

Valley announced as director of children's museum *Discover! Children's Museum* scheduled to open for pilot project in February

By Christina Crea
Business to Business

Discover! Children's Museum in Chehalis announced Jim Valley, former Centralia Chehalis Chamber of Commerce executive director, as their new executive director Jan. 7.

"I'm super excited," Valley said. "It's going to be a lot of fun, a place for kids to learn and parents to have fun with them."

Valley was on medical leave from the Chamber for nine months until November 2012 battling Wegener's vasculitis. It weakened his immune system and he said he almost died three times.

However, Valley said he is recovering well and work thus far with Discover! has been great.

"My doctor cleared me quite a while ago (to work a 40-hour work week)," Valley said. "Although I can't run as fast as I used to and my left arm isn't as strong as it used to be (due to a fungus called aspergillus that paralyzed the left side of his body), there is no reason I cannot work a job and do day-to-day office work."

"Jim has an outstanding track record,"

said Discover! advisory committee member and Chehalis-Centralia Airport Director Allyn Roe. "He produced the most successful events at The Chamber, and we know his enthusiasm and energy are just what we need to build a solid foundation for the Discover! Children's Museum."

Discover! will have the grand opening of their 6-month pilot project Feb. 9. It will be a scaled-down version of the full museum.

Roe said the goal of the pilot project is to obtain results and measure objectives.

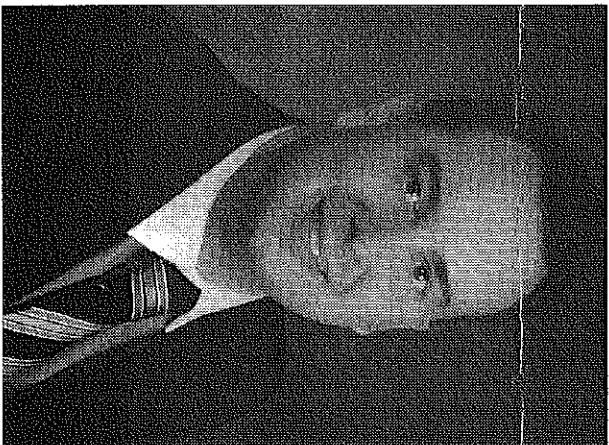
Discover! is located in Chehalis at 1461 Louisiana Ave., between Michaels & Maurice's in the Twin Cities Town Center off Exit 79.

It will be open Wednesday through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Valley said it will possibly be open until 6 p.m. on Thursdays, but that is to be decided in the future.

The Museum will be interactive, with hands-on experiences like the paleontology fossil dig, veterinarian clinic and a Lego building exhibit.

Discover! members are currently looking



Jim Valley

for community members to get involved with the museum. They need volunteers, sponsors and potential future exhibits.

The Discover! Children's Museum is a project of the Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT). It all started

in 2007-2009, when community members saw the need for a hands-on learning center where families can explore and learn in a creative environment instead of traveling elsewhere, especially during the winter months.

In late 2009, members of the CCRT partnered with the original visionaries and additional volunteers to form a six member Children's Museum advisory group that operates under a 501(c)3 organization called the Friends of the Chehalis Community Renaissance.

The museum will cover approximately 60 percent of its needed income through earned revenue sources including admissions, rentals, special exhibits. The remainder will be through donations and grants from various organizations.

Admission is \$4 per person and children under one year of age free. All activities, exhibits, workshops and performances are included with the general admission.

For more information, visit the Discover! website at www.lewiscochildrensmuseum.org, their Facebook page, or contact Valley at discovermuseum@gmail.com.