

Chamber News

» Official Business Publication Of The Kalispell Area Chamber Of Commerce «



News From the Street

January luncheon to feature local industry reports

The January 20 Chamber Luncheon will feature a variety of fast-paced reports on the status of local industries as we move into 2009. Plan on joining us for this informative luncheon meeting. The luncheon is sponsored by Bob Herron Insurance. Reports will include:
Agribusiness – Mark Lalum, CHS
Construction – Terry Kramer, Kramer Enterprises

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New Directors Take Office

Join us in welcoming five new directors to the Kalispell Chamber Board. Reed Gunlikson is the owner of R Gunlikson CPA's in Kalispell. Dave Harvey is Vice President of Sportsman & Ski Haus.

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Final Days to Register for Business Days at the Capitol

You are invited to join a delegation of businesspeople from the Flathead Valley in attending the Chamber of Commerce "Business Days at the Capital" on January 5-6. There will be a panel of House and Senate leadership presenting their preview of the key legislative issues of the session. Full registration is \$120 with rates available for individual events.

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Chamber Snapshot

Visitor's Center Information Requests:

	Nov 08	YTD
Phone Calls:	523	6,877
Walk-ins	271	4,936
VACATION		
Packets	1	36
Inquiries	24	720
Email Inq	32	163
RELOCATION		
Packets	3	26
Basic	14	362
Phone Books	2	20
Chamber Website Activity		
Unique Visits	4,201	100,576

At a Glance

JANUARY UNWINDS

» January 21, 2009
from 5:00-6:30 pm
Office Solutions & Services
700 Sunset Blvd, #A

» Chamber Closed

January 1, 2009 for New Years Day
January 19th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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"Really new" Member
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Get In Contact

Call Bridgette to find out how you can benefit from all the activity on the Chamber of Commerce website 406.758.2801.

Kalispell Chamber of Commerce Mission Statement

The central mission of the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce is the cultivation and development of entrepreneurs and communities through the spirit of enterprise.

Officers

Bob Schneider, Chairman of the Board,
First Interstate Bank

Terry Kramer, Vice Chairman of the Board,
Kramer Enterprises, Inc.

Jim Lehner, Secretary/Treasurer, Plum Creek

Mark Lalum, Immediate Past Chairman, CHS

Directors

Dick Buchanan, Byte Savvy

Susie Burch, Flathead Valley Community College

Kris Carlson, A+ Plus Healthcare

Nancy Davis, Prudential Financial

Reed Gunlikson, R Gunlikson CPA's

Scott Hagel, Crowley Law Firm

Dave Harvey, Sportsman's Ski Haus

Tom Kurdy, The Daily Inter Lake

Tom Lund, Rocky Mountain Bank

Dave Mitchell, CTA Architects & Engineers

Denise Nalty, Nalty Real Estate

Cheri Nelson, Express Employment Professionals

Jim Ness, Glacier Bank

Jim Oliverson, Kalispell Regional Medical Center

Loren Sallee, Loren's Auto Repair

Ken Sugden, Flathead Electric Cooperative

Steve Thompson, Semitool

Ex-officio Directors

Mike Pence, Flathead County Administrator

Professional Staff

Joe Unterreiner, President 758-2804

Bridgette Evans, Director of
Member Services 758-2801

Cary Aubrey, Executive Assistant . . 758-2803

Diane Bebee, Receptionist 758-2800

Chris Parson, Small Business
Development 758-2802

Doug Bolender, Government Contracting
Services 755-4221

Jill Seigmund, Leadership Flathead
Program Manager 758-2810

Consultants

Anderson, Baker & Swanson - Government Affairs

Edge Communications - Media & Public Relations

JCCS - Tax & Audit Counsel

Janet Schwalk - Bookkeeping

New Members

Please welcome these new members with your business.

GLACIER CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

Tammi Rardon ~ Contact

17482 O'Neil Road

Lakeside, MT 59922

Email: tammi@glacierncamp.org

Website: www.glacierncamp.org

Phone: 406-844-2114 Fax: 406-844-0551



We are a year around Christian Conference Center. Our facility includes three conference rooms, large dining hall with fully catered meals, thirteen bedrooms in our Spruce Lodge that can sleep 52-73 people. We can handle up to 200 guests for a wedding, reunion, or any type of event. If you can dream it, we can host it.

NEXTRND

Jere Perchy ~ Owner

390 Missy Lane

Whitefish, MT 59937

Email: jperchy@nexttrnd.com

Website: www.nexttrnd.com

Phone: (406)-270-4505 Faxed: (406)-862-7547

NextRnd is a product realization company that provides mechanical and electro-mechanical design and testing services. Our quality management system is certified to ISO 9001 and 13485 (13485 is medical device specific). NextRnd is registered with the Food and Drug Administration as a Specification Developer.

SIZZLER

George Kennedy ~ Owner

1250 Hwy 2 West

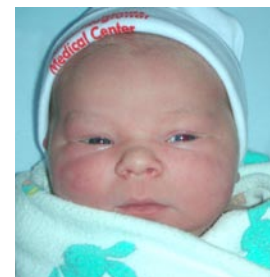
Kalispell, MT 59901

Phone: (406)-257-9555

Steak, Salad and Seafood Family Restaurant •



Congratulations to Wade (KCFW) and Dori Muehlhof (Flathead Convention & Visitor Bureau) on the new arrival of their beautiful baby girl! Born Friday, December 19, 2008 at 8:15 am, weighing in at 9lbs 7oz and 20 ½ inches long! Baby Chloe and Dori are both doing great. •



Business Days at the Capitol

>>from cover

Those already registered include:

Bob Schneider	First Interstate Bank
Chris Parson	Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
Cory Swanson	Anderson, Baker and Swanson
Debbie Kramer	Three Rivers Bank
Jerome Anderson	Anderson, Baker and Swanson
Jim Lehner	Plum Creek Timber Company
Jim Ness	Glacier Bank
Jim Oliverson	Kalispell Regional Medical Center
Joe Unterreiner	Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
Steve Clawson	Wells Fargo Bank
Susie Burch	Flathead Valley Community College
Terry Kramer	Kramer Enterprises
Tom Ray	Plum Creek Timber Company
Kris Carlson	A Plus Health Care / A Plus Staffing

To register, contact Leah Weaver at leah@montanachamber.com or 406-442-2405. To reserve your room at the Best Western Great Northern Hotel, call 800-829-4047 and ask for the "Chamber Business Days". Room rates are \$94 for a double and \$104 for a king room plus taxes. ●

Renewals

10 Plus Years

Brendan House
Bresnan Communications
Carquest Auto Parts
City Service Valcon
Conrad Mansion
D A Davidson & Co
Eisinger Motors
First Interstate Bank Downtown Kalispell
- First Interstate Bank Evergreen
- First Interstate Bank - Hutton Ranch
- First Interstate Bank Eureka
- First Interstate Bank Polson
- First Interstate Bank Whitefish
Flathead Beverage Co
Flathead County
Flathead Farm Mutual Ins. Co.
Flathead Valley Community College
George Best Attorney at Law
Glacier Bank - Downtown Kalispell
- Buffalo Hill Kalispell
- Glacier Bank - Columbia Falls
- Glacier Bank - Eureka
- Glacier Bank - Reserve Drive, Kalispell
- Glacier Bank - Whitefish
- Glacier Bank Bigfork
- Glacier Bank Evergreen
- Glacier Bank Libby
- Glacier Bank Polson

Montana Logging Association
NW Montana Human Resources
Prestige Assisted Living
Rocky Mountain Transportation Inc
Walmart
Wells Fargo Bank Kalispell North
Wells Fargo Bank Kalispell Downtown

5 to 9 Years

Building By Jon
Merlin Information Services
Natural Choice Products
Piney Creek Interiors
Summit Preparatory School

1 to 4 Years

Flathead Health & Fitness
Flathead Youth Home
Holiday Inn Express
Montana's Best Vacation Homes
Montana Land & Home, Inc
Brian C Tanko Esq
Western Outdoor ●

34th Annual Economic Outlook Seminar

MONTANA'S TRANSPORTATION FUTURE *Opportunities Around the Next Curve*

Moving and changing at a speedy pace, the rapidly-growing world economy will bring increasing business opportunities to Montanans over the next few years.

Transporting Montana's valuable products such as cattle, wheat, and copper will continue to be important to keep our state competitive in a global economy. Traditional as well as alternative energy development continues in an effort to solve the nation's energy crisis. This means our state needs to be poised to transport wind power, coal, and other energy resources. While we don't know what is around the next curve, the future surely holds opportunities. Montana needs to start thinking about a complete, integrated transportation system that will allow us to remain competitive in the ever-changing economy.

At the 34th Annual Economic Outlook Seminar, Steve Albert, director of the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University, will discuss the connection between the transportation system and the economy. He will also address the benefits and challenges of a safe and efficient system and other important issues.

The program is presented by the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research and the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce. The cost is \$80 and includes the seminar, a proceedings book, and a one-year subscription to Montana Business Quarterly. Continuing education credit from a variety of professional organizations is available for a \$20 fee.

The seminar runs from 8 am to 1 pm and will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel on Tuesday, February 10. Register online at www.bber.umt.edu or call 406-243-5113 for more information. ●



Brown Bag Series: Blueprint for Business

Business Writing: Polish your skills for written communication in the business world

This workshop is for every employer and employee who has ever struggled to write an effective business correspondence.

Each piece of the writing puzzle will be defined; the "WHAT", the "WHO" and the "WHY"; then you'll learn how to put them all together in business writing format.

Subject matter – the business at hand

Audience – focus on the target audience

Purpose – get to the point & be clear

Format – be sure format is appropriate for the specific setting

Style – writing for work means being clear, concise & straight forward

Cindy will show you how to polish your written communication skills to be able to state and support your main idea, organize and connect your ideas, identify your receiver and select the correct format to deliver a convincing message. You will also receive the 5-step "Before You Send It Out" Checklist.

Don't miss this opportunity to maximize the impact of your business writing skills.

This month's facilitator:

Cindy Carpenter, SPHR, Owner of Cindy Carpenter Business Services, Inc. is a certified Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) with over 25 years of training experience. Cindy is an adjunct faculty member for Workforce Training at Flathead Valley Community College and a former instructor for the American Institute of Banking (AIB). Her work has included training on performance appraisals, diversity, team building and leadership, as well as DISC analysis, focus group facilitation, assistance with creating business plans, coaching, and teaching a

customized Employee Handbook course. Cindy served as Senior Vice President of Human Resources for a banking institution with 200 employees in 11 offices from Libby to Butte for eight years in addition to co-owning a family auction business.

A University of Montana graduate in Business Education, Cindy brings a healthy combination of training, education, business ownership and actual workforce development experience to your company.

Monthly Blueprint for Business Success brown bag sessions feature business professionals facilitating informative discussions. Attend to receive relevant information and opportunities to ask questions of the professionals and network with peers.

Who should attend? Employers interested in growing and evolving more effective organizations. Why? Exchanging ideas, insights and real-world solutions directly impacts your bottom line.

Making better decisions quickly requires more and better information.

Utilizing all available resources to operate and grow is smart business. Engaging and energizing your employees helps make your business successful.

Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Time: Noon – 1:00 pm

Location: The Summit
205 Sunnyview, Kalispell

Cost: No cost!

RSVP: Terri Haueter @ 758-6279 or
thaueter@mt.gov

Government Affairs Briefs

Legislative Session Friday Briefings Begin January 9

Every Friday at noon during the legislative session beginning on Friday, Jan. 9, the Chamber Government Affairs Committee will hold a one hour briefing and planning session on the Chamber's legislative agenda. These sessions include a briefing and discussion with our representative in Helena, the firm of Anderson, Baker and Swanson. The session also may include legislators and other guest speakers via teleconference. The membership is invited to attend.

Impact Fees Back on City Council Agenda

Transportation Impact Fees are back on the City Council and Advisory Committee agenda. The Advisory Committee will take this up at the meeting on January 6, and the City Council will have it on their January 12 workshop agenda. You are encouraged to attend these two meetings. These fees will impact the deal structure, financing, timing, cost, and marketability of current and future real estate projects. For example, if commercial structures built in 2007 had been subject to Transportation Impact Fees, the fees for these selected projects would have been:

- Town Pump Tavern and Casino,
4,115 sf - \$122,450
- Hutton Ranch Food Court,
6,600 sf - \$244,286
- Flathead Bank,
6,429 sf - \$ 86,836
- Sportsman and Ski Haus,
58,874 sf - \$221,190
- McDonald's Restaurant,
3,253 sf - \$83,429

While impact fees have their place as a tool for building municipal infrastructure, the Chamber opposes this plan due to several legal and technical flaws in the proposed fee schedule and plan. For further information and questions, contact Joe Unterreiner at 758-2804.

To learn more about how transportation impact may affect your business go to:
Final Report: <http://www.kalispell.com/downloads/Transportationfinal.pdf>
Supplemental Info <http://www.kalispell.com/downloads/impactrecommendation.pdf>
Public Comments <http://www.kalispell.com/downloads/impactcomments.pdf>

Chamber Calendar

January 2009



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

All Meetings are at The Chamber unless otherwise stated.

Watch for this event in February

Feb 10: Economic Outlook Seminar 2009
Feb 17: Luncheon



New Year's Day
Chamber Office Closed

				1  New Year's Day Chamber Office Closed	2	3
4	5 BUSINESS DAYS AT THE CAPITOL Leadership Flathead Meeting 3:00pm- 5:00pm	6 JSEC Board Meeting 3:30pm – 5:00pm	7 Education & Communications Committee Meeting 8:00am – 9:00am	8	9	10
11	12 BEAR Meeting 4:00pm – 5:00pm	13 Kalispell Downtown Association 12:00pm - 1:30pm	14 Agribusiness Committee Meeting 7:00am – 8:00am Ambassador Meeting 4:00pm – 5:00pm	15	16	17
18	19  Martin Luther King Jr. Day Chamber Office Closed	20 Executive Board Meeting 7:30am – 8:30am Luncheon 11:45pm–1:00pm Flathead Community Foundation 4:00pm – 5:00pm	21 Natural Resources Com. Meeting 7:00am – 8:00am Trans. Committee Meeting 4:00pm – 5:00pm UNWIND Office Solutions & Services 5:00pm – 6:30pm	22	23	24
25	26 Flathead Regional Business Center Meeting 8:30pm – 9:30pm	27 Board Meeting 7:00am – 8:30am	28	29	30	31

December Ribbon Cuttings



American Printing

A Special Thank You to Our Wonderful Volunteers



THANK YOU to all of our volunteers who make newsletter so much fun! RSVP does a great job getting us retired seniors that still want to give back. Getting the newsletter out is a breeze with their help, so thank you!

New Directors

>> from cover

Jim Ness is Vice President of Operations for Glacier Bank. Loren Sallee is the owner of Loren's Auto Repair. Scott Hagel is an attorney with the Crowley Law Firm. Please join us in welcoming these five individuals to the Board. ●



Reed Gunlikson



Loren Sallee



Dave Harvey



Scott Hagel



Jim Ness

January Luncheon

>> from cover

Finance – Bob Schneider, First Interstate
 Healthcare – Jim Oliverson, Kalispell
 Regional Medical Center
 Real Estate – Jim Kelley, appraiser
 Tech – Steve Thompson, Semitool
 Timber – Jim Lehner, Plum Creek
 Tourism and Hospitality – Lisa Brown,
 Red Lion

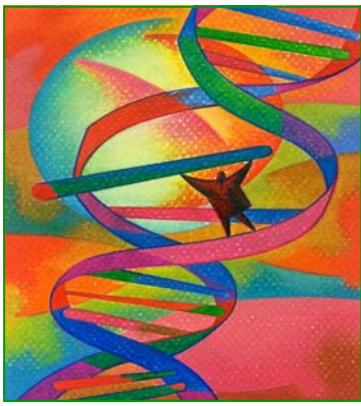
The luncheon is scheduled for 11:45 to 1:15 pm on Tuesday, January 20 at the Red Lion Kalispell Center Hotel. Luncheon tickets are \$15 each for Chamber members; \$20 for non-members; \$110 for a reserve table of eight. To avoid delays at check-in, pre-pay and register for your tickets by calling 758-2800 or register on-line at www.kalispellchamber.com by Friday, January 16.

Don't miss our January Chamber Luncheon with Bob Herron Insurance and Investments. This Trusted Choice independent insurance agent is locally owned and operated by Bob Herron. Bob started his business in 1976 and in 2009 he will start his 33rd year in business. Small by choice, this agency has it all. . . great products, great companies and great service. Discover what this experienced agency can do for you. ●

UNWIND

On December 3 the Kalispell Chamber building was overflowing with the holiday spirit and attendees to our annual 'Thank You to our Membership' Christmas Party and Flathead Regional Business Center Open House. We have Vista Linda to thank for the tasty and aromatic munchies that were available throughout the building. It may have been cold outside but it was warm and festive inside. Everyone went home with a pocket calendar as a Thank You gift.

Our Split the Pot winner for the evening was Tom Murphy of Career Connections. ●



Employee Handbook Series

Building Relationships with Your Employees

AN EFFECTIVE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK...

- ...saves your business from legal proceedings and safety hazards.
- ...establishes clear communication, expectations and guidelines.
- ...benefits all employees of your business or organization.

DATES: Every Tuesday for 10 weeks
January 20 thru March 24, 2009
OR
Every Thursday for 10 weeks
January 22 thru March 26, 2009

TIME: 8:30 am - 10:30am

LOCATION: Flathead Valley Community College
Arts & Technology Bldg, Room 236
The First Interstate Workforce Training Lab

COST: \$250 for up to 2 individuals
from the *same* organization

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Cindy Carpenter: 871.2574
ccarpenter@centurytel.net or
www.employflathead.com

REGISTER: FVCC Continuing Education Center
406.756.3832 or ceinfo@fvcc.edu

THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK SERIES:

- Is an educational process to support your completion of an employee handbook.
- Guides you step-by-step to create a handbook that is customized to your business or organization.
- Includes employment law attorney, Dan Johns, to discuss & emphasize the importance of a legal review of your handbook.
- Utilizes proprietary software.

**Limited Space Available
Pre-registration Necessary**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

If you are in a position to determine or enforce employment-related policies and procedures or would be responsible for drafting employment related policies and procedures, this is for you!

PRESENTER - CINDY CARPENTER



Cindy Carpenter, Owner of Cindy Carpenter Business Services, Inc., is a certified Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) with over 25 years of training experience. Cindy is an adjunct faculty member for Workforce Training at Flathead Valley Community College and a former instructor for the American Institute of Banking (AIB). Her work has included training on performance appraisals, diversity, team building and leadership, as well as DISC analysis, focus group facilitation, assistance with creating business plans and coaching. Cindy served as Senior Vice President of Human Resources for a banking institution with 200 employees in 11 offices from Libby to Butte for eight years in addition to co-owning a family auction business.

A University of Montana graduate in Business Education, Cindy brings a healthy combination of training, education, business ownership and actual workforce development experience to your company.

SPONSORS



Leadership Flathead

Planning, Growth, and Taxation were the hot-button topics of December's Leadership Flathead session. The Class of 2009 were treated to the always-interesting "mailbox" presentation by Kalispell Planning Department Director

Tom Jentz, who along with Flathead County Assistant Planning Director B.J. Grieve, outlined the challenges and opportunities of planning for the future of a valley in continual flux. Jentz also provided the class with a helpful primer on how property taxes are assessed and what public services they support. Later in the day, Kalispell Mayor Pam Kennedy, State Rep. Jon Sonju, and County

Commissioner Joe Brenneman gave their differing ideas on how the Flathead Valley can close the gap between the associated costs of growth and the tax revenue generated by growth. The day ended with presentations by Habitat for Humanity's Executive Director Patti Gregerson, Whitefish Housing Authority's Executive Director SueAnn Grogan, and Northwest Montana Human Resources' Michelle Minnehan on the ongoing dilemma of providing affordable housing for all of the Flathead's residents.

At the end of the day, the class was asked to identify things everyone can do to benefit our valley. Here's what they had to say:

- Get informed and get involved in planning efforts. For more information about serving on an advisory board or commission, contact the Kalispell City Clerk at 758-7756.

- Be respectful and listen with an open mind to others' ideas and concerns.
- Get to know your neighbors.
- Help Habitat for Humanity, Northwest Montana Human Resource Council, and the Whitefish Housing Authority acquire low-cost lots, as the skyrocketing cost of land in the valley is the biggest obstacle to providing affordable housing.
- When in need of building supplies and fixtures, consider shopping at the Habitat for Humanity resale store in Kalispell. Or consider donating gently-used building supplies and fixtures to the resale store. Call 752-2905 for more information.

Thank you to the day's sponsors: APEC, Applied Water Consulting, CTA Architects and Engineers, Fun Beverage, Morrison Maierle, Inc., and 48 North Engineering.



Tom Weller, Vickie Eggum, and other Class of 2009 members discuss various leadership strategies.



Leadership Flathead classmates Jane Foley and Laurie O'Leary are kindred spirits.



Kelly Robinson, Dan James, and Kate Logsdon work together to solve a problem.

Providing Economic, Community, and Workforce Development Services

KALISPELL
Chamber of Commerce

15 Depot Park
Kalispell, MT 59901

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