Share Your Priorities by Voting!

By Rep. Peter Abbarno

Only 41% of Washingtonians voted in this year's primary; virtually

the same percentage of voters who returned their ballots in the 2018 mid-term election. That means 6 out of every 10 voters failed to share their priorities



Peter Abbarno

and opinions on which candidate will best advocate for their family, business, and community.

Historically, general election turnout is higher. In 2018, turnout was just over 70% in Washington. This mean, three out of ten family members, friends, or co-workers don't vote in midterm general elections. If this mid-term election is similar to 2018 then 30% of voters won't return their ballot.

What is stopping 30% of voters from returning their ballot?

According to recent polls, the reason many eligible voters don't vote is their believe that 'their vote doesn't matter or count." Unfortunately, withholding your vote will only help elect candidates who don't represent your values or position on issues.

This year, your vote will help decide many local and county races and your vote (or failure to vote) will help decide control of Congress and our State Legislature. Currently, Congress and both chambers of the State Legislature are controlled by one party. If you feel your views are not represented, the only way to change that is by voting.

Every person has different motivations for voting; including foreign policy, domestic policy, crime, inflation, education, government accountability. checks-and-balances, economics, or something else.

If you plan to vote, congratulations! There are great candidates campaigning to earn your vote.

If you don't plan to vote, consider that someone will be casting a ballot even if you don't. Whether you like it or not, their voice will help dictate the direction of our state and nation.

I want to thank and congratulate all the candidates on the general election ballot. Running for public office and sharing ideas to improve a community is a significant commitment for the candidate and their family. I also appreciate the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce promoting constructive dialogue, conversation, and exchange of ideas. This helps all of us become more educated about issues and candidates.

I strongly encourage voters to share their priorities by casting a ballot and encouraging their family members, friends, and coworkers to join them. The 18-day voting period begins October 21, so expect ballots to be mailed from your county auditor before that date. The deadline for in-person registrations and updates is Election Day, November 8th and all ballots must be postmarked or deposited in an official ballot drop box by 8pm. To register to vote or learn more about candidates and find your district, visit the Washington State Secretary of State's Office at www.SOS. WA.GOV.

I am honored by the opportunity to serve the 20th Legislative District in the Washington State House of Representatives and proud of the trust voters placed in me to advocate for the issues important to us. Please visit my legislative website www. RepresentaitvePeterAbbarno. com for more information about my priorities, the 20th Legislative District, and the upcoming 2023 Legislative Session.

Peter J. Abbarno is an attorney, business owner, and represents the 20th Legislative District in the Washington State House of Representatives. He is currently running unopposed for a second twoyear term.



Lewis County Sheriff Candidates

Robert R. Snaza **Tracy Murphy**

Thursday, October 13 II:30 doors open

Noon debates begin Debates end approximately I pm

△ buffet lunch can be purchased for \$17. Those who want lunch should arrive no later than II:30. Space is limited will Facebook the event live.

hosting debates with

General Election. Join us for

this public debate to learn more

the community. This debate

features candidates for two

critical positions for the county:

Lewis County Sheriff and

Lewis County Commissioners

candidates are Tracy Murphy

and Robert R. Snaza. County

Commissioner candidates are

Harry O. Bhagwandin and

Scott Brummer. The debates

October 13, 2022, The debate

location is on the 2nd floor of

O'Blarney's located at 221 N

debates starting at Noon

and ending approximately 1

pm. Admission is open to the

general public and is free. For

those wanting a buffet lunch,

the cost is \$17. Space is limited.

Those who want lunch should

arrive early. The Chamber

Facebook at www.facebook.

Doors open at 11:30 with

Tower Ave., Centralia, WA.

#3.

Sheriff

District

the

candidates for

Centralia-Chehalis com/ChamberWay Chamber of Commerce is

Centralia-Chehalis The Chamber of Commerce looks local forward to hosting annual 2022 debates every year to help keep community informed about them and the issues that about the issues that impact us matter to local businesses and

Lewis County Commissioners for ______District #3 Candidates_____

Harry O. Bhagwandin

Scott Brummer

Location: O'Blarney's at the Gibson House

221 N Tower Ave, Centralia, WA 98531

For information about how to register to vote in Lewis County visit https://elections. lewiscountywa.gov/voterregistration or call 360-740-1164.

Some Important Voting Dates:

- Friday, October 21, 2022: November General Election ballots sent out and 18-day take place at Noon on Thursday, voting period begins.
 - Monday, October 31, 2022: Deadline to receive new registrations and voter updates online and by mail for the November General Election.
 - Tuesday, November 8, 2022 : Deadline for in-person registration and voter updates for the November General Election.
- is sharing the event live on Tuesday, November 8, 2022: General Election

Business Spotlight: UNFI

Imagine a million square foot grocery store, but instead of filling up a shopping cart, you are filling up a semi-truck. This is the reality of where

our food comes from. Before it gets to your grocery store, these products were stored in a warehouse like UNFI in Centralia.



www.titlegco.com • 360-748-0001 200 NW Pacific Ave., Chehalis

Mailing: P.O. Box 1304, Chehalis

or UNFI is an industry leading nation-wide grocery wholesaler that delivers a wide variety of products to more than 800 grocery stores in the region. The Centralia location opened in 2019 and has over 250 truck docks, allowing them to ship over 150,000 cases of water a day, and 90,000 cases a week. That's just bottled water. They see 120 -130 trucks come in and out daily for loads. The products shipped here not only go locally around Washington, but to Oregon, Montana, Alaska and Guam.

United Natural Foods, Inc.,

The Centralia plant employs over 900 people. UNFI is continually hiring employees and recently participated in the Chamber's Fall Hiring Fair. Not only do they offer medical and 401k benefits, but also paid volunteer time so employees can give back to the community.

SECURITY

NMLS#418451 Member FDIC



UNFI has a 6 week training program called Warehouse to Wheels where UNFI pays for the new employee's CDL training, which includes a bonus when you become a driver trainee.

The new Site General Manager of Operations Tom Jaurequi's positive leadership has impacted the company in many good ways. "We are passionate about leadership and positively impacting the community. We

are no longer the same team. We have a new mindset where we celebrate associates and teamwork...we can change the world, one person at a time." states Jaurequi. "People just need someone to believe in them, and to appreciate them. Positivity changes everything." explains

Resources.

Jaurequi. As you walk through the warehouse you can feel the positive energy all around you and you can see the team work in action. The future is looking bright for UNFI as fill rates continue to improve since Covid made fulfillment rates drop down to about 70-80%. Before Covid these rates were around 95% normally, but the good news is the fill rates are improving.

With a passion for safety, employee personal development, opportunities for growth and a new positive mindset, UNFI is investing in its employees with competitive benefits and encouraging and growing its outreach in the community.





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Mark Gordon

Loan Officer

NMLS#1808102



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Sarah Bent Marketing Manager marketing@chamberway.com

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Jill Anderson City of Chehalis

CONTACT US:

500 NW Chamber of Commerce Way Chehalis, WA 98532 Office: 360.748.8885 Fax: 360.748.8763

The Chamber @ Chamber Way.com





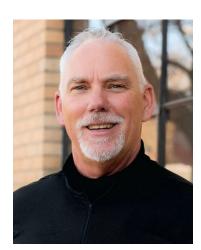
CANDIDATE DEBATES — OCT 13 • 11:30 AM — O'BLARNEY'S - CENTRALIA

ROB SNAZA for Lewis County Sheriff

As your Lewis County Sheriff, I stood up for local businesses during the COVID pandemic and worked with other local leaders to keep businesses open. Over my last two terms we have worked with local businesses to promote programs such as Coffee with a Cop, Shop with a Cop, and other grant supported activities, bringing additional business to Lewis County. When financially feasible, I have tried to keep purchases by our office local. An example

of this would be our work with our motor pool to transition the purchase of patrol vehicles through local dealerships. During my tenure as Sheriff, I have strived to remain connected with the business communities throughout the county in order to address their concerns and offer assistance when needed. When businesses have become victims of crime, we have taken steps to thoroughly investigate these incidents, and listen to the concerns of those involved to

be proactive. Additionally, our agency provides direct services to some local businesses. This includes civil processes, as well as support of firearms dealers by providing licensing and background checks on transfers. Our agency provides these services in a professional and expedited manner. In the next four years, I will continue to provide the level of service you have come to expect from my office during my first two terms. I vow to continually stand behind our



local businesses, as they are the life blood of our community, providing for all of those calling Lewis County home.

— Sheriff Rob Snaza

TRACY MURPHY for Lewis County Sheriff

As a resident of Lewis County, like you, I am invested in our community and its future. I was born and raised here in Lewis County, and I chose to raise my family here. I am running as your next Lewis County Sheriff because I see needs that we have that are not being met. As your next Sheriff, I will strive to rebuild past relationships that have been lost, build new relationships, and form partnerships to enhance the quality of law enforcement services

throughout the county. Staffing and employee retention will be at the forefront of my beginnings, starting with valuing the employees and providing a cohesive working environment for all. I will be fiscally responsible with your tax dollars by prioritizing mission-essential needs, and cutting irresponsible spending. I will address the current issues surrounding our jail in regards to booking criminals who need to be held accountable for their actions, which provides our

communities with the safety they deserve. I will reinstate successful programs that have fallen to the wayside such as the volunteer program, the K9 program, SWAT, and participation in our local drug task force. I will work with the Lewis County Prosecutor's Office to address the changes in our laws and reinstate our reserve program, again providing additional safety to our residents. Efficiency is important, and I have many ideas to increase efficiency



without reducing services such as a regional training cadre. Vote for me, Tracy Murphy, and invest in a better Lewis County.

HARRY O. BHAGWANDIN for Lewis County Commissioner (Dist - 3)

To preserve our lifestyle while providing our children the opportunity to stay and thrive here we must change our approach to economic growth to make us a wealthier, productive, and attractive place to live and do business.

I understand the current focus on leveraging our large open space availability in rural Lewis County to attract warehouse and big box anchor store development along the I-5 corridor is a familiar strategy for creating employment. We must also realize that 2/3 of our county is rural. Economic

development in our rural communities does not have to be solely dependent on the I-5 corridor.

What is to be done? The outdated approach of "buying" economic development at the expense of taxpayers isn't the answer. We need to redirect our economic development efforts away from individual projects into creating an environment that makes us attractive to employers.

We need to be safe, clean, responsive, and quick to handle bureaucratic requirements. Zoning, permitting, housing,

business growth that brings

for all of Lewis County. As

will work cooperatively with

County Commissioner, I

jobs and economic opportunity

infrastructure, high-speed internet, technical training, and public safety. If we improve each of these, we will gain employers and see our family incomes increase. With such improvements, we will not only see economic growth, we will see more of our children and grandchildren staying in Lewis County.

We can succeed. My service on the Onalaska Alliance, Discover Lewis County, the Lodging Tax Advisory Board, Citizens Budget Committee, and recent work with the Port of Chehalis promoting local agriculture



has prepared me to lead the fight for a more prosperous Lewis County.

> — Learn more at www. HarryOforLewisCounty.com

SCOTT BRUMMER for Lewis County Commissioner (Dist - 3)

As a longtime small business owner, I understand the value local business brings to our economy and the community. I believe businesses thrive when government keeps a limited role and the marketplace is allowed to work freely. Our County government should seek to reduce the burden of rules, regulations, taxes and

fees, so we can encourage

Thank you Julie Shaffley for coordinating with us to create our billboard ad!

You can find it both on our **Electronic Billboard and** also the EV Media Electronic billboard on National Ave.

Julie Shaffley owns **Good Health Nutrition Center** located at 503 Harrison Ave, in Centralia.

the business community to solve problems, encourage entrepreneurship, and promote incentives to expand business opportunities. I will continue to develop and keep a strong working relationship with the East Lewis County Chamber of Commerce, Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Alliance of Lewis County. Our business climate in Lewis County has a bright future, with many great leaders and business owners that are dedicated to the success of our community. My commitment will be to fully support business and commerce to keep our local economy strong.





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10/7 • Ribbon Cutting for The Pasta Bowl

1780 N National Ave, Chehalis, WA 98532

10/12 **Ribbon Cutting for: Washington Trucking School**

3:00 pm 181 Ribelin Rd, Chehalis, WA 98532



Chamber Upcoming Events

10/13 • County Debates 11:30 am : Doors open / Lunch served

Buffet lunch can be purchased for \$17

Noon: Debates begin Debates end approximately 1:00 pm Space is limited.

Those who want lunch should arrive no later than 11:30am. We will Facebook the event live.

O'Blarney's: 221 N Tower Ave, Centralia, WA 98531

10/20 • Business After Hours at Par 4 Sports

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm 701 Allen Ave, Centralia, WA 98531

10/22 • Bitchin' Britches Ribbon Cutting

2:00 pm

1210 Lum Rd, Centralia, WA 98531

10/29 • 80's Party at Dick's Brewing 7:00 pm

Tickets: \$25/single \$45/couple 3516 Galvin Rd, Centralia, WA 98531

10/31 • Trick or Treat Transit

3:00 pm - 5:30 pm 151 NE Hampe Way, Chehalis, WA 98532

B 77BUZZ



WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



Amsoil

Last month we talked about how I describe AMSOIL! For those that missed it here it is! I describe the difference between AMSOIL and other brands by taking three empty jars and putting bb's inside one, crushed rock in another, and crushed rock with a small handful of bb's in the third. Now turn them on their sides and rotate them. AMSOIL is like the bb's, flowing smoothly, petroleum oil is like the crushed rock clumping together, and other synthetics are like the third, flowing slightly better. So, what is the difference, the bb's take little effort to start to move in the jar. They are engineered molecularly the same. They have smooth edges and don't hang up on each other. The crushed rock rides up the side and then clump down together. Crude oil coming out of the ground is the same. Molecularly, they are not equal, they are different sizes. They have a builtin resistance to each other! Keep in mind that crude oil is processed to remove gasoline, diesel and many other products from it. What is left is put in a bottle with some additives and sold to you! Call me 360-304-8595! - Mike

Blue Skies Drones

Drones are used in a variety of ways to perform remote sensing. How are they being used in Lewis County? Lewis County is testing the use of drones to find invasive and destructive noxious weeds like Knotweed. Knotweed species destroys the native habitat, takes over entire riverbanks and reduces the recreational quality of the Pacific Northwest rivers. Drones are being used to help find and control this weed so that we all may benefit from our rivers and the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Check with the local Noxious Weed Control Board if you think you have any noxious weeds - https://lewiscountywa.gov/ departments/weed-control/

Bob Holland Insurance

New in Fall of 2022

As Medicare recipients get ready to review their coverage this Fall, agents will be asking to record your calls and provide a new disclaimer at the beginning of the phone conversation. This new rule was just released by the Centers for Medicare Services (CMS) This means we must record phone calls when we talk on the phone with customers who want to discuss Medicare Advantage and/or Part D prescription plans. Please note, every agency that sells Medicare must comply with this rule. Recording calls for quality assurance isn't unusual, many industries record calls these days. We hope this adjustment comes easily. When we answer the phone, we will say hello and then will be required to say, "We do not offer every plan available in your area..."

At Bob Holland Insurance we recognize in a fast paced, tech driven world, protections for clients are a must! We look forward to continuing to meet face to face with our clients, call us and make an appointment. We will strive to make the new rule compliance painless and are always here for our customers! Our agents work hard to be certified to sell the best plans offered in our area.

We are here to serve you!

Brown Mortuary Service

October 22 • 1:00-5:00 pm Brown Mortuary Pumpkin Decorating Costume Contest AND Games! Pumpkins and decorating supplies will be provided. Prizes for best pumpkins. Prizes for costume categories. Snacks will be provided.

Sticklin Funeral Chapel

October 29 • 1:00 pm Sticklin Funeral Chapel Costume Contest & Movie Matinee Join us to watch Hocus Pocus! Movie starts at 1:30 pm There will be popcorn, snacks and drinks served. Prize for the best costume!

Centralia School District

Great things are happening in the Centralia School District! This school year, we are focused on two intentional priorities to help all students achieve academic and personal excellence: powerful core instruction and climate and culture. Our community is an important partner in our success. Thank you to all of the organizations, businesses, and individuals that donated back to school supplies and support to ensure a strong start to the school year for each and every student. We have more opportunities to help. Our students, staff, and schools benefit from your time and effort. You are invited to volunteer in our schools. Volunteer forms are available at www.centralia.k12.wa.us or call the individual school directly. We are thankful for your support! Stay up to date on our events by following our Facebook @ centraliaschooldistrict, Instagram page @CentraliaSchoolDistrict and website https://www.centralia.k12.

Centralia Point Assisted Living and Memory Care

At Centralia Point Assisted Living and Memory Care, our priority is the comfort and care of you and your loved ones. Our community features modern day amenities with the feeling of home. We help seniors age gracefully in place with a variety of services, activities, and amenities. We adjust to an individual's changing needs as they age while maintaining a safe and comfortable environment. Rooms are designed to maximize comfort and simplify navigation. Apartments in assisted living are available as studios, alcoves and one-bedroom units. Our Secured 24 bed memory care unit offers private rooms as well as companion suites, each with a private bathroom. Our purposeful design offers Memory Care residents ample lighting, open activity spaces and a secure courtyard. We offer you peace of mind knowing your loved one is in an environment that is quiet and secure surrounded by staff who provide around-the-clock personalized care.

Rest assured that Family members are always welcome in our facility with open arms!

Our Community Relations Director Maleigha Romines is available for tours daily, and any questions you may have at 360-623-9951. We look forward to meeting you!

Shop the Centralia Outlets for Fall Savings!

Columbus Day Sale

Discover the Centralia Outlets for our Columbus Day Sale October 8-10th. No need to sail the seas of blue as our favorite brand name stores are located just off I-5 at Exit 82. Shop for incredible savings at Coach, Hanes Brands, Lane Bryant, Gap, DXL Mens, Under Armour, and more.

Fire Prevention Week Join us for Fire Prevention Week! We will be showcasing some talented children's artwork from our local grade schools. Awards for best posters will be given by the Riverside Fire Department on Oct. 8th by the Riverside Fire Department and artwork will be displayed on October 9 -15th under the pavilion near our Polo Ralph Lauren and Eddie Bauer outlets. Halloween!

Kids 12 and under are invited to come in costume and Trick-or-Treat throughout the mall on Halloween October 31st from 4 – 7 PM while candy supplies last at participating outlets. Parents, don't forget to check out store savings while you are here.

Find delicious fall scents at Bath and Body Works, cozy warm flannels & blankets from Pendleton, and don't forget to add some sparkle from Kay Jewelers.

Stores are open 10 am to 7 pm, Monday - Saturday, and 11 am to 7 pm, Sunday.

Health & Hope Medical Outreach Free Clinic

Health & Hope is a non-profit, Christian based, medical clinic that provides Free medical care to qualifying residents of Lewis County. Staffed entirely by

volunteers who are dedicated to "Christ -centered care", the clinic is open each Tuesday evening at the Northwest Pediatrics building. Health & Hope is currently seeking volunteers with a variety of skillsmedical experience not necessary. There is a great need for bilingual interpreters and reception staff. Please also join us as we host our annual Holiday Bazaar December 3rd at Centralia Community Church of God. 3320 Borst Ave, Centralia from 9am - 4pm. Shop crafts and handmade goods from local vendors. It's a great way to get some holiday shopping done!

Let's Play Something Halloween is approaching, but

don't forget there's many events happening before then!

Through October 1st to November 16th, we'll be holding a fundraiser to support Toni Bennett, the owner and heart behind our store. Earlier this year she was diagnosed with stage 3 Rectal Squamous Cell Carcinoma, a rare cancer. To raise money and lighten some of the burden, we're selling raffle tickets for \$5 and drawing for 3 awesome prizes. Check out the pinned post on our Facebook page for more information.

To kick off fall, we'll be offering families a scavenger hunt sheet during the first week of October with things they can find around



downtown. Be sure to turn the sheets back into us and receive a hot chocolate kit!

On October 9th we'll be hosting a read aloud and craft event. Families can either come in at 12pm or 3pm to hear a story and color their own bookmark. Check out the event on our Facebook page for more information.

Don't forget to stop by on Halloween for the Twin Transit Trick or Treat Event, for your treat bag!

Lewis County Adventist School

Lewis County Adventist School (LCAS), located at 2102 S Scheuber Rd in Chehalis, is back in session. This school year marks the 100th year LCAS has offered quality Christian education to the Lewis County community. The 2022/2023 school year kicked off on August 23 with a back-to-school orientation for students and parents. During the orientation, students were familiarized with their workspaces and schedules while parents received important classroomspecific information. Education instruction began on August 24. Openings in Pre-K are still available! Lewis County Adventist

School offers preschool to 10th grade education and strives to both academically educate and spiritually nurture all its students. The school also fosters leadership growth for students. The school has certified teachers and is accredited. For more information about LCAS see www.LCAS.org or if you have question or would like to schedule a tour of the school, please contact the principal, Kelly Gennick, at

Washington Trucking School

360-748-3213 or email her at office@

lcas.org

We are Washington Trucking School and we've opened up a new campus of our truck driving school in the Port of Chehalis. We offer the lowest priced truck driver training in the area and continue to produce students who achieve the

highest test scores in Washington. With an 84 percent initial pass rate, we maintain some of the best scores in the state. Classes are Monday through Friday, 7:30AM to 4:00PM. Get your CDL A in as little as 4 weeks, and be on the road to a successful career. Stop by our campus at 181 Ribelin road in Chehalis today to get enrolled, or contact our Assistant Manager James Fasano by email at james@ watruckingschool.com or call (360) 900-4567 and ask for James to find out more.

noxious weeds like

Knotweed.

We are also currently hiring instructors, feel free to drop by with a resume or email to the Assistant Manager if interested.

WSU Lewis County Master Gardeners

Workshop: Planting Garlic at the

WSU Borst Demonstration Garden at the Salsa Garden Saturday, October 22 10:00AM- noon Free pre-registration call: 360-740-1212 or visit https://extension.wsu. edu/lewis/events/

I hope you will join us at the Borst Demonstration Garden on October 22, at 10:00AM to learn about planting garlic. WSU Master Gardener Jeannette Lawson will walk you through the steps of how easy it is growing your own garlic. Everyone should go home with at least one variety of garlic to plant in their own garden.

Plant Clinic and Insect Clinic

Is offered free to the public Monday - Thursday from 9:00 - 3:00PM. Clients are asked to bring samples of the plant that can be studied. This is where the investigation begins. Master Gardeners are often able to diagnose issues based on clues provided by the client. Likewise, identifying insects and other pests begins with an investigation -often comparing "mugshots" of similar pests. To preserve the insects for study, they should be brought to the Plant and Insect Clinic in a small container of rubbing alcohol.

Holiday Charity Bazaar Centralia Community Church of God

3320 Borst Ave, Centralia, WA 98531 Please use east entrance near gym

> December 3rd, 2022 9AM - 4PM



Proceeds support

Health & Hope Medical Clinic

Send 200 words (or less) to marketing@chamberway.com. A photo or logo gets even greater visibility!



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.

September New Members

Port of Chehalis Eagle's Nest

Community Kitchen

Jester Auto Museum Toyota Lift Northwest

Centralia Point Assisted Living

Senior Benefit Advisor

& Memory Care

Fosterful

Renewing Members

Althauser Rayan Abbarno, LLP

American Red Cross-Lewis County

Amy Debolt

Area 52

Atlas Construction Advisors

Berry Fields Cafe & Bakery

Blue Skies Drones

Cash Northwest Centralia Pet Resort **Centralia Police Officers Association**

Chehalis-Centralia Airport Colonial Residence

D.B. Cooper Appliances

Evexia IV Nutrition and Wellness

Funeral Alternatives of Washington

Holiday Inn Express & Suites JR Furniture Super Store

Lady MacDonalds

Gourmet Foods

Landes & Co LewisTalk.com

Lickety Split Mobile Notary and Loan Signing

Lifetime Granite Lubricant Solutions LLC

Maurices McCallum Rock Drilling Inc.

NW Power & Softwash Company NW Sports Hub O'Keefe Development

Philip S. Garnett CPA

Prestige Post Acute & Rehabilitation Center- Centralia

Providence Southwest Washington Foundation

Ramblin Jack Ribeye, LLC

Stillwaters Estates Retirement Community

Tree Management Plus, Inc Truck Parts Sales, Inc **Twin City Town Center**

Valley Ag White Pass Ski Area

Announcing the New Centralia Downtown Association Executive Director, MacKenzie McGee

The mission of the Centralia Downtown Association (CDA), is to unite and empower residents, merchants and civic leaders to promote, beautify, and develop a vibrant and prosperous downtown that celebrates its history and preserves its historic charm for all Centralians and visitors. The Centralia Downtown Association is a member of Main Street America, which counts as its members organizations across the country dedicated to the preservation of historic downtown commercial districts.

The Centralian best equipped for this challenge is the newly appointed Executive Director of the CDA, Centralia native MacKenzie McGee. McGee was born and raised in Centralia, graduated from Centralia High



School and studied business at Centralia College. After living in Seattle for 2 years, she moved back to Centralia, married her now husband Cameron McGee, and in 2010 they started their business Calypso Window Washing. MacKenzie, Cameron

and partner Naomi have 6 beautiful children together, ages 5,7,9,10,10 and 12.

A year ago McGee launched Calypso Productions and Marketing, and her first project was helping to revitalize Pine Street Plaza. After that, other business owners started approaching her to help promote their businesses. This past Spring her non-profit 'Kiddin' Around' was born which focuses on bringing fun, free events to the families of Lewis County, which has already seen a handful of successful, kid-friendly events.

McGee has been serving as the interim Executive Director for the CDA this past year and is now excited to be the permanent Executive Director. "There are a lot of great projects and

seeing them come to fruition is exciting." McGee added that she looks forward to partnering with a variety of organizations, "especially working with entities like the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Alliance of Lewis County. I'm very excited to be collaborating and working with Experience Chehalis and bringing our communities together." She has already been involved with many local organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Alliance of Lewis County, the Fox Theater, United Way of Lewis County, and the Centralia Christian School.

During this strategic planning time the CDA is working on finalizing the Lighted Tractor Parade, updating furniture in Pine Street Plaza, and getting ready for fall clean up in preparation for the holiday season. We are all excited to see what 2023 holds for the CDA and its new Executive Director.

The CDA also recently elected new board members and officers. Josh Gering, minister of

Downtown Bethel Church, joins the board and will serve a three-year term. Rebecca Staebler

was elected President; Jan Nontell will serve as Vice-President, Nina Skol as

Secretary/Treasurer, and Jennifer Krueger as Immediate Past-President.

For information about the CDA, email centraliadowntownassociation@gmail.com and follow on Facebook and Instagram.

ToledoTel **Business After Hours**

We had a great evening hearing updates from Chief Operating Officer Dale Merten with ToledoTel at last month's Business After Hours (BAH). Great food, great drinks and great company! There was even a pinata! Thanks goes out to ToledoTel for hosting a great BAH.

ToyotaLift Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting

The Chamber had the pleasure of being a part of ToyotaLift Northwest's Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting last month to help welcome them to the community. This is their seventh and newest location. Situated in the industrial district on Sturdevant Road, this new location is important for several reasons. Until now, product demonstrations, in-depth equipment repairs, rentals and more required to or from either Kent, WA or Portland, OR. This new location allows them to eliminate that inconvenience and bring those services to the businesses of Lewis County and the whole of Southwest





Pictured above, Josh Hovda, Sr. Manager, Aftermarket Operations with Ashwini Wankhede, President/COO cutting the ribbon.

Washington. They are located at 169 Sturdevant Rd, Chehalis, WA 98532, and specialize in Toyota forklifts, and also carry equipment from AUSA, Landoll and Genie, and provide full maintenance and parts support as well as storage and automation solutions.



Advertising with the Chamber

Not only does the Chamber promote, protect and inform our community about our members, but did you know that the Centralia - Chehalis Chamber of Commerce has several great ways for you to promote your business, organization and/or events? Even if you aren't a chamber member! Members do receive a discount on advertising, which is a valuable Chamber Member benefit.

Our Electronic Billboard is perfectly located off I-5, Exit 79 in Chehalis. Our electronic billboard is 10 feet high by 5 feet wide and runs 24 hours a day, each advertisement will run for 10 seconds and is guaranteed to run 4 times every hour equal to 96 times a day.

We also have 13.75 inch x 13.50 inch signs that can be purchased that appear around the map of Lewis County. These are static displays and advertising costs include the

The Centralia – Chehalis

It's Easy to Stay informed

with the Chamber!

Sign up for our email newsletter

on our website

chamberway.com

Follow us on Facebook on www.

facebook.com/ChamberWay

Follow us on Instagram @

chamber.of.commerce

Follow us on Twitter @

Chamberway

Watch for the Business

Connections inserted into The

Chronicle on the first Thursday

of each month.

We share our events on

Facebook, and reminders on all social media to help keep the

Chamber of Commerce Electronic Billboard and Map are great tools to promote your business, organization or event. NW Chamber of Commerce Way is highly trafficked by the local community and travelers from outside the area. This presents a perfect opportunity for your advertisement to be

We also are starting to offer ads on our emails that we send out to the community. Our emails go out to over 1800 people, and we send out several emails a week. There will be a limit of one email ad running at a time.

Another new ad product available to our members exclusively is advertising on our website. We will be offering ads on several different web pages, including the home page, visitors page and other internal pages with new introductory rates. Please contact our office for rates and details at (360) 748-8885 or email marketing@chamberway.

Dick's Cornhole Tournament & Sausage Fest

This Tournament was SO much fun, and we were able to raise over \$4,600 for the Rob Fuller Scholarship Fund! A big thank you to so many businesses that donated raffle items for this event. And a huge thank you goes out to Julie at Dick's Brewing for having us!

Pictured at right: Dick's Brewing Owner Julie Pendleton, with Chris Thomas, Chris Demus, and Head Brewer Dave Pendleton.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

Alicia Blum

Centralia native Alicia Blum has been volunteering with the Centralia-Chehalis

Chamber of Commerce since 2017. "Alicia is one of our most dependable volunteers at the Chamber." Office Manager Chris Demus comments, "I can always depend on Alicia for the Annual Banquet. She

is easy to work with and my

Blum was born and raised in Centralia. She left for college in 2005, attending University of Jamestown in North Dakota, and also Lewis-Clark State College in Idaho receiving a BA in Business Management and minoring in Marketing. She moved back to Centralia in 2010 and a year later started her career with Security State Bank, who she has been with since, working her way from Financial Service Representative to Branch Operations Manager.

It was through Blum's work that she got connected with the Chamber of Commerce. Being a manager at the bank, the bank wants you to be involved in the community. Blum wanted to get involved with an organization that helps out the entire community. Blum stated, "I love being out in the community to see what's going on and being able to help the community and watch it grow." She has also been involved in

Relay for Life since 2013, which helps raise money for cancer.

A favorite thing about volunteering for Blum is "Being able to help people, and helping to raise money to support a cause important to them. I enjoy being out meeting people and connecting with them, learning what's happening in the community so I can get the word out." comments Blum. Being an Ambassador has helped Blum grow and get out of her comfort zone and she found

community informed. We also share community events and member events to help get the word out to the community.

Did You Know?

Not only does the Chamber of Commerce promote, protect and inform the public about our members, but our office serves as a visitor center to travelers who are visiting our area!

We carry maps, brochures and other promotional materials from our members and also from surrounding tourist attractions that help bring visitors to our area.

an unexpected support system through the Chamber.

Volunteering with the Chamber of Commerce is a valuable opportunity to give back to your community, network with other business owners and citizens while supporting and encouraging local businesses in our area. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the chamber at (360) 748-8885 or email thechamber@ chamberway.com.

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