

A 20 second (maybe a full minute) update on the activities of NWCDC!



Twenty on the Twenty

A 20-second (or so) monthly update about co-op development in the Pacific Northwest provided to you on or about the 20th of each month. **Please share with your network!**

[Visit our Website](#)



Sp'q'ni Food Truck Incorporates!

The staff of the Chewelah Casino in Chewelah, WA have incorporated their Food Truck Cooperative as a Tribal LLC with the Spokane Tribe. Working with NWCDC staff, they developed Articles of Incorporation and a Membership Agreement that confirms cooperative values and allows them to address patronage as a Subchapter T corporation. This legal status allows them to access a bank account and start raising capital. The Co-op plans to begin with an espresso bar within the Casino and expand to add food trucks and trailers in a sustainable manner.

Sp'q'ni Food Truck's new Logo!

WTV Truckers Co-op Begins Operations

The Western Treasure Valley Truckers Cooperative began operations with a contract to remove waste onions damaged by winter storms. The first contract generated \$9,200 in work for the drivers and experience for the co-op. The Co-op will be bidding on a much bigger contract involving destroyed onions. A major cold-storage unit was destroyed by heavy snows and close to [\\$100 million worth of onions](#) need to be removed.

This work comes just as the Co-op begins its membership drive. Many of the drivers in the region are independent operators and cannot bid on multi-truck loads. By using the cooperative as the broker, the drivers can increase their revenue opportunities, create new jobs, and lower the overall costs of brokerage. In addition, the Co-op can [provide back-up to members if a truck breaks down allowing them extra security in meeting contracts.

Four Co-op Groups in First Academy

The inaugural South Sound Worker Cooperative Academy begins next month and will have four groups engaged in either converting and existing business or developing a new business from the ground up. These projects are diverse and exciting. They include:

- An Olympia base B&B/Hostel under new management seeking to become worker-owned and operated.
- An educational organization built around sustainable and resilient communities
- Clothing/home product manufacturing
- A nature based obstacle course set in the foothills around Mt. St. Helen
- Developing and marketing a natural liniment and other products

The classes begin April 15th and run through June 24th (no class on April 29th due to Co-opatopia!).



Twisted Strait Fibers Kicks Off Membership Drive

The PNW Fiber Web (dba [Twisted Strait Fibers](#)) begins its membership drive with an event:

April 21, 2017

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

**[Finn River Farm and Cidery](#),
124 Center Road, Chimicum, WA.**

The Board will be on hand with NWCDC Staff to answer questions and sign people up for membership. The membership fee is \$300 and will help the overall capital drive to buy equipment and begin operating a full-service Fiber Mill Cooperative on the Olympic Peninsula for sheet, goat and alpaca fibers. Twisted Strait welcomes fiber producers, fiber artists, and fiber enthusiasts to their membership.

For more information, check out their [Facebook Page](#) or show up on the 21st (with your checkbook)!

Co-Opatopia 2017

Celebrate the co-ops of the Pacific Northwest April 29th from 2-7 pm. Representatives from area co-ops and credit unions will be in NWCDC's parking lot to talk about their organizations, co-ops in general, and build solidarity with other co-ops and the general public. This event occurs in conjunction with the [Olympia Spring Arts Walk](#) and the Procession of the Species, a unique Olympia parade. [The Procession](#) begins at 4:30 pm and begins one block south of NWCDC's office.

April 29, 2017

407 4th Ave East, Olympia, WA

1pm-7 pm

Help us provide technical assistance to co-ops!

The projects mentioned in this months report all receive funding through US Department of Agriculture Rural Development grants. **Rural grants only go so far and urban areas have few, if any resources.** You don't have to wait for the end of the year to support our programs! You can provide a **tax deductible** one-time donation or monthly sustaining gift to help fund the work of co-op development!

You can even earmark specific projects.

