

Business Connections



OCTOBER 2025

Centralia - Chehalis
Chamber of Commerce

Promote ♦ Protect ♦ Inform

Inside This Edition: This month is all about local elections and upcoming debates!

Why local elections and debates matter

By Chad Taylor
Publisher - The Chronicle

This fall, our communities in Centralia, Chehalis, and across Lewis County are once again preparing to cast ballots in local elections. While national races often dominate the headlines, it's the local contests—city council, port commissioner, school board—that most directly affect our day-to-day lives. From the streets we drive on to the



Chad Taylor

taxes we pay, these decisions are shaped right here at home. We've seen how local government impacts businesses and families in ways that often fly under the radar. A single city council vote can determine whether a housing development moves forward, whether utility rates rise, or how our downtowns are supported. The Port of Centralia's decisions influence not only economic development but also infrastructure, jobs, and the long-term vision for our region's growth. That's why debates play such a vital role in our civic life. Beyond campaign flyers

and social media soundbites, debates give voters the chance to see candidates side by side, answering tough questions, and offering a vision for our future. It's an opportunity to measure leadership, temperament, and the ability to think on one's feet. For our community, debates aren't just political theater—they are a service, ensuring transparency and accountability. Several key issues stand out this year. In Centralia, growth management and housing are pressing topics. Chehalis continues to navigate the challenges of maintaining a vibrant downtown while prepar-

ing for future growth, including possible annexation. At the Port of Centralia, discussions focus on how to responsibly attract new industry and make investments that benefit the region for generations. These issues may not make national news, but they are the ones that will affect our quality of life for decades to come. They determine whether our families can find jobs here at home, whether small businesses can thrive, and whether our tax dollars are spent wisely. The Centralia Chehalis Chamber and The Chronicle, along with other local media, are proud to provide forums

for these conversations. Our job is not just to report the news but to help foster dialogue, encourage participation, and make sure our community has the tools it needs to make informed decisions. So, as ballots arrive this fall, I encourage you to take the time to learn about the candidates, attend a debate, read the coverage, and most importantly—vote. Your voice matters. And in local elections, where margins are often razor-thin, your vote could very well be the one that decides the future direction of our community.

Protecting local voices and promoting good government

By Rep. Peter Abbarno
20th Legislative District

Good government does not happen by accident. It requires leaders who are accountable and citizens who are engaged. As your state representative and House Republican Caucus Chair, I have seen firsthand how the policies debated in Olympia directly affect families, homeowners, and small businesses in Lewis County and across Washington state. That is why one of the most important responsibilities we share is to stay informed, get involved, and remain engaged in the process of governing. According to a Fulcrum Strategic and EMC Research poll this year, 75% of Washingtonians don't trust the Legislature to spend tax dollars responsibly. Only 22% of Americans say they trust the federal government to do the right thing "most of the time" or "just about always," according to a Pew Research. Bottom line, you don't even need a poll to know that

Americans — and Washingtonians — consistently express low trust in government institutions, especially legislatures and spending decisions. One way I have worked to strengthen accountability is by sponsoring House Bill 1055. This legislation calls for a study on establishing a Washington Office of Transparency Ombuds — an independent, nonpartisan agency tasked with helping citizens access public records. Washingtonians deserve to know how decisions are made that impact their jobs, their homes, and their communities. Seeking public records can take too long. Providing and maintaining public records is also too expensive. The process is complex and expensive. I believe there is a better way, and so do many other states. By creating an independent advocate for open gov-



Peter Abbarno

ernment, we can cut through red tape, and reduce costly litigation. Transparency builds trust, and trust is the foundation of any government that is truly "of the people, by the people, and for the people." Making sure voters have a voice on the House Floor is also essential for government to be representative and accountable. That is why I opposed the House Democrats' vote to silence debate on the House floor — ending a rule that had been in place for more than 100 years. The House of Representatives has always operated as the chamber 'closest to the people' and until this year, advocated robust debate and discussion. Shutting down open debate weakened accountability and transparency. Only weeks after the procedural vote was passed, open debate on a bill repealing the Parent's Bill of Rights initiative, Senate Bill 5181, was cut short. More than 400,000 voters supported the Bill of Rights by signing the initiative and their voices were silenced in a quick procedural vote; a vote that had never before taken place on the

floor of the State House of Representatives. But just as important as the process is opposing proposals that expand government in ways that take voices and voters out of the equation. At 2:00 a.m., on March 2024, the House Majority passed House Bill 1589, paving the way to a total ban on natural gas. This maneuver was initiated in the early morning when the weather was below freezing in most of Washington, constituents were unaware they could lose their only heating source, and the press was asleep. A total lack of transparency. Just this year the majority increase the gas tax and passed new regulations that increased fuel prices in Washington state and gave it the poor distinction of having the highest gas prices in the country. What has not been highlighted in recent articles is that the gas tax passed by the majority also has an automatic increase every year — without a vote of the Legislature or the people. This type of 'end-around' legislation does not provide for trust in our government.

Why civic engagement matters. These examples underscore why civic engagement matters. Good government is more than what gets passed into law — it is also about stopping policies that expand bureaucracy at the expense of individual freedom. It is about process necessary to preserve transparency and accountability, and ensure local voices are heard before state-wide mandates are imposed. It is also an important reminder to stay engaged in the process and share your thoughts with me and other legislators. Your voice matters to me. Your voice makes a difference. As we head into the next session, I encourage you to stay engaged, share your perspectives, and continue holding your government accountable. Your voice matters in shaping policies that affect our homes, our businesses, and our communities. ... Rep. Peter Abbarno, R-Chehalis, represents the 20th Legislative District and is the House Republican Caucus Chair.

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



NICHOLSON & ASSOCIATES
INSURANCE LLC

118 West Pine Street, Centralia
Also located in Olympia, Packwood & Vancouver
360-736-7601
www.nicholson-insurance.com



Title Guaranty Company of Lewis County
TITLE INSURANCE • ESCROW

Proud Sponsor of **HS HERO**



"Growing Lewis County one family at a time!"
www.titlegco.com • 360-748-0001
200 NW Pacific Ave., Chehalis
Mailing: P.O. Box 1304, Chehalis



Member BBQ

We had a fun and engaging Membership BBQ in September. Join us in thanking Dick's Brewing for donating their space (Julie and Dave Pendleton) and Lucky Eagle Casino and Hotel for bringing us a great lunch! Rodney Youckton, Chief Communication Office from Lucky Eagle, is on the Chamber Board and recent recipient of the Lifetime Leadership Award by the Tribal Leadership Council.

Security State Bank is now Gesa Credit Union.

But its employees, community commitment, and legacy are here to stay.



Gesa Credit Union

Insured by NCUA



Directory

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Coralee Taylor
Chair

Jennifer Brown
Vice Chair

Julie Shaffley
Treasurer

Lindy Waring
Secretary / Past Chair

Chris Thomas

BOARD

Ryan Endsley

Adriana Garibay

Trent Henning

Marlin Langworthy

Amanda Singleton

Connie Smejkal

Sandra Wing

Jeff Yanish

Rodney Youckton

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Stacy Denham

City Manager

City of Chehalis

Michael Thomas

City Manager

City of Centralia

STAFF

Cynthia Mudge

Executive Director

Juanita MacNaughton

Member Relations

Jacob Larson

Promotions/Photographer

The Silver Agency

Web Development

Advertising

Nikki Kiourkas

Design

The Chronicle/
CT Publishing

CONTACT US:

500 NW Chamber of Commerce Way

Chehalis, WA 98532

Office: 360.748.8885

TheChamber@ChamberWay.com



The Candidates Debate!

CITY OF CHEHALIS Council Position #1 Kate McDougall

Since I made Chehalis my home in 2019, I have been privileged to be a part of this wonderful city. Honored to be elected to the City Council in 2021, I am dedicated to ensuring the safety of our community, preserving its historical significance while tackling the challenges that accompany growth. My focus is on developing policies that improve our quality of life, prioritizing public health, and strategic planning for the operational success of our city. I collaborate closely with police, fire, and public health officials to strengthen community safety while planning for responsible capital improvements and fiscal accountability. In my leisure time, I enjoy gardening, cooking, researching and my beloved rescue dog, Miss K. I wholeheartedly engage in this community both professionally and recreationally, and look forward to continuing my service in Position # 1 At Large on the Chehalis City Council. Thank you for your support!



ACTIVELY serving as Mayor Pro Tem-Chehalis, Vice-Chair-Lewis County Public Health and Social Services Advisory Board, Lewis County Historical Museum Board, City of Chehalis Budget and Voucher Committee, 911 Dispatch Committee, Board of Trustees-Volunteer Firefighters, SWW Regional Transportation Planning Board, Experience Chehalis Promotions Committee.

Professional: Providence Centralia Hospital. ~Solutions Beyond Politics~

Elijah White

As a proud Chamber Ambassador for several years, I've been deeply involved in the Chehalis business community—showing up, volunteering, and helping support local businesses.



I'm running for Chehalis City Council and my priorities are simple: keep taxes low, invest in infrastructure, and ensure City Hall works for the people it serves—including our small business owners.

We're facing serious issues right now—the loss of the Dairygold tax revenue, new questions about property assessments, and the UGA annexation. This will impact every business and homeowner in Chehalis. You deserve a representative who isn't just going to shift the burden onto your shoulders.

My roots run deep here. My grandfather, my father, my wife, my son, and my baby daughter—we all call Chehalis home. I'm fighting for my family, and if you have a family here, I'm fighting for yours too. From Chehalis. For Chehalis.

Council Position #2 Kevin Carns

As your Chehalis City Councilmember in the District 2 At-Large seat, I have stood firmly for fiscal responsibility and community safety. I was the only councilmember to vote no on double-digit utility tax increases that burden working families and small businesses. I also opposed a half-million-dollar study the city simply cannot afford, choosing instead to prioritize critical infrastructure and essential services. I will continue to treat every dollar we spend like it came from a hard-working taxpayer, because it did. I strongly oppose allowing vehicle camping in neighborhoods or near schools, recognizing the importance of protecting our children and preserving the character of our community. I am committed to responsible government, lower taxes, and safe neighborhoods. I grew up in Chehalis, served our country as a United States Army Paratrooper and attended W.F. West, Centralia College, The Yale School of Management, and the University of Oxford. All three legislators from the 20th District support me, and I collaborate with them to improve our community. I am honored to serve the citizens of my hometown and pledge to continue to be the voice of reason on your city council



Jack-Allen Snodgrass

Hello, my name is Jack-Allen Snodgrass and I'm currently running for Chehalis city council position number 2 at large.

Living in Chehalis for the last four years, I have grown to love and become a part of this beautiful community we share. We are a rapidly growing community with all the opportunities and challenges that that entails.



Small business, and a new job opportunities are essential to helping foster that continued expansion and successful, sustainable growth. Our small business community is one of the things that sets us apart from many, and is a huge part of the character of our town.

From industry to small cafés, we should strive to create an environment that allows new business opportunities to succeed, and continue to support the businesses we all know and love.

City Council should be a conduit for the concerns of our constituents, and a way to foster a dialogue between residents and local government. I look forward to having those dialogues and supporting our community to the fullest capability.

We stand presented with an incredible opportunity to build a thriving city we can all be proud to call home. Let's do it together.

Council Position #3 Bob Spahr

As a native Chehalis Resident, I attended local schools and Centralia College. I married my wife, Jackie , in 1963 and we raised our three children here. My career spanned both self-employment and management roles, primarily in the credit/financial industry and real estate.



I've been active in numerous organizations, including, but not limited to, Jaycees, Sertoma, Lewis County Alliance and Miss Lewis County Scholarship Pageant. For the past eight years, I have volunteered as an assistant coach for the W.F. West Girls Bowling Team.

I've proudly served on the Chehalis City Council for 36 years, including several years as Mayor. With my 36 years experience on the City Council, I bring valuable knowledge about our city's history, the council's operations, and a deep love for our community. The Council's collective makeup is especially important as we face critical decisions in the coming years.

One major decision is the annexation of the Industrial Park and residential area around the city boundary. Although studied multiple times, it was never shown to be feasible due to external roadblocks causing excessive costs. Now, the timing may be right. My historical knowledge of this project will be most beneficial seeing it through to the end.

Jessie Carver

As a candidate for Chehalis City Council, I believe in a fresh perspective for our city. I bring an understanding of the current challenges facing working families, older adults, and young professionals.



My platform prioritizes a responsible and fiscally sound city budget, crucial for sustained growth and development. I advocate for reviewing city zoning rules and permitting processes to remove barriers to progress, ensuring Chehalis remains a vibrant place for future generations to thrive.

Addressing homelessness proactively is also key. I propose formalizing collaboration between community providers and the city to evaluate and understand the root causes, fostering effective solutions and program outcomes.

My experience as an attorney in the social services sector, representing hundreds of seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities, has honed my advocacy skills. As a community organizer, I've successfully brought diverse stakeholders together,

demonstrating my ability to find common ground and achieve results. I am committed to making Chehalis a city where businesses flourish and families are heard. I ask for your vote on November 4, 2025, to build a stronger Chehalis together.

CITY OF CENTRALIA District #1 Norm Chapman

Elected Experience - Appointed to fill the City Council District 1 seat in September 2024

Other Professional Experience
- Retired CWO4 Engineering Warrant Officer
US Coast Guard & Reserve 32 yrs.
Retired Professor of Automotive Technology and Dean at SPSCC 31 years



Education - BA Degree Industrial Technology Humboldt State University; MA Degree Education with Power & Transportation Emphasis Humboldt State University 1987

Community Service - City of Centralia Planning Commission 2019-2024; City of Centralia representative LAND (Local Action Non-Dam) Flood Steering Committee

Statement - I am not a politician and it was not on my bucket list in retirement. This is a great small city with a lot of charm. Our future depends on well thought decisions on several topics:

Smart land development and code structure

Ensuring public safety is a priority

Economic Development with a whole lot of input by local business leaders and community partners

Maintaining current infrastructure while expanding the parks and trails system

Balance of housing for all socio-economic levels

Sustaining Fiscal Responsibility and living with our means - I repeat living within our means

I would be honored to continue representing Centralia Council District 1 for the next 4 years

Lisa Striedinger

As a mother, wife, and grandmother, I understand the importance of building a community where families and businesses can thrive together.



With an AA in Chemical Dependency and certifications in behavioral health peer support, I bring both professional expertise and lived experience to problem-solving. For years, I have dedicated myself to helping individuals overcome barriers, while also volunteering countless hours to strengthen our community.

I believe that strong partnerships between local government, families, and business owners are essential to creating opportunity and economic growth. As a city councilmember, I will work to support small businesses, encourage local investment, and create a safe, welcoming community where both people and businesses can succeed.

District #2

Ray Chapman-Wilson

I've worked as a cabinet maker, a machinist, a fast food worker, a bus driver, a team manager at a furniture making shop, and a home renovation general contractor. This has given me lots of experience in teamwork, budgeting, responsible spending and transparency, all good skills for a City Councilor.



Prosperity: I know how hard people work for their money. I will review contracts that divert local money away and try to find ways we can keep more of our tax dollars local. Also; we need to find a way to limit tax increases on the working class and seniors.

Safety: At a recent Centralia police Town Hall, Chief Caldwell shared crime statistics. From 2023 to 2024, violent crime is down about 40% while overall crime decreased about 10%. Good policing has been key. Infrastructure funds have also helped. When prosperity increases,

Wednesday, October 9

11 am Chehalis City Council Positions

12:30 pm Centralia City Council Positions

1:30 Port of Centralia

crime decreases.

Transparency and accountability: When it comes to how the City Council manages the City, our neighbors deserve to be listened to and to have their questions answered by those that serve them. I will answer questions and be responsive to these requests.

Leah Sisemore

"I have called Centralia home for the past 11 years, raising my five children here and investing in this community's future. I am running for City Council because I believe our city's strength depends on the success of our local businesses.

My background managing programs, budgets, and contracts equips me to prioritize fiscal accountability and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely on infrastructure, public safety, and growth that benefits the business community. As a parent, I understand how thriving businesses create jobs and stability that families rely on. My work in community advocacy has strengthened my ability to listen, elevate local voices, and turn concerns into practical solutions. My personal journey overcoming challenges has shaped me into a problem-solver who doesn't shy away from hard issues.



On the City Council, I will focus on streamlining permits and licensing, making zoning more business-friendly, and keeping our tax and fee structures fair and predictable. I will advocate for downtown revitalization through improved infrastructure and beautification, strengthen public safety so businesses and customers feel secure, and foster strong partnerships with business owners. My vision is simple: a Centralia where entrepreneurs thrive, families prosper, and our economy grows stronger for the next generation."

District #3

Kevin Curtis

I was born and raised in Centralia. I have seen it grow and change through my life. There are many new and exciting things happening in Centralia and we are fortunate to have many excellent city employees working to maintain and improve our city every day.



As a city councilor I will listen, study and communicate to make the best possible decisions for all the people of Centralia. My goal is to help in the process of keeping our hometown feel, while providing the opportunity for upcoming generations to live and prosper here.

I look forward to working with the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Alliance of Lewis County, the Centralia Downtown Association, the Port of Centralia, Lewis County Commissioners and others to discuss appropriate plans that will benefit our entire community, now and into the future.

As Centralia nears a population of 20,000, we will need appropriate housing levels, solid infrastructure, strong schools, proper law enforcement, clean streets and a prosperous business environment. I believe we are up to the task, and I would be honored to serve on the council to help see that through.

Tera Haskins
(not available)

Please See **DEBATE**, Page 4

Chamber keeps
you informed,
promoted, and
engaged!





Featured Bizz Buzz: Clarity Consulting Partners

For over 10 years, Clarity Consulting Partners has worked alongside organizations of all sizes to strengthen leadership, build healthy cultures, and navigate change with confidence. We’re a small, flexible professional consulting firm with expertise in organizational development, leadership coaching, strategic planning, and team facilitation. While our work has taken us far and wide, our roots — and our hearts — are here in Lewis County.

One of our most impactful offerings, the Design Sprint, helps teams turn complex challenges or ambitious ideas into clear, actionable plans in a matter of days, not months. This fast-paced, highly focused process is now available locally, bringing fresh energy and momentum to our community’s leaders and organizations.

This October, we’re launching two new experiences: the Hope & Culture Lab Collaborative, where leaders explore research-based strategies to foster hope, trust, and resilience in their workplaces; and a Leadership Collaborative, The Restorative Leaders Circle, designed for executives and senior leaders who want to sharpen their impact, exchange insights with peers, and navigate today’s leadership challenges together.

At our core, we believe the right conversations can spark real, lasting change and we’re ready to start more of them, right here at home. Let’s build what’s next together. Learn more at developingclarity.com

3 Saints Chowder Cookoff on Saturday, October 11, 2025 3-5 pm

You are invited to join the 3 Saints churches - St. John’s Lutheran Church, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, and St. Timothy Episcopal Church - for a fun and free Chowder Cookoff. Teams from all three churches (and more) will be preparing free chowder for tasting and voting. We’ll be asking for monetary donations for desserts and mocktails. All donations will be split between the Lewis County Food Bank Coalition and Hope Housing Collaborative of Lewis County. We’ll have entertainment and more! All are welcome. The Chowder Cookoff will be held October 11 from 3-5 PM at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 2190 Jackson Highway in Chehalis, Washington.

Tuesdays Are Coming to Downtown Centralia! CDA & Centralia College

This fall, downtown is getting a new spark of energy thanks to Trailblazer Tuesday, a collaboration between the Centralia Downtown Association and Centralia College. Starting September 22 and running through August 31, every Tuesday will be a chance for students, staff, and alumni to explore, connect, and celebrate all that downtown has to offer. Trailblazer Tuesday is about more than discounts or deals—it’s about building pride in being a Trailblazer while supporting the local businesses that make Centralia unique. Participants will be able to easily identify welcoming downtown shops and restaurants, enjoy special perks, and feel the strength of community with every visit.

Downtown businesses have stepped up to join this exciting initiative, and now it’s your turn to be part of it. Whether you’re a current student, a proud alum, or a dedicated staff member, this is your invitation to dive in, show up, and blaze the trail in our historic downtown. Don’t wait—sign up today and be part of Trailblazer Tuesday! For questions or businesses wanting to participate, please contact centraliadowntownassociation@gmail.com

Shop the Centralia Outlets for Fall Savings!

Fall is here, and so are the savings at Centralia Outlets—the Northwest’s original outlet shopping destination. Whether you’re refreshing your wardrobe, stocking up on cozy essentials, or starting holiday shopping, you’ll find trusted brand names at unbeatable prices. Centralia Outlets is home to several one-of-a-kind stores you won’t find anywhere else in the region: **Polo Ralph Lauren Clearance** – The only one in the U.S., offers 40% off the entire store on apparel, footwear, home décor, and more. **Bath & Body Works Outlet** – The only one in the Pacific Northwest! Find fragrances, candles, and skincare perfect for gifts or self-care, all at outlet prices. **Nike Clearance Store** – The largest Nike Clearance Store in Washington is right here in Centralia. Shop footwear, apparel,

and accessories for the whole family at prices you won’t believe. **Columbia Sportswear Clearance** – Adventure calls this season, and Centralia Outlets is home to the largest Columbia Sportswear Clearance Store, offering quality outdoor gear since 1938. Conveniently located off I-5 at Exit 82, Centralia Outlets makes it easy to shop, save, and discover new favorites. With seasonal sales across more than 30 brand names, there’s something for everyone this fall. Visit www.centraliaoutlets.com for more information.



Pumpkin Season is Here at Dirty Thumb Nursery!

Looking for the best pumpkin selection in town? We’ve got them—by the wagonload! From classic carving pumpkins to unique heirloom varieties in every size and color, Dirty Thumb Nursery will be overflowing this fall. Whether you’re decorating your porch, baking pies, or creating the ultimate jack-o’-lantern, you’ll find the perfect pumpkin here. And that’s just the beginning! **Vibrant Mums, sunny Black-Eyed Susans, cheerful Asters,** and hardy perennials are in stock now and will keep your garden glowing all season. **Add straw bales and corn stalks** for that picture-perfect autumn display. When you shop with us, you’re doing more than making your home beautiful—you’re **supporting local**. Each fall, a portion of our seasonal sales goes toward an **Adopt-a-Family program**, helping us provide holiday gifts and essentials to families in need right here in our community. Thank you for supporting our local business and your local community! Every purchase helps our small nursery grow and brings more beauty and joy to our community! Happy Fall! Visit us at 1580 SR-6 in Chehalis and see why we’re the go-to destination for pumpkins, fall color, and community spirit!

Reach Your Health & Spiritual Goals With Enchanted Wellness

Enchanted Wellness is a gym that focuses on empowering women through strength, healing, self-defense, and community. We offer personal training, small group classes and so much more! Since our ribbon cutting ceremony we have added more class times and starting in October we will be offering guided meditations, reiki sessions, healing with tuning forks and classes to obtain different certifications. We also host occasional Wellness Wednesday pop up events such as massage, yoga and recovery classes. If you would like to check out the gym you can make an appointment with Alyssa. Our hours are: Monday: 6-4 Tuesday: 6-530 Closed Wednesday except for pop up events Thursday: 6-530 Friday: 6-4

Located at 1176 SW 22nd Street Chehalis Here are some events to look for; October 2nd 6-8pm- Intro to Energy Healing: Reiki, Breath & Body Awareness October 4th- 2025 Iron Maiden’s Classic, a weightlifting competition for women! There are still spots to sign up if you would like to compete, or just come by to cheer people on! The event starts at 9am. For more information please check out our website: <https://www.enchantedwellness.fit> Up to date announcements are always posted on Instagram: @enchantedwellness.fit



Jekyll and Hyde the Musical

Directed by Danielle Kays October 17-November 2, 2025 Friday & Saturday nights 7:30 pm, Sunday Matinee at 2PM, Pay what you can performance, Thursday October 23rd. An evocative tale of two men – one, a doctor, passionate and romantic; the other, a terrifying madman – and two women – one, beautiful and trusting; the other, beautiful and trusting only herself– both women in love with the same man and both unaware of his dark secret. A devoted man of science, Dr. Henry Jekyll is driven to find a chemical breakthrough that can solve some of mankind’s most challenging medical dilemmas. Rebuffed by the powers that be, he decides to make himself the subject of his own experimental treatments, accidentally unleashing his inner demons along with the man that the world would come to know as Mr. Hyde. Sponsored by Book ‘n’ Brush Tickets at Theevergreenplayhouse.com. 226 W. Center Street, Centralia Bring this article with you for a free non alcoholic drink and small popcorn.

Why Choose Exodus Electric?

****Expert Installation**:** Our certified technicians specialize in generator installations tailored to your home’s needs, ensuring optimal performance. ****Top-Quality Generators**:** We offer a wide range of high-quality, efficient generators from trusted brands to keep your home running smoothly. ****Peace of Mind**:** With a professionally installed generator, you can rest easy knowing your family will always have power during storms or emergencies. ****Comprehensive Support**:** From consultation to installation and maintenance, we’re here to support you every step of the way. ****Stay Prepared for Anything!*** Don’t get caught in the dark. Contact us today for a free estimate and let our team help you choose the perfect generator solution for your home! Call us at 360-623-7177 Visit us at www.exoduselectric.net Experience uninterrupted power with our professional generator installation!

Learn More About NAMI Lewis County!

NAMI Lewis County is a peer led support organization for individuals and their families struggling with mental health conditions. We provide weekly support groups throughout the week. Monday nights at 6 p.m. is our Family Support Group. Our office, where the family support group meets is located at 1641 Kresky Ave. Ste. 3 Centralia, WA 98531. This is a place for families to find solace with others who may have similar experiences and get resources that may be beneficial to their circumstances. We will be starting a new Connections Support Group out at the St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church St. Rte. #505, Winlock, WA 98596 Monday nights from 6-7:30 p.m starting October 13th. Our Regularly scheduled Tuesday Connections meeting will be moved to Fridays at 2 p.m. from now on, still located at the office in Centralia. Please reach out to us directly if you have any questions at our office number 360.5591363 and we will return your call as soon as we can. Contact us by email at NamiLewisCountywa@gmail.com. Visit our websites to find additional information: NAMI.org, NAMIWA.org, or our local site NAMILC.org



Fall Tree Sale & Seed Saving Classes with WSU Lewis County Master Gardeners

Join the WSU Extension Lewis County Master Gardeners this October for a celebration of fall gardening at Fort Borst Park in Centralia. On October 11 (at Borst Kitchen #1) and October 18 (at the Borst Demo Garden) at 10 AM, Master Gardeners will lead a hands-on class on Seed Saving, sharing techniques for harvesting, storing, and preserving seeds from your favorite plants. Whether you’re interested in heirloom varieties or building a more self-sufficient garden, this class is perfect for gardeners of all levels. The highlight of the season is the Fall Fruit Tree & Shrub Sale, held on Saturday, October 18 from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Borst Greenhouse. Browse a curated selection of fruit trees, fruiting shrubs, and ornamental varieties chosen for their resilience and beauty in Pacific Northwest gardens. Master Gardeners will be available throughout the day to offer planting tips, species recommendations, and advice to help your selections thrive. Cash, checks, and cards accepted. All proceeds support local garden education and community outreach



Find Your Perfect Employee With Napavine School District!

Finding that perfect employee can be a struggle. Utilizing training programs to provide employers with eager, supported employees is a win-win. Napavine School District has a strong apprenticeship program in the manufacturing sector and is looking for placements for



the summer of 2026. If your business wants to get a jump on training your own talent that is eager to learn and motivated this might be the perfect match. The apprenticeship program is established and has a proven track record of training students in an industrial setting. Students are typically 17-18 years old, have 2 years+ HS industrial training, have an OSHA 10 Safety Card, registered through LNI, and 1st Aid/CPR/AED Card. If you are interested in learning more about Apprenticeship programs in your business, please contact David Rutherford at drutherford@napavineschools.org or (360)262-3301.

Chehalis United Methodist Church Will Be Hosting The Mint City Market!

Mint City Market will be held at the Chehalis United Methodist Church, 16 S Market Blvd Chehalis, on Friday Nov 7th and Saturday Nov 8th from 10 am to 4 pm. All your holiday shopping needs in one place plus our annual Best Bake Sale Ever. There’ll be new and returning vendors, two quilt raffles and a free shoppers door prize. Come and browse the crafts, unique gifts and decor, wood working items and loads of good deals. The bake sale is amazing plus we promise you’ll find something for everyone!

No insurance for glasses? No problem. Rainier Eye

To meet the need for affordable eyecare, we’ve created a new Rainier Eye Vision Membership Plan. Ideal for those without a vision benefit plan- or without sufficient coverage- we created our own plan to give you a discount and spread the cost of eyeglasses out over a year. For \$15 per month, our membership includes \$175 towards glasses (the starting price for a complete pair of glasses with shatterproof lenses and non-glare treatment), half off a yearly comprehensive exam, free widefield retinal imaging, 20% off lens upgrades, glasses finished faster, and 20% off additional services. We also have a separate plan for small businesses to offer their employees. This will protect their eyes, ensure they can see comfortably to do their work, AND set you apart from the competition when hiring new employees. For more information, see our website www.RainierEye.com, scan this code, or contact us for small business plan info.



RAINIER EYE



DEBATE: From Page 2

PORT OF CENTRALIA
District #2
Julie Shaffley

During her time as Port Commissioner, Julie Shaffley has played a vital role in promoting economic development and expanding job opportunities across the Port of Centralia district.

Under her leadership, the Port has welcomed major employers such as the Stihl Northwest, UNFI, Walmart Commerce Center, and the new Cascade Community Healthcare facility.

These developments have strengthened our local economy and provided hundreds of new jobs for residents.

Additionally, the completion of the I-5 interchange and the arrival of WinCo Foods have improved access, increased commercial activity, and added valuable retail options for the community.

Julie has been a tireless advocate in Olympia, successfully helping to secure over \$9 million in grant funding. These funds have allowed the Port to enhance critical infrastructure while maximizing the value of local tax dollars.

As the owner of Good Health Nutrition Center in Centralia for 35 years, Julie understands firsthand the challenges and opportunities facing small businesses.

Julie remains committed to supporting growth that balances the needs of entrepreneurs, families, and future employers.

With your continued support, Julie will ensure the Port stays focused on job creation,

responsible development, and long-term prosperity for all of Lewis County.
Re-elect Julie Shaffley—
Experience. Honesty. Integrity

Ally Pickard
Ally Pickard for Centralia Port Commissioner - Stop Raising Taxes – Start Serving People

The Port of Centralia is one of our community’s most powerful economic tools, driving job creation and expanding our tax base. I fully support its growth and continued success. But despite decades of expansion, taxpayers are now paying more to the Port than to our public library. That’s not right. The Port was intended to be self-sufficient, yet forty years later it remains dependent on property taxes and those taxes keep climbing every year.

As a long-time public servant with over 15 years of financial management experience, I know how to turn challenges into opportunities. I’m deeply concerned by the Port’s lack of transparency, lack of strategic planning, and questionable financial priorities. Families and seniors on fixed incomes cannot keep bearing the burden of rising taxes while the Port grows wealthier.

I believe we must set a clear timeline for the Port to become self-sufficient and accountable to the people who fund it. My goal is not to slow down success, but to restore pride and trust in an institution that should serve every citizen. Together, we can create a smarter, stronger future. Pick Pickard this November!



Dick’s Cornhole
Dick’s Brewing hosted its 9th annual Cornhole Tournament and Sausage Fest raising more than \$3,600 towards 2026 Rob Fuller Scholarships. Shown here are members of the Sticklin-Brown Funeral Chapel who put together ten teams!



Journey To Aum
Two businesses held a joint Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the grand opening of their shared space. Shown here cutting the ribbon are Madison Creel owner of Journey to Aum Coaching and Jen Kosharek owner of Take Care Massage. 539 N. Market Blvd., Chehalis.



Lightcurve BAH
The August Business After Hours was hosted by Lightcurve at their Centralia office. Lightcurve recently expanded their service to Chehalis bringing another great local option to the county. getlightcurve.com



Applications for the parade are now available!
www.chamberway.com or write
director@chamberway.com



Hub City Supply Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Congratulations to the new Hub City Supply owners Katie and Roger Moore, shown here with their son Garrett. 2510 Sandra Avenue in Centralia.



ToledoTel BAH
This is the awesome staff at ToledoTel who hosted an amazing Business After Hours in September! ToledoTel used the opportunity for a customer appreciation event and to celebrate its expansion into Winlock.



Wheat’s Alaskan RC
Wheat’s Alaskan Camper Service & Restoration celebrated their official opening of a new service center that now works on other RV’s beyond Alaskan Campers. Owner Bryan Wheat (center) has been in the RV repair business for 30 years. 110 Sears Road in Chehalis.

Port centralia approves sale to logistics property company

Centralia, Wash. -The Port of Centralia Commission approved a purchase and sale agreement with Logistics Property Company for 38 acres in its Park I development. The project is expected to bring 761 new jobs to the community.

Logistics Property Company, founded in 2018, is a real estate operating company and investment manager focused on the acquisition, development, and management of modern logistics properties in key North American markets. Headquartered in Chicago, Logistics Property Company owns or has under development 27 million square feet of logistics facilities across 14 U.S. markets. This is the company’s third project in Washington state, following the fully leased Tacoma South and Frederickson ONE developments which total three million square feet across six buildings.

Park I was the Port of Centralia’s first industrial park developed after its founding in 1986. The park’s first tenant was Rogers Machinery, which has operated on Galvin Road since 1990, and it has grown over the decades to comprise 24 tenants including Cascade Community Health, Dick’s Brewing Company, and United Natural Foods, Inc.



UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS!

RIBBON CUTTINGS

Rooted in Lewis County
Wednesday, October 1
5 pm
113 W. Maple Street, Centralia
Artizan Nook
Saturday, October 18
Noon
20347 Old Hwy. 99 SW, Centralia

His & Hers Hormone Health & Wellness
Friday, October 24
Noon
1292 S. Markt Blvd., Chehalis

My 2 Scents K9 LLC
Friday, December 5
Noon
585 Leonard Road, Onalaska

OTHER EVENTS COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

Candidates Debate
Thursday, October 9
11 – 2 (specifics TBD)
O’Blarney’s at Gibson House
221 N. Tower, Centralia

Trick or Treat Transit!
Friday, October 31
3 – 5 pm
Fairway Center
Park your car and take the bus to downtown Trick or Treating in Centralia and Chehalis!

75th Annual Santa Parade!
Saturday, December 6
11 am
Visit chamberway.com for parade application.

BUSINESS AFER HOURS

OCT: Sticklin-Brown Funeral Chapel
Thursday, October 16
5 – 7 pm
1437 S. Gold St., Centralia

NOV: Chehalis Outfitters
Thursday, November 20
5 – 7 pm
1757 N. National Ave.

DEC : Holiday Member Party & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
The Chronicle
Thursday, December 18
5 – 7 pm



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