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The Tenino Independent

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Tightline Construction Contracting LLC

By Charlie Plante
DeVaul Publishing

A general contractor business, Tightline Construction Contracting LLC, celebrated its first official building in Tenino last Friday with a ribbon cutting followed by an open house and bbq on Saturday.

Tightline Construction Contracting LLC works mostly with individuals to help with renovations and new home projects.

"There is nothing we can't do really," Jamie Lucas, the office administrator at Tightline Construction company.

The business is doing two separate days for the event as Lucas said that would work best to celebrate with their clients, the working people, to "swing by and check it out."

As each project is customizable, pricing for the services provided "varies from person to person and location to location," Lucas said.

At the ribbon cutting ceremony, one of their first customers, Jeff Carr, a financial analyst for the City of Centralia had the business do work on his 100-year-old house.

"Not only was the work awesome, but the project was done on time," Carr said. "Couldn't be happier with the result."

The local business is nine people strong, having worked out of the owner's home near Tenino since 2024. Lucas said they are still looking for one or two more people to join their team as lead carpenters.

They are looking to "stay small," Lucas said.

If you are interested in applying, email your resume to jamie@tightlineconstruction.biz.

"We're happy to be here in Tenino," Joe Zimmerman, the owner of Tightline Construction Contracting LLC said.

Photo by Charlie Plante

Joe Zimmerman holds large scissors above his head as he finishes cutting the ribbon on July 10 in Tenino.

Photo by Dan Fisher

A group of cyclists on the paved Yelm Tenino trail pass Tenino City Park on July 11.

STP bike ride finishes Sunday

By Charlie Plante
DeVaul Publishing

The Seattle to Portland bike ride (STP) finished up in Portland on Sunday with a party in Holladay park. Bands played music while food trucks made food and families held signs welcoming and congratulating loved ones after completing the 207 mile ride.

"The 47th STP was a huge success," Paul Tolmé, the media relations manager of Cascade Bicycle Club and the event, said. "The vibes were amazing. It was the biggest turn out since the pandemic."

With the Cascade Bicycle Club staff and the help of 500 volunteers, they set up and took down the event, working Friday to Monday to create the STP.

"The volunteers make it possible," Tolmé said. "Everybody is working long hours to make sure we get these 6,400 riders safely to Portland,"

Tolmé said the set up with everyone took around 12 hours on Friday for the start and finish lines, the overnight stop in Centralia and all the rest stops along the way, 20 miles apart from each other.

"The ride is over but the work continues," Tolmé said.

The finish line was taken down on Sunday at 7 p.m., ending around 9 p.m.

On Monday, they transported everyone back to Seattle with their bags and bikes as part of the final step of the ride.

"We want to enable folks to really have an adventure that they can do once or year after year," Tolmé said.

Due to the large numbers and "success" of the STP, which is the Cascade Bicycle Club's biggest fundraiser for the year, the organization is opening registration for next year's STP from July 11 to July 31, Tolmé said. Normally registration would only open in January.

The next STP is July 10 through 11.

With the "early-bird" special comes cheaper prices, according to Cascades' website. Non-members cost $210, members cost $165 and minors cost $90.

"We hope STP 2027 will be even bigger," Tolmé said.

Photo by Dan Fisher

Jeremy Glenn of Seattle stands in front of the Gatorade drinking options at the Tenino rest stop during the STP.

Raise for Rowyn hosts garage sale

By Charlie Plante
DeVaul Publishing

A garage sale took place last Friday to raise money for a local non-profit, Raise for Rowyn. Over the past 12 years, the non-profit has financially and emotionally supported families who have lost a child. The non-profit stretches the West Coast and Arizona, but is a Tenino-based organization.

At the garage sale, all the items were donated and nothing was priced, but instead people made offers. The money went to help families pay for funeral expenses, yearly birthday cards for the family on the deceased child's birthday and personalized Christmas ornaments.

Last year, the organization sent out 800 Christmas ornaments and sent an average of 60 birthday cards a month, according to Beth Nygard, the executive director of the non-profit.

"We get an average of 20 applications a month," Nygard said.

Not all the families who apply get financial assistance through the non-profit, but they all get emotional support, which includes the birthday cards and the Christmas ornaments.

"The families that we can serve, we want to serve them to the best of our ability," Nygard said.

Raise for Rowyn runs on public, private and corporate donors as well as grants they apply for. Nygard said they had to cut back on serving the wider continental United States, as they used to be a National organization. This allows the organization to say yes to more families across the smaller area, Nygard said.

In addition to moving their services to a smaller area, the organization is also moving its building to a smaller space too.

"We're really glad that we can keep an office space in Tenino," Nygard said. "Staying in the Tenino community was really important to us since the founder's family is here."

The new location is "next to the Sandstone," Nygard said. They will be moving there in September.

"Downsizing to a smaller office will enable us to spend the money that we're saving on rent on our programs," Nygard said.

The non-profit has two major fundraising events a year, an auction and dinner gala as well as a golf tournament. They also have small events throughout the year and donors who help monthly through Rowyn's Halo Society, paying $5 a month.

To donate or for questions contact director@raiseforrowyn.org.

Roaring '20s Dinner Train Sat., July 18

CHEHHALIS - Step back in time and experience an evening of nostalgia with a Dinner Train Ride on a vintage 1920s-style rail coach through the Chehalis River Valley. You're invited to dress up in your best Roaring '20s-inspired attire: think glitzy flapper dresses, dapper suits, sequins, and all the bangles. The best-dressed guest will win a prize!

Arrive early and take the opportunity to pose for professional photos at the limousine photo opp. The red carpet is rolled out for your grand entrance, and with a flourish, you'll board the train for your 5 p.m. departure.

Cocktails are served on board the train as you are seated for your evening of adventure. A 3-course New York Strip Steak or Vegetarian option will be served as you journey through the Chehalis River Valley. Dessert will be served as you return to the station. The cost is $89 pp including your two hour excursion and dinner. Seating is limited to 100 passengers. Tickets are on sale now at ChehalisTrainRides.com.

The train returns to the Depot at 7pm, leaving you with unforgettable memories of a night steeped in glamour, camaraderie, and a touch of 1920s magic.

The train departs from the Chehalis Centralia Train Depot, located at 1101 SW Sylvenus Street, Chehalis, WA 98532, Exit 77 off I-5. For more details and to book your tickets, visit our website: https://steamtrainride.com/roaring-20s-dinner-train/.