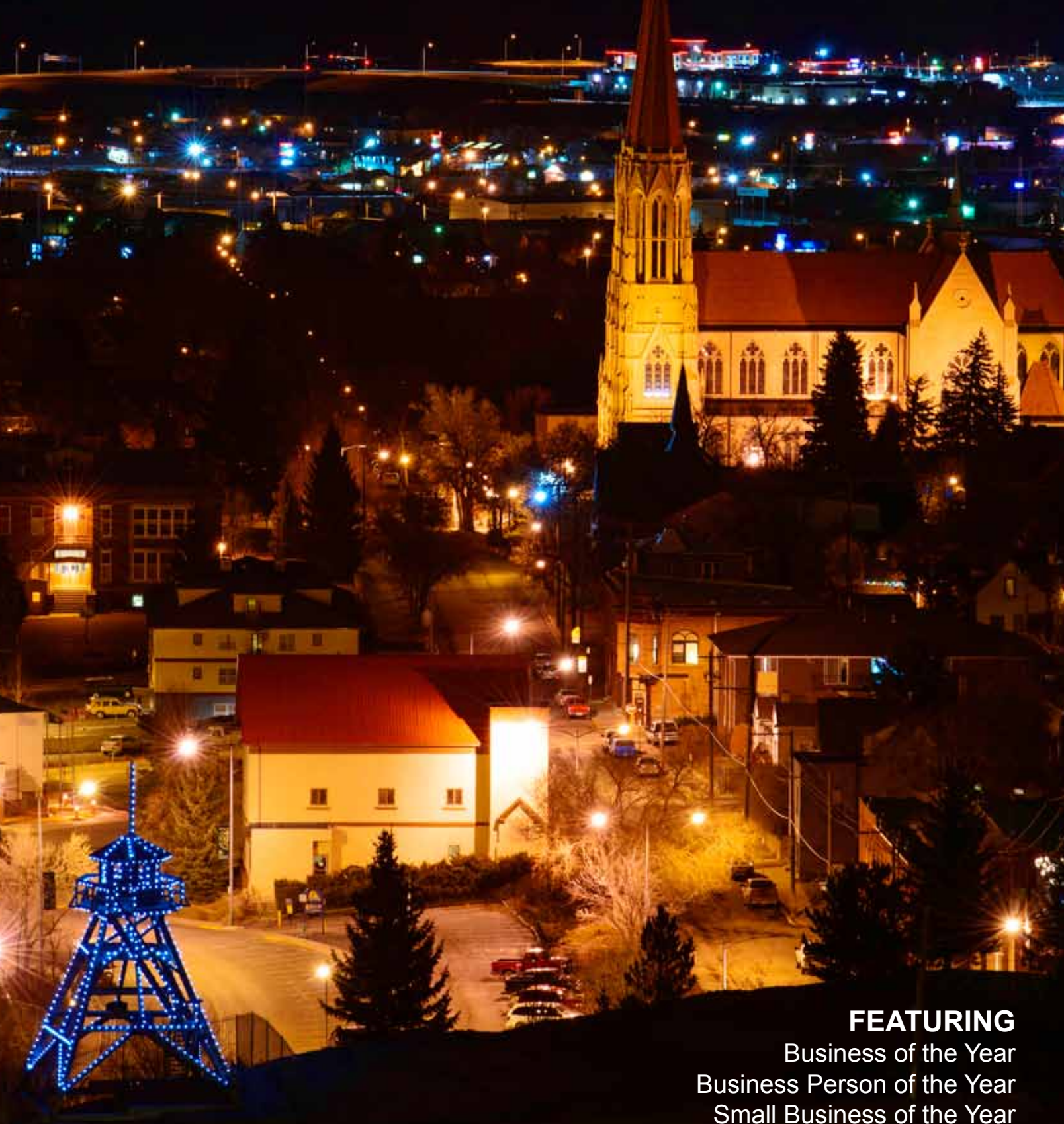




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# Helena 2014

AREA CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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# A Message from 2014 Board Chairman

## Peter Mollet

As promised 2013 was a great year for the Chamber. With Jeff Wadekamper's leadership we continued to make the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce an entity to be proud of. We hired two new staff members, Jacob Dysart in marketing, and Tammy Andridge in membership. Both have exceeded our expectations. We have taken the idea of a new visitor center with Chamber offices and turned it into a process. We have seen many new businesses move to town and some old ones expand and remodel. We participated in another fruitful session of the legislature as an advocate for business. We have seen Boeing Helena make a significant commitment to our community.

Looking ahead at 2014 I believe that we will see the same exciting growth and energy that our community is getting to be known for. The Chamber will be that source and force to help make these things happen. Some things will be a surprise; some will be part of a slow quiet strategy, but through it all, the Chamber will be there helping it happen.

The everyday programs, the things the Chamber does, will also keep on coming. We will have great opportunities to network with events like Business Before Hours and Business After Hours, the Annual Banquet, and the Awards Luncheon. We will send our members significant information via things like the B2B magazine (now three times per year), weekly emails, and the City Commission meeting updates.

Our theme for this year is "Building for the Future". If you look at all our goals and objectives, it defines them all. We are looking at this theme for two points of view. One, "Building for the Chamber" and two, "Building for the Building". You simply cannot have the second one without the first. We will look at each of these as a product of developing "Excitement, Enthusiasm and Engagement". These will be our 3 E's!

Over the last few years the Chamber Board has worked very hard at developing a strategy and plan to build a new VIC (Visitor Information Center). That plan has matured and grown into a full combination VIC and Chamber offices. With the VIC Task Force and Jeff's leadership, it has passed out of the concept stage, and into the first stage of reality. It will be up to this year's board to take it into the next level. That level will be Site Procurement, Conceptual Drawings, and Fundraising. Perhaps 2014 will even see the first shovel of dirt being moved. Wouldn't that be exciting!?

The only way that this can take place however is with the 3 E's. Once again, they are "Excitement, Enthusiasm and Engagement". The first step is to genuinely apply them to the membership, and to the board. If this project is to be successful we (all of us) must have the 3 E's every day in regards to our Chamber of Commerce. It is with this energy that we will generate the same for our overall business community. With this energy, we will have the drive to accomplish any and all tasks and goals that we have before us.

This new facility will put us in a position to be at our best. We will be able to showcase all that Helena has to offer. History, Tourism, Recreation, Shopping, Lodging, Business, Beauty, and most importantly, a great place to live, work, and set down roots. It is this love of Helena that is a chief driving factor in this project and this year's efforts.

This year, as you can see, we really only have two main objectives. And, although our primary two tasks for this year are huge, I am hoping to apply a basic principle of business. Let's "Do fewer things but do them extremely well."

Remember "Excitement, Enthusiasm, and Engagement". Let's really be active and supportive of the Helena Chamber this year!



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## Looking back on 2013

Looking back at the past year illustrates the tremendous amount of actives and business advocacy the Helena area Chamber of Commerce performs each day. With the Chamber board and staff working together, listed below are some highlights:

- ❖ Advocated for businesses in the 2013 Legislative Session
  - Held an event for Chamber members to meet and discuss issues with Helena – area legislators prior to the 2013 Session.
  - Provided a brown bag lunch for local legislators every Friday of the session
  - Worked with Hometown Helena to conduct legislator meetings every Friday
  - Conducted a legislator welcome breakfast event at the Capitol Building
  - Provided weekly Legislative Update through the entire 2013 Session
  - Participated in the “Coalition of Chambers” legislative position papers for 2013 Legislative Session
  - For the first time all 7 of the largest chambers signed on-Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell and Missoula (represents over 5000 businesses).
  - Advocated for business on numerous bills and successfully worked with legislators and committees for positive outcomes.
- ❖ Continued the B2B magazine with 2 publications for 2013.
- ❖ Created new tiered membership levels, website Job Postings and Hot Deals to enhance benefits for Chamber members.
- ❖ Hired two new enthusiastic Chamber staff members
  - Jacob Dysart, Marketing/Communications Director
  - Tammy Andridge, Membership Coordinator
- ❖ Boss of the Year Award, which in its second year had a large number of nominations and had great media coverage.
- ❖ Continued to provide members the very popular and detailed City Commission Reports
- ❖ Progress was made for a permanent Visitor Center
- ❖ Narrowed a list of possible sites down to a finalist and are currently engaged in negotiations for the property.
  - Sent out an architectural RFQ and will select an architecture firm in February of 2013
- ❖ One of the largest Annual Banquets, attracting a crowd of 770+ Chamber members
- ❖ The Annual Awards Luncheon had an all-time high attendance of 310+ members.
- ❖ Several business workshops
  - Helped businesses with employee training
  - Steve Beck Customer Service, Pat McGaughey-Great Boards.

I personally want to thank the chamber staff, under the leadership Cathy Burwell, Chamber CEO. These professionals work hard and are loyal to its members, providing an exceptional value for your membership.

I would also like to thank our Directors for continuing to provide guidance for the staff and volunteering their time to make Helena a better place to live and do business.

Please welcome Peter Mollet, Owner of Perkin's Family Restaurant as your 2014 Chairman. Peter is an extremely approachable guy, a dedicated businessman, and active community supporter. Peter will do an excellent job guiding the Chamber during his term.

It was truly an honor to be the 2013 Board Chair and I enjoyed working with everyone in our great community!

Thank you,

Jeff Wadekamper  
Assistant Airport Director  
Helena Regional Airport  
Authority  
2013 Helena Chamber Chairman of the Board



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# 2013 Message from Chamber President

## Cathy Burwell

The year 2014 is the 124th year for Montana's oldest Chamber, and the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce remains strong and vibrant!



The chamber's membership has once again stayed strong over the past year. We are proud to remain the 3rd largest chamber in Montana although the Capital City is not the 3rd largest city!

This past year was a legislative year and our efforts at the Capitol on behalf of business were tremendous. Our full-time lobbyist, Ronda Wiggers, worked on over 100 business bills to keep the Chamber on top of fighting for the best outcomes for our business climate

and to keep the Chamber membership well-informed in our weekly reports. Howard Skjervem of NorthWestern Energy chaired the Government Affairs Committee and put in a lot of work keeping on top of the issues, bills, and efforts.

Another advocacy benefit that is very popular with our membership is the reports sent out within a couple days of the city commission meetings. Business owners, managers, and CEO's are able to stay on top of any ordinance changes or other regulation changes that may affect or impact their business.

Some advice for our members is to make sure you and your staff get involved. Volunteer and participate at events, learning opportunities, and other programs to get the most from your investment in the Chamber. It takes over 6,000 hours per year to accomplish all of our successful programs, events, activities, and advocacy. With your help, we can make an even bigger difference for the business community, for your business, and for Helena.

New this past year was the addition of job listings and hot deals for members. With an extremely low cost, members can reach over 3000 members through email advertising to advertise a special or to recruit for a staff position.

A reminder for those of you who work for Chamber member businesses but are not an owner, manager, or

CEO: you are ALL members and are invited and encouraged to participate and attend all Chamber functions!

If your business or organization is not a member of the Helena Chamber, give Tammy Andridge – our Membership Director - a call at 447-1945 to learn about the many benefits and see how you can get on board.

With a highly qualified, loyal, and hard-working staff of six employees at the Chamber, we keep BUSINESS as our focus every single work day! The Helena Chamber is your business advocate and the voice of business for the Helena area.

Cathy Burwell  
President/CEO  
Helena Area Chamber of Commerce

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# 2014 Board of Directors

## Anthony Perpignano, AIA President, CWG Architects

Tony will be transitioning into the role of president at CWG Architects early in 2014. CWG Architects was formed in Helena in 1957 making it the oldest architecture firm in Helena. Tony moved to Helena in 1992 and is a graduate of Montana State University's School of Architecture. Tony is also active in the Helena Sunrise Rotary Club; he is on the Board of Directors for Helena Industries and is a member of the Architectural Society of Helena. He also is on the Board of Directors at Helena College for the Interior Space Planning and Design program. Tony joined CWG Architects in 2000. When Tony is not practicing architecture, or being active in the community or spending time with his family he can usually be found standing in a river fly fishing or working at home in his studio painting.



## Bill Pierce, Owner Pierce & Associates- Builders

Pierce & Associates-Builders, LLC has been building homes and light commercial structures in the Helena area since 1975. Pierce & Associates is a full service custom design/build firm offering a broad range of construction services from excavating to project management. Bill Pierce, Owner, is a Montana native who is committed to quality construction and customer value, and has a well-known reputation for honesty in his business dealings. Bill has a 'hands on' construction background dating back 35 years and has earned an engineering degree from Montana State University. Bill is a long time member of the Helena Building Industry Assoc. and the Montana Building Industry Assoc., and has served as president of both organizations. National recognition was received by P&A in 2009 for being one of 12 finalists for the Caterpillar, Inc. "Contractor of the Year" award, and for being designated the first "CAT Safety Award" winner. Most recently Bill was inducted into the Montana Building Industry's Hall of Fame in 2010.



## Bob Morrison President & CEO, Morrison-Maierle, Inc. 2014 Chamber Board Treasurer

A third-generation leader at Morrison-Maierle, Bob continues to grow the company his grandfather began in 1945. After getting his Master's Degree from Montana State University in 1979, he worked for a large national engineering firm in Idaho, Texas, and Colorado. He returned to Montana and Morrison-Maierle in 1991 and was named President and CEO in 2006 after serving as Great Falls Office Manager, Chief Engineer, and Vice President. His technical specializations are in major water and wastewater treatment systems, pump stations, pipelines, and interdisciplinary project management. Bob is a registered professional engineer in Montana, Idaho, South Dakota, Arizona, and Utah. Bob grew up



in Helena, attended Helena High School, and is married to his high school sweetheart Kathy. They have two grown sons. Paul has a PhD in Physical Therapy and lives in Salt Lake City, Utah. David has a landscaping, lawn maintenance, and snow removal business in Bozeman. Bob and Kathy's two granddaughters, Hadley and Natalee, are also in Bozeman.

## Daniel Byrd, Auditor Anderson ZurMuehlen 2013 Chamber Board Young Professional Representative

Dan moved to Helena in 2006 to attend Carroll College. He started working for the Anderson ZurMuehlen in 2009 while still attending Carroll College. He continued to work for Anderson ZurMuehlen in their Missoula office while attending UM to receive a Master's in Business Administration in 2010, he and his wife moved back to Helena in 2011 to rejoin the Helena Office of Anderson ZurMuehlen as a full time auditor. Daniel is currently working on his CPA licensure and serves as the Treasurer of the Helena Chamber Young Professionals currently. His community work includes being a Big Brother thru the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program and is usually one of the Anderson ZurMuehlen staff handing you a receipt at the end of our many Charity Auctions held in Helena. He is also a current participant of the Leadership Helena Program. Dan enjoys hiking and biking the trail systems around Helena and the surrounding area. He and his wife Amber also enjoy attending the symphony and all the other arts that Helena has to offer.



## Dan Ellison Helena City Commissioner

Dan is a retired Navy pilot who was elected to the Helena City Commission in 2009 and again in 2013. He grew up on cattle ranches in western Montana, and attended schools in the Bitterroot Valley and Missoula. After graduating from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, he entered flight school in Pensacola, Florida, and was awarded pilot's wings in 1971. As a helicopter pilot his sea duty deployments included the Western Pacific and Southeast Asia as the Viet Nam war was winding down, and the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf regions in the 1980s. He also deployed three times to Antarctica flying support missions for the National Science Foundation, and met his future spouse Jane Fournier at Scott Base, Antarctica. Following naval service, Dan moved to Wyoming and worked as a Business Manager for the Forest Service. Returning to Montana in 1999, he served as a Division Administrator at the Department of Revenue, and as Chief of Administration and Finance at the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. He is a life member of Trout Unlimited, a past member of the Helena Independent Record Editorial Board, and for 6 years served as a Commissioner of the Helena Regional Airport Authority. Dan and his wife Jane Fournier live in Helena where they enjoy fly fishing, wildlife photography, and other activities in the natural environment.



## Dave Simkins, Owner Leslie's Hallmark & Montana Made Store

Dave has been in business in Helena for many years and heads up the family business of Leslie's Hallmark here in Helena, Billings and Great Falls. He served the Chamber in the 1980's and has the distinction of being the youngest Board Chairman in our history - he was 27 years old (1984 Board Chair). He has been active and supports many organizations and causes in Helena.



## David Jensen State Farm Insurance Agency Agent/Owner 2014 Leadership Helena Representative

David was born and raised in Montana up on the hi-line and graduated from Chester High School. He played college basketball and worked part-time for State Farm as a Claim Representative while earning his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Great Falls. Since then, he has been associated with State Farm Insurance Companies for 12 years in various roles from claims to sales and business ownership. David has been a Chamber member since he opened his State Farm Agency in Helena in September of 2011 and has been active with the Chamber's Young Professional group and is a graduate of Leadership Helena. In addition, David is also an active local board member for the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and the Young Advisors Team. He and his wife, Melissa, have been married 12 years and they have 3 boys. David enjoys spending time with his family and squeezing in a few rounds of golf when he can.



## Eric Smith, Director Boeing Helena Boeing Commercial Airplanes

Eric Smith was named director of Boeing Helena in December 2010, at the time Boeing acquired the business and operations previously conducted by Summit Aeronautics Group in Helena, Mont. Boeing Helena employs approximately 135 people to manufacture titanium and other hard-metal structures for commercial and military aircraft. Prior to accepting this assignment, Eric was Boeing Commercial Airplanes (BCA) Industrial Engineering leader in Italy where his responsibilities spanned the Alenia Aeronautica facilities in Foggia, Grottaglie, and Pomigliano. He led Boeing's onsite operations-support team, assisting Alenia in developing and implementing manufacturing-system controls and business operations for its work on the Boeing 787 Dreamliner. A fourth-generation Montanan, Smith graduated from Montana State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance with a minor in Economics and has just recently graduated from Harvard University's Advanced Management Program.





**Greg Pace  
General Manager -  
Beartooth NBC (KTVH)**

An engaged member of the community, both as a professional and a volunteer, Greg Pace relocated to Helena after graduating from Eastern Washington University to accept a Producer/Director position with KTVH Television Inc., in Helena.

Because of his love for the community, Greg made the choice to make Helena home for his family and his career. For 26 years Greg has shown continued commitment to KTVH successfully coordinating, directing, designing, and editing various aspects of the business through three owners. In October of 2012 accepted the position of General Manager for Beartooth Communications Company. Greg and his wife Kathleen are the proud parents of two daughters, Miranda and Rachel.



**Greg Strizich, President & CEO  
Helena Community Credit Union**

Greg spent nearly 20 years working with financial institutions in Washington State. Greg returned to his home town of Helena to serve the membership of Helena Community Credit Union. Greg has extensive credit union experience having most recently served in the capacity of CFO for Numerica Credit Union, located in Spokane, Washington. Greg is a licensed CPA for the State of Montana and a member of the American Institute of CPAs. Greg received his undergraduate degree in Accounting from the University of Montana and later earned an MBA from Washington State University.



**Janet Hedges, Certified Financial Planner Strizich  
Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.**

Janet is a Certified Financial Planner™ with Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Janet has been in the financial service industry since January of 2000. She specializes in working with businesses and individuals with planning and investment goals. Janet is a graduate of Carroll College with a degree in Business Administration with concentrations in Management and Finance. Janet is currently serving on or has recently served on several boards including: Shodair Children's Hospital, Montana Association of Female Executives, Soroptimist International of Helena, Queen City Ballet, and served as Chair for both Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Helena Rotary Club.



**Jason M. Davis, President  
Schlenker & McKittrick Architects**

Jason is a native Montanan who chose to build his career in the state he loves so that he can continue to enjoy all that Montana's



beautiful outdoors has to offer. Jason grew up hunting, fishing, skiing and camping with his family and that passion continues today. He has been truly blessed with the most generous and caring wife, Noelle. Jason has been able to volunteer his time as the current Chairman of the City of Helena Zoning Board of Adjustment, current Commissioner of the Montana Heritage Commission, member of the Tri-County Area Special Olympics Management Team and a past member of the Original Governor's Mansion Restoration Board.

**Jeff Wademaker, Asst. Airport Director  
Helena Regional Airport  
2014 Chamber Board Past-Chair**

Jeff grew up in Helena and has been around aviation his entire life. He started working for the Helena Regional Airport in 1991 while still attending Capital High School. He continued to work at the airport every summer while attending MSU in Bozeman and after receiving a Bachelor's degree in Business Management in 1998, he began working at the Helena Regional Airport full time. Jeff is currently the Assistant Airport Director and serves as the Past President of the Montana Airport Manager's Association. His community work includes being a member of the Helena Kiwanis Club, and past participant of the Leadership Helena Program. Jeff has worked with the Chamber on numerous committees such as the 2002 and 2009 Air Show Committees, Transportation Committee, Visitor Center Committee, and Convention and Visitor's Bureau Committee. Jeff's is married to Sharlene, a Montana native who grew up in Helena and graduated from Helena High. Jeff enjoys working in his shop restoring old vehicles and aircraft, and drag racing.



**Jim Eneyart, Owner  
Home Beautifiers Inc.  
2014 Chamber Board Chair-Elect**

Jim graduated from Powell County High School in Deer Lodge in 1980 and served in the United States Marine Corps from 1979 to 1984. Jim Married Shelle in June 1981 and they moved to Helena in 1984. Jim & Shelle have owned Home Beautifiers since 1989. They have made many changes over the years and as of now are considered by many to be the premier Window Covering dealer in the area. Home Beautifiers is a Hunter Douglas Gallery Centurion Dealer which means they have made a commitment to offer and stand behind the best products available and to provide superior service at all times. Home Beautifiers also started providing Closet products in 2006 and have developed this into a major part of the business. Currently Jim also serves as a director for Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies. He is also a member of the leadership team for the Helena Action Coalition on Homelessness, serves as a member of the Helena Board of Adjustments, and is also on the membership committee for HBIA.



**John McLaughlin  
Helena President,  
Stockman Bank of  
Montana**

John is a Helena native and extremely grateful to raise his four daughters here with his wife. After graduating from Montana State University with a Bachelor's degree in Finance, John began his career in banking in Helena. He then made the transition into the business world as an owner of MSD Computer Supply for 12 years. In 2003, he moved back into the banking world where he was the Chief Credit Officer for the last four years. In April of 2012, John was given the opportunity to spearhead the new Stockman Bank of Helena as the Helena Market President.



**Kent Kultgen, Ed. D.  
Superintendent  
Helena Public Schools**

Dr. Kent Kultgen joined the Helena School District in July, 2012. Dr. Kultgen is a native and life-long educator in Montana. As the superintendent, he plans to ensure all resources are used efficiently to enhance the student/teacher relationship. Dr. Kultgen comes to Helena from Stevensville, Montana where he was Superintendent since 2007. Prior to being in Stevensville, he served as Superintendent in Choteau for five years and taught elementary, middle school, and high school from 1991 to 2002 in Choteau and Hinsdale. He currently serves on the Helena Education Foundation Board of Directors, Lewis and Clark City/County Board of Health, and the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Dr. Kultgen is married to Lyla and they have three children: Alice and her husband live in Seattle; Eli and his wife live in Helena; and Oliver is a senior at Helena High. They also have two beautiful grandchildren, Daisy and Poppy.



**Linda Kindrick,  
Executive Director  
Montana Community  
Finance Corporation**

Linda Kindrick is Executive Director of Montana Community Finance Corporation, a non-profit organization charged with marketing, packaging and servicing loans under the Small Business Administration 504 loan program. She previously worked for the U.S. Small Business Administration for over 21 years, taking an early retirement in 2005 from the government. In addition to the Helena chamber board, Linda serves on the boards for Montana Business Assistance Connection (Immediate Past President) and Good Samaritan Ministries. Linda is a native of Helena and ultimately, a life-long Montanan, and is married to Jeff Kindrick, also a native. They have two adult married children and two grandchildren, all of whom live in the Seattle area. She enjoys spending time at home with her husband, maintaining their piece of heaven on earth in Montana City.



**Lynn Etchart, Director of Enterprise Financial Strategies Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana**

Lynn Etchart joined Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana in 2011, and serves as the Director of Enterprise Financial Strategies. In her current position, Lynn assists the CFO in providing strategic direction for BCBSMT's fiscal function and performance and facilitates the development of corporate strategic plans and objectives. Prior to joining BCBSMT, Lynn served for 17 years as the Vice President for Finance & Administration and Treasurer of Carroll College, where she was responsible for the financial and administrative operations of the college. Lynn currently serves on the Helena Education Foundation Board, and is a Commissioner for the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities. She and her husband, Mark, have three children and a golden retriever.



**Peter Mollet, Owner Perkins Family Restaurant 2014 Chamber Board Chair**

Pete grew up in Green Bay Wisconsin. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. Pete moved to the Northwest in 1997 as the Franchise Consultant for Perkins in the West. He was awarded the regional manager of the year in Wisconsin and the Franchise Consultant of the year for his work in the West. Peter and his wife purchased the Helena Perkins in 2008. He is a big supporter of the Chamber, VIC volunteers, Carroll College and many other organizations and causes in the Helena area.



**Rich Bruner Market President First Interstate Bank.**

He moved to Helena in September 2012 to assume his new role after spending 25 years in Red Lodge, Montana. He has been with First Interstate Bank for 26 years and in banking for 30 years. Rich is originally from Deer Lodge and has been married to Gina for 26 years. They have 3 children. Presently Rich serves on the boards of Shodair Children's Hospital, Florence Crittenton Home and the State Career and Technical Education Board. Rich is a proud graduate of Leadership Montana Class of 2009 and Leadership Helena Class 2013.



**Scott Olsen, President Helena Sand & Gravel**

Scott was born and raised in Townsend. He is married to wife, Sandi, and together they have two wonderful children ages 15 & 13. Scott has worked for Helena Sand & Gravel since 1999 when he started as a project manager for Rick and Ed Maronick. He has since held various responsibilities within the company, with current being President of Helena Sand & Gravel. He is also active as a board member with the Montana Contractors Association. Scott enjoys time with his family and the outdoor activities that Montana has to offer including: camping, hunting, fishing, skiing and riding horses.



**Shawn Peterson, Owner Tempest Technologies, LLC**

A Helena resident since 1991, Shawn co-owns Tempest Technologies, LLC with his wife, Lisa. He received his Business Management degree from Montana State University and has taken advanced training in other technology and marketing fields.

For the past nine years, Shawn has been very instrumental in assisting the Helena Chamber of Commerce with their website. He is active with numerous non-profit organizations including the Helena School District, Jim Darcy PTA, and the Montana Race for the Cure to name a few. In his spare time, he and his family, Ketya, Cole and Tasha, enjoy camping, hiking and visiting Glacier National Park.



**Stephanie Beckert, Civil Engineer Great West Engineering**

Stephanie Reinig is a civil engineer with extensive knowledge and experience, ranging in many disciplines, including solid waste, water, wastewater, site development, and trails. Throughout her eight years at Great West Engineering, Stephanie's responsibilities have included project management, design, construction, construction inspection analysis, reports, and environmental assessments within Montana and Idaho. Stephanie earned her B.A. in civil engineering at Carroll College in 2006 and became a certified Professional Engineer in 2010. Stephanie graduated from the Leadership Helena class of 2011-2012 and served a one year position on the Chamber Board as the Leadership Helena representative. Stephanie is now a Board member serving her first full term.



**Mary Susan Good Geise Lewis & Clark Co. Commissioner**

Her public service includes her experience in the Montana Legislature, advising the Montana Public Service Commission, and serving on the Augusta school board. She is the former Chairman of the Montana Republican Party and the Republican National Committee. Prior to her appointment to the Commission, Geise was the branch librarian of the Lewis and Clark Library in Augusta, a job she describes as the best job ever, affording numerous opportunities to serve the members of her small community. Her goal is to demonstrate that the Lewis and Clark Commission is a role model of what a governing body should resemble by encouraging healthy dialog between opposing viewpoints and building consensus wherever possible.



**Dr. Thomas Evans, President Carroll College**

Dr. Evans became the sixteenth person in Carroll's 103-year history to hold the office of president in June of 2012. He came to Carroll from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, where he had served in higher education for fifteen years. Since coming to Carroll Dr. Evans has led the College in its strategic planning efforts: establishing a new strategic vision, moving forward new programs, and invigorating Carroll's campus planning efforts. He has created new study abroad and intellectual exchange programs between Carroll and colleges and universities around the globe. Dr. Evans holds a bachelor of science with a major in Japanese from Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He earned his master of arts in Asian studies and doctor of philosophy in educational administration from the University of Texas at Austin. He and his wife Lisa have two young sons: Walter and Leland.



**Trevor MacDonald, Owner Sandy Mac's Distributing, LLP**

Trevor began his business career first as a partner in 1994 of Sandy Mac's Distributing, LLP and becoming majority owner in 1997. Born in Helena, he graduated from Helena High School and then went on to Montana State University. Trevor is current President of the East Helena Wrestling Club and past President of the Helena Education Foundation and Youth Connections. He currently serves on the board of the Lewis and Clark County DUI Task Force, and a former board member of the Montana Beer & Wine Distributors Association. Outside of work, Trevor has bible studies with 5th-8th grade students at South Hills Church of Christ and enjoys golf, family and friends. Trevor's family includes his wife, Diana and son Andrew.



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# 2013 Chamber **Business of the Year**

## Diamond Construction



Dean Bjerke,  
Owner,  
Diamond Construction

Diamond Construction was established in 1985 by Dean Bjerke. From the beginning, DCI has focused on building long-term relationships with clients with the goal of being the contractor of choice for life. In 1991, Dean and Susan Bjerke purchased a building on North Montana and relocated the business out of their home, firmly planting Diamond Construction's headquarters on Helena's rapidly expanding north end. Further expansion to the east includes a cabinet shop, a welding shop, painting facility, a stone fabrication shop and the construction equipment yard. Over the past 29 years, DCI has grown into a team of dedicated construction professionals

who focus on quality service and craftsmanship. Dean's leadership style is based on respecting each individual, which has created a company atmosphere of creativity, honesty and responsibility. The Diamond Construction team has a current staff of 65 employees, making it a significant presence in Helena's economy.

Looking at the many Helena organizations that Diamond Construction supports, it is evident that the business is focused on people. Diamond has provided assistance for many organizations through the years, notably being recognized by NAMI Montana, Golden Triangle Mental Health Foundation, YMCA-Helena, Intermountain Children's Home and Helena High School for going to extra mile in helping our community. Diamond Construction is recognized as constructing one of the first LEED Certified buildings in the Helena Area with the Veterans Affairs Office at Fort Harrison. Diamond Construction received the 2009 MSU College of Business/ State Farm Family Business Award. Recent projects in the Helena area include the Alpine Animal Clinic, the Intermountain Children's Home's Community Services Center and the new residential cottages on Intermountain's campus, and the new Montana Hospital Association's offices currently under construction. Diamond Construction specializes in new commercial building construction, commercial remodeling, infrastructure/ utilities, ADA upgrades, custom home construction and MDT rest area construction. Congratulations to Dean Bjerke and the staff of Diamond Construction, the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce 2013 Business of the Year.



### AT THE END OF THE DAY...



When I look back on starting my business, I felt both thrilled and nervous. But I worried less about the risk after finding the right guidance. My financial coach asked me the questions I needed to answer so I could make decisions I felt good about. He helped me get to where I am today. And I can tell you, running a business isn't easy... but you'll never do anything so satisfying.

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## 2013 Chamber **Business Person of the Year**

### **Jim Nys, Westaff of Helena/Personnel PLUS!**



*Jim Nys,  
President/Founder,  
Personnel PLUS! Westaff  
of Helena*

The 2013 Business Person of the Year has been involved in the Helena Community as an professional, volunteer, educator and so much more. Jim Nys, President/ Founder and Chief Human Resource Management Consultant for Personnel PLUS! Consulting Services and Westaff of Helena, has been a major supporter of business and organizations in the community.

Always desiring to see the community succeed, Jim has used his professional resources to sponsor and provide advertising for local non-profits. He has used his professional acumen to educate businesses and employers through countless workshops and his weekly HRe-digest, and has run a student

scholarship program to help further the education of HR professionals since 2005.

As a volunteer, Jim has led the recognition of the sacrifice for many of Helena's hardworking service men and women.

A retired military serviceman of 22 years himself, Jim has been involved in the organization of many events, from the 4th of July and homecoming events for returning soldiers of Desert Storm, to the recognition ceremony for Helena's volunteer firefighters.

Jim and his staff have placed thousands of individuals into jobs over the last 27 years, and have been active and contributing members of the Helena Chamber since 1989. A huge thanks to Jim Nys, our 2013 George D. Anderson Business Person of the Year for all he has done and continues to do for the community.



## 2013 Chamber **Boss of the Year**

Todd Burger, President/CEO of AAA Mountain West, was nominated for going above and beyond for the staff and the business. Nominated by several employees, Todd was recognized for his ability and commitment to effect positive change in the workplace. He visits daily with his staff on a daily basis showing a genuine interest in their lives, and empowers employees through an Employee Engagement Task Force to effect their own positive changes in the workplace. Todd has removed prime parking spots for the President and Vice President in exchange for staff selected "Employee of the Month" and "Birthday Employee of the Month" parking spaces.

In addition to creating a positive work environment, Todd has personally supported his staff and their families through challenging personal situations. He regularly recognizes families for their sacrifice when employees must travel for work, and exhibits incredible flexibility for employees dealing with family illness and loss.

Todd and his wife Karen are active in the Helena community along with advocating for natural resources and the livestock industry to create a sustainable future for ranching.

Congratulations to Todd Burger on winning this well-deserved award.

The Boss of the Year is selected based on excellence in the following qualities.

- Treatment of staff in general
- Special programs and/or benefits
- Something that sets them apart from other places of business
- An incidence or trait that indicates that your boss has gone above and beyond normal supervisory job requirements
- Community Service outside of work



*Todd Burger,  
President/CEO,  
AAA Mountain West*





# 2013 Chamber **Small Business of the Year**

## Lewis & Clark Brewing Company

Lewis & Clark Brewing Company has come a long way in its 12 years of operation. It was March of 2002, when after many long discussions with family and friends, Max Pigman decided to take the name Sleeping Giant Brewing Company and become Helena's newest brewer.

Moving directly from his basement to a full operation, the early years in the warehouse below the Brewhouse represented a labor of love to keep a small brewery on track and producing. After an initial upgrade to the Tap Room, the facility soon filled to capacity in both patrons and production, but after a short time operating as Sleeping Giant, confusion about the ownership of the brewery set in. Max decided to rename the brewery in the interest of the county it is located in, the only Lewis & Clark County in the United States.

The growth of the company and new name led Max to search out a new facility. Primarily to facilitate the need for physical expansion, but also for the brewery to finally be able to establish its own identity. After a lot of hard searching, work and negotiations, Max purchased the abandoned Columbia Paint Manufacturing Center on Dodge Avenue. Through over two years of dedicated effort, with the help of his brother Ran, Max and the whole team of Lewis and Clark Brewing Company rebuilt the conglomeration of buildings into the restored playground that it is today,

complete with a state of the art brewing facility.

Leaving behind the old bottling line, which put out 2069 cases in 2010, they acquired new equipment, and purchased a new canning line. With the skills of Sean Tobin



at the helm on the brewing side, Lewis and Clark Brewing Company began an exponential growth cycle and 26,369 cases of cans were produced in 2013 in seven flavors.

Max, and the brewery, have partnered with many facets of the community along the way to make the dream come true. From local craftsmen and suppliers, to industry partners, and an exceptional pool of Lewis & Clark Brewing Company employees and patrons, the brewery has established itself as a growing and grateful member of the Helena business community.

From the humble beginning of one full time employee with the support of four part time employees that produced 750 barrels in 2002, to the present gross production of 5,250 barrels in 2014 with six full time and 17 part time employees the brewery has grown to a position where it can now partner in support with many of Helena's non-profit organizations through their weekly Ales for Charity events. Organizations such as Helena Food Share, Pads for Paws, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Lost & Foundation, Lewis & Clark Humane Society, Helena Art Center, Friendship Center, and many more.

Lewis & Clark Brewing Company is most deserving of the 2013 Small Business of the Year Award!



## 2013 Chamber **Hospitality Hero**



Offering a great dining, story-telling and musical experience Bruce Anfinson truly embodies the spirit of hospitality. He is involved and supportive of all aspects of tourism for Helena, and has himself become an attraction worth bragging about in the Helena area. With his Wagon Ride Dinners, Bruce shows his guests, and guests to the area, a unique Montanan experience. He entertains with delicious cuisine, scenic views and stories, but Bruce's hospitality doesn't stop there. He offers a unique experience that no one else in his industry offers with his musical talent, by providing live music in a way only he can. Bruce demonstrates all of the traits that the Chamber looks for

when giving a business person it award for tourism and hospitality, and it is with that in mind that the Chamber is pleased to announce Bruce Anfinson of Last Chance Ranch Wagon Ride Dinners as the 2013 Hospitality Hero.

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*Bruce Anfinson,  
 Owner,  
 Last Chance Ranch Wagon Ride Dinners*

## 2012 Chamber Don Fredrikson **Volunteer of the Year**



Each year, the Chamber reflects on the many hard-working volunteers that it relies on to have successful committees, events, projects, and programs. While each of those volunteers plays a role, the Chamber chooses to recognize one amazing volunteer and advocate each year for the Chamber with the Don Fredrikson\* Volunteer of the Year Award.

Since becoming involved with the Chamber, Peggy Stebbins - St. Peter's Hospital has been the "go to" person when someone is needed to take the reins and at the same time represent the Chamber in a positive, professional manner. A driving force in on our Business and Community Services Committee and leading our Awards Luncheon Committee since its

inception seven years ago, she has given hundreds of volunteer hours to the Chamber. The Chamber has been especially lucky to have her not only as a committee volunteer, but also as a member of the Chamber Board. She has worked tirelessly for the Chamber and the community. Thank you Peggy Stebbins, our 2013 Fredrikson Volunteer of the year.

\*Don Fredrikson was an amazing volunteer and advocate for the Chamber and for the Helena Symphony.



*Peggy Stebbins,  
 St. Peter's Hospital*

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## 2013 Chamber **Staff**



**Cathy Burwell**  
**President & CEO**

Cathy became the President/CEO of the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce in July of 1999 which means she is mid-year of her 14th with the Chamber. As President/CEO, she directs the daily operations of the Chamber and oversees all staff, activities, projects, and events for the Chamber. She works directly with the Chamber's Board of Directors. She also serves as the Director for the Convention and Visitor Bureau. She has

served on an extensive list of boards from the Helena Area, statewide, and serves on the national association of chamber executives' (ACCE) board. She recently served as a director for the Montana Lodging and Hospitality Association, ACCE Finance Committee, and on the Emerging Cities Committee of ACCE she also serves on the State CTE Board for 2 year colleges. Cathy was raised on a cattle and wheat farm east of Sunburst, Montana and was educated at Montana State University and the Technical College of the Rockies. She is a graduate of the US Chamber's Institute for Organizational Management. She has been married to her husband Pete (Montana Chamber) for 35 years and they have 2 daughters – Lacey Brelje (Glasgow) and Jessica Burwell (Las Vegas), plus one granddaughter Claire Brelje.

**Mike Mergenthaler**  
**Vice-President**

Mike is a Helena native and joined the Chamber in June of 2004. He brings to the Chamber a great deal of experience and expertise having worked 17 years in the tourism industry. He worked for 14 years at the Colonial Inn and then managed Jorgenson's Inn & Suites for 3 years. Mike graduated from the Chamber's Leadership Helena program in 2005 and then attended West Institute in Los Angeles California where he graduated from that program and received his IOM in 2009. In his current position as Chamber Vice President & Director of Programs and Tourism, Mike is responsible for promoting Helena as a prominent tourist destination. He coordinates Chamber programs and events such as the Leadership Helena Program, Annual Awards Luncheon, Annual Membership Banquet, the Youth SWISH Basketball Tournament, and the Annual Golf Tournament. Mike, and his wife Shannon, are the parents of three children and have two grandkids.



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**Barb Sanem**  
**Finance Director**

Barb Sanem is the Finance Director for the Helena Chamber. She is also currently employed at the Department of Commerce for the State of Montana in the Travel Promotion Division, where she oversees the distribution of bed tax funds to the six tourism Regions and 11 Convention & Visitor's Bureaus (CVBs). She brings a wealth of Chamber bookkeeping experience with her, as she was previously employed by the West Yellowstone Chamber of

Commerce for almost six years. Barb moved to Helena in 2004 to take her current job with the State. Barb has over 20 years of bookkeeping experience. She is an avid football fan and snow-mobiler.

**Jacob Dysart**  
**Marketing/Communications Director**



A Kansas City native, Jacob relocated to Helena becoming the Marketing/Communications Director in August of 2013. Before the Chamber, he served as the Internal Communications Specialist for Bayer CropScience's Kansas City manufacturing facility. Jacob graduated from the University of Kansas in 2007 with a BS in Strategic Communications of Journalism and a BA in French. In his free time, Jacob enjoys drawing, woodworking and hiking with his girlfriend, Jessica.



**Tammy Andridge**  
**Membership Director**

Tammy Andridge joined the Chamber in August of 2013, serving as the Membership Director. She comes to the Chamber with an extensive background in sales and management, most recently as the Assistant General Manager of the Wingate by Wyndham of Helena. Tammy is very active in the Helena community serving on the Civic Center Board and Women's Leadership Network Board. She also volunteers for the Girl Scouts of Montana and

Wyoming and teaches Zumba in the community and at a local health club with her husband, Tim. When not working the newly-weds enjoy spending time with their children, grandchildren and dog, Oreo.



**Rhonda Retz**  
**Office Coordinator**

Rhonda joined the Chamber staff in August of 2009. She is a native of the Helena area. After graduating from Capital High School, Rhonda worked for the Department of Revenue for four years. After enjoying the stay-at-home mom scene for six years, she then worked for the East Helena School District for five years, before moving to the Helena School District, where she was employed for eight years. Rhonda & her husband Darren have been

married 24 years. They have wonderful children, their oldest son Nick and his wife Kwyncee, and youngest son Clint... AND the most amazing, grandsons, Kaehlyr and Kasten Retz.

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## Looking Back on 2013

Looking back at the past year illustrates the tremendous amount of actives and business advocacy the Helena area Chamber of Commerce performs each day. With the Chamber board and staff working together, listed below are some highlights:

- ❖ Advocated for businesses in the 2013 Legislative Session
  - Held an event for Chamber members to meet and discuss issues with Helena – area legislators prior to the 2013 Session.
  - Provided a legislator welcome breakfast for legislators the second week of the session at the Capitol Building
  - Worked with Hometown Helena to conduct member/ legislator meetings every Friday at noon during the legislative session
  - Provided weekly Legislative Updates to members through the entire 2013 Session
  - Participated in the “Coalition of Chambers” legislative position papers for 2013 Legislative Session (For the first time all 7 of the largest chambers signed on-Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell and Missoula - representing over 5600 businesses collaboratively).
  - Advocated for business on numerous bills and
- successfully worked with legislators and committees for positive outcomes.
- Continued to monitor and report on all city commission meetings and provide members the very popular and detailed City Commission Reports
- ❖ Progress was made for a permanent Visitor Center
  - 12 sites were vetted and analyzed and then narrowed to 2 potential sites.
  - RFQ was sent out to member architects with a January due date.
  - Grant writing process began.
- ❖ Continued the B2B magazine with 2 publications for 2013.
- ❖ Held the 18th SWISH youth basketball tournament with a record 100 teams equaling nearly a million dollar impact to the community.
- ❖ Our highly successful Leadership Helena program graduated 31 future leaders from member businesses.
- ❖ Continued our Chamber Spotlight with 52 weeks of interviews on KTVH Beartooth NBC and CW-10.



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- ❖ Created a new tiered membership level in addition to current levels that will enhance benefits for Chamber members.
- ❖ Added 2 new benefits for members – job listings and hot deals – some as benefits for upper tiers.
- ❖ Hired two new well-qualified and enthusiastic Chamber staff members
  - Jacob Dysart, Marketing/Communications Director
  - Tammy Andridge, Membership Coordinator
- ❖ Boss of the Year Award, which in its second year had a large number of nominations and had great media coverage.
- ❖ Hosted 15 Business After Hours events at members including our BAH Expo at the airport with a record number of exhibitors – over 40 booths. Over 400 people attended the event.
- ❖ Had another successful year of our Young Professionals with events each month and over 200 members.
- ❖ One of the largest Annual Banquets, attracting a crowd of 770+ Chamber members

- ❖ Annual Awards Luncheon had a record 313 attendees.
- ❖ Chamber Ambassadors held 10 business visitations and worked on several community causes.
- ❖ Several business workshops
  - Helped businesses with employee training
  - Steve Beck Customer Service, Pat McGaughey-Great Boards.



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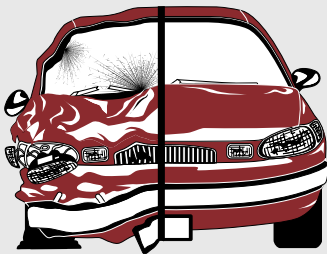
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## Newly Added Benefits

The Chamber website is visited by thousands of people each month, both by local individuals and people looking to visit or relocate. Because of this the Chamber has created two interesting new benefits for its members, Job Postings and Hot Deals.

- The Job Postings section of the website is a simple, effective and affordable means to acquire new talent for your business. Your employees are your life-blood, and this tool will allow you to tap into a huge talent pool with the very affordable cost of \$50 per six week listing.
- For business looking to attract more patrons or promote a deal currently being offered, Hot Deals are a great, inexpensive way to reach the masses. For \$25 your deal can be shared with the entire Chamber membership as well as every visitor to the chamber website.

**In addition to being present on the website, these deals are also featured in the Chamber's weekly email update. To find out more about these offerings call the Chamber at 442-4120.**

## SWISH makes a fast break to its 19th year

The Helena Chamber is gearing up once again for the 2014 SWISH Basketball Tournament. Tip-off is slated for March 8th and 9th, 2014, and registration is open inviting teams from all across the state to participate in the one of the largest and longest running youth basketball tournaments in Montana. Last year, the annual tournament hosted head-to-head competition of 98 teams and more than 800 kids in 10 gyms in Helena and the surrounding area. The tournament has an estimated economic impact of nearly \$1 million over the weekend.

The tournament is open for 5th through 8th grade boys and girls, and features some fantastic competition. To register your team in the tournament, visit the Helena Chamber web site at [www.helenachamber.com](http://www.helenachamber.com) and click on "What's New" in the left hand drop down menu. Or, call Mike Mergenthaler, Tournament Director at 447-1941.

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# Helena Chambers Young Professionals Continues to Grow

The Helena Chamber's Young Professionals (YP's) were created in 2009 with the goals of getting young working members of the Helena community involved with the Chamber, and to offer young professionals a means of networking amongst their peers. The group's steering committee meets each month to create events which contribute to their mission of engaging young professionals through professional development, networking, and civic participation and involvement. In 2013 the YP's had the chance to hear from Secretary of State, Linda McCulloch, learn about the capital and attend the legislation floor. They visited the Holter Museum of Art to find out about its community involvement and how young people can become involved as well. To give to back the community the YPs hosted their first annual Health Fair and raised toys for Children's Miracle Network (Shodair Children's Hospital) during the holiday season. The group also hosted a very



successful social gathering, a progressive dinner to patronize restaurants of the Great Northern Town Center and learn about the businesses of the Great Northern directly from their leaders and the area's developer Alan Nicholson!

If you are between the ages of 25 and 45, the Helena Chamber invites you to participate in the Young Professionals group! Young Professionals is a great networking, socializing, and professional development

opportunity targeted to this age group. It is also available for businesses recruiting younger employees to Helena, it provides the means for young employees to quickly connect with others their age. If your business is looking for a great way to develop your young talent, please call Jacob Dysart at the Chamber at 442-4120.

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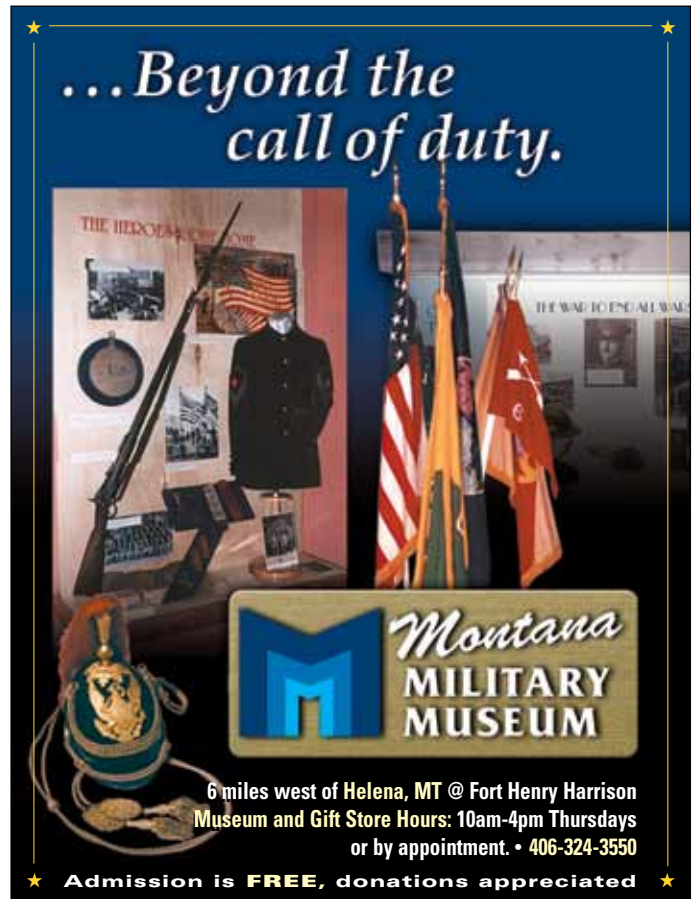


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## 2014 Chamber **Committees**

### **AIR SERVICES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

#### **PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

The Chamber's Air Services and Transportation Committee has a monthly meeting to update members on current trends and issues that affect the air services industries. This is a coordinated effort with involvement and leadership from the airport, FAA, Army Aviation Support Facility, Montana Guard and Reserve, Montana Aeronautical Division, Helena Chamber, airline companies, and others serving the air industry, plus City, County, and State Highway / Transportation Departments.

**Chair: Brad Culver**  
**Nitro-Green & Christmas Decor**



### **ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

The annual golf tournament is a fundraising event where Chamber members have the opportunity to network with others and participate in a well-organized tournament. This tournament provides the Chamber with additional revenue for other member services.

**Chair: Lynn Walker**  
**Helena Community Credit Union**



### **AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE**

#### **PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

The Helena Ambassadors Committee serves as a personal connection between the Chamber leadership, staff, and individual members through personal contact with the Chamber Membership each year. The Ambassadors also welcome new business to Helena as well as doing business tours during their monthly meetings. They represent the Chamber at ribbon cuttings and events.

**Chair: Ed Jasmin**  
**Retired**



### **CONVENTION & VISITOR'S BUREAU COMMITTEE**

#### **PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

The Convention and Visitors Bureau Committee works to effectively promote the history, culture, arts and recreations of the Helena area while continuing to preserve and protect the resources and quality of life for area residents. This sector of the Chamber also operates the Visitor Information Center located at the Cedar Street exit.

**Chair: Denise Trautman**  
**Holiday Inn Downtown Conference Center**



### **ANNUAL BANQUET COMMITTEE**

#### **PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

Each year this committee coordinates site selection, speaker and program for over 500 attendees at the annual banquet and business meeting. The committee is also responsible for organizing numerous awards which recognize outstanding service to both the Chamber and community.

**Chair: Brad Culver**  
**Nitro-Green & Christmas Decor**



### **HELENA HOSPITALITY GROUP**

#### **PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

The purpose of the Helena Hospitality Group is to provide a network of communication and hospitality services among area hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, and tourist attraction professionals.

**Chair: Lynn Svir**  
**Days Inn Helena**



**LEADERSHIP HELENA COMMITTEE**

**PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

The Leadership Helena Committee assists local leaders to learn more about the diversity and opportunities in the Helena area and encourages their involvement in community and Chamber activities. Leadership Helena is the premier community leadership training program which educates and motivates existing and potential community leaders. Class members learn from speakers who are experts in their fields as well as taking several tours of community, government, business and non-profit organizations. Junior Leadership Helena is an extension of the adult Leadership Program and is formatted to enable high school juniors the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills.

**Chair - Dean Mack  
Student Assistance Foundation**



recruitment and retention. The committee also assists the Chamber with Business After Hours, ribbon cuttings, and groundbreaking ceremonies.

**Chair: Debbie Spranget  
KHBB Television**



**MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

The Military Affairs committee exists solely for the purpose of fostering understanding, mutual support, recognition, and rapport between the citizens, professional groups, and business communities of the Greater Helena area and the military including the National Guard, Reserve, and Active Duty Forces of all branches of military service.

**Chair: Phil Johnson  
First Security Bank**



**MEMBERSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

To promote Chamber membership, educate new members regarding the benefits of membership, provide members with networking opportunities and assist with membership



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**SWISH COMMITTEE  
PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

The SWISH Committee is dedicated to ensuring that this event offers participants the highest level of competition and sportsmanship while showcasing our friendliness and hospitality. The committee will also market Helena as the "city of choice" for these events. The annual SWISH tournament will continue to be the main event that provides these funds and will continue to be known as the best and longest running tournament in the state.



**Chair: Chris Kanthack  
Fire Guys Leasing**

**VISITOR INFORMATION  
CENTER COMMITTEE  
PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

Created to address and fulfill the need for Helena to have a permanent visitor center for the Capital City. The committee is charged with finding and securing a suitable location, creating a vision and concept for an appropriate center, forming a fundraising campaign, and all that is entailed with the final product. The Chamber seeks to provide a center that Helena can be proud of and that is functional in increasing tourism dollars spent within the Helena Area.



**Co-Chair: Jim Brown  
CWG Architects  
Co-Chair Susan Bjerke  
Bjerke Architects**



**YOUNG  
PROFESSIONALS  
COMMITTEE**

**PURPOSE STATEMENT:**  
The Helena Area Chamber of Commerce's Young Professionals provides events designed to engage young people (21-39 yrs old) of area firms and help them become more competitive in the business arena. The program helps young professionals establish a web of business contacts through networking and to grow both personally and professionally through a variety of program topics and venues.



**Chair: Sarah Shaw  
American Federal Savings Bank**



*Mission Statement:*

*The Helena Area Chamber of  
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promoting business,  
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## 2013-2014 Leadership Helena Class Remains Stellar Program



The 32nd graduating class of the Chamber's Leadership Helena program kicked off in September with its annual overnight retreat at the Blacktail Ranch. The ranch offers participants a unique get away where class

members can focus on topics relevant to the Helena area all while networking and building lasting relationships.

While at the ranch, the group also learned about their own individual leadership characteristics and the pros and cons that pertain to them. The class will continue to meet each month for a full day session and will discuss topics regarding personal leadership development. The Class has already had the opportunity to meet with

various leaders of the community including Dr. Kent Kultgen Superintendent of Helena Public Schools and Eric Bryson Chief Administrative Officer.

One of the highlights for the class this year will be the opportunity to meet with Governor Steve Bullock in February. The theme for February's day is State and Local Government, and for the class to have the experience of sitting and talking to the Governor is one that will not be forgotten.

The Helena Area Chamber of Commerce would like to thank all of the businesses who support Leadership Helena by allowing their employees the opportunity to participate in this program. The Chamber strives to make Leadership Helena one of the premier leadership programs in the state.





## 2014 **Artist of the Year**

Taylor "TJ" Lynde



In the pursuit of sharing the landscape and other "visual stories", it still amazes TJ Lynde to be able to paint in oils and have them so well received by many friends, old and new.

As a fifth generation Montanan, living here under the Big Sky offers many an adventure and abundant subject matter for painting. TJ likes to travel out of state as well, whenever he can for a change of scene.

It is still exciting for TJ to paint professionally, mostly Montana landscapes, and that is due to the fact that he has had enormous help and encouragement along the way.

As the youngest son of Montana's own Stan Lynde, TJ had a great start to drawing and painting.

TJ attended art school at Pratt Institute, on scholarship after high school and then served in the Navy during the Persian Gulf War. After that he returned home and married Samara Daoud Lynde, a fellow artist as well. Presently they have two children.

TJ has been featured in Southwest Art, Big Sky Journal, and donated many works to Montana charities.

*2014 Chamber Membership Print - Gates of the Mountains Wilderness*



**The Helena Area Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the following individuals for their past service on the Chamber Board.**



**Carla Lott  
Strongbear Corporation**



**Denise Trautman  
Holiday Inn Downtown**



**Jim Stanger  
Helena Motors**



**John McEwen  
Rocky Mountain Credit Union**



**Kit Johnson  
J4 automotive**



**Matt Elsaesser  
Ex Officio - Helena City Commissioner**



**Mike Murray  
Ex Officio - L&C County Commissioner**



**Peggy Stebbins  
St. Peter's Hospital**



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 4J's Casino..... (406) 431-8904

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 A-I Rental/Party Plus

Rentals & Sales ..... (406) 442-7690  
 AAA Mountain West ..... (406) 447-8100  
 AAA Quality Sprinkler & Landscape... (406) 594-1232  
 AARP Montana ..... (406) 457-4702  
 ACLU of Montana..... (406) 443-8590  
 Action Fire Extinguisher Service, Inc. ... (406) 439-7010  
 Action Print, Inc. (East) ..... (406) 443-8550  
 Action Print, Inc. (North)..... (406) 442-7595  
 Active Relief Chiropractic ..... (406) 443-3899  
 Aflac ..... (406) 443-0666  
 Albertson's, Inc. .... (406) 442-1052  
 Albertson's, Inc. .... (406) 443-8557  
 All About Grooming..... (406) 442-4142  
 All Season Heating &  
 Air Conditioning, LLC ..... (406) 442-3658  
 Allegiance Benefit Plan

Management, Inc. .... (406) 721-2222 x317 page 38

Allegra Marketing Print & Web..... (406) 449-2847  
 Allstate ..... (406) 449-3939  
 Alpine Analytical, Inc. .... (406) 449-6282  
 ALSCO- American Linen Division..... (406) 252-6697  
 AMC PC Services ..... (406) 449-4224  
 American Cancer Society..... (406) 728-1004  
 American Express OPEN

Small Business Credit Cards..... (212) 640-0088  
 American Federal Mortgage ..... (406) 442-3080  
 American Federal Mortgage ..... (406) 442-4522  
 American Federal Savings Bank ..... (406) 442-3080 page 24  
 American Federal Savings Bank ..... (406) 442-3038 page 24  
 American Federal Savings Bank ..... (406) 442-4522 page 24  
 American Homestead Mortgage ..... (406) 442-9577  
 American Legion -L&C Post #2 ..... (406) 324-3989  
 Anderson Orthotics & Prosthetics ..... (406) 443-7743  
 Anderson Stevenson Wilke

Funeral Home & Crematory ..... (406) 442-8520  
 Anderson ZurMuehlen ..... (406) 442-1040  
 AnnaCo Investment Management..... (406) 442-2400  
 Applebee's

Neighborhood Grill & Bar..... (406) 449-7300  
 Arcadis ..... (406) 449-7001

Archie Bray Foundation  
 for the Ceramic Arts..... (406) 443-3502  
 Ascend Strategies, Inc. .... (406) 459-7148

Associated Dental Care  
 of Helena, PLLC..... (406) 443-5526  
 Auto Trim Design of MT ..... (406) 443-7620  
 Automation & Management  
 Consulting, LLC ..... (406) 442-6665

**b**  
 Bank of the Rockies ..... (406) 495-1900  
 Barrister Bed & Breakfast..... (406) 443-7330  
 Batteries Plus Bulbs..... (406) 442-6323

Bear's Den Custom  
 Framing & Gallery ..... (406) 442-4151  
 Ben Franklin ..... (406) 442-2040  
 Benny's Bistro ..... (406) 443-0105  
 Bergum Drug ..... (406) 443-0506  
 Bert & Ernie's ..... (406) 443-5680  
 Best Western Helena

Great Northern Hotel ..... (406) 457-5500 page 19

Better Business Bureau ..... (509) 455-4200  
 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Helena..... (406) 442-7479  
 Big Dipper Ice Cream ..... (406) 513-1051  
 Big Sky Bail Bonds..... (406) 443-3767  
 Big Sky Brokers LLC Real Estate ..... (406) 443-1300  
 Big Sky Commerce..... (406) 327-0611  
 Big Sky Fireworks ..... (406) 465-0851  
 Big Sky Tea Party..... (406) 449-4653  
 Big Sky Water Conditioning ..... (406) 442-5630  
 Bill & Becky Eiker..... (406) 442-5613  
 Bill Roberts Golf Course..... (406) 442-2191  
 Birds & Beasleys ..... (406) 449-0904  
 Bison Engineering Inc. .... (406) 442-5768

Bjerke Architects, PLLC..... (406) 443-5801 page 23

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 Blacktail Ranch ..... (406) 235-4330  
 Blomquist Cabinetry & Interiors..... (406) 439-6795  
 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana .... (406) 437-5000  
 BMC West Building Materials ..... (406) 449-6924  
 Bob Ward Sporting Goods..... (406) 443-2138  
 Bob's Valley Service

dba Montana Valley Hams..... (406) 458-5140  
 Boulder Hot Springs Inn,

Spa & Retreat Center ..... (406) 225-4339  
 Bower, Joseph E. .... (406) 431-4037

Boxwoods..... (406) 442-0422  
 Bozeman Daily Chronicle..... (406) 465-3236  
 Brad Campbell..... (406) 949-0967  
 Brady Live Sound & DJ/Karoke ..... (406) 475-2952  
 Brewhouse Pub & Grille..... (406) 457-9390  
 Brides & Beaux..... (406) 513-1002

Bridger Steel ..... (406) 227-7555  
 Bridger Veterinary Hospital ..... (406) 443-5874

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 Berry & Hoven P.C. .... (406) 443-6820

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 C & H Property Management LLC .... (406) 992-2012

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 Cadotte Creek Carving Co. .... (406) 202-2369

Calleis Salon/Spa..... (406) 440-3444  
 Canyon Ferry Road Baptist Church .... (406) 227-5119

Capital City Consultants..... (406) 282-1744  
 Capital City Health Club..... (406) 442-6577

Capital City Optimist Club ..... (406) 443-5388  
 Capital Collision Center ..... (406) 442-8611

Capital Concrete ..... (406) 227-9683  
 Capital Hill Mall ..... (406) 442-0183

Capital Laundry & Textile Service..... (406) 442-8570

Capital Pawn Jewelry & Loan ..... (406) 449-2200  
 Capital Sports & Western ..... (406) 443-2978  
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 Capital Transfer & Storage ..... (406) 442-3970  
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 Chili's ..... (406) 442-3500  
 Chris McGowan Photography ..... (406) 459-2891  
 Chubby's Bar & Grill ..... (406) 933-5547  
 Cielo Cocina ..... (406) 996-1610  
 Cindy Stevick at Jack Hamlin  
     Real Estate ..... (406) 431-0452  
 Clawson Insurance Agency ..... (406) 443-6161  
 Cloud Peak ..... (406) 442-1874  
 Cochrane Insurance ..... (406) 442-6700  
 Collision Pro Auto Body Repair ..... (406) 442-4472  
 Comfort Inn ..... (406) 443-1000  
 Comfort Suites of Helena ..... (406) 495-0505  
 Comprehensive Hearing Services ..... (406) 443-8838  
 Connect  
     Telephone & Computer Group ..... (406) 324-7161  
 CORE Solutions Group ..... (406) 442-3434  
 Corey Parriman Construction, Inc ..... (406) 443-0564  
 Cornerstone Christian Bookstore ..... (406) 443-1991  
 Corporate Technology Group ..... (406) 443-3200  
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     Conditioning/Central Solutions ..... (406) 443-9248

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     dba HeadMaster ..... (406) 442-8656  
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 Dalton Appraisal Service ..... (406) 449-6139  
 Dave's Fencing ..... (406) 431-6182  
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 David Payne Outdoors, LLC ..... (406) 442-5637  
 Davis Business Machines ..... (406) 442-9810  
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     Plumbing & Heating, Inc. .... (406) 461-8996  
 Decorative Industrial Plating, LLC ..... (406) 449-6626  
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 Dewey Bruce ..... (406) 431-2319  
 Diamond Construction ..... (406) 443-3373  
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 Douglas Williams, CPA ..... (406) 495-9411  
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**e**

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     Alignment & Transmission ..... (406) 443-5910  
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 Elkhorn Vision Center ..... (406) 442-2020  
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 Family Promise of Greater Helena ..... (406) 465-9467  
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 First Community Bank ..... (406) 449-9300

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First Montana Land Title Co. ....(406) 443-4422		Helena Body & Paint, Inc. ....(406) 442-8170	page 19
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Flathead Travel Service.....(406) 442-4493		Industry Association .....(406) 449-3358	
FlipKey .....(617) 849-8883		Helena Chapter of SHRM .....(406) 324-3119	
Florence Crittenton		Helena Christian School .....(406) 442-3821	
Home & Services .....(406) 442-6950		Helena College	
Foster, Rodger		University of Montana .....(406) 447-6900	
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