



Welcome to October

October is in full swing, and we're making it count. This month brings a mix of focus and fun as we move closer to year-end. Take a look at what we've been up to and what's ahead.

**Read below for newsletter highlights:**

- Marking a Milestone
- Awards and Recognition
- Employee Spotlight
- Non Profit of the Quarter
- Coverage Corner
- Events in the Community
- PHE Birthdays and Anniversaries



Marking a Milestone

## Congratulations to PHE's President, Reid Ekberg!

Last month, at the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Washington GO BIG Conference, our very own Reid Ekberg was appointed president of the IIABW.

Pictured below is Craig Field of Mitchell Reed & Schmitten handing over the leadership of the association to Reid. Congratulations, Reid!



Awards and Recognition

## Thank You for Voting Us One of the Best!

In the 2025 edition of The News Tribune's "Best of Pierce County", Pilkey Hopping & Ekberg earned 3rd place in the Best Insurance Agency category! Thank you to all of our loyal clients for making this possible- we appreciate you!



### Employee Spotlight



**Victor Solorzano**  
*Personal Lines Producer*

#### **Welcome to the Team, Victor Solorzano!**

Victor has been with Pilkey Hopping & Ekberg since September, serving as a new business producer for our Personal Lines department. He has worked in the insurance industry for over four years. Victor began his insurance career in Washington, spent three years in the Bay Area, and recently returned to the PNW to join PHE. Victor enjoys supporting local small businesses, working out, spending time outdoors, and riding his motorcycle. Learn a bit more about Victor below.

#### ***What's your favorite thing about your job?***

Advising people on what coverage they should have and analyzing their assets.

#### **What's the best piece of advise you've heard?**

"This too shall pass" from King Solomon.

#### **If you could eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?**

Surf n Turf Burrito.

This month, Bailie Grahn and Melanie Rice headed to Kentucky for the Ragnar Bourbon Chase. Bailie was one of twelve runners — together, they covered a total of 206 miles from Clermont, KY, to Lexington, KY. Starting at the Jim Beam Distillery, she ran through tree-lined country roads, rolling hills, and horse farms, stopping at some of the best bourbon distilleries along the way.

Way to go, Bailie — we're so proud of you!



Non-Profit of the  
Quarter



## First 5 FUNdamentals

**Mission:** Supporting communities in achieving their collective goals for children and families.

**What They Do:** First 5 FUNdamentals strengthens early childhood systems by creating optimal conditions for growth and development. They coordinate partnerships, manage projects, and foster collaboration to improve outcomes for kids across Washington. First 5 FUNdamentals helps ensure that every child and family—regardless of background—has access to the support they need to thrive.

### Key Programs They Support Include:

- Family Connects Pierce County: Free nurse home visits for families with newborns,

connecting them to community resources and support.

- Washington Communities for Children (WCFC): A statewide coalition network uniting local efforts to improve outcomes for children and families.
- Pierce County Early Childhood Network (PCECN): A collaboration of over 175 local partners working to strengthen early childhood and family systems.
- Northwest Early Learning Coalition (NWEL): A regional coalition supporting more than 100 organizations, promoting sustainable excellence in early learning throughout Northwest Washington.
- Visions for Early Learning: Serving five local counties, this initiative builds community partnerships to support early learning through services, events, education, and advocacy.

**Core Values:**

- Equity, Anti-racism, and Social Justice
- Trust and Respect
- Local Voice
- Integrity and Transparency
- Collaborative Relationships

**Upcoming Event:** This month, the PCECN is hosting the **Champions for Children Celebration**. This event brings together community leaders, families, and partners to honor those making a generational impact for children in Pierce County. Join them on Wednesday, October 22nd, from 5:00-6:30 PM at Historic 1625 Tacoma Place.



You can explore more about First 5 FUNdamentals, as well as the upcoming *Champions for Children Celebration* by visiting the websites below:

[Visit their Website](#)

[Champions for Children](#)



Coverage Corner

**Medicare Open Enrollment Season is Here**



**Laci Moyer**  
***Vice President,***  
***Benefits Department Manager***

Medicare Open Enrollment runs every year from October 15 to December 7, giving Medicare beneficiaries the opportunity to review and make changes to their coverage for the upcoming year. During this time, you can switch between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage, change your Medicare Advantage plan, or adjust your Part D prescription drug plan. Any changes you make will take effect on January 1 of the following year.

It's important to review your plan each year because coverage, provider networks, and drug formularies can change. Even if you're happy with your current plan, take a few minutes to confirm that your doctors, hospitals, and medications will still be covered next year. Comparing plans may also help you find one with lower premiums or out-of-pocket costs. Also, watch for mail or email from insurance companies, as this is where they tell you whether doctors and prescriptions will be dropped from future plans.

We are here to help! We do not offer every option available, but our team is committed to showing you all the options so you can make the best choice for you. We are using a new technology this year called HealthSherpa that will allow us to help quicker. This tool will ask you to enter your prescription and sign the federally required scope of appointment form. If you have any issues with the technology, please let us know and we can assist or complete it manually. You also have the option of using resources such as [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) to compare plans on your own if you'd prefer. We may also direct you to this site to apply for coverage if we are not appointed with the company you choose.

Thank you for your business and we are looking forward to helping all of our Medicare beneficiaries through the Annual Election Period (AEP).



Events in the  
Community



### Neighborhood Nights at TAM

*Thursdays from 5-8 PM*

The Tacoma Art Museum is open late and free every Thursday from 5-8. Connect with art exhibitions, enjoy art making in the studio, and enjoy a bite to eat or drink at Neighborhood Nights!

[Visit our Website](https://www.tacomartmuseum.org/)

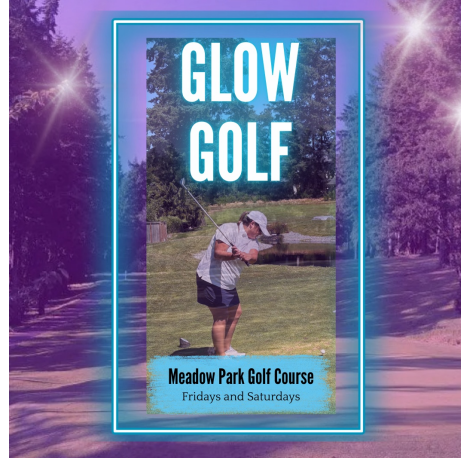


### Haunted Farmers Market

*October 5, 12, 19, 26 and November 2*

The haunted farmers market in Tacoma is a free, haunted-themed market. There, you'll find farmers, food trucks, and vendors selling spooky art, crystals, and more! The market will be open every Sunday in October, as well as November 2nd for the Day of the Dead.

[Visit our Website](https://www.tacomartmuseum.org/)



### Glow Golf at the Highlands

*Friday and Saturday nights*

Meadow Park has glow golf after dark every Friday and Saturday. This is a fun and unique experience that is loved by all ages. Register online below!

[Visit our Website](https://www.tacomartmuseum.org/)



### Tacoma History Walking Tours

*Wednesdays at 1PM, Saturdays 10AM*

Did you know that Tacoma has walking history tours every week? The tours take place on Wednesdays at 1pm and Saturdays at 10am. You can choose from downtown Tacoma, Ruston Way, or the Westmoreland Neighborhood. Hear Tacoma's history like you've never heard it before!

[Visit our Website](https://www.tacomartmuseum.org/)



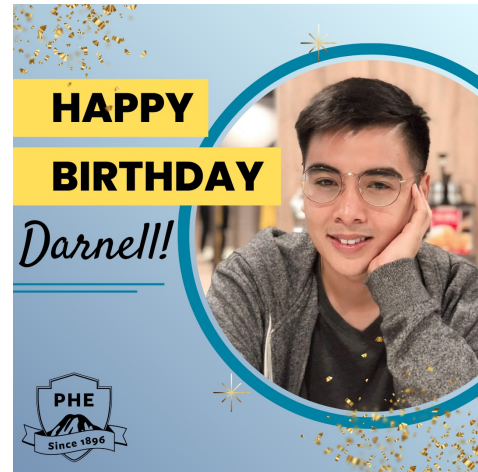
PHE Birthdays & Anniversaries



**Jessica Clark**

*Commercial Lines Account Manager*

This month we're celebrating Jessica's 8th year with Pilkey, Hopping & Ekberg! Your kindness and hard work continue to make an impact on both our team and your clients. Here's to another awesome year ahead!



**Darnell Rivera**

*Virtual Assistant- Admin/Benefits*

Happy Birthday to our amazing virtual assistant, Darnell! We appreciate everything you do for us and are so proud of all the progress you've made in such a short time. Have a great day, Darnell.



**Jessica Clark**

*Commercial Lines Account Manager*

Another celebration for Jessica this month- Happy Birthday! We are so happy to have you back on board with us full time. We're wishing you a birthday full of all the people, places, and things you love.



**Parker Caillouet**

*Agency Tech*

Wishing a very Happy Birthday to the newest member of our team, Parker! We thank you, Parker, for jumping into this job with an open mind, ready to learn. You are already an invaluable team member. We hope you have a fantastic day!

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## REFERRAL PROGRAM

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Our referral program is one way we say thank you for trusting us enough to recommend PHE to your family and friends.

For every qualifying referral we receive, which consists of a new customer requesting a quote, we will mail you a \$10 Starbucks gift card. We also match this with a gift to our non profit of the quarter!

Click [here](#) to request a quote!

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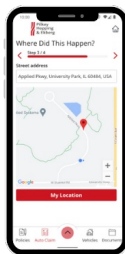
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