



**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**QUARTERLY  
REPORT**

# MEMBERSHIP IMPACTS



479  
MEMBERS



25  
NEW  
MEMBERS



9  
NETWORKING  
EVENTS



250+  
NETWORKING  
ATTENDEES



2  
RIBBON  
CUTTINGS

## WEBPAGE VISITS FOR [WWW.KITTITASCOUNTYCHAMBER.COM](http://WWW.KITTITASCOUNTYCHAMBER.COM)



DIRECTORY  
41,607



CALENDAR  
40,676



JOB POSTINGS  
1,322



PRESS RELEASES  
3,416

Are you getting the most out of your membership? Contact the Chamber today and find out!  
[membership@kittitascountychamber.com](mailto:membership@kittitascountychamber.com) 509-925-2002

# **BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AND FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE CLUB**

## **Thank you to our 1st quarter Networking Event Hosts:**

WorkSource

John L. Scott- Ellensburg

Armstrong's Stove and Spa

Ellensburg Downtown Association

Ellensburg Brewery

Kelleher Motor Co.

Premier Paint



## **Networking Events to look forward to next quarter:**

First Friday Coffee Club:

June 7th- Jerrol's

July 12th- Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce

Business After Hours:

May 16th- Knudson Lumber

June 20th- Habitat for Humanity

July 18th- Youth Services of Kittitas County

# 2019 Chamber Business Award Winners:

Best New Business – Orchard Restaurant  
Best Small Business – MotorToys  
Best Customer Service – Ellensburg Tire  
Volunteer of the Year – Les Bonke  
Community Impact- T & T Electric

Non-profit of the Year – Elmview  
Legacy Business of the Year – Knudson  
Lumber  
Business of the Year – Kittitas Valley  
Urgent Care





## ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE 2019:

Congratulations to the 2019 Enterprise Challenge winners!

Taking the top prize of \$10,000 was **Taqueria La Palapa**, A fresh, authentic, great tasting Mexican street food restaurant in a clean, family friendly environment. Opening soon in Union Gap across from the Valley Mall.

Karina Lara explained, "Participating in the challenge opened up so many doors for us to get the help and support we needed. We are so excited about winning and plan to use the money to buy the kitchen equipment we need to open our new Union Gap location. I hope that the contest continues for years to come to offer business like ours this opportunity."

Second place and the \$5,000 prize went to **Round Tuit Kitchen**, a Yakima based producer of delicious baked goods that minimize blood sugar and insulin spikes, while being gluten-free, sugar-free, and natural.

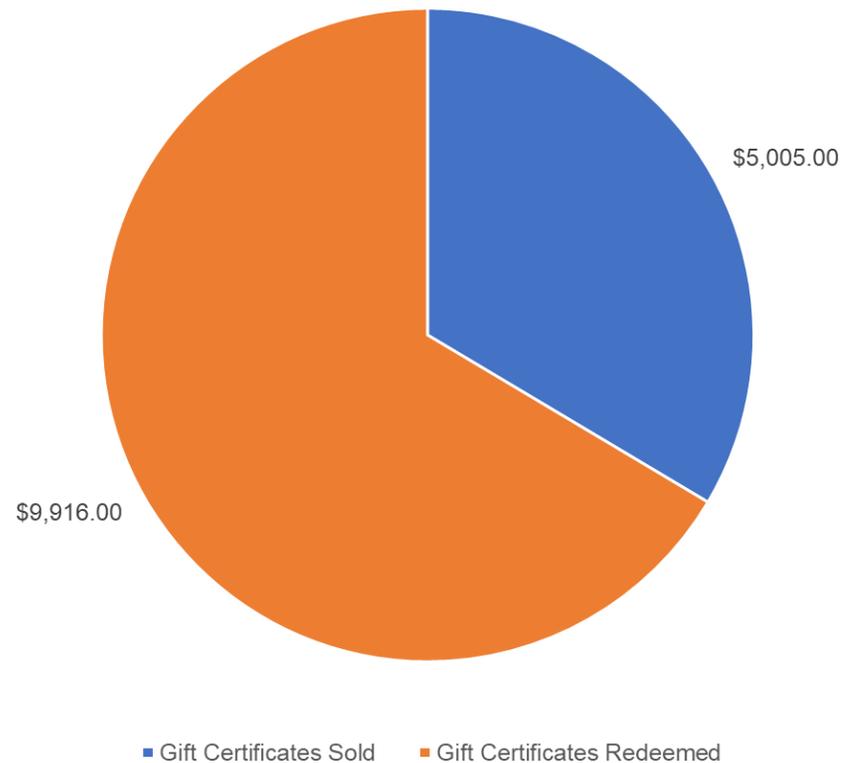
Mandy Hale says she is beyond excited and feeling blessed about winning second place and plans to purchase large commercial production equipment to continue to grow her enterprise. Her products can be found in a dozen local retailers with more popping up every week. "The contest has been beyond beneficial, the networking and resources that were available to me during the Challenge were worth entering regardless of the contest prize money," said Mandy.

Coming in third was **Ag Drone Data Services**. They were awarded \$2,500 to grow their technology-based company that uses drones and data analysis to improve crop yields by providing early detection of crop health and field analysis services for farms, vineyards, and orchards.

"I would encourage anyone passionate about taking their business to the next level to compete in the Enterprise Challenge. said owner Michael Moore. We are excited to grow our business right here in the Yakima Valley.

# CHAMBER BUCKS

1st Quarter 2019 - Gift Certificate Program



The Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce is proud to promote shopping locally in Kittitas County. Chamber Bucks are a powerful way to support our local economy and vital local businesses.

## LEADERSHIP KITTITAS COUNTY COMPLETES 2019 PROGRAM

Leadership Kittitas County (formerly Leadership Ellensburg) completed its 24th year on Friday April 12th, where members of the 2019 class explored the subject of our county's Education, Emergency Preparedness and Challenge of Water. During the previous 7 months, the class spent days on topics like history, economics and business, Upper County, government, social services, education and law and justice.

Over 365 people have completed the Leadership program, which is a program of the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce. Alumni include local elected officials, state representatives, judges, CWU administrators, and people in nearly every walk of local life. They straddle a wide range of political affiliations but are united in a common desire to make our communities better.

### Leadership Kittitas County 2019 Graduating Class:

Lucy Temple  
Jinger Haberer  
Cory Wright  
Kelsey Green  
Ruth Townsend  
Laci Harrison  
Gemma Koreski  
Laura Wilson  
Linda Schactler  
Taylor Castillo  
Sara Daniels  
Jill Edson  
Jeff Adams  
Brandon Robertson  
Kremiere Jackson



# WFEA AWARDS

The Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce Events and Tourism Department recently attended the 2019 Washington Festivals and Events Association Educational Conference in Bellevue, WA where they attended numerous sessions on issues facing event organizers state wide, new rules regarding alcohol at events, and how to make your event stand out from others. Included in the annual conference is the annual Summit Awards where event organizers are recognized for their work in event organization, marketing, promotion, and community enhancement.

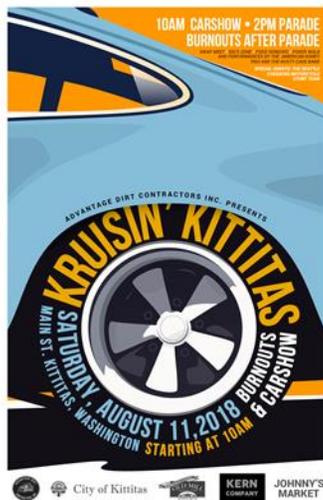
The Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce is honored to have received numerous awards during the Summit Awards Ceremony. The Chamber received the following:

Gold Award for Kruisin Kittitas 2018 Promotional Poster

Silver Award for Bite of the Burg 2018 Promotional Poster

Bronze Award for Christmas in Cle Elum Promotional Poster

Bronze Award for Roslyn Mountain Ale Festival T-Shirt



GOLD AWARD



SILVER AWARD



BRONZE AWARD

## DISNEY INSTITUTE'S EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS VISITS ELLENSBURG

On April 11, 2019 the Kittitas County Chamber in partnership with Central Washington University welcomed the Disney Institute to Ellensburg for their one-day professional development course on Business Excellence. This has been a long-time goal of the Chamber to bring a professional development course like this to Ellensburg. The course attracted attendees from throughout the state of Washington and Oregon from industries that include entertainment, hospitality, healthcare, recreation, and more. Over 100 attendees were present for this world-renowned course.

We would like to thank all our members that attended this course and send special thanks to our presenting sponsor, Central Washington University. The University received a special 90-minute session for students and staff on April 12 in exchange for their partnership. We look forward to continuing to provide opportunities like the Disney Institute for our Chamber Members and community.



## LUNCHTIME LEARNING

Join us for lunch and take the opportunity to grow as a leader and grow your business. Our monthly Lunch and Learn Professional Development series provides an opportunity for our members to gain inside knowledge on issues facing the business climate, marketing essentials, and other pressing issues. Held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month during the lunch hour at Rodeo City BBQ, we invite you to take part in these free educational and professional development events. A sneak peek at what is coming up for Lunch and Learn topics.

April 23 – Business Climate & Legislative Update – Association of Washington Business – Noon

May 28 – Essentials to Handling Dispute Resolution – Dispute Resolution of Kittitas County

June 25 – Member Appreciation Ice Cream Social – Kittitas County Chamber

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

June 15 – Ellensburg German fest & Dachshunds on Parade

July 4 – Upper Kittitas County Independence Day Celebration, 2PM – 10PM

July 6 – Upper Kittitas County Pioneer Days Parade & Pioneer Village

August 10 – Kruisin Kittitas Car Show



## GERMANFEST

Join the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce for the 1st Annual Ellensburg Germanfest. Enjoy tasting numerous styles of German beer from local and regional breweries, German food, and many family activities. The event will also feature authentic German style entertainment, well known for their appearances at numerous Oktoberfest's throughout the region. The event is paired with the annual Dachshunds on Parade, bring your Dachshund and enjoy both events in Downtown Ellensburg.

Tickets on sale now!

Ticket prices: All-inclusive tickets- \$25

General admission tickets- \$10

Senior and kid tickets- \$5

# TOURISM UPDATE

Spring has arrived and so has the start of our tourism season in the Kittitas County. The projects that we are currently working on include continuous updating of our tourism websites, the 2019 Annual Visitors Guide publication, a Beer Trek Passport, and working with consultants, the City of Ellensburg and the Ellensburg Tourism Committee on creating the Ellensburg 5 Year Tourism Strategy Plan. The Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce also works with the Kittitas County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee to administer microgrants through Kittitas County Lodging Tax funds. Many of the questions are essay-style and set up in an abbreviated format for smaller grant requests of \$1,000 or less.

Watch for our Visitor Center summer hours starting Memorial Day Weekend:

## Ellensburg Visitor Center, 609 N Main

Monday – Friday 9AM – 5PM

Saturday & Sunday 10AM – 4PM

## Downtown Ellensburg Visitor Center (Open June – September)

Friday – Sunday, 11AM – 7PM



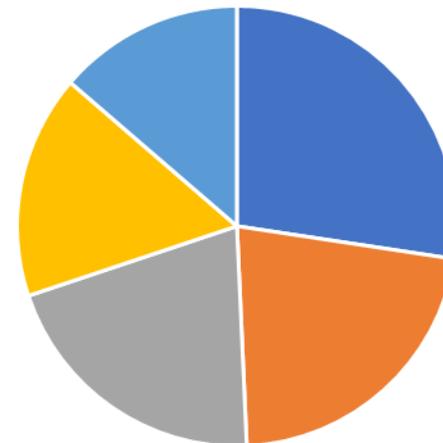
LIVE LIFE IN  
COLOR



## DID YOU KNOW...?

The Tourism sector in Kittitas County delivered the largest increase in creation of jobs from 2004 – 2016. Tourism jobs increased by 66 percent, with many of these jobs in the accommodations and food services sector. Tourism is the state's 4<sup>th</sup> largest industry.

Top Five Industries in Washington State



■ Trade, Utilities, Transportation ■ Education & Healthcare Services ■ Professional Business Services  
■ Tourism ■ Manufacturing



**Kittitas County  
Chamber of Commerce**  
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