

Inside This Edition:

The September issue of Business Connections focuses on our non-profit members and their contributions to the communities they serve.

Valley View Health Center Aims to Be Health Care Provider Patients Deserve

By Emily Fitzgerald

As one of the few independent health care providers large enough to

extend its services to small communities in Western Washington, Valley View Health Center



Gaelon Spradley responsibility to Valley View ĆЕО

its patients very seriously. "Those

takes its

commitments to those little towns ... that's very important and we want to stay in the very small communities to serve the patients that don't have the option of taking half a day off and driving to Longview or Olympia for a doctor's visit," said Valley View CEO Gaelon Spradley.

Valley View Health Center is a nonprofit, federally qualified community health center governed by a board of patients, local community members, and community business leaders to ensure that the needs of our communities are met.



"Our organization is committed to providing quality integrated medical, dental, behavioral health, and pharmacy services to families and individuals of all ages, regardless of the ability to pay," Valley View states on its website.

Valley View's mission statement reads, "To improve the health and wellbeing of the community by providing quality and compassionate health care services in a patientcentered atmosphere respecting individual and cultural diversity."

The health care provider currently has 14 clinic sites in Lewis, Pacific and Thurston counties. Those clinic sites are standalone or combination medical, dental, behavioral health and pharmacy sites, stretching as far east as Morton, as far west as Raymond, as far north as Olympia and as far south as Toledo and Winlock.

Plans to take over operation of the Mary's Corner Medical Clinic near Chehalis as a Valley View clinic are in the works, Spradley said. That change will likely start sometime in November, though an official start date hadn't been set as of late August.

Valley View is also working on plans to build a new clinic on Cooks Hill Road in Centralia, near Providence Centralia Hospital.



At left is the Valley View Medical Center location in Onalaska. Pictured at right is the Valley View Medical Center facility in Tenino.

"We're working to rebuild Valley View to become a health care provider that our service area deserves," Spradley said.

Now in his fourth year at Valley View, Spradley said he and the rest of Valley View's leadership team are working to address the "mixed reputation" Valley View has in the community.

"If you've heard of us, chances are you tried us five or 10 years ago and we may not have met the expectations of our patients and our communities," Spradley said. "We're working to become the kind of health care provider that has the systems in place (to) always meet the needs of our patients."

Areas Valley View is working to improve are communication and quality of care, including how patients can schedule appointments and manage referrals, Spradley said.

"From a patient's perspective, it is simply bringing all the services to our patients in the manner they expect and that they need of us. It's intended to make Valley View the kind of health care provider that anyone would be immensely satisfied in seeking care from," Spradley said.

For more information on Valley View Health Center, including clinic locations, hours and services provided, visit https://vvhc.org/.

Dolly Parton: *Imagination Library*

By Peter Abbarno

20th District Rep. R-Centralia

"Working 9 to 5" is a phrase not often uttered by volunteers, board members, and employees of non-



the 39 counties.

At the event, Dolly described how the Imagination Library started out in 1995 as a small book program in her East Tennessee hometown. She never expected it to grow

Library of Washington.

I heard about the program soon after from our local Centralia, Chehalis, and Twin Cities Rotary clubs that were partnering with the United Way of Lewis County to



community. Because, when you focus your efforts on a heartfelt mission, the work is never

done. Sometimes the impact of the mission changes the life of one person, one group, or starts a statewide movement.

That is how I feel about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and the people that made it a statewide success.

As most of Washington knows, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is now a statewide program putting a monthly book in the hands of children from birth to age 5. Dolly herself came to Washington and celebrated the amazing accomplishment of having a program in each of and expand to an international program serving more than 2.5 million children.

Being a longtime advocate of the program, as well as cosponsor of the legislation to expand the program statewide, I was honored to speak at the event and talk about my favorite benefits of reading with my children. However, I was not able to fully discuss the 'origin story' of this program in Washington state.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library was first expanded in Washington state in SW Washington by the United Way of Cowlitz & Wahkiakum Counties. The passion and drive to adopt, build, and expand the program was inspired by former Executive Director Booke Fisher-Clark. Brooke is now the Executive Director of the Imagination

expand the program in Lewis County. That program was an instant success thanks to former United Way Executive Director Debbie Campbell; and Angela French who is now the Communications and Outreach Manager for the Imagination Library of Washington.

I instantly became a supporter. I loved that this program created quality family time and helped prepare children for kindergarten.

Research shows the greatest amount of brain and cognitive development happens in children before the age of 5. Daily reading with a child helps improve language skills, increase concentration and discipline, develop imagination and creativity, and cultivate a lifelong love for reading.

As families continue

reading, communicating, and spending quality time together through the Imagination Library program, children learn concepts and themes and develop skills for school and life. Those concepts and themes become more complex over time and inspire imagination before they even start school.

Too many children are not kindergarten-ready when they begin school.

If we want to see higher test scores, help end intergenerational poverty, and provide greater opportunities for our children- then the investments must start earlier. We recognized this in SW Washington through the amazing efforts of our local United Way and Rotary organizations. Now, the State of Washington has followed our lead.

There are many volunteers working much longer than "9 to 5" to help lift-up our community and neighbors. Whether it is constructing handicap accessible ramps, feeding the hungry, collecting school supplies, or promoting early learning, those efforts in one small community or internationally have a positive impact felt for generations.

The local efforts to expand Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and 'origin story' for the Imagination Library of Washington is an inspiration to all of us.

Rep. Peter Abbarno represents the 20th Legislative District and is an attorney with Althauser Rayan Abbarno, LLP.



Andy Alexander Loan Officer NMLS #1807751



360.748.8648 | 877.595.0378 ssbwa.com



www.titlegco.com • 360-748-0001 200 NW Pacific Ave., Chehalis Mailing: P.O. Box 1304, Chehalis



2 ~ Business Connections, September 2023



CHAMBER STAFF:

Cynthia Mudge Executive Director director@chamberway.com

Christine Demus Office Manager thechamber@chamberway.com

> Emily Fitzgerald Writer

The Silver Agency, Social Media/ Web Development

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Coralee Taylor Chair The Silver Agency and The Chronicle

Julie Pendleton Secretary Dick's Brewing & Deli

Julie Shaffley Treasurer Good Health and Nutrition Center

Lindy Waring Past Chair KELA/KMNT Radio

Amanda Singleton At-Large Rainier Connect

Chris Thomas, At-Large Providence Hospital

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Stan Bowman Bowman Assoc. Management

Trent Henning Riverside Golf Club and Chamber Ambassador Chair

Thomas Jaurequi United Natural Foods Inc. (UNFI)

> Dana Johnson Providence Swedish

Chris Judd United Way of Lewis County

> Daryl Lund Community Member

Jeff Malloy O'Blarney's Irish Pub



Centralia Downtown Festivals Association Board Member Flossie Heymann smiles for a photo while selling tickets for the Murals, Museums and Moonshine guided walking tour event in downtown Centralia on Saturday, June 3.



Centralia Downtown Festivals Association President Holly Ryan participates in a Centralia Downtown Association Spring Cleanup event on May 7 in this photo provided by the Centralia Downtown Association.

Centralia Downtown Festivals Association Brings Fun Events To Historic Downtown

By Emily Fitzgerald

The Centralia Downtown Festivals Association (CDFA) was founded in 2017 with a goal to bring people into Centralia's vibrant historic downtown.

Now in its sixth year, the association remains committed to achieving that mission by holding fun events downtown.

"We try to bring some new things to town and also keep some traditions," said CDFA President Holly Ryan. Traditional events continue to be a highlight of their annual events including the Antique Fest and Hub City Car Show in August; the Ghost Walk and Dark Market in October; and the Christmas on Magnolia Holiday Makers Market in December. CDFA also partners with the Centralia Downtown Association for Girls Night Out shopping events, which benefit the Hope Alliance, twice a year.

Most recently, CDFA held its second Murals, Museums



Centralia Downtown Festivals Association President Holly Ryan is relishing her role as The Grinch with Santa during Centralia Downtown Association's "Christmas in July" Event.

and Moonshine guided walking tour, which sought to bring attention to Centralia's history.

"The main thing is to get people to come in, bring them into downtown, help them to see that there is a viable downtown with a lot going on and that we are building tourism," Ryan said.

CDFA is an all-volunteer, no-profit association, Ryan said, meaning all money CDFA receives through LTAC funding, grants, sponsorships or admission fees go directly to putting on events.

The association is always looking for volunteers, feedback or ideas for new events,Ryan said.

For information, more contact Ryan at The Shady Lady in downtown Centralia, email CDFA at downtowncentraliaevents@ gmail.com or visit CDFA's website at https:// centraliadowntownfestivals. com/.





Michael Postlewait Lucky Eagle Casino

Amanda Singleton Rainier Connect

Sandra Wing Twin Cities Sports Commission

NON-VOTING

Jill Anderson City of Chehalis

Rob Hill City of Centralia

Ellen Buzzard Student Representative

CONTACT US: 500 NW Chamber of Commerce Way Chehalis, WA 98532 Office: 360.748.8885 Fax: 360.748.8763 TheChamber@ChamberWay.com



Reliable Enterprises Executive Director Brett Mitchell poses for a photo inside Reliable Enterprises' Centralia office on Wednesday, Aug. 23.

Reliable Enterprises Offers Wide Variety Of Community Services

By Emily Fitzgerald

Reliable Enterprises was founded in 1977 to provide opportunities for adults for developmental disabilities, but now, 46 years later, the nonprofit offers a much wider variety of services to benefit the community.

"Clearly times have changed and the community has changed and so the organization has changed accordingly," said Reliable Enterprises Executive Director Brett Mitchell.

Nowadays, Reliable Enterprises' main programs are affordable housing and visitation services. The nonprofit has 124 units of low-income housing, soon to become 146 units as Reliable Enterprises prepares to open another building.

On the visitation side, Reliable Enterprises works with children and families across Western Washington to connect them through supervised, court-ordered visits. Sometimes, those visitations come in the form of family reunifications through housing.

"You can see the impact in front of you. It's not like you do all of this and somebody gives you a statistic," Mitchell said of the housing and visitation services. "Those two particular areas that we work in, you can actually see somebody getting housed and a family getting reunified, kids being able to visit with their families while families are working through issues. All of that stuff is kind of right in front of you so you can know the direct impact that you're having on that, which is pretty satisfying to the people that do the work."

Reliable Enterprises also runs educational programs, heading Lewis County's

A sign outside Reliable Enterprises' Centralia office bearing the nonprofit's slogan, "Where possibilities become reality," is photographed on Wednesday, Aug. 23.

Head Start program, offering support to infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities through the In-Tot program and facilitating support networks for parents and families.

Disability services for adults are still a part of Reliable Enterprises work through the nonprofit's recreation program, Mitchell said. Reliable Enterprises also runs a thrift store and offers payee services to help people with financial management.

Anyone interested in learning more about Reliable Enterprises' services or volunteering in any area of work is encouraged to call the nonprofit's main office at 360-736-9558.

For more information, visit Reliable Enterprises' website at https://reliableenterprises.org/

Rob Fuller Scholarship Fund Continues the Legacy of Philanthropy

The board and staff of Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce are dedicated to not only supporting new and existing businesses that help our economy grow, but they are also passionate about supporting the leaders of tomorrow.

In 2011, The Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce established the Rob Fuller Scholarship Fund in honor of long-time community business owner, leader, volunteer, and philanthropist, Rob Fuller. Each year in May the Chamber awards eligible high school seniors up to \$1000 in scholarship funds with hopes that recipients will continue Rob Fuller's legacy of love for community and dedication to volunteering and philanthropic efforts.

In 2022 the Chamber Board established the Rob



Fuller Scholarship Fund as its own 501 (c) 3 non-profit. This new designation means that donations to the fund are now tax deductible ensuring the longevity and stability of the scholarships.

Each year the board challenges its members and community to raise \$10,000 to award scholarships for eligible high school students. If your business is a member of the Chamber, then your employees' high school seniors are eligible to apply.

In 2022 the Chamber awarded \$1,000 scholarships to ten seniors at the 25 X 25 Rob Fuller Luncheon that honors the top 25 graduating high school seniors from Centralia and Chehalis. In addition to awarding the Rob Fuller Scholarships nine other scholarships are also awarded.

Pope's Place supports the medically fragile in Lewis County

By Emily Fitzgerald

Pope's Place is continuing to grow and continue its mission of supporting medically fragile children, young adults and their families in Chehalis and the surrounding community.

Pope's Place opened in 1995 as a vision of Dr. Isaac Pope, who "really saw the drain on families that took care of medically-fragile kids, and his passion was really to serve those kids and those families in the community," said Pope's Place Executive Director Angela Dickinson.

The nonprofit started out as a volunteer-based respite program that took care of kids so families could have a break, according to Dickinson. "Most families are exhausted, so they can just get some rest knowing their medically-fragile kids are safe and cared for," she said.

Pope's Place's services have since expanded beyond the respite program, with the nonprofit now offering three different programs: a residential program, the respite program and physical therapy program.

The residential program is divided into two group homes, one for young adults for whom Pope's Place is their "forever home" and one for kids "who are considered transitional so their goals are to go home to be with their families," Dickinson said.

The pediatric group home is licensed for 17 kids and currently houses 14, with a 15th on the way, according to Dickinson. The young adult home had six residents as of late August.

Pope's Place's respite program was largely inoperable during the COVID-19 pandemic, but Dickinson said one of her main goals when she started at Pope's Place in January of 2022 was to restart and grow that program.

One of the six beds in the young adult home has been used for respite patients for the last month, Dickinson said, and plans are in the works to add an eight-bed pediatric respite home.



Mattias smiles while playing peek-a-boo with Pope's Place staff celebrating his first birthday on Friday, Aug. 25.



Pope's Place staff pose for a photo with Forrest, a resident of the nonprofit's young adult home, on Friday, Aug. 25.



Pope's Place staff play with one-year-old Mattias at the nonprofit's pediatric group home on Friday, Aug. 25.

Pope's Place also runs a physical therapy program, with an aquatic therapy program starting within the

next few weeks. For more information on Pope's Place, visit https:// popesplace.org/.

CHAMBER MEMBER NON-PROFITS

Adaline Coffman Guild for Seattle Children's Hospital (360) 520-1473 adalinecoffman.org

Cascade Community Healthcare (360) 330-9044 cascadementalhealth.org

Centralia Christian School (360) 736-7657 Centraliachristianschool.org

Centralia College Foundation (360) 623-8942 foundation.centralia.edu

Centralia Downtown Festivals Association (360) 388-1960 centraliadowntownfestivals. com

> Centralia Providence Hospital (360) 736-2803 providence.org/swsa

Chehalis-Centralia

L.C. Renal Alliance (833) 527-3625 lcrenalalliance.org

Lewis County Seniors (360) 748-0061 lewiscountyseniors.org

Lewis County Adventist School (360) 748-3213 lcas.org

Nature Nurture Farmacy (360) 996-4387 naturenurturefarmacy.org

> **Pope's Place** (360) 736-9178 popesplace.org

Ragamuffin Ranch (424) 532-1456 ragamuffinranch.org

Reliable Enterprises (360) 736-9558 reliableenterprises.org

Rob Fuller Scholarship

Railroad & Museum (360) 748-9593 steamtrainride.com

Community Mediation Center (360) 623-8061 cmclc.org

Eagles Nest Community Kitchen (206) 578-6921 eaglesnestck.org

Economic Alliance of Lewis County (360) 748-0114 lewiscountyalliance.org

> Hope Alliance (360) 748-6601 hopealliancelc.org

KACS Christian Radio Network - 90.5 FM (360) 740-9436 KACS.org Fund (360) 748-8885 Robfullerfund.org

Set Free NW (360) 310-0577 setfree.org

Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Organization (360) 577-3041 cwcog.org

Valley View Health Center (360) 330-9595 vvhc.org

Visiting Nurses Thrift Store – Chehalis (360) 345-1525 visitingnursesfoundation. com

Wolf Haven International (360) 264-4695 wolfhaven.org

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

RB Engineering

$DESIGN \rightarrow PERMIT \rightarrow MANAGE$

Celebrating 25 Mears!



CH62267ev

CIVIL ENGINEERING | LAND PLANNING | PROJECT MANAGEMENT

RBENGINEERS.COM

360-740-8919

WHAT'S **THE BUZZ?**

BIZZBUZZ E **APD Plumbing and**

Mechanical Home of 888-4Plumber Not only are we locally grown with over 20 years' experience, but we are the only plumbing company offering the "Fixed right or it's Free!" expert guarantee. Ten year warranty on repipes, fully electric service van saving our environment, now with the largest truck stock in the nation! Financing available, tankless to water heating, meter to septic, potable water to drain cleaning. Rest assured you are in the most capable hands. Tripple eight for plumber. That's the name, website and number. Tripple eight for plumber. Licensed Bonded Insured #APDPLPMI796K7 #APDPLPM789QP APD Plumbing and Mechanical Home of 888-4Plumber

ARTrails Guides Now Available

ARTrails 21st Annual Studio Tour is the 3rd and 4th weekends of September (16-17, and 23-24) when 33 artists will be showing their art. Through the annual open

studio tour, ARTrails provides an opportunity for the public to meet the artists in their studio/workplace and to observe work in progress.

Take a drive through the regions historic communities and wander the back roads of Lewis County. Along the way drop in to watch artists at work and help us celebrate ARTrails 21st year.

You are invited to join this year's ARTrails artists and enthusiasts for the Gala Opening Reception to be held on Friday September 15 from 5:00 - 7:30 pm at Centralia's Historic Train Depot. It is a wonderful way

to meet the artists and view the ARTrails Exhibition Gallery. Of course, the Historic Centralia Train Depot will be showing each artist's very best piece of the year. The depot will be an art gallery

from September 15-23 from 10:00 to 5:00. Drop in to admire the finest art in Lewis County. Watch for ARTrails signs and arrows along our roads directing you to the different studios. Use the complimentary Studio Guide (free around town) which has a map to the locations or use your GPS or QR code reader.

Finally, enhance your ARTrails experience by downloading our "Getting the Most of your ARTrails Experience" from our website www.artrailsofsww.org

a reminder that change is a natural part of life. Just as the trees shed their leaves to prepare for a new growth, we too can let go of old habits, thoughts, and behaviors that no longer serve us, making room for

new, healthier ones. If Autumn inspires you to

prioritize your physical and mental health, massage is a fantastic way to do that. I'm Leah, owner and Licensed Massage Therapist at Best Life Massage at 1611 N National in Chehalis. I would love to help you on your journey to better health. I have openings available as soon as next week. Please look for me on Google or Facebook or call me at 360-506-7185 to book your

appointment. I'm going to embrace the spirit of autumn, and use it as a catalyst for positive transformation. What changes do you want to make? What do you want to achieve?

Blue Skies Drones

NEW Regulations starting in September. Drones are fundamentally changing aviation, and the FAA is committed to working towards fully integrating drones into the National Airspace System (NAS). Beginning September 16, 2023, all drone pilots who are required to register their UAS must operate in accordance with the rule on Remote ID. Safety and security are top priorities for the FAA and Remote ID for drones is crucial to our integration efforts. What is it? Remote ID is the ability of a drone in flight to provide identification and location information that can be received by other parties through a broadcast

signal. Contact Blue Skies Drones to find out more. www. blueskiesdroneshop.com located downtown Centralia. **RENTALS | SALES | SERVICES**

TRAINING

"Yeah We've got a drone for that!" C: +1-206-779-5258 P: +1-844-474-8833 e: dale.hylton@blueskiesdronerental. com Linkedin - Connect with me

BLUE SKIES DRONES RENTALS | SALES | SERVICE | TRAINING

Centralia Outlets

New Name Brands Now Open! Find value, quality, durability, and Name Brand savings at the Centralia Outlets. With the new additions of Columbia Clearance service offered at the Centralia Outlets

Trust the name brands for their quality and durability, and add value to your spending this season. Don't miss the incredible deals at the Centralia Outlets. Save BIG on the Name Brands you love. Visit our website at www.centraliaoutlets. com and follow us on social media to get inside peeks at what's new in

the stores.



Chehalis United Methodist Church

Chehalis United Methodist is at it again. We have a Blood Drive coming up on Friday September 29, 2023, AT 10:00 am to 3:00pm. This is our second for the year; come give your blood to a great cause, it might be your neighbor or relative that is saved.

PAWchella 2023 is gearing up to be the best one yet we have five (5) different rescues, including spiders, cats, alpacas, dogs, and reptiles. Come and see the vendors that are getting ready to be there just for you. We will be at the Veteran Memorial Museum on Sept 30th, 2023, at 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. You just might find your new best friend.

Don't forget November 3 and 4 at church located 16 S Market Blvd, Chehalis, WA, 98532 we will be hosting Mint City Market and The Best Bake Sale ever. Cinnamon Rolls, pies, crafts, Christmas shopping, need I say more.

As always, our doors are open every Sunday for church and the office is open Tuesday - Thursday from 10-3. Come visit for a coffee, a chat during the week, or a great Sunday!

Community Mediation Center

Do you have great individual staff members that have trouble working together? Are there employees in your business that are always in the middle of the office drama? Do you want to improve

and allowing the staff to create their own solutions for future success. Whether you have a staff of three or 300, conflict is a natural part or working together. Don't

let disagreements or tension hold you back, contact the Community Mediation Center today to get back on track! Call Jane 360-623-8061 or visit CommunityMediationCenters.org.



WSU **Lewis County Master Gardeners**

Pre-Registration is required by 3pm on the Thursday before the workshop.

Annual Fall Plant Sale, September 16th, 9:00am-3:00pm, Fort Borst Park Greenhouse Located by the Historic Borst Home Fall is just around the corner. Get ahead of Spring with Fall planting! We have perennials, trees and really beautiful roses! They are well rooted and ready to go in the ground. See you then!

For more information, contact Jason Adams, Program Coordinator, WSU Lewis County Gardeners at 360-740-1216 or Jason.Adams@lewiscountywa.gov



The Paula Burrows Team **Lewis County** Update

The Paula Burrows Team brokered by eXp Realty is a full-service real estate team led by managing broker, Paula Burrows. Our team of expert agents are committed to your real estate goals and we enjoy being a valuable part of our local

communities!



PRO Tech Painting: Lighting and How It **Affects Color**

Kitchen color trends of 2023. Fresh paint can give your kitchen a completely new look. If you're planning to update your kitchen before the new year, selecting the right color can be a defining

factor in transforming your kitchen. The mood, perception and style of our living space is powerfully influenced by the color, making it so important to get it right. Kitchens are more difficult to paint than a bedroom

or living room, mainly due to having the cabinets, appliances, and sometimes backsplashes you'll have to maneuver around. No doubt it is important that your kitchen feels current, it is likewise important that the color you choose has a lasting effect and inviting feel. The design experts say that for 2023 the kitchen colors for walls and even cabinets will be dark greens, warm neutrals and even a flush of soft pink. And on their list are colors like Sherwin Williams Redend Point Behr

Blank Canvas, Benjamin Moore Annapolis Gray and Sherwin

Williams Succulent, just to name a few.

Contact Pro Tech Painting for all your interior and cabinet painting needs (360) 643-9773

PRO TECH PAINTING **Rainier Eye & Vision:**

This month at Rainier Eye, we're featuring a buy more, save more sale (30% off the second pair, 40% off the third, and up!) This makes

prescription sunglasses more affordable. Not just a fashion statement, sunglasses protect and reveal more about the world around you. Available in a wide range of

colors and prices, sunglasses are designed to keep you comfortable to avoid squinting in bright sunlight and block damaging ultraviolet (UV) rays. UV light is the main cause of cataracts, pinguecula (pinkish yellow growths on the whites of the eyes,) skin cancer of the eyelids, saggy skin, age spots, and wrinkles around the eyes. The

clear lens and bigger pupils of children allow 70% more (UV) light to enter the eye, so sunglasses are even more critical for little ones.

From polarized lenses for fisherman and glare-free driving, amber tints for hunting, brown tints for golf, and dark gray for bright sunny days, the Rainier Eye optical has a wide range of colors for all lifestyles. We welcome prescriptions from other doctors' offices and no appointment is needed to shop. Stop in to see our selection and find a customized solution for your eyes! www. RainierEye.com

(scroll down on the main page and click on Kids Activity Guide).



Best Life Message

As the leaves begin to change color and the air turns crisp, autumn presents a perfect opportunity to make positive changes in your life. This season, often associated with transformation, can serve as a powerful metaphor for personal growth and development. Autumn is a time of transition, a period between the warmth of summer and the chill of winter. It's

Store and Jockey, now open, the Centralia Outlets have increased the variety and selection available to enhance your shopping experience. Get long-term savings when purchasing quality, trusted brands. These brands are made to last,

ranging from outerwear, apparel, athletics, shoes, children's wear, handbags, home décor, and so much more.

Summer and Back-to-School savings are not over! The Centralia Outlets offer discounts on already reduced merchandise ranging from

25% to 70% OFF. Skip the selfcheckout at large box stores and enjoy the friendly, helpful customer

communication between departments or individuals? Community Mediation Center can help with Small Business Facilitations, available now! We specialize in resolving disputes, improving communication, and strengthening relationships. Our trained staff can come to your business (or host you at our center) and lead focused conversations with your business goals in mind. Facilitations are a confidential, non-threatening and productive way to let your employees speak to each other and be heard. Mediators will guide the conversations in a positive direction, addressing concerns

Lewis County Residential Only Stats (Jan 2022 - Nov 2022): Total Sold - 1,144 properties! Average Sales Price - \$422,704.00 Percent of List Price Received -99.8%

The numbers above show that it is still a great time to buy and sell in our area!! Call (360) 520-4810 or visit www.pbthomes.com with any questions regarding real estate and your home's value!



Brokered by eXp Realty



Thank You for the Support of Our Sponsors! – Diamond — PORT OF WASHINGTON Lewis County Lodging Tax Advisory City of Chehalis Committee Funds (LTAC) LTAC - Platinum -Chronicle Lewis Jucky eagle CARS.CON OR ADVERTISING 1420 AM STIHL[®] RAINIERCONNECT

Congratulations! Business Connections, September 2023 ~ 5

These businesses commemorated their official openings with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in August!



- The Market

Chehalis Pharmacy Pharmacists and owners Courtney and Will Quinby officially celebrated opening their Chehalis location on August 8.



Vintage Vault 33 Owners Carrie Cusano and Manuel Ontiveros holding the souvenir bow made from their Ribbon Cutting opening August 11.



Be-YOU-tiful Boutique

Owner Rachel and Peter Atkinson with family and friends at their August 25 Ribbon Cutting in downtown Chehalis!



Columbia Clearance Store at Centralia Outlets

The Chamber was pleased to participate in the official opening of Columbia Clearance Store on August 25. Shown here with their Centralia Team is Store Manager Frankie Redfern.



Michaela Voeller State Farm Agent

Michaela Voeller was joined by staff, family, and friends for celebrating their grand opening on August 24. Joining her was her husband, Matthew, an RN with Providence and Sheryl Gafford, who worked for the previous owner, Gene Sander,s for thirty-one years. Voeller's corrected email from the original news release is michaela@savewithjoy.biz.

RB Engineering

Celebrating 25 Mears!

 $\mathbf{DESIGN} \rightarrow \mathbf{PERMIT} \rightarrow \mathbf{MANAGE}$

RB Engineering, a local civil engineering firm, is celebratingtheir25thanniversary!LewisCounty natives, Robert and Cherene Balmellistarted this companyinJulyof1998.Theysawthatthedemand for a civil engineering firm was increasing in the area. What began as a small home office business has now grown to a firm of over 10 employees with an office on 13th Street in Chehalis. All staff members are from the Southwest Washington areaandhavedeeprootsinthecommunity. Their professional team proudly includes veterans, active military members and local servicemen. Buildingvaluableprofessional relationships with clients, sub-consultants and colleagues is key to their ongoing success. That is accomplished by providinghonest, professional and cost-effective designs.RBEngineeringspecializesincommercial, industrial and residential site development planning, permitting, design and construction management. They have the experience and resources to manage a project from feasibility review through final construction.

Robert and Cherene are grateful for their local business relationships and support from the community, Chamber of Commerce and local business network. Witnessing the

generosity of other local businesses and families inspired them to donate Engineering's civil RB engineeringservicestothe Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library, Gail and Carolyn Shaw Aquatics Center, Pacific Athletic Center, Olympic School Sports Field and the Boys & Girls Club of Lewis County. Along with donating services,

RobertandCherenehaveanannualcollege engineering scholarship program for W.F. West high school graduates as well as donationsandsponsorshipstolocalyouth enrichment and sports programs. It's this very sense of community spirit and working

generositythattheywishtoinstillintheirchildren and promote for generations to come.



CIVIL ENGINEERING | LAND PLANNING | PROJECT MANAGEMENT

RBENGINEERS.COM

360-740-8919

Interstate Honda Dealership **Launches With Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony On September 21**

dealership launches with a with "This investment in a new

a win-win outcome for the can sometimes turn fortuitous Ideally situated off I-5 between Honda dealership in the nation Portland and Seattle, Interstate Honda is located at 1820 NW Louisiana Ave at I-5 and exit #72. They are open seven days a week and offer EV charging stations.

This is the second Honda dealership Csernotta has opened in Washington with the first purchased six years ago in Aberdeen. The site for the new Interstate Honda was initially considered in June of

The new Interstate Honda 2019 with a visit and discussion Honda's corporate grand opening and Ribbon staff. The Ribbon Cutting Cutting Ceremony Thursday, Ceremony marks a four-year September 21, at 1:00 pm. journey to completion and the owners are already eyeing Hondalocation will result in plans for expansion. Delays city of Chehalis, for American and in this case, Csernotta Honda and for us personally," and his partner seized upon said President John Csernotta. an opportunity to be the first to feature their new Blue Stage Design that sports an openconcept interior and harnesses modern technology that allows for iPad based paperless transactions. The old days of closed-door deals make way for a relaxed and stress-free environment that focuses on the customer experience.



INTERSTATE **SHonda**

Better Homes & Gardens Northwest Home Team

Most people are familiar Jessica and Steve Poulos with Better Homes Gardens brand as the highly teamed up in 2017 to create magazine acclaimed home decor experts that Tumwater and in 2021 they has guided people in their were approached by Better gardening and home ideas Homes & Gardens to be a for more than 100 years. The brand office. In January the same devotion that has made transition began with turning Better Homes & Gardens the former Realty World in the fourth largest magazine Chehalis to the Better Homes in the US also brings their & Garden brand. The public passion for helping people is invited to celebrate the live their best lives through completion of this transition

& along with Matt Brady and the Northwest Home Team in real estate services. Owners on September 26 at 9:30 am.



Allure Medical Aesthetics Opening Two Locations

RN Alexis Chambers now Mahalo Salon at 168 West offers two locations for her Main Street. Both events are at medical aesthetics services and is inviting the public to help celebrate. On September 12 the Chamber is hosting a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for her Morton site located inside Veronicutz at 218 Main Avenue. Later in the month, on September 28, there is a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for her new to start that new friendship! location in Chehalis inside Alluremedicalaesthetics.org

Noon. Chambers brings nine years as an RN and eight years as an LPN to her practice. She loves helping her customers as shown by her motto, "Come in as a client and leave as a friend." The Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies are a great way



UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

Monthly Forum

Annual Member BBQ! Thursday, September 14, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Dick's Brewing, 3516 Galvin Road, Centralia

Business After Hours

Annual Gathering at ToledoTel Thursday, September 21, 5:00 pm 183 Plomondon Road, Toledo This is always a fun event!

Annual Cornhole Tournament & Sausage Fest Benefit for the Rob Fuller Scholarship Fund Saturday, September 9 Bags Start Flying at 1:00 pm! Lots of fantastic Raffle Items to win! Dick's Brewing 3516 Galvin Road, Centralia

September Ribbon **Cutting Ceremonies**

Allure Medical Aesthetics Tuesday, September 12, Noon 218 Main Street, Morton

Interstate Honda Thursday, September 21, 1:00 pm 1820 NW Louisiana, Chehalis

Better Homes & Garden Northwest Home Team Tuesday, September 26, 9:30 am 282 SW 13th Street

Allure Medical Aesthetics Thursday, September 28, Noon 168 West Main Street, Chehalis

Other Events



Lewis County Young Professionals Monthly Network Night Thursday, September 14 5:30 – 7:30 pm Mill Town Smokehouse 834 Westlake Avenue, Morton

Groundbreaking for New Chehalis Baseball Field

Congratulations are in order! Chehalis Foundation and Chehalis School District hosted a Groundbreaking Ceremony on August 28 for the new Baseball Field! This project is the result of many donors and dedicated volunteers who have worked tirelessly with the Foundation and School District to raise funds.









EXPRESS IRON WORKS INC.

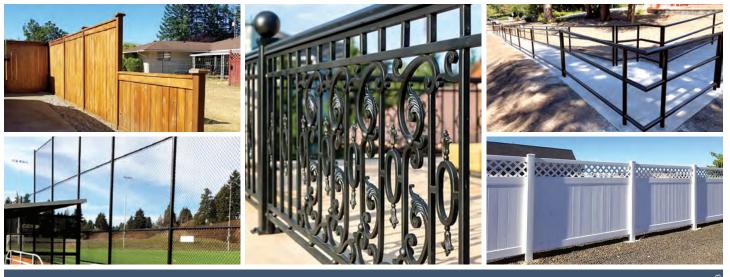
Serving Western WA since 2001

GET A FREE ESTIMATE TODAY!

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Fence & Gate **Installation & Repair**

- Chain Link
- Aluminum
- Ornamental
- Cedar
- Vinyl



360-262-9999 | expressironworks.com | 216 Romerman Road, Chehalis, WA 98532

