Welcome New Businesses!

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

Jags Commercial Cleaning Service*
Joshua Rodriguez – Owner / Operator
jagcics@yahoo.com or jrgonzalez@yahoo.com
509-833-8078
Commercial Janitorial Services
*Jags Commercial Cleaning Service actually joined the Chamber in November 2011, but due to editorial error, they were left out of the Action Report until now. Please see their Business Brief in this issue!

Aloha Mobile Car Wash & Detail
Noly Acob – Owner / Operator
nolannacob@j.com
509-594-0551
Car Washing & Detailing

Aspen Dental
Danielle Perez – Operations Manager
daperez@aspendental.com or www.aspendental.com
2402 S. 1st Street Suite 108, Yakima, WA 98903
509-574-4000
Dentists

Kumon Math and Reading Center of Yakima
Jennifer Oberlander – Owner / Instructor
Yakima_wa@kumon.com
210 S. 72nd Street Suite 140, Yakima, WA 98908
509-823-4116
Tutoring

Northwest Medstar
Mary Gilmore – Community Relations Coordinator
gilmormk@nwmedstar.org or www.nwmedstar.org
509-448-1510
Air Ambulance Services

Rainbow International of Yakima
Joel Beath – Marketing Director
joel.beath@rainboointl.com or www.rainboointl.com/yakima
101 Butterfield Road, Yakima, WA 98901
509-575-1100
Water & Fire Damage Repair
Message from the Chair

Roy Bauerle
Chair of the Board of Directors

In 2011 I said that 2012 will be a good year for the Chamber; a year where we have an opportunity to make strides to pull ourselves out of the largest economic downturn in our life time. I am here to tell you that we are making progress on doing just that.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald has been hired and though she will have several duties at the Chamber, one of her key and critical responsibilities will be for her to raise monies to put into the Chamber Foundation so we can continue to support our members and community from a position of financial strength. Elizabeth is off to a great start, and I have no doubt that she will continue to succeed.

By the time you read this we will have had our 2012 Business Expo. This year we doubled the amount of businesses participating over last year. Thanks to Scott Filkins and Carolyn Gray for their dedication and hard work.

We have been working on getting our financial house in order. Earl Hall has stepped away from retirement to help us out. We are not there yet, but we have made significant progress and my hope is to be able to tell you exactly where we stand before this term ends. I am very confident that the color of the ink will be a healthy black. Thanks for the help Earl.

MaryAbigail has been working on building Leadership Yakima, and I believe this will continue to be a robust and showcase program this coming year. Thanks for your hard work MaryAbigail.

If you haven’t seen our web-site go take a look at www.yakima.org. Thane Phelan clearly knows what he is doing, and has many new bells and whistles that will help us communicate to anyone interested. Thanks Thane!

The front desk is handled by Amy Lopez who is professional, knowledgeable about the community, and does everything she can to help visitors and customers with their day to day needs. Thank you, Amy.

Last but not least, we have the “Best” CEO of any Chamber in Verlynn Best. She is excited, energetic and pleasant to be around. She knows what the priorities of the Chamber have to be and is implementing a plan provided by the Board of Directors. The results will speak for itself. Thank you every day Verlynn.

So overall a good start to this New Year. Yes, I truly believe that this will be a very good year for the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce. These few words cannot express the amount of gratitude and appreciation I have, and focus the staff and Verlynn have put into making the Chamber and our community a better place to live. So much more to do, so little time.

MILITARY CORNER

The 66th Aviation Brigade, WAARNG just returned from Afghanistan, and some of the soldiers live in this area. If you are interested in more information on how you might help as they integrate back into our community please contact John Rimel, Family Assistance Coordinator, at john.rimel@us.army.mil or 469-4638.

The Yakima County Veterans Relief Board will be taking over the oversight and operations of the Annual Stand Down, and it is also establishing a 501(c3) non-profit status. Dave Brown, the Yakima County Veteran’s Coordinator, (574-1528) will assume the Chair position. The Relief Board is also studying the possibility of establishing a Veterans Resource Center here in Yakima.

The 4-2 Stryker Brigade successfully concluded training at YTC this month and their 3500 soldiers safely made it home to joint base Lewis-McChord.

Don’t expect a quiet March, as the 17th Fires Brigade will be here training with their big guns throughout the month.
By the time you read this the “2012 Business Expo” will be over. The entire team here has worked so hard to get everything ready to go and I have to tell you the Committee Chair, Craig Terry has been a true leader in bringing the 2012 Business Expo together and making it a tremendous success. We cannot thank Craig enough for his time and energy!

We also want to thank all our sponsors; Title Sponsor: Legends Casino; Expo Sponsors: KIMA, YCCS, M&M Catering, Banner Bank, Yakima Herald Republic, Treveri Cellars, Yakima Regional, Central Valley Bank, Abbott’s Printing, Bob Hall Dealerships, and Future Link. Remember the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce knows “There’s No Business like Your Business”!

Thank you to each staff member, committee members and the Yakima Valley business community for your ongoing support!

We are busy here at your Chamber….and we’re already planning the Expo for 2013. Great things are in store for you at your Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce for today and in your future!

Thank you,
Verlynn Best

“Why do you love KYVE?”

“Heritage University is proud to support KYVE for its outstanding programs for youth and adults.”

Bertha Ortega
Heritage University

YO Yakima – Wednesday March 21st at 4:30pm – 2401 S. First Street, #100, Yakima, WA (Former Cold Stone Creamery location)

HAPO Credit Union, New West Valley Branch – Friday March 23rd at 11:30am – 6401 W. Nob Hill, Yakima, WA (across the street from Walgreens and Wal-Mart in West Valley) – lunch will be served!

Central Valley Bank in Union Gap – Wednesday March 28th at 4:30pm – 2205 S. 1st Street, Yakima, WA
If you're reading this, the odds are that you are a member of the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce. Are you making the most of that?

I work for an organization that is a member and for the first 6 months on the job, I didn't make use of any of the Chamber opportunities. I saw the announcements, heard about some events, but figured that there was nothing there for me. In the last 3 months, I've made more connections and introductions than in the last year. What changed? I started using my Chamber.

First thing I do every Tuesday morning at 9am is go to the “Chamber Coffee Club”. It is open to everyone. We mingle for awhile, go around the table to talk about our business, and then we mingle some more. This is networking at its most basic. I’ve connected with individuals and organizations that have nothing to do with how we do business, until the next day or the next week when something comes up. I immediately remember the person I talked to at the coffee group and give them a call. Being on the forefront of peoples mind is the easiest referral you will ever get.

I signed up to be a Chamber Ambassador. There is no formal training to go through to serve on this committee, just an interest in talking to people. The Ambassador program looks for members of the Chamber who are interested in meeting with and talking to other Chamber members. Since some members are like I was and don’t make the most of their membership, the Ambassadors try to visit as many members as they can to inform them about what the Chamber is doing. Ambassadors get informed about and attend after hour functions, ribbon cuttings, legislative opportunities, classes, and networking opportunities. At these events, Ambassadors mingle, meet new people, and make introductions of members they know. They are the grease that helps keep the Chambers motor running. The program also encourages Ambassadors to build those business relationships. Did you notice that when you stopped by to say hello at a member’s place of business that they were having IT issues? Make a referral to a Chamber member, it could even be you!

While not every member will have the time to come to every event, it is definitely worth the effort to get one of your staff to start attending at least some of the Chamber events. Get out and put a face on your company!

Summary of “Yakima County - 2011 in Review” Presentation

There is a rule of thumb about the Yakima County economy that employment figures generally supports, at least over the last five years: “In good years, the Yakima County job growth lags the state. In bad years we lead the State.” Specifically:

- During the “good” years of 2007 and early 2008, the local economy did not add jobs at the statewide pace. Yakima County’s nonfarm job growth rate was 0.5 percent in 2007 versus Washington’s growth rate of 2.6 percent. In 2008 we again added jobs at a lethargic 0.5-percent clip versus Washington’s 0.9-percent pace.
- Conversely, during the “bad” years of 2009 and early 2010, the local economy did not lose jobs as rapidly as the State. In effect we “led” the State. The County’s job loss rates were -2.6 percent and -0.6 percent in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

Statewide, employment sagged by -4.6 percent and -1.3 percent in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

- The most current nonfarm employment estimates indicate that during the relatively “good,” or perhaps we should say “better” year of 2011, the Yakima County job growth rate (up 0.3 percent) “lagged” Washington’s job growth rate (up 1.2 percent).

One of the main reasons for this is the stabilizing effect of agriculture on the Yakima County economy. During 2011, manufacturers (both of durable and non-durable goods), retail trade stores, professional and business services, and food services businesses hired workers. Conversely, construction firms, health services
YC-LIFE to Release Comprehensive Report on Yakima County Trends

Yakima County Local Indicators for Excellence (YC-LIFE) will release its first annual community report card during the Yakima Chamber of Commerce Luncheon March 12 at 11:30 a.m. at the Yakima Red Lion Hotel. The YC-LIFE Annual Report 2012 is a comprehensive list of indicators for Yakima County.

This report continues the work of the Compass 2001 Community Assessment report and the State of Caring Index indicator project, led by United Way of Central Washington in partnership with local businesses, governments, and health and human services organizations. As of 2009, the State of Caring Index project ended and as a result there was no centralized data collection and evaluation available to the general public or community leaders. YC-LIFE began in 2009 in response to this issue.

The YC-LIFE report, sponsored by the Yakima County Department of Human Services and the United Way of Central Washington and produced through the collaborative efforts of many community partners, collects and measures indicators which track demographic, economic, social and environmental conditions of value and concern to the residents of Yakima County. The report is made up of 11 different categories which provide data for each city, the county, state and nation when available. A variety of data sources were used in the creation of the report including the U.S. Census, the Washington Center for Real Estate Research, the Risk and Protection Profile for Substance Abuse Prevention, the Healthy Youth Survey, and many others.

YC-LIFE is a community based support organization for local Collective Impact initiatives. On-going support efforts of YC-LIFE will include centralized data collection, resource development, assistance with community planning efforts, and community mobilization. Collective Impact provides a framework for how organizations across all sectors of the community can work together to achieve a common goal, as described in the Winter 2011 issue of the “Stanford Social Innovation Review”. Yakima County has been far ahead of the curve in its utilization of Collective Impact collaborations: Children’s Village, The Homeless Network of Yakima County, Safe Yakima Valley, and the Yakima County Gang Commission and YC-LIFE are just a few of the excellent examples of successful collective impact efforts.
Please Support These Businesses that Support Your Chamber!

Members for 1-4 Years:
Joel’s Tire...............................3 Years
New York Life / Craig Terry
Agency...................................3 Years

Members for 5-9 Years:
CS Pilates...............................5 Years
Fred Meyer................................6 Years
Graf Investments...................5 Years
Harmony Hill U-Pick Raspberries
& Lavender ..........................9 Years
Hilton Garden Inn ...............6 Years
Mayflower Metals .................8 Years
Quail Run at Terrace
Heights.....................................5 Years

Members for 10-14 Years:
Amtech Corporation...........10 Years
Dispute Resolution Center of
Yakima & Kittitas Valleys....10 Years
Owens Cycle Inc. – Yamaha/
Suzuki/ Harley Davidson....10 Years

 Members for 15-19 Years:
Pro Motion Physical
Therapy................................12 Years
Rosauers Supermarket.......11 Years
U.R.M. Cash & Carry #4........13 Years

Members for 20-24 Years:
Highgate Senior Living......15 Years
Harmony Hill U-Pick Raspberries
& Lavender ..........................9 Years
Hilton Garden Inn ...............6 Years
Mayflower Metals .................8 Years
Quail Run at Terrace
Heights.....................................5 Years

Members for 25-29 Years:
Corday & Sharon Trick.......28 Years
KMW Enterprises, dba Headwaters,
The Source..........................28 Years
Valley Mall Merchants.......25 Years
Wholesale Tire Mart ...........28 Years

Members for 30-39 Years:
Burger King of Yakima........33 Years
Evergreen Financial Services
...........................................37 Years
Therapeutic Associates / Yakima
Physical Therapy................31 Years
Y.C.C.S. / A National Collection
System..................................34 Years

Members for 40-49 Years:
Perry Technical Institute.....42 Years
Whistlin’ Jack Lodge.........40 Years

Members for 50-59 Years:
Pro Motion Physical
Therapy................................12 Years
Rosauers Supermarket.......11 Years
U.R.M. Cash & Carry #4........13 Years

Members for 60-69 Years:
Burrows Tractor..................68 Years

Members for 70-79 Years:
Sundquist Fruit & Cold
Storage...............................86 Years

Members for 80-89 Years:
Yakima Bindery & Printing
Company............................93 Years

BEWARE, YOU COULD
CATCH FAIR FEVER

There is no official word from County Health authorities, but rumor has it there is the potential for a breakout of a new illness that has the possibilities of reaching epidemic proportions and could affect over 300,000 people later this summer.

The newly recognized malady has been named Fair Fever and has some obvious symptoms which include a desire to spin in circles, an uncontrollable urge to view farm animals, outbursts of intermittent screams and laughter, and cravings for corn dogs, elephant ears and other delectable foods.

When asked about the new potential ailment, Fair President Greg Stewart said he has seen versions of the bug before and it normally shows up around Labor Day.

“Most people start getting the fever about the time school starts each year,” Stewart said. “Although we do have people who suffer from some of the symptoms all year long, those are the ones who might need two or three days at our Fair to be cured.”

Some medical officials say it may actually be good for a person’s mental wellness to catch Fair Fever, because once they go to the Fair to cure their symptoms they develop an overall feeling of happiness and well being… not to mention having some certain entertainment and food cravings satisfied.

Because of the possible affliction, and the great side effects, Fair officials announced that the theme for this year’s Fair is “Fair Fever—Catch It!” Stewart said he and the staff are working hard to bring together this year’s version of the annual Fair, which is set to run September 21-30 in Yakima.

“We are working on getting some extra special entertainment and attractions in place to help cure any Fair Fever ailments,” Stewart said. Of course the Fair will again present several nights of big name entertainment, along with a variety of great foods, livestock exhibits, carnival rides, and displays that makes it the largest single family entertainment event in the region.

For more information on this year’s Central Washington State Fair go to www.fairfun.com.
With electricity, safety matters
For safety, Pacific Power keeps power lines high overhead and buried beneath the ground. There are also precautions you should take to prevent serious or fatal injuries from electrical accidents.

Keep your distance
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations require crane and derrick operators to keep at least 20 feet away from overhead power lines. This is a good rule for everyone to follow. Electricity will take the easiest path to ground. If you, or an object you are touching, accidentally become part of the pathway, you could be electrocuted.

Look up
Be aware of the location of any nearby overhead power lines. Be careful not to lift or move any long or tall items such as ladders near power lines – they can conduct electricity through you.

Stay away to stay safe
Never touch or go near a downed power line, and do not touch anything on which the wire is resting. Keep everyone away and call 911, then Pacific Power at 1-877-508-5088.

Call before you dig
Digging into underground power lines can be just as dangerous as contacting an overhead line. Call 811 or your local utility locating service at least 48 hours before digging on your property. Or call Pacific Power toll free at 1-888-221-7070 for the number of this free service.

For more electrical safety tips, please visit pacificpower.net/safety.

Shawna M Jewell Earns Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow (LUTCF) Designation
Shawna M Jewell, has earned the Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow (LUTCF) professional designation. The LUTCF is conferred only upon those individuals who meet or exceed the exacting qualification standards determined by the two organizations that jointly sponsor the designation, The American College and the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA).

The designations marks an agent’s long-term commitment to professionalism on behalf of clients, establishes the agent’s competence and business experience, marks a commitment to The American College’s and NAIFA’s Code of Ethics and fosters additional professional development. In addition to the successful completion of five courses within a 10-course curriculum, LUTCF candidates must also complete an ethics course and be a member in good standing of NAIFA.

Conferrees are honored during The American College’s national Knowledge Summit and Commencement exercises. This event will be taking place in 2012 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Jewell is a member of the Central Washington Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and has been active in the profession for 15 years. Jewell currently owns a local American Family Insurance Agency in Yakima. She previously worked as a Sales Manager for a life insurance company in Bellevue, Washington.

Shawna M Jewell Insurance Agency, Inc.
American Family Mutual Insurance Company
140 S 72nd Ave. Suite 140
Yakima, WA 98908
Phone (509) 972-8700

Brooke Finch of Edward Jones Receives/Accredited Asset Management Specialist® Designation
Brooke Finch of the financial services firm Edward Jones in Selah has achieved the professional designation of Accredited Asset Management Specialist®.

Finch successfully completed the Accredited Asset Management Specialist, or AAMS®, Professional Education Program from the Denver-based College for Financial Planning. Those who complete the program, pass a final exam and sign a code of ethics and disclosure form earn the AAMS® designation.

This advanced training offers investment professionals the hands-on information needed to provide comprehensive financial services. Study topics include understanding the asset management process to understanding asset allocation and strategies.

Edward Jones provides financial services for individual investors in the United States and, through its affiliate, in Canada. Every aspect of the firm’s business, from the types of investment options offered to the location of branch offices, is designed to cater to individual investors in the communities in which they live and work. Edward Jones embraces the importance of building long-term, face-to-face relationships with clients, helping them to understand and make sense of the investment options available today.

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC.
Yakima Rotary Book Drive
is Now Underway.

Start Your Spring Cleaning. Clean out the garage, basement and all your bookshelves. Any books will do; paperbacks, hard bound, old textbooks, old encyclopedias. We get paid by the pound for any contributions and 30% of what they can resell on line. Children's books collected (and in good shape) will be sent back to us to distribute in our community. Get rid of the clutter and help Rotary’s literacy promotions. Collections boxes are distributed throughout town, including at your Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce, or you can bring them to Rotary with you every Thursday. Patty Dion, Book Drive Chair

Rainbow International Offers Courses

What: Continuing Education Credit Course “Successful Mitigation of Mold: The Fungus Amongus” (4 Credit course)  
Where: Hilton Garden Inn, 401 E Yakima Avenue, Yakima, WA  
When: Wednesday, April 11th 8:30 – 1:00  
Who: Sponsored by Rainbow International of Yakima  
Why: Insurance Agents and Realtors need CE credits to remain licensed in the State of Washington, Carpet cleaners who want additional certification, contractors, etc.  
Cost: Waived / Lunch served after class.  
REGISTER as we have limited space. Call 575-1100 to register

Yakima Valley Visitors & Convention Bureau Launches Dog Focused Travel Website

Yakima, Wash.—The Yakima Valley Visitors & Convention Bureau has launched a new website for visitors traveling with their dogs. Winedoggies.com features the many dog friendly attractions and services available in the Yakima Valley. Highlights include a ‘doggie bloggie’ hosted by a local canine, an interactive map of dog-friendly businesses with open pet policies, plus a section where guests can add pictures and stories of their dogs enjoying Washington wine country.

“We created this site to accommodate the growing number of visitors traveling with their dogs,” stated John Cooper, President & CEO of the Yakima Valley Visitors & Convention Bureau. “Although the site is called Winedoggies, it’s much more than simply stories about winery dogs. The site is designed to assist travelers and their dogs with their visit to wine country, giving them a tour guide for pet friendly shops and must-see stops in the Yakima Valley.”

The Yakima Valley boasts dog-inclusive activities ranging from the Canine & Wine Walk on May 12, 2012, where pups walk their owners through selected wineries to raise money for the Yakima Valley Pet Rescue, to dog-friendly boating on nearby lakes. For information on other canine related attractions in the Yakima Valley, follow Wine Doggies on Twitter at @winedoggies or visit www.winedoggies.com.

Jags Commercial Cleaning Services - Joshua Gonzalez

Jags Commercial Cleaning Services started out in 2010 with a combined experience of over 50 years in the janitorial industry. Jags Commercial Cleaning Services is a family owned business which includes my father, brother and cousin. The name Jags is the initials of me, my brother and father. Having our own janitorial business is something that my father always wanted for us, but never had the opportunity of doing. He worked in the janitorial industry for over 40 years. I have almost 10 years’ experience in the industry, so it felt natural when I approached him with the idea of starting our own business. It’s something we have experience in and enjoy doing. We specialize in office cleaning, everything from deep cleaning, sanitizing, carpet extraction, pressure washing, strip & wax, to light bulb maintenance. We feel we are the best and we take pride in the work that we do because we want to be a successful business for years to come and we know to do that, we must keep our customers happy and provide them with excellent service.
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“We make multiple deposits daily. The branch is very convenient and easy to work with. They do a great job meeting all of our banking needs.”
- John & Michael Shuel

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John & Michael Shuel
Meredith Furniture
(509) 452-6221
2201 S 1st Street
Yakima, WA 98903

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

Pictured Sally Meredith with John and Michael Shuel

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

VETERANS JOB FAIR!
OPEN TO PUBLIC
Thursday March 15th from 1000-1400
815 N. Kellogg St.
Kennewick, WA 99336

Employers:
PNNL, (Hanford contractors), Bechtel, Wal-Mart, Aero Tek,
City of Kennewick and many more!

Dress Professional!
Bring your Resume!

For more information contact your Local Veterans Employment Representative:
Kelly Snell at 509-734-5900, ksnell@esd.wa.gov

Work Source Columbia Basin is an equal opportunity partnership of organizations that provide employment and training services. Auxiliary aides and services are available upon request to persons with disabilities TTY Phone 509.734.5283
Thanks to the 2012 Business Expo Sponsors & Attendees!