Chamber of Commerce May 2009 Chamber of Commerce May 2009

➢ Official Business Publication Of The Kalispell Chamber Of Commerce ≪



Glacier National Park: Challenges and Opportunities Superintendent to brief Chamber on key issues

The May 19 luncheon will feature a presentation by the superintendent of Glacier National Park, Chas Cartwright, who will brief the Chamber on three key issues facing the Park: 1) Goingto-the-Sun Road and the possibility of using Stimulus funds to accelerate reconstruction, subject to certain increases in traffic delays, 2) a possible wilderness designation for the Park, and 3) an update on the transit system. In 2010, Glacier National Park celebrates its 100th anniversary.

The program is sponsored by Glacier Park, Inc (GPI). GPI is the operator of the historic lodges in and around Glacier National Park and Waterton Lakes

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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.



Part of the group of 100 visiting China, pose for a picture in front of the Temple of Heaven.

Immense Potential of China Revealed in Chamber Trip

On April 3-11, the Kalispell Chamber led a mission to China for 100 members and their family and friends. The country and the trip offer immense potential for local

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Visitor's Center Information Requests:

| | Feb '09 | YTD | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Phone Calls: | 608 | 1559 | | | | | |
| Walk-ins | 276 | 773 | | | | | |
| VACATION | | | | | | | |
| Packets | 5 | 10 | | | | | |
| Inquiries | 83 | 209 | | | | | |
| Email Inquiries | 14 | 38 | | | | | |
| RELOCATION | | | | | | | |
| Packets | 1 | 6 | | | | | |
| Basic | 33 | 84 | | | | | |
| Phone Books | 4 | 4 | | | | | |
| Chamber Website Activity | | | | | | | |
| Unique Visits | 3,732 | 10,440 | | | | | |
| Total Visits | 4,763 | 13,139 | | | | | |

At a Glance

LUNCHEON

Challenges and Opportunities for Glacier National Park 11:45pm– 1:30pm Red Lion Kalispell Center Hotel

MAY UNWINDS

- Wednesday, May 20, 2009 New West Health Services located in the Gateway Community Center (old Gateway West Mall) Kalispell, MT From 5:00 to 6:30 PM
- >> May 25th, Chamber Closed
- Sponsoring an UNWIND is a great opportunity to showcase your business to other Chamber Members as well as the community. There are still a few dates left open for 2009. Contact Chamber Ambassador Ashley King at 406-755-4271 to schedule your UNWIND.

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- 8 From Facebook to Twitter, *continued* Legislative Session Interests

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

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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 Doug Bolender, Government Contracting Jill Seigmund, Leadership Flathead

Consultants

Anderson, Baker & Swanson - Government Affairs Edge Communications - Media & Public Relations JCCS - Tax & Audit Counsel Janet Schwalk - Bookkeeping

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.

April New Members Please welcome these new members with your business.

GLACIER PAVING, INC

Owners ~ Bill and Dallas Traeger 481 Ash Road Kalispell, MYT 59901 Phone: 406-257-8181 Fax: 406-257-8185

Glacier Paving, Inc. performs all aspects of asphalt paving, including ground preparation, placement of gravel, fine grading, placement of hot mix asphalt, etc. We also perform asphalt patching, crack-sealing, seal coating, and striping for both private and commercial enterprises.

H2 PURE POWER, LLC

Owners ~ Dr Mary Meadows Primary Contact: Dr. Mary Meadows Dr John Ballor Dr Jerry Nezat 3455 Hwy 93 South Kalispell, MT 59901 Email: drmarymeadows@hotmail.com Website: www.cleanaircanisters.com Phone: 406-260-7716 Fax: 406-258-0558

Manufacturer of Hydrogen alternative energy powered systems for all engines and home-sized power plants. The hydrogen canisters on vehicles produce hydrogen supplementation which reduces gasoline consumption, greater milage, big power boost, longer engine life, and near zero emissions. We are the Hydrogen People!

MY SECRET TREASURES ANNEX

Owner: Mary Pool 244 East Idaho Kalispell, MT 59901 Email: kresse6@msn.com Phone: 406-260-4060 Fax: 406-755-8391

Vintage – Consignment Clothing – Jewelry & More!

NEW YORK LIFE

Owner ~ Chris Ostrem 723 5th Ave E, Ste 312 Kalispell, Mt 59901 Email: smostrem@ft.newyorklife.com Website: www.chrisostrem.com Phone: 406-871-6702 Fax: 406-258-0660



The Company You Keep[®]

Chris Ostrem is a full-time financial services professional as an Agent with the New York Life Insurance Company and a registered representative of NYLIFE Securities, Inc.

continued next page \gg

April Renewals

10 Plus Years

All Pro Rental Coins & Carats Inc Interstate Alarm Co Inc Museum at Central School Northwest Montana Association of Realtors OHS Body Shop Super 1 Foods

5 to 9 Years

Integrated Security Solutions Powder Horn Trading Co Wild West Plumbing & Drain Service

1 to 4 Years

Bet Harim, Jewish Community of Flathead Valley Full Throttle Entertainment & Northern Lights Laser Tag Park Hilton Garden Inn Kalispell Hull & Company Inc JD's Sprinkler Systems Kalispell Montana Log Homes Kangaroo Koffee Lee Selders Construction Montana Sky Networks Inc Red Eagle Aviation West Venture Properties

April New Members

O'REILLY AUTO PARTS

Store Manager ~ Dennis Thiesen 310 W Idaho St Kalispell, MT 59901 Website: www.oreillyauto.com Phone: 406-752-6123



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Better Parts... Better Prices, Everyday! Automotive parts and accessory retailer. We strive to be the dominant auto parts supplier in every market by offering outstanding customer service, best price and quality in parts.

PLUMBING INCORPORATED

Owner ~ Nol Ploeger Primary Contact ~ Debbie Ploeger 33 Willow Drive Kalispell, MT 59901 Email: plbginc@bresnan.net Phone: 406-890-2213 Fax: 406-890-2214

Serving Northwest Montana, licensed and insured service, residential, customs and commercial

STOCK BUILDING SUPPLY

Brent Hall ~ Primary Contact 41 W Reserve Dr Kalispell, MT 59901 Phone: 406-752-9663 Fax: 406-752-4128 Email: brent.hall@stocksupply.com Website: www.stocksupply.com

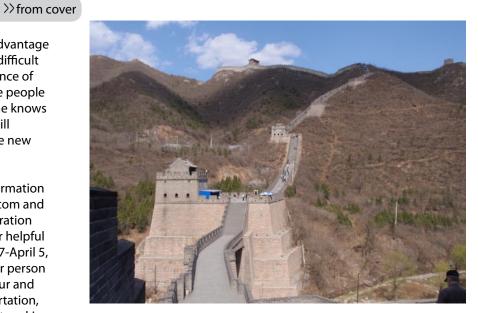
Building Materials and Supplies.



China Chamber Trip

entrepreneurs who can determine a way to take advantage of this 1.3 billion person market. For many, it was difficult to see how this is a communist country. The evidence of rapid growth and investment was so evident in the people and the landscape – especially in Shanghai. No one knows how or when the dividends of a journey like this will come to fruition but our minds were opened to the new possibilities of China.

For more information on this year's tour, or for information on Mission to China 2010, go to kalispellchamber.com and click on the Events page. There you will find registration information, frequently asked questions, and other helpful tips. Mission to China 2010 is planned for March 27-April 5, and for March 29-April 7, 2010. The \$1,999 cost per person (double occupancy) includes air fare, lodging in four and five-star hotels, three meals a day, ground transportation, tours, admission to tour sites, and business and networking meetings.



Standing on the first landing of the Great Wall of China

3



Brown Bag Series: Blueprint for Business

Seeing Red Cars: How can you get more of what you want?

How can you get more of what you want? By focusing on what you DO want instead of focusing on what you DON'T want! Small successes and large achievements all start in the same way

- somebody focuses on what they want.

This seminar will motivate you to move in the right direction for yourself and for your organization. We will be viewing the video, Seeing Red Cars: Leaders Focus on What They Want. This unique and engaging video and interactive program is designed to heighten your awareness of your focus and motivate you to: make better decisions combat negativity, and create a positive environment

This session is recommended for employers and employees.

This month's facilitator:

Facilitator: Allison McCarthy has been providing training and consulting in the Flathead Valley for 12 years and has over 25 years experience as a manager and leader. Her prior management experience includes managing computer operations and technology training in the banking industry, as well as credit and distribution management for Proctor & Gamble. 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, May 13, 2009 | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Time: | Noon – 1:00 pm | | | | | |
| Location: | The Summit | | | | | |
| | 205 Sunnyview, Kalispell | | | | | |
| Cost: | No cost! | | | | | |
| RSVP: | Terri Haueter @ 758-6279 or | | | | | |
| | thaueter@mt.gov | | | | | |

April 22nd UNWIND

Attendees at the UNWIND at Centurytel on April 22 were greeted with the mouthwatering aroma of tasty treats prepared by Vista Linda. The area had a comfortable 'café' feel with tables and chairs scattered around to encourage friendly conversation while munching delicious finger foods and sipping beverages.

Door Prize Winners: Tom McElwain was the lucky winner of the Split the Pot. Mark Noland, Flathead Janitorial & Rug Service, Kari Gabriel, City of Kalispell and Jim Kelley, Kelley Appraisal each won a backpack. Mark Lalum, CHS, Mary McClarty, Wells Fargo Bank, & Mike Powers, each won a gift basket full of goodies. Rick Doran, Montana Brokers, Jeff Lawlor, Larco, Georgia Christianson, Montana Brokers, Janice Payne, Rose Mountain Floral, Lynn Havens, Project CRISS, Debbie Snyder, Flowers by Hansen, Trish Turner, Carol Blake, North Valley Hospital, Don Roundtree, J2, CJ Johnston, 1st American Title and **Russ Larson** all won coffee mugs.

Next UNWIND will be held Wednesday, May 20 at New West Health Services, located in the Gateway Community Center (old Gateway West Mall)



Guests mingle and network while waiting for winners to be announced.



Joe Unterreiner and Jeremy Ferkin welcoming everyone to the UNWIND

Assistance For Business Clinic

Get the facts about employment, safety, tax laws, and state & federal requirements. The Assistance for Business Clinics are developed to assist new and established employers, accountants, bookkeepers and lawyers in constructing a proactive approach to prevent unnecessary claims and/or charges by providing updated reporting of state withholding, Unemployment Tax requirements, minimum wage laws, overtime laws, civil rights laws and federal tax incentives.

This year's clinic will be held at the Red Lion Hotel, 20 N. Main, Kalispell, starting at 7:30 AM on Wednesday, May 6. If you haven't already registered but would still like to attend, be sure to register online at www.kalispellchamber.com, or print the registration form from our calendar of events and mail it with your payment to Kalispell Chamber of Commerce, 15 Depot Park, Kalispell, MT 59901. For more information about registration, call Diane at 406-758-2800.

Chamber Calendar May 2009

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|---|--------|----------|
| All Meetings are at The Chamber unless otherwise stated. | | tch for this event i ne 3 Education an Meeting | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 Leadership Flathead Meeting 3:00pm- 5:00pm | 5 | 6 JSEC Board Meeting 3:30pm – 5:00pm Education & Communications Committee Meeting 8:00am – 9:00am | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Intersection Intersection | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 Executive Board Meeting 7:30am – 8:30am Luncheon ~ Challenges and Opportunities for Glacier Nat'l Park 11:45pm– 1:00pm Flathead Com. Foundation 4:00pm – 5:00pm | 20 Natural Resources Committee Meeting 7:00am – 8:00am Transportation Committee Meeting 4:00pm – 5:00pm UNWIND New West Health | 21 Flathead Regional Business Center Meeting 9:00am – 10:00am | 22 | 23 |
| 24 31 | 25 Memorial Day Chamber Closed | 26 Board Meeting 7:00am – 8:30am | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

From Facebook to Twitter

Ten ways you can make social media work for your business. By Erica Dakins

From Marketplace Magazine, Mar. 17, 2009 By now you may have read every story about social media and seen every local newscast pertaining to the topic. You could have email flooding your inbox with the latest information and trends on social media.

But the question still remains: How do you make social media work for your business?

No direct answer applies to everyone. With social media, the purpose is to get your name out there, and show who you are and what you have to offer. Northeast Wisconsin networking experts have contributed to this list of the top 10 ways to make social media work best for you.

Just do it.

The remaining nine tips are null and void if you don't participate in the social media "scene.""It takes a lot of time," says Jessica Dennis of Red Shoes Public Relations. "It takes more time on the front end than when you get started. And the best way to do it is just to jump in."

But Todd Sanders, Student Affairs Webmaster at UW-Green Bay and @ tsand on Twitter, recommends starting a personal account before leaping into a business account for social media. "Don't jump off the high dive until you learn how to swim," he says. "People make mistakes while using social media all the time; it's a chance to learn and move on. However, a business that makes the same mistakes is seen in a different light. They are seen as social media opportunists attempting to make a quick buck in a community they have no connection to." SUBHEAD: 2. Determine your needs Social media doesn't really have a formula. But knowing which venues are better for your business (see sidebar) will save you time in the end.

For Stacie Hackl, owner/insurance specialist of Advantage Insurance Services in Green Bay, social media is a tool to build her network of contacts. "In today's economy, the most important reason I use social media is to help people build their network of contacts and in turn they can help me grow my network," she says. "Building this network means more than asking someone to connect on LinkedIn; I work hard to build a relationship with each of the people I meet through social media."

Don't be pushy

Social media includes a shift in the

traditional marketing model from a push to a pull. "A push would be us sending out a press release or sending out a link to a Web site. We're pushing who we are on our Twitter followers," says Dennis. "A pull would be posting something on our blog that our followers would find value in — content they're looking for. We're providing them content that makes them want to know more about what we have to say.

"The companies who don't understand that are very easy to spot in social media. Because they come onto these sites and push, push, push. And just talk about their product. So avoid that at all costs." Showing your value and giving your followers incentive to continue following you is just as important as getting your product name out in the SM marketplace. "Big take away for businesses: it's about give and take," says Sanders. "Don't just pimp your product or service, and expect things to take off. Add value to the online world with what you're doing. Be real. Be human. ... If you're first thought is looking for ROI numbers, then you might want to rethink what you're attempting to do."

Be transparent

Social media is uncharted territory in terms of ethics. All other types of media have codes of ethics, but these standards haven't been established yet in social media.

"Make sure you're acting very ethically," says Dennis. "If you're commenting on a blog, make sure you disclose your name, where you work and that this is your opinion and/or your thoughts. In social media everything is very transparent and no one likes to think they're misled."

Protect yourself

On social networking sites like Facebook and LinkedIn, the amount and type of information you include can be too much for your network of friends and contacts. But with Facebook, you can divide your contacts into groups, to separate your college friends from your coworkers from your relatives. If you have a night on the town and post those photos, you don't necessarily want your family and coworkers to see what you've been up to. SUBHEAD: 6. Don't say "I'm too old" "A lot of people turn to a younger generation because they've been using it since it started," says Dennis.

Though that might be true, demographics on Web sites like Facebook and Twitter are seeing a shift into an older age range. Dennis says the largest numbers of people joining Facebook are 35 and older, and those joining Twitter are 45 and older.

"I think that anyone can use social media if they choose to," says Hackl. "However, you need to be dedicated to participating on a regular basis in order for it to be beneficial. Just setting up a profile will not find you your next business opportunity. I strongly believe that the younger generation has been much quicker to respond to this new type of networking and are a step ahead of the game."

Be clear and concise (especially when blogging)

"There is certainly a differently feel online than in the print media," says Dennis. "Online if you're doing a blog, keep it short. They say three to five paragraphs max."

No one has time to read 1,000 words about what you're thinking and what you've been researching. By keeping it shorter, your message has a bigger impact.

Work it in your network

To passively peruse the social media scene is one thing. To see results, you need to make your presence known in the scene. Whether this is by generating content relevant to your network or posting replies on blogs, actively participating in social media is another way to get your name out there. SM users have begun meeting in person to discuss social media. Throughout Northeast Wisconsin, Twitter users have been meeting for Tweetups and LinkedIn users have been meeting to expand their network.

"My husband Mark and I have decided to take social media one step further," says Hackl. "We have created 'Link Greater Green Bay', which is a networking group for local LinkedIn users. Our focus is bringing LinkedIn members connections, information, and knowledge to expand their network. We encourage all Northeast Wisconsin LinkedIn users to join our group. We are planning professional networking events each month to bring people together 'face-toface.""

Invest your time

The biggest investment in time is getting everything set up on the front end. After that is updating and keeping everything current. But different media take more time than others.

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"Recreation, Tourism & Culture" was the theme of April's Leadership Flathead session. The Class of 2009 heard from some of the biggest players in the Flathead's tourism, sporting, and arts sectors.

Here's what the Class of 2009 had to say at the end of the day:

- Attend a community theater production this summer, whether it's at an area high school, the Bigfork Summer Playhouse, Flathead Valley Community College, Whitefish Central School, or the O'Shaughnessy Center. There is a lot of talent in this valley and several fine theaters to showcase it.
- The level of collaboration in the recreation, tourism, and culture sectors

within the Flathead Valley is impressive.

• The arts clearly contribute to a strong local economy.

Thank you to this session's sponsors: North Valley Hospital, Holly Walsh & Western States Insurance, First Interstate Bank, and Flathead Valley Community College.

NOW ACCEPTION APPLICATION FOR THE CLASS OF 2010

Do you know an up-and-coming community leader who is interested in making the Flathead Valley the best place it can be? Submit his or her name, company, and mailing address to info@ leadershipflathead.com and we will send an application and information about the program. For more information, call Jill Seigmund at 758-2810.

Glacier National Park >> from cover

National Park. GPI also operates the historic Red Buses offering daily tours of the Going-to-the-Sun Road and can arrange many of the Park's most popular activities.

This event will take place Tuesday, May 19, 11:45 – 1:30 at the Red Lion Kalispell Center Hotel. Luncheon costs are \$16 each for members and \$21 each for non-members, or \$120 per reserved table of eight. The public is invited. Reservations are recommended. Call 758-2800 or info@kalispellchamber. com for reservations and sponsorship openings.



Ribbon Cutting for the Grand Opening of "My Secret Treasures"



Congratulations to Lisa (and David) Brown, General Manager for the Red Lion Hotel Kalispell on her new addition to the family-Karlee Josephine Brown. Born April 4, 2009 weighing in at 7lbs 12oz and measuring 20 inches long.



Members of the Leadership Flathead Class of 2009 enjoy catching up over lunch at MacKenzie River Pizza.



Touring the Conrad Mansion Museum is a highlight of the Leadership Flathead "Recreation, Tourism, & Culture" session.

Facebook to Twitter

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Check your spelling

A poorly spelled post damages your credibility. From something minor in your latest blog entry to your knee-jerk reaction you posted in response to a story you read on the local newspaper Web site, every misspelled word makes you look like you don't know what you're talking about. This is especially true on LinkedIn, which can serve as your online résumé. Taking the same care and time to spell check can only be beneficial.

The major players

According to Overdrive Interactive, an online marketing firm in Boston, 14 branches encompass all social media

"Overdrive Interactive created the Social Media Map to apply an organized and categorized view to a rapidly expanding, and what is for many, confusing landscape of social media," says Harry Gold, Overdrive's CEO. "The hope is that the map will both educate marketers on the breadth and depth of social media, as well as provide an at-a-glance view of the most important tools they can use to widen their social media marketing channels. The map is also meant to spark conversation about what are the right social media opportunities for people to apply to their organizations."

Red Shoes PR has condensed it down to five categories and their major sites: Video, photo and file sharing: YouTube (video), Flickr (photos), Slideshare (files, presentations and data) Blogs (sites to host your own): Technorati, Blogger, Wordpress Microblogs (limited character number, answers "What are you doing?"): Twitter, Yammer,

Pownce Social networking (looking for friends, relatives, coworkers): LinkedIn, Facebook, Ning, Myspace

Social bookmarking (track the Web sites you visit): Del.icio.us, Digg, Reddit

Marketplace Magazine 2009 •

Action in the 61st Legislative Session

Bills of Interest

- HB 123 by Rep. Llew Jones

 Extend coal trust funded
 econ devel programs. Senate
 amendments accepted by House,
 signed by Speaker on 4/18/09.
- HB 150 by Rep. Dee Brown

 The Montana Recreation
 Responsibility Act. Governor
 amendatory veto accepted by
 House, accepted by Senate on
 2nd reading. Senate 3rd reading
 on 4/20/09.
- HB 163 by Rep. Jill Cohenour
 Revise tax incentives for motion picture industry. Signed by Governor.
- HB 312 by Rep. Bill Beck Increase population requirement for resort tax purposes. Passed by Senate, signed by Speaker 4/18/09.
- HB 658 by Rep. Mike Jopek Mitigate property tax reappraisal. Amended in Senate, passed out of Senate 30-20, scheduled for 2nd reading in House to consider Senate amendments, 4/20/09.
- SB 158 by Sen. Greg Barkus
 Revise number of judges in judicial districts. Governor

amendatory veto changing the effective date to 2014. Returned to Senate on 4/18/09.

- SB 192 by Sen. Ryan Zinke Small business work comp relief. Signed by Governor.
- SB 305 by Sen. Bruce Tutvedt

 Revise subdivision and platting act. Conference committee report adopted by House and Senate, new version printed 4/17/09.
- SB 306 by Sen. John Esp Definition of remainders. Conference committee met on 4/15/09.
- SB 349 by Sen. Bruce Tutvedt

 Revise state bidding requirements to protect proprietary information.
 Sent to Governor on 4/14/09.
- SB 371 by Sen. Gary Perry Revise work comp laws. Governor amendatory veto reiterating the bill does not change current Supreme Court rulings and currently recognized principles of workers' compensation law.
- SB 490 by Sen. Roy Brown Increase class eight business equipment tax exemptions. Failed to pass House Taxation committee on 4/8/09, remains in committee.

PRSRTD U.S. Postage

PAID Kalispell, MT

Permit #13

Providing Economic, Community, and Workforce Development Services



15 Depot Park Kalispell, MT 59901

OCCUPANT / POSTAL PATRON

