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Tourism Guide
2016-2017

A supplement of

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Pete Caster / pcaster@chronline.com

The stars sparkle in the twilight as Mount Rainier sits in the background south of Elbe along State Route 7.

Hike, Camp and Explore in One of the Northwest's Greatest Treasures

Southwest Washington is a prime gateway to one of the Northwest's most picturesque and expansive national parks, making Mount Rainier a perfect getaway for those wishing to escape for a prolonged day trip or some extended time with nature.

Of course, the mountain itself is probably the most recognized landmark in all of Washington state, and it's the background picture on most state license plates for good reason. The 14,410-foot peak is an active volcano that is surrounded by lush forests, alpine meadows and abundant wildlife.

The mountain itself presents quite the challenge for climbers and can test even the most hardened hikers, but most people will be best served to simply visit areas such as Paradise, Longmire and Ohanapecosh and marvel at the enormity and beauty of the peak.

Mount Rainier is part of a scenic region of the Cascades that separates the east and west sides of the state, making the

mountain more than just a destination in its own right, but an outdoors haven for anyone whose heart calls the hills and peaks of the region home.

Hiking

If you're using the Nisqually entrance, your best bets are going to be a series of short yet scenic hikes. Summertime is perfect for many of the hikes along the Longmire to Paradise corridor due to the alpine wildflowers and beargrass that will bloom.

There are multiple hikes that will take you to areas where wildflowers abound, including the Bench and Snow Lake Trail, which is accessible from Stevens Canyon Road; Lake George, which sits just east of the Nisqually entrance; Pinnacle Peak and Rampart Ridge, which is immensely popular

please see **RAINIER**, page 6

Celebrating 100 Years of National Parks

The National Park Service turns 100 years old in 2016 and wants everyone to celebrate. All national parks, including Mount Rainier National Park, will waive entrance fees on 16 special days in 2016.

The remaining entrance-fee-free days for 2016 will be:

August 25-28 — National Park Service Birthday Weekend

September 24 — National Public Lands Day

November 11 – Veterans Day

“The NPS Centennial celebrates the nation’s incredible system of parks that have been established over the past 100 years, and contemplates the need to engage current and future generations in their stewardship. Fee free days support these goals by encouraging people to visit, explore, enjoy, and ultimately care for their parks. We look forward to welcoming all visitors to Mount Rainier in 2016!” stated Superintendent Ruby King.

Whether you seek an exhilarating



hike through the wilderness, or prefer relaxed strolls through a meadow of wildflowers, there are plenty of ways to enjoy some of the wide range of national park experiences that Mount Rainier has been providing since 1899.

Centennial activities and events will be posted online to the park’s calendar throughout 2016. Keep updated on park happenings, discover things to do, and learn more about the park’s many resources by visiting www.nps.gov/mora.

Mount Rainier’s current entrance fee is \$20 per vehicle for a seven-day access

pass. This fee will be raised to \$25 on May 27, 2016.

The park’s annual pass is twice the cost of a seven day pass and provides an entire year of unlimited visits. Entrance and camping fees are used to maintain facilities and provide services that directly benefit visitors, and are a critical source of funding at Mount Rainier and other parks.

The entrance waiver on fee-free days does not cover the costs of camping site fees, Special Use Permits, or Climbing Passes. Mount Rainier also offers park annual passes for \$40, which provides an entire year of park access to the pass holder. Other available passes also cover entrance fees at national parks and other federal recreational lands throughout the country.

Find more information about the range of options at www.nps.gov/find-apark/passes.htm, or pick up a pass of your own at the park’s entrance booths.

Source: visitrainier.com



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Rainier

Continued from page 4

with families and provides a 4.6-mile loop through forests, offering views of the expansive forest below.

A simpler yet just as majestic hike can be taken from the west end of the Paradise parking lot, as the Nisqually Vista Trail takes hikers and casual walkers alike on a trail through flower fields and up to a prime viewing spot for the Nisqually Glacier.

Feeling ultra-adventurous? Grab a backpack, some water, trekking poles and your most rugged hiking gear and take the 8-mile round trip from Paradise to Camp Muir and back. The 10,000-foot mark is the highest you can go on the mountain without a climbing permit. Mind your tracks, though; bring a GPS or compass to orient yourself as getting down is tougher than getting up.

A full list of hikes, along with detailed information on how to obtain a permit for climbing Mount Rainier, is available on the National Park Service's Mount Rainier website at nps.gov/mora.

Camping

While hiking and touring the Mount Rainier region is best reserved for the day, when it comes time to wind down there is no better respite than a place of rest in the outdoors with the stars as a ceiling and the wind and wildlife providing a soundtrack for a night's sleep.

Mount Rainier National Park offers plenty of resources for campers, from full-service campsites to backcountry areas where the most intrepid outdoorsman can pitch a tent.

The Cougar Rock campground in the southwest section of the park is open from late May to late September, offering 173 campsites; Ohanapecosh in the southeast section offers 188 sites; and White River offers 112 sites. All these campgrounds offer water, restrooms and fire grates; RVs and trailers are welcome, but visit nps.gov/mora for maximum length allowances.

Reservations are also required at Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh.

For those wishing to camp in the wilderness, a permit is required. Pick one up from any of the visitor centers throughout the park.

The 93-mile Wonderland Trail offers opportunities for wilderness camping, offering the opportunity to cache food at several points along the way. Other trails in the high country areas make for pristine camping conditions — but remember, you can't start fires in the Mount Rainier wilderness.

For a list of maps and other resources with which to plan a camping trip, visit nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/maps.htm.

Exploring

Mount Rainier National Park provides several programs led by park rangers designed to inform and educate visitors.

Summertime at Paradise is prime time for several ranger programs, including the following: the Subalpine Saunter, which takes visitors from the visitor center through an exploration of the ecology of the Paradise area; Nisqually Vista Walk, which leads from the visitor



Pete Caster / pcaster@chrononline.com

Mount Rainier looms in the background as Sharon Frazzini, of Ellensburg, takes a picture of her cousin Dev Steffen, of Miami Springs, Fla., at a turnout along U.S. Highway 12 just west of White Pass.

center to the area of the Nisqually Glacier; and the Paradise Inn Evening Programs, which offer a smorgasbord of speakers, topics and activities. Ask about those at the Jackson Visitor Center or the Paradise Inn front desk.

Rangers also lead the popular Take a HIKE! With a Ranger program at Longmire, trekking from the Paradise River forest to Carter Falls in an excursion just over two miles.

For visitors checking out the Sunrise and Ohanapecosh areas, evening programs are also offered. Topics vary each night, according to the National Park Service.

And finally, for the youngest outdoor enthusiasts among us, the Junior Ranger Program is tailor-made for children ages 6-11, offering activities in a quest to earn the Junior Ranger Patch.

More Information

From Interstate 5, Mount Rainier is best accessed by taking U.S. Highway 12 to Morton then bearing north on state Route 7. Head north into Elbe, then take state Route 706 east all the way to the park entrance. A National Park Pass is required; for more information visit nps.gov/mora.

Additional information can be found online at visitrainier.com.

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Southwest Cascade Events

Packwood Mountain Festival and Fun Run

Packwood, Wash.

April 29-May 1, 2015 | whitepasscountrymuseum.org

For three days at the end of April and beginning of May, the Packwood Mountain Festival descends on the small East Lewis County town of Packwood.

The three-day event includes the annual Fun Run, which this year occurs on May 1. Runners can choose from a 5K and a 10K course. Younger attendees can test their mettle on a 1K run.

Events include live music, crafts for kids, demonstrations and an American Indian drumming ceremony.

Packwood Flea Market

Packwood, Wash.

May 27-May 30, Sept. 2-5 | packwoodfleamarket.com

Bargain shoppers and treasure hunters migrate to the picturesque Packwood community nestled at the foot of the Cascades in order to experience one of two flea markets each year.

The events draw thousands of people as vendors line U.S. Highway 12 and surrounding streets.

There are attractions for everyone ranging from children to seniors.

The offerings are endless, and it takes more than a day to see it all.

Fortunately, both the Labor Day weekend and Memorial Day weekend feature three full days of the flea market.

Packwood Summer Road Run

Cowlitz River Lodge, 13069 US-12, Packwood

June 30-31, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. | seibercountry.com/psrr.html

Packwood's streets bustle with excitement during this annual display of automotive supremacy in Packwood. All models, makes and years are welcome, and more than 35 awards will be provided. The weekend event features meet and greet Friday at the Cowlitz River Lodge.

The main event begins Saturday at 9 a.m. and culminates with a Poker Run Sunday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

White Pass Winter Carnival

White Pass Ski Area

First weekend in March | www.skiwhitepass.com

White Pass Ski Area, 12 miles southeast of Mt. Rainier National Park and 22 miles from Packwood, celebrates the winter season with a family-friendly Winter Carnival.

Held the first weekend of every March, the carnival is jam-packed with activities for the whole family, including an interactive snow castle, outdoor games, snow sport competitions, a torchlight parade and colorful fireworks
(Source: Visit Rainier).

Five Things You Didn't Know About Mount Rainier

Life on Mars

The ice caves and lake on Mt. Rainier's cratered summit are being studied for their potential for life and similarity to conditions on planets like Mars and the moons of Jupiter and Saturn.

Cold as Ice

Some of Rainier's glaciers are home to ice worms, which are endemic to the glacially clad mountains that flank the Pacific coast from Oregon to Alaska. The worms feed on bacteria and algae on the surface of the ice and their concentrations can reach 6,000 individuals per square meter.

Gimme Shelter

On January 29, 1979, two pilots crash landed just below the summit of Rainier in temperatures near 25 below zero. The pilots managed to radio for help and survive by spending the night huddling in a steam cave at the crater. They were rescued and treated only for burns.

Old Friends

Botanist Ola Edwards made the astonishing discovery that Rainier's heather communities are truly ancient. Individual plants may live 50 years and it takes up to two centuries for the plants to establish a community. Once successful, the community endures. Carbon dating stems, collected underneath heather mats, revealed they were more than 7,000 years old.

What Does the Fox Say?

Mt. Rainier is one of the only homes of the Cascade Red Fox. This rare species migrated to the Cascade Range as glaciers receded in the American Midwest.

Source: Visit Rainier



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Mount St. Helens

Welcome to Volcano Country

The rapid recovery of the ecosystem surrounding Mount St. Helens makes it hard to believe the volcano erupted only 36 years ago.

The Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument stands as a living testament to nature's regenerative power, and it's easily accessible from Lewis County for those who want to get a close-up view of the mountain and the surrounding area by car or by foot.

What once stood as a lush forest dominated by a towering mountain as a backdrop has systematically emerged from the devastation of May 18, 1980. Evidence of the destruction still marks the landscape, with pieces of the mountain known as hummocks deposited throughout the blast zone. Blown-down trees still float in Spirit Lake just as they did 36 years ago, and fine ash and dirt will evoke an image of a desert landscape.

The signs of regeneration are best explored closely. Red paintbrush peeks through the ground along several hiking trails, and small trees insulated by snow at the time of the blast have begun to mature, especially in the Mount Margaret area. Wildlife has begun to call the area home once again, and it's not out of the realm of possibility to encounter a herd of deer or elk.

Mount St. Helens is truly an area to be explored in-depth, with much to offer an entire family over the course of a few hours full day trip or even a few days in the region.

Hiking

To get the closest you can to the mountain — or even on the crater in itself — you'll have to utilize your feet. Several hikes offer the opportunity to view the mountain from a variety of angles that promise to change one's perspective on the volcano.

One of the most popular hikes for families is the Hummocks Trail, a two-mile loop around several hummocks that allow for views of the mountain while serving as Mount St. Helens Ecosystem 101. Plant life and wildlife are plentiful in the area, and it's not too difficult a trip for even the youngest among us.

Delving into moderate difficulty, the Hummocks to Johnston Ridge hike is a nearly 9-mile roundtrip that gains at least

2,000 feet in elevation while twisting and turning to offer consistently changing views of the north flank of the volcano. Bring your water and some nutrition for this one.

To get even more majestic views of the mountain — and maybe more importantly for some, away from the throngs at Johnston Ridge Observatory — park at the far end of the observatory lot and take the Boundary Trail to Harry's Ridge or Coldwater Peak, two high-elevation areas that offer a strenuous hike with a rewarding view that few people get to see.

There are several other hikes, such as the Lakes Trail and other backcountry trails not covered here. The Washington Trails Association website at www.wta.org offers detailed information on several of those hikes, complete with trip reports from people who have been there and can offer advice for the trail.

Learning

Seeing the volcano is one thing, but learning about its history, the massive 1980 eruption and the landscape in general provides a valuable context to one's excursion to Mount St. Helens.

Visitor-oriented facilities such as the Forest Learning Center and Hoffstadt Bluffs Visitor Center serve as a prelude *please see VOLCANO, page 10*

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Volcano

Continued from page 9

to the journey by providing information about the mountain along with attractions of their own. Closer to the volcano, the Mount St. Helens Science and Learning Center, formerly Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center, provides an opportunity on weekends for the public to get general information about the monument and partake in events designed to give one a greater understanding of the area.

The main attraction for many, however, remains the Johnston Ridge Observatory. The observatory sees the greatest concentration of visitors during tourist season, opening May 1 through the summer and part of the fall season.

Facing the north flank of the mountain, the center built into the hillside offers interactive exhibits, a movie, guided hikes and much more. The U.S. Forest Service, which administers the area, offers a Junior Ranger program designed to keep young minds inquisitive.

The Mount St. Helens Institute, a nonprofit organization aiming to enhance people's experiences at the mountain, offers a wide variety of activities from summit climbs with geologists to its annual Volcano Outdoor School and Volcano Camp. For more information on their offerings, visit mshinstitute.org or follow them on Facebook.

Watching

Wildlife abound in the Mount St. Helens area, and it's not uncommon to see elk grazing from several viewpoints

along state Route 505 near the Science and Learning Center at Coldwater. The aptly-named Elk Rock provides a pristine spot to search for wildlife in the hills below. Castle Lake Viewpoint nearby is a great viewing location as well.

The aforementioned Hummocks Trail is a great place to view birds due to its location close to water and trees. Warblers, sparrows, kingfishers, hummingbirds and even owls fly through on a regular basis.

Bring your binoculars.

Another excellent viewing area is the Meta Lake area, home to several species, and if you're alert enough you can even see legions of tadpoles in the lake swimming around as they grow. Beavers have also been known to swim through the area on occasion.

Meta Lake is also a wonderful spot to see a great amount of plant and other life that survived the blast, as is much of the Mount Margaret Backcountry. Those areas are best accessed by Forest Roads 25 and 99 coming south from Randle.

More Information

As with any trip to Mount St. Helens, it's always good to know before you go when it comes to hours of operation for facilities you wish to visit, road conditions and trail conditions. Find all the information you need by visiting the U.S. Forest Service's website on Mount St. Helens atfs.usda.gov/mountsthelens.

White Pass Ski Area

After an expansion doubled its size, the White Pass Ski

please see SKI, page 11



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Kids sled down a snow castle during the White Pass Winter Carnival.

Ski

Continued from page 10

Area is a haven for people seeking the glories of powder during the winter.

Late spring, summer and early fall activities at the pass include hiking, bird watching, fly fishing at Leech Lake, lake

fishing at Dog Lake, mountain biking, swimming, wildlife viewing, driving tours and huckleberry picking.

Best Bets:

- **Hogback Basin** — This 750-acre expansion area is friendly to intermediate-level skiers and features a mountain lodge.

- **Winter Carnival** — Held the first weekend in March, includes a no-holds-barred ice sculpting competition that has included a fire-breathing dragon made with a welding torch.

Find out more online at skiwhitepass.com, whitepassvillageinn.com and whitepassbyway.com.

High-Country Lakes

For fishing or hiking, car-camping or a far-away retreat, there are many alpine lakes, waterfalls and trails in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Best Bet:

- **Packwood Lake** — Just a short drive and four-mile hike from the East Lewis County community of Packwood, this 42-acre lake is on the edge of the untrammeled wilderness. The view of an island in the middle of the lake is unforgettable, and the late-summer water is the perfect temperature for swimming.

The trailhead is located on Forest Road 1260. Contact the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District at Randle (360-497-1100) for advice on trails in the area.

Find out more online atfs.usda.gov/activity/giffordpinchot/recreation/hiking.

please see LAKES, page 12

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Mount Rainier Railroad

Lakes

Continued from page 11

Pacific Crest Trail

The world-famous Pacific Crest Trail winds through huckleberry patches and opens into several areas in this well-traveled stretch of the trail that runs from Mexico to Canada.

Best Bet:

- The trail crosses U.S. Highway 12 at White Pass, making access to this hiking opportunity very easy. Hikers can plan a long camping trip, or any number of short day trips.

A variety of scenic lakes can be accessed from Lewis County via the Pacific Crest Trail.

Find out more online at atfs.usda.gov/pct.

White Pass Country Museum

12990 U.S. Highway 12, Packwood

(360) 494-4422, whitepasscountrymuseum.com

Learn about the rich history of East Lewis County and the eastern slope of the Cascades at the White Pass Country Historical Museum in Packwood. Cost is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children, and it is open by appointment.

Mount Rainier Railroad

54124 Mountain Highway East, Elbe

(360) 492-5588, mtrainierrailroad.com

Take a tour aboard a train that traces the path of an old logging railroad that once weaved through the forests and served lumber mills in East Lewis County. The railroad provides a glimpse into an integral part of the history of the region, which historically depended on timber for much of its livelihood.

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<p>SUMMER FEST - July Borst Park/Downtown Old fashioned family fair and street parade.</p> <p>ARTRAILS - September Various Centralia Locations Local art displayed throughout the county.</p>	<p>HUB CITY CAR SHOW - August Tower Avenue Classics and hot rods in the summer sun.</p> <p>LIGHTED TRACTOR PARADE - December Tower Avenue Christmas cheer, Centralia style!</p>
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Find out more at downtowncentralia.org



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A kayaker attempts to hang on down Rainbow Falls as he finishes up the Pe Ell River Run along the Chehalis River near Doty. The kayaker fell out of his boat, but easily got back to shore.

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Lewis County

Events

Pe Ell River Run

Pe Ell to Rainbow Falls State Park
Second weekend in April

There's no handbook for how to manage the Pe Ell River Run. This informal splash of an event traces back to a group of friends who decided floating from the West Lewis County town of Pe Ell downriver to Rainbow Falls State Park sounded like a good time. Now, hundreds make the journey each year, utilizing everything from rafts and inflatables to canoes and kayaks. You'll have to do some research online to find the best starting points in Pe Ell, but make plans to enjoy Rainbow Falls State Park upon your soaked arrival.

Spring Youth Fair

Southwest Washington Fairgrounds

April 29-May 1 | Springyouthfair.org

Celebrate the agricultural roots of Southwest Washington at the Spring Youth Fair, the younger sibling of the Southwest Washington Fair. The event has all the features of a full-fledged fair — a carnival, food, vendors, live music — with a focus on area youth, their livestock, their collections and their passions. The youth fair is open 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. The cost is \$5 for the weekend or a day for adults. Kids 6-12, seniors, and military members can pay \$4 a day. Children 5 and under are free.

Vader May Day

Vader

May 7, 11 a.m. | discoverlewiscounty.com

Lewis County's smallest municipality throws a huge party to celebrate May Day each year.

The Vader May Day Festival includes all the staples of

please see **EVENTS**, page 16

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Justyna Tomtas / jtomtas@chronline.com

Winlock Egg Days royalty makes their way through town on an egg float during the annual parade in 2015.

Events

Continued from page 15

small town revelry with local accents that simply cannot be found anywhere else. Take Highway 506 off of Interstate 5 and venture toward the town on May 7. If you make it by 11 a.m., you'll be able to take in the parade. After that, stick around for a carnival, tours of the town's historic locations — including the old city jail — a community garage sale, horseback rides and more.

Winlock Egg Days

Winlock

June 24-26, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. | facebook.com/winlock.day/

What festival would you imagine occurs in a town built on the poultry industry that is home to the World's Largest Egg? Yes, Winlock Egg Days are the celebratory embodiment of this friendly South Lewis County town.

People flock from all around to attend the parade and events that last throughout the weekend. It all starts with the coronation of the Egg Day Queen on Friday. Attendees will find plenty to offer in the shops, restaurants and other businesses that function within Winlock's downtown area.

The festival also includes games, crafts, food, live music and an opportunity to tour such beloved local establishments as the Winlock Historical Museum.

Of course, there are plenty of egg salad sandwiches to go around. Naturally.

Billetproof Car Show

Southwest Washington Fairgrounds, 2555 N National Ave, Chehalis

June 25, 9:45 a.m. | billetproof.com

For the uninitiated, it's a car show unlike any other. Billetproof isn't hung up on classifications or specific models of vehicles. In fact, it's billed as the "World's Least Important Car Show." You'll see four-wheeled marvels unlike any other at this immensely popular event that spill over into the Centralia and Chehalis from its headquarters at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds. Spectator entrance opens at 9 a.m. The cost is \$10

please see EVENTS, page 17

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Events

Continued from page 16

for most spectators, but admission is free for children under 13 and members of law enforcement or emergency response organizations. The event includes a cruise through Downtown Centralia for participants, a pinstripe panel jam, live music, vendors and a swap meet.

Summerfest

Centralia

July 4 | cityofcentralia.com

As far as events and festivals in Southwest Washington, Summerfest sits near the top in terms of size, scope and importance to people in the greater Centralia area. It's an all-day extravaganza that begins with food, games, live music and demonstrations in Fort Borst Park and ends with a stunning fireworks display at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds.

All in all, it's the quintessential celebration of freedom and independence for residents of Lewis County who carry decades-old memories of attending the affairs with their parents and later initiating their own children.

Morning offerings include a free pancake breakfast, the I Ran From the Cops run/walk and more at Fort Borst Park. After a 4 p.m. parade, revelers head to the fairgrounds for a demolition derby and other festivities.

Don't miss out on tours at the Fort Borst homestead along the Chehalis River. Check the city of Centralia's website for details as you plan for an Independence Day you won't soon forget.

Toledo Cheese Days

Toledo

July 7-10 | toledolionsclub.org/cheesedays.html

The city of Toledo is a beautiful, rural town on the road to improvement. The spirit of transformation can be found most potently in its annual Cheese Days celebration.

Spearheaded by the Toledo Lions Club, the extravaganza lasts a full weekend and functions as a celebration of the dairy industry and the cheese it produces.

There's a car show from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Breakfast is provided at the senior center before the town comes together for a parade at 11 a.m. After the floats are finished, choose between a silent auction, a kids carnival, raffles, wine, beer and cheese tasting, a barbecue, a horseshoe tournament and more.

The Lions Club provides free cheese sandwiches for those



Pete Caster / pcaster@chronline.com

Kylee Smith, of Winlock, has her cellphone camera ready while she encourages her dad, Russ Smith, as he competes in the Mossyrock Blueberry Festival pie-eating contest.

looking for a meal themed to the occasion.

Learn more online.

Winlock Pickers Fest

Winolequa Park, Winlock

July 8-10, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. | winlockpickersfest.com or wamamusic.com

The Washington Acoustic Music Association has chosen the Egg City as the location of this annual festival that celebrates bluegrass-themed music. Amateurs and professionals alike take the stage at Winolequa Park for two days of laid-back entertainment.

Camping is available at the site, which also plays host to activities for children, open microphone sessions and instructional workshops.

Learn more about the event online.

Napavine Funtime Festival

Main Street, Napavine

July 16-17, 9:15 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Many of the small towns in Western Washington celebrate their roots with festivals.

In Napavine, it's all about fun.

The Funtime Festival includes a car show, lawnmower races and of course a parade. Most of the festivities are centered around Saturday, but stick around for the car show on Sunday.

please see **EVENTS**, page 18

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Events

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Mossyrock Blueberry Festival

Mossyrock

Aug. 5-7 | mossyrockfestivals.org

Venture off of U.S. Highway 12 and drive straight into the heart of Mossyrock for a celebration of this East Lewis County town and its agricultural history.

The Blueberry Festival is held annually the first week of August. It features vendors, live music, activities for children and, of course, all things blueberry. It's organized by the Mossyrock Action League, which sees to it that every event is enjoyable to both locals and wayward travelers looking to sample the local scene (and, again, blueberries).

Morton Loggers Jubilee

Morton

Aug. 11-14, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. | loggersjubilee.com

You might know it as the Loggers Jubilee, but locals and regular attendees call it by another moniker — "The Granddaddy of All Logging Shows."

The latter name better encapsulates the sheer size and scope of the event, which stretches over four days and attracts thousands of people interested in seeing who is the very best at their trade.

This year will mark the 74th jubilee in Morton, and it promises to be just as enjoyable as its predecessors.

Choker-setting, log-rolling, axe-throwing and speed climbing are just a few of the heart-stopping competitions scheduled to occur in the friendly, rural logging town of Morton off of U.S. Highway 12. That's not even mentioning all the opportunities and revelry throughout the town during the weekend. Lawnmower races, a parade, and a 10K run round out the offerings on a weekend that largely unites the East Lewis County town and draws in thousands of visitors.

As the event draws closer, learn more online.

Mount St. Helens Bluegrass Festival

Toledo

Aug. 12-14 | washingtonbluegrassassociation.org/

Hosted in Toledo, this festival provides another opportunity for visitors and residents to take in some sweet, twangy bluegrass music. For specific information on lineups as the event draws closer, check the Washington Bluegrass Association website.

52nd Annual Threshing & Gas Show

3.5 miles north of Toledo on Jackson Highway

August 27-28 2016

The old tools and machines of agriculture are the focus of this annual South Lewis County festival. Attendees are treated to an up-close look at tractors, threshers and other farming equipment in a setting filled with all the usual festival favorites.

Cowlitz Powwow

Toledo High School gymnasium

Sept. 17, 1 to 10 p.m.

Search Cowlitz Indian Tribe Pow Wow on Facebook

Before white settlers arrived in what is now Southwest Washington, the land was occupied, utilized and cared for by American Indians.

Each year, the public is invited to the Cowlitz Powwow to honor and preserve the traditions, customs and history of Native Americans.

It features a grand entry at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. with a dinner of salmon being served at 5 p.m.

The Pow Wow, in its 17th year, will feature Tanna Chattin-Engdahl as Head Woman Dancer, Mark Sison as Head Man Dancer, and The Allen Family Singers as Host Drum.

Fat Tire Ride and Festival

Willapa Hills Trail

Chehalis to Pe Ell

June 25-26, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. | ridethewillapa.com

Be a part of local history by taking part in the first Fat Tire Ride and Festival along the Willapa Trail, which stretches from rural Chehalis to Pe Ell and beyond.

The aim is to showcase the beauty of the valleys that host the trail and highlight the farms along the way. Cyclists will depart from the Veterans Memorial Museum at 100 SW Veterans Way, Chehalis and travel 22 miles to the West Lewis County town of Pe Ell along state Route 6. There will be a festival and an overnight stay before riders journey back to Chehalis on Sunday. The cost ranges from \$30 for an individual to \$80 for a family, prices that include a t-shirt. Meal tickets are an extra \$10.

Visit the website to register or find additional information.

Northwest Bead, Glass and Fire Arts Show

Northwest Sports Hub, 701 Allen Ave, Centralia,

Memorial Day, Labor Day weekends | nwbfga.com/

Organizers are inviting artists, suppliers and manufacturers to display, demonstrate, and sell their products in a fun and creative way. The show is designed to open the imagination and inspire creativity for all levels of enthusiasts. Contact Sandra Wing, P.O. Box 305, Onalaska, or slwingdesigns@yahoo.com for more information.

ChehalisFest

Chehalis

July 30-31 | chamberway.com

You'll be hard-pressed to take in all the sights and sounds of this ever-transforming Mint City celebration. A staple in recent years has been a Civil War reenactment on Tune Road just outside Chehalis. There are often free flights for children at the nearby

please see **EVENTS**, page 19

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SEP 17 - BATMAN	NOV 19 - THE SANDLOT
OCT 1 - GHOSTBUSTERS	DEC 3 - HOME ALONE

Events

Continued from page 18

Chehalis-Centralia Airport. To top it off, attendees can watch RallyCross in action — and even give it a go themselves — in a field owned by the Port of Chehalis south of the town by the same name.

The event is organized by the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce, which can be reached at (360) 748-8885.

Southwest Washington Fair

Southwest Washington Fairgrounds, 2555 N National Ave, Chehalis

Aug. 16-21, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. | southwestwashingtonfair.net

For more than a century one week during the summer has been reserved for the revelry and pageantry of the Southwest Washington Fair.

The event represents many things for many people.

It's a carnival. It's a venue for top entertainers. It's a place where memories are formed that last many lifetimes.

Above all, though, the Southwest Washington Fair is a showcase of all that's wonderful about this beautiful swath of the Evergreen State.

Wander the grounds and you're likely to find something to satisfy all your senses. The midway sparkles and hums with the quintessential sounds and sights of American carnival life, the smell of elephant ears and other fairtime food favorites always carried by a light summer breeze. Barns burst with livestock and poultry raised by the youth of the greater Lewis County area, the living results of hard work and a way of life that has remained stubbornly similar to yesteryears.

At the Southwest Washington Fair, you'll find staples of Americana right alongside unique local offerings such as the annual Diaper Derby, an event that features dozens of chubby-cheeked, adorable crawlers all unknowingly working to win a grand prize for their parents. You'll find local performers picking away at guitars or belting out popular tunes on stages tucked throughout the fairgrounds. Children will be amazed and entertained by Friendlyville, an area dedicated to the wonderment and smiles of the youngest attendees.

Hub City Car Show

Downtown Centralia

Aug. 27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. | chamberway.com

Downtown Centralia is filled with lines of classic cars during this Hub City favorite sponsored by the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce. The day includes vendors, live music and endless opportunities to gaze upon automotive wonders while popping in and out of the dozens of shops that make Downtown Centralia a shopper's dream. The event is organized by the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce, which can be reached at (360) 748-8885. View the website for details as the event approaches.

ARTrails Studio Tours

Southwest Washington

September | artrailsofsw.org

(360) 864-2621

Meet dozens of local artists and see their workplaces on the annual ARTrails studio tour. From traditional oil and canvas to modern photography and sculpture, you'll be amazed at what our local artists create. Tours take place in September, with specific

dates for this year still to be announced.

Southwest Washington Writers Conference

Centralia College, Centralia

Sept. 17 | southwestwashingtonwriters.com/

The third annual Southwest Washington Writers Conference will be held at Centralia College. There is a terrific conference lined up, with award-winning memoirist Jennifer Lauck as keynoter. She is the author of the New York Times bestseller "Blackbird," a memoir translated into 22 languages. She has written three additional memoirs, and will teach about Artistic Perseverance in Six Steps, the Essay in Eight Steps, and Drafts One and Two: Novel or Memoir. See the website for a full lineup of speakers and authors. Registration for the conference is required.

Onalaska Apple Harvest

Onalaska

Sept. 30, Oct. 1-2 | goo.gl/LVy1yx

The Apple Harvest is the culmination of a long summer and fall schedule of festivals across the greater Lewis County area, and it's gaining in popularity. Thousands of people descend on the town each autumn to celebrate the diversity of Onalaska. As organizers say, "our festival started out small, but now we are struggling to contain the awesomeness!" Those who decide to take part will be treated to live entertainment, pie-eating contests, a parade, a community dinner, vendors, booths and so much more.

The Santa Parade

Downtown Chehalis

Dec. 3, 11 a.m. to noon | chamberway.com

Get into the Christmas spirit with a Chehalis tradition that is reaching its 67th year. Thousands of people turn out for the festivities, centered around a parade with Old Saint Nick that begins at 11 a.m.

Lighted Tractor Parade

Downtown Centralia

Dec. 10, 6-8 p.m. | downtowncentralia.org/

The seventh annual Lighted Tractor Parade is expected to bring large crowds for a unique parade highlighting the agricultural history of the area. The event has quickly become a favorite, as dozens of tractors, trucks, floats and virtually anything with wheels parade down Main Street, Tower Avenue and Pearl Street, all adorned with bright lights as Christmas music fills the night air. The Centralia Downtown Association is the brains behind this fast-growing extravaganza.

Southwest Washington Dance Center Events

Since 1982, the Southwest Washington Dance Center has enriched the lives of its participants and spectators alike. Take the chance to enjoy some of their work by making plans to attend the Spring Into Summer All School Dance.

- June 23, 6 p.m. — Creative Dance & School Tour Production of "Where the Wild Things Are"

- June 25, 11 a.m. — Creative Dance & School Tour Production of "Where the Wild Things Are;" 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. upper level performance.

Tickets available at the Southwest Washington Dance Center (360) 748-4789

The 21st annual Nutcracker Ballet is Dec. 16-18 at Corbet Theatre at the Centralia College campus. View the schedule on the web at www.swwdance.org.



Pete Caster / pcaster@chronline.com

Steve Hailstorm, of Oakville, digs a hole as part of an effort by volunteers to plant trees along the banks of the Chehalis River at Discovery Park in Centralia.

Lewis County *Sites to See*

Seminary Hill Natural Area

This 72-acre hillside is dense with second-growth trees and carefully tended hikes. Even in the heat of summer, the canopy of fir, maple and cedar keeps the trails cool as trillium. Maidenhair ferns and other natural wonders flourish around you.

Enter on the eastern edge of downtown Centralia at the corner of Locust Street and Barner Drive.

Chehalis River Discovery Trail

This trail is actually northwest of Centralia, but it contains a beautiful stretch of the Chehalis River. Watch for bald eagles overhead and plan to pick blackberries if you visit in late July.

Enter from Goodrich Road off Old Highway 99.

Stations of the Cross

The DeGoede family, devout Catholics who settled in Lewis County and raise tulips, made a trail on a hillside near Mossyrock leading from a humble chapel to a grand 50-foot-tall cross built on a bluff overlooking Lake Mayfield.

The trail is adorned with a painting depicting the 12 Stations of the Cross. Directions are available at DeGoede Bulb Farm and Garden, (360) 983-9000.

Willapa Hills Trail

Known locally as the "rails to trails," this 56-mile-long path runs from Chehalis to the Pacific Coast town of South Bend.

Partially paved, the trail runs through farmland and winds up the Chehalis River Valley and into the namesake Willapa Hills.

The trail is popular with bikers, joggers and even Scout troops that take on the entire hike as a week-long excursion.

Hit the Links in Lewis County

Riverside Golf Club

Riverside Golf Club offers 18 holes along the Chehalis River that have become a favorite for the most seasoned golfers in the area.

The course, situated at the north end of Chehalis just behind the Chehalis-Centralia Airport, offers a scenic course that offers a great way to relax and unwind while still offering a challenge.

Riverside is also home to several events, such as the annual Lewis County Amateur, United Way Golf Tournament, Ladies Night and more.

Aside from the sport of golf itself, Riverside has also begun a pickleball league that uses space under the pavilion to the north of the clubhouse. The course also hosts several events in its restaurant and Roof Top Bar, including the ever popular Comedy at the Course series.

A full-service pro shop comes fully stocked with apparel, equipment and more to help improve and hone one's game. Golf lessons are available from the Pro Shop as well.

For people coming in from outside the area, Riverside also offers an RV park. Call (360) 748-8182 for more information about available hookups and amenities.

Visit www.playriversidegolf.com or follow them on Facebook at [Facebook.com/riverside.golfclub](https://www.facebook.com/riverside.golfclub) for more information and updates on events throughout the year.

Where: 1451 NW Airport Rd., Chehalis

Contact: (360) 748-8182

Website: www.playriversidegolf.com

Gate Ranch Golf Course

One of the hidden gems of our area lies just west of Rochester, where the Dunson brothers operate a quaint par-3 golf course on land they own.

Stop by with clubs of your own or borrow some from the owners, and just enjoy a quick round on nine holes that may prove to be a surprising challenge. Navigating water, trees, bumps and ridges requires a bit of technical skill to one's game.

The course is entirely playable with a few irons, pitching wedge and a putter. One is best served leaving the drivers and woods at home.

There's no fee to play, but donations are encouraged. The course is open seven days a week, and if you're looking for a quirky yet fun golf outing, the Gate Ranch Golf Course has offered just that for more than a decade.

For more information on Gate Ranch Golf Course, call (360) 273-7074.

Where: 11900 Hunter Rd. SW, Rochester

Contact: (360) 273-7074

please see **GOLFING**, page 21

Golfing

Continued from page 20

Ironwood Green Golf course

If you're looking to play a quick round on a rustic, nine-hole course while taking in all the sights of mountainous East Lewis County, consider a stop at Ironwood Green in Glenoma just off U.S. Highway 12.

The executive course features 1,512 yards of golf. It's a par 30. According to golfnow.com, it was designed by James Redman and opened in 1983.

Where: 8138 Highway 12, Glenoma
Contact: (360) 498-5425

Newaukum Valley Golf Course

Locally owned and operated for more than three decades, Newaukum Valley Golf Course provides 27 holes of golf and has recently added two new twists on the game.

Three nine-hole groupings known as the South Nine, East Nine and West Nine each have a style all their own while bringing golfers through tranquil areas near the Newaukum River. The South Course leaves little to no room for error, the East Course is a bit more forgiving, and the West Course is deceptive in its short length yet golfers need to be technical and precise.

The course offers both a Men's Club and Ladies' Club. Contact their front desk for more details on involvement and how to sign up.

Two recent changes to the West Course offer new ways to get into the game of golf. Hack Golf aims to provide novice golfers a wider cup — 15 inches in diameter — to allow for work on

one's short and putting game. An entirely new tweak to the game, FootGolf, is also available. Bring your soccer ball or rent one from the course and book a tee time to enjoy the game of golf with your foot as the driving force.

Newaukum Valley Golf Course is home to The Grill, offering a variety of food and availability for events. Call 748-0461 for more information.

Visit www.golfnewaukum.com or follow them on Facebook at [Facebook.com/GolfNewaukum](https://www.facebook.com/GolfNewaukum).

Where: 153 Newaukum Golf Drive, Chehalis
Contact: (360) 748-0461
Website: www.golfnewaukum.com

Underwater Ghost Towns

The towns of Mayfield, Riffe and Kosmos are located under Riffe Lake — a result of building the Mayfield and Mossyrock dams in the 1960s. You can see the towns if the water level is low enough.

Taidnapam Park

The park is popular for camping and fishing. Nearby Dog Mountain is a mecca for hang-gliders.

More than 4,000 years ago, the Cowlitz and Yakama tribes inhabited the area — an interpretive display is at the park with more information about the location's history.

Where: 117 Cayuse Lane, Glenoma
Contact: (360) 295-3711
Website: www.mytpu.org/tacomapower/parks-rec

Justice General Store, Onalaska

Step back in time when you visit the quaint Justice General Store, with its wooden floors and old-fashioned ambiance. It is

please see SITES, page 25

Welcome to the Ramblin Restaurant Group Discover our great food, locations in Olympia and Chehalis, and our remarkable service. Our Washington restaurants range from fine dining to casual dining. We have the highest quality and freshest ingredients at all our locations. Choose from one of our Olympia or Chehalis restaurants: Ramblin Jack's Rib Eye, Ramblin Jacks, Mercato Ristorante, and Italia Pizzeria.



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Fri. - Sat. till 10pm
111 Market St. NE, Olympia, WA 98501
360.528.3663

Visit all our restaurants online at ramblinrestaurants.com

Food & Drink

1. Heymann Whinery

212 N. Tower Ave. Centralia, WA 98531
360-623-1106
www.heymanwhinery.com

Heymann Whinery, owned by Bob and Flossie Heymann, is a local winery that sells its own label of grape and fruit wines — including dry, semi-dry/sweet and sweet wines. Heymann also offers wine-related gifts and local cheeses, and is among the sellers of the delicious Cougar Gold cheese from WSU. In addition, the winery supplies home wine-makers with supplies needed to participate in their hobby of making delicious wine.

2. Sandstone Distillery

842 Wright Rd SE Tenino, WA 98589
360-239-7272
www.sandstonedistillery.com

With a penchant for hard work and uncompromising standards, Sandstone Distillery, a family-owned and certified Green sustainable business, brings the best of Washington-grown grains to the best in YOUR bottle! Our Vodka and White Whiskey are award winning grain-to-bottle craft spirits, and our offerings include not only these award-winning spirits, but also our Gin, Black Gin, Bacon Whiskey, Rosemary-Infused and barreled spirits. Tours & Tastings of our spirits and cocktails Thursday-Monday from noon to 5 p.m. Cheers!

3. Medicine Creek Winery

947 Old Pacific Hwy SE Olympia, WA 98513
360-701-6284
medicinecreekwinery.com

We are a boutique winery located in the Nisqually Valley, an area steeped in deep historical significance that is thought to be the original homestead of James McCallister, who settled the Nisqually Valley in the mid-1800s. The barn has undergone many different uses with a SLOW transformation to its present condition. This structure represents the lifelong efforts of the winemaker, his family and a handful of his dedicated friends. Together, they have blended their talents and creativity, resulting in a unique and warm environment. Tasting room hours are Saturday & Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Come and taste award-winning wines.

6. Stottle Winery

2641 Willamette Dr. NE, Suite E Lacey, WA 98516
360-515-0356
www.StottleWinery.com

“Nothing to say but bravo!” – Wine Enthusiast Magazine. Stottle Winery has been making world class wines from old vines grown in Eastern Washington since 2007. Join us at our brand new winery tasting room to sample some of our 16 different award-winning wines. We produce wonderful red and white blends, and excellent single varietal wines including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Syrah, Tempranillo, Viognier, and several others. Just 2 minutes off I-5 in Lacey, WA, exit 111. Open for tastings & tours Wednesday-Sunday from noon-5 p.m. (October-March) and noon-6 p.m. (March – September).

Salish Sea Organic Liqueurs is a distillery located in the vibrant Hawks Prairie area of Lacey, Washington. We produce nearly 20 different small batch organic liqueurs; each one is handcrafted in one gallon batches using unique blends of organic herbs, fruits, and premium spirits through the process of cold maceration. If you are a lover of organic herbs and flowers, our wide range of products will offer you the opportunity to explore and enjoy some of the best the herbal world can offer.

4. Salish Sea Organic Liqueurs
2641 Willamette Dr NE, Suite D Lacey, WA 98516
360-890-4927
www.distilledorganics.com

5. Northwest Mountain Winery
2629 Reinhardt Ln NE, Suite Q Lacey, WA 98516
360-464-7125
www.nwmountainwine.com

We are a family owned and operated winery located in Lacey, WA. Our wines are made with fruit from Eastern Washington, coming from AVAs such as Horse Heaven Hills, Columbia Valley, and Yakima Valley. Our grapes come from vineyards such as Coyote Canyon Vineyards, Columbia Mirage Vineyards, Burgess Vineyards, and Waiving Tree Vineyards, just to name a few. Our wines are hand-crafted, hand-bottled and hand-labeled. We age our wines in French and American Oak, along with stainless steel. We are open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and some holidays for wine tasting. We hope you will enjoy drinking our wines as much as we enjoy making our wines.

6. Stottle Winery
2641 Willamette Dr. NE, Suite E Lacey, WA 98516
360-515-0356
www.StottleWinery.com

“Nothing to say but bravo!” – Wine Enthusiast Magazine. Stottle Winery has been making world class wines from old vines grown in Eastern Washington since 2007. Join us at our brand new winery tasting room to sample some of our 16 different award-winning wines. We produce wonderful red and white blends, and excellent single varietal wines including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Syrah, Tempranillo, Viognier, and several others. Just 2 minutes off I-5 in Lacey, WA, exit 111. Open for tastings & tours Wednesday-Sunday from noon-5 p.m. (October-March) and noon-6 p.m. (March – September).

7. Black Sheep Creamery
570 N Market Blvd. Chehalis, Wa 98532
 360-345-1507
www.blacksheepcreamery.com

Brad and Meg Gregory have been making finely handcrafted fresh and aged cheeses since 2005. Their farm, located in Adna, Washington, is home to about 120 East Friesian and Lacunae ewes. This healthy flock is pasture-fed as much as the weather permits and supplemented with grain in the milking parlor.

In addition to cheese, Black Sheep Creamery produces wonderful yarns and wools for knitters, hand spinners, and felters.

8. Domina Dairy and Ceamery
265 Romerman Road Chehalis, Wa 98532
 360-262-9112

John, Sheila, and Nikkolena Ahmann run this dairy and creamery with fresh cream line milk and cheeses with an old country flavor the way our grandparents had it.

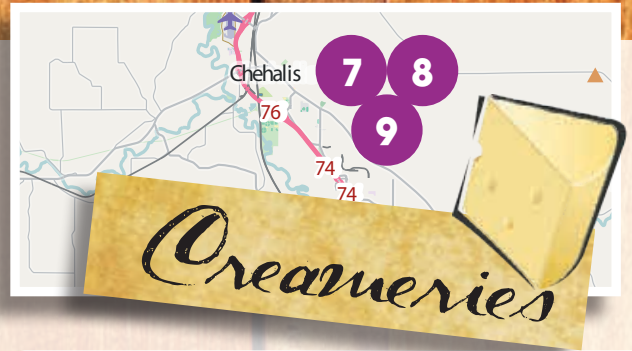
The creamery is open Saturdays 11 a.m.-5 p.m. or by appointment only. Call today to set up a visit!



Breweries

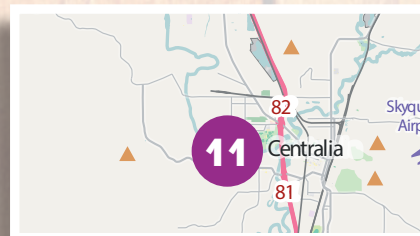
10. Northwood Public House and Brewery
1401 SE Rasmussen Blvd.
Battle Ground, WA 98604
 360-723-0937
Northwoodpublichouse.com

Located at the gateway to the Mount St. Helens and Lewis River recreational areas, Northwood Public House is the family-friendly gathering place for comfortable dining and great beer. Our own Little Dipper Brewing Company brews exceptional small batch beers and we offer an extensive array of the west's best craft beers on our 21 taps. Drink, dine and socialize in the main room under soaring ceilings in a roomy booth or table. Live music every Saturday night and enjoy outside seating on our patio during the summer months.
Northwoodpublichouse.com



9. Willapa Hills Farmstead & Artisan Cheese
4680 WA-6 Chehalis, Wa 98532
 360-291-3937
www.willapahillscheese.com

At Willapa Hills Farmstead & Artisan Cheese, we are committed to making fabulous handcrafted sheep and cow milk cheese on our family farm in Southwest Washington. Join us as we make this year our best year yet!



11. Dick's Brewing Company & Tasting Room
3516 Galvin Rd.
Centralia, WA 98531
 360-736-1603
www.dicksbeer.com

Must be 21+. Open Fridays & Saturdays 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with free tours at 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Twelve Dick's Beers are on tap and as well as our Homemade Rootbeer. Six packs, cases and growlers are available to purchase to go.

Monday through Friday, we are busy as a production facility, but on Friday, we clear space, set up tables and chairs and bring out the picnic tables. At 3 p.m., the brewery slowly turns into a local hangout spot where friends gather to enjoy a pint or two of their favorite Dick's Beer. Our retail location, Northwest Sausage & Deli, is family-friendly, serves food and offers 11 Dick's Beers on tap. It is open Monday-Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Thursday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m.

Sites

Continued from page 21

said to be the oldest continually running grocery store in Washington.

Where: 116 Main St., Onalaska
Contact: (360) 978-4194

World's Largest Egg

A giant egg that bills itself as the world's largest pays tribute to the town's days of being home to a chicken co-operative.

Where: 520 Kerron St., Winlock

Yard Birds

Once a mega-store that carried everything from clothing to pets, the building that housed it has now been repurposed into a home for several small shops comprising the largest swap meet in the region. The Yard Bird itself, the giant structure greeting people on National Avenue, has been voted KING 5 Evening Magazine's Best Roadside Attraction.

Where: 2100 N. National Ave., Chehalis
Contact: (360) 748-1489
Website: yardbirdsmall.com

St. Urban Church

Once the religious centerpiece of a town that is no longer, St. Urban Church opened in 1891. It was restored in 2010 after having been slated to be destroyed. A cemetery from years past sits behind the structure.

Where: Military Road, Winlock

Claquato Church

Built in 1858, the Claquato Church is thought to be the oldest Protestant church in the Pacific Northwest and it's included on the National Register of Historic Places. The church also hosts some events throughout the year, including the Lewis County Historical Museum's Pioneer Pie Social in the summer.

Where: 125 Water St., Chehalis
Contact: (360) 748-4551

Fort Borst Park

This 101-acre park includes the 1860s Borst Home, a one-room schoolhouse replica as well as the Fort Borst blockhouse. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children aged 5 to 12 years and \$10 for families (Borst Home admission). Head west on Harrison Avenue in Centralia. Turn left on Johnson Road, go past the middle school and swimming pool. Follow the signs to the Borst Home.

Contact: (360) 330-7688

Olympic Club

McMenamins Olympic Club remains one of Centralia's most popular destinations — that's not surprising since it comprises a restaurant and bar, a hotel and even a movie theater. If you go, be sure to pick up some locally brewed beer to go.

Where: 112 N. Tower Ave., Centralia
Contact: (360) 736-5164
Website: www.mcmenamins.com/451-olympic-club-home

DeGoede Bulb Farm

If strolling through 30 acres of tulips sounds like a nice way to spend an afternoon, consider visiting the family-owned De-

Goede Bulb Farm and Gardens, located just off U.S. Highway 12. The family first grew flowers in Holland, then later moved to Mount Vernon, Wash., and finally to their current location in Mossyrock. There are also 100 greenhouses, a garden center and a show garden with a pond and waterfall.

Where: 409 Mossyrock Road West, Mossyrock
Contact: (360) 983-9000
Website: www.degoedebulb.com

Veterans Memorial Museum

The Veterans Memorial Museum showcases the personal histories of veterans from Lewis County. Several events throughout the year pay tribute to people from across our region who have served overseas and in support roles in armed conflict.

Where: 100 S.W. Veterans Way, Chehalis
Contact: (360) 740-8875
Website: www.veteransmuseum.org

Lewis County Historical Museum

Housed in a 1912 Northern Pacific Railroad depot in downtown Chehalis, the Lewis County Historical Museum is dedicated to the preservation of the history and heritage of Lewis County. The museum is also home to a local model railroad club.

Where: 599 N.W. Front Way, Chehalis
Contact: (360) 748-0831
Website: www.lewiscountymuseum.org

Jackson House

The 1845 Jackson House was the first pioneer home built north of the Columbia River. It's located near Lewis and Clark State Park. Take U.S. Highway 12 to Mary's Corner and turn south on Jackson Highway, where you'll see it just off the side of the road.

Contact: (360) 864-2643

The Vintage Antique Motorcycle Museum

This private collection includes original and fully restored pre-1916 Indians, Harley-Davidson Excelsiors and other vehicles and bicycles. It's a stunning testament to America's love of horsepower. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekdays or by appointment. Admission is \$5.

Where: 545 N. Market Blvd., Chehalis
Contact: (360) 748-3472
Website: http://antiquemotorcycles.net

Chehalis-Centralia Steam Train and Museum

Thousands of people visit the Chehalis-Centralia Steam Train and Museum each year, and for good reason. The facility, located along Interstate 5 near the Veterans Memorial Museum at 1101 SW Sylvanus St, Chehalis, offers special rides on its antique locomotives throughout the year. Rides take passengers through the rolling fields and countryside of West Lewis County. The regular season includes Saturdays and Sundays May 28-Aug.28 and Sept. 3-Sept. 24. Trains leave the station at 1, 3 and 5 p.m. on Saturdays, 1 and 3 p.m. on Sundays. There are also special events throughout the year, including dinner trains, Easter trains and Santa trains. Get all the details online at www.steamtrainride.com. Call (360) 748-9593 for additional information.

A Very Vibrant Shopping Scene in The Twin Cities



Centralia

Perhaps the most well-known shopping opportunity in the county known to people outside the local area, the Centralia Factory Outlet, offers more than 30 outlet stores on both sides of Interstate 5. Nike, Under Armour, Coach, Polo Ralph Lauren, Van Heusen and more represent a variety of stores that offer discounted pricing on name-brand clothing and more.

But there's more to the shopping scene in Centralia than the outlets. A renewed economic landscape in the city's downtown core has resulted in business activity increasing among locally-owned stores that offer everything from antiques to books and a whole lot of other stuff in between.

HUBBUB has complemented the shopping scene downtown for nearly a decade, offering contemporary crafts and gifts from housewares to toys and jewelry. A newcomer to downtown, Loose Ends Fiber Arts, gives spinsters a wide variety of yarn and equipment to choose from.

A collection of antique stores such as Attic Door Vintiques and Ayala Brothers Furniture & Antique Shop promises hours of opportunity for collectors to peruse. Those stores and several others are major reasons Centralia was listed in USA Today's 10 Best Spots for Antiquing in September 2014.

Completing the scene in downtown Centralia is a smattering of restaurants, coffee shops and pubs that give visitors and locals alike a chance to sit down for awhile and enjoy the downtown vibe. Restaurants and bars downtown include the McMenamin's Olympic Club, Centerville Cafe, O'Blarney's at the Gibson House, and Great Cuisine of India, among others. All are located along the downtown stretch of Tower Avenue.

And if you're fortunate enough to visit downtown Centralia on a Saturday, check to see if the Fox Theatre is hosting one of its many entries in the Fox Theatre Film Series. The theater, which was once the place to be in Centralia for movies and silent films, is regaining its status as a cultural and arts center of the Hub City through a revitalization project that continues.

Chehalis

The Mint City is also home to several retail offerings through both a vibrant downtown and the Twin City Town Center — and it's also home to a store that once captured the hearts of many during its four decades of existence.

The charming core of Chehalis's downtown area brings together a variety of businesses and restaurants, giving several options for people just wishing to visit or buy something special for someone. It's a mix of longtime businesses such as Bartels, Brunswig's Shoes and Book 'N' Brush.

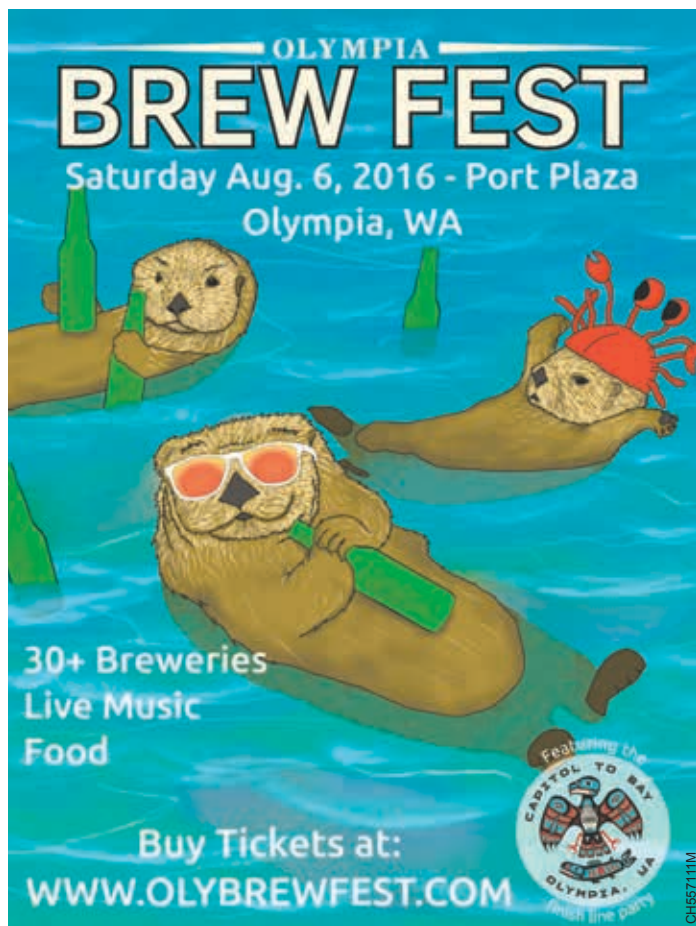
Restaurants in or near downtown offer a place to relax and enjoy a meal. Mackinaw's, Sweet Inspirations and the Market Street Bakery and Cafe are all located within the two-block downtown core on Market Boulevard.

Chehalis also has its own retail complex off the freeway, just three miles south of the Centralia Outlets off Exit 79. The Twin City Town Center is home to Walmart, The Hope Depot, Kmart, Michaels, Big 5 Sporting Goods and many more.

A sentimental favorite among longtime area residents, the Yard Birds Mall is home to the largest swap meet in the Pacific Northwest, a rebirth for a building once home to a store that offered a vast variety of wares under one roof at 2100 N. National Ave.

Today, Yard Birds Mall also hosts Shankz Blacklight Miniature Golf, a family-friendly spot that offers a snack bar, arcade and theater.

Outdoors enthusiasts will enjoy Sunbird Shopping Center, located just south of Yard Birds on National Avenue. The store there offers workwear, sporting goods, firearms, fishing equipment and tackle, lawn and garden materials and more oriented for the outdoors.



Arts Scene Finds Renewed Life in Lewis County

The budding visual and theatre arts scene in Lewis County has plenty to offer, from stage shows to movies at local landmarks, bringing families yet another entertainment option.

Lewis County's oldest established community theater, the Evergreen Playhouse, offers a variety of plays throughout the year. Casts are comprised of community members from theatre students to people who simply love getting involved.

For more on the Evergreen Playhouse, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/EvergreenPlayhouse.

THE STAGE in Lewis County doesn't only hold a spotlight for theatre. Dance is a major component of the local arts scene.

The Southwest Washington Dance Center provides three major events throughout the year: Dance Festival Northwest, which is held in March; the all-school dance performance "Spring Into Summer," which takes place in June; and the annual Nutcracker Ballet, showing to the public in December this year at Corbet Theatre.

For more information about their offerings, call 748-4789 or visit www.swwdance.org.

FINALLY, audiences can visit two local gems at which they can enjoy the visual arts on the silver screen: the Fox Theatre in Centralia and the Roxy in Morton.

Movies have made a comeback at the Fox Theatre, with the Fox Theatre Film Series having been successful in 2014



— which led to two movies being shown per month at the downtown Centralia landmark in 2015 and 2016. For more information, visit www.centraliafoxtheatre.com.

The Roxy in Morton hosts movies also, but opens its stage to live theatre and concerts too. Visit mortonroxy.org for all the details.

Cowlitz Falls Park



The Bud Allen Campground located along the banks of the Cowlitz River offers a quiet, natural environment and is a great place to stay while visiting Mt. St. Helens or Mt. Rainier.

Pull Thru Sites & Campsites
\$32 with power
\$20 with no hookups/tent sites



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889 Peters Rd.
Randle, WA 98377

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8th Annual Onalaska Apple Harvest Festival

Friday-Sunday
September 30th - October 2nd, 2016



f Onalaska Alliance

Onalaska Alliance
Building Partnerships for Sustainable Community

For more info:
onalaskaalliance.org and
onyappleharvest@gmail.com

CH554496sp.jd



Visit

Toledo

Pete Caster / pcaster@chronline.com

J.C. Allen-Tackett, Silverdale, dances during an intertribal dance at the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's 14th Annual Pow-Wow at Toledo High School.

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Cheese
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**July 2016
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**SATURDAY JULY 9TH
11AM - Toledo Cheese Days Parade
8PM - Andy Griggs At Harry's Place**

**SUNDAY JULY 10TH
12:30 - 3PM - Toledo Lions Club
Presents Beef Barbecue**



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For More Info: www.toledolionsclub.org
or email info@toledolionsclub.org

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Fun and Frivolity That's Family Friendly



Tenino Quarry Pool

Great Wolf Lodge

The Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, which opened in March 2008, offers more than the average hotel stay. The lodge features an enormous indoor water park, various restaurants, an arcade, a gym and much more for toddlers, teens or the entire family.

Where: 20500 Old Highway 99 SW, Grand Mound

Reservations: 800-640-9653

Contact: (360) 273-7718

Website: www.greatwolf.com

SWIMMING POOLS

Those looking to cool off in the water or get a workout in can find the opportunity at different swimming pools around Lewis and south Thurston counties. Outdoor pools open in the summertime and Thorbeckes FitLife Aquatic Center in Centralia offers indoor swimming year round.

Gail and Carolyn Shaw Aquatic Center

The newest addition to the local parks and recreation offerings, the Gail and Carolyn Shaw Aquatic Center offers a pool, kiddie spray park and more. The aquatic center is notable in that the community and Chehalis Foundation

partnered to raise the funds for its construction. The facility opens in June traditionally.

Where: 410 SW Parkland Dr., Chehalis

Contact: (360) 740-8097

Tenino Quarry Pool

Probably the most unique pool for miles around, the Tenino Quarry Pool is aptly named because it sits in what was once a sandstone quarry. Cost is \$1.50 for people within the Tenino School District and \$3.50 for all others.

Where: 319 Park Ave. W., Tenino

Contact: (360) 264-2368

Hours: Opens Fourth of July, Wednesday through Sunday noon to 7 p.m.

Thorbeckes FitLife Aquatic Center

Centralia's only indoor pool is open to anyone year-round. The aquatic center is part of Thorbeckes, a gym with two locations in the Twin Cities.

Where: 2020 Borst Ave. #2, Centralia

Contact: (360) 736-1683

Website: www.thorbeckes.com

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 5:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday 5 a.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday Noon - 5 p.m. Open year round.



Cowlitz Prairie Grange #737

52nd ANNUAL

THRESHING & GAS SHOW

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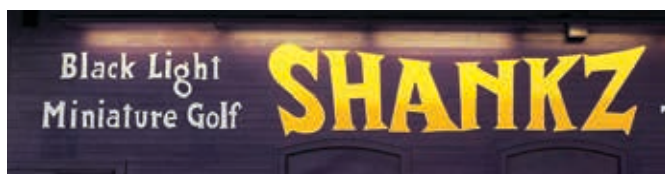
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MINIATURE GOLF

Shankz Blacklight Miniature Golf

Shankz Blacklight Miniature Golf has enjoyed success in the Yard Birds Mall, having moved from Olympia. The facility offers a unique 18-hole indoor course in addition to snacks, a theater and an arcade. The business specializes in hosting parties for special events such as birthdays.

Contact: (360) 943-1715

Website: www.shankzglowgolf.com

Hours: Thursday, 3 to 9 p.m.; Friday, 1 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

BOWLING

From birthday parties to league events, Lewis County has bowling available for everyone looking for a night on the lanes.

Fairway Lanes

Fairway Lanes boasts 18 lanes of bowling open for the whole family. Events held at the alley range from leagues to Rock N Bowl and its locally famous Monte Carlo bowling Saturday nights from 7-9:30 p.m. Call ahead for lane reservations.

Where: 1501 S. Gold St., Centralia

Contact: (360) 736-4100

Website: www.fairwaylanes.net

Winter Hours: 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Summer Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Victory Lanes

Victory Lanes in Morton is the bowling venue for East Lewis County, containing a 12-lane bowling alley that also offers an arcade, go-karts and mini golf.

Where: 834 Westlake Ave., Morton

Contact: (360) 496-6797

Where: 2100 N. National Ave., Chehalis

SPORTS

Northwest Sports Hub

The Northwest Sports Hub, comprised of a 76,500-foot indoor sports center and multiple baseball and softball fields, offers a variety of sports league and recreational opportunities for youth to adults.

Opened in Centralia's Fort Borst Park in 2014, the indoor portion of the complex offers flag football, basketball, softball and more.

Where: 701 Pioneer Way, Centralia

Contact: (360) 669-0077

Website: www.nwsporthub.com

Hours: Vary by event, call for details

9TH ANNUAL PNW MUSHROOM FESTIVAL

\$5 ADMISSION

KIDS ZONE

EDUCATIONAL SPEAKERS

COOKING DEMOS

KIDS MUSHROOM HUNT

CRAFT BOOTHS

5K GLOW RUN

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KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE!

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July 30 & 31

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Open year-round

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Tour Options

The State Capitol Tour Office offers a variety of standard tour options. A tour can range from a minimum of 30 minutes to a maximum of three hours. Washington State Capitol tour offerings during regular business hours are free.

Legislative Building Tour

The Legislative Building is home to the Washington state Legislature and the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer. Completed in 1928, the Legislative Building has the tallest free standing masonry dome in North America and houses the world's largest Tiffany chandelier. The tour of the Legislative Building includes the North Foyer, Rotunda, State Reception Room, and Legislative Galleries. This tour is targeted to all groups and last approximately one hour. General tours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekends. These free tours start on the hour every hour, and last one hour. The tours begin at the Tour Information Desk on the second floor of the Legislative Building.

Capitol Campus Botanical Tour

Available Fridays at 11 a.m. from June 3 – Sept. 30

Designed in 1927 by nationally recognized landscape architects Frederick Law and John Charles Olmstead, the Washington State Capitol Campus has one of the most extensive and intact Olmstead-designed capitol landscapes in the nation. This botanist guided tour will introduce visitors to the many varied historic trees and significant plantings of this nationally recognized design. The tour is 60 minutes of standing and walking and is ADA accessible. Appropriate for grades fourth to adult. Group size is limited to 30.



Photo Courtesy www.VisitOlympia.com

The Legislative Building at the state capitol features an attractive dome inside the Legislative Building.

Tours begin in the flag circle on the north side of the Legislative Building.

Adventure Tour

Available only to groups of 15 students or more, May through December; Monday-Friday only

Using stories, visuals and interactive exercises, this tour introduces younger children to Washington state history and representative government through a hands-on adventure tour of the Washington State Capitol. As part of this tour, each child receives an "Adventure Tour" coloring book to take home. This tour is 45 minutes and is specifically designed for kindergarten through second grade. A minimum of 15 students is required. Teachers can supplement this tour with a self-guided "I SPY" scavenger hunt of the Capitol Campus.

please see **CAPITOL**, page 32

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Capitol

Continued from page 31

Governor's Mansion Tour

The oldest standing building on the Capitol Campus, the red-brick Georgian style Executive Mansion has been home to Washington's governors since 1910. Fully restored and furnished with many antiques from the American Federal period, the mansion is open for public tours on most Wednesdays by reservation. Tours are only available in the afternoon. Group size is limited to 20. This tour is available for fourth grade and up.

Civic Education Tour

Available only to groups of 15 students or more, September-June; Monday-Friday only

This tour is an introduction to representative democracy and the three branches of government and includes information on the Legislative Building's function, operation, symbolism and history. Also included is a visit to the Temple of Justice, the home of the state Supreme Court, where students participate in a mock court hearing. The tour includes visits to the Rotunda, the State Reception Room, legislative galleries, and offices of elected officials. The tour is three hours (including a lunch period) and is specifically designed for students ages third through 12th grade.

Monument and Memorial Sites

The Washington State Capitol Campus is home to many Veterans Memorials including the Winged Victory, POW-MIA, Medal of Honor, WW II, Korean War Memorials, and Vietnam Veterans. Self-Guided memorial brochures are available at the Visitor Information Desk and at the Legislative Building Tour Information Desk.

— Source: Washington State Department of Enterprise Services



Photo Courtesy Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

The state Capitol in Olympia offers lessons on how government works and stunning architecture, all offered via several tours.

Thurston/South Pierce County

Events

Roy Pioneer Rodeo

8710 Higgins Greig Road, Roy

June 4-5, Sept. 3-4 | royrodeo.com

The Roy Pioneer Rodeo covers two weekends, June 4-5, as well as Sept. 3-4, and the outdoor rodeo is held in Roy at 8710 Higgins Greig Road.

The rodeo draws participants and thousands of fans alike each year to not only take in the traditional Roy events but also to enjoy a souvenir booth, food booth as well as a beer and wine garden.

Fans will see all types of events from bareback riding and saddle bronc riding to calf roping, steer wrestling, military bull riding, breakaway roping, team roping and barrel racing. Also seen will be the opening ceremonies, clown acts, cow milking and businessman's wild cow milking.

Children can also partake in a stick horse racing event.

Typically, each rodeo event sees about 10 competitors, with hundreds competing annually from around the Pacific Northwest. Those who compete must also compete in August if they want to win a buckle. Buckle winners are the participants that win the most money at both rodeos in each event.

Sanctioned through the Northwest Professional Rodeo Association, the Roy Pioneer Rodeo is also part of the NPRA season series.

please see **EVENTS**, page 33

CHEHALIS-CENTRALIA RAILROAD & MUSEUM

REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

MAY 28 - AUG 28

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

SEPT 3 - SEPT 24

SATURDAYS ONLY

SATURDAYS

1 PM | 3 PM | 5 PM

SUNDAYS

1 PM | 3 PM

MEMORIAL DAY

1 PM | 3 PM

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Pete Caster / pcaster@chronline.com

Smoke engulfs Jerry Charlton, of Montesano, as he fires his musket during the Black Powder Shooting contest at a past Tenino's Oregon Trail Days.

Events

Continued from page 32

Yelm Prairie Days

Yelm City Park

June 23-25 | yelmchamber.com

As the fastest-growing town in Thurston County, the city of Yelm will likely have thousands of people partake in a community-wide event that spans more than six decades.

It's called Prairie Days, and if you're traveling through the Nisqually Valley in late-June headed to Mount Rainier, you may just become part of the city's biggest annual festivity.

Prairie Days is June 23-25 at Yelm City Park, with a parade — presented by the Yelm Area Chamber of Commerce — 7 p.m. opening night. Following the parade, the good times move to Yelm City Park with food, games and entertainment.

Attendees, whether local or from afar, will be privy to family and community-oriented entertainment such as local vocal groups, school choirs and bands. Other attractions include special events for children, and the Magnificent Mutt contest on Saturday.

Residents and visitors can browse among vendors and information booths, or get an adrenaline rush courtesy of the carnival — which offers state-of-the-art rides and concessions. The carnival operates through Sunday, after the rest of Prairie Days concludes.

Fourth of July Celebrations

JBLM 2016 'Freedom Fest'

Joint Base Lewis-McChord at Cowan and Memorial Stadiums

July 4 | jblmmwr.com/freedomfest

Members of the general public are invited to attend the 2016 "Freedom Fest" from noon to 10 p.m. Monday, July 4, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord at Cowan and Memorial Stadiums on JBLM Lewis-Main.

Admission to this annual event is free and open to members of the public. Gates open at noon to Freedom Fest attendees — visitors should bring photo ID and vehicles must enter the base via Interstate 5, exit 119.

All-day attractions include a midway with carnival rides, "fair food," and other concessions, "Kids World" activities, "Classy Chassis" car show, jugglers, stilt-walkers and other roving performers, and live music.

The fireworks display is scheduled to begin at 10 p.m.

Lacey Fireworks Spectacular and Freedom Concert

Lacey Crossroads Shopping Center, 5500 Corporate Center Loop SE

July 3 | laceydays.org

Lacey continues its tradition of kicking off the area's Independence Day celebrations with the Lacey Fireworks Spectacular and Freedom Concert on Sunday, July 3. The Freedom Concert begins at 6:30 p.m. The Fireworks Spectacular will be in the vicinity of William A. Bush Park, 4400 Chardonnay Drive NE, Lacey, beginning around 10:15 p.m.

Tumwater Fourth of July Parade, Artesian Festival and Fireworks

Tumwater Valley Golf Course Driving Range

July 4 | ci.lacey.wa.us

Another area tradition is the Tumwater Fourth of July Parade, Artesian Festival and Fireworks Display on Sunday, July 3. The parade starts at 11 a.m.

The Artesian Family Festival and Thunder Valley Fireworks Show is held at the Tumwater Valley Golf Course Driving Range. Festival gates open at 6 p.m. Event features music, food vendors, games, and much more. The Thunder Valley Fireworks Show begins at 10:15 p.m. and is accompanied by music on site. Festival entry is free; event parking is \$10 per car. No alcohol, pets, personal fireworks or barbecues allowed.

Capital Lakefair

Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater

July 13-17 | lakefair.org

The annual Lakefair parade attracts about 100 entries from around the Northwest.

The parade will feature the military, youth and persons from around the world who call the Northwest home.

The parade begins at 4:45 p.m. on Saturday, July 16, and lasts for two hours. The 2016 Grand Finale Fireworks show starts at 10 p.m. Sunday, July 17, along the shores of Capitol Lake.

The fair also has a big lineup of food vendors that set up business during Lakefair on Water Street

Oregon Trail Days

Downtown Tenino

July 22-24 | teninoacc.org

The city of Tenino's annual Oregon Trail Days is sure to be a blast — especially with the ever-popular Four Square Mile Music Festival.

This year's celebration of Tenino's history runs Friday, July 22 through Sunday, July 24.

There's something for everyone, from the history exhibits at the Tenino Depot Museum, to the quarry pool, the black powder shoot, to the music festival headlined by Tenino native Adam Craig.

Some of the old-time action people can witness at the Tenino Depot Museum include shake splitting, log cabin notching, making cornmeal, stone carving, making homemade ice cream and, true to Tenino's own unique history, making wooden money.

More modern activities at the museum include a bounce house, face painting, slides, inflatable balls big enough for a person to enter and float on top of a pool, pony rides and fish ponds.

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Events

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The black powder shoot is another activity that throws people into the past. The quarry pool will be running full steam for this year's event. Tenino's own Adam Craig will headline both Friday and Saturday night. A huge beer garden features local wines and brews.

Pacific Northwest Mushroom Festival

Regional Athletic Complex, Lacey

July 30-31 | pnwmushroomfest.com

Pacific Northwest Mushroom Festival celebrates all things fungi, but focuses on food and drink. It's located at "mushroom corner," the site of Ostrom's Mushroom Farm across the street from the Regional Athletic Complex. The farm hosts tours of its facility three times a day on the weekend, at a cost of \$5.

The family-friendly festival will feature speakers, chefs, cooking demonstrations, farm tour, children activities, entertainment, vendors, Shroom Feast (mushroom tasting area), Grow in the Dark 5K Run, and a Saturday evening mushroom and wine event.

The festival kicks off at 9 p.m. Friday, July 29 with a pre-festival Grow in the Dark 5K Run and Kids Run, and continues 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The cost is \$5 per person per day and festival tickets are available from Ralph's and Bayview Thriftway stores as well as the Olympia-Lacey-Tumwater Visitor and Convention Bureau.

The Mushroom and Wine event that will take place at 6 p.m. Saturday at the festival grounds. This event will pair local Washington wine and beer with delicious mushroom hors d'oeuvres, live music, dancing and a Silent Charity Auction.

The 2013 festival attracts more than 8,000 visitors from throughout the Northwest.

There is free parking and shuttle at Washington Land Yacht Harbor, 9101 Steilacoom Road SE Olympia. Shuttle runs from off-site parking to the festival from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. every 15 minutes.

Paddle to Nisqually

Port of Olympia, Nisqually Indian Tribe reservation

July 30 to Aug. 6 | paddletonisqually.com

The Canoe Journey 2016 is Paddle to Nisqually, sponsored and coordinated by the Leschi Heritage Foundation. Organizers are expecting 8,000 to 10,000 people when the inter-tribal Canoe Journey landing takes place starting July 30 at the Port of Olympia.

More than 100 canoes are expected to participate in this year's Canoe Journey with nations from up and down the West Coast, Canada, Alaska and as far away as New Zealand, Mexico and Hawaii. As canoes travel up and down the coast to converge in Olympia, they will stop at other tribal lands along the way where they ask for permission to come ashore in their native languages, and then welcomed, fed and hosted overnight. There is gift exchange, as well as prayers, drumming, songs and dances.

Eventually, all nations are in the water and arrive nearly at once, and again they must follow the request to come ashore protocol.

Forty acres are being developed to accommodate about 6,000 people who will camp on the Nisqually Indian Tribe reservation just northwest of Yelm during the event.

On July 31, a Medicine Creek Treaty Ceremony will be held followed by Protocol on Aug. 1, which continues until Aug. 6. Protocol is when each family or tribe takes a turn to sing, dance

and drum, telling their story and celebrating their culture. Each protocol can last from two to six hours.

Paddle to Seattle in 1989 was part of Washington state's centennial celebration which revived the Canoe Journey tradition as it is known today.

Thurston County Fair

3054 Carpenter Road, Lacey

Aug. 3-7 | co.thurston.wa.us/fair

The 2015 Thurston County Fair is Aug. 3-7 at the Thurston County fairgrounds in Lacey.

Each year's fair offers a carnival, vendors, livestock shows, and a concert series featuring a variety of entertainers.

The carnival provides a variety of rides — tame ones for young children, as well as some death-defying attractions for older thrill seekers. Food ranging from corn dogs to hamburgers will keep visitor's stomachs from grumbling throughout the day.

Animals serve as the heart of the fair, with high school students from Future Farmers of America chapters throughout the county showcasing local livestock.

Young students get a chance to show off their livestock-raising skills as well through 4-H.

The organizations give students a chance to gain a variety of leadership skills and build confidence in themselves.

Tumwater Artesian Brewfest

Tumwater Valley Golf Course

Aug. 20 | tumwaterartesianbrewfest.com

Taste beers from more than 40 Pacific Northwest breweries including Tumwater's original Olympia beer from 1 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20 at Tumwater Valley Golf Course.

The event includes tastings from area wineries and a distillery. People can also compete in games such as beer stein holding, super sized beer pong, cornhole, ride the mechanical shark and volleyball.

The festival was created to honor the brewing history in Tumwater, former home to the Olympia Brewing Company.

The festival will feature many Northwest breweries, wineries and cider. Along with beer, wine and cider there will be plenty of food to choose from.

Entertainment will include a DJ from 1-8 p.m. Festival attendees must be 21 years or older. The cost to attend is \$20 in advance (noon Friday) and \$25 the day of. Designated drivers are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the gate, and members of the military receive a \$5 discount.

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Paddle to Nisqually

Visit

East Lewis County



Pete Caster / pcaster@chronline.com

While standing on a plank nearly 7 feet off the ground, Branden Sirguy of Port Angeles chops away at a log in a heat of the springboard chop competition at the 71st Annual Loggers Jubilee in Morton, Wash. on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2013.

THURSTON / SOUTH PIERCE COUNTIES



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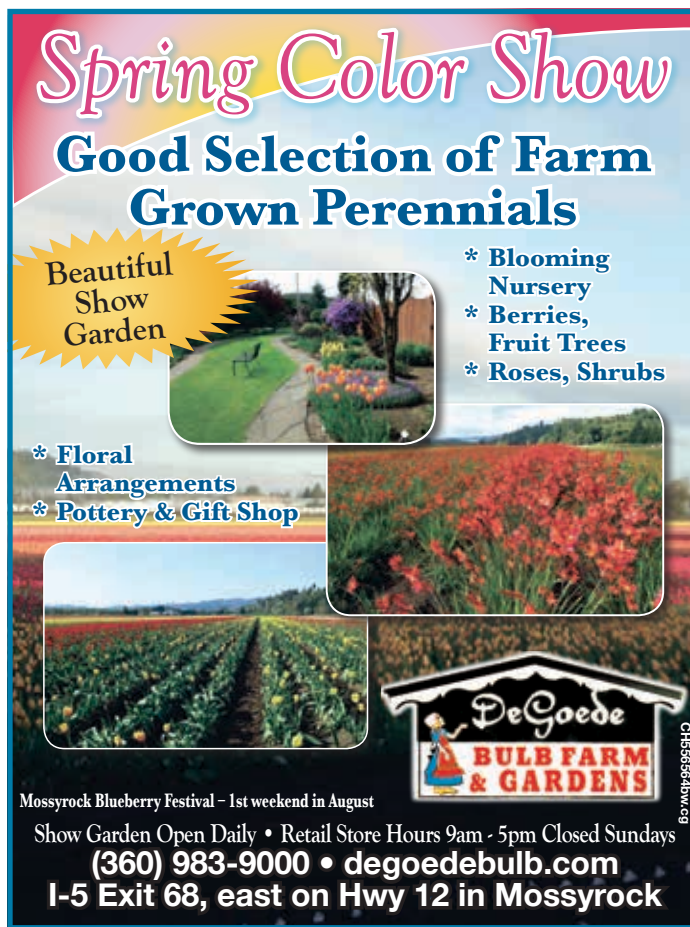
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www.cascadepeaksfamilycampground.com

Events

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Joint Base Lewis-McChord Air Show and Warrior Expo

McChord Field

Aug. 27-28 | airshows.aero

The 2016 Joint Base Lewis-McChord Air Show and Warrior Expo is a go for the weekend of Aug. 27-28 at McChord Field. The all-day event will feature the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds as the marquee act, along with the U.S. Army's "Golden Knights."

"After a four-year hiatus, we're extremely pleased to bring this magnificent event back to the South Sound," said Col. Daniel S. Morgan, Joint Base Lewis-McChord Garrison Commander, in a press release. "We're thrilled to have the Thunderbirds and the Golden Knights here again, just as they were in 2012."

The 2016 JBLM Air Show and Warrior Expo is more than an air show. In addition to the Thunderbirds and Golden Knights, hundreds of JBLM soldiers and airmen will be on hand with airframes and vehicles from JBLM as part of dozens of ground displays. This will showcase the equipment airmen and soldiers use at the base every day, and it's a way to thank the people around the Puget Sound area for their support of servicemembers and military families. In most cases, people will be able to go inside the planes, helicopters and vehicles on display, and speak directly with the crews who operate them.

The 2016 JBLM Air Show and Warrior Expo is free and open to the general public.

Rainier Round-Up and Bluegrass Days

Wilkowski Park, Rainier

Aug. 26-28 | rainierhistoricalsociety.org

Held Aug. 26-28 at Wilkowski Park, Bluegrass music, arts, crafts, square dancing, a parade, and hometown food are several perks Round-Up Days has to offer in celebration of the quaint city. One of the many positive things about this multi-day event is that all proceeds go to the Rainier Lions Club to benefit the community.

The Bluegrass show is 3-7 p.m. Friday, and 2-5 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Saturday at Wilkowski Park, near the intersection of Rochester Street East and Idaho Avenue North. A dinner for the Bluegrass participants is 6 p.m. Friday at the Rainier Chapel, with a suggested \$5 donation. At 9:30 a.m. on the final day is a Sunday morning gospel singing.

The parade starts 11 a.m. Saturday along Binghampton Street, starting at Idaho Street and ending at Minnesota Street. Wiener dog races at city hall follow the parade.

Harbor Days Maritime Festival and Tug Boat Races

Percival Landing, Olympia

Sept. 2-4 | harbordays.com

For four decades, Olympia has celebrated its long maritime heritage — and the big-shouldered working boats that made it happen — with the Harbor Days Maritime Festival and Tug Boat Races.

The 43rd annual festival fills Labor Day weekend with a fascinating mix of seafaring, food and fun. As many as 15 vintage

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Photograph Courtesy of Jean McDaniel

The tug boat races are the highlight of Harbor Days Maritime Festival and Tugboat Races. The tug boat race is Sunday afternoon on Labor Day weekend. About 15 tugs are expected to participate.

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and modern tugs are expected to participate, and most will be open for tours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at Percival Landing. Be on hand Sunday at noon to watch the procession, as the tugs get underway for the big race up at Budd Inlet.

All weekend long, enjoy live entertainment and over 250 arts and crafts, commercial and nonprofits booths. Taste cuisine in the food court from around the world and our own backyard.

Thurston/South Pierce County

Sites to See

Olympia Farmers Market

April - Oct., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday - Sunday
Nov. through Dec., Saturday and Sunday
700 N Capitol Way, Olympia
olympiafarmersmarket.com

The Olympia Farmers Market, now in its 41st year, is worth the trip down to the waterfront of Budd Bay.

Stroll through the various vendors that feature fresh organic produce, Washington grown fresh fruits, meats, fresh fish, clams and oysters, herbs, dried and fresh cut flowers, healthy breads, desserts, eggs, cheeses, jams and jellies, live entertainment and arts and crafts from local artisans.

For last minute holiday shoppers, the market is open Dec. 22-24.

Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Eight Miles northeast of Olympia off I-5 exit 114
fws.gov/refuge/Billy_Frank_Jr_Nisqually

The Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, on the Nisqually River Delta in southern Puget Sound, offers 3,000 acres of salt and freshwater marshes, grasslands, riparian and mixed forest habitats that provide resting and nesting areas for migratory wa-

please see SITES, page 38

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**Saturday
Aug. 6:**

11am: Parade

1-5pm: Decade Detour

6-8pm: Missy G Band

8-midnight: Backfire Band

**Sunday
Aug. 7:**

9-10:30am: Gospel Time

1-3pm: Las Flacos

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& 62 Mile
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Show**



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&
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Blueberry Dessert Contest

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mossyrockfestivals.org
motorcycles welcome

Sites

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terfowl, songbirds, raptors and wading birds.

Here, the freshwater of the Nisqually River combines with the saltwater of Puget Sound to form an estuary rich in nutrients and detritus. These nutrients support a web of sea life — the benefits of which extend throughout Puget Sound and beyond.

While most major estuaries in the state have been filled, dredged, or developed, Nisqually River's has been set aside for wildlife. In 1974, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge was established to protect the delta and its diversity of fish and wildlife habitats. The Nisqually estuary was restored in 2009 by removing dikes and reconnecting 762 acres with the tides of Puget Sound. This is the largest estuary restoration project in the Pacific Northwest and an important step in the recovery of Puget Sound.

The refuge was recently renamed the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge in honor of the deceased Indian rights activist.

On Wednesdays free bird walk tours are offered. This weekly survey regularly includes a number of the best and most knowledgeable birders to be found in the area. Rain or shine, winter or summer, no corner of the Refuge is left untouched. This group is thorough, moving slowly along all the Refuge trails. It is not unheard of for the Wednesday morning walk to continue for seven hours or more. Birders of all skill levels are welcome.

The walk starts 8 a.m. and is open to the public, with no limit on the number of attendees.

The Nisqually Watershed Festival is Saturday, Sept. 24. The Watershed Festival is an annual celebration featuring art, discovery, and family fun. Festival activities include a free lecture series, guided walks, musical entertainment and great food and coffee. Be sure to bring your own T-shirt to make a fish print with a real Nisqually salmon.



South Sound Speedway

3730 183rd Avenue S.W. in Rochester
Saturdays through September
southsoundspeedway.com

For the gearheads, the South Sound Speedway just off Interstate 5 at Rochester offers a racing season full of roaring engines and more than a crash or two.

The .375 mile oval race track includes a figure eight course with racing most Saturdays through September.

The South Sound Speedway, located at 3730 183rd Avenue S.W. in Rochester, can be accessed by taking Exit 88 and going east on Old Highway 99.

Most races take place on Saturdays, although there are a few on Sundays. Perhaps the highlight of the racing season is on July 2 when a fireworks show takes place along with the races.

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The ticket windows open at 4:45 p.m. The track takes only cash or checks; no credit cards are accepted. Pit passes can be purchased as well starting at 1 p.m. on race day.

After each event, the pit opens to the public for free, allowing race fans to inspect the cars and meet the drivers.

While there make sure to take in the "Seattle Million Dollar Toilets" in the pit area.

The track offers a full slate of food and drinks, including ice cold beer, at two separate concession areas.

Camping is also available, although no campfires are allowed.

For the racing VIP, you can rent a suite for a group of people as the track has 16 VIP sky boxes.

Wolf Haven

311 Offut Lake Road SE, Tenino

Open by reservation

wolfhaven.org

Wolf Haven International is hidden away as a sanctuary should be, but certainly worth the short drive north of Tenino. But to visit, contact the sanctuary way ahead of time and make a reservation.

Its mission is to "Conserve and protect wolves and their habitat." The sanctuary has taken care of 180 displaced captive-born animals since 1982.

The nonprofit Wolf Haven accomplishes this mission through providing sanctuary, education and conservation. Wolf Haven rescues and provides sanctuary for displaced, captive-born wolves, offers educational programs about wolves and the value of all wildlife, promotes wolf restoration in historic ranges and works to protect our remaining wild wolves and their habitat.

Currently, only about 75 Mexican gray wolves are living in the wild, mostly in Arizona and New Mexico. About 300 remain in captivity in the U.S. and Mexico.

The wolves received protection under the Endangered Species Act 37 years ago. The Mexican grays remain one of the most imperiled mammals in North America and are the world's most at-risk subspecies of gray wolf.

Wolf Haven's involvement with the animals dates back to 1994 when it was selected to participate in the Species Survival Plan, a recovery program designed to oversee captive population management and enhance conservation in the wild.

Since Wolf Haven got involved, it has produced five litters of Mexican gray pups and released two packs — 11 wolves —



Nisqually Valley News file photo

Mexican gray wolves Lorenzo, left, and Noel, right, mill around in their pin at Wolf Haven International. Wolf Haven is a sanctuary for the endangered wolves.

into Arizona's Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. Some of the first Mexican wolves to reenter the wild came from Wolf Haven, which is one of just three pre-release facilities for the species in the United States.

Enjoy a 50-minute guided visit through the public portion of the wolf sanctuary. During your guided walk, learn about wolves, both in captivity and in the wild. Potentially see up to 10 sanctuary residents in a beautiful, natural and serene atmosphere. A self-guided prairie walk and stop at the memorial wolf cemetery are optional.

Its premier summer event, A Midsummer's Night, offers guests the opportunity to see wolves, hear them howl, learn their stories, eat delicious food, walk through native prairie, camp overnight — and repeat in the morning. Twenty guests have an exclusive opportunity to engage in a deeper way with our organization and support our mission.

Lattin's Cider Mill

Open Year-Round, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays, June 1 to Dec. 31.

9402 Rich Road SE, Tenino

lattinscider.com

please see **SITES**, page 40





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Sites

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A visit to Lattin's Country Cider Mill and Farm, located a few miles east of Interstate 5 and north of Tenino, is a treat to your taste buds.

Like many other tried and true attractions around the area, Lattin's is a small, family-owned farm that has been cultivating and perfecting its cider since 1976. The apples used in the cider-making process are the purchased directly from the same high-quality growers each year, then stored at a controlled temperature to preserve their crispness.

The family and its employees sorts, washes and cuts each apple by hand — which amounts to up to 75 tons of apples a day during peak times, and translates to 4,000 gallons of fresh cider in one week.

To take a look into the precise process of creating Lattin's own specific tastes of ciders: The apples are ground and pressed, pasteurized and bottled immediately but no additives, preservatives or sweeteners are added.

Once it's time to test the product, there is only one way — to take that first sip.

Although apple cider is Lattin's claim to fame, the mill also produces cider from strawberries, blackberries and raspberries, and they even add a kick to some apple ciders to make spiced ciders.

A stop into the mill gives the viewer and taster the bigger picture of what Lattin's is all about, as there is much more going on than just the cider production. Visitors can wander about the flower and vegetable gardens, enjoy a picnic complete with cider

to drink, and even feed baby farm animals — goats, chickens, roosters, calves, bunnies, lambs and pigs. Lattin's also offers a year-round maze and play area for kids.

Lattin's farmers market provides a spread of Eastern Washington fruit, farm fresh eggs, fruit syrups, dried fruit, honey, jam, smoked salmon, Johnson's Smokehouse meat and cheese products, crisp apples and ready-to-bake frozen pies. Lattin's also sells pastries and donuts, baked fresh daily. Apple fritters are available Fridays before noon and all weekend.

There is something to look forward to with each season. In the fall Lattin's hosts its own Apple Festival where partakers can enjoy tractor-drawn wagon rides to a pumpkin patch, the maze as well as bluegrass music, starting the last weekend in September through each weekend in October. The wintertime brings with it Lattin's Winter Wonderland, where every December the mill and farm boasts thousands of lights, freshly cut Christmas trees and Christmas cookies — and, of course, cider.

Yelm-Tenino Trail

Between Tenino and Yelm
Open year-round

co.thurston.wa.us/parks/trails-yelm-tenino

The Yelm-Tenino Trail's nearly 14 miles offers a pleasant, paved path for walkers, bikers, runners and dog lovers.

The trail connects the cities of Yelm, Rainier and Tenino, passing through Wilkowski Park in Rainier and ending at Tenino City Park.

The trail traverses forest and agricultural lands, wetlands, creeks and other habitat parallel to state Route 507. It's filled with scenic views, including of the Deschutes River west of Rainier and of McIntosh Lake near Tenino.

The trail, which runs east to west, was acquired by Thurston County in 1993. It operated as a Burlington Northern railroad from about 1869 through the late 1980s.

Pedestrians, bicycles and other non-motorized vehicles are permitted on the trail.

The Yelm-Tenino Trail intersects with the Chehalis-Western Trail, linking the cities of Yelm, Rainier, Tenino, Tumwater, Lac-ey, Olympia and Woodard Bay on the Puget Sound.

Thurston County Public Works recently completed a pedestrian bridge on Pacific Avenue that links the Chehalis Western Trail with the Woodland Trail and Interstate 5 Bike Trail.

The Yelm trailhead is located behind City Hall and features parking, picnic tables, restrooms and an information kiosk. The Rainier trailhead is located between Centre and Minnesota streets behind Rainier Market with restrooms available. The Tenino trailhead is at the Tenino City Park on Washington Av-

please see SITES, page 41



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Sites

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enue with access to restrooms. The trail can be accessed from just about every road crossing.

Red Wind Casino

12819 Yelm Highway SE, Olympia

Open year-round

redwindcasino.com

Red Wind Casino has undergone \$45 million in renovations and expansion this past year, adding new parking, doubling the space of the casino, adding 600 slot machines to the already 975 in place, expanding the smoke-free area of the casino and upgrades to all three casino restaurants.

The new two-story, 40,000-square-foot smoke-free wing includes 27,000 square feet of additional gaming space. A new deli, bar, gift shop, ice cream and espresso bar and additional administrative space complete the building expansion. The building's design features a unique curved exterior with a cultured stone façade, distinctive interior columns, 22-foot high ceilings, custom native artwork and ambient lighting.

For dining the casino offers the Blue Camas Buffet, the high-end Squalli-Absch Grille, The Medicine Creek Deli and the full-service bar Pealo's landing. For entertainment, take in The Coho Cabaret for live acts, as well as sporting events played on a 150-inch screen

While at the casino, take time to visit the nearby Tribal Center, which opened in May of 2013. The Tribal Center includes conference rooms and offices for tribal divisions such as the tribal council chambers, community, social service, legal, financial, and human services.

The two-story building, constructed at a cost of \$8 million, has a water feature, art and artifacts meaningful to the Nisqually Tribe. The rooftop resembles a native salmon.

A memorial totem pole is on display on the first floor, and was carved and painted by Tommy Dunstan from the Thompson Salish people with help from Nisqually community members. A large piece of bark from a local sequoia tree has been fashioned into a table for one of the boardrooms.

Strike it rich on the casino floor, then take in the strikingly stunning new Tribal Center.

Northwest Trek

11610 Trek Drive E six miles north of Eatonville on state Route 161

Open year-round

nwtrek.org

Northwest Trek offers a narrated tram tour of a free-roaming area which allows you to see bison, Roosevelt elk, moose, mountain goats and other native animals, up close in their natural habitats.

A self-guided walking tour along the paved trails in the core of the park provides the opportunity to see grizzly bears, wolves and more in naturalistic exhibits.

A series of zip lines are a must activity for those touring through south Pierce County. Four zip line courses all require mental toughness and physical agility.

See bison, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and more from the comfort of heated, enclosed trams. The 50-minute, naturalist-guided tram tour winds through 435 acres of meadows, woods, and lakes filled with wildlife native to the Pacific Northwest.

Be the first to spot the bison herd. In the spring, scout a big-

horn ewe and her kid in the meadows. Or in the fall, glimpse bull elk locking antlers as they tussle over a mate during the "rut" or breeding season. A knowledgeable and friendly naturalist narrates the tour with fun animal facts and interesting stories about the park.

Walk a paved path through the forest to see large predators such as grizzly bears, wolves, cougars and other native forest animals, all in naturalistic exhibits. The trail is wheelchair and stroller friendly. A limited number of wheelchairs and strollers are available for rent at the main office, on a first-come first-served basis.

Animals are the stars of these trailside presentations, led by keepers. Get up close to a beaver, porcupine, skunk or other small animal. Learn about where they live and what they eat.

Discovering nature is fun for kids of all ages in the Cheney Family Discovery Center interactive environment, which is home to some of the park's smallest critters. Meet toads, snakes and salamanders. You can't touch the living animals but you can enjoy hands-on activities from puppet play to touchable animal pelts.

The Baker Research Cabin is a representation of an old trapper's cabin and is all about conservation and research including citizen science. Here you have the opportunity to spy on the wolf pack from the kid-sized observation tunnel or use remote cameras to observe the foxes and coyotes.

The latest addition to Northwest Trek is a nature-inspired \$1.9 million two-acre playground that connects children to the natural world called Kids' Trek. It opened this April.

Elbe

Intersection of Highway 7 and state Route 706 in

southeast Pierce County

Open year-round

visitrainier.com

Although the town of Elbe boasted a population of just 29 people in a recent census, this small town has quite a bit to offer to visitors traveling through.

The Mount Rainier Scenic Railroad and Museum, a non-profit heritage railroad, begins its train rides at its depot in Elbe, located at 54124 Mountain Highway E.

Those who take advantage to experience this excursion will get to ride on the longest continuously operating steam railroad in the Northwest, a rarity these days as few steam-powered passenger railroads still exist in the Northwest.

Passengers will get to see phase two of the new Mineral museum, along with the world's largest collection of displayed steam logging locomotives. The steam train runs almost every weekend from May through October.

The Historic Train Depot also houses one of two Mount Rainier Visitor Centers heading towards the southwest entrance to Mount Rainier. The visitor center is open Thursday through Sunday, from Memorial Day to Oct. 31.

Visitors to the area can enjoy taking in the sight of the Historic Little White Church of Elbe, built in 1906 and still standing in its original location, right off Highway 7. The 18-by-24-foot church is an emblematic structure for the historically German town as it reads "Ev. Luth. KIRCHE" (Evangelische Lutherische Kirche) on its steeple, a reminder of the founders' German origins.

The church was designed by its first pastor, Karl Kilian, and built by the townspeople. It still bears its original altar and elevated pulpit as well as one of the handmade pews.

Worship services are held at 2:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month from March through November, and the church is open to tourists during the summer.

please see SITES, page 42



Jesse Smith / Nisqually Valley News

Sitting at 5,658 feet above sea level, High Rock fire lookout has unmatched 360 degree views of all the peaks in the Southern Cascade range, from Mount Rainier (pictured), to Mount Adams, Mount St. Helens, and even Mount Hood on clear days. The relatively short distance hike to High Rock (3.5 mile round trip), not far from Ashford, is a thigh burner. Gaining 1,400 feet in elevation in just under 2 miles, the trail leaves hikers gasping for oxygen, and second guessing the climb, but views at the top make all that sweat worth it.

Sites

Continued from page 41

For a dining break and even a place to stay, tourists can head over to the Mount Rainier Railroad Dining Company, which sits right on the pathway of the Mount Rainier Scenic Railroad, at 54106 Mountain Highway East.

The family-owned company offers quite the array of food on its menu, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. The family prides itself on offering a unique dining experience and is most proud of its “family secret” house-smoked tastes, including Alder Smoked Prime Rib and smoked poultry, pork and fish. Other favorites include home-cut cheddar fries, hand-dipped Louisiana prawns, homemade lasagna and beer-battered hoki.

Since starting out as a popcorn stand on a street corner in Elbe, the Rainier Railroad Dining Company has expanded by adding The Hobo Inn (a caboosie motel), a gift shop, the Cascadian Dinner Train as well as the restaurant and lounge.

For those interested in a classic American hamburger and milkshake, across the street from the Rainier Railroad Dining Company is the greasy spoon joint Scaleburgers. Some claim there is no better burger, and it is listed as the ninth best burger in the state by www.road-quest.com.

Ashford

Six miles from the entrance to Mount Rainier on Highway 706

Open year-round

mt-rainier.com or visitrainier.com

As the gateway town to Mount Rainier’s Nisqually Valley, the only year-round entrance to the national park, Ashford offers local and out-of-town visitors alike a plethora of options as it pertains to lodging, dining, shops, outfitters and even spas and fitness centers during their stay.

Ashford is a base camp of sorts for those pushing onward to climb and scale the peak. Lodging is unique to the area, from cottages to lodges to bed and breakfasts, cabins and even a chalet, which blend in perfectly with the mountain theme and experience.

High Rock Lookout offers a stunning view of Mount Rainier and is considered one of Washington state’s most stunning lookouts. Hikers gain an elevation of 1,350 during the steep 3.2 miles

and estimated three-hour hike. No trailhead pass required. Go to www.visitrainier.com for details on the trail and specific location of the starting point.

For those not only interested in climbing Mount Rainier, Ashford offers more than 20 miles of intermediate to expert category mountain biking, hiking trails and, in the winter, snowshoeing routes. The outskirts of the Gateway to Paradise are also home to Painters Art Gallery and Ashford Creek Pottery, both on Highway 706.

Ashford also boasts Ashford County Park, a 30-acre park that was completed in the spring of 2010. It has a children’s play area, a 1.2-mile perimeter walking path as well as interior paths, a restroom facility and a native plant life list. The park is located along 706 as well.

The Mount Rainier Visitor Center in Ashford, located in Whittaker Mountaineering’s Summit House (30027 SE 706 East), holds summer hours of 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, and is open only on Friday, Saturday and Sunday until 5 p.m. during the winter.

Ashford holds an array of restaurants, including Wildberry Restaurant, Rainier BaseCamp Grill, Gateway Inn Resort, Copper Creek Inn and Lodge, Alexander’s Country Inn and Highlander Steakhouse and Lounge.



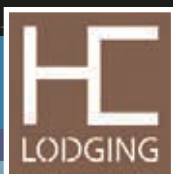
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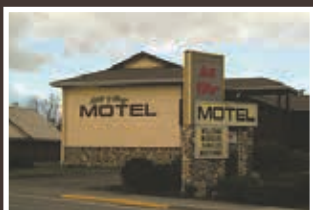
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