BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

June 2012
Vol. 17, No. 6
Single Copy $2.50

The Business Newspaper for Lewis County and Southwest Washington

12-2
Gretchen Moore
Pacific Mobile Structures Inc
PO Box 1404
Chehalis WA 98532-0350

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chehalis, WA
Permit No. 101
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Airport signs new lease with Taco Time

By Tara Giddens
Business to Business

The Chehalis-Centralia Airport has signed a 55-year ground lease with the Taco Time franchise, owner of all Taco Times in the Northwest. The property is adjacent to Applebee's on Louisiana Avenue, Airport Manager Allyn Roe said.

According to Roe, the company came to the airport looking for property in the area. They evaluated several different properties before choosing the one-acre site.

As of press time, company officials were completing diligence work and had not yet submitted any site plans, Roe said. He estimates construction will begin this summer, but said the property needs some work before construction can begin.

Roe said while there are water and sewer lines to the property, Taco Time officials will need to put in the lines for the restaurant. They will also need to bring in fill material to elevate the restaurant above the flood state. The restaurant will have its own access off of Louisiana Avenue.

Another construction project the airport is working on is a 15,000 square foot hangar. The new hangar facility is for the Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute. Roe said he was excited about the project, as there hasn't been any new construction on the airport since 2006. The airport is also revamping the roundabout on Louisiana Avenue.

Chris Aldrich, a landscape architect and planning manager with Hatton Godat Pantier, designed the layout for the roundabout. The $25,000 improvements should be completed by the end of the summer.

Road closure won't affect local shops

By Tara Giddens
Business to Business

Part of Airport Road is closed for construction in connection with the Mellen Street to Blakeslee Junction project.

The Lewis County Board of County Commissioners approved the closure at its meeting on May 21. The project will be done in two phases, which includes the work on Airport Road, said Colin Newell, area engineer for Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

(Please Turn To Page 3)

New gym focuses on youth sports

By Tara Giddens
Business to Business

When Garth Haakenson started coaching his daughter's youth basketball team, he noticed a lack gym space for all the youth teams. Lack of gym space meant each team could get one day each week and maybe one weekend day to practice. According to Haakenson, that is inadequate for creating competitive teams.

In December 2010, Haakenson's family decided they wanted to start a project to the help the community and saw a need for another gym space.

By March 2011, the family created a non-profit, Youth Sports of Chehalis, which consists of Haakenson, his wife Kim, sister, Gretchen Moore, and her husband Chris. The project manager is Haakenson's father Dick Haakenson

"It's a small group of people and we really want to get something started and then build it from there. It is interesting that every time we get together, we dream up these new possibilities that it could eventually become, if there's a demand there and people like it …," Haakenson said about the Youth Sports of Chehalis group.

The facility began to fall into place when the group found a piece of property at 2091 Jackson Hwy. in Chehalis, at the corner of 21st Street and Jackson Highway. The group then started designing the Pacific Athletic Center (PAC).

The facility became an 8,720 square foot building that could hold about 150 people.

PAC has one main basketball court, two side courts, a volleyball court, restrooms and showers. The flooring is a high quality maple wood floor that is shock absorbent, Haakenson said. The flooring came from Western Hardwoods in Shoreline. Rhino Sports of Redmond, supplied the backboards and basketball hoops.

The majority of the project was completed using local companies.

The project is funded by Pacific Mobile Structures in Chehalis, which is the main sponsor of the construction costs and development. The architect of the building was Ty Fragner of TGD Architects in Centralia. The general contractor was Ron Sandrini with Sandrini Construction in Chehalis, electrical was done by Wichert Electric in Chehalis, civil engineer was RB Engineering in Chehalis and site contractor was Balmelli Construction in Chehalis.

The construction is mostly finished and workshops and skill development classes will start in early June.

The programs will include skill development, two different types of advance training and game time training.

Classes will include motor skill and coordination development plus two speed and agility classes for seventh to ninth students along with classes for sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Photo by Tara Giddens / Business to Business

Pictured (left to right): Kim Haakenson, Garth Haakenson, Kelsey Clevenger, Ross Hojem, Gretchen Moore and Chris Moore on the gym floor of the new Pacific Athletic Center. The Haakenson's and Moores are part of the Youth Sports of Chehalis which created the facility. Hojem and Clevenger will manage the center and offer various programs and classes.

Eventually, Haakenson would like to expand, but he said future building plans are down the road. The initial focus will be on basketball as a place for skill development and practice for youth teams.

According to Ross Hojem, program manager, monthly session fees do not exceed $100 and prices decrease for additional siblings.

"We want everyone to be able to do it," Hojem said.

The facility's goal is to keep prices low for the public, but generate enough income to pay the facility's bills and payroll.

"From day one, the goal for of this organization was to have affordable access for this facility," Haakenson said.

PAC will also offer a scholarship program for families in need of financial assistance who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to participate in the programs, he said.

PAC has two employees, Hojem and Assistant Manager Kelsey Clevenger.

Hojem has a background in coaching and will also be the lead instructor for the basketball classes. Clevenger is a certified personal trainer and will be leading many of the other programs.

The facility will start with focusing on allowing youth teams in for practices or classes, but eventually would like to participate in tournaments like hosting additional court space for the upcoming Chehalis High School girls' basketball tournament.

Another plan is to eventually host three-on-three tournaments or five-on-five adult leagues.

While there is a volleyball court, it won't be available for the first few months, until the facility gets up and running.

The PAC will open in June A ribbon cutting and grand opening is planned for July 16 at 11 a.m.

Pacific Mobile Structures will also be hosting a charity golf tournament at the Riverside Golf Course. The tournament on July 26 begins at 11 a.m. to benefit the PAC kid's scholarship fund.

"We dream big, we change every day. I come with new ideas, just depends on the reception from the community and the demands that's out there," Haakenson said about the facilities future.

For more information about Youth Sports of Chehalis or the PAC visit its Facebook page or the website at www.youthsportsofchehalis.com.

To reserve time in the gym, call Ross at (360) 269-3087.

"It's really important to us that it's accessible to the community and the only down side of what we've done is that we couldn't make it bigger," Haakenson said.

On The Inside

PFD moving forward with project **Page 2**

Local group promoting Lewis County tourism **Page 6**

New eye doctor coming back home **Page 12**