

▶ CHAMBER BOARD MEETING, GEE CEE'S RESTAURANT AT 7AM, LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

▶ FORUM LUNCHEON @ GUADALAJARA MEXICAN RESTAURANT AT NOON, EVERY 2ND TUESDAY

▶ THE CHAMBER OFFICE IS LOCATED @ 408 SILVER ST., TOLEDO, WA (360) 864-8844

South Lewis County Chamber of Commerce



Chamber *focus*

Monthly Newsletter
November 2009



Guest Speaker

Dr. James Walton and Julie Johnson from The Centralia College Foundation, Speaking on state budget reductions, the relationship between high unemployment in the county and record enrollment levels at the college.



Spotlight of the Month ~ Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters: 100 Years of Youth Mentoring

Founded in 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters is the oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the United States. In 2004, the organization served more than 225,000 youth ages 5 through 18, in 5,000 communities across the country, through a network of 470 agencies.

The local community mobilized to bring BBBS to Thurston county in 1983. In 1985 we were incorporated. We have recently expanded out to serve multiple counties in the area. In late 2008, our name officially changed to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Washington. Currently, we have offices in Thurston and **Lewis** counties. Our goal is to expand to provide mentoring services to Grays Harbor, Pacific, and Mason counties. In 2003, our name was selected

by Forbes Magazine as one of it's top ten charities, making the publication's "gold star" list of charities which it believes are worthy of donor consideration, in its annual survey of 200 large charities. The magazine surveyed 200 non-profits and rated them on how efficiently they could collect and distribute dollars. Forbes looked at 3 categories: charity table commitment; fundraising efficiency, and donor dependency.





For Your Information

Washington's minimum wage will not increase in 2010 but will remain the same at \$8.55 an hour because the Consumer Price Index for the past 12 months did not increase.

The Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) recalculates the state's minimum wage each year in September as required by Initiative 688, which was approved by Washington voters in 1998. The law requires that the state minimum wage be increased for inflation each year according to the change in the federal Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) during the 12 months ending each Aug. 31.

The CPI-W is a national index covering the cost of goods and services needed for day-to-day living. It decreased 1.9 percent during the 12-month period ending in August, compared to a 5.9 percent increase during the same period in 2008, which led to a 48-cents-an-hour increase in the 2009 minimum wage.

This is the first time since the initiative passed that there is no increase in the state's minimum wage.

Employers may continue using the current minimum wage poster for another year.

Washington's minimum wage applies to workers in both agricultural and non-agricultural jobs, although 14- and 15-year-olds may be paid 85 percent of the adult minimum wage, or \$7.27.

Washington is one of ten states, with Oregon, Vermont, Ohio, Nevada, Montana, Missouri, Florida, Colorado, and Arizona, that adjusts the minimum wage based on inflation.

More information on Washington's minimum wage is available at Wages.Lni.wa.gov. Employers and workers also may call 360-902-5316 or 1-866-219-7321.

Helpful Hints

Choosing the Right Investor

During a recession, entrepreneurship typically increases, and numerous small businesses emerge. These businesses will need funding. This gives investors a wide array of investments to choose from. Simply put, this means more competition for fewer dollars.

- **Demonstrate early traction.** Investors, even early stage ones, want to see businesses show consistent sales before they agree to fund.
- **Seek value in an investor.** Choose a partner that will not only invest financially in your company but will also contribute sweat equity.
- **Operate in a high-growth industry.** Investors are looking at industries that are most likely to provide a strong return on investment. The technology industry is often selected because its multiple sales channels help accelerate growth.



November 2009 Events Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 <i>Forum Lunch Noon Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant/Winlock</i>	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 <i>Toledo Lions Club Turkey Bingo YHS 7pm</i>	21
22	23	24 <i>Board Meeting 7:00 a.m. Gee Cee's Restaurant</i>	25	26 	27	28
29	30					

Don't forget to Renew your Membership Dues!

Call the Chamber office to find out when you need to renew.

Member Renewals

City of Winlock, 323 NE First St., Winlock, WA 98596, 360-785-3811

Garrison Auctioneers, LLC, 571 Winlock-Vader Rd., Winlock, WA 98596, 360-785-3381

Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant, 114 Cedar Crest Drive, Winlock, WA 98596, 360-785-4161

indieStills, PO Box 97, Winlock, WA 98596, 360-520-5047

Old Hatchery Antiques, 707 NE First St., Winlock, WA 98596, 360-785-9728

Packwood Ace Hardware, 104 Rainier Ave., Packwood, WA 98361, 360-494-2131

Skyline Pump & Machine Co., Inc., 333 N Prairie Rd., Chehalis, WA 98532, 360-262-9580

Pittman Insurance Agency, 315 NE First St., Winlock, WA 98596, 360-785-3744

Winlock Family Dentistry, 617 Cemetery Rd., Winlock, WA 98596, 360-785-4755

New Members

Big Brothers Big Sisters, 1126 Gold St. #229, Centralia, WA 98531, 360-807-4097

Board Members

Mary Garrison, President
Old Hatchery Antiques

Rachel Phillipps, Vice President
Rachel Phillipps Insurance

Mike Alvarez, Secretary/Treasurer
EZ Come EZ Go Pizza & Deli

Debbie Blum
Special Moments Floral & Gifts

Dan Godat
United Country Real Estate

Jackie Steveson, Board Member

Chastity Clark, Board Member
CC's Photography

Mark Cook, Board Member
Cook Engineering and
Development Services

Save the date!

We are planning the Annual
Chamber Banquet/Fundraiser to
be held February 27, 2010.
Please mark your calendars.



Please take a moment to visit our new website:

www.thelewiscountychamber.com

Nominations & Elections

An email was sent with the Nominations and Elections Form. Forms are to be mailed to PO Box G, Winlock, WA 98596. Elections will be held at our annual meeting, December 8th.

If you have any questions call the Chamber office at 864-8844.



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