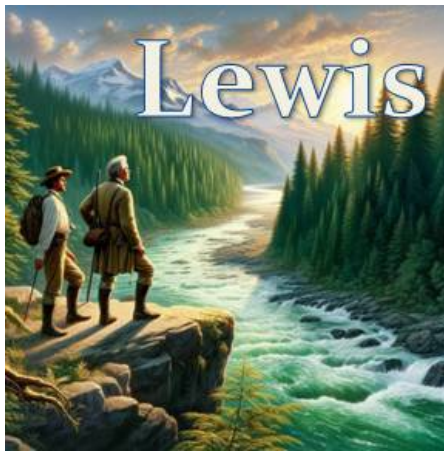




Lewis & Clark Chapter

TRI-CITIES, WASHINGTON



September 2026

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Aaron Pickett
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Auxiliary Liaison
Richard Misener

Chapter email

moaa.tricities@gmail.com

Chapter Website

tricitiesmoaa.org

The Justice System: Problems and Solutions

Summer is drawing to a close and the chapter is meeting again. Our September speaker will be Julie Long, currently the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Franklin County.



Julie Long

She has had a long history of successful prosecutions managing difficult cases in both Franklin and Benton counties. Julie has prosecuted thousands of cases from aggravated first-degree murder, rape, arson and drug trafficking. She will speak about the justice system, problems and proposed solutions. Julie obtained a BA in Law and Justice from Central Washington University and her JD from Loyola – New Orleans, School of Law. Julie has spent her entire career putting criminals behind bars, not back out on the street. Her

record shows that she pursues cases to conviction, unwilling to plea bargain with violent criminals. She routinely asks for high bail to keep dangerous predators off the street and to protect the community safety as much as possible.

In addition to her challenging job, Julie makes time to volunteer in the community. She has volunteered with St. Joseph's Catholic church and School as well as Tri-Cities Prep.

Julie is the daughter of a Marine. She supports the region's therapeutic and Veteran courts.

We will meet at Zintel Creek on Tuesday, September 15th, starting with a social hour at 5:00 PM and dinner at 6:00. Reservations by Thursday, September 10. No late reservations this month; Bob will be traveling.

Chapter Business

We are starting a membership drive; MOAA Hq sent us a list of MOAA members in our area who are not affiliated with a chapter. We winnowed the list to those with an email address and who live within an hour's drive. That got a list of 154 names. We sent an initial email introducing the chapter and saying we will have a follow up message with an invitation to a social event in the fall.

You probably noticed that last

year we started drawings for door prizes at our meetings. If you have any suggestions on local vet-friendly business that might be interested in providing one in the future, please let Jon know.

\$48M VA clinic for Tri-Cities clears key WA hurdle. What next?

[Summarized from Wendy Culverwell's June 23 article, Tri City Herald]

A new Veterans Administration clinic in Kennewick is one step closer to breaking ground after clearing a key development hurdle. The city determined the project will not have a significant environmental impact, according to a June 16 determination under the State Environmental Policy Act, or SEPA.

The 124,000-square-foot clinic will be built on an 11.8-acre vacant site at 3811 Plaza Way in the Southridge area, near Highway 395 and the Ridgeline Drive underpass. The city is reviewing the site plan.

The outpatient facility will be 10 times larger than the current Richland clinic and expand services for local veterans. Nearly 15,000 veterans lived in Benton and Franklin counties in 2024, while an estimated 46,000 live

within 75 miles of the Tri-Cities.

Ryan Companies US Inc. is developing the \$48 million-plus project. The clinic will include 672 parking spaces and rise up to 32 feet. Funding was authorized under the Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022.

Hq MOAA sends . . .

COLA prediction Social Security and Military Retirement

A key projection released after the Aug. 12 data went public

predicts a 3.6% COLA starting with the January 2027 checks. That would be the largest adjustment since the 8.7% boost in 2023, which was driven by post-COVID inflation. The average of figures from July, August, and September are used to set the new COLA. Retirees will know the adjustment after the September figures are released in mid-October.



Zintel Creek
314 N Underwood St
Kennewick

Social hour: 5:00
Dinner: 6:00
\$32 per person members
\$35 per person on the web

***A reservation made
is a reservation paid***

September Meeting Tuesday, September 15

Reservations by
Thursday, Sept 10 to
Email:
moaa.tricities@gmail.com
On line:
<http://www.tricitiesmoaa.org>

Menu

Chicken Parmesan
Vegetable Pasta Primavera
Caesar Salad
Garlic Bread
Tiramisu for Dessert
Water, Coffee & Ice Tea