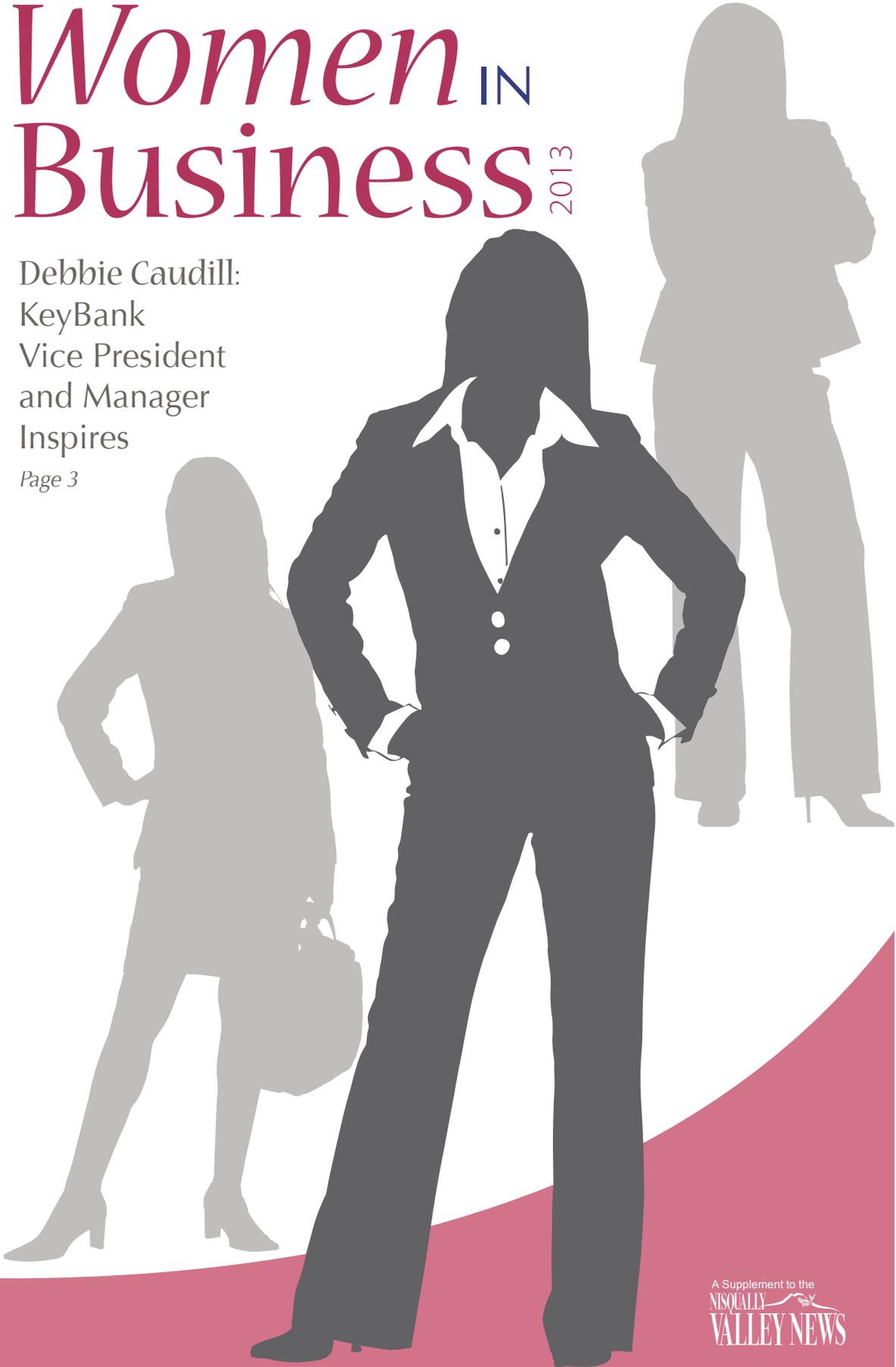


Women ^{IN} Business 2013

Debbie Caudill:
KeyBank
Vice President
and Manager
Inspires

Page 3



Meet Yelm's friendliest bankers!



Theresa, Loreen, Aden, Eva, Jenni, Kelli and Caitlin

We are proud to salute these important women in business who serve you with financial solutions that are timely, competitive and safe.

Whether you need a *Totally Free* checking account or you're ready to buy, build or remodel your home, our local specialists are here to serve you with a smile.

YELM

101 Yelm Avenue West

360.458.2221



timberlandbank.com
Local **BANKING FOR You!**



KeyBank Manager Inspires



Nisqually Valley News file photograph

KeyBank Manager and Vice President Debbie Caudill walks the track during this year's Relay for Life fundraiser. Caudill is a committed volunteer in helping to improve the greater Yelm community.

DEBBIE CAUDILL:
*Business Leader,
 Mentor, Wife and
 Mother, Volunteer,
 Cancer Survivor —
 A True Inspiration*

By MICHAEL WAGER
 mwagar@yelmonline.com

KeyBank and Debbie Caudill are a good fit. Caudill, the branch manager of Yelm KeyBank and a bank vice president, proudly proclaims the support her corporation places for women in business.

In 2009, KeyBank, through its
 See **INSPIRE**, page 13



Tony and Debbie Caudill, along with their son Logan, enjoy competitive four-wheel drive events. The family is highly active in a variety of outdoors activities

ALIVE & WELL MASSAGE CLINIC



BRENDA SURERUS

360.446.0116

109 Binghampton St. W.

Unit A ~ Rainier AMTA MA00008924

Come to a tropical oasis in Rainier... Alive & Well Massage. With over 18 years of helping clients to relax, de-stress, manage pain, improve body mechanics and functioning, Brenda creatively integrates several massage therapy techniques: deep tissue massage, lomi lomi, craniosacral, shiatsu, lymphatic drainage, hot rocks, tmj dysfunction and aromatherapy.

A session can be booked by appointment, walk-ins are also welcome. (*when available*)

Brenda's education includes:

- Graduate of Alexander School of Therapeutic Massage - plus on going studies.
- 2 years study at Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, Toronto.
- Graduate of McMaster University, Hamilton, B.P.E. 4 year degree.



RONELLE FUNK



360.458.6061

10501 Creek St. ~ S 3 ~ Yelm

www.allstate.com/ronellefunk

ronellefunk@allstate.com

Ronelle Funk and her three licensed agents love creating long-lasting relationships with their customers. Ronelle is active in the community as the President of the Yelm Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Yelm H.S. Career and Tech Ed Advisory Board. Her office is rated #1 in customer service in a five state region. Allstate offers insurance programs such as home, auto, motorcycle/boat, renters, business, financial services, and life insurance. Ronelle's office is located in Prairie Plaza on Creek Street next to the Yelm Post Office. Stop by today for a free, friendly quote and see how much Ronelle can save you on insurance! Right now her office is giving away a \$5.00 Starbucks card for every new customer quote – no obligation to purchase.



THE BARBER SHOP



KATHIE BENNETT

360.400.5000

303 First St. S. ~ Yelm

Across from Yelm City Park

email: kathiebenn@yahoo.com

MON. - SAT. 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Kathie Bennett earned her license in 1981 at Barber College while still in high school, but left the barbershop profession to teach in California.

Three decades later, she went back to her first professional love when she opened up The Barbershop in Yelm in January 2011.

"After teaching in California for years, I decided to follow what I've always liked best — barbering," She said. "I've kept my skills up over the years by cutting off and on at different shops during summer breaks."

One of her delights in owning a barbershop is getting to know the people in the community.

"I get to know all of the locals, from descendents of homesteaders, police officers, the mayor, firefighters and particularly welcoming the new military families into the neighborhood."

The Barbershop is located on 301 1st Street across from the Yelm City Park.

No appointments are necessary, just walk in, relax, watch TV, play darts, checkers or just gab while waiting.

The Barbershop is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. All haircuts are \$10. Want a great haircut and some neighborly, friendly conversation at affordable prices?

Come to old-school, The Barbershop and get the best haircut from Kathie and the staff.



BLISS EXPERIENCE



STEPHANIE
KANGISER

360.458.4247

35025 90th Ave. S. ~ Roy 

www.blissexperiencesalon.com

TUES. - SAT. 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Bliss Experience Salon and Day Spa owner Stephanie Kangiser brings more than her expert training and 14 years of experience to her salon.

She creates a place to escape, to simply breathe and relax.

"In life's crazy hustle bustle, when you finally slow down long enough to care for yourself, it should truly be a beautiful, bliss experience," she said.

Located in McKenna, Kangiser said if you walk into her salon, expect to be treated like royalty.

"We offer many pampering services to help you look and feel your best," she said. "We will pamper you from head to toe with individually designed haircuts, colors, waxing and luxurious body scrubs and massage."

Kangiser's training was through the prestigious Gene Juarez Academy which teaches the art and science of cosmetology, followed by working at three stellar salons.

Bliss Experience. As owner Stephanie said, "because it should be."



15-507878R

BUDGET BLINDS



AMBER KOEBBERLING

360.894.8130

www.budgetblinds.com

Service doesn't get any more customer-oriented than with Budget Blinds in Yelm. Owner Amber Koebberling brings the showroom to her customers, guiding them through the process of selecting from fine window coverings, including draperies, blinds, window film and shutters all at excellent prices. In addition to the large selection of brands and styles, customers receive in-home estimates, professional measuring, and installation. Amber said she likes to take time with customers to ensure they get the right covering for each window.

"Function and fashion should always go together."



13-507877R

THE CHRONICLE



CHRISTINE FOSSETT

321 N. Pearl St. ~ Centralia

www.chronline.com

Christine Fossett knows newspapers, and she understands the important role they play in the communities they serve.

A familiar face to the Yelm community, in 2011 Fossett, 51, was named president and chief operating officer for Lafromboise Communications, Inc., parent company of the Nisqually Valley News and The Chronicle in Centralia.

Fossett, who joined Lafromboise in 1988, led the sales team at the NVN during the mid-1990s, and subsequently The Chronicle sales department. She was named publisher of The Chronicle also in 2011.

Fossett is committed to community journalism and maintaining a strong code of ethics and fairness.

In addition, Fossett oversees The Reflector, a weekly newspaper in Battleground, SignPro of Lewis County and The Chronicle Printing Division.



EASTHAVEN VILLA

At Easthaven we take pride in caring for our residents. Our staff is just one reason our community's reputation is so outstanding. Our community offers a variety of assisted living apartments with private bathrooms, roll-in showers, kitchenettes, bay windows and french doors giving it a comfy and welcoming feel. Common areas include our spacious dining room, a lounge with a flat screen TV for movies, a fireplace to cozy up around with a good book or friends on those rainy afternoons, garden area for viewing pleasure or planting, and activity room full of activities for those who like to be crafty. Just to name a few of our services.



(L-R) CATHY REDDING, KATHERINE BURKLAND, PATRICIA NUSBAUM, KARISA NALAN, LYNN HAIGH

Our loving staff is here around the clock to assist our residents with ambulation, getting dressed, bathing, management of the medications and any other needs our residents may have.

We would love to have you join us for lunch, so call and schedule a tour today.



www.acaringplace.net

360.458.2800

311 Cullens Rd. N.W. ~ Yelm

Easthaven
Assisted Living & Memory Care
Villa 

GINGER STREET



360.446.3100 LAURA CATTUTI
101 W Binghampton St. S.E.
(RT 507) ~ Rainier

facebook.com/gingerstreetsshopping

10 A.M. - 6 P.M. TUES. - SAT.

Laura Cattuti first opened a gift shop in the village of Cold Spring, NY 30 years ago. Laura was inspired by her parents, who ran a gift shop and bed and breakfast. Her mother was also an interior decorator and her father a window dresser.

They moved to the Pacific Northwest to be near family, and brought their experience first to a shop in downtown Olympia, and finally, last year to Rainier, where they live. With her roots, it's no wonder Ginger Street in Rainier is such a find. Customers call the store "visually stimulating."

The eclectic, one-of-a-kind, home décor, and vintage shop is located in the old post office. "We love being in town. We like meeting our neighbors," she said. Ginger Street offers a variety of gift items — treasures you won't find at a generic, chain retailer. One is hand-blown glass by her husband Joe (each as unique and gorgeous as Ginger Street). The shop also features local, made-in-Washington and made-in-the-USA items.

Her advice for other women in business: "Do what you love and love what you do."

She also has astute guidance for those starting up their own business. "Have enough capital to begin and don't be afraid of failure."

Ginger Street is a gem, a true jewel set in the heart of Rainier. Come browse.



13-507283M

HAIRWORX



TERESA, ALLISON, JELEA, AMIE

360.458.7726
609 Yelm Ave. W. ~ Yelm

www.schedulicity.com

MONDAY - SATURDAY

When you come to Hairworx, you're getting more than a cut, color, hair extension, micro-beading, color correction, weave or facial wax. You're even getting more than a combined 56 years of experience.

You're getting a team of four pros and the mentoring of generations of women family members and can-do feminine influence.

Owner Allison Williamson's inspiration comes from her mother, who raised three kids and worked full time, all the while making it appear all not that hard. That drive instilled a goal in Allison. She always knew what she wanted to do — hair. Allison loves it when clients allow her to be creative and have fun. She just adores sculpting short hair.

Jelea Hallahan's mentor is her grandmother, who helped out with Jelea's son and assists in every facet of their lives. Jelea worked first in a salon as a receptionist, was encouraged to make it a career, and found out being a stylist is a dream job. She specializes in long hair.

Teresa Reasoner finds inspiration in all women who can balance work and family, a recurring theme with the team at Hairworx. Teresa brings the most experience with more than 20 years working the scissors. She gets pumped up when people ask her to try new styles.

Amie Culver-Lizotte's guiding force is straightforward success: her mother always accomplished everything she ever wanted. Amie, a free spirit obsessed with fashion, specializes in hair extensions and highlights. A cut with Amie makes for a delightful afternoon.

Strong women all, with the experience to give you just the right look, with a twinkle of an experience stirred in.



13-507894R

TERRY KAMINSKI



360.701.2711

Terry Kaminski has been a successful full time Realtor for 26 years. She made Yelm her home more than 17 years ago after moving from Toronto, Ontario. Previous to her career in real estate, Terry has 12 years experience as guest services manager, concierge and VIP coordinator for the rich and famous in the hospitality and tourism industry. The ability to be professional with all people, and meet all challenges in an international setting, has given Terry a unique set of people skills, and a lifelong sales and service orientation. She uses these strengths in her business everyday. Voted "Best Real Estate Agent in the Nisqually Valley" from 2004-2008, she was also the first woman to head the City of Yelm's Planning Commission. Terry thrives on community involvement, recently joining the Board of Directors for the Yelm Cooperative.

After all these years... she still loves the magic of being in real estate.



13-507886R

KEYBANK



(BACK L-R) APRIL SAGE, CLAUDIA YOTTER, KARON WHITEHOUSE, HOLLI KEENAN.
(FRONT L-R) JENNIE BEAUDIN, DEBBIE CAUDILL, CHRISTAN AMES.

360.458.2424
1100 Yelm Ave. E. ~ Yelm

www.key.com

MON. - THURS. 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
FRI. 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Key is committed to lending \$3 billion in 3 years to women owned businesses.

Key is proud to serve Yelm and the surrounding areas and has developed programs designed to help women succeed both in business and in the workplace. Our Key for Women program is a progressive approach to deliver financial expertise through education and networking opportunities addressing the way women do business.

KeyBank is the first Top 20 US Bank to name a woman as its CEO, and many of its top executives, which traditionally are held by men, are filled by women. Whether an employee enjoys being a teller at a local branch, or the CEO, the opportunities for women are endless. Key supports a balance between work and family life making it one of the most desirable companies to work for in the area.

Since we live and work in this community, it is important to give back. Key's philanthropic commitments not only enhance worthy causes nationwide, but at a local level as well. Our staff supports a number of organizations to include the Yelm Chamber of Commerce, Yelm Dollars for Scholars, Yelm Rotary, Midday Lions, Young Life and the American Cancer Society, just to name a few.

Key offers a full range of financial services to include investments, financial planning and mortgages. Not only is our staff friendly, but we have over 150 years of combined experience!

Come see us and Thank You for choosing Key.



LATTIN'S COUNTRY CIDER MILL



CAROLYN LATTIN

360.491.7328

9402 Rich Rd. S.E. ~ Olympia
www.lattinscider.com

In 1976, everyone in their neighborhoods had at least one apple tree in their yard. So Carolyn Lattin and her family decided with their 32-acre farm and small cider press, they would press some apples into cider and freeze it for the year to follow.

After only 2 years, the Lattin's always had fresh cider on hand, despite the season. People began to inquire with her on where they could get fresh cider all year round.

At that point, Carolyn and her daughters Debbie and Sherrie realized there was a demand for fresh pressed apple cider, so they decided that they would buy commercial presses and create their own business.

"We have always been involved with farming through the sale of eggs, chickens, beef and vegetables. For years we processed cider for other people with their personal apples. Then in 1978 we began to produce cider for restaurants, super markets, juice companies and other customers. Last year we processed over 1,500,000 pounds of apples into cider."

"All of our ciders are pasteurized, cooled, bottled, and shipped to you. There is no sugar or preservatives added to any of our ciders. It tastes just like eating a fresh apple except you do not have to chew."

The Lattin's farm is a sustainable earth friendly business. All the solids (pulp) left over from making the cider is used for livestock feed so nothing is sent to the landfill.

In the period of time they have been in business, they have won multiple national awards for their products. Five of those were national awards. Carolyn Lattin also has received the honor of being named a Living Legend of Thurston County.



MAIN STREET COOKIE COMPANY



JOYCELYN ZAMBUTO

360.446.0232

112 Binghamton St. ~ Rainier
www.mainstreetcookies.com

Main Street Cookie Company is a locally owned gourmet cookie bakery located in historic downtown Rainier.

"All of our cookies are baked fresh in-store daily using only the finest ingredients. We create custom cookie trays, special orders and custom decorated cookies for birthdays, weddings, baby showers and more."

With each cookie individually handcrafted you'll want to make Main Street Cookie Company a priority destination.

Joycelyn Zambuto, owner of Main Street Cookies, learned at a young age the business side of running her own company from her business owner father. She learned the art of baking and cooking from her mother. "She made everything that came out of her kitchen perfection!"

Fresh baked cookies can be ordered online. Have them shipped to friends or family anywhere in the US. These sweet treats can make the perfect corporate gifts for clients.

Joycelyn encourages people to stop in during the day for fresh out of the oven scrumptious cookies.



13-007403M
13-007394M

MOUNTAIN MEADOW LAVENDER



BARBARA HULSCHER

253.843.4109

919 304th St. S ~ Roy

www.mountainmeadowlavender.com

What started as a hobby for Barbara Hulscher grew into a business success story. Mountain Meadow Lavender in Roy got its start as a small lavender “test garden” on Hulscher’s property in 2001. Today, the Hulscher’s property is home to about 1,000 lavender plants where people from near and far come to walk the lavender fields, take home their own plants, or purchase a variety of products made from the plants.

Initially, Hulscher said she sold lavender bouquets and demand kept growing.

The Hulschers put in their large lavender field in 2006, and added a gift shop in 2007 that offers a wide variety of products made from lavender, including soaps, body lotions and bath salts — all made in Washington. She also sells loose lavender removed from its stem, sometimes in large quantities, she said.

Even though getting into the lavender business seemed to fall into Hulscher’s lap, she said she pursued the endeavor with a lot of confidence. She’s no stranger to the professional or business world, she said; she used to be a paralegal and taught for Bates Technical College’s legal assistant program.

Hulscher said her passion for lavender makes a visit to Mountain Meadow Lavender more than just a get-in, get-out shopping trip.

“I give a lot of personal service,” she said. “When someone comes to a buy a plant, it’s not like you go into a nursery and you buy a plant and you walk out with it.”

“When they buy plants from me, I’m giving them information on where to put it, how to plant it, what areas they should plant it in, and their landscaping plan. So what I think puts me ahead of a lot of people is I spend a lot of time with my customers.”

MOUNTAIN MEADOW Lavender

NISQUALLY VALLEY NEWS

The women of the Nisqually Valley News help to put the “community” in “community newspaper.”

In addition to producing an award-winning publication each week, most are involved in community service organizations, among them the Yelm Lions Club and Yelm Area Chamber of Commerce.

Whether it’s providing effective advertising or reporting local events, the women of the Nisqually Valley News provide the best service possible for readers and advertisers.



FRONT: BECCA KRAAI, NICOLE KIOURKAS.

BACK: CHRISTY CLARKE, ANGIE EVANS,

KIM PROFFIT, NOME E LANDIS.

360.458.2681

Mon.- Fri.
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

106 Plaza Dr. N.E. ~ Bldg. B, S2 ~ Yelm

www.yelmonline.com



NISQUALLY VALLEY NEWS

13-807418

13-007697L

R&M RV



MARYANNE ROSS

360.458.7683

16816 Flume Rd S.E. ~ Yelm

MON. - FRI. 9 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

R & M RV Service and Repair, Inc. has been owned and operated by MaryAnne Ross and her late husband, Ray, since 1993. Since Ray's retirement in 2008, MaryAnne has expanded her accountant role to increase the company's involvement in community events, scholarships and charities. She and her crew, Mike and Brad Hale, continue to provide the technical skills and service that Ray's customers have come to expect. They bring more than 35 years of experience in structure and fiberglass reconstruction, towing applications, propane appliance, plumbing and wiring repair. R&M is well known throughout the greater Puget Sound area for quality service, customer satisfaction and creative solutions to your RV needs.



TODAY'S DENTAL CENTER

At Today's Dental Center you will find an amazing group of hardworking women providing the best care for their community. The leader of this group is Dr. Sarah Sherman. Dr. Sarah has been practicing in the Yelm community for over 10 years as your neighborhood Dentist.

Many people feel anxious when going to see the dentist, however Dr. Sarah's calm and kind nature will make you feel comfortable and at ease. Dr. Sarah and her staff strive to create a calm and friendly environment where patients can bring their families for years to come.

When you become a patient at Today's Dental Center you become part of the TDC family! From the front office to the clinical staff, the office works hard to make treatment possible and feasible for everyone.

Whether it is your first visit or you have been a patient for years, you will always find a warm and welcoming atmosphere at Today's Dental Center!



MELISSA, SHARI, SANNA, BRENA, DR. JUDD, DR. SARAH, KYLENE, RHIANNA & KRISTEN.

360.458.1976

502 Yelm Ave. W. ~ Yelm

www.todaysdentalyelm.com

Call today and
become a part of
the TDC family!



T&P AUTOMOTIVE



TONI JENKINS-JELOVICH

360.458.3428

16535 Railway Rd. S.E. ~ Yelm

www.tpautoservice.com

Whether you are new to T&P Automotive or a returning customer, Toni Jenkins - Jelovich is the person that you need to talk. For the past 13 years Toni has served as the Office Manager and Service Writer at T&P, and she's a good one. She is the first person you see when you come in, and the last person you talk to before you leave.

Toni's skill set allows her to efficiently work with customer to ensure that they receive "Honest Work For Honest Prices." T&P Automotive Services has proudly served the Yelm Community since 1985. Their mechanics continually receive training and have the latest diagnostic equipment possible to help ensure that you are satisfied with the services that your vehicle receives. T&P is a full-service shop offering exhaust, electrical shorts, and all major and minor repairs on foreign or domestic cars and trucks.

Give Toni a call today to schedule your appointment!



WALT'S TIRE FACTORY



SHERRI & MELANIE

360.400.9258

509 B Yelm Ave. E. ~ Yelm

NEXT TO NAPA AUTO PARTS

Behind every great business, there's a great woman. In this case there's two. The mother and daughter team of Sherri and Melanie keep Walt's Tire Factory rolling along.

Sherri has been involved in the business with her husband for 27 years. Daughter Melanie grew up in the business and started actively working back at the family business five years ago. Between them, they are responsible for accounting functions, managing the taxes, ordering parts and service writing.

Sherri has a few tips for success:

"Always remember who you are. We're not defined by our bank accounts or by how many plaques are on the wall."

"The most important thing you can do for your business is pray daily (Joshua 1:8)."

With their help Walt's has become one of Yelm's most trusted and respected businesses offering tires, wheels, alignments, brakes, tune-ups, preventative maintenance and general automotive repair.

It takes a strong team to keep Walt's Tire Factory running smoothly.

Sherri and Melanie bring the needed organization and dollars and sense to make your experience at Walt's exceptional.



YELM VISION CLINIC



DR. KIM ECKROTH

360.458.2088

207 Yelm Ave. W. ~ Yelm

MON. - THURS 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

FRI. 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Dr. Kim Eckroth has been practicing since 2005 at Yelm Vision Clinic. However, her roots go deeper than that. She grew up in the Yelm Community and graduated from Yelm High School. Dr. Eckroth is Board Certified by the American Board of Optometry and is currently serving as Trustee on the board for Optometric Physicians of Washington.

Yelm Vision clinic has been meeting the eyecare needs of the community for over 30 years. We offer comprehensive eye exams including diabetic eye exams and we provide emergency on-call services. We offer extended evening hours by appointment.

We accept most insurances including Tricare, Medicare and Soundpath.

Call today to make an appointment!



YELM FAMILY MEDICINE



KATHY MAY FNP, CHERI DORHAUER MD, BETHANY SWEET MD, ROBYN DAVIES MD,
JESSICA VAN FLEET-GREEN MD & TAMARA BUNN MD, NOT PICTURED – LAURA YATES MD

While the practice of medicine has traditionally been the province of men, the women of Yelm Family Medicine have proven to be exceptional clinicians as well as astute business people. Their professionalism has earned them a regional reputation for providing quality care while maintaining humane, personal relationships with their patients.

Because of Yelm Family Medicine's success and commitment to serve Yelm's growing community, they moved into a new, two-story medical facility in April 2011 and began using Electronic Medical Records in April 2013 and are now setting up a Patient Portal for electronic communications.

These women will continue to personify "The Pride of the Prairie."

360.458.7761

Call to schedule
an appointment today.

201 Tahoma Blvd. S.E. ~ S 102 ~ Yelm

www.yelmfamilymedicine.com



**YELM FAMILY
MEDICINE, PLLC**

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK ~ Mon. - Fri. 9am - 9pm ~ Sat. & Sun. 9am - 5pm

Committed to your health and our community.



Photo courtesy Debbie Caudill

Yelm's Debbie Caudill, paddling at rear right during a river rafting outing, embraces living each day to the fullest. She believes in the adage to appreciate every moment, that it is a gift to embrace and not take for granted.

INSPIRE:

Continued from page 3

program Key4Women, pledged (and fulfilled) to lend \$3 billion over three years to women-owned businesses (since 2005 KeyBank has lent a total of \$6 billion to women business owners).

"We are especially proud of this accomplishment given how challenging the economy has been over the last three years," stated Maria Coyne, corporate executive vice president and Key4Women founder, in a press release. "When we made this commitment, at the height of the recession, we were counting on the resiliency we have

seen in women-owned companies."

KeyCorp, the parent company of KeyBank, is led by CEO Beth Mooney, named this fall as the most powerful woman in banking by the industry magazine *American Banker*. In addition, KeyCorp Chief Information Officer Amy Brady was ranked number 15. Coyne also made the top 25 list coming in 18th place.

"I am grateful to *American Banker* for recognizing women's achievements and for this tremendous honor," stated Mooney in a press release. "Amy, Maria and I share this achievement with the dedicated employees at Key who make a difference — each and every day. It underscores that, at Key,

we understand that diversity is a powerful lever in achieving our business objectives."

Caudill, 46, the Yelm branch manager for the past 13 years, appreciates having such notable women bankers leading her organization.

"It sends a message for women that the sky's the limit," Caudill said. "If you're really driven there's a place for you."

Caudill said she's seen quite the change since she entered the banking industry as a teller more than two decades ago. All the branch managers were men. The commercial lender was a man.

See **INSPIRE**, page 14

INSPIRE:

Continued from page 13

All the executives were male. Women worked in operations and as tellers.

“It hasn’t completely flipped, but now we have more female branch managers than male, with significant female representation in executive positions, which really says a lot about the company,” Caudill said. “It makes me proud to work for KeyBank. I don’t have those obstacles.”

Caudill is described as outspoken, focused, independent, hard-working, dependable and above all, active. She’s a natural leader.

Yelm resident April Sage, a vice president of Business Banking for KeyBank worked with Caudill in the past.

“She is a mentor within our institution and a teacher to many,” Sage said. “I would still call her my mentor even though I have not worked for her for seven years.”

Community Involvement

Caudill is active in a variety of volunteer, community-based groups. She has been on a Relay for Life team for the past 11 years. She’s the treasurer for Yelm’s Dollars for Scholars. Caudill has been on the Yelm Area Chamber of Commerce since 2000, and is a past president. She is a founding member of the Roy Chamber of Commerce and a past president of her homeowner’s association.

Yelm Chamber Executive Director Cecelia Jenkins said Caudill has been an inspiration for years.

“During her tenure on the Chamber Board she has chaired numerous raffles and fundraising events,” Jenkins said. “She is a solid volunteer and gives unselfishly of her time and energy.”

Sage echoed Jenkins’ impressions of Caudill.

“Well, she is involved in everything 100 percent,” Sage said. “If asked she rarely says no and she ends up using her creativity to help make the activity happen or more enhanced. ... She gives her

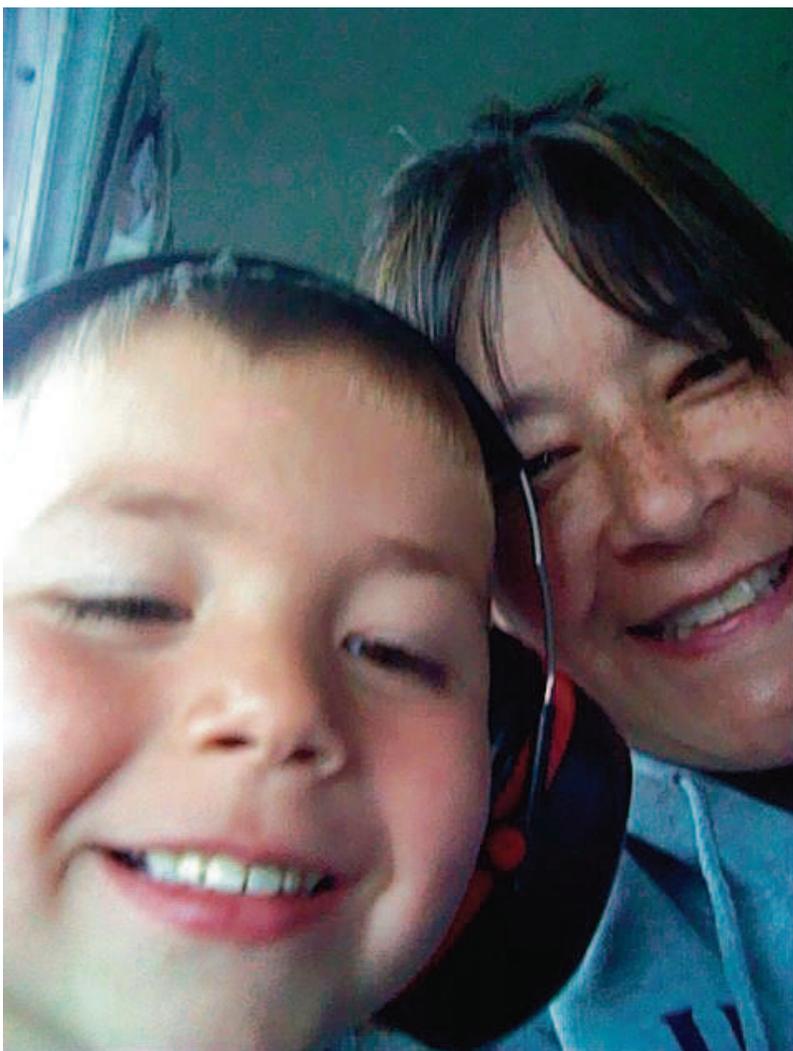


Photo courtesy of Debbie Caudill

Debbie Caudill and her son Logan enjoy a floatplane ride. The trip to Alaska to see where the documentary “Alone In the Wilderness” was filmed was a birthday present to her husband Tony.

time and resources whether it’s gathering a crew of KeyBankers to do something in the community or it’s just her and her family.”

She continues her volunteer leadership despite the demands of her profession and giving birth to her son Logan four years ago.

“Volunteerism is important,” Caudill said. “There’s always work to be done, knowledge to be gained. Without volunteers there’s not enough money flowing to accomplish all the tasks that need to be done.”

Caudill acknowledges her life is a busy one, her days are full.

“I just haven’t learned the art of saying no,” she said. “It’s important — somebody’s got to do it. Besides, I’m better when I’m busy.”

Always Active, Always Focused

To say Caudill is active is an undersell. It’s part of her DNA.

In high school she was driven. She was always on the Associated Student Body, was a varsity cheerleader captain and the band president (she played clarinet).

A former military police officer for the Army, she met her husband Tony while they were stationed in Honduras; they later transferred to Fort Lewis. After leaving the military, she landed a bank teller job.

She worked the teller job during the day, and various jobs at night and on weekends — hotel front desk clerk, barista, waitress.

“I was focused to save enough

Continued on page 15

Continued from page 14

to buy a house,” Caudill said, which came true in a few short years.

Up for Adventure

The Caudills are four-wheel drive enthusiasts. The couple used to race Jeeps but have scaled down their activities since the birth of Logan.

The family still spends time trap and skeet shooting, and are into archery and bird hunting. They like to take rafting trips, ride the ziplines, go-cart race and snorkel. Caudill is obsessive with rollercoaster rides. They once flew to Cleveland to ride the 10 rollercoasters at Cedar Point. They have three pack horses, dog Casey and cat Kitty on their five acres in Roy.

Caudill loves to cook but admits she “hates cleaning up afterward.”

Cancer Strikes

The Caudills had son Logan late in life. She was in her early 40s. Having children at that age increases the chance of getting cancer. A few months after giving birth, a lump in her breast would not go away.

About six months after delivering, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She underwent chemotherapy and radiation, and finally had a full mastectomy. Two years ago she had reconstructive surgery, she said, and for the past three years she’s been cancer free.

“After the diagnosis, I knew it wasn’t a death sentence. I knew there was so much medical research done,” Caudill said. “We just lived it one day at a time.”

Caudill at the time certainly did understand the devastation cancer can cause. Her father died in 1996 during surgery to combat bladder cancer. Her mother died in the mid-2000s of pancreatic cancer.

“The courage that she displayed during her fight with cancer showed such strength it added to my respect for Debbie,” the



Nisqually Valley News file photograph

Luminaries light up the track during this year’s Relay for Life. The fundraiser is close to Debbie Caudill’s heart as she is a cancer survivor, and also lost her father and mother to cancer.

Chamber’s Jenkins said.

Caudill remained calm throughout. She’s not dramatic. The experience did teach her a few lessons in life.

Caudill, when talking of her successful battle against cancer, first thanks the great team of doctors who cared for her. She then

describes the appreciation for life that can come from tragedy.

“Enjoy every moment, every single day,” Caudill said. “There are no bad days. If you are here to complain about it, it’s better than the alternative. And you make your day, and you choose to have a good day, because it is a choice.”

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