

Business Connections



MAY 2026

Centralia - Chehalis
Chamber of Commerce

Promote ♦ Protect ♦ Inform

Inside This Edition: Legacy business, home show, and top 25

This month we are highlighting two businesses involved with the 60th Home Show: John L. Scott and RealtyONE Pacifica. We are also committed to highlighting legacy businesses, which are those businesses that are ten or more years old and/or have been a longterm member of ten or more years. John. L. Scott has been a member since 2002 and we thank them for their dedication to our community.

John L. Scott Real Estate – Keeping the Legacy Alive

By Cynthia Mudge

Chamber Executive Director

John L. Scott Real Estate traces its roots back to 1972, when it was established as Zuber and Gibson Real Estate Inc. Now in its 54th year of serving the community, the business remains a strong example of local, family-owned success.

LauraLee Zuber carried on her father’s legacy after his passing in 2006, stepping into leadership just ahead of the real estate market downturn that followed. Today, the office operates as an independently owned franchise of John L. Scott Real Estate and is going strong.

LauraLee began her career in the family business as the Administrative Assisatant and doing Property Management. “We had 38 rentals at the time,” she said. “Today we have roughly 200, yet we are still small enough to maintain great personal service and great rapport with both tenants and owners.”



Photo provided

John L. Scott Owner, LauraLee Zuber, center.

She earned her real estate license in 2004—despite initially being determined not to become an agent. LauraLee attended Centralia College and later studied criminal justice at Shoreline Community College. Her professional background is diverse, including time with the Centralia police department and 20 years

waitressing/bartending at Country Cousins, a role she continued for a short time even after taking over the business. Found that the Real Estate Industry was her calling.

“Our success comes from our Brokers,” Zuber said. “We have 22 agents, and they are like my family—we all help each other.” She added that

the training provided through John L. Scott equips agents to be successful, with the tools they need to effectively guide their clients to navigate the most important decision in their lives weather it be Buying or Selling.

The next generation is already stepping in, with her son, Mason, now part of the

family business—continuing its long-standing tradition of family leadership.

LauraLee also carries forward her father’s deep commitment to the community. Following his passing, she became a board member at Pope’s Place, her father was set to board President the year of his passing. LauraLee stepped in as Presidant the following year. She continues to support the organization along with other community initiatives, including fundraising for Dollars for Scholars, Gives a Scholarship each year in memory of her Father. LauraLee also establish the popular Trunk or Treat tradition, which only paused briefly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reflecting on her career, LauraLee credits her success and fulfillment to a simple philosophy: “I do what I Love, so that means, I don’t have to work a day in my life”

Building Legacies through Scholarships

By Rep. Peter Abbarno

20th Legislative District

In communities like Centralia and Chehalis, we understand something that can be easy to overlook: the most meaningful investments are not always measured in dollars. They are measured in lives changed, values carried forward, and legacies that endure.



That is what the Cheylynn Collinsworth Memorial Scholarship represents.

Created by Althaus Rayan Abbarno, the scholarship honors the life of Cheylynn Collinsworth, a Centralia High School senior, top student, and aspiring teacher whose life was tragically cut short in 2017. She had just been recognized among the top students in her class at the Rob Fuller Scholarship Luncheon, surrounded by peers, mentors, her family, and a community celebrating

her promise and future.

Like so many tragedies, her loss left questions that can never truly be answered. But what followed says everything about the kind of community we strive to be.

Instead of allowing grief to be the final chapter, her Mother Deborah Collinsworth and her family chose something else. They chose to allow Althaus Rayan Abbarno to help create something lasting. Something meaningful. Something that would ensure Cheylynn’s passion for education and service would continue long after her passing.

At first glance, a scholarship might seem simple. It helps a student pay for tuition, books, or expenses tied to college. And that matters. But the Cheylynn Collinsworth Memorial Scholarship is about much more than financial support. It is about carrying forward a life’s purpose.

Each year, a graduating senior receives this scholarship and steps into the next chapter of their life with not only support, but

with responsibility. They are not just recipients. They are part of a story. A continuation of the values Cheylynn lived; kindness, dedication, and a desire to make a difference.

She wanted to become a teacher. She wanted to give back. She believed in education as a way to strengthen her community. Through this scholarship, that vision does not disappear. It grows.

There is something especially powerful about investing in future educators. Teachers shape more than academic outcomes—they shape confidence, character, and opportunity. One teacher can influence hundreds of students over the course of a career. And each of those students carries something forward.

That is how a legacy expands.

A single life continues to impact others, not just once, but again and again, in ways that cannot be fully measured. In that sense, this scholarship is not just about helping one student each year. It is about strengthening

classrooms, supporting families, and investing in the future of the entire community.

It is also a reminder that even in the face of unimaginable loss, something meaningful can still be built. Not to replace what was lost because that is impossible, but to honor it in a way that brings purpose and hope to others.

Every year, when a student stands to receive this scholarship from Cheylynn’s mother, there is a quiet but powerful message being shared: your community believes in you. Your future matters. And you are now part of something bigger than yourself.

Scholarships like this are often described as charitable giving. But that description feels incomplete.

They are promises.

Promises that a life will be remembered.

Promises that values will not be forgotten.

Promises that the next generation will carry forward what matters most.

The Cheylynn Collinsworth Memorial Scholarship is more than a check or an award. It is a living legacy. A reminder that while a life may be tragically shortened, its impact does not have to be. And in that way, Cheylynn Collinsworth is still teaching, still inspiring, and still making a difference; one student, one classroom, and one future at a time.

...

Peter Abbarno, Attorney and Partner at Althaus Rayan Abbarno, and State Representative in the 20th Legislative District.

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Realty ONE Group Pacifica Showcases at Home Show

By **Cynthia Mudge**

Chamber Executive Director

Originally from Lewis County, Jessica Kirker married into the military and relocated to Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 2015 she started her real estate career, building a strong foundation as a realtor in a larger market. That experience, combined with her time as a realtor in Seattle, shaped her approach to the industry and prepared her for future success.

In 2020, at the onset of COVID-19, Kirker returned home to Washington. After settling in she helped to open a Sotheby's International Realty office as the Branch Manager in Chehalis. She continued to grow in her career and, this past February, became Branch Manager for Realty ONE Group Pacifica.

Kirker has navigated real estate through both strong and challenging markets, adapting to the evolving landscape of modern home sales. From the rise of AI tools to the use of virtual tours, she has embraced innovation while maintaining a clear perspective: real estate remains a people-driven business.

"Technology is helpful, but it doesn't replace the human connection," Kirker said. "The most successful agents see AI as a tool—not a replacement."

That philosophy aligns with her appreciation for Realty ONE

Group Pacifica's agent-focused model.

"This is one of the reasons I love working for Realty ONE Group," she explained. "They prioritize their agents and help them build their personal brands."

In a competitive industry, Kirker emphasizes the importance of maintaining relationships beyond the sale. Many homeowners quickly forget their agent after closing, but consistent, thoughtful follow-up can make a lasting impression.

"We encourage agents to stay in touch with clients through gentle, ongoing communication," she said. "Face-to-face interaction is still the most effective way to build relationships and serve clients well."

Events like the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber Home Show provide valuable opportunities for those connections. Home shows allow agents and potential clients to meet in person, ask questions, and learn more about the local housing market. For attendees, it's a chance to connect with multiple agents and find the right fit while gaining insight into available properties and services.

Realty ONE Group Pacifica, owned by Brad Whittaker, includes five branches across Washington and Oregon, with its Centralia office serving the



Branch Manager for Realty ONE Pacifica, Jessica Kirker.

Photo provided

local community.

Beyond real estate, the company is actively involved in community efforts through volunteer work and charitable

giving, reinforcing its commitment to the region it serves.

To learn more, visit moveONEstepahead.com.

2026 Chamber Home Show!

Centralia-Chehalis Chamber Celebrates 60 Years of Home Show Inspiration

By **Cynthia Mudge**

Chamber Executive Director

For 60 years, the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce Home Show has been a go-to event for fresh ideas, creative solutions and a little inspiration for every corner of the home—and this year is no exception.

The two-day event returns May 29–30 with more than 30 exhibitors showcasing the latest in home improvement, outdoor living, design and services. Whether you're planning a major renovation, dreaming up backyard upgrades or simply looking for new ideas, the Home Show offers something for every space and every budget.

This year brings an exciting change of venue. The show moves to Jester's Event Center and Auto Museum, creating a more intimate, cozy atmosphere where visitors can easily connect with vendors and explore at their own pace.

New hours make attending even easier. Friday's schedule runs from 3 to 7 p.m., perfect for stopping by after work, while Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is affordable, with tickets priced at \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors ages 55 and older and children under 12. Want to make the most of your visit? A special \$8 Friday pass includes admission for both days. Plus, parking is free.

Friday evening kicks off with an exclusive early preview, featuring booth raffles, giveaways and special show-only deals from vendors—making it the perfect time to browse, connect and score a few extras.

This year's vendor lineup includes a wide range of local and regional experts such as BathFitter, Century 21



Photos provided

On Points Realty and Centrur 21 Lund, Realtors return for the 2026 Home Show.

Lund Realtors, CAP Concrete Coatings, Champion Window, Chehalis Sheet Metal, Cutco, Eli's Paver Patios, Emerge Electrical LLC, Erie Home, Evergreen Transformations, Hometown Exterior Designs, IBEX, Ideal Roofing, John L. Scott, LeafFilter North LLC, Leafguard of Seattle, Lewis County PUD, Miller Home Renovations, Nelson Furniture, New Level Roofing & Construction, Northfork Realty, NW Window Installations, OlyFed, Realty ONE Group Pacifica, Santiago General Contractor Solutions and Ziplly Fiber.

Even more vendors—and an outdoor display—are expected, adding to the variety and excitement.

Whether you're ready to start a project or just gathering ideas, the Centralia-Chehalis Home Show is the place to spark inspiration and connect with the experts who can bring your vision to life.



Cutco returns in 2026.

©Cutco Corporation

October 20-29



It's Not Too Late — Experience Tuscany!

Dreaming of Italy? There's still time to make it happen.

While early-bird pricing has passed, you can still secure your spot on this unforgettable journey through Tuscany. For \$3,799, enjoy seven nights in the heart of Italy—plus two travel days—with airfare and related fees included.

This thoughtfully planned, “unpack once” experience lets you settle in and truly savor your surroundings while expert guides handle the rest. Your itinerary features some of Italy's most iconic destinations, including Florence, Pisa and Lucca, Siena, San Gimignano, the Chianti region, Montecatini, and an optional excursion to the breathtaking Cinque Terre.

Want to extend the adventure? Add a two-night stay in Rome for just \$699 and explore even more of Italy's rich history and culture.

Ready to go? Visit Chamberway.com, click on the Events tab, and select the Tuscany trip—or call the Chamber at 360-748-8885 for more information.

Italy is calling—don't miss your chance to answer.

BIZZBUZZ

BIZZ BUZZ DEADLINE: May 15 - Send 200 words (or less) to marketing@chamberway.com

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



Cascade Rare Coins is Backed By Over 20 Years of Love for Coin Collection!

Cascade Rare Coins & Precious Metals was founded by western Washington natives and life-long friends Matthew and Kellen, whose shared passion for the history and artistry of coinage began in 2006 at Saint Martin's University in Lacey WA. Their expertise and enthusiasm grew into a vision: creating a premier destination where collectors of all levels feel welcome.

Matthew brings more than a decade of high-level industry experience, including eleven years at the largest coin dealer in the world, where he worked closely with leading dealers and handled some of the rarest pieces in numismatics. His background also includes time spent serving collectors locally, strengthening his commitment to serving the community. Kellen contributes the perspective of a dedicated lifelong precious metals and rare coin collector. His personal collection represents a curation of historically significant US coins with exceptional eye appeal.

Cascade Rare Coins exists to bridge the gap between advanced numismatics and everyday collectors. Intentionally keeping our overhead to a minimum allows us to buy collections from walk-in customers for MORE than other dealers.

The shop is built on expertise, integrity, and a genuine love for the hobby, proudly serving collectors throughout the region.

Shop for Mother's Day Gifts at the Centralia Outlets

Mother's Day is just around the corner, and there's no better place to find the perfect gift than the Centralia Outlets. Whether you're celebrating mom, grandma, or a special mother figure, you'll discover quality gifts at prices you'll love.

Explore timeless sparkle at Kay Jewelers, where you'll find beautiful pieces to fit any budget.

Treat mom—or yourself—to indulgent self-care with luxurious soaps, lotions, and candles from Bath & Body Works. Looking for stylish accessories? Browse incredible deals on handbags, scarves, and apparel at Coach, Polo Ralph Lauren, Lane Bryant, Chico's, and Pendleton.

You can also shop signature fragrances and everyday favorites at brands like GAP and Aéropostale. For meaningful and unique finds, visit the Christian Outlet for home décor, kitchenware, inspirational books, and customizable gifts. And don't forget—Memorial Day weekend brings the start of exciting summer savings! Get a head start on your seasonal shopping with swimwear and kids' essentials from The Children's Place, or gear up for outdoor adventures with Columbia's all-season apparel.

Stay connected by following us on social media for the latest arrivals and exclusive deals. At Centralia Outlets, you'll always save big on the brands you love.



Chehalis Farmer's Market Starts In May!

Chehalis Farmers Market is excited to welcome the community back for another vibrant season, beginning May 5th and running every Tuesday through October 27th. This year brings a fresh update, with new market hours from 10am-3pm. As always, the market will feature a wide variety of local vendors, including fresh produce, baked goods and artisan products. Throughout the month of May, there will be a special focus on plant starts and other gardening essentials. Shoppers can expect a great selection of vegetables and annual starts, herbs, natives, perennials, fruiting plants, houseplants and seeds. Our market continues to be a hub for community connection, supporting local farmers and small businesses. Whether you're a longtime supporter or a first-time visitor, this season promises something for everyone. Mark your calendars, spread the word, and join us each Tuesday to celebrate local, fresh food and the unique vibe only downtown Chehalis can offer.

The Evergreen Playhouse presents: Witness for the Prosecution

By Agatha Christie, Directed by Michelle Koenan
Performance Dates: May 1-17, 2026
Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm
Sundays at 2pm
Artist's Benefit Pay-What-You-Can Thursday May 7 at 7:30pm
Leonard Vole stands accused of murdering a rich widow. The stakes are high with shocking witness testimony, impassioned outbursts from the dock, and a young man's fight to escape the hangman's noose. Generally regarded as one of Christie's most accomplished plays, this suspenseful thriller keeps audiences guessing until the very end. Present this article at any performance for a free (non alcoholic) drink and a small popcorn. (Excludes Italian Soda Specialty drink).
Evergreenplayhouse.com for tickets.
226 W. Center Street, Centralia
360-736-8628



Tons of Fun at The Health & Hope Spring Fling Bazaar!

Join us for the Health & Hope Spring Fling Bazaar on Saturday, May 16th, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM for a fun-filled community event for all ages! Enjoy face painting, a variety of local vendors, a plant sale, and booths hosted by nonprofits offering engaging activities and resources. Kreative Kettle Corn will be on site, and delicious hamburgers and hot dogs will be available for purchase. We're also excited to welcome a mobile health screening unit from Care-A-Van, providing convenient on-site health screenings. Come out, connect with your neighbors, and support local artisans and nonprofit partners at the Moose Lodge, 1400 Grand Ave, in Centralia.
Health & Hope Medical Outreach operates each Tuesday evening from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Northwest Pediatrics Building B in Centralia. Our mission is to provide free, holistic health care to the uninsured and underinsured in Lewis County. For more information or to support this important work, please visit our website at: HHMO.org

Start Your Next Chapter With The Paula Burrows Team!

Finding the right home is more than a move—it's the start of your next chapter. With The Paula Burrows Team, proudly brokered by eXp Realty, you'll have trusted guidance, local expertise, and a team committed to helping you every step of the way.
Call 360-520-4810, visit pbthomes.com, or follow @thepaulaburrowsteam to begin your journey home



Brokered by eXp Realty

Change The Lives Of Local Students!

Make a local impact that lasts. Lewis County Footsteps of Hope invites you to host a drive or become a monthly supporter to help provide critical resources for local students. Together, we can change lives.
360-520-4810
www.lcfootstepsofhope.org

Lewis County Master Gardeners Have Plenty Of Events On The Way!

Spring is underway, and the WSU Lewis County Extension Master Gardeners are kicking off the season with two major community events designed to inspire, educate, and get gardens growing.
First up is a hands-on workshop, “How to Divide & Plant Dahlias,” held May 2 at 10 a.m. in the Borst Greenhouse in Centralia. If you're new to dahlias or looking to refresh your existing tubers, this class offers practical, research-based guidance from trained Master Gardeners. Participants will learn how to identify viable tubers, divide clumps correctly, and plant for strong summer blooms. The class is free and open to all skill levels.
Just two weeks later comes the biggest event of the year: the Foundation's Annual Spring Plant Sale, held May 16-17 at 9 a.m. at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds Blue Pavilion in Chehalis. This sale is the Master Gardeners' primary fundraiser, and every purchase directly supports the free classes, clinics, and community education programs offered throughout Lewis County.
Shoppers will find an impressive

selection of locally grown vegetable starts, herbs, perennials, natives, pollinator-friendly plants, and unique varieties you won't see in big-box stores. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and help match gardeners with the right plants for their space and experience level.

For gardeners eager to jump-start their spring projects, or anyone who loves plants, these events offer a perfect blend of learning, inspiration, and community connection. Come support local volunteers, grow your garden, and help keep free horticulture education thriving in Lewis County.



Remove Skin Tags at Rainier Eye!

Do you have skin tags that bother you? We can help! We're excited to announce a new service available at Rainier Eye: chemical treatment to remove skin tags on the eyelids and surrounding skin. This non-invasive procedure is precise- treating only the unwanted lesion- and spares adjacent healthy skin. No anesthesia is needed, and in a matter of a few minutes, your bothersome benign lesions will be on their way out! Immediately following the application, the tag will turn white. Within an hour, the treated skin will be pink and then dry out and fall off within about a week- leaving no scar behind. We have set aside appointment times during the lunch hour and at the end of the work day for your convenience. If you'd like to get rid of the bumps around your eyes, please call us at 360-506-5544 to request a Lid Lesion appointment



RAINIER EYE



Thank You for the Support of Our Sponsors!

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City of Chehalis
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CONGRATULATIONS!

Top 25 students in Centralia and Chehalis Announced

The top 25 students from Centralia High School and W.F. West in Chehalis were announced and honored at the annual Rob Fuller 25 x 25 Luncheon on May 8 at Centralia College in TransAlta Commons.

CENTRALIA

Silvio Aceituno
Satsuki Bringman
Chevelle Bussart
Skyla Denton
Kycen Donahue
Makenzie Erickson
Samantha Falkner
Lillian Ferch
Emma Fitzgerald
Penelope Fuller

Claire Haskins
Neela Haywood
Jonah Lowe
Brisa Martinez-Torres
Rosa Rodriguez
Stephanie Sanchez-Gomez
Lorenza Santiago
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Leola Caple

Beckman Dvorak
Nathan Flexhaug
Adam Flexhaug
Ethan Hansen
Eden Hornby
Jaden Jensen
Zoey Kalland
Lauren Kelley
Miles Martin
Heidi Meier
Amyah Middleton

Elizabeth Mittge
Kd Obtinario
Grady Oien
Madelynn Panther
Francesca Remund
Lydia Smith
Berkeley Varick
Ariana Wheaton
Leah White
Violet White-Pierce

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS!

RIBBON CUTTING

Cascade Rare Coins

Friday, May 1 • 3 pm
408 N. Tower Avenue,
Centralia

With Purpose Counseling

Tuesday, May 12 • Noon
409 S. Market Blvd., Chehalis

New Health & Wellness

Tuesday, May 19 • Noon
403 N. Market Blvd., Unit 1

Better Body Healing & Aesthetics

Ribbon Cutting & Health Fair
Friday, June 5
4:30 - 5:30 pm
1624 S. Gold Street

Sipside Coffee Company

Monday, Jun 8 • Noon
101 SW Interstate Ave.,
Chehalis

MORE CHAMBER EVENTS

COMING UP

Home & Interior Show!

Friday, May 29. 3 - 7 pm
Saturday, May 30,
10 am - 4 pm
Jester's Event Center
& Auto Museum
321 Hamilton Road in
Chehalis

Business After Hours

Hub City Supply

5 - 7 pm
2510 Sandra Ave., Centralia

OTHER EVENTS

United Learning Center

is hosting a Ribbon Cutting
Ceremony
A ULC event
Thursday, May 14, 2026
11:30 AM
415 N. Pearl Street,
Centralia, WA



The Impact of Lucky Eagle Casino

The Impact of Lucky Eagle Casino Is felt in many ways throughout our community, Shawna Ridgebear, The Marketing Director for the casino, is pictured speaking on the impact Lucky Eagle is having on small entrepreneurs: On May 2 they hosted a free conference and fair with a focus on helping Women-Owned businesses.



Business After Hours At Lucky Eagle Casino

Was an absolute blast! Here we see Rodney Youckton giving his speech on all of the incredible ways Lucky Eagle has been giving back to the community through different large donations.



Riverside Rooftop Bar & Bistro is Back Open!

After a fire that caused some damage, the team at Riverside have spent the last 6 months getting everything back up and ready to go, and they celebrated it's completion with a wonderful ribbon cutting! Picture is Manager Ericka Dukeshire-Pogue, with two of her staff who helped them throughout the entire process. Stop in for some delicious food at 1451 NW Airport Rd, in Chehalis!



Twin City RV Park Opens in Centralia!

Nestled right next to the Fairgrounds, Twin City RV Park had a large welcome party. Having been in the works for 2 years, it was a great achievement for the young owners, and newly-appointed park manager. Stop in and see the beautiful space at 182 NE Exhibitor Rd, in Centralia!



ZiplyFiber Celebrates Expansion Within Chehalis!

Community Relations & Development Manager Alexander Kovacs, is pictured with the recently-cut ribbon. It was a beautifully sunny day to celebrate with ZiplyFiber on their service expansion! Want to learn more? Give them a call at (866) 699-4759.



"The Varsity" Introduces Apartment & Hotel Hybrid!

This April, The Varsity opened up a collection of different apartment and hotel hybrids throughout our town, the pictured ribbon cutting is for Varsity South, located at 702 Harrison Ave, in Centralia!