

▶ CHAMBER BOARD MEETING, SPIFFY'S RESTAURANT AT 7:00 AM, LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

▶ FORUM LUNCHEON @ GEE CEE'S SPORT'S BAR AT NOON, THE SECOND TUESDAY IN AUGUST

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

South Lewis County Chamber of Commerce



Chamber *focus*

Monthly Newsletter
August 2010

Speaker of the Month

Scott Lennon from Richie Bros. Auctioneers:

Topic of discussion will be on the Site Plan for Lewis County & What Richie Bros. can bring to our area!



SAVE THE DATES.....

WHAT: *Business After Hours*

WHEN: September 16, 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

WHERE: Los Pepe's Mexican Restaurant, Toledo

Hosted By: Rachel Phillipps Insurance & Los Pepe's

WHAT: *1st Annual SLCCC Riverfest*

WHEN: September 18, 2010

WHERE: Toledo Boat Launch. More details to follow.

WHAT: *Lewis County Symposium-*

*US Health & Human Services Representative-Health Care

* Internal Revenue Service Representative

*USBA-Cal Goings-Business climate & tips

WHEN: Thursday September 9, 2010-9:00am to 10:30am

WHERE: To be announced.

The SLCCC is proud to be a member of the **US Chamber.**

As the voice of business, the Chamber's core purpose is to fight for free enterprise before Congress, the White House, regulatory agencies, the courts, the court of public opinion, and governments around the world.

Mission Statement:

"To advance human progress through an economic, political and social system based on individual freedom, incentive, initiative, opportunity, and responsibility."

New law improves tax fairness for employers

OLYMPIA - A new law improves the fairness of Washington's tax system for employers who fail to pay unemployment taxes on time.

Until now, delinquent employers were assigned the maximum possible tax rate, plus a penalty amount, regardless of whether their regular tax rate was 1 percent or 6 percent.

Now, only a 1 percent penalty will be added to a delinquent employer's regular rate, resulting in lower tax rates for most employers with overdue taxes.

For example, a delinquent employer with a regular tax rate of 0.95 percent jumped to 7.06 percent under the old law - the same fate as a delinquent employer with a regular tax rate of 6 percent. But starting in 2011, the employer with a rate of 0.95 percent will move to 1.95 percent and may have the opportunity to cut the penalty by 0.5 percent by entering into a payment contract with Employment Security.

"This new law improves the fairness of our tax system by issuing an equal penalty to all delinquent employers," said Employment Security Commissioner Karen Lee. "This is one of several improvements by the governor and the legislature in recent years to make unemployment taxes more equitable."

Delinquent rates can be avoided by making sure all unemployment taxes due through June 30 are paid in full by Sept. 30.

Employers that are delinquent a second year will be assigned a rate 2 percentage points higher than their regular rate, which is based mostly on layoff history. The more former workers collecting unemployment benefits, the higher an employer's tax rate.

Employers having difficulty paying their taxes on time should call their district tax office as soon as possible to work out a payment agreement. For contact information, visit www.esd.wa.gov and type "district tax offices" in the search box.

Health Care Information

Small Business Health Tax Credit:

This will do little to help small firms afford insurance. The credit, worth 50% of an employer's contribution toward employees' health insurance premiums, is very restrictive and puts small business owners through a series of complicated tests to determine the actual amount of the credit. (1) Very few small firms will receive the full credit (only firms with 10 employees or less). For firms with 11-25 employees, the credit is reduced per employee. Firms with more than 25 employees get NO credit. (2) Only firms who pay their workers \$25,000 or less are eligible for the full credit. The credit is reduced as the average wage goes up, stopping at \$50,000. The credit is only available for a maximum of five years, and only two years once the Exchanges are up and running in 2014.



W-2 Reporting:

Employers will be required to report the value of employees' health benefits on W-2's in 2011.

Medicare Advantage:

MA payments are frozen for 2011. Beginning in 2012, a new system of blended benchmarks will be phased in.

August 2010 Events Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Vietnam Veterans' Day @ Chehalis Veterans' Memorial Museum
8	9	10 Forum Lunch Noon Gee Cee's Restaurant	11	12  Morton Loggers' Jubilee	13 Mt. St. Helens Bluegrass Festival Movie In The Park Morton Loggers' Jubilee	14 Mt. St. Helens Bluegrass Festival Morton Loggers' Jubilee
15 Mt. St. Helens Bluegrass Festival Morton Loggers' Jubilee	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27  Chehalis Garlic Fest & Craft Show	28 Cowlitz Prairie Threshing Bee Chehalis Garlic Fest & Craft Show
29 Cowlitz Prairie Threshing Bee Chehalis Garlic Fest & Craft Show	30	31 Board Meeting 7:00 am Spiffy's Restaurant				

Member Renewals

Stitches By Nae, PO Box 1118, Toledo, WA 98591, 360-864-6464

What's Happening In Lewis County

Downtown Toledo will be having a "Movie In The Park" evening on August, 13, 2010. This event will be held at the Kemp Olson Park @ 6:30 pm. Free hamburgers and soft drinks will be served.



The Southwest Washington Fair will begin on August 17, and continue through August 22nd. This years the fair features 2 demolition derbies, animal showings, carnival rides, livestock market sale and so much more!! In concert will be "Weir Al" Yankovic on August 18, at 8:30 pm, The Doobie Brothers on August 19, at 8:30 pm, Joe Nichols on August 20, at 8:30 pm, and Felix Cavalaries Rascals on August 21, at 8:30 pm. All concerts will be held in the Grandstands. Wrist bands are available for all day use. There is a discount if bands are bought before the fair begins.

The 46th Annual Cowlitz Threshing Bee will be held Saturday August 28th & Sunday 29th, with the exhibits being set up on Friday the 27th at the Robert Herren Farm. The farm is located 3.5 miles north of Toledo, WA on the Jackson Highway. Please call the Chamber if you need further information.

Board Members

Rachel Phillipps, Chair

Rachel Phillipps Insurance

Mary Garrison, Past President

Garrison Auctioneers

Mark Cook, Board Member

Cook Engineering and
Development Services

Bill Jones, Board Member

Anchor Bank, Centralia

Maria Chiechi, Board Member

Chiechi & Associates

Cy Meyers, Director of

Economic Development

Dan Godat, Board Member

United Country Real Estate

Jackie Steveson, Volunteer



Remember!!!

If you have any announcements or events you would like to have put on the website, calendar or newsletter, please let us know at least one week prior to the end of the month. We want to help you succeed!!!

Small Business Help Center

Provided by Chamber 101

They are your non-stop assistance center for information on running a small business! All the articles & business info provided on this site are available **absolutely free!** Select a topic from the menu to explore any of the areas in detail. For specific ?'s or comments concerning any of our topic areas, we encourage you to take advantage of the e-mail tag found at the bottom of each topic page to send us a message directly. Their mission is to help small businesses prosper by providing easy to understand information & the bringing of businesses together to increase their sales. Please visit their site today.

www.helpbizowners.com

Summer Vacation

The Chamber wishes you a safe and happy summer!



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