

# Business Connections



AUGUST 2024

Centralia - Chehalis Chamber of Commerce

Promote ♦ Protect ♦ Inform

Inside This Edition: Dick's Brewing 30th, Abbarno on fire, new city manager, and Lincoln Creek Lumber!

## Dick's Brewing Company to celebrate 30th anniversary this year



Julie and Dave Pendleton smile for a photo inside the Dick's Brewing Company tasting room in Centralia on Monday, July 22.



Photos by Emily Fitzgerald for The Chronicle

Travis Johnsey takes a break while working at Dick's Brewing Company in Centralia on Monday, July 22.



Barrels of beer sit inside Dick's Brewing Company's warehouse in Centralia on Monday, July 22.

By Emily Fitzgerald  
For the C/C Chamber of Commerce

Dick's Brewing Company has come a long way in the 30 years since Richard "Dick" Young opened the business in 1994, in the back room of his already-renowned meat company Northwest Sausage & Deli.

What started as a side project supported with a hand-built three-barrel brew house in the back of Young's deli has grown into a successful

business in its own right, producing an average of about 100 barrels a month for sale across six states and hosting a wide variety of events at its tasting room in Centralia.

"It's always fun to think about what (Young) would have thought with ... how busy it gets and the events that we can do and have done here, and the popularity of it," Julie Pendleton, Young's daughter and the current owner of Dick's Brewing Company, said of the

business.

Young ran the brewery behind Northwest Sausage & Deli from 1994 to 2008, when he moved the company to its current location in a warehouse on Galvin Road.

"When we built this and moved here, he didn't even think about selling beer here. It was all just supposed to be production," Dick's Brewing Company Co-Owner Dave Pendleton said. "And then, all of a sudden, he's like, 'Wait, why don't we have people come in here?' Because we were all drinking beer here after work, and he was like, 'Yeah, people can come in and join us.'"

Dick's Brewing Company opened its tasting room inside the Galvin Road warehouse in 2009 as a fridge with three taps on it. Young didn't get to see



Travis Johnsey stirs a fresh batch of AZACCA HAZE at Dick's Brewing Company in Centralia on Monday, July 22.

the tasting room or the brewery grow beyond that, as he passed away in October 2009 at the age of 56.

Julie Pendleton took over her father's business after his death.

"At 30 years, I will have owned it longer than my dad did, which is a really weird and sad thing to think about," Julie Pendleton said.

Please See **DICK'S**, Page 3

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## Will a third time "charm" the Legislature to create permanent funding solution for rural fire districts?

By Peter Abbarno

20th District Rep. R-Centralia

Over the past four years as a state representative, I toured numerous fire stations and districts on the front line protecting our communities. I represent diverse communities in the Legislative District including parts of Thruston, Lewis, Cowlitz, and Clark counties. Each county has had

emergencies like heat waves, cold snaps, flooding, and fires. In each case, our professional full-time and volunteer firefighters were among the first responders protecting our citizens.

There are some communities with the financial means, tax base, and property values to pass ballot measures that support the

needs of our first responders. However, many other communities are unable to pass ballot measures for one reason or another. This puts their neighbors at risk and increases insurance costs for those who can least afford it.



Peter Abbarno

Several communities in Lewis County are perfect examples where working families and fixed-income households can't absorb additional tax increases. But, those same households deserve to be protected.

In the Chehalis Basin, I saw first-hand the need for additional facility funding as we set up temporary shelters at Centralia Middle School during flood evacuations. In Packwood during the Goat Rocks fire, I witnessed

Please See **ABBARNO**, Page 2

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Executive Director  
director@chamberway.com

**Christine Demus**  
Office Manager  
thechamber@chamberway.com

**Jacob Larson**  
Admin/Marketing Assistant  
marketing@chamberway.com

**Emily Fitzgerald**  
Writer

**The Silver Agency,**  
Social Media/  
Web Development

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Centralia

**CONTACT US:**

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



# Stacy Denham settles back into Chehalis as the new city manager

By Emily Fitzgerald

For the C/C Chamber of Commerce

Chehalis's new city manager has spent his first month in office hard at work meeting with city staff and citizens to determine where best to focus his attention going forward.

"I've been able to answer a lot of questions for a lot of people and, I think, for the most part, I've been able to kickstart some of the things that people have been complaining about, that they were saying the city was dragging their feet on," said Stacy Denham, referring to citizen's concerns about building and construction permit delays.

Denham officially started his new role as Chehalis city manager on June 1.

He has lived in the Chehalis area for over 30 years and was



Photo courtesy of the City of Chehalis  
Chehalis City Manager Stacy Denham.

employed as a Chehalis police officer for over 12 years before being hired by the Centralia Police Department in 2006. He started in Centralia as a police officer and progressed through

the ranks, serving as a sergeant, commander and deputy chief, then as police chief from 2020 to 2024.

"I really do feel back at home in Chehalis," Denham said. "I do feel that the city here has accepted me like I'm coming back home ... It just feels like this is a very natural fit for me, and it's kind of (like) this is the place I'm supposed to be."

The city manager serves as the chief administrative officer for the city, providing executive leadership and representation on all matters concerning city government, the City of Chehalis states on its website.

In addition to meeting with Chehalis citizens, Denham has spent his first month on the job meeting with city employees, with the goal of having 30-minute one-on-one conversations with each staff

member.

"They're the ones doing the work," Denham said of city staff. "So that's kind of the first step for me."

The second step, he said, is to apply everything he learned from staff to the city's procedures and policies to make sure they're serving staff and citizens the way that they should.

Once that's taken care of, Denham said, "I'm going to have a little bit more time to start leaning into other issues that the city may be having, challenges the city's faced with, and get the city more or less moving again."

The Chehalis City Manager's Office is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 350 N. Market Blvd., Room 101, in Chehalis. The office can be reached at 360-345-1042.

# Lincoln Creek Lumber finds long term success community-focused business model

By Emily Fitzgerald

For the C/C Chamber of Commerce

A family-owned lumber yard serving Lewis and Thurston counties for over 100 years, Lincoln Creek Lumber is devoted to providing quality products for many more years to come.

The business currently has four locations collectively owned by the fifth generation of Thompsons, Bob Thompson Jr.

"The reason we've been around for 100 years is because we try to give very good service at a really reasonable rate and support the community," Thompson said.

Lincoln Creek Lumber, Thompson said, is "basically a full service lumber yard and hardware store, so basically (we sell) anything to build a house."

Lincoln Creek Lumber is also a member of the Ace Hardware co-op, which allows the hardware store aspect of the business to sell hardware products at a competitive price.

Lincoln Creek Lumber began as a mill in Lincoln Creek Valley in the Galvin area in 1903. The mill went out of business during the Great Depression, but the family kept their business alive by reselling milled materials, Thompson said.

The family was later able to purchase and resell mill stock from other businesses.

"We just started buying and selling material that had already been milled. That's how we became a reseller," Thompson said.

The family chose not to reopen the mill after the Depression ended, instead

choosing to continue operating as a reseller.

In about 1941, Lincoln Creek Lumber moved from the Galvin area to its current location on what is now Harrison Avenue, where it still stands today.

"We were way outside of town at that point, but now it's part of town," Thompson said.

Around the same time, Lincoln Creek Lumber purchased Palmer Lumber in Chehalis. Palmer Lumber kept its name but has been run by Lincoln Creek Lumber since the '40s.

Lincoln Creek Lumber built its second location in the Tumwater area in the early 1990s, and has since opened a hardware store in downtown Chehalis.

"We pride ourselves on the limber side of getting a high quality product," Thompson said, adding that the business' lumber clientele are usually custom builders working on large products, such as apartment buildings and housing complexes.

Whatever projects Lincoln Creek Lumber is supplying materials for, the business' first priority remains supporting the community that has continued to support them

"Thank you to everyone for supporting us for all these years, for coming into the store and supporting local businesses, because that's what makes a community like ours strong," Thompson said.

For more information on Lincoln Creek Lumber, visit <https://www.lincolncreeklumber.com/>.



Photos courtesy of Lincoln Creek Lumber

Lincoln Creek Lumber celebrates its 100th anniversary in Centralia in June with Stihl demos and discounts on Dewalt and Craftsman tools.



A Lincoln Creek Lumber rig sits parked outside its Centralia location in July 2024.

**ABBARNO:** From Page 1

exhausted firefighters from local, state, and federal agencies sleeping on the ground. Families evacuated from their homes due to forest fires were moved to a school gym.

Some emergencies in Lewis County, like the Goat Rocks fire, occurred 80 miles from the nearest large city in the county. Rural communities don't have the resources or facilities to fight these natural disasters on their own but are on the front-line protecting communities.

Not all scenarios were as dramatic.

Some communities struggle to keep up with growth quickly pinching rural communities. Other communities are seeing fire department facilities deteriorating from age. In

these cases, fire districts need the resources to protect communities. Also, without adequate facilities and staff to keep communities safe, many already struggling small businesses and working families are forced to pay higher insurance rates.

As the ranking member on the House Capital Budget Committee, I immediately began researching grants and funding dedicated to building and maintaining fire district facilities. I wanted to help fire departments create training centers, cooling/warming stations, evacuation points, and a front-line for combating forest fires. Sadly, there wasn't a grant program dedicated to fire district infrastructure funding.

In my first term in the Legislature, I pre-field House Bill 1929 to establish

a competitive grant program under the state Department of Commerce to award up to \$2 million to local governments in rural counties for capital projects that would improve fire protection services. Unfortunately, the bill never received a hearing.

Despite the lack of a hearing, I was proud to fight for funding in the capital budget for fire districts. Although capital budget investments were made in the 2021-2022 legislative session, it did not meet the need and I continued to advocate for a permanent dedicated grant program.

In 2023, I refiled the bill as House Bill 1014. The legislation received a hearing in the House Capital Budget Committee but was not given an executive session vote. Again, the capital budget

funded numerous fire district projects; however, it did not meet the demand and no permanent funding source was created.

You know what they say, "Third time's a charm."

This fall, I will again re-file the rural fire district funding legislation with a new house bill number. I am confident with your help and support we will pass this policy, improve fire safety, and help absorb some of the fire safety costs to relieve the economic burden on working families and small businesses.

...

Rep. Peter Abbarno represents the 20th Legislative District and is the Ranking Member on the House Capital Budget Committee. This article appeared in Fireline, an official publication of the Washington Fire Commissioners Association.

# BIZZBUZZ



WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



## Back to School Shopping at the Centralia Outlets!

Back to School shopping has begun! Even if you are not in school, it is a great time to find new fall-style inspirations to add to your wardrobe rotation. Shop The Children's Place for back-to-school children's essentials like backpacks, school uniforms, shoes, and clothing. Don't forget to accessorize your style with fun jewelry, hair clips, makeup, and more from Claire's. Find great layering pieces like polos, button-ups, sweaters, and cardigans to mix and match at Polo Ralph Lauren Clearance, Gap Factory, and Aéropostale. Ward off upcoming cooler temperatures with new denim, flannel, and jackets at Pendleton, Volcom, Columbia Clearance Store, and the Eddie Bauer Outlet. For sportier looks, shop for leggings, hoodies, tees, and shoes at the Nike Clearance Store, New Balance, Hanes Brands Outlet, Jockey Clearance, and Under Armour. Shop the Centralia Outlets and save BIG on the Name Brands you love. Visit our website at [www.centraliaoutlets.com](http://www.centraliaoutlets.com) or follow us on social media to get inside peeks at what's new in the stores.



## Summer is the Perfect Time for Flying Drones!

Summer is here, and we certainly do not need any more reason to take our drones out. Whether you are looking to fly out on the water, or you want to take it out to the mountains, our drones are sure to capture that breathtaking moment. Not sure where to start? Our expert team is here to get you on the right track to flying safely and legally. We offer a multitude of training options hosted here in our Centralia location. Interested in underwater adventures? We've got you covered with specialized drones for that as well. With the largest selection of drones in the Pacific Northwest, we have options to meet your needs. Let's make this summer



## Bekins Northwest Moving and Storage Does It All!

Here at Bekins Northwest Moving and Storage, we specialize in logistics, distribution, office and industrial, household good moving and storage, and so much more. We help folks transition during one of the most stressful times of their lives, by providing stress-free services such as packing, unpacking, crating, and of course, loading and unloading, all while maintaining care and professionalism throughout your move. We keep you updated on where your belongings are, when they'll arrive, and what to expect throughout the whole move process. As your personal moving coach, we help coordinate your move and provide helpful tips and tricks to get you well prepared. An ideal referral for me this week would be one of your clients, who is unfamiliar or fears their upcoming relocation process and wants to put their trust in a 4.6 star company that provides 10 star service.

## Upcoming Shows With Evergreen Playhouse!

The Evergreen Playhouse is holding open auditions for our Season 65 - 6 shows, August 12-14th from 6:30 - 9:00 pm. Details and reserving a spot are available at [www.evergreenplayhouse.com](http://www.evergreenplayhouse.com). Click the Get Involved tab, General Auditions. Walk ins can only be accommodated as space permits. Our upcoming season includes 3 plays and 3 musicals, with our First show opening in October. Arsenic & Old Lace, A Christmas Story (musical), The Curious Savage, Matilda (musical), Charley's Aunt, Into the Woods (musical)

We are also looking for people interested in volunteering for light and sound board operations, costuming and props and set dressing, concessions.

Training is provided for all positions. We will also be holding a costuming seminar in August/September, date to be determined.



## Hub City Car Show

Join us in Historic Downtown Centralia, WA, on Saturday, August 24th, for the 2024 Hub City Car Show. Over 300 classic cars will fill Tower Avenue between 10 am and 4 pm. Come and enjoy cool cars, live music, car giveaway, good people and a good time. The car show is free to attend! If you want to bring a rig, \$25 per rig, you can pre-register your car at the Kickoff BBQ at Ken's Bi-Right Motors, 515 W Main, 5 pm, the night before, August 23rd. Pre-registration can also be done at The Shady Lady, 216 N Tower, or by calling 360-736-4333, cash or card. Registration will also be available the day of the show (cash only please). Cars line up early! Hub City Car Show is brought to you by Lewis County Quartermilers Car Club and Downtown Centralia Festivals Association.

## HUB Northwest Insurance Chehalis Office Celebrating 100 Years of Service

HUB Northwest Insurance's Chehalis Office is celebrating a century of dedication and excellence from the heart of Downtown Chehalis. The journey began in 1924 with Virgil R. Lee founding the agency and his son, William "Bill" Lee, joining him in 1946. Together they grew the firm into one of most respected agencies in Southwest Washington in the 82 years under the Virgil R Lee & Son agency name.

In 2006, Virgil R Lee & Son was acquired by family owned Lovsted-Worthington of Seattle and continued under name until 2015 when National Brokerage HUB International acquired the agency expanding the agency's resources of products and companies available to serve clients.

"We are proud to be a part of this community and honored to be celebrating all the amazing people that have worked at our agency all the way back to 1924, it is humbling to look back on the history of our agency and the connection to the past and present of Downtown Chehalis." said Trevor Elliott, Senior Advisor of Commercial Insurance at HUB Northwest Insurance.

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babies and kids. Don't miss our summer sale: 25% OFF prescription sunglasses. Or 25% OFF non prescription sunglasses with the purchase of an annual supply of contact lenses. Stop in soon at 145 S Market Blvd in Chehalis!



## RAINIER EYE

## America's fastest home internet is coming to Chehalis and Centralia

ZiPLY Fiber, a locally owned and operated fiber-optic internet service provider, is expanding its super-fast network to Chehalis and Centralia. Based out of Kirkland, Washington, ZiPLY Fiber is connecting communities across the Northwest to fast, reliable internet, with a focus on regions that have been historically overlooked by larger ISPs. Fiber internet provides greater speed and reliability than cable due to its technology, which uses thin glass strands to transmit data virtually at the speed of light. Equally fast download and upload speeds decrease lag, and a dedicated connection eliminates peak-time slowdowns. That means you can work, stream your favorite shows and movies, play video games and more all at the same time and on multiple devices. ZiPLY Fiber offers transparent, affordable plans designed with real people in mind. Plans start as low as \$20/month for 100/100 Mbps service and run all the way up to 50 Gig speed, with no annual contracts, no credit checks and a moneyback guarantee. Visit [ziplyfiber.com/chehalis](http://ziplyfiber.com/chehalis) or [ziplyfiber.com/centralia](http://ziplyfiber.com/centralia) to learn more about plans for home and business and to stay up to date with service announcements.



## Power of The Purse Event With United Way of Lewis County is Here!

Power of the Purse, an annual United Way of Lewis County event, is almost here! This is a powerful time for over 300 women, from all over our county and beyond, to passionately respond with hearts wide open to known needs of our community. Women will gather, enjoy purses, nibble treats, and socialize in the TransAlta Commons at Centralia College on Tuesday, August 6th from 4:00pm to 6:30pm. United Way of Lewis County has been a critical non-profit organization in Lewis County for over 60 years. We purposefully work to put an end to intergenerational poverty by creating and enacting programs that support education, establish housing solutions, and provide financial empowerment. United way continually seeks to "bring people to the table, for the greater good", providing tangible hope and future of self sufficiency to those impacted by financial, housing, food, and employment insecurity.

## WSU Lewis County Master Gardeners

Free Pre-registration 4 days prior to the workshop to ensure there are enough materials for those attending. Call 360-740-1212 or email [juliepirtle@lewiscountywa.gov](mailto:juliepirtle@lewiscountywa.gov). August 31, 10:00 am Creating a Food Forest Salkum Timberland Library, 2480 U. S. Highway 12 When attending the Southwest Washington Fair, please stop by the Master Gardener booth and say hello. We will be ready to answer all your gardening questions. If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener, information about our program will be available. We have two demonstration gardens located on the fairgrounds for your enjoyment. Besides the two demonstration gardens at the fairgrounds, we have three more: Ft. Borst Park in Centralia Salkum Timberland Library Providence Place in Chehalis.



## DICK'S: From Page 1

While the company's upcoming 30th anniversary celebration in October will showcase the current successes and future growth opportunities for Dick's

Brewing, there will be a heavy focus on Young's legacy, Dave Pendleton said.

The details for the 30th anniversary celebration will be announced in the upcoming months.

In the meantime, Dick's

Brewing Company is set to host the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce's August Business After Hours event from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 15; and the annual Cornhole Tournament and Sausage Fest, benefitting

the Rob Fuller Scholarship, on Sept. 14.

Dick's Brewing Company is also hosting signups for its Mug Club until Saturday, Aug. 17. The mugs will be released during a party on Sept. 6 at Dick's Tasting Room.

Dick's tasting room at 3516 Galvin Road in Centralia is open Friday to Sunday from 3 to 8 p.m.

For more information, visit <https://dicksbeer.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/DicksNWSausage>.

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### DIAMOND



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### PLATINUM



**RIBBON CUTTINGS**

**2024 UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS**



**Valley View Health Center**

Valley View Health Center announced the celebration of its 20th Anniversary on July 2nd with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Shown above is CEO Gaelon Spradley cutting the ribbon. At the Ribbon Cutting fourteen young artists were acknowledged for their contributions to Valley View's 20th anniversary calendar.



**Coval Homes**

Coval Homes announced its expansion into Lewis County with the opening of a new showroom and office in Centralia at 827 Marsh Avenue.



**The Creamery LC Coffee**

Ice cream, ice scream!  
We all scream for ice cream!

The Creamery is the newest brand for LLC Coffee Company, a family-owned business in Lewis County. Shown here are owners Samantha Magnuson and Angie Twining with the youngest member of the family at the July 19 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Assisting Samantha and Angie are Chamber Ambassadors Corey Moses (left) and Christine Brower (right).



**Zap Master Electrology**

The Chamber hosted a duo-Ribbon Cutting for Zap Masters and Schine Health on July 5 for their new location! Shown here is Stephanie Shields for Zap Master.



**Schine Health**

Schine Health is represented by Dr. Patric (left) and Levi (right) Schine along with their twins Maery (front left) and Maddie (front right).



**Jim Haslett Kitchen**

The city of Napavine enlisted the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber to host a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the long-awaited Jim Haslett Kitchen at Mayme Shaddock Park on June 27. There was a great turnout as they honored former city council member Jim Haslett. Shown here in the front row are (L-R): City of Chehalis Mayor Tony Ketchum, Napavine Councilor Don Webster (holding scissors), McKenzie Von Seggern and she WAS a contestant, running for Little Miss Napavine 2024, Napavine Councilor Heather Stewart, and Chamber Ambassador Christine Brower. In the Back: Row are (L-R): Chief John Brockmueller, Police Dept. Exec Asst: Judy Godbey, Mayor Pro Tem Duane Crouse, Mayor Shawn O'Neill, LC Commissioner Lindsey Pollock, LC Commissioner Sean Swope, PW/CD Director- Bryan Morris, and City Clerk-Rachelle Denham.



**NW Salmon Smokehouse**

Owners Frank and Danielle Pfannes officially celebrated the six-month anniversary opening Northwest Salmon Smokehouse and Artisan Market on July 18. Such a great addition to downtown Chehalis. Shown here are Chehalis Mayor Tony Ketchum, Frank and Danielle Pfannes, and Chehalis City Councilor Kate McDougall.

**August Forum**  
**Thursday, August 8**  
**8 - 9 am**  
**JJ's To Go**  
204 N. Tower, Centralia  
Topic: All Things Centralia Downtown Association! Join us for early morning networking, coffee, and updates about downtown Centralia

**August Business After Hours**  
**Thursday, August 15**  
**5 - 8 pm**  
**Dick's Brewing**  
30th Anniversary Celebration!  
3516 Galvin Rd., Centralia

**Ribbon Cuttings -**  
**Wednesday, August 14**  
**4:00 pm**  
**Twin City Smiles Family Dentistry**  
1407 Kresky Ave., Centralia

**Friday, August 16**  
**4:00 pm**  
**Pope's Place**  
230 Washington Way, Centralia

**Thursday, September 5**  
**2:00 pm**  
**Economic Alliance of Lewis County**  
1209 Borthwick St., Centralia

**Thursday, September 12**  
**Noon**  
**Twirl Foundation**  
211 A North Tower Ave., Centralia



**How to Schedule a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

The Chamber offers Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies as a free service to members and non-members. It is our way of acknowledging the hard work and investment of time and money to opening, expanding, moving, or re-branding a business.

To learn more or secure a date call 360-748-8885 or email [director@chamberway.com](mailto:director@chamberway.com)