

# THE ECONOMIC REPORT

A SUPPLEMENT OF *The Chronicle*

## Renowned Speaker Featured at Alliance Meeting

*Bruce Vincent Returns to Lewis County After 25 Years to Bring His Message of Leading, Not Fighting*

BY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE OF LEWIS COUNTY

World-renowned Bruce Vincent is the featured speaker at this month's Economic Alliance of Lewis County monthly meeting, open to all.

"Vincent is a pre-eminent keynote speaker who offers a vision of hope and direction for businesses," said Alliance Executive Director Richard DeBolt. "We are excited and fortunate to bring him to Lewis County for our monthly meeting."

Vincent, headquartered in Montana, remembers giving the keynote speech about 25 years ago in Lewis County dur-

### 'WITH VISION THERE IS HOPE':

What: Economic Alliance of Lewis County's Monthly Luncheon  
Why: Hear world-renowned keynote speaker Bruce Vincent

When:  
Noon to 1 p.m.  
Wednesday, Oct. 20

Where:  
Centralia Train Depot  
multi-purpose room

Cost: \$25 per person (includes lunch)

To Pre-Register and Pay:  
Call 360.748.0114

ing a Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce gathering, back when DeBolt was in charge of the chamber. DeBolt said he was impressed with Vincent's words.

Back then Vincent addressed the Endangered Species Act and the impacts of added protections for the Spotted Owl, which decimated logging communities including those in Lewis County.

Vincent said his message hasn't changed that much from 25 years ago.

"We need to engage in discussions and finding solutions," Vincent said. "What did we learn from the timber wars? There is a huge difference between fighting and leading."

Vincent also said positive change happens on the local level, not in Washington, D.C. or Olympia.

"I emphasize the importance of local engagement, of the discussions that take place 'over the backyard fence,'" Vincent said. "The most important discussions



Bruce Vincent

for rural areas take place at home."

Vincent is a third generation logger from Libby, Montana, according to his website. During the past 25 years, he has given motivational speeches throughout the United States and the world, has testified on natural resource issues before Congress and has appeared on several news programs such as "60 Minutes."

Vincent has been named Timberman of the Year in Montana, National Forest Activist of the Year, the Agri-Women's 2007 Veritas Award Winner, and received the inaugural Presidential Preserve America Award from President Bush.

■ SEE VINCENT, PAGE B3

### CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

## Alliance Focused on Development, Partnerships

*We Need to Work Together to Promote Economic Development in Lewis County*

BY BEN KOSTICK

Economic Alliance of Lewis County

It's a bit spooky out there for businesses.

The state and federal government is pushing for mandates for employees involving wearing masks and showing proof of being vaccinated against the COVID virus.

That's on top of all the bureaucratic red tape and taxation already making it a battle to run a successful, profitable business.

There is certainly controversy in Lewis County on mandated masks and vaccinations. For federal and state workers, and the businesses and agencies they support and work for, tough decisions for some of continued employment and the right for personal privacy is in the offing.

The key to remember for all involved, for our governments from the feds to the state to the county all the way down to school boards, is we need to do everything we can as business leaders to keep our community safe and away from levels of COVID infection that could lead to partial or complete lockdowns for many businesses once again.

If it helps, for example, it is not all that hard to wear a mask when entering indoor venues packed with people, for example. But all mandates need to allow for personal decisions. One example of reasonableness is allowing those that have been exposed to the virus and show antibodies against COVID to be considered on the same level as those vaccinated.

For the Economic Alliance of Lewis County, we're haunted in attracting businesses that bring or increase family wage jobs. We're not interested in jobs for jobs sake, but quality jobs that lead to a stronger community.

The Alliated is also, as our new name suggests (see story at left), going to put an emphasis in forming partnerships. The idea is simple: We can do so much more working together for economic development than when we splinter and go our own ways.

I am excited for our dual mission of supporting economic development and entering into working partnerships for the greater good.

One way we can support local businesses during this scary season is by supporting fall harvest activities, from purchasing food and crafts from farmers markets and local growers, to attending

■ SEE CHAIRMAN, PAGE B3



BEN KOSTICK  
Economic Alliance of Lewis County

## LEDC Name Change: 'Alliance'

*New Economic Alliance of Lewis County Adds Emphasis on Forging Partnerships*



BY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE OF LEWIS COUNTY

At the start of the first-ever Alliance Open Golf Tournament held at the break of fall at Riverside Golf Club, Lewis County Economic Development Council President Ben Kostick announced a new beginning for the agency he presides over.

Kostick revealed the council will now be known as the Economic Alliance of Lewis County.

Alliance Executive Director Richard DeBolt said the name change is not a new direction from its bedrock mission of economic development, but adds an emphasis on forming alliances with others for the greater good.

"We're still committed to economic development, but we've added a commitment to forming partnerships with all agencies, groups and government entities interested in wise economic growth for Lewis County," DeBolt said.

President Kostick said he's excited about the added direction. He said forming unity will serve the interests of eco-



Economic Alliance of Lewis County President Ben Kostick (right) announces a new name for the organization he presides over. At left is Alliance External Relations Manager Eric Sonnenberg.

### WEBSTER'S DEFINITION OF ALLIANCE:

A union between people, groups, countries, etc.; a relationship in which people agree to work together; the state of being joined in some activity or effort; the state of being allied.

conomic development in Lewis County.

"An alliance atmosphere will help us work with everyone by forming partner-

ships," Kostick said. "We will be more successful when we work together on common interests."

## Skilled Repairs for Trucks and Semi-Trucks



Get quality work on your semi-truck and diesel truck. You can rely on us to handle routine maintenance for all sizes of trucks.

Come to us for all your repair and maintenance needs, oil and lube services, and even annual DOT inspections.



**BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

# ARNOLD HABERSTROH

## BUSINESS: HABERSTROH PROPERTIES AND SAFE AND WARM STORAGE

**Q: How long have you been a member of the Lewis Economic Development Council?**

**A:** About 10 years

**Q: Why did you join LEDC?:**

**A:** Former member Norm Forsyth asked if I would be interested in joining since I was doing housing development. He explained my knowledge would help by bringing another perspective. He knew I was interested in helping the community and making Lewis County a nice place to live and develop, so I accepted his invitation.

**Q: What is a key for the success of your business?:**

**A:** Personal interaction. You treat people how you want to be treated.

**Q: What do you enjoy most about volunteering?**

**A:** Satisfaction out of helping somebody. You are sharing the blessings you've received from others. It is basically the idea of paying it forward.

**Q: What do you love most about your industry?**

**A:** Helping people have a better quality of life, an affordable quality of life by providing affordable housing and affordable storage.

**Q: How do you define success?**

**A:** It used to be success was how much stuff you accumulated. Now I find



**ARNOLD HABERSTROH**  
Haberstroh Properties  
and Safe and Warm Storage

satisfaction in helping people succeed, to do better. I get more satisfaction in helping others do better. We live a pretty blessed life; now it is time to share a little bit and don't fall into the "greedy trap."

**Q: Who inspires you?**

**A:** I would say my kids, along with a gentleman named Don Weighant. He gave me an opportunity when I first started, he carried contracts for me.

**Q: What motivates you?**

**A:** Making Lewis County a place where you can raise your kids and grandkids, so they want to stay here and still have opportunities for success.

**Q: What is one thing, either industry-related or not, you learned in the last month?**

**A:** My wife showed me how to scan something on my phone.

**Q: What's your favorite song?**

**A:** "The Older I Get" by Alan Jackson. The lyrics state the older I get the more I am content with life, and more focused about helping others.

**Q: What is your favorite meal?**

**A:** My wife's prime rib.

**Q: What do you do for pleasure outside of running your business?**

**A:** I like to golf, boat, crab, shrimp, spend time with my grandkids and family, and travel with my wife. I love it.

**Q: What is the favorite car you have ever owned?**

**A:** 1975 Monte Carlo.



A full field of teams gets ready for the start of the inaugural Alliance Open Golf Tournament at Riverside Golf Club.

# Alliance Open Golf Tournament a Rousing Success



The first Alliance Open Golf Tournament was a rousing success, with a packed field, plenty of give-aways and auction items, and despite a cold rainy day at Riverside Golf Club, a fun-filled day.

"Having a full field of teams and plenty of sponsorship support made our first tournament a success," said Alliance Execu-

tive Director Richard DeBolt. "I want to thank Riverside for their great hosting of the event, Jenny Collins from the Chehalis Foundation who offered her knowledge of how to develop a tournament, and also my staff of Eric Sonnenberg, Dolly Tardiff and Marianne Schumacher, for putting in the time needed for a wonderful event."



Alliance External Relations Manager Eric Sonnenber shoots off a cannon filled with T-shirts during the Alliance Open Golf Tournament.

# Hillier, Scheibmeir, Kelly & Satterfield, P.S.

299 N.W. Center Street  
P. O. Box 939  
Chehalis, Washington  
98532

360-748-3386  
FACSIMILE: 360-748-3387

[www.centerstlaw.com](http://www.centerstlaw.com)

NEWS BRIEFS

## Centralia College Enrollment Down 30%

Student enrollment for the fall quarter at Centralia College is down 30% from the same quarter in 2019, college administration reported this week.

With the Oct. 1 deadline to drop classes came Centralia College's official count of students enrolled in classes for the quarter, which runs Sept. 20 through Dec. 10.

The numbers will be finalized and further analyzed

in the coming weeks, said College President Bob Mohrbacher.

The decreased enrollment is consistent with the significant drop in enrollment Centralia College and other community colleges experienced at the onset of the pandemic last year, but new this year is a decrease in students partaking in Running Start, a program that allows 11th and 12th grade students to take college courses at community and technical colleges.

Centralia College reported its Running Start numbers are down this year, and other colleges have reported a decrease in their Running Start numbers as well, according to Mohrbacher.

— The Chronicle

## PUD Proposes Rate Increase

With the statewide moratorium on utility disconnections expiring, exposing hundreds of Lewis County Public Utility District customers to a potential loss of service, PUD commissioners are considering a proposed utility-wide increase of 0.95% to services beginning next year.

PUD staff say the proposed hike would be fairly minimal, increasing the daily basic charge by a penny to \$0.96 and the electricity rate by less than a percent to \$.006819 per kilowatt hour for residential customers.

For the average residential PUD customers using 1,400 kilowatt hours per month, this would result in a monthly increase of about \$1.27 per month on their bill, excluding any city sales tax. The cost would be less than neighboring counties, including Grays Harbor, Skamania and Mason, but would for the first time be higher than what customers in Centralia city limits currently pay.

PUD commissioners are still taking public feedback on the proposed increase. Another public hearing has been scheduled during the board's regular 10 a.m. meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 19.

— The Chronicle

## VINCENT:

Continued From Page B1

### KEYNOTE: 'WITH VISION, THERE IS HOPE':

"It is time for change — and change will be our friend. America is ready for a new vision of conservation and environmental stewardship that is based upon hope instead of fear," Vincent said in explaining his keynote speech. "In order to share this vision we must first reintroduce the American consumer to the processes and the people of production and then lead — not just fight — the discussion over our environment."

"Those who work at the ground level in implementing society's framework for protecting the environment are positioned at the leading edge of the changes and challenges of this discussion. That edge provides exciting opportunities and hope."

### SPEAKER BACKGROUND

Vincent is currently serving as President of Communities For A Great Northwest; is a partner in the public relations firm ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS, serves as Executive Director of the Preserve America Presidential Award winning Provider Pals cultural exchange program, serves on the board of the Evergreen Foundation, the board of the Pacific Logging Congress, and serves on the Kootenai Forest Resource Advisory Committee, the Cabinet/Yaak Grizzly Bear Community Involvement Team, and the State of Montana's Thompson Chain of Lakes Citizen Management Council.

He speaks throughout the United States and the world to groups including resource, recreation, banking and business associations, legislative bodies and anyone else who would like to hear about rural cultures. Vincent is a highlighted national university campus speaker for the Young America Foundation.

Vincent often provides testimony on resource issues before Congress. He has been reported on by Outside, Wheat Life, Range, Tree Farmer, Time and Audubon magazines, The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post and other periodicals.

Vincent holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Masters in Business Administration from Gonzaga University in Spokane.

## CHAIRMAN:

Continued From Page B1

area pumpkin patches and corn mazes.

For a great list of fall fun items, look up the weekly calendar at The Chronicle and such features as a recent story entitled "October Brings the Opening of Lewis County Area Pumpkin Patches and Fall Family Fun."

I'm proud of what the Alliance is bringing to our great community. Rest assured, while you are picking out that perfect pumpkin or getting scared out of your wits in a haunted hall, we here at the Alliance will be working to make this corner of our world a safe and profitable place to live and work.

•••

Ben Kostick is chair of the LEDC and owner of Ben M. Kostick CPA Inc.

## PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT — FOR SALE IN WINLOCK



## 1100 NW Kerron St., Winlock

- 1/2 acre
- 12,500 square-foot building
- 20 foot clear height
- Two 20 by 16 foot doors
- 200 amp single phase
- Black top loading area

For information on this property and others available throughout Lewis County (or to list your industrial/commercial property for sale or lease), contact Lewis Economic Development Council External Relations Manager Eric Sonnenberg at 208.206.5407 or [eric@lewisedc.com](mailto:eric@lewisedc.com), or go to [lewisedc.com](http://lewisedc.com).



## ECONOMIC ALLIANCE OF LEWIS COUNTY & STAFF



### ECONOMIC ALLIANCE OF LEWIS COUNTY EXECUTIVE BOARD

**CHAIR**  
Ben Kostick  
Ben Kostick CPA Inc.  
**VICE CHAIR**  
Bob Guenther  
IBEW

**TREASURER**  
Stuart Cavness  
First Allied Securities Inc.  
**PAST CHAIR**  
Reggie Hamilton  
Hamilton Rock

**SPONSORS**  
Lewis County  
City of Chehalis  
City of Centralia  
Port of Chehalis  
Impact Washington  
The Benaroya Company

### ECONOMIC ALLIANCE OF LEWIS COUNTY BOARDMEMBERS

**Peter Abbarno**  
20th District State Representative, Althausen Rayan Abbarno LLP  
**Mike Alexander**  
Security State Bank  
**Mark Anders**  
Port of Chehalis  
**Dr. Kevin Caserta**  
Providence Centralia Hospital  
**Paul Ericson**  
Shelton Lam & Deck

**Arnold Haberstroh**  
Haberstroh Properties  
**Ralph Hubbert**  
H&H Classic Cars  
**Brandon Johnson**  
SCJ Alliance  
**Sue Luond**  
City of Centralia Mayor  
**Alice Menke**  
Kidder Matthews  
**Dale Merten**  
Toledo Tel  
**Luke Moerke**  
Exodus Engineering  
**Dr. Bob Mohrbacher**  
Centralia College

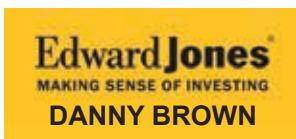
**Julie Shaffley**  
Port of Centralia  
**Cindy Sorenson**  
Sorenson Transportation Inc.  
**Bob Spahr**  
City of Chehalis  
**Gary Stamper**  
Lewis County Commissioner  
**Chad Taylor**  
The Chronicle, The Silver Agency  
**Kirk Vigre**  
Dry Box

**STAFF**  
**Richard DeBolt**  
Executive Director  
**Todd Chaput**  
Infrastructure Initiatives Program Manager  
**Eric Sonnenberg**  
External Relations Manager  
**Dolly Tardiff**  
Business Development Center Program Manager  
**Marrienne Schumacher**  
Office Manager

# THANK YOU SPONSORS



FORMALLY



CONTACT US  
360-748-0114

VISIT US  
LEWISED.COM

The following businesses sponsored various activities at the Alliance Open Golf Tournament, from hole sponsorships to birdie sponsorships and more.

The Economic Alliance of Lewis County thanks them all for helping make this Alliance Open Golf Tournament a huge, rousing success.

- |                                |                                    |  |  |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Ben Kostick, CPA               | Awards West -<br>Printwares        | Cutting Edge<br>General Contracting<br>and Landscaping | Grocery Outlet                                 |
| Best Western<br>Inn and Suites | Reggie Hamilton -<br>Hamilton Rock | Toro   | Toledo Tel                                     |
| Calypso<br>Window Washing      | Service Saw                        | Nomad Truck and<br>SUV Outfitters                      | Bob Holland -<br>Centralia General<br>Agencies |
| Centralia -<br>Les Schwab      | Dr. Bob Mohrbacher                 | The Chronicle  | Evolve Prints                                  |
| Chehalis -<br>Les Schwab       | Market Street Ace                  | Silver Agency  | Port of Chehalis                               |
| Centralia Outlets              | The Chehalis<br>Foundation         | State Farm<br>Insurance -<br>Chris Forespring          | Juanita Piña -<br>RE/MAX Key Land Co.          |
| Holiday Inn                    | JH Kelly                           | Costco   | Riverside<br>Golf Course                       |
| Katie's Candies                | Lewis County Coffee                | PNW Cookie Co.   | Twin Transit                                   |
| Kodenum, Inc.                  | Home Depot                         | TwinStar<br>Credit Union                               | Kelley Connect                                 |
| Once Upon a Thyme              | Thorbeckes                         |  | OBee Credit Union                              |
| Platinum Tan                   | Safecover<br>Roofing               |  | Thurston Economic<br>Development<br>Council    |
| Rainier Connect                |                                    |  |  |