

MADE BY US BUY LOCAL!!!



If the Port of Lewiston can be considered a machine, Chad Smith is the motor that keeps things running smoothly and consistently.

After first working on the docks for a tenant, Chad was hired at the Port when that business left the area in 2001. Since then, trying to encompass the number of hats he wears under one title is a challenge.

Chad is a certified crane operator, certified rigger (trained to handle and move heavy loads), runner of various equipment, overseer of warehouse operations and general maintenance guru. The one constant? Variety.

"I like knowing that I can do something different every day," said Chad, a married

father of three and lifelong Lewiston resident. "No two weeks are alike."

On any given day, Chad could be found assisting with Clearwater Paper sawdust barges, loading and offloading rail cars, operating the crane (aka "Big Blue"), maintaining various Port equipment and even stringing holiday lights.

"I couldn't handle a desk job," he admits. "I like to work outside."

And the tenants and customers at the Port are grateful, knowing they can count on his steady presence to ensure their needs are met and exceeded. We appreciate everything Chad does for the Port of Lewiston and its service to the community.



Necessity is the mother of invention they say, and for Jessi McLean, that truly is the case.

Her company, G&E Spa Essentials, was born out of the desire to provide her daughters with quality products for their skin. In 2020, she and husband Jeremy were spending countless hours at the hospital with newborn Eliana, who was born with pulmonary hypertension and heart defects. McLean used bathtime to connect and bond with older daughter, Gracelyn, and bought bath bombs to make it a special treat. The problem? They really weren't a treat at all.

"They smelled terrible and irritated her skin," she said.

McLean, a middle school teacher by trade, started researching to create the right formula for her daughter's skin. The resulting product was such a success, she started looking for other natural formulas for her family. The next? A special cream to help minimize Eliana's post-surgical scars. Her products – all made from scratch using only trusted suppliers – became such a hit she launched her business in May 2021 from her basement. Through word of mouth, her business grew – but only so far.

"My wings were clipped," she said, in reference to the limits her small workspace placed on her. "I just didn't have enough space."

The solution came in the form of the Port of Lewiston's incubator program, which provides manufacturing startups with structured leases that allow them to grow. G&E Spa Essentials soon moved into 1,500 square feet of manufacturing space in the Port's Seaport Building. This move, coupled with her husband's meticulous customization of the space, led to a huge growth in sales. Last year's sales outpaced McLean's first year by more than 400%. Her product line now includes everything from bath bombs and soaps to lip scrubs, wax melts and beard oil. In January 2023, she expanded her business from online only to include her own store in the Village Centre Cinema lobby in Lewiston.

"I couldn't have done it without the manufacturing space at the Port," said McLean, who has made the business her full-time career.

G&E Spa Essentials is open Thursday through Sunday at the Village Centre Cinema lobby. For store hours, additional information or to purchase products online, visit their website at www.gandespaessentials.com.

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