 123 S. Tower Avenue (Centralia) A whole lot of renovation has been

Chris Thomas Providence Hospital

Sandra Wing LC Sports Commission

Rodney Youckton Lucky Eagle Casino and Hotel

NON-VOTING

Rob Hill City of Centralia

Jill Anderson **City of Chehalis**

CONTACT US:

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Chehalis, WA 98532

Office: 360.748.8885

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TheChamber@ChamberWay.com



Chamber office conference room 500 NW Chamber of Commerce Way (Chehalis)

Ambassador Meeting

Ribbon Cutting: Silver Acres

Wednesday, May 11 • Noon

1266 SW 22nd St. (Chehalis)

Thursday, May 19 • Noon

Rob Fuller Scholarship Luncheon

Honoring the top 25 students from Centralia & Chehalis high schools Monday, June 6. Sponsors sought! Call 360-748-8885

Hiring Event / Job Fair Tuesday, June 21 • 1 - 4 pm Holiday Inn Express Tables available! \$50 members, \$100 non-members • Deadline: June 10

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May Speaker: Nicholas Hartrich, LEED AP, LFA, CSBA with Puget Sound Energy Topic: Small business & energy efficiency: How Chehalis Chamber businesses can save money with incentives and energy upgrades from PSE Date: May 12



going on! Join us for a sneak preview.



Want to host a BAH?

Call (360) 748-8885 or email thechamber@chamberway.com/ The opportunity to host a BAH is an exclusive membership benefit.

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Welcome New Chamber Members!

Evexia IV Nutrition and Wellness

Floodproofing Inc.

Greenbrier Rail Services

Michael J. Kelly, **Lewis County PUD** Commissioner

Moctezumo Landscaping and Fencing, LLC

Oak Tree Manor

Bronze

Century 21 Lund Lewis County Title **ESCO Signs** Sierra Pacific Industries **Chehalis Livestock Market Phillips Burgess PLLC** Timberland Bank

BIZZBUZZ

Bizz Buzz is a FREE Chamber Membership Benefit!

Not only are you included in this insert each month but your business gets highlighted on Facebook and on our website. Simply send 200 words (or less) to marketing@chamberway.com. A photo or logo gets even greater visibility!

ATG Bookkeeping LLC

We are passionate about problem solving for small businesses. Every business needs to maintain records for their finances. If you're ready to offload the daily, weekly, and monthly task of bookkeeping to a professional, let's have a chat.



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Blue Skies Drones

We all like nice days. The PNW has some of the nicest days in the summer. This is prime time to spend outside, enjoying the views of our lush mountains and evergreen trees. This is prime time to enjoy some views with drones too. Just keep in mind that drones are not allowed in National Parks nor in wilderness areas. You can enjoy them in some national forests however. Find out more details: https://www.fs.usda.gov/ activity/giffordpinchot/

> Centralia Outlets

recreation/otheractivities

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8th! Shop at Centralia Outlets and find the perfect gift for mom. Create a spa gift basket with bath salts, body wash, lotions, body sprays, and candles from Bath & Body Works Outlet.

Coach Outlet and Polo Ralph Lauren Factory Store both carry high quality purses, coin purses, and wallets! Find a wide selection of fashion jewelry at Kay Jewelers because "every kiss begins with Kay!" And if your mom enjoys the outdoors, find hiking gear at Eddie Bauer Outlet or athletic shoes at Famous Footwear, Under Armour Clearance House, Skechers, and Nike.



King Agriculture Museum

The Museum is excited and pleased to announce our doors are opening this year on Thursday June 2nd. Hours are 10 AM to 4 PM, Thursday through Sunday. Admission is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for ages 13 to 18, 12 and under free. Season ending this year September 30th.

Season passes are available for family and individuals.

We have added new displays, more interactive displays, and several more antique tractors. We have a gift shop that has collectibles, as well as toys and glassware for sale.

Many people have commented on how much fun they had viewing our museum and couldn't believe the collection we have on display.

We developed an entertaining and unusual playground for kids and adults.

Come join us for a conversation about tractors, logging, farming or the Kalakala Ferry display. We look forward to seeing and visiting with you.

BIZZ BUZZ DEADLINES May 18 June 15 July 20 August 17 September 21 October 19 November 16 December 21

Chehalis Livestock Market Now Accepting consignments



For store information, store sales, and store hours, please visit our website at www. centraliaoutlets.com.

Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum

Sponsors sought!



Flooded tracks in 2022 and struggles to get the train insured have paused operations for the steam train but this pause provides an opportunity to get much needed work on the train completed. With the help of an experienced steam train/ boiler builder, and a \$120,000 grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce, the #15 Steam Train Locomotive is being reassembled. Dozens of projects are being done by volunteers who see the vision and want to get back "on track." If you are among the many Steamtrain enthusiasts who want to help or to offer assistance or donations, please go to SteamTrainRide.com/sponsor or contact by email at info@ steamtrainride.com

for the ONLINE **May Equipment Auction! Delivery Schedule:** 8am to 4pm on the following days Wednesday and Thursday, April 27 and 28th.--NO FRIDAY April 29 Delivery. More delivery days: Saturday, April 30th thru Thursday, May 5th. The Last day we will accept Miscellaneous is Monday, May 2nd. Good Misc ONLY. No junk please. IF questioning your loads quality, please call ahead. We will be very selective at this Sale. Thank you for helping us keep our sale Quality.

Online Bidding will start on Wed, May 11th and End Wednesday, May 18th.

Preview in Person on Saturday and Sunday May 14th and 15th, 9am to 4pm.

See our website www. clmauctions.com or Facebook for more info.

Call office if any? 360-748-3191

The May Auction is a Great Sale to buy and sell Hay Equipment----Hope to see everyone soon !

Great Northwest Federal Credit Union

Are you looking for a home of your own? Great NorthWest Federal Credit Union offers a variety of mortgage, land loans and home equity loan products to fit your specific needs. Whether it's your first home, you're downsizing, or you're looking to build on that perfect piece of property – Great NorthWest FCU has the lending solution and loan specialists to

Re/Max Key Land Company Real Estate Brokerage Announces a New Home Office!

After approximately 30 years at our Centralia location, we have moved to 299 North Market Boulevard in Chehalis. "The Point" was built in 1923 and was deemed " the most prestigious building in all of Chehalis" at the time. It is located on the Historic Downtown Chehalis Walking Tour. The Fissell Family operated a funeral home in the 8,000 square foot building. They later sold the building and it has been known by many local Chehalians as Brown's Funeral Home. The Point has been renovated over the past 2 years into a fresh and chic new space. Currently, the building has 2 apartments on the top floor, and 3 businesses on the main floor which include; Body Vibe Massage Therapy, Iris Civil Engineering and RE/MAX Real Estate Brokerage. We are excited about our new neighborhood and would love to show off our new office. Stop by for a visit and a tour!

make the home of your dreams, a reality. All loans on approval of credit. NMLS #401392. Equal Housing Lender. Call 1-800-833-8396 or visit us online at www.greatnwfcu.com.

Lewis County Master Gardener's 2022 Spring Plant Sale!

Saturday, May, 21st from 9am-4pm & Sunday, May 22nd, from 9am-2pm. Thousands of high quality plants, all grown by Master Gardeners! Now's your time to purchase tomatoes, vegetables, annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, herbs and MUCH MORE! SWW Fairgrounds, Blue Pavilion, Chehalis.

Upcoming Workshops: June 11th, 10am: How to Grow Lavender, Borst Park, Master Gardener's Demo Garden June 23rd, 10am: Tool Sharpening 101, Providence Place Demo Garden July 9th, 10am: Building Limb & Twig Trellises for Your Garden, Timberland Library Demo Garden July 23rd, 10am: Hydrangeas: Care & Pruning, Providence

Place Demo Garden WSU Lewis County Master Gardener Training is open to anyone with an interest in gardening, landscaping, environmental stewardship and has a willingness to make a positive impact in their community. Contact Jason. Adams@lewiscountywa.gov or the WSU Lewis County Extension Office at 360-740-1214

WSU Lewis County Master Recycler Composters

Reducing Food Waste According to the Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington generates about 1.2 million tons of food waste, annually. More than 390,000 tons of that is edible food waste. Join Master Recycler Composters for our third FREE workshop of the year focusing on reducing food waste and costs. Melanie Case, Lewis County Recycling Program Coordinator, and WSU Master Recycler Composters Volunteers will show you how to "Take a Bite Out of Waste." Class will be held on May 4th at 5 pm at the Chehalis Library.

In keeping with the focus on reducing food waste, Lewis County Master Food Preservers will be teaching a class on Introduction to Home Canning & Preservation on May 14th from 10 am to 12 pm at Ford's Prairie Grange. Call 360-740-1212 to reserve your spot for either class. Help us meet Washington's goal to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030.

Check out the Floral Park Sustainability Project, our new environmental education and demonstration site where we make reducing, recycling, and repurposing solid waste practical and FUN! To join the Master Recycler Composters (MRCs), contact Jason Adams, Program Coordinator, WSU Lewis County Master Recycler Composters, (360) 740-1216 or e-mail jason. adams@lewiscountywa.gov.

Rob Fuller Scholarship Luncheon Returns!

The Chamber is honored to bring back the Rob Fuller Scholarship Luncheon honoring the top 25 high school students from Centralia and Chehalis. Due to COVID restrictions, 2019 was the last time the luncheon took place in-person and we are thrilled to host it at Jesters Auto Museum and Event Center. This year more than ever we need to support our seniors as they graduate. The past two years of their high school experience has been full of challenges and these kids are absolute troopers. To sponsor a student or a table contact Chris Demus at the Chamber office: 360-748-8885 or email thechamber@chamberway.com Cost is \$50 per student or \$350 for a table of eight.

We are honored and pleased to announce the Top 25 High School Students in Centralia and Chehalis!

Centralia High School

Riley Babka Athens Corona-Garcia Trinity Dawson Annarazelle Garcia Asia Gardner Lilly Gress Jadyn Hawley Elizabeth Hopkins Landon Kaut Annabelle Lewis Jennifer Lopez Isabella Martinez Steven Neely Leslie Nehls Lucy Nowicki Ella Orr Victoriano Reyes Hannah Robbins Evie Rooklidge Christopher Rose Madelyn Sievert Austin Ulrigg Nathen Wethington Natalie Wilkerson Brandon Yeung Shelby Zandecki

W.F. West High School in Chehalis Lily Bagley Reese Blinks Wesley Bowers

Joseph Chung

Amelia Etue Abigail Finley Xavier Flores Emma Greene Accadia Hazlett Elaina Koenig Claire Kuykendall Logan Moore Myah O'Neill Jocelyn Robertson

Kaylynne Dowling

Cassandra Sanchez-Franco Ian Schow Taylor Shipp Kambriah Simper Carissa Smith Mimi Tien Audrey Toynbee Mason Walters Elsa Wearner Anna White

INANK YOU... to the Scholarship Sponsors Who Have Already Committed!

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