

America's Heartland is all around us!

County and regional fairs across the state are just around the corner. Many of our thoughts turn to great fair food, rides, games and entertainment. Here at home in Lewis County, the Southwest Washington Fair is of particular importance to the agriculture community and the foundation by which the fair was built.

As a husband to a former FFA goat and livestock presenter, 4-H 'Sparkles and Spurs' parent to a daughter who loves horse riding, new owner of 5 chickens, home to a fair bunny named 'pumpkin', and caretaker to 6 fair goldfish thriving against all odds a year after the 2021 Southwest Washington Fair, the deeper meaning of the Southwest Washington fair permeates daily life.

I think that was the point when the Southwest Washington Fair got its start in 1877, which was to promote "the advancement of agriculture" in the community. In 1908 the State Legislature went a step further by stipulating that the Southwest Washington Fair was to be located between Chehalis and Centralia and further decreed that the Fair was to serve a six-county area consisting of Lewis, Thurston, Mason, Grays Harbor, Cowlitz, and Pacific Counties.

Just check out RCW 36.09.040 Fair Deemed County and District Fair and Agricultural Fair which states "The Southwest Washington fair shall be deemed a county and district fair for the purposes of chapter 15.76 RCW as well as an agricultural fair for the purpose of receiving allocations of funds"

The Southwest Washington Fair, like all agricultural fairs, was created to educate their communities and promote agriculture- big and small.

The traditional idea of agriculture is the vast "heartland" of the Midwest, the Palouse in Eastern Washington, and sprawling farms in East Lewis County. Washington must continue to support the traditional agriculture industry, especially our small and independent farmers and ranchers by expanding market opportunities, protecting land and water rights, and continuing to diversify and innovate. We should be proud to know our Washington farmers and ranchers feed the country and world. However, it is a fragile industry. Farmers and ranchers are

price takers not price makers; which means the agriculture industry has little to no control over price setting. This leaves many farmers and ranchers vulnerable to changes in the economy and supply chain interruptions. To help keep the industry strong, we must expand educational and vocational opportunities.

Over the past 100 years, the idea of Agriculture has widened. There has even been a growing interest in small scale agriculture; like "urban farms." In part, this is due to the great work of the Washington Farm Bureau, 4-H, FFA, and others to bring greater awareness and interest in agriculture.

Understanding where your food comes from and how it is produced provides families with invaluable knowledge and skills. Even the 'Abbarno Family Farm' (not a real thing) on a city lot in Centralia has chickens and a 15' x 10' fruit and vegetable garden. It wasn't always that way.

In 2016, when the idea of expanding 'urban agriculture' to include chickens was brought to the Centralia City Council, I heard tremendous support from many neighbors, advocates, and my daughter. Urban agriculture at home and in the classroom has significant educational and financial benefits to families and our community.

In 2017, Centralia Municipal Code 20.04.07 was passed and modeled after many other municipal codes allowing for limited urban/suburban agriculture. I believe much of the interest in household farming comes from seeing and learning about farming and ranching at fairs.

Each year, the Washington State Legislature considers bills that impact the agriculture industry; some good and some bad. Unfortunately, there were some recent missed opportunities that would have increased household and classroom opportunities including Senate Bill 5643 to support organizations and youth development programs at agriculture fairs focused on farming and ranching; House Bill 1544 concerning agriculture, food and natural resource education; and Senate Bill 5641, which provides the State Building Code does not apply to temporary growing structures (greenhouses) used solely for the production of horticultural plants.

The spark of interest in farming and ranching often begins at fairs like the Southwest Washington Fair. It is woven into the fabric of our communities in Lewis County, Southwest Washington, and Washington state. We must continue to keep that important history, tradition, and economy thriving by supporting farming and ranching. The more educated we are about agriculture issues, the better prepared we are to make good decisions to support an industry that supports us.

In the coming legislative session, issues to protect and promote farm and ranch land will be very important. So will expanding the vocational and educational opportunities for students wanting to work in the agriculture industry and families that want to have their own little "urban farm."

I look forward to working on those issues in Olympia and taking with me the information and stories I've learned at the Southwest Washington Fair, from local farmers and ranchers, and in my own backyard. See you at the Fair.

Rep. Peter Abbarno is an attorney with Althauser Rayan Abbarno, LLP and represents Washington State's 20th Legislative District in the Washington State House of Representatives.

Hive 5 Bees Pollinates the Ag Industry



Agricultural businesses are an important part of the Washington State economy. This issue of Business Connections highlights some of the Ag efforts in Lewis County.

Lewis County. In 2015 Washington State



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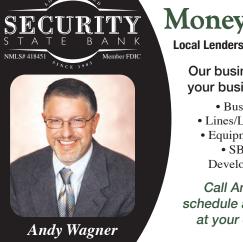
Kevin Mills, the owner of Hive 5 Bees, has been a bee enthusiast since the young age of six, and by age 13 had his own bees, and by 14 was recruiting investors. Mills and his wife Amanda have been keeping bees commercially for 14 years. Last year they opened their retail location, Pacific Northwest Honey Company, where they sell their raw honey, beeswax, pollen and much more! There is even a honey tasting bar where visitors can taste 5 different types of raw honey and experience for themselves the difference in quality from corporate-produced honey providers. Most large-scale honey is mixed with imported honey or other additives, and is inferior to locally sourced honey. Educating the public about the benefits of locally produced raw honey is an ongoing challenge for local beekeepers.

Not only does Hive 5 Bees have their retail location, Pacific Northwest Honey Company, they also supply area beekeeping enthusiasts with "NUCS," which

is a nucleus of bees, or a starter colony. Kevin also supports his NUC sales and beekeepers everywhere by holding weekly beekeeping classes, which he shares on his Youtube page. They also take their bees down to California annually to pollinate the almond crops. "Beekeepers are a crucial part of Agriculture," comments Kevin. Not only do bees produce honey, but also pollinate more than one-third of all crop production. When you keep bees, you are helping to support local farmers and local food security.

Since opening their retail location in Rochester, the community has embraced their honey and bees. "This community has been awesome, they were behind us one hundred percent when Covid-19 hit," Kevin said. Pacific Northwest Honey also sells their honey online, at local farmer's markets and a handful of local grocery stores and co-ops.

••• Sources: ••• Washington State University, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (2015). Beekeepers are now 'farmers' in Washington state. From https://news.cahnrs.wsu. edu/article/beekeepers-are-nowfarmers-in-washington-state/



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360.748.8885 I 500 NW Chamber of Commerce Way, Chehalis, WA 98532 I Open Mon-Fri 9-5



Mega Hiring Event coming in August! Check it out at www.unfi.com



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Chehalis Centralia Railroad & Museum ~ News Update

Chehalis Centralia Railroad & Museum Seeks Volunteers and Donations

Due to the flooding that occurred on January 6, 2022, one mile of the Chehalis Centralia Railroad's track was washed out 1.3 miles west of the CCRM Railyard and Depot. Currently, CCRM is seeking funding from the Small Business Administration and FEMA to make needed repairs to the track. This is expected to take place in September. The goal is

Fall Job Fair Now Accepting **Employer Registrations**

Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce has scheduled the Fall Lewis County Job Fair for Tuesday, September 27. The event is taking place from Noon to 4 pm at the Centralia Outlet Mall - 2000 Haviland Street (former Dress Barn). The new venue is located just off Exit 82 and offers more space and some options for private interview rooms if needed. Employers can register at www. chamberway.com or email theoffice@chamberway.com

to resume operations by October 1, 2022. During this same time, we are also seeking renewal of our General Liability Insurance coverage.

The volunteers for CCRM are taking advantage of the situation while the train is out of service to take care of needed maintenance on the rolling stock. Renovation of the interior of the coaches, replacing the rain-shield on the deck, new generators for the coaches and the hinges on the barn door are some of the significant projects recently completed thanks to our team of volunteers.



Because, during this out of service phase, we are not able to generate revenue with our scenic train rides, the balance between repairs and expenses must be measured carefully. As

- Chamber Business Highlights -

for an application. For more information call 360-748-8885.

Free Class on Worm Composting

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 us for our FREE class on Worm Composting on Sept.7th at 5 pm at the Chehalis Timberline Library and turn your food scraps into compost! Reserve

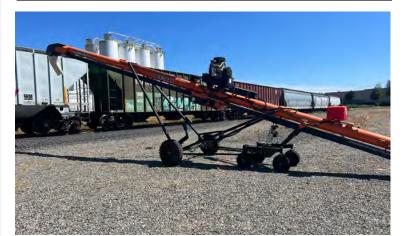
your spot by calling Julie Pirtle at 360-748-1212 or email julie. pirtle@lewiscountywa.gov.

If you are interested in becoming a Certified Master Recycler Composter, it is easy! All you need to do is: 1) Attend six of our free workshops (virtually or in-person). 2) Complete 10 hours of volunteer service, 3) Complete six short quizzes and a final exam and 4) Take a guided tour of the Lewis County Transfer Station and recycling areas at Centralia or Morton. Be sure to stop by the "Upcycled Garden" at the North Gate Entrance to the SWWA Fairgrounds to find

a 501c3 non-profit the Chehalis Centralia Railroad would greatly appreciate donations of time or resources for these important projects. Donate online at www. steamtrainride.com

ideas on how to recycle in your garden.

Check out the Floral Park Sustainability Project, our new environmental education and demonstration site next to the Lewis County Transfer Station 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.



Port of Chehalis - Southwest Washington Grain Project

Lewis County has a longtime heritage of farming and agriculture, with some farmers being the third or fourth generation to grow in Lewis County. For many years, these

Washington, that summer. The first year saw 600 metric tons of barley delivered, followed by 1,400 metric tons in 2021. It's projected that 2,500 metric tons will be delivered in 2022,



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)

Thursday, August 11 Maureen Harkcom, **Board Member & Past President** Lewis County Farm Bureau

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: Twila Collins is the Cat's

Business After

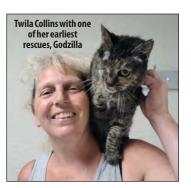
Hours 3rd Thursday of each month 5:00 - 7:00 pm

August BAH Centralia Pharmacy at Jimmies at The Cove (200 S. King St., Centralia)

Thursday, August 18 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Upcoming Events

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony! Lucky N Lawless Bakery Friday, August 26 5:00 pm 1608 S Gold St, Centralia



Riverside Golf Club

Erin Hillier Hillier, Scheibmeir, Kelly & Scatterfield, PS

Daryl Lund **Community Member**

> Jeff Malloy O'Blarney's

Cameron McGee Calypso

Chris Thomas **Providence Hospital**

Sandra Wing LC Sports Commission

Rodney Youckton Lucky Eagle Casino and Hotel

NON-VOTING

Rob Hill City of Centralia

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CONTACT US:

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local farmers and growers have dealt with flooding and natural disasters, loss of processing facilities, and a lack of infrastructure to support agribusiness.

In response to these issues, regional producers formed the Southwest Washington Growers Cooperative to support agricultural development in Southwest Washington. Today, the Cooperative has 31 active members seeking to increase the viability of family farms through collaborative opportunities. These producers worked closely with Northwest Agriculture Business Center (NABC) and WSU Extension and found that grain, especially malting barley, could serve as a viable crop replacement for both growers and buyers. However, infrastructure was still needed to provide storage and facilitate transporting crops to regional buyers, most of whom require rail transport.

In 2019, the Port of Chehalis and the Cooperative successfully petitioned the Lewis County Commissioners and were awarded \$800,000 for the installment of a rail spur on the Port's property. The rail spur was completed in the spring of 2020 and allowed growers to transload malting barley to Great Western Malting in Vancouver, produced on approximately 1,000 acres.

The next phase of the Southwest Washington Grain Project began shortly after the completion of the rail spur, with the goal of creating an aggregate storage and rail transload facility alongside the rail spur.

In support of this goal, the Port of Chehalis was awarded \$1.75 million through the Washington State capital budget in 2020. This funding will allow for the construction of a publicly accessible rail transload facility consisting of upright grain bins and conveyors for loading and unloading grain. The Port of Chehalis is actively pursuing additional funding for the design and construction cost associated with the installation of roads and utilities to serve the facility. If the necessary remaining funding is secured, construction could begin sometime in 2023.

Once completed, the storage and transload facility will allow the region's grain producers to access regional, national, and international markets. The project anticipates generating over \$750,000 in producer payments and handling fees in 2022 and injecting an estimated \$18 million into the local economy over the next nine years.

Meow of STP

Last month the Chamber wrapped up its efforts with the Seattle-to-Portland ride that swoops through Centralia and Chehalis each year in July. COVID suspended the ride for two years making 2022 the first time since 2019 riders embarked on their annual journey.

In June Business Connections featured John Camenzind who has been volunteering with the STP efforts organized by the Chamber for 20 years. Twila Collins is the other half of this dynamic duo that takes care of the snacks and lunches for riders passing through Penny Park in Chehalis.

Collins was introduced to the STP experience in 2011 when she began a part-time job at the Chamber as part of her educational requirements while working on her business degree at Centralia Community College.

Camenzind was already volunteering at the time and the two quickly became a great team. "John was my reason I kept coming back," said Twila. 2022 marks her tenth STP. She immediately contacted the Chamber when she realized there was new management and offered to help. "We are so grateful that Twila reached out to us," noted Chamber Office Manager Chris DeMus. "Twila

and John took a huge burden off our shoulders and we just love them both."

Originally a Civil Engineer student, Collins changed her degree in 2011 when she realized that non-profit management was her true calling. On July 4, 2009, she and her daughter trapped and gathered about 20 feral cats from a nearby gas station. That effort was the starting point of creating her own non-profit, The Cat's Meow Spay, Neuter & Adoption Project, whose mission is to reduce euthanasia as a means of population control.

By 2011 The Cat's Meow was a 501 (c) 3 and since then Collins has made more than 250 trips to shelters in Lynwood, Washington, transporting over 9,000 cats for services. Operations were suspended during COVID, but the facilities are again operational. For those who want to assist, The Cat's Meow needs in-kind contributions of laundry soap, bleach, paper towels, garbage bags, dry cat food (without red dye), and canned food. Cash donations are always welcome to pay for veterinary services. Visit www. catsmeowsnap.org to learn more about how to help.

BIZZBUZZ S WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



Blue Skies Drone Rentals

Washington has some of the best weather and outdoor views. These can be highlighted by the use of drones. The newest DJI Matrice 30 takes great photos and video whether you use it for inspection or just pure fun. This magnificent view of Mt Rainier with the Skookumchuck Wind Farm in the foreground is just amazing. For more information visit www.blueskiesdroneshop. com, call, 844-474-8833, or email contact@ blueskiesdronerental.com

Book 'N' Brush

Book 'N' Brush celebrating 53 years in business - we are where all sorts of magic is contained! We offer new books, art supplies, children's toys, greeting cards and gift items. New offerings include Beverly Hartz vintage boutique jewelry and vintage handcrafted items. Come in to see many one-of-a-kind art pieces. Join us and many other downtown businesses in Historic Downtown Chehalis for ChehalisFest with local author book signing events and sidewalk sales.

Centralia Outlets

Excited for Back To School? Save BIG at the **Centralia Outlets!** Find classic styles at Polo Ralph Lauren Factory Store. The Children's Place carries adorable dresses, backpacks, lunch boxes and basic school uniforms. Find great savings on teen clothes at Aéropostale. Check out the latest cool clothes at Gap Factory and Volcom. Discover game changing sportswear at HanesBrands, Under Armour and Nike Clearance Store. For Back To School, find name brands you love at the Centralia Outlets



Please consider donating at Walmart on August 5, 6 or 7th. Supplies will be collected Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Every donation, big or small, helps ensure every student has the tools

they need for learning! Your generosity is appreciated!

Chehalis Centralia Railroad & Museum

Stationary Escape Room Dinner Trains Chehalis Centralia Railroad & Museum

In response to popular demand, the Chehalis Centralia Railroad has adapted to the current situation by offering stationary summer events "On the Train.... At the Depot." While our

track is in repair, the Chehalis Centralia Railroad is offering five days of Escape Room activities.

According to our local Escape Room artist, the passengers are given clues to help stop the pretend "runaway train" on

this irregular railway operation. This interactive adventure gives all passengers a role in the investigation. Like all of us have learned over the past two years, our Railroad has had to temporarily pivot for fundraising events. The static, non-moving event is held at 2pm for \$40 without dinner and 5pm for \$65 that includes a 3-course dinner served for the passengers.

Choose your entrée of Italian Lasagna or Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo when you reserve your seats online. Dates are August 27, September 10, and October 8. Tickets are on sale now at SteamTrainRide.com. Seating is limited to 52 passengers on each train. Tables of four passengers are given an assigned suitcase where they will find a key or clue to help get the engineer



Centralia Downtown

Honey Bucket

Honey Bucket, a home-grown WA business, is now one of the industry's most highly regarded

portable sanitation and site services companies. We are renowned for our high-quality customer service and clean, safe restrooms. With over 50 years of experience, we have been at the forefront of many industry innovations. We are an employeeowned company that provides quality products and services

and a fulfilling workplace where employees can grow professionally. "By using us, building contractors

can expect the best and most reliable service for their employees on-site, and event organizers will

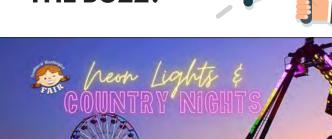
have a worry-free experience," says Lee Hines, Territory Manager, "our goal is to provide a clean and pleasant experience for our users so they can be more productive on their worksite or continue to enjoy

the event they are attending." Honey Bucket offers handwashing sinks, hand-sanitizer stations, temporary fence and crowd barricades, fully selfcontained fresh-water flush restrooms and VIP trailers, luxury restroom trailers with flush toilets and sinks, portable shower trailers, and secured storage containers. "We proudly stand behind our product and are willing to put our reputation on the line with every restroom," continued Lee, "You will always be able to find us - just look for the bright and cheerful Honey Bucket logo." Visit us at Honeybucket.com for more information.

Midway RV Park and Convenience Store

Midway RV Park and Convenience Store is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. for your last-minute needs. We sell beer, wine, grocery items, RV parts, supplies and now we have dry firewood for sale! \$4.95 for small and \$10.95 for large. We have metered propane with no lines or wait. Located right next door to Judy's Country Kitchen at 3200 Galvin Rd., Centralia. (360) 736-3200





JOIN US AUGUST 10TH-21-57 AT NUE 2022 SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON PAIR

Club with questions via email or by phone at 360-748-8182 ext.1. Entry forms are available in the Riverside Golf Shop now so come sign up!



Introducing the only Night Market in Lewis County!

Looking for a night out on the town for shopping, drinks, music, and Silent Auction in support of Hope Alliance and more? We've got your spot at the Artisan Night Market and Benefit Auction at The Loft! Join us August 26th at The Loft in the historical downtown Chehalis. Doors open at 4 PM for the silent benefit auction for Hope Alliance Lewis County. Swag Bags are available upon entrance with tons of goodies! Bar is open 4-9 by donation if you're looking for a drink! Shopping with our exclusive handpicked vendors is open at 5 pm sharp. Live music is from 5-9 pm by Mason Robert Keith Music Ft. with Raven Nyberg on Drums. Bringing your man? Don't worry! We've got a man cave setup upstairs so drop him off there while you sip and shop! Tickets are \$20 and will be sold at the door. What does your ticket pay for? 1 Drink, Swag Bag, Entertainment, Admission, Charcuterie Board

All Ages Welcome. 21+ for Drinks Free Parking Vendors Email: wildesoulus@gmail.com Wanting to donate to the Benefit Auction? Email: wildesoulus@gmail.com

Quiznos

Quiznos in Centralia DELIVERS! We now have Real Milkshakes too. Order online at www.quiznos.com Delivery Service open 10:00-8:30 Store open from 10:00-9:00. Have it Delivered!!!!

SW Washington Fair August 16 - 21 Get ready for the 2022 SouthWest Washington Fair! Country Nights and Neon Lights Tickets can be found NOW on our website southwestwashingtonfair.org

southwestwashingtonfair.org Food, animals, carnival rides, and music! Plus, new this year is the Mullet Contest on Saturday. Lewis County's crown event of the summer!

WSU Lewis County Master Recycler Composters We still have several FREE,

educational and inspiring gardening workshops is coming up! WSU Lewis County Master Gardener's Workshops, taught by local Master Gardeners! Pre-registration is required, call; 360-740-1212. August 6th, 10am: Dividing and Multiplying; Timberland Library Demo Garden, Salkum August 13th, 10am: Heirloom Gardening & Heirloom Seed Saving; Borst Demo Garden, Centralia August 20th, 10am: Creating a Food Forest: Timberland Library Demo Garden, Salkum 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

If you are interested in becoming a Certified Master Recycler Composter, it is easy! All you need to do is: 1) Attend six of our free workshops (virtually or inperson). 2) Com plete 10 hours of volunteer service, 3) Complete six short quizzes and a final exam and 4) Take a guided tour of the Lewis County Transfer Station and recycling areas at Centralia

Centralia School District

School is out, but summer school is in session! Over 700 Centralia students are participating in summer school this year, K-12. Summer learning is important to growth, and we know the investment in learning this summer will help our students' success in the future.

We are busy preparing for the coming school year! Oakview elementary is being painted, the playground area is being rebuilt at Washington Elementary, a new greenhouse is being constructed at the high school, new carpet being laid at the middle school, and much more. In addition, we are enhancing security to ensure the safety of our

students and staff.

Part of preparing for the new school year is making sure every student has school supplies. The district is thankful for the annual

Stuff the Bus school supply drive and the time and effort contributed to make it happen. Special thanks to the sponsors, Althauser Rayan Abbarno; United Way of Lewis County, the Centralia Community Foundation; the City of Centralia; and Dick's Brewing Company.

Association Antique Fest

The Antique Fest The Antique Fest is August 5th, 6th, & 7th in Historic Downtown Centralia sponsored by the Centralia Downtown Festivals Association. There will be antiques, repurposed, prims, salvage, vintage, mid century, and rusty junk. Live music and sidewalk sales throughout downtown. Event hours are Friday, early buy from 3-7pm, Saturday 10-6pm, and Sunday 10-3pm. Save the dates and Come Junkin's in Historic Downtown Centralia!



Community Mediation Center

Community Mediation Center will be holding their next 40 hour Basic Mediation Training, September 19th, 2022 through October 1st, 2022. Class will be held in the evenings on Mondays,

Wednesdays and Thursdays and both Saturdays from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The training is open to anyone that has interest in volunteering as a mediator or simply wants to learn more about conflict resolution skills and communication. For more information, visit communitymediationcenters.org or call 360-623-8061.

Riverside Golf Club

2022 Lewis County Amateur this August 5th-7th

Riverside Golf Club in partnership with the Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel are proud to present the 2022 Lewis County Amateur this August 5th-7th.

The Tee Prize for the Lewis County Amateur will be an Athletic Fit FootJoy Golf Shirt. Included in the \$165 per player entry fee will be: Friday Practice Round Greens Fee, Tournament

Saturday and Sunday Greens Fees, Range Balls both days, Meal tickets both days, and your entry into the prize fund. Riverside will also run an optional honeypot for \$10/day. The Friday honeypot

will be gross and net skins only. Saturday and Sunday honeypots will be low gross, low net, gross

skins, and net skins. The complimentary Practice Round is Friday, August 5th. We will run an optional \$10 skins game and shotgun start at 1:00pm. A putting contest and BBQ will be hosted at the practice green immediately after the practice round.

To reserve your spot, please turn in a completed entry form to the Riverside Golf Shop no later than 7:00pm on Thursday, August 4th. Entry forms can also be emailed to me at austin@playriversidegolf. com and payment can be made by credit card over the phone. Feel free to contact Riverside Golf or Morton. Be sure to stop by the "Upcycled Garden" at the North Gate Entrance to the SWWA Fairgrounds to find ideas on how to recycle in your garden.





Artisan Night Market & Benefit Auction

AUGUST 26TH

DOORS OPEN AT 4 PM FOR BENEFIT AUCTION SHOPPING STARTS FROM 5-9 PM

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TICKETS ARE \$20 PER PERSON AT THE FOOR. INCLUDES, 1 DRINK, A SWAG BAG, CONCERT TICKET & ADDMISSON TO SHOP OUR 10 HAND SELECTED VENDORS! ALL PROCEEDS FROM AUCTION WILL BE DONATED TO HOPE ALLIANCE. BAR BY DONATIONS WILL BE OPEN 5-9. BRING YOUR MAN AND DROP HIM AT OUR "MAN CAVE" WHILE YOU SIP AND SHOP!

Vendors email: wildesoulus@gmail.com

Lewis County Farm Bureau

The Lewis County Farm Bureau has been serving farm/ranch families for 102 years in Washington. They are an independent, voluntary organization governed by and representing farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing agricultural related problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement. The Bureau are stewards of the

land that farmers utilize as they feed our communities, our country and people all around the world. The Bureau promotes national well-being.

The Farm Bureau work begins at the local level. County bureaus originate policies which are then promoted up through the state and national levels. Each year they develop a public policy agenda and prioritize issues to pursue during the Washington State Legislature's session. Farming is the second largest industry in Washington state and agriculture is critical to the state's economy. It is important that our state maintains a business environment that allows food producers and processors to remain competitive and viable.

"We are the voice of Agriculture," notes Bureau board member, membership



chairman, and past President, Maureen Harkcom. To learn more about membership call 360-515-6129 or email maureen.harkcom@gmail. com. For information about the Farm Bureau visit www. lewiscountyfb.com

Farmer Markets Promote Producers, Local Economies, & Healthy Communities

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognizes the economic and cultural impact of farmer markets every August through its National Farmer's Market Week campaign. This year Farmer's Market Week is August 7 - 10. Centralia and Chehalis each have their own market – both centrally located in their respective downtowns.

Statewide there are 151 farmer markets in 121 towns and not only did most of these markets survive the pandemic but are now thriving again. Here in Lewis County there are five weekly farmer markets. Economic benefits of these markets are increased visibility and activity for their downtowns and offer an added income resource for the farmers and other producers.

In addition to the direct economic benefits, farmer markets are also an important incubator for small businesses, whether they are Ag related, prepared foods, or maker products. It is an inexpensive way to test-market a product or business concept without having a storefront.

Vendors at the Centralia





and Chehalis Markets agree about the impact of farmer markets. "When you come to a Farmer's Market you are supporting all local businesses," notes Virginia Rector of KombuchaLuv from Centralia. She added that participating in farmer markets raises awareness and provides exposure in a personal and direct way with customers.

"Coming to the Farmer's Market has made all the difference in the world," noted Larry Hewitt, owner of Oak Tree Manor, a winery off Harrison in Centralia.

At the Chehalis market, Jessica Kinney – the owner of Black Dog Pottery – used

Member Update

We encourage you to patronize Chamber members.

These are the businesses that are committed to their customers and their community.

Many donate, volunteer, and support our local non-profits, schools, and community activities. Our 2022 Member Directory is available in the office or we can email a link.

to have a retail storefront in Centralia but closed the shop to focus on making her pottery and stained glass art. Farmer markets allow her to continue selling and making new connections. Kinney added, "I love the market community. It's fun to be in downtown Chehalis and to see all the people walking around."

According to the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) 89% of farms in Washington are small (selling less than \$250,000 a year) and 96% are family-owned. The impact of farmer markets truly hits home! This is one of the easiest ways to "Choose Local" when shopping.

•••• Sources: ••• Washington State Department of Agriculture. https://agr.wa.gov/washingtonagriculture

Discover Lewis County. https://discoverlewiscounty. com/farmers-markets

United States Department of Agriculture. https://www.usda. gov/media/blog/2021/07/29/ usda-celebrates-nationalfarmers-market-week

Lewis County Farmers Markets

Centralia's Farmers Market Fridays 11 - 4 http://centraliafarmersmarket. org Pine Street Plaza (East Pine Street and Tower Av.)

Community Farmers Market of Chehalis Tuesdays 11 - 4 https://www. chehalisfarmersmarket.com Boistfort Street and N. Market Blvd.

Morton Farmers Market Saturdays 10 - 3 https://www.fompwa.org Gust Backstrom Park at 700 W. Main Avenue

Packwood Farmers Market Saturdays 9 - 1 https://www.facebook.com/ PackwoodFarmersMarket Packwood Timberland Library Park at 109 Main St. W

Pe Ell Farmers Market Saturdays 8 - Noon Call (360) 245-3339 State Route 6 & 7th Ave.





July New Members

Great Wolf Lodge NW Power & Softwash Co.

July Renewing Members

Adaline Coffman Guild American B ehavioral Health Boys & Girls Club of Lewis County Cardinal FG

Cardinal TG

Cascade Computers Cascade West Veterinary Hospital Centralia Christain School Centralia Downtown Festivals Century 21 Lund Walt Cuestas Chehalis Rentals Chehalis School District Chehalis Valley Realty City of Centralia City of Chehalis Country Financial Dawns Delectables Diverse Clean-up Edward Jones -Wendy LaLone-Lopes Esco Signs Fords Prairie Animal Clinic Furniture World Greens on Gold Happy Kids Dentistry & Orthodontics Hive 5 Bee's Ibean Espresso & Mini Donuts Lickety Split Mobile Notary Lorris Tax Service Stoffer & Sons Sheet Metal Market Street Ace Hardware Mudge Media Nelson Furniture Company Newaukum Valley Veterinary Phillip S. Garnett Postnet Centralia Precision Printing & Copy Depot Prime Lending Rainier Connect South Market Laundry Southwest Washington Dance The Housing Mart The Juice Box The Mann Group The Power Sho[p Title Guaranty Co. of Lewis County Toledo Tel Tractor Supply Company Tree Management Plus, Inc

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