

# Business Connections



MARCH 2026

Centralia - Chehalis  
Chamber of Commerce

Promote ♦ Protect ♦ Inform

Inside This Edition: Business, Taxes, and Civics

## Business Resource Center: Trusted Guidance for Local Businesses

By Cynthia Mudge

Chamber Executive Director

**Business Resource Center: Trusted Guidance for Local Businesses**

The Business Resource Center was established in July 1995 and became a member of the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce in 2005. Founded by CPA Carol Bezy, the firm has grown into a trusted local resource for accounting and business advisory services. Today, Business Resource Center is led by partners Olivia Kalkman and Janesa Maulden, both of whom serve as managers.

Janesa Maulden brings more than 30 years of experience in bookkeeping and accounting services, while Olivia Kalkman holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Science from Centralia College. The firm's office is conveniently located on Jackson Highway, near the turn-off for the Port of Chehalis.

Business Resource Center specializes in serving small businesses and non-profit organizations. Their diverse client base ranges from traditional mom-and-pop operations to logging and construction companies, dog groomers, auto repair shops, and new entrepreneurs just



Janesa Maulden and Olivia Kalkman

Photo provided

getting started.

When asked what advice they most often give small business owners—especially those launching a new venture—Kalkman and Maulden are in agreement: Start by consulting with an accountant and an attorney. While some new business

owners hesitate to invest in professional services early on, both emphasize that the long-term savings in money, time, and stress far outweigh the initial costs.

“We also encourage new business owners to set up separate financial accounts for their business,” said Maulden.

Kalkman added, “The IRS does not like personal and business funds to be mixed.”

Another key recommendation is investing in accounting software. While Business Resource Center frequently works with QuickBooks, they are open to a variety of programs. “The important thing is having an accounting system in place,” said Maulden. “Even established businesses that rely on spreadsheets will find accounting software valuable.” These systems provide historical data, help track income and expenses, and generate reports that allow business owners to make informed and accurate financial projections.

Like most accounting firms, Business Resource Center assists clients with understanding and adapting to new tax laws, as well as navigating changes in federal, state, and local tax requirements.

More than 25 years ago, Carol Bezy made the decision to leave a successful career in banking after recognizing an unmet need in her community. As President and CEO of a local bank, she saw firsthand how many businesses could benefit from broader fiscal advisory services—services she was unable to fully provide within the banking system.

That realization led her to found Business Resource Center, with a mission to support small- to medium-sized businesses and non-profits in achieving long-term financial success.

A hallmark of Bezy's leadership has been her commitment to staying current with changing laws and evolving technology, then sharing that knowledge with both clients and her team. Over the years, Business Resource Center has continued to evolve, offering high-quality accounting, tax, and business services to the local community.

Bezy was also a dedicated supporter of the Chamber, serving as President, Treasurer, and board member throughout the 1990s and early 2000s.

If asked, Bezy would be the first to credit her success to her dedicated team, the support of the community, and the many clients who have trusted Business Resource Center with their financial well-being.

With more than 30 years of combined accounting and consulting experience, Business Resource Center remains committed to serving local businesses for years to come—helping clients move forward with confidence, clarity, and trusted guidance. <https://bezy.com>

## The Importance of Civics Education: A Call to Engage the Next Generation

By Rep. Peter Abbarno

20th Legislative District

As a state legislator, one of the most important roles is not only to legislate but to educate. It's easy to get wrapped up in the legislative process, focused on drafting bills, debating policies, and working with colleagues. But at the heart of what I do lies a commitment to preparing the next generation

for responsible citizenship. That's why I've made it a priority to visit with local students—giving them a chance to see the legislative process firsthand and understand how their government works. Through the first four weeks of the legislative session, I've met with classes from Centralia, Centralia Christian School, Chehalis, Napavine,

Mossyrock, and Toutle Lake.

Out-of-classroom learning is a vital part of education, and field trips to Olympia offer students more than just an exciting break from their regular routine. They are an opportunity to witness democracy in action. When students visit the Capitol, they can see how laws are made, how decisions are debated, and how their representatives work on behalf of their communities.

These experiences provide real-world lessons that textbooks simply can't match, helping students understand that government is not something distant, but something they actively participate in.

One of the greatest privileges of being a state representative is engaging directly with students who visit Olympia. I am continually impressed by their insightful questions and their eagerness to learn about how the legislative process works. From asking how a bill becomes



Photo provided

Students visit District 20 Representative Peter Abbarno at the Capitol.

law to exploring the challenges lawmakers face in representing diverse communities, students are genuinely curious about the mechanics of government. In these interactions, I am reminded of why I chose to enter public service. These students are the future of our state, and they deserve to understand the power they hold in shaping it. Their curiosity

fuels my passion to work harder and remain actively engaged in my role as a representative. I want them to know that their voices matter and that they can be active participants in the decisions that affect their lives. Equally deserving of recognition are the teachers, parents, and school administrators who make these visits possible. Organizing a trip to Olympia requires significant effort, coordination, and resources, but the benefits are immeasurable. Teachers spend hours preparing students to ensure they gain the most from the experience, integrating these visits into their curriculum to enhance their students' understanding of civics. By facilitating these trips, educators are not just teaching students about the mechanics of government—they are instilling in them a sense of responsibility and civic

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# Mountain View CPAs, PS: A Trusted Partner Through Tax Season and Beyond



Photo provided

The Team at Mountain View CPAs poses at the Chehalis location.

**By Cynthia Mudge**

Chamber Executive Director

Spring is in the air—but for many businesses, so is the looming April tax deadline. With decades of experience, the CPAs and EAs of Mountain View CPAs, PS, help businesses and organizations across Lewis County navigate tax season with confidence while offering year-round support that extends far beyond filing deadlines.

Mountain View CPAs was formally established in 2018 through the merger of three independent tax and accounting practices operated by Brad Olson, Wendy Mecham, and Otto Rabe. By combining their expertise, the firm ensured that businesses throughout the region continued to have access to professional accounting and tax services locally, with offices serving Chehalis, Centralia, Winlock, Morton, and Longview. Brad retired in 2020 and the firm brought on Jason Donahe as a partner to help reach their strategic goals of total county coverage. In 2022,

John Burton joined the firm and now serves as a partner and Director of Operations, further strengthening the team’s leadership and operational capacity. Mountain View’s staff total 34 employees serving all five locations.

Mountain View CPAs is one of the Chamber’s long-standing partners, and we are pleased to recognize their continued commitment to the local business community. One distinguishing feature of the firm is its peer-reviewed accounting services—an important safeguard that ensures accuracy, compliance, and adherence to professional standards.

While tax preparation is top of mind this time of year, Mountain View CPAs offers a broad range of services designed to make future tax seasons less stressful. Their team assists businesses with navigating new tax laws, managing sales tax requirements, and conducting audits. They perform the full

spectrum public accounting services including accounting, tax and audit services. In addition to typical bookkeeping and payroll, they can offer assistance with tasks such as cost accounting, business valuation, and federal and state tax arbitration and appeals. For new businesses, their CPAs can also help file business licenses and guide owners in determining the most appropriate business structure from the start. Their staff are trained to provide expert tax planning and consultation.

Mountain View CPAs works extensively with nonprofit organizations and encourages new nonprofits to engage professional accounting services early in the formation process. IRS terminology and compliance requirements can be confusing, and one common area of misunderstanding is the difference between membership-driven and leadership-driven board structures. Additionally, the firm helps nonprofits

understand the distinctions between 501(c)(3) status and other nonprofit classifications, ensuring organizations choose the option that best aligns with their mission and activities.

The firm also provides guidance on entity formation, including C Corporations, S Corporations, Limited Liability Companies (LLCs), partnerships, sole proprietorships, and specialized nonprofit corporations—”Each of these options impacts governance, taxation, and long-term operations,” noted Burton. Mountain View CPAs is able to file in all states, offering flexibility for organizations with broader reach.

As tax deadlines approach, Mountain View CPAs remains a steady, trusted resource—supporting businesses and nonprofits not only during tax season, but throughout every stage of growth and compliance.

mtvcpas.com

## Accounting Resources at the Chamber

**Business Resource Center**

360-748-6927  
2710 Jackson Highway  
Chehalis, WA 98532 • bezy.com

**Craig S. Rutherford, CPA**

360-748-9226  
P.O. Box 1385 • Chehalis, WA 98532

**Lorri’s Tax Service, Inc.**

360-807-4157  
Lorraine Bowman  
3629 St Wart Place  
Centralia, WA 98531

**Manichelli & Associates, PLLC**

360-748-8857  
Peter Manichellie  
3629 N. Market Blvd.  
Chehalis, WA 98532  
Menichlli.cpa

**Mountain View CPA’s, PS**

360-807-5829  
Otto Rabe and John Burton  
308 SW 13th Street  
Chehalis, WA 98532  
mtvcpas.com

**Welsh Professional Services**

360-324-0533  
Mary Welsh  
282 SW James Street  
Chehalis, WA 98532  
welshps.com

**Bowman Association Management**

360-970-7513  
Stan Bowman  
51 SW 12th Street  
Chehalis, WA 98532

## 2026 Chamber Events Chamber Events

**Rob Fuller 25 x 25 Luncheon**, May 8 (Fri)

Centralia College Trans Alta Commons

**Home Show**, May 29 & 30 (Fri-Sat)

Jester’s Event Center & Auto Museum

**STP**, July 11-12 (Sat-Sun)

Penny Park, Chehalis

**Chamber Golf Tournament**, July 24 (Fri)

Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel Presenting Sponsor

Riverside Golf Club

**Cornhole Oktoberfest**, October 10 (Sat)

Dick’s Brewing

**Chamber Travel to Tuscany!** October 20-29

Early discount ends 3/31

**Trick or Treat Transit**, October 31 (Sat)

**Choose Local! Holiday Campaign**

November 1 - January 1

**Santa Parade**, December 5 (Sat)

**BAH SCHEDULE**

3rd Thursday of each month

**Thursday, March 19**

5 - 7 pm

Gorham Printing

3718 Mahoney Dr, Centralia

**Thursday, April 16**

5 - 7 pm

Lucky Eagle Casino

12888-188th Avenue SW Rochester

**Thursday, May 21**

5 - 7 pm

Hub City Supply

2510 Sandra Ave STE A Suite A, Centralia,

**Thursday, June 18**

5 - 7 pm

Althauser/Rayan/Abbarno

114 W. Magnolia St., Centralia

**Thursday, July 16**

5 - 7 pm

Visiting Nurses Golf Tournament

Riverside Golf Club

1451 NW Airport Rd, Chehalis

**Thursday, August 20 (TBD)**

5 - 7 pm • TBD

**Thursday, September 17**

5 - 7 pm • ToledoTel

183 Plomondom Rd., Toledo

**Thursday, October 15**

5 - 7 pm

Sticklin-Brown Funeral Chapel

1437 S. Gold Street, Centralia

**November 19 (TBD)**

Turkey Bowl

**December 17**

Holiday gathering (TBD)

Contact Cynthia Mudge to sponsor or participate in our Chamber Events!



# BIZZBUZZ



## WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



**BIZZ BUZZ DEADLINE: March 15 - Send 200 words (or less) to [marketing@chamberway.com](mailto:marketing@chamberway.com)**

### 10 Fold Consulting

Seven Ways Belle Shouldn't Use AI in the Castle  
Your personality type greatly impacts how you use AI.  
Here's what it looks like when you get it wrong.  
Belle opens ChatGPT to solve the guest problem and two hours later she's got 47 tabs open and the original problem sitting exactly where she left it.  
She asks AI for more options when what she needs is to pick one. More options feels like progress. It isn't. She uses ChatGPT to understand the Beast instead of just talking to him. She shows up to dinner with a framework. He can tell.  
She asks AI what kind of business the castle should be and finds merit in all five options. She's still deciding by the deadline.  
She lets ChatGPT write the Beast's apology letter. It's exactly right. She holds onto it for two weeks because it still doesn't capture his voice.  
She uses it to prepare to prepare. But doesn't make real progress.  
Belle didn't have a knowledge problem. She had a Wonder problem. AI just gave her more of what was already drowning her. If you recognize yourself here, ChatGPT isn't working against you. You are. And that's the good news. We can help! – Josh Booy ([Josh@10foldconsulting.com](mailto:Josh@10foldconsulting.com)) 360-789-3087



### Blue Skies Drones Has a Drone For That!

March means fast-changing weather, spring runoff, and new opportunities—and drones are built for it. From rapid flood assessments and roof inspections to stunning 360° visuals of mountain resorts and outdoor events, drones offer unmatched speed, safety, and efficiency. Marketing teams love the cinematic content. Inspectors get accurate data without climbing a ladder. And with high winds and wet terrain, it's safer to send a drone than a crew. Whether you're a contractor, real estate pro, or tourism operator, drone tech delivers results. Blue Skies Drones offers rentals, training, and expert services. This spring, work smarter—yeah, we've got a drone for that!



### Centralia Outlets: Stylish Spring Refresh

Spring is in the air, and it's the perfect time to clear out your closet and refresh your look with the season's newest trends. At Centralia Outlets, discover fresh styles that make stepping into spring effortless and affordable. From polished, tailored fits to sporty essentials and lightweight jackets, you'll find versatile pieces that transition seamlessly from cool mornings to sunny afternoons.  
Update your everyday wardrobe with new arrivals from Aéropostale, Lane Bryant, Polo Ralph Lauren, and Chico's—perfect for mixing timeless staples with on-trend favorites. Shopping for the kids? The Children's Place and Gap Factory offer quality, adorable, and budget-friendly styles that keep up with growing wardrobes.  
No outfit is complete without the right finishing touches. Explore must-have accessories at Coach and Kay Jewelers or find irresistible fragrances and body care at the Bath & Body Works Outlet.  
As the days get brighter and outdoor time calls, gear up with active wear and footwear designed for comfort and performance. Score great deals at Columbia Sportswear, New Balance, Skechers, and Famous Footwear.  
This spring, shop your favorite brands for less at Centralia Outlets. For a complete list of stores, current sales, and hours, visit [www.centraliaoutlets.com](http://www.centraliaoutlets.com) or follow us on Facebook.



### The Evergreen Playhouse is pleased to present:

9 to 5 the Musical  
Music and Lyrics by Dolly Parton,  
Book by Patricia Resnick  
Performance Dates:  
March 20- April 5, 2026  
Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm  
Sundays at 2pm\*  
Artist's Benefit Pay-What-You-Can  
Thursday March 26 at 7:30pm  
\*Get your tickets early, Sunday Matinees sell out quickly!!  
[Evergreenplayhouse.com/tickets](http://Evergreenplayhouse.com/tickets)  
226 W. Center Street, Centralia

Pushed to the boiling point, three female coworkers concoct a plan to get even with the sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot they call their boss. In a hilarious turn of events, Violet, Judy and Doralee live out their wildest fantasy – giving their boss the boot! While Hart remains "otherwise engaged," the women give their workplace a dream makeover, taking control of the company that had always kept them down. Hey, a girl can scheme, can't she?

Bring a copy of this article with you for a free small popcorn and non alcoholic drink (excluding specialty Italian Soda).



### March Gardening Classes with WSU Lewis County Master Gardeners

The WSU Lewis County Master Gardeners are welcoming the community into a new season of free, hands-on gardening education. If you're just getting started or looking to deepen your skills, these classes offer practical guidance tailored to our Pacific Northwest growing conditions. Each workshop is led by trained Master Gardeners who bring local expertise, real-world demonstrations, and plenty of enthusiasm for helping gardens thrive. Participants are encouraged to bring questions, explore the demonstration gardens, and learn techniques they can put to use right away.

- Upcoming March Events**
- Planting and Growing Grapes**  
March 7 • 10 a.m.  
Centralia – Borst Demonstration Garden  
Learn how to select, plant, and care for grapevines suited to our region, including tips on trellising and pruning.
  - Blueberry Care**  
March 14 • 10 a.m.  
Chehalis – Providence Place Demonstration Garden  
Discover the keys to healthy, productive blueberry plants—soil needs, pruning basics, fertilizing, and troubleshooting.
  - Tool Sharpening: 101**  
March 28 • 10 a.m.  
Chehalis – Providence Place Demonstration Garden  
Bring your tools and learn simple sharpening and maintenance techniques to keep your garden gear in top shape.
- These sessions are part of a full year of classes covering seed starting, pollinator support, garlic growing, dahlia care, and

more. For the complete schedule and updates on special events, including the Annual Spring Plant Sale, visit:  
<https://lewiscounty.mastergardenerfoundation.org/>



### Jeans & Jewels Fundraiser With LC Footsteps of Hope on March 28th!

Join us on Saturday, March 28, 2026 for Jeans & Jewels: Sparkling in Denim, a night of denim, sparkle, great food, live music, and purpose.  
This event supports Lewis County students by helping provide essential resources so kids can show up to school feeling supported and ready to succeed. We are now welcoming event sponsors and auction item donations. Your support helps make this night, and our impact, possible.  
Tickets and tables available 360-520-4810 | [www.lcfootstepsofhope.org](http://www.lcfootstepsofhope.org)

### NAMI Lewis County Has Mental Health Support Groups for You!

NAMI stands for National Alliance on Mental Illness. At NAMI Lewis County, we are a peer-led support organization for individuals and their families who live with mental health conditions. We are currently seeking board members to fulfill the roles and duties at our local organization. There is an open position for our Vice President member at large. If you want to be a part of an organization that makes change surrounding mental health, this opportunity is for you! Reach out to us by phone or email for more information on how to apply. Looking forward to hearing from you soon! Our office number is 360.559.1363 and you can call or text and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Contact us by email at [NamiLewisCountywa@gmail.com](mailto:NamiLewisCountywa@gmail.com). We strive to make a difference in the lives of people who live with mental illness and help facilitate presentations, support groups, and classes that are all free of charge to community members. If you are suffering and want to be with others who understand what it's like, know you are not alone.

Join us at our support groups throughout the week.



### Get Professional Plumbing Services with SD Plumbing!

SD Plumbing LLC is a locally owned plumbing company serving Lewis County with dependable residential and commercial services. Built on honesty, quality workmanship, and clear communication, SD Plumbing provides reliable solutions for repairs, maintenance, and installations of new and old plumbing. As a local business, we take pride in serving neighbors and supporting the community by delivering professional service you can trust—every job, every time! Call us at (360) 291-5446 or visit us at [sdplumbingserviceswa.com](http://sdplumbingserviceswa.com)



### Find Your Dream Home With The Paula Burrows Team! Brokered By eXp Realty!

More room to breathe. More views to enjoy. If you are relocating to Lewis County or surrounding areas, The Paula Burrows Team, proudly brokered by eXp Realty, will help you find the right home and the right fit for your lifestyle. From local insight to smooth negotiations, we make your move feel simple and confident.  
Call 360-520-4810, visit [pbthomes.com](http://pbthomes.com), or follow @ [thePaulaBurrowsTeam](https://www.instagram.com/thePaulaBurrowsTeam).



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**ABBARNO:** From Page 1  
duty that will last a lifetime.  
Parents are a crucial part of this equation. Their support in helping to facilitate these trips is invaluable. They recognize that these experiences provide their children with critical lessons about civic engagement. Parents understand that encouraging students to explore

government at a young age gives them the tools to be informed, active citizens in the future. When teachers, parents, and students work together, we create a community that values education, engagement, and accountability.  
Every time I meet with a group of students, I am reminded of the importance of nurturing their curiosity and

encouraging their involvement in the political process. These students are not just the voters of tomorrow—they are the leaders of tomorrow. By fostering a sense of civic responsibility and engagement at a young age, we ensure that they will grow up to be informed and active citizens who understand the power they have to influence their

communities.  
I am incredibly proud to be a part of this process. By investing in these opportunities, we are not just educating the next generation—we are empowering them to shape the future of our state and country. In the end, the lessons learned in Olympia will stay with these students long after they leave the

Capitol. They will return to their communities with a greater understanding of how government works and a deeper sense of their role in it. The seeds we plant today will grow into tomorrow's leaders.  
...  
*Peter Abbarno represents the 20th Legislative District and is the House Republican Caucus Chair.*

## Thank You for the Support of Our Sponsors!

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**March BAH**

Gorham Printing, a legacy company in Centralia, is hosting the March Business After Hours. Gorham is a Pacific Northwest Book Printing company founded fifty years ago and is housed in a 7500 foot printing facility at 3718 Mahoney Drive in Centralia. Locally owned and operated they handle everything from design to finished product, including e-Book options. The Gorham BAH is Thursday, March 19, from 5 to 7 pm. gorhamprinting.com



**February BAH at Napavine High school**

Napavine School District showcased their CTE program by providing a tour of the Career and Technical Education offerings at the February Business After Hours. Simulations of driving a forklift, bulldozer, or welding, to culinary, robotics, art, wood and metal work, to competitions surrounding job interviews, soap making, or even navigating through the many paths of career options. Such a wonderful range of opportunities for students to grow and learn. Shown here are the Skills USA students from Napavine High School preparing a presentation for the State competition.



**The Possibilities are Endless**

Possibilities Women's Center held an open house and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to showcase their new location at 1219 Mellen Street in Centralia. Shown here is Executive Director Melissa Couch cutting the ceremonial ribbon with Chehalis Mayor Tony Ketchum (left), then Centralia Mayor Norm Chapman, and Lewis County Commissioner Scott Brummer (right) assisting. Also shown are PWC staff Deana McCusker (Programs Manager), Kristi (was in-training for bookkeeper), Janice Sathre (Bookkeeper), Melissa Couch (Executive Director, Sarah Brummer (Marketing & Development Director), Gracie Etchey (Administrative Assistant/Reception. findmypossibilities.com



**Get Up and Glow**

Mother and daughter duo, Stefany Henderson and Trinity Underhill, team up to open Get Up and Glow beauty studio. They celebrated with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on February 6. They are joined here by Lewis County Rodeo Queen and Princess (Center Left to Right) Kylee Smith and Addison McDougal. getupandglow.org



**Holy Grounds Brew Temple**

Co-owners James Docsanes and Kim Coombs, celebrated the official opening of Holy Grounds Brew Temple in February. Located on 200 South King Street in Centralia, this historic building was originally a synagogue. They are open 7 am to 4 pm daily. HolyGroundsBrewTemple.com

**UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS!**

**RIBBON CUTTINGS**

**Zipty Fiber**

Friday, March 20  
10 am

George Washington Park  
South Pearl, Centralia

**King Rancho Grand Opening**

Saturday, March 21, 2026  
1 - 5 pm

Ribbon Cutting at 1:30 pm  
197 Pier Road

**Twin City RV Park**

Wednesday, April 1  
Noon

182 NE Exhibitor Rd, Centralia

**The Varsity Collection**

Thursday, April 9  
Noon

1049 Eckerson Road,  
Centralia

**Evexia NW**

Tuesday, April 14  
5 pm

1624 S. Gold, Centralia

**District 20 Legislative Update Final for Short Session**

Thursday, March 24  
7:30 am

Zoom event:  
chamberway.com

Email director@chamberway.com

**Business After Hours**

**March BAH**

**Gorham Printing**

Thursday, March 19  
5 - 7 pm

3718 Mahoney Drive,  
Centralia

**April BAH**

**Lucky Eagle Casino and Hotel**

Thursday, April 16  
5 - 7 pm

12888-188th Avenue SW  
Rochester

**Chamber Forum**

**Tourism and Sports**

Thursday, March 12  
8:30 am

NW Sports Hub

701 Allen Avenue, Centralia

**Travel to Tuscany!**

In-person & Zoom Travel  
Session

Thursday, March 26  
5:30 pm

Chamber Conference Room

Join us to learn more about  
this exciting opportunity!

500 NW Chamber Way  
(exit #79)

Remember!

The Deadline for Discount is

March 31, 2026

Trip Departure: Oct. 20



**The Beat Goes On!**

BeatBox Donuts owners, Steve and Lisa Hubbard, celebrate their expansion to include a community room. They are located at 209 South Tower Avenue in Centralia. Stop by for your donut fix



**Hip N Humble Salon**

Hip N Humble Salon celebrated new ownership and a refreshed interior with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on January 29 at 202 S. Tower Avenue in Centralia. Owner Amanda Kirk took over from Lisa Lopez in August 2025. Amanda is shown here with her Daughter, Paisley.



**Ambassador of the Year**

The Chamber staff finally caught up with Cory Moses as she attended the February Ambassador Meeting where she was given the Ambassador of the Year award recognized at the January Banquet. Thank you Cory for all you do for the Chamber and the community of Lewis County!