

Chamber News

» Official Business Publication Of The Kalispell Chamber Of Commerce «

Luncheon to Focus on Building Levy Election

Vote to be held March 22

The March Chamber Luncheon will feature a presentation on the March 22nd Kalispell High School Building and Reserve Levy. Presenters will include:

- Darlene Schottle, EdD, Superintendent
- Brad Eldredge, PhD, Trustee and Economist
- Dan Zorn, Assistant Superintendent
- Terry Kramer, Government Affairs Committee Chairman

On January 25th, the board of trustees for Kalispell Public Schools passed a motion to ask voters to approve a \$6 million levy over the next 5-years (\$1.2 million/year). The money is necessary to keep the buildings safe and functional and to keep technology up to date. The district has relied on these levies since 1982 to maintain its 14 buildings and support facilities. At their meeting on February 22, the Kalispell Chamber Board took a "support" position on this ballot issue. See the Government Affairs section of this issue of Chamber News for additional details on the Board's action.

The March Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 15, at the Red Lion Hotel, 11:45 – 1:30 pm. This luncheon is sponsored by Morrison-Maierle. Founded in 1945, Morrison Maierle provides engineering, surveying, environmental, and planning services throughout the



continued on page 8 >>

Montana Legislative Session Report

Prepared By: Anderson, Baker, Swanson

On Friday, February 25, the Montana State Legislature went on transmittal break, which represents the halfway point of the session. The energized legislators returned on Tuesday, March 1st to finish the second half of the session.

We have revised our Bill Monitor list. The list appears below. For copies of bills as they are drafted or other legislation information visit the State web-site at [http://laws.leg.mt.gov/laws11/law0203w\\$.startup](http://laws.leg.mt.gov/laws11/law0203w$.startup).

continued page 9 >>



Chamber Snapshot

Visitor's Center Information Requests:

	Jan '10	YTD
Phone Calls:	151	151
Walk-ins	171	171
Email Inquiries	23	23
VACATION		
Packets	134	134
RELOCATION		
Packets	38	38
Phone Books	3	22
Misc & Maps	1	1
WEB ACTIVITY		
Unique Visits	3,549	3,549
TOTAL VISITS	4,069	4,069

At a Glance

>> **MARCH LUNCHEON**
 Kalispell Schools Building & Equipment Levy
 Tuesday, March 15, 2011
 11:45 am – 1:30 pm
 Red Lion
 20 N. Main
 Kalispell, MT

>> **UNWIND**
 Wednesday, March 16, 2011
 5 – 6:30 pm
 Red Lion Hotel
 20 N. Main
 Kalispell, MT

In This Issue

- 2 New Members
- 3 New Members, *continued*
- 4 UNWIND Renewals
- 5 March Calendar
- 6 SBDC Success Conference
- 7 Visitor Information Center Chamber Benefits ABC Clinic
- 8 Montana Chamber Choices Brown Bag Series Luncheon, *continued*
- 9 MT Legislative Report, *continued* Government Affairs
- 10 St. Patrick's Day Parade Registration

Officers

Tom Lund, Chairman of the Board, Rocky Mountain Bank

David Mitchell, Vice Chairman of the Board, CTA Architects and Engineers

Jim Ness, Secretary/Treasurer, Glacier Bank

Terry Kramer, Immediate-Past Chairman, Kramer Enterprises

Directors

Susie Burch, Flathead Valley Community College

Kris Carlson, A+ Plus Healthcare

Mark Gronley, Northwestern Energy

Reed Gunlikson, R. Gunlikson CPAs

Scott Hagel, Crowley Fleck Law Firm

Mark Johnson, Merrill Lynch

Jason Manger, Applied Materials - Semitool

Denise Nalty, Nalty Realty

Chris Ohler, Insured Titles

Jim Oliverson, Northwest Health Care

Kelly Robinson, Plum Creek Timber Company

Loren Sallee, Loren's Automotive

Bob Schneider, First Interstate Bank

Holly Walsh, Western States Insurance

Rick Weaver, Daily Inter Lake

Ex-officio Directors

Mike Pence, Flathead County Administrator

Jane Howington, Kalispell City Manager

Professional Staff

Joe Unterreiner, President 758-2804

Cary Aubrey, Executive Assistant 758-2803

Diane Bebee, Receptionist 758-2809

Doug Bolender, Government Contracting. 755-4221

Diane Medler, CVB Director 758-2808

Chris Parson, Small Business Development 758-2802

Jill Seigmund, Leadership Flathead. . . . 758-2810

Consultants

Anderson, Baker & Swanson - Government Affairs

Edge Communications - Media & Public Relations

JCCS - Tax & Audit Counsel

Janet Schwalk - Bookkeeping

Partners Creative - Creative Agency

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.

New Members

Please welcome these new members with your business.

ACCEPTANCE CAPITAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION

Primary Contact ~ Lindsay Kinneburgh
2282 US Hwy 93 South
Kalispell, MT 59901
Email: lkinniburgh@acceptancecapital.com
Phone: 406-755-0512



"Acceptance Capital Mortgage is a group of dedicated professionals that provide exceptional customer service and deep knowledge of the mortgage industry and the processes to get the job done. We offer an extensive list of mortgage products in order to find the loan program that best fits the needs of our clients. We have over a hundred different lenders to shop for the best possible rate for our clients. Whether you are purchasing or refinancing your home we will help you make the best financial decision for your future."

CORNERSTONE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Owners ~ Don and Leslie Rich
24 1st Ave East, Suite A
Email: don@cornerstone-wealth.com leslie@cornerstone-wealth.com
Website: www.cornerstone-wealth.com
Phone: 406-756-3787
Fax: 406-756-3791



Cornerstone Wealth Management Partners is a wealth management firm that specializes in helping affluent families grow, manage, protect and distribute their assets. We provide outstanding service and communication to our clients through unparalleled wealth management practices founded in integrity and sincerity. We are affiliated with LPL Financial, the largest independent broker dealer in the financial services industry. CWMP and Don Rich, CFP have been providing creative solutions to affluent individuals for over 30 years.

FISHER VIDEO CONFERENCING

Owner ~ Chuck Fisher
Primary Contact ~ Alethea Schaus
14 3rd Street East
Kalispell, MT 59901
Email: alethea@fishervideoconferencing.com
Website: www.fishervideoconferencing.com
Phone: 406-890-6184
Toll Free: 888-344-4472



Founded in 1978 in Bozeman, Montana by Chuck and Laura Fisher, FISHER COURT REPORTING has offered Court Reporting, Videography, and full-service hospitality to Bozeman and the greater Montana region for over 30 years. With the introduction of FISHER VIDEO CONFERENCING,

continued next page >>

New Members

>> from page 2

COURT REPORTING & VIDEOGRAPHY and their new network of state-wide facilities, Fisher has expanded, applying their years of expertise and adding cutting-edge, cost & time-saving alternative technologies, to provide a way to conveniently connect Montanans virtually face-to-face with people all over the world. Additionally, FISHER has brought their videography offerings to the forefront, providing an affordable solution for your professional video recording needs.

NATURALLY CLEAN

Owner ~ Holly Carbo
Primary Contact ~ Patty Kennelly
60 B Commons Way
Kalispell, MT 59901
Email: naturallycleanmt@gmail.com
Phone: 406-862-8322



Environmentally Safe Full Service Dry Cleaning & Laundry in Kalispell, MT. Hours: 9:30 - 5:30 M-F. Shirt Laundry, Alterations and more, 24 Hour Drop Box. Conveniently located in the Blue Cow Building.

PEAK SIGN SOLUTIONS, INC.

Owner ~ Steve Snellen
59 3rd Ave West North
Kalispell, MT 59901
Email: steves@peaksign.com
Website: www.peaksign.com
Phone: 406-755-7446
Fax: 406-755-7466



Peak Sign Solutions is a full service sign company specializing in full color large format printing. We provide quality solutions for indoor and outdoor signage, trade mark displays, banners and vinyl vehicle wraps.

RILEY LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION INC.

Owner ~ Nick Riley
517 Windfield Lane
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Email: nrileylandscapes@gmail.com
Website: www.rileylandscapes.com
Phone: 406-892-5717
Fax: 406-892-5717



From site evaluation to final installation, we provide design and consulting by a licensed landscape architect, grow over 10 acres of cold hardy trees, and have the experience to construct your next landscape dream.

SYKES DINER

Owner ~ Ray & Ladeine Thompson
Primary Contact ~ Jayson Peters
202 2nd Ave West
Kalispell, MT 59901
Email: jpeters@tamarackair.net
Phone: 406-257-4304

Kalispell's oldest restaurant. Serving Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner. Down home cookin' and famous for a 10c cent cup of coffee. Meat market & Grocery opening June 2011. ●



Flathead Regional Business Center

15 Depot Park
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 758-2800
(406) 758-2805: Fax

Business Expansion and Retention

Chris Parson
(406) 758-2802
sbdc@kalispellchamber.com
www.nwmontanabear.com

Flathead Community Foundation

Marc Lorenzen, Board President
(406) 756-9047
info@flatheadcommunityfoundation.org
www.flatheadcommunityfoundation.org

Flathead Job Service Workforce Center

Mora McCarthy, Business Resource Consultant
(406) 758-6241
mmccarthy@mt.gov
www.employflathead.com

Flathead Valley Community College

Jodi Smith, Workforce Training Director
(406) 758-2809 (Wednesday's only)
jsmith@fvcc.edu
www.fvcc.edu

Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

Joe Unterreiner, President
(406) 758-2800
joe@kalispellchamber.com
www.kalispellchamber.com

Kalispell Chamber Foundation

(406) 758-2800
info@kalispellchamber.com
www.kalispellchamber.com

Kalispell Convention & Visitor Bureau

Diane Medler, Director
(406) 758-2808
dianem@kalispellchamber.com

Leadership Flathead

Jill Seigmund, Manager
(406) 758-2810
seigmund@centurytel.net
www.leadershipflathead.com

Montana Manufacturing Extension Center

Bill Nicholson, Manager
(406) 756-8329
bnicholson@coe.montana.edu
www.mtmanufacturingcenter.com

Northwest Montana SCORE

Scott Roberts, Chapter Chairman
(406) 756-5271
nwmntscore@montanasky.net

Procurement Technical Assistance Center

Doug Bolender, Director
(406) 755-4221
ptac@kalispellchamber.com

Small Business Development Center

Chris Parson, Director
(406) 758-2802
sbdc@kalispellchamber.com
www.kalispellsmallbusiness.com
"Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration."

UNcover What's Interesting, New and Developing

Northwest Montana Wedding & Event Professionals hosted the February 18 UNWIND at the Trade Center Building at the Fairgrounds. Numerous local caterers were set up throughout the facility offering a wide range of goodies. Guests were able to wander the aisles and preview the booths that were set up for the annual Wedding & Event Expo that was opening the following day.

Door prizes included a centerpiece and three fantastic packages with a variety of gift certificates from 17 different vendors, totalling over \$2300!

Lisa Brown, Red Lion Hotel won the centerpiece. Kari Gabriel, City of Kalispell won the Relaxation Giveaway package. Kim Crowley, Flathead County Library won the Anniversary Giveaway package. Larry Bauer, Three Rivers Bank won the Party Package Giveaway. Dawn Jackson, The Lodge at Whitefish Lake won Split the Pot.



Great cuisine to sample



Happy patrons enjoying all the exhibits

Renewals

10 Plus Years

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana
 Buffalo Hill Golf Club
 Chuck Olson Real Estate Inc
 Consolidated Electrical Distributors
 Crowley Fleck
 Daily Inter Lake
 First & Main Building
 Flathead Electric Cooperative
 Flathead Job Service Workforce Center
 Flathead Valley Orthopedic
 Flowers By Hansen
 Hockaday Museum of Art
 Hungry Horse News
 J2 Office Products
 James H Cossitt Attorney at Law
 Lang Construction Inc.
 McDonalds
 Montana First Insurance Inc
 Mountain Trader
 R Dennis Winkel MD Family Practice
 Signature Theaters
 Signs Now
 Three Rivers Bank of Montana - Idaho
 Wheaton's
 Whitefish Mountain Resort
 Whitefish Pilot
 Withey's Health Foods

5 to 9 Years

Columbia Paint & Coatings
 Nalty Real Estate/Riverview Associates
 The Springs at Whitefish
 Trugreen Chemlawn
 Valley Maintenance

1 to 4 Years

Aspen Insurance
 Atlas Chiropractic PLLC
 Bajio Mexican Grille, LLC
 Belton Chalet
 Cellular Plus
 Clear One Health Plans
 Five Guys Burgers & Fries
 Flathead County Library
 Flathead County Library Foundation
 Glacier Signs & Monuments
 Goldberg Properties, Inc
 Harlow's Bus Sales, Inc
 Insurance Coordinators of Montana, Inc
 Joseph Eve
 Montana Academy Inc
 Mountain West Insurance & Financial Services, LLC
 Northwest Farm Credit Services
 Pacific Steel & Recycling
 ProBuild



RED LION
HOTELS

Next UNWIND

Wednesday, March 16, 2011
 5:00 - 6:30 PM
 Red Lion
 20 North Main
 Kalispell, MT

Chamber Calendar

March 2011

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday



Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

All Meetings are at The Chamber unless otherwise stated.

		1	2 Education & Communications Committee Meeting 8:00am – 9:00am Kalispell Tourism Business Improvement District Meeting 3:00pm – 5:00pm	3 Associated Chamber Meeting 10:30am – Noon	4 Leadership Flathead 8 am - 5:00pm Government Affairs Committee Meeting 12:00pm – 1:00pm	5
6	7	8	9 Ambassador Meeting 4:00pm – 5:00pm	10 Member Relations Committee Meeting 10:00am – 11:00am	11 Government Affairs Committee Meeting 12:00pm – 1:00pm	12
13 Daylight Saving Time Begins	14	15 Executive Board Meeting 7:30am – 8:30am Luncheon: Kalispell Schools Building and Reserve Levy 11:45pm – 1:00pm Flathead Community Foundation 2:45pm – 5:00pm	16 Natural Resources Committee Meeting 7:00am – 8:00am Transportation Committee Meeting 4:00pm – 5:00pm UNWIND Red Lion Hotel • 20 N. Main 5:00 - 6:30 pm	17  St. Patrick's Day Parade • 4:00pm	18 Government Affairs Committee Meeting 12:00pm – 1:00pm	19 
20	21 BEAR Meeting 4:00pm – 5:00pm	22 Board Meeting 7:00am – 8:30am	23	24	25 Government Affairs Committee Meeting 12:00pm – 1:00pm	26
27	28	29	30	31	<div data-bbox="1128 1732 1518 1932" data-label="Text"> <p>Look for these events in April: April 5 UNWIND at Easter Seals/ Goodwill April 19 Luncheon April 20 UNWIND at Red Lion Hotel</p> </div>	



Join us April 6th 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Billings Hotel

The Montana Small Business Development Center Network will be hosting the 2nd annual Invest in Success Conference. The conference is designed with the growing business owner in mind. Regardless of the industry a business operates in or its current size, the conference offers an opportunity to obtain skills, knowledge and resources to aid owners in getting where they want to be.

Confirmed speakers include Steve LeFever, Bruce Baker, & Chris Andrew. Chris Andrew joined the technology scene at Intuit where he worked in Product Management & Business Development for the QuickBooks and Payments Teams. Chris left Intuit about a year ago to be the first employee at Hearsay Social a new Social Media Management company. At Hearsay, Chris is head of Enterprise Account Management and Inbound Product Marketing. Chris presented at 2010

ASBDC conference in San Antonio and has some great tips for small businesses looking to expand their customer base using social media tools. When he's not playing in the tech world he can be found running, playing piano, writing and cooking in San Francisco.

Bruce Baker has taught more than 600 workshops over the past 25 years and has proven to have great insight into the future of small retail, small towns and big stakes, in the complicated and often frustrating dance with "Big Box" retailers. Bruce feels that the secret to competing with "Big Box" Stores is in active sales and exemplary customer service. By taking an active role in the sales process and understanding ones customers and the ways that they expect and appreciate being treated, is an all-important message he imparts through workshops and lectures. Bruce Baker is both humorous and motivational and his casual but straight-forward style has made him a favorite as a speaker, he

owned Middlebury Jewelry and Design for 17 years (he sold this store in the fall in order to devote more time to his consulting schedule) He and his wife, Nancie Dunn have owned Sweet Cecily (a gift and lifestyle shop) in Middlebury, since 1987.

Finance = boring. For Steve LeFever, this equation doesn't work. Steve LeFever, part comedian, part financial manager, former commercial banker, current entrepreneur – and 100% world-class presenter. Steve drives home his message with a no-nonsense, laugh-out-loud approach that makes him the top-rated presenter at virtually every conference he attends.

Driving financial discipline and initiating change in diverse types of organizations (distribution networks, trade associations or franchise groups to name a few) can be a big challenge – and in this area, Steve LeFever can do it like no one else. The thousands who hear him speak every year applaud his distinct "tell it like it is" perspective on independent business, financial management, and commercial banking. But it's his interaction and connection with his audiences that brings his message home.

Rebecca Helvik, Conference Committee Chair and Billings SBDC Director holds high hopes for this years conference "In 2009, our inaugural year, we had over 95 attendees in Great Falls and saw long-term successes with the businesses that attended. We are building on that momentum to continue to make the small business in Montana successful." She indicates that if additional information is posted on the conference's website, <https://sites.google.com/site/sbdcinvestinsuccess/home>, and facebook page, [facebook.com/GreatFallsSBDC](https://www.facebook.com/GreatFallsSBDC), as it becomes available. Early bird registration for the event is \$75.

Montana Small Business Development Centers are funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, funding from the Montana Department of Commerce and 10 local host organizations.



Conference Registration Form

Business : _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ Web Site: _____

Send this form, along with your Check to
Great Falls Development Authority, P O Box 949, Great Falls MT 59403.

Montana Small Business Development Centers are funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, funding from the Montana Department of Commerce and 10 local host organizations.

Visitor Information Center Gets an Expansion and Remodel



Chamber Board Chairman Tom Lund breaks ground (or wall) on the expansion and remodel of the Visitor Information Center. The project, scheduled for completion in April, will double the size of the Center.



Tyler, of Kramer Enterprises, puts up drywall on a new wall. Research indicates that Montana's visitor information centers are the top source of information for visitors while they are in state.

Make the Most of Your Chamber Benefits

Your investment in the Kalispell Chamber is an investment in the future of your business, our community and the Flathead Valley. We want to make sure that you are aware of all the opportunities your membership has to offer. Please take a minute and visit our website at www.kalispellchamber.com. At no additional charge you already have the ability to:

- Post Hot Deals
- Post Jobs
- Add Your Events to the Web Calendar
- Manage and Update Your Business Information
- Track Web Traffic to Your Business
- Create Your Own Personalized Webpage

Looking for new ways to boost your marketing? Take advantage of all the advertising and sponsorship opportunities your Chamber Membership has available:

- E-News Sponsor (The E-News is sent out to 1000 recipients twice a month)
- UNWIND Sponsor (Held at your place of business averaging 75 – 150 people attending)
- Luncheon Sponsor (Held monthly with an average of 150 people attending)
- Banquet Sponsor (Our annual Banquet averages from 375- 450 people)

For more details, please contact Cary at 758-2801, cary@kalispellchamber.com or Diane at 758-2800, info@kalispellchamber.com at the Chamber for details and pricing on one or all of these exciting opportunities to grow your business. ●

Assistance for Business Clinic 2011

The State of Montana, in partnership with local Job Service Employee Committees and/or Chamber of Commerce once again will host the 2011 Assistance for Business Clinic (ABC).

This year's clinics have updated information and/or technology from the Department of Revenue and the following divisions within the Department of Labor & Industry (Safety Bureau, Unemployment Insurance Benefits, Unemployment Insurance Tax, Human Rights, Wage & Hour and Workforce Services Division).

The clinic is specifically developed to assist employers, accountants, bookkeepers, human resource and lawyers to construct proactive approaches to prevent unnecessary claims and/or charges. Attendees are provided with updates on reporting of state withholding, unemployment insurance tax requirements, minimum wage & overtime law requirements, civil rights laws, employer services and tax credit incentives. Also, additional information will be available from Internal Revenue Service (IRS employer packets & small business DVD's), Small Business Administration (SBA), Apprenticeship & Training and Department of Health & Human Services (Emergency Planning).

In addition, the clinic gives employers the opportunity to share resolutions to common issues through networking and uncovering a wealth of government systems ready to assist in your business needs. Also, along with providing helpful reference materials you can obtain Continuing Professional Education (CPE 9.0 hrs.), Continuing Legal Education (credit hrs. unknown at this time) and/or Human Resource Certification (credit hrs. unknown at this time) credits. If you're interested in attending this year's clinic in Kalispell on May 24, 2011, please contact the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce at (406-758-2800). ●

Life happens. No one knows this better than the businesses in our community. Local businesses donate services and products to a variety of local charities—your support of these businesses in turn supports charities that care for an assortment of area needs.

Health insurance should do the same thing. Montana Chamber Choices Health Insurance Program does. Member customers know that life happens and our assortment of benefits provide comprehensive coverage, life-balance support, life insurance and more including:

- \$100 annual preventive dental exam
- Annual VSP WellVision exam
- \$5,000 Life Insurance
- Optional, affordable voluntary life insurance for employees and dependents
- Identity Theft Protection Resources
- Online Advanced Directive and Will Preparation Services
- Legal assistance including 30-minute free consultation per issue
- Healthy Wonders Maternity Management Program
- 100% coverage on preventive screens, such as mammograms, colonoscopies, immunizations, well child exams and more
- 24/7 Employee Assistance Program (EAP) including 3 free in-person consultations

For more information about Montana Chamber Choices affordable health insurance and added member benefits, visit chamberchoices.com

Luncheon >>from cover

United States and in foreign countries.

Luncheon tickets are \$16 each for Chamber members and \$21 for non-members. Tables of eight may be reserved for \$120. Members of the public are invited to attend this informational program, without lunch, at no cost. Tickets are purchased in advance by calling 406-758-2800 or at www.kalispellchamber.com

In order to expedite check-in at our Chamber luncheons, we are again going to use Business Card Express Check-in

You can by-pass the check-in table and use your business card for your lunch ticket if you:

- have pre-registered and pre-paid
- are pre-registered and using a tiered benefit
- are part of an RSVP'ed table and have a business card from that company with your name on it.

You will still need to check-in and get your ticket from the girls at the check-in table if you:

- are pre-registered but not pre-paid
- are pre-registered and pre-paid, but don't have a business card with your name on it
- are part of an RSVP'ed table but don't have a business card from that company with your name on it
- have not pre-registered



Flathead Regional Business Center Brown Bag Series: *Blueprint for Business Success*

Could your company survive a lengthy and costly employment lawsuit? Employment attorney, Dan Johns brings his years of experience and expertise to address some of the nagging issues that remain as trouble spots:

- Wrongful Discharge from Employment Act
- Overtime pay exemptions
- Non-competitive clauses
- Employee handbooks

He will also address what is on the horizon for employment law:

- Notice requirements proposed by the National Labor Relations Board
- Trip wires in company policies
- Social media and the workplace

These and other issues will be discussed to ensure that you are following the letter of the law and keeping your company out of the courtroom. Bring your questions and concerns to this session as there will be time for Questions and Answers.



Dan Johns

This month's facilitator: Attorney Dan Johns

Facilitator: Attorney Daniel Johns of Crowley Fleck P.L.L.P. of Kalispell, MT. Mr. Johns represents and counsels employers in areas of traditional labor law, plus discrimination and sexual harassment, wrongful termination, compensation issues, and personnel policies. The Crowley law firm is the Montana member of Employment Law Alliance, and Mr. Johns is its contact attorney for this international network of labor and employment lawyers dedicated to assisting employers.

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

Who should attend? Employers interested in growing and evolving more effective organizations. Why?

- Utilizing all available resources to operate and grow makes for smart business.
- Exchanging ideas, insights, and real-world solutions directly impacts your bottom line.
- Making better decisions quickly requires more and better information
- Engaging and energizing your staff helps make your business more successful.

Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2011
 Time: Noon – 1:00 pm
 Location: FVCC Arts & Technology Bldg,
 Room 139
 Cost: No cost!
 RSVP: Terri Haueter @ 758-6279 or
thaueter@mt.gov

MT Legislative Session Report

BILLS OF INTEREST:

- **HB 43** by Rep. Gary MacLaren—Clarifying employer's rights related to employee use of medical marijuana. Support. Bill referred to Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee on 2/11/11. Hearing scheduled for 3/02/11.
- **HB 59** by Rep. Tony Belcourt—Revise renewable portfolio standard to include hydropower expansions. Monitor. Referred to Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee on 2/04/11.
- **HB 71** by Rep. Gordon Vance – Provide that illegal alien may not receive workers' comp. Modify/Support. Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee on 2/02/11. Hearing scheduled for 3/03/11.
- **HB 100** by Rep. Gordon Vance—Require fiscal notes to include business impact. Support. Bill transmitted to Senate on 2/17/11. Hearing scheduled for 3/03/11.
- **HB 111** by Rep. Wayne Stahl—Improving tax administration by depositing state agency lodging tax in general fund. Oppose. In Senate Taxation Committee—nontabled. Hearing was on 2/09/11.
- **HB 198** by Rep. Ken Peterson—Generally revise eminent domain laws. Monitor. Referred to Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee on 2/12/11.
- **HB 274** by Rep. David Howard—Provide that employment of an unauthorized alien is unlawful. Support. Bill referred to House Appropriations Committee on 2/23/11.
- **HB 316** by Rep. Rob Cook—Redistribute certain revenue and income to state general fund. Oppose. In House Appropriations Committee—nontabled. Hearing was on 2/08/11. Bill scheduled for executive action on 3/02/11.
- **HB 317** by Rep. Rob Cook –Sunset statutory appropriations over certain periods. Oppose. In House Appropriations Committee—nontabled. Hearing was on 1/26/11.
- **HB 325** by Rep. Keith Regier—Eliminate class 8 business equipment property tax. Support. In House Taxation Committee—nontabled. Hearing was on 2/02/11. Revised Fiscal Note was printed on 2/16/11.
- **HB 334** by Speaker Milburn, Rep. Reichner - Generally revise workers' compensation. Support. Bill transmitted to House.

- **HB 341** by Rep. Cary Smith – Revise pre- and post-judgment interest. Support. Bill referred to Senate Judiciary Committee on 2/22/11.
- **HB 342** by Rep. Cary Smith – Revise civil laws to require caps on appeals bonds. Support. Bill referred to Senate Judiciary Committee on 2/22/11.
- **HB 357** by Rep. Gary MacLaren – Provide tax credit for employer contribution to employee health savings account. Monitor. Bill passed House Taxation Committee on 2/18/11.
- **SB 94** by Sen. Ron Erickson—Revise “waters edge” provisions of corporation taxes. Oppose. In Senate Taxation Committee—nontabled. Hearing was on 1/19/11.
- **SB 111** by Sen. Jon Sonju—Limit noneconomic damages in motor vehicle accidents. Monitor. Bill transmitted to House on 2/19/11.
- **SB 131** by Sen. Cliff Larsen—Allow business improvement district to make an assessment on a percentage basis. Support. In Senate Taxation Committee. Hearing on 1/18/11 was cancelled at Sponsor's request.
- **SB 201** by Sen. Edward Walker—Require small business impact analyses prior to adoption of administrative rule. Support. Bill referred to House Business and Labor Committee on 2/24/11.
- **SB 370**—Require cost-benefit analysis of mandated health insurance coverage of service. Monitor. Bill transmitted to House on 2/24/11.

Government Affairs

FLATHEAD LEGISLATORS JOIN CHAMBER FOR TRANSMITTAL BREAK LUNCHEON

Twelve members of the Flathead Legislative delegation met with Chamber members and representatives of area business organizations on February 25th to discuss progress business issues in the 62nd Session. Rep. Reichner said that HB 334, the workers' compensation reform bill, is headed to the Senate and will probably be heard in the next two weeks. Terry Kramer, government affairs chairman, noted this bill is the top priority for the Chamber in this session. The Chamber has collected support from 28 businesses and organizations in the Flathead. Everyone is encouraged to

sign on for support of this urgently needed legislation. Sen. Tutvedt and Rep. Blasdel, the chairmen of Senate and House Taxation committees respectively, spoke about efforts to bring business equipment tax reductions to the State to support investment and job creation. Our special thanks to these Legislators for joining us last Friday:

SD 2 Ryan Zinke
SD 3 Bruce Tutvedt
SD 4 Jon Sonju
SD 5 Verdell Jackson
HD 3 Jerry O'Neil
HD 4 Derek Skees
HD 5 Keith Regier
HD 7 Randy Brodehl
HD 8 Steve Lavin
HD 9 Scott Reichner
HD 10 Mark Blasdel
HD 11 Jana Taylor

CHAMBER BOARD TAKES "SUPPORT" POSITION ON HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING LEVY

At their meeting of February 22nd, the Kalispell Chamber Board unanimously voted to support the Kalispell high school building and reserve levy ballot issue to be held on March 22nd. The overall thinking of the Board was that, despite the challenging economic environment, the community needs to protect its investment and our school facilities which are important parts of our community infrastructure. The bulk of the items identified on the 5-year building plan are health and safety improvements – many required under building safety codes. Additionally, upgrades on boiler systems will reduce overall energy expenses and save the district money. Furthermore, the amount requested on this levy is lower than the average of what was paid during the 2005-2010 period: \$6.11 lower for a home assessed at \$100,000, and \$12.22 lower for a home assessed at \$200,000. Feel free to contact the Chamber for additional details at 758-2800 or info@kalispellchamber.com

JOIN THE GRASSROOTS BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR HB 334

You are invited to add your business name to a letter from the Kalispell Chamber that will say that workers' compensation reform is one of the top business concerns of the session, and that businesses all over the state and all industries want significant reform. The letter will say that HB 334 presents an opportunity to pass that reform, which will save employers money, allow them to hire more people, and grow their businesses. Twenty-eight businesses and organizations have already signed up. Let us add your name to the list by providing: business name, address, and authorizing name and title.



15 Depot Park
Kalispell, MT 59901

OCCUPANT / POSTAL PATRON

PRSRD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kalispell, MT
Permit #13



*The Ancient order of Hibernians
Kalispell Area Chamber of Commerce*
Presents

Saint Patricks Day Parade



Thursday

March 17 at 4pm



**Line up begins 3:15pm
1st Avenue West and 8th Street
South end of Flathead High School
Come in on 5th Street
\$100 Award Top Parade Entry**

Question? Call Mark Lalum 755-7400 ext 2233 or 261-1654

Organization _____

Name of your Entry _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ Phone _____

Send entries to
Mark Lalum Box 579 Kalispell MT 599003 or fax 755-7478
Email- mlalum@chskalispell.com