

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Rest and relax now; the busy season is soon to come

BY RICHARD DEBOLT

Executive Director - Economic Alliance of Lewis County

We're right at the beginning of summer, but here at the Economic Alliance of Lewis County we're already starting to feel the busyness that comes in just a few short months as summer ends, vacations become memories in the rear-view mirror and our kids go back to school.

In the meantime, even though summer is supposed to be a time of relaxation and restoration, and we hope all of our members and board of directors are recharging, we find ourselves extremely busy.

Our task is fulfilling our mission of contributing to the economic vitality of Lewis County by assisting in job creation and improving our way of life. To do that we work to retain area business by aiding them to become profitable and with expansion plans, and also recruiting new businesses to our area that fit our aim to bring quality, family-wage jobs.

We have assisted close to 100 firms to come to Lewis County, providing about 2,500 jobs. We have helped more than 250 local firms to expand and strengthen their operations. In addition, the Alliance is constantly partnering with our members in business, government and community groups to help solve regulatory, utility and transportation problems.

I am really proud of our team that is truly running on all cylinders for the sole benefit of Lewis County's economy.

Coming at us like a freight train is the Sept. 13 Alliance Open Golf Tournament at Riverside Golf Course. Save the date — slots fill up fast. You can pre-register by contacting dolly@lewiscountyalliance.org or call 360-748-0114.

Another "Save the Date" is our Economic Forecast forum coming on Oct. 3. See details at the story to the left of this column. Again to pre-register, contact Dolly Tardiff, our Business Development Center/Program Manager and the glue of our staff.

One exciting news item is our move to our new office at 1209 Borthwick, Centralia. We're excited about our new space. Stop by to tour our new digs and say hello.

In conjunction with our move, our former building at 1611 N National Ave. in Chehalis has two office spaces available to lease. Interested? Again contact Dolly. Don't miss out on this fantastic chance to secure a new workspace.

Finally, join me in welcoming our newest staff member Alfa Mendez, who fills the post of Outreach Coordinator. Expect to read all about Alfa in an upcoming The Economic Report.

Alfa has lived in Chehalis for the past 27 years and is well known in the community for years of participating and volunteering for many area events.



RICHARD DEBOLT
Director — Economic Alliance of Lewis County

Alliance Economic Forum features WWU econ professors

Pre-register for the Oct. 3 featuring topics of inflation, the recession, interest rates and the economy

BY THE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE OF LEWIS COUNTY

The Economic Alliance of Lewis County is bringing back two keynote speakers from the Western Washington University's College of Business and Economics for a forum taking place October 3 at the Loft in Chehalis.

Professor in Economics Hart Hodges and Director of Economics James McCafferty will speak on the topics of inflation, the recession, interest rates and the economy.

James McCafferty

James McCafferty is the director of the Center for Economic and Business Research, Western Washington University.

McCafferty seeks to broaden the connections between the University, the College of Business and Economics and the real world — businesses, non-profits, tribal communities and government agencies — through student internships, classroom based projects and consultative projects drawing on faculty, staff and students.

McCafferty brings a unique perspective and critical tools to problems faced by organizations today based on professional and community service experience at local, regional and national lev-

els. He blends the best approaches from the for-profit, non-profit, government and individual sectors to create blended responses that are effective, efficient and practical while also maintaining long-term sustainability.

McCafferty's core skill areas include research, financial modeling, business development, branding/identity, marketing, finance, tax and legal issues (from a lay perspective), operations, growth management and strategic partnering.

McCafferty has an MBA from Western Washington University, a Bachelor of Science in Journalism/Public Relations from the University of Oregon, is a Certified Global Business Professional, serves as an officer for the Seattle Economics Council and is a past board member of the Association of University Business and Economic Research.

"Taken as a whole, Washington's labor market still tilts in favor of job seekers," he said in a recent interview with the Seattle Times. "But in some sectors, it may not feel like it."

Hart Hodges

Hart Hodges is a professor in the Department of Economics at Western Washington University and director of Western's Center for Economic and Business Research. He received his Ph.D. in Economics in 1994 from the University of Washington.



JAMES McCAFFERTY



HART HODGES

Hodges taught economics from 1993-1995 at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, and then served as the natural resource damage assessment economist for the U.S. Department of the Interior.

He also spent several years working with an economic consulting firm in Alaska. He joined the faculty at Western in the fall of 2000. His research interests include natural resource and environmental economics, health economics and applied business economics. Hodges is a member of the Northwest Workforce Council board and works with a variety of businesses and public agencies serving the mission of the Center for Economic and Business Research.

In a congratulatory message to the class of 2024 graduates, Hodges said there has recently been less hiring for STEM fields that many college students have been studying for. More hiring is happening in the leisure and hospitality sector.

"It can be very mixed in terms of what they will find," Hodges said.

Details

The Economic Forecast is from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3 at The Loft, 347 NW Pacific Ave., Chehalis. Cost is \$25 per person. Call Dolly at 360-748-0114 to pre-register. The forum is sponsored by TwinStar Credit Union and Lightcurve (formerly Rainier Connect).

Carbon market auctions fund \$750K for Chehalis tribe

Money comes from Climate Commitment Act, will help pay for clean-energy projects

BY THE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE OF LEWIS COUNTY

More than \$50 million in revenue from the state's carbon market auctions is going to 32 tribal nations across the Northwest for clean-energy projects and efforts to better safeguard communities from the effects of climate change, including \$750,000 for The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation.

The money can apply to a range of projects, including home weatherization, salmon habitat restoration and solar energy, to meet needs across geographies, cultures and economies. The grant program is funded through the Climate Commitment Act, the state's landmark climate law that requires the state's biggest polluting businesses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or purchase allowances at quarterly auctions to cover them.

In November, voters will decide the fate of the program and supporters are hoping to show its importance in efforts like this. Critics of the program have portrayed it as a cash grab by the state and that it has led to higher prices for utilities, fuel and other consumer goods.

The carbon market has raised more than \$2.1 billion so far.

If a repeal effort succeeds, grant programs available to local governments, tribes and communities like these will



Kody Christen / The Chronicle

Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation Chairman Dustin Klatush, center, smiles after being awarded the Russ Mohney Recreation Resource Stewardship Award during the Economic Alliance of Lewis County's annual banquet at Jester's Auto Museum back in February. He's pictured with Economic Alliance of Lewis County Executive Director Richard DeBolt, left, and Chronicle owner and Publisher Chad Taylor.

be lost. Revenue loss from the repeal is estimated at \$1.42 billion in the first budget biennium ending in 2025, \$1.77 billion in the following biennium and \$1.4 billion in the biennium ending in 2029, according to the state Office of Financial Management.

Gov. Jay Inslee and state Commerce Director Mike Fong traveled to make the announcement Tuesday in Taholah, where the Quinault River meets the Pacific Ocean, and where the Quinault In-

dian Nation has spent at least a decade working to move hundreds of residents and civic buildings to higher ground.

The Quinault Indian Nation received \$13 million as part of their plan to move the two main villages, Taholah and Queets, out of the Olympic Coast's flooding and tsunami zone.

The grants will support relocation to higher ground for coastal tribes such

■ SEE TRIBE, PAGE B3

SPONSORED CONTENT

THURSTON-LEWIS-MASON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Candidate Endorsement Process WSLC

Corporations outspend unions 16-to-1 in our elections. Money talks, but working people have a voice, too. And when our lawmakers write policies and pass legislation, it's important they hear from workers, not just corporations.

That's why the affiliated unions of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO engage in our elections, carefully considering candidates, voting on endorsements, and using our people power to encourage our fellow union members, neighbors, and community members to vote for candidates who pledge to listen to working people.

We follow a democratic process. Our affiliated unions select delegates to represent their members, and these representatives gather together to consider endorsements at an event called the Committee for Political Education (COPE) Convention. Candidates interested in receiving the Labor Council endorsement submit candidate questionnaires sharing if and how they would listen to working people and champion

workers' rights while in office. Delegates review questionnaires, hear directly from some candidates, and after discussion, vote on endorsements in statewide, judicial, initiative, and state legislative races.

WSLC, AFL-CIO endorsements aren't confined to one political party. Delegates look at candidates' records, not party affiliation. Endorsements require a two-thirds majority vote, a threshold that requires consensus to reach.

Once endorsements are made, the WSLC, AFL-CIO starts our people-to-people voter outreach program, Labor Neighbor. About one in five workers in Washington is union, with union members in communities across the state. Together, we knock on doors, get on the phones, talk to our coworkers, and get out the word about candidates who we believe will defend workers' rights and listen to working people. The WSLC may also donate to particular candidates or campaigns. But the real might of our endorsement is people power.

Our endorsement carries weight with voters because we're transparent about what motivates it: worker empowerment. Our goal through our political work is to create the conditions for Washington to become a better place for working people tomorrow than it is today.

Many of the policies that support working people in Washington were won through electing and lobbying politicians who are willing to listen to workers, including programs like Paid Family Medical Leave, which has supported families across Washington when they have a kid or need serious medical care. Union members helped make these policies possible for us all by working hard to elect candidates, and then working hard to keep those elected officials accountable to Washington communities.

That's the power of working people in our political process. We all have a voice, and it's up to us to make sure that voice is heard.



tlmlabor.org

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Joy Tremayne / The Silver Agency

Joy Templeton, owner of Joy's Once Upon A Thyme, delivers food to her customers in Chehalis.

Joy's Once Upon A Thyme offers fresh, local food

BY THE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE OF LEWIS COUNTY

Joy Templeton, a chef with an infectious smile and ever-busy hands, transforms the freshest local bounty like an artist at her Chehalis restaurant, Joy's Once Upon A Thyme.

Joy has been in business in her current location for 16 years, after running an Italian deli and catering business in San Francisco.

"It makes my heart warm to feed people who enjoy my fare," Joy said. "The area didn't have an authentic deli when I opened up. I really enjoy feeding and talking to my clients.

Mornings begin with her basket overflowing with plump tomatoes, impossibly green lettuces and jewel-toned berries. In the kitchen, a symphony of chopping, simmering, and baking fills the air as Joy combines these ingredients to create sumptuous meals.

Her menu, a celebration of local harvests, offers hearty sandwiches piled high with roasted vegetables, her amazing house-roasted brisket or other meats accompanied by seasonal greens or a steaming cup of her healthy, unique soup. Joy also creates delicious desserts bursting with the sweetness of chocolate, fresh berries or seasonal delights. One should also try her famous carrot cake.

Joy's Once Upon A Thyme is a welcoming vibrant hub for friends and family to gather — a place to celebrate the bounty of the land and the deep connection between chef, community and the freshest seasonal ingredients.

Joy is a member and strong supporter of the Economic Alliance of Lewis County.

"What they do to help the community is invaluable," she said. "I have gone to Richard (Richard DeBolt, executive director of the Alliance) for advice. They



The front counter at Joy's Once Upon A Thyme.



A sandwich and soup at Joy's Once Upon A Thyme.

are very aware of what's going on in the community. I like what they stand for and do for the community. I think we're lucky to have such an organization."

Featured on the Food Network

Joy's Once Upon a Thyme restaurant is thrilled to have been featured on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives" a few years ago.

Host Guy Fieri highlights the cozy diner's dishes and inviting ambiance. Joy's creative approach to comfort food shines as she shares unique recipes and techniques. The episode not only showcases the menu but also the heartwarming story behind "Once Upon A Thyme."

You can view the show on her website: joysonceuponathyme.com

Location: 1090 NW State Ave.
 Chehalis
Phone: 360-740-8944
Hours: Monday – Friday,
 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Discover the magic of starry nights in Lewis County

BY LENE LANGDON

Tourism Project Coordinator
 Economic Alliance of Lewis County

Nestled in the heart of the Pacific Northwest, Lewis County, is a hidden gem for stargazing enthusiasts and nature lovers alike.

With its low-light pollution and clear, dark skies, this region offers some of the best opportunities for observing the night sky. Whether you're an amateur astronomer, a photography buff or just someone who loves the great outdoors, Lewis County has something truly special to offer.

Sky and Star Party at Mount St. Helens

A highlight of the stargazing calendar is the Sky and Star Party at Mount St. Helens. This event is perfect for anyone fascinated by the cosmos. Held in the shadow of the iconic volcano on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 3 to 11:55 p.m., the Sky and Star Party provides a unique backdrop for an evening of astronomical exploration.

The Mount St. Helens Institute is excited to team up with Rose City Astronomers and Friends of Galileo to bring you the return of our Sky and Star Party. This event is an astronomical adventure offering a variety of activities and amenities. Unfortunately, the camping spots are all sold out.

Event Details:

- Telescopic Observations: Learn from astronomy experts as they guide you through the night sky, showcasing constellations, planets, and other celestial phenomena using high-powered telescopes.
- Educational Talks: Engage in insightful discussions about astronomy and the latest discoveries in space science.
- Community Gathering: Meet fellow stargazing enthusiasts and share your passion for the night sky.
- Delicious Meals: Enjoy dinner and dessert on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday.
- Activities: Participate in crafts, solar viewing, presentations, a constellation walk and night sky viewing.

Questions? Email: events@mshinstitute.org Call: (360) 449-7883

Starry Starry Night at Sasquatch Family Farms

Another unmissable event is the Starry Starry Night at Sasquatch Family Farms. Scheduled for Saturday, July 27, this event promises a magical night filled with stargazing, fun, and



Mount St. Helens Institute

The Sky and Star Party at Mount St. Helens is set for Aug. 3.

community spirit.

Event Details:

- Date and Time: Saturday, July 27, from 8 p.m. to midnight
- Location: Sasquatch Family Farms, 155 Buckley Rd, Lewis County
- What's Included:
 - Stargazing with Telescopes: Hosted by the Rose City Astronomy Society, this event offers guided stargazing sessions with telescopes, providing insights into the constellations, planets and more.
 - Sunset Strolls and Bat Tours: Enjoy a peaceful walk around the farm at sunset and participate in a bat conservation tour to learn about these fascinating nocturnal creatures.
 - Nighttime Photography: Enhance your night photography skills with tips from experts, or book a professional night photography session for stunning keepsakes.
 - Craft Beverages and Food Trucks: Savor a variety of craft beverages and delicious food from Mermaid Espresso, a popular local food truck.
 - Vendors and Unique Items: Explore unique items from local vendors featuring made-in-Washington products. If you're interested in becoming a vendor, email

sasquatchfamilyfarms@gmail.com.

Additional Options: When purchasing your ticket, you can also add:

- Overnight Campsite: Spend the night under the stars with a campsite on the farm.
- Picnic Charcuterie Box: Enjoy a delightful selection of gourmet treats with a picnic charcuterie box.
- Professional Night Photography Session: Capture the beauty of the night with a professional photography session.

Celtic Elk Campground: A stargazer's paradise

For those looking for a peaceful, self-guided stargazing experience, Celtic Elk Campground in Randle, is the perfect spot. This serene campground offers amazing views of the night sky, making it an ideal location for observing constellations, the Milky Way and other celestial wonders. Get lost in the endless possibilities of stars at this tranquil haven.

Why Visit Celtic Elk Campground?

- Unobstructed Views: Enjoy clear, dark skies with minimal light pollution, perfect for stargazing.

- Scenic Location: Nestled in beautiful Randle, the campground offers stunning natural surroundings.
- Relaxing Atmosphere: Escape the hustle and bustle of city life and unwind in a peaceful, natural setting.

Why visit Lewis County for stargazing?

Lewis County is renowned for its natural beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities. The county's clear, dark skies make it an ideal location for stargazing. Events like the Sky and Star Party at Mount St. Helens and Starry Starry Night at Sasquatch Family Farms offer unique experiences that combine education, entertainment and the chance to connect with nature and the community.

Whether you're an astronomy buff, a photography enthusiast or just looking for a unique way to spend an evening, Lewis County has something to offer. Don't miss out on these exciting events and the opportunity to see the stars like never before.

For more information and to stay updated on upcoming events, visit [Discover Lewis County](http://DiscoverLewisCounty.com).

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT

Harmony Lakeside RV Resort
 563 WA-122, Silver Creek • \$ 8,700,000

Listing notes:
 Harmony Lakeside RV Resort features 100 RV sites with full hookups including 20, 30 and 50 amps. Other accommodations include 24 standard and deluxe cabins that include a full kitchen and bathroom. Most RV and cabin sites are located along the water's edge or in private treed areas. The resort has a small general store, swimming pool, laundry facility and leisure activity rentals: paddle boards, fishing boats, kayaks, party boats and peddle boats. Close to Mount St. Helens and Mount Rainier. The park is centrally located between Seattle and Portland off Interstate 5 on Mayfield Lake (20 miles east of Interstate 5).



Listing agent: Martha Hunt • CENTURY 21 Lund • 360-748-8619



The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
 A Chehalis tribal member works on a fish project this past April.

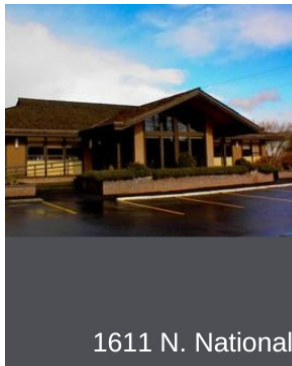
TRIBE:

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as Quinault and Shoalwater Bay; they'll help tribes including Samish, Spokane, Makah, Tulalip and Swinomish build solar energy, battery storage and other energy security efforts; and support vehicle electrification and charging infrastructure for Hoh, Sauk-Suiattle, Muck-

leshoot and others.

Commerce collaborated with tribes to design the plan to distribute the \$52 million from the Climate Commitment Act earmarked for these projects by the Legislature. Thirty-three tribes were eligible for \$750,000 in formula grants, 10 tribes won competitive grants and two tribes received direct appropriations from the Legislature.



1611 N. National Ave, Chehalis

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#2	192	\$420
#3	385	\$840
★ #4	96	\$210
★ #18	96	\$210

Economic Alliance of Lewis County

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Economic Forecast

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
 from
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



HART HODGES
 PROFESSOR IN ECONOMICS



JAMES MCCAFFERTY
 DIRECTOR OF ECONOMICS

\$20 Per person
 Pre-Register with Dolly at
360-748-0114

TOPICS

- INFLATION
- THE RECESSION
- INTEREST RATES
- THE ECONOMY

Sponsored by:



THURSDAY
OCT 3RD, 2024
1:00PM - 3:00PM
@THE LOFT
347 NW PACIFIC-CHEHALIS

SAVE THE DATE



SEPT. 13
FRIDAY | 2024

IOAM SHOTGUN START
AT RIVERSIDE GOLF COURSE

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