

# BUSINESS

# TO BUSINESS

July 2026

Vol. 31, No. 7

Single Copy \$2.50

## Grand Opening for Southwest Washington Grain Project

By Buddy Rose  
*Business to Business*

Port of Chehalis officials and others celebrated the grand opening of the Southwest Washington Grain Project on June 17. A large contingent of proponents for the project and other interested individuals gathered for the event at the very impressive project site on Maurin Road.

The grain project had its beginnings in 2019, following an earlier study by Washington State University Extension that indicated there was sufficient demand for a grain storage facility in the Southwest Washington area. That was followed by an expression of interest for such a facility by the Northwest Agricultural Business Center (NABC), with Southwest Washington Project Manager Mike Peroni meeting with port administration.

In 2020, a rail spur from the port's rail line was extended into the Maurin Road site, with construction paid for with \$800,000 in Distressed Counties (.09) funds granted by Lewis County. Shortly after completion of the rail spur, the first load of locally grown malting barley was loaded onto a rail car at the Maurin Road site, using a simple, portable belt conveyor purchased by NABC in conjunction with the Lewis County Farm Bureau.

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Photo by Buddy Rose / Business to Business

Cutting the ribbon during the SW Washington Grain Project grand opening on June 17 is Dave Fenn of the SW Washington Growers Co-op, as it is held by Port of Chehalis Commissioner Mark Anders on the left and Port CEO Lindsey Senter on the right. Others in the photo from left to right: Port Commissioner Mark Giffey, Lewis County Commissioner Scott Brummer, Port Commissioner Paul Ericson, 3rd Dist. U.S. Cong. Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, Lewis County Farm Bureau President Dennis Styger, Lewis County Commissioner Lindsey Pollock, NW Ag. Business Center Rep. Jake Fay (behind Pollock), 20th Dist. State Rep. Ed Orcutt, Port Operations Director Bill Teitzel, NW Ag. Business Center Executive Director Mike Peroni, Port Administrative Officer Justine Pense, and Port Facility Manager Dana Lampert.

## Port of Chehalis grain facility is operational

By Buddy Rose  
*Business to Business*

Port of Chehalis Commissioners celebrated the grand opening ceremonies for the Southwest Washington Grain Project during the regular port meeting on June 25. The June 17 event was well attended and Port CEO Lindsey Senter thanked the commissioners and Operations Director Bill Teitzel for all of their efforts in making the event a success. The grain facility is now fully operational.

Local grain to be stored in the silos at the grain facility for shipment should begin to arrive in July. Teitzel noted the bean ladders that will be installed in some of the silos to facilitate storage of certain types of crops without damage should be here by the first of August. A lease agreement for operation of the facility between the Port and the Southwest Washington Grower's Cooperative is being finalized with Jake Fay, general manager for that organization. Teitzel added that he is looking into options for signage that will identify the new facility.

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## Behind and beyond the chair—one (very special) salon owner's journey

By Susan DeLaire  
*Business to Business*

Ally Hair Bar owner Ally Salyers has been on quite the journey since earning her cosmetology license fresh out of high school at the age of 18 in Massachusetts. She worked under "the best mentor" for two and a half years, perfecting her craft, before going back to school in 2008. The two of them still keep in touch. Salyers moved to Washington in 2010, and took a break from hair for 11-12 years, she said. "I felt a call to follow a different path," she shared. Salyers walked away from a thriving career in hair care, only to rediscover it again later, something she never imagined could happen.

She and her family moved from Olympia to Adna in 2022, and she opened Ally Hair Bar in 2023 near the Chehalis Theater.

Salyers relocated her salon in April, just blocks away from her original (and much adored) location near the end of north Market Boulevard in Chehalis. Salyers employees three stylists and a part-time marketing director. When asked what prompted the move, she answered, "I outgrew the space the moment I began onboarding a team." She basically began looking for a bigger space in March 2024, she added.

Salyers intended to create a nurturing culture within her business—for herself, her team and their customers, and all that began



Photo by Charlie Plante / Business to Business

Ally Salyers adds a final touch of hair spray to Shannon Brown's hair in Ally's Hair Bar. Brown, a close friend of Salyers, said she goes back to Salyers over and over again, even traveling from Georgia for the haircut and dye. "You listen and you teach," Brown said of Salyers. "That's a rare thing today, to teach."

initially in that small and special space. "I didn't want to leave," she said, speaking of the connection she formed with many of her neighboring business owners in the downtown community, holding space for every single one of them as she spoke. To

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### On The Inside



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