

Veteran

Toledo Man Finally Gets His Medals / Main 9



Ron Reynolds to Speak

/ Main 3

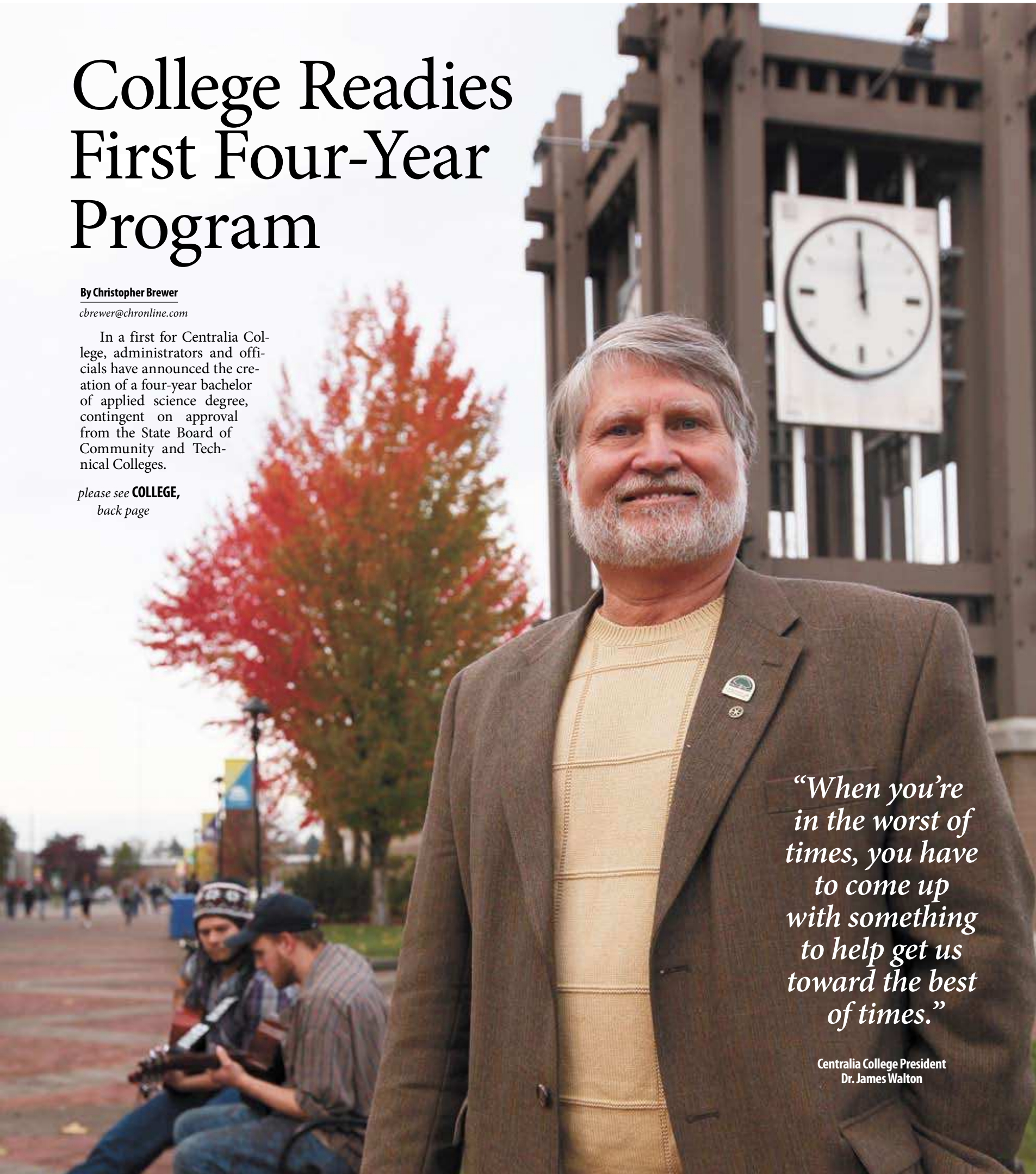


College Readies First Four-Year Program

By Christopher Brewer
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In a first for Centralia College, administrators and officials have announced the creation of a four-year bachelor of applied science degree, contingent on approval from the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges.

please see **COLLEGE**,
back page



“When you’re in the worst of times, you have to come up with something to help get us toward the best of times.”

Centralia College President
Dr. James Walton



Weather
TONIGHT: Low 35
TOMORROW: High 50
Rain likely
see details on page Main 2

Weather picture by Gunnar Talley, second, Onalaska Elementary School



Today's News
JOB FAIR: Event for Veterans Draws Hundreds in Chehalis / **Main 10**

NO MORE ART YARD? Bill Moeller Breaks the News that Richard Tracy Is Downsizing His Distinctive Centralia Display / **Opinion: Main 14**

CLAMMING: Your Guide to the Tide and the Tasty Treats Therein / **Sports: Outdoors**

Upcoming News
MAINTAIN YOUR EQUIPMENT: How to Tuck in Your Boat and Lawn Mower for the Winter / **Saturday's Life: Home**

Deaths
Sturdevant, David Dean, 56, Chehalis
Ford, Sharon Gené, 76, Centralia
Murphy, Rosalyn, 73, Onalaska
Morgan, Beryl "Bert," 90, Centralia
Daily, Edna Mae, 92, Castle Rock

Armstrong, Robert H. "Bob," 90, Toledo
Kohse, Don E., 87, Tumwater
Haurreiter, Thomas L., 64, Bonney Lake
Johnston, Merle D., 97, Chehalis
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Cabinet Manufacturer Returns to Port of Centralia

BAILEYSBURG CABINETS: Company Had Previously Leased Port Space Before Moving East of Cascades, Now Returns, Leasing Double the Space as Before

By Christopher Brewer
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Baileysburg Cabinets, a cabinet manufacturer that previously leased space in the Port of Centralia, has returned

to the port for its second go-around, but this time in a much larger facility than its previous stint. According to company President Dan Tomczek, Baileysburg Cabinets, which sells primarily to schools, hospitals, retirement centers and high-end residences, has begun operations at 3507 Northpark Drive in a 20,000-square-foot space after signing a lease in September. Previously, the company operated in the port from 2002 to 2006 in roughly half the square footage it now leases.

“We really like Western Washington and we had an excellent relationship with the Port of Centralia when we were there before,” Tomczek said. “We had an opportunity to move back to this side of the state, and the port had the facilities we needed to provide for our business.” Tomczek said Baileysburg will hire “four or five” additional employees to work at the company’s facility, which functions as Baileysburg’s production center and company headquarters. An estimating center operates out of Milton-Freewater, Ore., bringing the company’s total

workforce to roughly 15, Tomczek said. According to the Baileysburg Cabinets website, the company has fulfilled orders as large as \$1 million in the past. The company also has experience with LEED-certified projects and also uses eco-friendly materials, the company said. Port of Centralia Executive Director Kyle Heaton said the port and Baileysburg reuniting after five years apart is the result of a good relationship between the two in the years before. Baileysburg Cabinets is the second business to move to the Port of

Centralia this year. The Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad, previously of Elma, moved its headquarters to a 3,000-square-foot building on Midway Court in June. “I think this shows more than anything that having successful relationships with your tenants is important,” Heaton said. “It’s a big pickup for us, a great place for them and it shows that over the last couple years we’ve chipped away at our vacancy rate.”

...
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College: Walton Believes Changing Economy Shows Need for New Program

Continued from front page

The four-year bachelor of applied science course with a focus on applied management, scheduled to be offered beginning in the fall quarter of 2012, will aim to provide students a four-year business-focused degree as part of a broader push to support and enhance the Lewis County economy.

Centralia College President Dr. James Walton, in speaking with *The Chronicle* Wednesday, said there is an immediate, urgent need for a local option for a four-year degree locally, as the employment base has shifted especially in the last couple decades.

“Lewis County has transitioned from a natural resource-based economy to primarily a service economy, and we have one of the lowest bachelor’s degree rates with half the state average,” Walton said. “People are getting associate’s degrees and leaving the community to pursue higher education, but if we can provide a bachelor’s degree here to those seeking it, everyone will benefit.”

According to a statement of need provided by Centralia College to the Washington state Legislature, the largest employment group in Lewis and south Thurston counties is classified as small business, but it also has one of the highest failure rates.

Lewis County has continually posted at least the third-highest unemployment rate in Washington state for nearly two years running; the Bureau of Labor Statistics, according to the college, has indicated the average level of education and training required is work experience plus a bachelor’s degree. But only 10 percent of Lewis County’s population has a bachelor’s degree.

Keeping Students From Leaving Town

Walton said the current problem entailed both students seeking business degrees leaving Lewis County to finish a four-year degree and finding work elsewhere, as well as employers in Lewis County seeking applicants with a business degree that are left with a shallow pool of people meeting job descriptions that require a bachelor’s degree — a sentiment echoed in the college’s needs assessment.

“The current lack of higher education attainment in Lewis County impacts both employers and the vitality of the community and quality of life for its residents,” the college’s needs assessment stated.

The program would accept applicants with a vocational or transfer two-year degree from an accredited college, with course work including college-level courses in English composition, math and social science or humanities.

Classes would be offered under a model known as “hybrid instruction,” in which students on a two-year track would attend classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and those on a three-year track would attend Tuesday classes. The rest of the instruction, which would include additional lectures and online assignments, as well as collaboration with classmates, would take place over the Internet.

Students in the program would also be required to complete internships as well as a practicum to graduate. The projected cost of the program is \$7,500 per year for a full load of credits, which the college com-



Travis Wentworth, of Chehalis, jumps barefoot to catch a Frisbee as students walk to class on the first day of spring quarter at Centralia College in March.

The Chronicle, file photo

pared to \$9,000 at Western Washington University or \$11,800 at the University of Washington.

Waiting for Approval

The program hasn’t been made official just yet; that hinges on the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges approving the courses, which college administrators hope will take place early next year. An approval process through the federal government to offer financial aid to students wishing to take the courses would need to occur as well. The college will still need to hire a director and

figure out the faculty arrangement for the courses.

The bachelor of applied science in applied management degree program at Centralia College would receive absolutely zero state funding. As such, Walton says the program needs 24 full-time equivalent students to sign up and see the course through to break even.

“We’re confident we can cover the cost for faculty through tuition,” Walton said. “We’re not getting a dime from the state in this whole process. They told us it’s a great idea, but we’re not getting money as other community colleges who have gone before us.”

Walton expressed hope the new program would serve to merge a need for a higher educated workforce with what he called “exciting developments” in the economic landscape of Lewis County, as several employers and projects prepare to move into the area over the next few years.

“When you’re in the worst of times, you have to come up with something to help get us toward the best of times,” Walton said of the college’s new program. “It’s about infusing an educated local workforce into our community.”

...
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CENTRALIA COLLEGE SEEKS INPUT FROM PUBLIC

By The Chronicle

A student survey conducted by Centralia College in May revealed overwhelming support for the bachelor of applied science in applied management program at Centralia College, but the college is asking prospective students for their input through several online venues today.

College officials will conduct a live chat at Centralia College’s website, www.centralia.edu, from noon to 1 p.m. today, and again at 4 to 5 p.m. to answer questions, see what people are thinking about the program and provide additional information. The chat will run again Monday from noon to 1 p.m. and from 5 to 6 p.m.

The Centralia College website will also offer a five-question survey to gauge interest in the program. The college also hopes to have a mailing list through which they can provide information to interested people.

For more information, visit the Centralia College website at www.centralia.edu.

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