Action Report

OFFICE HOURS:
8:30 AM TO 5:00 PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY
Welcome New Businesses!

Cornerstone Home Lending
Craig Running – Manager
cranning@houseloan.com
www.houseloan.com
509-248-2212
1215 S. 40th Avenue, Yakima WA 98908

Edward Jones – Brian Levitas, Financial Advisor
509-453-3445
2301 W. Nob Hill Boulevard, Yakima WA 98902

Edward Jones – Brooke Finch, Financial Advisor
509-607-6099
406 S. 1st Street Suite 3, Selah WA 98942

509-965-1626
420 S. 72nd Avenue, Yakima WA 98908

Edward Jones – Lori Nay Arboagat, Financial Advisor
509-452-4768
2401 S. 1st Street Suite 112, Yakima WA 98901

Edward Jones – Marcelle Wiss, Financial Advisor
509-248-0601
3913 Creekside Loop Suite B, Yakima WA 98902

We are pleased to announce the following new businesses have joined your Chamber in the month of October 2011! Please support these businesses and associations who support your Chamber!

Edward Jones – Scott Holt, Financial Advisor
509-457-7355
1400 Summitview Avenue Suite 103, Yakima WA 98902

Liberty Tax Service
Shannon Bird – Owner / GIM
shannon@libertytax.com or www.libertytax.com
509-469-4348
702 S. 48th Avenue, Yakima WA 98908

Office Solutions Northwest
Jenn Paul
jenn@whosbest.com or www.whosbest.com
509-453-7181
212 S. 3rd Avenue, Yakima WA 98902

Send Out Cards
Ed and Nancy Eucken – Independent Distributors edeuken@mac.com
www.sendoutcards.com/87005
509-834-3359

Take Shape for Life
Patricia Hynes – Health Coach
pat@fitnessoptimized.com
www.fitnessoptimized.com
509-469-0609

For more information or to submit information to the Chamber, please call 509-453-3445.

Executive Committee Members
Chair: Brian Brauer, Grower Inc. 1st Vice Chair: Mike Douley, Willet
President: Carl Remmel, 2nd Vice Chair: Chris Brown, Ways & Means
Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Broadhead, Ex-Officio Members: 
President/CEO: Velyynn Bart, Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce 
Appointed by Chair: Jeff Leesman, 
Board of Directors: 
Rich Austin, Yakima Valley Sports Commission 
Mike Rentaud, Pizza & Gelato 
Craig Doughty, YV Tech 
Lancette Hoadley, Bobbe/Traditions 
Alex Hodge, Tovar, Lewis & Wilderman
Ryan King, KUW Broadcasters
Joseph Rosen, Joe’s Tire
Christina Upton, Yakima County Medical Society
K. L. Wembach, Yakima Bears Baseball Club
Mina Worthington, Yakima Valley Credit Union
Christina Cox, Perry Tech
Randy DeVaney, Yakima Valley Grocers & Whoppers
Brian Smith, Peterson CRM and Advisors
Adam Dolson, Dolson Companies
John Grab, Towers Colter
Ex-Offices Members
Crisal Crumley, Mayor - City of Yakima
Randi Eilen, Yakima County Commissioner
Jim Leman, Mayor - City of Union Gap
EPC Michael Daniels, Port Commander – Yakima Training Center 
Noreen Hemans, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Luz Gutierrez, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
John Cooper, Yakima Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau
Greg Stewart, State Fair Park/Sno-Down – CBPI
Linda Johnson, SBCTA Small Business Development Center
Doug Eacker, Private Brothers
Carl Remmel, Yakima Air Terminal
David McFadden, New Vision/YCDA
Babs Jones, Mayor-City of Selah
Moe Broom, Yakima School District

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Happy New Year!

With the wrap up of three major holidays and some big changes,
your Chamber is ready for a productive 2012. We will be working hard and believe it’s time to go to the next level. We want to help business grow, prosper, and succeed...existing and new!

How do we do it...by working together to create an environment that helps build business, not deter it! The City and County need to develop policies that are collaborative, simple, and fair to everyone. With less bureaucracy, we can start the trend of being the most business friendly community in Washington State. Let’s lead the charge on managing our resources, living within our means and instead of hand-outs provide hand ups. We could educate, re-train and provide an avenue of prosperity instead of dead-ends of entitlement. How about building on the entrepreneurial spirit of our great nation?

The New Year will bring in a new season of hope, prosperity, and Dreaming Bigger throughout the Yakima Valley! Be blessed in 2012.

What a Wonderful Community We Have!!!

There are so many times, when you hear about Yakima, the focus is on the negative: gangs, graffiti, drugs, etc. Yes, as in every city, we do have things we can improve. However, there are a lot of things that are right with our city, especially when it comes to being there to support each other.

On April 18, 2011, Sgt. Josh Elliott was wounded in Afghanistan. Josh grew up here in Yakima and graduated from Davis High School in 2000. When we received the news about Josh, we told a few of our closest friends and asked for prayer. By the end of the day, our home was filled with friends and family. There wasn’t counter space available because of the food that had been dropped by. That was day one. The love and support just kept coming and coming. The leadership group at Selah High School began a fundraiser. Danielle Pepper, an instructor at the YMCA had a Zumba Party fund raiser with all the proceeds going to help with Josh’s recovery. Yakima Foursquare shared Josh’s story and people wanted to help. Even before we knew the total extent of Josh’s injuries, the Yakima Valley community were there in a huge way. This support and love has not waned for the past 8 months! It has been incredible! But, nothing could have measured up to what we have felt for the past week as Josh and his wife, Samantha, returned home for the first time since he was injured. This community gave him a hero’s welcome second to none!

We contacted Lee Remmel, the airport manager, to let him know that Josh was flying into Yakima, and he was so accomodating to our families beyond our expectations. Chris Cote at JM Perry made sure we knew their parking lot was available for any overflow parking. Verlynn Best, the President of the Yakima Chamber of Commerce contacted different groups to let them know Josh was coming home. We had no idea what to expect; would there be four people to meet them or a few more? What we experienced was beyond our wildest expectations!

Josh and Samantha stepped off the airplane at the Yakima Airport on Friday, December 16, at 5:15 PM. The air terminal was filled to capacity with well wishers: friends, family, Military and Veteran’s groups, those currently serving from all branches were there to welcome home our son. People who didn’t even know Josh or Sam but wanted to be there to welcome “our” hero home were there. I think for the first time in his life, Josh was speechless. When he saw the crowd, he just said, “Oh, wow!!” As the trumpet player played the Marine Hymn and the clapping continued on and on, our son went through the crowd shaking hands and getting hugs until the terminal was empty. Yakima was there, oh were you there!

The support continued the next day when there was a reception for him at New Hope Community Church. Josh and Samantha stepped off the plane at the Yakima Airport on Friday, December 16, at 5:15 PM. The air terminal was filled to capacity with well wishers: friends, family, Military and Veteran’s groups, those currently serving from all branches were there to welcome home our son. People who didn’t even know Josh or Sam but wanted to be there to welcome “our” hero home were there. I think for the first time in his life, Josh was speechless. When he saw the crowd, he just said, “Oh, wow!!” As the trumpet player played the Marine Hymn and the clapping continued on and on, our son went through the crowd shaking hands and getting hugs until the terminal was empty. Yakima was there, oh were you there!

The support continued the next day when there was a reception for him at New Hope Community Church. Again, there was such an outpouring of love for Josh and Sam. Even Josh’s 5th grade teacher from 20 years ago, was there to see him and let him know how proud of him she was!! Businesses in Yakima have welcomed Josh home on various readerboards, there have been gift cards and merchandise given to him. I could go on and on about how wonderful this community has been, but I hope you get the idea.

Yakima is a wonderful place to live. The people of Yakima have shown they are the most supportive, gracious, giving community ever. Thank you, Yakima! Thank you for giving our son such a hero’s welcome. Josh, Samantha and their families have felt your gracious love and support and it has helped with the healing process.

The Business Expo will be Thursday March 1, 2012 from 1pm - 8pm at the convention center! We are taking reservations and we’re proud to announce new lower member pricing for this premiere business event!

Now more than ever you need to showcase your people, information, products, and/or services, in order to grow your business!

For more information or booth prices, please contact Scott Filkins at 248-2021 x-110 scott@yakima.org or Carolyn Gray at 248-2021 x-114 carolyn@yakima.org
As we set our sights on the upcoming year, Safe Yakima Valley is poised for some great successes. Our first large project of the New Year is aimed at underaging alcohol and drug use. In partnership with ESD105, Safe Yakima Valley was the recent recipient of a Drug Free Communities Grant. The Safe Yakima Valley “Drug Free Communities Action Team” will be working with the Yakima School District to help lower the use of alcohol and drugs in middle and high school. Our focus will be environmental and policy-based. This means that instead of offering anti-drug lectures to a handful of students, we will be working on broad-based solutions that affect a student’s home life, school career, peers, and surroundings. Our large and diverse Board of Directors and volunteer base will be able to connect non-profits, businesses, educators, and families in a focused effort to help our youth make good choices. Just think of the positive impact that Yakima will have by lowering youth substance-abuse. This could impact: school success, crime, truancy, and many others things important to the success of a community. The strategies and tools that we will be using have been proven to lower substance and alcohol use in many communities, including several in Central Washington.

As we begin 2012, Safe Yakima Valley is excited to continue working in our community. Our success is found in our diverse and effective Board and Volunteers. If you would like to get involved in your community, please contact us. We have many ways to connect you to meaningful and fun projects in Yakima County. Together we can make Yakima County one of the safest places to live, work, and raise a family!

In July, 2011 construction on the 16 YWCA Transitional Housing units was complete, with families moving in just before Christmas. The new shelter provides a safe and healthy environment. YWCA understand the importance to families of having a safe place to stay, a support system of staff and other survivors who have experienced what they are going through, and having access to the resources as they rebuild their lives.

In 2011, Safe Yakima Valley was the recent recipient of a Drug Free Communities Grant. The Grant will provide funding to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reduce substance use in the community. The strategy will include partnerships with local non-profits and businesses. But now we look towards an even bigger 2012.

Improve Your Facility’s Indoor Air Quality
While heating and air conditioning operations are rather basic, the processes involved in ventilation have the greatest effect on indoor air quality. Building managers and tenants can work together in a variety of areas to improve indoor air quality, including the following:

- Operate your heating, air conditioning and ventilation (HVAC) system according to manufacturer recommendations, including routine maintenance and inspections. This will also help maintain the system’s energy efficiency and manage energy costs.
- Maintain records of routine maintenance and inspections. Document any complaints concerning indoor air quality and the steps taken to remedy each complaint. These records may be useful in solving future problems.
- Remove or implement special ventilation techniques for sources of pollution (including restrictions on smoking).
- Eliminate practices that may restrict air movement, such as the placement of furniture and partitions.

Ribbon Cuttings!
YWCA Open House and Ribbon Cutting Dec. 14th

Ribbon Cutting for the US Cellular newly expanded store in the Valley Mall Plaza – Dec. 16th

New Staff at Your Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce
Earl Hall - Accountant
After graduating from the University of Washington in 1971, Earl worked as a CPA for several national and regional firms in California and Idaho before adopting Yakima as his hometown in 1980. In 1983, he left Boyd, Olofson & Co. to start his own CPA firm. One of his first clients was the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce, where he was active on the Transportation Committee. In 2007, he sold his tax practice to Terry Goddard, CPA and began a new career as an “out-house controller”, specializing in non-profit organization issues. He is active in the Yakima Kinison Club, Central Lutheran Church, Yakima Food Bank, and state and local anti-burger organizations. His goal is to leave the Chamber at October 31, 2012 with a new accounting and reporting system in place to help the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce do a greater job of making Greater Yakima greater.

Amy Lopez – Information Coordinator
I have lived in Yakima for almost eight years. I’ve lived all over this great state, went to school at YVCC and have worked at a few local wineries. I enjoy swimming, reading, and cooking. I have a ten year old son who keeps me very busy. We both love being outside. I like being able to get up in the morning and go hiking, or go to Seattle, or the Columbia Gorge. I enjoy and take advantage of Yakima’s location in the state. Everyone at the Chamber has been great and I am happy to be here.

Pacific Power’s Business Solutions Toolkit offers more energy-saving information and advice. Visit pacificpower.net/toolkit.

Schedule the use of pollutants – painting, renovation and pesticides – to minimize the impact on indoor air quality. Also increase ventilation during those periods.

“I love KYVE because...”
- “KYVE is a contemporary source of programming, excellent for daily drama, independent films, documentaries and so much more!” - Sharon Prall, Yakima Herald Republic
Chamber University presents:
Technology and Intellectual Property
Patents & Other Intellectual Property: What it is, why it’s hot, and why business leaders might need to get it.

January 24th, 10 AM–noon

$20 for members, $30 for non-members
Yakima Chamber of Commerce, 10 N 9th St.
To register: Call 248.2011 or go to www.yakima.org

Chamber University is formally known as Biz Seminars

A note of thanks to the citizens of the Valley for the many cards and care packages that were mailed to deployed service members this holiday season, as well as the ongoing support to our service members and veterans here in our local communities. We are truly blessed to live amongst such caring and generous people.

Thanks! LTC Michael Daniels, Past Commander Yakima Training Center

On behalf of the Chamber’s Joint Military Affairs Committee we would like to remind you that if you should have ANY type of Job opening in your Business that could be filled by a Veteran please contact:

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Don Amun of Strategic Alliance Wealth Management, local expert for News Talk 1280 AM and 99.3 FM is proud to announce Strategic Times Radio show airing every Saturday from 12:30 to 1:00 on 99.3 FM

Don will be discussing various topics that pertain to the Yakima valley residents and business owners, and how this economy both nationally and globally will affect your retirement planning and how to protect what is rightfully yours.

Hard hitting, not politically correct and to the point, tune in every Saturday from 12:30pm to 1:00pm to see how Strategic Alliance Wealth Management can help you be more Proactive in your planning. Remember it’s not how much you make it’s how much you keep.

RCDR Seeks To Fill Board Vacancies

 strategic management on 1280 KFT

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Unemployment Tax Rates Plummet in 2012

By Paul Trause, Employment Security Commissioner

In the past couple of years, the Employment Security Department didn’t have much good news to share about unemployment taxes – but that’s finally turning around. In 2012, unemployment rates will decline in all 40 rate classes, by an estimated average of 13 percent.

If your business had no layoffs in the past four years – putting you in rate-class 1 – your tax rate will plummet by 71 percent (from 0.49 percent in 2011 to 0.14 percent in 2012). The most you’ll pay on an employee for the entire year is $53, compared to $182 in 2011. Businesses whose layoff experience puts them at the top end of the rate structure also will enjoy a rate reduction in 2012, albeit smaller. Even businesses that are moving into higher rate classes due to recent layoffs may experience lower tax rates if they move up only a few rate classes.

Altogether, businesses will pay $207 million less in unemployment taxes in 2012.

The reductions are a result of two factors

You may recall that the state legislature and Governor Gregoire adopted a bill in February that reversed the expected tax increase in 2011 for most businesses. Those changes remain in place and will continue to suppress tax rates in 2012.

In addition, the size of the state’s unemployment benefit fund is factored into the tax-rate calculations. We still have one of the healthiest funds in the nation, and Washington’s employers are reaping the rewards.

During the recession, about three dozen states bankrupted their benefits funds and had to borrow billions of dollars to cover unemployment benefits – some are still borrowing. Although the nation is technically in economic recovery, the states with outstanding loans are facing tax hikes, benefit cuts and other measures to stabilize their unemployment systems.

Here in Washington, it’s nice to know that’s one thing we don’t have to worry about right now.

RCDR has strong partnership with the City of Yakima and private banks in helping them meet the needs of those that do not qualify for bank financing. RCDR provides business assistance, business plan development and workshops.

RCDR also administers different loan funds to provide microloans for startup microenterprises and those that want to expand. It seeks to work with rural communities in helping them with proposals that will establish economic development projects to improve the quality of life for our young people and create safer neighborhoods that in turn encourage business start ups and expansions.

For more information or to receive a packet of information, please call 509-453-5133 or send an e-mail to businessresources@rcdr.biz
**Business Briefs**

**Heritage University**

If your business is in need of interns in the new year, contact Dr. Melvin F. Simoyi, Associate Director, McNair Program at Heritage University, simoyi@heritage.edu. The McNair Program is a federally funded Title V program that serves low-income & first-generation students and/or those students who are underrepresented in graduate education (African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics, Pacific Islanders, Alaska/Hawaii Natives) by providing scholarly and cultural activities including a research/internship component of at least 10 weeks. The goal of the Program is to assist these students to enter graduate school and eventually earn a PhD and ultimately become college professors.

**Bob Hall Employees Donate Bikes for 100 Kids**

Employees of the Bob Hall Dealerships in Yakima combined with the local El Camino Chevelle Club to make Christmas more joy-ful for 100 Yakima Valley youngsters.

**Yakima Food Bank is the recipient of two Cornerstone Awards**

Marcelle Winn of Edward Jones Investments held a holiday party and invited guests to bring donations for the food bank. The holiday box was quickly filled and additional boxes were needed to hold the donations.

**Glenmoor Green held a food drive among its residents. A wide variety of foods was collected, from pasta to stew and pretty much everything in between. Glen and Bonnie were proud winners.**

**Central Washington Family Medicine Residency Program Receives Teaching Health Center Funding**

The Central Washington Family Medicine Residency Program, a service of Community Health of Central Washington, has been awarded $2.7m in Teaching Health Center funding for residency program expansion into Kittitas County. Beginning July 1, 2012, two new resident physicians per year will complete their three years of residency training in Ellensburg. The new residency track will be based at Community Health of Central Washington – Ellensburg Clinic and will be a collaborative effort with Kittitas Valley Community Hospital and the Ellensburg medical community.

**Glenmoor Green**

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**Two Chamber Members Reduce Holiday Hunger**

Yakima Food Bank is the recipient of two donations from Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce members in time to replenish the shelves after the Thanksgiving distribution and before the Christmas distribution.而 the methods of gathering the food differ, the intent is the same – to reduce holiday hunger in Yakima.

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Discover Excellence in Community Banking

“Customer Service is really outstanding at Central Valley Bank. The personal attention to our account is appreciated. It’s nice to be treated like family instead of a number.”
- Judy and Jennifer Hunter

Customer: Judy and Jennifer Hunter
Lil Brown Smoke Shack
3201 Goodman Rd,
Yakima, WA 98903
(509) 457-6404
www.johnhunterfoundation.com
www.visionhunter.com

Banker: Sally Meredith & Lupe Leach
Union Gap Branch
2205 S. 1st Street,
Yakima, WA 98903
(509) 576-0424

Pictured left to right: Jennifer Hunter, Lupe Leach, Judy Hunter, & Sally Meredith

Discover excellence in relationship and business banking. Call or stop by any of our six convenient locations in Yakima and Kittitas counties