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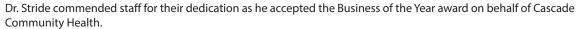
FEBRUARY 2025

Centralia - Chehalis hamber of Commerce

Promote • Protect • Inform

Inside This Edition: Annual awards and legislative updates







Chief Clinical Officer Leann Reed (left) with Dr. Richard Stride.

Cascade Community Healthcare Named Business of The Year by Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce

By Sigourney Orstad

For the C/C Chamber of Commerce

The Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce held its annual banquet at the end of January and presented Cascade Community Healthcare with the Business of the Year award. The Business of the Year award is presented to a Chamber business who significantly contributes, improves, expands, or inspires the community. Cascade Community Healthcare has excelled in this endeavor, going above and beyond for Lewis County and surround-

Cascade Community Healthcare has been serving Lewis County since 1966, providing treatment for behavioral health issues and substance use disorder.

In 2020, Cascade Community Healthcare received the

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) grant, deeming it CCBHC certified by the federal government. Dr. Richard Stride Psy.D., MBA, President and CEO of Cascade Community Healthcare, described the significance of the CCBHC certification, "We were one of the early adopters in this program, so we got a head start. It will be the way that the federal government works with behavioral health agencies in the future."

Another one of Cascade Community Healthcare's accomplishments is its Joint Commission (JCO) accreditation. Cascade Community Healthcare received JCO accreditation for both its behavioral health and primary care programs. Cascade had to go through a highly scrutinized accreditation process to receive the JCO accreditation, which Dr. Stride describes as the "gold standard" for healthcare.

Through multiple programs, Cascade Community Healthcare offers services to both youth and adults. "We have our child and adolescent program, and also encompassed in that is our WISe program, which is Wraparound Intensive Services for youth and their families," explained Chief Clinical Officer Leann Reed, MA, LMFT, LMHC, CMHS.

Additionally, Cascade Community Healthcare offers treatment for substance use disorder (SUD), therapy and psychiatry services, case management, jail services, inpatient programs for behavioral health and has a mobile crisis team available for those in crisis.

Cascade Community Healthcare has been in the process of expanding their services for several years. A new emergency department for behavioral health is in the works, which will triage those in crisis and get them help sooner than a traditional ER.

In January, Cascade Community Healthcare opened a new primary care wing attached to its Reynolds Avenue location in Centralia. The new primary care wing allows Cascade Community Healthcare to integrate mental and physical health treatments. "The idea is to be an agency that meets the needs of the entire person, so they don't have to go to different places. They can get their primary care here. They can get their psychiatric care. They can get their SUD [treatment] here ... So, you know, we're trying

to offer a one stop shop, if you will, for people," said Dr. Stride.

Although Cascade has already accomplished so much, Dr Stride maintains that they're not done finding new ways to serve the community. "I see us continue to expand and continue to meet the needs of Lewis county residents, whatever that may be. I've always said, if there's a need out there and we can meet it, then we're going to do that. If there's a need out there and we can't meet it, we're gonna try to figure out a way to do it. So whatever the needs are of Lewis county citizens, that's what we're going to try to meet."

To learn more about Cascade Community Healthcare and the services they offer, visit CascadeCommunity-Healthcare.org

hardworking employees, and

growth. However, sustaining

clear rules, supportive policies,

and a commitment to fairness.

a community dedicated to

economic success requires



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Empowering businesses and communities through legislative action

By Peter Abbarno

20th District Rep. R-Centralia

As your state representative, I am committed to supporting solutions during this legislative session that help businesses thrive, families prosper, and communities grow.

I am honored to serve on the House Consumer Protection and Business Committee this year. This important role keeps me actively shaping and

monitoring policies affecting our local business community.

Through this committee, I can advocate for business priorities in Centralia and across our region, ensuring the voices are heard and their

Our region is home to innovative businesses,

needs are met in Olympia.



Peter Abbarno

That's why I am proud to be working on and supporting several bills this session that reflect these principles and provide meaningful benefits to businesses and their employees

Among the bills I have sponsored this session is House Bill 1016, which provides tax incentives for businesses that hire veterans and support military families. Veterans bring a wealth of experience, dedication, and leadership to the workforce, and this bill encourages employers to prioritize hiring these exceptional individuals. Not only does this help businesses build strong teams, but it also supports veterans as they transition into civilian careers, addressing employment challenges they may face.

Please See ABBARNO, Page 3





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The Chamber @ Chamber Way.com







Peter Abbarno Receives Evergreen Award For **Outstanding Community Service**

By Sigourney Orstad

For the C/C Chamber of Commerce

Peter Abbarno received the Evergreen Award from the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce at the Chamber's Annual Banquet on January 24th. Abbarno, who has spent more than a decade volunteering with numerous organizations throughout Lewis County, received the award because of his fervent commitment to public service.

Abbarno keeps a busy schedule as a partner at Althauser Rayan Abbarno and as a state representative for Washington's 20th district, but that hasn't slowed him down in his volunteer efforts. Abbarno estimates that he's volunteered at over twenty different organizations throughout the past ten to fifteen years.

Abbarno has 'played' Santa Clause for the Forgotten Children's Fund, helped organize the Lewis County Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run and Polary Plunge, and his family helps pack and deliver food boxes for the Hub City Mission.

Not only has Abbarno volunteered his time for local organizations and events, he helped start events such as the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot that raises money for the Boys & Girls club of Lewis County and Chehalis Foundation. Abbarno and his wife, Holly, also started the "Stuff the Bus" back to school

supply drive for the Centralia School District.

While the volume of volunteer work that Abbarno does may seem hard to balance with his other responsibilities, he makes volunteering a priority, just like the other commitments he has in his life. "I try to build volunteering into my life, into my regular schedule. I try not to look at volunteering as something I do in addition to my other responsibilities, but volunteering is just part of what my family and I do. Period," said Abbarno.

Through all of his volunteer work, Abbarno's efforts with the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce has been one of his longest-standing commitments. "One of my first Business After Hours was at the Chronicle when my daughter was less than twomonths old. And I've been involved [with the Chamber] as a small business owner myself. Small businesses are an integral part to our economy and our way of life in a small town and small county ... so I've always been a supporter of the Chamber's efforts to help make small businesses and small business owners successful." said

Abbarno. Although he will stay busy as an attorney and state representative, Abbarno will certainly continue pursuing his passions for volunteering and his community in 2025.



Chamber Chair, Coralee Taylor presented Peter Abbarno with the Evergreen Award at the annual Chamber Banquet.



Peter Abbarno's passion for volunteering earned him the Evergreen Award.

Amanda Curry Named Ambassador of the Year at Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce's Annual Banquet

By Sigourney Orstad

For the C/C Chamber of Commerce

Amanda Curry was named Ambassador of the Year by the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce at its annual banquet in January. The Ambassador of the Year award is presented to an ambassador who shows outstanding commitment in volunteering their time, skills and resources to assist the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce in its

Curry, born and raised in Centralia, has always been passionate about her hometown. Curry grew up being involved in the community from a young age, with her parents owning a custom drapery shop on Pearl Street in Centralia.

When Curry was twentyone years old, she got a job working at The Chronicle in the customer service department, creating classified ads, legal notices and obituaries. Curry worked at The Chronicle for the next seventeen years before leaving in 2018 to pursue other opportunities. After working at Big T BBQ for a couple of years, Curry landed a job at Sticklin Funeral Chapel as an Office Manager, a position she has been in for the past three years.

When Curry started working at Sticklin in 2021, she helped them renew their membership with the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce and decided to further get involved with the Chamber by becoming an Ambassador.

Since being an ambassador for the Chamber, Curry has volunteered at multiple Chamber events including the golf tournament, Business After Hours and ribbon cuttings. Curry's passion for being an



Photography by Jacob Larson

Amanda Woodring Curry received Ambassador of the Year recognition at the annual Chamber banquet.

ambassador stems from a love of her hometown and being involved in the community. "I love people. I love being out in the community. I love to volunteer. I love to help out. I

love to help make light work. This is my hometown, so I like it. I know a lot of people, and so it makes it fun," said Curry.

As for what the next year holds, Curry is looking

forward to continuing to be an ambassador for the Chamber, doing volunteer work and continuing to work at Sticklin Funeral Chapel, a place she calls "the best of the best.

BIZZBUZZ



THE BUZZ?



Charley's Aunt Presented By Evergreen Playhouse

January 24 - February 9, 2025 Pay What You Can Performance Thursday, January 30th @ 7:30pm Performance Dates: January 24 - February 9, 2025 Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm, Sundays at 2:00pm Artist's Benefit Pay-What-You-Can Thursday, January 30 at 7:30pm Jack Chesney loves Kitty Verdun and Charley loves Miss Amy Spettigue. They invite the ladies to meet Charley's wealthy aunt from Brazil, "where the nuts come from." Cancelling her visit at the last minute, the millionaire aunt sends the boys into cataclysmic confusion. What do they do now? The problem is solved by drafting their feckless Oxford undergrad pal into a black satin skirt,

bloomers, and wig. As "Charley's Aunt," this charming frump is introduced to the ladies, to Jack's father, and to Stephen Spettigue, Amy's guardian. When the real aunt turns up, classic comic confusion ensues as Fancourt Babberley, posing as "Charley's Aunt," tricks Spettigue into agreeing to the marriage of his ward. The real aunt marries Jack's father, Jack gets Miss Verdun, and Fanny Babs regains the fortune he lost at gambling as well as the girl he loves.

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Shop the Centralia Outlets for a vast selection of name brands this season. With Valentine's just around the corner, we know you will find something to put a smile on that special someone's face. Looking for something that piques the senses? Bath and Body Works

offers a variety of soaps, lotions, body sprays, candles, and other indulgent gifts. Shop beautiful and fashionable jewelry at our Kay Jewelers Outlet for great gift ideas to fit every budget. At Coach, you can find a great selection of high-quality bags and accessories for him or her. Wondering what to buy for him? Shop Pendleton, DXL, and Polo Ralph Lauren for stylish shirts, cufflinks, wallets, belts, and ties. Don't forget to shop President's Day weekend for great sales on the perfect sleepwear, robes, and slippers at Aeropostale, The Children's Place,

Gap Factory, and more. New merchandise arrives daily at the Centralia Outlets. Be sure to visit often for the best selection and daily discounts. Visit our website at wwww.centraliaoutlets.com to see a complete list of stores, or follow us on Facebook for great gift-giving ideas and updates on new merchandise.



Lewis County Farm Bureau Barn Stomp

Lewis County Farm Bureau is starting 2025 off with a Barn Stomp on Ground Hog's Day, February 2, at The Red Barn Studios on Goff Rd near Adna.

Doors will open at 2pm. Come dance to Chris Guenther and The Honky Tonk Drifters, who will play from 3-7pm. Food and beverage trucks will be on hand for this fun, family-friendly, social event open to everyone at no charge.

Come talk with local farmers and ranchers about agriculture in

Lewis County. Get to know local farmers and find out where you can "buy local" for the freshest meats, berries, nuts, fruits, and vegetables around.

Come support Lewis County agriculture—find out what you can do to keep agriculture strong in Lewis County.

The Lewis County **Historical Museum Presents The** Wonders of the PNW!

Experience the wonders of the Pacific Northwest at the PNW Wilds event in downtown Chehalis at the Vintage Grand Room on Saturday, March 1, 2025.

The event is for beachcombers, hikers, foragers, and the Bigfoot curious. Meet authors, artists, and vendors with knowledge of the PNW Wilds. Bring the family to visit with the team from Westport Aquarium. There will be many great vendors selling handmade items and ones sourced from nature.

General admission is FREE, and there is a limited VIP ticket option with speakers knowledgeable in Bigfoot, foraging, and exploration. VIP tickets are \$50 each and are very limited.

Please visit the Lewis County Historical Museum to purchase tickets. All proceeds from this event benefit the Lewis County Historical Museum.

> Where: Vintage Grand Room 545 N Market Blvd. Chehalis, WA 98532 When: Saturday, March 1, 2025

Rainier Eye Is Welcoming New Patients!

9:00am - 5:00pm

Are you looking for a new eye doctor? We have good news, we are welcoming new patients! Dr. Mary Ferris and Dr. Angela Loeb care for patients of all ages. If you have an eye disease like glaucoma or macular degeneration, we have the high-tech equipment to treat those conditions. We

will promptly accommodate eye emergencies like loss of vision or something stuck in your eye. We also have a special room for families to make the exam fun for little ones. Doctor-owned, we focus on patient-centered care with a community feel. Those who have visited our office comment on our

friendly staff, prompt service, and thorough explanations by the doctors. We are proud to offer a unique selection of eyewear in our optical boutique that you will not find in corporate chain stores. If you are shopping downtown

the latest styles from Gucci, Yves St. Laurent, Tom Davies, Ovvo, Oakley, and more. We look forward to seeing you! Schedule online at rainiereye.com

Chehalis, walk a few blocks south

on Market Blvd, stop in to try on

or call 360-506-5544.

RAINIER EYE

Gale Business: Entrepreneurship (Timberland Regional Library)

Learn how to start, finance, or

manage your small business. Includes sample business plans, how-to guides, articles, and more. Gale Business: Entrepreneurship is a comprehensive database that covers all aspects of starting and operating a business, including accounting, finance, human resources, management, marketing, tax, and more. It combines authoritative periodical and reference content to support prospective and current entrepreneurs as well as business students. Experience an easyto-browse interface mapped

to four key stages-plan, fund, start, and manage—to fit your research needs at any point in your business's development. Timberland Regional Library (TRL) supports local businesses with a variety of free services, including \$44 monthly printing and copy credits, free faxing, Wi-Fi, internet access, and meeting spaces. We also offer resources on entrepreneurship, management, law, and more. Visit TRL.org/ small-business to learn more.

WSU Lewis County Extension Master Gardeners

We are pleased to offer to the community our first three workshops for 2025. Please, pre-register with Julie Pirtle 4 days prior to the workshop. You can email her at : julie.pirtle@ lewiscountywa.gov. or you can call her at: 360-740-1212. Feb. 15 at 10:00AM- Borst Kitchen #1, Centralia, Propagating with Seeds. Learn the best techniques for successful planting of seeds. March 8 at 10:00AM - Borst Demonstration Garden, Centralia,

Planting and Growing Grapes. This workshop will help you decide what grapes do well in our area, how to plant them and prune them. March 15, 10:00AM -Providence Place Demonstration Garden, 350 SE Washington Ave, Chehalis, Blueberry Care. This workshop is designed to help you choose varieties of grapes that do well in our area. When to fertilize and how to prune. Do you like growing plants and getting your hands dirty? If so, you may want

to consider becoming Master Gardener, please contact Jason Adams at jason.adams@lewiscountywa.gov or 360-740-1216.



ABBARNO: From Page 1

Additionally, I introduced House Bill 1055, which aims to improve government transparency by enhancing access to public records. This bill, which has gained bi-partisan support, would establish a Joint Legislative Committee on Transparency to study the feasibility of an independent body for processing public records. Streamlining public records access benefits businesses by reducing administrative hurdles and saving

government resources by improving efficiency and accountability. With a focus on fiscal responsibility, HB 1055 demonstrates how clear, practical solutions can reduce waste and improve outcomes for taxpayers.

House Bill 1063, is a bipartisan approach I support, because it focuses on creating a regulatory framework for earned wage access services. These services allow employees to access their earned but unpaid wages before their regular pay period, offering

financial flexibility in times of need.

This bill provides guidelines for businesses that foster innovation in financial services while protecting consumers. By offering earned wage access, companies can enhance employee satisfaction and retention—essential in today's competitive job market—while contributing to a more dynamic and supportive work environment.

I encourage you to stay involved as we work on these and other bills. The legislative process is most effective when it reflects the voices of the people it serves. Your engagement matters whether you are a small business owner, an employee, or a concerned citizen.

Testify on bills that impact your community and share your perspectives with your elected officials. Your input is invaluable, helping to shape legislation that meets the needs of our community businesses.

I remain committed to advocating for policies that create opportunities for

– Platinum —

businesses to thrive and for every resident to succeed.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your state representative. Together, we can ensure that our district and Washington state remain places where businesses prosper, workers achieve their potential, and communities grow stronger.

Rep. Peter Abbarno, R-Centralia, is the House Republican Caucus Chair and represents the 20th Legislative District.

Thank You for the Support of Our Sponsors!

DIAMOND —









City of Chehalis **LTAC**





















Cascade Community Healthcare celebrated the grand opening of its new primary care wing with a ribbon cutting ceremony in mid January. The new primary care wing will expand access to health care for Lewis County and provide integrated care to patients.



Chehalis Critter Care held a ribbon cutting for its grand reopening after being previously forced to shut down after a house fire. Brittney Toepelt and her family, as well as community members from across Lewis County, gathered in front of Chehalis Critter Care to celebrate its grand reopening.



Panda Express opened its new location in Chehalis in January, drawing a large crowd to join in on the celebration.

2025 Annual Banquet



Frank Pfannes, owner of Northwest Salmon Smokehouse shows off his prize dessert chosen at the Dessert Dash helping raise more than \$11,000 for 225 Rob Fuller Scholarships.



Sharing good times! Lewis County Commissioner Sean Swope (left) joins LC County Treasurer Arny Davis with Economic Alliance of Lewis County Executive Director Richard DeBolt and Initiative Program Manager Todd Chaput at the 2025 Banquet.



Chamber Shane Wood was the Dessert Dasher for TwinStar Credit Union and looking pleased

with their choice.

Photographer, Jacob Larson for Centralia-Chehalis



Christ Thomas, Chamber Board Member, Executive Team, and Banquet MC kept the evening rolling!



Chamber board member Amanda Singleton and Chamber member Julia Gaul with Edward Jones – Financial Advisor share good times at the Banquet. Lightcurve was the Banquet Sponsor for 2025.



The dream team of the Dessert Dash! Chamber Board Teasurer, Julie Shaffley (left) along with Chamber Ambassador Dianne Dorey (right) organized this year's Dessert Dash. They were grateful that Centralia Mayor Kelly Smith Johnston joined them to help hand out desserts to the dashers!



Sticklin Funeral Chapel was one of the top two Dessert Dash winners (the other being Brown Mortuary), Dasher Jordan Keffeler came dressed to win with her Dasher Cape.

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS!

Chamber Forum Thursday, February 13.8 am

Mint City Coffee 539 N. Market Blvd., Chehalis

Business Resolutions!

Trent Henning with Clarity Consulting will lead a session about goal-setting for businesses and how to get those goals jump-started for 2025. We welcome members



who want to share their professional or business goals during the session

Business After Hours (BAH)

Renew Wellness is hosting 1206 Harrison Avenue, Centralia Thursday, February 20 5 - 7 pm

MicroBytes!

Big Ideas, Small Sessions Tuesday, February 25 • 8 am **Chamber Conference Room**

500 NW Chamber Way Commercial Leases: This is a Quick course led by Leslie Myers with Better Homes & Gardens Realty. This MicroByte addresses the key issues to understand before entering into a

commercial lease or are about to re-negotiate their current lease. Limit 14. Email director@ chamberway.com to RSVP. FREE.

Home Show

April 11 - 12 Blue Pavilion, SWW Fairgrounds

Now accepting vendor applications and sponsors!

Rob Fuller Scholarships

Scholarship applications are now online at chamberway.com. Want to sponsor a student for the 25 x 25 Rob Fuller Scholarship Luncheon? email director@chamberway.com or

call Cynthia at 360-748-8885. The luncheon is May 6.

Ⅲ FEB 25 | 8 AM www.chamberway.com

by Leslie Myers from Better

to consider before entering

into a commercial lease or

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